

Starlight

BROADWAY

CREATIVE BIOS



NIKKI SNELSON (Director & Choreographer) Nikki Snelson is thrilled to return to her home state of Missouri & the wonderful Starlight Theatre to direct & choreograph *Legally Blonde*. Ms. Snelson has been working on Broadway and beyond as an actress, creator and educator for the last 30 years. As an actress, Ms. Snelson is most recognized for her performance of Brooke Wyndham in the original Broadway and MTV cast of *LEGALLY BLONDE*. While at the Palace in LB, she was a part of the deliciously campy “Search for the New Elle Woods” on MTV. Nikki originated the role of Winnie Tate in the Broadway revival of *ANNIE GET YOUR GUN* (starring Bernadette Peters). She was also seen on Broadway in *SWEET CHARITY* (starring Christina Applegate). Nikki spent several years on National Tours as “Cassie” in *A Chorus Line* and “Susan” in *TICK, TICK, BOOM!* She also performed in the Broadway National Tours of *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*, *SHOW BOAT* and *HELLO, DOLLY* with Carol Channing. Snelson originated the role of The Mad Hatter in Frank Wildhorn’s *Wonderland*, played Velma in *CHICAGO* at Maine State Theater and Sally Bowles in *CABARET* at The Napa Valley Opera House. On the big screen, Nikki was featured in the groundbreaking documentary “Every Little Step” as well in the major motion pictures “Reefer Madness” and “Across the Universe.” On the small screen, Nikki has been seen on “Desperate Housewives” and “All My Children.” She received her training in Musical Theatre from Boston Conservatory after growing up in St Louis and making her professional debut at the St Louis Muny. Ms. Snelson has directed, choreographed, and taught ALL over the world including: Argentina, Chile, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Ireland, Scotland, Paris, London and many more. She is an artist in residence at Singapore’s famed theater school, Lasalle College of the Arts. Her directing credits include: *MAMMA MIA*, *HOLIDAY INN*, *ALL SHOOK UP*, *WORLD GOES ROUND*, *GYPSY*, *WEDDING SINGER*, *PAJAMA GAME*, *CABARET*, *CHICAGO*, *JOSEPH* and *A CHORUS LINE*. Nikki has choreographed for Elton John’s Life Ball in Vienna, The Young and the Restless, The Miss America Pageant and the “The Funny Dance Show” on E! Ms. Snelson is the voice and CGI likeness of “Annie” in RockStar Games’

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MIDNIGHT CLUB-LOS ANGELES. Nikki is so grateful to her gorgeous cast and crew, Rich Baker, Anthony Edwards, Caroline Gibel, Kent Andel and her incredible associate Elle-May Patterson. WHAT A JOURNEY! And much love always to the OG *Legally Blonde* team... Jerry, Nell, Larry and Heather for this beautiful show. Nikki resides in Orange County, California, with her husband and 5 year old son. "Much LOVE to my incredible family for making all of this possible." Nikki is the CEO of Musical Theatre Mayhem, a triple threat workshop experience featuring Broadway's biggest stars! www.MusicalTheatreMayhem.com

ANTHONY T. EDWARDS (Music Director/Conductor/Contractor) Starlight Theatre: *Godspell, The Wizard of Oz, The Music Man, Anything Goes, Cinderella, Xanadu, The Producers, Aida, Footloose, The Sound of Music, Mary Poppins, Grease, Hairspray*. Local: Resident Musical Director for Starlight Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Coterie Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Eventology and All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. Additional Local: New Theatre, Quality Hill Playhouse, Theatre in the Park, Late Night Theatre, Musical Theatre Heritage. Regional: Denver Center for the Performing Arts (Denver, CO) Red Barn Theatre (Key West, FL), The American Theatre (Rockford, IL) Waterfront Playhouse (Key West, FL). New York: New Victory Theatre. Mr. Edwards is an Endorsed Kurzweil Artist, and is Adjunct Faculty for UMKC. He happily serves on the Board of Directors as Secretary for The AIDS Service Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

SEAN GLASS (Lighting Designer) is excited to have the opportunity to create live theater in this wonderful hometown treasure we call Starlight! He is no stranger to Starlight however, in addition to designing *Godspell* in 2021 he has designed or assisted on every Starlight produced production for over a decade. Sean has collaborated with other local theaters and organizations including: The New Theatre & Restaurant, Storling Dance Theater, Unicorn Theatre, and soon Music Theater Heritage, among others. He has also designed comedy specials, concerts, and other live events all over the country. Thank you for supporting live theater!

KC COSTUME was established in the 1920's to serve the needs of local and regional theatre companies. Today the company works with arts organizations and theatres from New York to San Francisco, Seattle to Toronto. Its nationally recognized designers and craftsmen remain dedicated to excellence and quality. www.kccostume.com

SAM LEVEY (Sound Designer) Sam Levey is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Illinois College. He has mixed on shows such as the *Wizard of Oz*, and *Godspell* at the Starlight Theatre; *Mamma Mia, Freaky Friday* and *Newsies* with the Lyric Theatre of *Oklahoma*; *Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan, A Year with Frog and Toad, The Light Princess, Pinocchio*, and *Mr. Popper's Penguins* at South Coast Repertory Theatre; Festival of the Lion King, The Hoop Dee Doo Revue, and Mickey's Backyard BBQ at Walt Disney World; at *The Wiz, Guys and Dolls, Spamalot*, and *Singin' in the Rain* at Beverly Hills High School. Miscellaneous other gigs include mixing front-of-house for the jazz summer concert series at the LA County Museum of Art, lighting programmer for KCRW events at the Moss Theatre in Santa Monica, and pyrotechnician at the Hollywood Bowl. He teaches courses in Microeconomics, Money and Banking, and Macroeconomics, focusing on Modern Monetary Theory (MMT).

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ELLE MAY PATTERSON (Asst. Choreographer) Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, Elle has been dancing since the age of 4. Having worked professionally throughout Australia, Asia, Europe and the U.S., Elle is so excited and grateful to be making the transition from performer to creative team. Most recently, Elle choreographed *Evita* at The Rev Theatre Co in New York. She was also the Dance Captain of the first Broadway National Tour of *The Spongebob Musical*. Other credits include, *Mamma Mia!*, *A Chorus Line*, *Catch Me If You Can*, MTV Video Music Awards, and more! Endless gratitude to Nikki for her trust, support and thoughtful guidance.

MARY R. HONOUR (Production Stage Manager) is pleased to return to Starlight for her 12th production, having previously stage managed *Godspell*, *Hairspray*, *Mary Poppins*, and *The Sound of Music*, and served as ASM on *Xanadu*, *The Producers*, *Music Man*, *Grease*, *Hello Dolly*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Footloose*. Mary is a KC local who has worked many seasons at KC Rep, and regionally at La Jolla Playhouse, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Arizona Theatre Company, and Light Opera Works. Mary is happy to be making theatre magic again under the stars at Starlight!

MICHELLE GUTIERREZ MARTINA (First Assistant Stage Manager) Michelle is a proud KC native recently moved back from Detroit. AEA and working Starlight over 10 years. Starlight credits: PSM-*Grease*, *Flat Stanley*, 1st ASM-*AIDA*, *Wizard of Oz*, 2nd ASM-*Miss Saigon* (MSUA tour), *Footloose*, *The Sound of Music*. Thanks to Kent and the Starlight family for having me back! All my love to Dave, my kiddos and family. May God grant you all a beautiful night under and amongst the stars.

SADIE DESANTIS (Asst. Choreographer) Ms. DeSantis currently serves as the Assistant Professor of Stage and Production Management and Production Manager at Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, SC. She is also a freelance stage manager and has production experience in concerts, ballet, opera, musical theatre, outdoor production, and corporate galas. After attending the University of Pittsburgh–Johnstown where she obtained a BA in Theatre Arts, she earned her MFA in Theatre Design and Technology (Stage Management) from the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she went on to run a thriving MFA Stage Management program for 7 years. She has worked for numerous companies including Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Coterie Theatre, Starlight Theatre, Des Moines Metro Opera and many others. She is a member of the Stage Managers Association where she is the Regional Representative for the Carolinas. A Proud Member of Actor's Equity Association. #chantsup!

STARLIGHT (Producer) Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community engagement programming, including classes, scholarships, and one of the largest high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats. Follow Starlight on social media @kcstarlight and visit kcstarlight.com for more information.

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