

### theater(words)

"Life does not fit neatly into categories and neither should our stories. At the end of the day, it all comes down to story. And if stories are not rooted in some kind of recognizable truth, they are worthless." – Matthew Lopez

#### Rob Ruggiero // Director // Producing Artistic Director

Who doesn't love a great laugh...or an evening in the theater that offers us not only a really good time as the main course, but also some enlightenment on the side? At its core, THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE is a "feel-good", gender-bending comedy with heart. I can't remember the last time I laughed out loud reading a script. But beneath the fun is an important message about tolerance framed around themes of identity and transformation. Casey's journey of self-acceptance and his emergence as an artist strike a powerful chord with anyone who's struggled to find their true voice. Matthew Lopez manages to tell this story in a way that kind of sneaks up on you. His skill as a writer continues to impress, and with this particular play he reveals his agility as a writer of comedy. Besides a great story, Matthew has also given us a funny and often glorious tribute to the art of drag. Who doesn't love dessert?

#### Eric Ort // Assistant Director // Artistic Associate

Drag is uncomfortable. Creating the illusion that a man is a woman involves moving a lot of real estate – cinching to shape curves, shaving to eliminate hair, and taping to, well.... stow the jewels. A true queen accepts the discomfort because her drag identity is a creative force. Bold identity performance is a personal, empowering act, but it is also a public, political act.

Drag is uncomfortable. A man in women's clothing forces viewers to confront cultural assumptions about gender and sexuality, masculinity and femininity, misogyny and homophobia. A glamour guerilla is outrageous, "in your face," and larger than life; she has the power to stir discomfort and create change.

> Cover design by WondriskaRusso Photo by Mike Marques and Tainted Inc

#### MUSIC CREDITS

"Lost and Found" Music by Joe Tippett Lyrics by Matthew Lopez

"PADAM PADAM" Norbert Glanzberg / Henri Contet © Ed. Salabert c/o Universal Music Publishing

Incidental music composition by Mary Ann Ivan



#LongLiveTheQueens

#HellOnHeels

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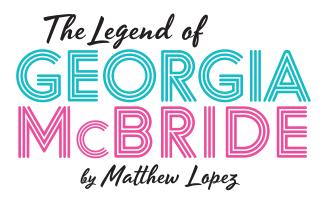


#GeorgiaMcBride

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THE CAST (in order of appearance)

Eddie	J. TUCKER SMITH*
Casey	AUSTIN THOMAS*
Jo	SAMARIA NIXON-FLEMING*
Miss Tracy Mills	<b>JAMISON STERN*</b>
Rexy / Jason	NIK ALEXANDER*

Choreography Set Design Costume Design Lighting Design Sound Design Wig Design Casting Assistant Director

Production Manager Stage Manager RALPH PERKINS PAUL TATE dePOO III LEON DOBKOWSKI JOHN LASITER ED CHAPMAN MARK ADAM RAMPMEYER McCORKLE CASTING ERIC ORT

BRIDGET SULLIVAN KATE J. CUDWORTH\*

Directed by ROB RUGGIERO<sup>+</sup>

### aetna

Stage lighting supported by Warren Hollister

Originally commissioned by The Old Globe, San Diego, California (Louis Spisto, Executive Producer)

Originally developed and produced at the Denver Center Theatre Company (Kent Thompson, Artistic Director)

New York Premiere at the MCC Theater September 9, 2015 (Robert LuPone, Bernard Telsey, & William Cantler, Artistic Directors; Blake West, Executive Director)

 <sup>+</sup> Member of SDC, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.
\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.

TheaterWorks is celebrating its 32nd season as a non-profit, professional theater company. Founded in 1985.

THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE is the 3rd production of the 2017-2018 Season. TheaterWorks • 233 Pearl Street • Hartford, CT 06103 • 2018

### who



NIK ALEXANDER (Rexy/Jason) is making his TheaterWorks debut. Nik is ecstatic to be joining this awesome company of actors and creators. He was last seen on Broadway in *Motown: The Musical.* Other credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar, Priscilla Queen Of the Desert, Dreamgirls* and *Smokey Joe's Cafe.* Nik would like to thank his friends and family

for their endless moral support. Song and music video *Too Good To Be True* available on all digital outlets. @nikalexander90 nikalexandermusic.com



**SAMARIA NIXON-FLEMING** (Jo) is making her **TheaterWorks** debut. Samaria is honored to be joining the **TheaterWorks** family. Off-Broadway: *Politically Correct* (New World Stages) dir. Billy Porter; Regional Theater: *All For Joe* (Bergen PAC), *The Colored Museum* (Kumble Theater), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Hamilton Theater);

TV: *Madam Secretary, The Good Fight.* She is a proud alumna of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. This performance goes out to her Mom & Dad who've supported her to no end!



AUSTIN THOMAS (Casey) is ecstatic to be making his TheaterWorks debut! NYC: October Sky, Brave New World, Broadway Rising Star (Town Hall), Grand Hotel (CAP21). Regional: The Palace Theatre, Fireside Theatre and New Stage Theatre. CAP21 Graduate. Sending my love to my wonderfully supportive family and friends, especially my sweet wife Bailey.

A tremendous thanks to Rob Ruggiero for giving me the opportunity to work on this amazing story! And a shout out to the **TheaterWorks** team for making this show possible!



J. TUCKER SMITH (Eddie) Tucker is a graduate of Northwestern University. He is excited to return to Hartford almost exactly ten years after appearing in the award winning production of *Blackbird* at **TheaterWorks**. (Ct. Critics Circle, "Best Production") New York credits include *Closer* (Standby) on Broadway, MTC, One Dream and Cherry Lane theaters. He

recently returned from The Pittsburgh Public Theater after playing Erik in *The Humans*. Other regional credits include, the world premiere of *Flight of the Monarch* at Gloucester Stage, Chicago Shakespeare, Royal George and the Alliance in Atlanta. Television: *Daredevil, Damages* (Recurring), *White Collar, Unforgettable*, numerous *Law and Orders* and most recently, *Madam Secretary*. Film credits include *Thirteen Days, Hi-Life, The Forgotten, Solidarity, Addicted* and two soon to be released: *Sender* and *The Coolest Girl In The World*.



JAMISON STERN (Miss Tracy Mills) is making his TheaterWorks debut. Broadway/ National Tours: *By Jeeves* (Bingo Little), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Palm Springs Who), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour/Orin) and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere). Regionally, Jamison's credits include Baker in *Into the Woods* (NC Theatre), Zaza in *La Cage Aux* 

Folles (Goodspeed Musicals), Arnold in Torch Song Trilogy (The Human Race Theatre Company), Frederic in Young Frankenstein (Fulton Theatre), Fully Committed (Alley Theatre and La Mirada Theatre), Sweet Charity (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma), [title of show] (Theatreworks), Chapter Two and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Theatre Aspen), She Loves Me (Rubicon Theatre Company) and Black Comedy, The Invention of Love, As Bees in Honey Drown, Flea In Her Ear and A Comedy of Errors (Alley Theatre). On film and television, he is currently starring as Mr. Tweed in the feature film Annabelle Hooper and the Ghosts of Nantucket (now available On Demand), My Bakery in Brooklyn, Day Zero, The Finger Lakes, Law & Order and The Entrepreneurs. Eternal gratitude to Rob Ruggiero. @jamisonstern

MATTHEW LOPEZ (Playwright) is the author of The Whipping Man, one of the most celebrated and widely produced new American plays of the last decade. The Manhattan Theatre Club production received Obie, Lortel, and Outer Critics Circle awards including the John Gassner New Play Award. It has since been produced at over 100 U.S. theatres as well as internationally. The Legend of Georgia McBride premiered at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and ran off-Broadway at MCC Theatre in a production that received multiple Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, and Outer Critics Circle nominations, including Best Play. Other plays include Somewhere (Old Globe, world premiere), Reverberation (Hartford Stage, world premiere), The Sentinels (London's Headlong Theatre Company) and Zoey's Perfect Wedding. Matthew holds commissions from Roundabout Theatre Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, South Coast Rep, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and Harford Stage, where he served as their AETNA New Voices Fellow. For the past two seasons, he has been the Inaugural Playwriting Fellow at the Denver Center Theatre Company. Matthew was a writer on the HBO series The Newsroom and recently adapted Javier Marias' Your Face Tomorrow trilogy for the screen as well as the biopic Dr. Q for Disney.



**ROB RUGGIERO** (Director/Producing Artistic Director) has been part of **TheaterWorks** artistic leadership for 25 years. He has directed over 50 shows, including *Constellations, Next to Normal, Relativity, Sex with Strangers, Christmas on the Rocks, The Other Place* and *Time Stands Still.* His Broadway credits include *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated

performance) and *High* (starring Kathleen Turner). Off-Broadway, he conceived and directed the musical revue

### who

Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn (Nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards). Rob conceived and directed *Ella*, a musical portrait of Ella Fitzgerald, which has been seen at 24 regional theaters and on National Tour. His work has received multiple awards in Connecticut and around the United States. In his tenth collaboration with Goodspeed Musicals, Rob directed *Rags*. He also directed highly successful productions of *La Cage aux Folles, Fiddler on the Roof* (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award for Best Direction), *The Most Happy Fella* (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award for Best Direction), *Carousel* (Broadway World Award), *Annie Get Your Gun, Camelot, Big River* and *1776*. His adaptation of Show Boat is now being licensed by the Rogers & Hammerstein Organization. www.robruggiero.com

**RALPH PERKINS** (Choreography) is thrilled to be working again at TheaterWorks after being choreographic consultant on last season's Next to Normal. Among his credits are The Wizard of Oz, Hello Dolly!, South Pacific and The King and I for The Muny in St. Louis; Follies, Sunday in the Park with George, Kiss Me Kate, and Urinetown, the musical for The Repertory Theater of St. Louis; La Cage aux Folles, Camelot and 1776 for Goodspeed Musicals; South Pacific for Paper Mill Playhouse and The Asolo Repertory Theater, and Sweet Charity for Barrington Stage Company. Ralph choreographed for several shows in Las Vegas, including EFX at the MGM Grand, Siegfried and Roy at The Mirage and Tournament of Kings. He was artistic director and co-founder of The New Works Project in Vegas. Ralph is currently the director of dance for the theater division at The Hartt School, University of Hartford.

**PAUL TATE dePOO III** (Set Design) is making his TheaterWorks debut. Goodspeed Musicals (Thoroughly Modern Millie, A Sign of the Times, Guys and Dolls); Asolo (Evita, Josephine); Signature (Titanic, A Little Night Music, Crazy For You, Girlstar); MUNY (100th Celebration, Singin' In The Rain, Jersey Boys, Jesus Christ Superstar, Unsinkable Molly Brown, Young Frankenstein); Maltz Jupiter (South Pacific, Me and My Girl, The Producers, The Wiz, Les Misérables, Will Rogers Follies, Annie, The Music Man, and Hello, Dolly!); DTC (War of the Roses); Curtis Opera (Doctor Atomic, Impressions of Pelléas); Bard Opera (Demon, Turandot); Yale (Rocky Horror); Off Broadway: Romance Language, Pageant, Sex of the Baby, and Look Upon Your Lowliness. Associate Designer credits include Lincoln Center's Sweeney Todd, Lady Day..., How To Succeed..., Nice Work..., Bengal Tiger..., Follies, and Anything Goes. Paul is a member of Lincoln Center's Directors Lab, United Scenic Artists, and was announced as Live Design Magazine's Designer to Watch. www.pauldepoo.com

**LEON DOBKOWSKI** (Costume Design) is making his **TheaterWorks** debut. *Annie, Mary Poppins, A Christmas Story, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Paper Mill Playhouse); *The Wizard of Oz, Mamma Mia, Newsies, Seussical* (St. Louis Theater Circle Award), *Tarzan* (Judy Award) (Muny); *Memphis* (TUTS); *South Pacific* (Asolo Repertory); *The Weir, The Dead, 1904* (Irish Rep); *The Little Mermaid, Legally Blonde* (Music Theatre of Wichita); *The Wiz* (Maltz Jupiter); *Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic* (Disney Live); *Up and Away* (PCLO); *George M.* (Westchester Broadway); *Romeo and Juliet* (Yale Rep); Peter and the Starcatcher, Once (Weston Playhouse); Claudio Quest (NYMF, Outstanding Overall Design). MFA Yale School of Drama. www.LeonDobkowski.com

JOHN LASITER (Lighting Design) The Legend of Georgia McBride marks John's 44th show at TheaterWorks and his 24th year of association with the theater. Broadway: High starring Kathleen Turner. Regional: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Arizona Repertory Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Center Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Play House, Dallas Theater Center, Florida Stage, George Street Playhouse, Geva Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, The Guthrie Theater, Hartford Stage Company, Long Wharf Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The MUNY in St. Louis, New Mexico Repertory Theatre, Pioneer Theater Company, Paper Mill Playhouse, Pittsburgh Public Theater, South Coast Repertory, Syracuse Stage, Virginia Stage Company and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Off-Broadway: Alarm Dog Repertory Company, Blue Light Theater Company. www.johnlasiter.com

**ED CHAPMAN** (Sound Design) **TheaterWorks**: *Next to Normal.* Recent Touring Productions: Disney's *The Little Mermaid; A Christmas Story; How the Grinch Stole Christmas; Guys and Dolls; The Producers.* Other notable projects: *Pirates of Penzance* (dir. John Rando at Barrington Stage); *The Wizard of Oz* (Walnut Street Theatre); over 20 productions at Weston Playhouse (2016 Berkshire Theatre *Awards nomination for Outstanding Sound Design for Mamma Mia*); *The Joker's Game* (World Premiere in China); *Bedbugs* (Off-Broadway); Mr. Chapman sends much love and thanks to parents, John, Gayle, and family Kate, Mary Ann, Johnny, and Eddie.

MARK ADAM RAMPMEYER (Wig Design) is thrilled to return to TheaterWorks. Director Rob Ruggiero and Mark were paired previously on the critically acclaimed productions of *Rags* and *La Cage aux Folles* at Goodspeed Musicals. His work has been seen on Broadway in *West Side Story, Lysistrata Jones* and *The Farnsworth Invention* to name a few. Mark designed *Private Lives, The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* for Hartford Stage. He is the recipient of a special Drama Desk award for his contributions to the creative team for Horton Foote's *The Orphans' Home Cycle*. Mark makes his home in East Haddam and is the Costume Rental Manager for Goodspeed.

McCORKLE CASTING, LTD (Casting) Pat McCorkle C.S.A., (Katja Zarolinski) Broadway: Amazing Grace, End of the Rainbow, The Lieutenant Of Inishmore, The Glass Menagerie, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, Amadeus, She Loves Me, Blood Brothers, A Few Good Men, etc. Off-Broadway: Stalking the Bogeyman, Becoming Dr. Ruth, Lady Day, Tribes, Our Town, Falling, Toxic Avenger, Freud's Last Session, Almost, Maine, Driving Miss Daisy. Feature film: Girl in the Lake, Premium Rush, Ghost Town, Secret Window, Basic, Tony and Tina's Wedding, The Thomas Crown Affair, The 13th Warrior, Madeline, Die Hard with a Vengeance, School Ties, etc. Television: St. George (George Lopez Show) Twisted (ABC Family), humans for Sesame Street, Californication (Emmy nomination), Hack (CBS), Chapelle's Show (Comedy Central), Barbershop, Remember WENN (AMC). mccorklecasting.com

### who



**ERIC ORT** (Assistant Director) recently directed *The Wolves* at **TheaterWorks**. He joined the staff in 2016, but has been affiliated with the theater for four seasons as assistant director for seven shows including *Next To Normal, Midsummer, Dancing Lessons*, and *Time Stands Still.* A theater educator, Eric was director of

theater at Miss Porter's School for six years where favorite productions included: *The Children's Hour, The House of Bernarda Alba, Metamorphoses, The Secret Garden* and *Working*. Other directing projects include work at Brooklyn College, the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Eric has taught at Brooklyn College and is currently an adjunct faculty member at The Hartt School, University of Hartford. Eric is a graduate of Brooklyn College, The University of Chicago and Vassar College. www.ericort.com

**BRIDGET SULLIVAN** (Production Manager) is enjoying her third season with **TheaterWorks**. Her experience includes production and project management, as well as many years in the world of props. Head of production for the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company in Vermont for 7 years, Bridget's past work also includes managing celebrity concerts at North Shore Music Theatre and Project Manager for Barbizon Lighting Company for several years. Highlights of her props and management credits also include City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh and the Santa Fe Opera. A proud graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, VA., Bridget has a BA in Theatre Arts and hails from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.



**KATE J**. **CUDWORTH** (Production Stage Manager) has enjoyed four seasons and 28 productions with **TheaterWorks** including *Constellations, The Wolves, Raging Skillet, Fade, Next to Normal, Sunset Baby, Relativity, Midsummer, Woody Sez* and *Becoming Dr. Ruth.* Off-Broadway: *Freud's Last Session, [title of show].* NY/Regional: Barrington Stage Company (8 seasons including *Freud's Last Session; Dr. Ruth, All The Way*; Joe Iconis' *The Black Suits*), Atlantic Stage Company, Hartford Stage, Manhattan School of Music (4 seasons), Yale Opera, York Theatre Company, Bronx Opera Company, Fringe NYC, NYMF.

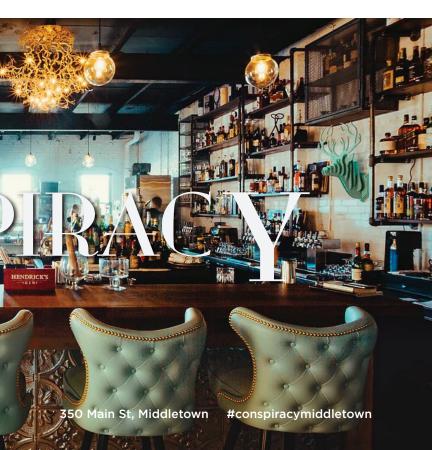
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wig supervisor Samantha Abbott

**scenic assistant** Mikayla Carr Erin Sagnelli

**charge artist** Jess Ploszaj

**rehearsal apprentice** Wolfe Lanier

marketing intern Dynasti Johnsonj

**costume stitcher / wig overhire** Jodi Stone

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