

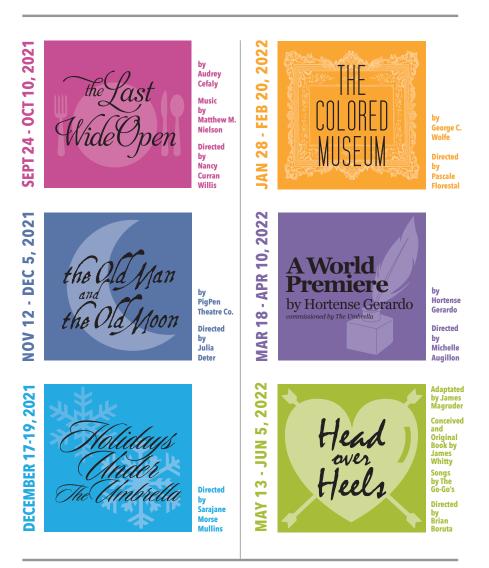
THEUMBRELLA.



2021-2022 SEASON

40 STOW STREET, CONCORD, MA | TheUmbrellaStage.org

ANNOUNCING OUR 2021-2022 SEASON



40 STOW STREET, CONCORD MA 01742 978.371.0820 TheUmbrellaStage.org





THE UMBRELLA STAGE COMPANY PRESENTS



By AUDREY CEFALY Music by MATTHEW M. NIELSON

Directed by Nancy Curran Willis

Stage Managed by Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez* Scenic Design by Jerry Wedge

Lighting Design by SeifAllah Sallotto-Cristobal Sound Design by James Cannon

Costume Design by Brian Simons Properties and Set Dressing by Sarajane Morse Mullins

This production is made possible through the generous support of **Kate and Mark Reid**

* Appears courtesy of an agreement with Actor's Equity Association, the Union for professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

Originally Produced by CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK Blake Robison, Artistic Director Buzz Ward, Managing Director Original Orchestrations by Matthew M. Nielson The Last Wide Open is presented by special arrangement with Gurman Agency LLC

Funded in part by the





Dear Friends,

The entire Umbrella community is beyond thrilled to welcome you back to our theaters at 40 Stow Street. So much has changed since the last time the curtain rose on a production here. Yes, we're immensely proud of how The Umbrella Stage Company pivoted to concerts and original plays on virtual platforms and outdoors, after the pandemic shuttered the opening night of *Bent* in 2020.

But there are no words for how excited and relieved we are to share live, in-person theater experiences with you again -- including some regional premieres and the world premiere of an original commission!

When we built and first opened these state-of-the-art theaters, open and airy lobby, and vibrant gallery spaces with all their technology and amenities, we were determined to enhance audiences' physical experience here -- bringing comfort, convenience and accessibility worthy of productions by our then-new professional stage company.

Of course, as we reopen now the safety and well-being of our audiences, artists, staff and volunteers is of paramount concern. We've implemented policies to safeguard and comfort the most vulnerable: half-capacity seating for distancing, increased cleaning, mask mandates, proof of vaccination requirements, air filter upgrades, and meeting union rules for maintaining "fully vaccinated workplace". We continue to update these measures according to public health conditions as needed to protect our community.

While we were shut down, we innovated in other ways, too. As an organization, we set about to promote equity and expand accessibility in all aspects, from staffing and casting to pricing and program planning. For the first time, our season was created collaboratively with board, staff, directors, designers and performers representing diverse perspectives from throughout The Umbrella community. We created a new anti-racism action plan, joined the Mass Cultural Council's Universal Participation Initiative Innovation & Learning Network, developed flexible new ticketing systems, and adopted the Card to Culture to make arts experiences accessible to all.

And, we strengthened and expanded relationships with other institutions and businesses throughout our region, standing in mutual support and continuing to inspire our community with Arts during trying times. Our thanks go to the many supporters, sponsors, and partners listed later in this booklet. We're still in this together!

In this time of rebuilding and renewal, we remain grateful for your support of The Umbrella and the arts.

Jerry Wedge, Executive Director



ROBERTO.....Ethan Butler

LINA.....Rebecca Shor

STAGEHAND.....Kayla Shimizu

The Last Wide Open is performed in one act, with no intermission.

Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S, labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIOand is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

Equity is governed by its own members through an elected Council, representing principal actors, chorus actors and stage managers living in three regions: Eastern, Central and Western. Members at large participate in Equity's governance through a system of regional Boards and Committees. Equity has 28 designated area liaison cities with over 100 members each.



Letter From The Producing Artisitc Director:

Welcome!

After 18 long months, I am thrilled to be able to welcome audiences back to our theater! While things may look and feel a little different, the power of live theater endures, and we are so glad that you chose to join us.

In planning our return to the stage, we thought long and hard about what audiences would want to see, and what stories need to be told. I want to thank the members of our season selection committee -- which comprised members from The Umbrella Stage Family, from Board and Staff to Directors, Designers, and Performers -- for offering their many unique insights and perspectives throughout the summer.

Through that process, we were able to put together a season which celebrates joy, amplifies marginalized voices, and champions uniquely theatrical storytelling.

Today, we kick all that off with a charming, and unassumingly heartwarming piece in *The Last Wide Open*. It's hard to believe that this will mark our 10th collaboration with director Nancy Curran Willis, who has brought her award-winning work to our stages since 2013. It was a privilege, too, to work hand-in-hand with playwright Audrey Cefaly, as she continues to develop this brand-new script.

I hope that you enjoy this performance, and join us for many more throughout the season. More information on upcoming events and tickets can be found in this booklet.

Welcome back to the theater!

Brian Boruta Producing Artistic Director, The Umbrella Stage Company

TheUmbrellaArts.org | 978.371.0820



Ethan Butler (*Roberto*) is delighted to make his debut with the wonderful people at The Umbrella Stage Company and to bring *The Last Wide Open* to Massachusetts! Selected credits: Guido Contini – *Nine* (AFD), Percy Blakeney – *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Concord Players, Norton Singers), Georg Nowack – *She Loves Me* (Longwood Players), Freddy Benson – *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Concord Players), Nicely

Nicely – *Guys and Dolls* (Dover, Greater Lowell Music Theater), Fagin – *Oliver!* and Freddie Trumper – *Chess* (NCT), Sidney Bruhl – *Deathtrap* (Theatre III), and Frederick – *The Pirates of Penzance* (SLOC). Huge thanks to Nanci, Mom and Dad, and Owen and Maggie for making me possible. Thanks as well to Brian, Nancy, Becca, and everyone at The Umbrella for making this and all live theater possible (again), because through theater, "All the mystery of life...moments of revelation, serendipity...the magic of life...this [will] all be revealed to you...".



Kayla Shimizu (*Stagehand*) is thrilled to be performing in *The Last Wide Open*! She was last seen virtually in The Umbrella Stage's @Home Coffee House Cabarets, and the stop-motion short *Mary's Dark Christmas*. Among other credits, she has also appeared in *The Old Man and The Old Moon* (Rogers Center for the Arts), *Avenue Q* (The Umbrella Stage), *Pandora* (Blue Spruce Theatre), and *Wizard of Oz* (C.I.C Theatre). Kayla is a graduate from Emerson College in Boston.



Rebecca Shor (*Lina*) is honored to be making her Umbrella debut. She has performed locally with the Hovey Players, Quannapowitt Players, Concord Players, Marblehead Little Theater, Burlington Players, ACME Theater, Vokes Theater, Winthrop Playmakers, Spotlight Playhouse, Metro Stage Company, and the Turtle Lane Playhouse. Recent credits include *Well* (Lisa Kron), *Clybourne Park* (Betsy/Lindsey), *The Revolutionists* (Marie Antoinette), *Communicating*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

I first encountered Audrey Cefaly's writing back in February 2019 BC (*before COVID*) with a play called *Alabaster* at the Florida Repertory Company. I loved everything about the play, the structure, the characters, and mostly the uniqueness of the writing. I was really looking forward to seeing more of Audrey's plays. That was, until COVID shut down theaters across the country, putting thousands of artists out of work. Coincidentally, as things began to open up, the very first live theater I saw was also an Audrey Cefaly play, *Maytag Virgin*, at GulfCoast Repertory in Naples.

Over the 18 months without theater, I began to seek out Audrey's other works and came across a play called *Love is a Blue Tick Hound*, a book of short plays, one of which was called *Clean*. That short play was then commissioned by Cincinnati Playhouse to expand it into a full-length production, adding music and renaming it *The Last Wide Open*, which opened in Feb. 2019. Since then Vermont Stage produced it in October of that year and, most recently, Circle Theatre in Fort Worth TX.

I am honored to be at the helm of this area premiere, and the first live production to welcome our audiences BACK to this beautiful space. Heartfelt thanks to the actors, designers and technicians on this team who worked hard to present this uniquely structured love story about choices, possibilities and chances to The Umbrella audiences.

Thanks to Brian Boruta for entrusting this story to me. We are BACK!

Nancy Curran Willis

Doors (Poopay), *Blithe Spirit* (Elvira), *Guys & Dolls* (Adelaide), *Cabaret* (Fraulein Kost), *Becky Shaw* (Suzanna), *Rocket Man* (Rita), *God of Carnage* (Annette), *Apartment 3A* (Annie), *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Lin), and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (Trisha), among others.



Brian Boruta (*Producer*) This is Brian's 41st production with The Umbrella and his 38th as the Director of Performing Arts, during which time he has earned Best Production nominations for *Glengarry Glen Ross, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Red, Angels in America, Equus* and *Bonnie & Clyde*; a DASH Award for Best Play for *True West* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and Best Musical for *Parade* and *Big Fish.* Umbrella directing credits include: *Parade*

(DASH Award for Best Director of a Musical) Big Fish (DASH Nom.), Hair, Evita, Side Show, Next to Normal, The Rocky Horror Show. Elsewhere: Sweeney Todd, Legally Blonde, Godspell, Seussical the Musical, The Actor's Nightmare, Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You. Favorite on-stage credits include Billy Lawlor in 42nd Street (DASH Nom.), Judas/ John the Baptist in Godspell, Cosmo Brown in Singin' in the Rain, Austin in True West, and Greg in A Chorus Line. As a designer and educator. Brian has worked with numerous college, high school and community groups including Merrimack College, Goddard College, Framingham State University, The Performing Arts Center of MetroWest, Brookline, Chelsea and Wellesley Public School. His solo piece, UnMasqued, has been workshopped and performed at the Wheeler Theater in Port Townsend, WA. Brian holds a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College and was named the recipient of the 2014 Framingham State University Young Alumni Achievement Award for his work in the performing arts.





Nancy Curran Willis (*Director*) is thrilled to be returning to The Umbrella Stage for the eighth time with this beautiful love story, *The Last Wide Open*. Past Umbrella successes include *Angels in America*, *Part I, Part II; Bonnie & Clyde; Equus; Glengarry Glen Ross; Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* and *Tuck Everlasting*. Tonight's production presented a unique opportunity to be working on a

new play in coordination with playwright, Audrey Cefaly. With only 3 other professional productions nationwide, we are honored to be the 4th company bringing this uniquely structured love story to Umbrella audiences.

Audrey Cefaly (*Playwright*) Audrey Cefaly's plays include *The Gulf* (Edgerton, Lammy, Charles MacArthur Nominee), *Alabaster* (NNPN Record-Breaking RWP, Kilroys, Calicchio Prize), *Maytag Virgin, The Last Wide Open, The Story of Walter, Fin & Euba, Tell Me Something Good, The Believers*, and *Love is a Blue Tick Hound*. Cefaly is a member of the Playwrights' Arena cohort at Arena Stage and a Dramatist Guild Foundation Traveling Master. She is published by Samuel French, Smith & Kraus, and Applause Books. Cefaly has developed plays with NNPN, Everyman Theatre, Signature Theatre, Vermont Stage, 16th Street Theater, Capital Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, About Face, Florida Rep, Kitchen Dog Theatre, Circle Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Aurora Theatre, Theater Alliance, Quotidian Theatre Company, Contemporary American Theater Festival, and University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Matthew M Nielson (*Composer*) is a Washington, DC-based sound designer, composer, and songwriter for theater, film and TV. Credits include 59E59 Theaters, Lincoln Center, Portland Center Stage, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Cincinnati Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Round House Theatre, EPIX, NBA, Syfy, Discovery Channel.

James Cannon (*Sound Designer*) is a freelance audio engineer, sound designer and music producer from Chicago, IL. Recent credits include *Well* with the Hovey Players in Waltham, and *The View Upstairs* with Speakeasy Stage. He is delighted to be making a return to the theater after an extended intermission and is very thankful to Brian Boruta and the entirety of The Umbrella Stage Company for allowing him to help create art with them.



Erin Maitland (*Assistant Director*) was last seen on The Umbrella stage as Siobhan in *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. She is beyond excited for this opportunity to be working alongside the amazing Nancy Curran Willis and the rest of the fabulous cast and crew. Some of her favorite theatre experiences include Director of *The Addams Family* (ActorSingers-NHTA Award winner for Best Scenic Design); Belle in

Beauty and the Beast (Actors Inc.); Drowsy in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (ActorSingers); Eve in *Children of Eden* (Voices of Hope); Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* (Spotlight Playhouse). Erin is currently working towards her MFA in Theatre Education and Applied Theatre at Emerson College. Erin would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support and love (always). She hopes you enjoy the show!

Sarajane Morse Mullins (*Props & Set Dressings Designer*) is a Bostonbased actor, educator, and designer. Previously at The Umbrella she designed properties for *Glengarry Glen Ross* (DASH Nomination), *Hundred Days, Tuck Everlasting*, and *Joy Luck Club*. Past appearances on The Umbrella Stage include Ensemble in *Tuck Everlasting*, Lucille in *Parade* (DASH Nomination), Blanche Barrow in *Bonnie and Clyde* (Arts Impulse nomination, DASH nomination), and ensemble roles in *Big Fish* and *Evita*. Sarajane holds a BFA in Theater Arts from Boston University and trained abroad with the London Academy of Music and Drama (LAMDA). She has appeared at The Huntington Theatre Company, The Greater Boston Stage Company, Turtle Lane Playhouse, The Round Barn Theatre and over 50 productions in the Midwest. She has directed, designed or taught theater for over 20 schools and programs in the



greater Boston area including UMASS Boston, Winchester Music School, Somerville Community Schools, and Kidstock! Creative Theater. www. officiallysarajane.com

James Murphy (*Music Consultant*) is thrilled to be back with The Umbrella this time as a music consultant. Usually behind the baton for The Umbrella, past music director credits include 42nd Street, Sideshow, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Avenue Q. James has also won back-toback DASH awards for Best Music Director for his work on *Big Fish* and *Parade* with both shows also winning best musical. James has his Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance from The Boston Conservatory and his Masters of Music Education from Anderson University. This past spring, James celebrated 10 years teaching voice at his private studio. He also works as a voice teacher and music director for The Wellesley Theatre Project.

Johnny Penney (*Assistant Stage Manager*) has worked as a fly captain and stage technician at The Umbrella since its production of 42nd *Street* in 2019. He also worked as a crew chief for Opera Institute's production of *The Cunning Little Vixen*; fly captain and stage operations staff member for several seasons at The Glimmerglass Festival; and freelance stage technician since 2015. He also works with Open Door Theater, where he was last seen as The Prince's Voice in *Cinderella*, for which he won a DASH award.

Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez* (*Stage Manager*) is a Boston-based stage manager and director. SM credits include: Front Porch @ Starlight, Vanity Fair, A Christmas Carol 2018 & 2019, and Journey to the West (Central Square Theater), Julius Caesar (Hanover Theater Repertory), Keyping, Lonely Planet, and Statements After an Arrest... (New Repertory Theatre), King Lear (Actors' Shakespeare Project), Three Musketeers, The Salonnieres and Being Earnest (Greater Boston Stage Company), Caroline or Change (Moonbox Productions), Who is Eartha Mae (Bridge Repertory Theatre), The Music Man and Anything Goes (Reagle Music Theatre). Her directing work was most recently seen at the Women & Science Festival with Central Square Theater. She has

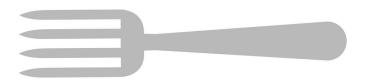
also directed with Front Porch Arts Collective, Flat Earth Theatre, The Calliope Project Theater, Ministry of Theater, and Kidstock Creative Theatre. She was the Artistic Director of The Calliope Project, and is now a company member at Flat Earth Theater. Proud union member.



SeifAllah Sallotto-Cristobal (Lighting Designer) has been telling stories using light and video for the past 16 years and is excited to be back at The Umbrella Stage for his 9th season. He holds an MFA in Lighting and Projection Design from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and currently serves as an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Maine, where he brings his knowledge and experience to help guide

the next generation of storytellers. He was fortunate to get back into the theatre this past summer with shows in Maine (Theatre at Monmouth, Opera Maine, and Remote Theatre Project), Massachusetts (Wellesley Theatre Project), and Indiana (Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts).

Brian Simons (*Costume Designer*) has worked as a director, choreographer, designer, actor and vocalist with many theater companies in the Southeastern Massachusetts area. Brian attended Bridgewater State University, where he studied Theatre Arts. As a director and designer Brian has worked with local area high schools including Oliver Ames High School in Easton and Thayer Academy in Braintree. In addition, Brian has worked with a number of local community theatre groups including the Star Players of Massachusetts, The Umbrella, the Family Performing Arts Center at Bridgewater State University, as well as at the Goodspeed Opera House.



2021-22 STAGE COMPANY TICKETS

Typical performance schedule: Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm

TODAY YOUR WAY

Flexible Seating & Scheduling Options at the Best Prices 978-371-0820 | TheUmbrellaArts.org/boxoffice

PREMIER SEASON SUBSCRIPTION (Our BEST Value!)

15% off single ticket prices for all 5 shows, complimentary ticket exchanges, concession discounts, and special subscriber events!

FLEX SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGE (Custom Tailored!)

10% off single ticket prices for 3 or 4 shows, complimentary ticket exchanges, concession discounts, and special subscriber events!

GROUP TICKETS

10% off Groups of 10-14 and 15% off Groups of 15 or more

OFFERS

The Umbrella Stage Company is pleased to offer special ticketing offers for military, first responders, teachers, and frontline workers, and to participate in the MCC Card-to-Culture program, providing access to arts experiences for EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare cardholders. Please contact the box office for details.



Find the best pricing, scheduling and seating options at our 40 Stow Street Box Office (open 12-4pm M-F and 2 hours prior to performances), 978.371.0820 x209 or TheUmbrellaArts.org/boxoffice



Director	Nancy Curran Willis
Stage Manager	Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez *
Scenic Design	Jerry Wedge
Lighting Design	SeifAllah Sallotto-Cristobal
Sound Design	James Cannon
Costume Design	Brian Simons
Properties and Set Dressing	Sarajane Morse Mullins
Music Consultant	James Murphy
Assistant Director	Erin Maitland
Assistant Stage Manager	Johnny Penney
Technical Director	Al Forgione
Audio 1	Jill Clark
Scenic Painting	Page Evett
Covid Safety Officers	Lara Banister
	Abigail Lora, Cathie Regan
Program Assistant	Cathie Regan
Playbill Design	Priscilla White Sturges
Volunteer Coordination	Kathy Warren

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Our 2021-2022 Season was created in collaboration with members of The Umbrella Stage family, including Board, Staff, Directors, Designers, and Performers. We extend our deepest thanks for their time, insights, and perspectives.

Michelle Aguillon, Director

Casey Carlson, Board Member

SeifAllah Sallotto-Cristobal, Lighting Designer

Shani Farrell, Performer

Stewart Ikeda, Director of Marketing and Communications

Kara Chu Nelson, Performer

Barbara Pierre, Performer

Jerry Wedge, Executive Director

Nancy Curran Willis, Director

Eileen Nugent Williston, Director of Development

Deb Yamin, Board Chair

THE UMBRELLA 2021 *Leadership Giving Society*

We are grateful to all of our supporters and want to recognize the following members of our 2021 Leadership Giving Society. Annual gifts at these levels have outsized impact–providing essential operating support and serving as powerful endorsements of the organization.

\$50,000+

Anonymous Gail and Matt Burr Richard and Ann Marie Connolly Liz and Phillip Gross

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*Support is acknowledged for current contributions received as of 9/15/21. For more information about our Leadership Giving Society, please contact Megan Connor at megan@theumbrellaarts.org or 978-371-0820 x214.

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ABOUT THE UMBRELLA

The Umbrella enriches lives and builds a vibrant and inclusive community through the arts. We promote creativity, learning, personal growth, and cultural exchange through accessible arts education programs, performing and visual arts presentations, and community collaborations.

OUR HISTORY

Land Acknowledgement: Related to our mission of enriching lives and building a vibrant, inclusive community through the arts, we would like to acknowledge that the land we use for classes and events--the land on which The Umbrella is built here in the Musketaquid area--are the original homelands of the Nipmuc and Massachusett peoples. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory, and we honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather.

The Building: Built as a high school in 1929 and the town's first steelbeamed structure, Emerson School has long been an important historic and architectural landmark in downtown Concord. The building served as a public school for more than five decades before it was deemed obsolete and insufficient for a growing student population.

The Organization: In the early 1980's, a group of Concord volunteers and visionaries realized that the aging Emerson School building, slated for demolition, could be saved and converted into a community arts center. So, in 1982, The Umbrella's founders obtained tax-exempt status as a private non-profit organization and developed a detailed multi-use proposal for the building, which the Board of Selectmen approved in 1983. This agreement retains the spirit of the original deed, which states that the land will be used for education, and is still in place today. The Town of Concord retains ownership of the building, which it leases to The Umbrella Arts Center, which in turn is responsible for programming, operating, building maintenance, and capital improvement costs.

The Umbrella, Inc. is a qualified 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

THE UMBRELLA HOSPITALITY PARTNERS

Make a night of it!

The Umbrella Stage Company is thrilled to return to 40 Stow Street with some amazing #DinnerAndAShow partners who want to help you get the most out of your night out (or matinee) in Concord Center! These partners offer special discounts for patrons with a day-of-show ticket or email ticketing receipt from The Umbrella Stage Company. (Terms and conditions apply. Offers usually exclude taxes, gratuity, and alcohol.) See TheUmbrellaArts.org/Partner-Offers or check with each partner for specific details and questions.



Trail's End Café 97 Lowell Road, Concord, MA 01742 978.610.6633

Offer: Meals: 15% off food on day of show with ticket/receipt; excludes taxes, gratuity, alcohol.



Concord's Colonial Inn 48 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742 978.369.9200

Hotel Stay: 15% discount off daily room rate with ticket/receipt, pending availability; Meals: 10% off food on day of show with ticket/receipt; excludes taxes, gratuity, alcohol. Advance reservations recommended.



Fiorella's Cucina iorella 1 24 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742 978.341.9999

Offer: 15% off food on day of show with ticket/receipt; excludes taxes, gratuity, alcohol.

To learn about the benefits of partnering with The Umbrella, contact Nick at 978.371.0820 x212 or Nick@TheUmbrellaArts.org