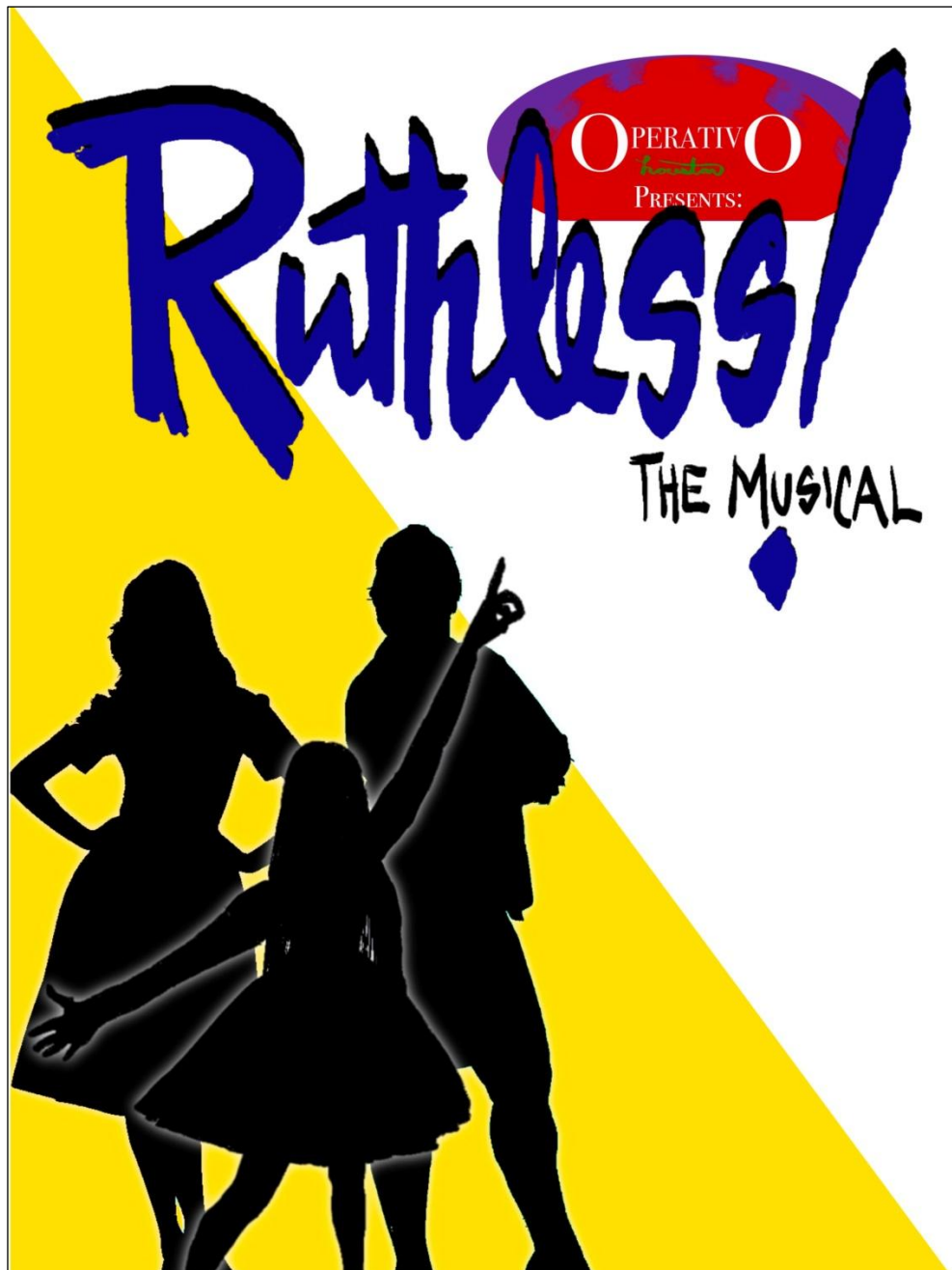


OPERATIVO MENTORING PROGRAM

Houston Saengerbund Halle | Houston, TX



Operativo Houston
Houston Saengerbund Halle

PRESENTS

RUTHLESS!

Book and Lyrics by
Joel Paley

Music by
Marvin Laird

Starring

Cat Schaefer

Macie Tielke
Judi Dai
Kayleigh McCarter
Avery Niceswanger

Landry Lumpkin
Maria Johnigan
Clarke Josey
Lola Tielke

Ashley Gilberg
Ashlyn Collings
Indy Dai
Cameron Wheatley

Prod'n Credit
Judi Dai

Prod'n Credit
Debbie Tielke

Prod'n Credit
Brie Johnigan

Prod'n Credit
Ashlyn Collings

Prod'n Credit
Eran McCarter

Prod'n Credit
Carla Josey

Prod'n Credit
Donna Gilberg

Prod'n Credit
Sarah Tielke

Prod'n Credit
Dom Dai

Prod'n Credit
Rebecca & Brandon
Niceswanger

Prod'n Credit
Shanna Lumpkin

Prod'n Credit
Cameron Wheatley

Direction by
Brian Yeakley

SONGS

ACT I

Tina's Mother Judy
Born To Entertain Tina
Talent Sylvia
To Play This Part Tina
Teaching Third GradeMiss Thorn
Where Tina Gets It FromJudy,Sylvia
The Pippi Song..... Louise,Miss Thorn
To Play This Part (Reprise) Tina
Kisses and HugsJudy,Tina
Teaching Third Grade (Reprise) Miss Thorn
I Hate Musicals..... Lita
Angel MomTina,Judy,Sylvia

ACT II

Penthouse Apartment.....Eve
It Can Never Be That Way Again..... Ginger
I Want the Girl Sylvia
Parents and Children..... Ginger,Tina
Ruthless Ginger,Tina,Sylvia,Miss Thorn, Lita
Talent (Reprise) Tina

CAST

Guest Cast Members

Sylvia St Croix Judi Dai
Judy Denmark Ashley Gilberg
Tina Denmark Macie Tielke
Myrna Thorn Kayleigh McCarter
Louise Lerman Avery Niceswanger
Lita Encore Ashlyn Collings
Eve Clarke Josey
Rachel Hobbs/Techie/Judge Indy Dai
Radio Announcer Cameron Wheatley

Emerging Cast Members

Sylvia St Croix Maria Johnigan
Judy Denmark Ashley Gilberg
Tina Denmark Landry Lumpkin
Myrna Thorn Clarke Josey
Louise Lerman Lola Tielke
Lita Encore Ashlyn Collings
Eve Kayleigh McCarter
Rachel Hobbs/Techie/Judge Indy Dai
Radio Announcer Cameron Wheatley

Production/Creative

Director Brian Yeakley

Understudies

Sylvia St. Croix Cameron Wheatley

Orchestra

Piano Cat Schaefer
Conductor Brian Yeakley

BIOGRAPHIES – CAST



Ashley Gilberg as **Judy Denmark**

ASHLEY GILBERG, 17, is a Senior at Travis High School in Richmond, Texas. Her favorite Credits: Cinderella-Into the Woods-THS, Rizzo-Grease-IStage, Leading Player-Pippin-THS, Heather Duke-Heathers, Sally Brown-Charlie Brown-THS, Arista-Mermaid & Charlotte-13. Ashley was proud to be a TUTS – Tommy Tune Nominee for Outstanding Lead, Outstanding Singer and Outstanding Actor in her role as Cinderella in Travis

High School's production of Into the Woods this past Spring.



Ashlyn Collings as **Lita Encore**

Ashlyn is a Senior at Episcopal High School. There, she has performed in many productions such as Our Town (Simon Stimson), Chicago (Annie), Mamma Mia (Ensemble), and Nevermore (Captain Nimrod). As she works toward her GED, she hopes to pursue a degree in English with an emphasis on creative writing. "Lita Encore is a character to remember, as she demands flawless line delivery and expert comedic timing. From trying to tame the beast that is Lita, I've learned where the bar is (literally

& figuratively) to continue to do my best in theater!" Ashlyn would like to thank her grandma, her little sister, and her parents.



Judi Dai as **Sylvia St. Croix**

Education: University of Texas (Bachelor of Arts: Psychology) University of Houston, Victoria (Master of Education: Counselor Education) Dai works as a mental health therapist in private practice, working with children, adolescents, and families at TheVillage.LOVE Play Therapy and Counseling. Dai grew up singing in church choir and church musicals. In college, she continued her passion for performing as a soprano in UT's pop choir,

Longhorn Singers. Recent years, she feeds this lust for musical theater in the audience, as young actors' biggest fan. This is her first time on stage after nearly 30 years. Dai is thrilled for this opportunity to work with such talented young artists and hopes this is the first of many more to come.



Macie Tielke as **Tina Denmark**

Macie Tielke will be attending Needville Jr. High as an 8th grade student next year. She has played many roles, all which have done their part in growing this passion of hers. Two of her favorites are Strawberry Freckleface and Ilona Ritter. She is especially pumped about playing Tina Denmark and being an eight year old that can get away with murder. She thanks Brian Yeakley for training and trusting her & her parents for supporting her dreams. Break a leg!

BIOGRAPHIES



Avery Niceswanger as **Louise Lerman**

Avery is excited to make her Operativo Houston debut as Louise in Ruthless! She will be a 7th grader at Baines Middle School. Avery has five years of musical theater experience and favorite roles include: Edwina (Dear Edwina Jr.), Coral (Finding Nemo Jr.) and Grasshopper (James and the Giant Peach). Avery thanks the Director, Brian Yeakley, for the opportunity to join the Ruthless cast! Break a leg!



Clarke Josey as **Eve/Myrna Thorn**

Clarke R. Josey is an aspiring actress that will be a freshman at Energy Institute High School in the fall. She is excited to perform in her first Operativo Houston production. She enjoys acting, singing and dancing. She thanks Director Brian Yeakley for the opportunity to perform as Eve and Ms. Thorn. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!



Kayleigh McCarter as **Myrna Thorn/Eve**

Kayleigh McCarter, 13, is beyond excited to be making her Operativo debut. Learning to get to know both Myrna and Eve have been an absolute joy! Recent Roles: Mother, Freckleface Strawberry; Dory, Finding Nemo; Caitlyn Caussin, Mean Girls. Special thanks to everyone involved on the cast and crew, and especially to our pianist and conductor Cat and Brian for giving us the chance to perform

with live music! Please enjoy the show we've all worked so hard on!



Landry Lumpkin as **Tina Denmark**

Landry Lumpkin is thrilled to be working for the first time with Operativo Houston. She is a 10 year-old 6th grader, a member of the Gifted & Talented program, and an avid book reader. Favorite credits include: Matilda (Matilda), Junie B Jones (Junie), Aristocats (Marie), Annie (Molly), Frozen (Little Anna), & Madagascar (Old Lady). She wants to thank Mr.

Mr. Brian for this role, letting her show she was truly "Born to Entertain"!

BIOGRAPHIES



Lola Tielke as Louise Lerman
Lola Tielke is delighted to be making her debut with Operativo Houston. Recent roles: Alice in Matilda and Hermy in Rudolph, Jr. - both with Inspiration Stage in Sugar Land, as well as Young Fiona in Shrek, Jr. and Adella in The Little Mermaid, Jr. - both with Showtime Theatre in Katy. She's enjoyed the role of Louise, it has stretched her as an actress to go outside of her comfort zone and try new things.



Indy Dai as Rachel Hobbs/Techie/Judge
Education: Colony Bend Elementary School
Recent: Inspiration Stage - Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Winnie the Pooh, Lion King, Matilda, Finding Nemo, Indy fell in love with musical theater after watching Heathers at Inspiration Stage, and it has taken off from there. This is first of hopefully many times participating in Operativo.



Cameron Wheatley as Radio Announcer

Education: Junior at East Texas Baptist University, pursuing BA in Music, with a minor in Musical Theater. Recent works: Working the Musical (Utkarsh Trajillo, the caretaker), Scenes and Revelations (Samuel, the SEXY FARMHAND), White Christmas (Ezekiel Foster, the old man). It means a lot to me to work in this show and help out,

it gives me more experience as well as has helped with adaptability and ready to help anyway possible. Once I complete my education, my dream is to further my career in Atlanta as a working musician and actor.



Maria Johnigan as Sylvia St. Croix

Maria is so excited to perform her first show at Operativo! She is having an amazing time working on Ruthless and developing friendships along the way. Role Highlights: Teacher, Freckleface Strawberry; Liza/Pirate, Peter Pan Jr. at *Inspiration Stage*; Belle, Beauty and the Beast; Donkey, Shrek the Musical, *KBP Pearland*. She wants to thank her family, friends, and mostly her director, Brian, for helping her along this very fun and crazy show!

helping her along this very fun and crazy show!

BIOGRAPHIES - STAFF



Brian Yeakley Director/Conductor

More info at: brianrossyeakley.com

Education: Wichita State University (Bachelors, 2012), University of Houston (Masters, 2014; Artist Diploma, 2019). Young Artist Programs: Wolf Trap Opera, Glimmerglass Opera Festival, Opera Saratoga, Virginia Opera. Main stage: Opera in the Heights, Austin Opera, San Antonio Opera, Opera Saratoga, Wichita Grand Opera. Symphonic Orchestras: Austin Symphony, Valley Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, Jackson Symphony. Music Direction: Inspiration Stage, Operativo Houston. Recent: Pirelli, *Sweeney Todd*, Opera Saratoga; Count Almaviva, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Opera Saratoga; Little Bat, *Susannah*, Wichita Grand Opera. Upcoming: Frederic, *Pirates of Penzance*.



Cat Schaefer Piano

Pianist Catherine Schaefer is Houston based, but collaborates with singers and instrumentalists throughout the country. She has worked as a répétiteur and music staff member for University of Houston's Moores Opera Center, Sarasota Opera, Aspen Opera Theater Center, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Opera in the Heights (Houston TX), Atlanta Opera studio, Sugar Land Opera, Halifax

Summer Opera Workshop, and Houston Grand Opera outreach (HGOCO). Ms. Schaefer has been on the faculties of Bridges Academy of Fine Arts and the American Festival for the Arts. She is the Director of Music at Annunciation Catholic Church, where she is responsible for several parish choirs as well as the professional group Sola Stella, in residence at Annunciation. She holds a B.M. in piano performance from Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA), and a M.M. from University of Houston, where she studied with Abbey Simon.

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TheVillage.Love Play Therapy & Counseling

TheVillage.LOVE Play Therapy and Counseling loves the performing arts and applauds Operativo for making musical theater and opera accessible to a broader audience.

inspiration STAGE

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Matilda Jr Pilot 2018

You're our Inspiration

Located in Sugar Land, TX, INSPIRATION STAGE is a national award-winning performing arts studio and theatre offering classes for ages four to teens and performance opportunities for youth and adults. Theatre craft promotes and instills intellectual, emotional, physical, and communication skills by cultivating freedom of personal and creative expression. Storytelling and role playing are universal, fundamental human traits. Nourishing the creative spirit empowers us to embrace the complexity and diversity of our world with understanding, hope, courage, and empathy.

OPERATIVO HOUSTON'S 2023-2024 SEASON

Please enjoy our short list of musicals being considered next year:

The Secret Garden

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

The Light in the Piazza

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

Iolanthe by Gilbert and Sullivan

Little Shop of Horrors

The Sound of Music

If you have a suggestion not listed, send us an email!

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dearest theater-goers,

When I think of shows to do for Operativo, I always plan in an orderly fashion, and try to keep everything really well thought out. Ruthless the musical was NOT that kind of show. Not only did I decide to do it spur of the moment when talking with students who wanted a show to do this summer; I also threw a lot of stuff at the "board of random chance" to hope this would happen! This show has been a process and labor of absolute passion and love. Ruthless is a farce, meaning buffoonery and horse-play shows, you know, things you think of when describing Brian Yeakley to people. I have always wanted to do this show ever since I first heard of it a few years ago, and *MAN* does this show have some seriously good writing in it! There are so many jokes; you can't catch them all in one watch! Hopefully, you'll want to come to all three shows after seeing it the first time (assuming you're here on opening night!) tonight just to catch some of those sly bits and jokes! I want you, the audience, to relax and have a good time enjoying this insane, slightly profane, but still 100% pure joy to perform for all of us! Thanks to my cast and their wonderful families, the village is really forming for Operativo, and our future looks bright! Have fun everyone!! And don't forget to buy snacks and concessions!

- Brian Yeakley, Founder of Operativo Houston