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Gateway Playhouse
Presents
Avenue Q

Music and Lyrics By
Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx

Book By
Jeff Whitty

Based on an Original Concept by
Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx

Puppets Conceived and Designed by
Rick Lyon

Gwen Hollander
Carrie Cimma

Howie Michael Smith
Chris Cooke

Michael Edward Baker, Carla Hargrove, EJ Zimmerman
Lisa Mindelle, Zach Trimmer

Producer
PAUL ALLAN

Associate Producer
JEFF BELLANTE

Artistic Director
GALE EDWARDS

General Manager
MICHAE AL BAKER

Company Manager
MARIANNE DOMINY

Wardrobe Supervisor
SHANE BOURJEOUS

Sound Design
Costume Design
VANESSA PYNN

Set Design
BRITTANY LOESCH

Production Manager
BRIAN LOESCH

Lighting Design
BRIAN LOESCH

Musical Direction by
Justin S. Fischer

Production Stage Manager
Jovon E. Shuck

Directed and Choreographed by
Keith Andrews

AVENUE Q is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI).
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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

Princeton ................................................................. HOWIE MICHAEL SMITH*
Brian ................................................................. MICHAEL EDWARD BAKER*
Kate Monster ....................................................... GWEN HOLLANDER*
Rod ................................................................. HOWIE MICHAEL SMITH*
Nicky ............................................................... CHRIS COOKE*
Christmas Eve ...................................................... EJ ZIMMERMAN*
Gary Coleman ....................................................... CARLA HARGROVE*
Trekkie Monster ................................................... CHRIS COOKE*
Mrs. T ................................................................. CARRIE CIMMA*
Lucy The Slut ....................................................... GWEN HOLLANDER*
Ensemble/Female Characters Understudy ...................... LISA MINDELLE
Ensemble/Male Characters Understudy ......................... ZACH TRIMMER

MUSICIANS

Conductor/Keyboard I .............................................. JUSTIN S. FISCHER
Keyboard II .......................................................... CHAD STEARNS
Reeds ................................................................ MIKE KENDROT
Guitars ................................................................ RAY SABATELLO
Bass ...................................................................... CATHERINE O’MALLEY
Percussion ............................................................. JOSH ENDLICH

The Musicians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians.

*Actors employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Director/Choreographer is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

WARNING — The photographing or sound recording of any performance is strictly prohibited. Gateway Playhouse offers a wireless sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired. Inquire at the box office for more information.

FIRE NOTICE — The exit indicated by a red light and sign nearest to the seat you occupy, is the shortest route to the outside. In the event of fire or other emergency, please do NOT run. WALK to that Exit. However, under normal circumstances, when leaving the Theatre, use the center rear exits. SMOKING is prohibited in the BUILDING, as required by the Suffolk County NO SMOKING Ordinance. Smoking in any area designated “No Smoking” renders the offenders subject to a fine, or imprisonment, or both.
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Scene 1: Various Locales / On the Avenue
“The Avenue Q Theme”................................................................. Company
“What Do You Do With A B.A. In English”.................................................... Princeton
“It Sucks To Be Me”.............................................................................. Company

Scene 2: Nicky and Rod’s Apartment
“If You Were Gay”........................................................................... Nicky & Rod

Scene 3: Princeton’s Apartment
“Purpose”.................................................................................................. Princeton & Company

Scene 4: On The Avenue
“Everyone’s A Little Bit Racist”......................................................... Princeton, Kate, Gary, Brian, Christmas Eve

Scene 5: Kate’s Apartment
“The Internet Is For Porn”................................................................. Kate, Trekkie, Brian, Gary, Rod, Princeton

Scene 6: On the Avenue

Scene 7: Kate’s Apartment
“A Mix Tape”........................................................................................ Princeton & Kate

Scene 8: Around the Clock Cafe
“I'm Not Wearing Underwear Today”.................................................... Brian
“Special”................................................................................................ Lucy

Scene 9: Kate’s Apartment / Street
“You Can Be As Loud As The Hell You Want”
(When You’re Making Love)............................................................... Gary, Princeton, Kate, Bears, Brian, Christmas Eve

Scene 10: Nicky and Rod’s Apartment
“Fantasies Come True”....................................................................... Rod, Princeton, Kate

Scene 11: Kate’s Apartment

Scene 12: The Wedding
“My Girlfriend Who Lives In Canada”.................................................... Rod
“There's A Fine, Fine Line”................................................................... Kate

ACT II

Scene 1: Princeton’s Apartment
“Entr'acte”.............................................................................................. Princeton
“There is Life Outside Your Apartment”.................................................. Company

Scene 2: On the Avenue
“The More You Ruv Someone”............................................................ Christmas Eve & Kate

Scene 3: Kate’s Apartment

Scene 4: Princeton’s Apartment

Scene 5: The Avenue
“Schadenfreude”................................................................................... Gary & Nicky

Scene 6: Empire State Building / Street Corner

Scene 7: The Hospital

Scene 8: On the Avenue

Scene 9: Empire State Building / A Corner / The Hospital
“I Wish I Could Be Back In College”...................................................... Princeton, Kate, Nicky

Scene 10: The Avenue
“The Money Song”.................................................................................. Company

Scene 11: On the Avenue
“There's A Fine, Fine Line” (Reprise)....................................................... Princeton & Kate

“B.A. In English” (Reprise).................................................................. New Corner
“For Now”................................................................................................ Company
“Bows”.................................................................................................. Company
MICHAEL EDWARD BAKER (Brian) is excited to be returning to the Gateway Stage after appearing in the Holiday Spectacular on Ice last December. Since the age of five Michael had a dream of being a guest on the “Muppet Show” or “Sesame Street” and now he gets his chance! Most recently, Michael performed in APAC’s Ragtime in Astoria, Queens and has performed in several shows at Gateway over the past seven years making New York his home after college. Favorite credits include: Miss Saigon, Jekyll and Hyde, Scarlet Pimpernel and The Wedding Singer. When not on the Gateway Stage or Company Managing, or teaching at the Gateway Acting School, Michael has been seen touring in shows throughout the country and in New York City. He misses his mother back at home on Bainbridge Island, Washington, and sends his love and thanks to her and his brothers, with special thanks to his Gateway family. He holds a B.F.A. in Acting from CW Post/LIU. For Dad.

CARRIE CIMMA (Mrs. T/Bear) was recently nominated for a Drama Desk Award (Best Featured Actress in a Musical, 2010) for her portrayal of Bridget Sullivan in Lizzie Borden. Other credits include Frank Wildhorn’s new musical “Wonderland” and the most recent reading of Pure Country. National tours include Sweeney Todd (Mrs. Lovett), The Wedding Singer (Angie/Large Lady), Oliver and The Full Monty (Georgie u/s). Regionally, she has been seen as Mickey in Cowgirls, Rizzo in Grease, Fraulein Kost in Cabaret, Doatsey Mae in Best Little Whorehouse... and Mrs. Walker in Tommy. Also a choreographer, her work on The Vortex Theatre Company’s H.M.S. Pinafore helped garner a Drama Desk nomination in 2007 for Best Revival of a Musical.

CHRIS COOKE (Nicky, Trekkie Monster, Bear & others) was last seen in Happy Days performing the role of Ralph Malph at Gateway Playhouse. National Tour: Henry & Mudge (Dad). Regional: Happy Days (Ralph Malph), Little Shop of Horrors (Dentist), Joseph... Dreamcoat (Simeon), High Society (Mike Conner), The Last 5 Years (Jamie), Carousel (Mr. Snow), Tick Tick Boom (Michael). He is also a graduate from Pace University with a BFA in Musical Theater. Thanks to Keith and Rick, it’s been an amazing process! Much love to his wife Kelsey, who’s home watching their dog Millie. www.ChrisCookeOnline.com
CARLA J. HARGROVE (Gary Coleman) is pleased to be making her first appearance at Gateway Playhouse. She was Peaches in Broadway’s closing cast of Hairspray and made her Broadway debut as Ronnette in Little Shop Of Horrors. She toured nationally with Jason Robert Brown’s Parade. Her regional credits include Dinah Was, Once On This Island, Breath Boom, Thunder Knocking On The Door and most recently Soul Doctor. Thanks to God and Grace.

Gwen Hollander (Kate/Lucy the Slut) Gwen is so happy to return to Gateway! Some favorite credits include: Broadway Tour of Little Women (Amy, Carbonell Award), National Tour of 101 Dalmatians (Perdita), Les Miserables (Eponine, Carbonell Award), Urinetown (Hope), Great American Trailer Park Musical (Picles), Beauty and the Beast (Belle), and the premiere of See Rock City and Other Destinations.

LISA MINDELLE (Ensemble) is excited to be at The Gateway Playhouse! New York credits: The Hud, sucker Proxy (Manhattan Theatre Club), Taxi Cabaret (Prospect Theatre Company at the York Theatre), Iron Curtain (NAMT 2009). Regional: Urinetown (Hope), Bat Boy: The Musical (Meredith), Little Women (Meg), Rogtime (Mother). Lisa is the recipient of the 2009 Laurie Beechman Award for Vocal Excellence. Thanks to family, friends and About Artists! BFA Musical Theatre, CCM 2009.

HOWIE MICHAEL SMITH (Princeton/Rod) is delighted to be here at Gateway and freakin thrilled to be playing with Princeton and Rod again! Howie played Princeton/Rod over 1000 times in the Broadway production of Avenue Q. Regional: A Christmas Carol (Ford’s Theatre), 1776, Carousel! (Marriott Theatre), As You Like It (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), The Tempest (Dallas Shakespeare), Tribute to Sondheim with George Hearst (Pittsburgh Pops), Bill Nelson’s All Male Revue (Barrington), Beethoven Lives Upstairs (Tour), Singin’ in the Rain, Brigadoon, Oliver, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. TV: Puppet Planet for the Travel Channel. Howie holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University. www.howiemichaelsmith.com

ZACH TRIMMER (Ensemble/Puppet Captain) A California native, Zach is so grateful to be making his Gateway Playhouse debut in Avenue Q National Tours: Avenue Q, Hairspray. Other favorite credits include: Thoroughly Modern Millie (Jimmy Smith), Beauty and the Beast (Lumiere), Fiddler on the Roof (Motel), and My Way (Man #2). He would like to thank the Gateway family for this opportunity, as well as his friends and family for their undying love and support.

EJ ZIMMERMAN (Christmas Eve) is thrilled to make her Gateway Playhouse debut and to be back on Avenue Q after understudying on the First National Tour. Most recently, EJ has played Kim in Miss Saigon at various regional theatres, including the Arvada Center (Henry Award), Actors’ Playhouse, and Arizona Broadway Theatre. Other favorites: Jane Eyre, My New York, Closer Than Ever, Sophisticated Ladies, and Typed. EJ holds degrees in both Theatre Performance and English Literature from the University of Maryland, and she is a proud AEA member. “Thank you family, friends, KTA, and especially Josh for all your support and RUV!” www.ejzimmerman.com

KEITH ANDREWS (Director/Choreographer) is very excited to take a stroll down Avenue Q and to be back at Gateway after previously directing and choreographing the Playhouse’s productions of The Full Monty, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (starring Joe Piscopo), The Wedding Singer, My Way (the Sinatra Tribute), Cold as Ice, Urinetown, and 2009’s Holiday Spectacular on Ice, as well as Happy Days, the Musical earlier this season. He has also directed the National Tours of The Full Monty and Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh. Other recent directing/choreography credits include: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Always... Patsy Cline, Dames at Sea, Breaking Up is Hard to Do, Barrum, Pump Boys and Dinette, Little Shop of Horrors, The Pirates of Penzance, Big River, Forever Plaid and Suds, to name just a few. As a choreographer, Keith has recently worked on the world premiere of Love, Incorporated...

Who’s Who
and has received an Innovative Theater Award for Best Production of a Musical and nomination for Best Choreography for his work on the new show—

Like You Like It. On the ice, Keith has directed and choreographed Home for the Holidays—a Celebration on Ice, starring 2010 Olympic Gold Medalist—Evan Lysacek, and Silver Medalists—Charlie White and Meryl Davis, as well as two productions of Stars, Stripes and Skates, a benefit on ice to help survivors and families of 9/11. As a performer, Keith has toured all over the world with shows such as: West Side Story, Mame, Jesus Christ Superstar and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. In educational theater, Keith directs and choreographs student industry showcases at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC as well as having directed many musicals at the US DAN Center for the Performing Arts, here on Long Island. Keith thanks Robin, Paul and Ruth for pretty much everything and Rick Lyon for imparting his invaluable puppet wisdom upon the company. KeithAndrewsonline.com.

JUSTIN S. FISCHER (Musical Director) Justin is excited to live on Avenue Q after music directing Gateway’s productions of I Love a Piano and Altar Boyz. Most recently, He recently played on the 2009-10 National Tour of HairSpray, after serving as the Assistant Music Director for the 2009 National Tour of I Love a Piano. He was also AMD for Trip of Love, a new dance musical, which had its international premiere in Osaka, Japan in April 2008. As a composer/lyricist, his most recent work includes an adaptation of Pinocchio for the Random Farms Kids Theater (Elmsford, NY), and the original musical The Princess of Riverside Drive for the Vital Theatre Company (New York, NY). In addition, Justin has received musical theatre commissions from the Erie Playhouse (Erie, PA), and the Seagle Music Colony (Schroon Lake, NY), and choral commissions from organizations across the country. Love to John.

RICK LYON (Puppet Conceiver & Designer, Puppetry Consultant) Rick Lyon is Avenue Q’s real triple threat: he designed all of the original puppets, Rick and his company The Lyon Puppets built all of the puppets, and Rick created the roles of Nicky/ Trekkie/Blue Bear in the original Tony-winning Broadway production! A puppeteer and designer with more than 25 years of professional experience in television, film, and theatre, Rick is proud to have supplied the puppets for the productions of Avenue Q played in London, Las Vegas, and the First American National Tour, as well as Australia, Brazil, Mexico, and Switzerland — and Gateway! Rick also frequently coaches puppetry for Avenue Q, which he did for Gateway’s production. Rick gratefully acknowledges the inspiration and encouragement of the late Jim Henson. Husband to Tonya Dixon, and first-time father to beautiful daughter Kennedy! Web site: www.lyonpuppets.com.

JOVON E. SHUCK (Stage Manager) returns to Gateway after a two and a half year touring adventure with the cast and crew of Monty Python’s Spamalot. Other favorite credits include: Noises Off, and The Graduate (Broadway), The Irish Curse (Off Broadway), Saint Heaven (SCA Rich Forum), The Seagull (NYSF/Public Theatre), six Christmases with The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, four summers right here at Gateway Playhouse, and six wonderful years with Sheila Marie.

BRIAN LOESCH (Lighting Designer/Production Manager) is proud to be part of the Gateway family for his thirteenth straight season. Gateway Playhouse lighting design credits include: Sophisticated Ladies, Forbidden Broadway (2008), A Christmas Carol, The Full Monty, A Holiday Spectacular On Ice (2004 + 2009), South Pacific, Footloose, Jesus Christ Superstar, Kiss Me Kate, Holiday Hop (1999), Urinetown, Mooseltoe, Cabaret and numerous children’s theatre productions including Peter Pan (2004) and Jungle Book (2005). Brian graduated with a Degree in Technical Theatre from Suffolk County Community College. Other design credits include Language of Angels (Henry Street Experimental Theatre, NYC), Paraffin Touch (World Premiere at Suffolk County Community College), The Man Who Would Be King (World Premiere at the Antrim Playhouse), and Kiss Me Kate (Cape Fear Regional Theatre). National Tour credits include the George M! (2003 Candlewood Int./Mainstage Productions), Titanic (2004 Candlewood Int.), A Holiday

BRITTANY LOESCH (Scenic Designer) graduated with a BFA in Theater from Pace University in New York City. Previous designs include Violet, Kiss of The Spider Woman, A Perfect Ganesh, and Iboga at Pace University, Language of Angels at the Abrons Art Center and Quiet Cry (Passajj Productions) on Theater Row. Previous Gateway credits include Sophisticated Ladies and The Drowsy Chaperone as well as this year’s I Love a Piano for both set and projection design. Her 10 year journey from Intern to Scenic Designer has brought her all over the country touring with Rent and Mooseltoe, as well as designing various children’s theater productions. She is so grateful to have come so far and to be designing for the theater that raised her from a quiet intern to the professional she is today, but would also like to know how to get to Sesame Street.

ROBIN JOY ALLAN (Artistic Director) Not knowing what would sound interesting enough for a read, Robin would just like to give credit to the creative spirits and “way-showers” in her life who inspired her, taught her, supported her, lived a great example for her, and lit the journey as she sang, danced, played, taught, directed, cast and twirled herself through her varied life in the arts. Jane Jenkins, Denise Chamian, Michael Cutler, Jessica (O’S) Kelly, Bob Durkin, Chuck Carter, David and Joan Sheldon, Sally and Les Harris, Ruth and Stan Allan, Harry and Libby Pomeran and her brother, Paul Allan with whom she works daily to run the family business known as The Gateway. From her hands on theatrical experience on stage and off to her behind the scenes work in Film and TV as a Casting Director on both coasts, Robin has been fortunate to work with actors, directors, writers, and producers from today’s celebrities to tomorrow’s future stars. In her life bio she includes 16 years performing, 25 years casting and 30 years teaching, much of that overlaps, from her teens, on. The films “When Harry Met Sally,” “Lord Of The Flies,” “Parenthood,” and “Ghost” are on her casting resume as well as one-hundred
Who's Who

and thirty-six Main Stage productions for Gateway. She feels blessed and hopes to continue to give back to the universe as much as she has been given. Robin lives in Brookhaven Hamlet with her amazing daughter Hayley and constant companions Lucy Dog, Mops and Momma Kitty.

PAUL ALLAN (Producer) has been producing the seasons here at Gateway since the 1980’s. It’s hard to believe the number of shows, performers, staff, technicians, etc. he has come in contact with over the years, and the number of personal and professional friendships that developed and remain strong today. Paul’s grandfather (Harry Pomeran) was the first producer of Gateway in 1950, followed by his uncle (David Sheldon), his parents (Ruth and Stan Allan), and together with his sister Robin. Gateway has always been a family business, and each era has brought significant challenges particularly in the 80’s and 90’s when shows became more complicated and technically challenging. Additionally, the grounds changed, the buildings were modernized, and the facilities updated. In the most recent decade, the caliber of the artistic staff, performers, musicians, and technicians has risen to a level equaling and sometimes surpassing many Broadway shows. It has been difficult to find time to do other projects outside of Gateway seasons, but over the years Paul has been able to work in NYC on various shows in different capacities, run a touring company with shows traveling around the country and abroad, operate a sister theatre in Connecticut, act as consultant and facilitator for the restoration and reopening of the Patchogue Theatre, and maintain a set rental business - where Gateway scenery is used in theatres across the country after appearing on the Gateway stage. Paul appreciates, admires and honors his family’s dedication to the arts and is proud to help continue the legacy. Paul lives in Bellport with his wife Annmarie and their 2 children - Luke 5 and Alexa 3.

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Musical Director ...................................................... Justin Fischer
Puppetry Consultant ................................................ Rick Lyon
Puppets built by ..................................................... Rick Lyon and the Lyon Puppets
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