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Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim Book by James Goldman

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Book by James Goldman Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim Produced Originally on Broadway by Harold Prince Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Opening Night - September 1, 2022

Director/Designer Modes JASON FORTNER EN

Musical Director Stage Manager
EMI P. STEFANOV EMILY SZYMANSKI

Costume Design KAREN TAYLOR Set Construction
DREW MCKINLAY &
DIEGO ROGERS

Props/Specialty Hats MARGARET BOYLAN

Dance Captain BARBARA ANN ESTOK Marketing & Graphic Design
NATHAN DAUGHERTY

By special arrangement with Cameron Mackintosh

Follies

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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Please turn off your cell phones and recording devices.

CAST

Sally	Kristen Engle
Young Sally	
Phyllis	
Young Phyllis	
Buddy	
Young Buddy	•
Ben	_
Young Ben	Peter Barlow
Dmitri Weisman	Tom Workman
Roscoe	Duke Thomas Low
Solange La Fitte	Mona Lim
Young Solange	Amanda Wood
Carlotta Champion	•
Young Carlotta	-
Stella Deems	Linda Featherstone
Young Stella	Amber Jackson
Max Deems	•
Emily Whitman	
Young Emily	
Theodore Whitman	•
Heidi Schiller	
Young Heidi	
Hattie Walker	.
Dream Margie/Young Hattie	•
Dee Dee West	
Dream Sally/Young Dee Dee	_
Sandra Crane	•
Young Sandra	
Kevin	•
Showgirl	
Hostess	•
Former Showgirls Janet Ando,	
Major Domo (Vouss Theadess	Laura Christie, Mic Gossen
Major Domo/Young Theodore Men's Roles	
ivien s koles	Charles 1. Alkinson Jr.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Artistic Director/Musical Staging/Set Design Jason Fortner Musical Director Emi Stefanov Stage Manager Emily Szymanski	
Backstage Crew Dawn Britner, Tai Lyttle, Kirby Volz	
Dance Captain Barbara Ann Estok	
Tap Masters Barbara Estok, Kristie Affolter &	
Linda Featherstone	
Sound & Lighting Design Dom Bisesti	
Costume Design Karen Taylor	
Opening Showgirl Costumes Cherie Albury	
Costume Assistant Liz Werlin	
Specialty Hats/Head-dresses & Props Margaret Boylan	
Costume Bedazzlers Pat Catalfomo, Laura Christie,	
Sharon Stenstrom, Rebecca Cantrell, Jean Pellegrini,	
Sherry Dardich, Karen "Kagey" Good, Paige Crockett,	
Erin Kearns, Callie Gray, Margaret Boylan, Colleen Juliano	
Set Builders Drew McKinlay, Diego Rogers	
Set Assistance Lee Catalfomo, Rand Smith,	
Michael Sporck, Neil Coughlin, Doug Martin,	
Laura Christie, Callie Gray	
Box Office	
House Manager Debbie Brimacombe	
Marketing Director/Program Nathan Daugherty	
Photography Taryn Holzhauer	



The setting for FOLLIES is the condemned Weisman Theatre, NYC. The time is 1971 and faded memories of earlier years.

FOLLIES will be presented in **Two Acts**Remember to Turn Your Phone Off After Intermission!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Follies is truly a landmark musical. Set at a reunion of Ziegfeld style showgirls on the eve of their theatre's demolition, this unique show forces us to examine our idealized views of the past, the lure of nostalgia and the impossible task of rewriting our history.

The show first was developed as a backstage mystery entitled The Girls Upstairs, but eventually evolved to the dramatic musical piece we are presenting.

The concept of Follies was partly inspired by a Life magazine photograph of Gloria Swanson standing amongst the rubble of the condemned Roxy Theatre (whose first premiere film had been one of Swanson's). The glamour of the past facing the inevitability of the fast encroaching future.

In this musical two long married couples must face the ghosts of the past while deciding their own personal futures. Add to the mix a selection of retired Follies girls who have come to the reunion to reminisce and you've got a full dramatic musical agenda.



The allure of Follies comes from the landmark score of Stephen Sondheim, who expertly balances pastiche songs with deep character studies. James Goldman's book creates bold individuals who speak their minds with crackling dialogue, while the contributions of original directors Hal Prince and Michael Bennett cannot be easily forgotten.

Rarely performed in this area, we are thrilled to bring this landmark musical to the FWP stage. A fitting opening to our own 93rd Season here in Clearwater.

Journey with us to 1971, where the past meets the present complete with ghosts of our younger selves.

For each production of our 93rd Season, we are proud to spotlight a local non-profit organization. For Follies, we are excited to partner with *NAMI of Pinellas County*.

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PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Kristen Engle (Sally) - Kristen is excited to be back at FWP with many friends, old and new. You may remember her from *I Do, I Do, Les Miserable, Mame, 110 in the Shade,* and *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers*. Her favorite role will always be mom to three awesome kids and now stepmom to one more. Thanks to Thaddeus and Mom for everything.

Paige Crockett (Young Sally) - Paige is excited to be involved in another production at Francis Wilson Playhouse after her recent performance in *Mamma Mia* and *A Christmas Carol*. Graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's of Science in Event Management, she enjoys making content for her Instagram @paige_crockett and doing DIY projects. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their support.

Amber Britner (Phyllis) - Amber played the role of Young Phyllis in *Follies* years ago and is thrilled for the opportunity to play her more mature counterpart. Favorite local roles include Muzzy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Sarah in *Company* at EOT, and Fruma Sera in *Fiddler on the Roof* here at FWP. Other favorite roles include Angel in *The Rink*, & Squeaky Fromme in *Assassins*. Amber obtained her BA in Theatre from FSU and has worked the music scene in NYC as a singer/songwriter.

Mileena Ruiz (Young Phyllis) - Mileena is overjoyed to be a part of this amazing production of *Follies* written by the icon himself, Stephen Sondheim. You may have seen her as Iris in River Ridge High school's production of *FAME!* and many other local performances. Competing around the nation, performing musical theatre pieces has enhanced her love for the stage entirely. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Follies* for being so welcoming. Please, enjoy the show!

Jerry Slutzky (Buddy) - Jerry has performed in over 60 musical productions over the past 42 years and is delighted to return to the FWP stage! Former FWP shows include Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 110 in the Shade, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, Grand Hotel, It Shoulda Been You, Mame, and Curtains. When not on stage, Jerry enjoys ballroom dancing with his wife, Helen Techler. In addition, Jerry is an estate planning, probate & business attorney in Safety Harbor (www.SlutzkyLawFirm.com).

Alex Lodge (Young Buddy) - Alex is so excited to be in this production of *Follies*! You may have seen him as Cliff in *Cabaret*. He would like to thank his lovely wife for always having his back but more importantly he'd like to thank his legs for always supporting him.

Rand Smith (Ben) - Rand studied theatre and voice at Eckerd College and apprenticed at Flat Rock Playhouse in NC. A 23-year veteran performer locally (roles here at FWP include Jean Valjean, Tevye, Daddy Warbucks, Captain Keller, and King Henry II), Rand appeared in Ruth Eckerd Hall's Encore for Murder, with WKRP in Cincinnati's Gary Sandy, and was last seen on the Francis Wilson stage as Archibald Craven in the hauntingly good musical story, The Secret Garden. "For Nance."

Peter Barlow (Young Ben) - Peter has been eagerly looking forward to this production of *Follies* ever since the auditions...on March 2nd 2020! (And this glorious piece was well worth the wait.) *Follies* also marks Peter's 10th role onstage with the warm and wonderful Francis Wilson family, including such personal favorites as Doctor Treves in *The Elephant Man* and Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*.

Tom Workman (Dmitri Weissman) - Tom has studied voice and opera with Maestro Mario Laurenti since 2003 and has performed with Opera Tampa, St Petersburg Opera, Tampa Bay Opera Company, Matinee Opera Players, New Century opera, Spanish Lyric Theater, and The Gilbert and Sullivan Players. Principal roles include Don Jose in *Carmen*, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, and Nanki Poo in *The Mikado*.

Duke Thomas Low (Roscoe) - Duke is pleased to be on the Francis Wilson stage again. This production will mark his 115th opening night. Last seen as The Cab Driver in *Harvey*, Duke wants to thank everyone who made his appearance in tonight's show possible, with a special thanks to his wife, Kinga, for her constant support of his theatrical endeavors.

Mona Lim (Solange La Fitte) - This year, Mona was shocked to realize that she's been performing for 50 years (she got her start playing the piano and violin) and teaching/directing for over 30 years! She recently completed directing the summer theatre camps at Central Park Performing Arts Center in Largo. She is thrilled to be doing *Follies* (her 5th FWP show) with such an incredible group of artists.

Amanda Wood (Young Solange) - Amanda is happy to be back on the FWP stage for *Follies*. You may have recently seen her in last season's *The Producers* as an awkward showgirl or in *Cabaret* in the ensemble. She loves to sing and dance and thanks her husband for his constant support of her to pursue her passion.

Cherie Albury (Carlotta Champion) - Cherie is excited to return to the Francis Wilson stage in this talent-packed production. Some of her favorite roles here include Ms. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Vera Charles in *Mame*, Leading Player in *Pippin* and Regina in *The Little Foxes*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support. Especially, Kristie with the tap number.

Caitlyn Dardich (Young Carlotta) - Caitlyn is thrilled to be back on stage especially since this is the first time she's been in a show with her mother, Sherry! This is Caitlyn's fourth show at FWP after *Brigadoon, South Pacific* and *Titanic*. Caitlyn started dancing at age 3 and performed in Miami City Ballet's *Nutcracker* and in the Super Bowl XXV Halftime Show. She was on the UF "Dazzlers" dance team and appeared in Tampa Bay Ballet's *Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Linda Featherstone (Stella Deems) - At age 75...She's back! Her last role was Velma Kelly in *Chicago* 35 years ago! With over 50 musicals to her credit, her favorites include Sheila in *A Chorus Line*, Anita in *West Side Story*, Bonnie in *Anything Goes*, & both Electra and Tessie in *Gypsy*. Linda won the first Larry, now star award, playing Rose Alverez in *Bye-Bye Birdie* where our director, Jason Fortner, played Hugo Peabody at age 16!

Amber Jackson (Young Stella) - Amber is from Sebring, FL, has a masters degree from UF, and is a former Miss Colorado. After appearances in films and music videos she returned to the stage in Spring Hill as Baroness Shraeder in *The Sound Of Music*. This is her second show at FWP. She was a showgirl in *The Producers* and is so excited to tap again as Young Stella. Thanks Linda and the showgirls for such an amazing family!

Steve McBrayer (Max Deems) - Steve is thrilled to be back at FWP and as part of *Follies*. You may remember Steve in *Titanic: The Musical, South Pacific, Brigadoon,* and *A Christmas Carol*. Steve would like to thank Jason Fortner for this opportunity to be included in another grand production here at FWP!

Debbie Cascone (Emily Whitman) - Debbie is thrilled to be in her second mainstage show at FWP. She was most recently seen in *The Producers* as Lick Me Bite Me and ensemble. Debbie has also performed in various concerts at FWP including *Broadway Jukebox, Swinging 60's, Home for the Holidays, Forgotten Broadway, Broadway's Epic Musicals,* and *Best of Broadway*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support, as well as Jason and Emi for the opportunities.

Michelle Morocco (Young Emily) - Michelle has always had a love for theater ever since she was young. She has been acting, singing, and dancing in shows from her childhood through her college years. Then, she was in films and theater during her time in New York and was most recently in *The Producers* here at the Francis Wilson Playhouse. She's excited to be in *Follies* and soon after, you can find her in *The Drowsy Chaperone*!

Cornelius F. Coughlin Jr. (Theodore Whitman) - Cornelius is thrilled to be in his third play this year. You may have seen him previously in *Cabaret* (Maitre D') or *The Producers* (Mr. Marks, Sargeant O'Brien and others). He gives thanks to the extremely talented cast and crew of this and other productions he has been involved in at FWP, to his friends and associates at the Gulfport Senior Center, and especially to Rebecca Cantrell, his better half.

Mary Anne Boone (Heidi Schiller) - Delighted to return to FWP, Mary Anne last appeared as soloist in concerts with the Pinellas Park Orchestra. She performed at TSPAC as Martha Gillette (Game's Afoot); Olympia (Tales of Hoffman), Frasquita (Carmen), Gretel (Hansel & Gretel); Eight O'Clock Theater as Miss Jones (How to Succeed); Suncoast Dinner Theater as Mrs. Lunch (Grease), Anna (The King & I), Grace (Annie!); and with St. Petersburg Opera Company as Jack's Mother (Into the Woods). Love to her supportive husband!

Annie Mickel (Young Heidi) - Annie is thrilled to be a part of this triumphant production of *Follies*. A die-hard Sondheim fan, she is over the moon at the opportunity to play this role! You may have seen her in various concerts, digitally and onstage, here at Francis Wilson Playhouse. Enjoy the show!

Karen "Kagey" Good (Hattie Walker) - Kagey began her professional career as Lucy in the original Off-Broadway production of *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN*. She has performed on Broadway, in National Tours, Summer Stock and Regional theater for over 60 years. She was last seen at FWP as Ida Dodd in *70 GIRLS 70*. She won the 2020 Star Award for her performance as Tennessee Williams mother in *MS. EDWINA AND THE MEN IN HER LIFE* by Patrick Brafford. She's proud to be a BROADWAY BABY!

Shianne Haily (Dream Margie/Young Hattie) - Shianne is excited to be doing *FOLLIES* with such an amazing cast. You may have just seen her as Kitty in *Charley's Aunt*. She is 22 years old and is a student at SPC college. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support and would like to give a shout out to her heroes John Cena and Pauly D.

Kristie Affolter (Dee Dee West) - Kristie is overjoyed to be back on stage at Francis Wilson. Some favorite FWP memories were shows such as *42nd Street, Sugar Babies, Crazy for You* and *Anything Goes*. She is thrilled to be tapping on stage again. Enjoy the show!

Nicole Lodge (Dream Sally/Young Dee Dee) - Nicole is so excited to be in this production of *Follies*. She is so happy to be back at FWP after a little break to get married. You may have seen her as a Kit Kat Girl in *Cabaret*, or Olivia in *The Twelfth Night*. She'd like to thank the creative team for letting her come back, the cast for keeping her laughing, and her husband for his absolutely devoted wavering support.

Callie Gray (Sandra Crane) - Callie is grateful to finally tap in a show! Last seen here as Mrs. Kendal in *The Elephant Man*, in Tarpon as Nita Mooney in *Hallelujah Girls*, and Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. Callie has 3 grandchildren and hopes one may follow in her acting footsteps, but wants them to be free to choose what's best for themselves and their bodies! She is beyond grateful for her friends, Morton Plant Hospitals, Mosaic Maxillofacial and puppy Picabo.

Barbara Ann Estok (Young Sandra) - Barbara is thrilled to be back on stage in her 6th FWP production. Barbara has a BA in Musical Theater from NJCU and is a certified dance instructor. A native of NJ she trained in NYC at Broadway Dance Center and was also a Tremaine Dance Convention participant. Her stage credits include Guys *and Dolls, West Side Story, Damn Yankees, Oklahoma, Camelot, Big River, Funny Girl, Annie* and *Into the Woods* to name a few.

Michael Sporck (Kevin) - Michael is very excited to be in this production of *FOLLIES* with so many of his lifelong friends. You may have seen him in *Grand Hotel, Guys and Dolls, Mame,* and so many others. Enjoy the show!

Nickie Berlage (Showgirl) - Nickie is so happy to be back for her 3rd production with Francis Wilson—previously seen as Jane Albright in *Brigadoon* and Betty Johnson in *Funny Money*. Her other recent credits include Cecily Pigeon in *The Odd Couple* and stage managing *The Hallelujah Girls*, both at Tarpon Arts. Nickie would like to dedicate this performance to her dear friend and inspiration, Rebekah. It's not the same being in a musical without her.

Trinity Palmer (Hostess) - Trinity is ecstatic to be apart of this production of *Follies*. You may have seen her previously at Francis Wilson in *The Producers*. She would like to thank her wonderful friends and family for their support.

Janet Ando (Former Showgirl) - Last seen this past December as Mrs. Mops in *A Christmas Carol*, Janet is happy to be back on stage with her friends at Francis Wilson Playhouse. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Sherry Dardich (Former Showgirl) - *Follies* is Sherry's first community theater production. Her performing career began at age 18 months at her Mom's dance studio. After many years hiatus, she put on her dancing shoes again participating in local productions including *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* with her daughter Caitlyn. Her main "gig": playing clarinet for 60 years in various bands including *Second Time Arounders* parades, Macys NYC in 2019 and St. Patricks Day Dublin, Ireland 2022.

Jean Pellegrini (Former Showgirl) - This is Jean's first show at FWP and she is delighted to be in her first musical ever. She wants to thank Jason and FWP for this fantastic opportunity, to see how a really big production is done and especially to be a part of this wonderful, talented cast.

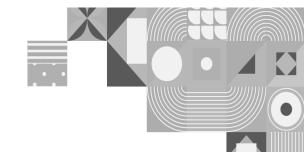
Laura Christie (Former Showgirl) - Laura is ecstatic to be in this production of *Follies*. She has spent the last 20 years raising her children and Follies will be her first production since what seems like forever. Laura would like to thank the director for his confidence in her to include her in the production of *Follies*. She would also like to thank all of her wonderful family, friends, and amazing boyfriend for their support.

Mic Goosen (Former Showgirl) - Mic is happy to be a part of this fabulous production of *Follies*, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

TJ Howsare (Major Domo/Young Theodore) - TJ is excited to be in their first show at Francis Wilson Playhouse. They have been singing since they wear a child and are so excited to get back on stage after taking a break. TJ would like to thank their friends and family who have supported them through this entire process and hope you enjoy this incredible show.

Charles T. Atkinson Jr (Men's Roles) - Charles is happy to be back at FWP - it's been a while! You may have seen him in *70, Girls, 70, South Pacific,* among many others. We hope you enjoy the show as much as we enjoy performing for you!





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