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# what's

Hello! Mv Babv | 15 Cast of Characters | 16 Musical Numbers | 17 Who's Who | 19 Author's Notes | 24 History of the Norma Terris Theatre | 27 William H. Goodspeed Legacy Society | 28 The Goodspeed Opera House Foundation | 29 Goodspeed Musicals Staff | 30 For Your Information | 31

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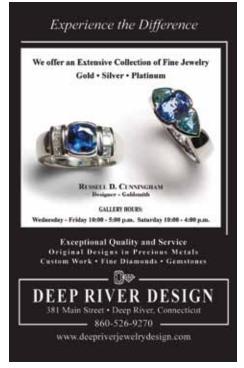
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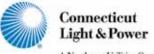


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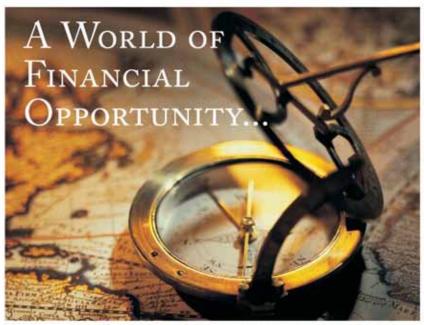


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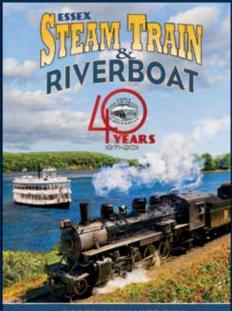
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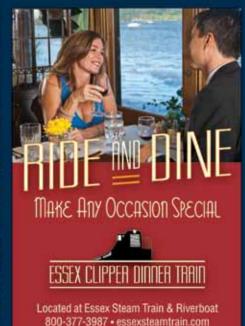
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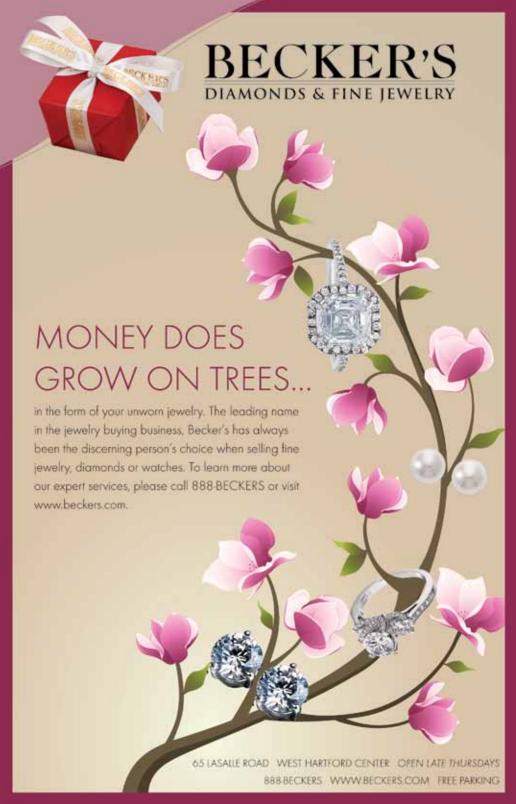
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**GEORGIA STITT** 

with

JESSICA AZENBERG MATTHEW BAUMAN CATHERINE BLADES JUSTIN BOWEN DICK DECAREAU ZAK EDWARDS STEPHANIE KOENIG KELLY McCORMICK BETH McVEY MICHAEL MENDEZ CLINTON ROANE FRANK ROOT ALLIE SCHAUER JEREMY SEVELOVITZ CARRINGTON VILMONT ALEX VIOLA ASHLEY WALLACE MICHAEL WARRELL

Scenic Design by
MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT

ROBIN L. McGEE

Costume Design by

Lighting Design by JOHN LASITER

Orchestrations by GEORGIA STITT

Sound Design by **JAY HILTON** 

Hair & Wiig Design by **DAVID H. LAWRENCE** 

Casting by STUART HOWARD & PAUL HARDT

Production Stage Manager RENEE LUTZ

Technical Director

ADAM GOODRUM

Music Direction by

STEVE SAARI

Choreography by

KELLI BARCLAY

Directed by

RAY RODERICK

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# Cast of Characters

#### In Order of Appearance

Mickey McKee JUSTIN BOWEN

Nelly Gold/Ned O'Reilly STEPHANIE KOENIG

Frances Gold KELLY McCORMICK

Violet Gold ALEX VIOLA

Junior Tierney CARRINGTON VILMONT

Johnny Giovanni **JEREMY SEVELOVITZ** 

Dickie the Duck MICHAEL WARRELL

Kid Vicious MICHAEL MENDEZ
Albie Coots MATTHEW BAUMAN

Noble T. Jones CLINTON ROANE

Bert Coots FRANK ROOT

Ethel Coots BETH McVEY

EINER COOLS BEIN MICVEY

Marie ALLIE SCHAUER

Stanford J. Tierney DICK DECAREAU

Alice Tierney CATHERINE BLADES

Radio Announcer FRANK ROOT

#### **FNSFMBLE**

JESSICA AZENBERG MATTHEW BAUMAN CATHERINE BLADES ZAK EDWARDS

**MICHAEL MENDEZ** 

**CLINTON ROANE** 

ALLIE SCHAUER

JEREMY SEVELOVITZ

ASHLEY WALLACE MICHAEL WARRELL

DANCE CAPTAIN
ZAK EDWARDS

ZAK EDWARDS

#### ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

#### **HEATHER KLEIN**

#### **MUSICIANS**

Conductor/Keyboard STEVEN SAARI; Keyboard || DAN PARDO; Bass MICHAEL SPERANZA; Percussion GARRETT WOJCIK

Out of respect for our actors and your fellow theatergoers, we ask that you remain seated until the curtain calls are over and the house lights have come up. The use of cameras, cellular phones, or recording devices is not permitted in the theatre. Thank you.

# Musical Numbers

Hello! My Baby takes place 100 years ago on Tin Pan Alley, the Lower East Side, and the Upper East Side of New York City.

ACT I

### Pluggers' Prologue\* Mickey, Company Play A Simple Melody.......Mickey, Nelly, Junior, Frances, Violet (Irving Berlin) (Joseph McCarthy & Harry Carroll) G&S 1 Bert, Albie, Noble, Mickey (W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan) A Good Man Is Hard To Find ......Ethel, Nelly (Eddie Green) (Abe Olman & Ed Rose) (Bob Carleton) Some Of These Days......Mickey (Shelton Brooks) (Harry Austin Tierney & Joseph McCarthy) (Nat D. Aver & Clifford Grev) Alice Blue Gown (Reprise) Company ACT II I Don't Care......Nelly (Jean Lenox & Harry O. Sutton) Stairway To Paradise Junior, Stanford, Alice (George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, Buddy DeSylva) Ballin' The Jack Johnny, Bert, Mickey, Ned GOODSPEED MUSICALS | 2011 SEASON 17

# Musical Numbers

#### continued

(C. Smith)

You'd Be Surprised(Irving Berlin)	Ethel, Bert
Alice Blue Gown (reprise)	Violet, Company
My Buddy(Walter Donaldson & Gus Kahn)	Ned, Mickey
They Didn't Believe Me(Jerome Kern & Herbert Reynolds)	Nelly
Ain't We Got Fun(Richard A. Whiting, Gus Kahn, & Raymond Egan)	Frances, Violet, Company
There'll Be Some Changes MadeNelly, Mickey, (Billy Higgins & W. Benton Overstreet)	Albie, Noble, Junior, Stanford, Johnny
Ballin' The Jack (reprise)	Johnny, Dickie, Kid
You Made Me Love You(James Vincent Monaco & Joseph McCarthy)	
Hello! My Baby (reprise)	Company

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.

Out of respect for out actors and your fellow theatergoers, we ask that you remain seated until the curtain calls are over and the house lights have come up. The use of camera, cellular phones, or recording devices is not permitted in the theater. Thank you.

All of the songs in Hello! My Baby were written before January 1, 1923 and exist in the Public Domain.

\* Plugger's Prologue: Hello! My Baby (Joseph E. Howard & Ida Emerson); Swanee (George Gershwin & Irving Caesar); Toot Toot Tootsie (Gus Kahn, Dan Russo, Ernie Erdman); Give My Regards To Broadway (George M Cohan); Take Me Out To The Ballgame (Albert vonTilzer & Jack Norworth); Goodbye My Lady Love (Joseph E. Howard); Yes Sir, That's My Baby (Walter Donaldson & Gus Kahn); Pretty Baby (George W. Meyer & Al Bryan); Sidewalks Of New York (James W. Blake & Charles B. Lawlor); Hail, Hail, The Gang's All Here (Theodore F. Morse & Arthur Sullivan); There'll Be A Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight (Joe Hayden & Theodore M. Metz); The Band Played On (John F. Palmer & Charles B. Ward); Rockabye Your Baby With A Dixie Melody (Jean Schwartz, M. Sam Lewis, Joe Young)



JESSICA AZENBERG (Ensemble)
Born and raised in New York City.
BFA in dance from The Boston
Conservatory. Favorite theatre
credits: The Music Man (Geva
Theatre), A Christmas Carol
(Alabama Shakespeare Festival),

The Will Rogers Follies and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (Reagle Music Theatre). Jessica is thrilled to be working at Goodspeed this season!



MATTHEW BAUMAN\* (Albie, Ensemble) Goodspeed debut! Off-Broadway: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn. Regional: Tarzan (NSMT); Beauty and the Beast, Damn Yankees, Footloose (MUNY); Forever Plaid, Grease, Oklahoma! (Interlakes

Theatre); Joan Rivers: A Work in Progress (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Graduate of Brown University. Many thanks to Ray, Kelli, Cheri, Georgia, and the H!MB team. www.matthew-bauman.com



CATHERINE BLADES\* (Alice, Ensemble) was seen in Roundabout Theatre's Broadway Revival of Bye Bye Birdie (Ensemble/Kim understudy). National Tour: The Music Man (dir. Ray Roderick). TV: CBS's "Blue Bloods." Currently

pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre from Pace University. Thanks to the creative team, Goodspeed, CESD, Catalyst Management, Robert Lindsey Nassif, Mom, Dad, Mitch, and Grant.



JUSTIN BOWEN\* (Mickey) is thrilled to be making his Goodspeed Musicals debut at The Norma Terris. Previous credits include A Funny Thing Happened... Forum (Hero), Paper Mill Playhouse; Big River (Tom Sawyer), Stages St.

Louis; Into the Woods (Jack); High School Musical (Troy); and "My Broadway Debut," CBS. A Virginia native, Justin received his BM in Music Theatre from Florida State University. Hello! to my Mom and Dad; thank you for your endless love, support, and piano lessons!



DICK DECAREAU\* (Stanford)
Broadway and Off-Broadway credits
include Raggedy Ann, Gentlemen
Prefer Blondes, and Captain's
Courageous. National Tours include
Grandpa Potts in Chitty Chitty Bang
Bang, Ragtime, and three Nationals

of the original *Annie*. Some of Dick's recent roles include Oscar Shapiro in *Curtains*, Max in *The Sound of Music*, General Waverly in *White Christmas*, Wilbur in *Hairspray*, and Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*. Last seen here as Senator Phogbound in *Li'l Abner*.



ZAK EDWARDS\* (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his Goodspeed debut! Favorite credits include Young Frankenstein (1st National Tour); Billy Lawlor in 42nd Street; Melanie (yes, Melanie) in Yank!; No, No, Nanette (with Rosie O'Donnell

and Beth Leavel); and Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz.* Thanks to his amazing family!



STEPHANIE KOENIG\* (Nelly/Ned) is delighted to tell a new story with this amazing creative team. A proud graduate of Michigan State University, regional favorites include Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Hangar Theatre), Jane

in 'S Wonderful with Ray Roderick (Gateway Playhouse), and Nellie Forbush in South Pacific (New London Barn Playhouse). Principal roles in feature films include Quad, Highland Park, and Home Run Showdown. Stephanie thanks her family and Professor Roznowski for encouraging her theatrical endeavors.



KELLY McCORMICK\* (Frances)
Goodspeed debut! Off-Broadway:
The Extraordinary Ordinary (Bev).
National Tours: Chitty Chitty Bang
Bang (Truly Scrumptious—1st
National), Les Misérables (Factory
Girl/Fantine understudy). Regionally:

Heidi, [title of show] and Babe Williams, The Pajama Game (Arizona Theatre Company); Martha Jefferson, 1776 (Pittsburgh CLO); Linda, Pal Joey

(Prince Music Theater); Aysha/Eve understudy, Children of Eden (Ford's Theatre): and Fantine in the regional premiere of Les Misérables (Pioneer Theatre Company). NYC workshops: Ace; Zhivago. Huge thanks to Ray! For JCB.



**BETH McVEY\*** (*Ethel*) Broadway: Original company of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Annie. Nine (Carla, Claudia). original company of Phantom, and Beauty and the Beast (Mrs. Potts). National Tours: Lend Me A Tenor (Diana), Copa Cabana

(Gladys). Guys and Dolls (Adaliade). Urinetown (Ms. Pennywise). Regionally: Man of La Mancha (Aldonza) with John Rait, We Have Always Lived in the Castle at Yale Rep. A Little Night Music (Desiré). Forum (Domina) at Paper Mill Playhouse.



MICHAEL MENDEZ\* (Kid Vicious. Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his Goodspeed debut. Regional: Fat Camp the Musical (Playhouse Square Cleveland, New York Workshop, NY Musical Theatre Festival), How The Grinch Stole

Christmas! (Old Globe), The Full Monty (AMTSJ), The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Secret Theatre). Thanks to Nicolosi & Co., and his family and friends!



CLINTON **ROANE\*** (Noble. Ensemble) Broadway: The Scottsboro Boys. NYC: The Sporting Life of Icarus Jones (Icarus Jones) and workshops/readings. Training: Howard University (BFA) and CAP21. Thanks to God, family. The

Mine, creative team and Paul Hardt!



FRANK ROOT Radio (Bert. Announcer) is thrilled to be back at Goodspeed. having performed in Georae Broadway: Bert Barry. 42nd Street (Revival); Mack & Mabel (original production). National Tours: Pirates of Penzance: Show Boat: George M!: You're

A Good Man, Charlie Brown. Off-Broadway: Buy Bonds Buster, Dealer's Choice, Oh! What A Lovely War, Film: The Guru, The Rebound. Television: "Boardwalk Empire." Artistic Director: Southport Studio Theater/Broadway Boot Camp. Married to Broadway voice teacher Marianne Challis.



ALLIE **SCHAUER\*** (Marie. Ensemble) is thrilled to return to Goodspeed after appearing in Radio Girl. Most recently: Lina Lamont in Singin' in the Rain, Westchester Broadway Theater.

She comes from Fargo, ND and has a Music Education Degree from Concordia College (MN). She thanks God, family, friends, Karen, and her love, Justin, for all their support, Romans 8:28



JEREMY SEVELOVITZ (Johnny. Ensemble) A graduate of The Hartt School, Jeremy is excited to return to Goodspeed and the cast of Hello! My Baby. Recent roles: Benjamin Franklin (We the People), Bobby (Company), Dottore

(The Glorious Ones), Henry (The Fantasticks), Spitz (Band Geeks!). Thanks to his family and friends for their support, www.ieremysevelovitz.com



**CARRINGTON VILMONT\*** (Junior) is pleased to return to Goodspeed after appearing in Half a Sixpence. Broadway and National Tour, The Phantom of the Opera; Pittsburgh Public, Cabaret; 45th Street Theater, The Second

Tosca: Hawaii Opera Theater. The Telephone and The Medium. Film and Television: Death in Love. The Tell-Tale Heart, "Flight of the Conchords," Romance Languages. "Guiding Light." Bill Is My Dog. Carrington appeared this year with the Northshore Concert Band and is a graduate of Northwestern University.



ALEX VIOLA (Violet) Goodspeed debut! NY: The Seagull (Nina, Hudson Warehouse), Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly (Velma, Vital Theatre), The Complete Works of the Brothers Grimm [Abridged] (Manhattan Children's Theatre).

Regional: The Government Inspector (Schwartz Center), Bedroom Farce (Schwartz Center), Midsummer Night's Dream (Hermia, Ithaca Shakespeare Company). She hopes you enjoy the show.



ASHLEY WALLACE (Ensemble)
National Tours: Grease (Cha-Cha
DiGregorio, Rizzo u/s), I Love a
Piano (Swing,) Oliver! (Dance
Captain). Others credits: A Kid's
Life (The York Theatre), Me and
My Girl (Surflight Theatre), The

Thing About Men (Royal Holloway University of London), Orpheus Descending (Muhlenberg College). Thanks to Nancy at Carson-Adler and Goodspeed. Love to my incredible friends and family. www.ashleyerinwallace.com



MICHAEL WARRELL (Dickie the Duck, Ensemble) Goodspeed debut! National/International Tours: Spamalot (Dance Captain/Patsy understudy), Grease (Doody understudy), Fame (Nick/Schlomo understudy). Regional: Joseph...,

NSMT (Benjamin); *Mega Nunsense* (Virgil); *Grease* (Doody). Others include: *Urinetown* (Bobby Strong), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Boyet), *Lippa's The Wild Party* (Oscar). BA Ball State. For SJW, my rock, family and loves.

CHERI STEINKELLNER (Book & New Lyrics)
A 2011 Tony nominee for Sister Act, Cheri and husband/writing partner Bill have won multiple Emmys, Golden Globes, People's Choice, BAFTA, Writers Guild, Parents Choice, and TVLand Legend Awards for writing/producing TV's "Cheers" and creating "Disney's Teacher's Pet." Other stage credits: Princesses, Mosaic, Our Place, and Instaplay, L.A.'s first all-improvised musical-comedy. Other television: "The Jeffersons," "Facts of Life." "Family Ties." "Who's The Boss?." Bob."

"Hope and Gloria." This *Hello!* is for my babies: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.

GEORGIA STITT (Arrangements, Orchestrations, and New Music) wrote the musicals Big Red Sun (with John Jiler), Hello! My Baby and Mosaic (with Cheri Steinkellner), The Water (with Jeff Hylton and Tim Werenko), and Sing Me A Happy Song (with Jamie Pachino). Recordings of her work include This Ordinary Thursday: The Songs of Georgia Stitt, Alphabet City Cycle (featuring Kate Baldwin), and the upcoming My Lifelong Love. With Susan Egan she pens the blog "Glamour and Goop." Love to Molly, Susannah, and JRB. www.GeorgiaStitt.com

RAY RODERICK (Director) directed My One And Only, Singin' in the Rain, and 42nd Street at Goodspeed. Other credits: Director/Book Adaptation Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang National Tour (UK Tour and Licensed by MTI); Associate Director A Christmas Carol Madison Square Garden and Broadway revival of The Music Man and director of 3 year North American Tour; Co-Writer/Director/Choreographer Irving Berlin's / Love A Piano 3 year National Tour/Japan: Writer/ Director 'S Wonderful The New Gershwin Musical. Off-Broadway: Director/Co-Writer The Prince And The Pauper, Director/Choreographer The Ark, Lamour The Merrier, and The Story Goes On. Regional: Denver Center, Ogunquit Playhouse, and Gateway Playhouse.

**KELLI BARCLAY** (*Choreography*) is thrilled to be working on H!MB. Goodspeed: My One And Only (CT Critics Circle Award, Best Choreography.) How to Succeed... (CT Critics Circle nomination) NYC: Camelot in Concert starring Jeremy Irons and Melissa Errico (Shubert Theater), NYMTF: Mv History of Marriage (music by David Shire) and Hurricane the Musical, both directed by Michael Bush. MUNY: Singin' In the Rain, Bye Bye Birdie, Beauty and the Beast, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 50 Years of MUNY Magic. White Christmas. Feature film: Made for Each Other. Associate Choreographer. Broadway: 42 nd Street (Revival), Irving Berlin's White Christmas, State Fair, Ain't Broadway Grand. Extensive dance company work including American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive.

STEVE SAARI (Music Director) is honored to

be a part of *Hello! My Baby!* As Music Director Off-Broadway: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change; Forbidden Broadway: Rude Awakening; Circle of Friends*; and the opening of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. As pianist/conductor: *Martin Short's Fame Becomes Me* (Broadway); *Doctor Dolittle* with Tommy Tune (National Tour); musicals for Paper Mill Playhouse, Cape Playhouse, and Seacoast Rep; and for artists including Vince Gill, Jackie Mason, Sandi Patti, and The Bockettes.

MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT (Set Design) For Goodspeed Musicals: Show Boat, Annie Get Your Gun, 1776, Big River, Camelot. World premiere of Duncan Sheik's Whisper House, The Old Globe; Motherhood The Musical, G4 Productions; Ella, a musical about Ella Fitzgerald, appearing in cities all across the country; Bloodsong of Love, Ars Nova; Barnum, The Asolo. American premieres of Frank McGuinness' Gates Of Gold and The Bird Sanctuary. Oklahoma! starring Kelli O'Hara and Will Chase. National and International Tours of James Taylor's One Man Band. www.msportfolio.com

ROBIN L. McGEE (Costume Design) Goodspeed: My One And Only, for which she won the Connecticut Critics Circle Award. Credits include: As Long as You Both Shall Laugh, Broadway; A Few Good Men...Dancin', National /International Tours; Susannah, Des Moines Metro Opera; The Friars Club Roast of Jerry Stiller, clowns for Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, and many other off-Broadway and Regional credits. Masters of Fine Arts, University of Texas; proud member of United Scenic Artists 829. www.rlmcgeedesign.com

JOHN LASITER (Lighting Design) Connecticut: Goodspeed (1776, Big River, Camelot, Carnival!, Annie Get Your Gun, Show Boat, City of Angels), Long Wharf, Hartford Stage. Broadway: High. Regional: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Arizona Repertory, Asolo Repertory, Centerstage Baltimore, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center, Florida Stage, George Street Playhouse, Geva, Guthrie Theater, Milwaukee Repertory, New Mexico Repertory,

Northlight, Pittsburgh Public, San Jose Rep., St. Louis Rep., South Coast Repertory, Syracuse Stage, Virginia Stage. www.johnlasiter.com

JAY HILTON (Sound Design) is proud of his long association with Goodspeed, having designed countless productions at the Goodspeed Opera House and Goodspeed's Norma Terris Theatre in Chester. In addition to his design duties Jay serves as the Lighting & Sound Supervisor for all of Goodspeed's productions. Jay's work has been heard on Broadway, National Tours, and at regional theatres from coast to coast. Jay and his wife, Goodspeed's Line Producer Donna Lynn Hilton, make their home (and garden) in Hadlyme.

**DAVID H. LAWRENCE** (Hair & Wig Design) David's work has been seen all over the world. With 37 Broadway shows and many regional theater productions under his belt, it is always a pleasure for David to come back to Goodspeed. This theater is one of those magical places that help shape his love for the theater. Many thanks to all who work so hard backstage nightly.

STUART HOWARD & PAUL HARDT (Casting) have cast hundreds of shows over the past 25 years in the USA, Canada, and Great Britain. Among their favorites—Gypsy (Tyne Daly), Chicago (Bebe Neuwirth, Ann Reinking), original La Cage aux Folles. Off-Broadway: I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change; The Normal Heart. Coming up: The Nutty Professor directed by Jerry Lewis. They are very pleased to be casting for Goodspeed again.

ADAM GOODRUM (*Technical Director*) joined the Goodspeed staff as a carpenter in 2005 after graduating from North Carolina School of the Arts. He became Assistant Technical Director in 2007. Following a year's hiatus as Technical Director at Signature Theatre in DC for its 2008 Tony Award winning season, Adam returned to Goodspeed as ATD before "moving up to the big seat" in July 2009. Adam thanks his family for being there for him during this amazing ride.

**RENEE LUTZ\*** (*Production Stage Manager*) Credits include *Amour* (Goodspeed), 45 productions for Barrington Stage, and numerous for Theatre

for a New Audience, including the tour and RSC productions of *Merchant of Venice*. Other credits: NY Shakespeare Festival, Lincoln Center. Playwrights Horizons, MTC, Berkshire Theater Festival, and La Jolla. She volunteers on, and sits on the board of, retired Fireboat John J. Harvey (fireboat.org). Her very best credit and longest run is her husband, actor Gordon Stanley.

**HEATHER KLEIN\*** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working at The Norma Terris for the first time! Heather was a Production Assistant on Goodspeed's Jim Henson's Emmet Otter (2008 & 2009), 42nd Street, and Half a Sixpence. New York: The Mushroom Pickers, U.S. Premiere (alloy theater company); Binding (SolaNova Festival), Enfrascada (Clubbed Thumb Summerworks Festival). Regional: ReVision Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center, Yale School of Drama, Berkshire Theatre Festival, North Shore Music Theatre, Vinevard Playhouse, BA Theater Arts Stage Management Concentration, Brandeis University.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the US. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theater as an essential component of our society.

### With Heartfelt Thanks to our Members

We have always considered our accomplishments to be a collaboration with our Members. With your financial and moral support we have been able to maintain the high standards of excellence that you have come to expect in all of our musicals. When Goodspeed was honored with two Tony Awards for excellence in musical theatre, it was not just the theatre that was being honored, but each one of our Members, at every level, as well. Every accolade we receive is shared with you, because without you and your continued support, we could not achieve what we do.

Goodspeed is over 7,000 members strong. Visit www.goodspeed.org for a complete listing.





By Cheri Steinkellner



What is your vision for your show?
If Turner Classics raided the MGM vault to discover a long-lost, brand-new musical filled with some of the greatest songs ever composed by the most beloved American songwriters who ever

lived, and it felt modern and funny and moved like a locomotive—that would be our vision. Is that too much to ask?

#### Tell us about your inspirations.

Three years ago, while directing my youngest daughter's junior high production of Anything Goes, I fell in love with the alchemy that occurs when young voices meet old tunes. Months later, while writing the book for Sister Act and surrounded by disco-nuns, my thoughts kept flipping back to kids singing the classics. On a whim, I jumped online to see which vintage tunes existed in the Public Domain, and was blown away by the treasures. "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows," "Stairway to Paradise," "Oh, Johnny, Oh," "My Buddy," "Ain't We Got Fun," of course "Hello! My Baby"—all the songs my mom's mom taught her and she taught me—just sitting there, waiting to be sung again.

## Talk a bit about how the show came about and your collaboration.

Hello! My Baby began with a songbook of memorable-but-forgotten tunes. I scribbled dozens of titles on Post-Its, stuck them to the wall, moved them around, tried to fashion a story around them.

My first instinct was to go straight-up Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland "Hey kids, let's put on a show": Babes In... something. Babes On... somewhere. But once I started digging into the songs' origins, it became wildly clear—these Tin Pan Alley tunes told a story of their own.

The seed of that story sprouted with an old-school term: "Song-plugger." Teenage Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Eubie Blake—so many of our great composers began their musical careers as song-pluggers on the Lower East Side, hawking sheet music on the streets, in saloons—wherever people gathered. Popular music was the all-new all-American art form. And it didn't matter whether you were Jewish or Irish, rich or poor—if you came up with a hit, you could jump the wall, make a million,

and write the songs the kids were all singing. And are singing again—a hundred years later!

In my earliest notes, the song-pluggers were modeled after the real-life guys: Mickey was Berlin, the Coots brothers were the Gershwins, Junior Tierney a Yale Whiffenpoof a la Cole Porter. But the story took a surprise turn when I stumbled on a Yiddish Theater troupe from the era. "The Trouser Comedy" took center stage as fictional sweatshop worker Nelly Gold put on the pants she once sewed—to defy her gender, pass as a boy, double her income (to sixteen bucks a week), and succeed in a male-dominated world.

The biggest Oprah "Aha!" moment came with the realization that songs in the Public Domain have no copyright restrictions. This meant we could (with great respect and affection for the original composers and lyricists) get creative! I added character-centric, story-forwarding lyrics in the form of new intros, bridges, additional verses. Georgia composed counter-melodies and dance music, pushed tempos, changed the styles and feels of the songs and built the score to sound fresh to the modern ear. Holding onto the classic refrains people know and love; we've taken this unique opportunity to explore and heighten music and lyrics—transforming simple 16-bar ditties and 32-bar charm-songs into full-scale musicaltheater numbers.

#### What stage of development is the show in now?

It's time to get it on its feet and see it dance! We've had readings (including Goodspeed's Festival of New Artists and the Village Theater Festival of New Musicals), and a wonderful youth production last summer the Rubicon Theatre in Ventura, California. But this is our first professional go—and happily, it's at Goodspeed, where we always imagined it.

## What do you hope to accomplish here at Goodspeed?

We're excited to work with Michael Price and Donna Lynn Hilton once again, and to be directed and choreographed by Goodspeed favorites Ray Roderick and Kelli Barclay. Knowing us, we'll keep tweaking and tinkering 'til someone hollers "stop!"—all with an eye toward making Hello! My Baby as fresh, fast, and funny as it can be. The hardest part may be cutting songs. It always hurts to kill your darlings—but these tunes are everyone's darlings!



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GOODSPEED MUSICALS | 2011 SEASON 25



### ABOUT GOODSPEED MUSICALS



Melissa Benoist and Meghann Fahy in *The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown*, 2011. Photo by Diane Sobolewski

#### Where We've Been

Goodspeed's beginnings date back to 1963 when it opened its doors as a professional musical theatre in a historic building on the banks of the Connecticut River in East Haddam. Under the direction of Michael Price since 1968. Goodspeed transformed from a struggling entity into a musical theatre with a mission. At first Goodspeed's commitment was to discover rarely produced musicals from the repertoire, reworking them and bringing them to life. It was also intent on adding to the repertoire by discovering and nurturing promising new musicals presented at its Norma Terris Theatre in neighboring Chester. While these commitments remain in place

today, Goodspeed's main stage productions are more often contemporary works created during the lifetime of its audience.

To date, Goodspeed has exported 19 productions to Broadway—most famously Annie, Man of La Mancha, and Shenandoah—and produced 67 world premieres. Goodspeed stands as the first regional theatre in America to earn two special Tony Awards, one in 1980 for outstanding contributions to the American musical and a second in 1995 for distinguished achievement for a regional theatre.

#### Who We Are Today

Goodspeed mounts six new and newly-worked musicals a year—three on its second stage and three on its main stage—a total of more than 400 performances during the April to December season. It stands at the forefront of producing and preserving the American musical, simultaneously reinventing the classics and inventing new ones. It attracts well-known icons of the theatre world and fosters emerging talent among composers, lyricists, and librettists, Each year, thousands of actors, directors, choreographers, and technicians aspire to come to Goodspeed to practice their craft. Among millions who know and love this art form—and those who appreciate its history and enduring appeal—Goodspeed is widely recognized as the "home of the American musical."

In addition, Goodspeed contributes to the preservation of the art form through its Scherer Library of Musical Theatre, the second most extensive musical theatre research library in the United States. Throughout the year, and intensively during the months of winter, Goodspeed addresses issues unique to the field by offering innovative and highly sought-after programs through its Max Showalter Center for Education in Musical Theatre. The Festival of New Artists features students from The Hartt School and The Boston Conservatory performing staged readings of three brand new musicals, six industry-related seminars, a symposium, and two cabarets. The Showalter Center also encompasses Goodspeed's growing Musical Theatre Institute and programs for underserved children and teens.

#### The Future We Envision

We see Goodspeed as a thriving artist colony where the creative process continues to rule and commitment to discovery shows up in new approaches to classic works, new ways to share Goodspeed's knowledge with the industry, and new methods to mine genius and enrich the field with the next generation of musical theatre artists.



### HISTORY OF THE NORMA TERRIS THEATRE

The Norma Terris Theatre was inaugurated in 1984 by Goodspeed Musicals for the development of new musicals. The theatre is named in honor of the actress Norma Terris, star of Jerome Kern's Show Boat and devoted patron and trustee of the Goodspeed Opera House during her later years.

Miss Terris began her stage career as a young vaudeville performer, which led to her first major role in George M. Cohan's Little Nellie Kelly. She gained immortal acclaim as the creator of the roles of Magnolia and Kim in the original Florenz Ziegfeld 1927 production of Show Boat. After making two films for Fox, Married in Hollywood and Cameo Kirby, she starred for 10 seasons at the Municipal Opera Company in St. Louis.



Norma Terris

Miss Terris first performed for Goodspeed audiences in the 1970 production of Little Mary Sunshine. She presided over the dedication of The Norma Terris Theatre, and in 1987 she established the Norma Terris Fund to expand the talents of individuals and to foster the vitality, excellence, and diversity of musical theatre at The Norma Terris Theatre. A beloved friend of the Goodspeed Opera House, Norma Terris is remembered for enriching the art of musical theatre with her beautiful voice, fine acting, and generous spirit.

The Norma Terris Theatre formerly was a factory built in the early 1900s for Susan Bates, Inc., which became one of the largest manufacturers of knitting needles and needlework accessories. In 1982, after relocating to a larger facility, Susan Bates, Inc., donated its abandoned factory in Chester to the Goodspeed Opera House Foundation. An intimate 200-seat performing space, The Norma Terris Theatre was fully renovated, opening its doors on July 10, 1984 with the new musical Harrigan 'n' Hart.

### PAST GOODSPEED PRODUCTIONS

#### 2006

Festival of New Artists: I See London. I See France Romancing the Throne Once Upon a Time in Narcissia

Li'l Abner Pippin

Pirates of Penzance

Caraboo, Princess of Javasu The 60's Project ◆♥ Meet John Doe ◆₩

Festival of New Artists: Pearl Tinyard Hill

The Great American Race Singin' in the Rain High Button Shoes

1776

Happy Days ₩

Festival of New Artists: The Trouble With Doug Tales from the Bad Years

Genesius, The Musical Happy Days Half a Sixpence

Big River

Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas

The Story of My Life ₩₩

Festival of New Artists: Life on the Mississippi Band Geeks!

Factory Girls 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

Camelot A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

Jim Henson's Emmet Otter Luckv Guv₩

Festival of New Artists: Hello Out There ReWrite Lincoln in Love Annie Get Your Gun

Band Geeks!◆₩ Carnival

Radio Girl◆₩ How to Succeed in Business

Without Really Trying James and the Giant Peach◆♥

Festival of New Artists: Room 16

Hello! My Baby Nobody Loves You Mv One And Only

Cutman a boxing musical◆♥

Show Boat

The Unauthorized Autobiography City of Angels

For a complete list of Goodspeed Musicals' past productions from 1963 to the present, please visit our website at www.goodspeed.org/shows\_past.aspx

₩Went on to Broadway

₱Produced at The Norma Terris Theatre

◆ World Premiere



### WILLIAM H. GOODSPEED LEGACY SOCIETY

# Honoring Those Who Have Made a Commitment to Provide for the Future of Goodspeed Musicals

By remembering Goodspeed through a planned gift, you can ensure that your legacy of support, so important to our production of highest quality musical theatre, continues for future generations. The William H. Goodspeed Society was created to recognize those who have included a future bequest to Goodspeed in their wills or estate plans.

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Goodspeed fondly remembers those who left a bequest or in whose honor a memorial fund was established. Their love of musical theatre and our institution is an example to us all.

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The Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, chartered by the State of Connecticut as a charitable, educational, non-profit organization, is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the Goodspeed Opera House both as a historic landmark and as a living theatre. The objective of the Foundation is the establishment and development of a nationally recognized regional theatre of which its members and supporters can be justly proud.

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#### IN APPRECIATION

Goodspeed Musicals would like to thank the following for their contributions to our productions: Bank Street Cobblers, all who volunteer their time and alents to Goodspeed, The Norma Terris Theatre usher staff, the Goodspeed Guild and Production Committees, Mae Wantanabe of ZCMI Flower Shop.

Hello! My Baby will be produced by Rubicon Theatre Company and PCPA Theaterfest in a production directed by Brian McDonald in 2012.



### for your INFORMATION

#### **Box Office**

Goodspeed Opera House 6 Main Street East Haddam, CT 06423-0392 860.873.8668 boxoffice@goodspeed.org

Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**House Manager:** 860.873.8664, ext. 368

#### **Bar and Gift Shop:**

A full service bar, as well as a candy and gift shop, are located in the lobby, and are open one hour prior to curtain and during intermission. Patrons may pre-order intermission cocktails before the show. Your order will be waiting in the lobby.

#### Infra-red Hearing System:

The Norma Terris Theatre offers the Sennheiser infra-red hearing system to assist hearing-impaired patrons. Free headsets are available from the Box Office. Goodspeed Musicals gratefully acknowledges the Carol L. Sirot Foundation for underwriting.

#### **Special Services:**

Handicapped parking is located in the spaces closest to the theatre entrance. Reserved parking spaces are available upon request; please call the House Manager. If you require special assistance of any kind (for example, assistance getting to your seats), please inform the Box Office when you purchase your tickets.

#### Website:

Visit our website at goodspeed.org to buy tickets 24 hours a day or learn more about upcoming and past productions at Goodspeed!

#### Follow us on







#### **Mailing Address:**

Goodspeed Musicals P.O. Box A East Haddam, CT 06423-0281

#### **Tell Us What You Think**

Audience response is a vital part of The Norma Terris Theatre. In addition to discussing the production at our Thursday evening "Talkbacks," you can actively participate in the process of creating a new musical by e-mailing the creative team at info@goodspeed.org.

#### **Goodspeed Guild:**

The Goodspeed Guild is a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting Goodspeed Musicals' operations and productions. Since 1975, it has provided services to artists, patrons, and staff on a year-round basis, while offering our members the opportunity to become part of the behind-the-scenes activities at Goodspeed. To find out about volunteer opportunities that fit your interests and schedule, visit our website at www.goodspeed.org or contact Amy Campbell at 203.494.7328.

Sets, costumes and props are designed especially for The Norma Terris Theatre and are built in Goodspeed Musicals' shops.

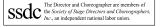
Goodspeed Musicals is a professional theatre operating under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

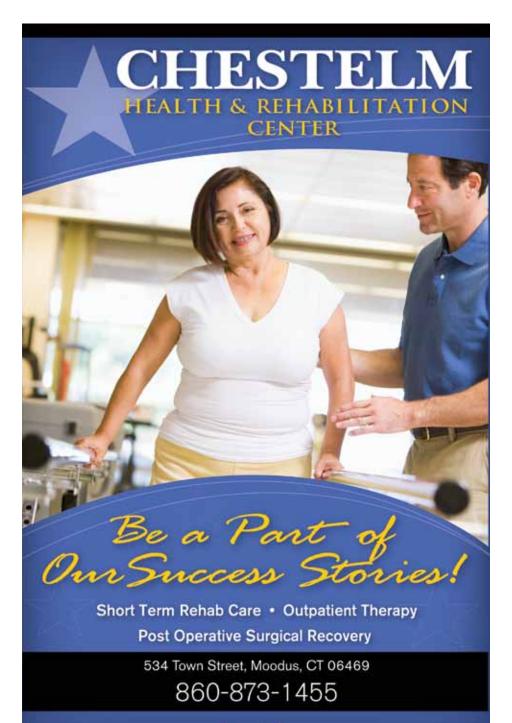






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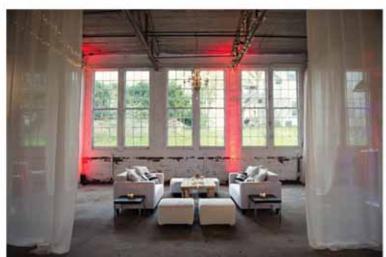


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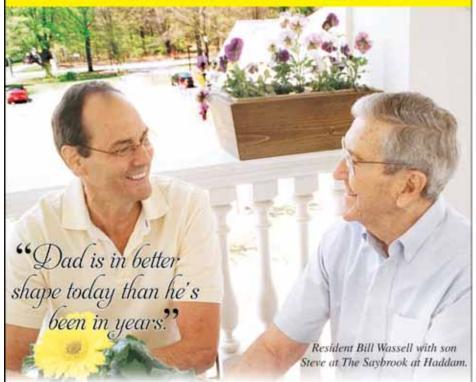
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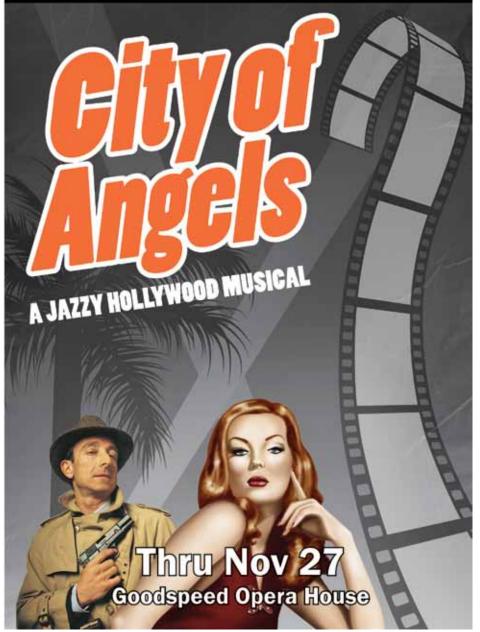
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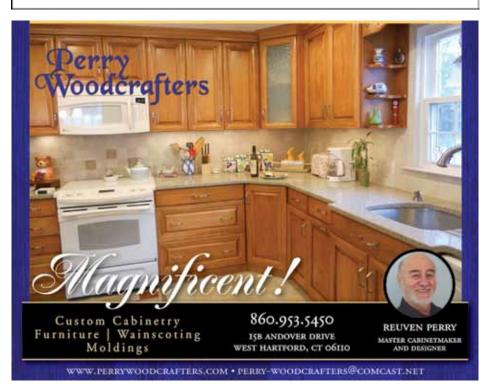
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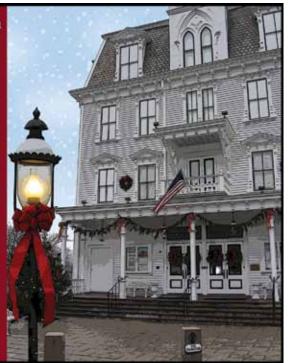
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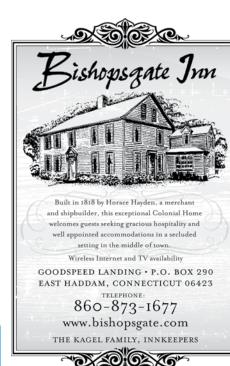
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