



STAFF BIOS 2016-2017



Janet Erlick is the **Executive Artistic Director** of award-winning Florida Children's Theatre where she oversees both the administrative and artistic components of the theatre. She teaches, directs and acts in the community and developed the theatre's comprehensive programming that serves over 25,000 people each year. Program include season productions, classes and outreach including *A Bridge From Me to You* anti-bullying/cultural diversity programs and *From Page to Stage* art-infusion literacy programs. She created partnerships with many cultural and social service organizations throughout South Florida and frequently facilitates workshops. Currently, she serves as the Chair of the Broward Arts Connection and is a member of the Cultural Executives Committee of Broward and Broward Women's Alliance. She is a graduate of Leadership Broward and is active on many of their committees. A former recipient of the City of Hope Businesswoman of the Year Award, Janet also received a Woman Extraordinaire Award from South Florida Business Leader, the Remy Service Award from South Florida Theatre League and was an honoree of Spring for the Arts. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College with a double major in Theatre and Psychology, and is currently serving on their Alumni Council.

Janet@FLCTStar.org



Sean Cutler, Producing Director, served as a Company Manager and General Manager for several Off Broadway shows including *The Donkey Show*, *The Karaoke Show*, *American Rhapsody: Songs of The Gershwins*, and *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living In Paris*. He was a member of the management team of Blue Man Group's NYC production of *Tubes*. He was also the Managing Director of the award-winning Colony Theatre Company in Los Angeles. Sean has a BFA in Film & TV Production as well as a major in Political Science from New York University and is a graduate of The New World School of the Arts in Miami. Sean also serves as a teacher, director, and lighting/sound designer for FLCT. He received the Remy Award outstanding contributions to children's theatre from the South Florida Theatre League, Broadwayworld.com awards for Best Director of FLCT's *Sweeney Todd* and Best Lighting for FLCT's *Carrie*. He is presently a panelist for the Carbonell Awards.

Sean@FLCTStar.org



Lauren Formica, Program Manager, is an alumna of Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre and is proud to say she has been a member of the FLCT family most of her life! Lauren graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelors degree in Humanities with concentrations in English, Education and Human Rights. While a full-time student Lauren taught in various middle and high schools in Tallahassee. She started a drama program at Rose Academy, an alternative school, where she served as their Fine Arts teacher specializing in art and theatre for the last 3 years. Lauren@FLCTstar.org



Patti Meyers, Teaching Artist, has a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Denver and studied professionally with Stella Adler. She is a member of the Screen Actor's Guild and Actor's Equity. Patti has directed many shows at FLCT, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Anne Frank and Me*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Annie* and *Beauty and the Beast*. She coordinates many of the Theatre's outreach programming, including serving as the lead facilitator for both A Bridge from Me to You and Page to Stage outreach programs. She teaches many acting classes and directs productions on a regular basis. Patti@FLCTstar.org



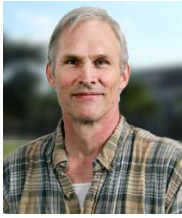
Melissa Sheffield, Theatre Education Specialist, holds a BS in Music Education from Hofstra University and a MA in Theatre Education from Emerson College. She has worked in Wardrobe at [the Maltz Jupiter theatre](#) and Pupperty at Universal Studios Florida. She also taught Elementary Music, High School Theatre and Music and Middle School Show Choir in Massachusetts. She has performed throughout Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut. Some of her favorite performances include Gertrude Mcfuzz in Seussical, Marcy Park in 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and Luisa in The Fantasticks. She also enjoys teaching and doing Circus and Gymnastics!

All of the above staff members serve as Show Directors and Teaching Artists.

Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre's Resident Artistic Team



Ron Hutchins, Dance Instructor and Resident Choreographer
Ron's performance career has taken him across the country and he has been honored to perform in major regional theatres from the Goodman in Chicago to Fords Theatre in Washington, DC. He has directed and choreographed national tours of Disney's *Aida*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Footloose* and most recently choreographed for Cirque Dreams' production of *Pop Goes the Rock*. Ron was twice nominated for Jeff Awards in Chicago and won the Carbonell Award for his production of *Five Guys named Mo*. Ron is currently the Artistic Director of Destined to Dance and teaches dance for numerous school programs, including the University of Miami.



Tyler Smith, Resident Scenic Designer

Tyler's experience as an art director and special effects designer has taken him through the worlds of television, feature film and special effects. His work has been seen on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Nickelodeon, MTV, Showtime and in Paramount, Touchstone, Columbia and Zenith films. Areas of expertise include sculpture, special effects makeup and robotic creatures as well as all aspects of design and illustration. As an arts educator, Tyler has taught in a variety of media at college programs including Rhode Island School of Design, Nova Southeastern University and Broward College.



Karen Kang Hancock, Resident Costume Designer

Karen has been Costume Designer for FLCT since 2003. Originally from Berkeley, California, she has had a lifelong interest in the arts. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University and was a professional musician in several symphony orchestras including the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. She learned to sew at age 13, and further developed her interest in sewing and costume designing, starting as a parent costume volunteer for FLCT when her son Ross became involved in productions. Her designs have also appeared at Area Stage and Charlotte Players in North Carolina, and she served as an associate costume designer for American Heritage School.



Rick Kaydas, Resident Music Director

Rick has been playing music professionally since the age of 13. As a student, he was a founder and leader of the Las Olas Brass, a successful band that attracted the area's best young musical talent, including the late jazz legend Jaco Pastorius. After a number of project ventures with Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre, in 2000 Rick began working with FLCT as music director and arranger/composer. In this capacity he has music directed over 30 productions, either arranging and tracking the entire score or conducting and directing a live band. He also serves as music director for a variety of other theatre companies, both in Boston and throughout South Florida. His composing credits, Rick created original scores for FLCT, and won the ASCAP Benny Davis award for his work on *South of the North Pole*.



Rachal Solomon, Resident Vocal Instructor

Rachal has been singing since the age of five. Over the past ten years she has performed with the Florida Grand Opera, Florida Philharmonic Chorus, Seagle Music Colony, University of Michigan, Centro Studi Opera Festival, The Lyric Orchestra, Phoenix Opera, Kapralova foundation, Temple Har Zion, Temple Chai, Scottsdale Musical Arts, Burning Bush Ministries, and First Church of Christ Science. A graduate of University of Michigan, she is now a skilled instructor in musical interpretation and technique.