Songs For A New World

Music + Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

Directed by Noah Golden
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FUSE Theatre of CT is looking to expand its board of directors and creative team. If you or someone you know might be a great fit for FUSE, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at info@fusetheatrect.org (203) 314-3394

FUSE is an inclusive, highly collaborative 501 (c)(3) non-profit arts organization dedicated to educational outreach, development of new works, opportunities for career-oriented artists, exemplary training programs and a commitment to producing high quality theatrical productions in the Greater New Haven area.

Mission: “To ignite a passion for theatre in youth and adults in CT.”

This production has been made possible through grants from the following supporting organizations:
Songs For A New World

Music + Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

Directed by Noah Golden

Musical Director: Aron J. Smith

Stage Manager: Camille Fortin

Produced by Lara Morton & Elizabeth Santaus

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre, New York City, 1995
(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

Original Orchestration by Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown

Songs For A New World is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIshows.com
Cast
Amber Emerson
Tiessa Hills
Susan Kulp
Brian Meltzer
Kelsey Mulligan
Ty Scurry

with Aron J. Smith, pianist
Creative Team

Director..................................................................................NOAH GOLDEN
Musical Director/Pianist..................................................ARON J. SMITH
Stage Manager...........................................................................CAMILLE FORTIN
Additional Staging....................................................................KELSEY MULLIGAN
Lighting Designer..............................................................KEVIN MICHAEL REED
Mic Technician...........................................................................RICH IVES
House Manager..........................................................................BARBARA HENTSCHEL

Creative Producer.................................................................LARA MORTON
Executive Producer..............................................................ELIZABETH SANTAUS

SPECIAL THANKS:
   Rafael Ramos
   Bregamos Theater
   Picasso Painting
   Nightwing Whitehead
   Brian Slattery
   Lucy Gellman
   ArtsWestCT
   Milford Chamber of Commerce

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
Tiessa Hills, she/her, is very excited to join FUSE Theatre's Songs for a New World! Tiessa is from Omaha, Nebraska, where she got a BM in Vocal Performance at Doane University. She moved to New Haven last year and hopes to pursue a career in the arts. This is her first in person show since 2019. Her most recent shows include Carrie (Carrie), Heathers: the Musical (Heather McNamara), and Spring Awakening (Anna). In her free time she loves crocheting, crossword puzzles, and rollerblading. Thanks to everyone who has worked hard to make this show to be apart of. Enjoy!
Amber Emerson, she/her, is thrilled to join FUSE Theatre's Songs for a New World! Amber, newly local to CT, was most recently seen last summer as Liesl von Trapp in Totem Pole Playhouse's The Sound of Music. Just before, Amber made her Fulton Theatre debut in both The Sound of Music (U/S Maria, ens) and Sherlock Holmes & The Mystery of the Crown Jewel (Queen Victoria). Amber holds a BM in Vocal Performance with a concentration in jazz studies from Moravian University and has performed on various stages, including ones abroad in the Czech Republic! Other past credits include Marian Paroo in The Music Man, Philia in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Hope in Anything Goes!, and Sarah in The Civil War. Much love to mom and dad and endless hugs to Alex. James 1:17. @amberaemerson
Susan Kulp, she/her, has had the pleasure of performing with various groups throughout CT over the years. She most recently appeared in Choose! (Ava) in the Warner Theater One Act Festival and in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Martha) with Madison Lyric Stage. Other local favorites: the premiers of As Long as We're Talking (WIC) with Pantochino Productions & Just Desserts (Jean) at the new Legacy Theater in Branford; Annapurna (Emma), Marjorie Prime (Tess), Rasheeda Speaking (Ilene), Mamma Mia (Tanya), Next to Normal (Diana). Susan is a company member with New Haven Theater Company (NHTC); dabbles in commercial, print and VO work and “acts” as a Simulated Patient/SP Educator for Quinnipiac & Yale University Medical & Nursing schools. Grateful for live theater and the chance to work with this talented cast and the FUSE team.
Brian Meltzer, he/him, is so happy to finally perform in *Songs For a New World*, especially with such a talented group of singers. 2010 NJ Association of Community Theaters nominee: Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical playing Tateh (*Ragtime*). Favorite roles: Dennis/Galahad (*Monty Python's SPAMALOT*), Vice Principal Panch (*25th Annual...Spelling Bee*), Malcolm (*The Full Monty*), Captain Walker (*The Who's Tommy*), and Archibald Craven (*The Secret Garden*). All my love, always, to Stacy, Ransom, Izzy, Eli and Josh. And a special thank you to Marcus Aurelius, whose writings in *Meditations* have seen me through a number of New Worlds!
Kelsey Mulligan, she/her, is thrilled to be back with FUSE Theatre of CT! A Branford native, Kelsey holds a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre Performance from Rhode Island College and has performed with various theater groups throughout the state, most recently with her resident group, Shoreline Theatre Company, in *Puffs*! Some of her favorite past shows include *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Rona), *Hairspray* (Velma Von Tussle), *Chicago* (Liz “Pop”), *Sweet Charity* (Nickie), *Rocky Horror Show* (Magenta), *Anything Goes* (Reno Sweeny) and *The Producers*. Kelsey has performed at the Ivoryton Playhouse (*Her Song* world premiere) and has sung with NYC’s The Broadway Boys, Tony Award winner Lillias White, and country music legend Kenny Rogers. Off stage, Kelsey has worked as an Account Executive at Canusa Hershman Recycling for 15 years and is an Usher and House Manager at the newly restored Legacy Theatre. Congrats to this amazing cast and crew, and thank you FUSE team!
Ty Scurry, he/him, was born April 9, 2001 in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. He moved to Connecticut at 9 years old. It was then that he found his true love for the arts. His previous roles include Shrek in *Shrek: the Musical*, Curtis Jackson in *Sister Act*, Tyrone Jackson in *Fame*, Benny in *In The Heights* and has played Seaweed In *Hairspray* three different times. Ty has had a love for music and the arts since he was born, but as he got older the arts became his safe haven! Allowing him to sprout as an artist. At 21 years old, Ty is an actor, musician, singer, dancer, director and drama teacher. He currently teaches Drama at New Haven Academy and is Director of Drama at James Hillhouse High School. He wants to change the lives of youth around him and help them understand and develop their passions, talents, and themselves to be better artists and people!
Jason Robert Brown is the ultimate multi-hyphenate - an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director and performer - best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining *The Last Five Years*, his debut song cycle *Songs for a New World*, and the seminal *Parade*, for which he won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score. Jason Robert Brown has been hailed as “one of Broadway’s smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim” (Philadelphia Inquirer), and his "extraordinary, jubilant theater music" (Chicago Tribune) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. The New York Times refers to Jason as "a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical."

Jason's score for *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). *Honeymoon In Vegas*, based on Andrew Bergman's film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical *The Last Five Years* was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include: *13*, written with Robert Horn and Dan Elish, which opened on Broadway in 2008 and was subsequently directed by the composer for its West End premiere in 2012; *The Last Five Years*, which was cited as one of Time Magazine's 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-Broadway run at Second Stage Theatre in 2013); *Parade*, written with Alfred Uhry and directed by Harold Prince, which won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics’ Circle Awards for Best New Musical, as well as garnering Jason the Tony Award for Original Score; and *Songs for a New World*, a theatrical song cycle directed by Daisy Prince, which has since been seen in hundreds of productions around the world since its 1995 Off-Broadway debut, including a celebrated revival at New York’s City Center in the summer of 2018. *Parade* was also the subject of a major revival directed by Rob Ashford, first at London's Donmar Warehouse and then at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Jason conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White's novel *The Trumpet of the Swan* with the National Symphony Orchestra, and recorded the score for PS Classics. Future projects include a new chamber musical created with Daisy Prince and Jonathan Marc Sherman called *The Connector*; an adaptation of Lilian Lee's *Farewell My Concubine*, created with Kenneth Lin and Moisés Kaufman; and a collaboration with Billy Crystal, Amanda Green, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel on a musical of Mr. *Saturday Night*. Jason is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Jason's songs, including the cabaret standard "Stars and the Moon," have been performed and recorded by Ariana Grande, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Renée Fleming, Jon Hendricks and many others, and his song "Someone To Fall Back On" was featured in the Walden Media film, *Bandslam*. As a soloist or with his band The Caucasian Rhythm Kings, Jason has performed concerts around the world. For the past four years (and ongoing), his monthly sold-out performances at New York's SubCulture have featured many of the music and theater world's most extraordinary performers. His newest collection, "How We React and How We Recover", was released in June 2018 on Ghostlight Records. His previously solo album, "Wearing Someone Else's Clothes", was named one of Amazon.com's best of 2005, and is available from Sh-K-Boom Records. Jason's 2012 concert with Anika Noni Rose was broadcast on PBS, and he was the featured soloist for a live episode of Friday Night Is Music Night, broadcast live from the London Palladium and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra. His collaboration with singer Lauren Kennedy, "Songs of Jason Robert Brown", is available on PS Classics. Jason is also the composer of the incidental music for the Broadway revival of *You Can't Take It With You*, David Lindsay-Abaire's *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Fuddy Meers*, and Barrett Man rings's *The Waverly Gallery*, and he was a Tony Award nominee for his contributions to the score of *Urban Cowboy the Musical*. He has also contributed music to the hit Nickelodeon television series, *The Wonder Pets* as well as *Sesame Street*. Jason spent ten years teaching at the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and has also taught at Harvard University, Princeton University and Emerson College. For the musical *Prince of Broadway*, a celebration of the career of his mentor Harold Prince, Jason was the musical supervisor and arranger. Other New York credits as conductor and arranger include *Urban Cowboy the Musical* on Broadway; *Dinah Was*, off-Broadway and on national tour; *When Pigs Fly* off-Broadway; William Finn's *A New Brain* at Lincoln Center Theater; the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (recorded by RCA Victor); Yoko Ono's New York Rock, at the WPA Theatre; and Michael John LaChiusa's *The Petrified Prince* at the Public Theatre. Jason orchestrated Andrew Lippa's *john and jen*, Off-Broadway at Lamb's Theatre. Additionally, Jason served as the orchestrator and arranger of Charles Strouse and Lee Adams's score for a proposed musical of *Star Wars*. Jason has conducted and created arrangements and orchestrations for Liza Minnelli, John Pizzarelli, and Michael Feinstein, among many others. Jason studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwantner. He lives with his wife, composer Georgia Stitt, and their daughters in New York City. Jason is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. Visit him on the web at www.jasonrobertbrown.com.
Noah Golden (Director), he/him, is grateful, excited and honored to be making his full-length directorial debut with a musical he’s loved since high school. A native of Guilford, Noah has been involved in theater all his life. He last produced *Lost Girl* and *All Together Now!* with Fuse Theatre of CT, as well as edited and co-conceived their film, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical*, which won Best Feature Length Comedy at the 2022 Legacy Film Festival. Noah has directed one-acts for The Orange Players, assistant directed multiple musicals for A Shared Stage Productions (*Pirates of Penzance, The Addams Family, Sister Act*) and recently served as associate director for Legacy Theatre’s *The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play*. He has written for Vintage Soul Production’s Quick Quarantined Play Festival, Long Wharf’s New Haven Play Project and as a columnist/critic for OnStage Blog. Favorite onstage roles include Barfee (*25th Annual...Spelling Bee*), Sancho Panza (*Man of La Mancha*) and Chas (*Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*). During the day, Noah is a video producer for Yale School of Medicine. He wishes to thank this extraordinary cast for sharing their talents and time, the creative team for their dedication, guidance and friendship, his family for their unwavering support and Fuse Theatre for this tremendous opportunity. Lastly, directing is a skill largely learned by apprenticeship, so he wishes to dedicate this show to all the directors he has worked with and learned from including Lara, Kevin, Jeremy, Marty, Pat, Jim, Drew, Bob, Travis, Crystal and Dana. “If I Cannot Fly, Let Me Sing” - S. Sondheim.
Camille Fortin (Stage Manager), she/her, is a Stage Manager and Actor based in New Haven, CT. She holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut and has had the pleasure of performing in various shows. Her favorites include *The Seagull* (Nina), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Miss Gwendolyn Pynn) *Men on Boats* (William Dunn) and *The Nether* (Iris). She is fortunate to have Assistant Stage Managed *As You Like It*, *The Importance of Being Ernest*, and *The Grapes of Wrath* at Connecticut Repertory Theatre. She is grateful for live theater and the chance to work on such a beautiful show with a talented team.
Aron Smith (Musical Director), he/him, is a greater New Haven based music director, pianist, accompanist and arranger. He can be seen performing and music directing in many professional and community theaters in the area and is the music director for the Theatre for Young Audiences at Downtown Cabaret. An award winning educator with over 20 years of public education experience, Aron currently teaches general music, band and choir in Oxford CT. He co-founded the Edgewood Drama Club and previously directed a PAC recognized choir. The choir won “Best Overall” in the “2015 Shubert Centennial Show Choir Competition”. Aron teaches piano at the University of Bridgeport. He earned his B.A. and M.S. degrees from University of Bridgeport; has a degree in English Literature from Marist College; and studied at Hartt School in West Hartford. Aron is delighted to work with this strong cast of fantastic singers and with the wonderful creative/production team at Fuse Theater.
Kevin Michael Reed (Lighting Designer), he/him, is a theatre director & designer exploring the intersection of art & technology in performance. His production credits include producer, director, playwright, dramaturg & Lighting & AV designer. Recent directing credits include: The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play by Joe Landry (Legacy Theatre), I Do! I Do! by Tom Jones & Harvey Schmidt (Legacy Theatre), X by Alistair McDowall (The Lir), Shadows by CJ Lloyd Webley (Squire Lane Theatrical / Theatro Technis), and Version 2.0 by Kashyap Raja (Squire Lane Theatrical / Leicester Square Theatre). Recent collaborators, in various roles, include: Once Off Productions (Looking For América), Birmingham Repertory Company (Constructed by CJ Lloyd Webley), BiggerThanMe Productions / The Other Palace (Pattie Shop Diaries), The Lir Academy (Blood Wedding, Wish List), Equinox Theatre Company (We All Come From Somewhere), Corn Exchange / Dublin Fringe Festival (Bodies of Water), Pan Pan Platform / AOB Arts Management (Symphony of Worms), Asylum Productions / Abbey Theatre (The Big Chapel X), Ballet Ireland (Swan Lake), Gerrard Martin Dance Company / AndWhat Queer Arts Festival (B), Tenth Muse Productions / Omnibus Theatre London (Beauty & The Beast, a new adaptation), and Vista Life Innovations (All Shook Up, Addams Family, Man of La Mancha). He produced the critically-acclaimed productions of Reese Thompson’s WHORE: A Kid’s Play and JOY DONZE: 13 & Not Pregnant at the 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He has consulted and technical directed live streamed productions, conferences & symposiums for various theatre companies throughout the US & Ireland. Kevin holds a BFA in Photography from the Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY), a MA in Playwriting from City, University of London, and MFA in Theatre Directing from The Lir, National Academy of Dramatic Art. kevinmichaelreed.com
Lara Morton (Creative Producer), she/her, has been working and playing in theatre for many years, and has never enjoyed any creative sandbox more than she enjoys FUSE. Lara co-founded the company in 2019, previously directing the FUSE productions of *The Lion King Jr.* (2020, virtual), *A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical* (2021) and *Lost Girl* (2022). She also co-produced *All Together Now!* (2021). Her colorful and storied theatrical past includes positions as Artistic Director of the Yale-based Open End Theatre, Program/Education Director for Young Audiences of CT, Assistant Director of the Mental Health Association Players (Binghamton, NY) and founder/Artistic Director of Handful Productions, which houses all of her freelance work (acting coaching, teaching improv to all ages, and even face painting!). As a playwright, she has been honored with professional staged readings of *America's Daughters* in Manhattan (Epic Theatre Ensemble’s Sunshine Series of New Works, 2011) and New Jersey (Speranza Theatre’s Fall Festival, 2013). She is looking to launch staged readings with a goal of pursuing a full stage production of her theatrical adaptation of 'The Awakening' (by Kate Chopin, 1899) very soon, so stay tuned for that! Meanwhile, FUSE Season 2023 is in the works- look for an announcement in January. As always, expect the unexpected with FUSE. Lara would like to thank the dream team of Noah Golden and Elizabeth Santaus for everything they do to make these extraordinary nights and days possible. "I don't want to philosophize. I just want to tell a story."
Elizabeth Santaus (Executive Producer), she/her, graduated from Wellesley College with a major in studio art and a minor in mathematics. Elizabeth has over thirty years of experience in the financial accounting software and bookkeeping industry. With previous experience consulting and as CFO for three sister companies in Branford, Santaus knows how to help businesses prosper and grow. She has consulted, trained, and provided bookkeeping services for more than 300 small businesses in Connecticut and New York since launching Dressler Santaus LLC in 2006. She has been a QuickBooks® trainer for the Community Economic Development Fund's Bridgeport location and currently presents seminars in conjunction with SCORE. Santaus has been Treasurer of The Network of Executive Women of Milford, Inc. for seven years. A member of the Gateway Christian Fellowship congregation, Santaus' strong faith and seemingly effortless grace extends to this community and to the arts. The arts, particularly fine art, musical theater, and dance, have been her unpaid passion, and she is thrilled to be able to combine this love with her financial management skills working with Fuse, and has successfully written several state grants to fund this season’s productions. Since coming to Fuse, Santaus has served as Executive Producer on A Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rewired Musical (2021), "All Together Now!" (2021) and Lost Girl (2022).
"Bregamos Community Theater’s mission is to create community based theater from the diverse stories and lives of New Haven residents, while providing theatrical workshops and participating in other artistic and cultural community events.

We provide a space where community members from all walks of life, all ages and backgrounds can participate in the different facets of the theater. We provide workshops that cover all aspects of the theatrical profession, including acting, writing, directing, casting, set designs, costume design, sound and lighting, we also offer after school programs for young people and intergenerational programs where seniors and the youth can come together to blend their experiences into rich theatrical creations.

The theater is located in the heart of the Fair Haven neighborhood in Erector Square on Blatchley Ave. The theater’s location, embedded in the day-to-day life of the city, illuminates its mission- to create community based theater from the diverse stories and lives of New Haven residents."

Learn more at: www.bregamostheater.org
Thank You

For Joining Us!
Want To Watch "Songs For A New World" again?

FUSE Theatre of CT is excited to announce that a recording of this show will be offered On Demand on our website starting on December 2!
What's Next For FUSE?

The 2023/2024 season will be announced in January!