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**THE 5 & DIME**, in partnership with **SWOOP TROUPE**,  
and with support by **DAVID & CECILIA CRISTOL**, presents



## **ALICE BY HEART**

book by **STEVEN SATER** and **JESSIE NELSON**

music by **DUNCAN SHEIK** lyrics by **STEVEN SATER**

directed by **LELAND LOCKE** musical direction by **ANVAR GASHIMOV** choreographed by **LUCY GRAFF**

**FEBRUARY 6-21** 2026 | in residency at the **FLORIDA BALLET**



A thriving creative economy enhances the quality of life for us all. Supported in part by the Merit-Based Cultural Service Grant Program, administered by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville with funding from the City of Jacksonville and our elected officials, we extend our gratitude to all partners who make this possible. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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FEB 6 **The Hicks Family** | FEB 13 **Uptown Cheapskate** | FEB 15 **Dimitri Demopoulos**  
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LIVE THEATRE.

Every performance disappears the moment it ends.  
And because of that, it matters.



**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.

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SEASON 2026 sponsored in part by **Harry Reagan**

**THE 5 & DIME**, in partnership with **SWOOP TROUPE**,  
and with support by **David & Ceclia Cristol**, presents

# **ALICE BY HEART**

book by **Steven Sater** and **Jessie Nelson**,

music by **Duncan Sheik**, lyrics by **Steven Sater**

directed by **Leland Locke**

musical direction by **Anvar Gashimov**, choreographed by **Lucy Graff**

## **TIME & PLACE**

London, 1941, an Underground Station — a make-shift shelter from the Blitz of World War II. And, one golden afternoon in Wonderland.

## **THE CAST**

Sadie Sims .....	Alice Spencer / Alice
Terry Star.....	Alfred Hallam / White Rabbit / March Hare
Ilana Marshall.....	Red Cross Nurse / Queen of Hearts / Magpie
Gregory Schuknecht.....	Dr. Butridge / King of Hearts / Jabberwocky / Mock Turtle / Duck
Caden Christel .....	Angus / Caterpillar / Pigeon
Katie Hicks .....	Tabatha / Cheshire Cat / Caterpillar 2
Anvar Gashimov.....	Dodgy / Duchess / Mock Mock Mock Turtle / Dodo
Harper Reed .....	Harold Pudding / Mad Hatter / Mock Mock Turtle
Thalia (Angel) Hart.....	Clarissa / Queen of Diamonds / Mock Mock Mock Turtle / Canary
Anecia Francis .....	Nigel / Dormouse / Knave of Hearts / Eaglet
Miles Genaovargas .....	Ensemble / Alice Understudy
Gianna Patrick .....	Ensemble / Queen Understudy
Phoenix Croke .....	Ensemble / Tabatha Understudy
Hailey Thrower .....	Ensemble / Clarissa Understudy
Scout Lee .....	Ensemble
Sonia Romano .....	Ensemble

This performance has no intermission.

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

ALICE BY HEART is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

Orchestrations by Duncan Sheik, Additional Orchestrations by Simon Hale, Vocal Arrangements by Jason Hart. Alice by Heart was first commissioned and produced by National Theatre Connections in 2012. Developed with the Assistance of Theatre Aspen, Aspen, Colorado. A workshop production of Alice by Heart was presented by New York Stage and Film & Vassar at The Powerhouse Theater, Summer 2018. New York Premiere at the MCC Theater February 26, 2019 Artistic Directors: Robert LuPone, Bernard Telsey, & William Cantler Executive Director: Blake West.

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## 2026 SEASON

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### I AM MY OWN WIFE

SEPTEMBER 18–27

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.

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### CARRIE the Musical

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 7

music by Michael Gore, lyrics by Dean Pitchford, book by Lawrence D. Cohen, based on the novel by Stephen King, directed by Caryl Butterley

#### **A story that refuses to die.**

*Carrie* is a rock-driven musical that cranks the horror of teen angst to eleven, with a mother and daughter locked in a bond that is as tender as it is terrifying. This iconic story, first brought to life as a novel by Stephen King more than 50 years ago (!!!), remains messy, unflinching, and chillingly relevant.

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Buy a **SUPER 7 PASS**, and **get seven ticket credits**, for a discounted rate, to use any way you like during our 2026 season.

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## PRODUCTION TEAM

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Director ..... Leland Locke  
Musical Director / Costume Designer ..... Anvar Gashimov  
Choreographer ..... Lucy Graff  
Assistant Director ..... Hailee Ketterer  
Stage Manager ..... Jillian Cote  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... Bianca Voelkel, Kaleigh Ervin  
Prop Master, Stagehand ..... Jenny Tammera  
Swoop Troupe Technical Director, Scenic Designer, Crew ..... Logan Forbess  
Scenic Charge Artist ..... Andre Jon Valencia  
Lighting Designer ..... Alex Lopez  
Makeup and Hair ..... Scout Lee  
Dialect Coach ..... Cole Marshall  
Sound Technician ..... Ellie Coten  
Swoop Troupe Marketing Director ..... Miles Genaovargas  
Technical Director ..... Ryan Walker  
Box Office Manager ..... Krysten Bennett  
House & Bar Manager ..... Ashley Clifford  
Promo & Production Photographer ..... Amanda Rosenblatt

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## ABOUT THE CAST

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**SADIE SIMS** (*Alice Spencer, Alice*) is thrilled to return to The 5 & Dime with *Alice by Heart!* She is currently a sophomore at UNF. Recently, she has played Ocean O'Connell-Rosenberg (*Ride the Cyclone*) at The 5 & Dime, Sister Mary Robert (*Sister Act*) with PBTS, and Velma Kelly (*Chicago*) at Greenlight Theater Co. She would like to thank her incredible circle of close friends, the cast/crew, and her parents for all their love and support! IG: @sadiesimss



**TERRY STAR** (*Alfred Hallam, White Rabbit, Asst Choreographer*) is thrilled to be returning to The 5 & Dime. His most recent credits include *Sister Act* (Players by the Sea), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Alhambra Theatre & Dining). He is honored to be a part of such a talented cast and to be a part of the production team as assistant choreographer. He can't wait for audiences to see this amazing story. IG: @terrystar0



**KATIE HICKS** (*Tabatha, Cheshire Cat, Caterpillar 2*) is so excited to be involved with her first production with Swoop Troupe and The 5 & Dime! Katie has previously been on stage playing Charlotte Sowerberry/Ensemble (*Oliver!*) at River City Theater and Gretchen (*Boeing Boeing*) at Bartram Trail Highschool. She would like to thank her amazing friends she's made through this process, her parents, and the cast/crew for making this process as amazing as it was!! IG: @katiehonk



**ILANA MARSHALL** (*Red Cross Nurse, Queen of Hearts, Magpie*) is so excited to be making her debut at The 5 & Dime!! You may have last seen Ilana in *Waitress* or *Jekyll and Hyde* at Players by the Sea! Ilana has been seen in every local theater and is so happy to finally add The 5 & Dime to that list! She would like to thank the cast and crew for being so wonderful to work with! Ilana truly wouldn't be where she is today without the amazing support from her friends and family. Special shout out to her husband, Cole Marshall for being her absolute rock! Much love and she hopes you have an amazing time!!



**GREGORY SCHUKNECT** (*Dr. Butridge, King of Hearts, Duck, Jabberwocky, Mock Turtle*) is very excited to perform in his first production with The 5 & Dime. Previous credits include Ricky in *Ride the Cyclone*, and Rocky in the *Rocky Horror Show*. Greg is ecstatic to be sharing the stage with many of his friends both old and new, and can't wait to put on this amazing production.



**ANVAR GASHIMOV** (*Dodgy, Duchess, Dodo, Mock Mock Mock Mock Turtle, Musical Director, Costume Designer, Co-Hair and Makeup Designer*) is thrilled for you to experience a whirlwind of wonder, confusion, and emotion! Recent credits include directing *Ride the Cyclone* (The 5 & Dime) and *Chicago* (Greenlight Theatre Co.), and stage-managing *Sister Act* (Players by the Sea). He's beyond excited to return to the stage in this fun, new role. Anvar also wants to express his deep gratitude to his boyfriend and friends for their unwavering support in his artistic journey. IG: @anvargashimov\_



**CADEN CHRISTEL** (*Angus, Caterpillar*) is super excited to be in his third show involved with Swoop Troupe and second show back at The 5 & Dime. Some past roles of his are Ricky Potts (*Ride the Cyclone*), Billy Flynn (*Chicago*), and the SQUIP (*Be More Chill*). He is extremely excited to be in this production with friends and hopes you enjoy *Alice by Heart*!



**HARPER REED** (*Harold Pudding, Mad Hatter, Pigeon, Mock Mock Turtle*) is a Jacksonville native, with Swoop Troupe's production of *Alice by Heart* being his first theatre production. Harper is a jack of all trades creative, having experience in color guard, acting, music, video production, and much more. Harper cannot wait for people to see what the cast and crew have been working on.



**ANGEL HART** (*Clarissa, Queen of Diamonds, Canary, Mock Mock Mock Turtle*) is very excited to be a part of Swoop Troupe's production of *Alice by Heart*. She just finished playing Rocky in Flagler College's *Rocky Horror Show*, where she is studying for a Bachelor's in Theatre Performance with a minor in Music. She has starred in other shows such as *Legally Blonde*, *Something Rotten*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.



**ANECIA FRANCIS** (*Nigel, Dormouse, Eaglet*) is a dancer at heart. She truly enjoys the theater culture in Jacksonville. She has been in *Chicago* as Annie with Greenlight Theater Co., as well as *Ride the Cyclone* as an ensemble member with Swoop Troupe's first collaboration with The 5 & Dime. She'd like to thank The 5 & Dime and Swoop Troupe for giving her the opportunity to participate in this show.



**MILES GENAOVARGAS** (*Ensemble, Alice U/S, Swoop Troupe Marketing Director*) is excited to have the opportunity to perform with Swoop Troupe and The 5 & Dime once more! He was previously seen in the ensemble in last year's *Ride the Cyclone*, as well as in *Players by the Sea's Waitress*. He would like to thank his partner, his mother, and his godfather for always being there to support him and his artistic endeavors. Enjoy the show!



**PHOENIX CROKE** (*Ensemble, Tabatha U/S*) This is Phoenix's first show with Swoop Troupe, she is so excited to be a part of this beautiful and amazing experience.



**GIANNA PATRICK** (*Ensemble, Red Cross Nurse U/S*) is an active theatre performer with recent stage credits in *Ride the Cyclone*, *Chicago* and *Alice by Heart*. She is passionate about expanding her presence in both theatre and film, and is fueled with a genuine love for performance and creative growth. She is grateful to work alongside a dedicated team and appreciates everyone who brings life into this production. She hopes you enjoy the show.



**HAILEY THROWER** (*Ensemble, Clarissa U/S*) is excited to be on a Jacksonville stage again after recently moving back from Orlando. Studying video production in her final year at UNF, her connection to the theatrical arts is rooted deep in the work she creates. Hailey feels right at home in Wonderland coming from the absurdity of her previous role in Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* at UCF. She's thrilled to share the strange world of *Alice by Heart* and wants to give a huge thanks to her family, friends, and the incredible cast and crew.



**SCOUT LEE** (*Ensemble, Hair and Makeup Designer*) is thrilled to be in their first production with Swoop Troupe and The 5 & Dime! She's taken a break from theatre the past couple of years and has been so grateful to work with such an amazing group of people.



**SONIA ROMANO** (*Ensemble*) is so excited to be a part of the cast of *Alice by Heart*! This is her first musical with The 5 & Dime and as a member of Swoop Troupe! Her most recent credits are Bird Girl in *Seussical* (Babylon High School) and Ensemble in *The SpongeBob Musical* (Productions Over the Rainbow). She is very grateful to be a part of such a kind, talented group!

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### ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

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**LELAND LOCKE** (*Director*) is excited to make his directorial debut here at The 5 & Dime with *Alice by Heart*! Before he started directing, he was an actor in *Ride the Cyclone*, *Mean Girls*, and *Chicago*. He would like to thank everyone that had a hand in this production in helping his vision come to life. IG: @lelandslock.

**LUCY GRAFF** (*Choreographer*) is a seasoned performer coming up on her 21st year of dance training. She loves nothing more than sharing her love of musical theatre with everyone she meets and teaching them what she knows. She most recently choreographed *Chicago* at the Greenlight Theater Company and all its Fosse flair. She spends her weekends performing at specialty events at Cataluna Jax and Dua Lounge. She's very pleased with the hard work and dedication of these wonderful performers and hopes to work with them again soon! Enjoy the show!.

**HAILEE KETTERER** (*Assistant Director*) is a Psychology Major at Jacksonville University. She has been a part of theater productions her whole life; she started as an actor and then moved her way to tech when she moved to Florida. Starting as a stage manager at Bartram Trail High School, she's stage-managed shows like *Matilda* and *Chicago* at Bartram along with *Trail to Oregon* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at JU. Hailee is so excited to Assistant Director her first show with Swoop Troupe in collaboration with The 5 & Dime. She hopes you enjoy the show.

**JILLIAN COTE** (*Stage Manager*) is so honored to be a part of *Alice by Heart*! This will be her third show with The 5 & Dime, with her past credits being *Ride the Cyclone* (SM) and *The Baltimore Waltz* (deck crew). She would like to thank both The 5 & Dime and Swoop Troupe for having her back for such a magical production.

**BIANCA VOELKEL** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is very excited to debut with the Swoop Troupe and experience some professional environment with theatre! She is also ecstatic to see the actors light up on stage.

**KALEIGH ERVIN** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to join in on *Alice by Heart* and their wonderful story. You may recognize Kaleigh from other shows at The 5 & Dime like *Puffs* (Stage Manager) *Gutenberg! the Musical* (Light Technician), and *Ride the Cyclone* (ASM). She has had a wonderful time working with the cast and crew of this show and she is excited to share the show with you all today. Kaleigh thanks her family and friends for always supporting her.

**JENNY TAMMERA** (*Prop Master. Stagehand*) is happy to be back at The 5 & Dime! You might have seen her ludicrous legs-in-a-box in *POTUS*, majestic money-fans in *Urinetown*, amazing afros in *The Ripple the Wave*, horribly headless pigeons in *Lizzie*, delicious decoy-desserts in *Baltimore Waltz*, or plethora of painted-hats in *Gutenberg!* She can sling a mean paintbrush, sweet-talk a hot-glue gun, and build printing presses out of cardboard. Never underestimate the power of the arts!.

**LOGAN FORBESS** (*Swoop Troupe Technical Director, Scenic Designer, Stagehand*) is excited to work on another show with Swoop Troupe and The 5 & Dime. While managing his day job at Apple, he has continued to find joy in technical theatre since high school. Recent credits include scenic construction for *Sister Act* at Players by the Sea, *Puffs*, and *Ride the Cyclone* at The 5 & Dime, and *Carrie: The Musical* with Swoop Troupe. He thanks his friends for their continued support.

**ANDRE JON VALENCIA** (*Scenic Charge Artist*) is a senior at UNF, majoring in Marketing and minoring in Graphic Design. He's been involved in the performing arts since 6th grade and has been with Swoop Troupe since his freshman year. Andre was the Marketing Director and Set Contractor for last year's *Ride the Cyclone* while playing Virgil the Rat and ensemble. He'd like to thank his partner, his friends, and his family, who have supported his passion for the arts for years.

**ALEX LOPEZ** (*Lighting Designer*) serves as the Lighting Designer for *Alice by Heart*, bringing nearly eight years of theatre tech experience to the production. Throughout their career, Alex has collaborated with numerous churches and performance venues across the Jacksonville area, developing a diverse portfolio in lighting design and technical theatre production.

**ELLIE COTEN** (*Sound Technician*) is very excited to work with the Swoop Troupe for the very first time as a Sound Technician in *Alice by Heart*! She is a Freshman at

UNF and has four prior years of experience in drama activities at F. W. Buchholz High School.

**COLE MARSHALL** (*Dialect Coach*) has been a theatre artist for the last 23 years and is excited to lend his experience to the dedicated cast of *Alice by Heart*. He was formally trained in a wide array of dialects at The Florida State University, including Irish, Russian, American Southern, Cockney, and standard British, which the actors will be using today. Having spent most of his time onstage, fight choreographing, or directing, he is delighted to have this opportunity to contribute to a production in a more unique way. On a personal note, his wife, Ilana, is in the production as the Queen of Hearts; and, as always, he is immensely proud of her.

**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 eighth 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.

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### **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

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Welcome to *Alice by Heart* at The 5 & Dime, in collaboration with Swoop Troupe Theatre Club. I could not be more thrilled to have Swoop Troupe work alongside The 5 & Dime again. If you had asked me five years ago if I could see myself directing a show with a big cast and crew, I would probably say, "Are you crazy? I could never! I'll just stay an actor." But now I couldn't be happier to have started my director journey. After the huge success of our past collaboration (*Ride The Cyclone*), I could not pass on the opportunity to bring this beautiful story to life. *Alice by Heart* is a story that shows and challenges our perspective at two of the largest aspects to the human experience, grief and love. We do this by retelling the story of a beloved classic, *Alice in Wonderland* and using the gloom and dreadfulness of World War II, London. This story tries to tell us to "let go of the past and turn to the next chapter in our lives."

Getting to work with the amazing people with The 5 & Dime and Swoop Troupe Theatre Club has truly been a blessing. Each and every cast member and crew member behind the scenes poured their heart and soul into this production, and I couldn't be more thankful for my talented team. To my family, friends, and girlfriend, thank you. Thank you so much for being so supportive for my very first directorial debut ever. Now I have gone down the hole and I never wanna go back up. Thank you for joining me down the hole. Enjoy the show.

— Leland Locke

## **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.



### **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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\* List reflects contributions received January 16, 2025-January 15, 2026.

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