

JESSIE JO AKA



Jessie Jo Aka is having a "tree-mendous" time working with such a talented, hilarious team! Since moving to The Big Apple, Jessie Jo has been busy auditioning, exploring the city, and performing at 54 Below. She was most recently seen as Toki in an industry reading of the new musical, "Minoru: Scrape the Sky." Select regional credits: Nicola (Kinky Boots), Jane Eyre (Jane Eyre), Dorothy (The Wizard of Oz), and Young Ceci in the world premiere of "¡Americano!" Love to her family who she misses with all her heart. @jessiejoaka Jessie Jo is represented by the Daniel Hoff Agency. www.jessiejoaka.com

LAUREN BARBER



Lauren Barber graduated from NYU with a BFA in Drama - Production and Design in 2015. Since then she has worked across a number of disciplines including theater, television, and events. Past credits include The Drowsy Chaperone (Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute), Noirtown (RAVE Theater Festival), Between the Threads (HERE Theater), Sources of Light Other Than the Sun (HERE Theater), One Thousand Nights and One Day (ART New York), and A Comedy of Tenors (Curtain Call Theater). Television work includes drafting and design support for Fox Sports, CBS, CNN, and Amazon NFL on Prime Video.

JAKE BECKHARD



Jake Beckhard (he/him) (Director). Broadway: "The 24-Hour Plays" 2022. Off-Broadway: "Good For Otto" (Assistant Director), "Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow" (Assistant Director + Dramaturg). Regional: "The Splitting" (Westport Country Playhouse, Westport CT), "Ajax" (The Hangar Theatre Wedge Series, Ithaca NY), "Intuitive Men" (Odyssey Theatre, LA). Other: "Peter Smith's Diana." (Ars Nova), Selina Fillinger's "The Armor Plays" (LIU-Brooklyn), Matthew Minnicino's "Artaud Artaud" (Theatre for the New City), Lily Houghton's "Coconut Oil Solves All My Problems" (The Flea Theatre). Awards/Honors: 2022 Fled Leadership Council. 2019 Flea Resident Director. 2018 Drama League Fellow. 2017 Williamstown Theater Festival Directing Corps. 2016 Westport Country Playhouse Directing Fellow.

www.jake-beck.com

CHARISSA BERTELS



Charissa Bertels (she/her) is always axe-cited to create new musicals! Credits: *A Christmas Story* (Broadway, Tour & Madison Square Garden), *If/Then* (National Tour), *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Lady Be Good* (New York City Center Encores & Cast Album). Charissa received rave reviews for her original one-woman musical, *My 80-Year-Old Boyfriend*, at Arizona Theatre Company, the Human Race Theatre Company, and Merrimack Rep. In addition to her own projects she teaches musical theatre at New York Film Academy and recently received her MFA from the University of Idaho and a gold medal in Taekwondo at the New York Governor's Cup. Special thanks to her husband, James, for keeping her fed and sane in this busy season. AEA/SAG-AFTRA www.charissa.nyc

RJ CHRISTIAN



RJ Christian (he/they) is a Singer, Actor, Composer-Lyricist, and TikToker. He graduated from NYU Steinhardt with a BM in Vocal Performance. During the pandemic, RJ created a musical TikTok account (@RJtheComposer) that now has 104k followers and contributed music and lyrics to the Ratatouille TikTok Musical, a fundraiser for the Actors Fund that raised over \$2 million. He also co-wrote the song "Beyond the Dome" for the musical For You Paige, the first ever TikTok Commissioned live they're event. Currently, RJ is co-head of TheHeartyMeal, the theatre company behind Morbin' Time: The Morbius Parody Musical. [@TheHeartyMeal](#)

ANTHONY DE ANGELIS



Anthony De Angelis (he/him) (Composer) is thrilled to be presenting An Axemas Story! His shows have been given life through FUSE Productions, The Utah Fringe Festival, The PIT, Wichita State University, and soon by CAP 21. His arrangements have been featured on PBS, at Lincoln Center, and played by Pop Orchestras around America. He's worked on over 20 B'way and Off-B'way shows as a pianist and/or conductor. He proudly teaches at CAP 21 and as a fun fact, he's played accordion on The Tonight Show.

ZACH DULNY



Zach Dulny (he him) is thrilled to be on this project. Zach has designed over 30 shows off and off-off broadway, along with countless regional projects. Some recent designs include, Except Mr Dickinson, Lost Again, A Symphony for Portland, Choices a Rock Opera, and others. He would like to thank his family, friends, and professors for helping him get to where he is today. <https://bit.ly/DulnyDesigns>

MACKENNA GOODRICH



Mackenna Goodrich thinks very highly of Christmas trees. In addition to making dances, she also serves as a dramaturg for The Road Theatre Company's playwriting group, Under Construction. Selected directing and choreography credits: The Pine Barrens (Lime Arts), Dance Nation (Kenyon College), Cabaret (Kenyon College Players), The Moors (Stagefemmes). For more, check out mackennagoodrich.com @mack3nna on Instagram.

MEREDITH JUERGENS



Meredith Juergens (she/her) is a proud armchair animal expert. Also a lover of felt, she's joined these two knowledge branches together to bring to you myriad woodland creatures and sundry additional props for AN AXEMAS STORY. A communications manager by trade and a musicologist by training, she's equipped to handle most any obstacle a Broadway style project could throw her way.

RICHARD LAFLEUR



Richard (he/him) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a two year hiatus, and to be working with this incredible cast and creative team. Special thanks to Patrick for setting this in motion! National Tours: *The Producers* (Leo Bloom), *Cabaret* (Ernest Ludwig), *Spamalot* (Character man). Regional: *Theatre By The Sea*, *Weathervane Rep Theatre*, *Shakespeare On the Shoreline*, *Seven Angels Theatre*. Training: *The New School*, BFA in Musical Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, MA in Acting. Love and thanks to my Anne Marie, and to my family. Sadly this has to be under 100 words and Richard has run out of

SARA LINGER



Sara Linger is a New York City based musical director, pianist, and singer. Her most recent work includes a limited off broadway run of Audrey, A New Musical and an out of town workshop of Saw: The Unauthorized Musical Parody. Some past credits include Big Fish, Bye Bye Birdie, Edges, The Wedding Singer, Legally Blonde, and Songs For A New World. Have you seen the missing husband?

Contact: Sara.L.Linger@gmail.com

ANGELO McDONOUGH



Angelo (he/him) is thrilled to be a tree! He is an award-winning actor based in NYC. He received a Theater Round Table Award for his work in "Avenue Q" as Nicky/Trekkie Monster at Weathervane Playhouse directed by Christine O'Grady. He has performed regionally and Off-Broadway at theaters such as at North Shore Music Theater, Greater Boston Stage Co., Tennessee Shakespeare Company, The Gallery Players, NYMF, The Triad, The York Theatre and has been seen in numerous concerts and readings/workshops around NYC. Graduate of Marymount Manhattan College. Forever grateful to his friends & family for the constant support! [@angelonibologna](https://www.instagram.com/angelonibologna)

MARK MENDEZ MUÑOZ



Mark Mendez Muñoz (They/He) is a New York based actor/singer/playwright originally from Phoenix Metro Area. A proud BM Music Theatre alumnus of Oklahoma City University, Mark recently was seen Off-Broadway in "The Civility of Albert Cashier", making history as the first Off-Broadway show with a fully Trans/GNC Cast and Crew. Other credits include: 24 hour Plays Nationals 2022 (Acting Fellow), *Titanic* (Chorus) at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, *Sweeney Todd* (Pirelli) at Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and *Spring Awakening* (Hanchen) at Oklahoma City University. Mark is a proud Disabled, Latinx, Plus-Sized performer, Mark is an active advocate for the equitable treatment of all marginalized artists. 2.7
Instagram: [@markmmunoz](#)

KATHERINE MOSTEK



Katherine Mostek (she/her) is a Brooklyn-based stage manager and theatre maker who loves a good spreadsheet. A recent graduate of Kenyon College, Katherine is so excited to be making her New York debut with Axemas! A huge thank you to her family and friends for their support, and to the Axemas team for welcoming her in with open arms. Merry Axemas to all!

CHARLIE O'LEARY



Charlie O'Leary's (he/him) plays include *BASICALLY CHILDREN* (Iowa New Play Festival), *THE SWITCH* (Fresh Fruit Festival), *HUMILIATION PLAY* (Dreamwell Theatre), and *THE ALLIES* (finalist: Woodward/Newman Drama Award). Musicals include *THE EXPOSED BONE WORKSHOP...* (The PIT; music by Karl Hinze) and *TWO STAR MOTEL* (The Dare Tactic; music and lyrics by Patrick Spencer). Short works with Methuen Drama, Smith & Kraus, and Theatre Now New York. His song "A Date" (music by Helen Park) was a selection of the BMI Workshop Smoker. Upcoming: readings of *RIDGWAY* (Alliance Theatre) and *THE DOCTORS* (The Road Theatre Company). MFA: Iowa Playwrights Workshop.

ROSE ANNE RABUT



Rose Anne Rabut (she/her) is a singer/actor from and currently based in Brooklyn, NY. She thrives in the production of new musicals, performing in new works such as *Coming Out the Musical*, *Big Gay Love Story*, *Two Star Motel*, and the 2021 concert reading of *An Axe-mas Story*. Other credits include *Little Women* (Mrs. Kirk), *On the Town* (Lucy Schmeeler), and *Into the Woods* (Jack's Mother).

LUCY ROSSI



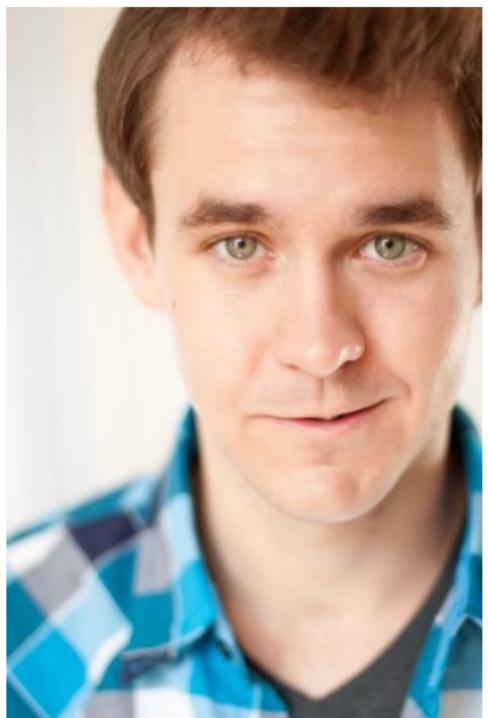
*Lucy Rossi (she/hers) is a New York City based performer, recently graduated from Millikin University with her BFA in Musical Theatre. Most recently she was seen as a featured ensemble member in the National Tour/West End run of *Blippi the Musical* (RRL/Moonbug Entertainment). Credits include *Hair*, *Seussical*, and the World Premier of *ZOOMPROMMM.mp4* by Grace Mcleod at Millikin University. She was seen in *The 24 Hour Plays Nationals* 2022 cohort as an Actor. Lucy is grateful to be working with such an amazing cast and creative team. Keep up with Lucy at www.lucyrossi.com or IG: [@lucykrossi!](https://www.instagram.com/lucykrossi/)*

BEN SCHRAGER



Ben Schrager (he/him). Select New York/Regional Credits: Indecent (Chautauqua, dir. Lisa Rothe), William Finn's The Royal Family of Broadway (Barrington, dir. John Rando), Robert Lopez's 1001 Nights (Atlantic), The Sandalwood Box (The Flea, dirs. Tyler Thomas and Kate Moore Heaney), Peter and the Starcatcher (Cape Fear Regional Theater, dir. Michelle Tattenbaum), Dancing Lessons (Lake Dillon Theater, Henry Award Nomination), and The Nomad (The Flea, dir. Liz Swados). Ben has performed in readings, workshops, and cabarets at 54 Below, Lincoln Center, New Dramatists, Playwrights' Center, and more. He's worked with other wonderful (and fancy) people/places, but he's reaching his bio word limit. BFA: NYU Tisch. Instagram: [@ben.schrager](https://www.instagram.com/ben.schrager) Website: www.benschrager.com

PATRICK SPENCER



Patrick Spencer (he/him) is an actor/singer/songwriter living in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated with a BFA in Musical Theater from the University of Arizona. A proud member of the Dramatists Guild and alumnus of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop, Patrick has written lyrics for songs that have been performed at 54 Below, The Pit, The Duplex, The Shapeshifter Lab, The University of Oklahoma, and more.

Current projects include: *Big Picture* (music by Karl Hinze, lyrics by Patrick Spencer, book by Susan Murray) and *Two Star Motel* (book by Charlie O'Leary, music and lyrics by Patrick Spencer).

OLIVIA VAUGHN HERN



Olivia Vaughn Hern (she/her) is a NYC-based artist, animator, and film/theatrical designer. Her work sits on the intersections of her broad range of media expertise, creating unique combinations of genres to create a dreamy and bold aesthetic world. Combining costume, makeup and production design for film and theater with tactile explorations in shadow puppetry, adapting full body sculptural puppets to a digital handmade animated world, and playing with light and color to create fine art, she is constantly seeking new ways to intersect and layer artistic expressions.

Oliviavhern.com

KELLY WHITLEY



Kelly (she/her) is thrilled to be a part of An Axemas Story. She graduated from DeSales University with a BA in Musical Theatre and has since been living her dreams of working in an office and living in a tiny apartment. She can be seen at theaters and comedy venues across NYC, most recently as a Musical Improv House Team performer at The Magnet Theater. She'd like to greatly thank the creative team, stage management and the cast for all of their work and kindness. She also sends love to her family, friends, Steven and the audiences coming to see our show. Thank you!

CURRY WHITMIRE



Curry is a dish of meat, vegetables, etc., cooked in an Indian-style sauce of hot-tasting spices and typically served with rice. Curry Whitmire (he/him) is an actor, improviser, audiobook narrator, illustrator, and, most obnoxiously, a dog-dad. He's overjoyed to continue along with An Axemas Story since appearing in the initial reading last December. Other fave credits: The Tower (HERE), Exposed Bone... (Pit Loft), and That True Phoenix (Team Awesome Robot). Catch his Musical Improv team, Kittyhawk, performing regularly at The Magnet Theatre (or find us on YouTube)! Love to Rocky, Mom and Dad, and, most obnoxiously, Panko. More info at currywhitmire.com.

JAMIE WILEN-SPENCER



Jamie Wilen-Spencer (she/they), Axemas' resident digital artist, is a lover of true crime and tree crime documentaries. Jamie received a BFA in fine arts and art history at Adelphi University. Before becoming a teacher, Jamie designed window displays and crafted for the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art. These days they work on custom jackets, jewelry, and graphic design. For inquiries please email jamierosecreative@gmail.com

ZEA ZUROVITCH



Zea Zurovitch (they/them) is thrilled to be working with 'An Axemas Story'. Select credits include: Production Assistant for 'Kimberly Akimbo' (Broadway); Production Manager for the SheNYC Festival; Tech & Performance Stage Manager for 'Safe Hands', 'To Free A Mockingbird', and 'Dream a Little Dream' (SheNYC Festival); Production Stage Manager for 'Dido and Aeneas' (opera); Stage Manager for 'Elephant & Piggie's We're in a Play'; Stage Manager for 'Streets Like This' (devised work); Upcoming work includes Production Assistant for 'SUFFS' (previously at the Public). Ithaca College 2020. Much love to my friends and family.