

FUNNY GIRL



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Music by Jule Styne | Lyrics by Bob Merrill | Book by Isobel Lennart

Tower Theater

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT of
THEATRE ARTS

April 17 - May 3

CAST

(Listed in alphabetical order)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Female Swing | <i>Anna Albertson</i> |
| Ziegfeld Tenor/Ensemble | <i>Daniel Arce</i> |
| Emma/Mrs. Nadler | <i>Annika Bassett</i> |
| Adolph/Ensemble | <i>Tyler Berndt</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Simeon Brungard</i> |
| Mrs. Strakosh/Mrs. Vance | <i>Angelina Corvato</i> |
| Eddie Ryan/Dance Captain | <i>James Covington</i> |
| Mrs. O'Malley/Mrs. Winston | <i>Flynn Davis</i> |
| Fanny Brice | <i>Grace Eason</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Noah Feavearyear</i> |
| Stagehand/Porter/Male Swing | <i>Tyler Flower</i> |
| Polly/Ensemble | <i>Jordan Foss</i> |
| Renaldi/Paul/Ensemble | <i>Drew Friesen</i> |
| Keeney Girl/Ensemble | <i>Claire Fuller</i> |
| Tom Keeney | <i>Lucas Geddes</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Josh Gilmore</i> |
| Mrs. Meeker/Joan | <i>Samantha Glick</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Hannah Hansen</i> |
| Maude/Ensemble | <i>June Hare</i> |
| Stagehand/Porter | <i>Tucker Henderson</i> |
| Female Swing | <i>Shaelyn Innes</i> |
| Mrs. Brice | <i>Xandy Jeremiah</i> |
| Bubbles/Ensemble | <i>Brenna Kay</i> |
| Jenny/Ensemble/Dance Captain | <i>Kylie Kennard</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Lauren Kost</i> |
| Mimsey/Ensemble | <i>Ceanna Leslie</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Ashlyn Manley</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Noah McLean</i> |
| Cathy/Ensemble | <i>Abigail Sharpe</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Scotty Sharpe</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Cara Speer</i> |
| Vera/Ensemble/Vocal Captain | <i>Emily Stantage</i> |
| John/Benjie/Ensemble | <i>Tom True</i> |
| Heckie/Stage Director/Davis | <i>Ben Wall</i> |
| Florenz Ziegfeld | <i>Brandon Warren</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Talya Whiteman</i> |
| Nick Arnstein | <i>Jesse Wilkerson</i> |
| Ensemble | <i>Faith Young</i> |

CREW

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Stage Manager | Jooye Kim |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Trinity Paoli |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Madeline Pope |
| Props Master | Libby Sweeney |
| Props Assist | Jayla Wilder |
| Men's Wardrobe Manager | Emma Long |
| Women's Wardrobe Manager | Story Johnson |
| Wardrobe Assistant | Hannah Graves |
| Wardrobe Assistant | Ella Martinez |
| Dresser | Anna Albertson |
| Dresser | Shaelyn Innes |
| Hair & Makeup Assistant | Carmen Paz |
| Light Board Operator | Malcolm Prosser |
| Sound Assistant | Delaney Hudnall |
| Rigging | Allyson Batres |
| Spot Operator | Sam Foraker |
| Spot Operator | Isaac Hrychiw |
| Spot Operator | Grace Lindsay |
| Spot Operator | Grace Miles |
| Deck Chief | Raul Reyes |
| Run Crew | Tucker Henderson |
| Scenic Paint Assist | Samantha Bennett |
| Poster Design | Sienna Rivas |

ORCHESTRA

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Conductor | Caroline Harper | Percussion | Xavier Garland, Ethan Brown |
| Woodwinds | Allison Ahl, Cole Johnson, Nolan Havener, Gabby Vivona, Jonathan Skinner, Bradyn Taylor | Piano | Gilbert Eggert |
| Horn | Nicole Davis | Guitar | Matthew Petralia |
| Trumpet | Joseph Taylor, Emily Taylor, Ed Parker | Violin | Avielle Sotomayor, Ranan Judy, Andrea Picard |
| Trombone | Alex Harmon, Thomas Roder, Atticus Higgins | Cello | Alex York, Felix de Vries |
| | | Bass | Justin Henderson |
| | | Rehearsal Pianist | Micah Pick |

CREATIVE TEAM

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Director | Andy Geffken |
| Choreographer | Aubri Siebert |
| Music Director | Caroline Harper |
| Music Consultant | Dr. Zachary Bruno |
| Scenic Designer | Mark Howieson |
| Lighting Designer | Barry Gawinski |
| Costume Designer | Lynne Forth |
| Assistant Costume Designer | Courtney McKenzie |
| Technical Director | Michael Perkins |

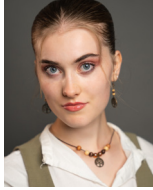
CAST



ANNA ALBERTSON
*Female Swing/
Emma U/S*
BFA in Musical Theatre
Winchester, VA



DANIEL ARCE
*Ziegfeld Tenor/
Ensemble/Eddie U/S*
BFA in Musical Theatre
Staten Island, NY



ANNIKA BASSETT
*Emma/Mrs. Nadler/
Strakosh, O'Malley, and
Meeker U/S*
BFA in Musical Theatre
Felton, DE



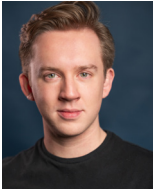
TYLER BERNDT
Adolph/Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Sanford, NC



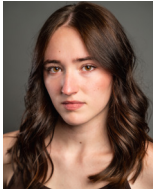
SIMEON BRUNGARD
Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Richmond, VA



ANGELINA CORVATO
*Mrs. Strakosh/Mrs.
Vance/Mrs. Brice U/S*
BFA in Musical Theatre
Bluffton, SC



JAMES COVINGTON
*Eddie Ryan/
Dance Captain*
BFA in Musical Theatre
Madison, MS



FLYNN DAVIS
*Mrs. O'Malley/
Mrs. Winston*
BFA in Acting
San Antonio, TX



GRACE EASON
Fanny Brice
BFA in Musical Theatre
Richmond, VA



NOAH FEAVEARYEAR
Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Beaverton, OR



TYLER FLOWER
*Stagehand/Porter/
Male Swing*
B.S. in Theatre: Performance
Hamburg, PA



JORDAN FOSS
Polly/Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Fontana, CA



DREW FRIESEN
*Renaldi/Paul/
Ensemble*
BFA in Acting
Ashland, OH



CLAIRE FULLER
Keeney Girl/Ensemble
B.S. in Theatre: Playwriting
and Directing
Harrisburg, PA



LUCAS GEDDES
Tom Keeney
BFA in Acting
Lynchburg, VA



JOSH GILMORE
Ensemble
BFA in Acting
Owensboro, KY



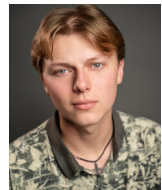
SAMANTHA GLICK
Mrs. Meeker/Joan
BFA in Acting
San Antonio, TX



HANNAH HANSEN
Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Naples, FL



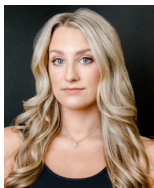
JUNE HARE
Maude/Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Aylett, VA



TUCKER HENDERSON
Stagehand/Porter
B.S. in Theatre: Performance
Salem, VA



SHAELYN INNES
Female Swing
BFA in Musical Theatre
Portland, OR



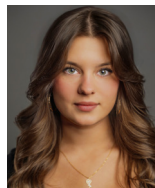
XANDY JEREMIAH
Mrs. Brice
BFA in Acting
San Diego, CA



BRENNA KAY
Bubbles
B.Ed in Elementary Education
Colorado Springs, CO



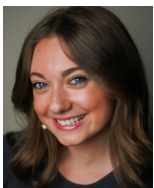
KYLIE KENNARD
*Jenny/Ensemble/
Dance Captain*
BFA in Musical Theatre
San Diego, CA



LAUREN KOST
Ensemble
BFA in Acting
Milwaukee, WI



CEANNA LESLIE
Mimsey/Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Aldie, VA



ASHLYN MANLEY
Ensemble
BFA in Acting
Tampa, FL



NOAH MCLEAN
Ensemble
BFA in Acting
Clarkston, MI



ABIGAIL SHARPE
Cathy/Ensemble
BFA in Acting
Charlotte, NC



SCOTTY SHAPRE
Ensemble
BFA in Acting
Charlotte, NC



CARA SPEER
Ensemble
B.S. in Theatre Arts
Monroe, NC



EMILY STANGE
*Vera/Ensemble/
Vocal Captain*
BFA in Musical Theatre
Warner Robins, GA



TOM TRUE
*John/Benjie/
Ensemble*
BFA in Acting
Jacksonville, FL



BEN WALL
*Heckie/Stage Director/
Davis/Ziegfeld and
Keeney U/S*
BFA in Acting
Modesto, CA



BRANDON WARREN
Florenz Ziegfeld/Nick U/S
B.S. in Theatre: Performance
Thomasville, GA



TALYA WHITEMAN
Ensemble
BFA in Musical Theatre
Keller, TX



JESSE WILKERSON
Nick Arnstein
BFA in Musical Theatre
Augusta, GA



FAITH YOUNG
Ensemble/Fanny U/S
BFA in Musical Theatre
Seattle, WA

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We wrap up our 2025-2026 Theatre Season presenting for the first time a classic musical comedy, FUNNY GIRL. The time spent with this show has grown our appreciation for its blend of humor and heart. Even though FUNNY GIRL depicts a romanticized take on the career and married life of Fanny Brice, it still captures the charm and versatility that made her a true star of the early twentieth century. The musical, made more popular through Barbra Streisand's stage and film portrayals, became a staple in American pop culture with songs like *I'm the Greatest Star*, *People*, and *Don't Rain on My Parade*. Though elements of Fanny's story were tragic, she stayed a reliable source of levity for every audience that came in for a shot in the arm of joy. Her persona of the "funny girl" onstage in contrast to her real-life struggles are what made Fanny such a relatable figure.

It's our hope that audiences will leave the theater with lifted spirits and some fun moments to look back on over the summer. For many, a trip to the theater is an opportunity to release the distractions and burdens of the daily grind. This was true when Fanny Brice was performing, and certainly is true now, in an age where live theatre reminds us to unplug and reconnect to what is tangible and real. So, as our school year concludes and we all get ready for what's next, enjoy this brief moment of fun with characters and songs that revive the optimism and excitement of America one century ago.

We're happy you're here, and thanks again for another great season!

-Andy Geffken, Director

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| "Poker Chant No. 1" | Mrs. Brice & Mrs. Strakosh |
| "If A Girl Isn't Pretty" | Mrs. Brice, Mrs. Strakosh, Mrs. Meeker, Mrs. O'Malley, Eddie, Heckie & Ensemble |
| "I'm The Greatest Star" | Fanny |
| "Eddie's Fifth Encore" | Eddie |
| "Cornet Man" | Fanny, Keeney Girls, & Snub Taylor |
| "Who Taught Her Everything?" | Eddie & Mrs. Brice |
| "His Love Makes Me Beautiful" | Ziegfeld Tenor, Fanny & Chorus |
| "I Want To Be Seen With You" | Nick & Fanny |
| "Henry Street" | Chorus |
| "People" | Fanny |
| "Poker Chant No. 2" | Mrs. Brice & Mrs. Strakosh |
| "You Are Woman, I Am Man" | Nick & Fanny |
| "Don't Rain On My Parade" | Fanny |

THERE WILL BE A 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION FOLLOWING ACT 1

ACT 2

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| "Sadie, Sadie" | Fanny & Chorus |
| "Find Yourself A Man" | Eddie, Mrs. Strakosh, & Mrs. Brice |
| "Rat-Tat-Tat-Tat" | Eddie & Jenny |
| "Rat-Tat-Tat-Tat, Part 2" | Fanny & Chorus |
| "Who Are You Now?" | Fanny |
| "Don't Rain On My Parade (Reprise)" | Nick |
| "The Music That Makes Me Dance" | Fanny |
| "Finale Act Two" | Fanny |

SETTING

FUNNY GIRL is based on incidents in the life of Fanny Brice shortly before and after World War I. The action takes places in various theaters, onstage and backstage on New York's Lower East Side, in Baltimore, and on Long Island.

Please be advised this production contains haze effects.

PRODUCTION STAFF

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Producer | Linda Cooper |
| Production Managing Director | Andy Geffken |
| Production Manager | John Bakken |
| Theater Manager | Kelli Doby |
| Technical Director | Michael Perkins |
| Costume Manager | Courtney McKenzie |
| Lighting Manager | April McWilliams |
| Sound Manager | Greg Vinson |
| Props Manager | Nathan Klein |
| Resident Designer | Mark Howieson |
| Assistant Technical Director | Matt Phillips |
| Scene Shop Supervisor | Michael Wrape |
| Master Carpenter | Daniel Hayden |
| Scenic Charge | Carley Perez |
| Costume Shop Supervisor | Salem Watson |
| Theater Systems Supervisor | Zane Cooper |
| Media Specialist | Matt Owen |
| Director of Administrative Operations | Jill Acosta |
| Administrative Assistant II | Robyn Austin |
| Department Accompanist | Micah Pick |

DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENTS

1. True and lasting identity is found in Christ alone.
2. The creative process is a sacred gift from the Creator.
3. Serving others is a reflection of Christ.
4. Work ethic is pursuing excellence for the Glory of God.
5. Growing in spiritual maturity is a lifetime commitment.

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DANCE



MAJOR

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY DANCE MAJOR COMING 2026*

*SACS accreditation pending

DECLARE YOUR INTEREST NOW

Email dance professor Aubri Siebert at alsiebert@liberty.edu

DANCE PROGRAM PURPOSE STATEMENT

The BA/BS in Dance program seeks to train the next generation of dance artists to utilize their art form to worship the Lord, to share the Gospel through movement, and to perform and create with excellence. Our program is dedicated to developing technically proficient and creatively inspired movement artists who are committed to integrating faith and movement art. Through a curriculum that combines advanced dance techniques, biblical principles, and performative practice, we aim to cultivate dancers who can lead and inspire through dance, both within our faith communities and in the broader artistic and movement industries.



Tower Club

Thank you to our Tower Club families for supporting us throughout the 2025–26 season. We are thrilled to open the opportunity to join this mission for the 2026–27 Theatre Season.

Over the past three years, The Tower Club has experienced incredible growth — expanding from 28 to 72 members. Because of this generosity, we have been able to increase our scholarship awards from \$12,000 in our first year to \$32,000 in just three years, directly impacting Christ-following young artists called to study theatre at Liberty University.

By supporting The Tower Club, you invest in the education, spiritual growth, and artistic development of our students — please join us in making an impact that will last for years to come.

Centerstage \$100-\$499

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Kevin and Terri Arrington
Doug and Marcia Bilton
Ronald Borer
The Bruno Family
Tom and Melissa Clemmons
Jerry & Sandy Coady
Terry and Jamaica Conner
Gail and Bruce Curtin
Dale Dillard
David Donahoo
Dr. Charles & Mrs. Jean Driscoll
Rich and Christine Eason
Scott and Beth Ehrhorn
Phillip and Lynn Ensz
Gregory Forton
Everett and Dianne Foutz
Diane Garber
Barry and Rachel Gawinski
Rich and Linda Geel, Jean Hilger
Larry Kennard
Shaun and Amy Kennard
David and Marni Lyle
Aaron and Hannah Malbuff
Rev. Lynn and Rhonda Marstin
Derek Grant Martin
Chris and Melissa Sharpe
Madison Smith
Amanda Stanley
Tom and Diana Turley
Jaymee Wagner
Timothy Williamson
Juliette Young
Jaye Lundborg - in memory of Caitlin Lundborg
Connie Smith - in memory of Janet Kerr
Janet Parker - in honor of Madelyn Schwier
Andrew and Kathryn Wert - in memory of Grace Ann Wert

Spotlight \$500-\$999

Anonymous
The Bricker Family
Tracy and Linda Nell Cooper
Andy and Becky Covington
Mike and Lori Friedman
Andy and Erica Geffken
The Gould Family
Scott and Sarah Hayes
John and Jenifer Kelly
Gary and Marcia Marple
Reba Ramirez
Steve and Amy Ruby
Elinor Ann Clark in memory of Dr. Joe L. Clark

Director \$1000-\$1999

Anonymous
Carmen & Vern Castle
Connie Hecker
Dr. and Mrs. Roger J. Rome
Dr. Shelah Y. Simpson
Rick and Susan Thomas

Producer \$2000+

Jon and Cat Bonar
The Chadwells
Dondi and Vickey Costin
Dennis, Sonya, and Reagan Fields
George and Kelly Hall
David and Cami Jeremiah
James and Molly Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Owen
Bruce & Melissa Wimberley
Mahone's Wallpaper and Decorating
Priority One Properties

New 2026-27 Members

David and Sharon Daussin - Centerstage
Susan Jennings - Centerstage
Anonymous - Spotlight
Peter and Elizabeth Martin - Director



Join the Tower Club Today!



CORPORATE TOWER CLUB 2026-27 MEMBERSHIP

The Department of Theatre Arts is seeking businesses that are passionate about the arts and funding scholarships for full-time students. Put your business in the spotlight — explore our exciting membership opportunities!



PLATINUM \$15,000

- 30 premium seats to any Tower Theater academic production
- 16 premium seats to Alluvion Stage Company's annual production
- Full-page program ad (back or inside cover) featured throughout the mainstage season (6 programs)
- 6 tickets to the Tower Club Gala
- Poster ad display at Tower Theater entrance
- Corporate representative recognized at one curtain speech
- Company recognized at every curtain speech
- Social media post



GOLD \$10,000

- 20 premium seats to any Tower Theater academic production
- 8 premium seats to Alluvion Stage Company's annual production
- Full-page program ad featured throughout the mainstage season (6 programs)
- 4 tickets to the Tower Club Gala
- Poster ad display at Tower Theater entrance
- Company recognized at every curtain speech
- Social media post



SILVER \$5,000

- 10 premium seats to any Tower Theater academic production
- 4 premium seats to Alluvion Stage Company's annual production
- Half-page program ad featured throughout the mainstage season (6 programs)
- 2 tickets to the Tower Club Gala
- Social media post

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LIBERTY
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THEATRE ARTS

Liberty Theatre Alum in *A Great Awakening*

We're proud to highlight six of our talented graduates who played key roles—both on screen and behind the scenes—in the newly released film *A Great Awakening*, produced by Sight & Sound Films. The film premiered April 3 and is now showing in theaters nationwide. It's already making waves, and our alumni are right at the heart of its success. From captivating performances as actors to the dedicated work of crew members who helped bring the story to life, their contributions showcase the power of passion, creativity, and collaboration.

This milestone is a testament to the strength of our alumni community and the real-world impact of the skills and experiences gained here in the Liberty University Theatre Department. Seeing our graduates succeed on a national stage is both inspiring and a reminder of what's possible with determination, vision, and most importantly, faith. We celebrate their achievements and look forward to watching their careers continue to grow as they leave their mark on the film and theatre industries.



Carson Burkett '13



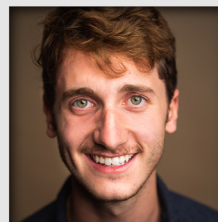
Ryan Hippe '18



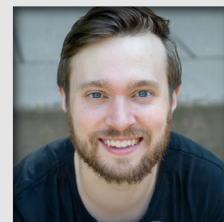
Kiser Shelton '24



Chris Nelson '01



Anthony LaBianca '23



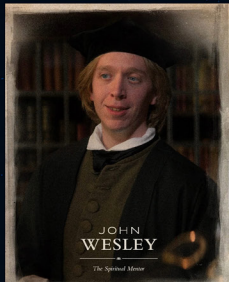
Caleb Hughes '12

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Liberty Theatre Alum in *A Great Awakening*



A GREAT AWAKENING tells the true story of an unlikely friendship that resulted in one of the most defining moments in American history. With the colonies on the brink of collapse, the Reverend George Whitefield sparks the first Great Awakening, uniting an entire generation with his thundering proclamation of liberty in Christ. In a miraculous turn of events, one of Whitefield's closest friends and greatest promoters becomes none other than Benjamin Franklin. With the nation's freedom hanging in the balance, Franklin discovers true liberty cannot only be written into law - it must be awakened in the hearts of the people.



Pictured above, you will find promotional material of Sight & Sound's *A Great Awakening*, featuring Carson Burkett '13, Ryan Hippe '18, and Kiser Shelton '24. When not on screen, Caleb Hughes '12 was serving as the key background director. The key background director is in charge of directing all of the extras that are needed in any given scene. You will find Chris Nelson '01, and Anthony LaBianca '23 featured throughout the movie.

Photos and design material are property of Sight & Sound Films

2026 Department of Theatre Arts Mission Trip

Our Dance and Drama Ministry Team Serving in the UK

During Spring Break '26, our Dance and Drama Ministry team served again with Betel UK and their Infinite Arts theatre and dance program in Birmingham, England. Betel UK is a Christian addiction recovery and homeless support organization. Their arts ministry was co-pioneered by THEA Alum Kelli Overmyer. Birmingham is an industrial city two hours north of London known primarily as the home of Cadbury Chocolate, and the city where JRR Tolkien grew up.

Professors Aubri Siebert (*Funny Girl* Choreographer) and Barry Gawinski (*Funny Girl* Lighting Designer) led ten students in sharing the love of Christ through drama, dance, and song. While at Betel, the students had the privilege of living with and serving with members of the recovery community.

The team presented pieces during Betel's church and community services, led devotionals and worship, and created and performed a new 15-minute work in collaboration with Infinite Arts based upon the testimony journey of a ministry leader who came out of addiction. The team attended rehearsals for Infinite Arts' Easter play, and watched the new Betel documentary *21st Century Monastery*, which will be released soon. Professor Siebert and her husband Michael led an evening of Social Dance for couples within the ministry. The team worked in organizing food donations, church cleaning, and delivering fliers for their gardening and furniture restoration businesses—all tasks that help provide for the ministry.

Additionally, the team traveled to Stratford-Upon-Avon and visited William Shakespeare's birth home and church where he is buried, and the Royal Shakespeare Company's theater where they attended an exhibit of RSC costumes dating back to 1906. They took a CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien walking tour of Oxford, saw Shakespeare's Globe in London, and attended *The Phantom of the Opera* on the West End.

"I'm humbled that the Lord would allow us to share the message of His gospel and deposit seeds of truth into the hearts of others through art, which brings us such joy."

Grace Eason (Fanny Brice)

"My time at Betel changed my life. The ways in which God is moving there is remarkable!"

Jesse Wilkerson (Nick Arnstein)



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DANCE & FILM
JUNE 8-12



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JUNE 20-JUNE 28

SONIC-CON UNCUT - UNCUT SERIES



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GRADES: 9, 10, 11, OR 12
JUNE 30-JULY 2



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UPCOMING 2026-27 SHOW SEASON

