

 **EVOLUTION**
theatre company



The
STORY
of
MY LIFE

Music and Lyrics by Neil Bartram

Book by Brian Hill

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International, New York, NY

October 7 - 16, 2021

**Evolution Theatre Company
wishes to express our deepest gratitude
to these sponsors of
our inaugural season at the
Abbey Theater of Dublin.**



Dublin Arts Council partially funded this production through a Community Arts Grant
to encourage community engagement, cultivate creativity
and foster life-long learning through the arts.



THE STORY OF MY LIFE

Music and Lyrics by Neil Bartram

Book by Brian Hill

with

MATT CLEMENS and JOE BISHARA

Directed by Mark Phillips Schwamberger



Produced by Evolution Theatre Company
at the Abbey Theater of Dublin

presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

Managing Artistic Director
Mark Phillips Schwamberger

CAST

THOMAS WEAVER.....Joe Bishara*

ALVIN KELBY.....Matt Clemens

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Mark Phillips Schwamberger*

Musical Director.....Jonathan Collura

Producer.....Mark Phillips Schwamberger

Stage Manager.....David Allen Vargo*

Musicians.....Jonathan Collura (Keyboard),
Robin Coolidge (Cello), Jeff Rolland (Reeds)

Set Design & Construction..Katherine Wexler & Michael Bynes

Abbey Theater Tech Mgr.....Jim Ziolkowski

Lighting Designer.....Brendan Michna

Sound & Video Engineer.....David Crone

Titles & GraphicsD A V A R G O LLC

Production Assistant.....Lane Palmer

Box Office.....Leslie Robinson, Sue Rapier, Lane Palmer

Abbey Theater Supervisor.....Joe Bishara*

* denotes Member of Actors' Equity Association

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS
The Musical
Music by Eric Rockwell, Lyrics by Joanne Bogart
Book by Eric Rockwell and Joanne Bogart

evOLUTION theatre company

APR 28 - MAY 7

AN AREA PREMIERE EVENT

Birds of a Feather
by Marc Acito

evOLUTION theatre company

JUN 23 - JUL 2

AN AREA PREMIERE EVENT

SEASON
evolutiontheatre.org

Gently Down The Stream
by Martin Sherman

evOLUTION theatre company

JUL 21-30

AN AREA PREMIERE EVENT

BOY
by Anna Ziegler

evOLUTION theatre company

SEPT 11-24

AN AREA PREMIERE EVENT

It's Take Romance
The Musical

Book by Edwin Sanchez with Paul Lockwood
Music & Lyrics by Michael Leamon

evOLUTION theatre company

Oct 13-22

A WORLD PREMIERE EVENT

The Cast



Joe Bishara* (THOMAS WEAVER) is honored to be making his Evolution Theatre Company onstage debut with this production. Central Ohio Audiences might recognize Joe from his award-winning turns in the CATCO productions of *The Christmas Schooner*, *Daddy Long Legs*, *I Do! I Do!*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits and Evil Dead: The Musical*. Joe performed the role of Thomas in the 2012 regional premiere of *The Story of My Life*. Joe has collaborated on over 200 theatrical productions across the United States as an award-winning Actor, Director, Educator

and Producer. In addition to his current position as Theater Supervisor for the City of Dublin, Ohio (Abbey Theater of Dublin), he is also the Founder and Managing Director of New Albany Youth Theatre, and a Creative Consultant for both Broadway2LA Acting Studio and Evolution Theatre Company. Previous Theatrical stops include: CATCO (Associate Producing Director), Franklinton Preparatory Academy (Theater Instructor), The Phoenix Theatre for Children (Production Coordinator), Wayside Theatre (Assistant Artistic Director) and Act Out Productions (Associate Producer for the inaugural Columbus National Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival). Joe is a passionate advocate for new theatrical works. He is the creator of the Abbey Theater of Dublin's Virtual Theatre Project, co-founder of the Otterbein Playwrights Collective and served for six years as the Program Coordinator for the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC) Playwriting Fellowship Program. Joe is a member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), a member of the Musical Theatre Educators' Alliance (MTEA) and an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographer Society (SDC). He is grateful to Mark for the opportunity to reprise this role alongside his dear friend Matt Clemens. Love to Liz, Maddie and Vivie. For Anna.



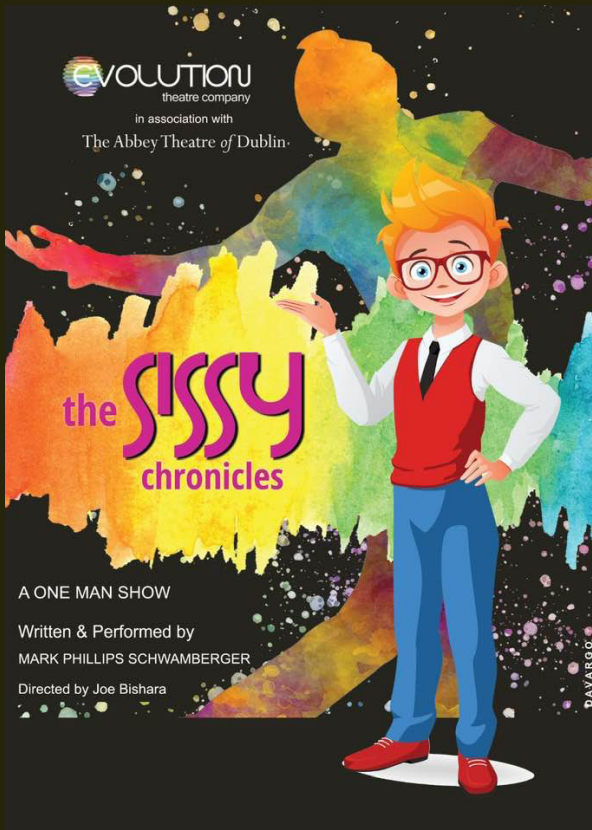
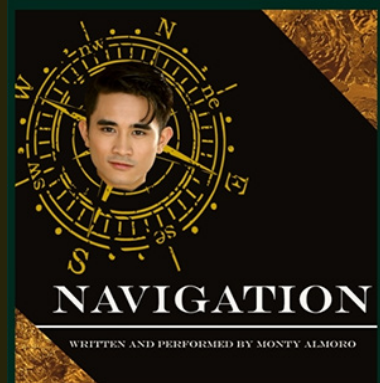
Matt Clemens (ALVIN KELBY) Matt Clemens returns to Columbus after a 7-year hiatus to perform with his friend, Joe Bishara, who returns to the stage after an absence of 3 years. This will be the fourth time the acclaimed actors have performed together, previously appearing in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Chess in Concert*, and *Two Men and a Piano*. As musical director and actor they have collaborated in *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *Gray Gardens* (Matt also directed), *The Story of My Life*, and *Forbidden Broadway: Volume 1* (Joe also directed).

As director and musical director, they have collaborated on *I*

Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change; *A Christmas Carol*, and *Hairspray*. Matt has performed on Broadway in *Les Miserables* in New York and toured for seven years with the Broadway National Tour of *Les Miserables*. As dance captain and a swing, he performed the show over 3000 times in New York and across the United States and Canada. In Columbus, Ohio, Matt performed in *Follies in Concert* (Short North Stage), *Souvenir* (CATCO), *Chess in Concert* (SRO Theatre Company), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (CATCO), and *Sunday in the Park with George* (Short North Stage). He also directed *Gray Gardens* and *Forever Plaid* for CATCO as well as *The Marvelous Wonderettes* and *A Grand Night for Singing* for Short North Stage. Working in theater for over 30 years as an actor, singer, conductor, pianist, music director, composer, director, and writer, Matt currently writes, designs, and directs shows for Celebrity Cruises, based in Miami, Florida.

**Next in the Abbey
October 21, 22, 23...**

TWO ONES



The Production Team



Mark Phillips Schwamberger* (*Director*)

After over twenty years in the corporate world Mark returned to The Ohio State University in 2007 to complete his degree majoring in Theatre graduating in 2008. Being no stranger to the struggles of “life in the theatre” Mark spent years in NYC, seasons in summer stock and traveling with various companies in the East, South and Midwest. He is the Executive / Artistic Director for Evolution Theatre Company, a 501 (3) C non-profit corporation and Central Ohio’s only LGBTQQIA theatre company, dedicated exclusively to presenting works that celebrate the Community’s past, present and future as well as presenting works that strive to bring dignity to and tolerance and acceptance for LGBTQQIA individuals. Mark is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association and the Dramatist Guild.



Jonathan Collura (*Musical Director*) is thrilled to be music directing and accompanying this beautiful piece of theatre with this absolutely amazing team, especially at this important time when live theatre is coming back. Jonathan is an adjunct voice teacher in the theatre department at Wright State University, and he performs and music directs with several groups around the Columbus area. Previous Evolution credits include *tick, Tick...BOOM* and *The View UpStairs*. Enjoy the show!



David Allen Vargo* (*Stage Manager*) loves being an official resident of the City of Dublin, where he lives with his husband and three cats. Since moving to Columbus from his native Florida in 2013, David has performed in 18 plays primarily with Evolution Theatre Company, but also with CATCO, Red Herring Productions, and Little Theatre Off Broadway. Formerly he was the Director-In-Residence at the New River Shakespeare Festival in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A proud member of Actors’ Equity Association, David is an alumnus of Florida State University School of Theatre and

the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York City. In addition to being a Marketing Communications specialist and graphic designer, David is also a director, as well as an audio book narrator for Audible.

* Denotes Member of Actor’s Equity Association



Kat Wexler and Michael Bynes

(Set Design & Construction) are the award-winning set design/construction team that has helped bring many a story to life around the central Ohio area. Kat and Michael have created theatrical magic for Opera Project Columbus' DIE FLEDERMAUS, Gallery Players' SHE LOVES ME, and the latest staged production at Little Theatre Off Broadway, NUNSENSE. They are excited to be designing for Evolution Theatre Company for their 2021 season.



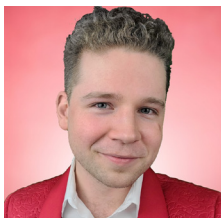
David Crone (Sound & Video Engineer) is a lifelong sound and video enthusiast. After a long corporate career of uncomfortable neckties and too many meetings, he is thrilled to return to the simple pleasures of pushing buttons and sliding sliders in his work at the Abbey Theater. David wants to thank his wife and children for their unwavering love and support—and for their tolerance of his constant mantra: “Don’t touch that!”



Lane Palmer (Production Assistant) graduated from Wittenberg University in 2017 with a degree in Theatre and moved to Columbus shortly after. Lane’s first experience with Evolution was being the assistant stage manager for THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD! He became a company staff member in 2018 as Production Assistant. Lane has acted in many Evolution productions as well, including: DEVIL BOYS FROM BEYOND, WHO KILLED JOAN CRAWFORD?, and DR. SMARTY IN THE NEW NORMAL.



Robin Coolidge (Musician - Cello) has played with groups around central Ohio for more than 30 years. He has played with the Springfield Symphony, the Westerville Symphony, the Columbus Children’s Theater, and the Gallery Players. Robin is also owner of Wyandotte Winery in Columbus, and Rockside Winery and Vineyards near Lancaster.



Jeff Rolland (Musician - Reeds) Jeff may work with emerging technologies and artificial intelligence with his day job in software, but by night he enjoys bringing music to the Columbus community any way that he can! With specialties in woodwind instruction, Jeff is the Assistant Director of the Clintonville Community Band, which performs 10+ times annually throughout the Columbus area at venues such as the Park of Roses. He strongly believes that musical discovery serves a noble purpose: to provide a break from the monotonies

of life by giving you something to look forward to – a spark! Additionally, Jeff is on staff at Musicologie Lewis Center, where he primarily teaches clarinet and flute to students of all ages. I hope you enjoy the show!

BRIAN HILL - BOOK WRITER



Brian's work with composer/lyricist Neil Bartram includes the book for *The Story of My Life* (Broadway – 4 Drama Desk Award nominations including Outstanding Book and Outstanding Musical), *Something Wicked This Way Comes* (11 Barrymore Award nominations), the internationally popular *The Theory of Relativity* and the upcoming stage adaptation of *Bedknobs & Broomsticks*. Other works include the English language adaptation of *Les Belles-Soeurs*, a one-woman musical *You Are Here* and a fresh take on *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. He wrote the new book for the Old Globe's production of NBCUniversal's *October Sky* and the revised book for the Goodman Theatre's acclaimed production of *Brigadoon*.

Directing credits include work with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, The Segal Centre, Goodspeed Musicals and The Stratford Festival of Canada. For Disney Theatrical Productions he was resident director of the Toronto and Broadway companies of *The Lion King* and associate director of Broadway's *The Little Mermaid*.

The Story of My Life and *The Theory of Relativity* are licensed by Music Theatre International. *The Adventures of Pinocchio* is licensed through Concord Theatricals.

Brian is a Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and the Dramatists Guild and is on the faculty of New York University, Tisch School of the Arts.

NEIL BARTRAM - COMPOSER/LYRICIST



Born in the UK, raised in Canada and now based in New York City, Neil is the composer and lyricist of Broadway's *The Story of My Life* with book writer Brian Hill (4 Drama Desk Award nominations including Outstanding Music and Outstanding Lyrics). His musical *The Theory of Relativity*, written specifically for and about college age students, had its US premiere at Goodspeed Musicals in 2015 with its Off-West End premiere in the same year. Other works include an adaptation of Carlo Collodi's *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, a musical adaptation of Michel Tremblay's *Les Belles-Soeurs*, a musical based on Ray Bradbury's classic novel *Something Wicked This Way Comes* (11 Barrymore Award nominations), *You Are Here*, *Senza Luce* and the upcoming stage version of Disney's beloved film *Bedknobs & Broomsticks*. Neil's new score for *Shakespeare in Love* was written for the Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Asolo Rep productions.

Neil's awards include the ASCAP Foundation's Yellen Award, a Jonathan Larson Foundation Award, a Dramatists Guild Fellowship and a Dora Award.

The Story of My Life and *The Theory of Relativity* are licensed worldwide through Music Theatre International and *The Adventures of Pinocchio* is licensed through Concord Theatricals. Cast albums include *The Story of My Life* and *The Theory of Relativity* (both on PS Classics).

Neil is a member of the Dramatists Guild, ASCAP and is an alumnus of the BMI Lehman Engel Music Theatre Workshop. He is published by Warner/Chappell Music.

Graphic Arts

B2B Advertising

B2C Collateral



DAVARGO

DAVARGO.COM

Providing a wide range of graphic design services & specializing in print and digital marketing collateral for the corporate marketplace.



Dublin Ohio's Professional Resident Theatre Company



evolutiontheatre.org