

Starkville Community Theatre presents

BRAND NEW DAY

Music to brighten your tomorrow!



**July 26-28 and
August 1-3, 2019**

*Directed by Brian Hawkins
Musical direction by Gwen Elizabeth Sutphin*



Brand New Day Cast

Michele Crescenzo
MJ Etua
Madeline Golden
Amanda Gronewold *
Brian Hawkins
Peyton Jackson *
Brenda Mayo
Brittany Page *
Lynn Peterson *

Accompanists

Gwyen Elizabeth Sutphin - Keyboard
Brad Trinkle * - Bass

* SCT Summer Musical Debut

The Production Team

Director Brian Hawkins
Musical Director Gwyen Elizabeth Sutphin
Stage Manager..... Lorraine Hughes
Lighting Operator Louie Gallo
Choreography Krista Vowell
Set Design Wayne Durst
Lighting Design..... Thomas La Foe
Poster Design Pattye Archer
Photography Dianna Janus Photography
Box Office Cam McMillen & Gabe Smith
Reception Coordinators..... Pattye Archer & Terry McDowell

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

About The Music

Act I

Hold On.....	Ensemble
Don't Worry, Be Happy	MJ and Brenda
If I Can Dream	Brittany, Amanda and Peyton
Everything is Beautiful	Brittany, Lynn and Michele
Don't Stop	Ensemble
The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow	Keyboard solo featuring Gwyen Elizabeth
You've Got a Friend in Me	Peyton
Rainbow Connection.....	Madeline and Brian
My Favorite Things.....	Ensemble
No Time at All	Madeline
Always Look on the Bright Side of Life	Michele and Brian
Before the Parade	Amanda and Madeline with Ensemble

Act II

You Ain't Never Had a Friend Like Me	Keyboard solo featuring Gwyen Elizabeth
Accentuate the Positive	Ensemble
When You Wish Upon a Star	Brian
What a Wonderful World	Brittany
That's Life	MJ and Brian
Super Trooper	Ensemble with MJ and Michele
Motown Song	MJ, Brian, Peyton, Brittany and Madeline
This Is Me	MJ
The Best of Times	Amanda and Brian with Ensemble
Come So Far	Ensemble
Brand New Day	Ensemble

From the Director

Wow! Even as I write this, I am still having a little trouble grasping the fact that I am putting on my first show as a director on the stage here at the Playhouse on Main. The idea for this production took root five years ago and has been submitted twice previously for consideration as a summer show, though with some differences than what you are enjoying tonight.

Like with the creation of any original production, sometimes you must work awhile to get things right to get the show on stage. Thankfully, with the input of some good friends and people with more experience than myself, we have arrived at tonight. I can't wait for you to see what we've put together.

When I say "we," this has been a true collaboration with some wonderful people without whom this show would not be possible.

First, to my crew at Chick-fil-A, thanks for your support as I worked on this show.

Pattye, thank you for your incredible work in helping me realize my vision for this production with your staging and creative input. We've done a lot together over the last 21 years, and I knew from the start that I could not do this without you. I love you to the moon and back.

Gwyn Elizabeth – our queen – your talent continues to amaze me and grows year after year. Thank you for your hard work in helping bring this music to life and for the hours spent in rehearsal. You are the best!

Brad, thank you for coming on board to add so much dimension to our music. I hope we can convince you to do several more with us!

Lorraine, Thomas and Louie, the behind-the-scenes folks don't often get that much recognition, but you guys are so integral to this process, and I am so grateful for your work on this production. And Krista, thank for you "moving us" in the right direction!

To the eight incredible ladies with whom I get to sing every night – Michele, M.J., Madeline, Amanda, Peyton, Brenda, Brittany and Lynn, thank you for placing your faith in me and the production team and for the many hours of work you have logged learning and perfecting this music. Each of you is amazing, and together we make a dynamite sound.

Let me thank you, our audience, for sharing this night with us. I hope you leave this theatre with uplifted hearts and smiles on your faces. My one goal for this show is to make people smile, forget their troubles and be happy, even if only for a couple of hours. Your support of our show means the world to each of us involved, and we are glad to spend the evening with you.

Just remember one thing – "... So hold this moment fast, and live and love as hard as you know how, and make each moment last, because the best of times is now."

Brian Hawkins, director

About our Cast

Michele Crescenzo

Michele has appeared at SCT in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Silent Sky*, *Urinetown*, *The Cemetery Club*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *A Catered Affair*. Also at SCT, she has directed *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Heiress*, and will direct our season opener, *Pride and Prejudice*, in September.

MJ Etua

MJ Etua has been involved in theatre her entire life. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, MJ has worked in film, but prefers the stage and all aspects of theatre arts. She has appeared in numerous shows for the Starkville Community Theatre, including *Proposals*, *Deathtrap*, *Not Now Darling*, and *The Cemetery Club*. and in season musicals, including *A.....My Name Will Always Be Alice*, *Company*, *The Fantasticks*, *Nunsense*, *Urinetown*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Besides performing, MJ loves sitting in the director's chair, having directed *The Mousetrap*, *Smoke & Mirrors*, *Communicating Doors*, *Art*, and *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. In 2013 she directed *Kingdom of Earth* for the Tennessee Williams Festival. MJ has appeared in every SCT summer musical since 1998.

Madeline Golden

Madeline has been making music on stage at the Playhouse on Main for more years than she can count, and she is thrilled to be back in her happy place for *Brand New Day*. While she misses some of her favorite singing partners, she has loved getting to know the newbies. And Madeline wants to encourage the newcomers, both on stage and in the audience, to enjoy every moment of their first show because one will turn into 100 and one year will turn into 36 years, "in just no time at all." Madeline has most recently been seen in *Harvey*, *Snapshots*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and the award-winning *Paper Thin*. She plans to continue entertaining SCT audiences "before the parade passes by."

Amanda Gronewold

Amanda is thrilled to be making her SCT debut. Her previous theatre experience includes *Charley's Aunt* and *Leader of the Pack: The Ellie Greenwich Musical*. Amanda is active in both the Trinity Presbyterian Church choir and the MSU Starkville Symphony Chorus. She can frequently be found breaking into song, usually classical choral music and show tunes. Her favorite musical is *Les Misérables*—she's more of an Éponine than a Cosette. When she's not on stage, she can be found working as a graphic designer at the Mississippi State University Research and Curriculum Unit or spending time with her husband Scott and daughters, Hadley (8) and Sophie (1). She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Brand New Day* for a warm welcome into the SCT family.

Brian Hawkins

Brian can't imagine summer without performing in an SCT musical revue and can hardly believe he has seen 21 summers at the Playhouse on Main. Favorite roles in other SCT shows include "Smudge" in *Forever Plaid* and *Plaid Tidings*, the villainous "Julian" in *Communicating Doors*, hypochondriac "Phil" in *Inspecting Carol* and the police sergeant in *It Runs in the Family*. When not on the SCT stage, Brian works as marketing director for Chick-fil-A in Starkville. He is also a member of First United Methodist Church, where he sings in the Chancel Choir and is a member of the Heavenly Metal of the South steel pan band. He is especially grateful to have the opportunity to direct this summer's show and thanks the other members of the production team and this amazing cast for their dedication and for creating many great memories, as well as his CFA team for allowing him the opportunity to do something he loves.

Peyton Jackson

This is Peyton's first show at SCT. She is a 3rd grade teacher at Henderson Ward Stewart Elementary School. She began singing at an early age. She is involved in her church choir and praise team. Peyton was also in the school choir and madrigals at Starkville High School. Peyton has been in a few musicals throughout her life including *Guys and Dolls* and *Zombie Prom*. Peyton would like to dedicate her performance to her late grandfather, Jack Connell. Jack was always a great supporter of her talent, and never missed a show. He once told her with tears in his eyes, "You have an amazing gift, and it deserves to be shared."

Brenda Mayo

Brenda began her SCT journey in the tenth summer musical, *10 out of 10: The Perfect Score*. Since that first show she has been on stage in *Doubt*, *Feeding on Mulberry Leaves*, *Octette Bridge Club*, and *Fools*. Brenda has also directed *See How They Run*, *Rumors*, *Incorruptible*, and *Sylvia*. Brenda also enjoys prop making and all other aspects of theatre. Brenda would like to thank Brian and Pattye for making things work, fellow altos for letting her lean in for her note, and Gwyen Elizabeth for patiently plunking through those tricky measures. She would also like to thank her son, Zak, for his never ending encouragement, her brother, Al, for everything he does, and Aunt Scottie for her support and for telling her to go play at her happy place.

Brittany Page

Brittany began her journey with SCT by volunteering as a crew member for *The Heiress*. She attended Mississippi State University, majoring in Animal and Dairy Science. Brittany is employed as a tech at an animal clinic and has two cats of her own, Pipsqueak and Tater. In her spare time, she enjoys karaoke nights, traveling, and recreational sports. She is thankful to have met such wonderful people with SCT and this show.

Lynn Peterson

Lynn fell in love with theatre while tagging along after her father as he managed Timberlake Playhouse, a summer stock theater in Illinois. (Her penchant for tragedy was already evident at age 9 in her choice to attend all 14 performances of the run of *West Side Story*.) She played one of Annie's little sisters in *Annie Get Your Gun* there and a few roles in plays at her middle school. She hasn't been on stage since, but has had incredible fun watching her son Grant and daughter Lindy participate in *Project PLAY* as well as other shows at SCT, in the Starkville schools, and at the Summer Scholars. After considering it for many years, she finally worked up the courage to audition for a show and has been thrilled to find herself in the company of the lovely cast and crew of *Brand New Day*. She would like to thank them all for making her feel welcome and at ease. She also sends her gratitude to Grant and Lindy. "You are my inspiration and my motivation. I love you more than words can say and higher than numbers can count."

Gwyen Elizabeth Sutphin

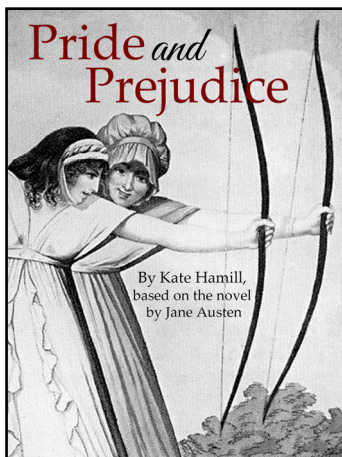
Gwyen Elizabeth, who is a senior at Mississippi State University majoring in Business and Information Systems and minoring in music, is the pianist and musical director for *Brand New Day*. This is her second show at SCT. She served in the same role for SCT's *Snapshots* last summer. She began playing piano for the spring musicals at Starkville Academy her 10th grade year and continued through her freshman year at MSU. She is the pianist for Grace Presbyterian Church. In her spare time, Gwyen Elizabeth enjoys playing piccolo and flute for the Famous Maroon Band, keyboard for the MSU Jazz Band, and playing basketball with her coed intramural team. Gwyen Elizabeth dedicates her performances to three special ladies. First, in memory of her late grandmother, Gwyen Dye, her biggest fan and namesake. Second, in honor of her god-grandmother, Kathryn Wasson, who taught her piano beginning when Gwyen Elizabeth was 7 years old. Lastly, Dr. Jackie Edwards-Henry, her main college piano professor, who constantly encourages her to perform at her best (even if it is Bach). All three ladies can be credited with instilling in Gwyen Elizabeth the love of music.

Brad Trinkle

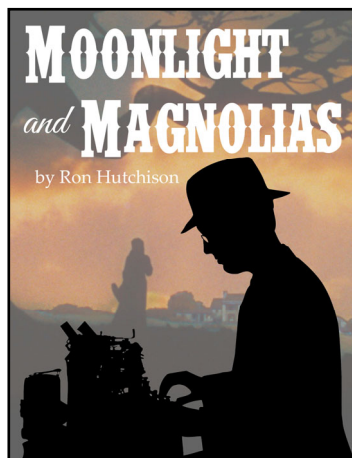
This is Brad's first show at SCT. His wife, Elaine, has been in several shows and Brad finally took the plunge. When not involved in this show, Brad is a steel pan player for Heavenly Metal of the South and an accounting professor at MSU. I hope y'all really enjoy the show.

The cast and crew of *Brand New Day* dedicate this show, and send all their love, to their castmate Brenda. They hope she will join them onstage soon, but until then they remind her to just "hold on!"

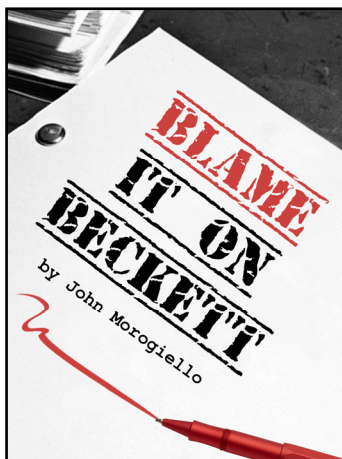
Join us for our 2019-2020 Season



Sept 17-19, 22, and 24-28



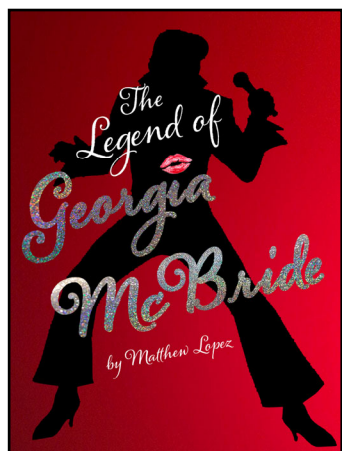
November 6-10 and 12-15



February 20-23 and 25-29



April 16-19 and 21-25



Season Extra - May 26-30



Starkville Community Theatre is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.