December 6 & 7, 2025
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Manchester CT Jazz Festival

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CAST children's theatre
Fall Fundraiser Production of

Guys and Dolls Sr.

A Musical Fable of Broadway

Based on a Story and Characters by ***Damon Runyon***

Music and Lyrics by
FRANK LOESSER

Book by
JO SWERLING AND ABE BURROWS

November 20-22, 2025

Manchester High School's Bailey Auditorium
134 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT

Break a leg, Beth!



Because if you screw up, you're walking home! (Remember, it's heredity, not hereditary!)



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The Watershed History Collective
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CAST children's theatre Brick Fundraiser!

Support our CAST kids and leave your mark by purchasing a brick with a personalized message to be placed in Hannah's Garden on the side of the CAST studio.

Bricks are 4x8 with space for 3 lines of text, 16-17 characters (including spaces and punctuation) per line. Special characters (heart, paw prints, etc.) may be available for an additional fee.

Bricks are $55.00 for one brick or 2 for $100.00. A service charge will be added for credit and debit cards. If you would like to mail in a check and/or pay with cash there will be no additional service charges added.

If you have any questions, please contact the CAST office at info@casttheatre.org or 860.649.5062.



DIRECTOR
Donna R. Mercier

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Becca Duval

STUDENT DIRECTORS
Mariah Bogar, Maisey LeMay

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Dave Fairbanks

STAGE MANAGER
Suzi Fairbanks

TECH
Mariah Bogar, Suzi Fairbanks,
Maisey LeMay, MHS Tech Crew

BUSINESS MANAGER
Marcus D. Fink

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Manchester Board of Education, Manchester High School, John Slogesky, our CAST Volunteers, Board of Directors and Development Committee.

GUYS AND DOLLS SR.
is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Director's Message

I am so proud of our actors - some taking the stage for their very first musical theatre performance, and others returning after a long hiatus. This production represents a wonderful and exciting new offering from Music Theatre International (MTI), designed as recreational theatre for older actors, and it has been such a joy to bring to life.

We've made new friends, shared countless laughs, and worked hard - especially through the sometimes-tedious blocking process - to create something truly special together. Thank you to everyone who supported us along the way.

Enjoy the show!

Donna R. Mercier

Donna R. Mercier
Director



Thank you for a great 2025!

Please consider making a tax deductible end of the year donation to support CAST!

https://givebutter.com/castdonation

Or by mail:
CAST, PO Box 1268,
Manchester, CT 06045-1268

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- From your biggest fans

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CAST children's theatre Production of

Disney Aladdin KIDS

Music by **Alan Menken**
Lyrics by **Howard Ashman** and **Tim Rice**
Music adapted and arranged and additional lyrics by **Bryan Louiselle**
Book by **David Simpatico**
based on the 1992 Disney film **Aladdin**

Monday, November 24, 2025 (Wednesday class)
Tuesday, November 25, 2025 (Saturday class)

Performances will be held at 7:00 pm
Doors open at approximately 6:30 pm - 6:45 pm
Manchester High School's Bailey Auditorium
134 East Middle Turnpike · Manchester, CT

Tickets are $10.00 each if purchased before 3:00 pm the day of the show.
After 3:00 pm the day of the show and at the door, tickets will be $12.00 each.
A service fee will be applied for credit/debit charges in advance and at the door.

Purchase tickets online at https://casttheatre.ludus.com

For more information, contact CAST at info@casttheatre.org or 860.649.5062
www.casttheatre.org

ALADDIN KIDS is presented through special *arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com*

Cast

Niceley-Nicely Johnson.....**Marietta St. Onge**
Benny Southstreet.....**Shirley Breuer**
Rusty Charlie.....**Doug Gemmell**
Sarah Brown.....**Elizabeth Gemmell**
Arvide Abernathy.....**Darlene McGill**
Agatha.....**Barbara Odierna**
Calvin.....**Martina Johnson**
Martha.....**Fionnuala Purcell**
Bertha / Society Max / Cop.....**Donna Mercier**
Harry the Horse.....**Maura McGuire**
Lieutenant Brannigan.....**Beth Courtney**
Nathan Detroit.....**Phil Koboski**
Angie the Ox.....**Holly Audette**
Miss Adelaide.....**Brenda Koboski**
Sky Masterson.....**Ron Audette**
Mimi.....**Mary Bollash**
General Cartwright.....**Joan Coates**
Big Jule.....**Bob Burrows**
Liver Lips Louie / Master of Ceremonies / Street Vendor / Lookout.....**Robert Laughlin**
Hot Box Girls.....**Holly Audette, Mary Bollash, Joan Coates, Beth Courtney, Sirkka Johnson, Donna Mercier, Barbara Odierna, Fionnuala Purcell**
Ensemble.....**Holly Audette, John Bollash, Mary Bollash, Shirley Breuer, Joan Coates, Beth Courtney, Bob Funke, Doug Gemmell, Martina Johnson, Sirkka Johnson, Robert Laughlin, Darlene McGill, Maura McGuire, Donna Mercier, Barbara Odierna, Fionnuala Purcell, Marietta St. Onge**

Barbara/Mom/Grandma,

From the saddle to the stage, your courage to chase new dreams inspires us all. Seeing you perform fills us with pride and love. After supporting us all these years we are excited to cheer for you as you shine!

With love always,

Henry, Steve, Tara, Abby, Nate, Teddy, Ranger, Hazel, Cheryl, Brian, Cailyn, Ben, Maggie, Toby, Koren, Tom, Rachel, Jacob, Tammy, Dave, Rumba, Cola, and Hugo



UNITED COMMUNITY

BREAK A LEG to the cast of Guys and Dolls Sr.!

We are especially proud of our own Adelaide and Nathan

From the South Windsor United Community Party

COMMUNITY ABOVE ALL!

www.southwindsorunitedcommunityparty.org

Quotes from GUYS AND DOLLS rehearsals by the CAST

"Hey Nathan, is it true the CAST feels that my age is higher than the high notes I try to hit when singing my solo's?"

"What's your character name again?, Smiley? or Nicely.?"



"Does Intermission constitute "Nap - Time" and if so, can we make that a half hour please?"

"HEREDITY,!!! not Hereditary!"

What a Blast. Enjoyed all our times together building towards..... Knowing our lines, ... (Mostly)

Cheers, and Break a Leg:
Angie the Ox and Sky.



To my beautiful wife Elizabeth "Sarah Brown":

I adore you with all my heart and I have been blessed to be by your side for over thirty years.

You bring magic to your role as Sarah Brown and your voice rings out like an angel. The audience gets to hear that for the first time here but I am so lucky to be embraced by your beautiful voice each and every day.

Thank you for getting me involved in theater for the first time in my life. Your love gave me the courage to try something new. Next year I know we will be hand in hand on stage performing together but for now I am filled with joy as I watch you bring your amazing heart and soul to this performance.

You definitely are a "pretty doll" , a "nice looking lady" , and most of all you are my gorgeous wife. I love you so much, from your "Rusty" Hubby.

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erin daley
PHOTOGRAPHY

860-937-8538

ErinDaley@pm.me

CAST children's theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We rely on donations, fundraisers, grants and corporate matching grants to keep our programs running. **If your company has a Matching Grants Program, please consider submitting CAST's name to receive a contribution.**

Ask your HR department for details on how to register. If it is a United Way program, our Agency Code is AG 2230 and we are listed as:

C.A.S.T. Children's Associated Summer Theatre
Or CAST Inc.

Our Federal Tax ID # is:
22-2906484

Sponsorship Opportunities are available!
Contact Marcus at mfink@casttheatre.org for details.



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CAST children's theatre

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Send an email to
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Thank you to all of our supporters and those who donated towards the prizes and closing reception!!

Congrats to everyone on a great job!

-Donna



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Cast Bios

Holly Audette (Angie the Ox) is excited to make her official *stage debut* as she celebrates her 39th birthday (for the 24th time). Though new to musical theatre, she's no stranger to performing thanks to years of tap dancing in her annual Spring Recitals. As a former CAST Board Member and current Development Committee member, Holly is especially delighted to experience a "role reversal" after watching her son Lucas perform in CAST for 11 years—this time, he'll be cheering her on. Holly wishes her cast a fantastic show and thanks the tech crew, Mrs. Mercier, Becca, and Marcus for encouraging (and bribing) her to take the stage!

Ron Audette (Sky Masterson) is excited to make his *stage debut* while celebrating his 39th year (for the 27th time). Though new to performing, Ron is used to putting himself "out there" as a Youth Coordinator at St. Junipero Serra Parish. He brings absolutely *zero* talent to this role—other than saying "yes" to his wife Holly (Angie the Ox), which he believes saved his marriage. Ron's theatre involvement has mostly been backstage, building sets for many CAST summer shows during his son Lucas's 11 years with the program, as well as for East Catholic productions. A former member of Stage East—Donna Mercier's alma mater—he's happy to be back in the theatre world. Ron knows Lucas may struggle to keep a straight face, but after 15 years onstage, he's confident his son can manage a "Nice job, Dad." He thanks his castmates for the laughter and joy of this premiere CAST Sr. production and has already signed on for next year. Special thanks to Mrs. Mercier, Becca, and Marcus for their patience—and for working with them one line at a time and one senior at a time.

John Bollash (Ensemble) is excited to perform in *Guys and Dolls* alongside his wife, Mary, and good friend Bob Funke. This is his second CAST show—he previously played Eugene in the CAST Parents' production of *Grease*. When not onstage, John, Bob, and their sons Johnny and Billy can usually be found playing disc golf; John even competed in the National Amateur Disc Golf Championship in Austin, Texas. He joined the show for "Some Doll" but is glad he did, and thanks this amazing cast for a fantastic experience.



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To join: Raiseright.com/enroll

Enter enrollment code: **6B4788EB12336**

Need assistance? Contact us at info@casttheatre.org

Holiday order deadline: December 15th by the end of the day to be picked up at CAST on December 22nd.

WICKED

FOR GOOD

Movie Fundraiser

Join CAST for a private showing at Parkade Cinemas in Manchester on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

$20 per ticket (movie only)
$26 per ticket (movie ticket and small popcorn & drink)
Purchase tickets online at **casttheatre.ludus.com**

Cast Bios

Darlene McGill (Arvide Abernathy, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) is making her stage debut and feels honored to perform with such a talented group of actors. She is the proud mother of two daughters and grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren. Darlene hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Maura McGuire (Harry the Horse, Ensemble) is best known as the mom of KC Beauregard (a former CAST kid) and Kevin, and the wife of Mike Beauregard. When not shooting craps, she can be found behind a camera—or turning in her dad for the reward! Maura is excited (and a little nervous) to be *Rockin' the Boat* and is grateful to the cast and crew of *Guys & Dolls* for this wonderful experience.

Donna Mercier (Society Max, Bertha, Cop, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble), CAST co-founder, is both directing and performing in this production. She has loved seeing the enthusiasm, laughter, and teamwork from everyone involved—many of whom were new to performing and a bit skeptical at first. Donna believes the arts enrich everyone's lives, and it's never too late to try something new. Love you all and BRAVO!

Barbara Odierna (Agatha, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) makes her stage debut after 38 years with CAST. As a founding member, she served as secretary and ticket chair, while her three daughters performed on stage and in the pit band for many years. Barbara has been blessed with an amazing family—four children, six grandchildren, and many pets—and has been married for 56 years. She has also been active in her children's schools, serving on the PTA, running sound for talent shows, and playing the Buckley Bobcat Witch at annual haunted houses. She thanks her loving family for their support and Donna and the entire *Guys and Dolls* cast for this wonderful opportunity.

Fionnuala Purcell (Martha, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) is making her stage debut in *Guys and Dolls Sr.* She works at St. James School in the preschool and after-school programs. Fionnuala congratulates the cast and crew on an amazing performance and is thrilled to be part of the show!

Marietta St. Onge (Nicely-Nicely Johnson, Ensemble) is thrilled to be back on stage after a long hiatus. She previously enjoyed performing in *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Oklahoma* with the Plainville Choral Society, but is especially excited to return with CAST in her favorite show, *Guys and Dolls*. She thanks Donna, Becca, and Marcus for encouraging her, her CAST alumni kids for their support, and her friends and family for always being there. This performance is dedicated to her late husband, Bob, who would have loved to be part of the show.

Cast Bios

Mary Bollash (Mimi, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of this cast of *Guys and Dolls*. The best part? Her husband John is in the show too! Their sons, Johnny and Billy, were CAST kids for ten summers, so Mary knows firsthand the joy of performing under Mrs. Mercier's direction. This isn't Mary and John's first CAST experience—they previously joined other CAST parents in *Grease*. Mary has also performed in several other shows, most recently as the Mayor of Bomont in *Footloose* with the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival, and even appeared as a background friend in Hallmark's *Last Stop Christmas*. Offstage, Mary leads Carrier's internal university (Carrier Engineering University) and enjoys time with her family and their dog, Poseidon. She thanks Donna, Becca, Marcus, and this amazing, VERSATILE cast for the wonderful opportunity to perform.

Shirley Breuer (Benny Southstreet, Ensemble) has appeared in numerous local productions, including *Kirouac…* at CAST Theatre, *Murder at the Copacabana* at Asnuntuck Community College, and various fundraisers at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, playing everyone from Lucille Ball to Martha Stewart, a proper pirate, and a cowboy bartender. She made her stand-up comedy debut in May 2017 at CAST Theatre. A retired physical therapist, Shirley believes comedy (or maybe singing!) helps people heal—and you'll find out which in this show! She plays Benny in homage to her dad, who always reminded her, "Life's a crapshoot!"

Bob Burrows (Big Jule) makes his theatrical debut in *Guys and Dolls Sr.* After years of creating characters and voices while playing with his kids, Bob finally decided to see if he could bring them to the stage—still to be determined! He drew inspiration and coaching from his youngest, Parker, a CAST kid for over seven years. Bob thanks the cast for their support, Donna and Becca for getting the show ready, and his family for backing this "crazy idea." Roll 'em!

Joan Coates (General Cartwright, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) has been performing with the East Hartford Summer Youth Festival since 1969, with favorite roles including Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon a Mattress* and Grandma in *The Addams Family*. She has also worked with Little Theatre of Manchester since the 1970s, including roles in *Driving Miss Daisy* and *The Secret Garden*, where she shared the stage with her niece Robyn. Joan has appeared in shows at the University of Hartford, performing alongside her then-four-year-old niece Rebecca in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, and has worked in both equity and non-equity theaters throughout Connecticut and New Hampshire. This is her first CAST production, though her nieces have appeared in many CAST summer shows.

Cast Bios

Beth (Cutting) Courtney (Lieutenant Brannigan, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) was born in 1963 and grew up in Tolland, performing in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, *Oklahoma*, and *Guys & Dolls* in high school. She graduated from Becker College in 1983, where she met her husband, Patrick. Beth previously performed in a CAST musical ensemble and is thrilled to return as Lt. Brannigan in CAST's 55 & older group. She thanks Patrick for encouraging her to perform and looks forward to the next show!

Bob Funke (Ensemble) is thrilled to be performing with CAST. His daughters are CAST alumni, inspiring him to take the stage himself. He gratefully acknowledges the exceptional support and encouragement from his wife, family, and friends in helping him embark on this theatrical adventure.

Doug Gemmell (Rusty Charlie, Ensemble) is excited to make his musical theatre debut in *Guys and Dolls Sr.* While new to the stage, Doug is no stranger to performing, having spent many years as a drummer and vocalist in bands spanning classic rock, original music, and country. He also co-created and wrote lyrics for the original CD *Rise Above*. When not performing, Doug pursues his passion for nature photography, with his work featured on the Manchester Wildlife and Connecticut Audubon Facebook pages.

Elizabeth Gemmell (Sarah Brown) is thrilled to be back onstage after a 30-year hiatus, especially with the talented CAST team. Her last and favorite role was playing both the magical tree and Red Riding Hood's grandmother in Southington Community Theatre's 1996 production of *Into the Woods*. Musically, Elizabeth has been active as a soprano soloist, section leader, children's choir director, and bell choir director in various local churches. She currently sings with the Wapping Community Church of South Windsor.

Martina Johnson (Calvin, Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) is a retired X-ray technologist who loves taking tap dance classes at the Tolland Senior Center. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, camping, and hiking. The last time she performed on this stage was 50 years ago, making her return all the more special!

Cast Bios

Sirkka Johnson (Hot Box Girl, Ensemble) has been a flutist for over 60 years. A 1970 graduate of Manchester High School, she earned a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance from the Boston Conservatory, studying with James Pappoutsakis (Boston) and Michel Debost (Paris). She is a member of the Hartford Flute Choir, the First Company Governor's Footguard Band, and an as-yet-unnamed flute quartet. Though more comfortable in the orchestra pit than onstage, Sirkka is thrilled to participate in this production and support an organization that makes musical theatre possible for young people—a life-changing experience for many. She is the proud mother of four grown children, three of whom performed with CAST decades ago.

Brenda Koboski (Miss Adelaide) is thrilled to play Adelaide alongside her husband Phil's Nathan! She is having a blast with this cast and is proud of all their hard work. Brenda thanks her wonderful husband and children, Theo and Eric (CAST alumni), for their love and support. Her favorite role was Electra in Bristol Theater Arts' production of *Gypsy*—many moons and pounds ago! A CAST parent for over 15 years, she is excited to be part of the *Guys and Dolls Sr.* fundraiser.

Phil Koboski (Nathan Detroit) is thrilled to be performing in his first show and couldn't have asked for a better cast and crew. Sharing the stage with his wife, Brenda, as Adelaide has made the experience extra special. He thanks his family and children, Theo and Eric, for their encouragement as he discovered just how much work goes into a production. In the end, it's been far more fun than he expected, with a special thank-you to Donna for keeping him on his "marker"!

Robert Laughlin (Liver Lips Louie, Street Vendor, Master of Ceremonies, Lookout, Ensemble) returns to the Bailey Auditorium stage for the first time in 38 years. His last performance was as a senior at Manchester High with the Sock n' Buskin drama club—now he's just a senior! After MHS, Robert studied puppetry at the University of Connecticut and performed with a puppet troupe across nine states, including shows at the Bushnell in Hartford, as well as on the *Not So Late-Night Show* on local cable TV. He has spent his career writing grants and working in museums throughout Connecticut and at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts, and counts his favorite job as running an after-school program in Manchester.