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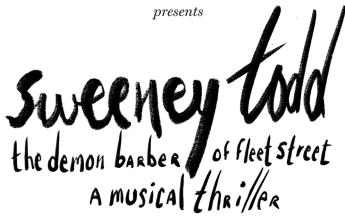
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PER CDC GUIDANCE FOR LOW COMMUNITY LEVELS, MASKS ARE CURRENTLY OPTIONAL.

We are continuing to monitor health and safety measures based on local, state, and federal health recommendations for Dauphin County.

Patrons, performers, and production staff may be masked at any time.





MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM BOOK BY HUGH WHEELER

FROM AN ADAPTATION BY CHRISTOPHER BOND

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED ON BROADWAY BY HAROLD PRINCE

ORCHESTRATIONS BY JONATHAN TUNICK

DIRECTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
PRODUCER
SET CONSTRUCTION/PAINTING
LOBBY DESIGN/PUBLICITY

Rosemary Bucher Jonathan Walker-VanKuren Mohit Patel Miguel Santiago Rachel Smith Jeff Miller, Carlton Hoke Brenda Bratina

THIS PRODUCTION INCLUDES FOG, FLASHING LIGHTS, COARSE LANGUAGE, AND THEATRICAL DEPICTIONS OF VIOLENCE, DEATH, AND PHYSICAL ABUSE.

SWEENEY TODD IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL.
ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI.

www.mtishows.com

 $The\ video taping\ or\ other\ video\ or\ audio\ recording\ of\ this\ production\ is\ strictly\ prohibited.$

Originally Produced on Broadway by Richard Barr, Charles Woodward, Robert Fryer, Mary Lea Johnson, Martin Richards in Association with Dean and Judy Manos



Sweeney is my favorite Sondheim.

Sure, maybe it would make me sound more sophisticated if I said *Company* or perhaps I should have said *Into the Woods*, whose lyrics played in my head during the last days of my mother's life.

But what does it say about me that my favorite Sondheim is about baking people into pies?! Actually, to theater people, it would say- that's not what the show is about.

Sweeney is a lot of things. It's dark. It's *criminally* funny. I saw that eye roll. If you can't take that pun, you're gonna wanna plug your ears or take a bathroom break during the song "A Little Priest."

Personally, I'm looking forward to seeing how my friend Rosemary interpreted the material, directing some of my favorite, familiar faces, as well as new. (I wanted to say fresh, but I thought you had enough with the puns.)

Two of those favorite faces are Eric and Amy Jo. The last time I got to see them perform on stage together was *Once Upon a Mattress*, where they played a prince and a princess. Now they've ascended to King and Queen of the Macabre. Because, as I said, *Sweeney* is a lot of things. I would even describe it as a fairy tale. A Grimm, obviously.

Okay, one more pun won't kill you...or two more.

The moral is a stark warning to the listener and watcher. Revenge can be delicious; but it might catch in your throat.

Who are the heroes? Who are the villains? And who are you rooting for? Attend the tale.

JENNIFER FELDSER, BOARD CHAIR

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This is probably a really bad time to admit that I grew up on Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals and didn't really know Stephen Sondheim's work until high school.

ALW may have my heart, but Sondheim helped me learn how to get creative. *Sweeney Todd* was having a moment my sophomore year, with a minimalist actor/musician revival (which toured through Hershey) and the Tim Burton film taking over the musical theatre scene. It was the first time I'd seen the same material be interpreted in very different ways in such a short amount of time, and I was instantly fascinated.

There have been versions that are grand and literal, abstract and broad, intimate and raw. I've seen productions in huge and small venues, notably once in a site-specific pie shop with almost no technical elements. *Sweeney* is a show that even non-theatre people seem to love. The killing people and baking them into pies thing might be part of what makes it memorable. Or the gorgeous score. And the sharpest of lyrics, some of Sondheim's most clever.

When it came to bringing *Sweeney Todd* to Hershey Area Playhouse's unique space, I was instantly a 15-year-old theatre kid again, dreaming about how people could attend the tale in yet another way. Our production team spent ages breaking down the script and score to see how we could best connect with our audiences. At its core, what is this story about? Revenge? Yes. But it's also about what happens when you leave home, return, and see that it has changed while you've been gone.

We've taken design inspiration from the 1940s, a time when many returned to London to find that it evolved without them. Our cast is in constant motion, utilizing chairs, trunks, and more to capture our title character's restless world. They're a truly remarkable company, consistently balancing incredible musicianship and raw emotion to tell a story about a barber bent on revenge and anyone unlucky enough to get in his way.

Jonathan, Mohit, Miguel, and Rachel—your trust, support, and collaboration has meant the world, and I'm so proud of what we've learned and created together. To the Playhouse board, thank you for trusting me to tell this story well even if it meant zipping back and forth between NYC and PA every week. Kristin, Mama, Dad, and everyone else who has helped make traveling possible, thank you for believing in me and reminding me that Central PA is always my home.

ROSEMARY BUCHER, DIRECTOR

CAST

SWEENEY TODD MRS. LOVETT ANTHONY HOPE JOHANNA JUDGE TURPIN THE BEADLE TOBIAS RAGG BEGGAR WOMAN/PIRELLI

Eric Mansilla
Amy Jo Brixius
Sean Reynolds
Bernadette Bratina
Tom Blaisse
Joshua L. Schwartz
Weston Buchkovich
Jasmine Ammons Bucher

ENSEMBLE

Brye Joseph Balla, Brenda Brune, Danielle Cypert, Kevin Edward Gane, Theresa Garber, Kate Murray, Emily Myers, Katy Naimoli, Tyler O'Connor, Brian Silva, Natalie Tibbs

SWINGS NEVER SUBSTITUTE FOR LISTED PLAYERS UNLESS A SPECIFIC ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE AT THE TIME OF THE PERFORMANCE.

For Sweeney Todd - BRIAN SILVA; For Mrs. Lovett - NATALIE TIBBS; For Johanna - KATE MURRAY; For Tobias Ragg - TYLER O'CONNOR; For Judge Turpin & The Beadle - KEVIN EDWARD GANE

ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR
PIANO
CLARINET
VIOLIN

Jonathan Walker-VanKuren Mark Naimoli Taylor Swisher Morgan Hackett

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

PRELUDE	Orchestra
THE BALLAD OF SWEENEY TODD	
NO PLACE LIKE LONDON	Anthony Hope, Sweeney Todd, Beggar Woman
THE WORST PIES IN LONDON	Mrs. Lovett
POOR THING	Mrs. Lovett, Company
MY FRIENDS	Sweeney Todd, Mrs. Lovett
GREEN FINCH AND LINNET BIRD	
	Anthony Hope, Johanna, Beggar Woman
JOHANNA	Anthony Hope
PIRELLI'S MIRACLE ELIXIR	Tobias Ragg, Company
JOHANNA	Judge Turpin
	Mrs. Lovett
	Johanna, Anthony Hope
	The Beadle
KISS ME - PART II	The Beadle, Judge Turpin, Johanna, Anthony Hope
PRETTY WOMEN	Judge Turpin, Sweeney Todd
	Sweeney Todd
A LITTLE PRIEST	Mrs. Lovett. Sweeney Todd

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

GOD, THAT'S GOOD!	Tobias Ragg, Mrs. Lovett, Sweeney Todd, Company
JOHANNA	
BY THE SEA	Mrs. Lovett
WIGMAKER SEQUENCE	Sweeney Todd, Anthony Hope
THE LETTER	
NOT WHILE I'M AROUND	
PARLOUR SONGS	The Beadle, Mrs. Lovett, Tobias Ragg
FINAL SEQUENCE	Mrs. Lovett, Sweeney Todd, Beggar Woman,
	Judge Turpin, Anthony Hope, Johanna, Tobias Ragg, Company
	TODD
	Orchestra

CAST



Eric Mansilla



Amy Jo Brixius



Sean Reynolds



Bernadette Bratina



Tom Blaisse



Joshua L. Schwartz



Weston Buchkovich



Jasmine Ammons Bucher



Brye Joseph Balla



Brenda Brune



Danielle Cypert



Kevin Edward Gane



Theresa Garber



Kate Murray



Emily Myers



Katy Naimoli



Tyler O'Connor



Brian Silva



Natalie Tibbs

CREATIVE TEAM



Rosemary Bucher



Jonathan Walker-VanKuren



Mohit Patel



Miguel Santiago



Rachel Smith

ABOUT THE CAST

ERIC MANSILLA (SWEENEY TODD) Carlisle Theatre Company: The Full Monty (Harold). Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra: South Pacific (Chorus). Hershey Area Playhouse: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Charlie Brown); Little Shop of Horrors (Seymour); Fiddler on the Roof (Motel); I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change (Various); Once Upon a Mattress (Prince Dauntless). Keystone Theatrics: The Odd Couple (Felix Ungar); Mary Poppins (George Banks). Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg: The Musical of Musicals, the Musical (Bill, etc.); Clue: The Musical (Professor Plum). Oyster Mill Playhouse: Company (Bobby); Evita (Juan Perón). Theatre Harrisburg: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Hysterium), Oh Joy! Oh Rapture! (Soloist, Ensemble). Wig and Buckle Theatre Company: The Pirates of Penzance (Pirate King); And Then There Were None (Wargrave); Dead Man's Cell Phone (Gordon); Anything Goes (Lord Evelyn); Chicago (Billy Flynn); The Man Who Came to Dinner (Metz). Television: PBS, American Experience: Stephen Foster (Young Stephen Foster). For Mark and Ellie. he/him.

AMY JO BRIXIUS (MRS. LOVETT) is excited to be performing in another Hershey Area Playhouse Production. She was most recently seen as Angie in *The Wedding Singer*. Some of her favorite roles at HAP are Justice Charlier in *Rock of Ages*, Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, Princess Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, and Mazeppa in *Gypsy*. She would like to thank her parents, Gram, family, and friends for always supporting her love of the stage and helping her shine. A special thank you to the production staff, crew, and company of the show for this experience. she/her

TOM BLAISSE (JUDGE TURPIN) is excited to appear on the HAP stage for the first time. BA, Theatre & Speech, DeSales University.; MA, Counseling Psychology, Rider University. Independent Corporate Training Consultant. tomblaisse.com. Central PA & Phila. based acting credits include: *Miracle on 34th St.* (Kris Kringle); *The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis); *Once, the Musical* (Da) *The Music Man* (Harold Hill); *Chicago* (Billy Flynn); *1776* (Rutledge); *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge); *Oliver* (Fagin), and *It Shoulda' Been You* (Albert.) Playwright/composer/lyricist of *Manifest the Glory of God.* Tom is grateful to his wife, Cookie, for her enduring support. he/him.

BERNADETTE BRATINA (JOHANNA) graduated from Penn State in December 2021 with a dual degree in Music (Vocal Performance) and Public Relations. Notable productions include *Hot n' Cole; A Cole Porter Celebration* at Hershey Area Playhouse, *Suor Angelica*, *Iolanthe*, and *Cosi fan tutte* at Penn State, and *South Pacific* (Nellie Forbush) at Bishop McDevitt High School. Thank you to HAP for the opportunity to perform one of my favorite roles, and thank you to my mom and dad for the love and support. she/her.

SEAN REYNOLDS (ANTHONY) is thrilled to be returning to the Hershey Area Playhouse stage, and live theater in general, for the first time in three years. Prior Playhouse credits include Moritz in *Spring Awakening* and Bertram Cates in *Inherit The Wind*. Love to Mom, Dad, and all family and friends for their continued support. he/him.

JASMINE AMMONS BUCHER (BEGGAR WOMAN, PIRELLI) is a vocalist, director, producer, and HAP board member. Bucher is an instructor and director of educational technology at Lebanon Valley College. She holds a BA in English and MBA from Lebanon Valley College, as well as an MA in humanities from the Pennsylvania State University. She received an Honorable Mention for the 2018 Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre Education. This is her 12th year directing productions at Palmyra Area High School, where she is president of the Palmyra Theatre Boosters and troupe director for International Thespian Society Troupe #8430. She has participated in master classes with Broadway's Jenn Collela, Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty, Tom Kitt, Lea Salonga, Morgan James, and Alex Newell. She previously directed *Rock of Ages* and *The Wedding Singer* at the Hershey Area Playhouse. she/her.

JOSHUA L. SCHWARTZ (BEADLE) is thrilled to return to Hershey Area Playhouse, where he previously made his Central Pennsylvania debut 12 years ago in *Songs for a New World*. He also appeared in HAP's *The Secret Garden* (Lt. Shaw) and recently in *Hot n' Cole: A Cole Porter Celebration*. Josh has performed throughout the area whenever a director has been willing to cast him. Favorites include *Company* (Robert), *The Last Five Years* (Jamie), *The Who's Tommy* (Uncle Ernie), *Rent* (Benny), and *Spitfire Grill* (Sheriff Joe). When not performing, Josh is an attorney at Barley Snyder in Lancaster. Thanks to Rosemary, Jonathan, and the entire cast and crew for a great experience. And most of all, thanks and all my love to Carey, Eli, and Casey: you put up with my constant singing, my schedule, and our generally bananas lives, and for that I am eternally grateful. he/him.

WESTON BUCHKOVICH (TOBIAS RAGG) is excited to be performing in his first Hershey Area Playhouse production. He is a senior at Palmyra High School and has been in *The SpongeBob Musical* (Patrick), *A Play About a Dragon* (Morton Montesque), *Mary Poppins Jr*. (George Banks), *Catch Me If You Can* (Agent Cod), *Twentieth Century* (Dr. Grover Lockwood), and *Guys and Dolls* (Ensemble). he/him.

KATE MURRAY (ENSEMBLE) is excited to be making her debut at Hershey Area Playhouse. Some of her recent credits include Ensemble in *Rent* (Bare Bones Theatre Ensemble), Estelle in *No Exit* (Capital Area School for the Arts), and Heather McNamara in *Heathers the Musical: Teen Edition* (Open Stage). Kate is a senior in high school at Capital Area School for the Arts for theatre. she/her.

BRENDA BRUNE (ENSEMBLE) is a Brazilian singer/songwriter, tuba player , who recently came to US and became a music teacher. She graduated with a double major in vocal performance and music education from UNASP- São Paulo . Now she is pursuing her love of "all things music" by doing her masters in choir conducting, at Messiah University. Brenda was a nominee for the CPMHOF 2022 as best female solo artist. This is her debut into musical theater. she/her.

DANIELLE CYPERT (ENSEMBLE) is a transplant to Central PA from the Pittsburgh area and is excited to be making her way back onto the stage after an extra long sabbatical. This is Danielle's first season with the Hershey Area Playhouse, and she is extremely grateful to have the opportunity to get back to something she loves to do. She would like to thank her family and friends who have supported her through this endeavor as well as the Hershey Area Playhouse for this opportunity! she/her.

THERESA GARBER (FEATURED DANCER, ENSEMBLE) is very excited to be joining the Hershey Area Playhouse for the second time this year. Her recent credits include Linda in *The Wedding Singer* here at HAP, Eddie in *Rocky Horror* and Heather in *American Idiot*, both at Bare Bones Theater Company in Harrisburg, PA. When she is not performing, she is taking care of her two children, spending time with her family, or studying for her nursing classes. Theresa would like to thank her husband, Matt, for all his love and support. she/her.

TYLER O'CONNOR (ENSEMBLE) is a dancer (One Broadway Dance Center) and aspiring film actor. He previously performed at HAP in *Rock of Ages* (Franz) and *The Wedding Singer* (Glen Guglia). At Palmyra Area High School, he performed in *Cinderella* (Ensemble), *Legally Blonde* (Nikos), *Amèlie: High School Edition* (Bretodeau/Blind Beggar), *Guys and Dolls* (Big Jule/Featured Dancer), and *Catch Me If You Can* (2021 Hershey Theatre Apollo Nomination--Outstanding Lead Actor, Carl Hanratty). He also performed at Lebanon Community Theater in *Shrek* and *The Lion King Jr*. he/him.

BRIAN SILVA (ENSEMBLE) is ecstatic to return to the Hershey Area Playhouse to make his onstage debut, after appearing virtually in HAP's *Digital Short Plays* (as Gary in *Bunkmates*) and as a soloist in *Some Enchanted Evening*. Favorite past performances include: *Rent* (Tom Collins), *Puffs* (Wayne Hopkins), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Perch Perkins), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Dan), *Follies* (Young Buddy), *A Christmas Carol* (Jacob Marley/Young Scrooge), *Ragtime* (Ensemble) and *Anything Goes* (Lord Evelyn Oakleigh). He would like to thank his friends, family and out there for their love, inspiration, and supporting the arts in Central PA. he/him.

KEVIN EDWARD GANE (BIRDSELLER, ENSEMBLE) recently directed *Hot 'N Cole: A Cole Porter Celebration* and co-directed *Some Enchanted Evening*, both at HAP. He is a music director, organist, pianist, conductor, composer, arranger, and educator based in the Central PA area. He holds a B.A. in Music from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA. Currently he is the Director of Music & Organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown, PA; artistic director of Music on High, and maintains a private keyboard studio. Law & Order: SVU enthusiast. These are their stories. DUN DUN. he/him.

BRYE JOSEPH BALLA (JONAS FOGG, ENSEMBLE) A Hershey Area Playhouse newbie, Brye is excited to pay tribute to the late great Stephen Sondheim by performing some of his greatest work. Brye is a barista and has a pet bearded dragon. Thanks to Alicia and Nate for allowing your love for music to spark mine. he/him.

EMILY MYERS (ENSEMBLE) is so excited to be in her second show at HAP. Her last show was back in 2019 with *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, where she made her HAP debut. Emily has been in theatre for over 10 years, and cannot believe she is performing in her favorite musical of all time. She wants to thank everyone for coming, and hopes they have a bloody good time! she/her.

NATALIE TIBBS (ENSEMBLE) previously performed in *Hot 'n' Cole: A Cole Porter Celebration* (Natalie). Other favorite shows include *The Secret Garden* (Alice) and *Joseph ™ The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Ensemble) in her home state of Utah. Natalie has studied vocal performance with Laura Hughes and at Darowish Music Studio. Outside the theater Natalie can be found teaching a variety of fitness classes or managing her 2 kids and 2 dogs. Much love to Joe, Brad & Lucy, and a big thanks to her mom for being her biggest fan! she/her.

KATY NAIMOLI (ENSEMBLE) is pleased to be a part of her first production here at HAP! Katy is no stranger to the stage! Favorite roles include Little Red (Conrad Weiser 76ers) and Edwin Drood (Central York Community Theater). Katy works as an elementary music and choir director for Central York School District. While not performing, Katy enjoys taking adventures outside of her comfort zone, eating, reading, hanging with her husband and puppy, and doing anything outdoors. she/her.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

ROSEMARY BUCHER (DIRECTOR) is an NYC-based director, producer, writer, singer, arts administrator, graphic designer, and therapist for theatre teachers (amateur licensing coordinator at Concord Theatricals). She has a BA in English and a BA in music business from Lebanon Valley College, and a master's in arts administration from Boston University. She is currently on the board of NY Thespians and the Hershey Area Playhouse. Directing projects include *Chess* (Lebanon Valley College), *Dog Sees God* (LVC), *Perfectly Normal* (Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Festival, NYC), Digital Short Plays (Hershey Area Playhouse), *Some Enchanted Evening* (with Kevin Edward Gane, HAP), and *Tilda Swinton Betrayed Us* (NY Thespians). rosemarybucher.com. she/her.

JONATHAN WALKER-VANKUREN (MUSIC DIRECTOR) has enjoyed a successful career both on and off the operatic stage performing works of the jazz, musical theatre, art song, and opera repertoires while having taught students from all around the country. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Voice and Artist Teacher of Studio Voice and Music Theatre at Lebanon Valley College while also maintaining an active recital and operatic performing schedule. he/him

MOHIT PATEL (STAGE MANAGER) is a stage manager. he/him.

MIGUEL SANTIAGO (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) recently performed in *Hot 'N Cole* at the Playhouse. He has a love for theater both on and off stage and has worked as a sound and lighting technician for numerous shows including HAP's production of *Stage Kiss*. He has also enjoyed performing in a number of musicals including *Newsies* (Jack Kelly) and *The Sound of Music* (Georg Von Trapp). Miguel is a junior at Lebanon Valley College where he is an audio and music production major and studies voice under African American tenor and educator, Jonathan Walker-Vankuren. he/him.

RACHEL SMITH (PRODUCER) is an NYC-based writer/producer. She is a paralegal at Concord Theatricals and has worked in theater in various capacities for 15 years. she/her.

JEFFREY MILLER (SET CONSTRUCTION) is a retired Superintendent of Schools from the Methacton School District (Norristown, PA). Previous to his service in Methacton, Jeff was Superintendent of Schools in the Lower Dauphin School District from 1991-2003. A former member of the Board of Directors of the Playhouse and current Operations Manager, Jeff has been in the Playhouse's productions of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Sound of Music, Annie, Hello, Dolly!, Oliver, and Fiddler on The Roof. Jeff is happy to have partnered with Carlton Hoke to build many of the sets for Playhouse productions. Jeff lives in Hershey with his wife, Bonnie and their cat and has been an active supporter of the Hershey Area Playhouse.

CARLTON HOKE (SET CONSTRUCTION/PAINTING) retired from teaching in 2005 after 35 years of teaching art and computer classes in the Derry Township School District. Since then he has designed, constructed, or painted stage settings at the playhouse for many of our productions. He says that working with Jeff on Playhouse projects is the perfect retirement job.



DECEMBER 8 - 11



Become a Hershey Area Playhouse Member and you can make a difference. For \$100 a year you will receive several perks (other than making a difference in your local community!)

Included in the membership for one calendar year you will receive:

- Welcome gift, tote bag
- Invitation to opening night celebration with cast members (one show of your choice)
- Early access to season tickets
- Early access to our Theater Academy camp registration
- 10 raffle tickets to use for the season

How does your membership make a difference?

Assisting to pay down the remainder of the original \$1.5 million capital campaign.

Protect and preserve our building, helping to purchase upgraded equipment when needed.

Interested in joining? Go to HAP.BOOKTIX.COM, add \$100 in the donation box, and check out. You will automatically become a member and your welcome pack will be mailed to you shortly!



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