

A Lyric Holiday Tradition



PLAID TIDINGS

A Special Holiday Edition of
Forever Plaid

By *Stuart Ross*

The
Plaids Are
Back
...Again!

32nd Season
LYRIC
STAGE

DECEMBER 5 - 21, 2025
www.lyricstage.org

OUR MISSION

Lyric Stage is a Dallas-based, 501c3 professional musical theatre company, dedicated to the development and preservation of the musical.

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DONATIONS

As we begin our 32nd season, please remember Lyric Stage in your valued continuing support and patronage. Lyric Stage is a fully qualified 501c3 non-profit organization, and your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by the law.

Like many theater companies, ticket sales account for less than half of our annual budget. Your generous gift, of any size, is greatly appreciated and will help Lyric Stage continue to produce the quality and award-winning shows that you love to see!

You can give to Lyric Stage today, or any time, online, or visit the box office when you attend a performance.



Too Many Girls - 2013



The Most Happy Fella - 2012



Gypsy - 2011



My Fair Lady - 2010



Aida - 2023



Sweeney Todd - 2024

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings! It is a rare and special gift in theatre to revisit a show with the same cast and creative team, and this production has felt like opening a beloved scrapbook - familiar faces, warm harmonies, and memories tucked between every page.

Re-mounting this show has been as nostalgic and comforting for us as it is, I hope, for you in the audience. There's a unique joy in bringing the Plaids back together again. From the first rehearsal, it felt like a family reunion - the kind where everyone slips right back into rhythm, laughter comes easily, and the workflows with an ease born from trust and shared history.

This production is built on that sense of togetherness. The Plaids' story has always been about heart, connection, and the magic that happens when voices blend in harmony. Having the opportunity to recreate this world with the same talented performers and dedicated team has only deepened those themes. We've grown, we've refined, and we've rediscovered what made this show so meaningful to us the first time.

Thank you for joining us and for welcoming these plaid-clad crooners back into your holiday season. We hope this performance brings you the same warmth, joy, and nostalgic sparkle that we felt while creating it - like settling into your favorite chair, wrapped in a familiar tune. Enjoy the show, and happy holidays!

MARY GILBREATH GRIM

LYRIC STAGE

**1170 QUAKER STREET
DALLAS, TX 75207**

Presents



Book, Music and Lyrics by Stewart Ross

With

ANTHONY ORTEGA

BEN MEADERS*

DANIEL HERNANDEZ

SHANE DUCKETT

Production Design **SCOTT GUENTHER**

Costume & Props **TRICIA GUENTHER**

Stage Manager **BEN DOAN-STEVENS***

Assistant Stage Manager **CAROLINE COOPER**

Choreography by **KELLY MCCAIN**

Musical Direction by **HANS GRIM**

Directed by **MARY GILBREATH GRIM**

This production of PLAID TIDINGS was licensed by
Music Theatre International.

THE CAST

Francis..... ANTHONY ORTEGA

SmudgeBEN MEADERS*

Sparky..... DANIEL HERNANDEZ

Jinx..... SHANE DUCKETT

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

SPECIAL THANKS

Kris Ikejiri – Photography Services

BAND

Conductor/Keyboard – Hans Grim

Bass - Gannon Philips



* *The Actors and Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*



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THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer.....CATHERINE CARPENTER COX

Director.....MARY GILBREATH GRIM

Music Director.....HANS GRIM

Choreographer..... KELLY MCCAIN

Stage Manager.....BEN DOAN-STEVENSON*

Assistant Stage Manager.....CAROLINE COOPER

Production Assistant.....EL WAKEFIELD

Production Design – Set/Lights/Sound.....SCOTT GUENTHER

Costume & Props Design.....TRICIA GUENTHER

Costume Assistant..... ANNIE CORRALES



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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Deus Ex Plaid

What Happens

Stranger In Paradise

Amor/ Hallelujah

Sh-Boom

Besamé Mucho/ Kiss Of Fire

Psycho Christmas

It's The Most Wonderful Time/ Merry Christmas

Mambo Italiano

Hey There

Fever

The Christmas Song

Holiday Catering Drill

Christmas Calypso

Musical continuity throughout by David Snyder

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT II

Holiday Talk

Cool Yule

Twuz The Nite B4

Let It Snow

Carol Of The Bells

Joy To The World

Mr. Santa

The Christmas Cardigan

Mambo In A Winter Wonderland

Swell Backups

Como Underscore/ "We Wish You"

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

Ed Sullivan (I'll Be Home For Christmas)

Finale, Part I (Merry Christmas/The Wassail Song)

Finale, Part II (Home For The Holidays)

Finale, Part III (Jingle Bells)

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

COMPANY MEMBERS

Anthony Ortega (Francis) is excited to be back at Lyric Stage spending the holiday season with his plaid brothers! Anthony is a graduate from the University of North Texas with a BA in Theatre Performance. He was last seen in Broadway by North Texas at WaterTower Theatre. Some of his most recent credits also include Lyric Stage's Sweeney Todd (Beadle), Jubilee Theatre's Sister Act The Musical (Pablo), the world premiere of Goin Hollywood (Schneider/Wonderlad), Jesus Christ Superstar (Annas), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Monty US), The Bridges of Madison County (Robert US), Ragtime (Houdini/Tateh US), and Cabaret (Emcee US). Happy Holidays and remember "we all have the ability to create a little harmony"...CHRISTMAS!

Benjamin Doan-Stevens (Stage Manager) is delighted to return to Lyric Stage for The Rocky Horror Show where he serves as Resident Equity Stage Manager for the 25/26 season. Ben also serves as the Production Manager for the world-renowned Turtle Creek Chorale. For a decade, Ben taught theatre at various DFW-area schools, where he was a Lead Director and Technical Director. Currently, Ben serves as the Testing Coordinator at Bill Arnold Middle School. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from Abilene Christian University, Master of Education in Learning & Technology from Western Governor's University and is pursuing his Doctorate in Organizational Leadership at Abilene Christian University. "Don't dream it. Live it."

Ben Meaders (Smudge) is overjoyed to be participating in another musical at Lyric Stage! You may also have recently seen him in other Lyric Stage productions as "Brad Majors" in THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW" and "Simon Stride" in JEKYLL AND HYDE. Other local production credits include "Johnny Cash" in MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET at The Firehouse Theatre and "Craig" in the premiere of GETTING THROUGH APRIL with MusicalWriters.com. He has nothing but thanks to the creative team for allowing him this opportunity! He would also like to thank all of his family and friends for always being there to watch him do what he loves.

Daniel Hernadez (Sparky) is excited for another holiday season with his Plaid Bros and this incredible DREAM TEAM! Daniel works as a vocal coach, and music director in the DFW area. Beloved past roles include Mr. Wormwood (Matilda), Riff Raff (Rocky Horror), and of course Sparky in Plaid Tidings—a role he's convinced is 50% him and 50% pure holiday sparkle. Thanks to Lyric for having him back! May your holidays be merry, bright, and Rosemary-approved.

COMPANY MEMBERS

Gannon Philips (Bass) a lifelong musician, holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Howard Payne University, and a master's degree in Trombone Performance from Hardin Simmons University. He has performed internationally on Trombone and Bass, notably with the Temple Jazz Orchestra at the North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, International IAJE convention in NYC, and the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland. Gannon spent 5 years at sea as a performing musician, and Musical Director for Royal Caribbean Cruise lines, which involves leading and directing the ship's orchestra as well as managing an international team of musicians of all genres on a cruise ship. Throughout his career, Gannon has continually been involved in music education by teaching at public schools across Texas. Now residing in Arlington Texas, Gannon is one of the most in demand Bassists and Trombonists in the area.

Hans Grim (Music Director) comes crawling back to Lyric after selling his soul to Sweeney Todd, surviving The Great American Trailer Park Musical, and jingling all the way through Plaid Tidings (returning this Christmas!). Fresh from a summer at Interlochen and moonlighting as adjunct faculty at Dallas College, he also wrangles student choirs for the Dallas Symphony and Alvarado High. Most importantly, he's proud to be known as "Mary Grim's husband" - and he's steering this kick-ass band to keep the "Time Warp" sizzling all show long.

Kelly McCain (Choreographer) is excited to ring in the holidays with the Plaidians! Her work has been seen at Theatre Arlington, Garland Summer Musicals, Theatre Three, Uptown Players, Dallas Children's Theater, Waterlower Theatre, MainStage Irving, Garland Civic Theatre, Richland College, Firehouse Theatre, Junior Players, and Dallas Young Artists. Most recent choreography: Big Fish (Theatre Arlington), Follies (GCT), and Matilda (DYA). Other Lyric Stage shows include: Tarzan, Aida, The Rocky Horror Show, Mamma Mia, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, and Ragtime.

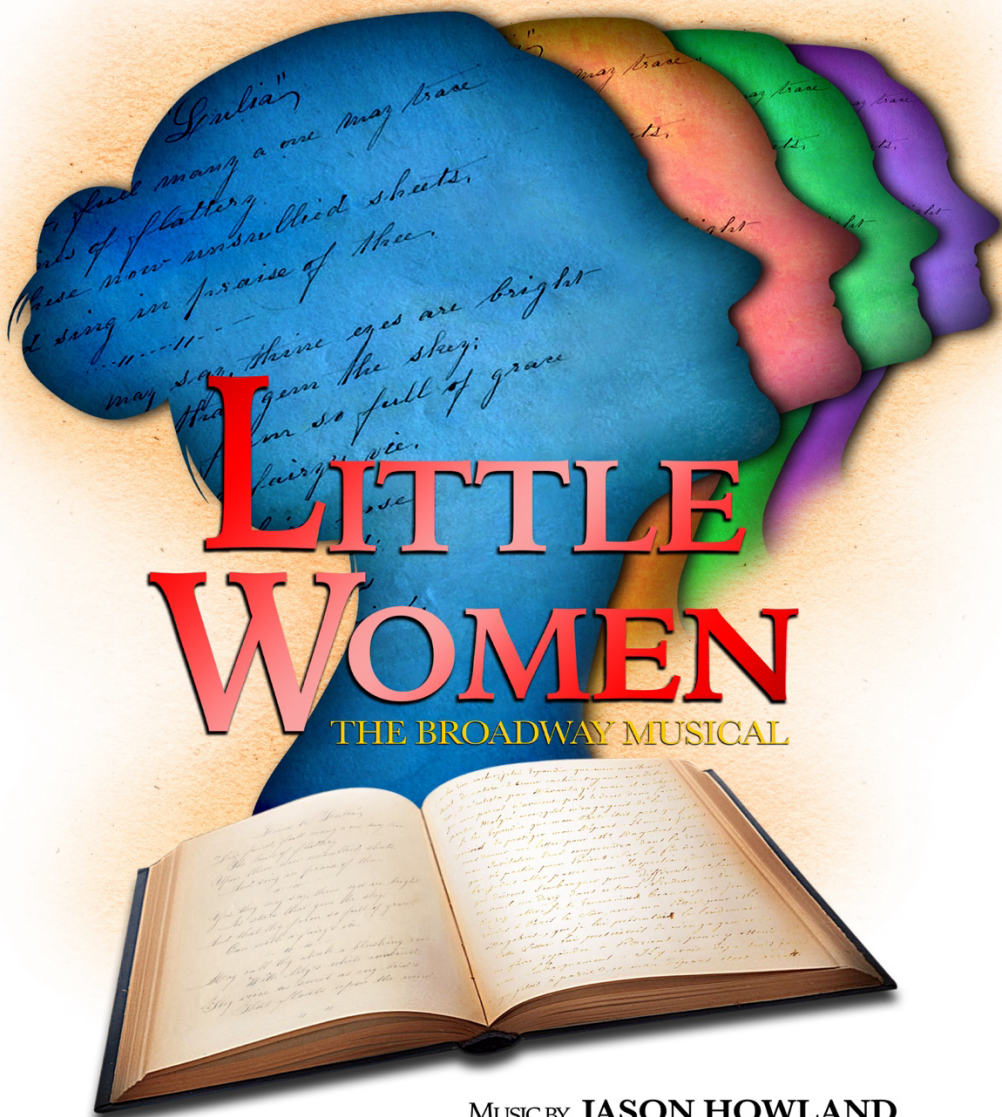
Mary Grim (Director) is a versatile actress and director with a rich history in both regional and educational musical theatre. As a performer, she has graced the stage in notable roles such as Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd, Mother in Ragtime, and Donna Sheridan in Mamma Mia, all with Lyric Stage. Other memorable performances include, Mama Rose in Gypsy, Miss Mona in The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, and Violet in 9 to 5. She has also brought to life characters in Parade, Into the Woods, Les Misérables, Titanic, and Bells are Ringing, among many others. In addition to her performing career, Mary is a seasoned director. She directed Lyric Stage's production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, as well as other notable shows such as The Music Man, Jesus Christ Superstar, Nunsense, Annie Get Your Gun, and Oliver! Her direction has been seen in SpongeBob The Musical, Once Upon a Mattress, and Matilda the Musical, bringing a unique vision and vibrant energy to each production.

COMPANY MEMBERS

Scott Guenther (Co-Artistic Director & Designer of Set, Lights and Sound) is excited to be designing another show for Lyric Stage! His work has been seen with other local theatre companies like Uptown Players, Theatre Three, Stage West, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Jubilee Theater, Garland Summer Musicals, and Watertower Theatre, to name a few. Scott serves as Managing & Co-Artistic Director for Lyric Stage and Director of Production for Turtle Creek Chorale. He started his career with The Dallas Opera and The Santa Fe Opera and soon moved on to design for dozens of Theatres, Dance, and Choral companies while managing the technical needs of the Addison Theatre Centre for over 22 Years. Scott is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington.

Shane Duckett (Jinx) is so happy to sing again with his fellow plaiders. Shane recently moved to Dallas, as well as graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Mathematics. You may recognize Shane for his recent performances in the DFW area as Brad Majors in The Rocky Horror Show at NTPA Repertory Theatre, Cowboy Bob in Footloose at Firehouse Theatre, in the ensemble of Sweeney Todd at Lyric Stage, and of course Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings at Lyric Stage. He wishes everyone a Happy Holidays and hopes everyone drives safely!

Tricia Guenther (Co-Artistic Director & Choreographer) is thrilled to be returning for her second year with Lyric Stage! She has been creating and sewing costumes for 38 years. Some examples of her work are Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Romeo & Juliet, Don Quixote, Little Shop of Horrors, The Producers, Sweeney Todd, and Plaid Tidings. Tricia also owned and operated her dance school for 28 years, offering classes in the Aerial Arts, Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Contemporary, and Lyrical. Tricia serves as Patron Services and Co-Artistic Director for Lyric Stage. Tricia is a graduate of Texas Woman's University.



LITTLE WOMEN

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

MUSIC BY **JASON HOWLAND**

LYRICS BY **MINDI DICKSTEIN**

BOOK BY **ALLAN KNEE**

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY **LOUISA MAY ALCOTT**

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Music by **CY COLEMAN**
Lyrics by **DOROTHY FIELDS**



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