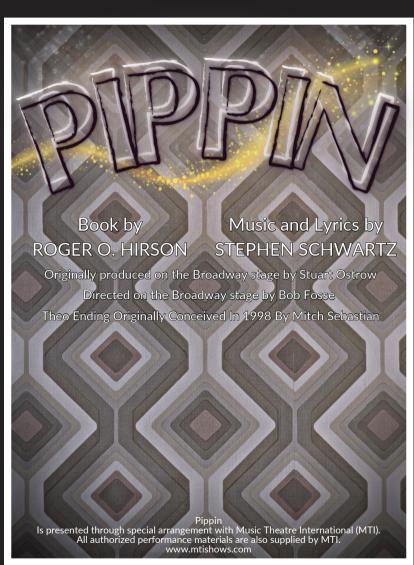
PLAYHOUSE

MERCED



MAY 11-27, 2023

7:30 PM



452 WEST MAIN ST. MERCED, CA 95340 (209) 725-8587



DIRECTOR GB Blackmon III

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Zakarias Dimpel-Alvarez

STAGE MANAGER Carissa Shrum

CHOREOGRAPHY Jessica Dimpel and Katy Uyeno

DANCE CAPTAIN Aralyn Day

COSTUMES Haley Paulissian

BACKSTAGE CREW Ethan Stokes and Genesis Acasio

LIGHTING DESIGN Mark Blackheart

LIGHT OPERATOR Carissa Shrum

SPOT OPERATORS Jared Carrillo and Maggie McSwain

SOUND Genesis Acasio

PROPERTIES Carissa Shrum and Chad Phillips

SET Mark Blackheart

PAINTING Jaden Key

PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHY Shawn Overton at Blue Ridge Photography

POSTER AND PROGRAM Emily McSwain

Please be courteous of your Playhouse family.
Turn OFF ALL CELLPHONES prior to curtain call.
The use of cellular phones or tablets during the performance, including texting, is expressly prohibited.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Lead Player	Jesse Garcia
Pippin	Jeshamon Volkerts
Charlemagne	. Matthew Rivera
Lewis	Chris Espinoza
Fastrada	Haley Paulissian
Berthie	Samantha Brooke
Catherine	Alyssa McCabe
Theo	Starr Schwartz
Ensemble	Cheney McGee,
Gabrielle Stokes, Katy Uyeno,	
Kalani Perez, Alejandro Arellano,	
Emily Casselman, Asia Joaquim	
Pit Singers	Kaoko Kada,
Karen Whitmyre, Izumi Johno	
Mary Hintenach, Aralyn Day,	
	Bennett Young

Due to strict copyright laws, the use of ANY recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs with or without flash is strictly prohibited.

SONGS OF ACT 1

PIPPIN

Magic to Do

Company

Corner of the Sky

Pippin

Magic Scene Change

Lead Player

War is Science

Charlemagne, Pippin, Company

Glory

Leading Player, Company

Victory

Company

Corner of The Sky (Reprise)

Pippin

Simple Joys

Pippin

No Time At All

Berthie, Company

With You

Leading Player, Pippin, Company

Spread A Little Sunshine

Fastrada, Lewis, Company

Morning Glow

Pippin

SONGS OF ACT 2

PIPPIN

Opening-Act II

Company

The Right Track

Leading Player, Pippin

There He was

Catherine

Kind Of Woman

Catherine

Extraordinary

Pippin

Prayer for a Duck

Pippin, Company

Love Song

Pippin, Catherine

Corner Of The Sky (Last Reprise)

Pippin

I Guess I'll Miss The Man

Catherine

Finale

Company

YOUR AD COULD HERE

BECOME A SPONSOR OF OUR 2023-2024 SEASON

Contact manage@playhousemerced.org for information on becoming a sponsor!



514 W. 19th Street Merced, CA 95340 (209)723-2191 smgexchange.com













3144 G. ST. **SUITE 125 PMB#245** MERCED, CA 95340 PHONE (209) 600-3925

www.shanesmithformercedcouncil4.com

RANDY HAYER OWNER / REALTOR

189 W. El Portal Drive Merced, CA 95348 209-765-3767 Fax: (209) 385-8516



Realty Executives of Northern California

PIPPIN

Jesse Garcia (Lead Player)

Jesse joins the Playhouse Merced Stage as the Lead Player in *Pippin!* Jesse is no stranger to the theatre. Some of his favorite past roles include Link Larkin (*Hairspray*), Teen Angle, (*Grease*), and Gaston (*Beauty and the Beast*). ""You've got to follow that dream, wherever that dream may lead." -Elvis Presley

Jeshamon Volkerts (Pippin)

Jeshamon has been a part of shows, both on and off stage at Playhouse Merced, since 2011. It was just the previous show where he made his debut back on stage after many years away from acting, and Couldnt be more excited to bring Pippin to life for everyone to see! Jeshamon believes Pippin is such a relatable character for any person who has felt that life must have so much more in store, but feeling lost in how to find their piece of the world, their "Corner in the Sky" one could say. He would like to thank his close friends G.B. and Katy for believing in him and helping him believe that he can be so much more capable than he would ever have thought possible. His Mother and Father for their eternal love support in all his life and endeavors. And a deeply sincere thank you to his amazingly loving and supportive girlfriend!

Matthew Rivera (King Charlemagne)

Matthew is very excited to play King Charlemagne in Pippin! Matt is no stranger to the stage, as he has been in quite a few productions around Merced County such as Shrek the Musical, The Great Gatsby, The Little Mermaid, Mary Poppins, and most recently Coraline The Musical this past October at Playhouse Merced as The Other Father.

Chris Espinoza (Lewis)

Chris Espinoza (Lewis) segues into Pippin straight from Sondheim on Sondheim. He is thrilled to be a part of this production and wants to thank everyone reading this for supporting local theatre. He also sends much love to the creative team and his cast mates for making this process such a joyous experience. Other Playhouse Merced credits include: The SpongeBob Musical (Patrick), Cats (Skimbleshanks), Charlie Brown (Linus).

Haley Paulissian (Fastrada)

Haley returns to the Playhouse Merced stage after her run as The Cat in *Coraline the Musical*! Haley has been a part of the Playhouse family for many years, both on and off stage. Some of her favorite roles of the past include Heather Duke (*Heathers the Musical* - Playhouse Merced) and Maggie (*Lend me a Tenor* - Prospect Theater). She wants to thank everyone for coming and hopes they enjoy the show.

Samantha Brooke (Berthie)

Samantha returns for another round of musical fun at Playhouse Merced! Sam has been in quite a few shows at Playhouse, including Miss Spink (*Coraline The Musical*) and Martha (*Spring Awakening*, Homecoming Troupe). She would like to say thank you Celsius, "for giving me 200 mg a can to help me perform a six minute song!"

MINIMA

Alyssa McCabe (Catherine)

Alyssa returns for another round of theatre at Playhouse Merced! You may have seen her around the Merced Theatre scene in various shows such as *Godspell* (Disciple), *The Great Gatsby* (Daisy), *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Peaseblossom) and most recently *Sondheim on Sondheim*. "I would like to thank my parents and brothers for always supporting me, as well as my Aunt Susu and Nana for always coming to my shows. I also want to thank Victor for his support. I'm excited to be a part of this show and appreciate everyone for coming."

Starr Schwartz (Theo)

Starr is no stranger to the stages of Merced County. You may have seen her in recent productions such as Fiona in *The Giver* (2023, Playhouse Merced) Dewdrop in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2022, Merced Shakes) and in the Ensemble in *RENT: School Edition* (2022, Playhouse Merced). "I'm really excited to be in this show, and thanks to my mom and grandma for helping me along the way!"

Cheney McGee (Ensemble)

Hey! Hey, I'm talking to you! My name's Cheney, and I'm happy to be back for another great show here at Playhouse Merced! I've been dedicated to the performing arts since junior year of college at CSU Monterey Bay. Some shows I've been a part of include Sondheim on Sondheim (Playhouse Merced, Feb. 2023); A Midsummer Night's Dream (Merced Shakes, Oct. 2022); and a Board member of The Performing Otters and Otter Improv at CSU Monterey Bay (2019-2020)! It's been a wild ride, but we all know you'll enjoy the magic!

Gabriel Stokes (Ensemble/Dance Captain)

Gabriel is excited to return to the Playhouse Merced Stage as a part of the Pippin cast! She has been a part of many productions both on stage and behind the scenes around the county, including *Godspell* (Anna Maria), *Oedipus* (Creon), a Assistant Director for Playhouse Merced's *Kids and Teen Summer Stage 2021*, and a dance teacher for 4 years at *Los Banos for Dance Explosion Studios*! "Thank you to the director, choreographers, and stage manager for giving me the opportunity to be apart of this amazing show. And thank you to my family for believing in me and driving me everywhere, I will get my license soon I swear."

Katy Uyeno (Ensemble/Choreography)

Katy is excited to help choreograph and be a part of the cast of Pippin! A regular to the Playhouse Merced scene, Katy has been in quite a few of our productions, on and off stage. Some of her favorite shows to choreograph have been *The SpongeBob Squarepants Musical*, Cats, Dragaret, and Rent: School Edition. "Special thanks to Jessica for sharing her dream with me. Couldn't have done this without her and GB by my side."

MINIMA

Alejandro Arellano (Ensemble)

Alejandro Arellano, an aspiring Librarian, is thrilled to be appearing in his eighth Playhouse production since 2013. He was last seen portraying Father in Coraline the Musical. Other productions and roles have included Ragtime (Ensemble), Spamalot (Not-Dead-Fred/Minstrel/Ensemble), Evita (Ensemble), & Despite the challenging rehearsal process, he is honored and proud to be working with such a skilled and committed cast. He is tremendously thankful for the love and support of his close friends, who've helped him in more ways than they know throughout the process. Finally, he would like to thank you—the audience—for spending your evening supporting live local theatre. "Enjoy the show!"

Emily Casselman (Ensemble)

Making her Playhouse Merced debut is Emily Casselman! Though new to Playhouse, she isn't new to the stage as she has been a part of shows such as *Chicago* (Ensemble & "Go to Hell" Kitty, North Coast Repertory Theatre), and *Cabaret* (Ensemble, Ferndale Repertory Theatre). Emily is a member of the local bellydance troupe Siren Sisters of the Sierra, a fire eater and fire dancer, and a lover of Fosse.

Asia Joaquim (Ensemble)

Asia has been a part of the Playhouse community for over 10 years! She's so excited to be working with this amazing cast and creative team. Over the past three years she's been behind the curtain on the technical side of theater, but you may have seen her in The Great Gatsby at Merced College, SpongeBob the Musical or Matilda the Musical at Playhouse Merced. She's happy to be back on stage full time to put on this magical show just for you! Big thanks to her parents, brothers, and boyfriend for supporting her! Enjoy one of Asia's simple joys!!

Kalani Perez (Ensemble)

Kalani Perez returns to the Playhouse Merced after 2 years. Kalani has been with Playhouse since his early theatre days in our Conservatory. Some of his most recent shows include *The Sound of Music*, A Chorus Line, The Great Gatsby, and Godspell. He would like to thank his friend Sam for convincing him to join the production!

PIPPIN

Zakarias Dimpel-Alvarez- Musical Director

Zak is excited to be Musical Director of Pippin! He is currently studying music at Merced College. Recently, he has been the musical director for Coraline: The Musical and Rent: Highschool Edition (Playhouse Merced). However, he was last on stage as Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby* (Merced College), George in *Godspell* (Playhouse Merced) and most recently as a featured singer in *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Playhouse Merced). Zak cannot wait for you to see this incredible show and all the work everyone has put in.

Carissa Shrum-Stage Manager

Carissa Shrum has been involved in theater since the age of three, working both on and off the stage. She is excited to work with Playhouse Merced as the stage manager for this production of Pippin! She has just completed her bachelor's degrees in Theatre and Communication Studies at Stanislaus State University. She would like to thank her family, friends for their consistent support and encouragement. Carissa would also like to thank the cast for all the hard work, energy, and time they put into this production. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Jessica Dimpel-Choreographer

Jessica Dimpel is excited to return to Playhouse Merced for another production! Jessica has been both on and off stage for Playhouse Productions. Some of her favorites include *Cats* (Co-choreographer, ensemble), *Ragtime* (Choreographer/Emma Goldman), and *A Christmas Story* (Co-Choreographer/Ensemble). "Thank you PHM for finally giving into my constant pleas and agreeing to finally do Pippin. Thank you to this amazing cast and crew for taking this journey with me. And as always, my undying love and gratitude to my beautiful family that shouldered more than their fair share while I had "Magic to Do"."

Mark Blackheart-Light Design

Mark Blackheart is the Technical Director here at Playhouse Merced. You may have seen and heard his work this past season in various shows like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr.* (Lights) *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Lights and Sound) and *The Giver* (Sound). "The highest form of knowledge is empathy, for it requires us to suspend our egos and live in another's world."

Aralyn Day- Dance Captain

Aralyn Day joins our talented group of Pit Singers in Pippin! Aralyn has been with Playhouse since her conservatory days and has many shows under her belt. Some of her favorite roles are Diana (Alls Well That Ends Well), A Shadow Dancer (Nevermore), and Spanish Flower and Snow Corps (The Nutcracker). She would like to thank the Pippin production team for facilitating the opportunity to work on this show! After dancing on this stage for over a decade, Aralyn has been excited to now help put dance on the stage.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PIPPIN



Welcome Back,

I'm G.B., and I have the distinct honor and privilege to introduce myself as the Artistic Director of your Playhouse Merced Center for the Performing Arts offering varied arts education, productions, and community theatre.

I have a great love and appreciation for our Playhouse, since 2011, I spent all my free time at the Playhouse. It was the place that I could share my love of the arts, my talents, and my creativity. The Playhouse gave me space to not only tap into my creativity, more importantly, I found my voice and my self-esteem. I was given the opportunity to improve upon my acting, singing, and dancing in a safe and supportive environment by instructors, staff, and peers who encouraged and enlightened me and countless others. I didn't know back then, how much of an impact this place would have on me, but after a few years, I could see my future was in the arts.

On behalf of our Playhouse Board of Directors and our staff, we would like to thank you for your continued patience, kindness, generosity, and support. We graciously welcome you and your families back to our Playhouse, as we continue to Enrich and Engage our community through theatre arts Education and live stage Entertainment. I'm so incredibly proud of this cast and team that have come together to put this show! We hope you enjoy our production of Pippin The Musical!

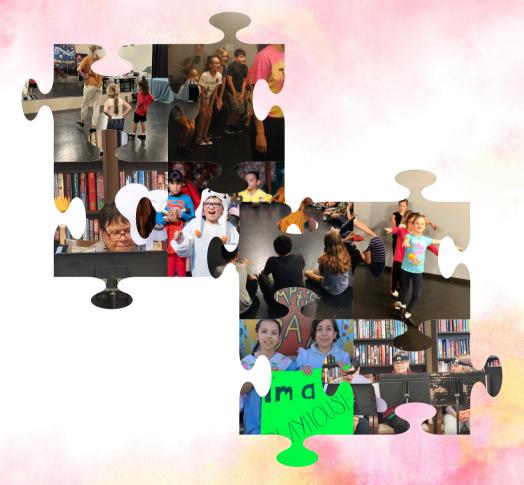
Kindest Regards,

-G.B. Blackmon III

PLAYHOUSE

EDUCATE

FALL 2023 SEMESTER

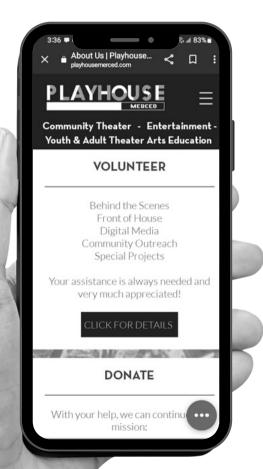


Registration Now Open www.playhousemerced.com

Want to help behind the scenes?

Interested in lending a helping hand to our playhouse merced family?

Sign up as a volunteer!



PLEASE VISIT
PLAYHOUSEMERCED.COM/VOLUNTEER
TO LEARN MORE

PLATHOUSE MERCED

29th Season Packages

2 GREAT PACKAGES TO CHOOSE FROM:

Full Mainstage Season Package: \$187.25

 Includes 1 ticket to each of our 29th Season Mainstage Shows!

Holiday Show Package: \$65 Adult/Senior \$35 Child/Student

Includes 1 ticket our 3 Holiday
 Offerings (Elf The Musical, Perennial Players Holiday One Acts, and A Charlie Brown Christmas)

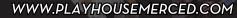
Visit our Website or contact our Box Office to purchase your Season Ticket Packages July 1st!



452 WEST MAIN ST.

MERCED, CA 95340

(209) 725-8587





Jerry Shewey 6 W 20th St, Merced (209) 383-1666





Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
(209) 381-6601

EL CAPITAN HOTEL BY HYATT 609 W MAIN ST, MERCED (209) 383-1234





MERCED COLLEGE

3600 M Street Merced, CA 95348-2806 Phone: (209) 384-6000

HOFFMAN

MERCED & ATWATER (209) 384-3305

FRESNO (559) 292-1811



1911 M ST, MERCED, CA 95340 (209) 723-4285 OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:30AM-5PM



A BLOOMING Afficial & Gifts

Tawni Vargas

Manager

Fresh Arrangements Funeral Designs Weddings
Balloon Bouquets Plants & Gifts Dry & Silks

463 W. Main St. Merced, CA 95340 (209) 723-9456 WE DELIVER

UCMERCED

University of California Merced

5200 North Lake Rd.

Merced, CA 95343

Telephone: (209) 228-4400



Community CONVERSATION

ROGER WOOD- PRODUCER | ROGER95301@ATT.NET

Listen live every Saturday morning at 7am on 107.3 FM & 1480 AM or live stream the show at 1480KYOS.com

TransCounty Title Co.

"Our Service <u>Is</u> The Difference"



Merced Branch

(000) 050

Los Banos Branch

8 - 8254 (209) 826 - 0804

(209) 383 - 4660

(209) 358 - 8254

Atwater Branch

Better Homes

2853 G St, Merced (209) 383-7653

REAL ESTATE



STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Artistic Director G.B. Blackmon, III

Education Director LuanaLei Turetzky

Technical DirectorMark Blackheart

Office / HR Manager Stephanie Atkinson

Accounting / Payroll
Tammy Powell

Youth Outreach Coordinator Rachel Battisti

House Manager Jeshamon Volkerts

Facility Manager Matthew Rivera

Box Office Associate Emily McSwain

Costume Librarian Heather Harrison **President**Sheilah Brooks

VP / FundraisingCarol Longobardi

Recording Secretary Myisha Reed

> **Treasurer** Adam Brynx

Corresponding Secretary
Talisha Brantley

Members

Matt Thomas Tina Sogocio Joe Torres

Thank you for supporting the Playhouse Merced which recognizes and contributes to the rich cultural tapestry that is the heart of California's Central Valley and our mission is to continue to Enrich, Engage, Educate, and Entertain our community through our arts education for all ages and live stage theatre performances. We understand that to accomplish our mission, we must continue to embrace and reflect the diversity of our community, while promoting inclusion through our actions and community involvement.

u playhouse merceo

PRESENTS OUR 29TH SEASON















29TH SEASON TICKET PACKAGES

Season Subscription: \$173.25

All 7 Main Stage Shows

Holiday Package: \$65 Adult/Senior

\$35 Child/Student

Includes tickets for Elf, Perennial Players,

Charlie Brown
On Sale July 1st, 2023

PLAYHOUSE

WWW.PLAYHOUSEMERCED.COM

452 WEST MAIN ST. MERCED, CA 95340

(209) 725-8587







June 5-22, 2023

Registration now open at playhousemerced.com/camps

