

THE 5 & DIME presents

PUFFS



or
**Seven
Increasingly
Eventful Years at a
Certain School of Magic and Magic**

by **MATT COX**

directed by **DANIEL AUSTIN & RON SHREVE**

NOV 7-15 2025 | In Residency at the **Florida Ballet**



The 5 & Dime is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc., and the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The 5 & Dime tells stories that engage, inspire, entertain, and challenge audiences, nurturing a rich artistic culture in Jacksonville. We believe that now, more than ever, it's important for theatre to be a space for bold and diverse stories — the kind The 5 & Dime has brought to our community since its founding.

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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.

The Bolles School • Michael Cress • The Florida Ballet • Theatre Jacksonville

THE 5 & DIME presents

PUFFS

or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

written by **Matt Cox**

THE CAST

Lily Zawatsky Wayne Hopkins

Richie Rosado Oliver Rivers

Maya Williams Megan Jones

Anna Vera Narrator

Katie Swider Ernie Mac, A Very Tall Man, Seamus
A Certain Potions Teacher, Professor Turban
Ghost History Teacher, Professor Locky, Mr. Nick, Sal,
Second Headmaster, Real Mr. Moody

Erin Barnes Hannah, First Headmaster, Professor McG, Professor Sprout,
Xavia Jones, Professor Lanny, Runes Teacher, Ms. Babble

Levi Reeves J. Finch Fletchley, Uncle Dave, Goyle, A Fat Friar,
Clumsy Longbottom, Hermieone #3, Viktor,
Mr. Bagman, Zach Smith

Cynthia Riegler Leanne, Ginny, Helga, Frenchy

Adrianna Williams Sally Perks, Hermieone, Blondo Malfoy, Rowena,
Rita Scooter, Bippy

Rachel Johns Susie Bones, Harry, Colin, Hermieone #2, Rig Gryff, Myrtle

Chris Berry Cedric, Mr. Voldy

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

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

"Puffs (Two Act Edition)" is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors.....	Ron Shreve & Daniel Austin
Stage Manager / Board Operator	Kaleigh Ervin
Asst. Stage Manager / Props / Backstage Crew.....	Katie Cress
Set Design & Construction.....	Logan Forbess
Scenic Charge.....	Maya Williams
Costume Design.....	Bethany Paolini
Lighting Design.....	Ryan Walker & Peter Guadagnino
Sound Design.....	Ron Shreve
Technical Director.....	Ryan Walker
Box Office Manager	Krysten Bennett
House & Bar Manager.....	Jenny Tammera
Production Photographer	Amanda Rosenblatt

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



LILY ZAWATSKY (*Wayne Hopkins*) is thrilled to be making her debut with *The 5 & Dime!* As a childhood fan of a certain wizarding book series, she has enjoyed the challenge of bringing this boy wizard to life. Recent credits include Catherine in *The Foreigner* and Kristine Linde in *A Doll's House*, both at Theatre Jacksonville. Lily would like to thank Ron and Daniel for this opportunity, the hilarious and talented cast that have made this process so much fun, and her family and friends for their love and support.



RICHE ROSADO (*Oliver Rivers*) is a graduate of the University of Florida with a bachelor's in fine arts degree, identifies as a Ravenpuff, and is excited to enter a certain magical world of Wizard...ING. A few of his local credits include: Guiseppe Zangara in *Assassins*, Ted in *Bonnie and Clyde* and Rodney in *Small Mouth Sounds*. He would like to thank his friends and family for all of their support and would like to wish many broken legs to the cast of *Puffs!*



MAYA WILLIAMS (*Megan Jones, Scenic Charge*) is a versatile theatre artist currently based in Jax, FL. She is very excited to break her 4-year hiatus from acting and return to the stage! She is in college for technical theatre, where she is a member of her school's chapter of Alpha Psi Omega. She is

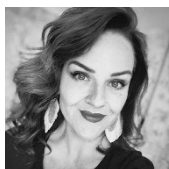
also a cardholding member of IATSE Local 115. Just a few of her credits include *Jekyll and Hyde* (Players By The Sea, Scenic Charge), *She Kills Monsters* (Drama Works, ASM + Fight Captain), and *Julius Caesar* (Scranton Shakespeare Festival, Production Stage Manager). She wants to thank her mom for supporting her pursuit of theatre.



ANNA VERA (*Narrator*) is ecstatic to be in her first show at The 5 & Dime! This Puff received her BFA in acting through Florida School of the Arts & Brenau University. She recently dove into new performing depths as Susy Hendrix in the thriller *Wait Until Dark* at Limelight theatre and as Natalya/Demidova in *Memoirs of a Forgotten Man*. Also, living through Eve in Waterworks theatre classic *Apple Tree* and Margaret in the timeless *Silent Sky*. The laughter in every magical rehearsal makes life that much sweeter, like a flog le' coco. Thank you to my wonderful parents, friends, cast, and crew. Laugh on!



KATIE SWIDER (*Ernie Mac, A Certain Potions Teacher +*) is excited to be back on stage with The 5 & Dime! She is a graduate of Florida State University where she received her degree in Theatre. When not on-stage Katie is behind the lens as a photographer. Katie has worked professionally as an actor and director in Florida and Ohio and enjoys being an active part of the Jacksonville theatre community. Katie enjoys all aspects of theatre and has celebrated that through projects and productions; be it acting, writing, costumes, directing and more! Katie is grateful to be a puff!!



ERIN BARNES (*Hannah, Xavia +*) is beyond thrilled to embrace her inner Puff and all the loyalty, heart, and chaos that come with it. She's delighted to work under the direction of Ron and Daniel — dear friends and longtime collaborators — onstage for the first time. Previous roles at this theatre include Harriet (*POTUS*) and Tracey (*Sweat*). Erin is a music director, performer, teacher, and proud mom of four who believes that being “kind and brave and maybe a little bad at magic” is the best way to live. Eternal thanks to her sweet husband, Matt, for his endless support and love.



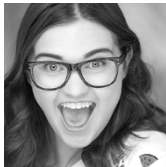
LEVI REEVES (*J. Finch Fletchley, Uncle Dave +*) is excited to be making his return to the theater world in the wonderfully hilarious *Puffs*. This is Levi's second time on stage, following his role as Picasso in Theatre Jax's 2024 production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Levi is grateful to the talented and hilarious cast, directors, and crew at The 5 & Dime who have helped make this show feel like a once in a lifetime experience. He would also like to thank his friends and family who have supported him as he has pursued his passion for acting. #jfinchapproved



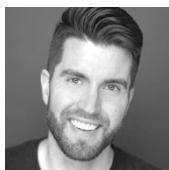
CYNTHIA RIEGLER (*Leanne, Helga +*) is very excited that her lifelong dream of being magical has finally come true! A proud Ravenclaw, she spends her Muggle life as a realtor, helping people sell and buy homes that even a Dursley couldn't complain about. When she's not selling houses or lifting weights, she's spoiling her dogs and trying to remember where she put her wand. She dedicates this performance to her biggest fans: her mom, who's watching from the best seat in the house, and her dad, who still has to buy a ticket.



ADRIANNA WILLIAMS (*Sally Perks, Blondo Malfoy +*) is so excited to be a part of this production! You may have seen her last year as Daisy in ABET's *Bat Boy*. This is her first time acting in a production with The 5 & Dime, although she choreographed the musical *Lizzie* last year. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her! She hopes you enjoy the show!



RACHEL JONES (*Susie Bones, Harry +*) has been involved in the world of theater since a young age. After over 20 productions in various roles, she knows the theater to be her second home. Rachel is a native of Jacksonville but earned her BFA in the Performing Arts from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in 2022. Afterwards, she decided to go back to school as a Nursing major at Jacksonville University to embrace her second love: helping others. Rachel would like to thank her family and God for supporting her throughout her whole life. She hopes you enjoy the show!



CHRIS BERRY (*Cedric, Mr. Voldy +*) is delighted to be joining this magical ensemble in bringing a hilariously heartfelt twist to the beloved tale of wizards, witches, and magical mischief. A biomedical engineer by trade, Chris has performed professionally in Greenville, SC during his studies at Clemson University. Previous Jacksonville credits include *The Wild Party*, *Violet*, *Toxic Avenger*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Murder Ballad*, and *Tarzan*. Much love to his friends and family for their never-ending support. All for my girls — Joanna, Emerson, and Zelda.

MATT COX (*Playwright*) is a playwright, actor, improviser, sound designer and former comic book retail associate based in New York City. His play *Puffs, Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years At A Certain School Of Magic & Magic* (2016 Off-Broadway Alliance Best Theatrical Experience Nominee) began as small show made by friends at a small comedy venue, the People's Improv Theater. It has since broken records off-Broadway in New York, was screened in movie theaters across the country with Fathom Events, and its production in Melbourne, Australia is Melbourne's longest-running play of the century.

DANIEL AUSTIN & RON SHREVE (*Directors*) have been conjuring theatrical razzmatazz together for a long time. In fact, that's how they met! At a certain school of alligator animagi, sorted into the same BFA house. Both accomplished story-spell casters on their own, when their powers combine, they reach their maximum potential. In the day, Prof. Shreve is in charge of Charms at Theatre Jacksonville while Prof. Austin leads Defense Against the Dark Arts at The Bolles School. At night, they brew potions, fly around on broomsticks and cast hexes on badly behaved adults. Previous joint alchemical experiments include *Dog Sees God*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *The SpongeBob Musical*. Separately? Too many to list. They wish to thank the entire creative team of this production for turning knuts into galleons, and the incredible cast who, despite being Puffs, demonstrated tremendous bravery, courage, intelligence, wit, ambition and cunning throughout the journey. Because of them, their hearts are soaring higher than a hippogriff. And to the audience, they express a thousand thanks for keeping the magic of live theatre alive!

KALEIGH ERVIN (*Stage Manager*) is excited to join in on *Puffs* and their adventure at the magical school of magic and magic. You may recognize Kaleigh from other shows with The 5 & Dime like *Gutenberg the Musical* (Lightboard), *Ride the Cyclone* (ASM), and *The Baltimore Waltz* (Stagehand).

She has had a wonderful time with the cast and crew of this show and is excited to share it with you all today. Kaleigh thanks her family and friends for always being wonderful supporters of her theatrical endeavors.

BETHANY PAOLINI (*Costume Designer*) is thrilled to be making her return to The 5 & Dime as Costume Designer for *Puffs!* As a multi-hyphenate creative and entrepreneur born and raised in Jacksonville with a background in theatre education, direction, design, and performance, Bethany runs her own design and marketing studio, homeschools her kids, and works for two local fitness studios — all while staying rooted in the arts. Other shows Bethany has costume designed include *Heathers*, *Cabaret*, *All My Sons*, *Let Me Down Easy*, *Clyde's* and more. She's loved every moment of creative collaboration with this talented group of artists and friends and is immensely grateful for the opportunity.

RYAN WALKER (*Technical Director*) is a Jacksonville native who has worked for local community theatres and performance venues in the region for the last decade. This is Ryan's seventh production with The 5 & Dime but you may have previously seen him working events for Limelight Theatre, Tale Tellers of St. Augustine, the Sing Out Loud festival, and various other organizations in the Northeast Florida area.



Did you know that in 2026 we'll be celebrating our 15th year as a theatre company?

Our very first production, *Fahrenheit 451*, presented during Banned Books Week in 2011, set the tone for what was to come. Since then, we've produced over 50 shows that not only entertain but also inspire dialogue and foster change. This year, more than ever, we're passionate about bringing stories to the community that reflect our shared humanity and heart.

**Join Us as We Continue
“Making Change... One Story at a Time”**

SEASON 2026

ALICE BY HEART

FEBRUARY 6–21

book by Steven Sater and Jessie Nelson

music by Duncan Sheik, lyrics by Steven Sater, directed by Leland Locke

It's just a dream, but dreams can free your mind.

From the creators of Spring Awakening, *Alice by Heart* is a bold reimagining of Alice in Wonderland, set in an air raid shelter during the London Blitz and pulsing with indie-rock energy, aching nostalgia, and wild theatricality. A testament to the power of imagination during the darkest of times.

BODY AWARENESS

APRIL 10–18

written by Annie Baker, directed by AJ Heekin

Through the lens, the truth has nowhere to hide.

A family is thrown into chaos when a provocative photographer challenges their ideas of identity and self-expression. At the center is Jared — a brilliant, socially isolated young man on the spectrum — fighting to be seen on his own terms. A darkly funny, deeply humane portrait of what happens when the need to be seen collides with the fear of being truly known.

THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE

MAY 29 — JUNE 13

written by Matthew Lopez, directed by Christopher Collinsworth & Madelene Skinner

Drag is a protest. A raised fist in a sequined glove.

What do you get when you pair a broke Elvis impersonator with a savvy drag queen? One hell of a show! Join us as we celebrate pride and the art of drag.

AMERICAN SON

JULY 31 — AUGUST 8

written by Christopher Demos-Brown, directed by Rhodie Jackson

There's been an incident.

One night. One family. One broken system. A searing drama where personal anguish and systemic injustice collide when a Black teenager goes missing.

I AM MY OWN WIFE

SEPTEMBER TBD

written by Doug Wright, directed by Kristen Walsh

Her survival was an act of resistance.

The true story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, an East German transgender woman who lived through both the Nazi and Communist regimes. An unforgettable portrait of identity and resilience, truth and transformation.

???

OCTOBER 23 — NOVEMBER 7

We're working on something special for the season finale, and will announce it at a later date.

DIRECTORS' NOTES

Who gets to be the main character in a story?

For thousands of years, people have told stories - books, movies, plays - that center on a hero's journey. OK super - that's all well and great for the hero.

Who is destined to be a side character?

How do we know when the story is about us - or if we're just unimportant non-player characters in the great video game of the universe?

In the 2006 Nancy Meyers classic "The Holiday," screenwriter Arthur Abbot tells pond-crossing vacationer Iris Simpkins "*In the movies, we have leading ladies and we have best friends. You, I can tell, are a leading lady. But you're behaving like the best friend.*" She answers, "*You're right! You're supposed to be the leading lady of your own life, for God's sake.*"

But even if we all center ourselves in our stories - lean in to our "main character energy"- that still necessitates the creation of side characters. Someone HAS to play that part. If they weren't essential to plot progression, we wouldn't constantly coddle performers with the "there are no small parts, only small actors" platitude.

In Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", he examines the inner life of Hamlet's two smallest side characters who get sent on a journey early in the story only to be briefly announced as dead later in the play. In his version, they meet The Player, who tells them "*We do on stage things that are supposed to happen off. Which is a kind of integrity, if you look on every exit as being an entrance somewhere else.*"

Maybe there is valor in de-centering yourself from time to time. Maybe, the secret is honoring the main character in others. To use the power of our words to uplift people to believe in themselves. Perhaps that is what truly makes a hero. A very wise old man with twinkling eyes once said "*Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it.*"

Something to think about.

Oh, also from Stoppard's play? "*The colours red, blue and green are real. The colour yellow is a mystical experience shared by everybody.*" Let's embrace the yellow tonight.

— Daniel Austin & Ron Shreve

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

Anonymous	First Horizon Foundation	King Donation Fund	Penny Reid
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Mary Coleman	The Hegeman Family	John Meeks	Kathy & David Stimpson
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Christopher Collinsworth	Kacy Hope & Will Davis	Rita & Rick Nelson	Maria Tucker
City of Jacksonville	Jerome Hudson	Angela O'Donnell	Marlene & Marvin Watkins
Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville	In honor of trans youth everywhere	Katelin & Ron Olson	Stephanie Welchans
Dimitri Demopoulos	Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation	Toni Philips	Jeffrey Wells
Gretchen Deters-Murray	Caron & Craig Johnson	Ellen Powell	Bill White
Thomas Digan	Grady Johnson	Eric Puestow	Mark Wieder & Jonathan Reiner
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**List reflects contributions received November 1, 2024 — October 31, 2025.*



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