



Wednesday, August 30, 2023 Thursday, August 31, 2023

WE'LL MEET AGAIN A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL

Created and Written by JAMES R. HARRIS
Orchestral and Vocal Arrangements by MARK HAYES
Featuring 1940s-era music by various composers

Produced in association with
The Arts Association of East Alabama

Phillip Preston, DIRECTOR

Petrina Maher, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

THE COLLABORATORS

DIRECTOR

Richard Rose

| choreographer Amanda Aldridge | миsіс director Jeremy Jacobs | set designer Derek Smith |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| COSTUME DESIGNER Amanda Aldridge | LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGNER Mike Prow | projection designer Derek Smith |
| ASSISTANT TO CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCE CAPTAIN Nathan Hoyt | ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER Krista Guffey | DIALECT COACH Natasha Staley |

STAGE MANAGER

AnnaRae Martin

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

MacKenzie Mulligan

SOUND ENGINEER

Annabell Mallard

We'll Meet Again received its world premiere at the Historic Savannah Theatre in Savannah, Georgia, and the Opelika Center for the Performing Arts in Opelika, Alabama.

We'll Meet Again was developed, in part, by Barter Theatre, Abingdon, Virginia, through Barter's Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights.

This production was made possible by the support and encouragement of







THE CAST

Eugene Wolf Henry Stern

Daryann Roberson Anna Williams

Richie Cook Uncle Julius

Sandy Van Pelt Granny

Rachel Elezi Hedwig Stern (Mother)

Jeremy Kole Arthur Stern (Father)

Ethan Brandon Young Henry

Truman Nash Teen Henry

Andrew O'Brien Hauptmann

Kayla Wilkens Millie O'Brien

Tim Clayton Randy Baker

Sara Garfinkel Waitress / Ensemble / USO Trio

Neftali Arian Benitz Ensemble / Movie Manager / USO Announcer / Guard

Emma Pearl Miller Ensemble / USO Trio

Nathan Hoty Ensemble / Neighbor / German Soldier / Fred

THE BAND

Jeremy Jacobs, KEYBOARDS / CONDUCTOR with Bob Ballengee, Glenn Diamond and Stacia Brown

TIME & PLACE

We'll Meet Again takes place between 1936 and 1944 and also in 2005 in various locations in Germany and the United States, including the Stern home in Westheim, Germany, the Stern home in Opelika, Alabama, and the POW camp constructed in 1942 to hold WWII captured German prisoners. The meeting in 2005 between Henry Stern and Anna Williams takes place in a restaurant in Raleigh, North Carolina.

We'll Meet Again will have one 15-minute intermission.

ON WE'LL MEET AGAIN — DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS A TRULY AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

e have been working toward this world premiere of We'll Meet Again for a long time, which is normal for any musical, as musicals are a very challenging art form. I read somewhere recently that the average American musical can take between 6 to 8 years from inception through development before the show gets its first professional theatre staging. Jim Harris, the creator and author, and Mark Hayes, the orchestrator and vocal arranger, have spent every bit or more of that amount of time and effort on We'll Meet Again.

My involvement with the show began almost 6 years ago when Barter Theatre first considered the show for inclusion in the Theatre's Appalachian Festival of Plays and Playwrights (AFPP), which is Barter's annual program for the development of new works. As it turned out, We'll Meet Again became the highest attended and by far the most popular show ever in the 20 years of AFPP's stage readings series. The story and music connected and engaged our audiences of all ages with a response that was exciting and very passionate.

The question that one must always try to understand is "Why?" We knew the show would likely be popular with older audiences, who are more familiar with WWII era music. But its success with younger patrons and high school age audiences was a bit of a surprise.

The answer, it turns out, was quite simple. Jim Harris, in creating this show, stated that he wanted this story, inspired by the real life of Henry Stern, to capture the essence of what America has meant to the world in our best moments – love of family, love of country, welcoming others into our culture, and striving and succeeding together as a community.

Henry Stern's life and the story of We'll Meet Again is truly about that "American Experience," which has happened in the past and continues to happen every day in our great country; just think about it.

We hope that Jim's show will serve as a reminder to all of us, as to what is good and great about our country when we live up to our ideals. We hope this story will inspire you, as it has inspired us, to understand all of the wonderful things we are capable of discovering together on a daily basis.

– Richard Rose, director of We'll Meet Again

THE SONGS

"Overture" Orchestra, Randy, Millie, Female Ensemble

"Lamentation" Granny

"The Horst Wessel Lied" Hauptmann

"You're a Grand Old Flag" Julius

"Hava Nagila" Julius and Chorus

"Avinu Malkeinu" Granny, Chorus, Young Henry

"Juke Box Saturday Night" Millie, Randy, Ensemble

"Arum Dem Fayer" Mother, Young Henry, Julius, Father

Julius, Millie, Randy

"The House I Live In" Randy, Millie

"I'll Be with You in Apple Blossom Time" USO Trio: Millie, Francine, Doris

"Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" Mother, Father

"The White Cliffs of Dover" Millie

"They're Either Too Young or Too Old" Hauptmann

"I Had a Comrade" Father, Mother, Julius, Teen Henry

"Ma'oz Tzur" Hauptmann, Millie, Randy, Mother,

"Silent Night" Father, Teen Henry

"Der Fuehrer's Face" Teen Henry, Randy, Julius, Father.

Mother, Millie

"I'll Be Seeing You" Millie, Randy

"There'll Be a Hot Time in the Julius, Teen Henry, Millie, Mother, Father

Town of Berlin"

"I'll Be Seeing You Reprise" Millie

"Avinu Malkeinu Reprise" Old Henry and Chorus

"Finale" Randy, Millie, Father, Mother,

Julius, Full Company

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A very special thanks to **Kate Larkin**, company manager, without whom this tour would not have been possible. Special thanks to Professor Robin McKercher of Doane University. Thanks also to Alice Sullivan and Barter Theatre's costume shop for their cooperation and assistance.

THE COLLABORATORS



James R. Harris (Creator and Writer) originally conceived an idea to use Henry Stern's story of his family's remarkable odyssey from Nazi Germany to Opelika as the inspirational nucleus of a new musical about WWII, using original songs from the period to be arranged by Mark Hayes. This is the second musical Harris has written in collaboration with composer/arranger Hayes. The first was the award-winning musical Civil War Voices, featuring songs and true stories of that stirring period of history. Civil War Voices was produced by Barter Theatre, the state theatre of Virginia, after a successful festival run in New York City, and has been subsequently performed in 16 states, including a production at the Historic Savannah Theater. The show was published by Dramatic Publishing Company in 2013. Harris is a lawyer by profession and has a great love for musical theater, having performed in more than 50 musical productions.



Mark Hayes (Orchestral and Vocal Arrangement) is an award-winning concert pianist, composer, arranger and conductor of international renown. His personal catalog. totaling more than 1,500 published works, includes works for musical theater, solo voice, solo piano, multiple pianos. orchestra, jazz combo, small instrumental ensembles, and choruses of all kinds. Hayes travels extensively as a concert pianist and choral conductor. He has conducted several of his choral/orchestral works at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Hayes wrote the musical score for Civil War Voices, which won six awards at the Midtown International Theatre Festival in July 2010. He composed and arranged the music for I'll Be Home for Christmas and Four Tickets to Christmas, two musicals with playwright Deborah Craig-Claar. Hayes orchestrated the new hit musical, Madame Buttermilk, by Ross Carter and is the music arranger and orchestrator for We'll Meet Again, by playwright Jim Harris.



Richard Rose (*Director*) served as producing artistic director for historic Barter Theatre, the state theatre of Virginia, for 27 years, retiring in 2019. During his tenure at Barter, Rose helped quadruple attendance, attracting more than 163,000 people. Annual revenues also grew from \$750,000 to almost \$9 million. Rose has directed, choreographed, designed, and/or written more than 136 productions at Barter Theatre. He has directed and/or produced several dozen world premiere musicals and plays at Barter Theatre, at other regional

theatres, and in New York. Among his favorite shows he has directed are Frankenstein (his own original adaptation), acknowledged as one of the best new U.S. regional theatre plays of the year; the first regional theatre production of Bright Star, following its Broadway run; Disney's Tarzan; Friendly's Fire; The Diary of Anne Frank (National Tour); Big Fish; Madame Buttermilk (world premiere with orchestrations by Mark Hayes); The Full Monty; and The Who's Tommy (of which Rose directed the world premiere as a theatre staging), to name just a few. Rose is always happy to work with his wife, choreographer and costume designer Amanda Aldridge, as they have had and long and fruitful career of collaborating together.



Amanda Aldridge (Choreographer and Costume Designer). For 27 years, Aldridge held the position of resident choreographer and costume designer at Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, where her work includes more than 185 productions. Among the shows she choreographed and designed are Singing in the Rain, Bright Star, White Christmas, Chicago, Big Fish, Curtains, Marvelous Wonderettes, Anything Goes, The Wizard of Oz, Man of La Mancha, Les Miserables, Cabaret, Beauty and the Beast, Evita, Thoroughly Modern Millie and Gypsy. Among Aldridge's choreography credits are Footloose, Mamma Mia, The Full Monty, Kiss Me Kate, Zombie Prom, Nine to Five. Mary Poppins and The Who's Tommy. Other costume design credits include Sister Act, The Cottage, Dracula!, Phantom, 1776 and Keep on the Sunnyside. Previously, Aldridge studied in New York City, where she worked as a resident designer and choreographer.



Jeremy Jacobs (Musical Director) is a New York City-based music director, teaching artist and pianist. Selected regional credits include Jersey Boys and Always...Patsy Cline (STAGES St. Louis); the pilot production of Alice by Heart (The Beacon School); and Patches and Peter Pan (Piknik Theatre). Jacobs is an active teaching artist at various educational theatre programs like TADA! Youth Theatre, A Class Act (New York City) and Piknik Theatre (Steamboat Springs). He is also the music director of the choral and theatre ensembles at The Beacon School in Manhattan. Jacobs is the personal assistant to composer Crystal Monee Hall. He received a B.M. in music direction for musical theatre from Webster University.



Derek Smith (Scene Designer) has served as resident scenic designer at Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, since 2012 (recently completing his 100th scenic design at Barter). Before, he served as Barter's scenic artist beginning in 2003. Past designs include Madame Buttermilk, A Christmas Carol (2016), Tarzan, Big Fish, Footloose, A Christmas Story, Mary Poppins, The Three Musketeers, Ring of Fire, Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, A Streetcar Named Desire, Avenue Q, Romeo & Juliet and Kentucky Spring. Smith is a native of Kingsport, Tennessee, and is an alumnus of the Savannah College of Art and Design (B.F.A., painting, 2003).



Natasha Staley (Dialect Coach) is an associate professor of voice and acting at the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech and an associate teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework®. Voice and dialect coaching credits include the New Swan Shakespeare Festival (four seasons/eight productions, Irvine, California), The Cottage at Barter Theatre (Abingdon, Virginia), and Good People at Asolo Rep (Sarasota, Florida). Staley is a member of the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA).



AnnaRae Martin (Stage Manager) is excited to be We'll Meet Again's stage manager. She has previously worked on productions at American Players Theatre, The Stanley Theatre, Broadway Utica, Syracuse Stage, Gifford Family Theatre and various other arts organizations. She graduated with bachelor's degrees in history and theatre along with a master's degree in arts administration from Le Moyne College. Martin currently resides in Upstate New York. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for your support and love.



Annabell Mallard (Sound Engineer) is a recent Auburn University theatre graduate from Atlanta, Georgia. Some of her Auburn credits include Edges (sound designer), Pippin (sound designer/A1) and Detroit '67 (stage manager). After college she moved back to Atlanta where she has been working as a sound tech at a few local theatres including City Springs Theatre Company and the FoCal Center. She is excited to be able to help bring this story to life with the amazing cast and crew!



MacKenzie Mulligan (Assistant Lighting Designer/Master Electrician) has worked across the United States on a variety of projects from concerts to musicals. Design credits include The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin (Karamu House); Sherwood and Steel Magnolias (Creede Repertory Theatre); The Book of Mamaw (Barter Theatre); Amelia, Alice in Wonderland, James and the Giant Peach (Barter Players); Pageant, The Real Inspector Hound (Stage Austin); RENT (San Antonio Broadway Theatre); A Christmas Carol Classic Radiocast (Penfold Theatre); and Secrets of the Sea (Literati). Electrician positions held include master electrician for Cain Park Summer Concert Series, 2021; lighting supervisor for Texas State University, 2020–2022; and Smith Theatre Electrician for Barter Theatre, 2015–2019. mackenziemulligan.com

THE CAST



Eugene Wolf (Henry Stern) is a native of Greeneville, Tennessee, and studied music and theatre at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He was a member of Johnson City's Road Company for 16 years and has worked with Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, for 26 years as an actor and director. Credits include: Theatre: A.P. Carter (Keep On The Sunny Side), Richard Nixon (Nixon's Nixon), Woodrow Wilson (The Second Mrs. Wilson), The Creature (Frankenstein), lago (Othello), Fagin (Oliver!); Film: Box of Moonlight and The Curse; Television: A.P. Carter in Lost Highway (BBC) and Will the Circle Be Unbroken: PBS American Experience. He has made music with Ed Snodderly as The Brother Boys for 35 years. In 2013, Wolf travelled to Russia to record Where We'll Never Grow Old, an album of American spirituals with Russian folk musician Mitya Kuznetsov. His one-man show, The Book Of Mamaw, took home the United Solo/Backstage Audience Award in 2019. Wolf is honored to be bringing the story of Henry Stern to the world!



Daryann Roberson (Anna Williams) is a 23-year-old Savannah, Georgia, native. Starting out as a dancer at a young age, Roberson has performed in The Nutcracker, Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty. She has also danced competitively in other styles of dance. Her love for performance quickly turned to acting, which led her to seek out roles in local theatre. She has performed in The Hunchback of Notre Dame, The Pajama Game, Beauty and the Beast, Matilda and more. She has also studied at the Savannah College of Art and Design and has just closed in a local production of Grease.



Richie Cook (Julius) has been a performer, director, and teacher in the Savannah, Georgia, area for 15 years. He is a theatre instructor at Savannah Arts Academy working with Chatham County's most talented young theatre artists. Before moving to Savannah, Cook performed for Holland America Cruiseline, Dollywood Theme Park, and Country Tonite Theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. He holds an M.F.A. in media and performing arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design and a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Tennessee. Cook works with many theatre organizations in the Savannah area, including Savannah REP, Savannah Children's Theatre, the Historic Savannah Theatre, Bay Street Theatre, and the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina in Hilton Head. South Carolina.



Sandy Van Pelt (Granny) was most recently seen on stage in the title role of Marjorie Prime at the Johnny Carson Theater at the Lied Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, followed by We're Still Here, an original cabaret experience involving the audience. She is most proud to have played the role of Ida Stern in the premiere of We'll Meet Again at the Historic Savannah Theatre in Savannah, Georgia, in 2022. She played Berthe in Pippin (Nebraska Repertory Theater and OmniArts Nebraska); Madame de la Grande Bouche in Beauty and the Beast (Pinewood Bowl Theater); Vera Charles in Mame (Lincoln Community Playhouse); and Willa Cather in Catherland (TADA Theater). She has performed at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and has workshopped with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Van Pelt has sung with the Johnny Manhattan Orchestra for two years and currently performs her original cabaret act with Jack Forbes Wilson. She retired from Lincoln Public Schools after 35 years of working with young children. She developed a program for elementary students called Cardboard Box Theater. Van Pelt has two adult children and currently lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Rachel Elezi (Hedwig Stern (Mother)) is thrilled to be joining the cast of We'll Meet Again on tour! Equally at home in opera and musical theatre, she has engaged audiences across the United States and Europe, with performances in Italy, Germany and Lithuania. Select engagements include credits as both a soloist at Anghiari Festival and as a competition semi-finalist at the Concorso Lirico Internazionale Santa Gianna Beretta Molla (Associazione Culturale Giuseppe Verdi). She made her Lincoln Center debut for the Leonard Bernstein Centennial, Lenny @100. Select stage roles include Tamara (The Demon), Clorinda (La Cenerentola), Medea (Il Giasone) and Helena (Midsummer Rekindled).



Jeremy Kole (Arthur Stern (Father)) is honored to return to We'll Meet Again as Arnold Stern. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, Kole spends his time traveling up and down the coast, reading, writing and looking for exciting and original theatre work. He would like to thank Ginger and J Stern, Coach Pearl, the town of Opelika, and his girlfriend, Jackie Simons. Follow on Instagram @jerisabear for past credits!



Ethan Brandon (Young Henry) was born in Savannah, Georgia. He is 10 years old and has two sisters and one brother. Brandon began performing at age 8 with Savannah Children's Theater. Highlights include the lead role of Jack in Magic Treehouse Knights at Dawn and Prince Lewellyn in Let Your Hair Down, Rapunzel. Brandon is a third year competitive gymnast. He is excited to enter the fifth grade and is learning to play the trumpet in the school band. Brandon dreams of becoming an actor when he grows up.



Truman Nash (Teen Henry) stepped through the threshold of the Savannah Children's Theatre's doors for the first time at age 9—there was no turning back. Nash's favorite part of performing is when he and the audience connect through his character's emotions, especially humor. In 2022, Nash performed in French Woods Performing Arts production of Guys and Dolls as Nathan Detroit; in SCT's productions of The Lightning Thief (A Percy Jackson Musical) as Percy Jackson; and in The Giver as The Giver. Nash is a sophomore and theatre major at Savannah Arts Academy. He performed in SAA's 2021 productions of Asylum as Kevin and Little Shop of Horrors as the Dental Patient and the News Reporter. He is a member of the Thespian Society. Since that first audition in 2016, Nash has been in 20 performances.



Andrew O'Brien (Hauptmann) is thrilled to join the cast of We'll Meet Again. Some of his favorite recent credits include Next to Normal (Gabe); the New York Pops Christmas Concert at Carnegie Hall (chorus); Cabaret ("Tomorrow Belongs to Me" tenor); Sunday in the Park with George (Louis); The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Reverend Crisparkle); and Sweeney Todd (male ensemble). He is a recent graduate of the Manhattan School of Music. Beyond performing, O'Brien is a thrill seeker with a travel bug. He would like to thank his family, friends and Encompass Arts for all of their support.



Kayla Wilkens, soprano, (Millie O'Brien) is delighted to return to the role of Millie O'Brien after the Historic Savannah Theatre premiere of We'll Meet Again. Most recently, Wilkens has appeared as Cinderella in R&H's Cinderella with Super Summer Theatre; Littler Zegler in Proving Up with Opera Las Vegas; Polly Peachum in The Threepenny Opera with Vegas City Opera; and in the Final Fantasy XIV Eorzean Symphony concert. Select credits include Harriet Perry in Harris/Hayes' Civil War Voices; Belle in Beauty and the Beast; Janet Van De Graaff in The Drowsy Chaperone; Cosette in Les Miserables; and Johanna in Sweeney Todd. kaylawilkens.com



Tim Clayton (Randy Baker) is from Hilliard, Ohio, and is a recent graduate of Duke University, where he studied theater and psychology. After having taught acting and close-up magic in North East, Maryland, Clayton has spent the last couple of years acting full time in venues all over the South and Midwest. Credits include Leo Bloom in The Producers; Amos Hart in Chicago; the Adult Men in Spring Awakening; George in Love Life; Ryan James in A Simple Sanctuary; and Anchises in The Aeneid. Clayton is honored and thrilled to be returning as Randy Baker in We'll Meet Again.



Sara Garfinkel (Waitress/USO Trio/Ensemble) is a St. Louis, Missouri native, and is honored to join the cast of We'll Meet Again. With roots in classical ballet, she credits four years as a soloist with the Tallahassee Ballet Company before venturing into all corners of the world as a singer/dancer for Norwegian Cruise Lines, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas. When Garfinkel is not dancing or singing, you can find her reading on the elliptical or baking something sweet! Infinite love to Mom, Dad, Grandma Judy and forever friends. Instagram: @saragarfinkel / saragarfinkel.com



Neftali A. Benitez, he/him, (Ensemble/Movie Manager/USO Announcer/Guard) is a proud alumnus of Ithaca College's B.F.A. musical theatre program. Florida native and current Jersey resident, Benitez is incredibly excited to be tackling another theatre opportunity after returning from the AIDAmar cruise ship, where he performed as a solo dancer. Recent credits include Plaza Theatrical's Production of Guys and Dolls (Brandy Bottle Bates); Grumpy Old Men (Bo); Jonathan Larson's RENT (Benny); She Loves Me (Arpad); and directing Team StarKid's The Trail to Oregon! at IC. Instagram: @neffybear / neftalbenitez.com



Emma Pearl Miller (Ensemble/USO Trio) is so excited to be a part of We'll Meet Again! Miller grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, where she began her theatre career at The Muny. She graduated from Oklahoma City University with a degree in dance performance. Most recently, Miller performed at the Classic Theatre of Maryland in productions of White Christmas (Tessie/Ensemble/Dance Captain) and A Christmas Carol (Martha Cratchit). She is so grateful for the love and support from her family and friends. Thank you to Paul Russell Casting, Richard Rose and Amanda Aldridge for this opportunity. Instagram: @emmapearlmarie



Nathan Hoty (Ensemble/Neighbor/German Soldier/Fred) is so excited to be making their national tour debut. They recently closed off-Broadway with Waiting in the Wings and worked with Jimmy Buffett on his new cruise line in the inaugural cast of Tales from Margaritaville. Hoty also opened for Train at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and was part of the regional premiere of SpongeBob the Musical. They're a recent graduate of Kent State University and would like to thank their incredible team at Bloc, their parents and their grandma! TikTok/Instagram: @nathanhoty

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SONGS IN WE'LL MEET AGAIN: A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL

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