



Literally Alive Family Theatre presents

Beauty and the Beast

the musical by Sgouros & Bell

February 26th – April 10th



Literally Alive! Family Theatre
presents

Beauty and the Beast

A musical by Michael Sgouros and Brenda Bell

February 26 – April 10, 2022

The Players Theatre – 115 MacDougal Street - NYC

The Cast

Beauty	Emily Sharick
Beast	Eric Fletcher
Papa	Devon Turchan
Louise	Elise Ramaekers
Norma	Raina Silver
Chance	James Brautigam
Prince	Zaq Latino
Le Fee	Brenda Bell
Child Spirit	Avery Ilardi
Ensemble	Kelsey Bentz
Ensemble	Austin Boatwright
Ensemble	Matt Tierney
Ensemble	Michaela Winter

Beauty and the Beast is presented with no intermission

Scenic Design
Elizabeth Chaney

Costume Design
Courtney Hansen

Production Manager
Emily Ruopp

Stage Manager
Felisha Heng

Asst. Stage Manager
Kelley Alogna

Lighting Director
Jessica Choi

Music Director
Michael Sgouros

Vocal Director
Eric Fletcher

Director & Choreographer
Pierce Cassedy

Producing Artistic Director
Brenda Bell

Marketing
Victory Theatrical & Marketing

www.literallyalive.com

Musical Numbers

Beautiful.....	DuSaunt Family & Fairy
My Ship Has Come In.....	DuSaunt Family
Never Met a Beast I Couldn't Tame.....	DuSaunt Family
The Calm Before the Storm.....	Beauty, Beast, Fairy, Prince & Statues
Two of a Kind.....	Beauty, Beast & Statues
Be True	Prince, Beauty & Statues
Unbelievable.....	Norma & Louise DuSaunt
Stay.....	Beauty, Papa & Beast
Two of a Kind – Reprise.....	Company

Musicians

Michael Sgouros	Percussion
Sean Statser	Percussion
Eric Allen	Cello
Britton Mathews.....	Percussion

Literally Alive/Players Theatre Staff

Owner.....	Michael Sgouros
Producing Artistic Director	Brenda Bell
Theatre and Box Office Manager	Courtney Hansen
Wardrobe Assistants.....	Shino Frances & Jessica Campbell
Assistant Manager	Fenix Hidalgo
Pre-Show Adventure.....	Charlene Iardi
Marketing Associate.....	Catie Carlton & Devon Turchan
House Manager.....	Catherine Lamm
Assistant Maintenance.....	Francisco Alvarado
Guest Relations	Bravo Bell
Electrician	Brian Kelly
Air Conditioning.....	Peter Kelly
Accounting	Frank Gallo
Legal	Dale Weber
Set Carpenter	Christian Clarke
Marketing.....	Victory Theatrical & Marketing
Graphic Artist.....	Jack Mansager
Illusion Consultant.....	Todd Robbins

Who's Who in the Cast

Emily Sharick (*Beauty*) is thrilled to be a part of *Beauty and the Beast*. Previous credits include *Cinderella* (The Players Theatre), *Swan Lake Rock Opera* (Actors Temple), *The Wolves* (Point Park University), *Coram Boy* (Point Park University).

Eric Fletcher (*Beast/Vocal Director*) is very pleased to return to *Beauty and the Beast* for the fourth time. Previously he played the Prince and Papa. His Off-Broadway credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge), *Frankenstein* (Victor Frankenstein), *Hollow* (Henry & Van Ripper), *Phantom of the Opera* (The Phantom), *Beauty and the Beast* (Papa), *The Little Mermaid* (Fish Witch), *Cinderella* (Madame), *Alice in Wonderland* (Queen of Hearts), *The Selfish Giant* (Giant), *Treasure Island* (Ben Gunn). Eric earned a BFA in Theatre Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University. He can also be seen around New York as his drag persona Madame Sparkle Monster. Thanks to friends, family, and the Powers That Be.

Kelsey Bentz (*Ensemble, U/S Louise & Beauty*) is excited to return to the Player's stage! Kelsey hails from the farmlands in Oregon and is now a proud New Yorker. Favorite regional credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Heathers*, and *Promenade*. Kelsey is an NYU Tisch graduate, and during the pandemic she created, produced and starred in a 40-episode virtual artist interview series called *Avenue A*, where she was honored to interview the likes of Alice Ripley, Melissa Errico and Michael McElroy. Very thankful to be on stage again during these uncertain times. Love to my family.
www.kelseybentz.com

Austin Boatwright (*Ensemble, U/S Chance*) hails from the sunny shores of Tampa, Florida and moved to New York City after a brief stint in engineering school to pursue his dreams. Austin was

accepted to the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts where he earned his associate's degree in acting. His stage credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Friar Lawrence), *Radium Girls* (Markley), and *She Kills Monsters* (Miles). Alongside acting, Austin is also an avid guitar player and loves to make music in his room. This is his first musical in NYC and he couldn't be more excited!

James Brautigam (*Chance*) is a Long Island native who is very proud to be making his Off-Broadway debut with Literally Alive Family Theatre's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. James is a 2021 graduate of Wagner College with a B.A. in Theatre Performance. In addition to being an Eagle Scout and playing trombone for the past fifteen years, James has also been featured as an extra on such TV shows as *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *Manifest* as well as the MCU film *Spider-Man: Far from Home*. His past favorite theater credits include: *42nd Street* (Featured Dance Ensemble), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Pirate Ensemble), *Celebration* (Reveler/Ensemble), and *As You Like It* (Duke Frederick/Duke Senior). Much love to Mom, Dad, my siblings, and my two little nephews, Kevin and Patrick. james@broadwaygams

Avery Iardi (*Child Spirit*) is so excited to be back on The Player's Theatre Stage! She was last seen in *A Christmas Carol* as Tiny Tim. She can be seen in the *Kars4Kids* Commercial playing the drums and in the just released movie *The Elevator*. Much Love to Brenda, Bobby, Michael and the rest of the Cast & Crew at the Player's Theatre. Thank You to Mother, Father, Rosie and Giulia for the continued support and LOVE that allows me to continue to reach for the stars and follow my dreams. @AveryIardi

Zaq Latino (*Prince, U/S Beast*) is an actor, musician, and composer. Off-Broadway: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (VBAP Residency at The Player's Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (The Players Theatre). Off-

Who's Who in the Cast

Off-Broadway: A Foray in Innocence (Teatro LATEA, NYTF); Accident Park: 'Boo Short Play Festival' (Steve and Marie Sgouros Theatre); Wonder Closet (Pushkin Hall); Stoned to the Wall (The Chain Theater Mainstage). Regional: Holiday Inn (Walnut Street Theatre); the developmental workshops of Shelter (Philadelphia Plays and Players); The Who's Tommy (Theater Horizons Norristown). Although content playing male roles, Zaq is a non-binary person who aims to normalize gender non-conforming representation on professional stages. @zaqlatino

Elise Ramaekers (Louise) hails from Des Moines, Iowa and is a Preschool Teacher, Actor, & Improviser based in Astoria, Queens. Her recent off-broadway projects include musical Dracula: Lord of the Dark with Figuratively Literary & Unchilding at the DiMenna Center. Elise is also a company member of Theatre Nerds Murder Mysteries & American Immersion Theater. You can also catch her freestyle rapping and improvising with her duo @TwoJumpsuits. Elise is excited to share this story and wants to thank the entire creative team, cast, her family, and her fiancé David for their unwavering support!

Raina Silver (Norma) is thrilled to be back with Literally Alive! Other Off Broadway shows include A Christmas Carol, Ectoplasm, and Murder on the Links. She received her BFA at NYU. Thank you to the incredible cast and crew! Website: RainaSilver.com

Matt Tierney (Ensemble, U/S Papa & Prince) is just overall excited to be here! Matt got an AOS from NYCDA, and has since been spotted in every Trader Joe's in Manhattan and Queens. Recent Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream (Players Theatre Mainstage), Stoned to the Wall (Chain Theatre Mainstage), A Foray in Innocence (Teatro Latea - NYTF), Electra (Theatre Dionysus). Other favorite credits include commercials for

Head & Shoulders and Gym Source, and Sucker. Special thanks to Maria, Mom, and Dad. @TheMattTierney TheMattTierney.com Matt's one man show Seeking Attention is premiering at the New York Theatre Festival May 5th, 7th, and 8th!

Devon Turchan (Papa) is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. Since moving here they've been delighted to perform at the Players Theatre in Sleepy Hollow (Ichabod Crane), A Christmas Carol (Bob Cratchit) and Murder on the Links (Hercule Poirot). Recent Cleveland credits include Hedwig and the Angry Inch (Hedwig) and Cabaret (Emcee) at Blank Canvas Theatre; Show Boat (Gaylord Ravenal) and Hair (Claude) at Near West Theatre; and various works with Talespinner Children's Theatre. Turchan graduated from The E. W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University and has worked as a newspaper journalist, a marketing director and a grant writer in addition to directing and teaching theatre.

Michaela Winter (Ensemble, U/S Norma & Fairy) is thrilled to be returning to the Player's Theatre stage in Literally Alive!'s production of Beauty and the Beast! As a proud AMDA graduate, she is grateful for the opportunity to create in an environment that actively supports artistic freedom and discovery. Past credits include Alice in Alice and Wonderland (Player's Theatre), Susan Waverly in White Christmas (Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts), and Nova in Nova: An Original Ballet (Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts). Above all, Michaela would like to thank her family for their unyielding love and support.

Michael Sgouros (Composer/Musical Director/Percussionist) has served as music director and composer for the Off-Broadway shows Percussion People, The Selfish Giant, Treasure Island, Stone Soup, A Christmas Carol, Cinderella, Phantom of the Opera (Sgouros and Bell), The Little Mermaid, Alice in Wonderland, Tico Tales, Sleepy Hollow, Beauty and the Beast and Frankenstein the musical. A native New Yorker, Michael has enjoyed performing as

Who's Who in the Cast

drummer/percussionist in a variety of musical settings which have included the American Symphony, Philharmonia Virtuosi, Ethos Percussion Group, Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey Circus and the Broadway productions of *The Secret Garden*, *Falsettos*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Miss Saigon* and *Phantom of the Opera*. He has toured nationally with *A Chorus Line* and has traveled to Singapore and Costa Rica with the touring productions of *Anything Goes* and *Tico Tales*. Mr. Sgouros has worked professionally with Eartha Kitt, Mandy Patinkin, Michael Rupert, Bernadette Peters, Martin Short, Danny Aiello, Michael Kamen, Alison Janney, Laura Linney and Richard Thomas. He has also collaborated with notable percussionists Glen Velez, Stefan Harris, Michael Markus, Danny Druckman and Samir Chatterjee.

Brenda Bell (*Le Fee, Book & Lyrics, Producing Artistic Director*)

founded Literally Alive Theatre in 1999 and *Be Bold!* Productions in 2009. She has written the book and lyrics for each production, including 12 with composer, Michael Sgouros. Her adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* and original musical *Tico Tales* were featured in Costa Rica at Teatro Jaco. Rumor has it that she wrote, produced and directed her first show at age 6 when the summer proved to be too boring. Her first love has always been dance and Bell is committed to increasing the role of dance in Off-Broadway musicals. She would like to thank this talented cast and creative team for bringing this beautiful story to life and the Players Theatre for providing the perfect home for her whimsy and always encouraging her to be bold! Special thanks to Michael Sgouros for his unending support and for bringing her words to life with his music.

Pierce Cassedy (*Director/Choreographer*) is thrilled to bring *Beauty and the Beast* off the page and into your hearts! Previous *Dir/Choreo*

credits at The Players Theater include *A Christmas Carol*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Cinderella*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Alice in Wonderland* (Choreo). Previous performance credits include *Kinky Boots* (Broadway), *Nerds* (Broadway), *The Book of Mormon* (Elder McKinley, 2nd Nat'l Tour) and *Something Rotten!* (1st Nat'l Tour). Recently: *Somewhere I Can Scream* by Amy Drake at The Steve and Marie Sgouros Theater, located right upstairs! As always, endless love and gratitude to Brenda, Michael, and this amazing cast and crew.

Felisha Heng (*Production Stage Manager*) graduated from Pace University and completed NYU's Film and Stage Production Program. She is thrilled to join the Literally Alive family again following her last production at The Player's Theater, *Hollow*. Other favorite SM credits include: *Good Morning New York*, *Gypsy*, *Stop Kiss*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Clybourne Park*, and *Modern* (ASCAP Musical Theater Workshop). Above all, she is grateful to be creating live theater with such an incredible cast and production team!

Elizabeth Chaney (*Scenic Design/Creative Consultant*) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at BMCC/CUNY. She is always happy to return to The Players Theatre where her designs include: *Alice in Wonderland*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *Cinderella* and *Frankenstein*. Recent BMCC designs include: *To Catch a Fox*, *Love is a Blue Tick Hound*, *Swipe*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Arsonists*, *Measure for Measure* and the upcoming *Twelfth Night*. Other companies include: The Wildlife Conservation Society, Abingdon Theatre, Alaska Theatre of Youth, New Orleans Shakespeare Festival, and the New York International Fringe Festival. Elizabethchaney.carbonmade.com

Emma Ruopp (*Production Manager*) is the Technical Director of the Players Theatre and longtime production team member of Victory Theatrical. Recent shows include: *Cinderella*, *Murder on the Links*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *A Christmas Carol*. Other

Who's Who in the Cast

select credits: Passage at Soho Rep (Technical Operator); The Other Mozart (Little Matchstick Factory); With Love, Marilyn (Production Supervisor On-Site); Trigger (Leviathan Lab); R.U.R. (Battle Damage); Stix (Araca Festival, world premiere); Happy Hour (Monica Bill Barnes); The Gulf (winner Samuel French OOB Festival 2015 NYC); Dadabomb (Giants Are Small/The Swiss Consulate)

Courtney Hansen (Costume Designer) is excited to help bring a little magic to the stage again with this production of Beauty & the Beast. She has previously worked on the full repertory of Literally Alive & Be Bold! Productions shows. Love to her nibblings.

Jessica Choi (Lighting Director) Recent shows include: Between Panic and Desire, Somewhere I Can Scream, Murder on the Links, Cinderella, and Christmas Carol at Players Theatre. She studied and graduated in Entertainment Technology at NYC College of Technology. In addition to her design work, she is a freelancer in the positions of an assistant lighting designer/light board programmer/operator working in the field of theatre and fashion.

Kelley Alogna (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Connecticut based Stage Manager who commutes daily to pursue theatre in NYC. This production of Beauty and the Beast will be her 8th show working with Literally Alive. Off-Broadway credits include: A Christmas Carol, Little Mermaid, Sleep Hollow, and Cinderella.

Sean Statser (Percussionist) As an advocate for contemporary music, Sean actively collaborates with several New York City ensembles including the Grammy-nominated Metropolis Ensemble, Ensemble LPR, Argento New Music Project, and Iktus Percussion. He has premiered over 150 works to date and appears regularly with the American Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, and New York

Pops as a section percussionist. Sean has been a member of the NYU Percussion Studies faculty since 2010, and is also the Program Administrator and Summer Programs Coordinator.

Eric Allen (Cello) Eric Allen is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and arranger. As a cellist, he has performed at Carnegie Hall, Dizzy's Club, National Sawdust, and on Broadway's *Pretty Woman*. He regularly arranges for The National Symphony Orchestra and has created orchestral arrangements for Regina Spektor, Ben Folds, Cynthia Erivo, Bun B, and Diana Ross. Eric also can be seen in the orchestras of shows *Mozart in the Jungle* and *Dickinson*.

Britton Matthews (Percussion) is a freelance percussionist specializing in musical theater and chamber music in New York. Recent performances include: *On the Other Side* (Parsons Dance); *Wordless Music's East Coast tour of Riceboy Sleeps*, featuring Jónsi and Alex Somers; Terrence Malick's *The Voyage of Time*; *The Hello Girls* (Off-Broadway); *Yiddish revival of Fiddler on the Roof* at Stage 42 (Off-Broadway). Britton is a member of the *Lost Dog New Music Ensemble*, *Ensemble LPR*, and the *Exit 9 Percussion Group*, and she teaches percussion at *Molloy College* (Rockville Centre, NY). Britton received her Master of Music degree from Rutgers University, and her Bachelor of Music Education from Baylor University.

The Players Theatre

Built in 1907 and converted into a theatre in the late 1950's, the Players Theatre has been a jewel in the midst of beautiful Greenwich Village, serving as a magnet for performing artists and their audiences. The building includes, a main stage 199 seat Off Broadway theatre, a 50 seat Off-Off Broadway black box theatre, four rehearsal studios, an office suite for arts organizations and the famous Cafe Wha?, which has been a Greenwich Village mainstay since the 1960's. www.theplayerstheatre.com



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