





Directed by Tracy Adler
Musical Direction by Barrett Johnson

September 19, 2025 - October 19, 2025

Our Mission

Compass Rose Theater is led by Executive Director Barbara Webber and Artistic Director Madeline Austin. Established in 2011 by Lucinda Merry-Browne, Compass Rose Theater is a critically acclaimed professional theater and nonprofit teaching organization in Annapolis. It is rooted in the belief that theater education creates performance excellence. Our theater's unwavering commitment to upholding the highest artistic and educational standards is at the core of each presentation, whether a play, musical, reading, workshop, or class.

Compass Rose Theater has produced more than 50 shows, garnering eight Helen Hayes Award nominations and several Helen Hayes Award Recommendations.

We believe that diversity and inclusion enrich our creativity and broaden our world. At our core is our devotion and unwavering commitment to producing plays of superb quality and richness, and hiring accomplished professional artists and talented students for our productions.

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Barbara Webber Executive Director
Madeline Austin Artistic Director

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Christopher Buck Attorney-at-Law
Ron Canada Actor/Producer
Lucinda Merry-Browne Founding Artistic Director (retired)

From Our Executive Director

Coming off an incredible season with SEVEN Helen Hayes Award nominations (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*) and several other honors (*Proof, and Little Shop of Horrors*), Compass Rose Theater is proud to continue bringing powerful productions and engaging classes to our region.

We feel fortunate that Madeline Austin has become our new Artistic Director, bringing decades of Broadway experience. She directed our acclaimed *Little Shop of Horrors* and teaches and directs at Anne Arundel Community College. Please check out her impressive bio on our website. Also, a huge welcome goes to new board members Anne Marie Drew, Constance Flannagan, Tania Hindert, and Estelle Miller.

We are dedicated to sparking creativity, learning, and connection through intimate, immersive theater. On behalf of our staff, board, volunteers, and artists, welcome to our exciting 2025–26 season!

We kick off our season with the beloved *Annie*—featuring the plucky orphan, her loyal pup named Sandy (a professional dog actor who's shared the stage with Kyra Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon!), and an uber-talented cast sure to lift your spirits. In November and December, you will enjoy *Pride & Prejudice*, Emma Whipday's witty, fast-paced take on Jane Austen's classic romance.

In February, we bring you a bold new production of *Rent* to be presented at Anne Arundel Community College (while our Maryland Hall space undergoes renovation). We close the season with *Compass Rose Cabaret*, celebrating 15 years of Compass Rose favorites, hosted at Unity by the Bay in Annapolis.

Whether you attend a show, enjoy a class, volunteer, or donate, you are a vital part of what makes Compass Rose shine, and we appreciate you!

Thank you for being with us. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

With Gratitude,



Please help us continue offering award-winning shows and exceptional educational programming by making a tax-deductible donation to Compass Rose Theater, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, since 2011.

Compass Rose Theater Presents

Annie

Book and Lyrics by THOMAS MEEHAN Music by CHARLES STROUSE Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN

Original Broadway Production Directed by MARTIN CHARNIN

Based on *Little Orphan Annie*By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Originally Produced at the Goodspeed Opera House, Michael P. Price, Executive Director

Presented on Broadway by Mike Nichols

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ANNIE

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Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Director

Tracy Adler

Musical Director

Barrett Johnson

Cast

Molly Julia Ballenger Pepper Baylor Cherneski

July Tabitha Belle Popernack

Tessie Sophia Vincent
Annie Jules Kanarek
Miss Hannigan Hayley Adler
Grace Farrell Taryn Murphy

Grace Farrell Taryn Murphy
Oliver Warbucks James M. Toler
Rooster/Sound Effects Man/Ensemble Tyler M. White
Lilv St. Regis/Ensemble Tori Farnsworth

Lily St. Regis/Ensemble Tori Farnsworth
FDR/Bundles/Ensemble C.C. Gallagher
Star-to-Be/Cecille/Ensemble Jewel Freeman

Eddie/Drake/Healy/Ensemble Andrew Agner-Nichols

Mrs. Greer/Sophie/Ensemble Lizzy Grice and featuring Sandy Sequel

Production/Creative Team

Producer Barbara Webber
Artistic Director Madeline Austin
Stage Manager Kristi Gardner
Lighting Designer Marianne Meadows

Set Designer Kerry & Laurie Brandon, Philip Aaron

Choreographer Tori Farnsworth
Costume and Prop Designer Susan Flynn

Sound Designer Ryan Squires & Barrett Johnson

Photographer Joshua Hubbell

Production Assistants Kathy Wargo, Rebecca Kurdle

Thanks to Colonial Players and Wilde Lake High School for your props and costumes generosity!

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act One

"Overture"

Scene 1: The NYC Municipal Orphanage for Girls

"Maybe" - Annie

"It's the Hard Knock Life" - Annie

Scene 2: St. Mark's Place, NYC Lower East Side

"Tomorrow" - Annie

Scene 3: Shantyville under the 59th Street Bridge, East River

"Hooverville" - Company

Scene 4: Hannigan's Office at the Orphanage

"Little Girls" - Miss Hannigan

Scene 5: The Fifth Avenue Mansion of Oliver Warbucks

"I Think I'm Gonna to Like it Here" - Annie, Grace, Servants

Scene 6: Midtown New York City

"N.Y.C" - Annie, Warbucks, Grace, Company

Scene 7: Hannigan's Office

"Easy Street" - Miss Hannigan, Lily, Rooster

Scene 8: Warbucks' Mansion

"You Won't be an Orphan for Long" - Annie, Warbucks, Grace, Servants

Act Two

Entr'acte

Scene 1: The New York NBC Radio Studio

Reprise: "Maybe" - Annie

"Fully Dressed" - Bert Healy, Boylan Sisters

Scene 2: Hannigan's Office

Reprise: "Fully Dressed" - Orphans

Reprise: "Easy Street" - Miss Hannigan, Lily, Rooster

Scene 3: The Cabinet Room at the White House, Washington, D.C.

"Cabinet Tomorrow" - Annie, Warbucks, Roosevelt, Cabinet Members

Scene 4: Warbuck's Mansion

"Something was Missing" - Warbucks

Scene 5: Warbuck's Mansion, Christmas Eve

"I Don't Need Anything but You" - Annie, Warbucks, Company

Scene 6: Warbuck's Mansion, Christmas Morning

"A New Deal for Christmas" - Annie, Warbucks, Grace, FDR, & Company

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

A Note From Our Director

I am "betting my bottom dollar" that you will find *Annie* to be an optimistic delight that transcends its Great Depression setting. This backstory of the cartoon character "Little Orphan Annie" inspires us to believe in our potential and the possibility of a brighter future, regardless of today's challenges. This was certainly a resonating concept in 1933, and, appropriately, it still holds much weight today. *Annie* is an exciting project to undertake with Compass Rose Theater. Our challenge to use this small theatre to stage a large Broadway musical took incredible creativity, teamwork, and a whole lot of sassy gumption. Just like our Annie. This was a wonderful way to spend the summer.

Enjoy!

Tracy Adler

Playwright, Lyricist, Composer

Thomas Meehan (1929-2017) was known for writing Broadway musicals, including *Annie*, *The Producers*, and *Hairspray*. He won a Tony Award in 1977 for the *Annie* libretto, his Broadway debut. Other notable works include *Young Frankenstein*, *Elf*, and *Rocky* musicals, as well as screenplays for *Spaceballs* and *To Be or Not To Be*. He is the only writer to have written three Broadway shows that ran for over 2,000 performances (*Annie*, *The Producers*, and *Hairspray*).

Martin Charnin (1934-2019) was best known for creating, directing, and writing the lyrics for *Annie*. Charnin was a regular director for *Annie* productions, including the 2014 national tour. His work on Annie earned him several awards, including a Tony Award for Best Original Score (shared with Charles Strouse) and two Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Director and Lyrics. His television work also won three Emmy Awards.

Charles Strouse (1928-2025) was a prolific American composer/lyricist most famous for composing the music for Broadway musicals like *Bye Bye Birdie, Applause*, and *Annie*. Strouse won three Tony Awards, including one for the score of *Annie*, and also earned a Grammy and an Emmy. Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Theatre Hall of Fame, Strouse also composed scores for films such as *Bonnie & Clyde* and the theme song for the television sitcom *All in the Family*. He chronicled his experiences in his 2008 autobiography, *Put on a Happy Face: A Broadway Memoir*.

Creative Team

Tracy Adler (Director) was yanked back—kicking and screaming—into the director's chair after a 3-year retirement siesta, thrilled to be directing Compass Rose Theater's Annie! From 1990-2022, Tracy helmed the highly-renowned Theatre Arts Dept. at Wilde Lake HS in Columbia, MD. Her greatest legacy is her generations of alumni who have theatre careers onstage, backstage, and in the classroom. Her former students have performed on Broadway, in touring companies, in film, in television, and more. Behind the stage, alumni are now directors, theatre teachers, producers, stage managers, and designers. Tracy thanks her husband & three artist daughters, (a painter/sculptor, a vocalist/choral conductor, and a theatre teacher/director/artist), and her mother, the OG director/musical director, for their love & support. Good strong genes!

Barrett Johnson (Music Director) is excited to return to Compass Rose Theater after her recent performance as Chiffon in *LSOH*, this time as part of the creative team. A University of Miami Frost School of Music graduate, Barrett is an entertainment director, music director, agent, band leader, and professional performer based in Baltimore. Special thanks to Barbara Webber and Tracy Adler for their faith and mentorship. Big props to the incredible cast and crew for their hard work and trust—just don't forget Rule #1! And to her wonderful wife: all the love for her truly unending patience and support (even though she'll "never be a theater person!"). Here's to the next show! www.barrett-johnson.com

Marianne Meadows (Lighting Designer) is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829, nominated four times for a Helen Hayes Award. She has a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and an M.F.A. from the University of Washington, with additional training from Lester Polakovs' Studio and Forum of State Design NYC.

Kerry Brandon (Set Designer) is Operations Manager at Lyric Baltimore. He is elated to be working with Adler again after a 16-year hiatus. With his reentry into scenic design, he is grateful to have met the brilliant staff and artistic team at Compass Rose Theater. He is looking forward to working with this talented group of wonderful people in the future.

Susan Flynn (Costume/Prop Designer) is excited to continue her props and costumes journey with Compass Rose. After getting a taste of working behind the scenes during the production of *Sylvia*, she has contributed her manifesting talents to other productions such as *I and You*, *The Gin Game*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Same Time*, *Next Year*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She also serves as Secretary of Compass Rose Theater. Susan is a proud member of the Screen Actors Guild and is enjoying her retirement from a career as a Math Teacher.

Kristi Gardner (Stage Manager) is glad to be working on her third production with Compass Rose Theater. Her first two were *I* and *You* and *Intimate Apparel*. She previously worked on *Oklahoma* (MAD), *The Women of Lockerbie* (BCT), *Suite Surrender* (PGLT), *Pippin* (GAC), and *Dreamgirls* (2nd Star Productions).



Hayley Adler (Miss Hannigan) is a working theatre professional from MD. She began performing at a young age and gradually transitioned backstage. She serves as the Theatre Director at Atholton High School in Columbia, MD. Hayley holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts/English from Rutgers University and plans to pursue her M.F.A. in directing. She is thrilled to return to the stage for *Annie* and thanks the director for keeping her on her toes. Special thanks to her friends, family, and Kitty Babylon for their unwavering support.



Andrew Agner-Nichols (Eddie/Healy/Morgenthau/Drake) returns to Compass Rose, previously portraying Dr. Orin Scrivello in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Prior works include: Duke Orsino, *Twelfth Night* (Anne Arundel Community College); and ensemble and u/s, *Groundhog Day, the Musical* (ASGT). He had the fortune of starring and co-starring in independent & short films such as *Sip, Geographically Desirable, I'm Your Server,* and *The Dinner*, as well as a slew of training videos, commercials, and print ads.



Julia Ballenger (Molly) is thrilled to make her debut at Compass Rose Theater! Previous credits at Toby's Dinner Theatre include Amaryllis, *The Music Man;* Marta, *The Sound of Music;* Chip, *Beauty and the Beast;* and *Miracle on 34th Street.* She has appeared in local school productions of *Aladdin* as Genie and *Finding Nemo* as Bubble.



Baylor Cherneski (Pepper/Annie u/s) makes her debut at Compass Rose Theater with Annie. Her previous works include: Peter Pan in Peter Pan; Gabriella in High School Musical; Les in Newsies; and appearances in Frozen and The Wizard of Oz. She's always breaking out in song. She plays soccer, skis, and loves to travel. She is excited about this opportunity and dedicates her performance to her friends and family who support her dream.



Tori Farnsworth (Lily St. Regis/Pugh/Bonnie/Hull) is thrilled to make her debut with Compass Rose Theater. She has enjoyed the privilege of getting to know the incredible cast and is grateful to the production team for this opportunity. Some previous credits include: Mrs. Correy, Mary Poppins; Zaneeta, The Music Man; SpongeBob the Musical; Ermengarde, Hello Dolly, DC/Mistress u/s, Evita; and Adelaide/Ens, Guys and Dolls. She works in tech production and hopes to perform on cruise lines or film sets. She thanks God she can share this artistic journey with you.



Jewel Freeman (Star-to-Be/Annette/Cecille/Ronnie/Judge Brandeis) is so excited to be part of the *Annie* ensemble! Originally from Bladensburg, MD, she's a proud Foreign Service kid who has been singing & dancing since she was 5. She earned her B.A. in Performing Arts from AMDA (NYC/LA). Favorite credits include: Effie u/s, *Dreamgirls*, Amethyst, The *Delicate Flower*; Nikki Kay, *The Runaways*; and Nora in the film *Pulpit Gangster*. Jewel also writes and performs her own music—check it out on all streaming platforms. Follow her on IG @pjpoprocks!



C.C. Gallagher (FDR/Bundles/Ward/McCracken/Wacky) is an actor, singer, composer, and playwright who is honored to be making their Compass Rose debut. Recent credits include: Mr. Cunningham, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Riverside Center for the Performing Arts); *Peerless* (Silver Spring Stage); Dracula, *Dracula* (UMBC); and Lukash, *I Never Said Goodbye* (Yev K'Banchik Films), a multi-award-winning film. C.C. is recognized as an actor combatant by the Society of American Fight Directors, is an avid gardener, and is deeply thankful for and in love with his spouse.



Lizzy Grice (Greer/Connie/Sophie/Perkins/Dog Catcher) makes her debut at Compass Rose Theater with Annie. Some of her most recent roles include Vocal Ensemble, Singin' in the Rain; Suzanne, A Family Reunion to Die For; and, most recently, Miss Honey, Matilda (Centerstage Productions). She has her Bachelor's degree in music and is pursuing a Master's in music (Ball State University). She thanks her husband and family for their continued support, and her students, Addie and Elizabeth, for encouraging her to audition.



Jules Kanarek (Annie) is over the moon to be making her debut at Compass Rose Theater. Recent theatre credits include the titular role in *Matilda* (The British Players); Frank Jr, *Merrily We Roll Along* (Keegan Theatre); and Small Alison & u/s, *Fun Home* (Studio Theatre). Jules was also a lead, Sophia/Other Sophia, in the award-winning feature film *The Other You*, premiering at the DC Independent Film Festival. Jules is represented by Innovative Artists. A million thanks to her family & friends for their endless love and support!



Taryn Murphy (Grace Farrell) is thrilled to make her debut at Compass Rose! She studied musical theatre at Temple University, where her previous credits include: Wendla, Spring Awakening; Okra, From Okra to Greens; and Terpiscore, Xanadu. Most recently, she was Shelby, Steel Magnolias (Great Plains Theatre); and Gabby Maple in a reimagined production of The Petrified Forest. Taryn would like to thank her family and friends who always support her dreams, the excellent cast, and the team who helped put this show together! Instagram @Tarynstv.



Tabitha Belle Popernack (July) is very excited to be making her Compass Rose Theater debut! Recent roles include Matilda, *Matilda the Musical* (The Newtowne Players); Colin Craven, *The Secret Garden Musical* (Woods Memorial); and Polly Baker, *Crazy for You* at her school. She has been passionate about theater since playing Young Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*. An 8th grader at The Calverton School in Huntingtown, she is excited to continue pursuing her passion for musical theater. Tabitha would like to thank her family, friends, and instructors for their love and support.



Sequel (Sandy) is a talented Bernedoodle with a growing list of screen credits, including starring alongside Kyra Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon. She's been featured in major national commercials and continues to take on exciting new projects. Trained by Kelly Litchford of Leverage Animal Actors, Sequel brings professionalism, heart, and a touch of comic relief to every set she steps on. Follow the journey @pawstoapplause on Instagram!



James M. Toler (Oliver Warbucks) was last HEARD as Audrey II in Compass Rose Theater's critically acclaimed production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Recent credits include Derrick, *Mysteries They Solved* (BMPFest); Nicely-Nicely Johnson, *Guys and Dolls* (HCST); Skip, *The Bodyguard* (Toby's Dinner Theatre); and Ken (u/s) *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Toby's). He is a Leadership Development Consultant at Kaiser Permanente. He thanks Allie and Kendall for keeping him grounded, family & friends for their support & encouragement, and Tracy Adler for being the greatest mentor a young theater kid could ask for! TGBTG!!



Sophia Vincent (Tessie) is thrilled to be making her debut at Compass Rose Theater. Hailing from Southern Maryland, Sophia has appeared in multiple local musical theater productions: Gavroche, *Les Misérables*; Coroner of Munchkinland, *The Wizard of Oz*; and Elf/Child, *Elf.* In addition to attending middle school, Sophia also studies dance, particularly enjoying tap dance. She thanks the director for this wonderful opportunity, and she would like to thank her family for their support and for driving her to rehearsals. She hopes you will enjoy the show!



Tyler M. White (Rooster/Asst. Dog Catcher/Sound Effects Guy/Howe) is thrilled to be making his second appearance at Compass Rose Theater. Previous credits include Audrey II Puppeteer in Little Shop of Horrors; SpongeBob in The SpongeBob Musical (Phoenix Festival Theater); Booker T. Washington in Ragtime (Maryland Theater Collective); Collins/Benny (u/s) in Rent (Iron Crow Theatre); and Ensemble in Beauty and the Beast (Olney Theatre Center). Tyler thanks his family, friends, and his little shih poo, Ginger, for all their support, and to everyone attending for supporting live theater! Instagram: tylurgicallybonded



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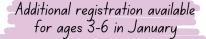


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2025 - 2026 Season









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