



2022-2023 MEET THE STAFF

FULL-TIME



Janet Erlick, Executive Artistic Director

Janet leads the organization to realize its mission “to teach the art of life through the magic of theatre.” Through year-round classes, a full season of productions, and community outreach initiatives, programming serves over 25,000 people each year. In addition to teaching, directing, and performing, Janet holds the distinct honor of being one of only two Nationally Credentialed Teaching Artists from the Southeast United States through Young Audiences/ Arts for Learning, one of two certified through the South Florida Cultural Consortium, and trained through The Kennedy Center and Wolf Trap programs. She designs and implements programming with numerous educational, cultural, and social service partners, regularly working with pre-K children through adults, and facilitates workshops and trainings at the national level. Florida Children’s Theatre serves as the arts education provider for Broward Cultural Division, and through that initiative, Janet runs a teaching artist credentialing program, early learning provider trainings, and arts in public health programming.

Currently, she serves on Broward Cultural Council as the Grantee Liaison and as a member of the National Leadership Council of the South Fulton Institute. 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 the Remy Service Award from South Florida Theatre League, the Iris Acker Silver Palm Award for sustained excellence in South Florida theatre, the Doris Leeper Teaching Artist Award from the Florida Alliance for Arts Education, and was an honoree of Spring for the Arts, among many other awards. Her ongoing work in the community reflects her assertions as a cultural advocate: the arts have the power to transform lives, to heal, to celebrate, to challenge, and to connect. Janet is a graduate of Swarthmore College with a double major in Theatre and Psychology, and served as president of their Alumni Council.



Sean Cutler, Producing Director

Sean started his theatre career in elementary school as a member of the Pied Piper Players at the Ruth Foreman Theatre in Miami, where, at age 14, he earned his Equity card and a nomination for Best Actor for playing Eugene in the Carbonell Award winning production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. He graduated from the New World School of the Arts as a Theatre Dean's Award recipient and received his B.F.A. in Film & TV Production (with a double major in Political Science) from New York University. As an actor, he has performed Off-Broadway and regionally in numerous productions and served as a Company 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*, and was the Managing Director of the award-winning Colony Theatre Company in Los Angeles. As FLCT's Producing Director, Sean supervises all aspects of FLCT's production department including artistic, technical, and design components. As the senior resident show director, he has twice won the Broadwayworld.com Best Director Award for *Sweeney Todd* and *Side Show* and received a Remy Award from the South Florida Theatre League for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Theatre. Sean is a past Carbonell panelist and is also an accomplished lighting designer having designed shows for FLCT, Dreamyard Theatre, NYC Fringe Festival, Women's Theatre Project, West Boca Theatre Company, and others. Along with Rick Kaydas, he is the author of *Snow White: An Original Musical Adaptation of the Grimm Fairytale*.



Lauren Formica, Program Director/Camp Director

Lauren is an alumna of Florida Children's Theatre and is proud to say she has been a member of the FLCT family for almost 20 years. Lauren graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor's degree in Humanities with concentrations in English, Education and Human Rights. While a fulltime student, Lauren taught in various middle and high schools in Tallahassee, including Rose Academy, an alternative school for children with learning challenges. Lauren implemented a drama program at the school and served as their Fine Arts teacher specializing in art and theatre for three years. Lauren also taught preschool at Happyland Day School in Fort Lauderdale for three years and currently serves as their drama teacher, leading an after school Creative Drama program for students 3-5 years old. Lauren has also served as The Sagemont Lower School drama teacher in Weston, directing *Seussical Jr.* and *Peter Pan Jr.* with their elementary students. In addition to her work in schools, Lauren facilitates annual arts infusion workshops through FLCT and The City of Coral Springs with local middle and high school students. Lauren is a proud Broward graduate of Leadership Broward Class XXXIX and was named Broward Cultural Division and Broward County Schools Teaching Artist of the year in 2018. Lauren has directed numerous productions throughout her years at FLCT, including *Aladdin KIDS* at FLCT in a partnership with Kids in Distress of Broward County, Summer Stage Camp shows: *Honk, Jr.*, *Pocahontas*, *Peter Pan, Jr.*, *Disney's Little Mermaid, Jr.*, & *Shrek, Jr.*, *Descendants, Jr.*, and *Frozen, Jr.* Lauren directed FLCT's mainstage productions of *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* and *Elf the Musical, Jr.* and also directed *Honk! the Musical*, a show about acceptance based on The Ugly Duckling as well as the Teen Repertory productions of *Into the Woods, Jr.* and *Tuck Everlasting*. She also serves as the staff liaison for FLCT's student leadership organization, Center Stage Youth Council.



Melissa Hahl, Education Director/Circus Director

Melissa loves calling FLCT home as the Education Director. She has a BS in Music Education from Hofstra University and a MA in Theatre Education from Emerson College. Melissa has worked in Wardrobe at the Maltz Jupiter theatre and puppetry at Universal Studios Florida. She also taught Elementary Music, High School Theatre/Music and Middle School Show Choir in Massachusetts for three years. During the school year Melissa is busy teaching classes at FLCT as well as directing FLCT's Circus Troupe which had the honor of performing for Disney Performing Arts two years in a row before heading to Las Vegas in 2020 for a circus festival and competition. Melissa directed *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* as well as FLCT's Performance Project Shows: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *How to Eat Like a Child*, *Year with Frog and Toad*, *Dear Edwina, Jr.*, *Annie, Kids*, *Matilda, Jr.*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.*, *Seussical, Kids*, and *Mary Poppins, Jr.* She was also seen on the FLCT stage as Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan*. Melissa 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*.



Rick Sostre, Director of Development

Rick is an alumnus of the prestigious New York City Performing Arts "Fame" School. He trained at HB Studios under William Hickey and Uta Hagen, and worked with the late Raul Julia and Carla Pinza on the *Latino Playwrights Writers Series*. As an actor Rick has appeared on a number of television commercials, film, and TV projects. In 2010 Rick co-founded Holey Shirts Productions, an innovative production company dedicated to creating inspirational content. He is currently producing an exciting and powerful original Broadway musical in New York City titled: **161st Street: A New York Musical** which is based on an incredible true story. Rick continues to affiliate with Commercial Theater Institute (CTI) and is also involved in real estate investments representing some of South Florida's most private luxury properties and exclusive country club communities offering financing solutions and strategic advice.

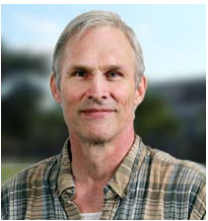


MEET THE RESIDENT PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS



Ron Hutchins, Choreographer

Ron's performance career has taken him across the country and the globe, 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*. He now travels to China annually to choreograph American musical theatre style productions. Ron was twice nominated for Jeff Awards in Chicago and won Carbonell Awards for his production of *Five Guys named Mo* and for choreography for *West Side Story*. Ron is currently the Artistic Director of *Destined to Dance* and teaches dance full-time at American Heritage School and beyond.



Tyler Smith, Scenic Designer Emeritus

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. He frequently exhibits as a professional visual artist in a wide variety of media. Tyler now resides in rural New York but his work can still be seen on FLCT stages through existing set pieces and new custom specialty items.



Karen Kang Hancock, 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, 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 JacoPastorius. After a number of project ventures with Florida Children's Theatre, in 2000 Rick began working with FLCT as music director and arranger/composer. In this capacity he has music directed over 50 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*. He also composed original music for FLCT's production of *Hamlet* and wrote the score to the original *Snow White*. In 2022, Rick earned the professional theatre Carbonell Award for Best Musical Direction.



Additional Artists

Jeffrey J. Voner, Scenic Design
Rachal Solomon Bautista/RLS Studios, Vocal Instruction Partner
Beth Nativ, Teaching Artist
Lauren Schuler, Teaching Artist

OFFICE AND SUPPORT STAFF

Melanie Hale, Business Manager
Aleyna Morales, Administrative Assistant



2022 Summer Stage Camp Staff



Andrea Heighes, Summer Stage Camp Staff

Andrea is a Hispanic American Kindergarten teacher at Somerset Academy Riverside in Coral Springs. She loves working with children, theatre, and Disney. Seeing her students' smiling faces every day brightens her day. She has been with FLCT for 11 years, as a summer performer and part-time teaching artist. Some of her favorite shows include: *Seussical the Musical*, *Peter Pan*, *Mary Poppins*, *In the Heights*, *Les Miserables*, *We Will Rock You* and *Little Mermaid*. Andrea has assisted with the Storybook Adventures Camp program and the Summer Stage Camp program for the last several years and is looking forward to another great summer!



Justin Cook, Summer Stage Camp Staff

Justin Cook is a Junior at New World School of the Arts where he is studying acting as part of their BFA program. He is very excited to be working with the team at FLCT again this summer, especially since he is an alumnus of FLCT, having started classes while still in preschool! He has acted in numerous shows at FLCT like *Tarzan*, *Legally Blonde*, *Avenue Q*, and many, many more. Justin is excited to come back and bring the knowledge he learned to help Summer Stage kids grow as he did at this amazing establishment.



Logan Moreno, Summer Stage Camp Staff

Logan is thrilled to join the camp team once again! Logan is an FLCT alum and currently attends the University of Central Florida, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and is currently working as an online tutor for kids. Logan participated in his first FLCT production at six years old and attended the theatre through his graduation from South Plantation High School, appearing in roles such as Emmett Forrest in *Legally Blonde*, Nicky in *Avenue Q*, and The Cat in *Honk!* Camp meant so much to Logan as a student of FLCT and he can't wait to extend the fun-filled memories he has to other students this year.



Mahnaz Carroll, Summer Stage Camp Staff

Mahnaz is an alum of FLCT and is very excited to be a part of the Summer 2022 Camp Staff team as a returning staff member! Mahnaz is also an active member of the FLCT Equity Task Force. Mahnaz graduated from Miami's New World School of the Arts High School in 2019 and recently graduated from Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts with a BA (Hons) in Acting. Mahnaz has worked on many projects with FLCT behind the scenes as well as performing. While in high school Mahnaz participated in various shows with FLCT both on and offstage, one of her favorite roles being Kala in *Tarzan*. Mahnaz worked all summer last year as a Summer Stage counselor and is looking forward to another fun-filled summer of creating art with young people.



Abby Siegel, Summer Stage Camp Staff

Abby Siegel is a rising sophomore at Eastern Michigan University majoring in Musical Theatre. She grew up going to FLCT and has participated in Summer Stage Camp since she was 12 years old. Some of her most memorable roles include Alice in *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, Pinocchio in *Shrek Jr.*, Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*, and Mrs. Banks in *Mary Poppins Jr.* She is so excited to have the opportunity to be a camp counselor and bring the love of theatre to kids just as the FLCT staff did for her!



2022 Storybook Adventures Lead Camp Staff



Bethann Miller Native, Storybook Adventures Lead Teacher (Galleria Location)

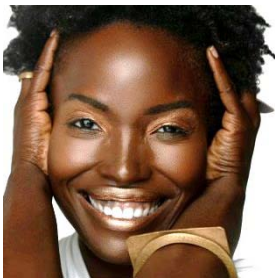
Bethann Miller is a teacher, tutor, writer, and proud contributor to theater productions for 35 years. Her endeavors include performing in a children's troupe in Hartford, producing her award winning one-acts at the Ransom Everglades School's Black Box Theater and the University of Pennsylvania's Philomathean Society, and directing the Hollywood Hills Elementary School's Drama Club performances. Bethann is most proud of adapting *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Wizard of Oz* for casts of over 70 fifth graders. Bethann has survived such theater nightmares as losing electricity in the building in the middle of a performance and walking onto a stage in-the-round with an unzipped costume as Cookie Cusack in Neil Simon's *Rumors*. Bethann resides in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea with her husband, their daughter who is currently a FLCT student, and their dog.



Gabriella Villalobos, Storybook Adventures Lead Teacher (Broward College Location)

Gabriella Villalobos is a singer and songwriter native to South Florida. She has a passion for music that started when she was a child and would perform for friends and family. Shanpatrick Davis, current choral director at Coral Reef High School, recognized her talents and began her classical singing training in high school. She continued her studies at Florida International University where she learned singing technique, diction, music theory and history. During her time there, she has performed various roles in operas such as *Hansel and Gretel* and *Amelia Goes to the Ball*. P After college, Gabriella traveled abroad to sing in Vienna acquiring roles in four different operas, one of which she was the leading role in an original premiered piece by Scott Joiner. She had the opportunity to study with international world-renowned teachers and coaches that has shaped her craft and work as a singer. When she returned, she worked with Florida Grand Opera and Miami Lyric Opera. At FGO she studied directly under the director of artistic administration, studio coach, and the resident light designer for performances. Aside from this, she has sung along famous artists such as Gloria Estefan, Miguel, Ricardo Montaner, and RadmillaLolly. Currently, Ms. Villalobos is continuing her studies of music with vocal teachers and coaches. She does a variety of local performances throughout South Florida and is the lead soprano singer at two churches. She teaches for RLS Studios and Vocal Roads where she trains singers in musical theatre, classical, jazz, and contemporary music. Working with different age groups is no problem for her as she teaches all ages from kindergarten to adults. Her goal when teaching is to help students find their joy for through creative exploration. She believes in instilling confidence and technique helps students express their most free and authentic selves when performing.

2022 South Side Cultural Arts Camp Partnership Staff



Nzingah Oniwosan, South Side Cultural Arts Camp Partnership Staff

Many consider Nzingah a Renaissance artist, as she seems to be talented in virtually all disciplines of the arts. She is an award-winning visual artist, classically trained pianist, published poet, and an up and coming African and Haitian Folklore dancer. Thanks to her excellence in the arts, she began to teach while in middle school and has continued her work as a teaching artist into her adulthood. Her commitment to reaching children through the arts has allowed her to work with well over one hundred thousand students, in south Florida and nationally. In addition to her work with children, she has given several professional development workshops designed to educate teachers how to integrate the arts into their curriculum. Over the years Nzingah has become an advocate for children and adults with disabilities; as a result, she as given several workshops designed to demonstrate how the arts could be used to reach children with special needs. Along with being a resident artist at several schools with the special needs population, Nzingah's work as a teaching artist has a cultural emphasis; this can be attributed to her Haitian background, as well as her connection to her African heritage. Moreover, she believes that through an appreciation of one's culture, in addition to the culture of others, high self-esteem and improved social skills can be nurtured in children and adults. Nzingah's vision as a teaching artist and as an artist in general, is to plant the seed of imagery that makes a profound impact on the way people think.