

THE 5 & DIME, SWOOP TROUPE, and Martha & Eli Bekkum,
with additional support from **Holly & Redgie Gutshall** present



Ride the

CYCLONE

the musical

Music, Book, & Lyrics by
Jacob Richmond and Brooke Maxwell

Direction & Music Direction by
Anvar Gashimov

MARCH 7 - 22, 2025

The 5 & Dime is funded in part by the
City of Jacksonville and the Cultural
Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc.



THE 5 & DIME IS IN RESIDENCY AT
THE FLORIDA BALLET
JACKSONVILLE

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SWOOP TROUPE



Swoop Troupe is an organization at the University of North Florida entirely dedicated to musical theatre. Since musical theatre and dance are not available as a degree program at UNF, students who are passionate about the art form can only practice it through their involvement in this club.

After experiencing funding cuts to their program, Swoop Troupe approached us about partnering to produce their spring musical. Without hesitation, we said, “Yes!” After experiencing funding cuts by the State of Florida last year, we knew how devastating it can be and wanted to ensure their show would go on. We’re honored to provide a stage for this talented and group of young people!

DIRECTOR’S NOTES

Welcome to Ride the Cyclone at The 5 & Dime, in collaboration with Swoop Troupe Theatre. Going from six months ago, when we did not even know if this show would happen, to now has been such an exciting, chaotic journey, and I couldn’t be more thrilled to share it with you. Ride the Cyclone is a story that dances between dark humor and deep existential questions. It’s about life, death, and the moments in between, told through a vibrant ensemble of characters who, despite their differences, find their way to one another in the most unexpected ways. As a director, I wanted to bring out both the absurdity and tenderness of this story, creating a production that is both whimsical and poignant, something that speaks to our shared humanity.

I am deeply grateful to the incredible team at Swoop Troupe Theatre and The 5 & Dime, whose passion, energy, and talent have made this show come alive in ways I never imagined. Each member of this cast and crew has poured their heart into the production, and I hope you feel that connection as you experience the show. I want to pour my heartfelt gratitude to those who pushed me and motivated me to do what I do today. To my friends and boyfriend, thank you, I would not have been here without you guiding me and being my family. I would not have picked any other show, cast, or crew to have my directorial debut in Jacksonville community theatre. Thank you for joining us on this ride — we’re so glad you’re here.

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with additional support from **Holly & Redgie Gutshall** present

RIDE THE CYCLONE

Music, Book, & Lyrics by **Jacob Richmond** and **Brooke Maxwell**

THE CHARACTERS

THE AMAZING KARNAK.....Austin Welles
OCEAN O’CONNELL ROSENBERG.....Sadie Sims
NOEL GRUBER.....Terry Star
MISCHA BACHINSKI.....Leland Locke
RICKY POTTS.....Caden Christel
JANE DOE.....Jo Lynn Fletcher
CONSTANCE BLACKWOOD.....Naomi Shae Randolph
TALIA.....Gianna Patrick
VIRGIL.....Andre Jon Valencia
ENSEMBLE.....Savanna Dribble, Anecia Francis, Miles Genavargas
Lucy Graff, Hugh Miner, Chailyne Perez Rodriguez, Quill Wettstain

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director & Music Director.....Anvar Gashimov
First Choreographer.....Terry Star
Second Choreographer.....Chailyne Perez Rodriguez
Stage Manager.....Jillian Cote
Assistant Stage Managers.....Anne Corrie, Kaleigh Ervin
Props Master.....Sage Dice
Set Designer.....Andre Jon Valencia
Costume Designer.....Max Cordeiro
Hair & Makeup Designer.....Candice Johnson
Lighting Design & Operator.....Charlie Dohm
Sound Design & Swoop Troupe Technical Director.....Logan Forbess
Swoop Troupe Marketing Manager & Set Construction.....Andre Jon Valencia
Swoop Troupe Budget Supervisor.....Gianna Patrick
Production Photographer.....Kamajhia | kamajhia.com

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

The use of photography, audio, or video recording is strictly prohibited.

Ride the Cyclone is presented by special arrangement with
Broadway Licensing, LLC. (www.broadwaylicensing.com).

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



AUSTIN WELLES (*The Amazing Karnak*), actor, director, and singer, is someone willing to follow his passion wherever it takes him. He's been well-established in the Northeast Florida Theatre Community for the past 8 years now. His background and education includes training in musical theater, acting, and directing from Florida School of the Arts, along with a bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in Theatre and a minor in Film from the University of North Florida. Austin is also a practitioner of Film and a Voice Over Artist specializing in narration and voice acting.



SADIE SIMS (*Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg*) is thrilled to make her debut with The 5 & Dime and Swoop Troupe in *Ride the Cyclone!* She is currently a freshman at UNF. Previously, she has played Audrey (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*), and Miss Scarlett (*Clue*) at Eau Gallie High School. She would like to thank the cast and production team for being so fun and welcoming!!



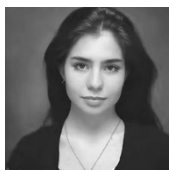
TERRY STAR (*Noel Gruber*) is thrilled to return to The 5 & Dime as not only the Choreographer, but on stage as well. He is so thankful to be a part of such a talented and supportive cast that already feels like family to him. His most recent credits included: Tommy Ross in *Carrie: The Musical*, Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown*, and Noah Spears in feature film *The Honey Dripper Lady*. Noel Gruber is a role that he will hold close to his heart and he can't wait for audiences to see Noel come to life.



LELAND LOCKE (*Mischa Bachinski*) is super excited to have you see his very first production with Swoop Troupe and The 5 & Dime! Leland has done a number of other productions such as *Romeo and Juliet* (as Romeo), *Newsies* (as Crutchie), and *Puffs* (as Wayne). He would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting him on his journey. Enjoy the show!



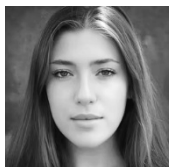
CADEN CHRISTEL (*Ricky Potts*) is excited to be in his first performance with both The 5 & Dime and Swoop Troupe! He has been a theater and choir kid since high school in Arizona. He has been in many shows both there and in Florida such as *Be More Chill*, *SpongeBob the Musical*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He'd like to thank his family and friends for the support, and the cast/crew for being awesome!



JO LYNN FLETCHER (*Jane Doe*) is very excited to join the cast of *Ride the Cyclone* as Jane Doe. This is their first show since graduating from Florida School of the Arts with an A.S. in musical theatre, where they were seen in shows like *Legally Blonde* (Serena), *Wait Until Dark* (Susan), and *The Revolutionists* (Marie Antoinette). They would like to thank The 5 & Dime for this great opportunity.



NAOMI SHAE RANDOLPH (*Constance Blackwood*) will be stepping on The 5 & Dime stage for the first time. She has been in many performances in Tampa. She has trained at Blake High School and TADA. Most recently has starred as “Carrie” in *Carrie the Musical* at UNF. She is also the historian for the Swoop Troupe Club for theater at UNF. She would love to thank everyone involved for this opportunity as well as her immense support from her family. Thank you all.



GIANNA PATRICK (*Talia*) This is Gianna’s first production in community theatre. She is thrilled to have Swoop Troupe and The 5 & Dime collaborate to put this show together and is excited to be a part of this cast. She looks forward to the many future shows she hopes to be a part of. A huge gratitude to everyone on and off stage who helped put this show on, break a leg everyone!



ANDRE JON VALENCIA (*Virgil*) is a 4th year at the University of North Florida and this is also his 4th year with UNF Swoop Troupe. He plays Virgil the Rat and is in the Ensemble. Andre works as the Marketing Manager, Set Designer, and heads the set construction. He is incredibly excited to partner with The 5 & Dime for their collaboration on *Ride the Cyclone*. He hopes you enjoy this amazing show!



SAVANNA DRIBBLE (*Ensemble*) is extremely excited to be in The 5 & Dime’s production of *Ride the Cyclone*. Previously you may have seen her as Sue in Swoop Troupes *Carrie* or as ensemble in *The Lighting Thief*. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her and she would like to thank The 5 & Dime for this opportunity. Enjoy the show!



ANECIA FRANCIS (*Ensemble*) is a Senior at the University of North Florida (UNF). She has performed as Silena Beauregard in *The Lightning Thief* with Swoop Troupe, and portrayed the Priest while also serving as the Understudy for Bianca in *Othello* (UNF Shadows). In addition to her acting

roles, Anecia has demonstrated her creative flair as the Makeup Director for *Rodger + Hammerstein's Cinderella* with Swoop Troupe.



MILES GENAOVARGAS (*Ensemble*) is honored and excited to make his debut at The 5 & Dime. A graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Miles has spent his teenage years deeply committed to performing. His previous credits include Norma in Swoop Troupe's *Carrie: the Musical* and several showcases. Miles would like to thank his mother, his godfather, and all of his friends for their endless support, and he thoroughly hopes everyone enjoys the show.



LUCY GRAFF (*Ensemble*) is making her Florida Debut with The 5 & Dime. She grew up in Shawnee, Kansas where she sang and danced her heart out in high school musicals and competitive dance stages. She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and received a bachelor's degree in Theatre Performance. Lucy moved to Jacksonville in August of 2024 to pursue her dreams outside of the Midwest and she's so happy to have made the big move. Lucy's very thankful for everyone in this production and all their hard work. She's especially grateful to Anvar for giving her a chance to be in this life-changing production. She'd also like to thank her wonderful partner Sid and Momma Jacquie for all their unconditional love and support.



HUGH MINER (*Ensemble*) is making his theater debut in *Ride the Cyclone*. Hugh is very excited to work with The 5 & Dime as well as Swoop Troupe and the rest of the cast.



CHAILYNE PEREZ RODRIGUEZ (*Ensemble*) is so happy to be in *Ride the Cyclone* as her The 5 & Dime debut! As a UNF Student and Swoop Troupe's Vice President, she's excited to be in the ensemble and dance her way through Uranium City. Chay has been in other productions such as Swoop Troupe's *Carrie: The Musical*, *The Pajama Game* and *The Lightning Thief*. Chay hopes audiences loves *Ride the Cyclone* as much as the cast and crew does. Enjoy the show!



QUILL WETTSTAIN (*Ensemble*) is excited to make his The 5 & Dime debut with *Ride the Cyclone*. He is a student at UNF for Math Education and has enjoyed performing since he was young. He is ready to return to the stage after a brief break from performing and is thankful to be surrounded by such talented cast and staff.

ANVAR GASHIMOV (*Director & Music Director*). Anvar's journey in theater began at a young age, igniting a passion that has only deepened over the years. Having been a cast member in the previous season, he is thrilled to make his directorial debut at The 5 & Dime. Anvar is eager to bring to life a production that is both unpredictable and captivating. He wishes to express his heartfelt gratitude to his boyfriend and friends, whom he proudly considers family. Their unwavering love and support have been instrumental in his journey, and he is truly thankful for their presence in his life.

TERRY STAR (*First Choreographer*) is thrilled to have his choreographer debut with The 5 & Dime. He cannot wait for the audience to see the creativity and passion he and Chailyne have put into this show. He is excited to take on a production team role after being a part of the cast of *Urinetown*. Terry hopes you all enjoy the show and is ready to see what this journey has in store.

CHAILYNE PEREZ RODRIGUEZ (*Second Choreographer*) is so ecstatic to be debuting her choreography with The 5 & Dime! She and Terry have been working so hard to bring the most creative choreography for *Ride the Cyclone*! Chailyne cannot wait to begin her journey with The 5 & Dime as she has previously been Ensemble/Dance Captain for UNF Swoop Troupe's *Carrie: The Musical*. Chailyne is excited to showcase her dancing talents and hopes that audience members enjoy the ride!

JILLIAN COTE (*Stage Manager*) is so excited to be a part of *Ride the Cyclone: The Musical*! This show will be her first with The 5 & Dime and is so grateful for the opportunity. She did stage management throughout high school and is thrilled to be carrying on her passion for technical theatre. She would love to thank all of her friends, mentors, and family for their unending support!

ANNE CORRIE (*Asst. Stage Manager*) A triple threat who loves to try new things, Anne Corrie is proud to be stepping away from the stage and into the booth after a 3-year break from live theatre. She wants theatre lovers to know that you're still an artist, even if you take a break from the art.

KALEIGH ERVIN (*Asst. Stage Manager*) is excited to be ASM of *Ride the Cyclone*. This is Kaleigh's first production with Swoop Troupe and second production with The 5 & Dime. You may have seen her acting in ABET's *Escape to Margaritaville* or as ASM in The 5 & Dime's *Urinetown*. She is very happy to be working alongside all of these lovely people. She hopes you will all enjoy the production, and don't forget to ride the cyclone.

SAGE DICE (*Prop Master*) is excited to be the Prop Master for the show. He has had an interest in theatre their whole life and has been making props for the last five years. They were the Prop Master for Swoop Troupe's *Rodger and*

Hammerstein's Cinderella and *Carrie: The Musical*. He is working hard to help make *Ride the Cyclone* a great show and they hope to see you there!

ANDRE JON VALENCIA (*Set Designer & Marketing Manager*) Andre is a fourth-year attending the University of North Florida and is currently the Marketing Director and Set Designer for The 5 & Dime and Swoop Troupe's production of *Ride the Cyclone*. He has been in the performing arts since the sixth grade, having worked both on-stage and behind-the-scenes on tech. He thanks you all for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!

MAX CORDEIRO (*Costume Designer*). Welcome! Max is thrilled to present her second costume design production with Swoop Troupe and her first with The 5 & Dime! After bringing characters to life in productions like *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Carrie*, she can hardly express the joy she felt working on *Ride the Cyclone*. As she completes her Costume Design / Wardrobe Technician certification at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Max eagerly looks forward to more opportunities in the industry. Enjoy the show! IG: @maxstec

CANDICE JOHNSON (*Hair & Makeup Designer*) is passionate in the world of creativity, and is extremely excited to bring her ideas to life on the stage! Her designs are instrumental to enhancing the show's visual storytelling and understanding each character. She is beyond proud of the cast and crew for making this all possible!

CHARLIE DOHM (*Lighting Designer & Operator*) is the lighting designer for *Ride the Cyclone*. They helped design lights for the 2024 Swoop Troupe production, *Carrie: The Musical*.

LOGAN FORBESS (*Sound Designer & Technical Director*) is excited about his technical debut with The 5 & Dime. He has been involved in technical theater since the beginning of high school and has continued to pursue it. While he is studying Marketing at UNF, he finds great passion in this area. Completing several shows, at UNF, OPCT, and his high school. He would like to thank his friends around him that have helped him become who he is today.

“I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” – Oscar Wilde

SUPPORT THE 5 & DIME

It's support from people like you that allows us to produce quality, thought-provoking theatre, and each and every contribution we receive ensures our ability to continue bringing change-making storytelling to the local stage.

Every dollar counts!



Many Thanks to the Following Individuals and Entities Whose Generous Financial Contributions Have Supported The 5 & Dime in the Past Year

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|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The following people and organizations helped in ways both large and small, but each has made a significant impact in the quality of this production experience – for the performers and production team, as well as for the audience. To them we offer our most sincere thanks.

Bradley Akers • Janet Allen • Katie Allen • Joseph Broadwater
Andrew Forbess • Miles Genaovargas • Yadhira Gonzalez
Peter Guadagnino • Kacy Hope • Dr. Tracy Hudson • Bethany Paolini
Sam Peskoff • Lauren Pesquera • Players by the Sea • Bethany Powell
Dr. Shaun Powell • San Jose Prep High School Drama Club
Alex Sokoloff • Josh Waller • Quill Wettstain

CELEBRATING **14 YEARS OF BOLD STORYTELLING**



2025 AT THE 5 & DIME

Imagination, Resilience, and a Touch of the Absurd

THE BALTIMORE WALTZ

by **Paula Vogel**

JUNE 13, 14, 15, 16*, 19, 20, 21

Join us on a surreal journey across Europe, as Anna and her brother search for a cure to a mysterious illness. Blending dark comedy and absurdist whimsy, *The Baltimore Waltz* is a celebration of the resilience of love and memory.

GUTENBERG! THE MUSICAL!

by **Anthony King** and **Scott Brown**

SEPT 12, 13, 14, 18*, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27

Two writers with big dreams, and a very misguided vision, bring to life the story of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press... as a musical. An uproarious tribute to the creative spirit.

PUFFS, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic
by **Matt Cox**

NOV 7, 8, 9, 10*, 13, 14, 15

With a wink and a nod at its source material, *Puffs* is a delightful take on a familiar magical story, told from the perspective of the unsung heroes who always seem to come in last. A tale of friendship, bravery, and finding your own place in the world.



A group of artists and friends came together with a common goal: to make a change in the Jacksonville cultural arts community. From this, THE 5 & DIME, a theatre company, was born. Founded with the hope of facilitating diverse opportunities and a supportive environment for collaboration, THE 5 & DIME is a group of passionate theatre artists who've come together to develop a place where all kinds of art happens. The founding members and board of directors offer an invitation to all Jacksonville artists to join in the mission to stimulate this city's potential for the rich culture local audiences and art lovers have been craving and deserve. It started with a simple question, "**Why not us?**" And so we offer this: "**Why not YOU?**"

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The5andDime.org

With a vast array of entertainment and educational opportunities for art lovers and audiences, community members may take great pride in this city's flourishing presence on the map of places in which the cultural arts community is busy making change. **Ask yourself what you can do to help support the arts – then do it.**



THE FLORIDA BALLET

JACKSONVILLE

The Florida Ballet enriches and inspires the cultural landscape of our community through the education and art of classical ballet.



www.FloridaBallet.org