

# *the Cake*



DIRECTED BY **C. JAYE MILLER**

STORY BY **BEKAH BRUNSETTER**

**SEPT 20TH-29TH, 2024**

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Poster Photo: Jackie Haxthausen



**THEATRE  
BATON ROUGE**



**JOHN TURNER  
JERRY FISCHER**

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Theatre Baton Rouge's mission is to provide the residents of Greater Baton Rouge the opportunity to participate in quality live theatre as an audience member, actor, volunteer, or production worker. Recognizing theatre as a living reflection of the human imagination and experience, TBR serves as this region's pivotal theater arts organization providing ongoing cultural, educational and social enrichment.

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# THEATRE BATON ROUGE

PRESENTS



WRITTEN BY  
**BEKAH BRUNSTETTER**

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DIRECTOR

**C. Jaye Miller**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Makaylee Secrest**

SET DESIGNER

**Drew Davis**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Kevin Mayfield**

COSTUMER DESIGNERS

**Sherri Wischusen**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Gabby Montagnino**

SOUND DESIGNER

**Eric Fulcher**

PROPS ASSISTANT

**Kim Harger**

PROPS DESIGNER

**Carole Moore**

STAGE MANAGER

**Emery Lancaster**

## STARRING

**Peggy Sweeney McDonald**

**Nya Skipper**

**Arden Forrand**

**A.J. Sabine**

**and**

**Tim Sandifer**

WITH ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

**Eric Fulcher**

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The Cake was originally produced by The Echo Theater Company, Los Angeles, California  
Chirs Fields, Artistic Director, Jesse Cannady, Producing Director

The Cake was originally developed in The Echo Theater Playwrights Lab  
Jennifer Chambers, Director

The Cake received a developmental reading at The Alley Theatre  
Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director, Dean R. Gladden, Managing Director

The Cake was eveloped at The Ojai Playwrights Conference  
Robert Egan, Artistic Director/Producer

# *the Cake*

## *Setting*

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Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Now

## *Director's Note*

This is a familiar story. Nearly everyone in our audience will know or identify with at least one of these characters. Reading this script for the first time, I immediately recognized Della, Tim, Jen, and Macy, though I know them all by different names.

These characters learn, as I hope anyone who experiences this story will learn, that Love can gather us into the same room, Love can inspire us to listen to one another, and Love can transform us into something more tenderhearted and openhanded.

Thank you!

- *C. Jaye Miller*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR

John Turner



Jerry Fischer



*Visit the Bar!*

# *the* Cake

SHOW DRINK

DELLA'S PINK  
LEMONADE  
CAKE



# Cast

\*INDICATES TBR DEBUT

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Della .....      | Peggy Sweeney-McDonald |
| Macy .....       | Nya Skipper            |
| Jen .....        | Arden Forrand          |
| Tim .....        | A.J. Sabine            |
| George V/O ..... | Tim Sandifer           |



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# Cast

## *the Cake*

PEGGY  
SWEENEY-  
MCDONALD  
IS  
DELLA



NYA SKIPPER IS MACY IN  
*the Cake*



ARDEN FORRAND  
IS JEN IN  
*the Cake*



A.J. SABINE  
IS TIM IN  
*the Cake*



# Theatre Baton Rouge

# the Cake

## MEET THE CAST

**Arden Forrand (Jen)** This is Arden's TBR main-stage debut! She graduated from Louisiana State University in May of 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre. Her past credits include Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind (Ensemble), Airness (Nina O'Neal), LSU School of Theatre's 2022 Edinburgh Fringe Festival production of Dream Logos (Ensemble), and Other Desert Cities (Polly Wyeth). She would like to thank her family and friends, who are practically family, for their never-ending love!

**A. J. Sabine (Tim)** first made his TBR debut in 2004, in Six Degrees of Separation. Since then, A.J. has been busy with his work as an attorney for the Sabine Law Firm, LLC. A.J. is thrilled to be back on the TBR stage, as Tim in The Cake. When he's not obsessing about news and politics, traveling the world, or writing motions and memos, A.J. loves spending time with his family, cruising the interstate on his Harley, and flexes his creative muscles on the blues guitar. A.J. would like to thank his amazing children, A.J. III, Lauren, and Oliver for their support and inspiration. Additionally, A.J. would like to thank Kristin C. for her love and tireless support; I am her rascal, she, the queen of our castle. Thank you, K!

**Nya Skipper (Macy)** is a recent LSU graduate earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art concentrating in digital art. Her previous roles include Rocky Horror Picture Show (Magenta), Sweet

Charity (Helene), Rock of Ages (Justice) at TBR, and Little Shop of Horrors (Ronnnette) at LSU. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in digital marketing at Arizona State University. Nya works as the proprietary school director and web developer for the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers. She wants to thank her friends, family, and Caden for their unconditional love and support.

**Peggy Sweeney-McDonald (Della)** is thrilled to be back on the TBR stage as Della in The Cake! In 2022, she made her TBR debut as Amanda in Glass Menagerie and won Best Actress in a Play at the Beaux Arts Awards. Some of her favorite roles have been: Tennessee Williams' Summer and Smoke at Le Petite in New Orleans (Miss Alma) which was nominated for a Storer Boone Best Actress award, Love Letters (Melissa), Crimes of the Heart (Meg), Chapter Two (Jennie), Jake's Women (Maggie), and The Sound of Music (Elsa). She is the creator of Meanwhile, Back at Café Du Monde... Life Stories About Food, the festive food monologue show and the author of the best-selling coffee table book by Pelican Publishing, and a member of the Screen Actors Guild. She is the creator of Life In the A-Zone, the popular podcast following her journey with her mother's Alzheimer's. She would like to thank C. Jaye for casting her as Della and has loved this sweet journey with the amazing cast and crew!

# Theatre Baton Rouge



# *the Cake*



*Jackie Haxthausen*

# Production Team

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Director.....             | C. Jaye Miller                              |
| Assistant Director .....  | Makaylee Secrest                            |
| Set Designer.....         | Drew Davis                                  |
| Costume Designers.....    | Sheri Wischusen                             |
| Lighting Designer .....   | Gabby Montagnino                            |
| Sound Designer.....       | Eric Fulcher                                |
| Light/Sound Board Op..... | Emery Lancaster                             |
| Props Designer .....      | Carole Moore                                |
| Props Assistant .....     | Kim Harger                                  |
| Stage Manager.....        | Emery Lancaster                             |
| Crew .....                | Kim Harger, Ginger Gauthier, Carissa Murray |
| VEC Reps.....             | Kristy Coast                                |

## TBR STAFF

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Technical Director .....        | Kevin Mayfield  |
| Box Office Staff.....           | Porsche Young, Don Fields   |
| Playbill Design .....           | Don Fields  |
| Custodial Staff .....           | Lynell Celestine  |
| Bartenders .....                | Knick Moore, Courtney Murphy  |
| Photography .....               | Jackie Haxthausen   |
| Videography.....                | Jesse Seidule   |
| Front of House Volunteers ..... | Adrienne Thornton, Madisyn Vail,<br>Kent LaPlace, Nancy Hicks, Sam Hanks,<br>Julie Martin, Chad Harelson, Ed Picard |

# Special Thanks

**Tim Sandifer and Jackie Haxthausen**



# Meet the Team

## *C. Jaye Miller*

**(Director)** Past professional credits include productions with Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park; Chicago: Writers Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, 16th Street Theatre, First Folio Theatre, Oil Lamp Theatre, Profiles Theatre, with Broadway in Chicago, etc. Ensemble member emeritus of Babes With Blades Theatre Company, Adapt Theatre Company, and Dal Vivo. Baton Rouge theatre credits include productions with Theatre Baton Rouge and Red Magnolia Theatre Company. Currently serving as Red Magnolia Theatre Company's production vp.

## *Makaylee Secrest*

**(Assistant Director)** is a recent graduate of LSU where she received her B.A. in Theatre Performance and directed two lab shows, Belleville and The Goat or Who is Sylvia? Assistant directing credits at TBR include Little Women, How I Learned to Drive, and Romeo and Juliet. Mak has also worked as an AD on Swine Palace's The Book of Willard Roe and on the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's And a Nightingale Sang... She is grateful to C. Jaye for this opportunity and is excited to continue her work as an AD on TBR's upcoming production of God of Carnage.

## *Drew Davis* (Set

**Designer)** graduated in 2023 from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches with a BFA in Production and Design and pursued set design and

production throughout his academic career. With shows such as Twelfth Night (Set Designer), Godspell (Set Designer), Pirates of Penzance (Set Designer) and more shows under his belt, Drew is proud to be involved in the production of The Cake, and is hopeful that setting the scene for this compelling play will help spark important conversations among friends and loved ones.

## *Sheri Wischusen*

**(Costume Designer)** is excited to make her Costume Design debut with TBR's The Cake. She grew up sewing beside her seamstress mother and practices her craft with volunteer work and projects for friends. She hasn't done anything professionally but had the best-dressed sons every Halloween, making costumes that ranged from zoo animals to Power Rangers. Sheri has graduate degrees in biochemistry and higher education administration and is retired from the LSU College of Science.

## *Gabby Montagnino*

**(Lighting Designer)** is a recent graduate of Louisiana State University with a major in Theatre Design and Technology and a dance minor. Past lighting credits include James and the Giant Peach and The Little Mermaid with Playmakers of Baton Rouge, and Marburg with Swine Palace. Gabby performed in Thoroughly Modern Millie (Ensemble) and Romeo and Juliet (Peter) with the YAP in high school. She is very blessed to be back at Theatre Baton Rouge, this time as a designer!

# Theatre Baton Rouge



# Meet the Team

**Eric Fulcher** (Sound Designer) is a Virginia native, with five years under his belt as a Louisiana transplant. He is an ordained minister and a counselor, having recently graduated from University of Holy Cross with a Masters in Counseling. Eric is passionate about helping others discover their truest selves and living that truth boldly. Eric is a kayak fisherman, a golfer, and a musician. After his debut run as sound designer for Red Magnolia Theater's Mother of the Maid, Eric is excited to be a part of this story and help bring it to life through music.

**Carole Moore** (Props Designer) is overjoyed to be the props designer for The Cake! She would like to thank the amazing cast and production

team and her husband Knick.

**Kim Harger** (Props Assistant) is so excited to have worked on The Cake! She would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for their hard work

**Emery Lancaster** (Stage Manager) has been a stage manager for over 20 years. Favorite shows include, A Chorus Line, My Fair Lady, Boys in the Band and Misery. She wants to thank you, the audience member, for coming to the show. Share its message of love and understanding. Thank you, C. Jaye, for letting me sit by your side. Thank you cast, crew and production for going above and beyond to tell this story. Places Please!

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# *The Cake*



*Jackie Haxthausen*



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AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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