

Ground Floor Theatre presents

Amy and the Orphans

by Lindsey Ferrentino

Directed by Maryanna Tollemache



"Amy and the Orphans" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
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Ground Floor Theatre Presents

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By

Lindsey Ferrentino

Directed by Maryanna Tollemache

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| <i>Asst Director/Dramaturg</i> | DEAN POLACHECK |
| <i>Intimacy Director</i> | ANDY GRAPKO |
| <i>Scenic Design</i> | FREDRICK DEMPS |
| <i>Lighting Design</i> | JACQUELINE SINDELAR |
| <i>Costume Design</i> | JANA ZEK |
| <i>Sound Design</i> | SETH ELLINGTON |
| <i>Video Design</i> | LOWELL BARTHOLOMEE |
| <i>Stage Dressing & Properties Design</i> | ANALISSE QUIÑONES |
| <i>Production Stage Manager</i> | MIA GOMEZ-REYES |
| <i>Stage Manager</i> | MOSS WILLIS |
| <i>Assistant Stage Manager</i> | ANALISSE QUIÑONES |
| <i>Technical Director</i> | FREDERICK DEMPS |
| <i>Carpenter</i> | NORMAR DE LA TORRE |
| <i>Electrician</i> | GAVIN KENTER |
| <i>Graphic Design</i> | ERICA MORENO |
| <i>Box Office Manager</i> | DIANA RAFFERTY |
| <i>Photographer</i> | LENS OF ATHENA PHOTOGRAPHY |
| <i>Press Representative</i> | MOTLEY CREW MEDIA/NICOLE SHIRO |
| <i>Marketing</i> | LACEY CANNON GONZALES |
| <i>EDI Consultant</i> | NICOLE BELL |

CAST

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Amy | SYDNEY WEIGAND |
| Jacob | ADAM DONMOYER |
| Maggie | CATHIE SHERIDAN |
| Sarah..... | MEREDITH O'BRIEN |
| Bobby | JUSTIN SMITH |
| Kathy | GISELLE DE LA ROSA |

Director's Note

The “social model of disability” is a term coined by disability rights activists from the 1970s and 80s. It describes the idea that if society was accessible and built for disabled people, then disabled individuals would not be excluded from the world around them. It views the idea of disability as a mental attitude from and structure of society rather than a medical condition of any individual.

I fell in love with *Amy and the Orphans* by Lindsey Ferrentino during my junior year of undergrad in my “Disability in the Theatre” course, taught by the wonderful Joseph Paul Hill and Kate Farrington. In society we tend to put disabled folks out of the visible eye and not listen to their voices, continuing the long history of silencing the disabled. Though I do not have Down syndrome, I believe Amy’s story resonates with many folks with a range of disabilities.

It is truly an honor to be making my ATX directing debut as a disabled artist with a show that highlights disability and shows that we as a society should meet disabled people where they are. Thank you Lisa Scheps and GFT, my Doctuh Mistuh Productions family, Johanna Pinzler, Joseph Paul Hill, Kate Farrington, Elisabeth Motley, and Adam Cico for your support! Enjoy the show and...go ahead! Make our day!

— Maryanna Tollemache

Content Advisory:

Amy and the Orphans deals with the subject of neglect and abuse of the disabled. There will be brief periods of cigarette smoke.

This show runs 90 minutes with no intermission

Amy and the Orphans

Commissioned and Originally Produced by Roundabout Theatre Company, New York, NY; Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Harold Wolpert, Managing Director; Julia C. Levy, Executive Director; Sydney Beers, General Manager

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

We would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

We would also like to acknowledge that East Austin has been home to historically segregated and under resourced Mexican and Black communities.

As guests, we pay respect to these peoples, past, present, and future, here in their homeland.

WHO'S WHO



GISELLE DE LA ROSA — Kathy (she/her) is a proud daughter of Colombian immigrants and was born into a family of artists in Southern California. She studied theatre and film in New York City and has received accolades for her work in dance, film and theatre including a BroadwayWorld Award for her work in Raul Garza's *There and Back* and two B. Iden Payne Awards for her work in *Dance Nation* with Theatre en Bloc. She is the Associate Director of Cine Las Americas International Film Festival and screens films for SXSW (2021-2026).

Giselle sits on the board of Ground Floor Theatre and In The Dew of Little Things and has volunteered for numerous organizations supporting environmental conservation, community service, animal welfare and political work.



ADAM DONMOYER — Jacob (he/him)) first (sort of) appeared in a major motion picture when his father and pregnant mother were extras in *Jaws*. Postnatally, he earned his BFA in Musical Theatre from Otterbein. Favorite professional roles include Swift, Glass, and Trotsky in *All in the Timing* at the Contemporary American Theatre Company and Musician in *Il Giardino Dei Cervi* at La MaMa Umbria International. More recently, you may have seen Adam as Billy in TV ads for Quality Cooling and Heating, or maybe even waving at you in traffic from the rear of a Quality service van. Adam is proudest of his family

collaborations, including a fan video, *Little Batman and Robin*, which has over 10 million views on YouTube, and their band's self-titled album *Rockaroni & Cheese*. He dedicates this performance to his theatre-loving kids, who inspired him to get "back into the water."



MEREDITH O'BRIEN – Sarah (she/her) is grateful for the opportunity to return to Ground Floor Theatre and to play Sarah in *Amy and the Orphans*. Recent roles in Austin include Mark Antony (*Julius Caesar*: Austin Shakespeare); Margarethe (*Copenhagen*: The Stage Austin); Ma (*Trash Planet*: Bottle Alley); Martha (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*: City theatre); Miss Candace (*rain falls special on me*: Ground Floor Theatre); Oscar Wilde (*Gross Indecency*: City theatre). Meredith has never met a workout she didn't like, nor a gym she is not eager to try. She feels so lucky to be surrounded by her many loving and hilarious

friends, her incredible family, and all the brave and talented artists in the Austin theatre community.



CATHIE SHERIDAN — Maggie (she/her) Over her 40-year career, Cathie has created a wide variety of leading ladies in both professional and community theatre productions including Ground Floor Theatre's *Unexpected Joy* (Joy); others: *Forum* (Domina), *Sister Act* (Mother Superior), *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett & Beggar Woman), *Urinetown* (Pennywise), *Man of La Mancha* (Aldonza/Dulcinea), *Cats* (Grisabella), *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn Eatenton), *Death and the Maiden* (Paulina Salas), *Hairspray* (Velma Von Tussle), *Forbidden Broadway* (20+ celebrities), and *Into The Woods* (Witch & The Baker's Wife).



JUSTIN SMITH — Bobby (he/him) is an actor and musician and thrilled to be making his debut with Ground Floor Theatre. A lifelong musician; Justin has performed, toured and recorded as a bass player, songwriter and singer in Austin for many years. Other recent theatre credits include Jarrott Productions' *Dial M for Murder*, Austin Shakespeare's *Jane Eyre* and Archive Theatre's *Three Musketeers*.



SYDNEY WEIGAND — Amy (she/her) is thrilled to return to the stage, marking her first production since her high school days at McNeil High in Round Rock. A proud Special Olympian, Sydney has earned over 300 medals across 10 sports during 19 years of competition. She serves as a Special Olympics Global Messenger, an Athlete Leader, and a certified Health Messenger, advocating for inclusion and empowerment. A University of Texas alum (Hook 'em!), Sydney cherished her time on the Forty Acres and continues to cheer on the Longhorns. She now lives independently through the AIM program for adults with special needs in Lakeway. Sydney has met boy bands, governors, Kennedys, and

sports legends, but treats everyone she meets with the same respect and kindness. In her free time, she enjoys music, attending hockey games, and drinking Starbucks iced coffees. Sydney is honored to be part of this production and excited to share her joy with the audience.

WHO'S WHO (CON'T)

LINDSEY FERRENTINO — Playwright is an American playwright with three world premieres in the 2024 season: *The Artist in the UK* (co-adapted with Drew McOnie, Theatre Royal Plymouth), a new Broadway-bound musical *The Queen of Versailles* (book by Lindsey Ferrentino, music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, starring Kristin Chenoweth and F. Murray Abraham, The Colonial Theater), and *The Fear of 13* in the UK (starring Adrien Brody, The Donmar Warehouse). Her other produced plays include *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Lyttelton at National Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, New York, with over 100 productions worldwide), *Amy and the Orphans* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *This Flat Earth* (Playwrights Horizons), and *The Year to Come* (La Jolla Playhouse). Her plays have been translated into Spanish, German, and Portuguese and have been produced across the US, in London, Germany, Spain, and Venezuela. This winter, she will direct her first feature film - an adaptation of her play *Amy and the Orphans* for Jason Bateman's Aggregate Films. She is the recipient of The Arc's prize for Entertainment Industry Excellence for her writing centered on disability inclusion. Other prizes include: the Kesserling, ASCAP Cole Porter Playwriting Prize, Paul Newman Drama Award, Laurents/Hatcher Award, NYU Distinguished Alumna Award, and Hunter College's 40 Under 40 Distinguished Alumna.

MARYANNA TOLLEMACHE — Director, (they/she) is a director and actor based in New York City, but originally from Austin! She has recently graduated from Marymount Manhattan College with a BA in Theatre Arts: Directing concentration and BFA in Musical Theatre. They are so excited to make their Austin directing debut with Ground Floor Theatre as a part of their Directors Rising Program and receive so much support from Lisa and the GFT team. Previous credits include *Epoxy Resin Nightmare* at The Neurodivergent New Play Series and *13!* and *Six Years Old* at Marymount Manhattan College. When not working in theatre, they can be found playing card games in late night coffee shops or writing screenplays!

DEAN POLACHECK — Assistant Director/Dramaturg (they/he) is a theatre artist passionate about new work and theatre for communities. They just finished a two year position as the Playwriting Fellow for Central Square Theater's investigative theatre program, Youth Underground. They also recently obtained their BFA in Theatre Arts from Boston University, where they completed their theses *Grow Until...* (Stage Manager) and *Jesus On Ice* (Birdie). Other recent credits include *Eat Your Young* (Lucia) at Boston Playwright's Theatre and *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Music Director) at Fresh Ink Theatre. They hope you enjoy the show! re.

ANDY GRAPKO — Intimacy Director (she/her) is a certified Intimacy Coordinator with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators. She is the Resident Intimacy Director for the Department of Theatre and Dance at UT Austin, where she teaches in the Acting program. Her work has been seen on Hulu, Netflix, and the CW; recent theatre credits include *Waitress* (Zach), *Falsettos* and *I Wanna Be a F*cking Princess* (Ground Floor), *Hand to God* (Southwestern University), *Proof* (Concordia University), *Stop Kiss* and *Beautiful*, (Georgetown Palace Theatre), *Romeo y Juliet* and *Ride the Cyclone* (UT, Austin), and *Le nozze di Figaro* (Butler Opera Center) www.andygrapko.com.

FREDERICK DEMPS — Scenic Design/Technical Director (he/him) is always happy to work with Ground Floor Theatre, is thrilled to bring *Amy and the orphans* to life with his expertise in technical theatre and stagecraft. Frederick extends his gratitude to the cast, crew, and creative team for their dedication and collaboration.

JACQUILINE SINDELAR — Lighting Design (she/her) graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a BFA in Film and Visual Arts. Since then, she has been working in film, professional theater and live event production for over a decade. In the last few years, she has designed for *Clyde's*, *Always a Boy*, *Jenna and the Whale*, *Anna in the Tropics*, and *Julietta Tiene La Culpa* with Ground Floor Theatre; *Anton Chekhov is a Tasty Snack*, *Ordinary Days*, *I'm Proud of You*, *Art and Box* with Penfold Theatre; *Chronicles of a BlindDeaf Black Girl*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, and *The Laramie Project* with Deaf Austin Theatre. She has also worked as Lead Theatrical Electrician for Color Factory Houston; Lighting Supervisor for Fusebox Festival and Magnolia Musical Theatre; and Master Electrician for kidsActing Studio, Austin Shakespeare, and Zilker Theater Productions

WHO'S WHO (CON'T)

JANA ZEK — Costume Design (she/her) has over 10 years of experience designing and wardrobe supervising for stage and screen in Austin and New York. She has designed multiple productions for Generic Ensemble Co. including *Carmen*, *893 Ya-ku-za*, and *Collection*. Feature and short film credits include *Nana's Secret Recipe*, *No Loss // No Gain*, *Men in Blue*, and *Waiting for Dreading*. She is excited to be working with Ground Floor again after designing *Always a Boy*, *Clyde's*, and *Falsetto's*.

SETH ELLINGTON — Sound Design is an Austin sound designer thrilled to have the opportunity to work on this incredible play. Seth has designed local works including TexArts' *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Elf* as well as The Georgetown Palace Theaters' *Fiddler on the Roof*. They couldn't have asked for a better introduction to Ground Floor Theatre, or a more fantastic team to bring this story to life with. Enjoy *Amy and the Orphans*!

LOWELL BARTHOLOMEE — Video Design (he/him) is an actor, playwright, sound and video designer, and director. His most recent work has been seen and/or heard at Ground Floor in *There and Back*, *Single Black Female*, and *Jenna and the Whale*. Elsewhere his design work has appeared in *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Stage Kiss*, *Hand to God*, and *Luna* (Southwestern University); *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Art*, *Vincent*, and *Anton Chekhov is a Tasty Snack* (Penfold); *She Was Here*, *Baskerville*, and *The Norwegians* (Austin Playhouse); *The Christians* and *Wakey Wakey* (Hyde Park); and various Scriptworks Out of Ink showcases. He has received the B. Iden Payne Award and the Austin Critics Table Award for his work. He's an artistic company member of Rude Mechs, Hyde Park Theatre, and Austin Playhouse, and a playwright member of ScriptWorks.

ANALISSE QUIÑONES — Prop and Set Dressing Design/Assistant Stage Manager (she/her) is excited to continue her relationship with Ground Floor Theatre as the props and set dressing designer for *Amy and the Orphans*! She previously worked as the stage manager for GFT's *Fairview*, and is set to be the production stage manager for Penfold Theatre's *Rosita y Conchita* this Fall. Analisse extends her thanks to Mia and Lisa for their enthusiastic support and confidence in her abilities as a relatively new theatermaker!

MIA GOMEZ-REYES — Production Stage Manager (she/her) is a Latina stage manager, playwright, and educator based in Austin, TX. Her recent credits include *Fairview* (Ground Floor Theatre, PSM), *Scriptworks' Out of Ink Festival* (Stage Manager), and *unbury your gays* (Broad Theatre, Producing Assistant), among others. Her plays have been featured in Austin's 14/48 Festival, Teatro Vivos New Play Fest, and UT New Theatre. Mia was a 2025 SheDFW semi-finalist and a 2023 Playwright's Center Core Apprenticeship finalist. She is a current GFT Writes Fellow and Austin Emerging Arts Leader Fellow. When not working in theater, she is the Student Success Coordinator in the College of Fine Arts at UT Austin. B.A. Theatre & Dance, UT Austin (2022).

MOS WILLIS — Stage Manager (they/them) is proud to make their debut as a stage manager for Amy and The Orphans at Ground Floor Theatre! Moss found their love for theatre while pursuing a BS in Arts and Entertainment Technologies at The University of Texas at Austin. There, you could find them conducting the choir for The Annual Madrigal Dinner, directing improv-based murder mysteries, and co-writing the sci-fi, jukebox musical *Great Findings*. In their spare time, Moss enjoys playing TTRPGs, making music, and dancing.

NICOLE K. BELL/FULL HUMANITY CONSULTING — EDI Consultant (she/her), is a strategic planning and development professional with over 20 years of experience in creating leadership and equity training programs that foster inclusive learning connections centering radical belonging. She is a certified mediator, success coach and has graduated from Leadership Women-Leadership Pipeline (2016) and the Essential Class of Leadership Austin (2018). Nicole is also a Courageous Conversations about Race Affiliate Practitioner. In March 2023, she received the People's Choice Equity Champion of Change from DivInc. In her spare time, she enjoys being a volleyball mom, attending comedy shows and movies, and eating ice cream with her daughters, Avery, 26, and Zoie, 14.

MOTLEY CREW MEDIA — Press Representative Founded in 2006 by Amy S. Layton, Motley Crew Media is a full-service boutique marketing and public relations firm with a focused expertise in arts and entertainment. Made up of senior-level experienced PR and marketing specialists, the "Crew" helps clients bring their brand to life in the field through passion and commitment, alongside a keen ability to transform concept and vision into precisely executed reality. Sampling of clients: aGLIFF, Art Spark Texas, Austin Playhouse, Austin Shakespeare, Broadway Across America, Chorus Austin, Deaf Austin Theatre, Doctuh Mistuh Productions, Flavor Hospitality Group, Glass Half Full Theatre, Ground Floor Theatre, Hobby Center, Holland Taylor, Houston Broadway Theatre, Impact Arts, Jaston Williams, KMFA, Regian Entertainment, Texas Performing Arts, and Zach Theater among many others. info@motleycrewmedia.com

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GFT 2025 SEASON

February 20 - March 8, 2025

Fairview

by Jackie Sibbles Drury

Directed by Anderson

May 8 - 24, 2025

I Wanna Be a F*cking Princess

by Jenny Connell Davis

Directed by Patti Neff-Tiven

August 14—30, 2025

Amy and the Orphans

by Lindsey Ferrentino

Directed by Maryanna Tollemache

December 4 –20, 2025

Parade

by Alfred Uhry & Jason Robert Brown

Directed by Lisa Scheps

Musical Director Adam Roberts

For more info

groundfloortheatre.org/2025season

Ground Floor Theatre fosters an environment for creative thinkers and artists to produce works focusing on underrepresented communities, lifting voices that need to be heard to people who need to hear them.

We believe in theatre for everyone!

For more information please visit
groundfloortheatre.org

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Amy and the Orphans

We need your help to fund this show. If you'd like to support this production, click the QR code or Venmo (@GroundFloor) or Pay Pal (lisa@groundfloortheatre.org).

Any amount helps.



DS
act

*Down Syndrome Association
of Central Texas*



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M E D I A



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SPECIAL THANKS

Lindsey Ferrentino, Liz Tyson, Jennifer Rose Davis, Alex Donovan, Hunter Regian, Joseph Paul Hill, Kate Farrington, Elisabeth Motley, Julia Forslund, Marbridge, Celia Hughes and Art Spark Texas