

SMALL
MOUTH
SOUNDS



MOUTH



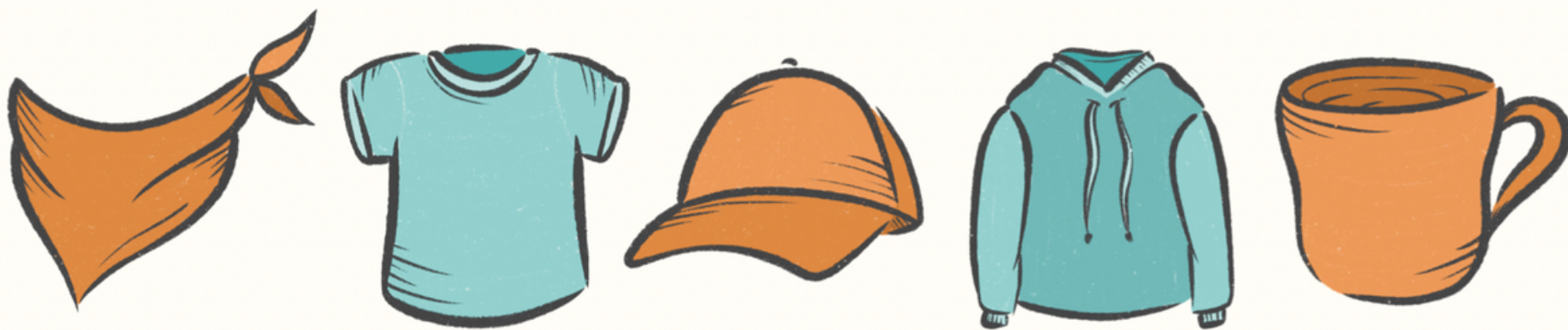
SOUNDS



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WELCOME, FRIENDS!

Thank you for attending Southern Plains Productions' inaugural show, Small Mouth Sounds.

Five short months ago I launched this nonprofit company with a vision for offering affordable and accessible art in Oklahoma City. My mission to provide accessible art unfolded during my time at Interlochen Arts Academy. It was my high-school teacher, Gulshirin Dubash, who first introduced me to the idea of accessibility in the arts. "If theatre is truly the most influential art form," she said, "then how do we ensure that all persons are able to experience its powerful ability to change the human heart?" This concept was reinforced to me throughout my time at Interlochen and it continues to inspire me, and drive me, both as an actor and artistic director.

As part of our passion for accessibility in the performing arts, Southern Plains Productions is proud to champion collegiate and early career artists. We hope to bring both memorable and fresh talent to Oklahoma City each summer. This year, it has been exciting to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing cast, crew, director, and creative team.

The setting for Small Mouth Sounds is a silent retreat, which is both a barrier to communication, but also an opportunity for the characters to explore what it means to interact. They are like students at a middle-school dance. No one really knows what to say or how to act. But as tonight's show reminds us, humans are social creatures, wired to communicate with one another. Nothing can stop this. Not a silent retreat. Not a global medical emergency. Not our own worries or wants.

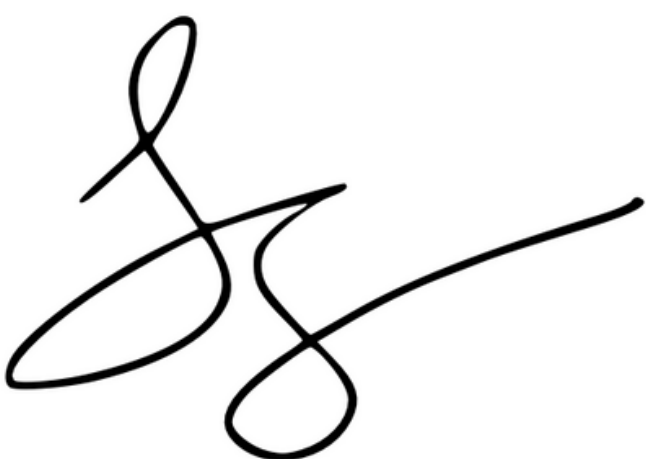
This performance would not be possible without the support of my family and friends, our board of directors, donors, sponsors, and patrons like you. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Please stay tuned for announcements about our Summer '22 season. In the meantime, please visit our website at southernplainsproductions.org to learn more about our company and our vision for accessibility in the performing arts.

Enjoy Small Mouth Sounds!

JACKSON GIFFORD

Founder & Artistic Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JG', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

SAFTEY STATEMENT

Southern Plains Productions is committed to the safety and well-being of our cast, crew, and the Oklahoma City community. To that end, our cast and crew have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 per CDC guidelines. While our actors will be unmasked during the show, they will maintain a safe distance from the audience. Thank you for your support.

STELLA NOVA

CAFE KACAO

COCINA LATINA

EST. 2011

SOUTHERN PLAINS PRODUCTIONS

JACKSON GIFFORD, FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PRESENTS



SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS

by: Bess Wohl

LIGHTING DESIGNER

COSTUME/PROPS DESIGNER

SOUND DESIGNER

FABIAN J. GARCIA

EATON P. YORK

MATTHEW SYKES

SOUND ENGINEER

LIGHTING ENGINEER

NOAH VOTH

SKYLAR SELBY

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

AUDREY MANTIA

DIRECTED BY

JACOB MUSGROVE

THIS PRODUCTION IS UNDER LICENSE FROM DRAMATIST PLAY SERVICE.

THE CAST

TEACHER.....KANDY OTCHERE-BOAKYE
RODNEY.....DREW BOS
JOAN.....MACKENZIE HOLLEY
JAN.....ARMAN HAKIMATTAR
JUDY.....GIANNA HOFFMAN
ALICIA.....MIA KENDELL
NED.....BEN MILLSPAUGH
SWING.....LATIFAT SULAIMON
SWING.....TREVYN WONG

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MEMBER.....MELISSA KENDELL
MEMBER.....SYDNEY LAHODNY

ARTISTIC STAFF

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CHEIF OPERATIONS OFFICER.....ELLEN GIFFORD
MARKETING.....JOHN GIFFORD
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER.....KAELA ADAMS
RESIDENT GRAPHIC ARTIST.....JILLIAN MICHELLE SMITH

THE CAST



KANDY OTCHERE-BOAKYE



DREW BOS



MACKENZIE HOLLEY



ARMAN HAKIMATTAR



GIANNA HOFFMAN



MIA KENDELL



BEN MILLSPAUGH



LATIFAT SULAIMON



TREVYN WONG

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

KANDY OTCHERE-BOAKYE: (Westerville, Ohio) is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at Otterbein University. Recent credits include Paulina Sarpong in *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* and Violet in *9 to 5* (Troupe 513). This is Kandy's Oklahoma theatre debut!

DREW BOS: (Ypsilanti, Michigan) is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at Carnegie Mellon University. Recent show credits include Jude in *Growth* (Pittsburg City Theatre) and Andrew in *Cupboards* (Phoenix Theatre Productions). He has won awards such as the Thomas Auclair Award for Acting, Carnegie Mellon University (2020), YoungArts winner in theatre (2018), and Best Actor, Mid-Michigan Theatre Arts Festival (2018). This is Drew's Oklahoma theatre debut!

MACKENZIE HOLLEY: (West Bloomfield, Michigan) is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at the University of Michigan. Mackenzie is a recent graduate of the Theatre Arts program at Interlochen Arts Academy. Recent credits include: *Everybody* in *Everybody* (Interlochen Arts Academy), Vul in *Margaret Thatcher and the Authorities* (Parallel 45 Theatre), and the News Anchor in *Romeo & Juliet* and Claire in *Calumet* (University of Michigan). She was a 2020 YoungArts winner for theatre. This is Mackenzie's Oklahoma theatre debut!

ARMAN HAKIMATTAR: (Calgary, Alberta) is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at the University of North Carolina School of The Arts. Recent credits include George Gibbs in *Our Town* (University of Western Ontario), George Balfour in *Posh*, and Arjun in *A Little Big Thing* (Black Swan Theatre Company). This is Arman's Oklahoma theatre debut!

GIANNA HOFFMAN: (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at The University of North Carolina School of The Arts. Recent credits include: Danni in *Boys in Girls Pants* (Classen Theatre), Amanda in *You Can't Judge a Book By Its Cover* (Stella Adler), Margaret in *Hazards of Love* By The Decemberists (Lyric Thelma Gaylord Academy), and Kate in Classen Theatre's production of *Kiss Me Kate*!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

MIA KENDELL: (Cadillac, Michigan) is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at DePaul University. Recent credits include Violet in Violet (Interlochen Arts Academy), Asha in Blood At The Root, and Yolande in The Lark (Interlochen Arts Academy). Mia was a 2020 YoungArts winner. This is Mia's Oklahoma theatre debut

BEN MILLSPAUGH: (Portland, Maine) is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at The University of North Carolina School of The Arts. Recent credits include Man in Chair in The Drowsy Chaperone, Orlando in As You Like It, and direction of a production of Saint Joan. This is Ben's Oklahoma theatre debut!

LATIFAT SULAIMON: (Columbus, Ohio) studies psychology and dance at Ohio State University. Credits include Ama in School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play, Akela in Jungle Book, and Mrs. Holly, Dr. Waller, and Nurse in Distracted (Troupe 513). Recent Awards: Gifted in Visual and Performing Arts Drama. "Even though I can't major in Acting at a Dream School, I'm still thankful for the opportunity to perform, especially during a time like this," Latifat says. "Thank you to all family and friends who continue to support me." This is Latifat's Oklahoma theatre debut!

TREVYN WONG: (Central Coast, California) is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting at The University of North Carolina School of The Arts. Recent credits include: Ensemble in The Music Man (Interlochen Arts Camp) and Reverend Hale in The Crucible (Hanford High School). This is Trevyn's Oklahoma theatre debut!

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

JACOB MUSGROVE: (Director) is a junior directing student in the John Wells Directing Program at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. In his time there he has directed or assistant directed several new works as well as classic American theatre repertoire. Favorites include Ez-Fix, Memory Habit, and Or,. As an Oklahoma native, Jacob began his theatre career as a young performer at The Sooner Theatre of Norman, where he performed in more than twenty youth productions as well as several community theatre productions. His favorites include, Oklahoma!, Into the Woods, and The Little Shop of Horrors. After graduation, Jacob plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Entertainment Industry Management at the Heinz College of Carnegie Mellon University. He is excited to direct Small Mouth Sounds in Southern Plains Productions' inaugural season.

AUDREY MANTIA: (Production Stage Manager) is a local stage and production manager from the OKC area and is excited to be a part the development of Southern Plains Productions. Some of her most recent credits include the resident Stage and Production Manager for the new work Bad in Bed Live! in both the premiere and regional tour; Assistant Stage Manager for Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma's Hello Dolly!, Freaky Friday, Mamma Mia!, and A Christmas Carol; Assistant Stage Manager for Oklahoma City Ballet's touring production of The Nutcracker, and Production Stage Manager for Lyric Theatre's Thelma Gaylord Academy throughout the past 6 years. Audrey has a bachelors degree in Theatre Design and Production from Oklahoma City University with an emphasis in Stage and Production Management as well as Prop Design and Fabrication. The list of people she would like to thank is too long, but rest assure it's written somewhere in a thank you note thats been thrown in someone's junk drawer.

EATON PATTEN YORK: (Costume & Props Designer) is a graduate of Ball State University's BFA Musical Theatre program and currently lives in New York City. A Norman native, Eaton grew up performing at Lyric Theatre and The Sooner Theatre, among others and costumed numerous shows at Sooner. Some of his favorites include Oklahoma, Legally Blonde the Musical, Into the Woods, and The Music Man. Eaton is excited to join the Small Mouth Sounds team and looks forward to seeing where Southern Plains goes from here.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

MATTHEW SYKES: (Sound Designer) is a local sound designer and audio engineer from Oklahoma. He has worked for a myriad of venues across Oklahoma including Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Painted Sky Opera, Tulsa Project Theatre, as well as other freelance projects. He would like to thank Audrey, Noah, and Cam for continuing to encourage and push him to always be the best version of himself. The five thousand cats he lives with are pretty great too but he could always use more.

FABIAN J. GARCIA: (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer from Texas who currently resides in the OKC area. He is the Resident Lighting Designer for Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma and Lyric Theatre's Thelma Gaylord Academy. Credits Include; Lyrics A Christmas Carol, Lyric Kids' Clubhouse, Lyric's Moonlight Cabaret, Having Our Say, The Cat In The Hat, The Rocky Horror Show, Frost/Nixon, Curious George: The Golden Meatball. Thelma Gaylord Academy: Mary Poppins, Marvel One Acts, Honk Jr., Urinetown: The Musical, The Music Man, The Realm, Rokademy Experiment. He is also the Resident Lighting Designer for OKC Philharmonic POPS Series. Credits Include; Ragtime & All That Jazz, A Classic Christmas, The Magic of John Williams, Megan Hilty Live!, E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in Concert, The Sound of Simon and Garfunkel, The Hot Sardines, Revolution: The Beatles Symphonic Experience. He has guest designed for Oklahoma State University's production of She Loves Me. Fabian is excited to be a part of the Southern Plains Productions family and looks forward to working with everyone in the future.

NOAH VOTH: (Sound Engineer) is a local audio technician and stagehand. He is a part of the IATSE stage hand union with Local 112 and has worked with several Oklahoma art organizations including Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Ballet, and Painted Sky Opera. He would like to thank his parents for being the best people ever and his friends Audrey, Sykes, and Leo for being overall cool dudes. He would also like to thank his niece and nephews Muffin, Iris, Jerry, and Buckets.

ARTISTIC STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

JACKSON GIFFORD: (Founder & Artistic Director) is a graduate of the Theatre Arts program at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre with a minor in Dance at Otterbein University. Jackson has performed at The MUNY, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, The Southeastern Summer Theatre, and Parallel 45 Theatre. In 2016 he participated in Broadway Workshops' production of "Spamalot" in New York City. He has performed at the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta, Georgia as part of a cast that was awarded Best Choreography and Best Ensemble. A native Oklahoman, Jackson attended Classen School of Advanced Studies as a drama major. In 2017 he produced and directed "State of the Performing Art," a fundraising showcase for art students in Oklahoma. He also directed and choreographed Interlochen's annual "Miscast" event.

ELLEN GIFFORD: (Chief Operating Officer) Her passion for theatre and her love for the artistic director makes her the perfect fit to assist with all things operations. In her "day job" Ellen serves as Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Ascension, a Catholic Health Ministry serving 22 states. Prior to joining Ascension in 2016, Ellen held HR leadership roles in multiple industries, including healthcare, insurance, staffing and hospitality. Ellen earned an MBA degree from Oklahoma Christian University and is a certified Lean Leader, SHRM Certified - Professional and a Results Based Leadership Institute graduate. She is thrilled to bring a new theatre company to Oklahoma City and is excited for everyone to see our first show!

ARTISTIC STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN GIFFORD (Marketing) is the author of *Red Dirt Country* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2019), a collection of essays on nature and the environment, and *Pecan America* (University Press of Kansas, 2019), a volume of immersion reporting on our nation's pecan industry and culture, among other books. His work has appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Southwest Review*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Gastronomica*, the *Atlantic*, *Modern Farmer*, *Eating Well*, *Catamaran Literary Reader*, and *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, and has been cited in *The Best American Essays* and *The Best American Sports Writing*. John is also a travel and documentary photographer whose work focuses on rural life, the environment, and humanity's relationship with the natural world. He serves on the board of directors for WildCare, an organization dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife. johngifford.net

KAELA ADAMS (Social Media) is a 2019 graduate of Yukon High School where she sang in the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Colla Voce, and performed in theatre. Now a sophomore at Millikin University, she is majoring in Vocal Music Education with certificates in jazz studies and composition. She is the current President of the a cappella group Blue Harmony, Vice President of AFAMM, and director and intern for MRI where she leads the music program for adults with disabilities. Kaela is also a music intern for Central Christian Church and serves as social media manager for Blubop and Blue Harmony. She is involved in Millikin University choir, Blubop, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Alpha Iota, MRI, Big Blue Sound, Millikin Livestream Crew, AFAMM, and NAFME.

DONORS

Southern Plains Productions wishes to thank its generous donors. This list is complete as of May 19, 2021. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact John Gifford: john@southernplainsproductions.org.

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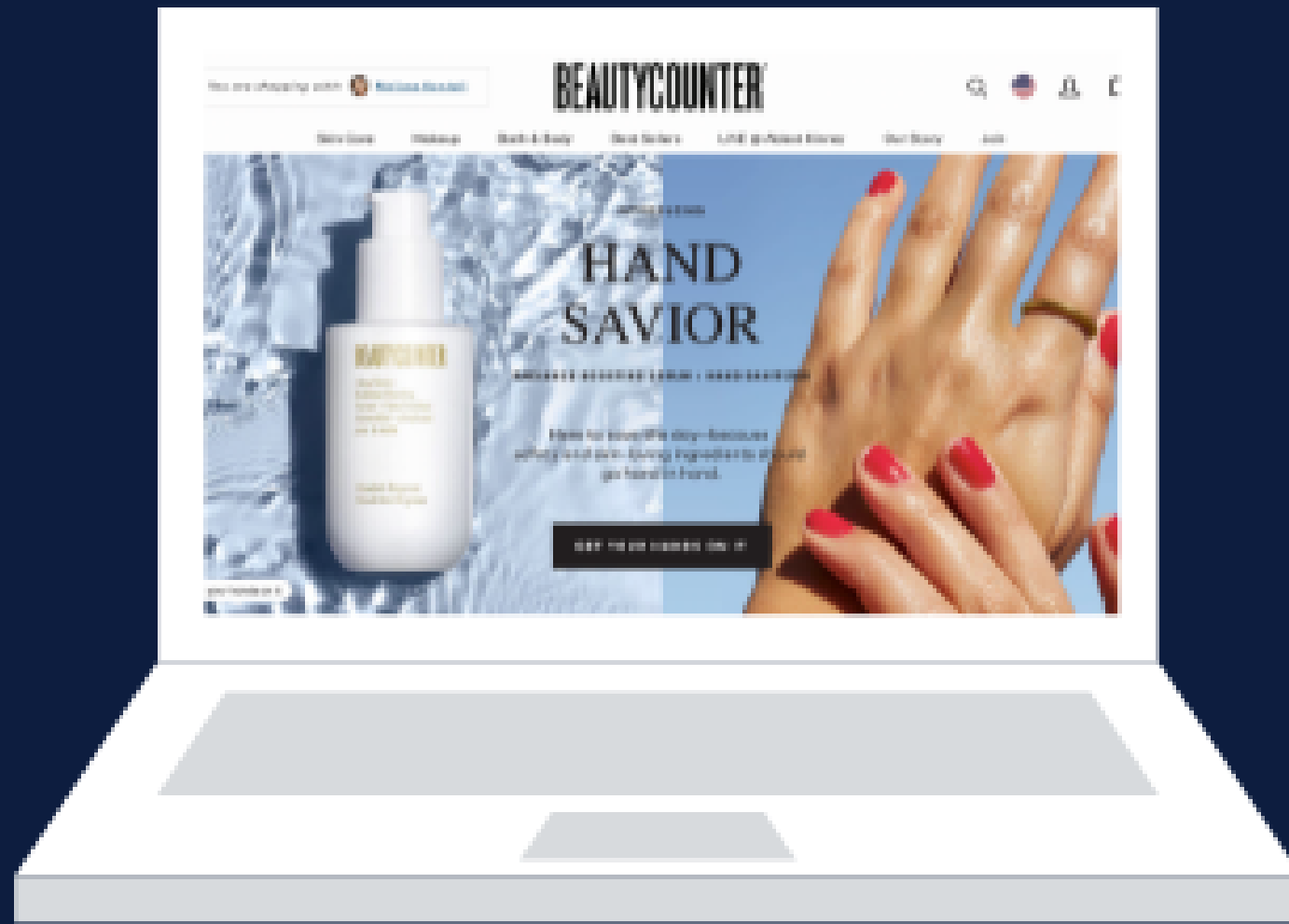
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