



# **Company**

## **Bios**

# CAST BIOS



**Cathy Barth (Marci, Cabaret)** has appeared in many MAD shows, performed with various other theatre groups, and has been a professional singer for a number of years. Always a pleasure to work with MAD and especially this talented group of actors. Thanks to James and Eliot for making *Almost, Maine* and Echo Pond come alive. Wishes do come true!



**Aly Bayens (Director, Ginette)** is excited to be sharing her directorial debut with all of you. After performing in *Almost, Maine* during her senior year in high school, she is hoping to make her former director proud by walking in his footsteps. Aly recently played Winifred Banks in last Fall's *Mary Poppins* and is happy to be taking the stage once again. She would like to thank her Book Club and family for always being so supportive of her endeavors.



**Talon Bevan (Sandrine)** is delighted to be a part of this thoughtful rom-com featuring an aurora. Previously, Talon has appeared on the MAD stage playing the Park Keeper in *Mary Poppins*, as Bertrand in *A Little Night Music*, and in several virtual play readings. When she's not on-stage or working in Goddard's Materials Engineering Branch, she does volunteer search and rescue, looking for those who are 'lost out there in this big bad Mid-Atlantic world.'



**Connor Burnett**, in his debut performance, plays the role of **Jimmy** in the production of *Almost Maine*. This is his first time acting for MAD. Connor is an electrician by trade. He loves F1 racing, Soccer and Capitals Hockey. He would like to Thank his cousin Aly for encouraging him to audition for this production. He has enjoyed the experience.



**Kristi Gardner (Deena)** is better known for stage managing. Once in a while she is happy to put away her stage manager book and perform. She is pleased to return to MAD for her first onstage play. She has done three musicals, Park Keeper in *Mary Poppins*, Superintendent/Ensemble in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Town's Person/Enchanted Object in *Beauty and the Beast*. Thank you Mom for all your support!



**Jack Glennon (Waitress)** is making her stage debut with *Almost, Maine*, as her previous acting experience consists entirely of lying to strangers and ex-boyfriends. In her real life, she's a data analyst, and her hobbies include video games, gardening, and biology. She'd like to thank her husband (also named Jack) for taking her chaotic impulse-control issues in stride.



**Jill Goodrich (Gayle)** is returning to the MAD stage for the 11th time, having most recently appeared as Charlotte in *A Little Night Music*. Jill has worked with a number of local theatre groups and some of her favorite roles include Nancy in *Third*, Mindy in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, Lenny in *Crimes of the Heart*, and M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*. She thanks her husband for his never-ending support and dedicates this performance to the memory of her stepdad, a true “Maineiac”!



**Rachel Lense (Shelly, Rhonda)** is thrilled to bring a little love (and a few bruises) to Almost, Maine! After making a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious musical debut as Von Hussler in *Mary Poppins*, Rachel is now Seeing the Thing—the beauty of straight plays! When not taking part in love stories that involve falling (literally or metaphorically) or struggling to read the signs that people leave for her, Rachel enjoys storytelling, poetry, singing, dancing, painting, co-playing, crafting, and more. Hope you fall for the show as much as she has!



**Eliot Malumuth (East, Phil)** Is happy to be back on the MAD stage. His favorites roles with MAD are Directing and Acting. Directing includes *Oklahoma*; 2016, *The King and I*; 2012, *The Sound of Music*; 2010, *Barnum*; 2003, *South Pacific*; 2000, *You Can't Take it With You*; 2002, *Inherit the Wind*; 2009, and *The Philadelphia Story*; 2012. Favorite on stage roles include The Man in the Chair (*Drowsy Chaperone*, MAD 2019), Officer Barrel (*Urinetown*, MAD 2015), Fiorello LaGuardia (*Fiorello!*, MAD 2002), Mayor Shinn (*The Music Man*, GAC 2000), Claude DeBoshe (*A Flea in Her Ear*, PGLT 2002), and Captain Andy (*Show Boat*, MAD 2011).



**Courtney McIntosh (Steve, Dave)** is joining the cast of *Almost, Maine* for his second MAD production, and is excited to be part of such a dedicated and enthusiastic team again. His previous role was as Bert in *Mary Poppins*, and when he's not stretching his acting muscles, he's a doctoral candidate at Howard University, and an intern in GSFC's Gravitational Astrophysics Lab.



By day, **James Pildis (Director, Pete)** is an Electrical Engineer at NASA GSFC's Electro-magnetic Interference (EMI) Lab. By night, he spends his time directing and acting in MAD's production of *Almost, Maine*. He also serves as MAD's Property Manager and even found a way to turn Dungeons & Dragons into a profitable side job. Despite all of these responsibilities, he somehow finds time to sleep, eat, and breathe (at least twice per week). He is incredibly proud of the work put into this production by the cast and crew, and he hopes you all enjoy the show!



**Ben Rollins (Lendall, Man)** has last been seen on the MAD stage as Dance Curly/Fred in *Oklahoma!* and he is excited to be returning to MAD again. Ben found his calling as the Director for MAD's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* back in Fall of 2019, and hopes to direct more in the future. It's been such a fun experience getting back on stage with this cast and crew full of romantics. I especially want to thank my beautiful and talented wife Christa for all our magical moments together!





**Laura Hope Shapiro (Marvalyn, Hope)** is ecstatic to be back on stage after a 4-year hiatus. Her last role was in 2020 when she played Mary, in *Merrily We Roll Along*. Before that, in 2019, she had the pleasure of playing Drowsy Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, in 2018, she was Phyllis in *Leave it to Psmith* and in 2017 she was P. Burke/Rebecca in *Weird Romance*. In the past, Hope has also performed in shows at theaters around the area including GAC, VLOC, Adventure Theater, and The Kennedy Center. She wants to thank her family and friends for their support and for coming to see the show!



**Barbara Ying (Glory)** Barbara is thrilled to be a part of another MAD Winter show! She thoroughly enjoyed playing the villain, Miss Andrew, in *Mary Poppins*! She has performed in over 30 community theatre productions and has directed 4 MAD shows. Favorite roles include Mother Superior (*Nunsense and Nunsense II*), Nettie (*Carousel*), and Esie (*You Can't Take It With You*). During the day, Barbara is a publishing specialist modernizing ancient government technology. Thank you to Ted, Dexter, and Spencer for all their support!

#### **Key to Abbreviations:**

GAC- Greenbelt Arts Center

PGLT- Prince George's Little Theater

VLOC- Victorian Lyric Opera Company

# Cabaret Schedule

## Weekend 1

"Grand Night for Singing"--all singers  
"Baby It's Cold Outside"--Trisha Randazzo, Stephen Jordan  
"It's Alright With Me"--Bernard Kelly  
"Someone Like You"--Emily Letchworth  
"Let's Fall in Love"--Kathy Nieman and Richard Richardson  
"Fly Me to the Moon"--Cathy Barth  
"My Romance"--Kathy Nieman  
"Beyond the Sea"--Stephan Jordan  
"Just in Time"--Richard Richardson  
"Try to Remember"--All

## Weekend 2

"Grand Night for Singing"--All  
"Embraceable You"--Divya Pereira  
"Hallelujah I just Love Him"--Karen Moore  
"Tammy"- special piano solo selection by Chris Wells  
"My Romance"--Kathy Nieman (14th and 16th), Tonya Mayo (15th)  
"Just in Time"--Richard Richardson  
"Let's Fall in Love" (only on 14th & 16th)--Kathy Nieman and Richard Richardson  
"Fly Me to the Moon"--Cathy Barth  
"Try to Remember"--All

## Weekend 3

"Grand Night for Singing"--All  
"Someone Like You"--Emily Letchworth  
"It's Alright With Me"--Bernard Kelly/ "Embraceable You"- only on March 21--Tonya Mayo  
"My Romance"--Kathy Nieman  
"Just in Time"--Richard Richardson  
"Hallelujah I just Love Him"--Karen Moore  
"Tammy"- special piano solo by Chris Wells  
"Let's Fall in Love"--Kathy Nieman and Richard Richardson  
"Fly Me to the Moon"--Cathy Barth  
"Try to Remember"--All

# Cabaret Performers

**Cathy Barth** - see cast bios

**Steven Jordan** debuted with MAD performing a selection of Disney songs during the 2023 *Fantasia MADness* Spring show after an over decade-long hiatus from theater performance. Although his work as an RF Communications Engineer for the PACE, Roman Space Telescope, and DAVINCI missions at Goddard often creates significant schedule conflicts, he has been excited to support MAD in any capacity possible, including costuming support for *Mary Poppins*. He is delighted to have the opportunity to return to the stage once again.

**Bernard Kelly** is delighted to support this year's Winter Show, and to have an excuse to break out his old Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald wax cylinders for the cabaret. He has previously appeared as a chorus member in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Fall 2019) and as Bank Chairman/Head Clerk in *Mary Poppins* (Fall 2024), as well as sundry kings in the MAD Holiday Chorus. Outside MAD, Bernard models black holes using supercomputers and runs long distances. He hopes to somehow parlay his deep knowledge of 1980s TV theme songs into a future MAD production.

**Emily Letchworth** is excited to be on the MAD stage again! Emily has been in three full length musicals with MAD including *Beauty & the Beast*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Trix), and *Mary Poppins* (Bird Woman) and this is her third time singing in a cabaret for MAD. She is glad to wear a more flattering outfit than the last time she was on the MAD stage! She hopes you absolutely LOVE the show!

**Tonya Mayo (director)** is ecstatic to return to MAD as a first time director. She recently performed as Valentine/Ensemble in the previous musical *Mary Poppins* and is excited to be working with 2nd Star Productions in their latest musical *Into the Woods* as Lucinda. A University of the Arts graduate with a B.A. in Vocal Performance (2019) and an M.A in Teaching (2020), Tonya is a music teacher in Anne Arundel County and owns her own artistic summer camp called KidsACT. She thanks her beautiful vocalists for their hard work and dedication throughout the process.



**Karen Moore** is a grateful member of NASA's MAD. She enjoys watching and performs in all kinds of performing arts. During her time with MAD, she has been a chorus member in *Fanny*, *Urinetown* and *Oklahoma*, as well as the MAD Christmas Chorus. In addition, Karen cantors at her church and is a soloist with the DC Archdiocese Mass Choir. In recent years, she has won the pageant for Ms Senior Maryland USA, Ms Senior Maryland America, and Ms America Classic Woman.

**Kathy Nieman** is delighted to sing in another Cabaret with this talented group of singers. She has been performing with MAD in fall musicals, spring variety shows, holiday chorus, and cabarets for many years. Thank you to our director Tonya and accompanist Chris.

**Divya Pereira** appeared as Winifred in MAD's last show, *Mary Poppins*. She realized then how much she missed singing. She is grateful for the opportunity to perform once again and take a break from her usual life of system administration and shuttling kids around to activities. She would like to thank her family for their continued support.

**Trisha Randazzo** has been a member of MAD since her role as Gertie in *Oklahoma!* in 2015. She has worn many hats since then: choreographer, actor, violist, ensemble, artistic director, producer, concessions, dance coordinator, and review board member. She is grateful for MAD's openness to all skill levels; it's atmosphere of acceptance regardless of a member's background or training. Once again, she is stepping outside her comfort zone by singing a lovely jazz duet with Stephan Jordan. Thank you to all MAD members for your continued efforts. Lastly, the most important thank you goes to my amazing husband, Leo!

**Chris Wells (piano)** has been a fixture at MAD since 1997, when she music directed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She has directed the orchestra for 24 MAD fall musicals, directed the holiday chorus (as well as singing and accompanying, depending on the year), sung in and directed cabarets, appeared in several spring shows, and even acted in *Twelve Angry Jurors*. A retired elementary music teacher, she still teaches piano at the Langley Park Senior Activities Center and plays the organ in church.

# Production Crew

**Aly Bayens (Director)** - see cast bios

**Stacy Bishop (Stage Manager)** is joining MAD for her second show. After being on stage in *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Corey) she is excited to take a turn behind the scenes. Once upon a time Stacy worked as a Professional Stage Manager at Live Bait Theatre (Chicago, IL) and Devonshire Playhouse (Skokie, IL) she was also a sound and lighting technician at Medieval Times (Schaumburg, IL). Stacy is very happy to be supporting this dedicated cast, and thanks Aly and James for trusting her with the show. Special thanks to Craig and Oliver for always believing in me!

**Curtiss Burnett (House Manager)** is shocked that his wife, Alysha Bayens, did not try to put him into a minor role in the play. He'd like to thank his cousin, Connor Burnett, for being willing to try out for the play, which took the pressure off of Curtiss. Curtiss is very happy to help out in the ways he is comfortable with, which means random construction of props, and especially snacks and drinks. Come on down to the snack bar and say hi.

**Christine Doran (Sales Manager)** Christine played Miss Prism in a high school production of scenes from *The Importance of Being Ernest*, which does not in any way inform her role as sales manager for *Almost, Maine*. She can produce a capacious handbag and an unpublished three-volume novel on request-- but will limit herself, for now, to handling ticket enquiries.

**Anne Gardner (Publicity, Online Program)** has played in the orchestra pit for many of the MAD fall musicals since 2010 (*Sound of Music*) when husband Jon and all three of their children had roles either on- or off-stage. She has also been stage manager and costume crew and done program layout for several recent shows. She is happy to spend time promoting this fun winter play and hopes you enjoy it!

**Jon Gardner (Producer)** is producing an in-person play for the first time, and is having fun working with the dedicated and talented company on this show. With MAD, he directed *Mary Poppins*, *Leave it to Psmith*, *Wyrld Sisters*, and *Our Town*, and originated the MAD Play-Reading Group during the pandemic. At GAC he directed *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical*, and *Winnie the Pooh*. Favorite roles on stage include Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* with MAD and Ralph in *Kiss Me, Kate* with 2nd Star.

**Makkie Haller (costume designer)** has been having a great time collaborating with the cast and crew to costume the residents of *Almost, Maine*! She has loved this show ever since performing in her high school's production ~ 10 years ago. This is her first production with MAD as well as her first experience coordinating costumes.

**Bernard Kelly (Business Manager)** - see cabaret performers

**James Pildis (Director)**- see cast bios

**Jack Splinter (Lighting Designer)** is a first-time lights designer with MAD, marking his debut in both the company and the world of lighting design. Jack brings a unique energy to the team. Although new to the craft, he is eager to contribute his creativity and dedication to enhancing the visual experience of the production. Jack is excited to learn and grow with MAD, embracing the challenge of his first lighting role with enthusiasm and commitment to bringing the play to life through light.

**Dexter Ying (Sound Crew)** is thrilled to be returning to MAD for his second time as sound crew. After performing as Chip the teacup in *Beauty and the Beast*, Narrator/Eddie the Computer in 2024's MAD Spring Show *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and Tortoise in *Aesop's Fables*, he decided to try his hand at sound crew. He enjoyed running sound for *Mary Poppins* so much, he decided to do it again. Dexter loves movies, video games, D&D, roller skating and Scouts. Dexter is a 7th grader at Hammond Middle School in Laurel.

**Spencer Ying (Stage Crew)** is excited to return to the MAD stage behind the scenes this time after performing in the chorus of *Mary Poppins* and playing Chip, the teacup, in 2018's *Beauty and the Beast*. He also performed in MAD's 2024 Spring Drama Show playing Marvin the depressed robot in *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and the Hare in *Aesop's Fables*. During *Mary Poppins*, the stage crew work looked like a lot of fun, so Spencer decided to give it a try and he's enjoying it very much. Outside of theater, he loves Minecraft, D&D, Manga and Scouts. Spencer is a 7th grader at Hammond Middle School in Laurel.

**Ted Ying (Sound Design)** is pleased to play an off-stage role after appearing as George Banks in *Mary Poppins* this fall. Before that he was a dancing but non-speaking Atlas and Chip-handler in 2018's *Beauty and the Beast*. MAD audiences may remember him as Snoopy (*You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*), Stone (*City of Angels*), Joseph (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*), and Rosencranz (*Rosencranz and Guildenstern are Dead*). By day, Ted works as a IT Security Manager within the Flight Projects Directorate. Love to Barbara, Dexter, and Spencer for their support.

**Work party attendees:**

Aly Bayens, Stacy Bishop, Curtiss Burnett, Jon Gardner, Kristi Gardner, Jack Glennon, Jill Goodrich, Makkie Haller, Bernard Kelly, Rachel Lense, Marc Lichtman, Eliot Malumuth, Craig Markwardt, James Pildis, Ben Rollins, Hope Shapiro, Jack Splinter, Jodi Vezzetti, Barbara Ying, Dexter Ying, Spencer Ying, Ted Ying