

FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE

2014-2015 SEASON



ARTSTAGE STUDIO THEATRE • FORT MYERS RIVER DISTRICT
ROBERT CACIOPPA, FOUNDER & PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PRESENTS

FASCINATING GERSHWIN



MUSIC & LYRICS BY **GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN**

CONCEIVED, WRITTEN, & DIRECTED BY **ROBERT CACIOPPA**

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS BY **VICTORIA CASELLA** • ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY BY **ARTHUR D'ALESSIO**

SPONSORED BY **FINEMARK NATIONAL BANK & TRUST** and **THE GALLOWAY FAMILY OF DEALERSHIPS**

STARRING

**SCOTT GUTHRIE* • ARLO HILL* • MICHAEL McASSEY*
JULIA OSBORNE* • DANIELLE ERIN RHODES***

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
VICTORIA CASELLA*

CHOREOGRAPHER
ARTHUR D'ALESSIO*

ASST. DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER
MICHAEL MAROTTA*

SET DESIGNER
BRUCE R. BAILEY
ensemble member

LIGHTING DESIGNER
RICHARD CROWELL
ensemble member

COSTUME DESIGNER
ASHLI M. ARNOLD

SOUND DESIGNER
JOHN KISELICA

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
AMY L. MASSARI*
ensemble member

ASST. STAGE MANAGER
JOSHUA BROWN

2014-15 GRAND SEASON SPONSORS



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This entire season sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Florida Repertory Theatre is a fully professional non-profit LOA/LORT Theatre company on contract with the Actors' Equity Association that proudly employs members of the national theatrical labor unions. *Member of Actors' Equity Association. **Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

CAST

SCOTT GUTHRIE**
ARLO HILL*
JULIA OSBORNE*
DANIELLE ERIN RHODES*

AT THE PIANO: **MICHAEL McASSEY****

TIME & PLACE
New York City. 1937.

FASCINATIN' GERSHWIN will be performed without an intermission.

Understudies: Courtney Feiman, Britt Michael Gordon, and Kayla Tomas

***Dance Captain**

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

ABOUT THE GERSHWINS

GEORGE GERSHWIN, as a boy, could play popular and classical works on his brother Ira's piano by ear. In 1913 he quit school to study music and began composing for Tin Pan Alley; by 1919 he had his first hit "Swanee" and his first Broadway show *La, La, Lucille*. In less than three weeks in 1924 he composed "Rhapsody in Blue." "Concerto in F" followed the next year, and his musical success *Oh, Kay!* (Which included "Someone to Watch Over Me") the year after that. Success continued: *Funny Face*, *Girl Crazy*, *Of Thee I Sing* (the first musical to win the Pulitzer Prize), and the first true American opera: *Porgy and Bess*. He moved to Hollywood where his songs were performed by Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Over the years, Gershwin songs have also been used in numerous films, including *Shall We Dance*, *A Damsel in Distress*, and *An American in Paris*. Later years produced the award-winning "new" stage musicals *My One and Only* and *Crazy for You*, which ran for four years on Broadway.

IRA GERSHWIN, the first lyricist to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize for *Of Thee I Sing* in 1932, began his career as a contributor to newspaper columns, and also worked for a touring carnival. His other Broadway stage scores include *Lady Be Good*, *Tell Me More*, *Tip-Toes*, *Oh, Kay*, *Funny Face*, *Rosalie*, *Treasure Girl*, *Show Girl*, *Girl Crazy*, *Ziegfeld Follies of 1936*, *Lady in the Dark*, and *Park Avenue*. Some popular-song compositions include "Fascinating Rhythm", "That Certain Feeling", "Maybe", "Someone to Watch Over Me", "Strike Up the Band", "Let's Kiss and Make Up", "Funny Face", "The One I'm Looking For", "I've Got a Crush on You", "Soon", "Embraceable You", "I Got Rhythm", "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off", "Shall We Dance", "Nice Work if You Can Get It", "One Life to Live" and many more. For his film achievements, Ira Gershwin was nominated three times for an Academy Award: for the songs "They Can't Take That Away From Me", "Long Ago (and Far Away)", and "The Man That Got Away."

†Member of Florida Repertory Theatre's *Ensemble of Theatre Artists*.
See page 23 for the entire ensemble.



The Actors & Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



FASCINATIN'
GERSHWIN

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I have always believed that at the end of a musical revue that chooses to honor a specific writer, you, the audience, should leave the theatre knowing that composer at evening's end. For composers express what they know through the music they write. It has been said again and again that George Gershwin WAS his music; that anyone who knows George's music knows George and anyone who knew George knew his music. The energy, pep, vitality, and humor were all natural expressions of the man.

George's shy brother Ira (the lyricist of the team) was by nature an introvert. He adored George and would often be seen at parties in the background, watching his exuberant extroverted brother. In a way, Ira lived through his brother. He expressed George's joys and sorrows through his lyrics. Ira even named characters and titles of their shows after loves of George (i.e., the Broadway show *OH KAY!* was named after lyricist Kay Swift who was one of George's longtime lovers.)

All the words and music in this revue have been written by George and Ira Gershwin unless otherwise noted. Specific songs like 'I Can't Get Started' and 'The Man That Got Away', which George did not compose (Vernon Duke and Harold Arlen, respectively), were added because I felt it expressed a longing and a sadness that was indicative of the last years of George's all too short life.

George Gershwin is without a doubt my favorite of all American composers. The journey of the show you see tonight started as a labor of love almost 35 years ago in a little local church in Queens, NY which housed my first theatre company. Since that time, it has gone through more than a dozen incarnations; many different productions in New York City nightclubs; The Bar Harbor Music Festival in Maine; a single performance to over 5,000 people at the Garden State Arts Center; two different tours of New York City parks; a 1988 production on Sanibel and Captiva; a two-act, seven-person version at Florida Rep's inaugural season in 1999, and the following year a three-month run at Florida Stage in West Palm Beach.

My favorite quote about theatre is by the famous director, Alan Schnieder, who said, "Plays are never finished, they are only abandoned." While I keep abandoning this revue, I keep being drawn back to it, each time making new discoveries into the life of George Gershwin.

Although the title page states *conceived, written, and directed by Robert Cacioppo*, this truly understates the input and collaboration of literally hundreds of artists who have ably assisted over the years. Most notably I am honored to have the three major collaborators with me (yet again) in this production. Choreographer, Artie D'Alessio, Musical Director/Arranger Victoria Casella, and Actor, Michael Marotta (now as Asst. Director/Choreographer), were there with me 30 years ago and have been involved in almost all of the other productions, so needless to say I am thrilled to have them once again at my side. Their contributions have been invaluable, their artistry and personality are stamped into almost every element of this production.

I could write reams of words about what I've learned about George and how I feel about him, but for now we'll let these 30+ songs speak for themselves. Enjoy the Party!

"The song may have ended, but the melody lingers on..."

—Robert Cacioppo,
Director/Founder & Producing Artistic Director

FASCINATING
GERSHWIN

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture.....	Michael
Fascinatin' Rhythm.....	The Company
I Got Rhythm.....	The Company
'S Wonderful.....	The Company
Swanee (<i>Lyrics by Irving Caesar</i>).....	Arlo, Michael, Scott
Somebody Loves Me.....	Julia
Oh, Lady Be Good.....	Arlo, Michael, Scott
Isn't It a Pity.....	Scott
Let's Call the Whole Thing Off.....	Arlo, Danielle
Delishious.....	Michael
The Man I Love.....	Danielle
Of Thee I Sing.....	Michael, Company
Love is Sweeping the Country.....	The Company
Strike Up the Band.....	The Company
It Ain't Necessarily So.....	The Company
There's a Boat that's Leavin' Soon for New York.....	The Company
Summertime (<i>Lyrics by Dabose Heyward</i>).....	Danielle, Company
Tchaikowsky (<i>Lyrics by Kurt Weill</i>).....	Arlo, Michael, Scott
They Can't Take That Away from Me.....	Arlo, Danielle,
Someone to Watch Over Me.....	Julia
Soon.....	Scott
But Not for Me (Refrain).....	Julia
I've Got a Crush on You.....	Scott
How Long Has This Been Going On?.....	Julia
Embraceable You.....	Julia, Scott
The Man that Got Away (<i>Music by Harold Arlen</i>).....	Danielle
Shall We Dance.....	The Company
I Can't Get Started (<i>Music by Vernon Duke</i>).....	Michael
Sweet and Low-Down.....	The Company
Clap Yo' Hands.....	The Company
Kickin' the Clouds Away.....	The Company
I'll Build a Staircase to Paradise.....	The Company
He Loves and She Loves.....	The Company
Our Love is Here to Stay.....	Michael, Company

CREATIVE TEAM



SCOTT GUTHRIE* is excited to brave the winter in Fort Myers with *Fascinatin' Gershwin!* Local audiences may have seen him in the regional premiere of *Next To Normal* as Dr. Fine/Dr.

Madden at Florida Studio Theatre. Recent credits include John Jasper in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Paul Berthalet in *Carnival*, Kyle, the UPS guy in *Legally Blonde*, Caleb in *The Spitfire Grill*, and Enjolras in *Les Miserables*. Scott says, "Thanks go to the Florida Rep team for bringing me onboard, Craig and everyone at Avalon Artists for being my champions, all my teachers and coaches for keeping me at my best, family and friends for supporting me at my worst, and Lindsie and Mavis for loving me through everything else." Proud member of AEA.



ARLO HILL* is delighted to make his Florida Rep debut. A 2014 winner of the Lotte Lenya competition, Arlo is a member of the cast of *The Phantom of the Opera* in New York, where he has

also appeared at City Center (Encores!: *The Most Happy Fella*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Where's Charley?*, *Little Me*), Avery Fisher Hall (Live from Lincoln Center: *Carousel*), Carnegie Hall (New York Pops: *Home for the Holidays*), and in his solo show at 54 Below (*I've Been in Love Before: The Songs and Stories of Frank Loesser*). Off Broadway, he joins the cast of *Jacques Brel Returns*. Spring 2015 will bring Arlo's solo debut at the Metropolitan Room. Harvard '08.

www.arlohill.com



MICHAEL McASSEY* made his Broadway debut in the ill-fated musical *Late Night Comic*. In New York he's worked On and Off-Broadway and at Lincoln Center. He recently starred as

Max Bialystock in *The Producers* at Arizona Broadway Theatre (Phoenix), in Sondheim's *Putting it Together* (Mac-Haydn Theatre, NY) and as Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray* (Surflight Theatre, NJ). Touring companies include *A Chorus Line*, *I Love My Wife*, and *Godspell*. In Chicago, Michael starred in the hit comedy *Shear*

Madness, co-starred as Banjo in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (with Andre de Shields), and as Proclo in Terrence McNally's *The Ritz*. Soap fans may remember Michael as blind pianist/singer George Baldwin on CBS-TV's *Guiding Light*. He appeared in concert with Barbara Cook and Patti LuPone in Paris, toured with Ms. LuPone in her nightclub act, *The Argentina Turner Revue*, and has been a featured performer at New York's 54 Below in their tribute evenings to Stephen Sondheim and Stephen Schwartz. An accomplished conductor and musical director as well, Michael divides his time between onstage and off including conducting the Broadway National Tours of *Avenue Q* and *Titanic: The Musical*. Proud member of Actor's Equity since 1977 and SAG/AFTRA since 1981.

www.michaelmcassey.com



JULIA OSBORNE* is delighted to make her Florida Rep debut with *Fascinatin' Gershwin!* She last performed in Fort Myers with Lincoln Center Theater's First National Tour of Rodgers

and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. Other notable credits include – Off Broadway: *The Blue Flower* (Second Stage), *Soul Doctor* (NY Theatre Workshop); Regional: *My Fair Lady* (Triad Stage), *A Little Night Music* (Baltimore Centerstage), *Meet Me In St. Louis*, *Pirates!*, *The Baker's Wife* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *Something's Afoot*, *Half A Sixpence* (Goodspeed Opera House), *Crazy For You*, *Rags*, *Evita* (Fulton Theatre); TV: *Boardwalk Empire*. Julia has also performed with The Walt Disney Co. and is an honors graduate of Penn State University (BFA, Musical Theatre). She sends love and thanks to her amazing family.

www.juliaosborne.me



DANIELLE ERIN RHODES* is excited to be making her Florida Rep debut by sharing the beautiful music of Gershwin with you. Her favorite credits include: *Side By Side*

By Sondheim (The Shadowland Theatre), *Les Miserables* (Fantine, Arkansas Rep), *Pal Joey* (Gladys, Arkansas Rep), *A Child's Christmas In Wales* (Irish Rep, NY), *The Buddy Holly Story* (Vi Petty, Ogunquit Playhouse), *Grease* (Rizzo, European Tour), and *The Marvelous Wonderettes*

CREATIVE TEAM

(Suzy, Maine State Music Theatre). Danielle is involved in Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and has been a featured soloist and tap dancer in *Broadway Backwards*. Other causes: Fighting Breast Cancer, Alzheimer's/Dementia, and saving the elephants.

ASHLI M. ARNOLD (Costume Designer) is pleased to be supporting the Florida Rep team as a guest costume designer for the second time. In the 2014 season she designed *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Ashli attended Appalachian State University in Boone, NC where she received a degree in Theatre Design and Technology. She continues her eight year tenure as the Resident Costume Designer at Flat Rock Playhouse, The State Theatre of North Carolina. Some of her numerous and recent favorite designs at Flat Rock Playhouse include *Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Your Show of Shows*, *Noises Off!*, *Hank William's Lost Highway*, *The Little Prince*, *Peter Pan*, *School House Rock*, and *A Christmas Story*. Ashli has also worked for New Stage Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre, South Carolina Children's Theatre, Blowing Rock Stage Company, The Opera Company of NC, Brevard Music Center, and Sapsis Rigging.

BRUCE R. BAILEY[†] (Set Designer) recently designed the sets for this season's *Tribes* and last season's *A Grand Night for Singing* and *My Three Angels*. Other designs at Florida Rep include *Greetings*, *Almost Maine*, *Alone Together*, and *A Christmas Survival Guide*. Bruce designed twenty-three shows for The Pirate Playhouse under the Cacioppo regime and has designed for The Academy Theatre, The Bijou Theatre, South Carolina Children's Theatre, and Flat Rock Playhouse where he served as Technical Director for a great many years. He has recently joined Florida Rep's staff as Production Manager and is grateful to be working in the energized atmosphere here that helps make theatre rewarding and successful. His greatest credits remain his beautiful, yet slightly disturbed daughters, Sydney, Katie, and Molly.

JOSHUA BROWN (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Stage Management Intern at Florida Rep this season. He recently graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts in Theatre Technology and Design. While there, he worked on shows such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Plain and Fancy*, and *A Midsummer Night's*

Dream. Over the summer he worked at a summer stock theatre in Ohio known as Porthouse Theatre where he helped with shows such as *My Fair Lady*, *Starmites*, and *Oliver!* He is originally from Ohio and is having a wonderful time working for Florida Rep!

VICTORIA CASELLA* (Musical Director) is an actress, singer, pianist, and musical director. Recent credits include: Off Broadway: Bessie in *Invention of the Living Room* at Metropolitan Playhouse. Regional: Marie U/S in *The Most Happy Fella* at Goodspeed Opera House. Musical Direction at Theater Barn (summer stock): *The Taffetas*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Altar Boyz*, *The Full Monty*. Florida Stage: *Fascinatin' Gershwin*. Garage Theatre: World Premiere *Meester America*. Bergen County Players (NJ): *Urinetown*, *Anything Goes*, and *the World Goes Round*. Past seasons: Leading roles with Artpark, Lake George Opera, Virginia Opera; Soloist with Pittsburgh, Portland and Jacksonville Symphonies, National Chorale (Lincoln Center). National and international commercials (jingles) for Amex, IBM, Dannon Yogurt. Victoria and her husband Clif perform their cabaret show: *Vicki and Clif/Act II* throughout the tri-state area and Southwest Florida. vickiandclif.com

RICHARD CROWELL[†] (Lighting Designer) has been designing scenery and lighting for the stage in various parts of the country for over thirty years. He is delighted to be considered a long-time member of Florida Rep's "Ensemble of Theatre Artists" designing in the Arcade since the inaugural season. *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Tally's Folly*, *Red*, *The Rainmaker*, and *The Last Romance* are among the over twenty-five designs that have been produced at Florida Rep. Richard received his MFA from the stage design training program at Meadows School of the Arts, Southern Methodist University, and his BFA from Memphis State University.

ARTHUR D'ALESSIO* (Choreographer) is thrilled to be a part of this exciting production. He has worked as a dancer, actor, and choreographer in the theatre for the past 35 years. Mr. D'Alessio has done numerous productions at Florida Repertory Theatre (*Company*, *Dream*, *Fascinatin' Gershwin*, *I Love You, You're Perfect... Now Change*, *Red*, *White and Berlin*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*) and at The Old Schoolhouse Theatre on Sanibel Island

CREATIVE TEAM

(*Take Me To Broadway*, *Godspell*, and *The Richard Rodgers Songbook*). Also on Sanibel: *The Pirate Playhouse* (*Two By Two* and *Cole!*). On the east coast Mr. D'Alessio choreographed *Fascinatin' Gershwin* for Florida Stage in Manalapan. Other regional and New York credits include: *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Grease*, *Anything Goes*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Cabaret*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Funny Girl*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Annie*, *Peter Pan*, *Guys And Dolls*...just to name a few!

JOHN KISELICA (Sound Designer) is a graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Lighting and Sound Design. He recently worked on the national tour, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Musical* as the Master Electrician after a contract with Royal Caribbean International as a Stage Technician. Commercial theatrical work includes installing Prodigy Hoists, an automated rigging system from Electronic Theatre Controls. John spends his summers in Lynchburg, VA as the resident Sound & Lighting Designer with Endstation Theatre Company. He is extremely excited to be here at Florida Rep for his first season.

AMY L. MASSARI (Production Stage Manager) is pleased to be returning for her sixth season as a Florida Rep ensemble member and resident stage manager. Amy has been a proud member of Actor's Equity Association for the past 25 years, working in some of the country's finest regional theatres: the Alley Theatre (Houston, TX), the Dallas Theatre Center (Dallas, TX), Stage-West (Springfield, MA), the Pioneer Memorial (Salt Lake City, UT), and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (Boulder, CO). Among her favorite Florida Rep productions are *Social Security*, *The Fantasticks*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *August: Osage County*, *Sylvia*, and *God of Carnage*. Amy has been happily married to her husband of 17 years, Michael. Michael is a terrific partner and father to their children Jesse Cheyenne and Caleb Dakota.

MICHAEL MAROTTA* (Assistant Director/Choreographer) joins us from the two time Tony-Award winning Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park after an 8 week sellout engagement of *Tenderly - The Rosemary Clooney Musical*, where he played everyone who wasn't Rosemary! A member of the original cast of *Fascinatin' Gershwin*, and several incarnations that followed, he's delighted to return to Florida Rep where he staged last season's hit, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing* and last appeared in the

2013 production of *The Fantasticks*. He recently directed *The Game's Afoot* (Gulfshore Playhouse, Naples) and created the role of Walter Winchell in *Mr. Confidential* (Signature Theater, NYC). Michael served as Artistic Director for The Theatre Barn in the Berkshires for 7 seasons, directing over 25 plays, musicals, and musical reviews, was Assistant Director on *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil - The Concert* at The Kennedy Center (starring Margaret Whiting), and launched several cabaret shows in NYC. He has twice been the recipient of both the BACKSTAGE Bistro Award and the MAC Award for his work as a cabaret artist.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American Actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

The director is a member of the **Stage Directors and Choreographers Society**, a national theatrical labor union.



Florida Professional Theatres Association (FPTA) is a statewide organization of professional theatre companies and theatre professionals interested in the development and promotion of professional theatre throughout Florida. Florida Repertory Theatre is a proud FPTA member theatre.



The National New Play Network is the country's alliance of nonprofit theaters that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays. The NNPN strives to pioneer, implement, and disseminate ideas and programs that revolutionize the way theaters collaborate to support new plays and playwrights. Florida Repertory Theatre is proud to be an Associate Member of the National New Play Network.



Florida Repertory Theatre is a member of **Theatre Communications Group (TCG)**, the national organization for the American Theatre.

FASCINATIN'
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