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JANUARY 2026

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By Dylan Parent

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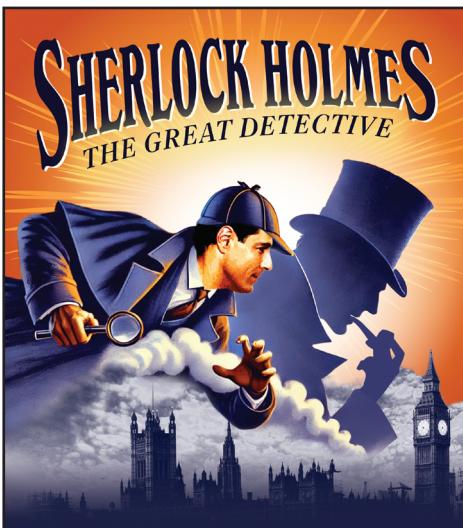
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# Beauty and the Beast, For 200

At this Philadelphia school, the annual production involves everybody.

By Dylan Parent

Welcome to PLAYBILLDER Spotlight, where Playbill highlights shows from educational institutions or regional theatres and special events around the country (who have used Playbill's program-building service). By welcoming these PLAYBILLDERs center stage, we hope to give our readers a more in-depth look at theatre programs that are fostering the love of the performing arts in the next generation and the way theatre lovers are bringing Playbill along for life's big moments.

Below, we spotlight Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and their production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Instrumental Music teacher Kim Kelter Neu shared with Playbill just how many children came together to put up the show.

## Tell us a little about yourself.

### How many years have you been teaching?

**Kim Kelter Neu:** I've been teaching for 25 years and our musical is certainly the highlight each year.

### How does your school's performing arts program impact your community?

Our school musical brings together our community, involving over 200 students from both middle and high school. Students make the sets and the props as well as run the sound control, the lights, play in the orchestra, and, of course, star in the show! Families leave our show amazed at what the students have achieved.

### How do you choose shows for your students?

When we choose our show, we always pick something that involves all the students. It must have a chorus and a full orchestra. This limits our choices but allows us to include the most students. We also must keep in mind that our school is grades five through 12, so



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASTERMAN HIGH SCHOOL

whatever show we pick must work for fifth and 12th graders alike. *Beauty and the Beast* was an easy and perfect choice this year!

### What reactions do you expect to see in students when they see their name printed in this Playbill for the first time?

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Dear Theatregoer,

Happy new year and welcome back to the Walnut for **SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE**. We hope this performance captivates and inspires you to return for the rest of our season.

This spring, I'm excited to bring you Edward Albee's **A DELICATE BALANCE**, winner of both the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Closing our season with spirit and song is the bold and stirring **1776 The Musical**. Our gift to you and Philadelphia is the gripping retelling of America's fight for independence, which all happened mere steps away.

I am also thrilled to announce the lineup for our 218th Season — what might be our most exciting season yet! **THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL**, Disney's **FROZEN THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**, David Mamet's **GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS**, Noël Coward's **PRESENT LAUGHTER** and a new production of the acclaimed musical **COME FROM AWAY**. I invite you to renew or subscribe today to this spectacular season!

In addition to our unforgettable Mainstage Season, we are delighted to open our doors for the Theatre School at Walnut Street Theatre, welcoming students of all ages to explore their passion for performance in our spring semester classes and this summer at Camp Walnut. We are also thrilled to continue our Walnut Kids' series, with the rousing, high-energy musical Disney's **NEWSIES JR.**

But for now, sit back and enjoy the intrigue, mystery and comedy in the world premiere of **SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE**. We are so happy you are here and we cannot wait to welcome you back very soon!

Sincerely,

Bernard Havard,  
President and Producing Artistic Director



Photo: Mark Garvin

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BERNARD HAVARD

President and Producing Artistic Director

January 13 – February 15, 2026

## SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE

By

**BILL VAN HORN**

Based upon short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Set Design

**JASON SIMMS**

Costume Design

**NATALIA DE LA TORRE**

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Wig and Makeup Design

**ALYSSANDRA DOCHERTY**

**CHRISTOPHER COLUCCI**

**AMARI CALLAWAY**

Director of  
Production

**SIOBHÁN RUANE**

Stage Managers

**ABIGAIL STURGIS**  
**ELIZABETH HAROIAN**

Associate  
Artistic Director

**BRIAN KURTAS**

Directed by

**BILL VAN HORN**

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# CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Arabella (and others) .....	Anna Bailey*
Moriarty (and others) .....	Dan Hodge*
Inspector Lestrade (and others) .....	Dave Johnson*
Mrs. Hudson (and others) .....	Mary Martello*
Sherlock Holmes (and others) .....	Harry Smith*
Dr. Watson (and others) .....	Bill Van Horn*

## UNDERSTUDIES

ELIZA CARSON (Arabella), KEVIN NADDEO (Inspector Lestrade),  
CONNOR PATRICK (Sherlock Holmes), BO SAYRE (Moriarty),  
JASON SHIPMAN (Dr. Watson), KALISKA WILEY (Mrs. Hudson)

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ADAM HOYAK

\*The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the theatre union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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

Artwork by Kristy Giballa Machusko and Kelsey Sherlock

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## WORLD PREMIERE

### ACT I

The play begins in London in 1910 at the dawn of the modern era.

*There will be one 20-minute intermission*

### ACT II

Two years later.

---

# CAST



ANNA BAILEY



DAN HODGE



DAVE JOHNSON



MARY MARTELLO



HARRY SMITH



BILL VAN HORN

## WHO'S WHO

**ANNA BAILEY** (*Arabella and others*) is a Reading, PA-based actress and realtor. Recently seen at the Walnut in Noël Coward's *Hay Fever* (Sorel Bliss) and Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Honey). Some regional favorites include: *Matilda* (Miss Honey); *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*; *Gathering Blue*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Annie* (Grace Farrell); *Goodnight, Mrs. Puffin*; *Nana's Naughty Knickers*. Endless gratitude to Kip, Family, Bernard, Brian, Mark, and to this wonderful crew and cast!

**DAN HODGE** (*Moriarty and others*) WST: *Travels With My Aunt*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Mousetrap*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Baskerville*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band*. Dan would like to dedicate this show to Laurent "Uncle Larry" Giroux, whom he met in this very theatre.

**DAVE JOHNSON** (*Inspector Lestrade and others*) is thrilled to return to the Walnut after having last appeared in *Groucho: A Life in Revue*. Regional: *The 25th Annual Putnam*

*County Spelling Bee*; *Sideways Stories from the Wayside School*; *The Cat in the Hat* (Arden Theatre Company); *Peter and the Starcatcher*; *One Man Two Guvnors* (Delaware Theatre Company); *Tartuffe*; *Hound of the Baskervilles* (Lantern Theater Company); *Microcrisis* (InterAct Theatre Company). Film/Television: *We Own This City* (HBO), *Tires* (Netflix). Education/Training: University of the Arts, Ecole Phillippe Gaulier Intensive Master Course in Clown. Love to my three ladies.

**MARY MARTELLO** (*Mrs. Hudson and others*) has been a Philadelphia actor for 30 years with over 30 shows at WST. Thanks to Bernard and the WST staff, and a loving thank you to Matt Pettigrew. More info at: [marymartello.com](http://marymartello.com)

**HARRY SMITH** (*Sherlock Holmes and others*) For WST: Noël Coward's *Hay Fever*; *And Then There Were None*; *An Ideal Husband*; *The Mousetrap*. Broadway: *Art*; *Hangmen*; *King Charles III*. Off-Broadway: Robert Icke's *Hamlet* and *Oresteia* (Park Avenue Armory); *Plough and the Stars*; *Juno and the Paycock*; *Shadow of a*

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# WHO'S WHO

*Gunman* (Irish Rep). Regional: Berkshire Theatre Group; Guthrie Theater; Two River Theater; Shakespeare Theatre Company of D.C.; Seattle Rep; American Conservatory Theater; Delaware Theatre Company; The Wilma Theater; People's Light; Lantern Theater Company; Inis Nua. U.K.: Edinburgh Royal Lyceum; Bristol Old Vic; Third Party; Tobacco Factory; Taunton Brewhouse. Film/television: *The Goldfinch*; *Freedom*; *The Good Wife*; *Crossbones*; *The Blacklist*; *Elementary*; *Jessica Jones*; *Sprung*; *Doc. Training*: Bristol Old Vic Theatre School; Cambridge University.

**BILL VAN HORN** (*Dr. Watson and others*/*Author and Director*) will next appear as Andrew McNair in *1776 The Musical* at the Walnut. Recently at the Walnut: *A Christmas Story The Musical* (2025-26); *Elf The Broadway Musical* (2024); Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; Disney's *The Little Mermaid*; *A Woman of No Importance*; *Gifts of the Magi*; *Annie*; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*; *Oz*; *A Christmas Story The Musical* (2015-16); *Mary Poppins*; *Driving Miss Daisy*; *Elf The Broadway Musical* (2013); *The Prince*; *Fiddler on the Roof*. Directed: *Noël Coward's Hay Fever*; *Civil War Voices*; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; *The Glass Menagerie*; and created and starred in *O Captain, My Captain (Whitman's Lincoln)*. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

**ADAM HOYAK** (*Assistant Director*) is ecstatic to be assistant directing at the Walnut! Director: *A Christmas Carol* (WST for Kids); *Anything Goes*; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, Jr. (Camp Walnut); Director/Choreographer: *Legally Blonde*; Disney's *Newsies* (West Chester Summer Stage). As an actor, Adam has performed here at the Walnut, as well as many theatres in the Greater Philadelphia region. Thanks to Bernard, Bill, and this amazing cast and crew. IG: @ahoyamatey7

**JASON SIMMS** (*Set Design*) is an award-winning set designer for theatre, opera, and film & media. Work in other regional theaters includes: Berkshire Theatre Group, Weston Playhouse, George St. Playhouse, Philadelphia Theatre Co., People's Light, Bristol Riverside Theatre, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Chautauqua Theatre Co. (Chautauqua, NY), The Old Globe (San Diego), TheatreWorks (Silicon Valley), Two River Theatre Co. (Red Bank, NJ), Geva Theatre Center (Rochester, NY), Pioneer Theatre Company (Salt Lake City), and many others. NYC venues include The Public Theater, The Cherry Lane, 2nd Stage Uptown, Ensemble Studio Theatre, SoHo Playhouse, The Juilliard School and more. Jason is a professor of design in the Theatre Arts Department at the University of

Iowa and obtained his M.F.A. in design from New York University.

**NATALIA DE LA TORRE** (*Costume Design*) Natalia serves as the Costume Shop Manager for Walnut Street Theatre. They are also a freelance costume designer and technician in Philadelphia. Regional work: *Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Speckled Band* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Settlements* (Interact Theater Company); *Nina Simone: Four Women* (People's Light); *An Iliad* (Lantern Theater Company); *Coriolanus* (Shakespeare in Clark Park); *Snow White* (Arden Theater Company); *Fool For Love* (Ego Po Theatre Company); *Sh\*theadz* (Azuka Theater Company). Training: MFA in Production Design, Ohio University. She/Her/They/Theirs. www.nataliadeltorre.com

**ALYSSANDRA DOCHERTY** (*Lighting Design*) (she/her) is a three-time Barrymore Award-winning lighting designer originally from Vernon, NJ. WST: *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical*; *In Between*. Regional: Philadelphia Theatre Company, Arden Theatre Company, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Delaware Theatre Company, Virginia Stage Company, and Westport Country Playhouse, among others. www.alyssandradocherty.com

**CHRISTOPHER COLUCCI** (*Sound Design*) Recent work: *The Real Thing* and *Macbeth* (Lantern Theater Company); *Spinner* (Delaware Theater Company). Next up: Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (Walnut); *Circle Forward* (Gulfshore Playhouse); *Can't Forget About You* (Inis Nua); *Seng's Hair Salon* (InterAct Theater Company) and *Marsha Blovotnick and the Marvelous Magical Chicken Soup* (Theater Ariel). 2016 Pew Fellowship in the Arts; Eight Barrymore Awards for Outstanding Original Music and Sound Design; Independence Fellowship in the Arts (2012, 2019); Resident Videographer (Lantern Theater Company); MA in Philosophy from Western Kentucky University. BA in Philosophy/Theology from Eastern University. Christopher's latest recording of music for classical guitar (*Contrastes II*) is available on Spotify and most streaming platforms. <https://soundcloud.com/cmsound> [https://www.instagram.com/christopherm\\_colucci](https://www.instagram.com/christopherm_colucci)

**AMARI CALLAWAY** (*Wig Designer*) is a freelance wig and costume designer who hails from Las Vegas, NV. They moved to Philadelphia in 2017 for the wig and wardrobe apprenticeship right here at the Walnut Street Theatre, and they've been working in the area ever since! You may have seen Amari's wig designs on the Walnut stage in *The Winter Wonderettes*; *Sherlock Holmes: The*

# WHO'S WHO

*Adventure of The Speckled Band, Driving Miss Daisy, Noël Coward's Hay Fever, and Million Dollar Quartet.* Keep an eye out for their next show, Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*.

**ABIGAIL STURGIS** (*Stage Manager*) This is Abigail's 3rd season at WST. Select stage management credits: WST: Noël Coward's *Hay Fever*; *Driving Miss Daisy*; *Jersey Boys*; *Groucho: A Life in Revue*; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; PSF: *The Producers*; Media Theatre: *Rent*; Quintessence Theatre Group: *Flyin' West*; *The Skin of Our Teeth*; Opera Philadelphia: *10 Days in a Madhouse*; Proud graduate of Temple University. Love to Jon and Minnie.

**ELIZABETH HAROIAN** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Thrilled to be back with WST for a fifth season! You saw her work on *Million Dollar Quartet*, and you'll see her work on Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. Select stage management credits: WST: *Jersey Boys*; *Elvis: A Musical Revolution*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Disney's *Beauty & the Beast*; *Rocky*; Broadway at Music Circus: *Hair*, *West Side Story*, *Waitress*, *42nd Street*; NYU Steinhardt: *The Secret Garden*; *Sister Act*; Juilliard: *Richard III*. A few years ago, Liz was in Saudi Arabia managing a truly magical show with five international illusionists. She has worked with many academic programs including NYU Tisch, The Juilliard School, NYU Steinhardt, Atlantic, and ART/Harvard. Amid all of the chaos, remember to have fun!

**SIOBHÁN RUANE** (*Director of Production*) This is Siobhán's 13th season at WST. With over 25 years in the business, Siobhán has worked internationally as a Production Manager and Stage Manager. Previously, Siobhán held the faculty position of Stage Management Advisor at Florida State University's School of Theatre. Additional credits include Cirque du Soleil, Norwegian Cruise Line, Cirque Productions, and various regional theatres. Siobhán holds an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, an MFA from the University of Delaware, and is (proudly!) originally from the Jersey Shore.

**BRIAN KURTAS, CSA** (*Associate Artistic Director*) has been associated with WST since 2007. He began his career here as a performer and in the apprenticeship program and has since dedicated himself to bringing artists together. He now serves our audiences in the various capacities of casting, directing, programming, and literary management, as his function is to bring the finest artists to our historic stage. His vision behind

unforgettable live experiences and storytelling has become a creative solution from the stage to the screen — he spent 4 seasons as the Executive Producer of Gretna Theatre, cast for commercials and films, and helped create events for brands such as T-Mobile and Walmart while at Live Nation. Originally from Lancaster, Brian is a proud Temple alum, a published playwright, and a member of the Casting Society of America.

**MARK D. SYLVESTER** (*Managing Director*) Mark is proud to be celebrating over three decades at America's Oldest Theatre. His extensive career has spanned Summer Stock to Broadway as an actor, stage manager, box office treasurer, theatre manager, marketing and public relations director and general manager. After several years working with commercial theatre, he has devoted his career to non-profit theatre companies since 1987. To date, Mark has been associated with more than 500 stage productions. An avid collector of musical theatre recordings, his collection contains over 3,500 cast albums from around the world. He has served on several boards including the National Alliance for Musical Theatre where he now holds the honorary position of Board Emeritus and the Advisory Committee of Samuel French, the international play publisher and licensing company. With Bernard Havard he co-authored the book *Walnut Street Theatre*.

**BERNARD HAVARD** (*President and Executive Producing/Artistic Director*) Vox Populi (The Voice of the People) was written on WST Playbills in the 1800s. Whenever WST has strayed from a populist program, the theatre has gone bankrupt. When I came here 43 years ago, we had no programs and no audience. Today we enjoy one of the largest subscription bases of any theatre in the world. So, my thanks to our loyal audience and a warm welcome to newcomers who enjoy and believe in what we do. I admire the artists who dedicated their lives to the theatre and WST, particularly. Our theatre is a non-profit 501-C3 institution, and we rely on contributed income to extend our reach into the community. Last season we reached more than 62,743 students in our city schools. We have 19 esteemed trustees who give their time, wisdom, and contributions to help guide this historical treasure. I came to WST in 1982, and I am as excited now about our future as I was in the beginning. My heartfelt thanks to all who enter this theatre. For my biography, go to About Us on our website at [WalnutStreetTheatre.org](http://WalnutStreetTheatre.org)

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**PRODUCTION**

Director of Production .....	Siobhán Ruane
Assistant Production Manager .....	Megan Lampron
Production Technical Supervisor .....	Matt DeMascolo
Production Administrator .....	Jess Fowler
Production Management Apprentice .....	Page Shields
Stage Manager .....	Abigail Sturgis
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Elizabeth Haroian
Stage Management Apprentice .....	Annalee Crosser
Technical Director .....	Brian Froomjian
Assistant Technical Director .....	Eli Marsh
Technical Production Associate .....	Tyler Bogue
TD/Shop Management Apprentice .....	John Orndorff
Head Carpenter .....	Kerrin Frank
Carpenters .....	Carter Sinquefield, Tom Slater
Carpentry Apprentices .....	Izze Clark, Zachary Graczyk
Scenic Charge .....	Leslie Curd
Scenic Artists ....	Sarah Ganek, Thomasin Parnes, Lauren Sellers
Scenic Apprentices .....	Lily Gardner, Stevie Guevara
Properties Manager .....	Kylle L. Collins
Head Properties.....	Matthew Barth
Properties Artisan.....	Kylen Bailey
Properties Apprentices .....	River Hennick, Sam Law, Alan Martinez
Costume Shop Manager .....	Natalia de la Torre
Assistant Costume Shop Manager .....	Anya Loverdi
Rentals Manager .....	Elizabeth McNamara
Draper and Costume Associate .....	Chloe Swidler
Tailor .....	Kayla Speedy
Stitchers .....	Gretchen Ellis, Katie Yamaguchi
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The mission of the Walnut Street Theatre Company is to sustain the tradition of professional theatre and contribute to its future viability and vitality. It does so through the production and presentation of professional theatre; the encouragement, training, and development of artists; the development of diverse audiences; and the preservation and chronicling of its theatre building, a National Historic Landmark..



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ART • REACH



Walnut Street Theatre is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, and the league of Historic American Theatres. Walnut Street Theatre receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Accessibility Equipment, Training and Marketing provided by Independence Starts Here, the statewide cultural accessibility program of VSA PA/Amaryllis Theatre Co., jointly led in different regions in PA by cultural partners in that region. In Greater Philadelphia, Independence Starts Here is jointly led by Art-Reach, Inc..

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8320 West Chester Pike  
Upper Darby, PA 19082