

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I had the privilege of performing in the Broadway production of CATS for 2 1/2 a years in the '90s. It was a very happy time in my life, and I'm proud to have been a part of that Broadway history. Back then, CATS was often a favorite punchline in New York theater circles—usually summed up with a bemused, “What’s it even about?” Well I can say with confidence that despite the difficult-to-understand lyrics, strangely-named characters, and often dimly lit stage, there actually is a story being told up there.

Revisiting the show 30 years later—and having the opportunity to guide this beautiful cast on the journey—I’ve come to realize that CATS is about something much simpler, and far more profound, than the somewhat thin plot built around the poetry of T.S. Eliot.

At its heart, CATS is about love and forgiveness. It’s about family—chosen and otherwise—and the hope of redemption. It’s also about the courage it takes to “open up” and let others “enter in”: to allow yourself to be vulnerable to receive love, and to be transformed by the power of acceptance.

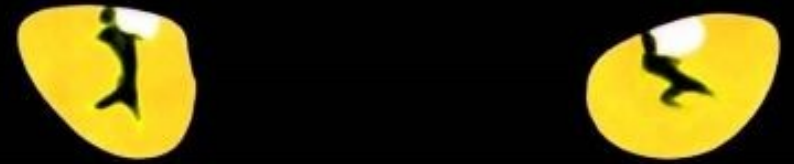
I hope you feel the love this cast and creative team have poured into the production—even if you still leave asking, with a smile, “What’s it even about?”

**Naomi Naughton**

Director and Choreographer



# PLAYBILL



# CATS

*Sixteen Grizabellas tell the  
2025 Shawnee Playhouse Story*

*Shawnee*   
PLAYHOUSE



MIDGE  
McCLOSKEY  
June 14<sup>th</sup> @2pm



GILLIAN  
TURNER  
June 14<sup>th</sup> @7pm



BLACK CHERRY  
LOVEE\*  
June 15<sup>th</sup> @3pm



HILLARY  
STEVENS  
June 20<sup>th</sup> @2pm



DEANNA  
BADICK  
June 21<sup>st</sup> @2pm



COCO MASE  
June 21<sup>st</sup> @7pm



RJ COONEY  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> @1pm



JOJO  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> @3pm



LISA  
DELLAROSSA  
June 27<sup>th</sup> @2pm



RYAN COOK  
June 28<sup>th</sup> @2pm



SARAH  
MCCARROLL  
June 28<sup>th</sup> @7pm



*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## NAOMI NAUGHTON

July 6<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM

Naomi is slipping back into Grizabella's heels for the first time in 30 years. She previously sang the role on the National Tour, and understudied it on Broadway where she also performed BOMBALURINA, CASSANDRA, DEMETER, JELLYLORUM, RUMPLETEAZER, and SILLABUB as a swing. Other highlights from her four-decade career include: Meet Me In St. Louis and Swinging on a Star on Broadway, and numerous tours and regional productions including A Chorus Line, Joseph...Dreamcoat (with Donny Osmond), Anything Goes, and Brigadoon. Naomi lives locally where she and her husband have raised four incredible sons and are active in community arts and athletics.



*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## ROB HOWELL

July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

Rob is honored to be part of CATS and to be joining such an incredibly talented group of performers for tonight's production. He is the General Manager of the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort and an extremely active member of the local community, having served on a variety of boards.

Rob has performed all over the Poconos and is remembered fondly for portraying HORACE VANDERGELDER in *My Fair Lady*, BILL ANDERSON in *Mamma Mia* and HARRY MCAFEE in *Bye Bye Birdie* all of which were performed here at the Shawnee Playhouse.

Thank you to Midge, and the Kirkwood family for their support. Rob sends all of his love to his beautiful wife, Jill and their wonderful daughter Keegan to whom he dedicates tonight's performance.



COCO MASE  
June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm



RJ COONEY  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1pm



JOJO  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 3 pm



LISA  
DELLAROSSA  
June 27<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm



RYAN COOK  
June 28<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm



SARAH  
MCCARROLL  
June 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm



LINDSEY COOK  
June 29<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm



Adriana  
Stigliano Beers  
July 4<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm



REBECCA PIEPER  
July 5<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm



ROB HOWELL  
July 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm



NAOMI  
NAUGHTON  
July 6<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm







*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## REBECCA PIEPER

July 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM

Rebecca Pieper, is the owner of The Musik Makers, a performing arts studio offering voice, piano, and theatre instruction to students of all ages both locally and nationwide. From 2011-2023 she was a Professor of Voice in the DeSales University Performing Arts Department. She was named Music Teacher of the Year by the Friends of Music Association in 2022. She will complete her Master of Vocal Pedagogy and Performance (Musical Theatre Emphasis) at Westminster Choir College in 2025 and holds certifications in YogaVoice®, NeuroVocal Method, and CCM Pedagogy. Rebecca's diverse career spans musical theatre and opera, with credits including her favorites of: Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Amalia (*She Loves Me*), Sonia (*They're Playing Our Song*) and Tanya (*Mamma Mia!*). She enjoys being on both sides of the stage as a performer but also as a music and vocal director for many of the colleges and universities.

As a frequent clinician and conference presenter, she empowers students to sing confidently across genres and share their gifts in ways that are uniquely their own. She has been serving the National Association of Teachers of Singing as a Chapter Officer since 2016 and as an Executive Board Member/Region Governor since 2023.

Rebecca loves being able to be on all sides of the stage and is passionate about helping people discover how they can share their heart and their art with others!



*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



**ADRIANNA  
STIGLIANO BEERS**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

Adriana Stigliano Beers is ecstatic to return to the Shawnee stage, marking her first appearance since 2010! A proud graduate of DeSales University with a BA in Musical Theatre ('12), Adriana went on to perform regionally and released two solo albums. In 2013, she became a certified Music Together teacher and soon after, the Center Director at FuSia Center for the Arts. In 2017, she launched In2YouArts, a business born from her passion to bring performing arts to the community. As Owner and Artistic Director, Adriana has had the joy of teaching everyone from infants to adults, while producing shows over the past 8 years, directing, choreographing, and coaching in both professional and pre-professional settings. In 2022, In2YouArts expanded into Easton, PA, and in 2024 launched the Act I & Act II Companies, providing advanced training for young performers under the umbrella of FuSia Community Arts, a nonprofit organization. After becoming a proud mom of two, Adriana returned to the stage through In2YouArts productions, with recent roles including Rona Lisa Peretti The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and Miss Honey Matilda. She sends endless love and thanks to her incredible children, her supportive family, and her amazing husband—for always listening to her sing.







*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



**LYNDSEY  
COOK**

**June 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM**

Lindsey Cook, a proud native of the Pocono Mountains, found her artistic voice early, majoring in music and captivating audiences in roles such as EVA PERON (Evita), LUCY HARRIS (Jekyll and Hyde), THE CHAPERONE (The Drowsy Chaperone), JUDAS (Jesus Christ Superstar), and CATHY (The Last Five Years). When not performing, Lindsey serves as Area Vice President in pediatric and adult homecare, where she has thrived for 14 years. She's also a proud mom to an 11-year-old daughter who shares her and Ryan's love for the arts—continuing a legacy of creativity, leadership, and passion.

“What is the biggest impact you feel you have had on the arts community?”

Lindsey's greatest impact on the theater community is her ability to lead with authenticity, using her performance background to empower others through presence, confidence, and connection. Whether on stage or in leadership, she inspires those around her to embrace their voice, take bold steps, and bring their full selves to every role they play—onstage and off.



*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## **SARAH MCCARROLL**

**June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**

Sarah McCarroll (Grizabella) is always thrilled and grateful to return to the Shawnee Stage. Favorite roles on her favorite stage include Dolly in Hello, Dolly (Broadway World Regional Award), Vera in Mame (NEPTA Award), Miss Hannigan in Annie and Vivian in Church Basement Ladies (NEPTA Award). Even more cherished are the times when Sarah was behind the scenes working to bring this art to the stage. The friendships forged through the shared challenge and joy of bringing theater to our faithful audiences has been one of the greatest blessings of her life. Thank you all for making it possible.





*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



**MIDGE  
MCCLOSKY**

**June 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

Midge McClosky has been the Executive Director of the Shawnee Playhouse for just shy of 20 years. During that time she has designed, directed and performed in countless productions. She has been involved in all of the decisions since that time, including putting together the creative teams, casting, show selection, and programming changes. Creation of the stars program in her years created a deep love for community and a culture of family support, not competition, here at the Playhouse.

Creation of the Shawnee Original Playwrights Series resulted in the production of dozens of ORIGINAL, world premiere plays and musicals. It has also given opportunities to first time directors, actors, and playwrights, allowing them to explore other aspects of the theater while teaching the audience members to open their minds to explore new works.

Prior to her involvement at The Shawnee Playhouse, Midge worked professionally as an actress/singer/dancer all across the United States performing for several years nationwide and in New York City. Her most notable roles include the OOBIE award winning portrayal of Meryl Streep in Dressing Room Divas at the Duplex, NYC and Milady DeWinter at the Wings Theatre NYC, in their world, premiere musical The Three Musketeers.

Midge studied Classical Voice at Cottey College in Missouri and then continue training at AMDA in NYC. After years of working as a professional performer (juggling every kind of performance opportunity available; voiceovers, commercials, television, film, under fives, print modeling, costumed character work - and of course - Theater and Musical Theater) she and her husband settled in the Poconos with the desire to raise a family. A twist of fate at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church brought Midge to her position here at The Shawnee Playhouse where she has truly found her theatrical family.

Midge is a proud wife of almost 30 years to her husband Chris and an even prouder mother of her two boys, Bobby and Billy, who spent their entire childhoods in this theater with her. She is extremely involved in the Community, where she works with other local theater groups and schools to further expand our Theatrical love and outreach.

Midge is a past state president of the Pennsylvania PEO, a current session member at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church as well as their music director. Additionally, she teaches voice lessons at Big Bug Music Studio and has served as adjudicator for Paper Mill Playhouse's Rising Star Awards, the FREDDY Awards and the NEPTA Awards. She is currently on the Board of Directors for the Shawnee Preservation Society and the coordinator of Road Scholar programs for the Shawnee Institute.

*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



**RYAN  
COOK**

**June 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

Ryan Cook has spent years bringing stories to life from both the stage and the director's chair. His directing credits include All Shook Up, Children of Eden, Jekyll & Hyde, Guys and Dolls, Nunsense A-men, The Full Monty, Footloose, and Oklahoma. Though more at home behind the scenes, he's stepping into this role with a bit of disbelief—but a lot of heart. Ryan extends heartfelt thanks to the entire production team for their support, and to Lindsey and their daughter for always cheering him on and sharing in the joy of storytelling.

*“What is the biggest impact you feel you have had on the arts community?”*

Ryan's greatest impact on the theater community lies in his ability to create welcoming, collaborative spaces where performers of all levels feel seen, challenged, and supported. Through his thoughtful direction and generous spirit, he's helped countless artists grow while keeping the joy of storytelling at the heart of every production.



*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



**LISA  
DELLAROSSA**

**June 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

Lisa is truly privileged to be a member of this honorary cast of GRIZABELLA, which is her fifth production. She has performed in Bye Bye Birdie, Footloose, Elf, and A Christmas Carol. Lisa has a Broadcasting and Vocal degree and continues to perform in theater, cabaret, festivals, and public and private events. She's thrilled to be working again with the wonderful Shawnee community of actors.

The biggest impact I feel I brought to the community: Her desire to infuse each performance with vitality and affection is a reflection of her love, respect, and appreciation for the arts, especially musical theater. Lisa hopes that she has given each role fresh life and that her love of the arts has been apparent in each one, and she also hopes to give the community an enjoyable performance.

*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



**GILLIAN TURNER**

**June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**

Gillian Turner is honored to be among such talented visionaries and artists. She has been onstage and directing here at Shawnee Playhouse and with Rebel Stages, and she is the director of the fall play and spring musical at East Stroudsburg High School South. She feels her artistic impact with the community has been through her directorial efforts and is passionate about keeping honesty and truth in the performer in order to maintain the same for the audience's story. She would like to thank her husband for his continuous love and support and Midge McClosky for believing in her and providing her these amazing opportunities.



*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## BLACK CHERRY LOVEE'

June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM

Black Cherry Loveé (She/Her in drag) makes her debut on the Shawnee Playhouse stage as Grizabella in *Cats*! A dynamic drag artist, she draws inspiration from powerful Black women—her mother, aunts, and grandmother—as well as icons like Beyoncé, Janet Jackson, Sylvester, James Baldwin, and RuPaul. She has lit up stages across New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and is the proud recipient of the 2024 NAACP Arts Award.

Black Cherry is passionate about honoring drag as a vibrant, theatrical art form. She believes wholeheartedly: Drag is Theatre, and Theatre is Drag.

Special thanks to Midge and Naomi for this wonderful opportunity and for highlighting artists in the community. Love you both! Love is love. What an honor to perform this role during PRIDE MONTH!!

Follow her journey and future performances on Instagram and Facebook: @blackcherrylovee  
(<https://www.instagram.com/blackcherrylovee>)

*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## JOJO

June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm

JoJo is a native New Yorker from (Accent) “Long Island!” A recent graduate from the New York Conservatory For Dramatic Arts JoJo is ecstatic to be expanding their theatre credits with this Shawnee Playhouse Debut Performance! Fun fact: JoJo also does a Jennifer Coolidge Impression!



At this performance, Grizabella is:



## RJ COONEY

June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm

Robert Cooney, Jr. (RJ) is living his lifelong dream by performing in his favorite musical, *CATS* by his favorite composer, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber!

Robert's previous performing credits at The Shawnee Playhouse include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *A Christmas Story*, *My Fair Lady* and *It's A Wonderful Life*. **"CATS now and forever!"**



At this performance, Grizabella is:



## HILLARY STEVENS

June 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM

Mrs. Hillary Stevens has taught music in ESASD since 2008 and teaches general music, 6th-grade choir, GSA, the spring musical, and fall play at JTL Intermediate School. She has directed over 20 student productions, including *Hairspray Jr.*, *Shrek Jr.*, *Fame Jr.*, and *High School Musical Jr.* Her work as a children's theatre director has significantly shaped the arts community in the Poconos. Onstage, she has performed in *The Buddy Holly Story*, Pocono Concert Chorale, *Broadway on the Red Carpet 4*, and charity benefits, including *Broadway Showstoppers*. Hillary thanks her biggest supporters, Michael and Lily Stevens, for their love and encouragement.



*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## DEANNA BADIK

June 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm

Deanna is a Pocono Mountain native and owner of Deanna Badik Vocal Studio @db\_vocalstudio. She earned her Bachelor's degree in vocal performance at Temple University and has appeared in numerous operas, musicals, and concerts, both locally and internationally. Most recently, she was seen as Susan in Title of Show, Daniela in In the Heights, and music director for several local shows. She thanks her family for their support, her husband for being a loving, familiar face in every audience, and her two beautiful children for her favorite role - Mommy.

She dedicates this performance to her late father, Joe Badik, and knows her biggest fan is with her always.

"What is the biggest impact you feel  
you have had on the arts community?"

I'm not sure if I can name what my impact has been on the arts community. But I am certain of the impact the community has had on me. Having been trusted with so many roles in so many special productions has been a true blessing for me. Brené Brown once said, "Unused creativity is not benign. It metastasizes." The arts community has kept me healthy, engaged, and has trusted me to teach many of our current and future performers.

I couldn't be more grateful.

*At this performance, Grizabella is:*



## COCO MASE

June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm

Coco Mase (she/her) is excited to return to The Shawnee Playhouse as Grizabella. She is a multidisciplinary artist with over three decades of experience in performing and visual arts across Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York City. Coco began her training with Joffrey Ballet (NYC), NJ Ballet, Madame Darvash, Steps, and BDC while running the halls of the Metropolitan Opera watching Pavarotti, Domingo, and Baryshnikov. Recent roles include Mama Murphy/ Bright Star, Vi Moore/FootLoose, Director & Choreographer/ Cabaret ('98), Scenic Artistic Director /Mice and Men.

A University of the Arts graduate (RIP) and NYU set design attendee, she combines her passion for dance, voice, and art in theater. Awarded High School Teacher of the Year and County Teacher of the Year, Coco is a dedicated LGBTQia+ activist. She holds an M.S. in Teaching and recently completed a Post-Baccalaureate in Teaching the Holocaust and Prejudice Reduction from Kean University. Her recent photographic essay on Rations of War, from a child's diary has received collegiate recognition. She dedicates her artistic life as a spiritual calling and a powerful gift of storytelling.

A very special thank you to the incredibly talented Midge McClosky for gracing me with this amazing opportunity. I am humbled by your trust and openness.

Working with you has been a complete blessing. This production would not have been possible without the support of her husband, 3 children and tuxedo cat Roxie. Break Legs to the whole cast and crew.

Peace and Love :) @coco-mase