



MEET THE ARTISTIC STAFF, 2018, FULL-TIME



Janet Erlick, Executive Artistic Director

Janet is the Executive Artistic Director of award-winning Florida Children's Theatre where she oversees both the administrative and artistic components of the theatre. She teaches, directs and acts in the community and developed the theatre's comprehensive outreach program that now serves over 25,000 people each year. That program includes *ABridge From Me to You*, an anti-bullying and conflict resolution program and *From Page to Stage*, an in-school literacy and arts integration program. She created partnerships with many cultural and social service organizations throughout South Florida and frequently facilitates workshops throughout the Southeast region. Currently, she serves as the Chair of the Broward County Cultural Executives Committee and is a member of the Broward Cultural Council and Broward Women's Alliance. She is a graduate of Leadership Broward and is active on many of their committees. A former recipient of the City of Hope Businesswoman of the Year Award, Janet also received the Remy Service Award from South Florida Theatre League and was an honoree of Spring for the Arts among many other awards. She is one of only two master teaching artists endorsed by the South Florida Cultural Consortium, and recently designed and implemented a pilot certification for teaching artists through the Consortium and Arts for Learning in Miami and is working with the Florida Alliance for Arts Education. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College with a double major in Theatre and Psychology, and is currently President of their Alumni Council.



Sean Cutler, Producing Director

Sean started his theatre career in elementary school as a member of the Pied Piper Players at the Ruth Foreman Theatre in Miami, where, at age 14, he earned his Equity card and a nomination for Best Actor playing Eugene in the Carbonell Award winning production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. He graduated from the New World School of the Arts as a Theatre Dean's Award recipient and received his B.F.A. in Film & TV Production (with a double major in Political Science) from New York University. As an actor, he has performed Off-Broadway and regionally in numerous productions. Sean served as a Company Manager for several Off-Broadway shows including *The Donkey Show*, *The Karaoke Show*, *American Rhapsody: Songs of The Gershwins*, and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living In Paris*, was a member of the management team of Blue Man Group's NYC production of *Tubes*, and was the Managing Director of the award-winning Colony Theatre Company in Los Angeles. As FLCT's Producing Director, Sean supervises all aspects of FLCT's production department including artistic, technical, and design components. As the senior resident show director, he has twice won Broadwayworld.com Best Director Award for *Sweeney Todd* and *Side Show* and also received a Remy Award from the South Florida Theatre League for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Theatre. Sean is a proud Carbonell Award panelist and is also an accomplished lighting designer who has designed shows for FLCT, Dreamyard Theatre, NYC Fringe Festival, Women's Theatre Project, West Boca Theatre Company and others. Along with Rick Kaydas, he is the author of *Snow White: An Original Musical Adaptation of the Grimm Fairytale*.



Lauren Formica, Program Director/ Camp Director

Lauren is an alumna of Florida Children's Theatre and is proud to say she has been a member of the FLCT family for almost 20 years. Lauren graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor's degree in Humanities with concentrations in English, Education and Human Rights. While a full-time student, Lauren taught in various middle and high schools in Tallahassee, including Rose Academy, an alternative school for children with learning issues. Lauren implemented a drama program at the school and served as their Fine Arts teacher specializing in art and theatre for three years. Lauren also taught preschool at Happyland Day School in Fort Lauderdale for three years and currently serves as their drama teacher, leading an after school Creative Drama program for students 3-5 years old. Lauren has also served as The Sagemont Lower School drama teacher in Weston, directing *Seussical Jr.* and *Peter Pan Jr.* with their elementary students. In addition to her work in schools, Lauren facilitates annual arts infusion workshops through FLCT and The City of Coral Springs with local middle and high school students. Lauren has directed numerous productions throughout her years at FLCT, including *Aladdin KIDS* at FLCT in a partnership with Kids in Distress of Broward County, Summer Stage Camp shows: *Honk, Jr.*, *Pocahontas*, *Peter Pan, Jr.*, *Disney's Little Mermaid, Jr.*, & *Shrek, Jr.* Lauren directed FLCT's December mainstages *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* and *Elf the Musical, Jr.* and most recently directed *Honk! the Musical*, a show about acceptance based on The Ugly Duckling. She also serves as the staff liaison for FLCT's student leadership organization, Center Stage Youth Council.



Melissa Hahl, Education Director/ Storybook Adventures Camp Lead Counselor

Melissa Sheffield loves calling FLCT home as the Theatre Education Director. She has a BS in Music Education from Hofstra University and a MA in Theatre Education from Emerson College. Melissa has worked in Wardrobe at the Maltz Jupiter theatre and puppetry at Universal Studios Florida. She also taught Elementary Music, High School Theatre/Music and Middle School Show Choir in Massachusetts for three years. During the school year Melissa is busy teaching classes at FLCT as well as directing FLCT's Circus Troupe which had the honor of performing for Disney Performing Arts. This year, Melissa directed *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* as well as FLCT's Performance Project Shows: *Once Upon a Mattress* and *How to Eat Like a Child*. She was also seen on the FLCT stage as Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan*. Melissa has performed throughout Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut. Some of her favorite performances include Gertrude Mcfuzz in *Seussical*, Marcy Park in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Luisa in *The Fantasticks*.



Darius J. Manuel, Teaching Artist/ Director & Summer Stage Camp Lead Counselor

Darius J. Manuel is a full-time Teaching Artist & Director here at FLCT where he directs numerous productions, teaches classes and private lessons, specialty workshops, and camp programs alongside an award winning team. Darius has directed/choreographed over 30 productions, taught classes and more while influencing children and young artists across the South Florida area including: The Area Stage Company, Dillard Center for the Arts and the Broward Center for the Arts. Darius has also been an adjudicator for numerous district-level Thespian One-Act Play and Individual Event competitions for 3-Consecutive years. He won the 2016 BroadwayWorld Award for Best Director of a Musical and Best Choreographer for FLCT's production of *Carrie the Musical*. Other select directing credits include: *Madagascar Jr.*, *Seussical Jr.*, *Ragtime*, *Annie*, *The Wiz* (Florida Children's Theatre); *Spring Awakening* (Area Stage Company); *Next to Normal* (University of the Arts). As a performer, his work is acclaimed both regionally and nationally: appearing in both the 2016 and 2018 Broadway National Touring Companies of *Elf the Musical*, gracing the Philadelphia stages in *Kiss Me, Kate* (Paul), *Marie Christine* (Paris), *A Chorus Line* (Richie) and starring in Philadelphia's Mainstreet Musical Festival. South Florida audiences may recognize him from *Tarzan the Musical* (Terk) and *Memphis the Musical* (Gator) with Slowburn Theatre Company at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, a lot of love and even more laughter. dariusjmanuel.com



MEET THE ARTISTIC STAFF, 2018, RESIDENT PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS



Ron Hutchins, Dance Instructor and Resident Choreographer

Ron's performance career has taken him across the country and the globe, and he has been honored to perform in major regional theatres from the Goodman in Chicago to Fords Theatre in Washington, DC. He has directed and choreographed national tours of Disney's *Aida*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Footloose* and most recently choreographed for Cirque Dreams' production of *Pop Goes the Rock*. He now travels to China annually to choreograph American musical theatre style productions. Ron was twice nominated for Jeff Awards in Chicago and won Carbonell Awards for his production of *Five Guys named Mo* and for choreography for *West Side Story*. Ron is currently the Artistic Director of *Destined to Dance* and teaches dance for numerous school programs, including the University of Miami.



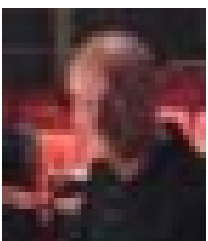
Tyler Smith, Resident Scenic Designer

Tyler's experience as an art director and special effects designer has taken him through the worlds of television, feature film and special effects. His work has been seen on the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, Nickelodeon, MTV, Showtime and in Paramount, Touchstone, Columbia and Zenith films. Areas of expertise include sculpture, special effects makeup and robotic creatures as well as all aspects of design and illustration. As an arts educator, Tyler has taught in a variety of media at college programs including Rhode Island School of Design, Nova Southeastern University and Broward College. He frequently exhibits as a professional visual artist in a wide variety of media.



Karen Kang Hancock, Resident Costume Designer

Karen has been Costume Designer for FLCT since 2003. Originally from Berkeley, California, she has had a lifelong interest in the arts. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University and was a professional musician in several symphony orchestras including the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. She learned to sew at age 13, and further developed her interest in sewing and costume designing, starting as a parent costume volunteer for FLCT when her son Ross became involved in productions. Her designs have also appeared at Area Stage and Charlotte Players in North Carolina, and she served as an associate costume designer for American Heritage School.



Rick Kaydas, Resident Music Director

Rick has been playing music professionally since the age of 13. As a student, he was a founder and leader of the Las Olas Brass, a successful band that attracted the area's best young musical talent, including the late jazz legend JacoPastorius. After a number of project ventures with Florida Children's Theatre, in 2000 Rick began working with FLCT as music director and arranger/composer. In this capacity he has music directed over 50 productions, either arranging and tracking the entire score or conducting and directing a live band. He also serves as music director for a variety of other theatre companies, both in Boston and throughout South Florida. His composing credits, Rick created original scores for FLCT, and won the ASCAP Benny Davis award for his work on *South of the North Pole*. He also composed original music for FLCT's production of *Hamlet* and wrote the score to the original *Snow White*.



OFFICE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Melanie Hale, Business Manager
Mary Damiano, Administrative Assistant
Patti Meyers, Outreach Coordinator

MEET THE ARTISTIC STAFF, 2018, PART-TIME



Natalia Alvarez, Storybook Adventures Camp Assistant Counselor

Natalia M. Alvarez is delighted to join Florida Children's Theatre this summer. She is currently her class president in Bristol-Plymouth's Nursing Program and works for Harbour House's homeless shelter in Massachusetts. Most recently, Natalia has participated in the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth's *Annual Broadway Revue Cabaret*. Natalia's most memorable appearances on stage include Alcyone in *Metamorphoses*, Cassie Cooper in *Rumors* and Teresita in *West Side Story*. In addition to performing, Natalia has also assisted in directing, choreographing, and teaching for New Bedford Public Schools, including the Drama Club production of *Beauty and the Beast* and All-City Show Choir. She has also served as dance captain, solo vocalist, and lead

acrobat throughout the span of her high school and college career. She is grateful and thrilled for this opportunity to be a part of the FLCT family and for the chance to spread her love for the arts.



Victoria Anderson, Dance Specialist & Summer Stage Camp Lead Counselor

Victoria Anderson is a South Florida native and has been dancing since the age of 6. She has choreographed at various dance studios and summer camps in South Florida, including Next Stop Broadway Summer Camp in Coral Springs, Weston Dance Academy and 5,6,7,8 Dance Inc. in Plantation. Victoria is super excited to dive into her first year at FLCT! She also has worked for the NHL Florida Panthers as a dancer. Most recently she has loved performing alongside FLCT staff member, Darius J. Manuel in Slow Burn's *MEMPHIS* and *Tarzan*. Past favorite credits include: *The Life, What I Learned in Fallsburg, Piaf, S4K: Time to Play, Aida, The Rocking Dead, Jekyll and Hyde, Footloose, Sweet Charity, West Side Story, Tarzan, Flash Dance, and MEMPHIS.*



Maya Burton, Summer Stage Camp Music Director & Lead Counselor

Maya Burton has her BFA in Theater from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle WA. Most recently she participated in a state wide educational tour of Seattle with the Seattle Shakespeare Company's *Romeo and Juliet* and a bilingual version of *Taming of the Shrew*. Maya's senior thesis, *Raisins in a Glass of Milk*, a one-act play that discusses race, inclusion, and representation in theater was featured in the Seattle Times and received great acclaim. This year will be Maya's seventh year at Summer Stage Camp. Her favorite shows with FLCT include *Hairspray* (A Dynamite), *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake), and *Mary Poppins* (Ms. Andrews). Some of her most memorable Summer Stage Camp experiences include stage managing *Honk Jr.* directed by Lauren Formica and directing *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* this past summer. In her own words "I look forward to making beautiful, authentic art with you all this summer, but mostly I can't wait to play!"



Steven Day, Summer Stage Camp Junior Counselor, Performance Project Director

A recent graduate of Calvary Christian Academy High School, Steven Day is delighted to be teaching at FLCT this summer! Steven has Directed/Music Directed in the past, winning numerous Critics Choice awards at both the district and state level of the Thespian competitions. In addition to directing, Steven was also the President of his school's Thespian troupe, and a Cappie Critic. Steven pursued his passion of acting at both his high school and at FLCT, playing over a dozen roles. Some of his favorite roles include Marius in *Les Miserables*, Father in *Ragtime*, Robert in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and The Baker in *Into the Woods*. This year, Steven was nominated for a Cappie award for his performance as Horace Vandergelder in *The Matchmaker*. Steven will be pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre at Florida Atlantic University this fall.



Andrea Heighes, Storybook Adventures Camp Assistant Counselor

Andrea has been a member of the FLCT family for 8 years. Andrea graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Education. She currently teaches Second Grade at Mirror Lake Elementary. Previous Andrea taught at Saint Helen Catholic School and was their Music Teacher, Drama Club Advisor, and Extended Day Coordinator. Andrea started the drama program at Saint Helen. Recent directing credits include: *Murder's in the Heir* with the Saint Helen Drama Club, *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty* and *Annie* with the Performance Project class. Andrea has volunteered with FLCT since 2011. She enjoys being a part of the summer shows and has helped with the load-ins and load outs of many shows, including camp shows.

Andrea is looking forward to a fun-filled summer at her favorite camp!



Tedrick Wilson, Summer Stage Junior Counselor

Tedrick Wilson is incredibly excited to join the FLCT Summer Stage Camp team after being the Teaching Assistant for FLCT's Performance Project! He recently graduated from Pompano Beach High School where he was the head of many student organizations including JROTC. After participating in 4 years of productions, outreach programs, gala performances and workshops, Tedrick is finally an FLCT Alum. Select FLCT roles include: Scarecrow in *The Wiz*, Urchin in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Coalhouse Walker Jr. in *Ragtime*. Tedrick was also seen as Georg in *Spring Awakening* at the Area Stage Company directed by Darius J. Manuel, where he was nominated for a 2018 BroadwayWorld Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical. Tedrick will be 1 of 13

in the Freshman BFA in Musical Theatre Class of 2022 at Pennsylvania State University.