

DANIEL AUSTIN MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ BOOK BY ROBERT O. HIRSON

JUNE 9-25, 2023





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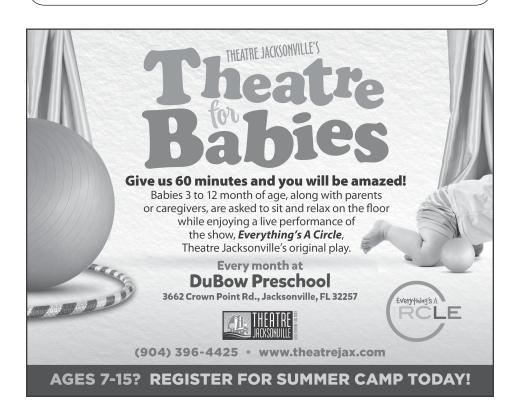
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DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Recently, a friend was lamenting to me about how "difficult producing theatre has become since COVID." They're not wrong – supply chains, attention spans, schedules and more have all become spectacular headaches in the performance world. After some thought, however, I remembered that theatre has never been easy. It's a brutal business on every side. Creatives pull their hair out trying to put a story to page or make a song work. Dancers bruise and bleed their way through tough choreography and actors famously struggle to make ends meet as shows close and they wait for the next project to land. It's a business and art form known for its rejection, and the feedback is usually instant... and LIVE. A professor in college once told us fledgling artists that we were "entering the only business where being judged on your looks is not just a possibility, it's required. Casting is brutal and honest, and if you can't take rejection, you might as well find something else to fulfill you."

And isn't that what we are all looking for? Something completely fulfilling? That's what *Pippin* is looking for in this show - but it's not just Pippin's story. We follow a group of Players, of performers, who tell this tale of war, revolution, and longing over and over. We can imagine that today's show is one in a string of many, constantly raising the curtain and starting again from the top. After all, that's what actors strive for in performance – the illusion of the "first time." To create the belief that this isn't all rehearsed but rather happening in the moment is the ultimate act of magic.

Yet, it is, of course, rehearsed. We've rehearsed Pippin's longing and the troupe's wild ride through this bullet train of a show each day to get it right – just for you. It's a show that took many years to get to Broadway, and through a famous tussle between composer Stephen Schwartz (Godspell, Wicked and so much more) and choreographer Bob Fosse (Chicago, Cabaret, Sweet Charity and so much more), it turned into the magical, fantastical, highly choreographed fever dream that it is. Pippin landed in its definitive version with the 2013 revival, which is the script variation that we present to you tonight. This show demands Fosse-style choreography to work, and for that, I can't sing the praises of Curtis J. Williams enough. Beyond his stunning costumes, this show's choreography is my favorite work I've seen him create in his long legacy here. He set the bar high, and this group rose to the challenge.

Will Pippin rise to the challenge? That is the question we present to you today. In his search for fulfillment, we can reflect on our own hopes and dreams. To chase after those wants or even to achieve them is never easy. That's life, and that's theatre. There are no easy answers, no fast tracks, no magic wands to wave. It's the blood, sweat, tears and determination that provide us with life's most fulfilling experiences. In that spirit, each day we stretch our bodies, warm up our voices, fire up the lights, check the props and do magic for you. After all the hard work and practice, the end result seems effortless... but you and I both know that it's not.

So, no pretending today. This is a theatre. Those are actors. This is a story.

And everything else, well, it's right inside your head. Enjoy the show!

-Daniel Austin

PIPPIN

Book By

Music By

Roger O. Hirson

Stephen Schwartz

Originally Produced on the Broadway Stage by Bob Fosse

CAST

Leading Player	Ilana Marshall
Pippin	Ron Shreve
Charles, his father	
Lewis, his half-brother	Nicolas DeAssis
Fastrada, Lewis' mother	Leanne Gullo
Berthe, Pippin's grandmother	Emily Charleton
Catherine, a widow	Aly Blakewell
Theo, her son	Brooke Lewis
BAND OF PLAYERS who play all other roles	Julia Blasi,
Zoe Carpenter, Lexi Hall, Theresa Pazanows	ki, Zachary Pickett

Time:

780 A.D. and thereabouts

Place:

The Holy Roman Empire and thereabouts

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

PIPPIN is produced by special arrangement with MUSICAL THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

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TECHNICAL PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Daniel Austin
Choreographer/Costume Designation	gnerCurtis J. Williams
Assistant Choreographer	Theresa Pazanowski
Music Director	Erin Balazs Barnes
Set Design	Ben Girvin & Triple O Productions
Lighting Design	Johnny Pettegrew
Stage Manager	Matt King
Assistant Stage Manager	Gillian Rodriguez
Lighting Board Operator	Mark Rubens
Dresser	Catherine Warren

MUSICAL NUMBERS:

Magic to Do - Leading Player & The Players Corner of the Sky - Pippin War is a Science - Charles, Pippin & The Players Glory - Leading Player & The Players Simple Joys - Leading Player No Time At All - Berthe & The Players With You - Pippin Spread a Little Sunshine - Fastrada Morning Glow - Pippin & The Players Entr'acte - The Players & Pippin On the Right Track - Pippin & Leading Player Kind of Woman - Catherine Extraordinary - Pippin Love Song - Pippin & Catherine I Guess I'll Miss the Man - Catherine Finale - Leading Player, Pippin, Theo & The Players

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

DANIEL AUSTIN (Director) is grateful to be making his Theatre Jacksonville directorial debut with this excellent cast and team. He has previously directed Small Mouth Sounds, How I Learned to Drive (The 5 & Dime), Circle Mirror Transformation (MOCA Jacksonville), and Venus in Fur (PBTS). Daniel also directs eight shows a year at The Bolles School, where he writes and creates original educational performances for PreK-5th Grade (Go Bulldogs!). His slate of seven original shows focused on stories from the world's seven continents won the Global Education Benchmark Group's 2019 Global Education and Thouaht Prize (First Place, Primary Division). He has also been seen in many shows around the First Coast on stage, with highlights that include Something Rotten!, Clue, Peter and the Starcatcher, (Theatre Jacksonville), Angels in America, HAIR, (PBTS), Merrily We Roll Along (ABET), and more. He wishes to thank the tenacious actors and dedicated team that brought this project off the drawing board and into the universe. He feels lucky to work alongside Ron Shreve, who makes magic possible in every aspect of his life. Finally, he thanks you for supporting live theatre!

ERIN BALAZS BARNES (Music Director) Delighted to be back at Theatre Jacksonville with dear friends, Erin is having a blast watching this troupe do their magic for you! A summa cum laude graduate of the Jacksonville University School of Music, Erin has stayed busy in Jacksonville's theatre scene as actor, singer, pianist, director, and educator. She returns for the first time since Beehive in 2021. Other credits include Something Rotten, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Mamma Mia, and Peter and the Starcatcher. Thanks as always to Ron, Daniel, Curtis, and the rest of the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication to their craft, and to husband Matt and the kiddos for their unending love and support.

ALY BLAKEWELL (Catherine) could not be more excited to be returning to the stage! She was last involved in ABET's Jingle Bell Jukebox Review and Ragtime with Theatre Jacksonville. Past favorite roles include Sophie Sheridan (Mamma Mia!), Liesel (Sound of Music) and Arista (The Little Mermaid). She would love to thank the entire creative team of Pippin, her parents, and friends for being so supportive.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY CONTINUED

JULIA BLASI (Player) is so happy to be making magic in Theatre Jacksonville's production of *Pippin*. Julia is a lifelong theatre lover, singer, and actress. Most recently, Julia played Alice Murphy in ABET's production of *Bright Star*. Some of her favorite roles include Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown*, Maureen in *Rent*, Sandy in *Grease*, Mayella Ewell in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon a Mattress*. Next up: see her as Sara in ABET's production of *Murder Ballad*.

ZOE CARPENTER (Player) is thrilled to be making her debut in her first musical! She's a junior theatre major at Douglas Anderson School for the Arts. She was seen most recently here in *Puffs*. You can also catch Zoe as a counselor at our Summer Camp beginning in June. Thanks to Daniel, Curtis, and Erin for this opportunity & to Mr. Ron who is always building her confidence. And to the cast, go find your *Doorway to Where!*

EMILY CHARLETON (Berthe) studied musical theatre at NYU's Steinhardt School. She spent 8 years in the U.S. Navy as a solo vocalist. Most recently she played the Queen in *Cinderella* at Port Gamble Theatre in Washington. Her favorite roles include Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd (Amarillo Little Theatre, Texas), Sister Mary Patrick in Sister Act (Diamond Head Theatre, Hawai'i), and Emma Goldman in Ragtime (NYU). She and her husband, Ian, recently moved to Jacksonville in January.

NICOLAS DEASSIS (Lewis) is a student at Stanton College Preparatory School and has acted in two shows there. When he isn't acting, Nick enjoys writing scripts for plays. This is his first community theatre production, and he couldn't be happier to be a part of this great show full of wonderful people. Enjoy the magic.

LEANNE GULLO (Fastrada) is extremely proud to be a part of this production of *Pippin*. Most recently, Leanne studied the role of Emma Goldman in the musical *Ragtime* (Theatre Jacksonville). Other local credits: *Something Rotten* (Theatre Jacksonville), *Evil Dead*: The Musical (The 5&Dime), and *Tick*...BOOM! (ABET). During the day, Leanne is the music teacher at Venetia Elementary where she was named 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year. She would like to give a huge shoutout to her NEW HUSBAND, Mikey, for all his love and support.

LEXI HALL (Player) is so incredibly excited to make her Theatre Jacksonville debut in *Pippin!* She is an incoming freshman at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and plans to pursue musical theatre! You may have seen her in *The Little Mermaid* as Ariel and in *Newsies* as Medda Larkin at Greenlight Theatre Company, the 'Oh Bless the Lord' soloist in *Gospel* at LaVilla School of the Arts, or as Mrs. Hannigan in *Annie* at Set Studios. She would like to thank the cast and crew for giving her this incredible opportunity, and to her parents for being so supportive and driving her to rehearsal!

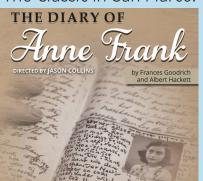
MATT KING (Stage Manager) crawled out of the stage light from his role as Hadley in ABET's limited run of *Shawshank Redemption* and into the pit for *Pippin* to reprise his Stage Manager role with TJ's *Mamma Mial*. Since then, you may have seen him in TJ's *Something Rotten* and *Shadowlands* or more recently in Alhambra's *The Play That Goes Wrong*. If you can't find him near the theatres, look for him on the beach and/or with the Assistant Choreographer. IG: @mattghking

BROOKE LEWIS (Theo) is thrilled to be a part of this production! Brooke recently played Michael in *Peter Pan Jr.* presented at The Bolles school. Brooke is in the 4th grade and her favorite subjects are drama and music. When not on stage she enjoys swimming and playing with her friends.



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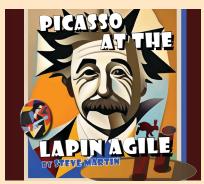
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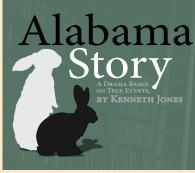
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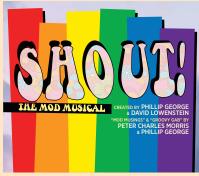
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WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY CONTINUED

COLE MARSHALL (Charles) is excited to appear in his first production at Theatre Jacksonville. His most recent appearance was as Jim Fingal in ABET's *The Lifespan of a Fact*. Other recent credits include Leo Frank in *Parade*, Toxie in *The Toxic Avenger*, and Mendel in *Falsettos*. More than anything, he is thrilled that our audiences get to see his wife, llana, bring down the house.

ILANA MARSHALL (Leading Player) could not be happier to be back at Theatre Jacksonville! Ilana has been a part of this theatre community since she was very young and considers these people more like family! Some stand out roles include Veronica in *Heathers* at Limelight, Kate in *The Wild Party* at Players by the Sea, and of course Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray* at this very Theatre. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support. And of course, her "King Charlemagne", aka husband, Cole, for doing theatre and life together. Enjoy the set, costumes, lights and of course, magic!

THERESA PAZANOWSKI (Assistant Choreographer/Player) has been waiting her entire life to be a part of this production of *Pippin*. You may recognize her from various productions around Jacksonville, including *Mary Poppins* at PBTS, *Parade* at The Limelight, and most recently at Theatre Jacksonville, *Beehive*. She would like to thank Daniel, Erin, Curtis, and Ron for giving her wings in letting her work with them on this dream project. Lots of love to her favorite Matt and stage manager extraordinaire – thank you for the constant love and support and being a part of this journey with me!

ZACHARY PICKETT (Player) is 19 years old and has been involved with musical theatre since the first grade and hopes to continue his passion in the professional world. Having graduated from Providence School (2022), he is currently studying for his BFA in theatre arts at Jacksonville University. His recent credits include Ernst Ludwig in Cabaret, Thomas Putnam in *The Crucible*, and Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. He would like to thank his parents, friends, and mentors for their continuous support.

RON SHREVE (Pippin) is truly humbled and excited to revisit the show that set him on his directing path. Ron is no stranger to the stage, but is often found behind the scenes, helping create the magic with props, scenery and set dressing. As the Director of Education at Theatre Jacksonville, he takes this performance opportunity to practice what he teaches and truly give over to the fantasy of this production. He'd like to thank this hardworking cast who always approached everything with a "can-do" attitude, Curtis and Theresa for some of the most challenging and fun choreography (not to mention these costumes!), Erin for her absolute support and wisdom through this process of finding my voice and of course to Daniel who led us all kindly and confidently, took on an unexpected task and proved once again that he's always in my corner of the sky.

CURTIS J. WILLIAMS (Choreographer/Costume Designer) spent his childhood in musical theatre but was soon taken in by the world of ballet. From 2000 to 2008, he worked as a company artist/resident choreographer with The Florida Ballet and attended the University of North Florida and American University during the first years of his professional career. During that time, he also served as a permanent guest artist and choreographer with Virginia Ballet Theatre, Sierra Nevada Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, Dayton Contemporary Ballet and various dance galas across the U.S. After retiring from the world of classical performance, Mr. Williams first returned to musical theatre as a rehearsal director of works from the Bob Fosse repertoire. Since then, he has directed, choreographed and/or costumed productions of Ragtime, Sister Act, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Mamma Mia!, The Drowsy Chaperone, Hot Mikado, Nine to Five: The Musical, Schoolhouse Rock Live!, Les Misérables, Always A Bridesmaid, Hairspray, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, Love Goes To Press, The Laramie Project and The Explorer's Club. An avid hat maker, his millinery skills can be seen in shows around the southeast.

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