

**SUMMER**  
**STAGE**

**YOUNG**  
**ACTING**  
**COMPANY**

# **RUN ORDER/CAST LIST**

## **(IN ALPHA ORDER)**

### **GHOST WRITERS**

**by Samantha Gallagher**

**Time and Place: 1980s. Late Night. Joey's Bedroom**

Zelda Fitzgerald: Emmie Ashley

Joey: Liz Ogonowski

Ernest Hemingway: Tony Pallone\*

F. Scott Fitzgerald: Madhav Raj

Oscar Wilde: Ben Samaniuk

Joey's Mom: Anika Sohn

William Shakespeare: Julian Tushabe

### **THE YELLOW NOTEBOOK**

**by Emma Pelton, Amara Mitchell & Hannah Richards**

**Time and Place: Present Day. Cozy Coffee Shop in a Sizable City.**

Lucy: Mia Gottesman

Maria: Liz Ogonowski

Barista/Lucy's Grandpa: Tony Pallone\*

Simon: Madhav Raj

Oliver: Ben Samaniuk

Others in Coffee Shop: Emmie Ashley, Anika Sohn, Julian Tushabe

### **BEFORE IT FALLS**

**by Jack Bruno and Noelle Abushqeir**

**Time and Place: Present Day. High School Library**

Person 3: Emmie Ashely

Person 2: Mia Gottesman

Librarian: Liz Ogonowski

Other Construction Worker: Tony Pallone\*

Rahid: Madhav Raj

Will: Ben Samaniuk

Person 1: Anika Sohn

Construction Worker, Bill: Julian Tushabe

### **THE CHURCH**

**by Sylvia Mattraw-Johnston, Nicholas Vanhoesen & Samuel Mozzillo**

**Time and Place: Present Day. A Small Midwestern Town.**

Gwen: Mia Gottesman

Tyga: Emmie Ashley

Grandma Beverly: Liz Ogonowski

Narrator: Tony Pallone\*  
Travis: Madhav Raj  
Jez: Ben Samaniuk  
Pastor Glimba: Anika Sohn  
Seth: Julian Tushabe

## **CRYSTAL GAZER**

by Chiara Cenci & Reese Taylor

**Time and Place: Present Day. At a Circus.**

Agnes: Emilia Ashley  
Edith: Mia Gottesman  
Fay: Liz Ogonowski  
Eloise: Anika Sohn

## **UNEXPECTED LOVE**

by Jordan Moses

**Time and Place: Present Day. 6am. High Profile Ad Agency.**

Jamie: Emilia Ashley  
Gina: Mia Gottesman  
Alex Reid: Ben Samaniuk

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# **COMPANY MEMBERS**



**Emmie  
Ashley**



**Mia  
Gottesman**



**Liz  
Ogonowski**



**Tony  
Pallone**



**Madhav  
Raj**



**Benjamin D.  
Samaniuk**



**Anika  
Sohn**



**Julian  
Tushabe**

**Emmie Ashley** is so excited to be participating in this year's Capital Rep shows for the first time! She has played shows in the past such as Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* and Athena from *A Greek Mythology Olympiaganza*. Emmie is honored to be able to be the understudy of Lucy's Grandpa in *The Yellow Notebook* in this year's show, as she loves that character very much.

**Mia Gottesman** is very excited to have been given the opportunity to be a part of the Summer Stage Young Acting Company. This is her first time participating in this program. Other credits include Catskill High School's productions of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and *Disney's Tarzan*, which was nominated for Best Musical at the High School Musical Theatre Awards at Proctors. She also participated in Voice Theatre's productions of *Our Town* and *Enemy of the People*. Mia would like to thank her parents, her grandparents, and her chorus teacher Ms. Storrs for their endless support and encouragement.

**Liz Ogonowski** is a rising junior at Niskayuna High School. Past productions include *Oliver Twist* (Mrs. Corney) and last year's SYAC performance at Capital Rep. She has also been part of the backstage crew for *The Lost Boy*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *The Play that Goes Wrong*, where she was also assistant director. Liz would like to thank her family for giving her these opportunities, and Margaret, who is the best director ever.

**Tony Pallone\*** Tony Pallone counts his experiences at theREP among his most rewarding theatrical work. Past productions include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Gypsy* and *The Trip to Bountiful* on the main stage, as well as previous work on *Next Act!*. Offstage, he wears many hats, including as a writer for numerous media outlets and as a consulting art director for the Capital District's 55+ Life magazine. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

**Madhav Raj** is a rising junior attending Niskayuna High School. To date, Madhav has been cast in three shows (including last summer's Summer Stage Young Acting Company here at theREP). Madhave is very excited to perform at Capital Repertory Theatre again this year! Break a leg!

**Benjamin D. Samaniuk** is delighted to return to Summer Stage for his second year. This is his second performance. He will be heading into the ninth grade at Niskayuna High School next fall. He would like to thank his grandmother, Phyllis, for providing him with this opportunity.

**Anika Sohn** is thrilled to be a part of her first out-of-school musical production! She has performed with the School of Albany Berkshire Ballet since she was 3 years old at venues such as The Egg and the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. For the past 4 years she has played viola with the Empire State Youth Orchestra and been a member of her school choir. Most recently, Anika performed in her school's musical production of *Beauty & the Beast*. Anika would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support for getting her where she is now.

**Julian Tushabe** is a Ugandan actor, singer, and dancer who recently graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. His favorite Skidmore credits included *Somewhere* (Eph), *The Harvest* (Marcus), and *Cabaret* (Emcee). He has done various short films with independent filmmakers in the Capital Region and theatre projects with Berkshire Theatre Group, Capital Repertory Theatre, Saratoga Shakespeare, Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate NY, and MLK Saratoga. This fall he will be moving to Southern California to pursue an MFA in Acting at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of The Arts. He thanks his wonderful family for supporting him in all his endeavors.

# PLAYWRIGHTS



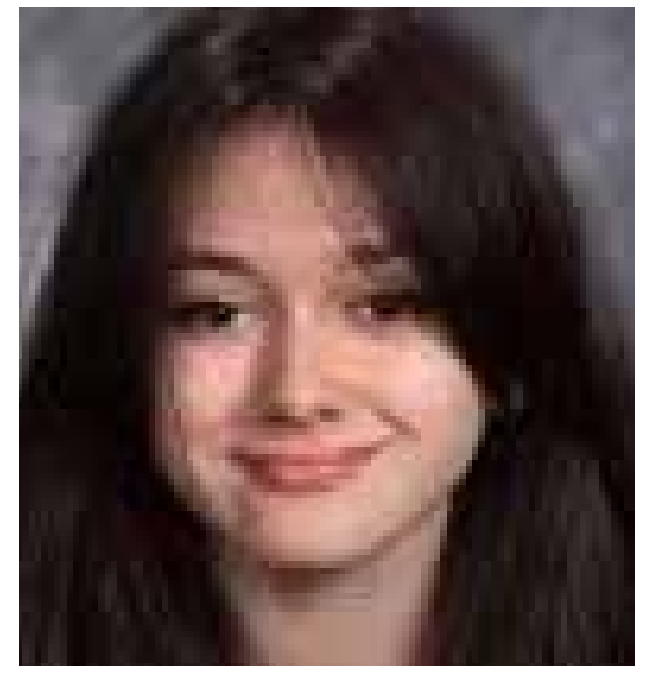
**Noelle  
Abushqeir**



**Jack  
Bruno**



**Chiara  
Cenci**



**Samantha  
Gallagher**



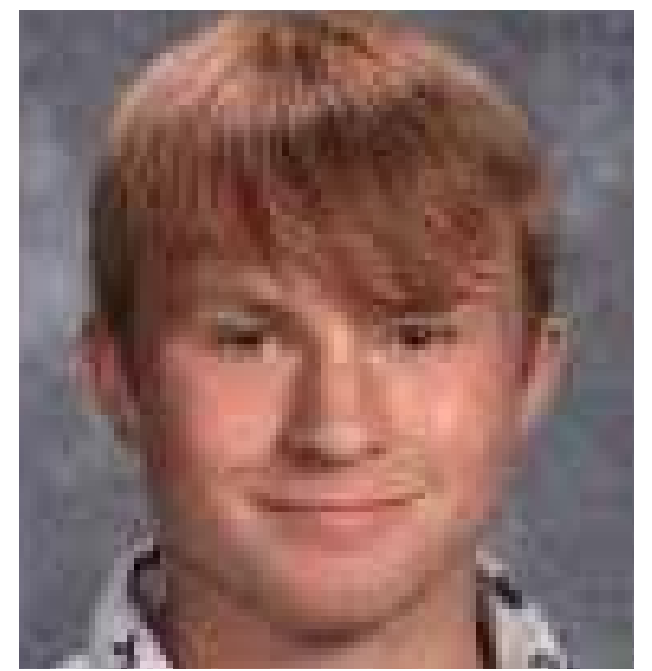
**Amara  
Mitchell**



**Sylvia  
Mattraw-  
Johnston**



**Jordan  
Moses**



**Samuel  
Mozzillo**



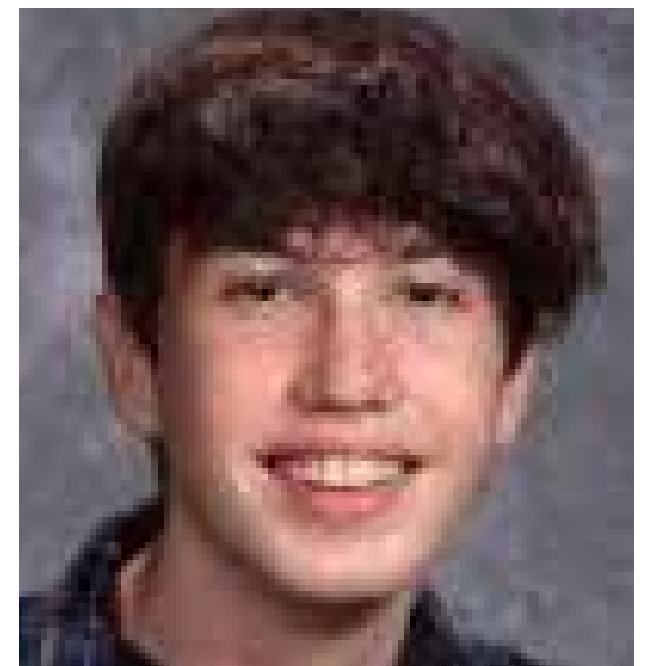
**Emma  
Pelton**



**Hannah  
Richards**



**Reese  
Taylor**



**Nicholas  
Vanhoesen**

**Noelle Abushqeir** (co-author of *Before It Falls*)  
is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Jack Bruno** (co-author of *Before It Falls*)  
is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Chiara Cenci** (co-author of *Crystal Gazer*)  
is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Samantha Gallagher** (playwright of *Ghost Writers*)  
is a rising senior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Amara Mitchell** (co-author of *The Yellow Notebook*)  
is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Sylvia Mattraw-Johnston** (co-author of *The Church*)

is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Jordan Moses** (playwright of *Unexpected Love*) recently graduated from Loudonville Christian School and will be attending Endicott College this fall. Jordan will major in photography with a minor in business administration.

**Samuel Mozzillo** (co-author of *The Church*) is going into his senior year of high school at Cossackie-Athens. Sam has been a part of Drama Club at Cossackie-Athens since his freshman year, either backstage or in the cast. Sam is currently involved in many school extracurricular activities including Drama, Baseball, Volleyball and Soccer as well as the Fire Department. Sam had a great time writing this play and is absolutely thrilled that his play *The Church* is being produced.

**Emma Pelton** (co-author of *The Yellow Notebook*)

is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Hannah Richards** (co-author of *The Yellow Notebook*)

is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

**Reese Taylor** (co-author of *Crystal Gazer*) going into 11th grade at Cossackie-Athens.

Reese enjoys writing fiction and this is the first play she's written.

**Nicholas Vanhoesen** (co-author of *The Church*)

is a rising junior at Cossackie-Athens High School.

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## CHANGE!

Dramaturgy Article by Josh Ulrich, Intern @ theREP  
(Dramaturgy/Company Management Intern)

Change can be a scary thing. You never know when or how it will happen. However, that is the beauty of life. There are good changes, and there are bad changes, but you never know what type of change will flow in your direction at, any given moment. Learning how to handle change, be it good news or terrible news, is what life is all about. And all six Young Playwright Contest-winning plays, that make up this year's Summer Stage Program (and what you're about to see) bring forth a variety of changes people can experience in this great adventure that is life.

Be on the lookout for the "good change" that comes in the form of listening to others, as seen in "Crystal Gazer" by Chiara Cenci & Reese Taylor, or how a young writer changes their mind and creates their school play without copying someone else's work in Samantha Gallagher's, "Ghost Writers".

Theatre loves to amp up the drama, which often comes in the form of conflict – and/or bad change. This can be seen in Sylvia Mattraw-Johnston, Nicholas Vanhoesen, and Samuel Mozzillo’s play, “The Church”, where change dealt a bad hand to a pair of siblings when they were sent across the country to stay with their grandmother one summer. And then there’s Jack Bruno and Noelle Abushqeir’s play, “Before It Falls”, where two friends must accept the unfortunate fate of their favorite hangout, when they discover that the library is shutting down for good.

It is important to note that when one has a support system in their life, dealing with change is much easier. Support can come in the form of a grandpa being the helping hand as a new friendship forms, which we see in “The Yellow Notebook” by Emma Pelton, Amara Mitchell, and Hannah Richards or one’s BFF being there for her BFF as she works through her changing feelings – and a potentially changing relationship – in Jordan Moses’s “Unexpected Love”. Any type of change requires a solid support system to help us accept that change and move forward with our lives.

Regardless of what type of change is thrown your way, you must accept it as, that’s a part of life. Learning to roll with changes and grow from them can be a challenge. Here is to forming solid support systems for ourselves and others to allow for that beautiful growth that comes from change!

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# **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director: Margaret E. Hall

Production Stage Manager/Assistant Director: KD McTeigue

Assistant to the Director & Assistant Director: Madhav Raj

Costume Designer: Andrea Adamczyk

Sound Designer: Travis Wright

Set Designer: David McQuillen Robertson

Lighting Designer: Brandon Curry

Properties Head: Vanessa VanZandt

Run Crew: Mary Krantz

**Margaret E. Hall** (Director/Associate Artistic Director) Margaret has worked internationally as a director, stage manager and drama teacher. Margaret made her mainstage debut at theREP with the 2017 production of AN ILIAD. Additional credits at theREP include: the World Premiere of RED MAPLE (2019 BroadwayWorld Berkshire's Award for Best Director of a Play), LIVE FROM WVL RADIO THEATRE: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, and the theatre's On-The-Go productions for the past 8 years, most recently directing the 2019-2020 Season tours of CINDERELLA! and PETTICOATS OF STEEL. Additional directorial credits: CIRCUS OLYMPUS, INTO THE WOODS JR., DISNEY'S THE ARISTOCATS KIDS', PETER PAN AND WENDY, THE WIZARD OF OZ, and THE JUST SO STORIES. Margaret is a proud member of Actors' Equity, holds a BA in Theatre Arts from SUNY New Paltz, and an MFA in Theatre Directing from the University of Essex in London.

**KD McTeigue** (Stage Manager/Assistant Director) has worked with myriad companies such as WAM Theatre, Troy Foundry Theatre, Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, and theREP. While she's normally found onstage as a performer, she's always thrilled to work with Margaret Hall (AKA her twin from the multiverse) and the super talented Young Acting Company. She lives in Albany, NY with her partner and their two cats. @kdmcteigue

**Andrea Adamczyk** (Costume Designer) is the Costume Shop Manager here at theRep. She was the Assistant Costume Designer for *The True*, designed the costumes for Summer Stage 2021 as well as pieces for "*Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow*". As a costume technician in New York City she worked on productions for New York City Opera Company, Virginia Opera Company, NYU and Dollywood as well as Specialty Events and Industrials. Locally, she has designed and built hundreds of costumes for the Bethlehem Central School District – *Annie*, *Seussical*, *High School Musical*, *Grease*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Titanic*.

**David McQuillen Robertson** (Scenic Designer) has worked twice on the theRep mainstage designing *Jersey Boys*, and *It's a Wonderful Life...*, he has also designed *Newsies* (La Mirada), *Into the Woods*, *Mary Poppins*, *Kinky Boots*, *Cinderella*, *Hunchback...*, *Mamma Mia* (Front Row Theatrical), *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Sister Act*, *9 to 5*, *Les Mis Student Edition*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Henegar Center, FL).

**Travis Wright** (Sound Designer) This is Travis' first time designing for Capital Repertory Theatre, though not his first time designing in the Capital Region. Travis has designed for several Troy Foundry Theatre productions. For the past 9 years, Travis has been exploring the world of theatrical design with sound recorder in hand. By listening to, recording, and reproducing the noises that we normally tune out, his design focuses heavily on creating low level layered soundscapes that the play's characters may be living with.

**Brandon Curry** (Lighting Designer) is the Production Manager here at theREP and has been doing the lights for Summer Stage (and its predecessor, STAR) for quite a few years now.

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (PROCTORS COLLABORATIVE)**

Producing Artistic Director at theREP: Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill  
Associate Artistic Director at theREP: Margaret E. Hall  
Company Manager at theREP: Kait VanHeusen  
Assistant Company Manager at theREP: Kate Kern  
Dramaturgy Intern at theREP: Josh Ulrich  
CEO of Proctors Collaborative: Philip Morris  
Chief of Staff of Proctors Collaborative: Jean Leonard  
Chief Finance Officer: Chris Musto  
Director of Human Resources: Leesa Oliver  
Director of Relationships: Dan Hanifin  
Education Director: Christine Sheehan  
Education Programs Manager: Shai Davenport  
Creative Workforce Director: Grace Janiszewski  
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access Director: Tony Torres  
Director of Marketing: Jim Murphy

## **PRODUCTION STAFF (THE REP)**

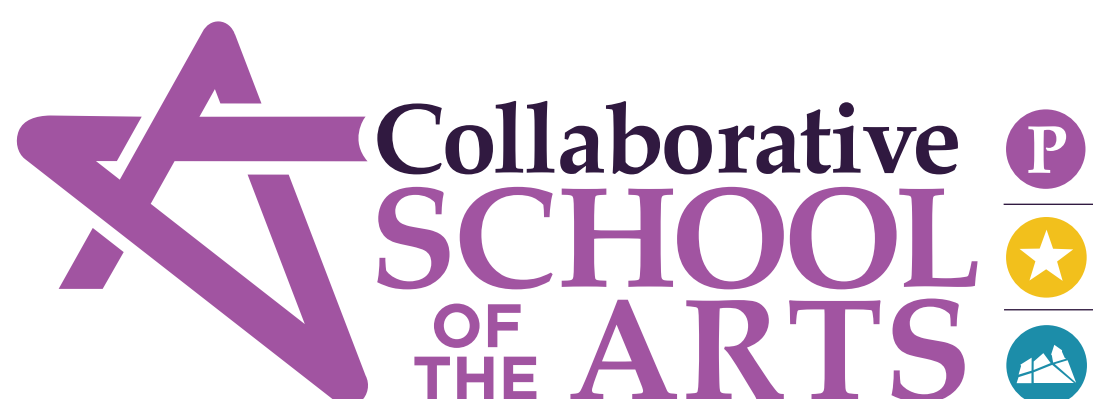
Operations Manager at theREP: Diaka Hill  
Production Manager: Brandon Curry  
Operations Manager at theREP: Diaka Hill  
Assistant Production Manager/Sound Engineer: Luke Krauss  
Costume Shop Manager: Andrea Adamczyk  
Costume Shop Assistant: Sarabell Wrigley  
Costume shop/Wardrobe Assistant: Emily English  
Wardrobe Supervisor: Meghan Maynard  
Prop Shop Manager: Vanessa VanZandt  
Head Electrician: Stephen Pellitier  
Mainstage Run Crew: Mary Krantz  
Mainstage Spot Op: Brendan Tenan  
Facilities Specialist: Terry White, Jason Griffith  
Summer Youth Employee (City of Albany): Bonnie Difendorf

## **COLLABORATIVE SCENE SHOP**

Collaborative Scene Shop Director, Obadiah Savage  
Lead Carpenter: Andrew Hasselbach  
Scenic Charge Artist: Laura Brignull  
Staff: John Spang, Lecco Moris, Vince LaClair, Cynthia Smith,  
Rocco Pietrofessa, Anthony Greco, Logan Hall, Alex Madaio,  
Brian Carbonneau, Jay Acker, Gave Klingler-Horn

# SUMMER STAGE

YOUNG  
ACTING  
COMPANY



at theREP ★

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