

# PLAYBILL

Lexington Children's Theatre 2021-2022



**Welcome home.**





# SHOW TELL

A World Premiere  
By Sam Hamashima  
Funded by The National Endowment for the Arts

Saturday, October 2 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm  
Sunday, October 3 at 2:00pm

Funded by



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# Shoyu Tell

by Sam Hamashima

## SETTING

anywhere and everywhere

## THE CAST

Lucas.....	Rusty Allen
Luna/Mrs. Moore.....	Michelle Pokopac
Emily/Reiko.....	Kim Dixon Luckey
Paula.....	Erica Dilworth
Gary/Fear.....	Zachary A. Myers

## THE CREW

Director.....	Jeremy Kising
Scenic Designer .....	Jennifer Hiyama
Costume Designer .....	Audrey Reed
Lighting Designer .....	Maranda DeBusk
Stage Manager .....	Kate Tayler
Technical Director .....	Gabriel Slusser
Scenic Charge Artist / Properties Manager.....	GraceAnne Miles
Costume Shop Manager.....	Scarlett Kellum
Costume Construction and Cutter / Drapers.....	Scarlett Kellum, Maurissa Sanfilipo
Front of House Manager .....	Helen Killius
Box Office Personnel.....	Dejah Garner, Erin McCuire-Thompson
Educational Materials.....	Rhonda Bell, Liz Spurlock

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## NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I was the "odddity" of lunch growing up. If my elementary school had a kid-friendly tabloid, there would undoubtedly be a weekly column of "what did Sam bring for lunch this week." Mind you, this was before Nori (the bandwagon calls it seaweed) became popular. This was before sushi was mainstream. Before the smell of shoyu (the bandwagon calls it soy-sauce) was known. The smell of my lunch, normal to me, spiked the curiosities of my peers. The minute the lid on my Tupperware opened, my classmates would turn their heads and slowly make their way to my desk.

They'd watch me intensely as I snapped my chopsticks in two - how I'd sand them down to avoid splinters. By the time I had sprinkled my o-nigiri and nori with soy-sauce, I had even drawn the attention of the moms that volunteered to help with our lunches. On the outside looking in, today I see a boy treated like a zoo animal. His food is spectacle and the act of his eating was some picture-worthy activity. But this was not how I felt in the moment. To me, it was show and tell. It was "I am special" and "I want my friends to know about it". They did not see me as foreign, they saw me with something interesting and exciting. My classmates loved me. They loved me so much to ask me more about myself.

So much of our society's questions come from the curiosity we've all learned at an early age. When something is different, we try to find more about it. Unencumbered by societal norms, the youth ask questions for answers. They don't ask to marginalize. They don't ask to "other". Children ask so they may understand the world more. Children "show and tell". Food can be the incredible starting point for understanding the variations of what an American can be.

*Sam Hamashima*



## LCT PROFESSIONAL STAFF

**Rhonda Bell**, Education Director

**Octavia Biggs**, Program Director of Shooting Stars Youtheatre (SSYT)

**Corinne Campagna**, SSYT Assistant Program Director

**Ashlee Collins**, Development Director

**Dejah Garner**, Box Office Assistant

**Kathryn Henriques**, Director of Marketing and Analytics

**Sam Hicks**, Marketing and Sales Manager

**Scarlett Kellum**, Costume Shop Manager / Designer

**Helen Killius**, Audience Experience Associate

**Jeremy Kisling**, Producing Artistic Director

**Erin McGuire-Thompson**, Operations Manager

**Graceanne Miles**, Charge Artist / Properties Manager

**Rachel Ray**, Managing Director

**Gabriel Slusser**, Technical Director

**Liz Spurlock**, Resident Teaching Artist

**Kate Tayler**, Resident Stage Manager





Established in 1987, the Japan/America Society of Kentucky (JASK) is a nonprofit, nonpolitical membership organization dedicated to promoting a better understanding of the business, cultural and social practices and customs of Japan and Kentucky. Headquartered in Kentucky's Capitol, Frankfort, JASK provides member events and services throughout the state.

JASK is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors who represent leading businesses throughout the commonwealth.

JASK members have the opportunity to communicate and cooperate with each other, fostering greater mutual reliance and creating an improved regional business climate for companies of both nations.

JASK is a member of the National Association of Japan/America Societies (NAJAS). This allows our Corporate Members access to each of the 38 Japan/America Societies, including a job/resume database and a directory of links to Japan resources.







Thank you to the individuals, families, and businesses who have donated to our 2021-2022 annual campaign! We are especially grateful for their support during these unprecedented times. We are eternally grateful.

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**To make your donation, please visit our website at [www.lctonstage.org](http://www.lctonstage.org)  
or contact Ashlee Collins at [acollins@lctonstage.org](mailto:acollins@lctonstage.org).**





# OKTOBERFEST ICE CREAM

\$2 from each pre-order pint of Crank and Boom's Small Batch Club flavors between October 1 - December 31 will benefit Lexington Children's Theatre!



## STORY SPINNERS



**RUSTY ALLEN (*Lucas*)** Rusty (he/him) is thrilled to make his debut with LCT! He is a firm believer in the power of theatre to positively impact all people and is passionate about breaking

down socioeconomic obstacles to reach new audiences. Rusty most recently performed the solo play *Hold These Truths* with GENseng Asian American Ensemble, portraying the true story of Gordon Hirabayashi and his battle against the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Other credits include Barter Theatre (30 productions including David in *The SantaLand Diaries*, Leo Bloom in *The Producers*, and Miss Havisham and Herbert Pocket in *Great Expectations*), Geva Theatre Center, the Rev Theatre Co, and 7 Stages Shakespeare. He lives in the Chicago area and holds a BA in Theatre from SUNY Geneseo. Heartfelt love and thanks to his family and especially to JLWH for being a daily source of heart and inspiration.



**ERICA DILWORTH (*Paula*)** Erica Dilworth (*she/her/hers*) is very excited to be working with Lexington Children's Theatre for the first time. She was last seen collaborating with Actors Theatre of

Louisville in their virtual New Voices Young Playwrights Festival. Some of her favorite past roles include Vera in the world premiere of *Borrowed Babies* and Maribel in *Crooked*. Erica loves any opportunity to collaborate on new work, make people laugh, and continue using her BFA in Acting to tell stories. When not performing you can find her on her Peloton bike, watching sitcoms or trashy reality TV, or making her friends stay up late talking to her on the phone. She is very delighted to be using her "Good with children" special skill listed on her resume! You can keep up with her on Instagram : @ericadilworth



**KIM DIXON LUCKEY (*Emily/Reiko*)** Kim (*she/her/hers*) is honored to be a part of the world premiere of *Shoyu Tell* by Sam Hamashima. She was last seen at LCT as the title character in *Miss Nelson Is Missing!* Kim works

as a voice-over artist, on-camera host, and makeup artist with her company, Kim Dixon Media. She is one of the makeup artists for the new nationally syndicated courtroom TV show, *Relative Justice*, which premiered on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Kim lives in Lexington with her husband and their numerous cats.



**ZACHARY A. MYERS (*Gary/Fear*)** Zachary (*they/they/their*) is a non-binary actor currently based in Arkansas and is excited to be joining Lexington Children's Theatre for this production!

Zachary studied Musical Theatre Performance at Ouachita Baptist University and some of their past professional credits include: *Songs for a New World* (Studio Theatre) *The Bridges of Madison County* (Ghostlight Theatre Co.) *Urinetown* (Ghostlight Theatre Co.) *A New World: An Evening With Jason Robert Brown* (Ghostlight Theatre Co.) *West Side Story* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre) *Sister Act!* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre) *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers* (Murry's Dinner Playhouse) *My Fair Lady* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre). Zachary would like to thank Jhonika & Stacy for being their support throughout the past few years, "I love y'all!"



**MICHELLE POKOPAC (*Luna/Mrs. Moore*)** (*she/her*) is an actor in both theatre and film based in Atlanta. BFA Theatre Performance from Columbus State University. Additional studies in Florence,

Italy and Oxford, England. In 2017, Michelle and her partners founded East by Southeast, an organization dedicated to supporting and developing local Asian artists in the Southeast. She is also a member of IDEA ATL (Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in the Arts of Atlanta) in response to the social and racial injustice brought forth from the Atlanta theatre community in 2020. Outside of acting, she adores spending time with her parents and dog, Apollo. Michelle was last seen on the LCT stage in *Señora Tortuga* and *A Thousand Paper Cranes* in 2015. Regional: *Fun Home* (Actor's Express); *Frankenstein's Funeral* (Found Stages); *The Wolves* (Horizon Theatre); *Little Raindrop Songs*, *Alice Between*, *Slur*, *Play the Play with Cat the Cat* (Alliance Theatre); *Sense and Sensibility* (Synchronicity Theatre); *James and the Giant Peach*, *On the Verge* (Georgia Ensemble). Film/TV: *STAR* (FOX), upcoming *Lifetime*, *Disney+*, and *Netflix*.



# The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

The image features a purple geometric pattern on the left side, overlaid with the CGP logo. The logo consists of the letters 'CGP' in a large, white, serif font, with 'The Japan Foundation' and 'Center for Global Partnership' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. To the right of the logo, there is a black and white photograph of two men sitting on the ground, working on a project that involves several vertical poles or stakes. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a checkered shirt, while the man on the right is wearing a dark jacket. The background of the photograph shows a stone wall and some foliage.

**CGP**  
The Japan Foundation  
Center for Global Partnership

CGP was established in 1991 to promote collaboration between the people of Japan, the United States, and beyond in order to address issues of global concern.

**GRASSROOTS PROGRAM - CGP GRANT PROGRAM**

This program fosters US-Japan grassroots efforts in various ways, including region-to-region, civil society and youth exchange programs. The program also promotes the understanding of Japanese culture and society in the United States, focusing on K-12 education and community outreach.



The Center for Global Partnership (CGP) was established within the Japan Foundation\* in April 1991 with offices in both Tokyo and New York. CGP is dedicated to strengthening the global U.S.-Japan partnership and cultivating the next generation of public intellectuals necessary to sustain this partnership.

**Learn more at [www.cgp.org](http://www.cgp.org)**



## PERSONNEL PROFILES

**RHONDA BELL (Education Director)** Rhonda is excited to continue her journey at LCT as Education Director. She holds an MA in Theatre from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a BA from Berea College. Rhonda enjoys driving her car, watching cartoons, and having lively debates with her students.

**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!

**CORINNE CAMPAGNA (SSYT Assistant Program Director)** After graduating from Morehead State University with her Theatre degree, Corinne lived in Los Angeles, California where she was a production assistant and background actor on various web series and television shows. She is back in Morehead as the Assistant Program Director for Shooting Stars Youththeatre with LCT and the Theatre Tour Coordinator for MSU's The Little Company. She has travelled with The Little Company to Edinburgh, Scotland the summer of 2018 to help with the show *Einstein's Dreams* at the Fringe Festival.

**ASHLEE COLLINS (Development Director)** Returning home this season is Ashlee Collins. Since completing LCT's Arts Administration internship in 2015, Ashlee has worked with theatres all over the country, including Chicago Children's Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, and most notably, with Broadway in Chicago as a marketing assistant during the first National Tour of *Disney's Aladdin*!

**MARANDA DEBUSK (Lighting Designer)** Maranda is so excited to be returning to Lexington Children's Theatre. She is a lighting and media designer currently serving as the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro. Previous designs at LCT include *la ofrenda*, *The Snowy Day*, and *Elephant and Piggie's We Are in a Play!* Select Regional Design Credits Include: *The Heath* (Lighting/Media; Warehouse Theatre), *Matilda* (Lighting/Media; Virginia Stage Company), *The Passion of Teresa Rae* (Lighting; Triad Stage), *Return to Sender* (Media; Nashville Children's Theatre), *Death of a Salesman* (Assoc. Lighting; Trinity Rep), and *Sweeney Todd* (Assoc. Lighting; Denver Center for the Performing Arts). Her art is rooted in her belief that the greatest work is that which, when let out into the world, improves it.

**SAM HAMASHIMA (Playwright)** Sam Hamashima (*them+*) is a contemporary playwright located in New York City. Sam produced and/or developed by John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Lyric Stage of Boston, and Seattle Public Theater, among others. Hamashima wields theater and writing for empowerment, change,

and healing. Works include *Supposed Home* (Bay Area Playwrights Festival 2021), *American Spies and Other Homegrown Fables* (Hub Theater – 2019), and *Shoyu Tell* (Lexington Children's Theatre – World Premiere 2021) Awards include the Emerald Prize, the Roy W. Cowden Fellowship, the Dennis McIntyre Prize, Kennedy Center Undergraduate Playwrights' Workshop, and Hopwood Award in Drama at the University of Michigan. BFA in Musical Theatre, University of Michigan. samhamashima.com.

**KATHRYN HENRIQUES (Director of Marketing and Analytics)** Kathryn Henriques started with LCT in 2015 as an Arts Administration Intern, became a full-time staff member in 2016, and since then has held a few different positions, most recently Director of Marketing and Analytics. Thanks to the LCT Family for all your love and support over the years!

**SAM HICKS (Marketing and Sales Manager)** Sam is a Kentucky native dedicated to spreading the joy of theatre throughout the Bluegrass and beyond! He has worked across the country as an actor, writer, stagehand, director, producer, administrator, and all-around theatre maker! He first started at LCT in 2017 as a Teaching Artist and is thrilled to now serve as the Marketing and Sales Manager. Sam holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Evansville, an MFA in Acting from Rutgers University, and is pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching Theatre from Thomas More University.

**JENNIFER HIYAMA (Scenic Designer)** Jennifer Hiyama is a visual artist, scenic designer, and children's art teacher currently based in Philadelphia, PA. After graduating from Ithaca College with a BFA in Theatrical Production Arts she completed the Scenic Art apprenticeship with the Walnut Street Theatre. She has worked and created in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas, both in-person and virtually. Jennifer is Japanese-American and proud to help bring this story to life.

**SCARLETT KELLUM (Costume Shop Manager)** Scarlett has been designing and building costumes for 15 years. She studied theater arts at San Jose State and the university of Cambridge, England and has a BFA in Fashion Design for the Art Institute of California San Francisco. Before joining the LCT team in 2019, Scarlett 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, and others. She is also a HUGtivist with Free Mom Hugs KY.

**HELEN KILLIUS (Audience Experience Associate)** began her career with LCT this year and is so excited to begin their 2021-2022 Season! She is a recent grad from the University of Kentucky within their Art Administration department. Helen thinks *Shoyu Tell* is such a beautiful and hilarious story and hopes audiences enjoy!



## PERSONNEL PROFILES

### **JEREMY KISLING** (*Producing Artistic Director*)

Welcome to LCT! We want this to be your theatre, a place where you feel empowered, enriched, and emboldened. I am so honored and humbled to work with such amazing and talented artists and individuals every day! Thank you for being here, for your support, and for being a part of the LCT family.

### **ERIN MCGUIRE-THOMPSON** (*Operations 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!

### **GRACEANNE MILES** (*Scenic Charge Artist/ Properties Manager*)

GraceAnne is happy to return to her home state of Kentucky and join the LCT team. She graduated from Centre College in 2012 with a BS in Philosophy and Fine Arts. After graduation she worked as a carpenter, rigger, electrician, flyman, technical director, designer, and painter for five years before pursuing her MFA in Scenic Art at UNCSCA.

### **RACHEL RAY** (*Managing 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.

### **AUDREY REED** (*Costume Designer*)

Audrey is a recent MFA costume design graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her works include *James and the Giant Peach the Musical* (VCU), *Spring Awakening* (VCU), *Mary Poppins Jr.* (Cultural Arts Murfreesboro), and *The Taste of Sunrise* (MTSU). She is so incredibly excited and thankful to have been a part of this production, family, and beautiful story. She would like to give a big thanks to Scarlett and costume shop for all their hard work!

### **MAURISSA SANFILIPPO** (*Costume Shop Assistant*)

Maurissa has been working in costuming for 20 years and splits her time between Kentucky and Florida. She even owns her own clothing company in Florida called Maverick and Moxie. Maurissa is so happy to be working with LCT on this production!

### **GABRIEL SLUSSER** (*Technical Director*)

Gabriel has worked throughout the southeast in positions ranging from sound engineer to lead electrician to shop foreman at theatres including Titusville Playhouse, Inc., Georgia Ensemble Theatre, and Buford Community Center. As LCT's Technical Director, he facilitates the implementation of all scenic, lighting, audio, and projection elements for their season.

### **LIZ SPURLOCK** (*Resident Teaching Artist*)

Liz Spurlock, born and raised in Georgia, graduated from Columbus State University with her B.S. in Theatre Education. She has worked in many areas of theatre, including lighting, directing, and acting. Liz is excited to start her career in theatre education at Lexington Children's Theatre!

### **KATE TAYLER** (*Resident Stage Manager*)

Kate Tayler recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications degree from Bowling Green State University in Design & Technical Theatre. She is originally from Monroe, Michigan. Kate is very excited to bring her love for stage management and for theatre for young audiences to the stage here at LCT! The Great Gray.



## We love our LCT Members!

Malora Armentrout	Jessica Leake
Jesse Baldridge	Jessica Lear
Laura Baldwin	Staci Lester
Elizabeth Barrera	Joan Lett
Karen Bishop	Ken Metcalf
Robert Bosco	Sarah Milazzo-Payne
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Sharon Bryson	Natasa Mongiardo
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## Larry and Vivian Snipes Legacy Fund

Thank you to the donors who have honored the legacy of Larry and Vivian Snipes by donating to the Larry and Vivian Snipes Legacy Fund! These contributions will help us write LCT's next chapter by creating a fund that will sustain the theatre through the next several years, honor the legacy of Larry and Vivian, and underwrite the big ideas our new leadership will bring.

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