THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

This production has been rated: **PG-13**


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THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

Book by MARSHA NORMAN
Music and Lyrics by JASON ROBERT BROWN
Based on the novel by ROBERT JAMES WALLER
Orchestrations by Jason Robert Brown

Director ............................................ Andy Meyers
Music Director .............................. Courtney Crary
Choreographer ............................... Andy Meyers
Stage Manager ............................... Giff Kahler
Asst Stage Manager .......................... Laura Earhart

Scenic Design ................................. Shy Iverson
Asst Scenic Designer ....................... Jay Roberts
Costume Design ............................. Linda Muth
Lighting Design ............................. Blain Radford
Sound Design ............................... Gregory Boris
Conductor ........................................ Courtney Crary
Accompanist/Piano ....................... Linda Stratton
Percussion ................................. Troy Bashor
Bass ................................................... Kurt Scrivseth
Guitars ........................................ Lucas Mesenko, Nick Barr
Violins ........................................ Tasha Fain, Spencer Stern
Cello ............................................... Lydia Garrick
Deck Manager ............................... Laura Earhart
Dresser ......................................... Elena Bandza
Light Board Operator .................... Giff Kahler
Sound Board Operator .................. James Cox
Spot Light Operators ................. Rebecca Jefferson, Ashley Stratton, Jake Nachtigal
Scene Shop Volunteers ............ Cheri Thompson, Steve Thompson

A special acknowledgement to Carol Egelston.
CAST

Francesca Johnson ........................................ Angela Billadeau
Robert Kincaid ............................................ Royce McIntosh
Bud Johnson ............................................... Thomas Hensley*
Michael Johnson ........................................ Benjamin Wambeke*
Carolyn Johnson ........................................... Mikayla Kay
Marge .......................................................... Jesse Ballard
Charlie ........................................................ Greg Ballard
Marian / Ensemble ...................................... Colleen Rosbarsky
Ginny / Waitress / Ensemble ............................ Bridget Smith
Young Bud / Ensemble ................................. Chayten Pippin
Young Francesca / Ensemble ................... Elle Lauryl Daniels*
Paolo / Ensemble ........................................ Elijah Miller
Jeff / Radio Announcer / Ensemble ............ Joseph Kellogg
Chiara / Ensemble ...................................... Petrea Torma
Bartender / Ensemble ................................. Jay Michael Roberts
Fair Ground Singer / Ensemble ................ Samantha Fife

*denotes Missoula Community Theatre debut!
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

When Robert James Waller’s romance novel The Bridges of Madison County was published in 1992, it swept nearly every best seller list, was applauded by literary critics, and became a staple of American Book Clubs. Film studios clamored to obtain the rights, and it was translated to the big screen to Oscar nominated success in 1995 starring Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood. Arriving on Broadway in 2004, the musical was universally praised for its lush romantic score, winning multiple Tony Awards.

But The Bridges of Madison County is not just a love story [or in some critics’ eyes an ‘anti-love story’]. It is a slice of life in a rural American town, and an examination of how the consequences of one chance event can ripple through a community. How does one road taken affect us and our relationships with family, friends, neighbors and even strangers? Which ‘What ifs’ open new doors, close others, or most personal, jolt us to rediscover the ones right before our own eyes?

This production of The Bridges of Madison County also celebrates the continued partnership between MCT and Fort Peck Summer Theatre. I am grateful for the many shared resources, creative input, and beneficial collaborations ..... and even the 8-hour drive!

Director - Andy Meyers
MARSHA NORMAN – AUTHOR

Marsha Norman is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and co-chair of Playwriting at Juilliard. She won a Tony for The Secret Garden, and another nomination for The Color Purple. Her first play, Getting Out, received the John Gassner Playwriting Medallion, the Newsday Oppenheimer Award, and a citation from the American Critics Assoc. Other plays include The Laundromat, The Pool Hall, Loving Daniel Boone, Trudy Blue, and her newest play, Last Dance. Published collections of her works include Four Plays, Collected Works of Marsha Norman, Vol. 1; and a novel, The Fortune Teller. She has also worked extensively in television and film and has an uncomprising play for the UN about trafficking and violence toward women. She is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, a former advisory member of the Sewanee Writers Conference, and current vice president of The Dramatists Guild of America. She serves on the boards of the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Independent Committee for Arts Policy. Ms. Norman was elected to the Agnes Scott College Board of Trustees in 2003. She lives with her two children in Monterey, MA and New York City.

ANDY MEYERS – DIRECTOR

Andy Meyers made his stage debut as a Poppy in MCT’s The Wizard of Oz (1984). Having grown up on the MCT stage, he has been honored to return in recent years to direct/choreograph Seussical, Woman in Black, The 39 Steps and The Winter Wonderettes, amongst others. He is currently the Artistic Director of both Fort Peck Summer Theatre in NE Montana, and Post Playhouse at Fort Robinson State Park, Nebraska, and a frequent director/actor with such companies as the Tony Award winning McCarter Theatre, Bigfork Summer Playhouse, San Antonio Public Theatre and Arizona Broadway Theatre. He recently served as the season director for the immersive House of Spirits, NYC. As an actor, he has appeared in the national tours of Annie, Bus Stop and A Christmas Carol, and Off-Broadway in Dames at Sea and Circle of Friends. Andy is a graduate of Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Boston, Wagner College in NYC and holds his Master’s in Musical Theatre from University of Montana, as well as his professional certificate in Nonprofit Management.

COURTNEY CRARY – MUSIC DIRECTOR

Courtney is thrilled to be making her music directing debut here at MCT. It’s been an honor to work with (and learn from) this talented collection of cast, crew, musicians, and creative team. Courtney earned her Master’s in Musical Theatre Performance and Advanced Post-Graduate Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy from NYU in 2014. She went on to teach voice lessons at NYU, Queens Music Academy, and Rocky Mountain College and now maintains a private voice studio in Missoula. Thank you to Joe Martinez for giving me this opportunity, Andy Meyers for guiding me through this process, and Dan Crary for being my rock and hype man.
"Acting is half shame, half glory. Shame at exhibiting yourself, glory when you can forget yourself."  - John Gielgud

BIOS

SHY IVERSON – SET DESIGNER

Shy is over-the-moon to be making his Missoula Community Theatre scenic debut! Select favorite scenic designs include The Bridges of Madison County, The Spitfire Grill, Ring of Fire, and Shrek at the Fort Peck Summer Theatre; Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer at Grand Barn Theatre; Big Fish, Cinderella, and The 25 Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Chanhassen High School; Cabaret, The Wizard of Oz, and Into the Woods at Lakeshore Players Theatre; Junie B. Jones is not a Crook at Lyric Arts; and James and the Giant Peach with Ashland Productions. Last summer, Shy donned some mouse ears and toured the high-line and central Montana with AM Theatrical’s Theatre for Young Audiences production of The Country Mouse and the City Mouse. Shy is a 2014 graduate of the University of Montana where he designed the sets for You Can’t Take It With You, Fiddler on the Roof, and Avenue Q. He is currently the 7-12 English teacher in Fromberg, MT (Go Falcons)! Love to Ed, and, as always, to Dovetail.

ANGELA BILLADEAU – FRANCESCA JOHNSON

Angela resonates with Albert Einstein when he, in a less mathematical moment, expressed: “When you trip over love, it is easy to get up. But when you fall in love, it is impossible to stand again.” Big Sky to Big Apple, Angela’s favorite roles heretofore were Madge Duggan in the world premiere of No Greater Love, Waitress in Hank Williams: Lost Highway and Lizzie in MCT’s The Rainmaker. In addition to Andy Meyers, MCT and the wonderfully supportive and talented cast, she is most grateful to her husband, parents and mother-in-law for being the village it takes when a busy mama does a show. She also extends a heartfelt hat tip to her father/voice teacher, Gary Funk; and to the illustrious, recently transitioned Bill Esper and Greg Johnson – they know why.

ROYCE JAMES MCINTOSH – ROBERT KINCAID

Having never made it through the movie or read the book, Royce tried researching Bridges of Madison County, Montana, only to find he was getting nowhere. After reading the script, the story made much more sense and the music of the show was most desirable! He played the-singing Clint Eastwood role last summer at Fort Peck Summer Playhouse and is excited to bring the performance to MCT! Royce has had many professional theatre credits and experiences throughout the country and parts of the world. Every role is a favorite when you live in the moment. It’s an honor to share the stage with some of Missoula’s finest talent, in front of a great community audience. Love to family and friends. Thanks for supporting the arts and your local theater!
MIKAYLA KAY - CAROLYN JOHNSON

You may have seen her last spring in SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical (she was everywhere), and she’s excited to perform with MCT once more! While her schedule has been busy studying at UofM and improving people’s grocery-lives, performing is one thing she never tires of. She would like to dedicate her performances to her friends Jessica and Sadie for being her biggest supporters, and thanks you - the audience - for experiencing the magic of the Bridges.

THOMAS HENSLEY – BUD JOHNSON

Introducing Thomas Hensley, a skilled singer and performer who is newly the Artistic Director of the Missoula Mendelssohn Club. Through years of engagements as a chorister, director, Opera star, and guest artist, Thomas has wowed audiences in a wide range of productions. His dedication to his craft has earned him critical acclaim and the respect of his fans. A versatile performer, Thomas makes his MCT debut! We are thrilled to have him in our production.

BEN WAMBEKE – MICHAEL JOHNSON

At 7 years old, Ben’s parents made the irrevocable decision to let him audition for the Missoula Children’s Theatre in his hometown of Cody, Wyoming. Since then, he was never able to rest, performing in every musical, play, ballet, and choir concert he could. Finally, at 22, Ben is fulfilling the prophecy and finally performing on the MCT stage! Eagle-eyed viewers might recognize Ben from his most recent role as the Emcee in UM’s Production of Cabaret.
BIOS

JESSE BALLARD - MARGE

Jesse was bitten by the “theatre bug” at a young age and has gone from commandeering her brother and cousins to put on her original one acts to performing on the MCT stage. Most recently she appeared as Granny/Cinderella’s Mother in *Into the Woods*. By day, and sometimes night, Jesse is a Childbirth Educator/Care Coordinator/Lactation Counselor/Birth Doula.

GREG BORIS – CHARLIE

Greg grew up in the Midwest, not that far from Madison County, but sadly never saw a covered bridge. One of his favorite stage appearances was as the White Rabbit in the MCT Tour show *Alice in Wonderland* – a role he reprised last summer in Bahrain. Favorite pie – Strawberry Rhubarb. Favorite cake – German Chocolate.

COLLEEN ROSBARSKY – MARIAN / ENSEMBLE

Colleen is excited to cross this bridge with a talented cast and crew at MCT. Last summer she was Mayzie in *Seussical* at the Fort Peck Summer Theater and has performed lead roles at MCT, the University of Montana and Montana Repertory Theatre. Colleen choreographs for the Missoula Community Theatre, Bigfork Summer Playhouse and most recently for MissCast Productions. In addition to being a choreographer and performer, Colleen enjoys her days as dance teacher, esthetician and mom. Thank you, Matt, for your love and support.

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A special look at Jason Robert Brown. . .

JASON ROBERT BROWN – MUSIC & LYRICS

The ultimate multi-hyphenate - an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director and performer - best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining *The Last Five Years*, his debut song cycle *Songs for a New World*, and the seminal *Parade*, for which he won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score.

Jason Robert Brown has been hailed as “one of Broadway’s smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*), and his “extraordinary, jubilant theater music” (*Chicago Tribune*) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. The *New York Times* refers to Jason as “a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical.”

Jason’s score for *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). *Honeymoon In Vegas*, based on Andrew Bergman’s film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical *The Last Five Years* was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include: *13*, written with Robert Horn and Dan Elish, which opened on Broadway in 2008 and was subsequently directed by the composer for its West End premiere in 2012; *The Last Five Years*, which was cited as one of *Time Magazine*’s 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-Broadway run at Second Stage Theatre in 2013); *Parade*, written with Alfred Uhry and directed by Harold Prince, which won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics’ Circle Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-Broadway run at Second Stage Theatre in 2013); and *Songs for a New World*, a theatrical song cycle directed by Daisy Prince, which has since been seen in hundreds of productions around the world since its 1995 Off-Broadway debut, including a celebrated revival at New York’s City Center in the summer of 2018.

*Parade* was also the subject of a major revival directed by Rob Ashford, first at London’s Donmar Warehouse and then at the Mark...
Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Jason conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White’s novel *The Trumpet of the Swan* with the National Symphony Orchestra, and recorded the score for PS Classics. Future projects include a new chamber musical created with Daisy Prince and Jonathan Marc Sherman called *The Connector*; an adaptation of Lilian Lee’s *Farewell My Concubine*, created with Kenneth Lin and Moisés Kaufman; and a collaboration with Billy Crystal, Amanda Green, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel on a musical of *Mr. Saturday Night*. Jason is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyrics and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Jason's songs, including the cabaret standard *Stars and the Moon*, have been performed and recorded by Ariana Grande, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Renée Fleming, Jon Hendricks and many others, and his song *Someone To Fall Back On* was featured in the Walden Media film, *Bandslam*.

As a soloist or with his band The Caucasian Rhythm Kings, Jason has performed concerts around the world. For the past four years (and ongoing), his monthly sold-out performances at New York’s SubCulture have featured many of the music and theater world’s most extraordinary performers. His newest collection, *How We React and How We Recover*, was released in June 2018 on Ghostlight Records. His previous solo album, *Wearing Someone Else’s Clothes*, was named one of Amazon.com’s best of 2005, and is available from Sh-K-Boom Records. Jason's 2012 concert with Anika Noni Rose was broadcast on PBS, and he was the featured soloist for a live episode of *Friday Night Is Music Night*, broadcast live from the London Palladium and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra. His collaboration with singer Lauren Kennedy, *Songs of Jason Robert Brown*, is available on PS Classics. Jason is also the composer of the incidental music for the Broadway revival of *You Can’t Take It With You*, David Lindsay-Abaire’s *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Fuddy Meers*, and Kenneth Lonergan’s *The Waverly Gallery*, and he was a Tony Award nominee for his contributions to the score of *Urban Cowboy the Musical*. He has also contributed music to the hit *Nickelodeon* television series, *The Wonder Pets* as well as *Sesame Street*. Jason spent ten years teaching at the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and has also taught at Harvard University, Princeton University and Emerson College.

For the musical *Prince of Broadway*, a celebration of the career of his mentor Harold Prince, Jason was the musical supervisor and arranger. Other New York credits as conductor and arranger include *Urban Cowboy the Musical* on Broadway; *Dinah Was*, off-Broadway and on national tour; *When Pigs Fly* off-Broadway; William Finn’s *A New Brain* at Lincoln Center Theater; the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (recorded by RCA Victor); Yoko Ono’s *New York Rock*, at the WPA Theatre; and Michael John LaChiusa’s *The Petrified Prince* at the Public Theatre. Jason orchestrated Andrew Lippa’s *John and Jen*, Off-Broadway at Lamb’s Theatre. Additionally, Jason served as the orchestrator and arranger of Charles Strouse and Lee Adams’s score for a proposed musical of Star Wars. Jason has conducted and created arrangements and orchestrations for Liza Minnelli, John Pizzarelli, and Michael Feinstein, among many others.

Jason studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwantner. He lives with his wife, composer Georgia Stitt, and their daughters in New York City. Jason is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. Visit him on the web at www.jasonrobertbrown.com.
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Salish Encampment on land that is now Missoula, Montana. Photo Source: Indian Peoples of the Northern Great Plains Digital Collection
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April 22–27, 2023

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Heather Hitt in honor of Jennifer Lusin Mallo
Stuart J. Kaplan, MD in honor of The cast & crew of MCT’s Into The Woods, Spring 2022
Rachael Kropp in honor of Bill & Helen Kropp
Donna Legato in honor of Margaret Anzevino
Gabriel Longoria in honor of Kyori David
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THURSDAY MARCH 30, 2023
A fun-filled evening of wine, shopping, & fashion in support of the performing arts.

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For just $50, you will receive:
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Congratulations on your prize steer!
April 1, 2023 | 7:30 p.m. Montana Theatre, PARTV Center

Join us as we honor Curt Olds, internationally renowned baritone in both opera and musical theatre and accomplished director.

Sponsorship and ticket information: 406.243.4970; umt.edu/umarts/odyssey

Odyssey of Our Stars honors outstanding UM arts and media alumni and celebrates the talents of our students and faculty. This event provides financial support to promising students to pursue their creative paths.
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* What is an MCT TRIPLE THREAT?

If you are multi-talented in the theatre world-someone who can SING, ACT, and DANCE-you are known as a TRIPLE THREAT. On stage, MCT has many triple threats. If you enjoy watching them from the audience and truly believe in the mission of MCT, you too can call yourself a triple threat! By participating with Premiere Night and becoming a show sponsor you automatically receive advertising benefits.

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Up Next in our Community Season
April 27 - May 14, 2023
Get your tickets at MCTinc.org
HOME STAFF
Mike Morelli, Executive Director

Abigail Gilbert ..................................................... Tour Marketing Associate/ Social Media Specialist
Aimee Moore .......................................................... Properties Technician
Alicia Brischli .......................................................... Staff Accountant
Amy Ellis ........................................................... Tour Production Director
Amy Hevener .......................................................... Facilities Custodian
Beth Burman Frazee .................................. Development Director
Blain Radford .......................................................... Master Electrician
Caleb Boelman .......................................................... Facilities Assistant
Chase Knutson .......................................................... Patron Services Associate/ Scenic Carpenter
Cristin Schieder ...................................................... AR/Tour Finance Associate
Diana C. Wood .......................................................... Office Manager/Facilities Supervisor
Dory Lerew .......................................................... Tour Marketing Associate
Dylan Wright .......................................................... Tour Culture Consultant
Elizabeth Shaw .......................................................... Tour Maintenance Technician
Ellie Buick .......................................................... Costume Technician
Emily Nachtigal ...................................................... Education Director
Eric Giere .......................................................... Human Resources Associate/Facilities Manager
Gregory Boris .......................................................... Music & Performance Technology Manager
Hugh Warford .......................................................... Facilities Manager
Jacob Mucha .......................................................... Media Specialist
Jeanne Ann Wilson .................................. Business Marketing Director
Jennifer Thistle .......................................................... Patron Services Associate
Jonna Michelson .......................................................... Marketing Director
Joseph Martinez .......................................................... Artistic Director
Karl Mitchell .......................................................... Asset Manager
Kathee Raup .......................................................... Finance Director
Kelsey Seals .......................................................... Tour Assistant
Laura Earhart .......................................................... Patron Services Assistant
Lesley Washburn ................................................. Properties Master
Linda Muth .......................................................... Costume
Marta Knodle .......................................................... PAC Director
Matt Crawford .......................................................... Development Associate
Melanie A.B. Charlson .................................. Education Consultant
Morgan Best .......................................................... Education - UM Work Study
Naomi Lichtenberg .................................................. Foundations/Corporations Director

Natalie Renk .......................................................... Education Intern
Nick Monsos ...................................................... Theatre Generalist - UM Work Study
Penny Miller .......................................................... Costume Technician
Renee Crow .......................................................... Costume Technician
R. Eric Prim .......................................................... Local Youth Activities/ Tour Associate - Tech & Transportation
Sarah Hibbard ...................................................... Theatre Generalist - UM Work Study
Sarah Old .......................................................... Human Resources Intern
Sarah Thornton .......................................................... Patron Services Manager
Steven Thomas .......................................................... Volunteer Coordinator/Tour Support
Susanne Davey ...................................................... Costume Technician
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UM Theatre & Dance

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Pride & Prejudice
Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen
By Kate Hamill
March 2-12 | Montana Theatre

MEN on BOATS
By Jaclyn Backhaus
April 6-16 | Masquer Theatre

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April 27-29, May 4-5 | Montana Theatre

Photo by William Mann
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