

## HALL OF FAME 2023



This year's Summer Scholars On Stage Hall of Fame honorees are four members of the Rutherford family: Joel Sr, Debbie, Kati, and Kelly. The Rutherford family's association with On Stage first began in 1981 when Joel and Debbie, who lived in Tupelo, enrolled their son Joel Jr. in a summer program for the gifted at Mississippi State. Their daughter Kati became a camper in 1984. During these early years, Joel and Debbie would help with the production, set strike, and umpiring the annual softball game. As Joel Jr. and Kati moved into staff roles, the Rutherford family became financial contributors, either through camper scholarships, awards presentations, or one-of-a-kind items like the quilt on display in the lobby that Debbie had made to honor the first 25 years of On Stage. Kati has served in a variety of staff roles over the years, including Head Counselor. Kelly married Joel Jr. in 2004, and along with Kati, has made generous financial contributions and has worked in the lobby during the production organizing DVD sales and Patron sponsorships for Joe Ray. Their contributions to On Stage continue to this day, and for this, we honor the entire Rutherford family.



## ABOUT THE PLAY

It's been an unconventional kind of camp this year. Leaving aside our lingering pandemic troubles, due to a series of unfortunately-timed renovations, Summer Scholars Onstage has had to become a bit nomadic. Instead of our usual dorm of Cresswell, we're in its evil twin, Hathorn. And instead of our traditional stage at McComas, this year, as you may have noticed, the camp show is at Lee Hall. While it's always odd to be in new spaces, this is actually not the first time we've performed at Lee Hall. Way back in 1989, we staged a show there called Shattered Heirlooms, Scattered Ashes. The play was set at the Richardson Family Reunion, with each act depicting such reunions from different time periods. The McGuffin of the story, though, was a valuable and much-coveted urn that was to be passed down to a new soul each generation. Spoiler alert, the urn everybody wants gets shattered at the end, and the ashes within scattered. And this is the danger of letting 7-12 graders pick their own title. Unfortunately, I'm partly responsible. See, 1989 was also my first year as a camper, so I was there for the title brainstorming sessions. Never occurred to any of us that we were spoiling the story with the very title of the play. We thought it was fantastic.

(My other memory of the 1989 show is that it was ridonculously hot on stage. There was either no air-conditioning in Lee Hall or it was simply malfunctioning because that place was an oven. And because there was little room backstage, the campers who were not in a given act had to go stand outside in the July heat, our makeup running off of our faces, as we listened for our cue lines to come in for a big sweaty dance number.)

I've now been involved with Summer Scholars for 22 non-consecutive years, and 10 of those have been as script coordinator. I can attest that this year's show had the swiftest and most apt title selection of any I've been involved with. As in 1989, we have three acts depicting different time periods in a common setting. As soon as we knew that setting would be a convention hall, someone in the room said, "We should call it `Unconventional.'" There followed a pause and then someone else—it might have been me—said, "Sold!" No further discussion required.

Sometimes unconventional just works. At Summer Scholars, we specialize in it.

--Eric Fritzius, Script Coordinator

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Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 a.m.  
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PATRONS AND SPONSORS <i>whose donations helped make this camp possible.</i>	
Mark Castleberry	Malcom Moody
Kevin Chen	Melanie Moody
Kim Colbe	Leslie Palmer
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Asian Market	Nekemia Rich
Leslie Fye	Paul Rich
Linda K. Hannah	Starkville Area Arts Council
Elizabeth Hawkins	Cliftine Taylor
Samuel and Mary Matthews	Rebecca Walker
SPECIAL THANKS	
Backstage Music	MSU Conference Housing Staff
Camp Volunteers	MSU Television Center
Doris Barksdale	Raymond Brooks (MSU Events Services)
Magnolia Business Systems	Starkville Community Theatre
Misty Dobson, NP	Trinity Presbyterian Church
MSU College of Education	University Screenprint

A NOTE FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR
<p>Welcome to the 41<sup>st</sup> production of Summer Scholars On Stage. For those of you who are veteran fans or alumni of camp, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. This year, 22 campers, led by script writing, music composing, technical, and residence hall staff, wrote the script and original music for <i>Unconventional</i>. A cast of 41 campers from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, and Texas have rehearsed for the last two weeks to bring you this performance. From song, dance, drama, and more, these campers have worked very hard with an exceptional staff to accomplish this task. Even though the costumes and set are minimal, the creativity and talent are exceptional. Enjoy the show!</p> <p>Joe Ray Underwood Camp Director</p>
A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
<p>I'd like to personally thank the parents and families for all the support you have shown Summer Scholars over the past three weeks. Thank you for your patience, kindness, and understanding as we have traversed through this interesting year. A post-pandemic world is not a camp-free world and we are all adjusting to these new normal. We could not have put on this show without you—it has truly been a family effort to get here. Now, break a leg, campers!</p> <p>Leah Wright Program Director/Head Counselor</p>
<p><b>Videography and flash photography are strictly prohibited during the show. It is distracting for both performers and attendees. A video of the performance will be available for purchase later this summer.</b></p>



## ACT I—*When Posh Comes to Shove*

***Cast, in order of appearance:***

POP POP.....	Chyla Hanna
VANESSA THORNWELL.....	Amelia Rodgers
PAUL THORNWELL.....	Dezmond Williams
JANE.....	Maggie Pike
LIZ THORNWELL.....	Lillie Moore
DAPHNE THORNWELL.....	Megan Blalock
DUDLEY THORNWELL.....	Keylon Mays-Moore
JIMMY.....	Josiah Palmer
COLLIN THORNWELL.....	Daniel Swanson
JOHNNY.....	Miles Baker
PATTY “THORNWELL” .....	Phoebe Jones
WALLTER STOCKTON.....	Riyaz Mathews
MAGNETA FRIEZMANN.....	Addison Manning
JOEY KOALA.....	Davis Moody
BENNY BLACK.....	Alex Busquets

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JOEY KOALA.....	Davis Moody
BENNY BLACK.....	Alex Busquets

## ACT I ORIGINAL SONGS

<p><i>In Our Hands (La La La)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Written by: Keylon Mays-Moore &amp; Dezmond Williams</li><li>- Performed by: Miles Baker, Josiah Palmer &amp; Act I Ensemble</li></ul> <p><i>I Know It Was You</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann &amp; Lia Jones</li><li>- Performed by: Megan Blalock, Phoebe Jones, Riyaz Mathews, Davis Moody, Keylon Mays-Moore, Lillie Moore, Daniel Swanson &amp; Dezmond Williams</li></ul> <p><i>Josephine's Got a Gun</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Written by: Lia Jones, Keylon Mays-Moore &amp; Dezmond Williams</li><li>- Performed by: Maggie Pike &amp; Act I Ensemble</li></ul>
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*I Know It Was You*

- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann & Lia Jones
- Performed by: Megan Blalock, Phoebe Jones, Riyaz Mathews, Davis Moody, Keylon Mays-Moore, Lillie Moore, Daniel Swanson & Dezmond Williams

*Josephine's Got a Gun*

- Written by: Lia Jones, Keylon Mays-Moore & Dezmond Williams
- Performed by: Maggie Pike & Act I Ensemble

- I Know It Was You*
- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann & Lia Jones
  - Performed by: Megan Blalock, Phoebe Jones, Riyaz Mathews, Davis Moody, Keylon Mays-Moore, Lillie Moore, Daniel Swanson & Dezmond Williams
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- Josephine's Got a Gun*
- Written by: Lia Jones, Keylon Mays-Moore & Dezmond Williams
  - Performed by: Maggie Pike & Act I Ensemble

## CAMP STAFF

Camp Director.....	Joe Ray Underwood
Program Director/Head Counselor.....	Leah Wright
Associate Director.....	Sean Richmond
Associate Director.....	Joel Rutherford
Director of Operations.....	Lauren Gerhart
Girls' Counselors.....	Erin Harrison, Liz Jones, Ansley Preston & Sally Stafford
Boys' Counselors.....	Louis Codling, Jacob Jordan, & Zak Mayo
Staff Assistants.....	Jace Fye, Colin Kennedy, Carter McIlwain, Sarah Rendon & Alex Williams
Graphic Artist.....	Jaylon Ashford
Photographer.....	Colin Kennedy
Junior Counselor.....	Anthony Kirkland
Senior Intern.....	Shelby Stafford

**Staff Ensemble (*Tupelo Honey* by Van Morrison)**

Emma Crumpton, Calloway Ellis, Joe Evans,  
Liz Jones, Jacob Jordan, Carter McIlwain,  
Ansley Preston, Sean Richmond, Joel Rutherford,  
Joe Ray Underwood & Leah Wright

**Staff Ensemble (*Tupelo Honey* by Van Morrison)**

Emma Crumpton, Calloway Ellis, Joe Evans,  
Liz Jones, Jacob Jordan, Carter McIlwain,  
Ansley Preston, Sean Richmond, Joel Rutherford,  
Joe Ray Underwood & Leah Wright

# PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL STAFF

Staging Director.....	Kris Lee
Rehearsal Director.....	Louis Codling
Production Coordinator/Songwriting Instructor.....	Joe Evans
Director of Music.....	Calloway Ellis
Technical Director/Light Design.....	Patrick McFadyen
Technical Assistant/Sound Technician.....	Zak Mayo
Pit Coordinator/Songwriting Instructor/Lead Musician.....	Drew Dieckmann
Drama Instructors.....	Louis Codling, Sally Stafford & Alex Williams
Songwriting & Music Staff Assistants.....	Carter McIlwain & Ansley Preston
Choreographer.....	Jonette Shurden
Dance Assistant.....	Erin Harrison
Stage Manager/Set Design.....	Emma Crumpton
Props Master.....	Jace Fye
Makeup.....	Erin Harrison

# PIT MUSICIANS

Guitar.....	Drew Dieckmann, Phoebe Jones & Lia Jones
Keyboard Piano.....	Riyaz Mathews, Josiah Palmer & Paulina Roman
Percussion.....	Joe Evans, Keylon Mays-Moore & Andrew Robertson
Flute.....	Paulina Roman
Alto Saxophone.....	Anna Beth Hirshfeld & Myrto Sergi

# ACT II—*Rednecks: Friendly Fangs and Southern Twangs*

## *Cast, in order of appearance:*

AL HUNTER.....	Dasha Hollingshed
JEBEDIAH HICKS.....	Kade Neely
MACK.....	Kingston Hayes
MISS TAMMY HICKS.....	Shelby Stafford
BUBBA HICKS.....	Caidon Sanders
UNCLE JIMBO HICKS.....	Sophia Fabel
JUNE.....	Albany Mercer
VLAD.....	Jonah Evans
BART.....	Rhys Evans (original cast); Alex Williams (stand in)
VEE.....	Ainsley Bourgeois
TODD.....	Andrew Robertson
EDWIN.....	Myrto Sergi
SAGE.....	Sabrina Kauchak

# ACT II ORIGINAL SONGS

<i>Seal Their Fate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann, Lia Jones, Keylon Mays-Moore, Paulina Roman &amp; Dezmond Williams</li><li>- Performed by: Kingston Hayes, Dasha Hollingshed &amp; Albany Mercer</li></ul>
<i>Beach Walks at Night</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Written by: Keylon Mays-Moore &amp; Dezmond Williams</li><li>- Performed by: Ainsley Bourgeois, Sophia Fabel, Andrew Robertson &amp; Caidon Sanders &amp; Small Ensemble</li></ul>
<i>Life Will Go On</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Written by: Keylon Mays-Moore &amp; Dezmond Williams</li><li>- Performed by: Andrew Robertson and Full Cast</li></ul>

# ACT III—*Constitutional Chaos*

***Cast, in order of appearance:***

ALICE.....	Anna Beth Hirshfeld
CHRY.....	Kylin Ellis
GRETCHEN.....	Anthony Kirkland
ALEX.....	Emilee Nichols
DAN.....	Cedar Underwood
TONYA.....	Jade Johnson
OLIVER MIST.....	Thomas Dieckmann (original cast); Carter McIlwain (stand in)
BETSY ROSE.....	Paulina Roman
WINSTON PETRACOFF.....	Trinity Hirshfeld
PHILIP THORNWELL.....	Taylor McIlwain
PETER THOMAS JEFFERSON.....	Carissa Palmer
JOHN ATOMS.....	Lindy Peterson
CHARLIE DOWNSWORTH.....	Lia Jones

# ACT III ORIGINAL SONGS

*Across the Pond*

- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann, Lia Jones & Paulina Roman
- Performed by: Thomas Dieckmann/Carter McIlwain and Paulina Roman

*Indepen-DANCE off!*

- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann & Paulina Roman
- Performed by: Anthony Kirkland and Carissa Palmer

*Alex’s Fierce, Sassy, Yet Tasteful, Lament*

- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann, Lia Jones, Keylon Mays-Moore, Paulina Roman & Dezmond Williams
- Performed by: Emilee Nichols

*Fly*

- Written by: Thomas Dieckmann, Lia Jones, Keylon Mays-Moore & Dezmond Williams
- Performed by: Alex Busquets, Phoebe Jones, Keylon Mays-Moore, Amelia Rodgers & Full Cast

# THE WRITERS

**Script Coordinator:** Eric Fritzius

**ACT I—*When Posh Comes to Shove***

- Act Leader: Louis Codling
- Writing Assistant: Jace Fye
- Writers: Megan Blalock, Sophia Fabel, Carissa Palmer, Myrto Sergi & Daniel Swanson

**ACT II—*Rednecks: Friendly Fangs and Southern Twangs***

- Act Leader: Sarah Rendon
- Writing Assistant: Alex Williams
- Writers: Kylin Ellis, Kade Neely, Albany Mercer, Lindy Peterson, Shelby Stafford & Cedar Underwood

**ACT III—*Constitutional Chaos***

- Act Leader: Sally Stafford
- Writing Assistant: Erin Harrison
- Writers: Chyla Hanna, Trinity Hirshfeld, Jade Johnson, Anthony Kirkland, Taylor McIlwain & Davis Moody

