

THEATER
WORKS
HARTFORD



The Life & Music
of Woody Guthrie

July 13 – July 28



SONG LIST

ACT I

Bound for Glory
Talkin' New York City, 1940
Why Do You Stand There in the Rain
Nickel, Nickel
This Land Is Your Land
Tom Joad #1
Gypsy Davy
Tom Joad #2
Jackhammer John
I Ride an Old Paint
Curly Headed Baby
Mule Skinner Blues
Tom Joad #3
Oklahoma Hills
So Long It's Been Good To Know Yuh
Talkin' Dust Bowl
Dust Storm Disaster
Talkin' Dust Bowl (reprise)
Bound for Glory (reprise)
Tom Joad #4
Do Re Mi
Jolly Banker
The Internationale
I've Got To Know/Stand in the Rain (reprise)

INTERMISSION

ACT II

I Ain't Got No Home
Tom Joad #5
I Ride an Old Paint
Columbus Stockade Blues
Goin' Down the Road Feelin' Bad
Pastures of Plenty
Groundhog
Vigilante Man
Union Maid
Bound for Glory (reprise)
Reuben James
Talkin' Merchant Marine
Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho
The Biggest Thing That Man Has Ever Done
Du, Du
Riding in My Car
Why Do You Stand There in the Rain reprise/Sacco & Vanzetti/
Henry Wallace/Pretty Boy Floyd
Them Old Cottonfields Back Home
Deportees
Tom Joad #6
This Land Is Your Land (reprise)

WOODY PARTNER



#theaterworkshartford



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WOODY Sez

The Life & Music of
Woody Guthrie

devised by **DAVID M. LUTKEN** with **NICK CORLEY** and
DARCIE DEAVILLE, HELEN J. RUSSELL and **ANDY TEIRSTEIN**
directed by **NICK CORLEY**[†]

THE CAST



DAVID FINCH*



NYSSA GRANT*



HELEN J. RUSSELL*



SAM SHERWOOD*

Music Director

DAVID M. LUTKEN

Set Design

LUKE CANTARELLA

Costume Design

JEFFREY MEEK

Lighting Design

SETH REISER

Production Manager

MIKE LENAGHAN

Stage Manager

TOM KOSIS*

Producing Consultant

BRANNON WILES

Originally produced as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2007, by The Melting Pot Theatre and Paul Lucas Productions, by special arrangement with Mary and Pierre Cossette.

First American production at the Lyric Theatre, Oklahoma City, 2009.
West End premiere, The Arts Theatre, Leicester Square, London, January 13, 2011
by Mary Cossette Productions.

[†] Member of SDC, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

* Appearing through an Agreement between this theater and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE is the union representing Scenic, Costume, Lighting, Sound and Projection Designers in Live Performance.



Founded in 1985, **TheaterWorks Hartford** is celebrating its 38th season
as a non-profit, professional theater company.

2024

WHO



DAVID FINCH (Performer) was born and raised in Danbury, CT. He won the Trick & Fancy Division of Peace Train's New England Fiddle Contest mere steps from here in Bushnell Park when he was 13 and he's psyched to be back at **TheaterWorks Hartford** to reprise this role from a decade ago!

A multi-instrumentalist, he has played alongside artists as diverse as Alan Cumming, Serj Tankian, Tony Bennett, Amanda Palmer, Kylie Minogue and Dee Snider and as an actor/musician. Broadway: *Cabaret*. West End: *Woody Sez*. He's performed in over two dozen productions of *Woody Sez* internationally and at many of the leading regional theaters across the country. Please check out fiddlerfinch.com.



NYSSA GRANT (Performer) grew up learning violin from her mother and attending summer programs at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She graduated with a BFA in musical theatre from the Webster Conservatory of Theatre Arts and has been combining her love for music and theatre ever since.

Nyssa spent several years working and recording around the country as an actor-musician, including performing in the national tour of the Broadway musical *Once*. Based in NYC, Nyssa splits her time between playing violin on and off stage, as well as performing in front of and working behind the camera with her production company "Outline Productions." Follow @nyssadee for upcoming projects.



HELEN JEAN RUSSELL (Co-Deviser/Performer) Helen's affiliation with Woody Guthrie and David Lutken began in 1994 with *Woody Guthrie's American Song* at the Pope Theatre. She sang on the cast album and was a member of the cast of *American Song* for its European debut at Vienna's

English Theatre. She toured the Austrian secondary school system performing *This Land Is Your Land*, the Guthrie-inspired show for children. This V.E.T. tour visited 49 cities in Austria, Italy and the Czech Republic, bringing Woody to thousands of students. She joined *Woody Sez* for its 2007 debut in Edinburgh and for subsequent trips throughout the US, UK, Europe, the Middle East and China. In 2012, she was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for her work in the show. At home in both New York City and Vienna, Austria, she is very happy to return to **TheaterWorks Hartford** and get the chance to work with all of these folks again.



SAM SHERWOOD (Woody) is glad to be back on the **Theaterworks Hartford** stage where he has previously performed as both Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger in *This Land Is Your Land* for a number of school groups. NYC Theater: *Woody Sez* (Irish Rep); *Fancy: A Country Musical* (Dev. Lab). Select Regional

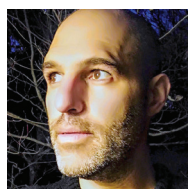
Theater: *Bright Star* (Arrow Rock Lyceum); *Escape to Margaritaville* (Engeman, Actors' Playhouse); *Lost Highway* (Florida Rep); *Almost Heaven* (Riverside); *Godspell*, *Once* (Ivoryton Playhouse); *...Forum*, *Pump Boys & Dinettes* (Flat Rock). World premiere of *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas* (Phoenix Theatre). Many productions of *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Ring of Fire*, and *The Buddy Holly Story*. TV: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.



NICK CORLEY (Co-Deviser/Director) is thrilled to be back at **TheaterWorks Hartford** with such a talented group of friends. In addition to co-writing and directing the award-winning *Woody Sez*, which has played all over the world, he has directed plays and musicals across the country including *A Young Lady Of Fashion* (co-author/director), *Eliot Ness...In Cleveland* (additional material/director), and the upcoming musicals *Normal Teenage Girl* (book/director) and *The Life and Adventures of Davy Crockett* (additional material/director). Streaming productions include *The Jerry Duncan Show* and *Positive Exposure's Change How You See Celebration*. Other NY directing includes *Flight* (Callaway Directing Nom.), *About Face* (NYMF Best Director Nom.), *Tim and Scrooge*, *Mother Russia* (Carnegie Hall) and Associate Director on *Burn This* (Bway revival), *Plaza Suite* (pre-Bway revival), *Is There Still Sex In The City* (off-Bway and upcoming world tour), and *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater* (Encores). Acting credits include 6 Bway shows (*You Can't Take It With You*, *On the 20th Century*, *Drood*, *Mary Poppins*, *A Christmas Carol*, *She Loves Me*), off-Broadway, regional, film, recordings, and television.



DAVID M. LUTKEN (Deviser/ Musical Director) is happy to be back at **TheaterWorks Hartford**, and looking forward to the Hootenannies! His credits as Music Director include *Inherit the Wind* (2007 Broadway Revival); *Southern Comfort* (Public Theater NYC - Drama League nomination, Best Musical); *The Porch on Windy Hill* (original production - Connecticut Critics Circle nomination: Best New Play '21); *Stand By Your Man* (original production); *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*; *Moonshine and Mistletoe* (original production - winner: Best Music Direction: Orlando Sentinel); *Pump Boys & Dinettes*; *Almost Heaven*; *Ring of Fire*, *Lost Highway*, and many more. As an actor/musician, his appearances include roles on & off Broadway, in the West End of London, The New York City Opera, Linclon Center, Cooper Union, Carnegie Hall, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, The Brighton Festival, Musik und Politik: Berlin, Polskie Radio Troika, The Ryman Auditorium and The Louisiana Hayride. With *Woody Sez*, he and his company have toured Europe, the British Isles, China, the Middle East and the United States with more than 80 productions over 17 years. The show and its companies have received multiple acting, music and "Best Musical" awards. His most recent, favorite performance is the 10-hour audiobook recording of his late father, Peter K. Lutken, Jr.'s, *Memoir: A Thousand Places Left Behind: One Soldier's Account of Jungle Warfare in WWII Burma*, available on Audible, libro.fm, and other audiobook platforms.



LUKE CANTARELLA (Set Design) is pleased to be returning to **TheaterWorks Hartford** where he first designed in 2001 (*Chesapeake*). His favorite projects at TheaterWorks include *Hand to God*, *Good People*, *The Understudy*, *Woody Sez*, and *Lobby Hero*. His work has been seen at theaters across the country including the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, The Muny, A.R.T., Yale Repertory Theater, Seattle Rep, Pittsburgh Public, the Atlantic Theater Company, the Asolo and many others. Opera credits include productions with Santa Fe Opera, Peabody Opera Theater, Wolftrap, Center for Contemporary Opera and Des Moines Metro Opera. Internationally, he has designed in London's West End, Amsterdam, Sibiu, Vienna and Cairo. Luke is also a professor of design at Pace University. lukecantarella.com

WHO



JEFFREY MEEK (Costume Design) has designed over 150 theatrical productions in his 24 years as Resident Costume Designer for Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. His work has been seen across the country in the 2021 National Tour of *Merry Christmas Charlie Brown*. Jeffrey has also worked with Jewel Box Theatre, The Eastman School of Music, Colossal Studios, Reduxion Theatre Company, Casa Manana Theatre, Tulsa Opera, Stage One, and Carpenter Square Theatre. He served nine years as Principal Costumer for The Ohio Light Opera and designed *A Very Merry Pops* for 17 seasons with The Oklahoma City Philharmonic. He is a 2017 Helen Hayes Award Nominee for his work with *James And The Giant Peach* at Adventure Theatre in Washington, DC. His work can be seen in the feature films: *Pearl Carter Scott*, *Fingerprints*, and *Agenda*.



SETH REISER (Lighting Design) is a set and lighting designer for theatre, opera, dance and music whose work has been seen throughout the United States and internationally. New York credits include designs for: Second Stage, Geffen Hall, 59E59, NAATCO, Clubbed Thumb, the Park Avenue Armory, Carnegie Hall, PS 122, the Flea, HERE Arts, Classic Stage Company, and the Public Theater. Regional highlights include designs for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Theatre DC, Dallas Theatre Center, Two River Theatre Company, GeVA, Portland Center Stage, Trinity Repertory, Berkeley Repertory, Seattle Repertory, The Denver Center Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth, American Repertory Theatre, and Playmakers Repertory. MFA, NYU/Tisch School of the Arts. sethreiserdesign.com



ROB RUGGIERO (Artistic Director) has been a part of TheaterWorks Hartford's artistic leadership for 30 seasons. He has directed over 70 shows, including TWH productions of *Fun Home*, *The Sound Inside*, *American Son*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Constellations*, *Next to Normal*, *Relativity* (starring Richard Dreyfuss), and *Christmas on the Rocks*, which he also conceived. His Broadway credits include *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated performance) and *High* (starring Kathleen Turner) which had its world premiere at TWH. He also conceived and directed the musical revue *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* which moved off-Broadway and was nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Rob conceived and directed *Ella*, a musical about Ella Fitzgerald, which saw sold-out runs in 24 regional theaters and was produced as a National Tour. His work on plays and musicals has received multiple awards in Connecticut and around the United States. Rob regularly directs at Goodspeed Musicals where over his 16-year relationship he has directed many award-winning musical productions including most recently *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Internationally he directed *Fiddler on the Roof* in Athens, Greece.



MIKE LENAGHAN (Director of Production) This season is Mike's 12th with TheaterWorks Hartford. Mike's professional career began at Goodspeed Musicals, followed by Juilliard School's Production Department, and Westport Playhouse. Broadway credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Our Town* and *Fortune's Fool*. Off Broadway: *The It Girl*, *Suburb* and *The Summer of '42*.

TOM KOSIS (Production Stage Manager) *Woody Sez* marks Tom's 10th production with **TheaterWorks Hartford**. Broadway: *Mary Poppins, Side Show, The Scarlet Pimpernel, Flower Drum Song, Bye Bye Birdie, A Chorus Line, Ann, My Fair Lady, Grand Hotel, Nice Work If You Can Get It*. National and International Tours: Irving Berlin's *White Christmas, A Chorus Line, Song & Dance, West Side Story, Dreamgirls*. Tom was the Associate Director/Choreographer for *The Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*. tomkosis.com

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theater as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFLCIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks



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WOODY SEZ would not have been possible without Mary Cossette; her encouragement and generosity brought this project to life. Larry Hirschhorn, founder/artistic director of The Melting Pot Theatre, now an independent producer with 14 Broadway credits and three Tony Awards; Paul Lucas and Paul Lucas Productions, an international producing, general management, marketing and touring organization, and Mary Cossette Productions, with five Broadway credits and two Tony awards — our Executive Producer for nine international productions.

SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mary Jo Guthrie-Edgmon, Nora Guthrie, Michael Kleff, Anna Canoni, Tiffany Collanino, Michael Smith, Larry Richmond, David and Mary Lou Wertz, Patrick Flaherty, Tom Wirtshafter, Murray Biedenharn, Denis Brown, Tamsin Rose, Louis Hartshorn, Brian Hook, Louis Tyrrell, the Lyric Theater of OKC, Julia Schafranek and V.E.T., Laurie Gamache, Kate Weeden, Gene Jones, Jerry Silverman, Maurice Simpson, Larry Kartiganer, the Weissman family, John Lahr, the indefatigable Helen Jean Russell, and especially to Sam Ellis, Harold Leventhal, and Ruth, Pete, Emily and Sherry Lutken.

Thanks also to **Woody Guthrie Publications**, its archives and museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in Okemah which offer scholars, musicians and the public every avenue to study, experience, and learn from his tremendous body of work — woodyguthrie.org — and also, the **Huntington's Disease Society Of America**. Approximately 30,000 Americans have HD, but the devastating effects of the disease touch many more. The HDSA, founded by Marjorie Guthrie in 1968, has a nationwide network that provides support for individuals with HD and their families. HDSA.org

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