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- John Allen (73), Alumni Association president



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Stinson
THEATRE

2008 - 2009

Louisiana Tech University presents...

William Shakespeare's **Merry Wives of Windsor**

directed by
Paul B. Crook

Lighting Design
John Fisher Keenan*

Sound Design
Timothy Dickey*

Costume Design
Nichole Dickey*

Properties Design
Garrett Greely

Hair and Makeup Design
Laura M. Beeman*

Production Stage Manager
Katy Swann*



Administrative Team

Executive DirectorCherrie Sciro*

Business Manager James Fletcher*

Publicity Directors..... James Fletcher* and Natalie Weaver*

Accounts ManagerAmy Updegraff*

Box Office Manager Keive Gordon*

Box Office StaffAlice Allen Ford*, Jessica Nash, and Kelsie C. Coker

Box Office Night of Show Alice Allen Ford* and Keive Gordon*

House ManagerAnsley Bice

Technical Production Team

Dramaturge..... Alice Allen Ford*

Assistant Stage ManagersJacob Birch, Kait Stinchcomb

Assistant to Properties Designer.....Briana Hester

Assistant to Lighting Designer.....Andrew Cogswell

Technical Director.....Don Stevens*

Light Board OperatorAndrew Cogswell

Sound Board Operator Velyncia Caldwell

Wardrobe SupervisorNichole Dickey*

Wardrobe Crew..... Cast and Crew Members

Running Crew Cast and Crew Members

Set Construction Crew Theatre Majors and Minors & SPTH 290 Students

*Denotes members of Alpha Psi Omega

Director's Notes

The Merry Wives of Windsor was, most likely, written around 1597-98. The apocryphal story behind the writing of the play is that Queen Elizabeth saw *Henry IV, Part I* and so enjoyed the character of Falstaff that she commanded Shakespeare to write another play that featured the fat knight in love--and only gave him fourteen days to complete it. Although we cannot prove or disprove the theory, our excellent dramaturge on this production, Alice Allen, found studies indicating that more likely than the royal command for the play, Shakespeare wrote it at the commission of Lord Hunsdon, who was Queen Elizabeth's Lord Chamberlain, and the patron of Shakespeare's company.

Regardless of the impetus, *Merry Wives* is truly a one-of-a-kind play in the Shakespearean canon. Silly, almost farcical, in nature, the play is the only one that is "middle-class" in nature. Akin to the modern situation comedy on television, *Merry Wives* tells a story of "everyday" people. Unlike almost all other Shakespearean plays, it does not have distinct members of the upper reaches of society as main characters. In fact, the one character identified with the royal court, Fenton, is denounced for that association. Because of this middle class quality, *Merry Wives* is one of Shakespeare's most appealing and accessible plays. The language is sharp and witty, the situations are silly and fun, and the jokes are fast and furious. Filled with practical jokes and deceptions meant to turn the tables on Falstaff and embarrass him, the story of these merry wives is one sure to draw audiences of all ages.

We arrived at the production concept for our show as a distinct way to challenge our students by placing them in a mode of production with which most were completely unfamiliar. Although minimalistic in design, and stripped down in performance, this approach is very difficult to master for artists at the student level. By choosing to include audience participation (yes, you may just find yourself a part of the show!), we have added an extra dollop of difficulty. We have challenged the actors, designers, and technicians to work outside their comfort zone quite a bit with this production, and I am pleased (but unsurprised) to say that they have risen quite admirably to the challenge.

As is always the case, I am fortunate to work with artists as talented as we have in the Louisiana Tech University Department of Theatre. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of these budding Artists and the commitment you show to a strong culture of the Arts. We could not do any of it without you and your support. I hope that you enjoy your evening of theatre as much as we have enjoyed providing it for you. Again, thanks!

Paul B. Crook,
Director

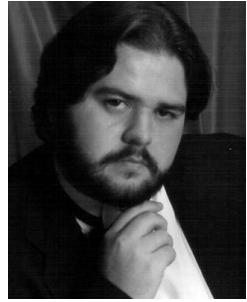
THE PERFORMERS

Sir John Falstaff.	James Fletcher*
Frank Ford.	Hardy L. Bates, Jr.
Alice Ford.	Brianna Case
Margaret Page.	Michaela Madison*
George Page.	Chase Green*
Sir Hugh Evans.	Matthew N. Bass*
Hostess.	Amy Updegraff*
Doctor Caius	Andrew Dylan Ray
Abraham Slender.	Cory Alexander Lewis
Mistress Quickly.	Joscelyne Oktabetz*
Anne Page.	Kelsie C. Coker
Fenton.	Ryan Agnus Gentry
Roberta Shallow.	Anastasia Trammell
Corporal Bardolph.	Jessica D. Nash
Pistol.	Jami Windham*
Corporal Nym	Amanda Lee Tatum
Petra Simple.	Natalie Weaver*
Rugby.	Coka Collins
Jan.	Jessica Johnson
Rachel.	Laura Weil
Robin.	Special Guest

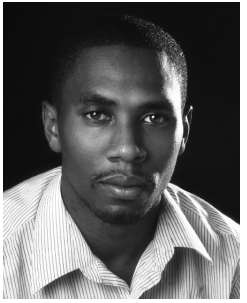
THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION.
Out of consideration for fellow audience members and the cast,
please turn off cell phones and beepers.
Please, no flash photography or recording devices.

* Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, National Theatre Honorary

The Cast



James Fletcher (Sir John Falstaff) is a first year Theatre graduate student from Mena, Arkansas. He has an Associates Degree in History and Theatre and a Bachelor of Arts in Management/Promotions and Acting/Directing. At Southeastern Oklahoma University, James performed as Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Seldson in *Noises Off!*, and La Fleche in *The Miser*. At Eastern Oklahoma State University, he portrayed Peter Quince in *Robin Goodfellow* and Lazar Wolf in *Fiddler on the Roof*. James is a two-time Irene Ryan Nominee. This will be his Stone Theatre debut.



Hardy L. Bates, Jr. (Frank Ford) is a first year Theatre graduate student. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Southern Arkansas University, where, he performed as Homer in *The Lilies of the Field*, Henry in *The Fantasticks*, and Sam Samela in *Master Harold...and the Boys*. This will be Hardy's Stone Theatre debut.



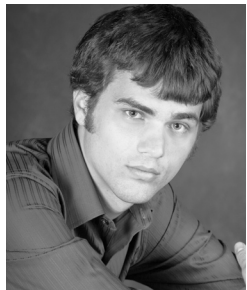
Brianna Case (Alice Ford) is a first year graduate student from Carrollton, Georgia. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from Shorter College, where, she performed as Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Fastrada in *Pippin*, and Witch in *Into the Woods*. Brianna spent the summer of 2008 performing as Lucy in *Dracula* at Horn in the West. She was most recently seen as Ophelia in Louisiana Tech's recent production of *Living Dead in Denmark*.



Michaela Madison (Margaret Page) is a senior Theatre major from Monroe. With Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, she has performed as Blunt/Surrey in *Henry IV parts 1 and 2* and a Hot Box Girl in *Guys and Dolls*. Michaela has been seen as Titania in *Living Dead in Denmark*, Eunice Hubbel in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Carmen in *Sweet Charity*, and Joanne in *Vanities*. In the past, she is a previous Vice President of Alpha Psi Omega and previous Historian for Tech Theatre Players. She is a recognized actor/combatant in six weapons by the Society of American Fight Directors. Michaela is a member of Phi Mu sorority.



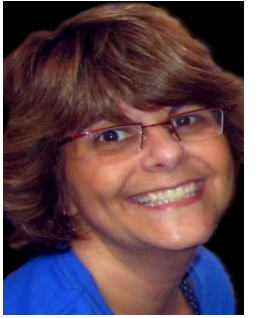
Chase Green (George Page) is a first year graduate student from Gainesville, Georgia. He received his Associate of Arts degree from Gainesville State College and his Bachelor of Arts from Brenau University. At Gainesville Theatre Alliance, Chase performed as Pale in *Burn This*, Abel in *Children of Eden* and Hal in *Proof*. At Louisiana Tech University, Chase portrayed Horatio in *Living Dead in Denmark* and Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.



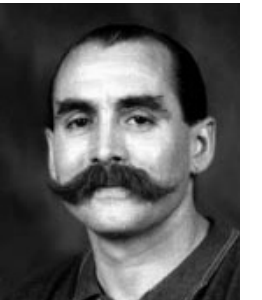
Matthew Bass (Sir Hugh Evans) is a junior Theatre major from St. Louis, Missouri. With Post Playhouse, he performed as Harry the Horse in *Guys and Dolls*. While at Louisiana Tech University, he has been seen in many roles including Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Royce in *Dearly Departed*, Oscar in *Sweet Charity*, Steve in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Elyot in *Private Lives*.

University Theatre Faculty

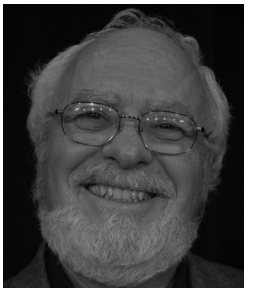
Cherrie Sciro is the Coordinator of Theatre and Professor in the School of the Performing Arts at Louisiana Tech. She is also known nationally for her Broadway credits which include Production Coordinator of the Tony Award-winning productions of *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Miss Saigon*. As well as Broadway Stage Manager for *Song and Dance*, *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Doin' What Comes Natur'lly: An All-Star Tribute to Ethel Merman*, featuring Laine Kazan, Patti LuPone, Andrea Martin, Elaine Stritch and Bette Midler. In addition she was also the Road Manager for the *1999 Hard Rock Rockfest* in Atlanta, GA, and the Stage Manager for the 2001 New Year's Eve in Times Square in New York City. Her International credits include the London, England productions of *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Follies*, and *Sunset Boulevard*. She also served as the Production Manager for the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain and Atlanta, GA.



Mark D. Guinn is the Production Manager and Professor in the School of the Performing Arts. He is an anomaly within his profession. Dancing the sword's edge between the artistic and production side of theatre, Mark found theatre searching for a new way to light his meta-matic sculptures. Twenty years later, with a lighting instrument in one hand and a sword in the other fightin', lightin', and directin' shows from NYC to Yokahoma and Memphis to Banff, Mark continues to pursue Einstein's observation, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science."



Dr. Kenneth Robbins is the Director of the School of the Performing Arts and Professor. Highlights of his career include recognition by the College of Education, Georgia Southern University, as Alum of the year, Louisiana Division of the Arts as a Fellowship recipient in Theatre, a Japan Foundation Arts Fellowship, and an appointment as a Fulbright Scholar to Skopje, Macedonia where he taught American Studies at Sts. Cyril and Methodius University. He has directed professionally at the Barter Theatre in Virginia, the Black Hills Playhouse in South Dakota, Stage West in Nebraska, and the Jacksonville Summer Repertory Theatre in Florida.



Paul B. Crook is an Assistant Professor of Theatre in the School of the Performing Arts. He is the Director of Recruiting for the Theatre Department. Productions directed at Tech include *Dearly Departed*, *Sweet Charity* and the World Premiere of *Such Stuff*. Professionally, Paul has acted and directed in a variety of theatres around the country. This past summer he directed *Henry IV, parts I and II*, and *Guys and Dolls* for the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival in Durant, Oklahoma, and *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming* for Theatre Tuscaloosa in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Paul is married to Mary Fran Crook and they have three children: George, CeCe, and Bryant Ford.



Don Stevens (Technical Director) has written, directed, and produced six shows for Big Bad Productions. A graduate of Louisiana Tech's Master's program, Don was awarded the John C. Trisler Award in 2003 and the Vera Alice Paul Award in 2004. As one of the founders of C.H.A.T. (Coffee House Acting Troupe), he has been involved in bringing new works by local playwrights to the Ruston area, and has been involved in productions with the University of Louisiana at Monroe, the University of the Ozarks, Louisiana Tech University and Ruston Community Theatre as an actor, director and technician. At Louisiana Tech, he recently directed a production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Don is a fencing instructor.



Dianne Maroney-Grigsby is the Staff Choreographer and an Instructor in the School of the Performing Arts. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Grambling State University and her Master of Arts from Louisiana Tech University. Dianne has instructed dance students in America, Europe, Asia, and Africa for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. She is also the choreographer for the Orchesis Dance Company. Dianne has been the featured dancer in Twin City Ballet Company. Her training is in Modern, Horton, Graham, Classical Ballet, Tap and Jazz techniques. She teaches Dance for the Theatre.





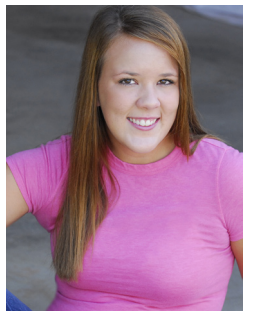
Nichole Dickey (Costume Design) is a first year graduate student from Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Theatre from Northeastern State University. While attending NSU, she served as Co-Costume Designer for *Godspell*, Stage Manager for *Jack and the Beanstalk* and Assistant Stage manager for *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?* While at Tech, she has served as Assistant Stage Manager for *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and 2009 Opera Workshop. She has served as Wardrobe Supervisor for *Parallel Lives* and *Living Dead in Denmark*. Nichole would like to thank her wonderful husband, Tim, their two daughters, and her mom for always believing in her.



Garrett Greely (Properties Design) is a freshman Environmental Science major here at Louisiana Tech. This year, Garrett Greely has served as Properties Assistant for *Private Lives* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He likes long walks on the beach and compassionate girls who aren't afraid to express their emotions.



Laura M. Beeman (Hair and Makeup Design) is a senior theatre major at Louisiana Tech University. She was last seen as an array of characters in *Parallel Lives* and Amanda Prynne in *Private Lives*. She co-founded Shreveport Little Theatre Academy where she is the resident choreographer. She has choreographed both *High School Musical* and *High School Musical 2*. Laura is working on choreography for SLTA's upcoming summer show, *Children of Eden*. Laura toured the United States and Canada professionally as a Tour Actor and Director for Missoula Children's Theatre. Laura worked with Canterbury Summer Theatre as an actress, choreographer, and stage manager. Laura would like to thank her husband, Clay, and her mother, Carol, for being supportive and loving.



Katy Swann (Production Stage Manager) is a senior theatre major from Oklahoma City. This year, Katy served as the Production Stage manager for *Parallel Lives* and the Costume Designer for *Private Lives*. Katy was the Assistant Stage manager last summer for Theatre West Virginia's repertory season. This summer, she will be Assistant Stage Managing *Big River* at East Carolina's Loessin Summer Theatre. Katy will start graduate school this fall at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



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Amy Updegraff (Hostess) is a junior Theatre major from Shreveport. Amy was last seen as Ursula in *Sweet Charity*. She portrayed Susanna in *Guided Tour*, Juanita in *Dearly Departed* Luisa in *Zorro* and a Sexton in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Louisiana Tech. At the International Thespian Conference, Amy played Isabella in *Broken But Not Torn*. Amy previously played Mary Warren in *The Crucible*, Beth in *Merrily We Roll Along*, and Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Amy is currently serving as Treasurer for Tech Theatre Players and Kappa Delta Sorority and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega.

Andrew Dylan Ray (Dr. Caius) is a first year graduate student. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Kentucky. Andrew was recently seen as Hamlet in *Living Dead in Denmark* and Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Before coming to Louisiana Tech, Andrew portrayed Dr. Stuart in *Horn in the West* and Van Helsing in *Dracula* at Horn in the West in 2008. Andrew is a Motion Capture Artist for Saints Row 2 for the XBOX 360. He is an advanced actor/combatant, recognized by the Society of American Fight Directors in all eight weapons.

Cory Alexander Lewis (Abraham Slender) is a freshman Theatre major from El Dorado, Arkansas. In El Dorado he performed many roles including the Messenger in *Medea*, Roger Chillingworth in *The Scarlet Letter*, Montague in *Romeo and Juliet* and Charlie Gordon in *Flowers for Algernon*. He was most recently seen as Pablo Gonzalez in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Cory received the award for 1st Place Solo Acting at the Arkansas State Thespian Festival 2008 and 1st Place Duet Acting at the 2008 Tiger Championship.

Joscelyne Oktabetz (Mistress Quickly) is a senior Theatre major from Baton Rouge. She was last seen as Lady Macbeth in *Living Dead in Denmark*. She has portrayed Sybil in *Private Lives*, Betsy in *Sweet Charity*, and Emma in *The Maternal Instinct*. Joscelyne received a Tech Tony for Best Costume Design for the 2006 production of *W;T*. She is currently a member of Alpha Psi Omega.

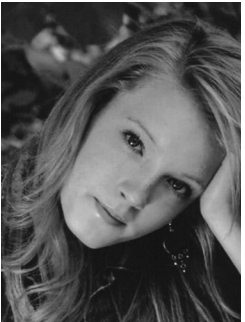
Kelsie C. Coker (Anne Page) is a junior Theatre major from Dallas, Texas. She received her Associates Degree in Theatre from Navarro College. While there, she performed as Elsbeth in *At the Table*, as Mrs. Shinn in *The Music Man*, and Poopsie in *The Pajama Game*. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Navarro College and was an Irene Ryan nominee. This will be Kelsie's Stone Theatre debut.

Ryan Angus Gentry (Fenton) is a freshman Theatre major from Rowlett, Texas. He was last seen as Victor Prynne in *Private Lives*. Ryan is an Eagle Scout.





Anastasia Trammell (Roberta Shallow) is a sophomore Theatre major from Austin, Texas. Before coming to Louisiana Tech, she portrayed many roles at Georgetown High School including Ophelia in *Hamlet* in 2006. For Georgetown's Summer Lease Stock, she performed as Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*. Anastasia performed last year as Lindsay in *Guided Tour* and was seen as Charity in Louisiana Tech's production of *Sweet Charity*. She was most recently seen as Blanche Dubois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Anastasia is currently serving as Tech Theatre Players Historian.



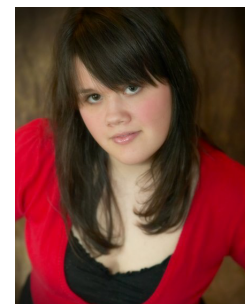
Jessica D. Nash (Corporal Bardolph) is a junior theatre major from El Dorado, Arkansas. At Louisiana Tech University, Jessica has performed as Louise in *Private Lives* and the Messenger in *Much Ado About Nothing*, for which she received the Tech Tony Best Actress in a Cameo. Before coming to Louisiana Tech, she performed as Pearl in *The Scarlet Letter*. She received the John C. Trisler Award in Outstanding Achievement in Technical Theatre in 2008 for Costume Shop Supervision. She also was awarded 3rd in Acting at the Arkansas State Thespian Festival.



Jami Windham (Pistol) is a junior Theatre major from Shreveport. At the Talented Arts Program in Shreveport, she performed as Millworker/Housewife in the musical, *Working*. At Louisiana Tech, she has been seen as Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, an ensemble member in *Sweet Charity*, Kathy in *Vanities*, and Stella Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is currently serving as Alpha Psi Omega President.



Amanda Lee Tatum (Corporal Nym) is a sophomore Theatre major from Shreveport. At the Performing Arts Center in Shreveport, she performed as Ethel in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She portrayed Cinderella in *Cinderella* at Byrd High School. At Louisiana Tech Amanda performed as a member of the Watch in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Rosie in *Sweet Charity*. She was last seen as the Nurse in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. At the Shreveport Little Theatre Academy she was the understudy for Taylor in *High School Musical*. Amanda will begin working this summer for Lexington Children's Theatre.



Natalie Weaver (Petra Simple) is a senior Theatre major from West Monroe. Since coming to Louisiana Tech, she has performed in many roles including Student/Code Team in *W;T*, Conchita in *Zorro*, the Watch in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and was Elaine in *Sweet Charity*, and the Mexican Woman in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Natalie was most recently seen as Juliet in *Living Dead in Denmark*. She is currently serving as Vice President for Tech Theatre Players and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega.



Coka Collins (Rugby) is a sophomore Speech major from Robeline with a minor in Journalism. Coka has been seen as an ensemble member in *Sweet Charity* and a member of the onstage band in *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Jessica Johnson (Jan) is from Ferriday and is a senior Psychology and Theatre double major with a French minor. This will be Jessica's Stone Theatre debut.

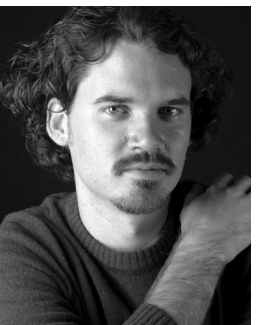


Laura Weil (Rachel) is a senior Theatre major from West Monroe. At OCS, she performed as Mr. Beaver in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. At Strauss Youngstage, she performed as Ariel in the *Tempest*, a Townsperson and Napkin in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Mrs. Crawford in *Secret Garden*. With Auburn Street Players, she portrayed a pirate in the *Pirates of Penzance*.

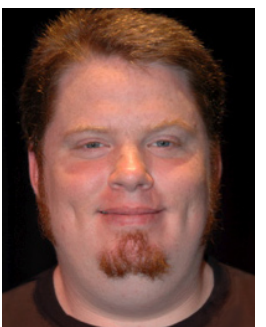
The Creative Team



Paul B. Crook (Director) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre in the School of the Performing Arts. He is the Director of Recruiting for the Theatre Department. Productions directed at Tech include *Dearly Departed*, *Sweet Charity* and the World Premiere of *Such Stuff*. Professionally, Paul has acted and directed in a variety of theatres around the country. This past summer he directed *Henry IV, parts I and II*, and *Guys and Dolls* for the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival in Durant, Oklahoma, and *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming* for Theatre Tuscaloosa in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Paul is married to Mary Fran Crook, and they have three children: George, CeCe, and Bryant Ford.



John Fisher Keenan (Lighting Design) is a Technical Design graduate student in his second year in the Theatre Department at Louisiana Tech. John's recent design credits include Scenic Designer for *Private Lives*, Lighting Designer for *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and Sound Designer for both the Opera Workshop and most recently *Parallel Lives*. John recently took the position of Scenic Designer for the Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival in Durant, Oklahoma where his creativity will be put to a vigorous eight week test. John would like to thank his fiancée, Ansley Bice for her remarkable patience and assistance through his late night design sessions, as well as the faculty and fellow graduate students who have been there to help see his silly ideas through to the end.



Timothy Dickey (Sound Design) is a first year graduate student from Los Molinos, California. He received his Bachelors of Arts in Theatre from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. While attending NSU, he served as scenic designer for *The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?*, *The Shadow Box*, and *Godspell*. He served as Technical Director for *Texas Two Step* and *School House Rock*. While at Tech, he has served as Technical Director for 2009 Opera Workshop and Properties Designer for *Private Lives*. This summer he will be serving as Scenic Team Leader at Stagedoor Manor in Loch Sheldrake, New York.