

The Barn Players Present...

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

Music and Lyrics by JASON ROBERT BROWN

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre, New York City, 1995

(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

Original Orchestration by Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown

February 17-20, 2022

The Black Box Theatre at The Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, Overland Park, KS

Direction and Musical Direction by **Guy Gardner**

Choreographer
LB

Asst. Director
Zane Champie

Stage Manager
Rebekah Grieb

Rehearsal Accompanist
Jonnie Brice

Lighting Designer
Jayson Chandley

Sound Designer
Sean Leistico

Production Assistant
Amanda Albert

Orchestra:

Keyboard 1 – **Jonnie Brice**

Bass Guitar - **Frank Annecchini**

Keyboard 2 - **Deana Wagoner**

Drums/Percussion – **Blake Vignery**

Acoustic/Electric Guitar – **Jay Kennel**

Violin - **Casey Gregory**

Special Thanks:

Bill Wright, Reed Uthe, Blue Valley West, Prairie Baptist Church

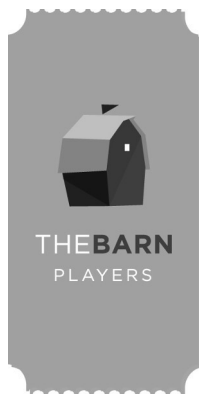
Songs for a New World

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www.mtishows.com

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ROBERT O'HARA

DIRECTED BY
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Musical Numbers

Act 1

The New World.....	Ensemble
On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship.....	Joseph and Ensemble
Just One Step.....	Alyson
I'm Not Afraid.....	Abbey
The River Won't Flow.....	Ensemble
Transition.....	Alyson
Stars and Moon.....	Renee
She Cries.....	Carson
The Steam Train.....	Jerry and Ensemble

Act 2

The World Was Dancing.....	Carson, Abbey, and Ensemble
Surabaya Santa.....	Alyson
Christmas Lullaby.....	Abbey
King of the World.....	Tony
I'd Give It All For You.....	Joseph and Renee
Transition.....	Carson
The Flagmaker.....	Alyson
Flying Home.....	Tony and Ensemble
Transition.....	Alyson
Hear My Song.....	Ensemble

Singers

Abbey Downes
Alyson Golladay
Renee Blinn

Carson Tate
Joseph Johnson
Tony Console

Dancers

Alex Gumminger
Erin Robertson

Jerry Birts
LB



Amanda Albert (Production Asst.) is elated to be involved with this production of *Songs For A New World* with The Barn! She enjoys volunteering around Kansas with various theatre companies as a Props Designer, Assist. Stage Manager, Production Assistant, and as Secretary on the board at OCTA. Amanda is forever grateful to Guy, for letting her claim a spot on his production team, allowing her to experience amazing performers in town – from auditions to the final curtain.



Frank Anneschini (Bass Guitar) is very happy to be joining this production of *Songs For A New World*. He is a huge fan of Jason Robert Brown and has been looking forward to performing this show. He has played bass guitar and guitar for musical productions throughout the metro area for over 20 years. He sends love and thanks to his family.



Jerry Birts (Dancer) is very excited to do his first production with The Barn Players! He has really enjoyed the challenges that this show has brought and looks forward to doing more shows with them in the future!



Renée Blinn (Singer) is thrilled to be returning to The Barn Players, last seen in their final production at the Martway location, *Sister Act*, as Sister Mary Hadda Littlelamb. Her first production in Kansas City was *SFANW* with Leawood Stage Company nearly 9 years ago and it has been such a joy revisiting this piece as it holds such a special place in her heart. Other favorite credits include *Shrek* (Mama Bear/Dragon), *The Addams Family* (Alice Beineke), and *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Narrator). All her love to her family and friends who continue to support her in this crazy ride we call life. #snagsquad4lyfe



Jonnie Brice (Accompanist/Keyboard 1) is excited to not only be back working for The Barn, but to be working with one of her very talented past students, Guy Gardner. In recent years, she has been involved with *Grand Hotel* at The Barn, *Bright Star* at OCTA, *Newsies* at TIP, and *Disaster -the Musical* at The River City Community Players.



Zane Champie (Assistant Director) is happy to be making his debut with The Barn Players as a part of this exciting and impactful production. Recent credits include *The Full Monty* (Assistant Director), *Half Time* (Ensemble), and *Mamma Mia* (Ensemble) at Theatre in the Park. He would like to thank the cast for sharing their incredible talents and the production staff for continuing to facilitate his growth and passion for direction and theatre. Enjoy the show!

Jayson Chandley (Lighting Designer) is excited to be back working with The Barn in this new era for them! Jayson has spent the last 4 years as the Manager of Technical Services for Worlds of Fun, doing Production and Lighting Design for Cedar Fair Amusement Parks. Other technical credits include a wide range of positions with TIP, the White Theatre, KC Starlight, Egads Productions, MTH, The American Heartland Theatre. Not to mention *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and *Urinetown* for The Barn. He is very grateful to the amazing people he has the pleasure of working with every day, who bring their amazing talents to the theatre! Much love to Mother for unconditional support, dedication, and the continued nagging of everyday things – as any good mother should do!



Tony Console (Singer) last appeared as Malcolm MacGregor in *Full Monty* (2019). *SFANW* marks Tony's 3rd show with The Barn! Tony is a familiar face at Theatre Lawrence, recently marking his 16th show there. Other favorite roles include Monty Navarro (*Gentleman's Guide*) and Lumiere (*Beauty & the Beast*). Tony is humbled to join such a talented cast and would like to thank his partner, Ryan for the undying love, support, and encouragement that makes him feel like "King of the World!"



Abbey Downs (Singer) is excited to be back for her third show with The Barn Players. She has previously been seen at The Barn as Lisa in *Mamma Mia* and Hope in *Urinetown*. It has been such a joy to create with a truly wonderful team and beautiful singers.



Guy Gardner (Director and Music Director) is an event and entertainment professional in the KC area, working with numerous theatre companies and working on large local events such as the World Series of Barbecue, The Symphony in the Flint Hills, and more. He also spends time as a Cruise Director for American Cruise Lines throughout the year. Previous Barn Directing Credits: *Sister Act*, *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Xanadu*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and *Shout! The Mod Musical*. Upcoming: *Matilda The Musical* (The Jewish Community Center) and *The Spongebob Musical* (Theatre In The Park). www.GuysWebsite.com



Alyson Golladay (Singer) holds a degree in Music Ed and in Vocal Performance from WSU. She was last seen as Georgie in *The Full Monty* and Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*. Coming up you can catch Alyson as Lisa in *A New Brain* at OCTA. This pit, these dancers, singers, team, and SHOW will forever be a light in my heart. Wait for the wind to blow, take one step, set those who don't value you free, and do what you need to do to get through to the light. LGZR.



Casey Gregory (Violin) has been contributing to the Kansas City Metro as a performing violinist and educator since 2013. Casey earned his Bachelors in Violin Performance from The University of Kansas, and through his studies has received opportunities to perform in a variety of ensembles globally. Casey's most notable experiences include performing with the Eutiner Opera Festival in Eutin, Germany, Brevard Music Center Orchestra in North Carolina, and with touring groups, including Celtic Woman and Trans-Siberian Orchestra.



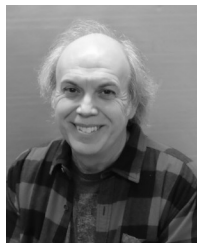
Rebekah Grieb (Stage Manager) has worked on shows throughout the KC Metro. Most recently stage managing *The Full Monty* at TIP Indoor. Before the universal break from live theatre, she last worked on *Rock of Ages* and *If/Then* at The Barn. Other than theatre, Rebekah is an avid reader, knitter, and proud aunt. Thank you to Guy and the team and all her chauffeurs for making it possible for this blind girl to keep dabbling in what she loves. Hope you're ready to laugh, cry, and be blown away by these performers.



Alex Gumminger (Dancer) is super excited to return to The Barn! Previously seen in *Chicago* back in 2018, Alex has performed with other local theatres such as Shawnee Mission Theatre in the Park, The White Theatre, and Kansas City Kansas Community College, where he earned his Associates Degree in May 2020. In addition to performing locally, Alex teaches dance at Nallia School of Dance. Many thanks to friends and family for their endless support.



Joseph Johnson (Singer) is so excited to be back doing theater and being in this wonderful show! This is Joseph's third Barn show (*If/Then* and *Company*) and second Barn Performance (*If/Then* canceled by Covid). He has also done shows with TIP (*In the Heights*) and GTIP (*Tarzan*)



Jay Kennel (Acoustic/Electric Guitar) is happy to be back at The Barn for another performance. A graduate of MWSC and UMKC Conservatory of Music, Jay teaches at Bentley Guitar Studios in Parkville MO. His past Barn performances include *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Mamma Mia*.

LB (Choreographer/Dancer) is thrilled to be back for this unique show with some of her favorite people, her last Barn show was *Sister Act!* As a performer/choreographer/director, you may have seen her work at SM TIP, or as Peter Pan at the J. Dance Training - The Dance Factory; Music Performance - Washburn University. Special thanks to friends/family and to Guy for trusting me with this vision. This has been a beautiful collaboration with the whole cast and production team! Let's not break my leg!

Sean Leistico (Sound Designer) has been working with the Barn Players since 2004 as an actor, technician, designer for lights and sound and scenery, voice of The Barn, and as Operations Manager. He also works in the Theatre Department at Johnson County Community College as Scene Shop foreman, Sound Designer and design mentor, and occasionally gets onstage when the opportunity presents itself. Special thanks to everyone who supports him in his theatrical endeavors. Hi, Mom. Hi, Nora ☆☆☆☆☆. Thank you, and enjoy the show!



Erin Robertson (Dancer) is elated to return to the post(?) covid stage and make her Barn Players debut! Career highlights include the New Theatre Restaurant (*Joseph...*, *Chicago*, *Mamma Mia!*) Holland America Cruise Line, Chiefs, Oprah, Joel Hall Dancers. She's enjoyed teaching at many local studios in the past including Miller Marley, where she remains proud of the competition dancers under her direction winning a national title. All the love to her supportive fiancé Joel, whom she marries in a week!



Carson Tate (Singer) is thrilled to be returning for his second show at The Barn Players! He has been in several shows around the Kansas City area and is always excited to meet new people. Previous acting credits include *Curtains* (Aaron Fox) with TIP, *Carousel* (Ensemble) with Musical Theatre Heritage, and *The Spongebob musical* (Cover) with The Coterie. Carson would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support and encouragement.

Deana Wagoner (Keyboard 2) is excited to be back at The Barn! Her favorite Barn productions include *Sister Act*, *Titanic*, and *Grand Hotel*. A busy pit musician, in addition to the Barn, she can be found in the pit orchestra in many other theatres including Culture House, MET, OCTA, Spinning Tree, The J, TIP, Robidoux Resident Theatre, Weston Community Theatre, Theatre Atchison, and Faust Productions. In addition to theatre, she is an arranger and performer with Canto Chorale and is Principal Flutist with Medical Arts Symphony.



Blake Vignery (Drums/Percussion) is excited to be back at The Barn. He currently works as the Assistant Director of Bands and the Director of Percussion at Lansing High/Middle School. Blake would like to thank his family for constantly motivating and supporting his love of the arts.

Parents of children grades 3-8! More information about our summer Barn KIDS camp is now available at <https://www.thebarnplayers.org/shows/barnkids>





JASON ROBERT BROWN is the ultimate multi-hyphenate – an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director and performer – best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining *The Last Five Years*, his debut song cycle *Songs for a New World*, and the seminal *Parade*, for which he won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score.

Jason Robert Brown has been hailed as "one of Broadway's smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim" (Philadelphia Inquirer), and his "extraordinary,

jubilant theater music" (Chicago Tribune) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. The New York Times refers to Jason as "a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical." Jason's score for *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). *Honeymoon In Vegas*, based on Andrew Bergman's film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical *The Last Five Years* was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include: *13*, written with Robert Horn and Dan Elish, which opened on Broadway in 2008 and was subsequently directed by the composer for its West End premiere in 2012; *The Last Five Years*, which was cited as one of Time Magazine's 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-Broadway run at Second Stage Theatre in 2013); *Parade*, written with Alfred Uhry and directed by Harold Prince, which won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best New Musical, as well as garnering Jason the Tony Award for Original Score; and *Songs for a New World*, a theatrical song cycle directed by Daisy Prince, which has since been seen in hundreds of productions around the world since its 1995 Off-Broadway debut, including a celebrated revival at New York's City Center in the summer of 2018. *Parade* was also the subject of a major revival directed by Rob Ashford, first at London's Donmar Warehouse and then at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Jason conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White's novel *The Trumpet of the Swan* with the National Symphony Orchestra, and recorded the score for PS

Classics. Future projects include a new chamber musical created with Daisy Prince and Jonathan Marc Sherman called *The Connector*; an adaptation of Lilian Lee's *Farewell My Concubine*, created with Kenneth Lin and Moisés Kaufman; and a collaboration with Billy Crystal, Amanda Green, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel on a musical of *Mr. Saturday Night*. Jason is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Jason's songs, including the cabaret standard "Stars and the Moon," have been performed and recorded by Ariana Grande, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Renée Fleming, Jon Hendricks and many others, and his song "Someone To Fall Back On" was featured in the Walden Media film, *Bandslam*.

As a soloist or with his band The Caucasian Rhythm Kings, Jason has performed concerts around the world. For the past four years (and ongoing), his monthly sold-out performances at New York's SubCulture have featured many of the music and theater world's most extraordinary performers. His newest collection, "How We React and How We Recover", was released in June 2018 on Ghostlight Records. His previous solo album, "Wearing Someone Else's Clothes", was named one of Amazon.com's best of 2005, and is available from Sh-K-Boom Records. Jason's 2012 concert with Anika Noni Rose was broadcast on PBS, and he was the featured soloist for a live episode of Friday Night Is Music Night, broadcast live from the London Palladium and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra. His collaboration with singer Lauren Kennedy, "Songs of Jason Robert Brown", is available on PS Classics. Jason is also the composer of the incidental music for the Broadway revival of *You Can't Take It With You*, David Lindsay-Abaire's *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Fuddy Meers*, and Kenneth Lonergan's *The Waverly Gallery*, and he was a Tony Award nominee for his contributions to the score of *Urban Cowboy the Musical*. He has also contributed music to the hit Nickelodeon television series, *The Wonder Pets* as well as *Sesame Street*. Jason spent ten years teaching at the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and has also taught at Harvard University, Princeton University and Emerson College.

For the musical *Prince of Broadway*, a celebration of the career of his mentor Harold Prince, Jason was the musical supervisor and arranger. Other New York credits as conductor and arranger include *Urban Cowboy the Musical* on Broadway; *Dinah Was*, off-Broadway and on national tour; *When Pigs Fly* off-Broadway; William Finn's *A New Brain* at Lincoln Center Theater; the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (recorded by RCA Victor); Yoko Ono's New York Rock, at the WPA Theatre; and Michael John LaChiusa's *The Petrified Prince* at the Public Theatre. Jason orchestrated Andrew Lippa's *john and jen*, Off-Broadway at Lamb's Theatre. Additionally, Jason served as the orchestrator and arranger of Charles Strouse and Lee Adams's score for a proposed musical of

Star Wars. Jason has conducted and created arrangements and orchestrations for Liza Minnelli, John Pizzarelli, and Michael Feinstein, among many others.


Jason studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwantner. He lives with his wife, composer Georgia Stitt, and their daughters in New York City. Jason is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. Visit him on the web at www.jasonrobertbrown.com.

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