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Book & Additional Lyrics by
CRISTINA LUZÁRRAGA
Music & Lyrics by DENISE PROSEK
Directed by MAIJA GARCÍA
Choreography by RENEE GUITTAR

Nov 23 - Dec 29, 2024

history theatre



JENNIFER
GRIMM
sings
JUDY
GARLAND

March 1 | 7:30 pm
History Theatre

history theatre
PRESENTS

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WELCOME



Richard D. Thompson



Karen Mueller

Greetings all and thank you for joining us at this busy time of year. *I Am Betty*, Cristina Luzárraga and Denise Prosek's memorable chronicle of a century of women's roles through the filter of icon Betty Crocker, is returning by popular demand! We'd like to applaud and thank our creative team and emphasize how unique History Theatre is in the local nonprofit theater landscape.

Bringing important stories about real events, people, icons, and institutions from "page to stage" is rare feat and requires imagination, talent and skill. It also takes money to support the research and development time required to bring stories to life "fully baked."

If you like what you see on our stage tonight and throughout the year, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to History Theatre. Your support is greatly appreciated and required now more than ever as we work diligently to improve our facility and meet our end-of-year financial goals.

Thank you in advance, and all of us at History Theatre wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

Richard D. Thompson
Artistic Director

Karen Mueller
Managing Director

history theatre

RICHARD D. THOMPSON
Artistic Director

KAREN MUELLER
Managing Director

I AM BETTY

Book and Additional Lyrics by
CRISTINA LUZÁRRAGA

Music and Lyrics by
DENISE PROSEK

Directed by **MAIJA GARCÍA***

Music Direction by **JOSHUA BURNIECE•**

Choreography by **RENEE GUITTAR**

Scenic &
Costume Design
SARAH BAHR*

Lighting Design
KARIN OLSON*

Sound Design
C ANDREW MAYER#

Video Design
LESLIE RITENOUR

Props Design
URSULA K. BOWDEN

Orchestrator
JASON HANSEN

Dance Captain
ANNA HASHIZUME*
New Works &
Producing Associate
LAURA LEFFLER

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage and Production Manager.....	Lee Johnson*
Assistant Stage Manger.....	Jaya Robillard
Assistant Director.....	Emma Schuld
Technical Director.....	Gunther Gullickson
Master Electrician.....	Nick Walberg
Associate Master Electrician.....	Nick Fetting
Stage Electricians.....	Brianna Mae, Bevibel Harvey, Katherine Peters, Asa Gutow
Lead Carpenter.....	Evan Sima
Carpenters.....	Caleb Terry, Phong Mai
Scenic Charge.....	Erika Soukup
Costume Assistant.....	Meghan Kent
Costume Technicians.....	Caroline Amaral Zaltron, Lily Turner
ASL Interpreters.....	James Gardner, Erin Gardner (Air Rhymes Theatrical Interpreting)
Audio Describer.....	Elena Centor
Open Captioner.....	Sheila Band

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Elissa Adams, the archivists of General Mills, Augsburg University, Costume Collective, Laurie Flanigan Hegge, Jungle Theater, Macalester College Theatre Department Costume Shop, Susan Marks, The Playwrights' Center, Ron Peluso, University of Minnesota Dept. of Theatre and Dance



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^ Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.

• Member of Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians

Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

WHO'S WHO

THE ENSEMBLE (in alphabetical order)

Annette, Marcia Copeland, Ensemble	Ruthie Baker
Marjorie, Lina, Ensemble	Erin Capello
Yvonne, Zelma, Ken, Ensemble	Tiffany Cooper*
Samuel Gale, Adelaide, Ensemble	Stephanie Cousins
Postman, Barbara Jo, Ensemble	Lynnea Doublette*
Ethel, Trudy, Ensemble	Jennifer Grimm*
Patty, Ruby, Ensemble	Anna Hashizume*
Clarissa, Wally, Ensemble	Liv Kemp
Blanche, Bob Hope, Rosa, Ensemble	Kiko Laureano*

UNDERSTUDIES

Idman Adan, Katherine Fried*, Grace Hillmyer, Emma Schuld, Lisa Vogel

THE MUSICIANS

Guitar and Banjo	Kyle Baker
Keyboard	Joshua Burniece
Bass	Kellie Nitz
Drums	Josh Carlson



RUTHIE BAKER



ERIN CAPELLO



TIFFANY COOPER*



STEPHANIE COUSINS



LYNNEA DOUBLETTE*



JENNIFER GRIMM*



ANNA HASHIZUME*



LIV KEMP



KIKO LAUREANO*



IDMAN ADAN U



GRACE HILLMYER U



KATHERINE FRIED* U



EMMA SCHULD U



LISA VOGEL U

U: Understudy

SETTING

Minneapolis, Nationwide, 1921-2021

This production will be performed with one 15-minute intermission

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

I'm Here	Company
The Birth of Betty	Marjorie, Samuel Gale, Secretaries
Something More	Marjorie
Trudy's Lament	Trudy, Ida, Mildred
Homemakers Creed	Trudy, Ida, Mildred
I'm Here (1930s)	Company
Mr. Marjorie	Wally
Cooking Boogie Woogie	Crockettes
Something More Reprise	Marjorie
Hollywood Montage	Company
These Eyes	Marjorie, Neysa
I Worked For Freedom Today	Company
Christmas This Year	Company
Big Red Boogie	Crockettes
I Want To Be Her	Barbara Jo
Mother's Little Helper	Housewives

ACT TWO

Hurricane	Betty Friedan, Barbara Jo, Company
Simmer And Wait, Part 1	Ken, Barbara Jo
Hamburger Helper Boogie	Crockettes
Simmer And Wait, Part 2	Ken, Barbara Jo
We're The Crockettes	Crockettes
Lo Bueno Con Lo Malo	Rosa
Just Add An Egg	Lina, Ruby, Company
Barbara Jo's Lament/From Scratch	Barbara Jo, Zelma, Company
Act II Finale	Company

Cooking is technical, but it's also ancestral. Food is Love... it's already in your bones.

Cristina Luzárraga & Denise Prosek have penned an instant classic - imprinting the music of a century on our hearts and minds - with 'I Am Betty.'

The story of Betty Crocker is an anthology of ingenuity; it's about the women behind the brand. From Marjorie Child Husted to Marcia Copeland, Barbara Jo Davis and the thousands of women who dedicated their lives in the test kitchens and offices of the Washburn-Crosby Company and General Mills, this musical honors their legacy. 'I Am Betty' is also an anthem to women from all walks of life, across time and space: those who carry, cultivate, cook, create and care for us... whose dreams and desires deserve to be centered and whose ideas, innovation, and leadership ought to be realized.

I encourage you to embrace the art of transformation as we travel in time from 1921 to 2021. An ensemble of nine fine actors play multiple roles along the way; inviting you to suspend your disbelief - just like Betty. Whatever your connection or aversion to the icon, Betty Crocker made an indelible mark on American style and sensibility. In my estimation she was the very first influencer. Millions of women sought Betty's support and counsel throughout their lives, and the Bettys who responded with clear advice and kitchen tested recipes set the



Maija García

standard for consumer services and modern marketing. For generations, Americans have defined and differentiated their tastes according to Betty Crocker's cookbooks. Was she real, people ask? Yes, I say, very. Betty is plural. The show's title could just as well be 'We are Betty'.

According to Marcia Copeland, the longest serving head of home services at General Mills, "It takes about 40 of us at a time to be Betty." With many hands on deck in the making of this show, it's a statement that holds true for us, too - and a reflection of who we are, at our best. We made this for you, with love.

Enjoy...

Maija García

As artists, as moms, and as people just trying to get dinner on the table, we owe a debt of gratitude to the visionary women who worked at the Home Service Department and the Betty Crocker Test Kitchens. Thank you for your tireless efforts to validate all women as we balance the demands of homemaking and careers.

Betty Crocker means many things to many people. To us, she represents two sides of a coin: inspiration, innovation, empathy, and an icon of forced domesticity. But whichever side you land on (or both), there is no denying her impact on women across the nation and the world. It has been an honor to tell the stories of the women who embodied Betty Crocker and the women affected by her influence. That could not have happened without the contributions of Barbara Jo Davis, Marcia Copeland, and Joyce Gauck. Thank you for generously sharing your stories with us.

Majja García, much more than a director, has been an active collaborator and invested her whole being into bringing this piece to life. She has shaped the story from beginning to end, and we are eternally grateful.

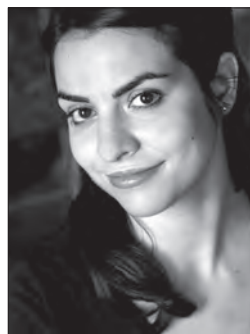
- *Cristina Luzárraga and
Denise Prosek*

I dedicate *I Am Betty* to my mother, Gay, who earned her bachelor's degree in Home Economics. She met my father, got married, and left her career to stay home and raise me and my sister. She was and will always be Betty Crocker to me. Special thanks to my husband, Milton, and my two sons, Hamilton and Carter.



Denise Prosek

I dedicate this musical to my grandmothers Maria Teresa Forcade Luzárraga and Jeannine Robert Ilario. Immigrants to the U.S. from Cuba and Québec respectively, they embraced many elements of



Cristina Luzárraga

American culture, culinary and otherwise, but never let go of their roots. Over the course of writing this show, I married my husband, Torrey, and gave birth to my daughter, Luisa. Much love to them and to my parents Alberto and Rosanne, as they helped keep the home fires burning.

We begin and end the show with the words, "I'm here." It encapsulates what people of all genders feel every day, with every emotion that phrase implies. While juggling all our obligations, we also strive to appreciate life in all its twist and turns. And for this day, for this moment, I'm here.

RUTHIE BAKER (she/her)

Annette, Marcia Copeland, Ensemble
History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023), *The Boy Wonder* (understudy), *Glensheen* (originated), *Christmas of Swing* (originated), *Sisters of Swing*. **Theater:** Guthrie: *The Music Man*, *Pride & Prejudice*; Ordway: *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol*; Daleko Arts: *Bright Star*; Tent Theatre: *9 to 5*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Violet*; Riverside Theatre: *Sisters of Swing*. **Other:** Founder, Second Fiddle Productions, licensed realtor, Edina Realty. **Training:** UW-Stevens Point, BFA Musical Theatre, NYC: Jen Waldman Studio. **Upcoming:** Holidays with my Tall English Husband and 3 lovely kiddos (age 7, 6 & 3). IG: @ruthieshouseandhome

ERIN CAPELLO (she/her)

Marjorie, Lina, Ensemble
History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023), *The Christmas Schooner*, *A Servants Christmas* (2003, 2022). **Theater:** Theater Laté Da: *Evita*, *Light In The Piazza*, *Steerage Song*, *Puttin on the Ritz*, *Next! Johnny Schicchi*, *Next To Normal*, *Johnny Skeekey*, *NEXT! She's come undone*; Stages Theater: *Jack and Rochelle*; The Minnesota Opera: *The Elephant Man*; Chanhassen Dinner Theater: *Swing!*; Gilbert And Sullivan Very Light Opera Company: *The Sorcerer*; Cardinal Theatricals: *Rocky Horror Live!*

TIFFANY COOPER* (she/her)

Yvonne, Zelma, Ken, Ensemble
History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023). **Broadway Theater:** *Bombay Dreams*, *Broadway National Tour: Guys and Dolls w/Maurice Hines*, *Bombay Dreams*. **Theater:** Guthrie: *Blackness is festival*; Chanhassen Theatre: *The Prom*; Walnut St. Theater: *Buddy Holly Show*; Helen Hayes Theater NYC: *Jesus Christ Superstar w/Billy Porter*; Oregon Cabaret Theater: *Mama Mia*; Perseverance Theater Alaska: *In The Next Room*; Cyrano's Theater Alaska: *Clybourne Park*. **Opera:** *Porgy and Bess* (Austria); *Grease Das Musical* (Germany, Switzerland); *Unard World Cruise: Solo Cabaret show*. **Film:** *Bigfoot Woods*, *Emma Was Here*. **TV:** Hallmark ABC, ABC. **Podcast:** *Radically Curious Conversations*. **Training:** BS Speech, Communications and Theater, Dance minor, MSU. Executive Public Speaker Coach and Life Coach. **Other:** School Board Member, Theater Laté Da Board. Tiffanycooper.com IG: [Tiffantcooper7](https://www.instagram.com/Tiffantcooper7)

STEPHANIE COUSINS (she/her)

Samuel Gale, Adelaide, Ensemble
History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Gremlin Theater: *Uncle Vanya*; Chanhassen Dinner Theatre: *Our Hometown Christmas Pageant*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *The 39 Steps*; Steel Magnolias; Artistry: *Pajama Game*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; *The Sound of Music*; Old Log Theater: *Life Could Be a Dream*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*; *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*; Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol*; Bucket Brigade Theater: *'Til Death: A Marriage Musical*, *Kingdom Undone*; Theater for The Thirsty: *My Name is Daniel* (Nat'l Tour), *A Misfit Christmas*; Sabes JCC: *The Children's Hour*; *Nocturnal Giraffe Theatre: Piñata*. **Training:** B.A. Music (Voice), Theatre Minor, University of Northwestern-St. Paul. **Other:** Love to her supporting crew at home - Nathan, Judith, Daisy and Gideon!

LYNNEA DOUBLETTE* (she/her)

Postman, Barbara Jo, Ensemble
History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023). **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatre: *Beautiful*; Ten Thousand Things Theatre: *Helen* based on the play by Euripides; Geva Theatre: *The Color Purple*; Theater Laté Da: *The Color Purple*, *Violet*; Chanhassen Dinner Company: *Footloose*; Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park: *The Lorax*; Children's Theatre: *Three Little Birds*; Guthrie Theater: *Caroline or Change*; Stages Theatre: *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*; Illusion Theatre: *Autistic License*; Zephyr Theater: *Mamma Mia*; Theatre in the Round: *Lysistrata*. **Film:** *Turnipseed*, *Autistic License*, and *His Neighbor Phil*. **Training:** M.Sc. Healthcare Communications, Saint Thomas University. "Lord this moment is AMAZING! Thank you and thank you for my family!" 1 Samuel 3:9-10

JENNIFER GRIMM* (she/her)

Ethel, Trudy, Ensemble
History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023). **Theater:** Theater Laté Da: *Lost In Boston*, *A Christmas Carole Petersen*, *Steerage Song*, *Puttin' On The Ritz*; Park Square Theater: *Words By*; Artistry Theater: *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; Actors Theatre of Minnesota: *Fairy Tales*; Northcoast Repertory Theatre, *Words By*, *Girl Singers of the Hit Parade*, *Girl Singers of the Hit Parade Christmas*. **Music/Voice:** Original music placed on NBC, USA, Showtime, TLC, Hulu Original, CW, Fusion, DC Universe, Netflix, WB. **Other:** Member, Actors' Equity Association, The Recording Academy, 2024 Fellow of Western Arts Alliance PADX Cohort, 2024 U.S. Delegate representing American Music for Dept of Commerce. **Education:** BA Mathematics, Augsburg. **Upcoming:** *History Theatre: Jennifer Grimm Sings Judy Garland*, March 2025. jenniferg Grimm.com

ANNA HASHIZUME* (she/her)

Patty, Ruby, Ensemble, Dance Captain
History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023), *Raw Stages*. **Theater:** Guthrie: *Into the Woods*; Theater Laté Da: *Johnny Skeekey*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *La Boheme*, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, *NEXT Festival*; Artistry Theater: *Mary Poppins*; Open Eye Theatre: *Log Jam!*; Theatre Elision: *Of Art and Artists*; Full Circle Theater: *Fire in the New World*; Lyric Arts: *Sense and Sensibility*; *Mixed Precipitation: The Clemency of Tito's Tennis Club, Dr. Falstaff and the Working Wives of Lake County, Philemon and Baucis: Planet in Peril*. **Opera:** The Muses Project: *Die Fledermaus*; Fargo-Moorhead Opera: *Don Giovanni*, *Speed Dating, Tonight!*; An Opera Theater: *The Sky Where You Are*, *In the Midst of Things*; Minnesota Opera: *La Traviata*, *Thais*; Lyric Opera of the North: *Rigoletto*. **Film:** *V/H/585*, *Reuben the Roller Roo*. **Awards:** Schubert Club Competition Winner '17. **Training:** M.M., UMN; B.S.O.F, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. annahashizume.com IG: @annahashizume

LIV KEMP (she/they)

Clarissa, Wally, Ensemble
History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023), *Raw Stages* (2023). **Theater:** Ten Thousand Things: *Helen*; Guthrie Theater: *Christmas Carol*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Toil and Trouble*;



National New Play Network



The Division is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical union.

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 # Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

CAST/MUSICIANS

Theater Latté Da: *She's Come Undone*: workshop; The Playwrights Center, various workshops. **Training:** UMN/ Guthrie BFA, Interlochen Arts Academy. livkemp.com IG: @kempolivia

KIKO LAUREANO* (she/her)

Blanche, Bob Hope, Rosa, Ensemble

History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023), *Runestone! A Rock Musical*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors, A Christmas Carol, Romeo And Juliet*; Artistry: *The Sound of Music*; Theatre L'Homme Dieu: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; Children's Theatre Company: *An American Tail*; Lyric Arts of Anoka: *Something Rotten; The Revolutionists*; Evita; Lakeshore Players: *Company*; Mixed Blood Theatre: *Autonomy*. **Training:** BFA Musical Theatre, Indiana University. kikolaureano.com. IG: @klaureano

THE MUSICIANS

KYLE BAKER- (he/him)

Guitar, Banjo

History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023), *The Boy Wonder, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story*. **Theater:** Old Log Theater, Music Director: *Escape to Margaritaville, Once Upon A Mattress, Million Dollar Quartet*; Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Pit member sub: *Grease, Newsies, Mamma Mia, Footloose, The Prom, Jersey Boys*; Theater Latté Da: *Next to Normal*; Park Square Theatre: *Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant*; Old Log Theater: *Million Dollar Quartet, Ghost: the Musical, Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*; Theater Mu: *Again*; Lyric Arts: *The Wedding Singer, Jungle Theater: Ride the Cyclone*.

JOSHUA BURNIECE-

Music Director, Keyboard

History Theatre: *Rollicking! (Raw Stages)*. **Theater:** Indiana Repertory Theatre: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Children's Theatre Company: *A Year With Frog and Toad*; Artistry/Theatre L'Homme Dieu: *Tick, Tick...Boom!*; State Theatre: *Spotlight Showcase*. **Other:** *Stuck At Midnight* (composer), *The Grim Pursuit* (composer), *Gorrior* (composer), *Rock Choir* (pianist/composer/arranger - Abbey Road Studios). **Awards:** Finalist, Score Relief 2024; Honorable Mention, Ryan Leach's April 2023 Composing Competition; 2nd Place, Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota Piano Competition; Winner, Luther College 2018 Concerto Competition; Winner, Fort Dodge Area Symphony 2018 Young Artists Competition. **Training:** M.M. Collaborative Piano, UMass Amherst; B.A. Music, Piano Performance, Luther College. joshuaburniece.com/ IG: @joshuaburniecepiano

JOSH CARLSON- (he/him)

Drums

History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023). **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Footloose, The Prom, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, White Christmas*; Guthrie Theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors*; Theater Latté Da: *Assassins*. **Other:** US Tour, Dallas Brass, Percussion/Timpani with Duluth Superior Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, Lakes Area

Music Festival. **Training:** BA Music, Gustavus Adolphus College. **Upcoming:** CDT: *Grease*

KELLIE NITZ- (she/her)

Bass

History Theatre: *Blended Harmony: The Kim Loo Sisters, Sweetland (Raw Stages), Hormel Girls*. **Theater:** North American Tours: *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations, Kinky Boots, Mamma Mia!*; Norwegian Cruise Lines: *SIX: The Musical*; Artistry: *Rent, The Sound of Music*; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Jersey Boys, The Prom, Footloose, Mamma Mia!, Newsies, Grease, Beauty and the Beast, Mary Poppins, Hello, Dolly!*; The Ordway: *Beauty and the Beast*. **Other:** HITCity: *Temptations Edition, Country Roads: The Music of John Denver*. **Training:** BA Music, UMN. IG: @nitzonbass

UNDERSTUDIES

IDMAN ADAN (she/her)

History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (2023, U/S). **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; Guthrie Theatre: *A Christmas Carol, The Tempest*; Theater Latté Da: *NEXT Festival: Love Them First*. **Training:** Mitchell Hamline School of Law

KATHERINE FRIED* (she/her)

History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Scotland, PA*; Ten Thousand Things Theater: *The Spitfire Grill, Iphigenia at Aulis, Ten Thousand Voices*; Guthrie Theatre: *The Parchman Hour, A Christmas Carol, King Lear*; Theatre L'Homme Dieu: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; The Playwrights' Center, The Jungle Theater, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Virginia Repertory Theatre Company; Kansas Repertory Theater; Fulton Opera; Opera Montana among others. **Other:** Composed music for *The Hatmaker's Wife, Ten Thousand Things Theater*. **Training:** UMN/ Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program.

GRACE HILLMYER (she/her)

History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Artistry: *Godspell, 25th Annual...Spelling Bee*; Lyric Arts: *Kinky Boots, The Girl on the Train*; Minneapolis Musical Theatre: *Analogue and Vinyl*. **Other:** Theatre education throughout metro area. **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts, UMN. **Upcoming:** History Theatre: *Whoa, Nellie!* IG: @gracehillmyer

EMMA SCHULD (she/her)

Understudy, Assistant Director

History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Trademark Theater: *The Reunion*; Artistry: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Guthrie Theater/Dowling Studio: *Anne Boleyn*; Lyric Arts: *Our Town*; Texas Shakespeare Festival: *Much Ado About Nothing, Sweeney Todd; Julius Caesar, Peter and the Starcatcher*; UMN-Guthrie BFA Program: *The Bakkhai, Romeo and Juliet, Junk: The Golden Age of Debt*. **Training:** UMN-Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program, Royal Shakespeare Company,

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Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829



Shakespeare's Globe, London. **Upcoming:** Theater Latté Da: *Fun Home*. emmahyschuld.com

LISA VOGEL (she/her)

History Theatre: Debut. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: Scotland, PA, *The Tears of La Llorona: A Border Zarzuela* 2023 NEXT Festival; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Jersey Boys*, *Footloose*; Artistry: *The Sound of Music*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Another Miracle on Christmas Lake*; Lyric Arts Main Street Stage: *Steel Magnolias*, *Sense and Sensibility*; Gilbert & Sullivan VLOC: *H.M.S Pinafore*; New London Barn Playhouse: *The Fantasticks*, *Camelot*; Lakeshore Players: *Beehive: The '60s Musical*. **Training:** BFA, Musical Theater, Emerson College; M.Ed. Special Education, UMN.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

CRISTINA LUZÁRRAGA (she/her)

Book and Additional Lyrics

History Theatre: *I Am Betty*. **Theater:** Playwrights' Center: Core Writer, former Jerome and McKnight Fellow; developed/presented new work at Ensemble Studio Theatre (NYC), Clubbed Thumb: *Autorefract*; PlayMakers Repertory: *Critical Distance*; Teatro LATEA: *Havana Syndrome*; IATI: *Millennialville*; Blank Theatre: *La Mujer Barbuda*. **Awards:** *Screencraft Stage Play Award* (2019), *Princess Grace Finalist* (2019), *Jerome Hill Artist Fellow Finalist* (2022). **Training:** Chicago: *Second City Conservatory*; BA Princeton; MFA Ohio University.

DENISE PROSEK (she/her)

Music and Lyrics

History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (world premiere). **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Twelve Angry Men*, *Chicago*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Ragtime*; Guthrie: *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*; Children's Theatre Company: *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch*, *Frog And Toad*, *Shrek*; Theater Mu: *Again*, *Into the Woods*; Park Square: *Pirates Of Penzance*, *The Color Purple*. **Other:** Co-founder, Theater Latté Da; Founder, songwriting collaborative *Prosody*. **Awards:** *Best Music Director*, *Star Tribune* (2006, 2008), *Lavender* (2010); *Artist of the Year*, *Lavender* (2012); *Playwrights' Center McKnight Theater Artist Fellow* (2013-14). **Training:** BM, Piano Performance, St. Olaf College. **Upcoming:** Children's Theatre Company: *Frozen*.

MAIJA GARCÍA (she/her/ella)

Director

History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (Raw Stages). **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *VALOR*, *The Tempest*, *West Side Story*; *FELA!* (Broadway, The National Theater of London); Berkeley Rep & La Jolla Playhouse: *Kiss My Aztec*; Oregon Shakespeare Festival: *Snow in Midsummer*; Montclair Peak Performances: *Hatuey*; *Salsa Mambo Cha Cha Cha* (Havana, Cuba); Goodman Theater: *Another Word for Beauty*; Artists Rep: *Cuba Libre*; Organic Magnetics: *I am NY: Juan Rodriguez & Ghosts of Manhattan 1512-2012, an interactive history*. **Film:** *Chi-Raq & Blackkklansman* (Spike Lee). **TV:** *She's Gotta Have It* (Netflix). **Music:** *Fats Waller Dance Party* (Harlem Stage, SF Jazz, The Kennedy Center). **Dance:** Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company. Member of SDC since 2008. **Upcoming:** National Black Theater and New York Live Arts: *Water Riot*. majagarcia.com @majagarcia

JASON HANSEN (he/him)

Orchestrator

History Theatre: *Blended Harmony: The Kim Loo Sisters, I Am Betty*, *Raw Stages*, *Sweet Land*, the musical. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Cinderella*, *The Color Purple*, *Stones In His Pockets*, *Christmas at the Local*, *Falsettos*, *Next to Normal*, *Hello Dolly*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Bernarda Alba*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *A Little Night Music*, *Once, Assassins, C., Into The Woods*, *Our Town*, *Aida*; NEXT Festival; Children's Theater Company: *American Tail*, *Cinderella*, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Dr. Seuss's The Sneeches*; Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Into The Woods*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Othello*; Mixed Blood Theater: *Passing Strange*, *Next To Normal*, *Avenue Q*; Stages Theater Company: *Once On This Island*, *Tuck Everlasting*; Theater Mu: *Twelfth Night*, *A Little Night Music*; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Newsies*; Ten Thousand Things: *Romeo & Juliet*; Arkansas Repertory Theater: *The Gift Of The Magi*; Northern Sky Theater, Illusion Theater, Artistry, TigerLion Arts, Open Eye Figure Theater, Jungle Theater. **Awards:** 2018 MN Theater Award (Assassins). **Upcoming:** Theater Latté Da: *Fun Home*.

RENEE GUITTAR * (she/her)

Choreographer

History Theatre: *I Am Betty*. **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Footloose*; Artistry: *Newsies*; *The Orway*; *Disney's Beauty & The Beast* (Associate Choreographer); Colide Theatrical Dance Company. **Educational Theater:** *Spotlight Showcase*, Hill-Murray High School, North Saint Paul High School and Two Rivers High School. **Performance:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Disney's*

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Beauty & The Beast, Camelot, Grease, Newsies, Holiday Inn, Mamma Mia!; Guthrie: *The Music Man*; Theater Latté Da: *Heroic Acts of Music*; Orway: *In The Heights, A Chorus Line, Gotta Dance! Cabaret*; Old Log Theater: *The Wedding Singer*; 18 productions with Collide Theatrical Dance Company. **Teaching:** Ashley Ballet Arts Academy. **Training:** Gustavus. Member, Actor's Equity Association. **Onstage:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *White Christmas*.

SARAH BAHR* (she/her)

Scenic & Costume Designer

History Theatre: *I Am Betty, The Root Beer Lady, Parks: Portrait of a Young Artist*. Trademark Theater: *The Reunion, 5, The Hollow*; Jungle Theater: *Redwood, Miss Bennet, The Wickhams, Georgian and Kitty, The Wolves*; Ten Thousand Things: *Emilia, Iphigania at Aulis, Thunder Knocking on the Door*; Theater Latté Da: *Stones in His Pockets, We Shall Someday, To Let Go and Fall*; Minnesota Opera: *Don Giovanni, Albert Herring, Romeo and Juliet*; BRKFST Dance Company: *Stormclutter, Death of Tybalt*. **Training:** MFA Design Tech Theatre, UMN. **Upcoming:** Park Square Theatre: *The Gin Game*; Ten Thousand Things: *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Stays Home*; Jungle Theater: *The Effect*. sarahbahr.com IG: @sarahbahrdesign

KARIN OLSON* (she/her)

Lighting Designer

History Theatre: *Behind the Sun, Handprints, The Defeat of Jesse James, Runestone! The Rock Musical, River Road Boogie, The Debutante's Ball*. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *Johnny Skeezy*; MN Opera: *Song Poet*; Alliance Theater: *Into the Burrow*; Theater Mu: *Kung Fu Zombie saga*; Jungle Theater: *Redwood, Cambodian Rock Band, The Wolves*; Guthrie: *Valor, Circle Mirror Transformation*; Cleveland Playhouse: *Antigone*; Childrens Theater: *Spamtown, USA!*, *Trinity Rep, Orday, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, North Carolina Black Rep, Trademark Theater, Skylark Opera, Park Square, PRIME Productions, Mixed Blood Theater, Frank Theater, Full Circle Theater, Artistry, Stages, Penumbra, BRKFST Dance, Twin Cities Ballet, Alternative Motion Project, Threads Dance Project, others*. **Awards:** 2023-24 McKnight Theater Artist. **Upcoming:** MN Opera: *The Snowy Day*. karinolsonlighting.com

C ANDREW MAYER* (he/him)

Sound Designer

History Theatre: Over 80 shows including *Blended 和 (Harmony)*; *The Kim Loo Sisters, The Defeat of Jesse James, Not For Sale, Not in our Neighborhood!, Gloria: A Life, Dirty Business, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, All the Way, Watermelon Hill, Glensheen, Hiding in the Open, Tyrone and Ralph, A Piece of the Rope, Hmong! The CIA Secret Army*. **Theater:** Jungle Theater, Pillsbury House, Theater Latté Da, Theater Mu, Illusion, Six Points, Lyric Opera Kansas City, Opera Colorado, Everyman (Baltimore), ACT (San Francisco), many others. **Awards:** McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow, Audelco Award for Carlyle Brown's *Pure Confidence*. **Other:** Producing Director, Acadia Repertory Theatre, Mount Desert Island, Maine.

URSULA K. BOWDEN (she/her)

Properties Designer

History Theatre: *I Am Betty, A Unique Assignment*. Theatre: Theater Mu: *Kung Fu Zombie Saga*; nimbus theatre: *A Count Up to Christmas, The Red and the Bright, The Remarkable Life and Pathetic Afterlife of Elmer McCurdy, the Worst Train Robber in the West, The River Becomes Sea*, and over 20 other titles; UMN Theatre and Dance Dept.: *Pride and Prejudice, Troilus and Cressida, The Amateurs, Silent Sky, School for Lies, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, She Kills Monsters*; Open Door Community Theatre: *School*

of Rock, The Little Mermaid; Park Square Theatre: *Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Pageant, The Pirates of Penzance*; Swandive Theatre, Theatre Pro Rata, Theatre Unbound, Drake University Theatre, Hamline University, 20% Theatre, Woodbury Community Theatre, Circus Juventas, Frank Theatre, Theatre Latte Da, and overhire props artisan for Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Opera. **Awards:** American Theatre Magazine: *Utopia for Pigeons*. **Education:** BFA Theatrical Design and Technical Theatre, Drake University.

LESLIE RITENOUR (she/her)

Video Designer

History Theatre: *I Am Betty (World Premiere), Handprints, The Defeat of Jesse James; The Root Beer Lady*. **Theater:** Collide Dance Company: *Bonnie and Clyde*, Projection Designer. **Other:** *Who Gives a Duck?* by Michael David MacBride, Illustratorist. **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts; B.S Psychology, UMN. **Upcoming:** History Theatre: *The Root Beer Lady*. LDRitenour.com @Babybeanlettuce

LEE JOHNSON* (he/him)

Stage Manager

History Theatre: *I Am Betty, Glensheen, A Unique Assignment, The Defeat of Jesse James, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, Parks*. **Theater:** The Duluth Playhouse: *Annie*; Artistry Theater: Over 20 productions including *The Bridges of Madison County, A New Brain, Victor/Victoria, She Loves Me, Legally Blonde, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; Lyric Opera of the North: *Hansel & Gretel*. Other Twin Cities credits: Theater Latté Da, Park Square Theater, Mu Performing Arts, Flying Foot Forum, EMK, Twin Cities Horror Festival, MN Fringe Festival, others. Production Stage Manager, Artistry Theatre (2017-20). **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts, UMN.

JAYA ROBILLARD (she/her)

Assistant Stage Manager

History Theatre: *I Am Betty, Rollicking! Raw Stages, The Defeat of Jesse James*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *The Histories*; Theatre Novi Most: *The Ukrainian Words Project*; Sandbox Theatre: *Light My Way, Words Do Move*; Park Square Theatre: *Airness, Pride & Prejudice*. **Upcoming:** Guthrie Theater: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



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EDUCATION



Paul de Cordova

that you're with us.

In the Education Department, we work with incredible partners as Minnesota Independence College and Community and Vail Place, sending teaching artists to work with participants to help them in narrating their life experiences. For over 10 years, we've been reminding people that history is a collaborative effort, and that just because your life hasn't been written about in a book or been the topic of a play doesn't mean you're

Welcome to History Theatre. At this time of the year when things in Minnesota might feel chilly and unwelcoming, *I Am Betty* promises us all warmth and joy. We're delighted

any less important to the history we all share.

What we have also discovered that sharing our stories fosters and strengthens community. Especially in tough times, community matters. When we share ourselves with people closest to us (and sometimes go a little bit outside our inner circle) the responsibilities we bear become lighter since we are no longer alone. When causes for celebration and joy return, they are enhanced because we are surrounded by people who share and magnify our emotions.

Here's wishing you all the warmth of community and sharing all year long. Thanks for being a supporter of History Theatre and enjoy the show.

Paul de Cordova,
Education Manager

A black and white promotional graphic for History Theatre gift cards. The background shows three men on a stage, dressed in plaid jackets and hats, with their arms raised in celebration. Overlaid on the image is a large, stylized white script word "Gift" with "of THEATER" in a smaller, sans-serif font to its right. Below this, a black banner contains the text "GIVE the" in white. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "BUY GIFT CARDS ONLINE 24/7" and the website "HISTORYTHEATRE.COM". The History Theatre logo, a lowercase 'h' inside a circle, is positioned to the left of the word "history theatre" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

BETTY CROCKER TIMELINE



The Betty Crocker Portraits top row (l-r) 1936, 1955, 1965, 1969; bottom row (l-r) 1972, 1980, 1986, and 1996. Neysa McMein is the artist behind the first Betty portrait in 1936.

Betty Crocker is an icon, who celebrated her 100th birthday in 2021. Her rich legacy has shaped American history and brought joy to celebrations big and small.

1921

Betty Crocker is created.

The persona of Betty Crocker is introduced by the Washburn-Crosby Company (now General Mills) thanks to a Gold Medal Flour puzzle contest shared in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Along with 30,000 completed puzzles came hundreds of baking and cooking questions and Betty Crocker was created to respond to inquiries.

1924

Betty Crocker makes her radio debut.

Betty receives a voice when she is featured on the company's radio station WCCO for "Gold Medal Flour Home Service Talks." "The Betty Crocker School of the Air" follows and becomes one

of the longest running shows in radio history.

1930

Betty Crocker teaches families how to eat nutritious for less during the Great Depression

Betty Crocker develops recipes for low-cost dishes without sacrificing essential standards of nutrition, which win recognition among social workers and nutritionists.

1931

Bisquick is released by General Mills along with Betty Crocker recipes for the product's use.

Bisquick's "miracle mix" has evolved throughout the years, inspiring home cooks and bakers for decades.



Betty Crocker School of the Air becomes one of the longest running shows in radio history.

First official Betty Crocker portrait is revealed

Neysa McMein is the artist behind the first Betty portrait. Since then, there have been eight official Betty Crocker portraits meant to emulate an approachable friendly, competent and professional woman - the last one is created in 1996.

1941

"Split Pea Soup" the first product with Betty Crocker's name on it is introduced

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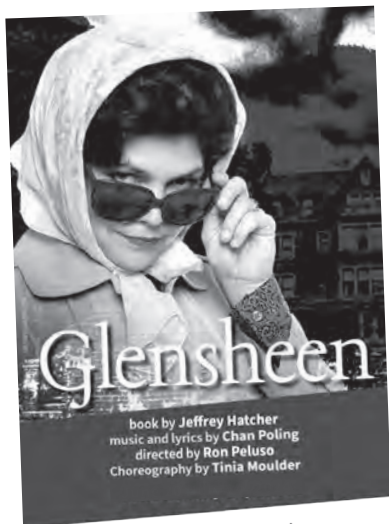
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History Theatre entertains, educates, and engages audiences by creating, developing, and producing new and existing works that explore Minnesota's past and the diverse American experience.

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History Theatre sits on the ancestral, traditional and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, and political significance. We recognize and honor the Dakota people, ancestors, and descendants, as well as the land itself, and all the sovereign Native nations in Minnesota and beyond. We recognize that this acknowledgement itself is not enough and only serves as a first step towards decolonization.



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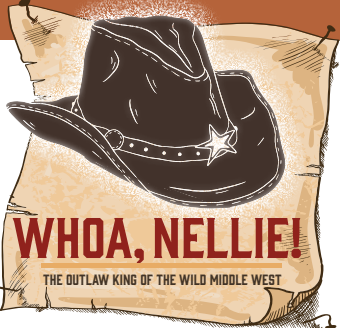


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