

kokandy PRODUCTIONS

Grand HOTEL

Book by **LUTHER DAVIS**, Music & Lyrics by **ROBERT WRIGHT & GEORGE FORREST**

Based on Vici Baum's *Grand Hotel* By Arrangement with Turner Broadcasting Co. Owner of the Motion Picture "Grand Hotel"

With Additional Music & Lyrics by **MAURY YESTON**

Direction by **JOHN D. GLOVER** | Music Direction by **AARON BENHAM** | Choreography by **BRENDA DIDIER**

Photographs and video recordings are strictly forbidden.

"Grand Hotel, The Musical" is presented by special arrangement with MUSIC THEATER INTERNATIONAL (MTI).
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GRAND HOTEL CAST



Nick Arceo



Erik Dohner



Parker Guidry



Daniel Hurst



Michelle Jasso



Jennifer
Ledesma



Jenny
McPherson



Jerry Miller



Hanah Nardone



Liz Norton



Darren Patin



Shea Pender



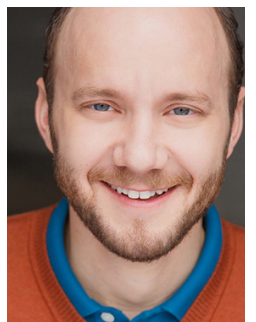
Jeff Pierpoint



Pavi Proczko



Maurice Randle



Jonathan
Schwart



Leryn
Turlinaton



Jeremy Trager



Rachel Whyte



Travis Austin
Wright



John Cardone



Jake Ganzer



Laura
Sportiello

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Management: **Lina Benich**
Scenic Design: **Jeffrey D Kmiec**
Lighting Design: **Alexander Ridgers**
Costume Design: **John Nasca**
Violence & Intimacy Choreography: **Rachel Flesher**
Sound Design: **Michael J Patrick**
Prop Design, Assistant Direction: **Johnny Buranosky**
Master Electrician: **James Kegel**
Sound Engineer: **Patrick O'Brien**
Production Management: **Lindsay Brown**
Technical Director: **Alan Weusthoff**
Assistant Stage Management: **Zach Barr**
Paint Charge: **Emily Boyd**
Dialect Coach: **Eva Breneman**
Hair and Wig Designer: **Keith Ryan**
Assistant Choreography: **Cam Turner**
Assistant Costume Design: **Brian Estep**
Costume Construction: **Nicolas Scafa**
Assistant to the Costumer: **Cameron Broderick**
Assistant Technical Direction: **Zach Schley**

If you enjoyed *Grand Hotel* and would like to become a donor, you can stop by our **donation box** on your way out or visit kokandyproductions.com/donate at your convenience.

Kokandy Productions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. By making a tax-deductible gift to Kokandy Productions, you are assisting the advancement of musical theater in Chicago.

THE BAND

Conductor/Keyboard: **Aaron Benham**
Violin: **Elena Spiegel**
Percussion: **Tony Scandora**

KOKANDY STAFF

Executive Producer: **Scot T Kokandy**
Producing Artistic Director: **Allison Hendrix**
Artistic Producer: **John D. Glover**
Technical Consultant: **Ben Hinc**
Casting Associate: **Ben Magnuson**
Public Relations: **David Rosenberg**
Graphic Designer, Web Master: **Jeff Meyer**
Board of Directors: **Allison Hendrix, John D. Glover, Katie Svaicer, Preston Cropp, Scot T Kokandy**

SPREAD THE WORD!

As a storefront company, Kokandy relies on word of mouth, especially social media, to fill seats. Tag us on one of the platforms below, and use **#GrandHotelChicago** to spread the word! You can also sign up for special offers through our email list on our website, kokandyproductions.com.



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&



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is 1928. The world is between wars, the stock market is booming, Berlin is the center of high life, and optimism rules the day. Underneath it all, much is happening at the elegant Grand Hotel, where the lives of its eccentric guests intersect over one defining weekend. Based on Vicky Baum's 1928 play and novel *Menschen im Hotel* (*People in a Hotel*) and the subsequent 1932 MGM feature film, issues of life and death, financial ruin, love and murder all converge as people come and go through the lobby of the Grand Hotel.

The show's 1989 Broadway production garnered 12 Tony Award nominations, winning five, including Best Direction and Choreography for Tommy Tune.

The themes of isolationism, broken dreams and cultural differences form the central messages of this musical – messages that are all too relevant in our nation's current social and political climate. In the Weimar era (when the show unfolds), an anxious tension exists beneath the luxurious veneer of Grand Hotel. The world is on the brink of depression and war, and the chasm between the upper and lower classes is growing ever larger. I encourage you to keep these dynamics in mind as you encounter the harsh realities of each character's journey and to ponder our own future in a world deeply troubled by discord, conflict and division. In the musical, Otto Kringlein concludes that "life resides in people, not places." Especially now, that truth is more important than ever.

John

CAST BIOS

Nick Arceo (*Zinnowitz/Ens., Kringelein u/s*) is ecstatic to make his Kokandy Productions debut! Recent credits include: *Upstairs* (“George/Piano”) at Pride Arts Center, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (“Ens./Superintendent”) with MadKap Productions, *Side By Side By Sondheim* (“Featured Singer”) with *Four Star Arts*, and *More to See* (“Performer/Pianist/Co-Creator”) at Davenport’s Piano Bar. Other favorites include: *Pippin* (“Pippin”), *Funny Girl* (“Eddie Ryan”), and *Parade* (“Britt Craig”) with *Revival Theatre Company*. Before moving to Chicago, Nick earned his BFA in Music Theatre from Viterbo University where his favorite roles included: *Pippin* (“Pippin”), *Ordinary Days* (“Jason”), and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (“Bazzard”). www.nickarceo.com

John Cardone (*Colonel Doctor u/s*) is happy to be working with Kokandy productions. Some Chicago theater highlights include *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* (Pride Films and Plays), *A Kiss From Alexander*, (Bailiwick); *Peter Pan*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Wonderful Town*, (Music Theater Works); *Bewildered*, *Scream Queen Scream*, *Sexy Baby*, (Hell In A Handbag) *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (William Street Rep). He received a Jeff nomination for *A Kiss From Alexander* in 2006 for outstanding supporting actor musical. Some film & television credits include: *Heartbeat*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, and *Bloodfist 3*.

Erik Dohner (*Baron Felix Von Gaigern*) is a baritone recently graduated from DePaul University’s school of music in 2017. Recent credits include: *Evita* (“Juan Peron”) with Timberlake Playhouse, *Die Fledermaus* (“Frank”) with DePaul Opera Theater, *The Most Happy Fella* (“Pasquale”) with Theo Ubique, *The Old Maid and the Thief* (“Bob”) with Micro Opera Ensemble, in addition to ensemble work with Music Theater Works and Citadel Theater. Erik is an alum of College Light Opera Company located in Cape Cod Mass., favorite credits include: *Hello Dolly* (“Horace”), *Titanic* (“Isador Straus”), and *The New Moon* (“Besac”). Erik is represented by Gray Talent, and is thrilled with the opportunity to work alongside the wonderful artists of Kokandy Productions.

Jake Ganzer (*Male Swing*) thinks it’s Grand that he gets to work with Kokandy Productions for the first time. A graduate of Columbia College Chicago, his previous performance credits include: *Peter Pan* and *Mame* (Music Theater Works), *Hobo King* (Congo Square Theatre), *Side Show* and *Applause* (Porchlight Music Theatre). He has taught and choreographed at a variety of school sites, community theatres, and pre professional programs, including shows such as *Mary Poppins*, *The Addams Family*, *West Side Story*, etc. “Grateful, as always, to my teachers, friends, and most importantly family for the love and support.”

Parker Guidry (*Erik*) is thrilled to be back with Kokandy, after *The Full Monty* in 2015. Originally from Lafayette, Louisiana, Parker graduated from Roosevelt University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre and is a proud member of Circle Theatre Chicago. Favorite credits include *Triassic Parq* (“Velociraptor of Innocence”), *Young Frankenstein* (“Igor”), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (“Molina”), *RENT* (“Gordon/Ensemble”), and *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*(“Farrah/Ensemble”). Endless thanks to my family and my loving partner, Royen. Papop, this one is for you.www.ParkerGuidry.com

Daniel Hurst (*Bolero Dancer/Gigolo/Bellboy*) is excited to make his Kokandy debut! Chicagoland and other favorite credits include: *Chicago* at Drury Lane, *A Wonderful Life* at Theatre at the Center, *American Idiot* (“St. Jimmy”) at Surging Films and Theatrics, and *The Little Mermaid* (“Jetsam”), *A Chorus Line* (“Al”), and *The Light in the Piazza* (“Fabrizio”) regionally. www.DanielHurst.me

Michelle Jasso (*Elizaveta Grushinskaya*) is delighted to make her Kokandy debut in this wonderful role. A California native, Michelle is a versatile, active performer with credits encompassing opera, cabaret, various types of theatre, television, commercial, and voiceover. Within her repertoire of over 25 leading and supporting roles, favorites include: the title role in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*, “Sally Bowles” (*Cabaret*), “The Witch” (*Into The Woods*), “The Beggar Woman” (*Sweeney Todd*, Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award), “Ursula” (*The Little Mermaid*), and “Lily” (*The Secret Garden*). In Chicagoland, Jasso has worked with Porchlight Music Theatre, Teatro Vista, Lifeline Theatre, and Oil Lamp Theatre, and regionally with the Wyoming Theatre Festival, Opera Grand Rapids, Portland Opera, and The Industry in Los Angeles. Michelle is a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) and of the Alliance of Latino Theatre Artists (ALTA), and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. www.michellejasso.com

Jennifer Lesdesma (*Trude/Madame Peepee*) is so excited to make her Kokandy debut! Originally from Southern California, her favorite Chicago credits include: the regional premiere of *Little Miss Sunshine* (Chicago Theatre Workshop), *BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret* (Pride Films and Plays, BroadwayWorld Chicago Best Actress nomination), *Bewildered* (Hell in a Handbag Productions), *Magic Tree House: Showtime with Shakespeare* (Emerald City Theatre), *Giggle Giggle Quack* (Lifeline Theatre) and *bare: a pop opera* (Refuge Theatre Company). Proud Columbia College Chicago ’16 alum. Many thanks to her family and friends for all of their love and support. Jennifer-ledesma.com

Jenny McPherson (*Sandor, Telephone Operator, Tootsie*) is thrilled to be making her debut with Kokandy Productions. Chicago credits include: *Billy Elliot*, *In The Mood*, *Little Me*, and *Audition Diaries*. Other credits include: *Songs For A New World*, *The King’s Critique*, *Seussical*,and *Cinderella*. She holds a BA in Theatre and Drama with High Distinction from Indiana University, where she also served as Varsity Co-Choreographer for the Singing Hoosiers. She is incredibly grateful to her family and loved ones for all their support. www.jenny-mcpherson.com

Jerry Miller (*Colonel Doctor*) is a Chicago actor, playwright, author, producer, and director. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of South Carolina and a Masters in Theology from Southern Methodist University. Recent credits include: *The Mystery of Love and Sex* at Writer’s Theater (“Howard’s Father”), *Gypsy* (“Pops and Cigar”) at Music Theater Works, and *A Christmas Carol* (“Scrooge”) at Metropolis Performing Arts Center. Jerry wrote and produced the plays, *The Long Walk for Water*, adapted from the children’s book *A Long Walk for Water* by Linda Sue Park, and *Don’t Wait Up for Me*. Jerry’s books include *Empty Space: Creating A Theater in Your Church: Step by Step*, and *Abused, Addicted, Alive* co-authored with his identical twin Jim. (Both books are available on Amazon.com) Jerry is thrilled to make his premier debut with Kokandy Productions who consistently produce outstanding professional work. Jerry dedicates his performance to his fiance Alden.

Hanah Rose Nardone (*Bolero Dancer/ Flaemmchen u/s/ dance captain*) is super pumped to be making her Kokandy Productions debut! Chicago credits include: *Mamma Mia*(Marriott Theatre); *Crazy For You*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *White Christmas* (Drury Lane Theatre); *Xanadu* (American Theater Co.); *Madagascar the Musical*, *The Little Mermaid* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Wild Party*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Spring Awakening* (CCPA at Roosevelt University). Other credits include: *42nd St.*, *Big River*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Sound of Music* (The Little Theatre on the Square); *Guys and Dolls*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Footloose*, *Cabaret* (Timber Lake Playhouse). Hanah received her BFA in Music Theatre from The Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She would like to dedicate this performance to her number one fan. “Love you dad”

Liz Norton (*Raefella*) is an Illinois native (Millikin University, Northern Illinois University) currently living in Milwaukee, and is thrilled to be making her Kokandy debut. Credits include: Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre: *A New Brain* (“Mimi Schwinn”); Skylight Music Theatre: *The Wizard of Oz* (“Wicked Witch”), *Into the Woods* (“Stepmother”), *The Sound of Music* (“Ensemble, Elsa (u/s); The Marriott Theatre: *La Cage Aux Folles* (“Mdme Renaud, Jacqueline u/s, Marie Dindon u/s”); *Boulevard Theatre: Dear World* (“Countess Aurelia”), *Pal Joey* (“Melba”); Sunset Playhouse: *Hello, Dolly!* (“Dolly Levi”); Theatre on Main: *Mame* (“Mame”); Off the Wall: *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (“Aurora”); Soulstice Theatre: *Follies* (“Phyllis”); Lake Country Playhouse: *Company* (“Joanne”). www.liznortonsings.com

Darren Patin (*Jimmy*) is excited to be back at Kokandy with this production! A recent BFA Musical Theatre Performance grad of Columbia College Chicago, his credits include: “Solomon” (*Speech & Debate*, Brown Paper Box Co.), “David” (*Choir Boy*, Raven Theatre), “Marco/John Paul understudy/Dance Captain” (*Little Fish*, Kokandy Productions), “Male Swing” (*The Wiz*, Kokandy Productions), and “Mohawk Guy” (*High Fidelity*, Refuge Theatre Project). He would like to thank everyone at Shirley Hamilton, as well as his amazing family and friends for their constant love and support!

Shea Pender (*Rohna/Baron u/s*) is so thankful to make his Kokandy Productions debut! Recent credits include: *The Polar Express* (Rail Events Productions) and *Beauty and the Beast* (The

Legacy Theatre). He also performed last year in the cabaret *Times Have Changed: A Reimagining of Cole Porter* at Joe’s Pub in New York City under the direction of Sutton Foster and Michael Rafter. Shea is a proud graduate of Ball State University. He would like to thank the entire Kokandy team for this wonderful opportunity. He would also like to thank his dear friends, family, and Laura for their love and reminding him to not sweat the small stuff...and it’s all small stuff!

Jeff Pierpoint (*Detective/ Erik u/s*) is thrilled to be returning to Kokandy Productions for *Grand Hotel*! Jeff previously appeared in Kokandy’s *Bonnie and Clyde* this past fall. Other recent credits include *Newsies*, *She Loves Me*, *How To Succeed...* (Marriott Theatre), *It Shoulda Been You* (Actors Theatre of Indiana), and *Forever Plaid* (Tent Theatre). He also performed in the cabaret *A Shot of Rodgers With a Twist* at Joe’s Pub in New York City under the direction of Sutton Foster and Michael Rafter. He is a proud graduate of Ball State University, where he earned his B.F.A. in musical theatre.

Pavi Proczko (*Chauffer/ Hermann u/s*) is an Actor, Composer, Writer, Singer, and Audiobook narrator. His stage performances range from Shakespeare (Chicago Shakes Theatre, Muse of Fire), to musicals (Paramount, Porchlight, Circle, Bailiwick Chicago, Boho), to opera (Chicago Opera Vanguard), avant garde plays (Trap Door, Red Theatre, Oracle Theatre), to sketch comedy and stand up (Scribble Bibble, Storefront). He composes for piano, chamber ensembles, symphonies, and voice. He is currently composing for the web series *Line Please*. Pavi composed the music for the new musical *Beowulf* (Red Theatre Chicago), in which he played the title role. His audiobooks are available at audible.com.

Maurice Randle (*Doorman / Jimmys u/s*) is thrilled to be making his Kokandy debut with Grand Hotel. Prior to joining this production, Maurice has been involved in various productions in the Chicagoland area. Previous credits include: “Andy Wright” (*Scottsboro Boys* – Porchlight Music Theatre), “Tyllus”-replacement (*Lysistrata Jones* – Refuge Theatre Project), “Scarecrow” replacement (*The Wiz* – Emerald City Theatre), and “Ensemble, Swing” (*The Little Mermaid* – Paramount Theatre). Maurice is a graduate of Millikin University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre, in 2016. Maurice would like to thank God, his family, friends, and the creative team on this project for the support.

Jonathan Schwart (*Otto Kringelein*) returns to Kokandy, where he previously played “Sheriff” in *Bonnie & Clyde*. Other recent Chicago credits include: *Ragtime* (Griffin), *Urinetown* (BoHo), Porchlight Revisits: *Woman of the Year* and *Far From Heaven*(Porchlight), *The Nutcracker* (Marriott), *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* (Lifeline), and *The Wedding Gift*, a staged concert-reading directed by Jane Drake Brody. Jonathan is a graduate of the ACADEMY at Black Box Acting and the Second City Music Program, and is a voice student of Matthew Ellenwood. He holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin (BBA Finance, BA Economics) and the University of Chicago (Master of Public Policy). Immense gratitude to John, Brenda, Aaron, Allison, and Scot for this dream opportunity. As always, Jonathan lifts a glass to Mom.

Laura Sportiello (*Female Swing*) is thrilled to join the Kokandy team for *Grand Hotel*! She was recently featured in Porchlight Music Theatre’s *New Faces Sing Broadway 1939*. Other Chicagoland and regional credits include: *The Most Happy Fellow*with Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre; *It Shoulda Been You* (Rebecca Steinberg) and *The Fantasticks* (Luisa) with Actors Theatre of Indiana; *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles) with Big Noise Theatre; *Guys & Dolls* (Sarah Brown) with BrightSide Theatre; *Young Frankenstein* with Metropolis Performing Arts Centre; and *Gypsy*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Guys & Dolls* with Music Theater Works (formerly Light Opera Works). Laura is a proud graduate of Ball State University’s Department of Theatre and Dance. Per la bellezza della vita!

Leryn Turlington (*Flaemmchen*) is so excited to be making her Kokandy Productions debut! Favorite roles include “Chrissy” in *HAIR*(Mercury Theater), “Iola Stover” in *Parade* (Writers Theatre), “Darlene” in *Honky Tonk Angels* (Theo Ubique, Jeff Nomination), “Kim McAfee” in *Bye Bye Birdie*, “Rita” in *White Christmas* (Drury Lane Oakbrook), “Maureen” in *RENT* and “Piti-Sing” in *Hot Mikado* (GLOW Lyric Theatre). She has also performed at the Marriott Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and with the Chicago Artists’ Chorale. Leryn earned her Bachelors of Music in Music Theatre from Florida State University and is represented by Paonessa Talent. Special thanks to Scot, John, Brenda, her mother and all of the brilliant and powerful women in her life.

Jeremy Trager (*Hermann Preysing*) has appeared in over forty Chicago productions including: *Nevermore* (Black Button Eyes), *Ghosts & Zombies* (Akvavit), *Incident at Vichy* (Redtwist), *All’s Well That Ends Well* (Stage Left), *Tartuffe*, *Hauptmann* (Jeff Award), and *The Spitfire Grill* (BoHo), *Boojum!* (Caffeine/Chicago Opera Vanguard, Jeff Nomination), *Cabaret* (Jeff Award), *Chess* (Jeff Nomination), *Evita*, *Flora the Red Menace* (Jeff Nomination, After Dark Award), *The Fantasticks*, and numerous revues with Theo Ubique, *Sweeney Todd*, *Amadeus*, *Assassins*, and ,em>*Ragtime* (Porchlight), *1776* (Signal), *Wind in the Willows* (City Lit), *Carousel* (Light Opera Works), and shows with Oracle, Profiles, Hell in a Handbag, Promethean, Right Brain, and more. He has been a part of six Jeff-nominated Best Ensembles, produced two original cabarets, and played a serial killer on the web series *#whokilledheather* (YouTube). This summer Jeremy will return to Theo Ubique for *Last Call at the No Exit*.

Rachel Whyte (Witt, *u/s Raffaella*) is thrilled to be making her Kokandy debut and returning to the *Grand Hotel* for her 2nd stay! Recent Denver transplant, proud Abilene Christian University MT alum, and loving wife of Evan. Chicago: “Janet” in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Skokie Theatre), “Hazel” in *Par for the Corpse* (Oil Lamp Theater) and “Hester” in *A Christmas Carol* (MPAC). Favorites: “Peggy” in *42nd Street*, “Audrey” in *Little Shop of Horrors*, “Liesl” in *The Sound of Music*, and “Pamela/Annabelle/Margaret” in *The 39 Steps*. Special thanks to the cast and crew for a chance to create something “grand” together! rachelwhyteactress.com

Travis Austin Wright (*Jimmy 2*) is super excited to be making his Kokandy debut! Travis has worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, BoHo Theatre, & Mercury Theatre. Outside of his acting Travis is a pop song producer and writer and also a certified personal trainer and fitness instructor. Follow him on instagram @iamtravieaustin to see what he’s working on.www.TravisAustinWright.com

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

Zach Barr (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to make his Kokandy début with *Grand Hotel*. Recent projects include: stage managing *Saint Joan* (Poetic Forum Collective) and directing *Grouped* (Otherworld Theatre Company). His play *Firepit Henry V* had a reading at the Prop Thtr in February. Zach serves as Literary Associate at Sideshow Theatre Company, as well as Publicity Manager at the Chicago Fringe Festival. He holds a B.A. in Theatre from Northwestern University.

Aaron Benham (*Music Director*) previously with Kokandy on *Sweet Smell of Success* and *A Kokandy Christmas*. Other Chicago credits include *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Side Show* (Porchlight); *Marie Christine* (BoHo); *Bewildered* (original score –Hell in a Handbag); *Pumpboys and Dinettes* (Timberlake Playhouse); also work with About Face, ATC, Bailiwick Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, Circle, Montana Shakespeare, Piven, Pride Films, Second City, Theo-Ubique and Writer’s. Aaron has two Jeff Awards.

Lina Benich (*Stage Manager*) is excited for her first show with Kokandy. Recent credits include: *Yuletide Celebration 2017* (Stage Manager, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra); *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (ASM, First Folio Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew* (SM Intern, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *The Burials*, *The Christians*, *Linda Vista* (Stage Management Apprentice, Steppenwolf Theatre Company). She is a proud graduate of Emerson College, where she worked with Infinite Possibilities, Emerson Stage, and The EVVY Awards. Thanks and love to her family and the Artistic Placeholders.

Emily Boyd (*Paint Charge*) originally hails from San Antonio, Texas, but came to “the Second City” for college and never left! Ms. Boyd attended The Theatre School at DePaul University, where she received her BFA in Scene Design, and abroad at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, England. In addition to her work with Kokandy Productions, Ms. Boyd has also painted for such companies as Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Broadway in Chicago, Porchlight, Metropolis Theatre, Trollwood Performing Arts School, Bailiwick, Haven Theatre, (re)Discover Theatre, Underscore Theatre Company, and The Circle Theatre. Emily is also the founder and head artist at Sass Flash and Graphics.

Eva Breneman (*Dialect Coach*) is delighted to join the team for Grand Hotel. Other Chicago credits: *Ragtime* (Marriott Lincolnshire); *Plantation* (Lookingglass); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Writers Theatre); *Yasmina's Necklace*, *Christmas Carol* (Goodman); *Mary Stuart*, *Red Velvet* (Chicago Shakespeare); *The Belle of Amherst* (Court); *In the Next Room or, The Vibrator Play* (Timeline); *Great Expectations* (Silk Road Rising/Remy Bumppo); *Pygmalion* (Remy Bumppo). Regional: Three seasons at American Players Theatre; *The Who and the What* (Milwaukee Rep); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Actor's Theatre of Louisville); *Around The World In 80 Days* (Baltimore Center Stage/Kansas City Repertory) and *Mamma Mia!* (National Tour/Las Vegas).

Lindsay Brown (*Production Management*) is a proud Montana native who is thrilled to be working with Kokandy Productions again, where she previously served as Production Manager for *The Wiz*, *Little Fish*, and *Bonnie and Clyde*. She has worked with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Windy City Playhouse, Strawdog Theatre, American Blues Theatre, and Grandstreet Theatre, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse and is a company member with BoHo Theatre. She is a lover of all things dinosaur and sends big love to her family near and far, especially to M,S, & C!

John Buranosky (*Props, Assistant Director*) Besides designing props for Kokandy Productions' Jeff-nominated of *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Assassins*, *The Full Monty*, *Tomorrow Morning*, *Trailer Park: The Musical*, and, *Loving Repeating*, John has also worked with The Piven Theater, The Den Theater, Hell in a Handbag, and Three Cat Productions in property design; Most recently he has worked at the Raven Theater with props and set dressing for the Jeff Nominated *The Assembled Parties*, *Not about Nightingales*, and *Nice Girl*. His work in set design earned him a NIETIF award for *The Man of La Mancha* at the Towle Theater.

Luther Davis (*Book*) In collaboration with Robert Wright and George Forrest, Luther Davis wrote *Kismet*, *Timbuktu* and two singular productions based on Vicki Baum s novel Grand Hotel: *At the Grand* for Los Angeles and San Francisco Light Opera Association and the famous Broadway musical version, *Grand Hotel -The Musical*. Among the plays he has written are: *Kiss Them for Me*, *They Voted Yes*, and *Changing the World*. He has written fifteen movies, many television specials and co-produced Stephen MacDonald s play, *Not About Heroes*, Off Broadway. He has been nominated for three Tony Awards, winning one. He has won two Mystery Writer of America Edgar Allen Poe awards and been nominated many times by the Writer s Guild of America and the League of American Theaters and Producers. He is the father of two and an enthusiastic supporter of Zero Population Growth.

Brenda Didier (*Choreographer*) is thrilled to be making her Kokandy debut and to be collaborating with John, Aaron, Cam and this incredible group of artists, designers and staff! Ms. Didier recently directed and co-choreographed *Billy Elliot* (Porchlight Music Theatre), directed *Hair* (Mercury Theater Chicago) and *My Way, a Tribute to Frank Sinatra* (Theatre at the Center). Other credits include direction and/or choreography with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Goodman, Second City mainstage and etc., BoHo, Bailiwick Chicago, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Cirque Shanghai, T-Mobile's Home for the Holidays national commercial, Busch Gardens, Virginia, Six Flags Great America, Leo Burnett, numerous industrials, special events and university productions. Ms. Didier has received Jeff Awards in both direction and choreography, After Dark Awards, Broadway World Awards, and the National Youth Theatre Award. Ms. Didier is the owner/director of the Lincolnshire Academy of Dance – now in its 20th season.

Brian Estep (*Assistant Costume Design*) has been working in Chicago theater for the last five years and a company member with Pride Films & Plays for the last year. He has had the pleasure of working closely with his friend/mentor John Nasca, an Artistic Associate with the same company, doing costume assistant/wardrobe and hair/makeup/wigs. Brian has had the privilege of working on productions such as *The Boy From Oz*, *Design For Living*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *The Nance*. He is thankful to John for his incredible friendship and to his fiance’ Tim Gunnell for his continual love and support.

Rachel Flesher (*Violence & Intimacy Design*) is an Intimacy, Violence, and Movement Designer/Instructor. Select Chicago violence/intimacy credits include *Cabaret* (Paramount Theatre); *Constellations* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Women in Jeopardy*, *The Man Beast!* (First Folio); *Apartment 3A* (Windy City Playhouse), *The Burials* (Steppenwolf for Young Adults); *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (TimeLine Theatre); *Insurrection* (Stage Left). Her goal is to create safe space for actors to perform brave work. Rachel is an Instructor with the Fight Directors Canada, a member of the Society of American Fight Directors, an Instructor with Tactics on Set, an apprentice with The United Stuntmen's Association, and an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College Chicago and DePaul University. Thanks to family and friends for unwavering support. Change the World!

John D. Glover (*Director*) has directed Kokandy's *The Last Five Years*, *Sweet Smell of Success* (Jeff Award nomination Best Musical), *The Full Monty* (Jeff Award nomination Best Musical), and most recently, *Tomorrow Morning*. For six years, John was responsible for the artistic and fiscal direction of the Theater Company of Purdue University and has directed regionally in Ohio and Indiana, including directing the grand opening production of the Theatre at the Center in Munster. John is the recipient of several Northern Indiana Excellence in Theater Foundation awards (NIETF), including Best Direction of a Musical for *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Purdue Theater Company) and Best Direction of a Musical for *Floyd Collins* (Towle Theater), as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award in Regional Theater. In the "real world," John is the Chief Operating Officer of a not-for-profit, faith-based senior living ministry.

Jeffrey D. Kmiec (*Scenic Designer*) is an award-winning Chicago-based scenic designer. Local credits include: *Elf*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Little Mermaid* (2017 Jeff Award Recipient), *A Christmas Story*, and *Les Misérables* (2015 Jeff Award Recipient) at Paramount Theatre; *Rock of Ages*, *Crazy For You*, *Deathtrap* (2016 Jeff Award Recipient), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Drury Lane Oakbrook; *The Bridges of Madison County*, *She Loves Me*, and *The Man of La Mancha* at The Marriott Theatre; *Butler*, *Funnyman*, *The Commons of Pensacola*, and *Tom Jones* at Northlight Theatre; *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Double Trouble*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Sondheim on Sondheim* at Porchlight Music Theatre; *Good Boys and True*, *Dividing the Estate* (Jeff Award Nomination), *The Old Friends*, *A Loss of Roses* (Jeff Award Nomination), and *The Assembled Parties* at Raven Theatre; *Watch on the Rhine* (Jeff Award Nomination) and *The Seagull* at The Artistic Home; *Scarcity* at Redtwist Theatre and *Don't Go Gentle* at Haven Theatre. Jeffrey received his MFA from the University of Virginia and is a member of USA 829.

John Nasca (*Costume Designer*) is a two time Jeff Award winner for his work on *Design for Living* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Credits include: *The Boy From Oz*, *The Nance*, *The Glass Protege*, *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Beautiful Thing*, *Judy and Liza at the Palladium*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Noises Off*, *Reefer Madness*, *Phantom*, *Die! Mommie, Die!*, *Poseidon: An Upside-Down Musical*, *Follies*, *Chicago*, *The Little Foxes*, *Rigoletto*, *The Great White Hope*, *The Women*, *On the Waterfront*, and the award-winning film *Counting*. John is also a Artistic Associate of Pride Films and Plays and the Artistic Director of Glitterati Productions: www.glitteratiproductions.com

Patrick O'Brien (*Sound Engineer*) is a multidisciplinary theater artist and writer. Other sound designs: *Beowulf*, *R + J: The Vineyard* (Red Theater Chicago); *Dying City* (The Comrades); *The Story of a Story (The Untold Story)* (Underscore Theatre). Sound experience: *Sense & Sensibility* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater, internship); *Heathers*, *Loving Repeating*, *The Full Monty* (Kokandy Productions); *The Wild Party*, *Carrie* (Bailiwick Chicago). Other experience: *The Library* (Level 11 Productions). BA Theatre Arts, Minor in Music, Millikin University '14. He also contributes to the BroadwayWorld Chicago and Chicagoland Musical Theatre websites, and is proudly baritone with the Chicago Artists Choral. His portfolio: pobsound.com.

Michael J. Patrick (*Sound Designer*) is a Chicago designer with recent credits including Theater at the Center's *Annie Warbucks* (Associate Designer), Theater at the Center's *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Associate Designer), Milwaukee Repertory Theater's *A Christmas Carol* (Assistant Designer), *Heathers* (Kokandy Productions), *Xanadu* (The Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), *The Full Monty* (Kokandy Productions), Theatre at the Center's *Spamalot* (Associate Designer) and several dozen other shows. He has designed and engineered countless corporate events for companies including Hospira, Pfizer, Baird, The American Heart Association, Abbvie, and President Obama's 2014 Labor Day speech in Milwaukee. He is also the president of Concert Sound Systems, a Chicago-based sound design, equipment rental, and installation company serving theatrical and corporate needs. Michaeljpatrick.com

Alexander Ridgers (*Lighting Design*) is very excited to be working with this team on *Grand Hotel* and working with Kokandy for the fourth time having designed *The Wiz*, *Little Fish*, and *Bonnie & Clyde* in 2017. Other notable credits include: designs with Griffin Theatre

Company, Lucky Plush Productions, Writers Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Next Act Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, American Blues Theatre, Fort Worth Opera, Drury Lane, and Northwestern University. Alexander is on faculty at University of Illinois at Chicago and assists with Marcus Doshi Design. Alexander is based in Chicago and has an MFA from Northwestern University, and a BA from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. For more information visit: www.alexanderidgers.com

Keith Ryan (*Hair and Wig Designer*) is proud to say: he is an Ensemble Member with Hell In a Handbag Productions. Some of his other wig designing credits include: working with the Chicago Theatre Workshop, where I am the Resident Wig Designer; North American Folk Theatre; Kokandy Productions; Akvavit Theatre Productions; Not Too Fancy Productions, NYC; Alex Grelle; A Red Orchid Theatre; After School Matters, CPS; Leyden High Schools; Oak Lawn Park District Theatre; Southland Area Theatre Ensemble; and the 99th Street Summer Theatre!

Zachary Schley (*Assistant Technical Director*) is very proud to be working on his second show with Kokandy Productions. He has assisted on the set construction for numerous theaters across the city including Kokandy Productions, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Porchlight Theatre, and Timeline Theatre Company to name a few. Zach is a proud graduate of Roosevelt University's CCPA.

Cameron Turner (*Assistant Choreographer*) is so happy to be back with Kokandy after last assistant directing/choreographing *Tomorrow Morning*. Other recent Chicago credits include *A New Brain*, *Honky Tonk Angels*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Theo Ubique), *35MM* (Circle Theater) and *The Boy From Oz* (Jeff nomination - Best Choreography, Pride Film & Plays). He has also been seen in productions at Porchlight Music Theater, Mercury Theater, American Theater Company and Music Theater Works. Many thanks to Brenda for bringing him on board and her constant love and mentorship, John and Aaron for being wonderful collaborators and the cast and crew for bringing this wonderful piece back to Chicago.

Alan Weusthoff (*Technical Director*) Alan is excited to be back with Kokandy Productions, where he previously built the sets for *Little Fish*, *The Wiz*, and *Heathers*. As a freelance Technical Director, Alan has most recently built the sets for *Still Dance the Stars* at Chicago Dramatists, *We’re Gonna Die* with Haven Theatre and Hookman with Steep Theatre. Other Chicago credits include: *Venus in Fur* (Circle Theatre), *Winterset* (Griffin Theatre), *How We Got On* (Haven Theatre), and *In The Heights* (Porchlight Theatre). Alan is a graduate of the theater program at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO.

Robert Wright & George Forrest (*Music & Lyrics*) Robert and George wrote together in the longest continual partnership in the history of musical theatre. They got their start in Hollywood and were equally comfortable writing for the screen or stage. Their most famous musical is *Kismet*, in which they adapted the musical themes of Alexander Borodin, creating a theatrical score filled with songs that became timeless hits including: “Baubles, Bangles and Beads,” “Stranger In Paradise,” and “And This Is My Beloved.” Several of their works used classical compositions adapted into song form. Their works for the stage include: *Song of Norway* (1944) (music adapted from Edvard Grieg), *Gypsy Lady* (1946) (music adapted from Victor Herbert), *Magdalena* (1948) (original music by Heitor Villa-Lobos), *Kismet* (1953) (music adapted from Alexander Borodin), *Kean* (1961), *Anyá* (1965) (music adapted from Sergei Rachmaninoff), *The Great Waltz* (1970) (music adapted from Johann Strauss), *Timbuktu!* (1978) (reworking of *Kismet*), *Grand Hotel The Musical* (1989).

Maury Yeston (*Additional Music & Lyrics*) In addition to winning the Tony Award for Best Score for *Titanic*, Maury Yeston also won the Tony and two Drama Desk Awards for his music and lyrics to Broadway's *Nine* when it first appeared on Broadway in 1982. His work on Broadway's *Grand Hotel* was also nominated for a Tony and two Drama Desk Awards, and won London s Olivier Award in 2005. Yeston's music and lyrics cover a variety of styles. His Cello Concerto was premiered by Yo-Yo Ma, while his album *Goya A Life in Song* featured Placido Domingo and Gloria Estefan and included the song “Till I Loved You,” subsequently a Top 40 Barbra Streisand hit. His classical crossover *December Songs* was commissioned by Carnegie Hall for its centennial celebration and recorded on RCA Records. Other Yeston works recorded on RCA Records include the score to his *Phantom*, which has received national and international acclaim, and the London Concert version of *Nine*, which starred Jonathan Pryce and Elaine Paige. In June 2003, he premiered his new book and musical adaptation of Frank Loesser's *Hans Christian Andersen*, now scheduled for worldwide production. Yeston holds a PhD. from Yale University and BA and MA degrees from both Yale and Cambridge. He was Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Music Studies at Yale for eight years, publishing two textbooks. Currently, he is Director of the BMI Music Theatre Workshop in New York City, a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild and on the Board of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He was named the 1997-1998 Kayden Visiting Artist at Harvard University and recently received The Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center Creative Arts Award and an Honorary Doctorate from Five Towns College.

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