# SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. William Deese Darby Guinn

Grambling State University Department of Visual and Performing Arts and Dance

Courtney Harrison Kelsey Mardis Don Stevens Dr. Laura Thompson

Dr. Laura Thompson Dr. Sean Teets Alison Wyant



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If you follow us on Facebook or Twitter, you will have the opportunity to watch the growth and development of these young performers as we gave a "behind the scenes" look at the show's evolution with interviews, photos, and videos. As an added way to enhance the experience, we invite you to tweet

your responses to what you're seeing using #LATechPippin for your comments. If you search and save the hashtag, you will be able to go back and see some of our earlier posts, as well as the comments of your fellow audience members. Don't be surprised to see an occasional comment from company members as well!



### PLEASE

TURN OFF YOUR PHONES.
NO RECORDING DEVICES.
NO PHOTOGRAPHY.

WOW.



#### PERFORMERS

Leading Player Payton D. Wilburn Pippin Chastin Seeby Charles Ryan Ferrebee Lewis Jacob D. Guinn Fastrada **Jamie Robinson** Berthe Alicia Goodman Catherine Rachael Anne Pace

Dancing Chorus Boy James Anthony Chapman

Kelsey T. Mardis

Dancing Chorus Girl Sydney Mayeux

Theo

#### ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Jim Robken

**Kyle Collins** Electric Piano, Harpischord

Camella Card Keyboard Synthesizer

Stetson Bosecker Flute, Alto Flute, Recorder

Erica Clark Piccolo, Flute

Stephanie Wise Clarinet Courtney Cloud Clarinet

**Howard Gauley** Soprano Sax, Alto Sax

Jeremy Scott Violin Violin Kat Brown Margaret Hall Harp Frances Grafton Harp

Tiffany Woda Trumpet Tim Pardue Trumpet

Brian Smith French Horn

Trombone Josh Mattison Trombone Kyle Gilbert

Quachardd Sloan **Bass** 

Ben Jones Acoustic Guitar.

Electric Guitar, Banjo

Philip Raeisghasem Drums

Bradlee Martin Percussion Percussion Tyler Smith

Orchestra Crew Victoria Childress

Rehearsal Pianist Dr. Steele Moegle

# LOUISIANA TECH University Theatre 2012-13 SEASON









**DECEMBER 4-8, 2012** 











January 30-February 2 & FEBRUARY 5-9, 2013





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DON'T MISS THE **TECH TONY AWARDS** MAY 12, 2012 AT 7:30 PM



**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.



**Don Stevens** is the Technical Director and has written, directed, and produced six shows for Big Bad Productions. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech's Master's program and recieved his second MA in English in the summer of 2011. 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. Don is a fencing instructor.



**Dr. Lisa Maxedon** is the Assistant Professor of Music and Head of Vocal Studies and Opera Theatre at Louisiana Tech University, where she teaches Applied Voice, Opera Workshop, Vocal Diction, and Vocal Pedagogy. Dr. Maxedon was selected as Runner-Up in the Mississippi N.A.T.S.A.A. Artist Awards Competition in 2004. She has performed leading operatic roles in Illinois, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alaska. She

has also been featured as a guest artist with orchestras throughout the Midwest and South. In 2005, she presented her research findings, "The Ability of College Choral/Vocal Teachers to Screen for the Unhealthy Speaking Voice in Singers", at the International Symposium for the Care of the Professional Voice in Philadelphia, PA.

#### School of the Performing Arts Faculty and Staff

**Director of SPA** - Dr. Kenneth Robbins **Acting Coordinator of Theatre** - Mark D. Guinn **Coordinator of Music** - Dr. Randall Sorensen

Dr. Joe Alexander
John Allen Bankson
Shayla Blake
Dr. Cain Budds
Paul B. Crook
Lawrence Gibbs
Dianne Maroney-Grigsby
Dr. Lisa Maxedon
Dr. Lisa Maxedon
Dr. Steele Moegle
Mary Roberts
Jim Robken
Ann Sorensen
Don Stevens
Dr. Sean Teets

Nathan Gwartney Dr. Laura Thompson

Gregory Lyons Toni Troiano

#### **Professors Emeritus**

Dr. Jon Barker Dr. Sue Holder David Wylie

#### ACT ONE

Magic To Do Leading Player, Ensemble
Corner Of The Sky
Welcome Home
War Is A Science
Glory Leading Player
Corner Of The Sky – Reprise
Simple Joys Leading Player
No Time At All
With You
Spread A Little Sunshine Fastrada
Morning Glow
Act 1 Finale

#### ACT TWO

Right Track. . . . . . . . . . Leading Player, Pippin

There He Was
Kind of Woman
Extraordinary
Prayer For A Duck
Love Song
Corner Of The Sky, Last Reprise
I Guess I'll Miss The Man Catherine
Magic Underscore – Finale Ensemble
Finale
Theo's Corner
Bows Ensemble



#### ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Acting Coordinator of Theatre Mark D. Guinn
Business Manager Ryan Ferrebee

Publicity Directors Holly Bricker and Rachael Pace

Accounts Manager Payton Wilburn

Box Office Manager James Anthony Chapman

Box Office Staff James Anthony Chapman

Alicia Goodman Melissa Scott

House Managers

Kait Stinchcomb
Barrett Brown

# TECHNICAL PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Paul B. Crook

Musical Director Dr. Lisa Maxedon

Stage Manager Paula Rae Brown

1st Assistant Stage Manager Alison Wyant

2nd Assistant Stage Manager Courtney Bertrand

Costume Designer Destiny Garcia

Wardrobe Supervisor Sara Murdock

Lighting Design Mark D. Guinn

Lighting Assistant Ben "Dutch" Porch

Lighting Board Operator Steven B. Vick

Sound Board Operator Rhett Davis

Properties Designer Ryan Gentry

Properties Assistant Lasharae Jacobs

Props Running Crew Carolyn Smith

Hair and Makeup Design Alicia Goodman

Technical Director Matthew Ferguson

Assistant to Choreographer Roberta Williams

Set/Sound Design Mark D. Guinn
Don Stevens

#### FACULTY



Mark D. Guinn is the Acting Coordinator of Theatre, 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." Mark recieved the 2010-2011 University Senate Chair Award as the "outstanding professor of the year."



Paul B. Crook is an Associate Professor of acting and directing and supervises all student directing projects, in addition to directing and occasionally acting for the Department of Theatre. He also serves as the Director of Recruiting for the Department. Paul has previously served as the Director of Theatre Arts for Andrew College in Cuthbert, GA; as the Artistic Coordinator for the Second Stage Theatre in Tuscaloosa, AL; as the Associate Artistic

Director for the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival in Durant, OK; and currently serves as the Artistic Director of The B & B Theatre, a professional summer theatre company that he formed with his wife, Mary Fran, a theatre professor at Grambling State University. Paul and Mary Fran have three precocious children: George, CeCe, and Bryant Ford.



Nathan Gwartney has over fifteen years of experience in Amateur, Educational, & Professional Arts Management. He is an established, highly successful producer and management professional having most recently worked for the internationally renowned Tulsa Ballet. Mr. Gwartney has served as an Arts Management consultant, specializing in arts marketing, public relations and box office operations for a variety of arts

groups throughout Oklahoma and the Mid-West Region. In addition to his professional accomplishments, he is an award winning actor, designer, director and producer. Mr. Gwartney's research and scholarly interests include the Federal Theatre Project, African American drama, Richard Schechner and the "white trash" aesthetic and its influence on popular culture. Mr. Gwartney holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theater from Northeastern State University and a Master of Arts in Theatre from Oklahoma State University.



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.

#### CREW



**Production Stage Manager.** Paula Rae Brown is a junior Theatre major at LA Tech. At Tech she was the PSM for *Our Town* for which she was awarded Meritorious Achievement in Stage Management from KCACTF and *KAB Man* in 2011. This past summer she was a Stage Management Intern at Second Stage Theatre, Off-Broadway theater in NYC, for their productions of *Sex Lives of Our Parents* and *The Talls*. She received the

Frances Winters Scholarship for Outstanding Freshman in 2010, won the Stage Management Award in 2011, and the Gregory Stone Phillips Scholarship for Professional Development in 2011 at Tech Tony Awards. She was picked to serve on the SETC Dream Team Spring Conference 2012 and will serve this summer as First Year Props Running Crew Apprentice at Santa Fe Opera.



Costume Designer. Destiny Garcia is a sophomore Biology major and Theatre minor from Norco, LA. With LA Tech she was a featured performer in *So in Love! Opera Workshop* in 2011. At Destrehan High she was Rizzo in *Grease* in 2010. With Stone Theatre she played the role of Edwina in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* in 2011 and Mrs. Soames in *Our Town* in 2010. Recently she has served as choreographer for *Annie Get Your Gun* 

with the Ruston Community Theatre. Destiny would like to thank Michael Townsend and Bill Plasse for not only giving her the permission to explore her creativity, but putting faith in it, showing her by example to trust it herself.



Hair and Makeup Designer. Alicia M. Goodman is a first year graduate student in Theatre from Arcadia, FL. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL Her previous hair/makeup designes include *Medea* in 2010 with the Rahner-Gibbs Second Stage, *Sure Thing* in 2010 with Flagler College, and with Historic Tours of America she designed makeup for their Easter and Gator Bowl

Parades. Alicia graduated Magna Cum Laude and is a part of Alpha Chi and Alpha Psi Omega.



**Technical Director.** Matthew Ferguson is a first year grad student pursuing his Masters in Theatre. This is his second Technical Direction work here with LA Tech Theatre, having also served as TD for *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. He has worked as an assistant Technical Director during his undergraduate work at Limestone College. He is looking forward to doing more TD work in the future and expanding his skills even further.



**Properties Designer.** Ryan Angus Gentry is a senior Theatre major from Rowlett, TX. At Stone Theatre he was Macbeth in the 2011 production of *Macbeth* for which he received a Tech Tony Award for Best Actor, KAB Man in the student-produced production of *KAB Man*, and in 2010 he was Derby in *Richard III*. This summer at the Schoenbrunn Amphitheater he was Ben Campbell in *Trumpet in the Land* and Captain Pipe in

The White Savage. Ryan is an Eagle Scout.

#### DIRECTOR NOTES

Running for almost 2000 performances over five years, the original Broadway production of Pippin opened in 1972 and garnered 11 Tony Award nominations. Ben Vereen (Best Actor in a musical), Tony Walton (Best Scenic Design), Jules Fisher (Best Lighting Design), and Bob Fosse (Best Choreography and Best Direction of a Musical) each took home awards as winners at the 1973 awards ceremony. With music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and a book by Roger O. Hirson and Bob Fosse (though he was uncredited for it), Pippin was one of a handful of new (at the time) pop/rock musicals that set the stage and inspired writers and composers for years to come.

Scott Miller, Artistic Director of New Line Theatre in St. Louis, MO, has said that "Pippin is a largely under-appreciated musical with a great deal more substance to it than many people realize. Because it rejects a Happily-Ever-After in favor of a real world ending of compromise and doubt, and because it is happening in real time and on a stage, it may also be one of the most realistic musicals ever produced." Part of the wonderful realism of the show stems from the somewhat turbulent creation process faced by Schwartz and Fosse, with the composer favoring an open, but at least possibly hopeful ending and the director/choreographer favoring a darker, more despairing ending. Fosse's vision was the one ultimately used in the original production, but the show has still morphed and evolved over the years.

In 2006, Schwartz re-wrote the ending of the show in a wonderfully theatrical manner that captured, I think, the best of both his and Fosse's original visions; that revival script is the one you will see here tonight. The angst, pain, desire, hope, dismay, and questing nature of humanity's coming-of-age is all on display for you. Tinged with a decidedly modern concept of the lengths some people will go to achieve fame, glory, and adulation, our story pulls back the cover on a somewhat darker, seedy side of human nature while still revelling in the lighter moments as well. As you will see on this journey, Pippin shows us that, though we all think ourselves "Extraordinary," our faults, insecurities, and demons are often shared universally. We also see that the forces that struggle and compel us really are, as the Leading Player says, "inside our heads, waiting for [us]."

As is always the case with the Louisiana Tech University School of the Performing Arts musical, one of the biggest joys of the process is working with such an amazingly talented company of artists. Thank you for your patronage tonight and for your support of the SPA. Without you, we can never be complete as artists. Now, we have some "Magic to Do," so sit back and enjoy the show!

-Paul B. Crook, Director

#### THE CAST



The Leading Player. Payton Wilburn is a junior Theatre major from Pineville, LA. At Louisiana Tech Stone Theatre she has played Emily in *Our Town* in 2011, Sister Mary Leo in the 2010 production of *Nunsense*. Also at Tech in 2011 she played Witch Three in *Macbeth* and in 2012 Lady Gwendolyn in *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. In 2010 she received the Merrit Scholarship Award Outstanding Achievement in Dance Award at

Tech Tony Awards. She is Lifeguard/CPR certified and has her scuba certification. Payton is a swim team coach for Bulldog Aquatics, a published poet, and the President of Alpha Psi Omega, Theatre Honors fraternity.



**Pippin**. Chastin Seeby is a freshman Professional Aviation major at LA Tech. With Cutting Edge Production he played the role of Tulsa in *Gypsy* in 2011. At the Slidell Little Theatre he played the role of Harry Houdini in *Ragtime* in 2011, and was in their 2010 production of *Godspell*. At Salmen High School he was Paul Bratter in *Barefoot in the Park* in 2011. Chastin received his Private Pilot Certificate this past October.



Charles. Ryan Ferrebee is a second year graduate student in Theatre from Jewett, OH. He received his B.S. in Communications/Theatre from West Liberty University where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. At WLU he played Katurian in *The Pillowman* in 2010, Dr. Parker in *Bat Boy* in 2009, General Schmitz/Horton the Elephant in *Seussical* in 2008, and Herr Schultz in *Cabaret* in 2006. In 2008 he played Marcellus in *The Music Man* 

with the Ohio Outdoor Historical Drama Association. Ryan received Irene Ryan Nomination for *The Pillowman*, the Mary Beth Thiels Award, and the Lula Mae Sciro Award.



Lewis. Jacob D. Guinn is a junior Theatre major and Communications minor from Ruston, LA. At Tech he was Robin Hood in the 2012 production of *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and George Gibbs in *Our Town* in 2011 for which he received and Irene Ryan Nomination. At Theatre West Virginia in Beckley, WV, he was Mr. Turner and the Head Pyrotechnician in *Rocket Boys: The Musical* and Cap Hatfield in *Hatfields and McCoys*. Jake is

an Advanced/Actor Combatant in the SAFD, an Actor/Combatant in BASSC, and Vice President of Alpha Psi Omega.



Fastrada. Jamie Lynn Robinson is a junior Theatre major at Louisiana Tech. With Tech Theatre she as been the First Assistant Stage Manager for *Our Town* in 2011, the Second Assistant Stage Manger for *So in Love! Opera Workshop* in 2010, and the Sound Board Operator fro *Macbeth* 2011. Jamie studied for fifteen years with Missy Crain School of Dance, where she assistant taught for three years. She is a musician and sang at Six Flags

Over Dallas and, the Louisiana Hayride, and was a part time host for the local Nashville television show Nashville Spotlight.



Berthe. Alicia M. Goodman is a first year graduate student in Theatre from Arcadia, FL. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL. With LA Tech Stone Theatre she played the role of Mrs. Gibbs in our 2011 production of *Our Town*. At Flagler she was Mrs. Yang in *The Good Person of Setzuan* in 2010 and Queen Samantha in *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty* in 2009. At the Limelight

Theatre in St. Augustine she played the role of Stripper/Hollywood Blonde in *Gypsy* in 2011 and at the Manatee School for the Arts she played the Evil Stepmother in *Cinderella* in 2006. Alicia graduated Magna Cum Laude and is a part of Alpha Chi and Alpha Psi Omega.



Catherine. Rachael Anne Pace is a junior Theatre major from Covington, LA. At Tech she was Lady Marian in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* in 2012, Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town* in 2011. Also at Tech she played the Marquess of Dorset in *Richard III* in 2010, and Guinevere in *So in Love! Opera Workshop* in 2011 for which she received a Tech Tony Award for Best Supporting Actress. She received Best Props Design for *Macbeth*, an

award for Outstanding Achievement in Promotions and Marketing, and the School of Performing Arts Merrit Scholarship in 2011. Rachael is the Vice-President of Tech Theatre Players and a member of Alpha Psi Omega Honor Fraternity.



**Theo.** Kelsey T. Mardis is a junior Speech/Theatre major from Choudrant, LA. At LA Tech she was Midge the Miller in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* in 2012, a Trash Ninja in *KAB Man* in 2011, Ratcliff in the 2010 production of *Richard III*, and Nancy in the 2010 production of *Seascape*. This summer Kelsey worked as Assistant Properties Master at *Horn in the West* in Boone, NC and returns this summer as Properties Master.



**Dancing Chorus Boy.** James Anthony Chapman is a South Carolina native who graduated with a degree in Mass Communication and Theatre pursuing his MA at LA Tech. At Greenwood Community Theatre he was in *Footloose* in 2005 and was Stuart in *It's a Wonderful Life* in 2004. At the Abbeville Opera House he was Stuart in *The Sunshine Boys* in 2008. At the JBA Cultural Center he played various roles in *The Laramie Project* 

in 2006 and at Greenroom Studios he was a Boy in *Ikuta: Japanese Noh Play* in 2009.



**Dancing Chorus Girl.** Sydney Mayeux is a sophomore Theatre major at Louisiana Tech. Her previous experience with Tech Theatre include Sound Assistant Designer for *The Adventures of Robin Hood* in 2012, Sound Board Operator for *Our Town* in 2011, Props Mistress for *Macbeth* in 2011, and Sound Board Operator for *KAB Man* in 2011. At the Baton Rouge Little Theatre she was the Sound Board Assistant Operator for

Evita in 2009. Sydney is a Center Stage Performing Arts Company Member.