

A Note from Paul



Murder may not be at the top of most people's lists of ways to celebrate the holiday season, but we have never been very conventional with our festive activities here. Twisting the season's traditions and spinning them on their head is the name of the game here this time of year, and 2024 is no different.

If you are sitting in our audience expecting a traditional, heartwarming tale filled with the holiday spirit I suggest you buckle your seatbelts and have a cocktail (or three). Of course you'll see many familiar characters on our stage, but you have never seen them quite like this before. Of course, there are presents and a tree covered in lights, but you may never look at them the same way again. That is exactly how we like it.

Our community usually doesn't fit into a nicely wrapped package and the holidays can sometimes feel lonely. Here, you are all family and the gift we want to give you is laughter so for a couple of hours tonight, sit back and laugh with us. Tonight, even though the bodies are going to pile up and the blood is going to splatter (not literally...maybe) just remember that its ok to break conventions and do the unexpected. That has become our most cherished holiday tradition.

There is no certain way to know what 2025 will bring to any of us but rest assured that we are going to be here telling these stories and bringing as many smiles to faces as we can. We don't plan on fitting into any boxes anytime soon, no matter how nice the wrapping paper may be.

Happiest of Holidays (all year long)!



Paul Conroy (*He/Him/His*)
Founder & Producing Artistic Director
Out Front Theatre Company

MURDER ON THE POLAR EXPRESS



BY
RYAN LANDRY

STARRING

Robert Hindsman, Andrew Goodall, Blake Fountain, Jack Caron,
Jordan Patrick, Jessica Wise, Emily Nedvidek, Barry Westmoreland,
Noah Vega, Hope Clayborne, PJ Mitchell, Anna Dvorak, Bekah Medford,
Tyler Sarkis, Ta'Marion Freeman, Katelynn Standridge, Peach Dishongh

DIRECTOR
Paul Conroy

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Shane Simmons

CHOREOGRAPHER
Tyler Sarkis

**PRODUCTION
STAGE MANAGER**
Amani Clayton

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Lindsey Sharpless

COSTUME DESIGNER
Jordan Hermitt

WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER
Brian Jordan

**SCENIC & PROPS
DESIGNER**
Sydney Lee

SOUND DESIGNER
Brady Brown

SOUND ENGINEER
Donovan Lewis

**PROJECTION
DESIGNER**
Robby Myles

DRAMATURG
Kamari Taylor

**INTIMACY
DIRECTOR**
Laura Hackman

RUN CREW
Grace Davenport

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



REGIONS



**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
Cultural Affairs**

This program is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the National Endowment for the Arts. This program is supported in part by the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs. Funding for this program is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

MURDER ON THE POLAR EXPRESS



SETTING:
The Polar Express

**THERE WILL BE ONE
15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.**

CAST

Det. Shirley Holmes Robert Hindsman
 Dr. Jody Watley Andrew Goodall
 Santa Blake Fountain
 Herbie Jack Caron
 Porter Jordan Patrick
 Virgin Mary Jessica Wise
 Mrs. Cratchit Emily Nedvidek
 Grinch Barry Westmoreland
 Rudolph Noah Vega
 Suzie Snowflake Hope Clayborne
 Frosty PJ Mitchell
 Elsa Anna Dvorak
 Match Girl Bekah Medford
 Little Drummer Boy Tyler Sarkis
 Swings Ta'Marion Freeman,
 Katelynn Standridge,
 Peach Dishongh

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Paul Conroy
 Music Director Shane Simmons
 Choreographer Tyler Sarkis
 Production Stage Manager Amani Clayton
 Lighting Designer Lindsey Sharpless
 Costume Designer Jordan Hermit
 Wig & Makeup Designer Brian Jordan
 Scenic & Props Designer Sydney Lee
 Sound Designer Brady Brown
 Sound Engineer Donovan Lewis
 Projections Designer Robby Myles
 Dramaturg Kamari Taylor
 Dramaturgy Mentor Tom Fish
 Intimacy Director Laura Hackman
 Run Crew Grace Davenport
 Scenic Artist Caro Kok
 Master Carpenter John Atwell
 Carpenter Matt Conaty
 Photographer Sydney Lee
 Videographer Saturnblu Productions
 Public Relations JMF Communications
 Graphic Designer Brandon D Hunt

SPECIAL THANKS TO Allison Fabella, ART Station, 7 Stages

We apologize for anyone who may have been accidentally omitted from this program.



MURDER ON THE POLAR EXPRESS



Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

- "On The Christmas Train (They Call The Polar Express)" Company
- "What Has Santa Done?" Suspects
- "All I Want For Christmas Is You" Dr. Watley & Porter
- "A Gay Guido Reindeer" Rudolph
- "Jewish Christmas Song" Match Girl & Company
- "I Only Have Ice For You" Porter
- "The Murder of Santa Claus" Suspects

ACT TWO

- "Murder on the Polar" Company
- "Jingle Bells" Mrs. Cratchit
- "The Phantom of the Santa Claus" Suzie Snowflake, Elsa, Match Girl, Rudolph & Company
- "The Queen of the Pole" Suzie Snowflake
- "Elementary" Shirley Holmes
- "Let It Blow" Elsa & Company
- "Disco Holiday Mega Mix" Company

COMMITMENTS & VALUES

MISSION

Out Front Theatre Company's mission is to tell LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intergender, Asexual) stories.

VISION

Out Front Theatre Company's vision is to strengthen the LGBTQIA+ community in Georgia by exploring and celebrating the universal human experience through the lens of gender and sexuality.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION COMMITMENT

The staff and board of Out Front Theatre Company want to put the following metrics in place so that we can track them to completion. We want our stakeholders and our patrons to see real results.

- We want to have representative board members from black and brown communities, as well as gender nonconforming representatives and increase that representation by at least 10% every year until we reach a goal of above 50%.
- We want to produce, support, or promote at least 2 shows/events from creatives of color every year and increase that number by at least 20% every year.
- We want to increase our presence in communities of color and in women's communities through intentional outreach. We can do this by creating a communication strategy to expand our patronage. To that end, we will recruit a community outreach intern or staff member to help achieve this goal.
- We want to increase our intersectional involvement by partnering with other socially progressive nonprofit organizations to collaborate on community events. The goal is to have at least one partner event per year with an ultimate goal of three per year.

Please visit
www.OutFrontTheatre.com
to learn more.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are gathered on the unceded land of the Mvskoke (Muscogee/Creek) peoples. We ask you to join us in acknowledging the Mvskoke community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. Out Front Theatre Company also acknowledges that it was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those on whose land this institution is located.

This acknowledgment demonstrates a commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.



THE MUSCOGEE NATION

**For more information on this nation,
as well as how to support to them,
please visit www.muscogeenation.com**

CAST & CREW BIOS

CAST

ROBERT HINDSMAN *He/Him* (Detective Shirley Holmes) is so excited to spend his holiday at Out Front Theatre. Favorite Atlanta credits include *The Prom*, *The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes - Holiday Edition* (Out Front Theatre Company) *Born For This* (Alliance Theatre); *A Year with Frog and Toad, Sense and Sensibility* (Synchronicity Theatre); *Stupid F***ing Bird, Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (Actor's Express) *Greener Pastures* (Aurora Theatre); Birmingham Southern College Alum. Big thanks to Nick for taking care of our fam while I prance around the stage. @roberthindsman

ANDREW GOODALL *He/Him* (Dr. Jody Watley) is an actor and singer based in the Atlanta area. He made his Out Front Theatre debut as Seaweed J. Stubbs in *Hairspray*. Recent Atlanta credits: Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Marietta Theatre Company), Dancer/Ensemble/Swing in *Head Over Heels* (Marietta Theatre Company), and Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Marietta Theatre in the Square). Regional credits: Francisco in *The Tempest* and chorus member in *TEXAS! The Outdoor Musical*. Enjoy the show! Instagram: @andrewbgoodall

BLAKE FOUNTAIN *He/Him* (Santa) is back for his fifth holiday show at his most beloved theatre. Some of his favorite Out Front credits include Edna Tumbblad in *Hairspray* and Sylvia St. Croix in *Ruthless!* You may have seen his alter-ego, Tugboat the Queen in local sewers and storm drains trying to teach the opening number of *42nd Street* to various and sundry vermin - much to the chagrin of his therapist. Previous Atlanta credits include *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (Actor's Express), *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Mary Poppins* (City Springs Theatre Co.), *The Wizard of Oz*; *Guys and Dolls* (Atlanta Lyric), *Bullets Over Broadway*; *Leading*

Ladies (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), *Clue: On Stage*; *I Love You Because* (Marietta Theatre Company). Buckets of love to Nana, Sam, Butter, Bean, and my entire Out Front chosen family. Follow him @nonsmokingpartyoftwo and @tugboatthequeen

JACK CARON *He/Him* (Herbie) is so excited to be back on the Out Front stage! Out Front Theatre: *Psycho Beach Party*. Previous notable Atlanta acting credits have included: Blumhouse/Peacock TV's film *"They/Them"* and Amazon's upcoming comedy *"You're Cordially Invited."* He is a performing arts graduate of the SCAD School of Film and Acting.

JORDAN PATRICK *He/Him* (Porter) is so excited to be making his debut at Out Front Theatre! Jordan is native of Wisconsin, and moved to Georgia in 2017 and has been performing around town ever since: *Natash Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812, Amelie* (Horizon Theatre) *Beautiful, Summer the Donna Summer Musical* (Aurora Theatre), *Spring Awakening, Assassins* (Jennie T Anderson) *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Synchronicity Theater), *Heathers* (Actors Express), *Pretty Pants Bandit* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), *Goodnight Tyler* (Alliance Theater), *Titanic* (Serenbe Playhouse). International: *Life Love and Other Nonsense* (Touring Eastern China) *Improviser* (Seoul City Improv in South Korea) *Breath of Stars* (Crisis Art Festival in Arezzo, Italy). TV/Film Credits Include: *"Candy"* (Hulu) *"Tulsa King"* (Paramount) *"The First Lady"* (SHOWTIME), *"Teenage Bounty Hunter"* (Netflix), and *"The Resident"* (FOX). Special thanks to his Family, Friends, and Sam!

JESSICA WISE *She/Her* (Virgin Mary) is elated to be back on the Out Front stage for another campy Christmas! Her previous Out Front Theatre credits include: *SnowGirls, Christmas Dearest*, and *Kinky Boots*. She most recently starred as Kate in *Good People* with Merely Players, and she is in the

CAST & CREW BIOS (CONTINUED)

middle of producing her original one-act *The Bridge Club*, opening in 2025. Follow her at @_jessfab on Instagram!

EMILY NEDVIDEK *She/Her* (Mrs. Cratchit) is once again returning to the Out Front stage to terrorize audiences! You may have previously seen her as Female Authority Figure in *Hairspray*, Bettina Barnes in *Psycho Beach Party*, or Joan Crawford in *Christmas with the Crawfords* or *Christmas Dearest*. Select Atlanta credits include: *MacBeth* and *Legacy of Light* (Synchronicity), *Alabama Story* and *Bullets Over Broadway* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre), and *Wizard of Oz* (Atlanta Lyric). She holds a Masters in Classical Acting from LAMDA, but you'd never know it with the choices she's making in this show. Thanks to Mark and her family for their never-ending love, the cast for putting up with her shenanigans, and Paul for keeping her employed!

BARRY WESTMORELAND *He/Him* (Grinch) is thrilled to be making his debut on stage at Out Front Theatre! He is excited to be apart of this talented and hilarious cast of *Murder on the Polar Express!* Some of his credits include Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (Destination Theatre), Sebastian in *The Tempest* (The Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse), Boris in *Just Another Play about Rainbows* (Havoc Movement Co.), *Charlotte's Web* at Center for Puppetry Arts. Barry would love to thank his friends and family for always supporting him!

NOAH VEGA *He/They* (Rudolph) is elated to be back at OutFront after appearing in *Hairspray* as Fender and last season's *SnowGirls*. Recently, Noah portrayed Jamie New in *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (Actor's Express). He holds his BFA in Musical Theatre from Kent State University. Favorite Ohio credits: *The Secret Garden* (Magical Theatre Company), *Beauty & The Beast* (Akron Civic Theatre), *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Weathervane Playhouse), and *La Gringa*

(Latinx in Theatre). Much love to Andrew, Kari, Peaches, and Mom. Keep up with him @noahavega, www.noahavega.com

HOPE CLAYBORNE *She/Her* (Suzie Snowflake) is elated to grace the Out Front stage for a third time! You may have caught her last season at Out Front Theatre as Berdine in *Psycho Beach Party*, or more recently in *Hairspray* (Out Front Theatre Co.). Previous Atlanta credits include Cleo in *The Game* (Horizon Theatre Co.), Benvolio and Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet:60* (Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse), and May in *Junie B. Jones the Musical* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre). She is extremely grateful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show. Thank you for supporting live theatre!

PJ MITCHELL *He/Him* (Frosty) is so excited to return to Out Front in *Murder on the Polar Express!* Previous Atlanta credits include *The Prom* (Out Front Theatre Company), *Kinky Boots* (Out Front Theatre Company), *RENT* (ACT3), *tick, tick... BOOM!* (ACT3). Originally from the Washington, DC area, he has studied at Howard Community College (MD) and with The Alliance Theatre (GA). A graduate of The Paul Mitchell School (VA), PJ has served as a hair and makeup designer for Dominion Stage (VA), where he garnered a Washington Area Theatre (WATCH) award nomination for *Psycho Beach Party*. Much love to the cast, crew, and creative team for all their hard work. Follow him @pjlikepajamas88 on all platforms.

ANNA DVORAK *She/Her* (Elsa) is thrilled to be back celebrating the holidays at Out Front Theatre Company stage. She was most recently seen here as Judy Denmark in *Ruthless*. You may also remember her as Young Joan in *Christmas Dearest*, Judy Garland in *Christmas with the Crawfords* and as Kira/Clio in *Xanadu*. Other credits include: *Amelie* (Horizon Theatre Company), *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Horizon Theatre Company), *The Pretty Pants Bandit* (Georgia Ensemble), *Between Riverside and*

CAST & CREW BIOS (CONTINUED)

Crazy (True Colors Theatre Company).

Thank you for supporting local live theatre. We're so happy you're here!

BEKAH MEDFORD *She/Her* (Match Girl) is happily back for Out Front holiday mishegoss after portraying Ice Crystal in *SnowGirls* last year! Previous credits: *Housewives of Marietta*, *Spelling Bee*, *Lucky Stiff* (MTC); *STEAM TEAM*, *Junie Be Jones*, *One Slight Hitch* (GET); *Romeo and Juliet*; other Shakespearean chaos (Shakespeare on Draught); *The Student Body* (Destination); Character performance at Disney World. She is represented by Heyman Talent. Follow her adventures with Mouse the cat @bekmedford

TYLER SARKIS *He/Him* (Little Drummer Boy) could not be more thrilled to be returning for the chaos and hilarity that is the Out Front holiday show. He is so grateful to be working with artists in an arts organization that is inclusive, fosters creativity and representation, and walks the talk. Previous Out Front credits: *Psycho Beach Party*, *Ruthless!*, *Christmas Dearest*, *Homos*, or *Everyone in America*, *Xanadu*, and *La Cage aux Folles*. Regional: *Mary Poppins*, *Holiday Inn*, *Gentlemen's Guide* (City Springs); *Newsies*, *Little Mermaid*, *West Side Story*, *A Chorus Line* (Springer). "Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it. Action has magic, grace, and power." - Goethe || @yas_tyler

TA'MARION FREEMAN *He/Him* (Swing) is excited to be working with OutFront Theatre Company for the first time. His experience includes Out Front Theatre debut on *Murder on Polar Express*. Previous KSU Credits includes *48 Hour Play Festival*, *Blueprint* (Black History Production), and *Coming Out: A Celebration of LGBTQ Identities*. Sending my thanks to my incredible grandparents who raised me and made me into the young man that I am today. Along with my acting professor Jacqueline Springfield for helping me out to receive this opportunity. You can also follow me on Instagram at @tamar10n

KATELYNN STANDRIDGE *She/Her* (Swing) is ecstatic to make her Out Front Theatre Debut! She is a first year Theatre Performance Studies major at Kennesaw State University and is also involved in Greek Life. This is her first production out of high school and cannot wait to share this hilarious Christmas spirited show with you all! If you would like to keep up with her on her college journey you can find her on Instagram @katelynnstandridge

PEACH DISHONGH *He/Him* (Swing) is superbly elated to be on the Out Front Theatre stage! Out Front Theatre : Debut. They've had the merriest time working with these beautiful humans. Follow him on Instagram at @peach777disho.

CREATIVE TEAM

PAUL CONROY *He/Him* (Director) is the Founder and Producing Artistic Director of Out Front Theatre Company, Georgia's LGBTQIA+ focused theatre company. Originally from the Boston area, he holds a BA in English/Writing with a Minor in Theatre from Long Island University in addition to both a MA in Directing from Roosevelt University and a MFA in Directing from the University of Idaho, and as a playwright his original musical, *The Ethel Merman Disco Christmas Spectacular!* (which he also directed) premiered at Out Front Theatre Company in December of 2018. If you saw Out Front's recent blockbuster production of *Hairspray*, you were a part of Paul's return to the stage after a VERY long absence as the villainous Velma Von Tussle. Other select directing credits at Out Front include *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert: The Musical*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Xanadu*, *Kinky Boots*, *Ruthless!* and most recently *Psycho Beach Party*. Paul has taught courses in Theatre at Georgia State University, sits on OUT Georgia's Board of Directors as Board Chair and recently concluded his six-year term as a founding member of the

CAST & CREW BIOS (CONTINUED)

City of Atlanta's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board for which he chaired the Arts, Culture and Entertainment subcommittee. He was named one of Georgia's 100 Most Influential LGBTQ+ people in 2020 and has been featured in The New York Times, The Times of London and numerous other media outlets speaking about the importance of queer centered arts. Paul is the co-founder of both the Queer Theatre Alliance, an international coalition of LGBTQ+ centered theatre companies and AQUAA, the Atlanta Queer Arts Alliance, which focuses on enhancing Atlanta's vibrant and vital LGBTQ+ focused arts organizations.

TYLER SARKIS *He/Him* (Choreographer)
See cast bio.

AMANI CLANTON *She/They* (Production Stage Manager) is elated to announce *Murder On the Polar Express* as they're Stage Management debut! Out Front Credit: *The Prom* and *Hairspray*. Previous Atlanta Theatre Credits: *Oh To Be Pure Again*, *Prayer For The French Republic*, *Jesus Hopped The A-Train*, *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*. Thank you to Amani's friends and family for their support. Thank you to Sydney Lee for your amazing mentorship. You can find them on Instagram @manidelaih

LINDSEY SHARPLESS *She/Her* (Lighting Designer) is excited to be back at Out Front for the holiday show! Previous Out Front Theatre credits include: *SnowGirls*, and *warplay*. Lindsey worked professionally as a touring stage manager until 2016 when she co-founded Vernal & Sere Theatre, where she currently acts as producing partner, the resident stage manager and lighting designer, and occasionally, performer. In between productions with her company, Lindsey does freelance lighting design and stage management around the city.

JORDAN HERMITT *She/Her* (Costume Designer) After graduating from Wesleyan

College with a degree in Theatre and Studio Art she's been freelancing as a designer ever since working on shows such as costuming *Black Nerd* (GGC), *Ordinary Days* (GGC), *Inferior Sex* (Hangar Theatre), *Song & Dance* (Aurora Theatre), and *The Bluest Eye* (Theatre Works Colorado Springs). She's excited to back with at Out Front Theatre to do her first Christmas show with them *Murder on the Polar Express!*

BRIAN JORDAN *He/Him* (Wig and Makeup Designer) is thrilled to be back at Out Front, only this time working behind the scenes! Previous Out Front Theatre credits include: *La Cage aux Folles*, *Christmas with the Crawfords*, and *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*. Follow him @jamesbriandesigns on Instagram.

SYDNEY LEE *She/Her* (Scenic & Props Designer) is jumping with joy to celebrate her 6th holiday season here at Out Front! She is an Atlanta-based artist who served as the production manager for the 2023 Georgia High School Musical Theatre Awards, assistant director for a play featured in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and a founding member of Zero Circle Theatre Company. Her photography and graphic design work has been shown in publications such as American Theatre Magazine, Georgia Voice, Yale Daily News, in billboards and other public-facing platforms. Past Out Front design credits include *Hairspray*, *Psycho Beach Party*, *The Prom*, *SnowGirls*, and *Kinky Boots*. Much love to Nick and their four beautiful children (cats), her family, and viewers like you. Instagram: @sydneywithacamera.

BRADY BROWN *He/Him* (Sound Designer) is festively happy to be working on *Murder on the Polar Express*. He is the creator and director of *Judy's 100th Birthday Celebration Cabaret* at Out Front Theatre Company and *Holigays* as a part of 7 Stages' *Curious Holiday Encounters*. Previous sound design credits include: *Hairspray*, *Psycho Beach*

CAST & CREW BIOS (CONTINUED)

Party, The Prom, Ruthless! (Broadway World Atlanta Award for Best Sound Design), **I Wanna F***ing Tear You Apart, Christmas Dearest, Homos, or Everyone in America** (Out Front Theatre), and **Sweat** (Atlanta City Theatre). Other credits include social media management for **Buyer & Cellar** on the West End. He also serves as the Director of Marketing & Communications on staff at Out Front. "Give the people what they want and then go have a hamburger." – Judy Garland
IG: @bcb3988

DONOVAN LEWIS *He/Him* (Sound Engineer) is an up and coming sound designer in Atlanta. He made his sound design debut here at Out Front Theatre where he designed the Georgia premiere production of **At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen**. Since then, he has worked on sound for many theaters including Stagedoor, Theatrical Outfit, and Oglethorpe University, where he graduated in 2023. Currently he is in the Emerging Talent Group with Multiband Studios. He thanks Out Front for this opportunity and his friends and family for their unwavering support. Enjoy the show!

ROBBY MYLES *He/Him* (Projection Design) is excited to be back with Out Front! His previous works as a Projection Designer at Out Front include **The Prom, one in two, Xanadu, and The Santa Closet**. Previous works in Atlanta include Georgia State University productions of **Sweat** and **Give Back Series**, Authenticity Theatre's production of **How I Learned to Drive**, and with 7 Stages **Youth Creates** program. You can keep up with Robby by following @robbymyles on all social media platforms.

KAMARI TAYLOR *They/He/She* (Dramaturg) is second-year Theatre & Performance Studies major at Kennesaw State University with a concentration in acting. This is their Out Front Theatre debut and first time working with an Atlanta company on the creative team! At KSU they are engaged with many

faculty and student-led theatre events: Sound designer for Student Company Musical Theatre Showcases, Playwright and Director for The 12th annual Coming Out! Celebration, Assistant Dramaturg for **Barbecue**, Playwright for Ten Minute Play Festival, and **Evan** and **Moonbeam** in The New Works and Ideas Festival 2024.

LAURA HACKMAN *She/Her* (Intimacy Director) is thrilled to be back at Out Front where she previously enjoyed doing intimacy direction for **Hairspray, Psycho Beach Party, and The Prom**. Locally, Laura has also choreographed intimacy at The Alliance Theatre, Actor's Express, Woodstock Arts, Oglethorpe University, and Georgia State University. In NYC, Laura serves as the Resident Intimacy Consultant for Mercury Store and will be Intimacy Director for the upcoming premier of **Initiative** at The Public Theatre. Laura is also a theatre director with more than 70 productions to her name and an arts educator, currently teaching in the School of Film, Media and Theatre at Georgia State University and Oglethorpe University. She holds an MFA in Directing from The Catholic University of America.

GRACE DAVENPORT *She/They* (Run Crew) is so excited to be back at Out Front! Previous Out Front Theatre credits include: Malvolio in **Bad Romance** and Assistant Director for **Ruthless!, SnowGirls** and **Psycho Beach Party**. Previous Atlanta credits include: Chicklet (u/s) in **Psycho Beach Party**. Assistant Stage Manager for **Red Speedo** (Actor's Express). Director for **Confessions of a Courtesan: Gluttony** (ATL Original Works). Previous Regional credits include: Janet Van De Graff in **The Drowsy Chaperone** (Linda Miller Theatre) and Wednesday Addams in **The Addams Family** (Linda Miller Theatre). She would like to thank her friends, family, and Taylor for supporting her mission to create safe spaces for everyone to entertain.
IG: gmelloffy



At the Wedding



By
Bryna Turner

Directed by
Jennifer Alice Acker

You are cordially invited to the best day of someone else's life... but what if it's also the worst day of yours? Join Carlo as she attempts to make it through the night without drinking too much, talking too much, or trying to win back the bride.

JAN 30 - FEB 15, 2025

Tickets: \$20+

Out Front Theatre Company
999 Brady Avenue, Atlanta



www.OutFrontTheatre.com

christmas actually

Emerson
Collins & Blake
McIver



Atlanta
Monday
December
16



Emerson loves Christmas, Blake is...unconvinced.

Join them for a night of Christmas classics and modern holiday hits, from Barbra, Elvis and The Carpenters to Kacey Musgraves and Kelly Clarkson. And of course, an unnecessary mega-medley to finally decide once and for all – **is *Love Actually* a Christmas movie?!**

A Christmas Cabaret

From the stars of “I Dreamed A Dreamgirl”
and BRAVO’s *The People’s Couch*

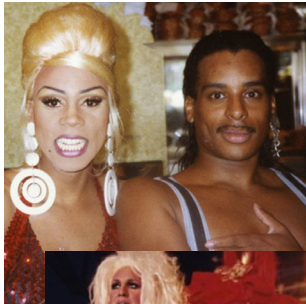
Monday, 12/16, 7:30pm, Out Front Theatre

****VIP TICKETS include drink ticket and Meet & Greet****

Dramaturgy

Many queer folk first discover their tribe through the nightclub scene. For Ryan Landry, playwright of *Murder on the Polar Express*, this is where he first discovered his brand of theatre.

Landry's foray into theatrical performance was through bars in NYC's grungy Lower East Side (yes, think *RENT*) in the 80s and 90s. He was a regular at the Pyramid Club in the East Village, also frequented by RuPaul Charles and Lady Bunny. He would perform in musical parodies and silly variety acts often on bar tops. Well, that is until his speciality act misfired. Jumping through flaming hoops dressed as a 'Flying Nun' he accidentally caught the bar on fire. Needless to say, he was never invited back. But through his 40+ year career and the 80+ plays he has written and starred in, his frenetic energy and anarchic sense of play have remained his signature. This quality fuels *Murder...* as a vehicle for Christmas pastiche with Agatha Christie plots, musical classics, a caboose full of raucous campy holiday characters.



Within the nightclub setting, Landry's theatre was a natural fit; a space to celebrate pop music that was also primed for improvisation and playful audience interaction. And, not to forget, copious alcohol to help lubricate the festivities. While hustling as a downtown theatre artist, he created his low-art magnum opus: "Booger Drag." The unabashedly cheap cross-dressing style was a hodgepodge of thrifting and trash. It was matched with his irreverent persona, likely a nod to drag legend Divine's acerbic wit. His characteristically downtown approach successfully defied NYC's stuffy arts scene uptown.

Dramaturgy (CONTINUED)

In the mid-1980s, Landry met one of his greatest artistic influences: champion of queer downtown theatre, Charles Ludlam. As an avid fan of his Ridiculous Theatrical Company, Landry was eventually asked to join as an ensemble member and spent two years until Ludlam's tragic death from AIDS in 1987. Landry's plays are, in part, an homage to the Ridiculous' wild pop culture parodies. The scripts were often sendups of Hollywood



classics, replete with literary references and gay innuendo, mixed in with plenty of drag. They were also vehicles for social commentary through humor. For Landry, he has continually worked to push the envelope of political correctness. In lieu of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, he wrote and starred in *Legally Blind, the "Helen Keller Musical"* (his Annie Sullivan modeled after *Gypsy's* Mama-Rose). It might make you laugh-or cringe-but for Landry that's the point. Queer scholar, Helen Lewis, describes him perhaps best as an "undeviating deviant," intentionally refusing to comply with the expectations of the mainstream.



Check out Landry's if you make it to Ptown during the summer months. For decades, he has hosted the weekly Monday night "Show Girls" variety competition, also featuring a guest celebrity co-host. In the winter months, you'll likely find Landry up to his usual antics in the Boston area, typically in his home of choice, a nightclub. As resident playwright and performer of the Gold Dust Orphans company, he'll be serving up original thriller spoofs and musical pastiche. *Murder on the Polar Express* debuted in 2016 with Landry as Detective Shirley Holmes, and what a better way to slay the holidays than with their latest 2024 holiday fare, *Rosemary's Baby Jesus*. Think Roman Polanski, but with a gay twist...

Kamari Taylor & Dr. Tom Fish (Dramaturgy Mentor),
Kennesaw State University

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Done in-house and *on-budget*.

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Out Front Theatre Company was established to tell stories of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intergender, Asexual) experience and community, giving voice to LGBTQIA+ authors, composers, artists, and creators through the medium of theatre and the performing arts. Out Front plans to develop new works and produce classic pieces of theatre that have communicated these stories of the LGBTQIA+ population to a wider audience over time.

As a non-profit organization with a dedicated focus to better the LGBTQIA+ population, we strive to:

- **Produce** established works and premiere productions created by members of the LGBTQIA+ society,
- **Generate** productions with universal themes which are important to the LGBTQIA+ community,
- **Educate** the populous to LGBTQIA+ history,
- **Work** with local and national LGBTQIA+ organizations to bring awareness of issues facing the LGBTQIA+ to the greater Atlanta area,
- **Create** artistic and educational opportunities for at-risk LGBTQIA+ youths by collaborating with local educational institutions and organizations,
- **Expand** the number of theatrical opportunities for artists who are members of or who support the LGBTQIA+ community.

Out Front hopes to create a narrative that will reach beyond the stage, into the

conversations and minds our audiences and artists. Theatre's power as a catalyst to spur dialogues goes back thousands of years. Out Front lives to continue that grand tradition of bringing the stories of the LGBTQIA+ people into the spotlight.

LGBTQIA+ Definitions

L stands for Lesbian: Term used to describe female identified people attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other female identified people.

G stands for Gay: Term used in some cultural settings to represent male identified people who are attracted to other male identified people in a romantic, erotic and/or emotional sense. Also, a term used to refer to the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

B stands for Bisexual: A person emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to people of more than one sex and/or gender. This attraction does not have to be equally split between genders and there may be a preference for one gender over others.

T stands for Transgender: A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity. This term is sometimes used to refer to the gender variant community as a whole.



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Q stands for Queer: An umbrella term, which embraces a matrix of sexual preferences, orientations, and habits of the not-exclusively-heterosexual-and-monogamous majority. Queer includes lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transpeople, intersex persons, and many other sexually transgressive explorers. The term is sometimes used as a sexual orientation label instead of 'bisexual' as a way of acknowledging that there are more than two genders to be attracted to, or as a way of stating a non-heterosexual orientation without having to state who they are attracted to.

I stands for Intergender: Intergender people have a gender identity that is in the middle between the binary genders of female and male, and may be a mix of both.

A stands for Asexual: A term describing individuals who do not experience sexual attraction or do not have interest in or desire for sex. Asexuality is different from celibacy, which means abstaining from sex. Asexuality is often viewed as a spectrum - meaning there are varying levels and identities regarding someone's emotional, spiritual and romantic attraction. The best way to refer to the asexual community is to use the umbrella term "ace" or "aces" as in the "ace community," which acknowledges that spectrum.

+ stands for Many Other Identifications including, but not limited to pansexual, genderqueer, polysexual, agender, androsexual, demisexual, and skoliosexual. We strive to be as inclusive as we can and know we can always improve.

Please visit outfronttheatre.com for a more expansive list of identities, sexualities, terms, resources and more

We welcome all humans, regardless of labels, and hope we celebrate and accept everyone regardless of how they identify.

Donation Listing

Donations made between July 1, 2024 - October 16, 2024..

Out Front Theatre Company is a 501c3 non-profit organization. The health of the company depends on support from patrons just like you! All donations are 100% tax deductible and greatly appreciated! No gift is too small because it truly takes a community to make the arts thrive and grow.

We wouldn't be here without the support of the friends listed below and we would LOVE to add your name to our list of supporters! Donation information is available at the box office or at outfronttheatre.com.

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2024-2025

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WOMEN'S
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&

**ATLANTA
GAY MEN'S
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MARCH 15, 2025 2PM & 7PM

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1660 N Decatur Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30307

Dr. Melissa Arasi, AWC Artistic Director
Donald Milton III, AGMC Artistic Director



Tickets and more at: [voicesofnote.org](https://www.voicesofnote.org)



2024 - 2025 Season

A World of Believing

Our holiday concert

Friday, December 6 @ 8pm | *First Baptist Church of Decatur*
Saturday, December 7 @ 7pm | *First Baptist Church of Decatur*
Sunday, December 8 @ 3pm | *Northside Drive Baptist Church*



If It Ain't Queer, It Ain't Here

Cabaret with dessert and drinks

Saturday, February 8 @ 4pm | *First Baptist Church Decatur, Carreker Hall*
Saturday, February 8 @ 7:30pm | *First Baptist Church Decatur, Carreker Hall*



They Changed Our Lives

Featuring Southern premiere of *Sincerely Yours, Pauli Murray*

Saturday, May 17 @ 7pm | *Location TBA*
Sunday, May 18 @ 3pm | *Location TBA*



www.oursongatlanta.org



@oursongatlanta



OurSong Atlanta



ELEMENTS

2024/2025 Concert Season

Amy Wilson, Artistic Director
Whittaker Locke, Associate Conductor



Season Highlights

Tchaikovsky, 5th Symphony

Soloist Derrick Jones, Flute - Griffes, Poem

Sibelius, Finlandia

New Music w/ APO Composition Contest Winners

Winter Holiday Concert

Soloist Earl Hough, Violin - Bruch Violin Concerto

John Williams Pop Concert



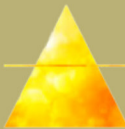
Water

October 19th
7:30PM



SPIRIT

December 8th
3:00PM



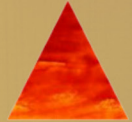
Wind

March 1st
7:30PM



earth

April 26th
7:30PM



FIRE

June 14th
7:30PM

www.atlantaphilharmonic.org

The image shows the interior of a Mexican restaurant. In the foreground, there is a wooden table. Behind it is a bar with a backlit menu board displaying vibrant, fiery images. The bar has a colorful, patterned cushion. The background features a large, ornate chandelier and a tall, decorated pillar. The lighting is warm and ambient.

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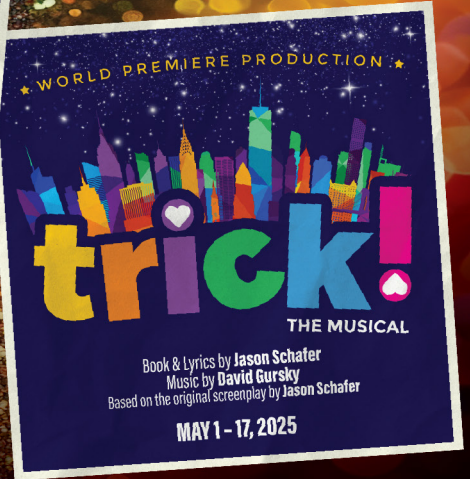
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2024-2025 SEASON

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