

PLAYBILL®

River City Theatre

Betsy Lovett Hall, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
1100 Stockton St. Jacksonville, FL 32204

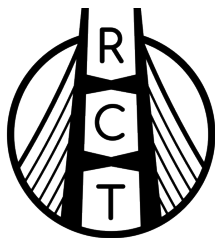


The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

BY BARBARA ROBINSON



"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com



RIVER CITY
— THEATRE —

proudly presents

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

by Barbara Robinson

Director
Stephen Billy

Assistant Director
Ava DeVore

Music Director
Ryan Ashley

Please note: There will be flashing lights and loud sound effects used throughout the performance.

This production does not include an intermission.

RECORDING THIS PRODUCTION, INCLUDING VIDEO, AUDIO, AND/OR OTHER ELECTRONIC RECORDING, AND DISTRIBUTING SUCH RECORDINGS, AND/OR LIVESTREAMING OF THIS PRODUCTION, IN ANY MEDIUM OR PLATFORM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

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We thank our Lead Producers Circle, including

RUSS BRATCHER

PHOTOGRAPHY

CAST

Cast Members

Grace Bradley	Windy Taylor
Bob Bradley	Jason Taylor
Beth Bradley	Bijou Aiuppy
Charlie Bradley	Quentin Monroe
Ralph Herdman	Harrison Ashley
Imogene Herdman	Graelyn Phipps-Poe
Leroy Herdman	Nix Kohler-Austin
Claude Herdman	Evan O'Donoughue
Ollie Herdman	Hazel Taylor
Gladys Herdman	Rosie McGuire
Alice Wendleken	Calista Marino
Maxine	Carrie A. Hill
Janet	Charlee Deguzman
Elmer Hopkins	Dillon Dungan
Hobie	Charlie Soderholm
Juanita	Aria Deguzman
Doris	Catherine Cherneski
Shirley	Delilah Cox
Beverly	Clara O'Donoughue
Mrs. Armstrong	Perry M. Jones
Mrs. McCarthy	Michelle Krueger
Reverend Hopkins	Alan K. Ragan
Candy Striper	Faith Allen-Cox
Fireman	William Ashley

Production / Creative

Director	Stephen Billy
Assistant Director	Ava DeVore
Music Director	Ryan Ashley
Stage Manager	K. Padilla

CAST

Production / Creative (continued)

Assistant Stage Manager	Avery Lore
Assistant Stage Manager	Callie Suter
Run Crew	McKenna Burt, Lathe Glynn, & Addison Slater
Lighting Designer	GoldenStage Productions
Lighting Board Operator	Avery Lore
Follow Spot Operator	Callie Suter
Sound Board Operator	Natasha Hartshorn
Sound Designer	Matt Bickett
Wardrobe Supervisor & Stitcher	KC Agneta
Wardrobe Assistant	Vanessa Ochaita
Graphic & Backdrop Designer	Dr. Sydney E. Brammer
Headshots	Russ Bratcher Photography
Social Media Manager	Dr. Sydney E. Brammer

Special Thanks

Chris Culpepper, St. Augustine Amphitheatre
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Beverly & Claire Futo
Brian Palmer, Jacksonville University
Pensacola Little Theatre
Players by the Sea

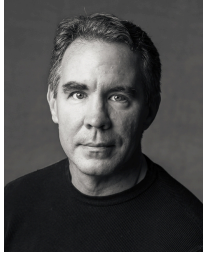
Board of Directors

Stephen Billy
Dr. Sydney E. Brammer
Dr. James Hall
Perry M. Jones
Jason C. Taylor
Windy Taylor

CAST



Windy Taylor



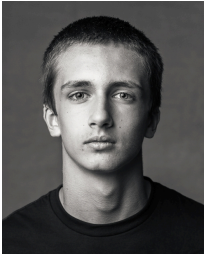
Jason Taylor



Bijou Aiuppy



Quentin Monroe



Harrison Ashley



Graelyn Phipps-Poe



Nix Kohler-Austin



Evan O'Donoughue



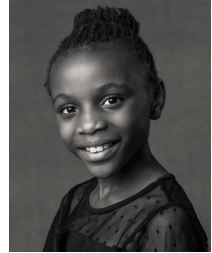
Hazel Taylor



Rosie McGuire



Calista Marino



Carrie A. Hill



Charlee Deguzman



Dillon Dungan



Charlie Soderholm



Aria Deguzman

CAST



Catherine Cherneski



Delilah Cox



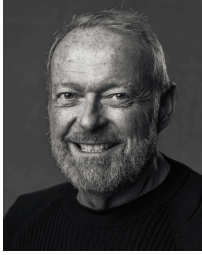
Clara O'Donoghue



Perry M. Jones



Michelle Krueger



Alan K. Ragan



Faith Allen-Cox



William Ashley

CREW



Avery Lore



Callie Suter



Addison Slater

We thank our season sponsors, especially

RUSS BRATCHER
PHOTOGRAPHY

 **MAI**
Capital Management

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Season's Greetings!

Welcome to River City Theatre's production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Every so often, a story reminds us why we gather in theatres—to laugh, to feel, and to rediscover what truly matters. Barbara Robinson's beloved holiday classic has delighted audiences for generations, not because of perfect pageants or polished halos, but because it celebrates the messy, beautiful humanity that binds us all. At its heart, this story is about love, acceptance, and community.

It reminds us that grace often arrives in unexpected forms—sometimes loud, sometimes barefoot, sometimes late to rehearsal—and that the true miracle of Christmas isn't found in flawless performances but in open hearts. As the Herdmans stumble their way toward Bethlehem, they reveal something profoundly simple and deeply true: everyone deserves a place in the story. That's a message worth celebrating—onstage, in our families, and in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for joining River City Theatre this season. May this production fill you with laughter, warmth, and the joy of seeing the familiar made new again.

Stephen Billy
Executive Artistic Director, River City Theatre

YOU'RE INVITED TO SAVE THE DATE

Don't wait—mark your calendar for RCT's next production today!

The 2026 Summer Musical will take place in Betsy Lovett Hall over a two-week run (Thursday through Sunday) with

8 shows total on the following dates:

June 18th–21st, 2026 (Week 1)

June 25th–28th, 2026 (Week 2)



Want to know what the summer musical is? **Our newsletter subscribers get all of the exciting news first!** Subscribe today to keep up with RCT's work. Scan the QR code to the left or visit our website (rivercitytheatre.com) and click "Contact Us."

MEET THE TEAM



Stephen Billy, Director

Stephen Billy is the visionary force behind River City Theatre (RCT), a lifelong dream that has blossomed into a vibrant reality. His journey into the world of theatre began at the age of nine when he first stepped onto the stage in a production of *The Secret Garden*. That spark ignited a passion that has only grown richer over the years, cultivating a deep sense of belonging and connection to the arts. In the years since, Stephen has established a robust background in arts administration, theatre education, and directing. He has

dedicated his life to creating spaces where creativity flourishes, friendships blossom, and the magic of theatre can foster the imaginations of future generations.

Stephen graduated from the University of Montevallo in 2013 before earning a master's degree in arts administration and cultural policy from Goldsmiths, University of London. His professional journey includes impactful roles such as Company Manager for Ogunquit Playhouse in 2015 and Executive Artistic Director for Brewton Town and Gown Players from 2016 to 2020. During this time, he also directed the annual production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in Monroeville, Alabama, drawing hundreds of visitors to the birthplace of Nelle Harper Lee.



From 2020 to 2024, Stephen served as the Theatre Instructor and Program Manager at Bartram Trail High School, where he directed beloved productions including *Road Dahl's Matilda*, *Noises Off*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Chicago*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Clue*, *Junie B. Jones*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. His directing repertoire also features classics such as *Oklahoma*, *Road Dahl's Willy Wonka*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Annie*, and *Steel Magnolias*, showcasing his commitment to nurturing young talent and inspiring creativity in his students.

As the Executive Artistic Director of RCT, Stephen fosters a collaborative environment where imagination thrives, and every participant feels at home. His unwavering dedication to the arts has created a sanctuary for artists and audiences alike, ensuring that the spark he felt as a boy continues to ignite the dreams of others. Under his leadership, River City Theatre stands as a beacon of creativity and community, inviting everyone to experience the transformative power of the stage.

To learn more about how you can be a part of the River City Theatre family, or to discuss corporate, foundation, or government sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to stephen.billy@rivercitytheatre.com.

MEET THE TEAM

Ava DeVore, Assistant Director



Ava DeVore is a Senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DASOTA) in Jacksonville. Her previous stage credits include Flossie's Friend, *On the Town* (DASOTA); Rose Seller/Ensemble, *Oliver!* (River City Theatre); and Lavender, *Matilda the Musical* (Bartram Trail High School). You can see more of Ava's work as the Assistant Director of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (DASOTA) in April; she will also be a swing for *The Spitfire Grill* (DASOTA) in February. She

is so grateful to have this opportunity, and she thanks Stephen Billy for being an amazing inspiration!

Ryan Ashley, Music Director



A native of North Carolina, Ryan holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. He has also studied at the Brevard Music Center in Brevard, NC, and the Cours International de Musique in Morges, Switzerland. His principal piano studies were with Barbara Rowan, Francis Whang, and Howard Lubin, and his pedagogical mentors include Dr.

Barbara Fast and Dr. Jane Magrath. Ryan serves as a Managing Director and Senior Wealth Advisor at MAI Capital Management in Ponte Vedra Beach. In addition to his volunteer work with River City Theatre, he is also a member of the Chancel Choir at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, and is delighted to share the music of this heartwarming holiday classic celebrating love, laughter, and community.

About River City Theatre



RIVER CITY
— THEATRE —

River City Theatre (RCT) is thrilled to bring vibrant, high-quality theatre to Jacksonville. At RCT, we believe in the power of collaboration, creativity, and connection to enrich the lives of our patrons and participants through the arts. Whether you're a local actor sharing your talents on stage or a first-time audience member, we aim to create a welcoming "home away from home" for everyone. Our mission is made possible by the generous support of individuals and sponsors who share our vision.

Every contribution matters, and your support today helps create a welcoming home for all and sustain our programming for years to come. Join us in making a lasting impact!



Scan here to support us by donating through [rivercitytheatre.com](https://www.rivercitytheatre.com).

Keep up with River City Theatre by:

- Subscribing to our monthly newsletter on our website!
- Following us on Instagram: @rctjax
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OUR GENEROUS DONORS

River City Theatre is committed to preserving theatre as an art form and serving OUR community. Through the generosity of individuals and organizations, we are able to continue creating theatre magic.

2025 Season Donors

We thank our generous donors:

Lead Producers Circle (\$5,000+)

Ryan Ashley
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Dreamers Circle (\$100+)

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Randi Brammer
Dr. Sydney E. Brammer & Matt Bickett
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Ken Chamberlain & Stephen Harrison
Bronwyn & Grant Cooper
Chris Cooper & Keith Shoemaker
Tony Cruz
Anonymous in Honor of Dillon Dungan
Patrick Dumphy
Dawn Frazier, in Honor of Eric Hargrove
Becky Garrison
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Leticia Schueth
Timothee Sullivan
Bruce Thomas
Jennifer Veenstra, in Honor of Miss Veenstra's students
The Virgets Family
Drs. Ben Williams & Elizabeth Osmun-Williams
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**We also extend our gratitude to our
anonymous donors. Thank you!**

(List updated December 6, 2025)

*In-kind sponsor

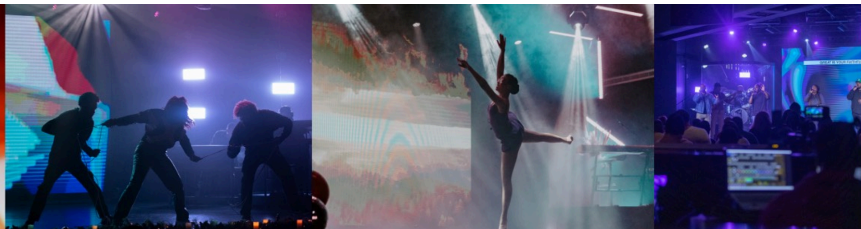
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YOUR
LEGACY.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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MESSAGES FROM OUR SPONSORS



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Sunday Worship

8:00 am Rite I in the chapel
A quiet, spoken service.

10:00 am Rite II in the nave
*with organ and music from
the Chancel Choir.*

Wednesday Evening Prayer

5:30 pm in the chapel
(4th Wednesday Eucharist)

December 21

10:00 am Advent 4 Service
*with the Cherub Choir &
Luminaria in the evening.*

Christmas Eve Services (December 24)

5:00 pm and 10:00 pm
with pre-service music.

January 4

10:00 am Service
Enjoy a children's play.



The Pool at Good Shepherd has lap swimming based on our membership program and a variety of services from our business partners (e.g., swim lessons, water aerobics).

Please contact our office for more information:

Phone: (904) 387-4298

Email: pool@gsjax.church

Website: <http://www.gsjaxpool.com>

MESSAGES FROM OUR SPONSORS

RCT thanks the following sponsors
for providing pre-show meals for
our cast and crew members!



Josephine



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opportunities, please contact Stephen Billy, Executive Artistic
Director, at stephen.billy@rivercitytheatre.com.



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