



AMADEU8

BY PETER SHAFFER

DIRECTED BY AMU RICKETT

MARCM 14-17 & 21-24, 2024

AMADEUS



Production Team

DIRECTOR, PROPS **Amy Rickett** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STAGE MANAGER Marcus Fields ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR, PROPS Jan Ross Ted Daniel LIGHTING DESIGN LIGHT TECH Tim Daniel SOUND DESIGN & TECH Leon Green SET DESIGN **Leroy Cupp** SET BUILDER/PIANO **Bob Nees SCENEOGRAPHY** Ric Sadler HEAD COSTUME DESIGN Kris Maier **COSTUME ASSISTANT Ashley Hampton** Rebecca Dahlem WIGS WIG & HAIR ASSISTANCE Lori Bailev-Smith COSTUME TEAM

Camara Lewis, Lee Helder, Marina White, Amanda Macomber, Jana Nicol, Chris Kennedy, Chelle Peterson, Susan Adsit, Kate Koskinen, Katie Doyle, Lisa Pappas, Cathy Wotring

PRODUCER Scott Pohl
DRAMATURGE Meghan Eldred-Woolsey
ITALIAN LANGUAGE COACH Gloria Vivlada Purosky
PUBLICITY Aaron Wittbrodt

Amadeus is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. • concordtheatricals.com

After running at the National Theatre in London in 1979, *Amadeus* by Sir Peter Shaffer premiered on Broadway in December 1980, with Ian McKellen as Salieri, Tim Curry as Mozart and Jane Seymour as Constanze. It ran for 1,181 performances, closing in October 1983. *Amadeus* was nominated for seven Tony Awards of which it won five, including Best Play and Best Actor for McKellen.

Shaffer used artistic licence in his portrayals of Mozart and Salieri. Documentary evidence suggests that there may have been some occasional antipathy between the two men, but the idea that Salieri was the instigator of Mozart's demise is not taken seriously by scholars of the men's lives and careers. In fact, there is evidence that they enjoyed a relationship marked by mutual respect.

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

Music. Power. Jealousy. In the court of the Austrian Emperor Joseph II, Antonio Salieri is the established composer. Enter the greatest musical genius of all time: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Salieri has given himself to God so that he might realize his sole ambition—to be a great composer. Mozart is a foul-mouthed, graceless oaf who has that which is beyond Salieri's envious grasp: genius.

Setting

Vienna, November 1823. In recall, the decade 1781-1791.

There will be one 15-minute intermission between acts.

Cast

Jeff Magnuson	ANTONIO SALIERI
Lewis C. Elson	WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
Taylor Haslett	CONSTANZE WEBER, Mozart's Wife
Eric Vincent	JOSEPH II, Emperor of Austria
Aaron Wittbrodt	COUNT JOHANN KILIAN VON STRACK, Groom of the Imperial Chamber
Opera Joe Clark	COUNT FRANZ ORSINI-ROSENBERG, Director of the Imperior
Bob Purosky	BARON GOTTFRIED VAN SWIETEN, Prefect of the Imperial Library
aura Croff, Lauren Spadafora	THE TWO "VENTICELLI" The "Little Winds", purveyors of gossip
Allison Meyer	KATHERINA CAVALIERI, Salieri's student
Gay Oliver	TERESA SALIERI, Salieri's wife
Michael Palmer	COOK/MAJOR DOMO
Nick Lemmer	VALET/CITIZEN OF VIENNA
Rachel Daugherty	CITIZEN OF VIENNA / CONSTANZE UNDERST

Mark Polzin, Ric Sadler,

Nathan Wood

Michael Shalley, Elaine Simon,

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Riverwalk office open Tues-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and two hours prior to showtimes



Our current lobby artist is Anita Brett

Anita Brett practiced occupational therapy for nearly two decades, helping patients with traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, burns, and injuries from military service. When she left this work to home-school her five children, she finally had the time and space to pursue her love of art. Her earliest works included commissioned watercolor portraits that now span the globe. She participates in a number of select Michigan art fairs and is represented by galleries across the state. Anita now works in oils, watercolor and

encaustic paintings (hot wax). Commissioned portraits of both people and pets available. Visit **anitambrett.com** and Etsy shop **AnitaBrettPaintings**

From the Director



The for this production are all notes of gratitude.

I want to thank the Board of Directors of Riverwalk Theatre for

selecting the play and the privilege of directing my sixth show, the third on the main stage.

I want to thank the following people who volunteered to be part of the show, even before I reached out: the late Ken Beachler, Meg Eldred-Woolsey, Gloria Purosky, Justin Banks, Courtney Millbrook, Gerardo Ascheri, Doak Bloss and James Brunk. I want to thank my dream team production crew who ALWAYS savs "yes", and manage to make me look great: Marcus, Leroy, Leon, Ted, Kris, Ric. Jan and Tim. They assemble the best teams of people to help them put together a great production. Thank you Bob Nees for building the piano and Ric for making it look spectacular. Thank you to Algie Watkins for performing and recording Salieri's March. Thank you, Tom Jones, for engineering Algie's performance so that it worked seamlessly into the production.

I want to acknowledge and thank Kris Maier for assembling the best costume team—Ashley, Camara, Lee, Marina, Amanda, Jana. Thank you to Chris Kennedy at Williamston High School, Costumes and Chelle Peterson, LCC Costumes. I want to thank the Riverwalk Costume Shop, Kate, Katie, Lisa and Cathy for going above and beyond opening your doors to help us all go back to the 18th Century.

Thank you to Rebecca for managing all the wigs and shaping those girls up for their moment on stage. Thank you, Lori Bailey-Smith, for coming on board and assisting with all the wig and hair needs. Thank you, Cara Everts, from LIVDN Hair Studio in Troy MI, for her expertise in color and extensions for Salieri.

Thank you, Scott Pohl, for reaching out to Sergei Kvitko and Blue Recording.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to my exceptionally talented cast. They are inventive, creative and so easy to direct. I want to thank my husband Jeff, my kids, Cara, Sam and Eli for always giving me the support to pursue my love of theatre. Lastly, I want to thank YOU for coming out and supporting Riverwalk Theatre! It means so much to me that you have made the choice to spend your time with us!

Grazie! -Amy Rickett

Additional thanks

Giovanna Lammers, the late Ken Beachler, Ute and Paul, Dr. Alvin Mistak, my high school orchestra teacher, my late parents.

Cast and Production Team



Joe Clark (COUNT ORSINI-ROSENBERG) is excited to be back on the Riverwalk stage with a mix of veterans and newcomers! It's his second (and hopefully not last) time working with the dynamic directing duo of Amy Rickett and Marcus Fields. Joe previously appeared as "Alf" in Riverwalk's production of Peter and the Starcatcher, and was most recently seen as "Mr. Assalone" in Peppermint Creek's The Minutes. He'd like to thank his wonderful wife, Kate, for all her love and support, and their three cats for not always being the absolute worst.



Laura Croff (VENTICELLI #1) – is happy to be back on the Riverwalk mainstage after having just performed in the black box as "Truvy" in *Steel Magnolias*. Having been in the Lansing theater scene for many, many years, favorite roles include "Charlotte" in *Charlotte's Web* (Wild Swan Theater), "Helen" in *Fun Home* (Peppermint Creek), and "Virginia" in *Hands On a Hardbody* (Pennyseats Theater). Many thanks to my family and my devoted sweetie for putting up with my silliness!



Rachel Daugherty (CITIZEN OF VIENNA/CONSTANZE UNDERSTUDY) – last seen in Riverwalk's 2022 production of *The Revolutionists*, Rachel is happy to be back on the scene at RWT. She has recently appeared in several local productions, including: *Daddy Long Legs* as "Jerusha" and *The Prom* as "Alyssa" (Peppermint Creek); and *Loves Labor's Lost* (LCC). She is happy to be part of such an incredibly talented cast. She thanks the cast and crew of *Amadeus* for all their hard work, and her husband lan for sharing her with the theatre.



Lewis C. Elson (WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART) is thrilled to be portraying the legendary composer Mozart in *Amadeus*. A classically-trained English actor with extensive experience in British theatre, Lewis has come to the USA to have a new experiences with his wonderful partner, Sally. When Lewis is not busy rehearsing for the show, he enjoys spending time with his two cats, Maggie and Fang. Maggie is a fluffy ball of dumb, while Fang is a bit madder (she likes eating spiders). Lewis is honored to be performing in this production and is excited to share his interpretation of Mozart's life and work with the audience. He hopes that his portrayal will do justice to the incredible legacy of this musical genius.



Taylor Haslett (CONSTANZE WEBER) is thrilled to be sharing the stage with "Baby Haslett" one more time. She was previously seen on the Riverwalk stage last spring for *Steel Magnolias* ("Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie") and this past fall in "The Rocky Horror Show" (Phantom). Other favorites include *The Wild Party* (PCTC), *Catch Me If You Can* (Riverwalk), *Evita* (OCP), *These Shining Lives* (Riverwalk) and *Heathers* (PCTC). Thank you so much to the cast and crew for the immense trust, and to Mike for your unwavering belief in the amount of energy I have at six months pregnant.



Nick Lemmer (VALET/CITIZEN OF VIENNA) is ecstatic to be working with such an incredibly talented cast from top to bottom. Working with Amy again has been a delight, and it's been an honor seeing all the hard work being put in by the crew. His most recent work around Lansing stages include *The Minutes* (Peppermint Creek Theatre), *Peter and the Starcatchers* and *Bell, Book and Candle* (Riverwalk). Everyone enjoy the show!



Jeff Magnuson (ANTONIO SALIERI) has been a volunteer at Riverwalk Theatre and in Lansing-area companies onstage and backstage for more than 30 years. Recent RWT acting credits include Bell, Book and Candle, Elephant Man, Buried Child, All My Sons, and Women of Lockerbie. Jeff is the general manager of MSU's James B. Henry Center for Executive Development. This performance would not be possible without the people who have nurtured and encouraged a life in the theater—Amy, Eli, Sam and Cara; Len Kluge, Bill and Lee Helder, Tom Ferris, Bob Robinson, Sandy Norton, Roger Rochowiak, Bob Mellor, Paul Wright, Ute Von Der Heyden and Ken Beachler. "Ken was a virtuoso in our community and will always have a place in my heart for his kindness to my family, his debonair manner, and his expectation of excellence. His inspiration and artistic spirit will be with us throughout this run and for years to come."



Allison Meyer (KATHERINA CAVALIERI) made her acting debut with All-of-us Express Children's Theatre, often playing witches. She is thrilled to make her triumphant return to the stage as "Katherina" in *Amadeus*, a real firecracker of a show. Allison is a senior at UM-Flint and enthusiastic intern at TechSmith in East Lansing. She is so grateful to her wonderful husband Seb (for literally everything) and to the talented and welcoming RWT community!



Gay Oliver (TERESA SALERIERI) has been active in Lansing community theater since 1995. She enjoys working both on stage and behind the scenes. Gay was last seen as "Mrs. Mueller" in *Doubt* at Riverwalk. Other performances include *Summer Retreat, The Women of Lockerbie, In the Next Room, For Colored Girls* and *Man From Nebraska,* which she received a Barney Award for Best Supporting Actress. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Gay says her best role yet is playing mom and wife for her two Tonys and daughter Chavonne. Glory to God.



Michael Palmer (COOK/MAJOR DOMO) is honored to be sharing the stage with such a talented group of people! This is his third show at Riverwalk. Previous shows include *Peter and the Starcatcher* as an ensemble member and *The Rocky Horror Show* as "Brad Majors" in the Horror Cast. He'd like to thank his parents for always supporting him in any journey, the amazing friends he's made during his time at RWT, and his incredible partner for putting up with his shenanigans. Enjoy the show!



Mark Polzin (CITIZEN OF VIENNA) is excited to be back at Riverwalk! He has been interested in the story of Amadeus since seeing the movie in high school German class. His past experience at Riverwalk includes roles in Conspiracy, M*A*S*H, Twelve Angry Men, The Sea Gull, All My Sons, and Beyond Therapy, among others. Most recently, he played "George Bailey" in It's a Wonderful Life with Starlight Dinner Theatre. Thanks to Amy for the chance to be involved in this show!



Bob Purosky (BARON VAN SWIETEN) is pleased to be back on stage for the first time since the pandemic started. His last role was in was early 2020 on the black box stage as "Les Kennkat" in Boy Gets Girl for which he won the Pulsar for Best Featured Actor in a play. Since then, he did a couple of online productions, the Holiday Cabaret, and played "Dr. Rank" in A Doll's House. Other favorite roles were "Clown 2" in The 39 Steps (Thespie - Featured Actor, play), "Lawrence Jameson" in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (Barney - Lead Actor, musical), and "Frank Abignale, Sr." in Catch Me If You Can. Bob appreciates the support of his family, especially loving wife, Michele.



Ric Sadler (CITIZEN OF VIENNA/SCENEOGRAPHY) has been filling various roles for RWT over a number of years. Whether behind the scenes or in cameos onstage, he hopes to continue his contribution to the success of Riverwalk. In his spare time, he is also an accomplished painter and a mediocre giant pumpkin grower.



Michael Shalley (CITIZEN OF VIENNA) has appeared in Riverwalk shows since 2013 including *August: Osage County, The Seagull,* and *The Hemingway Play,* as well as in productions with Peppermint Creek Theatre and Over the Ledge Company in Grand Ledge. He is retired and lives in Lansing.



Elaine Simon (CITIZEN OF VIENNA) This is Elaine's first role in a play and she is very grateful for the opportunity to dip her toe into local theater. She has attended local theater her entire adult life and always knew she would eventually get involved on the other side. Other than as a spectator, her previous theater experience was running the sound board for *Guys and Dolls* at Starlight Dinner Theater. She hopes you gain a new or renewed appreciation for classical music through this show.



Lauren Spadafora (VENTICELLI #2) hails from further east in the Rust Belt but has loved becoming a Lanstronaut over the past three years. You may have seen her last as "Pat" in Kinky Boots (RWT), "Lucy Westenra" and "First Mate of the Demeter" in a Dracula radio play (CTH), a variety of silly roles in A Year with Frog and Toad (RWT) and Clue (OCP), and in the "rockin' little orchestra" of The Rocky Horror Show (RWT). She is particularly thrilled to be part of this show with her love of classical music, opera, and the movie adaptation (having first watched it with her oldest BFF James before moving across the country). Unending thanks to Amy, Lewis, and the entire team. Love to her favorite scene partner, CLG.



Eric Vincent (JOSEPH II) is excited to be in *Amadeus*, his 2nd show here at Riverwalk. You may have seen him previously in *A Year With Frog and Toad* here last season, or as "Holofernes" in *Love's Labor's Lost* at LCC. Eric takes pride in knowing he is a half-Mexican actor portraying the Emperor Joseph II of Austria (thank you, Amy Rickett). When he isn't performing, Eric loves drawing, reading, writing, as well as making time for his family and friends. Many thanks to his parents, sisters, brother-in-law, friends far and near, God, and this awesome cast and crew of *Amadeus* who have worked beautifully for this production. Eric wishes to dedicate his performance in *Amadeus* in memory of Sharyn Rahl.

SPECIAL THANKS TO





Aaron Wittbrodt (COUNT VON STRACK / PUBLICITY) – is thrilled to be making his onstage debut at Riverwalk. He has been acting since the age of 5 but hasn't been on stage since 2019! Aaron is a board member at Riverwalk and has proudly worked on several recent productions behind the scenes. Amadeus has been a great experience for Aaron, working with such an amazing cast and crew. He would like to dedicate this performance to his brother, Andrew, for always being his theatre accomplice. Enjoy the Show!



Nathan Wood (CITIZEN OF VIENNA) is excited to be back on the Riverwalk stage after a 13-year hiatus! He was in our productions of *Best Man, Born Yesterday* and *Conspiracy*, after which he served concessions here at Riverwalk. He has experience butlering for the 1%; working at MIT and with the State of Michigan; and as an apartment manager, Unitarian Universalist Minister, school social worker and property owner. He rounded out his career by serving over 15 years with the Clinton, Eaton, Ingham County Mental health Authority before retiring as a mental health therapist.

Leroy Cupp (SET DESIGN) - Leroy has worked on sets for Riverwalk, LCP, and Eaton Rapids. Retired from the Riverwalk Board, he is still active improving our scene shop and our building. He has built sets for many of Riverwalk's performances and is a past recipient of Riverwalk's President Award, Black Box Award, many back stage awards, and several awards from other area theatres. Retired from Bharat Forge as a Die Sinker, Leroy enjoys fishing, old cars, and farming. He wishes Riverwalk many more years of success.

Ted Daniel (LIGHT DESIGN) - Ted started back in the 1950s with The Slout Players at Ledges Playhouse and now manages tech equipment for Riverwalk. He has designed for NYC Off-Broadway and won awards in Lansing. Retired from IBM Service, he has LCC certificates in Technical Theater and is a graduate of MSTAP. Ted manages TDP ON CUE. A journeyman stagehand with professional venues, he has designed lights for many Riverwalk shows. Ted dedicates his work to the memory of his daughters, Denise and Jennifer.

Tim Daniel (LIGHT TECH) - From a theatre-rich background, Tim and his mom and sisters performed for both LCP and the Okemos Barn Theatre. His zest for tech comes from assisting his father Ted, who has been the technical director for CCP, Barn Theatre, BoarsHead, Ledges Playhouse, and Riverwalk. Now a seasoned tech himself, Tim has trained high school students in technical theatre design, application and safety.

Marcus Fields (ASST DIRECTOR/STAGE MANAGER) is an interdisciplinary artist with interests in both visual and performing arts. He works at the MSU Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, where he manages a media lab, art studio, and theater. He's been working on shows in the Lansing area since 2014, including as Assistant Director of Child's Play, Women of Lockerbie, Superior Donuts, Elephant Man, and Unnecessary Farce here at Riverwalk. He also previously stage managed The Humans at Peppermint Creek Theatre Company.



Some members of our fabulous costume crew, who helped transport us back to 18th Century Vienna. Back row, left to right: Camara Lewis, Ashley Hampton and Kate Koskinen. Front row, left to right: Lee Helder, Kris Maier and Marina White.

Leon Green (SOUND DESIGN/TECH) – Leon is a sound engineer/audio technician and all-around volunteer. He most recently designed sound for *Christmas Belles, Admissions, Bell, Book, and Candle*, and *The Revolutionists*, as well as many, many others here at Riverwalk. He has also provided set construction support on a number of shows. Leon is a member of the Riverwalk Board and serves on our Tech Committee.

Kris Maier (COSTUME DESIGN) – Kris has been costuming since 2009, working on more than 50 productions. She's taken the lead on *Amadeus* but by NO MEANS could she ever costume such an iconic period piece without many other talented people: the ones who brainstormed with her (Kate Koskinen); those who helped pull and organize costume pieces (the invaluable ladies of the Riverwalk Costume Shop); friends who graciously loaned pieces (Chris Kennedy, Chelle Peterson); the talented ladies who built pieces (Marina White, Leonore Helder, Camara Lewis, Amanda Macomber, Jana Nicol); the talented Rebecca Dahlem and Lori Bailey-Smith who created and maintained the wigs and hair; and her "always right hand", Ashley Hampton. You have heard that "it takes a village"—this took a metropolis and she couldn't be more grateful. Thank you, friends.

Bob Nees (SET BUILDER/PIANO) - Bob has designed and helped build sets for many shows here at Riverwalk, most recently *Christmas Belles, Rocky Horror, Steel Magnolias,* and *Big Fish.* Other credits include: *Doubt, Noises Off, Spamalot, Bud Not Buddy,* and *She Loves Me!* He has won five Barney Awards and two Thespies, plus many LCP Player awards. Bob taught set building for Okemos High School from 1996-2000. He regularly helps with our maintenance and improvement projects.



Scott Pohl (PRODUCER) is a Riverwalk Theatre board member who has acted in productions of Buried Child ("Fr. Dewis"), Sweat ("Stan"), and Misery ("Paul Sheldon"- Barney Award winner - Lead Actor in a play). He also directed Art. Now in his 40th year as a reporter at WKAR-FM, he's semi-retired but still covering the arts for the station. Thanks to everyone onstage and backstage, and special thanks to his family. Enjoy the show!

Gloria Vivlada Purosky (ITALIAN LANGUAGE COACH) Gloria is an actor, director, and stage manager and can also be found working backstage, in the lighting booth, box office or concessions stands of most of the area theaters. When she lived in Copenhagen, Denmark for a few years, she acted, directed, and taught acting and stage makeup workshops. A highlight was directing the entertainment for the American Women's Club's 60th Anniversary in Copenhagen. Favorite roles include "Aida" in Over the River and Through the Woods, "Nanny" in Effects of Gamma Rays...(Thespie) at Williamston Theatre, and "Costanza" in Enchanted April at Riverwalk (Barney). Latest roles include "Jessie" in Calendar Girls at Starlight Dinner Theater, "Clairee" in Steel Magnolias at RWT and "Bibb" in Alabaster at WT.

Amy Rickett (DIRECTOR/PROPERTIES) has been working on Lansing-area stages as an actor since 1992 and spent 13 years working with Spotlight Theatre's Actors Workshop. Amadeus is the third play Amy has directed in the main stage, having directed Elephant Man in 2019 and Superior Donuts in 2017. In 2023, Amy was awarded the Bob Gras Black Box Award. Other directorial credits include Bell Book and Candle. The Women of Lockerbie and Childs Play in the Black Box. Women of Lockerbie was awarded a Thespie and Barney award for Best Ensemble in 2016. Amy was last seen as "Ouiser Boudreaux" in Riverwalk's production of Steel Magnolias in 2023 and awarded the Barnev Award for Best Featured Actress in play. She is grateful to so many mentors, past and present, Len, Bob, Jeff, Addiann, Ken, Janet and Meg for giving me the foundation to be a better actor and director.

Jan Ross (ASST TO THE DIRECTOR/PROPERTIES) is so happy to be back at Riverwalk Theatre! This show is an introduction for her to Mozart and his works. Sitting in rehearsal, Jan is swept away by his music. Jan wants to thank Amy and Marcus for letting her play! She wants to thank the cast for their dedication and willingness to work with her. Thanks to her husband for always supporting her, and her sisters for always being there for her. She hopes you all are swept away, too!





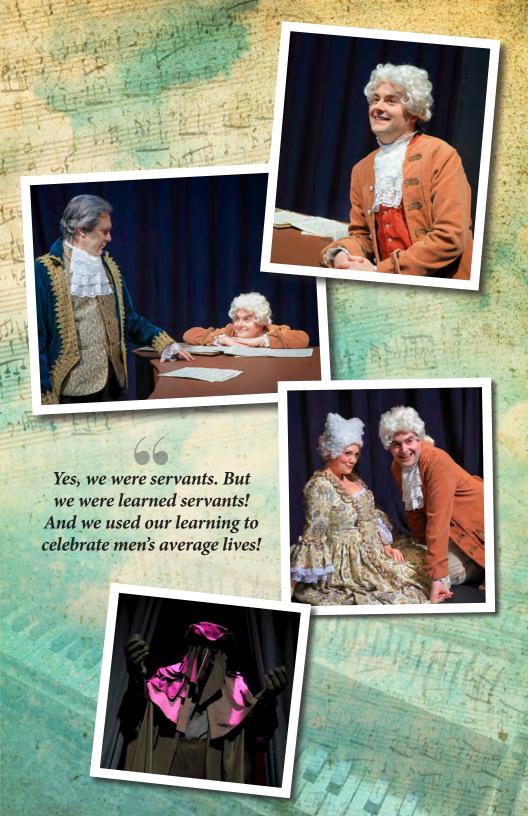
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by Timothy Allen McDonald; based on book by Roald Dahl Directed by Linda Widener MAY 16–19 & 23–26, 2024

More details at riverwalktheatre.com



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