

CHATTANOOGA STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Proudly Presents

Coffee For Miles

By Lee Larson



October 4-6, 2024
Humanities Auditorium

Coffee For Miles

By Lee Larson

Featuring

Hilary Ashby

Mason Audiss

Jameson Bespalec-Davis

Nevaeh Blanchette

Lydia Bridgforth

Troy Deslatte

Mia Fansler

Kae Link

Director

Sam Gross

Stage Manager

Katie Hamilton

Lighting Design

Claire Brillhart

Sound Design

Justin Walker

Scenic Design

Sarah Miecielica

Costume Design

Brenda Schwab

Assistant Stage Manager

Hunter Roessel

Intimacy Coordinator

Jennifer Wilson

On Stage

Miles.....Mason Audiss
 Chat.....Jameson Bsepalec-Davis
 Chitter.....Kae Link
 Amy.....Nevaeh Blanchette
 Rabbit.....Hilary Ashby
 Officer Ant.....Lydia Bridgforth
 Dottie.....Mia Fansler
 Joe.....Troy Deslatte

Behind the Scenes

Director.....Sam Gross
 Production Stage Manager/Props Manager.....Katie Hamilton
 Scenic Design.....Sarah Miecielica
 Costume Design.....Brenda Schwab
 Lighting Design.....Claire Brillhart
 Sound Design.....Justin Walker
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Hunter Roessel
 Artistic Director/Intimacy Coordinator.....Jennifer Wilson
 Backstage Crew.....Heidi Brock & Aria Daniel
 Light Board Operator.....Ryon Trammel
 Sound Board Operator.....Kaylee Payne
 Costume Crew.....Alley Dwyer
 Scene Shop Assistants.....Glen Arbogast, Lynne Avelis, Lucas Blair,
 Lydia Bridgforth, Claire Brillhart, Ethan Somero, & SJ Teal

Connect with us!



@ChattStateFineArts



Chattanooga State Fine Arts



www.chattanoogastate.edu/theatre



theatre@chattanoogastate.edu

Director's Note

I've always held the opinion that theatre is more fun for kids than it is for adults. Kids are often uninhibited by the anxieties and stressors that come with getting older, and able to act fearlessly and without self-doubt. They're able to enjoy shows without question, already carrying their willing suspension of disbelief with them at all times. My first audition was for a church production of *Annie*: I was ten years old and well-prepared by my mother to sing Edelweiss from the *Sound of Music*. I felt no shame or nervousness about singing and acting in front of other people; I only felt joy. Comparing that to the all-day jitters and dread that accompany me during auditions now as a twenty-two-year-old, I feel a stark contrast.

I often wish I could go back to the unabashed ways of my younger self. Not yet scared of other people judging me or criticizing me or thinking I'm not good enough.

When I started the directing process for *Coffee for Miles*, of course, I expected to have a great time. What I did not expect was for this creative process to unlock a part of my inner child that I hadn't seen in a long time. I looked forward to entering the rehearsal room every single day because I knew it was a place where I could forget the rest of my life and simply focus on ants and inchworms. It was a place where I could laugh and joke with my amazing cast and production team. And lastly, it was a place where I could truly be myself without any fear of judgment. I hope I created that same atmospheric feeling for everyone involved in *Coffee for Miles*. It has truly been my honor to direct such a wonderful group of people.

While this show may be for children, I hope people of all ages can let themselves be kids again, let loose, and enjoy all of the magic and excitement in *Coffee for Miles*.

-Sam Gross

Special Thanks

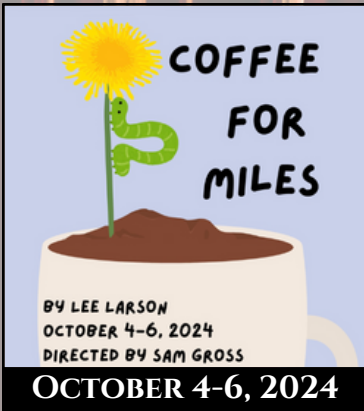
Richard Nichols

Dr. Ken Cardillo, Fine Arts Department Chair

Dr. Charmayne Mulligan, Dean of Humanities & Fine Arts

Dr. Rebecca Ashford, President of Chatt State

OUR 2024-2025 SEASON



COFFEE FOR MILES

BY LEE LARSON
OCTOBER 4-6, 2024
DIRECTED BY SAM GROSS

OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

The poster features a white coffee cup with a green snake coiled around a yellow dandelion seed head that is growing out of the cup. The background is a light blue gradient.



EURYDICE

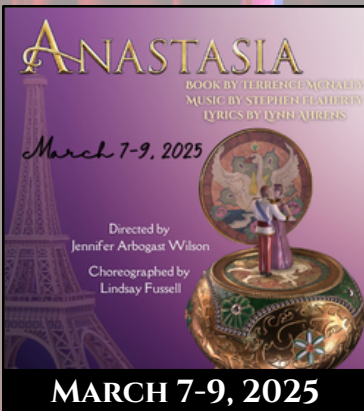
By SARAH RUHL

NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024

Directed by Dylan Kussman

NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024

The poster shows a white silhouette of a woman holding an umbrella against a dark, starry background. The text is in white and light blue.



ANASTASIA


BOOK BY TERENCE MCCRADY
MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLAHERTY
LYRICS BY LYNN AIRLES

March 7-9, 2025

Directed by Jennifer Arbogast Wilson
Choreographed by Lindsay Fussell

MARCH 7-9, 2025

The poster features a purple background with a white silhouette of the Eiffel Tower on the left and a golden, ornate music box on the right. The text is in white and gold.



5 Lesbians Eating a QUICHE

By Evan Linder and Andrew Holgood

April 24-26, 2025

Directed by Amanda Medlin

APRIL 24-26, 2025
DINNER THEATRE

The poster has a light blue and white checkered background. It features a photo of a quiche in a round pan on the right. The text is in black and pink.

CHATT STATE REPERTORY THEATRE 2025 SUMMER PROFESSIONAL SERIES



CHATTANOOGA STATE REPERTORY THEATRE
PROUDLY PRESENTS

An American Sign Language Shadow-Interpreted Production of

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY
JASON ROBERT BROWN

MAY 16-18, 2025

The poster shows two gold wedding rings on a red heart-shaped rug. A white hand is shown in the bottom right corner. Logos for Arts in Education and SET are in the top right.



RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS
LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
CONCEIVED BY WALTER BOBBE
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS BY FRED WELLS
ORCHESTRATION BY MICHAEL GIBSON AND JONATHAN TUNER

June 20-22, 2025

JUNE 20-22, 2025

The poster features a blue curtain background with yellow stars. The title is in a large, yellow, stylized font.

On Stage



Hilary Ashby (Rabbit) is 19 years old and currently a sophomore at Chattanooga State Community College majoring in Theatre Performance. Most recently, you may have seen her appear on the Chatt State stage as Tricia in *Dog Sees God*. She loves the theatre program here and everyone involved and is super excited to play Rabbit in this show!!



Mason Audiss (Miles), an 18-year-old Chattanooga State student started acting at age 9 and has performed in 22 shows. Recent roles include Perchik in *Fiddler On The Roof*, Crutchie in *Newsies*, Mr. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*, and Rev. Parris in *The Crucible*. He finds pleasure in theater and it facilitates making friends due to the sense of community and the opportunity to break out of his shell. In his spare time, he plays video games and casually plays the guitar.



Jameson Bepalec-Davis (Chat) has been acting for 9 years and is very excited to be doing his first show at Chattanooga State. This is one of the biggest roles Jameson has ever taken on and he is very excited.



Nevaeh Blanchette (Amy)...wait, I think we have an issue, this states Nev is PERFORMING in *Coffee for Miles* not assistant stage managing it? Yes, after two long awaited years, Nev is taking the stage instead of managing behind it. Nev has worked behind the scenes in *Legally Blonde*, *Footloose*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Radium Girls*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Tiny Beautiful Things* and now she will inch her way onto stage as the character Amy.

On Stage



Lydia Bridgforth (Officer Ant) is very excited to be a part of *Coffee for Miles* as her first college production. Lydia's most recent roles are Celia (*As you Like It*), Hermia (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and a Featured Dancer/Ensemble (*The Gondoliers*). Lydia has also trained in ballet for 12 years and loves to express herself through dance. When she is not on stage, Lydia enjoys pursuing hobbies such as crocheting, bracelet making, sewing, drawing, and many other creative outlets.



Troy Deslatte (Joe) is the little one. While he loves to act, he definitely loves his two cats (Aurora & Smitty) a bit more. He has ambitions of working in the film industry as a writer and an actor with the goal to tell the stories of other people with dwarfism from all around the world. This is his first year at Chattanooga State and he's very much looking forward to furthering his acting education and seeing where it'll take him in the future. Troy sincerely hopes you enjoy the show we've made and he's glad you came to watch it!



Mia Fansler (Dottie) is excited for her first appearance acting on the Chattanooga State stage, last season she only worked backstage. Mia has acted since she was in elementary school, mostly in school shows but she frequently appears at Backalley Productions located in Lafayette Georgia. Mia is a second year at Chatt State and is getting her associates in Theatre Tech and Design. She is very excited to help bring Lee Larson's writing and Sam Gross's vision to life as the sweet Dottie, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Kae Link (Chitter) has been dancing since her freshman year of high school and doing theater since her junior year. Some of her previous roles include Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods* and as The Mad Hatter in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Though she is attending Chattanooga State in hopes of becoming a dental hygienist, performing is her first love and she can't imagine going a semester without being on the stage. She is thrilled to be a part of the production of *Coffee for Miles*.

Associate of Fine Arts Degrees in Theatre Performance & Theatre Design/Tech



- ▶ Tuition Free with TN Promise* **for qualified Tennessee residents*
- ▶ Scholarships Available

CHATTANOOGA STATE
Theatre Department

Behind the Scenes

Claire Brillhart (Lighting Designer) is so grateful to be a part of the production team for *Coffee for Miles*, this is her first college production. Some of Claire's recent productions as a technician include: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lighting Designer), *You Can't Take It With You* (Lighting Designer), and *The Crucible* (Stage Manager/Lighting Designer). Some fun facts about Claire are, she's an actress, was nominated as "Best Crew Member" for the 2024 Jewel awards, and has been a part of choirs for the past 12 years. She thanks you for coming, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Sam Gross (Director) is thrilled to be directing her first show: *Coffee for Miles*! Sam is a recent graduate of Chattanooga State, gaining her A.F.A. in Theatre Performance. While acting may be her main pursuit, she has always had a passion for Theatre for Young Audiences. Sam spent many years writing sketches and performing for young children in the troupe TheatreQuest, and is delighted to use that knowledge while directing this show. She would like to thank Jennifer Wilson, Sarah Miecielica, Brenda Schwab, and Katie Hamilton for their guidance and mentorship through this process; and her friends and family for letting her ramble about inchworms and squirrels. She hopes that audiences of all ages can enjoy the fun and adventure in *Coffee for Miles*!

Katie Hamilton (Production Stage Manager/ Props Manager) is very excited to be stage managing this production. She is starting her second year as the production manager at Chattanooga State and is enjoying learning so much from all of the amazing artists all around her everyday. Some other productions that you may have seen around town that she has stage managed include: *Tiny Beautiful Things* (CSRT), *Dog Sees God- Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* (Chattanooga State), *Legally Blonde* (Chattanooga State), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Chattanooga State), *Murder at Café Noir* (Chattanooga State), *Seussical* (SMPH), *Cinderella* (Colonnade Players), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (SMPH). Coming up next, Katie had the privilege of stage managing *Eurydice* here at Chattanooga State. She would also like to thank Jennifer Hamilton and Jennifer Wilson for their continued guidance and friendship. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Sarah Miecielica (Scenic Design) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Design and Technology at Chattanooga State Community College. She obtained her MFA in Theatre Design and Technology from the University of Arkansas and a BS in Theatre from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse. Before teaching Sarah served as the Resident Designer and Production Manager at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. She has worked professionally as a Prop Artisan and Manager at various professional theatres including The Alley Theatre, McCarter Theatre, and the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre. Sarah's design credits include productions at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre, Princeton University, The Playhouse in San Antonio, and the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre.

Behind the Scenes

Hunter Roessel (Assistant Stage Manager) is happy to be working on this show as assistant stage manager. This is his first time being an assistant stage manager and is excited to learn all that he can from the talented production team. In the past he has worked tech for *Legally Blonde*. He has worked in the scene shop for shows such as *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Café Noir*, and *Legally Blonde*.

Brenda Schwab (Costume Designer) has spent the past 40 plus years working in theater – professional , community and educational – acting , directing , costuming , coaching actors and singers and producing . She was co-founder of the New Harmony Theatre, a professional theater in New Harmony, Indiana, where she was in charge of the educational wing of the theater and directed the children’s theater program. The past 18 of those years she has spent at Chatt State where she is the resident costume designer and teaches costume design and construction . She has appeared onstage at Chatt State and other theaters in the area. In the Chattanooga area as a director she has worked with the Signal Mtn. Playhouse , Oak Street Playhouse, Ensemble Theatre of Chattanooga and the Tennessee Valley Theatre in Spring City . She was the resident costume designer at the Cumberland County Playhouse for a number of years and was part of the first professional acting company hired there.

Justin Walker (Auditorium Manager), the manager for Chattanooga State’s Humanities Auditorium, is running the audio board for this production. He comes to us from the Memorial Auditorium and Walker Theatre, where he served as Technical Director from 2012 to 2021. He has over 25 years of experience working with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees on productions and events ranging from the River Bend festival to Broadway productions and televised events. He’s excited to continue his journey here as an asset to the Chattanooga State theatre department.

Jennifer Arbogast Wilson (Artistic Director/Intimacy Coordinator) is the Artistic Director of Theatre and Professor of Music and Theatre at Chattanooga State. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts Directing from University of Idaho, as well as a Master of Music and Doctor of Arts in Vocal Performance from Ball State University. Jennifer is active as a director in the Chattanooga area, and some cherished shows she’s directed include *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Big Fish*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Seussical*, and *Peter Pan*. An avid performer as well, some favorite past roles include Anna Leonowens (*The King and I*), Lady of the Lake (*Spamalot*), Lily Craven (*The Secret Garden*), Irene Molloy (*Hello, Dolly!*), and Snoopy (*You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*). Her favorite roles ever, though, are as wife and mother to her incredible husband Jonathan, their remarkable son Asher (and his brother arriving this November!), their cat Benvolio, and their dog Puck.