

PLAYBILL

LEXINGTON CHILDREN'S THEATRE • 2019-2020



ANNIE

July 18 - 28, 2019

A black silhouette of a girl stands to the left of the word 'ANNIE' in large, white, block letters. The background is a gradient from red at the top to pink at the bottom.



OFRENDA

Sept. 19 - 28, 2019

A monarch butterfly is at the top, with a dotted line leading down to the word 'OFRENDA' in white, block letters. The background is a gradient from yellow to orange.



THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR
AND OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVOURITES

Oct. 6 - 12, 2019

A green caterpillar is at the top right. The text is in various colors and fonts. The background is a gradient from light green to dark green.



HOLES

Oct. 30 - Nov. 15, 2019

A circular frame shows silhouettes of people looking at a bright light. The word 'HOLES' is in large, gold, block letters. The background is a gradient from dark brown to light brown.



Best Christmas Pageant
EVER

Nov. 30 - Dec. 9, 2019

Decorative Christmas ornaments and a star are around the text. The word 'EVER' is in large, white, block letters. The background is a gradient from red to orange.

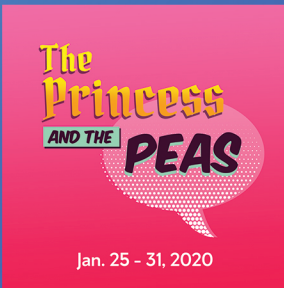


Aesop's FABLES

onstage

Dec. 12 - 19, 2019

A rabbit and a sun are part of the illustration. The word 'FABLES' is in large, blue, block letters. The background is a gradient from light blue to dark blue.



The Princess AND THE PEAS

Jan. 25 - 31, 2020

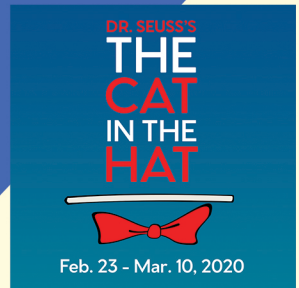
The text is in a pink speech bubble. The background is a gradient from pink to red.



Long Road to
FREEDOM

Feb. 1 - 7, 2020

A hand holding a lit candle is in the center. The background is a gradient from dark purple to black.



DR. SEUSS'S
THE CAT IN THE HAT

Feb. 23 - Mar. 10, 2020

A red bow tie is at the bottom. The background is a gradient from dark blue to teal.

THE STORY OF YOU!



The Hundred Dresses

March 19 - 27, 2020

Three dresses are hanging on a string. The background is a gradient from purple to black.



ELLA ENCHANTED

April 14 - 26, 2020

Decorative flourishes are around the text. The background is a gradient from green to dark green.



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Long Road to



FREEDOM

By Jan Lucas

Saturday, February 1 - 7:00pm (Pay What You Can)
Sunday, February 2 - 2:00pm

Tuesday - Friday, February 4 - 7
10:00am & 11:45am

2020

Long Road to Freedom Board Ambassadors:
Stephanie Hong, Jason Ams, Ali Robinson

Major Contributors



LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM

By Jan Lucas

WHERE ARE WE?

In our hearts and memories. In the present and the past.
In Canada and Ohio. In freedom and in strife.
At a stop on the underground railroad
where lives intertwined and changed...for good.

THE PERFORMERS

Mary Catherine Stamp.....Danae DeShazer
Graceanna Brown.....Alex Reeves
Musician.....Derek Brookens

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....Larry Snipes
Musical Director.....Lorne Dechtenberg
Scenic Designer.....Matthew R. Hallock
Costume Designer.....Alexandria Vazquez
Lighting Designer.....Courtney Sheffield
Assistant Director.....Esther Neel
Stage Manager.....Sarah Jo Atwood
Technical Director.....Gabriel Slusser
Scenic Charge Artist / Properties Master.....Maggie Foley
Master Electrician.....John Ruml
Production Construction Artist.....Katie Adler
Costume Shop Manager.....Scarlett Kellum
Costume Construction and Cutter / Drapers.....Addison Goan, Scarlett Kellum,
.....Max Shumate, Jamie Taylor
Front of House Manager.....Ashlee Collins
Box Office Personnel.....Colleen Byron,
.....Megan Kinney, Erin McGuire-Thompson
Educational Materials.....Rhonda Bell, Zachary Fryman,
.....Jeremy Kisling, Courtney Joy Miller, John Perine

WRITE TO US!

Please know as actors, directors, and designers, we want to hear from you! You are encouraged to draw pictures, ask us questions, and write letters in response to the LCT production you just experienced. Feel free to respond to the acting, to the scenery or costumes, or to anything you saw or felt about the play. Individual or group mailings should be sent to:

Lexington Children's Theatre

Critic's Corner
418 West Short Street
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NOTES FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Every
journey
begins with
a single step.
This play is
no different.

In the fictional
world of the play,
Graceanna Brown and
Mary Catherine Stamp
walk into each other's
lives, hearts, and memories,
and become indelibly intertwined
in ways undiscovered until much later.

The woman who introduced me to
Long Road is a gentle yet formidable force.

While our paths did and do not cross very often she has left a strong impression on both my approach to theatrical artistry and life. Fifteen years ago, while chatting over a meal during one of the major combined auditions to which we travel in search of professional performers, she and I were sharing things that excited us about our upcoming seasons. As she described a new play — *Long Road to Freedom* — her face lit up! "You need to do this play! What a glorious character piece, unfolding into a timely, poignant story. It's layered, deeply layered, historically and emotionally. These two women, and how their intertwined lives began at a stop on the

Underground Railroad is both uplifting and heartrending." At least that's what I think I remember her saying. It was some fifteen years ago. These days, it seems I can't even remember what decision we made in a design meeting yesterday so I am probably horribly misquoting and reinterpreting her words. Yet her passion for the piece, her delight in describing the characters, her conviction in the themes running throughout the script is what my heart and mind remembers. Following their production she sent the script we share with you today; for which I owe her a huge debt of gratitude. From the day I first read Jan's "poetry in motion" script I have wanted to share it with our audiences. Nine years later, the opportunity came around. It is, with deepest thanks and warmest heart that I sincerely thank Carol North, who was Artistic Director of Metro Theater Company in St. Louis, Missouri, for introducing me to this play, but mostly for being the best long-distance mentor a person could have as a friend. Carol, as I discovered in Mary Catherine and Graceanna's story — while we have shared less than a summer's worth of days together in person — our lives are irrevocably intertwined. I truly appreciate your gracious demeanor, insightful artistic approach, and passion for creating quality theatre for youth. I look forward to many years of wrapping myself in an oversized knit shawl and channeling my inner Carol.

Virian Robin Snipes — Artistic Director

LCT PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Larry Snipes, Producing Director
Vivian Snipes, Artistic Director
Rachel Ray, Development Director
Tiffany Dupont Novak, Marketing and Sales Director
Kathryn Henriques, Marketing and Sales Manager
Jeremy Kisling, Associate Artistic Director in Charge of Education
Rhonda Bell, Resident Teaching Artist
Zachary Fryman, Resident Teaching Artist
Octavia Biggs, Program Director of Shooting Stars Youtheatre (SSYT)
Erin McGuire-Thompson, Finance and Box Office Manager
Megan Kinney, Audience Experience Associate
Courtney Sheffield, Production Stage Manager
Ariel Tatum, Resident Stage Manager
Maggie Foley, Charge Artist / Technical Director
Gabriel Slusser, Technical Director / Master Carpenter
John Ruml, Assistant Technical Director / Lighting & Sound Technician
Scarlett Kellum, Costume Shop Manager / Designer
Esther Neel, Associate Director

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INTRODUCING THE PERFORMERS:



DEREK BROOKENS
(Musician)

Originally from Pennsylvania, Derek escaped to earn his BFA at Ohio Northern University, then continued to work and travel around the country. He's been happy to work in children's theater at The National Theatre for Children and Prairie Fire Children's Theatre over the past 6 years. This is his first LCT experience and his first time in Lexington. For the next few months, you can find Derek enjoying the area's hiking, restaurants, farmer's market, and anything barrel-aged.



DANAe DeSHAZER *(Mary Catherine Stamp)*

Danae DeShazer is happy to be making her debut with Lexington Children's Theatre! Originally from Overland Park, Kansas, Danae stays busy as a freelance director, choreographer, and actor across the United States. Recent directing credits include: *...Spelling Bee*, *Polkadots!*, *The Cool Kids Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *9 to 5! The Musical*.

As an actor, Danae has worked with McLeod Summer Playhouse, National Theatre for Children, Prairie Fire Children's Theatre, Blue Gate Musicals, Venice Theatre, TheatreZone, Show Palace, and RWS & Associates. "Thank YOU for supporting live theatre and for keeping the arts alive!"

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ALEX REEVES *(Graceanna Brown)*

Alex Reeves loved collaborating with Lexington Children's Theatre on another wonderful play! She graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. You may

have seen her as: Archie in *The Snowy Day and Other Stories*, Jane in *Sacagawea: Discovering History* or as Hen in *Why Mosquitoes Buzz*. DC credits include: Ensemble / Puppeteer in *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Adventure Theatre), Rebel in Columbinus (1st Stage Theatre), Mela in *The Goodies: A New Devised Piece* (Iron Crow Theatre), Marcy Park in *25th...Spelling Bee* (Starstuff Theatre Collective) and Slank in *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

Contact: artistalexreeves@gmail.com

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INTRODUCING THE CREATIVE TEAM:

KATIE ADLER *(Production Construction Artist)*

Katie is excited for her first season at Lexington Children's Theatre! All the way from Pittsburgh PA, she is a recent graduate from Seton Hill University with her BFA in 2-D Art. In addition to her love of theater and paints, she enjoys cosplaying and metalsmithing.

SARAH JO ATWOOD *(Stage Manager)*

Sarah Jo is thrilled for her fourth show at LCT. She is a recent graduate of New York University with a BFA in Drama focusing in stage management. She is ecstatic to begin her career with this amazing company.

INTRODUCING THE CREATIVE TEAM:

RHONDA BELL (*Resident Teaching Artist*)

Rhonda, a Nashville native, is excited to continue her experience at LCT as a Resident Teaching Artist. She holds an MA in Theatre from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a BA from Berea College. Although she is a stage manager by trade, Rhonda enjoys teaching and spending time with kids.

OCTAVIA BIGGS (*Director Shooting Stars Youth Theatre*)

Tavia has worked hard over the last 19 years to bring children's theatre to eastern Kentucky. She believes strongly that all children have the ability to be creative and through that creativity will discover the gifts they possess. She would like to thank LCT and the W. Paul and Lucille C. Little Foundation!

COLLEEN BYRON (*Arts Administration Intern*)

Colleen received her B.A. in theatre from Morehead State University. She has previously worked with LCT as an education intern and Shooting Stars Youth Theatre as a teaching artist. Colleen has worked on several productions including *9 to 5*, *Richard III*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

ASHLEE COLLINS (*Front of House Manager*)

Ashlee is thrilled to be back at LCT after two years working with Chicago Children's Theatre and Broadway in Chicago. You may remember Ashlee from LCT's *Duck for President*, *Old Dry Frye*, and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Ashlee is a Discovery Educator at The Living Arts and Science Center.

LORNE DECHTENBERG (*Music Director*)

Lorne Dechtenberg, award-winning composer, pianist, and singer-actor, has performed in venues ranging from piano bars to opera houses, and from live music festivals to network television. His output includes four operas, four musicals, original music for three plays, two articles on the musical ear, a symphony, and numerous other works. You've heard his music on the LCT stage in *Gossamer*, *Rapunzel*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, and *The Snow Queen*. The Artistic Director of The Bluegrass Opera, he also founded Upbeat Arts, a firm that provides creative and production services for live and recorded events.

MAGGIE FOLEY (*Scenic Charge Artist / Properties Master*)

Maggie Foley is thrilled to be at LCT for another season of creative fun. She received her BA in Theatre with minors in English and Art History from North Central College in Naperville, IL and is glad to put it to use at such a great place.

ZACHARY FRYMAN (*Resident Teaching Artist*)

Zachary was born and raised in Dry Ridge, KY and graduated with a B.A. in Theatre from Morehead State University. During his time at MSU, Zachary toured with The Little Company as an actor and teaching artist, directed *The Giver*, and choreographed pieces for the dance department.

ADDISON GOAN (*Costume Construction / Cutter / Draper*)

Addison is a senior at Lafayette High School. She feels privileged to intern in the costume shop and looks forward to new experiences with Lexington Children's Theatre. Addison currently trains at Lexington Ballet and hopes to pursue ballet in college while continuing her work with costumes.

MATTHEW R. HALLOCK (*Scenic Designer*)

Matthew R. Hallock is the chair of the Dramatic Arts Program at Centre College in Danville, KY where he has taught since 1997. He was named a Centre scholar in 2013. He holds a B.S. in theater arts from the State University of New York at New Paltz and received his M.F.A. in scenic design and technology from Western Illinois University. A native of upstate New York, Matthew has designed for theatre's around the country including Skylight Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and First Stage Children's Theater (Milwaukee). Locally he has worked extensively for Actors' Guild of Lexington, Banta Productions, Lexington Shakespeare Festival, and at Lexington Children's Theatre (*Where the Red Fern Grows*, *Androcles...*, *The BFG*, and *...Flat Stanley*). Matthew would like to thank Jane and the boys. What you see on stage is a family effort.

KATHRYN HENRIQUES (*Marketing and Sales Manager*)

Kathryn began her journey with LCT in 2015 as an Arts Administration Intern. Since then, she has become a full-time staff member, choreographed a few shows (including *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*), and performed in a few more (including this year's Summer Family Musical, *Annie!*)

SCARLETT KELLUM (*Costume Shop Manager*)

Scarlett is excited to join the LCT team. She started her career in theater in Northern California where she was the costume shop manager / costume designer at Theatre Rhinoceros, Second Wind Theater, Custom Made Theater, Berkeley Youth Theater, Dragon Theater and others.

INTRODUCING THE CREATIVE TEAM:

MEGAN KINNEY (Audience Experience Associate) Megan, a graduate of Lee University, has spent the last three summers with LCT! She began as an Education Intern (summer 2017) and returned for the 18-19 season as an Admin Intern. Back for the 19-20 season, Megan is so grateful to work at LCT for another year!

JEREMY KISLING (Associate Artistic Director in Charge of Education) Welcome to LCT! Jeremy is so grateful for the community's continued support of our theatre. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his M.F.A. in Drama and Theatre for Youth from the University of Texas at Austin. He hopes you take time to stretch your imagination!

JAN LUCAS (Playwright) Originally from Chicago, Jan is a playwright, author, and cancer survivor. Along with *Long Road to Freedom*, she has written a memoir about her battle with leukemia and the bone marrow donation that saved her life. Jan now resides in Columbus, Indiana with her husband Tim.

ERIN MCGUIRE-THOMPSON (Finance and Box Office Manager) Erin received her BA in Dramatic Arts from Centre College and her MFA in Dramatic Media from the University of Georgia. By night she develops her work as a book illustrator and fine artist. She loves her hubby, her dogs, her art, and her work at LCT!

COURTNEY JOY MILLER (Education Intern) Courtney is a born and raised Montana native, and is honored to join LCT for the first time in their 2019-2020 Season. She earned her BA in Acting & Directing from the University of North Dakota and has also served as an Education Intern with Seattle Children's Theatre.

ESTHER NEEL (Assistant Director) Esther holds a BA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Scenic Art from Taylor University in Indiana. Her first year with LCT was as a Scenic Charge Artist. Now in her sixth year with LCT (and the new title of Associate Director). Esther has directed *Fancy Nancy the Musical*, *Peter Pan Jr.*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and most recently *Charlotte's Web* among many others.

TIFFANY DUPONT NOVAK (Marketing and Sales Director) Tiffany is currently pursuing her Masters in Community and Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky and has the honor of volunteering with incredible community organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, the Lexington Pride Festival, and the Leadership Lexington Youth Steering Committee. Theatre has a special kind of magic - Tiffany hopes that you enjoy that magic today and that you will support LCT in ensuring that every young person in the Bluegrass has access to that special magic, too!

JOHN PERINE (Education Intern) is originally from right outside of Nashville, Tennessee, and is a recent BFA Theatre for Youth graduate from Samford University, where he trained as a director, performer, and educator. He is thrilled to spend his first year in the professional world as a part of the Lexington Children's Theatre team!

RACHEL RAY (Development Director) Rachel has a BA in English and a BS in Speech Therapy from U.K. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her husband, Bobby, and their three dogs (Ruby, Sadie, and Biko), read, and knit. She is a proud volunteer for and board member of Girls on the Run Central Kentucky and First Generation Women Achievers of the Bluegrass, an organization that supports first generation female college students.

JOHN RUML (Master Electrician) is a theatrical technician and sound designer born in Redlands, CA. His previous work includes the 18 / 19 season at Richmond Ballet and two summers at Stagedoor Manor, where he designed more than forty productions. This is his inaugural season at LCT, and he looks forward to new experiences and challenges.

COURTNEY SHEFFIELD (Lighting Designer) Courtney graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota. She worked with many companies in Minnesota including The Children's Theatre Company and CLIMB Theater. After completing an internship with Omaha Theater Company, she moved to Lexington to join the staff at LCT!

MAX SHUMATE (Costume Construction / Cutter / Draper) is excited to be doing an internship at LCT! Max is 22 years old and from Clayton, NC. Max is fresh out of college with a BA in Theatre Studies with a focus in costume design.

GABRIEL SLUSSER (Technical Director / Master Carpenter) Gabriel Slusser is thrilled to join the LCT family. Originally from Georgia, he earned a B.A. in Theatre from Piedmont College. He has worked at theatres across the eastern United States, including Titusville Playhouse, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, and Stagedoor Manor.

LARRY SNIPES (Director) Larry has served as LCT's Producing Director since 1979. After completing his MA in theatre for young audiences at Alabama's University of Montevallo, he worked for two years as a professional actor and director in the Washington DC, metropolitan area. He has directed a multitude of productions for LCT and written several plays including *Jack and the Wonder Beans*, *Cows Don't Fly* and other known facts, and *Old Dry Frye*.



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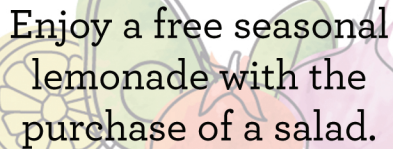
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Saturday, April 25 at 7:00pm (Pay What You Can)

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INTRODUCING THE CREATIVE TEAM:

VIVIAN SNIPES (*Artistic Director*) Vivian has worked at LCT for 40 years wearing whatever hat is required to help the theatre move forward and grow. She loves her job and the challenges that each new day brings. A true believer that everyone is an artist (especially when observing and interacting with other people) she challenges you to live an art full life. Be daring – try something new – apply your personal artistry in everything you do, enjoy being unique, and always breathe with purpose and act in kindness. Thank YOU for being pART of the ART! And Carol North? Thank you for being such an inspiration. I'm still wrapping up in my oversized shawl and channeling you.

ARIEL TATUM (*Resident Stage Manager*) Ariel is proud to join LCT for another season! She holds a B.S. in Child and Family Studies from Freed Hardeman University in Tennessee. Ariel enjoyed finding her family here at LCT last year and is excited to create new stories to share with you.

JAMIE TAYLOR (*Costume Construction / Cutter/Draper*) graduated from Mississippi State University and is excited to start her career with LCT. Jamie studied fashion design and found her home in the theatre costume shop. She plans to pursue an MFA. Jamie is passionate about TYA and can't wait to pour into the next generation of theatre artists.

ALEXANDRIA VAZQUEZ (*Costume Designer*) Born and raised in Orlando, Florida Alexandria received her BA in Costume Design from Rollins College and her MFA in Costume Design and Technology from West Virginia University. She has designed productions at both educational institutions as well as in the community and professionally, currently serving as the Costume Shop Manager for the Orlando Repertory Theatre. Her recent design highlights include costume designing for Florida Repertory Theatre's MainStage Production of *The Miracle Worker* and *Sylvia*. When not bringing theatre to life Alexandria enjoys farmers markets, thrifting, antique and vintage marts, seeing live theater, and trying new craft breweries. She wants to thank her family for their continuous support.

LCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you to the Lexington Children's Theatre
2019/2020 Board of Directors for their dedication to
providing arts opportunities for young people.

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Lexington Children's Theatre 2019/20

QUALITY TIMES:

NAMES OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Who were Harriet Beecher-Stowe, Levi Coffin and Frederick Douglass? What did Harriet Tubman or William Garrison have to do with the Underground Railroad? These are important names in the fight to free slaves during the 1800s. Have each member of your family choose one of the names listed above and see if you can't discover four reasons why they are important to the history of the United States and the fight to end slavery.

CREATE YOUR OWN FUN

Children of the civil war era, and especially slave children, had to be inventive with the games they played and the toys they had. They had to create games by using what they had around them. For example, in *Long Road to Freedom*, Graceanna and Mary Catherine talk of making corn husk dolls. Look for and find recycled items around your house. Things such as: tape dispensers, toilet paper/paper towel tubes, paper clips, plastic bottles, tissue boxes, rubber bands, etc.

Then use the objects to invent some your own game. You and your family will need to create the rules for how to play the game. Then play a few times with your family to see if all your ideas work!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Graceanna was scared she turned to music to lift her spirits. What do you do when you are scared? What do you do to make yourself feel more comfortable? Hopeful? Courageous?

2. Music is used throughout *Long Road to Freedom* to help tell the story. How did the music make you feel? How did the music help tell the story? If someone were to write a story about you, what music would you want to use to tell it?



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