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STUDIO TWO

# The Last 5 Years

WRITTEN AND  
COMPOSED BY  
JASON ROBERT  
BROWN

DIRECTED BY  
LENNY LEIBOWITZ



The  
Contemporary  
Theatre of Ohio

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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We seek to inspire a community of empathy and have a responsibility to recognize the ways in which we benefit from colonization, both historical and ongoing. A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and celebrates the resilience and strength that all Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

We acknowledge that in Central Ohio, we are on the traditional homelands of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, and Cherokee Indigenous nations who have strong ties to these lands. Today, individuals from a broad range of Indigenous backgrounds call Columbus and central Ohio home.

We recognize generations who contributed their traditions, hopes, and spirit to make the history that led to this moment. While some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted, others arrived here hoping for a better life, while others were forcibly taken and brought here against their will. Acknowledging the truth of these realities is critical to building mutual respect and connection.



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A photograph of a man and a woman smiling and talking. The man is on the left, wearing a red and white checkered shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a green top. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame.

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**The  
Contemporary  
Theatre** of Ohio

Leda Hoffmann  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Christy Farnbauch  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# The Last 5 Years

**WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY  
JASON ROBERT BROWN**

**DIRECTED BY  
LENNY LEIBOWITZ**

**Katherine Simon  
SET DESIGNER**

**Maranda DeBusk  
LIGHTING DESIGNER**

**Anna Grywalski  
COSTUME DESIGNER**

**Tony Koehler  
PROPS DESIGNER**

**Dave Wallingford  
SOUND DESIGNER**

**Emma McCalla  
ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER**

**Jesse Charles  
SOUND MIXER**

**Wendy Foster  
VOCAL DIRECTOR/  
REHEARSAL PIANIST**

**Aaron Dvorak  
VOCAL DIRECTOR/  
REHEARSAL PIANIST**

**Jackie Benedict\*  
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

**Nicole Hunter  
REHEARSAL ASSISTANT  
STAGE MANAGER**

**Ellie Price  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
STAGE MANAGER**

Originally Produced for the New York stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell.  
Originally Produced by Northlight Theatre Chicago, IL.

*THE LAST FIVE YEARS* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mishrows.com](http://www.mishrows.com)

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

# CAST

## JAMIE



HUNTER MINOR he/him

## CATHY



MELANIE SIERRA\* she/her

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## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Tony Koehler  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Mark Coldiron  
**LEAD ELECTRICIAN**

Set Built by  
CCT Scenic

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## BAND

Lenny Leibowitz  
**PIANO**

Mathew Kinnear  
**VIOLIN**

Ward Williams  
**CELLO**



\*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## Performance Pre-Survey

The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio is collaborating with various arts organizations to improve the communication of arts impact. We are conducting the following survey to better understand how the arts affect individuals. Your responses will be recorded in a collaborative arts impact database, which will be used to track this impact over time. Please scan the QR code to take the pre-show survey. After the show, you will receive an email with a follow-up post-show survey.

## The Last 5 Years



**Thank you for your continued support of The Contemporary!**

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## CAST BIOS

**HUNTER MINOR** [HE/HIM] (**Jamie**) is a performer, director, and choreographer based in Columbus, Ohio. Originally from Pickerington, he began his theatrical journey in middle school and has been performing professionally since his teens. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting and Musical Theatre from Wright State University. Throughout his career, Hunter has collaborated with numerous professional theatre companies across Ohio and beyond, including The Human Race Theatre in Dayton, Peterborough Players in New Hampshire, and Columbus-based companies such as Short North Stage, The Contemporary, Butterfly Guild, and Columbus Children's Theatre. In addition to performing, Hunter is an experienced educator, offering private lessons in Acting, Voice, Piano, Stage Combat, Tumbling, Circus Arts, and Career, College, and Audition Preparation. His expertise extends to directing and choreographing movement and combat for theatrical productions. Hunter's film work includes multiple credits with Dreadhead Films, like *Club Allie*, *Foreshadow*, *While You Were Sleeping*, and more. During the day, Hunter works as an education coordinator and Goldsmith artist in residence at Columbus Children's Theatre where he is currently directing *Junie B. Jones*, and recently directed *Finding Nemo KIDS*, *Mean Girls Jr*, and *Frozen Jr*. Recent theatrical credits include Hanschen in *Spring Awakening* (Short North Stage), Don Price in *Big Fish* (The Contemporary), Jack Kelly in *Newsies* and Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Columbus Children's Theatre), and The Baker in *Into the Woods* (Butterfly Guild). He sends love to Dylan and his family for their unfaltering support and love.

**MELANIE SIERRA\*** [SHE/HER] (**Cathy**) who studied Musical Theatre at Otterbein University, made her Lincoln Center debut at 12-years-old, when she was invited by Licia Albanese to perform as the only musical theatre guest soloist for the Licia Albanese Puccini Concert. Since then, Melanie has worked at Lincoln Center many times, performing with both the Metropolitan Opera, and Lincoln Center Theater (*La boheme*, *Rigoletto*, *The Hours*, Aaron Sorkin and Bartlett Sher's *Camelot*). Melanie toured the world as Maria in *West Side Story*, directed by legendary Broadway veteran, Lonny Price. The production of *West Side Story* enjoyed a three-month, sold-out run at Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, and premiered with great success in Opera houses across the world. For her work in France, Melanie was asked to return to Paris for a solo concert, as a featured performer in the Sainte-Chapelle Opera Festival last spring.

Most recently, Melanie has been involved with the development of two new Broadway musicals, marking her 4th collaboration with Tony Award-winning director, Bartlett Sher. Melanie is thrilled to be working with Lenny again and is infinitely grateful for his mentorship over the years.



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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

**LENNY LEIBOWITZ** [HE/HIM] (**Director/Piano**) is thrilled to working with this amazing company at The Contemporary. Lenny in his twelfth year as a member of the Otterbein Theatre faculty. Since his arrival in Westerville, Lenny has directed *Footloose*, *Forever Plaid*, *Cabaret*, *Our Town*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *The Pajama Game*, *An Enemy of the People*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady*, *Into the Woods*, *Baby*, *Clybourne Park*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Top Girls*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Radium Girls*, *Hay Fever*, and *Adding Machine: A Musical*. As founding artistic director of Marvell Rep, Off-Broadway, Lenny directed 11 productions, including *The Threepenny Opera*, which received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Revival of a Musical. Other New York directing credits include the world premiere of Brian Yorkey's *Making Tracks*, which ran Off-Broadway at Rockefeller Center's Taipei Theater. Lenny has directed at some of the nation's leading regional theatres including the Olney Theatre, the National Players, the Huntington Theatre's Breaking Ground Festival, and the New Harmony Theatre, where he was artistic director for four years. A Philadelphia native, he made his professional debut as a piano soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. He received his B.A. from Columbia University and his M.F.A. from Boston University. Member, SDC

**JASON ROBERT BROWN** [HE/HIM] (**Writer/Composer**) has been hailed as "one of Broadway's smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim" (Philadelphia Inquirer), and his "extraordinary, jubilant theater music" (Chicago Tribune) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. The New York Times refers to Jason as "a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical." Jason's score for *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). *Honeymoon in Vegas*, based on Andrew Bergman's film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical *The Last Five Years* was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include: *I3*, written with Robert Horn and Dan Elish, which opened on Broadway in 2008 and was subsequently directed by the composer for its West End premiere in 2012; *The Last Five Years*, which was cited as one of Time Magazine's 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-Broadway run at Second Stage Theatre in 2013); *Parade*, written with Alfred Uhry and directed by Harold Prince, which won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best New Musical, as well as garnering Jason the Tony Award for Original Score; and *Songs for a New World*, a theatrical song cycle directed by Daisy Prince, which has since been seen in hundreds of productions around the world since its 1995 Off-

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

Broadway debut, including a celebrated revival at New York's City Center in the summer of 2018. *Parade* was also the subject of a major revival directed by Rob Ashford, first at London's Donmar Warehouse and then at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Jason conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White's novel *The Trumpet of the Swan* with the National Symphony Orchestra and recorded the score for PS Classics. Future projects include a new chamber musical created with Daisy Prince and Jonathan Marc Sherman called *The Connector*; an adaptation of Lilian Lee's *Farewell My Concubine*, created with Kenneth Lin and Moisés Kaufman; and a collaboration with Billy Crystal, Amanda Green, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel on a musical of *Mr. Saturday Night*. Jason is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Jason's songs, including the cabaret standard "Stars and the Moon," have been performed and recorded by Ariana Grande, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Renée Fleming, Jon Hendricks and many others, and his song "Someone To Fall Back On" was featured in the Walden Media film, *Bandslam*.

As a soloist or with his band The Caucasian Rhythm Kings, Jason has performed concerts around the world. For the past four years (and ongoing), his monthly sold-out performances at New York's SubCulture have featured many of the music and theater world's most extraordinary performers. His newest collection, "How We React and How We Recover", was released in June 2018 on Ghostlight Records. His previous solo album, "Wearing Someone Else's Clothes", was named one of Amazon.com's best of 2005, and is available from Sh-K-Boom Records. Jason's 2012 concert with Anika Noni Rose was broadcast on PBS, and he was the featured soloist for a live episode of *Friday Night Is Music Night*, broadcast live from the London Palladium and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra. His collaboration with singer Lauren Kennedy, "Songs of Jason Robert Brown", is available on PS Classics. Jason is also the composer of the incidental music for the Broadway revival of *You Can't Take It With You*, David Lindsay-Abaire's *Kimberly Akimbo* and Fuddy Meers, and Kenneth Lonergan's *The Waverly Gallery*, and he was a Tony Award nominee for his contributions to the score of *Urban Cowboy the Musical*. He has also contributed music to the hit Nickelodeon television series, *The Wonder Pets* as well as *Sesame Street*. Jason spent ten years teaching at the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and has also taught at Harvard University, Princeton University and Emerson College.

For the musical *Prince of Broadway*, a celebration of the career of his mentor Harold Prince, Jason was the musical supervisor and arranger. Other New York credits as conductor and arranger include *Urban Cowboy the Musical* on Broadway; *Dinah Was*, off-Broadway and on national tour; *When Pigs Fly*, off-Broadway; William Finn's *A New Brain* at Lincoln Center Theater; the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (recorded by RCA Victor); Yoko Ono's *New*

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

*York Rock*, at the WPA Theatre; and Michael John LaChiusa's *The Petrified Princ*" at the Public Theatre. Jason orchestrated Andrew Lipka's *John and Jen*, Off-Broadway at Lamb's Theatre. Additionally, Jason served as the orchestrator and arranger of Charles Strouse and Lee Adams's score for a proposed musical of *Star Wars*. Jason has conducted and created arrangements and orchestrations for Liza Minnelli, John Pizzarelli, and Michael Feinstein, among many others.

Jason studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwantner. He lives with his wife, composer Georgia Stitt, and their daughters in New York City. Jason is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. Visit him on the web at [www.jasonrobertbrown.com](http://www.jasonrobertbrown.com).

**KATHERINE SIMON [SHE/THEY] (Set Designer)** is a designer graduating with her MFA in Scenic Design from OSU next month. Previous scenic design work includes *Fat Ham* and *Good Grief* (The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio); *You Will Get Sick* (Available Light); *The Moors* and *She Kills Monsters* (OSU). Katherine has been on staff at theatres such as Milwaukee Rep, Shattered Globe Theatre in Chicago, and Waukesha Civic Theatre. In addition to her design work, Katherine enjoys her time as an educator. Katherine is a proud alumna of Vassar College. [katherinesimondesign.com](http://katherinesimondesign.com)

**MARANDA DEBUSK [THEY/SHE/HE] (Lighting Designer )** is a theatre maker specializing in lighting and media designs. Currently serving in their second year as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts at The Ohio State University, they are thrilled to be making their professional Columbus design debut with The Contemporary. Their work has been seen at regional theatres such as Virginia Stage Company, Music Theatre Wichita, The Warehouse Theatre (Greenville, SC), Actors' Express (Atlanta), and more. Internationally, they have been featured in exhibits at the Prague Quadrennial (2017 and 2023) and World Stage Design (2017) [Taipei, Taiwan]. Most notably, for the past decade, they have collaborated as a designer and consultant with Higher Ground, a community arts organization in Eastern Kentucky dedicated to uplifting their community and fostering belonging and well-being through the arts. At the core of all of Maranda's work is their belief in the power of storytelling to create positive change in our communities. The greatest work is that which when let out into the world, improves it.

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

**ANNA GRYWALSKI** [SHE/HER] (**Costume Designer**) is a prolific costume designer, creator, and teacher. Anna is a Columbus native but after receiving her MFA from UCLA in 2009, her career has taken her all across the country. She has been fortunate to work with a number of university theatre programs and professional companies including Heritage Theatre Festival, Casper College, Festival 56, University of Southern Maine, Portland Stage, The Public Theatre, Providence College, and Maine State Music Theatre. Anna is currently serving as Costume Shop Manager/Instructor of Costume Technology and frequent designer at Otterbein University in Westerville, OH. Up next you can see her work in *The Glass Menagerie* at Otterbein Summer Theatre, directed by the incomparable Lenny Leibowitz.

**DAVE WALLINGFORD** [HE/HIM] (**Sound Designer**) is a freelance sound designer, audio engineer, and founding company member of Available Light Theatre. When not in a theatre, he can be found either running sound in a TV production truck at a professional sports arena for the likes of Fox Sports, CBS, NBC, Bally Sports, Red Bull, ESPN, and Apple TV; or in a race car. Some shows he has designed at The Contemporary include *Wife of a Salesman*, *Big Fish*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *9 to 5*, *Head Over Heels*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Avenue Q*, *Story of My Life*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and *The Last Smoker in America*.

**EMMA MCCALLA** [SHE/HER] (**Assistant Sound Design**) is delighted to assist in sound designing *The Last Five Years*. Previously, she has mixed *Legally Blonde* and *Next to Normal*, and also filled in for a few shows for *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. She will be graduating from Capital University in May with a Bachelor's of Music in Music Technology and hopes to continue her work in theatre.

**JESSE CHARLES** [HE/HIM] (**Assistant Sound Design**) Born from a love of music, Jesse developed an interest in audio production. In high school, Jesse experimented with and learned how to use the school's audio equipment. Following an internship at WOSU, Jesse earned a certificate from The Recording Workshop in Chillicothe, OH. Since then, he has freelanced all over Columbus, Ohio. Working for Vaud Villities, Imagine Productions, Actor's Theater (Shakespeare In The Park), The Kings Avenue Players, Redd Herring Productions, Columbus Children's Theater, and The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio.

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## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS (CON'TD)

**WENDY FOSTER** [SHE/HER] (**Vocal Director/Rehearsal Pianist**) is excited to be a small part of this amazing production! Working alongside Lenny, Hunter, and Melanie is a memory that will stay with her forever. She is a proud graduate of The Ohio State University and holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree. She has recently retired from teaching middle school vocal music after thirty four years with Columbus City Schools. Wendy currently serves on the adjunct music faculty at Otterbein University. She has proudly music directed and accompanied for numerous musicals over the years including The Butterfly Guild of Nationwide Children's Hospital, Upper Arlington, Grove City, and Worthington Kilbourne High Schools, Columbus City Schools Middle School Honors choir, and Columbus Children's Theatre. She currently serves as Director of Music at Glen Echo Presbyterian Church. When she isn't playing piano, she loves spending time with her husband, Steve, their five children, and six grandchildren!!

**JACLYN (JACKIE) BENEDICT\*** [SHE/HER] (**Stage Manager**) is excited to be a part of The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio's *The Last Five Years*. Recent stage management credits include *A Christmas Carol* (The Contemporary), *Big Fish* (The Contemporary), *Ride the Cyclone* (The Contemporary), *Beauty and the Beast* (Butterfly Guild), *The Sleepwalker of Holstenwall* (Columbus Children's Theatre), *POTUS* (The Contemporary), *The Wolves* (The Contemporary), *Sound of Music* (Butterfly Guild), *Prima Donna* (The Contemporary), and *Cinderella* (Butterfly Guild).

**NICOLE HUNTER** [SHE/HER] (**Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager**) is an assistant stage manager, sound designer and sound technician based in central Ohio. She is a recent grad from Otterbein University where she received her B.A. in Theatre. Some of her favorite credits include Otterbein University (*Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, *A Little Night Music*, *Something Rotten*) and Weathervane Playhouse (*Kinky Boots*, *Deathtrap*, *Million Dollar Quartet*). She would like to thank the entire team behind *The Last Five Years* for all their work!

**ELLIE PRICE** [THEY/THEM] (**Production Assistant Stage Manager**) is so excited to work with The Contemporary again. They are currently a Senior studying Theatre at the Ohio State University. Ellie would like to thank their siblings, parents, and friends for always supporting them.

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (Equity)** founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks



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## MUSICIAN BIOS

**MATHEW KINNEAR** [HE/HIM] (**Violin**) is excited to be returning to The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio. Previously he was seen playing violin in the pit for Andrew Lippa's *Big Fish*, as well as playing the role of Moriz Godowsky for *Indecent*. Mathew regularly plays violin in the pit for productions around downtown Columbus for Short North Stage and CCT. By day, Mathew is a middle and high school orchestra teacher in Gahanna-Jefferson schools.

**WARD WILLIAMS** [HE/HIM] (**cello**) (UNCSA Conservatory of Music BM Cello Performance) has over three decades of performance experience throughout the United States and abroad. A founding member of the band Jump, Little Children, Ward has also performed with Sara Bareilles, Norah Jones, Brandi Carlile, Dar Williams, Howie Day, Brendan James, Frances Cone, Vienna Teng, Chris Mann, Elizabeth and the Catapult, Rachael Sage, God or Julie, Otis Taylor, Guster, Lucius, David Mead, Danica Dora, Mary Jennings and Tam Lin.

During Ward's time in New York City, he was an active sub in the Broadway community, performing regularly in many Broadway musicals including *Beetlejuice* and *The Band's Visit*. In 2022 Ward was the Cello/Guitar 2 chair for the Lulu tour of the Broadway musical, *Waitress*.

His work can be found on hundreds of recordings. He has also appeared on *The Today Show* with Sara Bareilles, *Austin City Limits* with Brandi Carlile, and *The Rachael Ray Show* with Brendan James.

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## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION BIOS

**TONY KOEHLER** [HE/HIM] (**Production Manager/Props Designer**) is a director and designer, who recently directed *The Day the Music Came Back* here at The Contemporary. Formerly in Washington D.C. Tony served in several roles including production manager at GALA Hispanic Theatre, resident props designer at The Folger Shakespeare Theatre and teaching artist at The Theatre Lab School of Dramatic Arts. Tony has designed props for Otterbein University, Opera Columbus, Constellation Theatre Company and Rainbow Theater Project in Washington, D.C., and Piven Theatre Workshop, Redmoon Theatre, and Northwestern University in Chicago. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a BA in theatre, he has received numerous awards including a 2019 Helen Hayes Award for Best Musical and Broadway World's 2019 regional award for Best Musical for *FAME: The Musical*, and a 2017 Helen Hayes Award for the Spanish language premiere of *In the Heights*.

**MARK GOLDIRON** [HE/HIM] (**Lead Electrician**) Most recently from Dayton OH, Mark is excited to bring decades of professional technical experience with him to the Lead Electrician position with The Contemporary Theater of Columbus. Having worked for many years as an IATSE #66 stagehand as well as a shop manager for a theatrical lighting and event management company, Mark has had the opportunity to work with a diversity of arts groups including the Kenley Players, The Human Race Theater Company, STOMP, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and numerous other professional and community organizations. When not making the world a better place to look at, Mark loves to travel with his partner, Jeni.

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## THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS

**LEDA HOFFMANN** [SHE/HER] (**Director and Artistic Director**) is in her fifth season as The Contemporary's Artistic Director. The Contemporary directing credits include *Wife of a Salesman*, *Big Fish*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *POTUS*, *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Indecent*, *Head Over Heels*, *Mr Burns: a post-electric play*, *An Iliad*, the reading of *George and the Hidden Dragon*, and the virtual production of *A Columbus Christmas Carol*. Previously, Leda was Artistic Director at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago. Before that, Leda served on Milwaukee Rep's artistic staff for seven years, working in the Education and Literary departments and founding Milwaukee Rep's Community Engagement Department. Leda's work as a director has been seen across the country at Milwaukee Rep, Provincetown Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Northbrook Theatre, The Alchemist Theatre, Max and Louie Productions, Riverside Theater Iowa City, Case Western, Ohio State, and University of Miami. Leda is a proud graduate of Grinnell College, a former Milwaukee Rep directing resident, Hartford Stage apprentice, SDCF Observer and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. [www.ledahoffmann.com](http://www.ledahoffmann.com)

**CHRISTY FARNBAUCH** [SHE/HER] (**Executive Director**) became The Contemporary's executive director in April 2020. She is a highly respected leader in central Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as nationwide. Her professional journey has included managing funding and programs for the Ohio Arts Council, building community partnerships for Hilliard City Schools, managing a first-of-its-kind national study of jazz audiences, and serving as executive director of an association for women business owners. She founded her consulting business in 2006 to support nonprofits and small businesses through strategic planning, board development, and fundraising. Her entrepreneurial and innovative mindset has led to the creative transformation of organizations while strengthening their governance structures. Christy holds degrees from Otterbein University in music performance and business administration.

**STEVE HILLER** [HE/HIM] (**Education Director**) became The Contemporary's education director in April 2023. He has over 15 years experience working in non-profit with a focus on youth and family programming and development, training and leadership and fostering community partnerships. Steve has chaired and served on different advisory boards and currently serves as a board member for a Columbus non-profit organization. He also has over 10 years of experience working in secondary and post-secondary education. Steve was born in Seoul, Korea and has lived most of his life in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State and is a buckeye for life. In his free time, Steve enjoys playing piano and acoustic guitar, various outdoor activities, trying new foods and spending time with family and friends.

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## THE CONTEMPORARY STAFF BIOS *(CON'TD)*

**ALEXA BAKER [SHE/HER] (Marketing Manager)** is a Columbus-based multi-hyphenate artist. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Gettysburg College and a Masters in Classical Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She is currently on faculty at Ohio Dominican University, teaching theatre and acting, and is an active teaching artist. As a performer, she has been seen on stage throughout Columbus with companies such as The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, Available Light Theatre, CCT, and Actors' Theatre of Columbus. Prior to moving to Columbus, Alexa was the Associate Director of Youth Programs at Steps on Broadway dance studio in New York, NY. In addition to her arts background, she was the Events Coordinator for two-Michelin Starred restaurant Aquavit and managed social media for brands that include Zaftig Brewing Company and The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

**JOY HEINO [SHE/HER] (Education Coordinator)** is a highly skilled artist educator, with more than five years' experience facilitating after-school learning, pre-school, and early age childcare programs. Additionally, she works in various elementary and middle schools in central Ohio as the director of their school musicals. Joy has worked in the Columbus theatre scene with companies such as CCT, The Actor's Theatre of Columbus, and Short North Stage. She is a member of the Actor's Equity Association as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager. Prior to joining The Contemporary as Education Coordinator, Joy has worked as a sound designer on recent productions. Joy also serves as the Founder and Producing Director of Free Range Productions, whose mission is to educate and introduce young people living in rural communities to the arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wittenberg University in Theatre, Technical Theatre, and Music.

**LESLIE WRIGHT [SHE/HER] (House Manager)** joins The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio team with previous experience in customer service and hospitality. She is the Owner and Creative Director for Whimsical Designs, a bakery and custom event decor shop in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Leslie holds a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Southern New Hampshire University and a Culinary Arts Degree specializing in pastry arts. She is a Columbus native, currently residing in Reynoldsburg with her husband, seven children, and two fur babies. Being an active member of various organizations helped shape and develop her passion for working with others.



# COLUMBUS ARTS 2025 FESTIVAL

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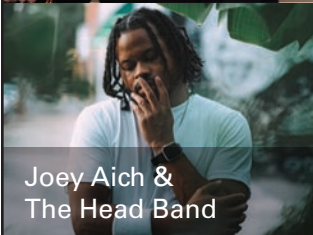
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Moxy Martinez



Joey Aich &  
The Head Band



Honey and Blue



BalletMet  
BICENTENNIAL  
STAGE  
Sat. 11 a.m.



Photo: Jennifer Zmuda

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