Marblehead Little Theatre



Book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell

Music and Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick

Conceived by Karey Kirkpatrick and Wayne Kirkpatrick

June 21-30, 2024

Produced by Ariel Sargent & Aaron Swiniuch
Directed by Katie Meuse
Music Directed by David Flowers
Choreographed by Erin Pelikhov





SOMETHINGROTTEN!

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

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Director's Note

Welcome to the Renaissance! It is as modern as it is historical, and as realistic as it is cartoonish. My intention going into this production is that we all have fun! The script is so silly, it is basically begging us to be silly too, including you!

As farcical as it is, it also has a lot of heart. I feel the thesis of this show is "to thine own self be true." You will see all these characters so desperately try to impress each other and impress you. They hope to amaze you with the advancements of their time period and their talents. You will also see some who have found a way to live authentically in a world that has tried to put them in a box. Ultimately, the lesson learned is that your worth is not defined by how others perceive you or your work. What's important is that you stay true to yourself.

I'd be remiss not to mention that this is my first time directing a production of this scale. As a young artist myself, I often worry if I'm doing things "right." Then I have moments in rehearsal when I get to live in the art and the worries drift away. It allows me to listen to myself more and express myself through the characters.

I hope this show inspires you to "do what is true to you, and you do it with love."

-Katie Meuse:)

Something Rotten

Book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell

Music and Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick

Conceived by Karey Kirkpatrick and Wayne Kirkpatrick

Arrangements by Glen Kelly

Orchestrations by Larry Hochman

Originally produced on Broadway by Kevin McCollum
Broadway Global Ventures CMC Mastro/Goodman
Jerry & Ronald Frankel Morris Bercchard Kyodo Tokyo Inc.
Wendy Federman Barbara Freitag
LAMS Productions Winkler/DeSimone Timothy Laczynski
Dan Markley Harris/Karmazin Jam Theatricals Robert Greenblatt
and Jujamcyn Theaters

Developed in association with the 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle, WA,
David Armstrong, Executive Producer and Artistic Director,
Bernadine Griffin, Managing Director
and Bill Berry, Producing Artistic Director

Cast

(in order of appearance)

(in oraer of appearance)	
Minstrel	
Brother Jeremiah John Macero	
Portia Alicia Tentindo	
Shakespeare Eamon Arthur	
Nick Bottom Nick Raponi	
Nigel Bottom Johnathon Pappas	
Lady Clapham Rachelle Chevalier	
Shylock Ted Merritt	
Bea Rachel Pride	
Nostradamus Stephen Flaherty	
Ensemble Dani Dorrego, Cait Etzel	
The Troupe Matt Doherty, Nicholas Major*, Christopher Raney*	
Colby Taormina	
Bard Boys Demi DiCarlo, Gene Pelikhov	
Featured Dancers Marissa Browning*, Kristy DiScipio, Stephanie Ernst	
Amanda Tardif*	
*denotes understudy/cover	
*denotes understudy/cover	
*denotes understudy/cover Production Staff	
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Orchestra

Key1/Conductor	David Flowers
Key 2	Kanisha Kellum
Guitar	Chris Felknor
Reed	Christian Arroyo Castillo
Bass	Yoav Ruiz-Feingold
Drums	Doug Benishek

Scenes & Musical Numbers

<u>Act 1</u>

Scene 1: A South London Street
Welcome to the Renaissance Minstrel and Company
Scene 2: The Theatre
God, I Hate ShakespeareNick, Nigel, The Troupe
Scene 3: A South London Street/Outside Nick and Bea's House
Scene 4: Nick and Bea's House
Right Hand Man Bea, Nick
God, I Hate Shakespeare (Reprise)Nick
Scene 5: Soothsayer Alley
A Musical Nostradamus, Nick, Ensemble
Scene 6: A South London Street/Outside the Theatre
Scene 7: The Theatre
The Black Death The Troupe
Scene 8: The Park
Will Power Shakespeare, Ensemble
Scene 10: After-Show Party Ten
Scene 11: Soothsayer Alley
Bottom's Gonna Be on Top Nick and Company
<u>Act 2</u>
Scene 1: London
Welcome to the Renaissance (Reprise)
Hard to Be the Bard Shakespeare and Bard Boys
Scene 2: The Theatre
It's Eggs Nick, The Troupe
Scene 3: Under the London Bridge
We See The Light Portia, Nigel, Brother Jeremiah, Nick, Ensemble
Scene 4: The Theatre
To Thine Own Self Nigel, Nick, Shakespeare, The Troupe
Scene 5: A South London Street
Right Hand Man (Reprise)
Scene 6: On Stage at the Theatre
Something Rotten! The Troupe
Make an Omelette Nick and Company
Scene 7: Courtroom
To Thine Own Self (Reprise)Nick
Scene 8: The Settlement
Finale The Company

Cast & Production Staff Bios



Ursina Amsler (*Minstrel/Bard Boy/Ensemble*) is a 40+ year veteran of Marblehead Little Theatre! When on stage for the first time at age 13 as Polynesia the Parrot in MLT's production of *Doctor Dolittle*, she was bitten by the theater bug and has never looked back! Ursina has also performed with many other local theaters, including Stage 284, Saugus Players, Burlington Players, Acting Out, Belmont Dramatic Club, and most recently with The

Concord Players as Eulalie Shinn in their spring production of *The Music Man*. All time favorite roles include Tanya in *Mamma Mia*, (MLT, 11 DASH awards, including Best Musical,) Joanne in *Company*, (3x!) The Witch and the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Billi Flynn in *Chicago*, and Fagin in *Oliver!* By day, Ursina is an award-winning middle school art teacher and also maintains her own website of art education resources, videos, and original student art lessons. Check it out at www.amslerartroom.com. A proud Salem resident, Ursina is grateful to be performing with old friends and new, and would like to thank Erik, Finley and Phoenix for their love and support.



Eamon Arthur (Shakespeare) is an actor and vocalist studying Performing Arts with a concentration in Theater at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. His recent stage credits include "Nick Bottom" in Something Rotten! (EC), "The Squip" in Be More Chill (Stage 284), and "Romeo" in Romeo and Juliet (EC). Other credits include Head Over Heels (Ensemble, u/s "Basilius") and She Kills Monsters (u/s "Orcus") at Endicott College, as well as

"Father, Michael, Grandfather, Stuart, Gordon, Jim" in *The Dining Room* with Endicott's Spotlight Drama Club. Eamon has also appeared on screen in the television pilot of *Buckle Up!* by APM Films as "Dillon". Eamon is delighted to participate in this production, and he would like to thank the many wonderful people who have helped to make it possible, especially this wildly supportive and enthusiastic company!

Andrew Barnett (*Technical Director/Set Designer*) designed and built his first set at the Marblehead Middle (Village) School in 1992 for *Fiddler on the Roof.*Since then, he has built sets for Rebel Shakespeare Company, Endicott College, Gordon College, Opera Boston, Gloucester Stage, Roxbury Center for the Arts, MassJam, Perkins School for the Blind, Boston Center for the Arts, Mssng Lnks, and Marblehead Llttle Theatre. Andy was a member of the production

team as master carpenter, designer and technical director of Watertown based Revels Inc., for more than 25 years, creating The Summer Revels, Riversing, and The Christmas Revels His shows are dedicated to his wife Jessica, sons Nick and Jeremy and their spouses, and grandchildren Jacob, Vivienne, and Rose, and to Marblehead Little Theatre for providing great live theatre to patrons of all ages.



Marissa J. Browning (Featured Dancer u/s Portia) is excited to make her Marblehead Little Theatre debut in Something Rotten! She was most recently seen as Bridget/Eden in the world premiere of Nellie: The Musical with 4th Wall Stage Company in Worcester. Other favorite previous roles include: Millie (Thoroughly Modern Millie), Little Becky Two Shoes (Urinetown), Bambi (Curtains), Serena (Legally Blonde) and Dance Captain for numerous

shows (*Catch Me If You Can, American Idiot, Footloose*). Marissa received her B.A. in Musical Theatre from Dean College and now works as the Director of Transfer and International Admissions at Nichols College. She'd like to give a huge thank you to her friends, family, Joe, and the Road Warriors for their support throughout this process. Enjoy the show!



Rachelle Chevalier (Lady Clapham/Ensemble) is ecstatic to be a part of this hysterical show. This is her second production with Marblehead Little Theatre, previously seen in the concert version of *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2022. No stranger to the stage, Rachelle came to musical theatre at the age of 10 against her will, but after a 1 week summer intensive experience she was hooked and has been seeking opportunities to be on stage in musicals

ever since. By day, Rachelle teaches Classical Latin to enthusiastic middle schoolers at an independent day school on the North Shore. Favorite musical credits include *Gypsy* (Dainty June), *Camelot* (Morgan Le Fay), *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona) and *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Charlie Bucket). Rachelle also sings in the Paul Madore Chorale based in Beverly and dances at the Refine Dance Studio in Danvers. In addition to singing and acting, Rachelle enjoys gardening, exercising, reading books in various genres, and spending time with her friends and family. She would like to extend her gratitude to her family, especially her husband, Luke, close friends, her colleagues and students for their support and enthusiasm. She especially appreciates her husband for helping run lines and listening to her sing songs from the show for months on end. She is glad you all are here tonight and hopes you enjoy the show.



Dani Dorrego (Messenger/Ensemble) is excited to be making her MLT debut. After receiving a BA in Theatrical Performance from the University of Notre Dame, she pursued doctorate training in dentistry at Columbia University, where she participated in several graduate theatrical productions. Something Rotten! is her latest community theater venture in the Greater Boston Area. Previous favorite roles include the Courtesan in The

Comedy of Errors (Quannapowitt Players), Belle Hamilton in Web of Murder (Theatre@First), Varya in The Cherry Orchard (Theatre@First), Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream (Gazebo Players), Cornwall in King Lear (Gazebo Players), Phoebe in As You Like It (Dream Role Players) and Gwendoline in The Importance of Being Earnest (Needham Community Theatre). In her spare time, Dani is an orthodontist in the Greater Boston Area. She'd like to thank the cast and crew for making this such a welcoming experience as well as her partner, Tanya, for always supporting her passions.



Demi DiCarlo (Bard Boy/Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her MLT debut with Something Rotten! She is a graduate of Salem State University's BFA in Theatre performance and works as a Spanish teacher in an elementary after school program. Previous credits include Son in Yorick Ensemble's The Trail to Oregon, for which she was nominated as Best Supporting Actor in a Musical by BroadwayWorld Boston, and Lily in Entropy Theatre's

The Skriker. She has loved the opportunity to be in the same show as her sister, Cait, and to be directed by one of her best friends.



Matt Doherty (Snug/Troupe/Ensemble) is excited to be a part of his first musical at MLT. He received his Bachelor of Arts from SUNY New Paltz, and has since worked as an actor and dramaturg for organizations like the Jewish Play Project and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. He has portrayed notable characters such as Audrey 2 in Little Shop of Horrors, Friar Lawrence in Romeo and Juliet, and Dennis Shepherd in The Laramie Project.



Stephanie Ernst (Featured Dancer) is thrilled to be back at Marblehead Little Theatre, after a 7 year hiatus. She was last seen at MLT in Rock of Ages. She currently works as a mental health counselor in the greater Boston area. Past favorite credits include Cabaret (Texas), Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson (Ten Little Indians Soloist), and Three Sisters (Masha). Huge thanks to the cast and crew. All my love to Vinny!



Cait Etzel (Ensemble) is so EGGcited to be performing as Helena in the ensemble of this production of Something Rotten at Marblehead Little Theatre. Some of her recent previous credits include Fran/Molly/April in The Heidi Chronicles at Salem State Theater, Obsessive Compulsive in Love/Sick at Salem State Theatre, and Zanthippe in Hollow Bones at Salem State Theatre. She is so grateFOWL to participate in her first musical in many

years and hopes you all enjoy the EGGcelent show we have been working on!!



Steve Flaherty (*Nostradamus*) – Steve is very excited to make his Marblehead Little Theatre debut! A big thanks to the cast and crew for making this such a great experience! Steve's predictions are only good until the year 3797.

David Allen Flowers (*Music Director*) is an assistant professor at the Berklee College of Music and a music director in the Greater Boston area. He has recently served as music director for productions at the Priscilla Beach Theatre, the Stonehill College Theatre company, and as pit-conductor for the Weston Friendly Society. He regularly collaborates with the Arlington Children's Theatre and maintains a private voice and piano studio. He is excited to be back at Marblehead Little Theatre for his third production.

Bryan Lussier (*Lighting Designer*) is excited to return to Marblehead Little Theatre (MLT). Recent credits include: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* (MLT, EMACT DASH Award Winner: Best Lighting Design 2019), *Mamma Mia!* (MLT, EMACT DASH Nominee: Best Lighting Design for a Musical, 2019), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (MLT), *Letters from War* (MLT & North Shore Music Theatre), and *2,280 Pints!* (Dance Theatre Workshop, NYC). MFA Lighting Design from the University of Florida. Over the past 20 years, Bryan has contributed to architectural and museum installations

nationwide, including Gillette Stadium and the New England Aquarium. Vice President of the DLF-NE, member of NAILD, and the IES. Special thanks to my wife, Mary, and son, Adam, for letting me out of the house to go play.



John Macero (*Brother Jeremiah*) is excited to return to the Marblehead Little Theatre. John is currently the Interim Superintendent of the Melrose Public Schools. John's past experiences include *All My Sons* (Marblehead's Little Theatre), *Hairspray* (Reagle Theatre), *The Crucible, Bye Bye Birdie, Music Man* and *West Side Story* (Various Community Theaters). John has been nominated by IRNE and DASH for Acting. "It's great to be

back on stage after a hiatus. I want to thank my family and friends for all their continued support, especially my wife Trudy! Break A LEG to the Cast and Crew of Something Rotten!

Allan MacTaylor (*Stage Manager*) Is ecstatic to be returning to another production at Marblehead Little Theater. Allan is a choral director and music educator who lives and works in Salem MA. He has performed at MLT in the past in *Tuck Everlasting*, and *The Great Gatsby*, but this is his first time on the production team. Allan graduated from Salem State University in 2021 with a BA in music, and currently directs WitchPitch?, the Acapella group at Salem High School, and music directs the Salem High School musicals.



Nicholas Major (*Troupe/Ensemble u/s Nigel*) is from Wakefield, Massachusetts, and enjoys all types of art, from acting to singing, illustration, animation, and game design! He graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida, and has been in the process of auditioning for musicals and plays near home, as well as writing his own musical. He's always got a decent number of projects he's working on in the background,

because he loves to be creative! His favorite color is #6B00FF.



Ted Merritt (*Shylock*) has been involved with MLT for over two decades, primarily acting, singing and (some version of) dancing in over 20 productions, most recently in 2020's *Young Frankenstein* as Victor von Frankenstein. Ted also appeared in two versions of *To Kill a Mockingbird* with The Mugford Street Players in Gloucester (Prosecutor), and as Heck Tate with Stage 284 in Hamilton, where he most recently appeared as Mr.Soweberry in *Oliver*. Some of his

favorite roles in MLT productions include Mr. Dussel in The Diary of Anne Frank,

Selsdon in *Noises Off*, Dr. Spivey in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Mrs. Galahad in *Spamalot*, George in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Mr. Salt in *Willy Wonka*, Mr. Sowerberry in *Oliver*, the Tin Man in *Wizard of Oz*, M. Darque in *Beauty and the Beast*, Simeon in *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, Charlie in *Annie Get Your Gun*, as well as various pirates, marshals, and drunken dancers. In real life, Ted can be seen riding his bike for the Pan Mass Challenge each summer. Ted is excited to be part of this wonderful cast and applauds the hard work of everyone on the production team.

Katie Meuse (*Director*) is a Salem State University alumni with the class of 2020, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts. Katie has assistant directed youth productions at Marblehead Little Theatre over the past seven years, and directed their youth summer workshops since the pandemic. She's had the honor to grow at MLT as an Associate Director for *Gypsy* and *Plaza Suite*, as Stage Manager for *The Great Gatsby: An American Musical* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, and now as the director of *Something Rotten!*



Johnathon Pappas (*Nigel Bottom*) is excited to be making his debut at Marblehead Little Theatre. He is a junior pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Performance at Salem State University. Some of his favorite works include Charles in *Blithe Spirit*, Clitander in *The School for Lies*, Jason Dean in *Heathers*, Inspector Kemp in *Young Frankenstein*, and Howie in *Rabbit Hole*. Johnathon will also be playing Joe in Salem State's

production of Angels in America in Fall 2024. IG: Johnny_e_pappas

Erin Pelikhov (*Choreographer*) is excited and grateful to have been asked to bring movement to this show. Erin is no stranger to the stage at Marblehead Little Theatre - you may have recently seen her in last summer's musical debut, *The Great Gatsby*, and she produced recent MLT productions *Tuck Everlasting* and *Translations*. Other theater credits include *Chicago* (Hunyak, Liz, Mona), *Newsies* (Finch) and *Pippin* at Stage 284, ensemble roles in *Mamma Mia* and *Billy Elliot* at MLT, five seasons of tap-dancing in the *Urban Nutcracker* in Boston, and several years dancing with Jewish Musical Theater Firelech. Erin has been dancing for over 30 years, and has taught dance classes throughout Greater Boston for over 20 years. She is currently the Graphic & Web Designer at the JCC of the North Shore, and is former Assistant Director and dancer with Forty Steps Dance in Nahant. She lives with her husband, Gene, and twin 10-year-olds, who are also performers. Thank you to the creators, production team and cast for putting on a great show, and, as always, a big thanks to her family for babysitting/chauffeuring!



Gene Pelikhov (*Bard Boy/Ensemble*) is excited to return to the Firehouse stage in his second production at MLT! He previously performed as a dancer in *Tuck Everlasting*. Gene danced with Jewish Musical Theater Firelech in Brighton for over 7 years, and performed modern dance as a part of Forty Steps Dance of Nahant, both with his wife Erin. A pharmacist by day, he is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this hilarious show.



Rachel Pride (*Bea Bottom*) is so excited to make her MLT debut in *Something Rotten!* Previous credits in the Boston area include Domina in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Milton Players), Mrs. Wormwood in *Matilda* (Riverside Theatre Works), Wendla in *Spring Awakening* (Theatre Company of Saugus), and Ilona u/s in *She Loves Me* (A Common Thread). Thanks to the amazing cast, crew, and creative team!



Chris Raney (Tom Snout/Francis Bacon u/s
Minstrel/Troupe) is thrilled to be in his first production at
MLT! Chris is a rising sophomore at Salem State
University in their BFA Theater program. He's been in
theater since the seventh grade, but really got hooked
when his parents took him to see Ragtime at Wheelock
Family Theater in 2019. He participated in every production
available while a student at Winthrop High School. Some

of his favorite roles have been Templeton in *Charlotte's Web*, Eli Whitney in *Anything Goes!*, Mr. Krabs in *The SpongeBob Musical*, and Victor Frankenstein in *Frankenstein*, which he also co-wrote the original script for the METG Festival in 2023. Chris would like to thank his Mom & Dad, Sande & Ralph Raney, for their unending support of his theater work and his singing instructor at LB, Katie O'Brien, for pushing his range. Chris hopes this is the first of many productions at MLT!



Nick Raponi (*Nick Bottom*) Nick is very excited to perform at MLT again in one of his dream roles! Nick was last seen on stage as Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* with MLT. During the day, Nick is the Theater teacher at Saugus High School and the Director of the Saugus High School Drama Club. Nick can also be found at Endicott College as an adjunct Professor of Technical Theater. Nick earned a B.A. in Theater Ed from Salem State and an M.A. in Theater

from Regent University. Some of Nick's favorite roles include Collins in RENT,

Shrek in *Shrek*, Panche in *Spelling Bee* (DASH Nomination), Horton in *Seussical* (DASH nomination), and Frank N Furter in *Rocky Horror*, just to name a few. Nick would like to thank the production team and cast for their hard work creating this show! Nick would also like to thank his wife, Amanda (BOOP), and his two sons, Nicky & Remy, for always making him smile. JR "Forever in My Heart"

Ariel Sargent (*Producer*) with MLT: Woman 2 (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), Myrtle (*The Great Gatsby*), Ali (*Mamma Mia*), Priest (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Young Lily (*Letters from War*, MLT & NSMT), Rosie (*Cabaret*), Yonah (*Children of Eden*). Elsewhere: *Hand to God* (Jessica), *Anna Christie* (Anna), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *King Lear* (Cordelia), and *Silence! the Musical* (Ardelia), among others. Ariel holds a B.A in Musical Theatre from Dean College, and a certificate from the Shakespeare Summer School at RADA.

Aaron Swiniuch (Producer) is excited to be making a different kind of debut with MLT! Previous production credits include Funny Girl (Co-director/Choreographer), Anastasia (Choreographer), and Cinderella (Choreographer) at Beverly High School. Acting credits include: Dan Cody/William (The Great Gatsby) and Yonkers (Gypsy) with Marblehead Little Theater and Dan/Potiphar/Baker (Joseph and the...Dreamcoat), Audrey II (Little Shop of Horrors), and Big Bad Wolf/Pied Piper/Bishop (Shrek the Musical) with Firehouse Center for the Arts. Aaron is also the current choral director at Beverly Middle School and has been a teacher there for the last 5 years.



Colby Taormina (*Robin/Troupe/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making his MLT debut! He has been performing around MA for about 15 years now! Some previous performance credits include: "Drag Queen/Ensemble" in *Sister Act* (Colonial Chorus Players), "Dewey/Carlos, Emmett Forrest U/S" in *Legally Blonde* (Stage 284), "Bob Cratchit" in *A Christmas Carol* (Creative Co-Op), "Columbia" in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Queer Theatre Company) and many

many more. You can also find him performing as "Jack" in *Into The Woods* this August (at the First Congregational Church of Randolph)! Aside from theatre, Colby enjoys doing drag; whether that be in his bedroom or on stage! Colby thanks his friends, family, cast mates and production team for absolutely everything! And to his parents for being the best support system in the world! Welcome to the Renaissance... enjoy the show!



Amanda Tardif (Featured Dancer, u/s Bea Bottom) received her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from The University of Tampa, and is thrilled to be in her first MLT production. Previous credits include Beauty and the Beast, Almost, Maine, The Addams Family, and Fiddler on the Roof. Amanda also performed at ZooTampa's Creatures of the Night event as the Swamp Witch, and has been acting for the Boston troupe of The Murder Mystery

Company since 2021.



Alicia Tendinto (*Portia*) Alicia is thrilled to be returning to the stage after seven years away from performing! Previously, Alicia performed with Endicott College Mainstage Theater as Laura Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* and ensemble in *Once Upon A Mattress*. She also performed with Neverland Theatre as Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* and Babette in *Beauty and the Beast*. When not performing, she is an IT specialist who enjoys

reading, digital art and hanging out with her cats. She would like to thank her Mom, Dad, and husband KC for their continued support and enthusiasm.



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Special Thanks

Endicott College for the loan of Something Rotten: Props
The Board of Marblehead Little Theatre



