



the

PROM

Book and Lyrics by CHAD BEGUELIN

Book by BOB MARTIN

Music by MATTHEW SKLAR

Based on an original concept by

JACK VIERTEL

May 22 - May 31

The Prom is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide

1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036.

www.theatricalrights.com

Connecticut Theatre Company

Presents

The Prom

Book and Lyrics by CHAD BEGUELIN

Book by BOB MARTIN

Music by MATTHEW SKLAR

**Based on an original concept by
JACK VIERTEL**

**Originally Produced on Broadway by
Bill Damaschke, Dori Berinstein, Jack Lane**

May 22 - May 31

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

www.ConnecticutTheatreCompany.org

THE PROM is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036.

www.theatricalrights.com

***The video or audio recording of this performance
by any means is strictly prohibited.***

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our dedicated volunteers, and the many talented artists who call our stage home, I am thrilled to welcome you to Connecticut Theatre Company for another year of spectacular storytelling.

Community is at the heart of everything we do. Whether you are a longtime regular or joining us for the very first time, your presence here is what makes local theatre possible. We are deeply grateful for your continued patronage and support, which allows us to keep the arts accessible, vibrant, and inclusive for all of central Connecticut. We continue our season with "The Prom", a joyful, big-hearted musical about standing up for what's right and celebrating our differences. Coming up later this season will be Jesus Christ Superstar, Carrie the Musical, and we'll wrap up with La Cage Aux Folles!

We want you to join us for every twist, turn, and high note this year! The best way to enjoy our season is with a 2026 Flex-Pass. Our subscriptions offer incredible value, allowing you to secure your seats for multiple shows at a significant discount compared to single-ticket prices. Passes are available for both General Admission and Table Seating. By subscribing, you're not just saving money, you're investing in the future of local arts and ensuring that the lights stay bright at Connecticut Theatre Company.

Thank you for being part of our story. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Duane Campbell
Executive Director

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

At its heart, *The Prom* is a story about belonging. On the surface, this musical dazzles with bright lights, big personalities, and Broadway flair. But beneath the humor and spectacle lies a deeply human question: What does it truly mean to be seen, accepted, and celebrated for who you are?

In a small Indiana town, one brave student dares to challenge the status quo simply by asking for the same opportunity as everyone else, to attend prom with the person she loves. What unfolds is both hilarious and heartfelt: a collision between self-proclaimed Broadway stars seeking relevance and a community forced to confront its own fears, biases, and capacity for change.

As a director, I've been struck by how relevant this story remains. While progress has certainly been made, there are still too many moments when people are told they are "too different," "too much," or "not enough." *The Prom* reminds us that allyship isn't about grand gestures or personal gain, but about genuinely listening, learning, and standing beside others with empathy and courage.

This production asks each of us, onstage and off, to reflect on our own role in creating inclusive spaces. Are we opening doors or closing them? Are we lifting voices or speaking over them? And most importantly, are we choosing kindness when it matters most?

Our cast and creative team have poured their hearts into telling this story with honesty, joy, and respect. They've embraced both the glitter and the gravity of the material, celebrating the humor while honoring the message at its core: that everyone deserves a chance to dance, to love, and to live authentically.

Thank you for being here, for supporting live theatre, and for sharing in this story. May we all leave tonight a little more open-hearted and a little more willing to step into someone else's shoes.

And when the music starts, I hope you remember: everyone deserves a prom.

David Nunner
Director

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Overture
Changing Lives
Changing Lives Reprise
Just Breathe
It's Not About Me
Dance With You
The Acceptance Song
You Happened
We Look To You
Tonight Belongs To You
Act 1 Finale

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT 2

Entr'acte
Zazz
The Lady's Improving
Love Thy Neighbor
Alyssa Greene
Barry Is Going to Prom
Unruly Heart
Changing Lives Act II
It's Time To Dance

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Emma Nolan.....ZAYDA
Alyssa Greene.....ARIANA PAGEL
Mr. Hawkins.....STEPHEN MAHER
Mrs. Greene.....GINAMARIE GARABEDIAN
Barry Glickman.....KYLE RIEDINGER
Dee Dee Allen.....SUSAN SMITH
Trent Oliver.....DUANE CAMPBELL
Angie Dickinson.....ASHLEY MCLEOD
Sheldon.....FREDRICK GOFF
Shelby.....LUCY EDDINGER
Kaylee.....ELLA ULLMAN
Nick.....ZENN HUNTER LANGLEY
Kevin.....AIDEN KOWALIK

Ensemble

MICHELE ABBAZIA, GRACE HOGAN, KATIE JONES, HESANEH,
HANNAH KINGSLEY, ERIN LESLIE, PAIGE MACHNICZ, CARA MACKENZIE,
CHRISTINE MCGUINNESS, BROOKE OWENS, NICOLETTE PAVAIN,
KIMBERLEY SALTZMAN, MEGAN WOLFE-PELLETIER

CAST BIOS

Michele Abazzia (Ensemble): Michele is excited to be a part of a musical again as it's been about ten years since her last one - "Bingo: The Winning Musical" as Minnie & Bernice. She has appeared in a number of straight plays and was last on stage with CTC in "Calendar Girls" as Cora (where she actually did do a little singing). Some of Michele's other roles over the years include Iris in "The Half-Light," Margit in "Seder", M,Lynn in "Steel Magnolias", Colette in in "A Multitude of Sins", and Nurse Ratched in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". She is grateful to this wonderful cast and production team for being so welcoming. As always, Michele extends a heartfelt thank you to the friends and family who are so supportive, the not so patient but oh so cuddly, Josie girl (fur baby), and most importantly her partner, warrior, and husband, John.

Duane Campbell (Trent Oliver): Duane is excited to have joined such a wonderful group to put on such a fun, high-energy, show! Duane was last seen on stage with CTC in "A Christmas Carol" (2024) but is often behind the scenes working on the production side! Duane has served as Executive Director of CTC since its founding in 2014. Thanks to the cast and crew for being so welcoming and supportive. Thanks to Erin for always providing love and support.

Lucy Eddinger (Shelby): Lucy is a junior at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, Connecticut. She has been in a total of thirteen shows, but this is her first time at Connecticut Theatre Company. She is so excited to be playing "Shelby" and performing with such an incredible group of people! "Thank you for the consistent support from my family and the amazing community of people who made this show happen!"

Ginamarie Garabedian (Mrs. Greene): Ginamarie is thrilled you were able to "get your ass in the car" to come see the show (you'll understand that reference by the end of Act 1). This is her 6th CTC show, mostly recently she was seen as Ms. Mara in "Miracle on 34th Street". She feels so lucky to be with the most phenomenal cast, crew, and production team to tell this story of love, acceptance, and community. She hopes you think this show is way cooler than a monster truck rally.

Fredrick Goff (Sheldon): Fredrick Goff is delighted to be in his seventh show at CTC. Recent musical theater roles include "Miracle on 34th St" (Kris Kringle), "Guys and Dolls" (Rusty Charlie), "Sondheim on Sondheim" (Tom Wopat), "The Drowsy Chaperone" (Aldolpho), "A Christmas Carol" (Mr. Fezziwig/Mr. Smythe), "1776" (Richard Henry Lee), "9-5, the musical" (Franklin Hart), "Guys and Dolls" (Nicely Nicely), "Forum" (Senex), "Company" (David), "Bright Star" (Dr. Nordquist), and "Jesus Christ Superstar" (ensemble). Recent opera credits include "Seven Deadly Sins" (Father), "Of Mice and Men" (Carlson), "Aida" (Messenger), "Barber of Seville" (ensemble), "Die Zauberflote" (Armored Man), and "Eugene Onegin" (Peasant Leader).

CAST BIOS

Grace Hogan (Ensemble): Grace Hogan is thrilled to be part of "The Prom" as a member of the ensemble. Her past roles include Veruca Salt in "Willy Wonka Jr.", ensemble in "Chicago: Teen Edition", Elsa in "Frozen Jr.", and Juno in "Beetlejuice Jr.". Grace loves being part of the theater community and is grateful for everyone who made this production possible.

Katie Jones (Ensemble): This will be Katie's 30th show! She is so proud of everyone in this cast! This cast is enthusiastic, helpful, and extremely encouraging! She would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this show amazing! Some things Katie enjoys outside of theater are running for her cross country and track team at school, swimming, dancing, singing, and gymnastics! Some favorite roles Katie has played are Charlie in "Willy Wonka Jr.", Miss Honey in "Matilda Jr.", Sour Kangaroo in "Seussical Jr.", and Yukon Cornelius in "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer Jr.!"

Hesaneh (Ensemble): Hesaneh is excited to be in "The Prom" and to share this heartfelt story with such a talented cast and crew. She is a poet and the author of the poetry collection Lilikis in Exile. She has received vocal training from Summit Studios and began her theatre training during her college years. Hesaneh holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Connecticut and works as a software developer. She is grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this vibrant production.

Hannah Kingsley (Ensemble): Hannah is excited to be a part of another show at CTC! Some past shows include "Head Over Heels" (CTC), "Wizard of Oz" (Theatre Guild of Simsbury), "Something Rotten" (SFT), "Avenue Q" (SFT), and many productions outside of Connecticut. She is a fourth grade math and science teacher in Windsor and is actively involved in dance outside of theatre. Thank you to the cast and crew for being awesome and all my family and friends for all the love and support!

Aiden Kowalik (Kevin): Aiden Kowalik, 17, is thrilled to be performing as Kevin in "The Prom". His previous credits include Clyde Barrow in "Bonnie and Clyde", Prince Oliver in "Between the Lines", and Chad Danforth/Troy Bolton in "High School Musical". Aiden is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this production and would like to thank his friends, family, and directors for their continued support.

Zenn Hunter Langley (Nick): Zenn is excited to be back with CTC in such a wonderful show. When not on stage, Zenn likes to crochet, play video games, and is a cat dad to a wonderful orange boy named Mr. Noodles.

Erin Leslie (Ensemble): Erin is excited to be making her on-stage debut at CTC and thrilled to be assistant director for Jesus Christ Superstar this August. Previous theatre credits include costume design for "Head Over Heels", as well as directing "Finding Nemo Jr.", "Evil Dead: the Musical", and "Something Rotten!" Erin has also appeared on stage in productions of "Heathers", "Shrek", "Les Miserables", and "9 to 5."

CAST BIOS

Paige Machnicz (Ensemble): Paige is super excited to be back on stage at CTC! Alongside theater, she is an avid crocheter and knitter and loves anything to get her creative energy out. Some of her previous roles include Bitsy Mae in "Sordid Lives" (CTC), Rachel in "Escape to Margaritaville" (CTC), Linda in "The Wedding Singer" (CTC), and Linda in "Evil Dead the Musical" (SFTC). She also has been jumping into costuming productions, which has been an amazing experience for her. "I would like to thank my CTC family for another great opportunity, as well as my friends, family, and fiancé for their love and support!"

Cara MacKenzie (Ensemble): Cara MacKenzie is thrilled to be in "The Prom" as their first show with the Connecticut Theater Company. They have enjoyed getting to know everyone involved and are excited for more shows to come. Cara would like to thank their girlfriend, family and friends for their support!

Stephen Maher (Mr. Hawkins): Stephen is thrilled to be in his 13th show with CTC. Previously, he appeared here in "Sordid Lives", "Escape to Margaritaville", "Calendar Girls", "The Drowsy Chaperone", "Spring Awakening", "A Christmas Carol", "9 to 5", "Disaster!", "Into The Woods", "The Man Who Came to Dinner", "Jekyll & Hyde", and "Christmas Schooner". Elsewhere, he has done many shows including "Fiddler on the Roof", "The Wizard of Oz", "Newsies", "La Cage Aux Folles", "Matilda", "Mamma Mia", "Young Frankenstein", "It Shoulda Been You", "Sister Act", "Oklahoma", and "Pirates of Penzance". Cindy is so disappointed that she wasn't able to tap dance at tonight's performance.

Christine McGuinness (Ensemble): Christine is thrilled to return for her fifth production with Connecticut Theatre Company! Audiences may remember her (or parts of her) from CTC's most recent show, "Sordid Lives." Past shows include "The Wedding Singer" (Angie/Ronald Regan Impersonator), "Escape to Margaritaville," and "Nine." She was also recently seen as Ann Carter in Somers Village Players' production of "Eat Your Heart Out." Christine works as a Registered Nurse with Baystate Health in Massachusetts. She is a proud pet mom to three dogs and three cats. As always, love and thank you to Bill for your unwavering love and support.

Ashley McLeod (Angie Dickinson): Ashley McLeod is honored to be part of this beautiful show for her first CTC production! Favorite past roles include The Lady of the Lake in "Spamalot", Miss Hannigan in "Annie", Killer Queen in "We Will Rock You", Sister Mary in "Disaster!", Gertrude McFuzz in "Seussical", Heidi in "Title of Show" (twice!), Janet in "Rocky Horror" (three times!), Velma in "Hairspray", The Witch in "Into the Woods", Cheryl in "Evil Dead", Elizabeth in "Young Frankenstein", Jeannie in "The Great American Trailer Park Musical", and most recently, Ursula in "Disney's The Little Mermaid". Next up she will be playing the mean and nasty Miss Andrew in "Mary Poppins" this summer. A huge thank you to the production team, cast, and crew for such a wonderful experience, to Liz for being an amazing mentor and friend, and to Mom, Dad, and Clint for their love, patience, and support. Indiana, here we come!

CAST BIOS

Brooke Owens (Ensemble): Brooke is so excited to be back at Connecticut Theatre Company with her friends! She was last seen on a far away island as Tammy in "Escape to Margaritaville". She is so excited to share this powerful and fun story with the audience! Enjoy the show!

Ariana Pagel (Alyssa Greene): Ariana Pagel is happiest somewhere between the wings and center stage, where stories come to life and anything feels possible. Her first time performing was singing Don't Stop Believin', a message she has carried with her ever since, both on stage and off. She loves stepping into a character, connecting with the audience, and getting lost in the moment in the best way. Performing is something she never takes for granted, and she is truly grateful to be part of this production. Ariana hopes you enjoy the show and leave with a little spark of belief of your own.

Nicolette Pavain (Ensemble): Nicolette is thrilled to be back on the CTC stage after making her community theater debut here in "Escape to Margaritaville" last summer! She has over 25 years of dance experience and a lifelong love of theater. When not dancing, you can find Nicolette at the library or playing Stardew Valley. She wants to thank her friends and family for all their love and support!

Kyle Riedinger (Barry Glickman): Kyle is excited to be making his CTC debut! Past credits include "Shrek the Musical" (Shrek), "Matilda" (Mr. Wormwood), "RENT" (Collins), "Disaster" (Chad), "Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Frank), "Spring Awakening" (Moritz), and "Godspell" (Judas). Kyle would love to thank his amazing husband Matt, their dog Chicken and Waffles, his family and friends for all their support! Lastly Kyle wants you to sit back, relax, and enjoy the show! @kyleried

Kimberly Saltzman (Ensemble): Kim Saltzman is excited to return to the CTC stage for her 11th production. She holds an MSOT and a BA in Dance from Springfield College and is an ABT-certified ballet instructor (Pre-Primary–Level 3). Saltzman currently serves as a performer, dance instructor and choreographer across Connecticut, with some past roles including Performer in North Pole Express (Essex Steam Train), Rosie in "Cabaret" (CTC), Pilar in "Legally Blonde" (SC), and Pinocchio in "Shrek the Musical" (CTC). Saltzman has performed dance works by Monica Bill-Barnes, Sarah Zehnder, Nikole Lachioma and Doug Elkins. Saltzman's choreography credits include "The Producers" (CTC), "Little Mermaid Jr" (SEES), "Cabaret" (CTC), "The Full Monty" (CTC), "Newsies Jr." (CYT), and "Spongebob the Musical" (CYTSC). She would like to thank Kristen, Maddie, Johanna, Tullio, and her CTC family for their unconditional support and always encouraging her to "Kim it her all".

CAST BIOS

Susan Smith (Dee Dee Allen): This is Susan's ninth show performing with CTC. She was last seen on this stage as Latrelle in "Sordid Lives", and before that, as M'lynn in "Steel Magnolias". She's happy to be breaking free from playing uptight Southern Moms in this show. Some of her favorite past roles include, Dolly Levi in "Hello Dolly", Mama Rose in "Gypsy", and Roz in "9 to 5". When not performing, Susan can be found talking to herself in a padded room as an audiobook narrator. She also enjoys collecting pretty rocks, watching true crime docs, and going for rides while drinking iced coffee. As always Susan would like to thank her very supportive family (immediate and extended) for being her most favoritest cheerleaders. Love y'all lots!

Ella Ullman (Kaylee): Ella is so excited to be part of "The Prom" as Kaylee! Some of her favorite past roles include Alice in "The Addams Family", Hunyak in "Chicago", Flounder in "The Little Mermaid", and Olaf in "Frozen". She has had so much fun being part of this production and is incredibly thankful for her family, friends, and this amazing cast and crew for all their support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Megan Wolfe-Pelletier (Ensemble): Megan has been singing and performing in various capacities since she was a toddler. From ages 8-18 she was cast in a dozen or more shows, and after high school started to spend more time writing music and was a lead singer in a number of bands. Now, Megan is a mother, full-time student, and manager of Dancingly Yours. She is thrilled to be getting back on stage, pursuing her passion for musical theater, with Connecticut Theatre Company in "The Prom".

Zayda (Emma Nolan): Zayda is a graduate of Western Connecticut State University holding a BFA Musical Theatre. This is Zayda's first time working with Connecticut Theatre Company and is very grateful to portray a dream role here. Zayda was just seen as Holly in a production of "The Wedding Singer" at the Warner Theater in Torrington. Outside credits include "Legally Blonde" (Paulette), "The Crucible" (Rebecca Nurse), "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" (Hannah Porter Pitt/Henry), "Marat/Sade" (Ensemble), "Season's Greetings" (u/s Phyllis), and the one-act plays "Peter/Wendy" (Wendy) and "The Airport" (Alex). Tech credits include "Allegro" (Costume Run Crew), "Ernest and the Pale Moon" (A2), and "Noises Off" (Assistant Master Carpenter). Zayda is very thankful for friends, family and all supporters. Find more info at zaydarene.com

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR.....DAVID NUNNER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....JAMIE DUMAINE-RUSSELL
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....JULIANNE BOUCHER
CHOREOGRAPHER.....ERIN FRECHETTE
STAGE MANAGER.....MELISSA THIBEAULT
COSTUME ASSISTANT.....PAIGE MACHNICZ
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....JEFFREY THIBEAULT

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

DAVID NUNNER (DIRECTOR): David is excited to be back behind the scenes as director with CTC for this production of "The Prom." Previous directing credits include "Steel Magnolias", "Sondheim on Sondheim", "The Drowsy Chaperone", and "9 to 5" among others. David also enjoys acting on stage; some favorite past roles include Igor in "Young Frankenstein", Lord Farquaad in "Shrek the Musical", and Bernadette in "Priscilla Queen of the Desert." David is the President of the Board of Directors at CTC. When not on stage David spends his time as Market Manager at Ascend Bank and in brief moments of spare time he loves to spend time with his French Bulldog Chanel and his three favorite kittens; Mabel, Louis and Georgie.

JAMIE DUMAINE-RUSSELL (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR): Jamie Dumaine-Russell is excited to be making her debut with CTC as assistant director for "The Prom". She studied Musical Theater at Wagner College before beginning a career in New York's advertising and film production industries. Jamie worked as an Assistant Producer at Ridley Scott & Associates and spent nearly a decade in leadership roles in business development, sales, marketing, and production with companies including JRD Films, RSA, BOND and Charlex. She later owned a NYC-based representation company representing film directors, music companies, editorial houses, and VFX companies, collaborating on music videos and commercials featuring artists from Madonna to Lady Gaga. Locally, Jamie has appeared onstage in numerous productions and has directed shows including "Cabaret", "Matilda the Musical", and "Beetlejuice Jr."

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

JULIANNE BOUCHER (MUSIC DIRECTOR): Julianne Boucher is pleased to be working with this talented cast on her first show with Connecticut Theatre Company. She has also worked with Castle Craig Players in Meriden, where she was the pianist for "Carousel" and "The Secret Garden". She has been the accompanist for various choral groups in Connecticut, including Harmonia Choral Society (formerly in Cheshire) and The Cheshire Community Chorus. Julianne holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Nazareth College of Rochester, NY and a masters degree in Piano, with an emphasis on accompanying, from Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. Julianne taught choral and general music in Woodbridge, Portland and Wallingford and directed many middle school musicals. She is now retired from teaching, but continues to direct the musicals at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School in Wallingford, most recently directing "Frozen Jr.", "Willy Wonka Jr.", and "Alice in Wonderland Jr."

ERIN FRECHETTE (CHOREOGRAPHER): Erin is excited to return to CTC for her 16th production. She is one of the Resident Choreographers for CTC. This is her 9th production as a solo choreographer for CTC. Previously, her choreography was seen in "Escape to Margaritaville", "The Wedding Singer", "A Christmas Carol (2024)", "The Drowsy Chaperone", "Zanna Don't", "Holiday Inn" and "9 to 5". She co-choreographed "The Full Monty" and "My Fair Lady". She also danced across the stage in "White Christmas", "Thoroughly Modern Millie", "Memphis", "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" and "A Christmas Carol". Erin's choreography also appeared in productions for Granby Arts Project and Monson Arts Council. She has danced professionally at the Majestic Theater and the "Cher Extravaganza". She performed and choreographed for the OM Show. She appeared in Simsbury Theater Guild's production of "Honeymoon in Vegas". She trained/competed nationally with the Hackworth School of Performing Arts. Erin thanks her husband, Wally, for his love and support. She also thanks ALL of her parents for always being "the wind beneath her wings".

MELISSA THIBEAULT (STAGE MANAGER): Melissa is thrilled to be working behind the scenes on Prom! While you may not see her onstage, there's a good chance she's backstage moving set pieces, or fixing props with questionable amounts of tape or glue. Since 2015, Melissa has helped with about 100 community theater productions and discovered a true passion for the creative chaos of crew life and creative design. She is especially thankful to David for trusting her crazy ideas and helping bring them to life. Melissa is grateful to everyone involved in this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

JEFFREY THIBEAULT (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR): Jeffrey Thibeault is thrilled to work with the Connecticut Theater Company again, stepping into multiple roles as Technical Director for "The Prom". Jeffrey has been the Technical Director for over 50 musical theater productions and has worked as an audio engineer, in both live and studio settings, for over 25 years.

SPECIAL THANKS

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