

PLAYBILL®

LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE



MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL
BROADWAY
SENIOR™

MEREDITH WILLSON'S
**THE
MUSIC MAN
SR.**

PILOT PRODUCTION

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House

PRESENTS

**MEREDITH WILLSON'S
THE MUSIC MAN SR.**

Featuring Members of Our Older Adult Centers

Music by
Meredith Willson

Lyrics by
Meredith Willson

Book by
**Meredith Willson &
Franklin Lacey**

with

Sal Anzalone
Candice Brown
Dorothy Chiang
Julie Down
Deborah Drucker
Susan Carol Duling
Shirley Eiten
Suzie Engel
Ritalynn Forman
Benjamin Gallardo
Isabella Gallardo
Pryn Kanhasura
Ronnye Halpern
Barbara Haspel
Robin Jacobson
Marilyn Kagan

Hedy S. Kellerman
Myrna LaBow
Elaine Lai Man Chan
Liz Leventhal
Patricia E. Lewis
Minerva Leylavergne
Giulia Manfe
Sofia Manfe
Rebecca Marks
Diana Mullman
Alan Myers
Ellen Orchid
Dennis Palladino
Pamela Trester
Lianwei Ren

Annette Renschowitcz
Rob Reseen
Gail Rivers
Alghanem Sabra
Gheith Sabra
Francie Scanlon
Penina Debra Scher
Laurie Shapiro
Ric E. Suarez
Zygy Susser
Pamela Trester
Judith Wagner
Elisa Westby
Warren Wyss
Artheniah Zaher
Arturo Zaher

Directed by
Scott Klavan

Music Direction by
Kevin Hull

Produced by
**Amanda Gerulski
Rose Ginsberg
Jessica Leylavergne**

Stage Managed by
Lupa Aguilar

The Music Man SR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

CAST

Cast Members

Conductor	Ritalynn Forman
Salesmen	Ronnye Halpern, Hedy S. Kellerman, Patricia E. Lewis, Rebecca Marks
Newspaper Reader	Pamela Trester
Charlie Cowell	Sal Anzalone
Harold Hill	Rob Reseen
Mayor Shinn	Ric E. Suarez
Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn	Barbara Haspel
Farmer	Alan Myers
Farmer's Wife	Francie Scanlon
Tommy Djilas	Alan Myers
Zaneeta Shinn	Julie Down
Gracie Shinn	Pamela Trester
Alma Hix	Candice Brown
Maude Dunlop	Judith Wagner
Mrs. Squires	Gail Rivers
Ethel Toffelmier	Myrna LaBow
Pick-A-Little Ladies	Suzie Engel, Ritalynn Forman, Marilyn Kagan, Francie Scanlon
Marcellus Washburn	Zygy Susser
Marian Paroo	Ellen Orchid
Mrs. Paroo	Diana Mullman
Winthrop Paroo	Robin Jacobson
Amaryllis	Elaine Lai Man Chan
Constable Locke	Warren Wyss
School Board Quartet	Penina Debra Scher, Dennis Palladino, Lianwei Ren, Rebecca Marks
Jacey Squires	Penina Debra Scher
Olin Britt	Dennis Palladino
Oliver Hix	Lianwei Ren
Ewart Dunlop	Rebecca Marks

CAST

Cast Members (continued)

River City Chorus Deborah Drucker, Susan Carol Duling, Shirley Eiten, Liz Leventhal, Dennis Palladino, Annette Renschowicz, Laurie Shapiro

Dancers Dorothy Chiang, Patricia Lewis, Elisa Westby

Kids in the Band Benjamin Gallardo, Isabella Gallardo, Pryn Kanhasura, Minerva Leylavergne, Giulia Manfe, Sofia Manfe, Alghanem Sabra, Gheith Sabra, Artheniah Zaher and Arturo Zaher

Production / Creative

Choreographer Hannah Swanson

Set and Props Design Jenard Hopkins, Musah Swallah

Set and Props Helen Cohen, Ken McConney, Angela Russo and the participants from the Intergenerational Art Project at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House



Photo by Shahrzad Rasekh

BIOS

SCOTT KLAVAN (Director, he/him)

As an actor, Scott has appeared on and off Broadway, in regional theater, on TV, film and the Web. He is a published playwright and has directed Off Broadway and in international theater festivals. For over twenty years, he was Script & Story Consultant/Analyst for the legendary actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, as well as for companies including HBO, Viacom and CAA. Scott is a Lifetime Member of The Actors Studio and a member of the Studio's Playwrights/Directors Workshop (PDW). For ten years, he was a Group Leader in the field of Drama Therapy, working with teens and adults, in alternative and charter schools, shelters and hospitals. He currently teaches Drama/Acting for Seniors for arts orgs. including JCC Manhattan and privately on Zoom. www.scottklavan.com

KEVIN HULL (Music Director, he/him)

Kevin is happy to be back at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House after music directing the 2019 production of *Into the Woods SR*. In addition to music directing, he teaches piano and guitar lessons and performs around the city. Before moving to New York, he worked with children's music and theatre programs around the Bay Area, California; toured Western Europe with a rock band; and spent a year teaching music in Thimphu, Bhutan. Kevin graduated from San Jose State University where he studied piano with Dr. Gwendolyn Mok, and holds a certificate in acting from the Foothill Theatre Conservatory.

LUPA AGUILAR (Stage Manager, they/them)

Lupa is a trained performer in Musical Theatre as well as a House Manager and Production Assistant. Some of their recent credits include *The Conference of the Birds* (Winnepesaukee Playhouse) and *House Managing Theatre Now Productions of Powerline Road and Sound Bites X*. Lupa is thrilled to be working with this company and thanks the Music Man cast for teaching them so much. *Theatre should be for everyone.*

AMANDA GERULSKI (Producer, she/they)

Amanda has served as a Community Outreach Specialist at the Older Adult Centers at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House since 2022. Previously, Amanda worked as a Mobile Care Team Associate at the Alachua County Crisis Center in Gainesville, Florida. Amanda is graduate of the University of Florida (BA, Applied Theatre for Community Health). At the University's Center for Arts in Medicine, Amanda facilitated workshops and conducted research on the arts in palliative care settings and the effect of theater participation on adults living with ADHD. Amanda is certified in QPR Suicide Intervention and Crisis Counseling.

BIOS

ROSE GINSBERG (Producer, she/her)

Rose has been the Director of the Older Adult Centers at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House since 2021. She originally joined the Neighborhood House in 2018 and has served as Deputy Director, Programming and as Assistant Director of Arts and Wellness. She previously worked as an educator at the New York Transit Museum and as a teaching artist with Hope and Wonder Theater Classes. Rose is also an independent theater director, deviser and workshop facilitator. Rose is a graduate of Barnard College (BA, European Studies) and CUNY School of Professional Studies (MA, Applied Theatre).

JESSICA LEYLAVERGNE (Producer, she/her)

Jessica has been the Director of Visual and Performing Arts at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House since 2019 after serving as an Administration Manager and Music Teacher since 2016. Prior to joining the Neighborhood House, Jessica was an actress, vocalist and pianist, appearing in regional theater productions as well as performing as a Soprano with the Westminster Symphonic Choir. She has been a staff accompanist at American Repertory Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet School, Ballet Academy East and Ballet Tech Public School for Dance. Jessica was a collaborative teaching artist with Leviathan Lab, Harlem School of the Arts and Music and the Brain. Jessica is a graduate of Westminster Choir College (BA) and Baruch College (MA, Arts Administration).

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Renée Landegger
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Older Adult Centers Team
Hubert Balcewicz and Chris Gerolimos
Lonnie Kimbrough and the Facilities Team
Marianne Benn, Annette Lyons and Bill White
Sydney Pereira
Ellen Klein and Kelsey Logan
Drew Cohen, Jason Cocovinis, John Prignano, Eric McCowan and
Everyone at Music Theatre International

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 2019, I was fortunate to direct the pilot production of *Into The Woods SR.*, a collaboration between Music Theatre International (MTI) and Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. The show used the MTI *Broadway Jrs.* condensed version of the Stephen Sondheim-James Lapine classic musical, meant for Middle School students, to explore its value for a cast comprised solely of seniors. The production was successful enough—Sondheim and Lapine visited a rehearsal, the show was written up in a feature in *The New York Times*—to create a second pilot, *Meredith Willson's The Music Man SR.*, and we began rehearsing in the spring of 2020. Roughly halfway through the rehearsal process, the Covid pandemic shut it all down. About three years later, with the pandemic weakening, *The Music Man SR.* project has been revived, featuring many original 2020 cast members, as well as newcomers, and here we are today.

In *Meredith Willson's The Music Man SR.*, charismatic salesman Harold Hill exhorts the staid and conservative citizens of River City, Iowa to take the risk of embracing enthusiasm, joyfulness, and love. Working on the play, I came to see a metaphor in River City; in its stifled, reserved and sedate people, the place seemed to represent the challenges of aging itself, the tendency of seniors to censor themselves, cut themselves off from connection, to retreat and withdraw. You might say: Iowa is Old Age.

Covid, of course, created a widespread combination of isolation, inertia, loneliness, particularly among the older population. It made the inherent difficulties of aging even harder. The resurrection of this project is a welcome opportunity for our company to perform its story and so, shake off torpor and return to creative self-expression, engagement, and celebration. The recession of Covid and re-start of *The Music Man SR.* have come together to create what I hope is an enjoyable, meaningful, cathartic experience for our cast, crew, and you, the audience. I want to thank Rose Ginsberg, Jessica Leylavergne, Amanda Gerulski and the support staff at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House; MTI, and, in particular, Freddie Gershon for his invaluable advice and support; Kevin Hull, our excellent musical director; Stage Manager Lupa Aguilar; and especially, the actors for their talent, patience, and adventurousness.

After years of shut-down, *The Music Man SR.* might help us all to awaken and hear again, in the words of Meredith Willson's song "Till There Was You": the bells on the hill, the birds in the sky, love all around: the Music of Life.

Scott Klavan



LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE
SINCE 1894

To learn more about what we do, to support our work
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