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S E A S O N

## ARKANSAS REPERTORY THEATRE

The Arkansas Repertory Theatre creates vibrant, engaging, and accessible theatrical experiences to make the lives of all Central Arkansans more full, more connected, and more joyful. The Rep embraces the myriad, multi-faceted backgrounds of our community, and prioritizes inclusion on and off our stages. We seek to represent diverse perspectives, using art to explore our world through the lens of others' experiences. We want our work to be enjoyed by all, regardless of one's familiarity with the art form, and regardless of one's ability to pay.

Our core programming includes a season of freshly created productions, performed at our downtown Little Rock facilities — including a 340-seat auditorium and 100-seat black box space — or around our broader community. We tell stories that provide entertainment and escape, that help us process the world around us, and that foster a sense of mutual understanding. The live experiences of The Rep are distinctly theatrical — immersive and shared, in real time, by the community in a public space.

In conjunction with our summer season of productions, The Rep aspires to capture the collective imagination and build community by embracing the art of theatre in all its forms. We recognize the unique ability of theatrical activities to improve mental well-being and emotional development. We strive to celebrate and develop the artistry of community members regardless of their age or experience. We provide a platform for the sharing of varied human experiences to drive community conversations. And we seek out collaborations with, and make our resources accessible to, like-minded community organizations.



### Arkansas Repertory Theatre

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# Arkansas Repertory Theatre

P R E S E N T S

# FOOTLOOSE

Stage Adaptation by  
**DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER BOBBIE**

Based on the Original Screenplay by  
**DEAN PITCHFORD**

Music by **TOM SNOW**    Lyrics by **DEAN PITCHFORD**

Additional Music by **ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR,**  
**KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN**

Director  
**ANNA KIMMELL**

Choreographer  
**RACHEL PERLMAN**

Music Director  
**ROBERT FROST<sup>^</sup>**

Costume Designer  
**CELESTE JENNINGS<sup>^^</sup>**

Scenic Designer  
**SYDNEY LYNNE**

Lighting Designer  
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**LUKE MITCHELL<sup>^</sup>**

Hair/Wig Designer  
**CHANELLE BROOKS<sup>^</sup>**

Production Stage Manager  
**LUISA ANN TORRES\***

Assistant Stage Manager  
**ASH WILLEBY\***

Assistant Music Director  
**SARAH CHEN**

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*Footloose* (90-minute version) is presented by arrangement with  
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\*Member, Actors' Equity Association    ^Member, United Scenic Artists    ^Arkansas Artist

# CAST *in order of appearance*

<i>Rev. Shaw Moore.</i>	Michael A. Shepperd*
<i>Ariel Moore.</i>	Victoria Pekel*
<i>Ren McCormack</i>	Spencer LaRue*
<i>Chuck/Cowboy Bob.</i>	Ethan Hall*
<i>Rusty.</i>	Emily Royer*
<i>Willard Hewitt.</i>	Ray Robinson*
<i>Vi Moore</i>	Paige Martin Reynolds^
<i>Ethel McCormack</i>	Tawanna Campbell*^
<i>Lulu Warnicker.</i>	Holly Ruth Gale^
<i>Uncle Wes Warnicker.</i>	Gary Newton*
<i>Coach Roger Dunbar.</i>	B Cordell Piggee
<i>Lyle.</i>	Frederick Webb^
<i>Betty Blast/Eleanor Dunbar/Cowgirl</i>	Brianna East^
<i>The Principal</i>	Leigh Anne Ralston^
<i>Bickle.</i>	Jordan Arrasmith*
<i>Garvin</i>	Luke Ferguson^
<i>Urleen</i>	Amaya Hardin^
<i>Wendy Jo.</i>	Hannah Lauren Wilson
<i>Travis</i>	Michael Matherne^
<i>Jeter</i>	Nate Westerman^
<i>Ensemble</i>	Annslee Clay^, Brian Earles^ Savannah Halter*, Makayla Shipe^ Isabella Nguyen^, Caroline Perry^

## Swings/Understudies

Swings and understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.

*Ariel* – Makayla Shipe; *Chuck, Cowboy Bob* – Michael Matherne;  
*Ethel, Lulu, Vi* – Leigh Anne Ralston; *Ren* – Jordan Arrasmith;  
*Rev. Moore* – Gary Newton; *Urleen* – Savannah Halter;  
*Wendy Jo* – Annslee Clay; *Willard* – Luke Ferguson.

## SETTING

The City of Chicago, and the Town of Bomont

*There will be one 15-minute intermission.*



## MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Footloose/On Any Sunday</i> . . . . .	Full Company
<i>The Girl Gets Around</i> . . . . .	.Chuck, Lyle, Travis, Ariel
<i>I Can't Stand Still</i> . . . . .	Ren, Willard
<i>Somebody's Eyes</i> . . . . .	Rusty, Wendy Jo, Urleen, Townspeople
<i>Holding Out For A Hero.</i> . . . . .	Rusty, Urleen, Wendy Jo, Ariel
<i>I'm Free/Heaven Help Me</i> . . . . .	Ren, Shaw, Kids, Choir
<i>Still Rockin'</i> . . . . .	Cowboy Bob, Company
<i>Let's Hear It For The Boy</i> . . . . .	Rusty, The Girls
<i>Mama Says (You Can't Back Down).</i> . . . .	Willard, Garvin, Bickle, Jeter
<i>Almost Paradise</i> . . . . .	.Ren, Ariel
<i>Heaven Help Me</i> . . . . .	Shaw
<i>Can You Find It In Your Heart?.</i> . . . . .	Shaw
<i>Footloose (Finale)</i> . . . . .	Full Company

## ORCHESTRA

<i>Keyboard/Conductor.</i> . . . . .	Leann Jones
<i>Percussion</i> . . . . .	.Brandon Brockinton
<i>Bass</i> . . . . .	Jonathan Huggs
<i>Reeds.</i> . . . . .	.Barry McVinney
<i>Guitar</i> . . . . .	.Matthew Stone

## RUN CREW

<i>Dance Captain</i> . . . . .	.Savannah Halter
<i>Assistant Dance Captain</i> . . . . .	Caroline Perry
<i>Deck Crew</i> . . . . .	Anaya Joplin, Evelyn Moran, Heather Rookey
<i>Fly Rail</i> . . . . .	Elliot Hillard
<i>Wardrobe Supervisor.</i> . . . . .	Rachel Lee
<i>Dressers.</i> . . . . .	Adrian Hinojosa, Lovey Krone
<i>Light Board Operators</i> . . . . .	.Griffen Birdsong, Faith Spencer
<i>Follow Spot Operators</i> . . . . .	Travis Cope, Eli Stroud
<i>A1</i> . . . . .	Jessi Perren
<i>A2</i> . . . . .	Destiny Zrebski, Aaron Burnside
<i>Production Assistant</i> . . . . .	Clarke Preston

Please turn off your cell phones. The videotaping or audio recording and taking photos of this production is strictly prohibited.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Happy 40th, *Footloose*! Since its debut, this story—in all its iconic '80s glory—has encapsulated the exuberance of youth and the timeless struggle between generations. It's a call to action for us to shape the world we want to live in.

But here we are, 40 years later, and young people are still grappling with oppressive regulations: censorship, lack of bodily autonomy, and limits to freedom of expression. As Reverend Shaw asks in the film, "If we don't start trusting our children, how will they ever become trustworthy?"

If my years as an educator have taught me anything, it's that adults don't always know best. Children are the real leaders when it comes to living more freely, joyfully, and empathetically.

So allow this show to take you back to a time when you were fueled by your creativity, resilience, and hope for a better future. Because joy, after all, is a form of resistance.

—Anna Kimmell, *Director*

## SPECIAL THANKS

THE SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY OF THESE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS HELPED MAKE THIS PRODUCTION POSSIBLE.

Amanda Briley

DJ Comet

Homewood Suites

Christ Episcopal Church

Mia Foreman

Cathy & Mike Mayton

Downtown Ambassadors

JP Francoeur

Craig O'Neill

## CAST *in alphabetical order*



**Jordan Arrasmith\*** (Bickle/US Ren) planted his seeds in Chicago and is currently growing as an artist in NYC. Select theatre credits include Harold Bride in *Titanic: The Musical* (Revival Theatre Company), Crutchie in *Newsies* and Ethan in *The Full Monty* (Skylight Music Theatre), Mike Costa in *A Chorus Line* (Henegar Center), Timberlake Playhouse, Winnepesaukee Playhouse, Titusville Playhouse. TV/Film: Subsurface Film (Canadian Actors Award for Best Short Film). Thanks to Christie, Arkansas Rep Creative team, Stephanie and Tiera at FSE Talent. @jordanarrasmith



**Tawanna Campbell\*^** (Ethel McCormack) has been a beacon, leading the way for Arkansas' burgeoning soul musical scene. An all-encompassing performer, Tawanna possesses a heavenly sound, amazing stage presence, and a style all her own. Sparking comparisons to everyone from Patti LaBelle to Alicia Keys to the queen of soul herself, Aretha Franklin, Tawanna does not allow herself or her music to be pigeonholed. Her musical acumen is eclectic and dynamic. Her range of performances run the musical spectrum. She has performed at Easter sunrise services, jazz festivals and classical concerts. She has even provided the musical backdrop for another Arkansas gem, Academy Award winner and Newport native Mary Steenburgen. A little known fact is that in addition to being an award-winning actress, Steenburgen is also a songwriter and she has, for years, collaborated with Tawanna on several songs for Universal Records. Tawanna's unique musical gifts know no bounds. A devoted protege of musical luminary and veteran Broadway performer the late Lawrence Hamilton, Tawanna never fails to impress. Whether performing soul stirring, down-home gospel classics, legendary soul hits or contemporary R&B, Tawanna gives her absolute all to guarantee an outstanding performance every time out. Tawanna's soothing, smooth, and moving tones have long served as the Natural State's voice. She is a talented and beautiful star who continues to light the way not only for Arkansas' grown and sexy sect but for music lovers around the world. Tawanna is married to Alex Berry. They have two children: Shawn is 26 and Zoi is 25.



**Annslee Clay^** (Ensemble) is thrilled to cut loose at Arkansas Repertory Theatre! Their most notable role was Little Red Riding Hood in *Into The Woods* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre). Some additional roles that Annslee has been seen in recently are Anya in *Anastasia* (Ouachita Baptist University), Maureen in *Rent* (Argenta Contemporary Theatre), Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins* (Ouachita Baptist University), and Ariel Moore in *Footloose* (The Royal Theater). Annslee is currently a Senior BFA in Musical Theatre at Ouachita Baptist University.



**Brian Earles**<sup>^</sup> (Ensemble) majored in theater arts and minored in dance at Hendrix College 2018. He recently served as the assistant director/assistant choreographer for *A Little Shop of Horrors* at Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and a production of *Gypsy* as the associate choreographer under Stephanie Klemmons at the Chicago Marriott Theater. Brian has been seen onstage in *Guys and Dolls* (MC/ Ensemble), *Chicago* (Aaron, US Mary Sunshine), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (US Audrey II/Dance Captain) with Arkansas Repertory Theatre; *West Side Story* (Toro) and *Guys and Dolls* (Drunk/ Ensemble) with the Arkansas Shakespeare Festival; *Grease* (Roger) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Simeon) with Murry's Dinner Playhouse; *Kinky Boots* (Lola) at the Studio Theater of Little Rock; Memphis (Gator), Sweet Charity (Daddy), Chorus Line (Greg), and *La Cage Aux Folies* (Phaedra) with the Argenta Contemporary Theater. Brian's repertoire also includes film work and has been seen on screen in the Charlotte Black Film Festival and the Las Vegas Film Festival.



**Brianna East**<sup>^</sup> (Betty Blast/Eleanor Dunbar/ Cowgirl) is a graduate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a BA in music and a minor in dance. She is a gifted triple-threat who was recently in *The Importance of Being Earnest* as Merriman, *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical* as Sandra Snyder, *Little Shop of Horrors* as Crystal, *Beauty and the Beast* as Babette, *The Addams Family Musical* as Alice Beineke, *Matilda* as Mrs. Wormwood, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as the Narrator. She also performs with Little Rock's local dance group Untapped Inc. She thanks her family and friends for their love, support, and encouragement throughout her pursuit of the arts.



**Luke Ferguson**<sup>^</sup> (Garvin/US Willard) is very excited to be making his Arkansas Repertory Theatre debut in *Footloose!* He has been involved in central Arkansas theater for 14 years, and has recently been seen as Clyde in *Bonnie and Clyde* (Royal), Gerry Goffin in *Beautiful: The Carol King Musical* (Studio), Bat Boy in *Bat Boy: The Musical* (Weekend). In addition to musical theater, he can also be seen performing live music at various local venues. He would like to thank everyone at The Rep for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Holly Ruth Gale**<sup>^</sup> (Lulu Warnicker) is crazy happy to be at The Rep this summer! She is active as a singer, actor, recitalist, lecturer, director, and clinician. Holly Ruth has worked professionally with CAT Collective, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Highlands Playhouse, Music Theatre of Wichita, Discoveryland, Arkansas Children's Opera, and Shreveport Opera. Credits include: *The Tempest*, *Oklahoma!*, *Trifles*, *Vinegar Tom*, *The Buddy Holly Story*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cabaret*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Fox on the Fairway*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Pippin*, *Hamlet*, *Oliver!*, *I Do, I Do!*, *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music*, *Taste of Buffalo*, *Big River*, *Ragtime*, *Music Man*, *Where's Charlie*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *The Pajama Game*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Così fan tutte*. Holly Ruth lives near Russellville with her husband, John, where she has discovered the delight of making fairy houses in their wooded yard! She loves being busy sewing, helping John build theatre sets, traveling, and working in the yard. They have two amazing daughters, Talley and Ian.



**Ethan Hall\*** (Chuck/Cowboy Bob) is from Wilmington, North Carolina, and is very excited to join the cast of *Footloose*. Recent credits include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Gerry Goffin), *The Producers* (Carmen Ghia), *Christmas on Ice*, *Off the Yellow Brick Road* (Tin), Silverwood Theme Park and *Grease* (Kenickie). Thank you so much to Arkansas Rep for the opportunity and I hope you enjoy the show!



**Savannah Halter\*\*^** (Ensemble/Dance Captain/US Urleen) graduated from Butler University where she studied dance performance and English literature. Locally, Savannah has most recently performed in Argenta Contemporary Theater's *Godspell* (Ensemble/Dance Captain) and choreographed The Weekend Theater's *American Beauty*. At Butler University, she performed in *Pippin* (Bolero Dancer/Ensemble/Dance Captain), *The Nutcracker* (Toymaker), and *Midwinter Dances* (Ensemble), as well as in numerous other projects for both the Dance and Theater departments. Savannah was in Ballet Arkansas' *The Nutcracker Spectacular* (Snow/Flower Corps de Ballet) and Texarkana Community Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (Sugar Plum Fairy, Dew Drop Fairy, Clara). Her formative training years were spent at Shuffles & Ballet II, where she is now a faculty member, but her training experience also includes Institute for American Musical Theater in New York City, American Ballet Theater in New York, California, and Texas, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Education at The Rep, among others.



**Amaya Hardin^** (Urleen/US Rusty) is thrilled to be back at Arkansas Repertory Theatre this summer! Over the past few years, Amaya has appeared in several local productions such as *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *The Spongebob Musical* (Sandy Cheeks), and *Once on This Island* (Ti Moune). In addition to performing, Aaya will be a senior musical theatre major at Ouachita Baptist University in the fall and has recently made her choreographer debut in *Once on This Island* at the Studio Theater this summer. Amaya strives to showcase herself through the art she creates and this production is no different. That being said, please enjoy this fun-filled adventure to the small town of Bomont!



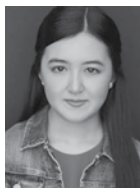
**Spencer LaRue\*** (Ren McCormack) is thrilled to be making his Arkansas Rep debut. Broadway: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (James Potter Jr/Sr/Cedric Diggory). Select Regional: *West Side Story* (Tony, Pittsburgh CLO), *The Sound of Music* (Rolf, Ogunquit Playhouse), *Newsies* (Romeo, Broadway at Music Circus), *Disaster!* w/ *Seth Rudestsky* (ensemble, CRT). Other credits: *Sweeney Todd* (Toby, UofM). Graduate of The University of Michigan Musical Theatre. Huge thank you to his parents, Griffin, and the DGRW team for always believing in him. For Sam.



**Michael Matherne** (Travis) is enlivened to be making his debut at Arkansas Repertory Theatre! Recent/favorite credits include: Robbie Hart in *The Wedding Singer* and Jimmy Ray Dobbs in *Bright Star*. Later this year, Michael embarks on a 9-month singer/dancer contract with Azamara Cruise Line. Thanks to all mentors, especially Greg Baccarini and Sarah O'Connor Siereveld.



**Gary Newton**\*^ (Uncle Wes Warnicker/US Shaw) was last seen at The Rep as “Brian Doyle” in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. As a producer, his Mortuus Pater Pictures’ ensemble comedy feature *Antiquities* is available on digital platforms throughout the world. As a writer, his *Scipio Africanus Jones* pilot was a recent semi-finalist at the Austin Film Festival Screenplay Competition. A graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York, he trained in improv at The Groundlings in Los Angeles. Theatre: *Cole Slaw & The Baked Bean Band* (LA), *Musical Chairs* (LA), *Murder by Moonlight* (LA), *Positive/Negative* (NYC), *The Comedy of Errors* (NYC). Film: *I’ll Be There* (Upcoming), *The Threesome* (Upcoming), *Greater*, *God’s Not Dead 2*, *The Last Ride*. Television: *Women of the Movement*, *True Detective*, *Quarry*, *LA Law*, *Saturday Night Live*.



**Isabella Nguyen**^ (Ensemble) is thrilled to be back on The Rep stage! A rising senior at Mount St. Mary Academy, some of her favorite credits include Jane Seymour in *SIX the Teen Edition* at MSM, Skylar in *Bring It On* at Argenta Contemporary Theatre, Alicia in *American Idiot* at The Royal Theatre, Patrice in *13 the Musical* at the Studio Theatre, and Violet Beauregarde in *Willy Wonka Jr.* at The Rep. Isabella would like to thank the wonderful Anna Kimmel, her parents, and her friends for their constant love and support. @theisabellanguyen



**Victoria Pikel**\* (Ariel Moore) is a rising senior at Yale University studying political science and theater studies. Select Yale credits: *Chicago* (Velma), *Legally Blonde* (Elle), *Hamlet* (Ophelia), *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* (Hélène). Past meaningful projects include *lady in blue* in the opera adaptation of *for colored girls* (New York City Center), core company member at SteppingStone Theatre in Minnesota, and a producing intern with Steppenwolf Theater. She is so excited to make her professional theater debut with The Rep and is endlessly grateful for this wonderful community! She’d like to dedicate this to her mom, who never stopped dancing.



**Caroline Perry**^ (Ensemble/Assistant Dance Captain) is thrilled to be returning to Arkansas Repertory Theatre in *Footloose!* Regional credits: *Fairview* (Suze) at the University of Richmond, *Guys and Dolls* (Swing) at Arkansas Rep. Local credits: *Cabaret* (Lulu/US Sally Bowles/Dance Captain) at TST, *The Wizard of Oz* (Tinman/Dance Captain) at ACT, *Pippin* (Player) at ACT, *A Chorus Line* (Mike) at ACT, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Annabeth Chase) at PA. Caroline is a sophomore pursuing a double major in theatre and dance with a minor in English at the University of Richmond where she is also a returning member of the prestigious University Dancers company. She would like to thank her friends, family, and mentors for their support, as well as thank Anna for the opportunity to work together again! Enjoy the show!



**B Cordell Piggee** (Coach Roger Dunbar) is a gifted vocalist and worship leader hailing from Little Rock, Arkansas. He began his musical journey in the 6th grade and has thrived ever since. Currently, B Cordell serves as the Worship Leader at Grace United Church. He has also showcased his musical prowess as the Music Director for the Black Nativity play in 2022 and 2023. He delivered a remarkable performance in *The Color Purple* at Studio Theatre and played the role of 'Future' in the *Proud* play, which debuted at The Rep at the beginning of the year. Cordell's versatility shines through as he embraces both acting and music directing roles. Moreover, in addition to his musical endeavors, he values his role as a devoted husband and father.



**Leigh Anne Ralston**^ (The Principal/US Ethel/US Lulu/US Vi) is thrilled to return to The Rep stage after a 20-year absence! Previous shows at The Rep include *Evita*, *Nunsense*, and *Nunsense 3* (we don't talk about the New York nuns from *Nunsense 2*...still too painful). She has also appeared locally at the Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theater (now AMFA), Shakespeare Festival of Arkansas, and Murry's Dinner Playhouse. She is a proud graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Department Theater Arts and was the Executive Director of the Shakespeare Festival of Arkansas, as well as a teaching artist at Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theater. Over a long career spanning musical theater ingenues (Peggy Sawyer *42nd Street*, Nelly Forbush – *South Pacific*, Kathy Selden – *Singin' in the Rain*), to some of Shakespeare's wonderful ladies (Viola – *Twelfth Night*, Roslyn – *As You Like It*, Hermia – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), to mothers and characters and villains (Ursula, the Sea Witch – Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, Martha Brewster – *Arsenic and Old Lace*), Leigh Anne's favorite roles are that of wife to Patrick and mother to Nate and Emerson, and she is grateful every day for their support and love! Thanks to The Rep and to you for supporting the Arts in Arkansas!

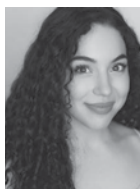


**Paige Martin Reynolds**^ (Vi Moore) is thrilled to return to The Rep stage! Previous appearances at the Rep include *Designing Women* (u/s Julia and Suzanne) and *Born Yesterday* (Helen; u/s Billie). Locally, she has also been seen on stage at Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Murry's Dinner Playhouse, Argenta Contemporary Theatre, The Studio Theatre, The Weekend Theatre, and Central Arkansas Theatre Collective. A few favorite roles include Ellen (*Vinegar Tom*), Blanche Dubois (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Gertrude (*Hamlet*), Regan (*King Lear*), Olivia (*Twelfth Night*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), Maria (*A Comedy of Tenors*), Masha (*Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike*), Kay Miniver (*Mrs. Miniver*), Natasha (*Rough Crossing*), and Maggie (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*). She is a professor in UCA's Department of English, where she teaches and writes about Shakespeare and other drama. Paige is the lucky mother of two spectacular humans, Drew and Max. Much love to my husband, Bert, sweet family, and dear friends for their steadfast support. And a huge thank you to Anna Kimmel for this delightful opportunity!





**Ray Robinson\*** (Willard Hewitt) is a New York City based actor, singer, and songwriter. He grew up in Woodbine, Maryland, where he found his love for theater and the arts. He studied musical theater at CAP21/Molloy College in New York and graduated with a BFA back in 2020. Ray is thrilled to be joining the Arkansas Repertory Theatre family! Tours: *SAW the Musical Parody* (First National Tour), *Pete the Cat's Big Hollywood Adventure* (TWUSA 1st Ntl Tour), *Pete the Cat* (TWUSA). Regional: *The Little Mermaid* (Reagle MT), *Oklahoma!* (Reagle MT), *Xanadu* (Madison Theatre). Enjoy the show!



**Emily Royer\*** (Rusty) is so excited to make her debut at Arkansas Rep! Select Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse, Ogunquit Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, White Plains Performing Arts Center. BFA, CCM. Gratitude and thanks to Brian at HKA, her incredible teachers, and her friends and family for their endless love and support! @emilyannroyer



**Michael A. Shepperd\*** (Rev. Shaw Moore) is excited to be back at The Rep! Michael has previously appeared in *Clydes* and *The Whipping Man*. Acting roles include *Matilda* (Trunchbull), *The Producers* (Roger; Ovation Award nominee), *BootyCandy* (LADCC nom, Ovation, Stage Raw Win), *The Color Purple* (Mister; Ovation award), *Steel* (Ovation Award), *Master Harold and the Boys* (NAACP theatre award nom), *Intimate Apparel* (NAACP Theatre Award), *Choir Boy* (NAACP nom). Broadway/regional credits include: *Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *Caroline, or Change*. TV: *Bosch*, *Why Women Kill*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Hot In Cleveland*, *Wizards of Waverly Place*, *Monk*. NCIS: *Los Angeles*. Directing credits include: *The Boy From Oz* (Ovation Award, LADCC Award, Best Director), *Rotterdam* (LADCC Award Best Production, Stage Raw award for Best Production and Director, nom, West Addams, *LA Times* Critics' Choice), *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (Director of the Year, Scenie Award, Broadway World nom, Best Director), *Sucker Punch*, *Too Heavy for Your Pocket* (*LA Times* Critics' Choice), *Rent*.



**Makayla Shipe^** (Ensemble/US Ariel) is thrilled to be a part of this energetic and fabulous production of *Footloose*. She is an Arkansas native who is currently living in Cincinnati Ohio, obtaining her BFA in musical theatre at the University of Cincinnati, College – Conservatory of Music (CCM). Her most recent credits include *Little Women* (Amy) CCM, and *Footloose* (Urleen) Incline Theatre. She would like to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support and love. Enjoy the show! @makaylalynaeshipe





**Frederick Webb**<sup>^</sup> (Lyle) is perfervidly overjoyed to be back at The Rep! He has been seen on stage at The Rep in their productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Into the Woods*, and *Chicago*. Regional credits: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Arvada Center, Casa Mañana, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre); *State Fair* (Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre); *The Addams Family* (Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre); *The Music Man* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre); *Ragtime* (The Link Theatre Company/Delta Symphony Orchestra); *The Color Purple* (Revival Theatre Company); *Once on This Island* (Charleston Stage Company). Frederick would like to thank his family and friends for their love and continuous support. TGBTG!  
#JUMP @fivefourfred



**Nate Westerman**<sup>^</sup> (Jeter) is excited to return to the The Rep for *Footloose*! After previously performing “Too Darn Hot” from *Kiss Me, Kate!*, Nate is excited to return to the Repertory stage for *Footloose*. Some of Nate’s favorite theatre credits include Hortensio (*Kiss Me, Kate!*) and Billy Elliot (*Billy Elliot*). Having been involved in many artistic scenes for 12 years now, Nate has been awarded and recognized for his instrumental musicianship, choreography and dance performance, and poetry and writing. In hope of taking these credentials to become a full-time performer and artist, beginning this fall he will be attending Missouri State University in pursuit of a BFA in musical theatre with a minor in music. GO BEARS!



**Hannah Lauren Wilson** (Wendy Jo) is delighted to be making her Arkansas Rep debut! Hannah is a NYC based actor originally from Portland, Oregon. The last time she was in Arkansas, she was playing Piglet, Roo, and Kanga on the first national tour of *Disney’s Winnie the Pooh: The New Musical Stage Adaptation*. Other recent credits include Mopsa in *Head Over Heels* (ZACH Theatre), Lenora in *Cry-Baby* (Roxy Regional Theatre), and Linda in *Blood Brothers* (triangle productions!). When not onstage, you can find her creating content for social media, performing in shows at 54 Below, or belting show tunes as a singing server at Gayle’s Broadway Rose in NYC. Thank you to the team at The Rep, ATB Talent, her wonderful family, and brilliant friends.  
@hannahlaurenwilson

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Anna Kimmell** (Director) loves Little Rock, where she spent four years as The Rep’s Director of Education and directed/choreographed *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *Willy Wonka Jr*. Her career as an actor, educator, and director has taken her all over the world, including performances at Theatre by the Sea (RI), Flat Rock Playhouse (NC), Georgia Shakespeare (GA), Theatre of the Stars (GA), and on *The Wizard of Oz* National Tour, to name a few. Other favorite adventures include traveling to Malawi for a communications project with Heifer International and teaching theatre in rural Chile. Anna now lives in Asheville, NC, and works as a dance and theatre educator. She’s grateful to Ken-Matt and Will and honored to collaborate with this talented team that includes many friends and former students! [annakimmell.com](http://annakimmell.com)

**Sydney Lynne** (Scenic Designer) (she/her) is a Chicago-based scenic designer and civic artist, specializing in the craft of world-building experiences. Her recently recognized productions include *Twelfth Night* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* (Baltimore Center Stage), *What to Send up When It Goes Down* (Congo Square Theater), and *cullud watah* (Victory Gardens). Other collaborators include: Pyramid Theater, Barrington Stage Company, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Phoenix Theater Company, Longwharf Theatre, Jupiter Maltz Theater, and Geva Theater Center. She was nominated for a 2020 Jeff Award in Scenic Design, and won a 2020 3Arts Award in Theatre and 2022 BTAA Award for Best Scenic Design. To those who got me here, thank you!

**Celeste Jennings**^ (Costume Designer) is a passionate playwright and costume designer from Little Rock, Arkansas. She's based in NYC and is so excited to be collaborating at the Arkansas Rep this summer! Most recently, she designed *Dangerous Days* at Miami New Drama, *Blues in The Night* at Alabama Shakespeare Theatre, and *Fat Ham* at the Huntington Theatre and Alliance Theatre. Upcoming, she's designing *Pride and Prejudice*, *Footloose*, *Jitney*, and *Hello Dolly!* at Arkansas Reperatory Theatre; *Memnon* with the Classical Theatre of Harlem; and *Rough Crossing* with the Ensemble Players at the University of Delaware. Her play, *'Bov Water*, was successfully produced at Northern Stage in 2023. Additionally, she developed her play, *Contentious Woman*, with Play Company in NYC and *WJLB* at New York Theatre Workshop (NYTW) during her tenure as a 2050 artistic fellow. Jennings holds an MFA in costume design from NYU Tish School of the Arts. Currently, she's a proud member of the Emerging Writer's Group at the Public Theatre. [www.celestejenndesigns.com](http://www.celestejenndesigns.com) | [@celestejenn](https://twitter.com/celestejenn)\_

**Robert Frost**^ (Music Director) is thrilled to be back in his home state! Robert is thrilled to be back at The Rep! Robert is thrilled to CUT FOOTLOOSE! He just watched the movie *Footloose* eight months ago and loved the tractor scene! Big thanks to Anna, Rachel, Sarah, Leann, KMM, and Will! Most importantly, lots of love to my parents! [@rfrostmusic](https://twitter.com/rfrostmusic)

**Rachel Perlman** (Choreographer) is elated to be back at The Rep choreographing *Footloose*! She's no stranger to The Rep, as she was also seen performing here in *Mary Poppins* (where she met her now-husband!), *Chicago*, and served as choreographer for the summer youth programs. She most recently choreographed *DreamWorks Imagination Celebration* for Universal Studios Florida's brand new DreamWorks land. Other favorite choreography credits: associate choreographer for *Disney Little Mermaid* for Disney Cruise Line's The Wish; associate choreographer at Tuacahn Amphitheater for *Tarzan*, *Mary Poppins*, *Annie*, *White Christmas*, *Count of Monte Cristo*; associate choreographer for *A Christmas Story* at The John W. Engeman Theatre. Favorite performance credits: Pre-West End Production of *The Prince of Egypt* (Tuacahn), *Beauty & The Beast*, *Matilda*, *Cinderella* at Tuacahn, National/Int'l Tours of Andy Blankenbuehler's *Joseph...* Dreamcoat, Cha Cha in *Grease* on Royal Caribbean Cruise Line; *West Side Story* and *Oklahoma!* at North Shore Music Theatre. BFA Elon. Endless gratitude to Anna for this opportunity, and to both Anna and Robert for being a dream team. Thanks to Erik, Mr. Banks, and my family and friends for supporting me in doing what fills me up. [www.rachelperlman.com](http://www.rachelperlman.com) | [@fuelmovesweat](https://twitter.com/fuelmovesweat)

**Levi J. Wilkins** (Lighting Design) (he/him/his). Born and raised on the southwest side of Chicago, Levi has been a member of the Chicago Theater community since age six and is currently the lighting director at The Faith Community of St. Sabina. Theater credits include *Exit Strategy* at Northwestern University Theater; *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* with Congo Square Theater and Lookingglass Theater Company; *Brother Sister Cyborg Space* at Raven Theater; *Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolf* with Invictus Theater; *The Mountaintop* at Constellation Stage & Screen; *Into The Side of A Hill* with Flint Rep; *Is God Is* with A Red Orchid Theater; *Once on this Island* at Pulse Theater; *A Raisin in The Sun* with Indiana University NW; and *Stew, London Road*, and *Jump* with Shattered Globe Theater. [www.fresherlight.com](http://www.fresherlight.com)

**Cavett Luke Mitchell** (Sound Design) is a sound designer and audio engineer, currently residing in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from MTSU where he studied audio production, afterwards landing himself a job at Bylites. He later found his way into the world of theatre through Arkansas Rep, where he designed his first show, *Chicago*, in 2019. He has since brought immersive sound design and quality engineering to many of The Rep's productions, but has also worked to establish himself as a reliable source of audio knowledge and service for a number of the fine arts entities in the Little Rock area. "Theatre affords me the opportunity to do everything I love in the world of audio, while having the chance to speak to you through the story we're telling. Without you, none of this would happen. Thank you for being here, and thank you for listening."

**Luisa Ann Torres\*** (Production Stage Manager) received her BA in drama from the University of Dallas and MFA in stage management from the University of Alabama/Alabama Shakespeare Festival Master's Program. Regional theatre stage management credits include: *On Golden Pond* (Casa Manana – Fort Worth, TX); *Women of Will, Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival – Center Valley, PA); *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike* (Uptown Players, Dallas, TX); *Hank Williams: Lost Highway, Black Tie, The Grapes of Wrath, Putting It Together, It's a Wonderful Life – A Live Radio Play, Smokey Joe's Café* (WaterTower Theatre – Addison, TX); *Pericles* (Southwest Shakespeare Festival – Odessa, TX); *The Sound of Music, Oklahoma!* (Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston – Waltham, MA); *Charley's Aunt* (Unity Theatre – Brenham, TX); *The Furniture of Home, Dr. Faustus, The Illusion* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival – Montgomery, AL); *Seussical, 1776*, and Disney's *High School Musical* (Playhouse on the Square – Memphis, TN). Luisa is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

**Ash Willeby\*** (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to return to theatre for *Footloose* at The Rep. Other ASM credits include: *Urinetown, Rockin' Christmas Party, Parade, The Great American Trailerpark Musical, Smokey Joe's Café, Putting It Together, Hank Williams: Lost Highway* (Watertown Theatre, Addison, TX). Stage management credits include: *The Santaland Diaries, The Ugly One* (Watertown Theatre, Addison, TX). Ash has her master's in forensic psychology, and loves screenwriting in her spare time.

**Sarah 陳永懿 Chen** (Assistant Music Director) (she/her) recently has served as rehearsal pianist/assistant MD/pit musician for various productions at NYU Tisch, where she's pursuing a BFA in musical theatre. Sarah is so happy to be here at The Rep— thank you to the creative and production team and cast, who've made it such a joy to come to work every day. And a huge thank you to Robert and Leann. [sarahchenmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sarahchenmusic@gmail.com)

# ARKANSAS REPERTORY THEATRE STAFF

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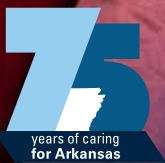
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Elliott Hillard  
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A portrait of Warren A. Stephens, a middle-aged man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred office setting with a framed picture on the wall.

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