

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE DESCRIPTO

www.ConnecticutTheatreCompany.org

THE PRODUCERS

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

Connecticut Theatre Company

Presents

THE PRODUCERS A Mel Brooks Musical

Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan

Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks

Original direction and choreography by Susan Stroman

By special arrangement with StudioCanal

May 2 - May 11

The Repertory Theatre 23 Norden Street New Britain, CT 06051 (860) 223-3147

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The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to Connecticut Theatre Company! We are so grateful for your continued support and patronage. We are so happy to continue our 2025 season with this hilarious production of The Producers. It's sure to make you laugh and leave you with a smile.

Following The Producers will be The Wedding Singer, Escape to Margaritaville, and we'll close our season with Miracle on 34th Street. There's truly something for everyone and I hope you enjoy the variety of shows!

Flex passes are always available and are a great way to get a discount when coming to multiple performances! See our box office staff for more information.

Warm Regards, Duane Campbell, Executive Director of Connecticut Theatre Company

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Ten years ago I happened to be performing in a production of The Producers with another company, when our Ulla pulled me aside and told me about this company in New Britain that was looking for a Tracy Turnblad for their production of Hairspray. She told the director, Erin Campbell, that I would be perfect, so I auditioned, and Erin took a chance on me.

Over and over again, this company has taken a chance on me both on stage and off. I have made friends that have turned into family, not to mention I met my husband on this stage in another Mel Brooks musical. So when they announced they were looking for a director, I knew I had to toss my hat into the running. It felt too coincidental that this show would come back into my life ten years later.

And now here we are and I invite you to step into the dilapidated office of Max Bialystock, former King of Broadway, as he convinces his meek accountant, Leo Bloom, to help him create a scheme to pull off the biggest Broadway flop in history! Join them as they search for the worst play ever written, hire the worst director and actors in town, and offend almost everyone they encounter. Filled with crass humor, dirty old ladies, and German pigeons, this show is guaranteed to leave you in stitches. If you look underneath the outrageous farce, though, there is a story about friendship, following your dreams, and believing that there is always more to you than there is to you.

Some may think it was too ambitious of me to tackle a show of this magnitude for my first solo directing gig since college, but I hope I proved them wrong, because my cast and my crew surpassed all of my expectations. I am beyond proud of everyone involved! It has been an honor to bring this production to life, but now it is time for me to take a step back and leave it in the hands of my capable cast. Will you love it, will you hate it, the suspense is killing me!

Enjoy the show!

Johanna Milani Director

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

IT'S OPENING NIGHT THE KING OF BROADWAY WE CAN DO IT I WANNA BE A PRODUCER WE CAN DO IT REPRISE IN OLD BAVARIA DER GUTEN TAG HOP-CLOP KEEP IT GAY WHEN YOU'VE GOT IT FLAUNT IT ALONG CAME BIALY ACT 1 FINALE

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT 2

THAT FACE HABEN SIE GEHORT DAS DEUTSCHE BAND? OPENING NIGHT REPRISE NEVER SAY GOOD LUCK ON OPENING NIGHT SPRINGTIME FOR HITLER WHERE DID WE GO RIGHT? BETRAYED TIL HIM PRISONERS OF LOVE PRISONERS OF LOVE LEO AND MAX GOODBYE!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Max Bialystock	CHUCK STANGO
Leo Bloom	COLE URSO
Franz Liebkind	CHARLES FORTE
Roger DeBris	TULLIO MILANI
Carmen Ghia	LIAM WELSH
Ulla	SARA COURTEMANCHE

ENSEMBLE

EDWARD ANTIGUA, HEATHER BURLANT, LUKE CASHMAN, STEPHANIE CARROLL, DAVID CESPEDES, BEN CLOUSE, ANGELINA D'ALBERO, JAZZ GALLUCCI, HALLI GIBSON, RALENE GOFF, BROOKE HENDON, RACHEL MORROW, SHAWN MURRAY, DAVID NUNNER, ADAM PISARSKI, KIM SALTZMAN, YARI SANTIAGO, BECKY STANFORD, PIPER STEPULE, KAYLYN TERRY

CAST BIOS

EDWARD ANTIGUA (ENSEMBLE): As a graduate from Naugatuck Valley Community College and current student at Central Connecticut State University, Edward Antigua is excited to be in his first show at Connecticut Theatre Company! Past credits include Billy Nolan (Carrie: The Musical), Harold Pudding/Mad Hatter (Alice by Heart), and Douglas Panch (Spelling Bee). When not on stage, Edward also enjoys pursuing Directing (Constellations and True West) and anything crew related. Follow him on instagram @eternallyedward to keep updated with his theatre journey!

HEATHER BURLANT (ENSEMBLE): Heather is so excited for her first show with CTC! This has been such a fun and rewarding experience! Past shows include The Prom Ridgefield Theater Barn, The Producers Brookfield Theatre, Legends Of Fear Shelton, Dinner Detective New Haven. Heather also teaches various styles of dance at The Dancer's Choice in Monroe CT! Thank you to the cast and crew for being so kind and encouraging throughout this creative process! Thank you to her friends and family for all their love and support! Break a leg everyone!

LUKE CASHMAN (ENSEMBLE): Luke is 14 years old and excited to be part of The Producers. He is an 8th-grade student at Adams Middle School in Guilford. Luke's past roles include Gaston in Beauty and the Beast Jr. and Nikos Argitakos in Legally Blonde, both with the New Haven Academy of Performing Arts. He has been studying dance and singing for the past two years. Luke comes from a big family with three sisters and one younger brother, and he is grateful for their support and encouragement as he continues pursuing his love of performing.

STEPHANIE CARROLL (ENSEMBLE): Stephanie is excited to make her CTC debut. This is her return to musical theatre after last performing in the Ensemble of Aida (Rocky Hill Theatre, 2016). She most recently played Monique in "The Awakening" (FUSE Theatre), and has done 24 hour theatre at Meteor Night (Windham Theatre Guild, 2024) & Mayfly Festival (2025). She is also involved with the North Pole Express at The Essex Steam Train (Essex, CT). She'd like to thank her family (especially Mom) for loving & supporting her, her best friends S.M. & C.R. for always rooting for her, her NPBFF, & her cat Penny Lane.

DAVID CESPEDES (ENSEMBLE): David was born and raised in New Jersey and has loved TV and film since childhood. He studied and graduated from Keene State College as a Film Productions major with the goal of pursuing a career of being a writer/director/actor for film, television, and theatre. In between developing his own projects, David has been a part of the ensemble in shows like The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time and 9 to 5: The Musical, in addition to portraying Joseph Pulitzer in Newsies and Mr. Collins in a production of Kate Hamill's adaptation of Pride and Prejudice. Not only is David excited to make his debut at Connecticut Theatre Company, but he is also honored to be a part of the cast for The Producers and can't thank this team enough for including him as a member of this production's ensemble.

BEN CLOUSE (ENSEMBLE): Ben is a cross-trained bari-tenor who recently graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre Performance. He studied contemporary musical theatre, legit musical theatre, and classical singing styles. Ben's recent performances include: Barry Glickman in The Prom, Guido Contini in Nine, and a Featured Performer in I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Ben has also worked at Maine State Music Theatre as a part of their Theatre for Young Audiences series where he performed as the Giant in Jack and the Beanstalk.

SARA COURTEMANCHE (ULLA): Sara has over 15 years of stage experience, is classically trained in theatre and dance, and has studied mixed vocal technique with Billy DiCrosta since 2015. Sara has played a wide range of roles in plays and musicals alike, including (most recently) Lucy Seward in Dracula, Janet Weiss in Rocky Horror Picture Show, Ilse Neumann in SPring Awakening, Molly Aster in P et er and t h e S t ar cat ch er, and Joanna Todd in Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street . She has had the privilege to participate and train in multiple professional settings, such as CT Free Shakespeare (2015), Center for Creative Youth (2015), and KCACTF (2019) where she was the first ever Musical Theatre Finalist to represent CCSU-her alma mater. A versatile mezzo-soprano, Sara is trained in stage combat, FX makeup, voice acting, and prop building. She also has her own design business which focuses on journalism & branding

ANGELINA D'ALBERO (ENSEMBLE): Angelina is a multi-talented performer whose dance journey began at age two. She became an accomplished competition dancer and in 2014 was chosen to compete for Team USA at the World Tap Championships. With this background as a seasoned dancer and later having spent 2 years as a cadet in the Army, she brings a unique blend of discipline and artistry to her craft. She has been training in NYC since 2018 and has completed programs with Broadway Dance Center and The Barrow Group for Acting. Her talents then took her on tour with Disney on Ice as a character performer in the role of Elsa. Upon returning home to CT, she was cast as the female lead in Castle Craig Players' production of The 39 Steps and then had an amazing time as Lulu in CTC's Cabaret. She is over the moon about being a part of this stellar The Producers cast. She extends heartfelt gratitude to her mom, as well as all of her family & friends, for the unwavering belief in her potential.

CHARLES FORTE (FRANZ LIEBKIND): Charles is happy to be in his first CTC production! If he had a nickel for every "Truman era German soldier" he's played, he'd have 2 nickelswhich isn't a lot but it's weird that it happened twice. He hopes he's not being typecast! Recent roles include Sky Masterson in "Guys and Dolls" and Dewey Finn in "School of Rock"both with Wallingford Community Theater, and Cholly in "A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol" with Golden Fox. He'd like to thank his family, his boyfriend, and the whole team of CTC. Enjoy the show!

JAZZ GALLUCI (ENSEMBLE): Jazz is so thrilled to make their debut as an Usherette with Connecticut Repertory Theatre! Past favorite credits include the Artful Dodger in Oliver!, Jojo in Seussical, John Darling in Peter Pan, and Sharpay Evan in High School Musical. They'd like to extend a massive thank you to the incredibly talented and wildly supportive cast and creative team, this show has been their favorite for so many years and the experience of making it come so vividly to life has surpassed every expectation and hope they've had. Thank you, everyone, for your inclusion and kindness, so much love, break legs!

HALLI GIBSON (ENSEMBLE): Halli is delighted to be making her debut with Connecticut Theatre Company. Favorite credits include Tammy: Pocatello, Sister James in Doubt: A Parable, and Alice in You Can't Take It With You. She also recently filmed a day player role in TBC Film's mini series Marblehead. Halli has a BFA from Southern Oregon University in Acting, is currently an MFA in Acting student at University of Connecticut, and has also trained with The Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

RALENE GOFF (ENSEMBLE): This is Ralene's fourth production with CTC and she is thrilled to be in this hilarious show. She is super excited to be sharing the stage with so many amazing actors. Some favorite past roles include Mrs. Tottendale (Drowsy), First Man (Kiss me Kate), The Wicked Stepmother (Cinderella), Mrs. Gloop (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), Mrs. Augustus Granville (Charleston), and Mrs. Claus. Ralene is a music educator in Middletown. When not in the classroom or on the stage, she enjoys writing children's books, and spending time with her family. She is married to her wonderful husband, Fred, and has two grown children, Erin and Patrick, who all share her love of music and theater. Thank you to Johanna, Kim, Alexis, Tullio, Bret, and the entire cast for everything you did to make this show AMAZING!

BROOKE HENDON (ENSEMBLE): Brooke is joining CTC for The Producers and excited to be a part of this large cast!

TULLIO MILANI (ROGER DEBRIS): Tullio Milani is deeply honored to be back on stage at Connecticut Theatre Company in their production of The Producers. Some of his most recent credits include: The Full Monty (Jerry), Addams Family (Gomez Addams), Beauty and the Beast (Beast), Spamalot (Sir Galahad), Thoroughly Modern Millie (Jimmy Smith), Anything Goes (Billy Crocker), Sweeny Todd (Pirelli), Young Frankenstein (Dr. Frederick Frankenstein), and Hairspray (Corny Collins), to name a few. Tullio's greatest role however, is being a Father to his beautiful sons, Emilio and Luca. Offstage Tullio pursues a career as a Mechanical Engineer in Rocky Hill Connecticut. Tullio is thankful for all the support from his friends and family, and his beautiful wife Johanna Milani.

RACHEL MORROW (ENSEMBLE): Rachel is thrilled to be in her first CTC show! Her recent credits include Matilda (Mrs. Wormwood), Gods of Comedy (Zoe/Brooklyn), Sound of Music (Elsa Schraeder), Guys and Dolls (Adelaide), and Oklahoma (Ado Annie). Rachel received a BA in Voice and Theater from Mercer University and an MM in Opera from the University of Oklahoma. With over a decade of experience on professional and community stages, Rachel also enjoys being behind the scenes, having worked as a stage manager, lighting designer, scene shop assistant, educator, and director. This summer, she is excited to flex her improv chops at Robin Hood's Medieval Faire with the Crown Players troupe. Shoutout to her husband John, who is always cheering her on, and to her dog (Indie) and cat (Kota) for tolerating when she sings loudly around the house. Thank you to the loveliest cast and crew; this production has been a joy!

SHAWN MURRAY (ENSEMBLE): Shawn has been acting in community theater all over CT since going to SCSU in the early 2000's. His tastes and style have hardly changed in that time, which has its benefits and drawbacks. He has been so blessed to work with this entire team and is already lamenting the end of this wonderful show. He dedicates this performance to his car Wenjdy who was ill during the most inconvenient times of rehearsal. Also his partner Sarah for her support, I guess.

DAVID NUNNER (ENSEMBLE): David is excited to return to his CTC home, this time on stage as part of this amazing show. He has enjoyed working with the crew and cast to bring the show to life. On stage, David has been seen many times throughout Connecticut. Previous CTC credits include: Bernadette in "Priscilla Queen of the Desert", Tobias in "Sweeney Todd", Dr. Einstein in "Arsenic and Old Lace", and Igor in "Young Frankenstein". David serves as the President of CTC on the Board of Directors.

ADAM PISARSKI (ENSEMBLE): Adam is ecstatic to be in his debut production with Connecticut Theatre Company! You may have seen him in shows such as Legally Blonde (Warner), Brigadoon (Jeff Douglas), and The Wizard of Oz (Cowardly Lion). He would like to thank his mommy and daddy for being super cool and putting up with this goofy goober for 25 years! He would also like to thank his little brother, Ryan, for being his best friend and #1 supporter. He is also very grateful to be working with such a spectacular cast and crew! Enjoy the show!

KIM SALTZMAN (ENSEMBLE): Kim Saltzman is excited to be returning to the CTC stage for the 8th time. Saltzman serves as a performer and choreographer for all ages across the state of CT as well as a current member of the Parker Project Dance Company (Trumbull CT). Saltzman has performed in a variety of dance and theatre productions for 26 years including works choreographed by Monica Bill-Barnes, Sarah Zehnder, Nikole Lachioma and Doug Elkins as well as productions including but not limited to Rosie in "Cabaret" (CTC), Snow White in "Snow White the Ballet" (PACC), Pilar in "Legally Blonde the Musical" (SC) and Pinocchio in "Shrek the musical" (SC). She would like to thank her friends, family and this amazing cast for always encouraging her to "Kim it her all".

YARI SANTIAGO (ENSEMBLE): Yari is excited to be making her debut in her first theatre production! She has decided to take the first step into pursuing a passion for the performing arts.

BECKY STANFORD (ENSEMBLE): The Producers is Becky's favorite show and is thrilled to be a part of this amazing production. She swears she's actually going to take a break after this; but, with such a stacked cast and production team, how could she say no to this? Becky is on the CTC Board and has enjoyed working on many CTC shows over the past few years. Much love to her CT and MI family, especially, Nick.

CHUCK STANGO (MAX BIALYSTOCK): Agreeing to "do just one show" in 2008 has become 55 shows over the last 17 years. In addition to here with The Connecticut Theatre Company, Chuck has performed on community theatre stages in Goshen, Torrington, Thomaston, Brookfield, Monroe, Danbury, and Waterbury. Now, for show #56, Chuck is thrilled to be taking a shot at bringing Max Bialystock to life. He thanks Johanna for giving him this tremendous opportunity, Melissa for her never-ending willingness to help with lines, and Kate, Lauren and Sam for making him believe he's not too old for this role. If this is the last one, what a way to go out!!!

PIPER STEPULE (ENSEMBLE): Piper is so excited to work with this amazing production team on this incredible show! After an 8 year hiatus, she has been back in the theatre game for the past year with producers being show number five. In that year, she was seen as The Acrobat in Matilda, Rapunzel, Little Red, Cinderella, and a witch in Brother's Grimm Spectaculathon, Miss Shields in A Christmas Story: The Musical, and most recently as Jo's understudy in Little Women. She has also worked on some local film productions with Nick Rapuano and Jeff Bell and was featured in a Halloween and Valentine's Day cabaret with Cabaret on Main and The Movement center, respectively. Although performing has her whole heart, off the stage she has worked in the Vertebrate Zoology Collection at the Yale Peabody Museum for 5 years and is an avid textile artist.

KAYLYN TERRY (ENSEMBLE): Kaylyn is very excited to be a part of her first production since high school, The Producers. Her most recent credits include Featured Dancer in Oliver! and Martha Cox in High School Musical. When she isn't on stage, she is spending time with her friends and working as an insurance defense and personal injury attorney. Kaylyn wants to thank her friends and family for all of their support.

COLE URSO (LEO BLOOM): Cole is thrilled to be back on the CTC stage for another musical comedy! Some recent credits include: Friends! The Musical Parody (Off-Broadway) as Ross, The SpongeBob Musical as Squidward Q. Tentacles, Disney Cruise Line as a Performer, The Hunchback of Notre Dame as Phoebus de Martin, and a new play he co-wrote/co-produced: Caught in the Web. Cole is a proud alumnus of WCSU where he got his BFA in Musical Theatre (2019). Special shoutout to his beautiful fiancé Jane and dog Beau who help make the dream a reality every day.

LIAM WELSH (CARMEN GHIA): This is Liam's first production with Connecticut Theatre Company. He lives in Middletown and is a recent graduate of Southern Connecticut State University with a BS in Communications. This is his first post grad show and is very excited to work with such a talented and dedicated group. He would like to send some love to his family and friends from college, Incarnation Center and beyond for encouraging him to continue his creative pursuits!

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	JOHANNA MILANI
MUSIC DIRECTOR	ALEXIS HARTMAN
CHOREOGRAPHER	KIM SALTZMAN
STAGE MANAGER	BRET OLSON
COSTUME DESIGNERS	JOHANNA MILANI, KIM SALTZMAN
PROPS MASTERSJOHANNA MILANI, KI	M SALTZMAN, SARA COURTEMANCHE
SET DESIGNER	TULLIO MILANI
LIGHTING DESIGNER	BRIONNA INGRAHAM
SOUND OPERATOR	DUANE CAMPBELL

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

JOHANNA MILANI (DIRECTOR): Johanna is so excited to be back at CTC directing this hysterical production! Johanna has her BA in theatre from Ashland University (Ashland, OH), and MAT in Education from CCSU (New Britain, CT). She made her CT directorial debut 8 years ago with Thoroughly Modern Millie at CTC alongside Erin Campbell. Johanna is a CT based actor, performing with various community and professional companies throughout the state. She was most recently in The Drowsy Chaperone: In Concert (Kitty) with Brief Cameo Productions. Other credits include: God Bless Us, Everyone (Jessica) and Mystic Pizza (Leona US/Ensemble) with Ivoryton Playhouse; Falsettos (Trina); Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins); Beauty and the Beast (Belle); Into the Woods (Baker's Wife); Matilda (Miss Honey); Spamalot (Lady of the Lake); Young Frankenstein (Inga); The Addams Family (Morticia); and Pirates of Penzance (Mabel). When she is not performing, Johanna spends her days with her two kids, Emilio and Luca, as well as creating handmade jewelry for her small business, Songbird Creative Designs. Special thanks to the whole CTC board for trusting her to tackle this show, and to Kim, Brionna, Alexis, and Bret for being the best production team ever. This show is dedicated to her true loves: Emilio, Luca, and her husband, Tullio. This show wouldn't have been possible without their unwavering love and support.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

ALEXIS HARTMAN (MUSIC DIRECTOR): Hartt School graduate, joined Connecticut Theatre Company previously as an actor and now as the Music Director. She is a Music Teacher and Step Team Coach in the New Haven Public School System, the Choir Director for Central Baptist Church in Hartford, and has her own private voice studio, LaNelle's Music Studio. While in college, she performed roles in many opera productions from Signor Deluso, Die Fledermaus and The Old Maid and the Thief. She has used her experience to focus on technique, tuning and tone with this cast. She could not be more proud of the hard work this cast, crew and production team has put in to make this show possible.

KIM SALTZMAN (CHOREOGRAPHER): Kim Saltzman is honored to return to CTC with the opportunity to choreograph for the 6th time. Saltzman attended Springfield College receiving an MSOT and BA in Dance; and is a ABT certified ballet Instructor for levels pre-primary to three. Saltzman currently serves as a dance instructor and choreographer to all ages across the state of CT as well as a residential choreographer for Connecticut Theatre Company. Saltzman has had the opportunity to choreograph a variety of dance and theatre productions including but not limited to "Cabaret" (CTC), "Nutcracker" (PACC/ RDC), "Full Monty" (CTC), "Newsies JR" (CYT) and "Head Over Heels (CTC). She would like to thank Johanna, Tullio and the whole production team for the unbelievable support throughout this process and to the incredible cast for bringing my work to life. The only thing better than live theatre are the people we get to share it with :)

BRET OLSON (STAGE MANAGER): Bret is making his debut at CTC as the stage manager. He was also the stage manager of Almost Heaven at Castle Craig Players, as well as the assistant stage manager for Dracula and Spring Awakening at CCP. Past acting roles at CCP include a member of the Ensemble in Clue, Stu in California Suite, Cinderella's Father in Into the Woods, and Judge Heath in The Night of January 16th. He'd like to thank Johanna for this opportunity to continue learning about theatre and all of the cast and crew for their hard work. "Wie lang muss ich weinen um dich."

BRIONNA INGRAHAM (LIGHTING DESIGNER): Brionna is thrilled to be making her CTC debut as the production's lighting designer! She has previously worked with theater companies such as Collective Consciousness Theatre, Blue Fire Stage Company, Broadway Kids & Company, and many more. Recent credits include Trailer Park (Blue Fire Stage Company), Urinetown (East Haven Arts Commission), and Black Book (Collective Consciousness Theatre). Besides stage managing and designing lights, Brionna also runs the East Haven Middle School drama club. Outside of her love of theater, she can likely be found reading books, traveling to visit friends and family, or going to a local trivia night. A special thank you to Johanna and Kim for bringing me into this production. Break a leg everyone!

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

DUANE CAMPBELL (SOUND OPERATOR): Duane is back behind the sound board for this wonderful production of The Producers. Duane currently serves as Executive Director of Connecticut Theatre Company and volunteers in a wide variety of roles across the organization. Special thanks to the cast and crew for all the hard work on such a huge show! Thanks to Erin for the continued love and support.

SPECIAL THANKS

Connecticut Theatre Company would like to thank the many volunteers and team members that have worked to help make this production possible, including:

Angelina D'Albero, Kaylyn Terry, Sara Courtemanche, Stephanie Carroll, Ben Clouse, Cole Urso, Chuck Stango, Tullio Milani, Shawn Murray, Becky Stanford Warner Theatre, Brookfield Theatre, Opera House Players Saybrook Stage Company Alex Maxwell, Trevor Hartman, Michael Yachanin, Nick Stanford, Erin Campbell, David Nunner