

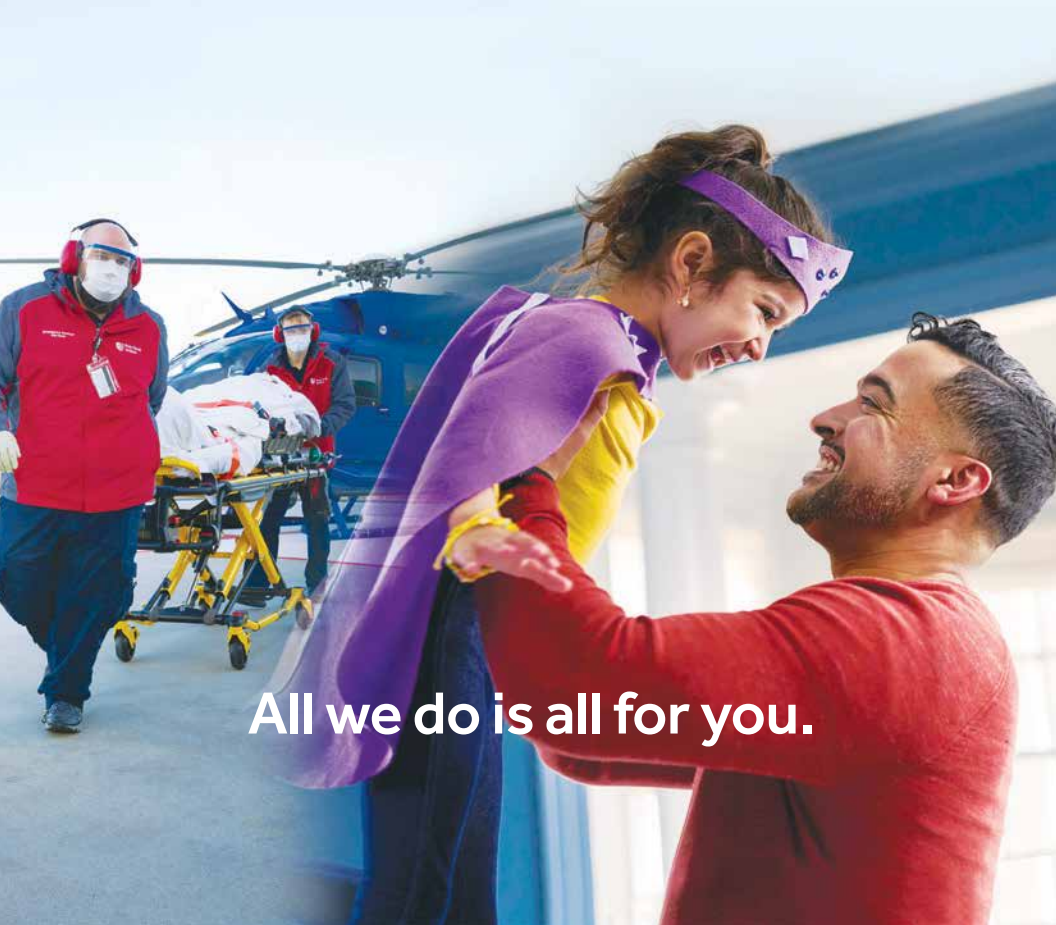


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Choreographer, Assistant Director

KYLI RAE

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JENNY LAROCHE

Summer: The Donna Summer Musical is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC. (www.broadwaylicensing.com)

Original Broadway Production produced by Tommy Mottola and the Dodgers The world premiere of "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical" was produced by La Jolla Playhouse, in La Jolla, California, Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director and Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director

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CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Diva Donna/Mary Gaines	RENEE MARIE TITUS*
Disco Donna	AFRA HINES*
Duckling Donna/Mimi	GRACE CAPELESS*
Giorgio Moroder	JADE MILAM
Detective/Pete Bellotte/Don Engel	HALEY HANNAH*
Neil Bogart/Sommelier/Gunther	JOHN ROCHETTE*
Joyce Bogart	JESSICA LORION*
Brian/Helmuth Sommer	DAN TEIXEIRA
Andrew Gaines/Doctor	CHRISTIAN BRAILSFORD*
Young Mary Ellen/Brooklyn	DE'JA-SIMONE CRUMPTON*
Young Dara/Amanda	VICTORIA PRICE*
Pastor/David Geffen	ANTHONY J. GARCÍA
Bob/Michael/Maid	MELISSA MATTOS
Bruce Sudano	CARMINE MASTROKOSTAS
Curator	MAGGIE BERGMAN
Bruce Sudano	CARMINE MASTROKOSTAS
Norman Brokaw/Adult Mary Ellen	NIA SIMONE SMITH
Adult Dara	GIGI LEWIS
Swings	NICHOLE FORDE, MICHAEL MARRERO

Dance Captain	NICHOLE FORDE
Fight Captain	MICHAEL MARRERO
Production Stage Manager	CASSIEL FAWCETT*
Assistant Stage Managers	TAYLOR DENNING, BRE O'BRIEN*

UNDERSTUDIES

Diva Donna/Mary Gaines	NIA SIMONE SMITH
Disco Donna/Duckling Donna	DE'JA-SIMONE CRUMPTON*
Neil Bogart/Sommelier/Gunther	MICHAEL MARRERO
Joyce Bogart	HALEY HANNAH*
Andrew Gaines	ANTHONY J. GARCÍA
Pete/Detective/Don Engel	MICHAEL MARRERO
Mary Ellen/Brooklyn/Dara/Amanda	NICHOLE FORDE

ORCHESTRA

Music Director/Keys I	ANTHONY BRINDISI
Keys II	MATTHEW DEMARIA
Keys III	MATT CASTELLO
Guitar	JOE LOSCHIAVO
Drums	JOE NOVELLO



*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.



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

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Pandora's Box

On the Radio
I Love You
Bad Girls
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Unconditional Love
To Turn the Stone
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Hot Stuff
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WHO'S WHO



MAGGIE BERGMAN (*Curator*) is so excited to be back at the Gateway to spread some disco fever! Cassie in the recent international tour of *A Chorus Line*. Selected regional: *The Ordway (Beauty and the Beast)*,

North Shore MT (*Cinderella*), City Springs Theatre (*A Chorus Line*), The Gateway (*Newsies*). Proud Boston Conservatory alum. Endless gratitude to Jenny, Kyli, Paul, the entire Gateway team, and my fabulous agent Mikey! Love always to my family and friends. @maggie.bergman



CHRISTIAN BRAILSFORD (*Andrew Gaines*) Broadway National Tour: *Pretty Woman* (David Morse, Happy Man u/s). Off-Broadway: *Oratorio for Living Things*, *Cleopatra*, *Songs of a Serpent*. International: Scar in Hong

Kong Disney's *The Lion King*. He thanks his family and friends for their unwavering love and support. @christianbrailsford



GRACE CAPELESS (*Duckling Donna/Mim*) Excited to be making her Gateway Playhouse Debut! Broadway: *The Lion King* (Young Nala), *Matilda* (Lavender), *A Christmas Story* - OBC (Little Nancy),

Radio City Christmas Spectacular (Kayla), *Godspell* Cast of 2032 (Young Celisse). Film/TV: *Lost Girls* (Netflix), *Beaches* (Lifetime), *Landing Up* (Apple TV/Amazon Prime), *Frozen Fever* (Disney+), *67th Annual Tony Awards* (CBS), *Thanksgiving Day Parade* (CBS). Currently receiving a BFA for musical theater at Univ.Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music. Love and thanks to my family, CESD, and Mara Entertainment. Socials: @gracecapeless.



DE'JA-SIMONE CRUMPTON (*Mary Ellen/Brooklyn Sudano, u/s Disco Donna, Duckling Donna*) Is elated to return to the disco! After graduating from Florida State University with a BFA in Musical Theater, she toured

with the First National Tour of *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* and the First National Tour of The Lincoln Center Theater production of *Lerner and Loewe's My Fair Lady*! Regional credits include *In the Heights*, *Aida*, *Hairspray* and many more. Much gratitude and love to The Crumpton's, Gateway Playhouse and TPG! IG: @dejacrumpton



NICHOLE FORDE (*Associate Choreographer, Dance Captain, Swing*) is a Brooklyn native who is returning to the Gateway stage after having recently appeared in *Evita*. Her recent career highlight would be

performing in the inaugural cast of *Donna: The Donna Summer Musical* on the Norwegian PRIMA Cruise Line. Other works include: The New York Knicks (7th Avenue Dance Squad); *In The Heights* (Regional); *Cabaret* (Regional); *Anne of Green Gables* (Off-Broadway). Nichole hopes to touch, move, and inspire those in attendance. @theenikkiforde



ANTHONY J. GARCÍA (*Pastor, David Geffen, u/s Andrew Gaines*) is a proud alumnus of the B.F.A Musical Theater program at Ithaca College. He is excited to be reprising his role as Pastor at the Gateway Playhouse

after being a part of NCL's inaugural cast of *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*! University credits include *RENT*, *PIPPIN*, *HEDDA GABLER*, *RAGTIME* and *THE WILD PARTY*. Anthony has performed at the White House on two separate occasions, the Final State Dinner and the National Youth awards with Rosie's Theater Kids. He would like to thank his family, mentors, friends and above all else god. Joshua 1:9



HALEY HANNAH (*Detective, Pete Bellotte, Don Engel, u/s Joyce Bogart*) is super hyped to be back at Gateway! Broadway: *Bring It On* (u/s Campbell/Eva). National Tours: *Beetlejuice* (Vacation Swing), *A Bronx*

Tale (ADC, u/s Rosina), *Flashdance* (u/s Alex), *Bring It On* (u/s Campbell/Eva). Selected Regional: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Lyric Opera Chicago), *Saturday Night Fever* (Annette) (Ogunquit/Gateway/Coastal Carolina), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Fulton), *A Christmas Story* (Fulton), *Cutman: a boxing musical* (Goodspeed). TV: back-up singer Demi Lovato/Jonas Brothers (ABC), dancer Akon/Lonely Island (Comedy Central). BFA University of Michigan @haleyhannah25, www.haleyhannah.com. Love to Joey and Luna.

Continued on page 24

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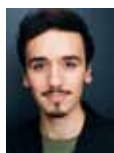
AFRA HINES (*Disco Donna*) is thrilled to be making her Gateway Playhouse debut and to reprise her role as Disco Donna after understudying Ariana DeBose in the 2018 Broadway production. Some recent Broadway credits include; *Bob Fosse's Dancin*, *Funny Girl* (Emma u/s), *Hadestown* (Persephone u/s), *Shuffle Along* (Jazz Jasmine). TV credits include "Annie Live!" (NBC), "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" (Amazon Prime), "Fosse/Verdon" (FX) and "Boardwalk Empire" (HBO). Additionally, Afra was an original member of the Angelica Tour of *Hamilton*, playing San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego, and was a Radio City Rockette for 7 years. This performance is dedicated to Bradford, Loretta, and Mary Anne for their endless support and love. www.AfraHines.com



GIGI LEWIS (*Adult Dara*) recently made her theatrical debut as Pearl the Dynamite in *Hairspray* aboard Royal Caribbean. She is thrilled to finally embark on her professional career here at The Gateway Playhouse. With her roots in Houston, Gigi is no stranger to the stage. She captivated audiences in one of Houston's most prominent revue shows, *Dancin' in the Street... Motown & More*, where she portrayed icons Tina Turner and Whitney Houston. Gigi's talent has taken her to over 35 countries, performing as a featured headline singer for the Royal Caribbean fleet. She is deeply honored to be part of this production *Summer* and feels immensely blessed to share this experience with everyone.



JESSICA LORION (*Joyce Bogart, Ensemble*) is thrilled to kick off this summer at Gateway and dance at the Disco! Previously performed at Maine State Music Theatre in the World Premiere Chamber Version of *Ghost: The Musical* as Molly cover & Dance Captain, as well as a production of *Evita*. The Fulton Theatre with *Ghost: The Musical*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Producers* and *Cinderella*. National Tour: *Babette, Beauty and the Beast*. Some favorites: Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins*; Peggy Sawyer, *42nd Street*; Marian Paroo, *The Music Man*; Carrie Pipperidge, *Carousel*; Linda, *Wedding Singer*. BFA: Shenandoah Conservatory @jessicalorion www.jessicalorion.com



MICHAEL MARRERO (*Swing, Fight Captain*) Fresh off *Evita* and thrilled to be sticking around for the disco! He was in the inaugural cast of *SUMMER* with Norwegian Cruise Line last May and is indebted to Jenny, Kyli, and Anthony for the opportunity to revisit this beautiful show. So much love for this cast, especially Nikki Forde and Anthony Garcia — couldn't do this without you two. Ecuadorian and Cuban pride. Te quiero, mi familia! Represented by Pantera/Murphy the Agency. For Nick Pratico. @mmarrero28



CARMINE MASTROKOSTAS (*Bruce Sudano*) A graduate of NYU Tisch, Carmine studied at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute where he performed in main stage productions of *Stupid F##king Bird* (Trigiron) and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Aldolpho). He has also trained and performed at the Papermill Playhouse for their annual New Voices concert. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support and everyone at Bloc Agency for believing in him. "Heaven knows" this is gonna be fun!



MELISSA MATTOS (*Bob, Maid, Michael*) Born and raised in Brazil, Melissa is a multi-faceted artist who has been working as a professional dancer, singer and actress for the past 14 years. She is proud to represent the hard working immigrants that moved to this wonderful land to follow their American Dream. Melissa is thrilled to be working with a fierce cast, creative team and to be a part of the Gateway community. Some of her favorite acting credits include Roberta (*Danny and The Deep Blue Sea*), Carla (*In The Heights*), Mimi (*Rent*), *Cabaret* (Helga), and *The Lord of the Underworld* (Eurydice). Grateful for the ones leading and holding me down on this journey: to my partner Conor, my parents Marcia & Milton and my agent Steve. Grandma, this is for you. Eu te amo! @bigredhairmel



JADE MILAM (*Giorgio Moroder*) is thrilled to be making her Gateway Playhouse debut! Jade got her BFA from Rider University. Recent credits include: *Cabaret* (Kit Kat Girl), *The*

Continued on page 26



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Wolves (#46), *The Will Rogers Follies* (Ziegfeld Girl). Recent TV credits include: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (background). Many thanks to friends, family, and everyone at Gateway!
IG: @jade_milam



VICTORIA PRICE (*Dara/Amanda Sudano, Ensemble*) couldn't be more grateful to be back doing what she loves again after battling and beating Breast Cancer in 2022.

Recent credits include *Escape To Margaritaville* (1st National), & *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (Nat'l tour). You can also see her on *PAW Patrol Live @ Home* on Paramount+. All the gratitude to God for carrying me through, my amazing mother & sisters, & the team at Avalon Artists Group. This is for you dad, always & forever.
@__victoriaprice



JOHN ROCLETTE (*Neil Bogart, Gunter, Sommelier*) feels back home at Gateway, this being his 6th show, including *Cher* (Gregg Allman), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Dentist), *Spamalot* (Lancelot), *Happy Days* (Count

Melachi), & *The Wedding Singer* (Sammy). Other credits: *Jersey Boys*, Broadway/Tour/offBway/Film (Tommy DeVito & Norm), *Blue Man Group* (Center Blue Man), *Bullets Over Broadway* (David Shayne), *Rocky Horror* (FrankNfurter), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Elvis). John is also a professional drummer. And remember, "if you hype something and it succeeds, it wasn't hype." - Neil Bogart. Insta: @John_Rochette, JohnRochette.com



NIA SIMONE SMITH (*Adult Mary Ellen, Norm, u/s Diva Donna*) is very excited to be a part of this amazing production of *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* to help tell the story of the ultimate Diva. Disco is one of

Nia's favorite genres and can't wait to dance with you. Previously, Nia has been seen on Disney Cruise Line, Dragon in *Shrek*, Radio 1 in *Caroline or Change*, *Dreamgirls* at the Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock, and Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Mason Street Warehouse. She wants to thank most of her family for their constant support and belief in her. Nia plans to stay booked, healing and thriving always!



DAN TEIXEIRA (*Brian, Helmut Sommer, Ensemble*) is excited to be extending his time at the Gateway after just performing in *Evita!* Recent credits: *Harmony: A New Musical*, *The REV*, North Shore Music

Theatre, Transcendence Theatre Co, The Argyle Theatre & New London Barn Playhouse. Later this summer you can see him in the premiere of through Berkshire Theatre Group. Thanks to Jenny, Kyli & Anthony for the gift of groove. To Paul, Scott, Rachel & staff for letting me be a part of the Gateway history. Love to his friends and family. Penn State B.F.A | www.danteixeira.com



RENEE MARIE TITUS (*Diva Donna/ Mary Gaines*) is thrilled to be back at The Gateway! National tour: *The Color Purple* (Celie/Nettie u/s) Regional: *Head over Heels* (Pamela), *Rock of Ages* (Justice), *A Christmas*

Carol (Mrs. Fezziwig), *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble/ Tina/ Holly u/s). International: Hong Kong Disneyland's *Festival of the Lion King* (Storyteller). Special thanks to Rachel, Paul, Jenny, Kyli Rae and BEA! Love to my family, kisses to my Max and glory to God. IG: @renee_m_titus

JENNY LAROCHE (*Director*) originated the role of Norman Brokaw in *SUMMER* on Broadway and became Associate Choreographer of the First National Tour. She is the Associate Director & Assistant Choreographer of *New York, New York* - Broadway nominated for 9 Tony Awards and Chita Rivera Awards recipient for Best Ensemble! Her favorite credits include: TV: *Smash* (recurring) produced by Stephen Spielberg, *Annie: Live!* and *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. Film: *Tick Tick Boom!* and *The Merry Widow* (MetOpera principal). Broadway: *SUMMER* (OBC), *Rockettes*, *Pal Joey*, *Fly*, *Paint Your Wagon* (NYCC). Additional credits include *MetGala*, *Tony Awards*, *SNL*, *Jimmy Fallon*, *Wendy Williams*, *Sherri*, and *Best Time Ever with Neil Patrick Harris*. Jenny was the Associate Director/Choreographer on *Mariah Carey's Christmas at Beacon Theatre*. Upcoming credits include Associate Choreographer of *Smash* coming to Broadway.



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WHO'S WHO

KYLI RAE (*Choreographer, Assistant Director*)

Broadway and First National Tour credits include Tony Award-winning *Jersey Boys*, *A Bronx Tale* directed by Robert DeNiro and Jerry Zaks, *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical*, *Rock of Ages*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Flashdance the Musical*, *Grease*, and *Fame*. Clint Eastwood cast Kyli as the Lead Angel, singing "My Boyfriend's Back", in his major motion picture adaptation of *Jersey Boys*, for Warner Bros. Studios. She has had the pleasure of working with iconic artists such as Celine Dion, Debbie Allen, Nell Carter, Alan Menken, Chazz Palminteri, Jerry Orbach, and Carol Burnett. Kyli Rae now serves as the associate choreographer of the Norwegian Cruise Line production of *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical* under the guidance of Des McNuff and Sergio Trujillo.

ANTHONY BRINDISI (*Music Director*) is returning to The Gateway as a Music Director after recently working on the theatre's production of *Evita* as their Associate Conductor and Keyboard Programmer. After graduating from Berklee College of Music where he studied Conducting, and Contemporary Writing and Production in both Spain and Boston, he went to work as the Associate Conductor on the national tours of *Jersey Boys*, and *A Christmas Story*, as well as the Off-Broadway, and Las Vegas productions of *FRIENDS! The Musical Parody* (Music Supervisor, Conductor, and Ableton Programmer). He also recently worked on the development and musical arrangements of a show for MSC's Seascape, which is currently being presented to a global audience after the ship's maiden voyage this past Fall. As a Composer, Anthony studied at BML's illustrious Lehman Engle Musical Theatre Writing Workshop, and is still currently a member of their ongoing advanced workshop program.

CASSIEL FAWCETT (*Production Stage Manager*) is absolutely thrilled to be a part of *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical* at The Gateway this summer. She is a recent graduate from Pace University's Stage Management program. Previous stage management credits include *The Eulogy Approach*; The Gateway Playhouse: *The Little Mermaid*, *The Cher Show*, *Legends of Rock*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Wedding Singer*; Pace's Mainstage: *The Wolves*; *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*; and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. She has also worked with DocBloc and other local theatres in NYC and on Long Island. Thank you to this amazing team for making this such a special production. Much love to her family, KB, and her friends (especially Rico for answering all her questions) for the constant support.

EMMA ESTELLE BENECK (*Wig and Makeup Designer*) is excited to have her professional design debut here at The Gateway! This North Carolina native just graduated from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro last month with a degree in Design and Technical Production with a focus in Wig and Makeup Design. Her other credits include designing UNCG's production of *Rock of Ages* and wardrobe supervising *The Wild Party*. To see her next adventures follow them on instagram @emmaebeneck.

KIM HANSON (*Lighting Designer*) A lighting designer for 50 years, Kim's early career was spent largely on the road with many tours including the first *A Chorus Line* tour of S.E. Asia. He has designed for Gateway Playhouse on Long Island for 30+ years and often designs for The Waterfront Playhouse in Key West. Kim has designed for Chen and Dancers, New American Ballet Ensemble, Nutcracker Key West, Ballet Santa Barbara, Main Street Ballet, and was Lighting Director for the US Tours of the Saint Petersburg State Ballet on Ice. He asks you to reconsider your lawns and to stop using fertilizer and pesticides on them. Peace!

BRITTANY LOESCH (*Props Designer*) New York City credits include sets for *Language of Angels* (Abrons Art Center) and props for *Così fan tutte*, *Ghosts of Versailles*, *Mahagonny* (Manhattan School of Music) as well as serving as Props Designer for The Actors Studio Drama School Repertory Season for 12 years. Gateway scenic designs include *Rent*, *Flashdance*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Avenue Q*, as well as *I Love a Piano* and *'SWonderful* for both set and projection design. She has additionally been Art Director of Gateway's Haunted Playhouse Nightmares and haunts past. Special thanks to my newest assistant!

JANINE LOESCH (*Costume Designer*) is a New York based Costume Designer. Janine is happy to be back designing at The Gateway. Her previous designs seen at The Gateway include *As You Like It*, and *Evita*. Janine will be Costume Coordinating Bob Mackie's designs in the National Tour of *Cher* this coming fall. She received her BFA in Bridal Design from Savannah College of Art and Design. Special thanks to Brittany and Kaitlyn.

JONAH VERDON (*Sound Designer*) is a New York based audio engineer and designer. Currently serving as the Gateway Playhouse resident designer, they have designed several shows for The Gateway including *Clue* and *Evita*. Jonah also served as technical director for the acclaimed web talk show *Stars in the House*, and projection designer for Firebird's production of *R.U.R.* It has been a joy to work on this production, boogie on!



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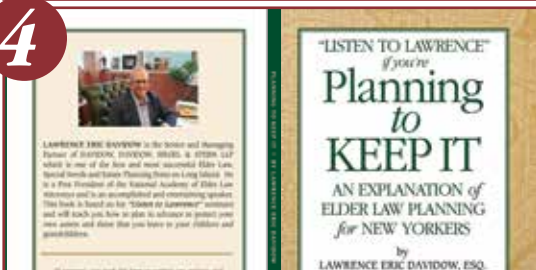
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