

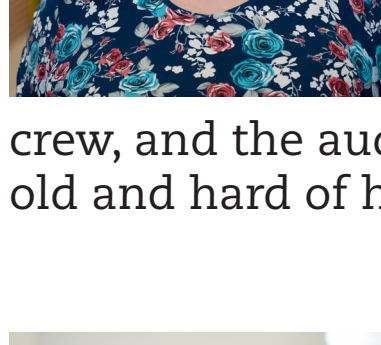


## CREW BIOS

**Jeremy White (Director)** is thrilled to step into the role of director for Kingsport Theatre Guild's *Exit Laughing*, marking his directorial debut. His recent stage work includes *Vernon in The Other Side of the Mountain*; *Shrek in Shrek: The Musical*; *Brother Boy in Sordid Lives*; *Lionel in Cinderella*; and *Don Lockwood in Shogun In the Rain*. Jeremy is grateful for the opportunity to bring this story to life and extends his heartfelt thanks to his family and friends for the constant support, and to this incredible cast for their trust, talent, and dedication.

**John Kaywood (Stage Manager)**

## CAST BIOS



**Dustina Buckles (Millie)** is excited to be back on stage where she belongs-ignoring her responsibilities in favor of applause. You may have seen her most recently as Faye in *The Other Side of the Mountain*, as Sissy in *Sordid Lives*, or trailing after John Kaywood as his Assistant Director in *Shrek the Musical*. Dustina would like to congratulate her friend and director, Jeremy White, on his directorial debut with KTG. She would also like to thank her amazing cast and crew, and the audience for validating her life choices. Please clap loudly, she is getting old and hard of hearing.



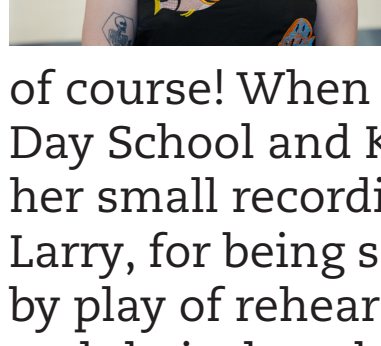
**Stephanie Davidson (Connie Harland)** is thrilled to return to the KTG stage as Connie. The last time she appeared here she was also playing a mom — just... not a very nice one — as the Evil Stepmother in *Cinderella*. Apparently, motherhood is her theatrical type, with past favorite roles including Dr. Sawyer (not a mom) in *Miracle on 34th Street* and the Mother (yes, another mom!) in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. When she's not onstage, Stephanie is an award-winning playwright. Her original production *In the Valley* received Best Original Stage Play at the 2023 Christian World Arts Festival for Stage and Screen — which sounds very official and makes her feel quite fancy. Stephanie is incredibly grateful to Jeremy and John for the chance to join this talented cast of wonderful ladies (and gentleman) in such a hilarious show. Endless thanks go to her amazing husband, Justin, for his love and for supporting her wonderfully chaotic schedule, and to her extraordinary daughter, AdaMarie, for providing all the real-life mom experience she keeps getting cast for.



**Amy Reid (Leona)** is delighted to be on the stage for Kingsport Theatre Guild's production of *Exit Laughing*. She would like to thank the director, Jeremy White, for providing invaluable insight into the development of her character and the cast for being so darn funny and a joy to be alongside. Some of Amy's most memorable roles include playing Eve (*Mark Twain's The Diaries of Adam and Eve*) at Theatre Bristol as well as Jewell Thacker (*The Other Side of the Mountain*) and Peaches (*The Red Velvet Cake War*) at KTG. Amy hopes you sing all the songs inside you. Oh, and that you have a hairdresser who keeps your secrets. Cheers!



**Quintin Rhodes (Bobby Grayson)** of Knoxville, Tennessee, graduated with a B.S. in Political Science and a B.A. in Musical Theater with a minor in dance from East Tennessee State University last Fall. Alongside being part of the Fine & Performing Arts program in the Honors College, he would work on a variety of different productions while in undergrad including: *A Sondheim Review*, *Homebound*, *Heathers the Musical*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. He plans to pursue a degree in law and will hopefully find a theatrical company to become a member of. He would like to thank ETSU for helping him aspire to be the truest version of himself possible, someone who is understanding but always ready for the work at hand. Quintin is thrilled to be a part of this production, and he hopes to one day continue in his future ambitions to continue acting and remain on stage in some way.



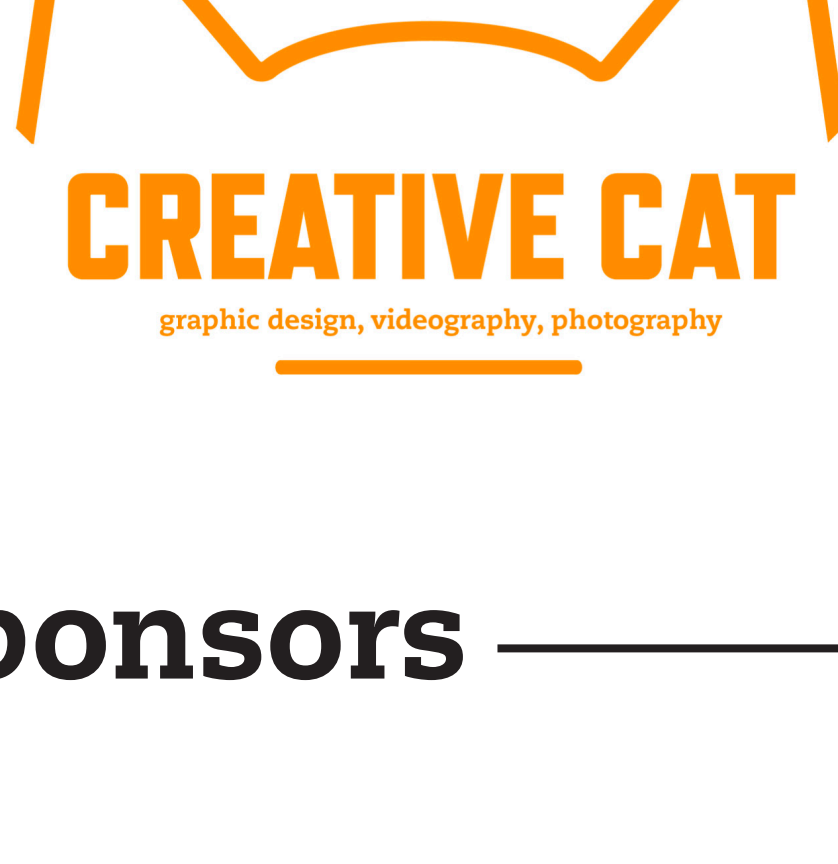
**Alexis Stitle (Rachel-Ann)** is positively giddy to be taking on the role of Rachel-Ann! She has been a big fan of getting to flex her comedic muscles with some of her more over-the-top moments during this process and has enjoyed getting to be back on stage. She is almost equally as excited to get to have her hair out on full display for this show as she is to get to embrace a new character, not that her Humpty Dumpty bald cap doesn't hold a special place in her heart of course! When she is not on stage she spends her mornings working at St. Paul's Day School and Kindergarten as the librarian and her afternoons and evenings in her small recording studio narrating audiobooks! She wants to thank her husband, Larry, for being so supportive and really trying to listen to her very enthusiastic play by play of rehearsal even though he's already nearly asleep by the time she gets home and their three boys, Lincoln, Arloe, and Landon for their unwavering commitment to keeping everyone laughing and wondering where all these rocks inside the house came from. She is also incredibly proud to be part of the KTG Youth program as the stage manager for the *Wizard Of Oz* production they are currently working on and is thrilled to be along for the ride as the program gains momentum! She sincerely hopes you enjoy this show and remember to *Exit Laughing!*

## Directors Note

Sometimes it takes an unexpected night, a little courage, and the right people beside us to remember that life is still ours to live. *Exit Laughing* has consistently brought me back to that truth. It reminds me how easy it is to fall into the rhythm of routine – to move throughout days on autopilot while the world keeps spinning. If I'm honest, there are moments when I lose sight of the very things that make life rich: joy, connection, spontaneity, and the willingness to say yes to something unexpected. This play meets us in that space. In the midst of loss, these women are faced with a choice: retreat into what is safe and familiar, or step – sometimes awkwardly, sometimes boldly – back into life. What unfolds is messy, hilarious, and deeply human. It is a reminder that grief and joy are not opposites, but companions on the same journey. Hunter Thompson wrote, "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, 'Wow! What a Ride!'" *Exit Laughing* dares us to consider what it might look like to actually live that way – not recklessly, but fully. To take the trip. To say the thing. To dance the dance. To gather the people we love a little closer and not wait for the "right time" to begin again. At its heart, this story is about choosing life in the face of loss. It's about the quiet bravery of stepping beyond what is comfortable and allowing joy to find us again – sometimes in the most unexpected and inconvenient moments. These women remind us that it is never too late to rewrite the narrative, to rediscover who we are, and to reclaim the parts of ourselves we may have set aside. My hope is that as you watch this story unfold, you'll find yourself reflected somewhere within it – in the laughter, in the longing, in the hesitation, and in the courage. And maybe, just maybe, you'll leave tonight asking yourself the same question this play has been asking me: What would it take for you to *Exit Laughing*? Thank you for being here and for sharing this journey with us.

Jeremy W. White  
Director

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