

HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG! – Artist Biographies



Randy Lee Bailey (Clem Stank) is an actor, carpenter, writer, singer, living in northern Kentucky. He has appeared in previous Hugo West Theatricals productions of DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS, HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG!, THE GOSPEL OF BARRABAS, and HARAMBE. He has performed throughout the Midwest at theaters including Cincinnati Playhouse In The Park, the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati, The Human Race, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Know Theater, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival and the Cincinnati Fringe Festival.

Randy lives in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, with his wife, Dr. Catherine Sherron, and owns Randy Bailey Carpentry, creating specialized cabinetry and remodeling projects in the Cincinnati area.



Ed Cohen (Alvin Schwartzman) has worked primarily as a director, in the local universities and professional theatres in recent years, but enjoyed acting in the somewhat distant past. Some favorite roles include Matt in TALLEY'S FOLLY, Billy in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, Prez in THE PAJAMA GAME, Atticus in TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD and Tito in LEND ME A TENOR. Many thanks to Josh for asking me to be part of this nutty production and to Dee Anne for once again letting theatre interfere with our anniversary.



Kevin Crowley (Director) returned to Cincinnati in 2006 from Los Angeles where he worked primarily in TV including CSI, Reba, Without a Trace, Murphy Brown, Drew Carey, Malcom in the Middle and Boy Meets World. Kevin's film credits include Major League I and II, The Fugitive, Backdraft, Suicide Kings, The Package and Goat. He also appeared in Carol and Dark Waters filmed in Cincinnati. Kevin was an actor, director and teacher with the famed Second City in Chicago for many years. He appeared with the Steppenwolf, Northlight and Victory Gardens theaters in Chicago. Other theater acting credits include WAR MUSIC at the David Geffen theater in Los Angeles (2003, Ovation Award), OF MICE AND MEN (2006, Acclaim Award) at the Playhouse in the Park and St. Louis Rep, and a Cincinnati Entertainment Award for his work in OPUS (2007) at the Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati. Writing credits include DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEES, which was workshopped at

the National Playwrights Conference and subsequently produced in NY, LA, Chicago and Cincinnati, THE MONKEE'S PAW (London, NY and Cincinnati Fringe Festival), HITCHHIKERS MAY BE INMATES, WE DID IT

GIRL, SARGE (Critics Pick of the Cincinnati Fringe 2014) and THE VEGETABLES (Audience Pick of Cincinnati Fringe 2019).



Chloe Esmeier (Dharla Barkley) is a recent graduate of NKU with dual degrees: a BFA in Musical Theatre and a BA in Public Relations with a Humanities minor. Some of her favorite past credits include: AMÉLIE (Amélie), FOOTLOOSE (Ariel), SNOW WHITE AND THE DANCING DWARFS (Snow White), VIOLET (Violet u/s), Kings Island's WINTERFEST (Singer/Dancer), and TUCK EVERLASTING (Winnie). Chloe just wrapped up a summer at Kings Island, where she sang and danced in RETROSPECT and GRAND CARNIVALE. She will return there later this season for Halloween in SPECTRAL SISTERS and for Winterfest in SWINGING INTO CHRISTMAS. In her free time, Chloe enjoys baking, hiking, babysitting, and lifting weights. Chloe thanks her mom, friends, and family for their support. She also thanks Josh for the opportunity! She hopes you enjoy this ribbiting performance. Keep up with Chloe on Instagram: @chloe.esm



Steve Goers (Music Director, Keyboard) is pleased to reprise his role as music director of the 2014 production of HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG. Goers most recently served as music director of ROCKY HORRO SHOW at The Carnegie and of HANDS ON A HARDBODY at Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, where his other credits include FUN HOME, THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL and GREY GARDENS. Goers is a member of the musical theatre faculty at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music and has worked locally with theatres throughout the region, including Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, The Carnegie, Cincinnati Landmark Productions and Northern Kentucky University. A composer of musicals himself, Goers has written numerous works for a variety of media, including ten feature film scores and twenty internationally produced musicals for young audiences. He toured the U.S. and Africa with productions of BARNUM, JERSEY BOYS and BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR.



Michael Douglas Hall (Playwright) is a playwright and actor living in Los Angeles. His writing work with Joshua Steele includes DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS: THE CEASE & DESIST MUSICAL, CESSNA, and HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG! Michael also wrote and performed a one person show, ZOMBIELOGUE, as well as writing and producing SUMATRAN RHINO. Along with stage roles like Oscar in THE ODD COUPLE and Martin Dysart in EQUUS, Michael has been seen on the silver screen in The Public, directed by Emilio Estevez, and on Apple TV's hit show Physical. He lives with his beautiful girlfriend Dierdre and their awesome dog Brutus.



Tom Highley (Peepaw) has performed in a wide range of roles over the past four decades. During his undergraduate years, supporting roles in *A CHORUS LINE*, *THE TEMPEST*, *WORKING*, and *ALL MY SONS* were well received and led to performance work at King's Island and corporate theater, where he worked as a vocal director.

After returning to college to earn a teaching degree in English, Tom spent years as a high school theater director, staging productions of *GOD'S FAVORITE*, *DON'T DRINK THE WATER*, and *CRIMES OF THE HEART*, to name a few. Years later, Tom returned to acting, earning critical praise for his role of Allan Swann in *MY FAVORITE YEAR*. This led to opportunities on area stages, most notably playing Carl Magnus in *A Little Night Music* with New Stage Collective, Roger DeBris in *THE PRODUCERS* with Cincinnati Landmark Productions, and Hugo West in Cincinnati Fringe Festival production of *DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS*.

Tom is excited to once again be performing with Hugo West Theatricals and thanks his family for their support!

Bill Jackson (Bass) Bill Jackson has been on the local and regional music scene in Cincinnati for over 35 years. He plays upright and electric bass in a variety of groups, performing jazz, Latin, pop/rock, as well as musical theater. He is thankful to be able to make music with the area's finest musicians in each genre. His theater appearances include the Aronoff Center for the Arts, Ensemble Theater Cincinnati, Playhouse in the Park, Dayton's Human Race Theater and The Carnegie in Northern Kentucky.

Bill is happy to be a part of *THE LOVELAND FROG* production. When not performing, he enjoys life with his family and their dog, Bix.

Clare Jaymes (Stage Manager) is happy to be back stage managing for Hugo West Theatricals! Her last gig with them was last summer, stage managing *UTOPIA, OHIO*. She spends her days running her event management business called Clarity Events but enjoys moonlighting as a stage manager when time allows. She graduated from CCM with a BFA in Stage Management. She wants to thank Josh Steele for bringing her on for this wonderful show, and to her husband Dan who always supports her theatre dreams, even when it means they don't see much of each other.

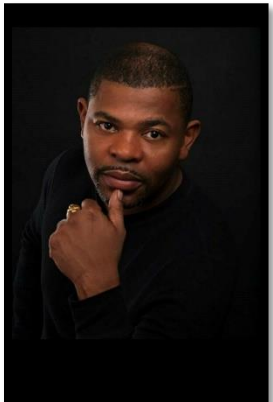


Beth Joos (Costume Designer) is excited to be part of the production team for *HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG!* at Loveland Stage Company. After a career in education, she earned a degree in Theatre Arts at NKU. She has designed and built costumes for Cincinnati Landmark Productions, Footlighters, The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, The Carnegie, Falcon Theatre, Moeller High School, The Merit Theatre Company and Northern Kentucky University. She enjoys designing for a variety of genres and styles. Beth's favorite costume magic trick is turning an ordinary item of clothing into something spectacular.



Bethany Xan Kerr (Randi Mae Stank) Nat'l tour and Internat'l tour of KINKY BOOTS (Pat); NYC- COMPANY (Jenny u/s) at Lincoln Center, CHATAUTAUQUA at The Public, HOW THE WESTONS WON at New York Theater Barn, DUMB LUCK at TruVoices, 420 THE MUSICAL at The Kraine Theater; Workshops- ME THE PEOPLE (Hillary Clinton), PUSSY RIOT (Vladimir Putin), QUANAH (Lucinda), A LASTING IMPRESSION (Mother), EXIT ROW and a new production of SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE (Dot). Additionally, Bethany won the Dark Chat Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for Best Performance in a Musical for her rendition of Alice in THE ADDAMS FAMILY. She has performed in other regional productions, such as SISTER ACT (Sister Mary Patrick) in Colorado, BEAUTIFUL (Carole King) and SWING at The Carnegie; THE LITTLE MERMAID (Ursula) and NARNIA (White Witch) at The Children's Theater, BRIGHT STAR (Alice) at the Covedale Center and originated the role of the Matchmaker in

THE GIRL WHO at the Edinburgh Fringe. On screen, you may have also seen her on ABC in an episode of What Would You Do? alongside supermodel Ashley Graham and host John Quiñones, in a number of commercials and ads, or has one of the featured dancers in Beachbody's YOUV2 series. Currently, Bethany is on faculty at NKU in the theater department, having previously been at Xavier, and is also the Director of Theater Arts at CCM Prep. She has a Master's in Musical Theater from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, a BFA Musical Theater and BFA Acting from Pace University NYC, and is an alum of Interlochen Arts Academy. Agent: Heyman Talent. For her husband, her babies Adrian & Izzy, and parents.



Deondra Means (Roy Barkley) was born and raised in Cincinnati and discovered his love for the arts through music at church and at Cincinnati's School for the Creative and Performing Arts. After graduating from Webster University in St. Louis, he completed an internship where he served in many aspects of the work, acting tour roles, office support, and fundraising at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre. This experience gave him a desire to start his own theater company, Kuumba People of Color Theatre Ensemble.

Deondra returned to Cincinnati, where he took on many roles with The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati. With Deondra's help, TCT expanded its focus into curricular-based literature for young adults where historical stories came to life in workshops like "From the Page to the Stage." He recently became the Educational Associate of Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati, where he also recently

trod the boards as Ronald McCowan in HANDS ON A HARDBODY.

As a voice actor, Deondra has worked with the Hear / Now Festival, the productions of Blood Cotton and American Socialist: The Life and Times of Eugene Victor Debs, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Lollipops Family Concerts and podcasts for The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati. Deondra is a featured vocalist with The Hues Corporation and the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra ragtime band.



Paul Morris (Jeb Schmidt) has been in the Cincinnati theater scene for almost 30 years now. Some of his favorite stage roles during that time has been ON THE OPEN ROAD at the Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, THE DRAGON at Know Theatre, THE RIVERSIDE at The Clifton Performance Theatre, THE MAN WHO SHOT LIBERTY VALANCE at Falcon Theatre, WEST SIDE STORY at The Carnegie Theatre, and TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC. He's also been getting his weird on the last ten plus years in quite a few shows with THE BURYING BEETLES and recently with The Clifton Players in THE REMBRANDT JOB during the annual Cincinnati Fringe Festival. He directed the award winning RED LIGHT WINTER for Untethered Theatre, which led to him becoming a company member. He's also directed both critically acclaimed shows FRANKENSTEIN and THE EXONERATED for Falcon Theatre. Later this fall,

he will play Horace Greeley in the new piece GHOST GIRLS at The Liberty Exhibition Hall. His TV work extended to The West Wing back in the day. Special shout outs go to Kevin and Josh for the call. And, to all of you who have attended this show, thank you!



Linsey Rogers (Old Woman, Fiddle) made her Hugo West Theatricals debut last year as Esther Wattles (and others) in UTOPIA, OHIO, and she is thrilled to be joining the bluegrass-y shenanigans this year to tell the tale of the Frog(man)! Linsey is a singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and actor whose current mantra is "Stay curious, explorer." She's kind of like what Sara Bareilles might be if Sara Bareilles also played violin and viola... at least she hopes.

Life has taken her many directions after graduating from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, branching into a wide variety of gigs including studio musician, symphony orchestra member, actor-musician, teacher, bookseller, and many more. Recent highlights include debuting her original holiday song "Snowfall" at the Ghostlight Stage Company's Holiday Cabaret and performing aboard Disney Cruise Lines as an entertainer musician, providing cabaret-style shows nightly in the piano lounges aboard the Magic and the Wonder. She is thankful to have performed both onstage and in the pit for several Cincinnati area theaters, including Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Falcon Theatre, Memorial Hall, The Carnegie, and the Covedale Center for the Performing Arts. Favorite past roles are Annas in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR at the Incline Theatre and The Fiddler in DARKEST NIGHT AT THE GNARLY STUMP at the Know Theatre.

You can find her livestreaming Tunes at 2 most Tuesdays on YouTube ([youtube.com/@TheWanderingLinstrel](https://www.youtube.com/@TheWanderingLinstrel)), combining strings, voice, and piano through her looper pedal to create unique covers and originals. She is currently working on releasing her first album of original works, FINDING NORTHWEST, a project that explores a seemingly broken inner compass. When she's not making music, you will probably find her playing pinball in competitions or on her stream What The Flip, crocheting, hiking, reading, collaging, or chilling with her kitties. Someday she hopes to move to Alaska. Come say hi at www.TheWanderingLinstrel.com!



Cian Steele (Luke Honeywell) makes his Hugo West Theatricals debut with *HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG!*, reprising the role his older brother, Kelsey, played in the show's 2014 debut production. Cian most recently appeared in the tour of *LABEL•LESS*, which played locally at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. He would like to thank you for coming to see the show, and to thank his friends and family for all the support and cheering him on to chase his dreams. @cian_steele



Joshua Steele (Playwright, Producer) is a vocalist, actor, playwright, producer, arts administrator and educator. Professional stage credits include Henry Ford in *RAGTIME* with Alton Fitzgerald White, Nikki Renee Daniels, Ashley Brown and Ron Bohmer (Cincinnati Pops); Littlechap in *STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO GET OFF* (Kentucky Symphony Orchestra); Lemony Snicket's *THE COMPOSER IS DEAD* (Cincinnati Pops); *SOME ENCHANTED EVENING, THE SUNSHINE BOYS, ROUTE 66* (NKU Commonwealth Theatre); Anthony in *THE HOUSE OF YES* (Untethered Theatre Company); Scraggly Santa in *YES, VIRGINIA* with Norm Lewis and Liz Callaway (Cincinnati Pops); Felix in *THE ODD COUPLE* (Showboat Majestic); the Stepmother in *CINDERELLA* (The Covedale); Ross Gardiner in *VISITING MR. GREEN* (Monmouth Theatre); Crumpet and Jocelyn in the paired one-man shows *SANTALAND DIARIES* and *SEASON'S GREETINGS* (New Edgecliff Theatre); Jim in *I LOVE A PIANO* (The Covedale); the title role in *THE ELEPHANT MAN* (Falcon Theatre); Jesus in *COTTON PATCH GOSPEL* (Showboat Majestic); Gabe in the Neil Sedaka revue *BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO* (Acclaim Award winner, Cincinnati Entertainment Award nominee; The Covedale) and Father Virgil Manly Trott in *NUNCRACKERS* (NKU Commonwealth Theatre). Other favorite roles have included the title role in *PETER PAN* (Cincinnati Music Theatre), Tobias in *SWEENEY TODD* (Cincinnati Entertainment Award Winner; Footlighters), Jamie in *THE LAST FIVE YEARS* and Buddy in *SIDE SHOW* (New Stage Collective). Joshua has also appeared on classical stages, with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and the Cincinnati Opera.

As a vocalist, Joshua is a featured soloist with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra Boogie Band, and a soloist at Community of the Good Shepherd in Montgomery, OH. He leads the two-time "Best of Cincinnati"-winning a cappella ensemble No Promises Vocal Band, and enjoys performing with his father, Tom, in the soft rock trio The Three Bald Guys. He had the pleasure of touring Italy with the 22-voice New World Vocal Consort, comprised of professional vocalists from across North America.

As a playwright, Joshua has collaborated with Michael Douglas Hall on *CESSNA: A DRAMA NOIR, DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS, HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG!* and *THE LETTERS OF VINCENT VAN GOGH: A LIVE PERFORMANCE*. His solo writing credits include *HARAMBE, THE GOSPEL OF BARABBAS* and the musical *UTOPIA, OHIO*, which enjoyed a sold-out run last summer at The Carnegie Center of Columbia Tusculum.

In his full-time endeavors, Joshua is the Senior Manager of Memorial Hall, a recently renovated 556-seat venue in Over-the-Rhine, where he hosts nearly 300 events and performances annually. Notable acts he has presented at the venue include Matt Nathanson, Graham Nash, Judy Collins, Chris Thile, Del McCoury, Dave Mason, Moth Radio Hour, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Andrew McMahon, Andy Grammer, Christopher Cross, Robert Cray, Jefferson Starship, John Butler and Ricky Skaggs, as well as concert stagings of The Who's TOMMY and RING OF FIRE. He previously served as the Managing Director of Theatre at The Carnegie in Covington, KY, where he originated and produced the award-winning theatre series and Carnegie in Concert chamber music series. Joshua was honored to be named an Acclaim Award MVP for his producing work at The Carnegie. He was included as one of "10 Who Are Advancing The Arts" and called "Cincinnati theatre's most impressive multitasker" by the Cincinnati Enquirer, and has been called "the definition of a contemporary impresario" by Cincinnati Citybeat. His productions of PARADE and CHICAGO were named "Best Musical of the Year" by the League of Cincinnati Theatres. Earlier in his career, Joshua co-founded and served as Executive Director of New Stage Collective, served as General Manager of the Vocal Arts Ensemble and interned for the Executive Director of Arena Stage in Washington, DC. Joshua served as President of the League of Cincinnati Theatres from 2014 to 2016.

Tom Steele (Guitar) is an award-winning singer-songwriter from Cincinnati. He performs with his son, Joshua, and their friend, Rick Hagee, in the soft rock trio The Three Bald Guys, following long tenures with the popular rock & roll band, Toast, and his light jazz ensemble, Slice. His voice and original jingles from his years as a session musician are core memories for many Cincinnatians and are still heard on radio and TV today. In his day-to-day work, Tom is a broker and real estate agent, and lives in Blue Ash with his wife, Mimi, and their dog, Joey.



Chris Stewart (Assistant Professor Shroeder Kipling) is a director, playwright, actor, teacher and freelance creative who has previously worked with Hugo West Theatricals in the acclaimed shows DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS and HARAMBE. He's a longtime performer with The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, where he also wrote or directed dozens of touring shows (notably TESLA, MOZART'S SISTER, THE SWORD IN THE STONE, MRS. CLAUS SAVES THE DAY), and directed the MainStage production RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA in early 2024. Chris and his wife Kari co-authored a book on infertility and embryo adoption, SNOWFLAKE BABY (available on Amazon). They live in northern Kentucky with their two

delightful sons, Miles and Francis. Chris is also a distance runner and pastor, whose video work for Crossroads Kids' Club is on YouTube.