

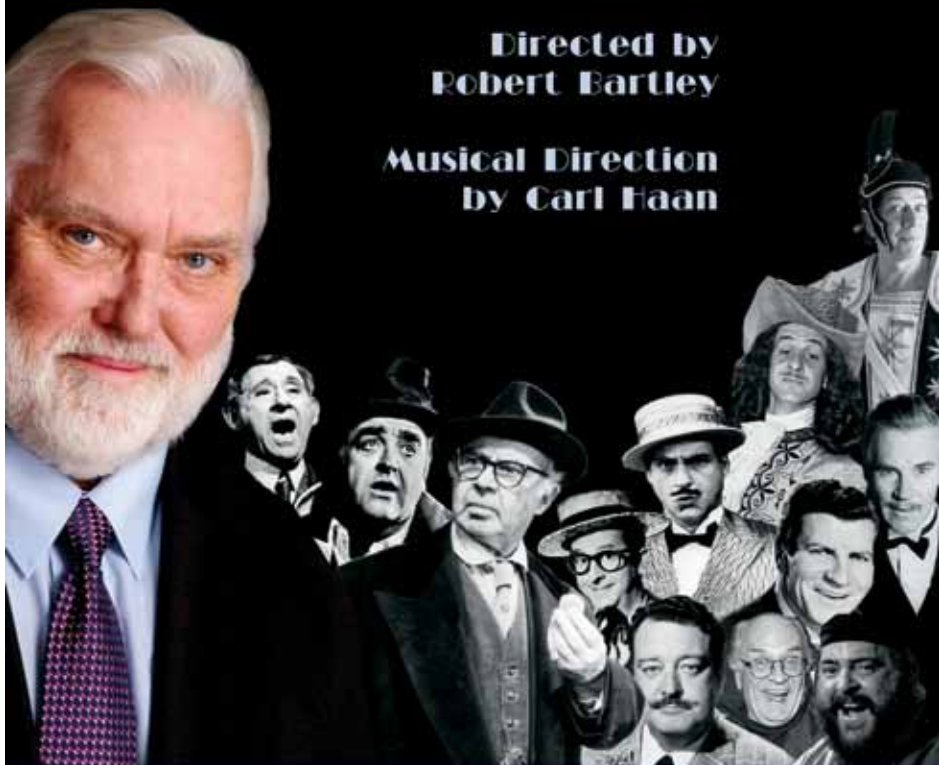
urbanStages

PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

Jim Brochu Character Man

Directed by
Robert Bartley

Musical Direction
by Carl Haan



FEB 28TH - MARCH 30TH | 259 WEST 30TH STREET

UNITED STAGES

playbill

February 28, 2014; pub.#2237

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Frances Hill, Founder/Artistic Director, Peter Napolitano, Producing Director,
Antoinette Mullins, Development & Literary Director,
Rachel Sullivan, Program Director, Olga Devyatisilnaya, Financial/Company Manager,

presents the world premiere of

Jim Brochu*
in

Character Man

Book by
Jim Brochu

Music and Lyrics by
Leslie Bricusse, Jerry Bock, Betty Comden,
Stan Daniels, Fred Ebb, Adolph Green, Sheldon Harnick,
Jerry Herman, John Kander, Bob Merrill, Anthony Newley,
Stephen Schwartz, Stephen Sondheim, Jule Styne
and Meredith Willson

Directed by
Robert Bartley

Musical Direction
Carl Haan**

Scenic/Projection Designer: Patrick Brennan
Lighting Designer: Meghan Santelli
Technical Director and Sound Designer: Sean Hagerty
Production Stage Manager: Donald William Myers*
Assistant Stage Manager: Madison DeCoske*
Creative Consultant: Steve Schalchlin
Music Clearances: Jay R. Morgenstern
Press Representatives: David Gersten & Associates
Marketing Consultant: Joe Trentacosta
House Manager: Astrid Perkins

*Actor appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association
Production Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

**These Musicians appear courtesy of the Associated Musicians of Greater New York, Local 802 AFM

PLACE: Backstage or out front in a theatre.

TIME: Now and Then

CHARACTER MAN will be performed without an intermission.



From the Desk of Artistic Director Frances Hill

The musical memory play “Character Man” by Jim Brochu is the last production at Urban Stages of our 30th Anniversary Season. We have brought many character men to our stage in the last 30 years. How fitting it is to welcome the world premiere of an elegant portrayal of real life stories and songs of such great character men as David Burns, Zero Mostel, Jack Gilford, Jackie Gleason, Lou Jacobi, John Carradine and many others by a character man himself, Mr. Brochu.

“There would be no Broadway without these guys who supported the great stars and got the laughs without getting the girls. I began my career as a character man at the time when I got to know these men and learned from. David Burns was like my second father and I grew up backstage hanging out with him and some of the others. These are amazing dear funny men and I don’t want them to be forgotten,” said Mr. Brochu.

Looking back over years of character men at Urban Stages, the following actors and shows come to my mind: Fred Burrell as the Sheriff in Jim Lehrer’s *Chili Queen*, Robert Ari playing Joshua, the mail man, in David L. Paterson’s *Pieces of the Sky*. Reed Birney as Joel Gordon in Bruce Graham’s *Minor Demons*, Bob Ari as Enzo in *Seven Rabbits on a Pole* by John Picardi, David Brummel as Roger Serbagi in David Simpatico’s *MAC’s (A Macaroni Requiem)*, Jim Naughton as Joel Gordon in *Roses in December* by Victor Cahn, and Scott Robertson as George Hollowinski in *My Occasion of Sin* by Monica Bauer to name a few. Like Mr. Brochu, Urban Stages does not forget the contributions to American Theatre our actors have made.

From a director’s point of view, character men have limitless talents to become any personality on stage. In fact, it often becomes hard to recognize these chameleons from one role to another. A good example is Jefferson Mays playing eight different roles in “Gentlemen’s Guide to Love and Murder” currently on Broadway. Or our very own Bob Ari, a master of disguise who has created multiple roles for Urban Stages.

In Mr. Brochu’s show, the audience members will experience how the roles of character men have contributed to American Theatre through interesting antidotes about life on and off the stage. It’s a passionate story of a character man who adores the theatre, its legends, its grease paint, and its life.

To continue our celebration of our 30th Anniversary, Urban Stages is bringing three family plays to the stage on Sundays at 1:30: March 9th *Up and Up: The Dr. Mae C. Jemison Story*, March 23rd, *Lucy’s Question* and March 30th *The Last Pine Tree on Eagle Mountain*. The shows from ages 6 to 12 are filled with puppets, poetry and endless fun for the whole family. For tickets email rsullivan@urbanstages.org or 212 421-1380. Please check our website www.urbanstages.org for news about our play development series, our outreach programs in your neighborhood and our annual benefit at the Central Park Boathouse Tuesday, May 20th.

Who's Who

Jim Brochu (Writer and Performer) is the only actor in America to win New York's Drama Desk Award, the Washington D.C. Helen Hayes Award, the Los Angeles Ovation Award and the Florida Carbonell Award. The play which garnered those awards was *Zero Hour* which he wrote and portrayed the great Zero Mostel for over six hundred and fifty performances across the United States and Canada. He's appeared in several Broadway events, including playing Andrew McLaren in *Brigadoon* opposite Christine Ebersole and Len Cariou, as well as Mr. Brownlow in *Oliver!* to Brian Stokes Mitchell's Fagin. Most recently Jim played Broadway's legendary Palace Theatre starring opposite Tony Sheldon in *Broadway Backwards* directed by Robert Bartley. In Washington, DC he was Willy Clark to Theodore Bikel's Al Lewis in Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys*. Brochu made his Off-Broadway debut in 1968's American Place Theatre production of *Endicott and the Red Cross* by Robert Lowell followed by Ephraim Kishon's *Unfair to Goliath* at the Cherry Lane. Recently, he starred in the Off-Broadway revivals of *The Man Who Came To Dinner* as Sheridan Whiteside and as Sir in *The Roar of the Greasepaint; The Small of the Crowd*. He is the author of two books, ten plays and two musicals, *The Last Session* and *The Big Voice: God or Mer-man?*, written with his partner of 30 years, Steve Schalchlin. His website is www.JimBrochu.com.

Robert Bartley (Director) is delighted to be working again with Mr. Brochu. In 2006, Robert created *Broadway Backwards*, now in its ninth year, which he continues to direct, choreograph and write, and has featured countless performers including Betty Buckley, Whoopi Goldberg, Len Cariou, Neil Patrick Harris, F. Murray Abraham, Bebe Neuwirth, Alan Cumming, Charles Busch, Tony Sheldon, Doris Roberts, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Florence Henderson. Last year, Robert directed Jim in the eighth edition of *Broadway Backwards* at Broadway's historic Palace Theatre. Other directing credits include *The Cuban* and *the Redhead*, for which he has co-written the book, music and lyrics with Danny Whitman (Los Angeles Festival of New American Musicals, Village Theatre, Revision Theatre, York Theatre Co. and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre), *The Family Fiorelli* (New York Musical Theatre Festival), *The Tales of Custard* (Algonquin Theatre, later transferring Off-Broadway to Daryl Roth's DR2 Theatre), *Sailing Against*

the Current (York Theatre), *Color Blind* (NYMF), *Hair* (Peculiar Works' sequel to the Obie Award-winning *Off Stage: East Village Fragments*) and the Dallas premieres of a new play, *Frequency of Death* (Eisemann Center) and *Xanadu* (Watertown Theatre). Next fall, Robert will direct and choreograph the Off-Broadway premiere of *Bed Bugs: The Musical*, which workshopped last fall (Chernuchin Theatre). As an actor, Robert has played leading roles on Broadway in *Miss Saigon*, the national tours of *Cats* and *Grease*, Off-Broadway in *Clue, the Musical* and Cy Coleman's last musical, *Exactly Like You*, as well as regionally at Goodspeed Musicals, Coconut Grove Playhouse, the MUNY, Pioneer Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, Walnut Street Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars in Houston and Baltimore Center Stage. Films: *The Producers* and Disney's *Enchanted*. One of his most memorable experiences, however, was performing in an all-star, one-night-only concert of *West Side Story* alongside Robert DeNiro, Meryl Streep, Susan Sarandon, Whoopi Goldberg, Bette Midler, Beyonce and Chita Rivera. Robert is a proud member of SDC, the Dramatists Guild, AEA and SAG-AFTRA.

Carl Haan (Musical Director) recently served as the asst. conductor for the nat'l tour of *My Fair Lady*, produced by Cameron Mackintosh, and is currently teaching musical theater for Rosie's Theater Kids, an organization started by Rosie O'Donnell which enriches the lives of children in the NYC public schools through the arts; Broadway: *Broadway Backwards 5, 6, 7 & 8; Lestat*; Off-Broadway: *Five Course Love, Miracle Brothers, We're Still Hot, Pirates of Penzance, On the Town*; Regional: *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with Nick Adams, *The Last Five Years, The Yiddish are Coming!, Second City at Sea*; Chicago credits: *The Wild Party* (LaChiusa midwest premiere), *MENO-PAUSE: The Musical, Forever Plaid, NINE* (Jeff nomination), *Hello Muddah! Hello Fadduh!, Little Shop of Horrors, Into the Woods*; He has played for ballet at Broadway Dance Center & Steps, accompanied several cabarets at The Metropolitan Room, Don't Tell Mama's and the Duplex, worked as a vocal director for Royal Caribbean and has taught at NYU/CAP 21 and Wagner College. Thanks so much Bobby!!! Nub nu Tugba!!! Xoos

Patrick Brennan (Scenic/Projection Designer) is a Designer and Technical Director based in Brook-

Who's Who

lyn. He is the Technical Director at The Stella Adler Studio of Acting and the Assistant Technical Director for New York Stage and Films upcoming Powerhouse season. Patrick's work has been seen around New York at companies and events including NYSAF, Ars Nova, La Mama, and The All For One Festival. Current work can be seen in Tampa, Florida with Town Squares Production of *Disenchanted!*

Meghan Santelli (Lighting Designer) is a New York native and has designed lighting for theatre, dance, and music. She looks forward to working with all the amazing talent brought together on this stage.

Sean Hagerty (Technical Director and Sound Designer) is a composer, violinist, and sound designer specializing in music for theater and dance. Previous projects include sound and music for the off-Broadway production of *Around the World in 80 Days* (*New 45th Street Theater*), *Then She Fell* (*Kingsland Ward*), *Symphony of Shadows* (*Dixon Place*), *The Pavilion* (*Mile Square Theater*), *The Fall to Earth* (*59 E 59*), *Foreign Bodies* and *Faith* (*Living Theater*, *Wild Project*), and *Steampunk Haunted House* (*Abrons Arts Center*). He has served as technical director at Urban Stages for *Honky and Inner Voices* and sound engineer for *Winter Rhythms*,

Cabaret Nights, *Langston in Harlem*, *Rewrite*, and *ReEntry*. www.seanhagerty.com

Donald William Myers (Production Stage Manager) has been working on and off-Broadway for more than 27 years, stage managing all seven of Jackie Mason's one-man Broadway shows as well as both his national and international tours. Among other shows that Don has stage managed are *Freud's Last Session* both the off-Broadway production and the LA production with Judd Hirsh and Tom Cavanaugh, *An Error of the Moon*, *Flamingo Court*, *Les Misérables*, *My Fair Lady*, *Shanghai Moon*, *Die Mommie Die* and *JAP Chronicles* the musical. Other credits include *Laughing Room Only*, *Company*, *The romance of Magno Rubio* and the national tour of *The Wizard of Oz* with Mickey Rooney. Don is thrilled to be working once again with Mr. Brochu. Previously, Don stage managed Mr. Brochu's *The Last Session* and the award winning *Zero Hour*. Most recently Don stage managed the National Theatre Conference at the Eugene O'Neil Center the an international tour for Shen Wei Dance Arts. Don is a proud member of Actors Equity.

Madison DeCoske (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with such an amazing team



urbanStages  **2014 Summer Camp**
June 30th - August 1st
Mon - Fri
9:30am - 5pm

Students 10-14, no previous experience necessary. Classes are small. A broad spectrum of theatre styles and skills covered including acting, voice, dance, playwriting, puppet making and more. Campers create and perform their own original show. | Call 212.421.1380 and ask for Rachel.

Who's Who

here at Urban Stages. Madison is a graduate from Point Park University with a BFA in Stage Management and Musical Theater. Some favorite productions include: *Around The World in 80 Days* at the Pittsburgh Public Theater directed by Marcia Milgrom Dodge, *The Producers* directed by Tome Cousins, *A Chorus Line* directed by Danny Herman and *Time. After Time* directed by Gabe Barre at PPU. Madison also spends her summers up at the lovely Eugene O'Neill Theater Center as the ASM for The National Music Theater Conference and Cabaret and Performance Conference. Proud member of AEA. Love to Fof and family. Twitter: @madfof8

Frances Hill (Founding Artistic Director) began her theatrical career in California as an actress. Since 1983, Ms. Hill has overseen more than 600 staged readings/workshops and 75 productions of new works for the stage. She has directed over 30 workshops and productions. Her favorite directing credits include: Gino DiIorio's *Apostasy*, Roma Greth's *Our Summer Days*, Jim Lehrer's *Chili Queen*, (directed at Urban Stages and Kennedy Center), John Picardi's *Seven Rabbits on a Pole* and *The Sweepers* (directed at Urban Stages and Capital Rep), *Comfort Women Women* by Chungmi Kim (Urban Stages 2004), *27 Rue De Fleurs*

and, more recently, *My Occasion of Sin* by Monica Bauer. Two of her plays have been produced, *Our Bench* and *Life Lines*. Under the guidance of Ms. Hill, Playwrights' Preview Productions/URBAN STAGES have moved two plays into commercial Off-Broadway successes. *Minor Demons* opened the new Century Center Theater and *Men on the Verge of His-Panic Breakdown* won an Outer Critic's Circle Award while playing to capacity audiences at the 47th Street Theater. Urban Stages' African American Poets as Playwrights won eight Audelco Nominations and *Coyote On a Fence* received two Drama Desk nominations and a Pilgrim's Project Award. Eisa Davis' *Bulrushes* was one of three nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. 2010 production of *Langston in Harlem* won several drama desk nominations, a John Calloway award, several Audelco nominations including a win for best music production of the year (2010), along with several other awards.

Peter Napolitano (Producing Director) received his training at NYU School of the Arts - The Experimental Theatre Wing, which led to working with two groundbreaking Off Broadway theatres, Charles Ludlam's Ridiculous Theatrical Co. and The Glines. In musical theatre, he was lyricist



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Who's Who

of *Tropicana*, book and direction by the legendary George Abbott, produced by Musical Theatre Works; and lyricist/librettist of *The Lady in Penthouse B*, music by Matthew Ward, produced "Mufti Style" by the York Theatre, starring Nancy Dussault. A member of the prestigious BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, he is currently writing the book and lyrics of *That Way and Pinocchio of Chelsea*, with composers Barry Levitt and Mark Janas, respectively. For his recent work in virtually every major NY cabaret venue, he received the BMI Bistro Award (director) and three MAC Awards (director, lyricist, producer). Associated with Urban Stages since Jan., 2011, Mr. Napolitano has produced *Musical Legends*, *My Occasion of Sin* and *Character Man*, three annual Winter Rhythms music series and has directed numerous readings and concerts including *A Centennial Celebration of Mary Martin*. Other highlights of his varied career: directing the early work of Charles Busch; guest lecturing at Manhattan School of Music; contributing editor of *The Blockbuster Guide to Movies on Video* (Dell); and author of a Modern Love essay for *The New York Times*.

Antoinette Mullins (Development and Literary Director) is also a NYC-based playwright and screenwriter. She came to Urban Stages in September of 2010 directly after completing her master's work in Dramatic Writing at New York University's graduate school in Singapore, Tisch Asia School Of The Arts. Before then, she graduated from Vassar College (May 2007) with a BA in Psychology and Film (with honors) and has performed duties as a reader and screenplay consultant for The New York Office and Triboro Pictures. Her written works include her 2009 short stage play, *Love And Robbery*, which was published in *Drama: A Resource for Units 1A-1B*, a textbook aimed at promoting drama in Australian high schools. Her full-length *Most Of Us*, was a semi-finalist for the Princess Grace Awards 2011. Her screenplay *Mega* was a semi-finalist in the 2012 Nicholl Fellowship Competition and a 2013 finalist in The Austin Film Festival. *Brave Girl*, a short-film she co-wrote that brings to light to trafficking in Nepal, is currently making the film festival circuit and has picked up a couple of awards including a 2012 Tisch Asia First Run Screenwriting Award, Official Selection in South by Southwest and Best Short Film in Palm Springs International Shortfest.

Rachel Sullivan (Program Director) is a director, performer, facilitator and educator. At Urban Stages she manages the 300 yearly library bookings, tours the libraries as *Rosie the Riveter*, and has directed/created/costumed many of the touring shows including: *Up and Up: The Story of Mae Jemison*, *Sacagawea: Bird Woman*, *Jungle Explorers* and *O'Sullivan Stew*. She and Liz Parker have collaborated on several original shows for Urban Stages including *Blown Away By Poetry*, *South of the Border: Latin American Folktales*, and *Tales of Snow*. In addition, she directs the residency programs at Green Chimneys LGBTQ Homeless Youth Program, Lycee Francais, and co-directs the theatre program at Green Chimneys. Rachel also enjoys working with professionals and non-actors alike to create original theatre. She worked with members of the Florence E. Smith Senior center to create an original titled *The River of Life (SPARC recipient)*. She has directed and created new shows with the Creative Arts Team (CAT) Youth Theatre, Jewish Association and Services for the Aged (JASA) on 72nd Street, Public Space Public Voice, and Girls Education Mentoring Service (GEMS). As a performer she has worked with Capital Rep, Gloucester Stage, Horton by the Stream, Hudson/Stageworks, Sojourn Theatre, among others. Rachel is a guest lecturer at Brandeis University, studied theatre at Northwestern University, and holds a Masters in Applied Theatre from SPS/CUNY where she received training in creating original works as well as arts in education.

Olga Devyatisilnaya (Company Manager/ Financial Administrator) has worked with Urban Stages for nine years as wardrobe supervisor on all productions produced on our Main Stage. In Russia, she worked as an assistant costume designer in many films. She assisted Farrah Fawcett as her dresser in Moscow on the film Margaret Bourke-White. Olga has many talents including bookkeeping and worked for us in this capacity since 2007. She currently serves as our Financial Administrator and Company Manager.

Urban Stages celebrates its 30th anniversary this season. The award-winning not-for-profit Off-Broadway Theatre was founded in 1984 by Artistic Director Frances Hill. Over the past 30 years, Urban Stages has produced over 90 productions (mainly world premieres) most recently the world

Who's Who

premiere of the critically-acclaimed comedy *Honky* by Greg Kalleres and the award winning musical *Langston in Harlem* by Kent Gash, Walter Marks with Langston Hughes poetry. *Langston in Harlem* received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Actress, a John Callaway Award for Best Choreography and four Audelco Awards including Best Musical. *Honky* received a New York Times Critic's Pick and an Audelco Nomination for Best Actor. The play will be published by Smith & Krauss, will be licensed by Dramatists Play Service for upcoming Regional productions and was named the Best Off-Broadway Play of 2013 (online magazine: Frontier Psychiatrist). The World Premiere of *My Occasion of Sin* by Monica Bauer has led to a current run at Detroit Repertory Theatre. The New York Premiere of *ReEntry* by KJ Sanchez and Emily Ackerman produced in 2010 is currently touring military bases and regional theatres across the country and the 2008 world premiere of the Joe Iconis musical *ReWrite* was critically acclaimed. Urban Stages' 2011 *Musical Legends* and annual winter

music festivals have garnered several nominations and awards from the prestigious MAC committee. The 2007 World Premiere of Eisa Davis' *Bubrusher* (2007) received two Drama Desk nominations, an Outer Critic's Circle Award, an Obie nomination, eight Audelco nominations and was considered for a Pulitzer Prize in drama. Our productions of *Men On The Verge Of A Hispanic Breakdown*, by Guillermo Reyes, and *Minor Demons*, by Bruce Graham subsequently moved to commercial theatres. *Chili Queen*, a play by newscaster Jim Lehrer, transferred to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. (1989). The majority of works developed at Urban Stages have had further productions commercially, regionally, and abroad. Numerous projects developed at Urban Stages have been adapted into film and television projects, including *Scar*, by Murray Mednick, *Conversations with the Goddesses*, by Agapi Stassinopoulos, and *Cotton Mary*, by Alexandra Viets. Urban Stages has a consistent history of discovering new writers and introducing their plays into theatrical repertory.

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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org



The Director is a member of the
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS
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Urban Stages Outreach Program

Our two decades old Outreach Department has three main components: Touring Library Programs, Residencies, and Summer Camp. **Touring:** Our touring library programs provide professional quality shows to public libraries throughout the five boroughs of New York City. In the 2011-2012 season, we provided over 300 programs to public libraries reaching over 92 different library branches. Some of the children who attend these free performances experience their very first live performance at their very own public library branch. **Residencies:** We conduct long-term residencies where reaching artists work with students over a six-month to 12-month period. Students learn the skills needed to create original theatre and culminate their residency experience by creating their own original production. Residencies included The Lycée Français School, Green Chimney's LGBTQ Homeless Youth Shelter, Sunnyside Community Center in Queens and Florence E. Smith Senior Center in Corona, Queens. **Summer Camp:** We run an intensive 5-week summer camp at our theatre, where young people learn a variety of theatre skills and styles including: dance, voice, acting, improvisation, playwriting, puppetry, mime, clowning, and stagecraft. Our campers build skills and work with our staff to create and perform their own original show, which is then showcased on the Urban Stages MainStage. Over 30% of our campers receive scholarships to attend this program, and in past years we attracted campers from Spain and China.



Sunday March 9th @ 1:30pm Up & Up: The Dr. Mae C Jemison Story (ages 7-15)

Pushed to follow conventional paths, Mae C. Jemison followed her ambition instead to become the first African American woman ever to travel to space. Come see how Mae stood up to those who doubted her and excelled in math and science to reach beyond the sky.

Written By Antoinette Mullins, Performed By Taryn Wiskey

March 23rd @ 1:30pm Lucy's Question (Ages 7-12)

Lucy dreams of becoming a scientist, so she can explore and question the workings of the world to her hearts delight. Little does she know science will help her cope with some major questions and changes in her own life! Join Lucy as she travels with Magma to the center of the earth, witnesses a volcanic eruption, sings with an Angler fish in the deep seas, and takes a peak at an exploding star.

Written and Performed By Liz Parker and Rachel Sullivan

March 30th @ 1:30pm The Last Pine Tree on Eagle Mountain (Ages 4 – 12)

A new musical about friendship and the environment. Join us on this song filled adventure to discover how an unlikely friendship between the Pine Tree and the Eagle can overcome the odds to clean up the environment and secure a future for all on their mountaintop home.

Written By Laura Maria Censabella, Music & Lyrics By Frank Cuthbert, Performed by Cleve Douglass and Samia Mounts

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Thank You

Richard and Susan Low Bloch

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