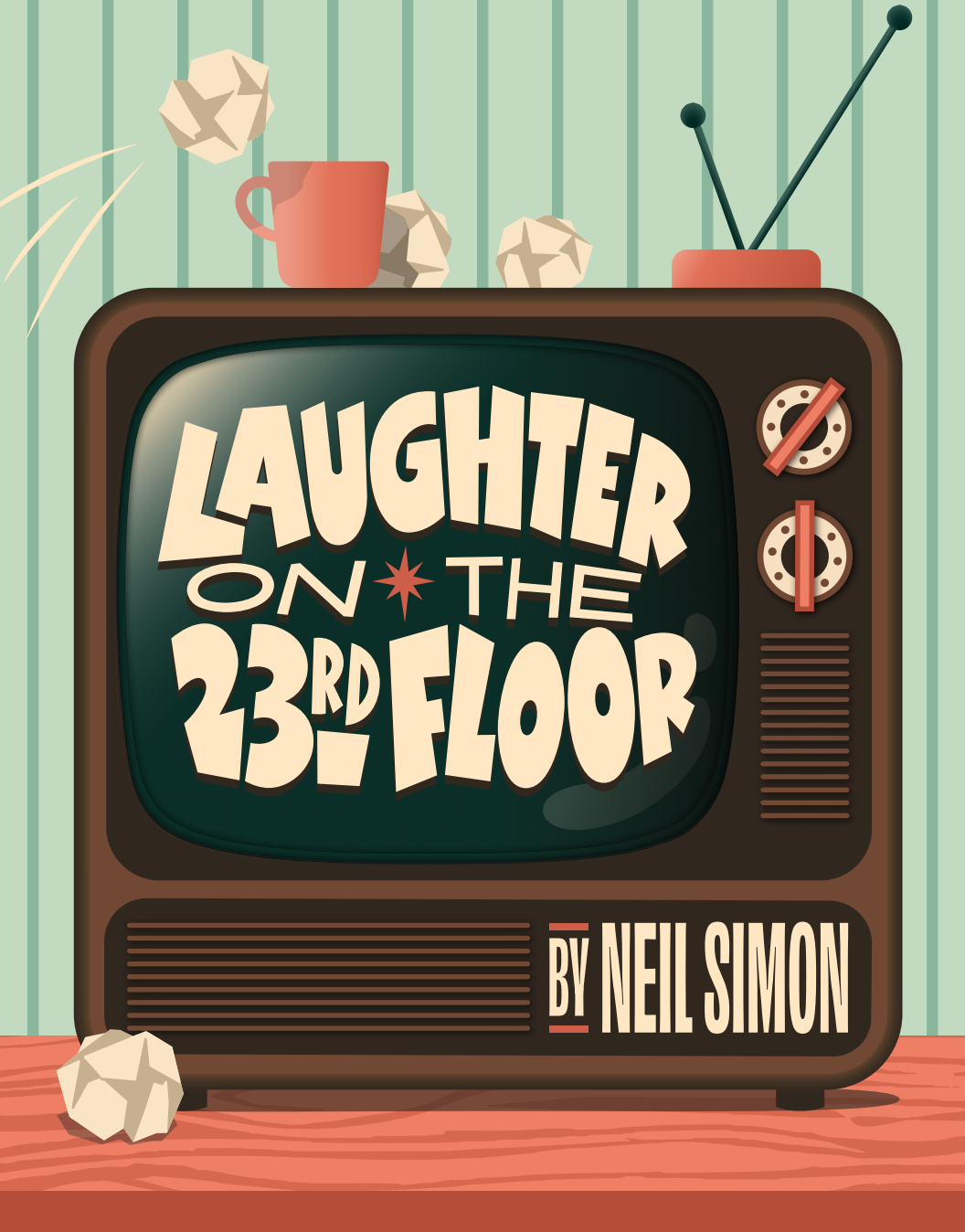




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A NOTE FROM OUR PRODUCING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré!

It is a tremendous joy to welcome you as we begin Le Petit's 110th season, an extraordinary milestone for a theater that has been part of the cultural fabric of New Orleans for more than a century.

What better way to open a season than with laughter? Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* reminds us of the sheer delight of gathering to share a story—and a laugh. Inspired by Simon's own experiences in the writers' room during television's Golden Age, the play is fast, funny, and filled with wonderfully memorable characters. It feels like a fitting beginning to a season that celebrates everything live theater can be.

And there is so much more ahead!

This holiday season, we celebrate the joy of found family with Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman's *The Secret Garden*. The winter months bring Tennessee Williams' haunting *The Glass Menagerie*, followed by August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, a powerful exploration of race, exploitation, and an artist's determination to maintain control of her work. Then, as summer arrives, we turn to the hilarious and heartfelt *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, where six wonderfully eclectic young people compete for the championship—and discover a little about themselves along the way.

Celebrating 110 seasons of creating art and telling stories is both a testament to where we have been and an invitation to imagine where we can go next. That is especially meaningful to me as I return home to New Orleans and have the extraordinary privilege of being part of Le Petit's next chapter. What a joy to work alongside the artists, staff, Board, supporters, and audiences who have sustained Le Petit for generations and who will help shape what comes next.

On behalf of our entire staff, thank you for being here, for supporting this remarkable theater, and for being part of its story.

Now, let's begin—with laughter!

Nicole Hackmann
Executive Director



Le Petit would like to acknowledge
the producers of this show. Their support
made this production possible.

Thank you for making the art happen!

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LE PETIT THEATRE

NICOLE HACKMANN
Executive Director

A.J. ALLEGRA
Artistic Director

Presents

LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR BY NEIL SIMON

Scenic Design
ANDRE LASALLE

Costume Design
JENNIFER JOHNSON

Lighting Design
DANIEL ZIMMER

Sound Design
JAMIE DOYLE

Properties Design
LEXI MANCUSO

Production Stage Manager
SARAH CHATELAIN

Directed by
SCOTT BURRELL

LOUISIANA
ENTERTAINMENT
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THE CAST

(in alphabetical order)

A.J. ALLEGRA	IRA
YVETTE BOURGEOIS*	HELEN
JOHN JABALEY	VAL
BRADY LEWIS	LUCAS
DANIELLE MORVANT	CAROL
SEAN RICALDE	KENNY
DANIEL RIGAMER	MILT
DAVID SELLERS	BRIAN
JOSHUA MARK SIENKIEWICZ	MAX PRINCE

THE CREATIVE TEAM

LAURIN HART

Wig/ Hair/ Makeup Designer

SARAH CHATELAIN*
Production Stage Manager

SARA CLAWSON
Assistant Stage Manager

SETTING

**An office on the 23rd floor of a building
on 57th Street, New York City**

Act I

March 1953

Act II

Scene 1: Seven months later

Scene 2: Christmas Eve

Runs approximately 2 hours 15 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.



*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Le Petit Théâtre Du Vieux Carré, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

MEET THE CREATORS

A.J. ALLEGRA (Ira | Artistic Director) is serving in his fourth season as Artistic Director at this historic institution. Directing in that time includes *God of Carnage*; *Guys and Dolls*; *Jersey Boys*; *Good Night, Oscar*; *The Importance of Being Earnest*; and *Buyer and Cellar*. Prior to Le Petit, he served as Artistic Director of The NOLA Project from 2008 to 2023. During his tenure at NOLA Project, the organization successfully partnered with the New Orleans Museum of Art to present work all around the museum's campus, including several outdoor productions in the Besthoff Sculpture Garden. For sixteen years, Allegra served as a New Orleans theatre arts teacher, first at NOCCA and then at The Willow School, and is tremendously proud of the hundreds of students he was fortunate to instruct and direct. He proudly serves on the board of Bike Easy and advocates for bicycle safety and access in New Orleans. He holds a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and an MS from the University of Pennsylvania. He is husband to the talented New Orleans costume designer, Kaci Thomassie. Though he rarely performs on stage any longer, he would like to dedicate his performance in *Laughter* to his comedic inspiration in all things: Melvin James Kaminsky A.K.A. Mel Brooks.

YVETTE BOURGEOIS (Helen) "Hilarious," "Brilliant," and "A Generational Talent" are words often used to describe her husband. That's me, Joshua Rodriguez, but this is about Yvette Bourgeois, who is talented too. She returns to the Le Petit stage for Neil Simon... whoever that is. Can someone remind her she already has a husband? Yvette thanks her husband, cast mates, her husband, and the production team. Personally, I thank her for putting up with my foolishness. Socials: @petiteyve @lizzy_loves_you_4ever

JOHN JABALEY (Val) is from Jackson and pioneered the rare Millsaps/CalArts path. He's delighted to return to Le Petit after *Once*. Seen elsewhere at NOSF, TWTC, JPAS, Fat Squirrel, and the WWII Museum. In L.A. at the Theatricum Botanicum, Shakespeare Festival/L.A., and as a member of Theatre Banshee. Film/TV: *Into the Wild*, "Firefly," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Preacher," "NCIS: New Orleans," "Black Bird," "Treme," "Queen Sugar," and *People We Meet on Vacation*. Love to his wife Erika, and their children Hannah and Isaac.

BRADY LEWIS (Lucas) is honored to be making his LPT debut as Lucas. Some favorite past credits are: *Dear Evan Hansen* (Connor), *Rent* (Mark), *Newsies* (Spot Conlon), and *The Boys in the Band* (Hank). He would like to thank his family and friends for all of their support.

DANIELLE MORVANT (Carol) has recently and joyfully returned to the stage after a 12-year hiatus working in education. Favorite credits include Woman 3 in *String of Pearls* with Pallas Players, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Louisiana Shakespeare Company, and Lisa Kron in *Well* at The Producer's Club in NYC. Danielle holds a BA in drama from Vassar College and would like to thank her wife, Ellen, and her children for their encouragement, support, and sacrifice.

SEAN RICARDE (Kenny) I think I last performed in a play when I was in college? Anyways, I'm quite pleased to be theatre-making with my good friends at Le Petit. Thanks everyone for being so encouraging. The many hours I have committed to this performance are dedicated to my departed wife. She's not dead, she's just a singer on a cruise ship so she can't be here.

DANIEL RIGAMER (Milt) is thrilled to take the stage with this incredible cast and crew. Some favorite on and off-stage credits at Le Petit include *Guys and Dolls*, *Murder for Two*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, and *Jersey Boys*. He works throughout New Orleans with Tulane Summer Lyric, Rivertown, Tennessee Williams Theatre Company, Melange, Delta Festival, and Metropolitan Dance. Prior to moving back to New Orleans, Daniel worked on several Off-Broadway shows and taught Introductory Costume Design at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

DAVID SELLERS (Brian) Recent NOLA credits include Cliteau Cliteau / Twinkles in NOLA Project's *Clownbar 2* and the Porter in *Macbeth* for The New Orleans Shakespeare Festival. Past credits include Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet* (NO Shakespeare Festival) and Harry Bishop in *Song of a Man Coming Through* (Southern Rep). Chicago credits include Claudius in *Hamlet* and Edgar in *King Lear*. He dedicates this run to a dear friend who left too soon, Dr. Jay Malarcher. Tallyho, Jay!

JOSHUA MARK SIENKIEWICZ (Max Prince) was last on stage at Le Petit as Michael in *God of Carnage*. New York theater credits include *You Can't Take It with You* (Tony), *The Changing Room* (Kenny), *Lobby Hero* (Bill), *Elephant Girl* (Rank), *The Dark* (Greg), *The Big Funk* (Omar); and at the LAByrinth Theater Company's Bank Street Theatre, *A Woman is a Secret* (Ben) opposite Susan Heyward. New Orleans credits include *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (Danny) and Lisa D'Amour's *Detroit* (Kenny).

NEIL SIMON (Author) American playwright and screenwriter Neil Simon (1927–2018) is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific, and performed playwrights in theatre history. In addition to *Lost In Yonkers*, which won a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize, his plays and musicals include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, *God's Favorite*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Odd Couple* (female version), *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *London Suite*, *Proposals*, *Hotel Suite*, *The Dinner Party*, *45 Seconds from Broadway*, *Oscar and Felix*, and *Rose's Dilemma*.

In addition to the film adaptations he wrote of many of his plays, his screenplay credits include *After the Fox*, *The Out-Of-Towners*, *The Heartbreak Kid* (original 1973 version), *Murder by Death*, *The Cheap Detective*, *Seems Like Old Times*, *Only When I Laugh*, *Max Dugan Returns*, *The Slugger's Wife*, *The Marrying Man* and *The Odd Couple II*. Other motion pictures based on stage plays include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Sweet Charity* and *The Star-Spangled Girl*. For television, Mr. Simon wrote series,

teleplays and motion pictures, including *The Tallulah Bankhead Show*, *The Sid Caesar Show*, *The Phil Silvers Arrow Show*, *The Phil Silvers Show*, *The Garry Moore Show*, *The Trouble with People*, ABC's *Broadway Bound* and *Jake's Women*.

Books by Neil Simon include *Rewrites*, *A Memoir*, *The Play Goes On*, four omnibus collections of Neil Simon's plays (*The Comedy of Neil Simon*, *The Collected Plays of Neil Simon*, Vol. II, *The Collected Plays of Neil Simon*, Vol. 3, *The Collected Plays of Neil Simon*, Vol. 4) and *Lost In Yonkers* (screenplay).

Mr. Simon received more Academy and Tony nominations than any other writer. Awards he received include the Pulitzer Prize for *Lost In Yonkers*, Emmy Awards for *The Sid Caesar Show* and *The Phil Silvers Show*, Tony Awards for *The Odd Couple*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Lost In Yonkers*, and a special Tony Award for Overall Contribution To The Theatre. His nominations include Tony Award Nominations for *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *The Goodbye Girl* (musical). Other nominations include a Writers Guild Screen Award for *The Odd Couple* and *The Out-Of-Towners*, a Writers Guild Laurel Award, an American Comedy Award for Lifetime Achievement and a Writers Guild Screen Award Nomination for *Barefoot in the Park*, as well as an Oscar Nomination for *The Odd Couple*, an Evening Standard Award, a Sam S. Shubert Foundation Award, Kennedy Center Honors, a UCLA Medal, a Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award and a William Inge Theater Festival Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater.

SCOTT BURRELL (Director) is the Director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State University in Louisiana. Before becoming director, he was the Chair of the Theatre and Dance program for twelve years and a member of the theatre faculty since 1998. He has graduated many successful students who have moved into all areas of professional theatre and dance. He received a BA in theatre from Catawba College and an MFA in directing from Virginia Commonwealth University. Scott serves as the secretary of the Michael Chekhov Association (MICHA) and serves on the board. He also holds a teacher certification in the Michael Chekov Acting Technique. Scott would like to thank Le Petit for the opportunity to work with such a great organization. Special thanks to Bethany Lee (Le Petit Production Manager and NSU Theatre graduate) for "putting my name in the hat!"

ANDRE LASALLE (Scenic Design) This is Andre's third show with Le Petit Theatre as Scenic Designer, returning after designing *Blithe Spirit* and *Murder for Two*. He's also been working behind-the-scenes as a spotlight operator, carpenter, welder, and scenic painter. He also works as a visual artist creating sculpture from repurposed metal.

JENNIFER JOHNSON (Costume Design) graduated from the Professional Theatre Training Program at UWM. She was the costume shop supervisor at the New Orleans Opera, and the costume director at New Orleans Ballet Association. Credits include *King Lear* (Tulane Shakespeare Festival), *The Nutcracker* (Delta Festival Ballet), *The Night of the Iguana* (Tennessee Williams Theater Company), *A Night with Janis Joplin* (Le Petit Theatre), *The Upstairs Lounge* (Melange Dance Company), *Expressions in America* (World War II Museum).

DANIEL ZIMMER (Lighting Design) received his formal training in stage design at New York's Studio and Forum of Stage Design, and for over 30 years has designed theatre, dance, and opera productions in the New Orleans area. Daniel currently teaches lighting and production design at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA).

JAMIE DOYLE (Sound Design) is a native New Orleanian and a NOCCA Media Arts and UNO alum. Since 2016, Jamie has been a sound engineer at LPT, favorite credits: *Jelly's Last Jam*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *The House That Will Not Stand*; *The Color Purple*; and *The Lehman Trilogy*. Recent designs: *God of Carnage*; *Blithe Spirit*; *Ghost Quartet*; *Dear Evan Hanson*; *Ain't Misbehavin'*; *Something Rotten!*; *Good Night, Oscar*; *The Importance of Being Earnest*; and *Mean Girls*.

LEXI MANCUSO (Properties Design) (they/she) is thrilled to be making their main stage design debut here at Le Petit. Lexi is a Southeast Louisiana native holding a BS in theatre from Northwestern State University. You can find them working as a prop designer, stage hand, and scenic artist with various theatres and creative agencies in the New Orleans area, such as The New Orleans Opera Association and Jefferson Performing Arts. When not wrangling props, Lexi enjoys spending time with their cat Angelo and their partner Matt, the two greatest patrons of the arts she has ever met.

SARAH CHATELAIN (Production Stage Manager) is delighted to be stage managing *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and working with such a wonderful team here at LPT. Some of her recent SM credits include: *A Chorus Line*, *Company*, and *Carousel* with Tulane Summer Lyric; and *God of Carnage*; *Guys and Dolls*; *Blithe Spirit*; *The Lehman Trilogy*; *Doubt*, *A Parable*; and *Jersey Boys* at Le Petit Theatre. Sarah is grateful to work with such an extraordinary team that has made this production truly remarkable.

SARA CLAWSON (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of the University of New Orleans, originally from Monroe, Louisiana. Her recent credits include *Blithe Spirit* and *God of Carnage* with Le Petit and *Frankenstein* with The NOLA Project.

BETHANY LEE (Production Manager) is a performer and designer based in New Orleans. As the production manager of LPT, she is delighted to help designers and artists realize their visions onstage. Shout out to Noah, Bethany's fiancé, for his consistent optimism and support. She'd like to encourage everyone to perform an act of kindness towards a stranger today! @bethany_joy_lee

NICOLE BÉGUÉ HACKMANN (Executive Director) is thrilled to return home to New Orleans to lead this remarkable theatre. Hackmann was previously Executive Director of Bucks County Playhouse, Director of Communications and Advancement at Fulton Theatre, Associate Producer at Cumberland County Playhouse, and has spent the past fifteen years championing the power of live theatre and the impact of arts organizations on their communities. Prior to transitioning to leadership, Hackmann was an active performer, singing with opera companies, theatre companies, and symphonies across the country (including the Le Petit stage!). Thank you to the New Orleans community for continuing to support Le Petit and all of the local arts organizations that make this city so special.

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Please contact the Box Office at boxoffice@lepetittheatre.com for more information and to sign up your class or student organization for our 2026–2027 season matinees!

STUDENT MATINEES 2026–27

The Secret Garden

December 10, 2026 | 10:00 AM
WAITLIST ONLY

The Glass Menagerie

March 4, 2027 | 10:00 AM
SIGN-UPS OPEN NOV 2

August Wilson's Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

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The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

June 10, 2027 10:00 AM - SIGN-UPS
OPEN DEC 1

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Dec 19 | 10 AM – 2 PM

Details and registration at LePetitTheatre.com

Spring workshops will be announced in November!



Le Petit Theatre's education programs are funded in part by:

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OUR MISSION

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, a 501(c)3 organization, serves our community by inspiring a love of live theater. We present the highest quality theatrical performances to entertain and educate the diverse population of the region and enhance the vitality of the arts community.

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Carpenters: **TRICIA ANDERSON, KEVIN CHICK, NAT FREYEISEN, LORNA WILLIAMS**

Scenic Painter Charge: **ANDRE LASALLE**

Scenic Painter: **TRICIA ANDERSON**

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The Drawing Room Players, an exclusive group of Le Petit Theatre's highest-level supporters, is named for the original group who founded Le Petit in 1916. Drawing Room Players enjoy season tickets to each Mainstage Production, invitations to opening night festivities, and opportunities throughout the season for behind-the-scenes tours, special events at private homes, and much more. Participation in the Drawing Room Players is an investment in continuing Le Petit's powerful legacy and guarantees that future generations of New Orleanians can witness the profound impact of theatre in our historic space.

Le Petit Theatre is deeply grateful to the 2026–2027
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