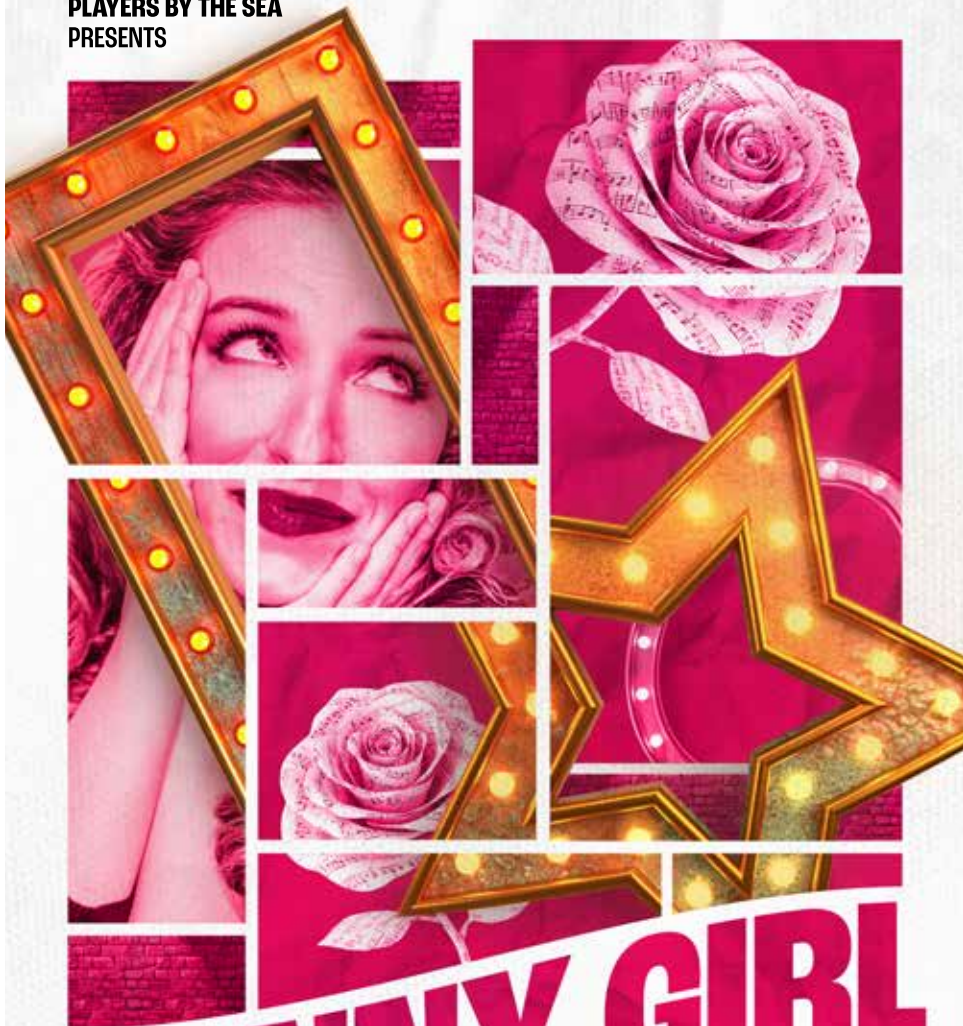


PLAYERS BY THE SEA
PRESENTS



FUNNY GIRL

MUSIC BY JULE STYNE LYRICS BY BOB MERRILL

BOOK BY ISOBEL LENNART FROM AN ORIGINAL STORY BY MISS LENNART

DIRECTED BY BRADLEY AKERS MUSIC DIRECTION BY ANTHONY FELTON

CHOREOGRAPHY BY THERESA PAZANOWSKI

SEASON 60

PLAYERS
BY THE SEA

Feb. 21 - Mar. 9, 2025



TOM NEHL
FUND

SWANK
FOUNDATION





**PLAYERS
BY THE SEA**

SEASON 60



FUNNY GIRL

FEB. 21 - MAR. 9

WAITRESS

MAY 9 - MAY 25

RIPCORD

JUNE 13 - JUNE 22

DISASTER!

JULY 11 - JULY 27

THE WHITE CHIP

SEPT. 19 - SEPT. 28

**THE
PLAY
THAT
GOES
WRONG**

**OCT. 24 -
NOV. 9**

SISTER ACT

DEC. 5 - DEC. 21

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THE CAST

FANNY BRICE.....	Julia Blasi
NICK ARNSTEIN.....	David Diehl
MRS. BRICE.....	Brenda Schoenfeld
EDDIE RYAN	Brandon Hines
MRS. STRAKOSH.....	Helena Helms
MRS. MEEKER/ENSEMBLE.....	Leanne Gullo
MRS. O'MALLEY/ENSEMBLE.....	Mya Smoak
FLORENZ ZIEGFELD.....	David Sacks
TOM KEENEY/MR. RENALDI	Christopher Watson
EMMA/ENSEMBLE	Angelee Ramos
JOHN/PAUL/ENSEMBLE.....	Ben Ebner Winkler

ENSEMBLE

Alexis Johnson, Chrystal Frost, Isabella Griffith,
Maggie Duncan, Darvin Nelson, Sam Hannigan

THE CREATIVE TEAM & CREW

DIRECTOR.....	Bradley Akers
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	Anthony Felton
CHOREOGRAPHER	Theresa Pazanowski
STAGE MANAGER	Darryl Beamon
ASST. STAGE MANAGER / PROPS DESIGNER	Heather Goliber
SCENIC DESIGNER.....	Bradley Akers
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....	Jereme Raickett
COSTUME DESIGNER.....	Tammy Lynch
MASTER ELECTRICIAN.....	Ben Sparenberg
SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST	Maya Williams
SOUND DESIGN & AUDIO ENGINEERING	GoldenStage Productions
COSTUME ASSISTANT	Brandon Hines
DECK ASSISTANT	Katarina Goliber
DANCE CAPTAIN.....	Chrystal Frost
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....	Ja'nae Frazier

SCENIC CONSTRUCTION

Special thanks to our friends at ABET: Tom Barr, Jim McGuffin & Brian Johnson

SPECIAL THANKS

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Theatre Jacksonville
Amelia Musical Playhouse
ABET

Greenlight Theatre Company
WJCT / First Coast Connect
Tom Barr
Jim McGuffin
Brian Johnson

Meganne Johnson
Maya Williams
Phedre Delinois
Gayle Featheringill

ABOUT THE COMPANY

JULIA BLASI (Fanny Brice) is overjoyed to return for her second Players by the Sea production. As a lifelong *Funny Girl* fan, she is beyond grateful for the opportunity to portray her dream role. Recent credits include Emma in *Jekyll and Hyde* (PBTS), Shelley in *Bat Boy* (ABET), Rosie in *Traces in the Wind* (Theatre Jacksonville), Cinderella in *Disenchanted* (ABET), Sara in *Murder Ballad* (ABET), and Alice Murphy in *Bright Star* (ABET). Julia dedicates this performance to the memory of her late grandfather, John Blasi, who adored Barbra Streisand and had a gift for making people laugh. She also extends heartfelt thanks to her friends, family, and her husband, Matt, for their unwavering love and support. Lastly, she would like to give special thanks to her parents, who patiently taught her the music from this show by ear before she learned to read sheet music. For more personal information, write to her mother.

DAVID DIEHL (Nick Arnstein) is thrilled to be back at Players by the Sea! Last appearing here portraying Bruce Sudano in last year's *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, he is so happy to be stepping back into this intimate theatre space. David grew up performing in his home town of Lancaster, PA before attending the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, MD. Other favorite credits include Robert Kincaid in *The Bridges of Madison County*, Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, and Dr. Henry Jekyll in *Jekyll & Hyde*. Thank you to my incredible wife, Adina.

BRENDA SCHOENFELD (Mrs. Brice) is excited to be returning to the Players by the Sea family. She was recently seen on the PBTS stage in *Caroline, or Change* (Grandma Gellman), *Ruthless* (Miss Thorn) and *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett). Other recent credits include *Cabaret* (Frau Schneider) and *The Prom* (Dee Dee Allen), both with Greenlight Theatre Company. Originally from New York, Brenda has performed in over 50 local and regional productions over the past 20 years. During the day, Brenda teaches 4th grade at New Berlin Elementary School.

BRANDON HINES (Eddie Ryan) is proud to be back at home with Players. Some of his stage credits include PBTS' *Jekyll and Hyde* (Spider/Ensemble), ABET's *Violet* (Leroy Evans), ABET's *The Robber Bridegroom* (Clement Musgrove), The 5 and Dime Theatre Company's *Company* (Harry), The 5 and Dime Theatre Company's *Assassins* (Proprietor/Balladeer), Players by the Sea's (PBTS) production of *American Idiot* (Theo), PBTS' *Memphis* (Gator), PBTS' *La Cage Aux Folles* (Hanna), PBTS' *Aida* (Ensemble), PBTS' *Little Shop of Horrors* (Urchin). Brandon would like to thank Bradley for this amazing opportunity and his

friends and family for their support.

HELENA HELMS (Mrs. Strakosh) This is Helena's fourth production at Players by the Sea. She is grateful to play busybody, Mrs. Strakosh in *Funny Girl*, opening PBTS 60th Season. Last year, she opened (*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*) and closed (*Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*) Season 59. Helena rekindled her passion for music theatre two years ago and has barely stopped to breathe. The theatre community is both welcoming and encouraging. It is never too late to do the thing you love.

LEANNE GULLO (Mrs. Meeker/Ensemble) is so excited to be back at Players by the Sea! Appearing on stages all over Jacksonville, some favorite local credits include: Eva Kavanova in *Traces in the Wind* (Theatre Jacksonville), Tammy in *Escape to Margaritaville* (ABET), Fastrada in *Pippin* (TJ), and Aunt Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach* (ABET). During the day, Leanne is the music teacher at Venetia Elementary where she was named 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year. She would like to give a huge shoutout to her husband, Mikey, for all his love and support.

MYA SMOAK (Mrs. O'Malley/Ensemble) is so excited to return to the Players by the Sea stage! Mya is a current student at UNF and has a deep love for musical theatre. She has been in many shows around Jacksonville but her favorite credits is Featured Ensemble/Understudy Gad in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Ensemble in *Jekyll and Hyde* (PBTS). Mya would like to thank her family for always being so supportive of her and what she loves.

DAVID SACKS (Florenz Ziegfeld) Credits include, at PBTS, *A Behanding in Spokane* (Carmichael); *Memphis* (ensemble); *City of Angels* (Buddy Fidler); *The Addams Family* (Lurch); and *Urinetown* (Cladwell) at The 5 & Dime. On the production side at PBTS as Asst. Dir. for *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*. David also spends time writing. Three of his plays, *Accidental Felon* (2005); *Green Room, the Musical* (2008); and *The Opposite of Normal* (2022) have been produced at PBTS. A screenplay version of *The Opposite of Normal* made it to the Quarterfinals in the Screencraft 2024 Feature Competition. Thanks to Courtney, my amazing partner in love and life.

CHRISTOPHER WATSON (Tom Keeney/Mr. Renaldi) can't sing or dance, but loves a good musical. He's honored to be included amongst all these fantastic performers who CAN sing and dance! You may have caught him a month ago as the Mad Hatter in *Alice in a Christmas*

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Wonderland or as the villain Clayton in *Tarzan*, right here at PBTS last season. Thank you so much for supporting live theatre! This is for my mom - always and forever.

ANGELEE RAMOS (Emma/Ensemble) is excited for her PBTS debut, as well as her first theatrical appearance in over 5 years. She is a Florida School of the Arts Alumni, and is excited to revisit and put her A.S. in Musical Theatre skills to use in this production. She'd love to thank her family and friends for their love and support throughout all the ups and downs.

BEN EBNER WINKLER (John/Paul/Ensemble) is a student at Douglas Anderson majoring in vocal studies. This is his first ever musical and he's excited for this amazing opportunity. He would like to thank his vocal teachers, parents, and the Players by the Sea team that gave him this chance.

ALEXIS JOHNSON (Ensemble) lives in Jacksonville, FL, by way of Tallahassee, FL, where she graduated from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, with a degree in Graphic Design and a minor in Theatre Performance. Previous credits include *Sister Act* (Deloris Van Cartier), *Hairspray* (Dynamite), Princess Tiana (Walt Disney World), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ursula), and more. She is so grateful to be making her debut at Players by the Sea, and thanks her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.

CHRYSTAL FROST (Ensemble/Dance Captain) is thrilled to make her debut with Players by the Sea! She has been teaching dance, performing, and choreographing professionally since 2016. Previous stage credits include Kristine in *A Chorus Line*, Charity in *Anything Goes*, and Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support. A special thanks to her partner, Chris, whose love and encouragement made this performance possible. Enjoy the show!

ISABELLA GRIFFITH (Ensemble) is so excited to debut at PBTS and is incredibly grateful to be here. She is currently pursuing her BFA in musical theatre at Jacksonville University. Some of her past credits include: Lizzie Thurman in *Mean Girls*, Ensemble in *Chicago*, choreographer for *Matilda*. She is also currently playing Sandra Day in *Well Behaved Women* at Jacksonville University. Isabella would like to thank PBTS for giving her this opportunity to grow as a performer. She would also like to thank her parents who have endlessly supported her throughout her performing journey!

MAGGIE DUNCAN (Ensemble) is currently a

junior in Musical Theatre at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. She is so excited to make her PBTS debut in *Funny Girl*! She was recently seen in *Spring Awakening* (Thea) and *Sound of Music* (Maria U/S). Maggie wants to thank her mom, dad, loved ones, and her two dogs, Bentley and Royce!

DARVIN NELSON (Ensemble) Jacksonville, FL native Darvin Nelson is thrilled to join *Funny Girl*, as his fourth show with Players by the Sea. He made his musical theatre debut last year in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* as one of The Drifters and performed among the ensemble in other productions. He is an actor, singer, songwriter and producer who performs in the Jacksonville open-mic circuit. Darvin has also played in various local films and festival projects, such as *Lunch Games* (2024) and *Cravenkill* (2025). Darvin is set to release his self-produced, self-recorded debut EP "The Mystic" in spring of 2025 on all platforms.

SAM HANNIGAN (Ensemble) is excited to be making her way back to the stage since 2018! As an actor, Sam has appeared in *A Chorus Line*, *Almost, Maine*, *Stepping Out*, and *Julius Caesar*. Most recently, Sam served as the Stage Manager for Players by the Sea's production of *Jekyll & Hyde*, and Production Manager for The 5 & Dime's 2023 Season—including *Let Me Down Easy*, *Clyde's*, *Tick Tick Boom*, *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*, and *Assassins*. Sam's stage management credits include *Secret Garden* (Florida Southern College), *Short Attention Span Theatre Festival*, and *Assassins* (The 5 & Dime.) Her costuming credits include *A Chorus Line*, *Memphis*, *Flashdance* (Gateway Playhouse), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Rimers of Eldritch*, *South Pacific* (Florida Southern College), *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Street Scene* (Janiec Opera Company - Brevard Music Center), and *Tick Tick Boom* (The 5 & Dime).

BRADLEY AKERS (Director) is beyond excited, both as Director of *Funny Girl* & Managing Director of this company, to welcome you to the beginning of the 60th Season! Directing credits include *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Urinetown*, *The Sound of Music*, *Assassins*, *Doubt*, *Chicago* (Applause Awards Winner for Outstanding Director along with 15 other Applause Awards), *Parade*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *The Harvest*, *Fun Home*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Heathers*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, *The Walls*, *'night*, *Mother*, *Into the Woods*, *The Last 5 Years*, *Almost, Maine*, *Godspell*, *AIDA*, *The Lyons*, and *Dog Sees God*. He'd like to thank his incredible wife (!!!), Shauna, for all the love, support, and encouragement, and for taking care of our sweet fur babies while he was at rehearsal. Much love to his tribe (DA, MA, LC, SH, BH, GB, ZR, MC, WB,

ABOUT THE COMPANY

TBus, Limit15 and all 582 members of the Akers + Bailey families.)

ANTHONY FELTON (Music Director) A native of Jacksonville Florida, pianist/vocalist Anthony Jerrod Felton is acclaimed for his performances with both Vocal and Instrumental colleagues alike throughout the east coast. Anthony Felton began his professional studies at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts under the tutelage of Russian pianist Vera Watson. Mr. Felton is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he holds both Bachelor and Master Degrees. While pursuing his master's degree under the wing and tutelage of Canadian pianist Dr. Allison Gagnon, he served as staff accompanist for the Alabama State Concerto Competition, mock audition accompanist for the Fletcher Opera Institute, and accompanist for the North Carolina district Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Anthony has had the privilege of serving as Musical Director for the Broadway Musicals throughout the years and is grateful for the path his musical career has taken him. *Fame, Annie, The Color Purple, Smokey Joe Café, Nonsense, Bye Bye Birdie, Joseph and the Amazing Techno-colored Dream Coat, Bingo, 13: The Musical, Miracle on 34th Street, Title of Show* to name a few. Recently, he was just awarded Outstanding Music Director at the 2024 Applause Awards.

THERESA PAZANOWSKI (Choreographer) has been dancing and performing since she was 4 years old. She spent several years performing professionally before moving to Jacksonville in 2019. You may recognize her from various productions in the area including *Jekyll & Hyde* at Players by the Sea, *Pippin* at Theater Jacksonville, and as Helena in *Pursued By a Bear's A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Her choreography was most recently seen in ABET's productions of *Phantom* and *Bat Boy*. She is also passionate about sharing a love of theater and dance with students, and she is currently a musical theater instructor at Don't Miss a Beat, where she directed their winter production of *Wonka Jr*. She has loved working with this talented cast and applauds them for their hard work and dedication to this spectacular show. Special thanks to Bradley for the opportunity to reconnect with her Golden Age roots, and lots of love to her favorite Matt - thank you for all the love and support!

DARRYL BEAMON (Stage Manager) is excited to return to Players by the Sea as Stage Manager. A familiar face to the PBTS family, he has performed in shows such as *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, The Addams Family, Choir Boy, Kinky Boots, and Dreamgirls*. In addition to acting, Darryl has stage-managed productions like

Sweeney Todd, Ruthless the Musical, and The Addams Family (while also performing in it). He is thrilled to collaborate with another phenomenal cast at PBTS. Darryl thanks everyone for their continued support and looks forward to sharing this incredible production with you. @djbeam88.

HEATHER GOLIBER (Asst. Stage Manager/Props Designer) has been interested in the arts since she was able to walk; her family includes musicians, painters, and sculptors. Sharing this passion by utilizing her creative abilities in numerous shows at Christ Episcopal Church, ABET, and Players by the Sea. I feel happy and grateful to be a part of *Funny Girl*. "I'm a bagel on a plate full of onion rolls." Thank you for allowing me to showcase my unique talents.



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