

NEW MOON THEATRE PRESENTS

A MONSTER CALLS

based on the novel by
PATRICK NESS

from an original idea by
SIOBHAN DOWD

directed by
ALIZA MORAN



May 3- May 19, 2024
Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30, Sundays at 2:00
TheatreWorks @ The Square • 2085 Monroe Ave.
www.NewMoonTheatre.org • 901-484-3467

Season Sponsor Dorothy Kirsch!
Thank you, Dorothy!

A Monster Calls will be presented in two acts.

CAST

| | |
|---|---|
| Miss Godfrey/Nurse..... | Jamie Boller-Raup |
| Dad/Parson..... | Justin Burgess |
| Conor..... | Mimi Herren |
| Mr. Marl/King/Apothcary..... | Jeff Kirwan |
| Grandma/Queen..... | Louisa Koeppel |
| Sully/Parson's Daughter 1..... | Eliana Mabe |
| Harry/Prince..... | Benny McCluskey |
| Mum..... | Amy Nabors |
| Lily/Farmer's Daughter/Par. Daughter 2..... | Nolita Palomar |
| Monster..... | John Reynolds |
| Anton..... | Nicholas Weaver |
| Swings..... | KT Masters, Jonathan McCarver, Amy Rush |

ARTISTIC / MANAGEMENT STAFF

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Director..... | Aliza Moran |
| Asst. Director..... | Amy Rush |
| Stage Manager..... | Marya Paolillo |
| Movement Director..... | Whitney Branam |
| Costume Designer..... | Ashley Whitten Kopera |
| Lighting Designer..... | Jeremy Fisher |
| Set Designer..... | Justin Asher |
| Properties Designer..... | Laurie Boller |
| Sound Designer/Original Music..... | Joe Johnson |
| Dialect Coach..... | India Davis |
| Fight Choreographer..... | Courtney Oliver |
| Asst. Stage Manager..... | Natalie Chamblin |
| Backstage Crew..... | KT Master, Amy Rush, Natalie Chamblin |
| Shadow Clock..... | Thomas Halfacre, Amy Rush |
| Post-Performance Support..... | Dr. Madeline Brodt, Justine Piontek |
| Sound Technician..... | April Vincent |
| Poster Graphics..... | Andrew Chandler |

A Monster Calls

Based on the novel by Patrick Ness and inspired by
an original idea by Siobhan Dowd, devised by
Sally Cookson, Adam Peck and the Company.

Produced by special arrangement with Jonathan
Church Productions and Global Creatures Ltd.

*Season Sponsor
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Thank you, Dorothy!*

**Our lobby art has been generously installed and
created by the following organizations and individuals.**

**UofM Counseling Psychology
Doctoral Program**
Grief Jars



Creative Aging
Lobby Art



Sarah Nowlin
*Collaborative Art
Installation*



Please visit our website for very helpful resources on grief.
These resources were compiled by The Social Justice in
Counseling Psychology Class at the University of Memphis
Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program:
Gabe Alfaro, Kaylee Cook, Mary Dillon, Jade Horton,
Andrew Milowsky, Justine Piontek, and Dr. Madeline Brodt

ABOUT THE CAST



Jamie Boller-Raup (*Miss Godfrey/Nurse*) (she/her) is grateful to be telling this story with such a thoughtful group of artists. This summer, she will be directing Madeline Sayet's adaptation of *Antigone, or And Still She Must Rise Up* at Germantown Community Theatre. She dedicates her performance to two exceptional women in her life who lost their lives to cancer—Marsha Wasserman and Marian Raup.

Justin Burgess (*Dad/Parson*) (he/him) is excited to be making his New Moon debut with *A Monster Calls*. He was recently seen last season as Jason in GCT's *Wit* and Mary/Mr. Bingley in GCT's *Pride and Prejudice*. He's currently teaching theatre at Millington Central Middle High School. Huge thanks to Aliza and Whitney!



Mimi Herren (*Conor*) (they/them) is happy to work with New Moon again after *The Squirrels!* They've worked backstage and onstage at various theaters around town. They're also a member of Absent Friends, Memphis's Rocky Horror Picture Show shadow cast. Love to family and friends.

Jeff Kirwan (*Mr. Marl/King/Apothocary*) (he/him) is thrilled to join this talented cast. His previous New Moon stage credits include *Buried Child* (Tilden), *Eurydice* (Her Father), *Othello* (Brabantio), and *Quills* (Dr. Royer-Collard). Jeff would like to thank his wife, Kelly and his daughter, Bri for giving him the space and support to do this crazy thing he loves. He would like to dedicate this show to his parents, Tom and Barbara. May their memory be a blessing.



Louisa Koeppel (*Grandma/Queen*) (she/her) is a Memphis-bred creative who fell in love with all things theatre at an early age. She has worked in the field as a dancer, teacher, choreographer, and lighting designer for 28 years. Louisa's work has been seen all over Memphis, from site-specific to the Orpheum stage, with the likes of Ballet Memphis, Quark, New Moon Theatre Company, Project: Motion, Response Dance, and Voices of the South. She finds great joy as dance teacher at Hutchison School, and thanks her loves, Adam and Felix, for their constant support!

Eliana Mabe (*Sully/Parson's Daughter 1*) (she/her) is a graduate of Rhodes College who lives to act, direct, and write for the stage. Credits: *Once Upon a Mattress* (Queen Aggravain, Ostrander Nom.), *A Bite of Memphis*, and *110 in the Shade* (Lizzie). She believes grief to be inevitable, but storytelling to be the resurrector of the departed. www.elianamabe.com



ABOUT THE CAST



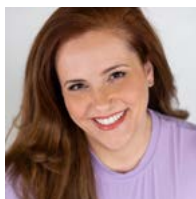
KT Masters (*Swing*) (she/her) took a break from acting in college to pursue a career as a mental health therapist and is happy to be dipping her toes back in with the Memphis theater community! Her previous credits include Rose in Lone Tree Live's audio immersive production *In A Dark Wood*. Some of her favorite roles over the years include Francois in *Who Will Carry the Word* and The Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*. KT is grateful to New Moon Theatre for letting her be a part of a unique story which tackles the complex nature of life, death, grief and joy.

Jonathan McCarver (*Swing*) (he/him) has acted in short film and theater for over 15 years in the Memphis area. He is currently an organizing member of the Our Own Voice theater troupe.



Benny McCluskey (*Harry/Prince*) (they/them) is thrilled to be a part of this lovely show. Some of their previous credits include *The Wolves* (#46), *Privates Lives* (Elyot) both at the UofM, and *The Squirrels* (Carolinensis) at New Moon Theatre Company. They would like to thank their family, friends, and the whole artistic team. Instagram: [bennymccluskey0](https://www.instagram.com/bennymccluskey0)

Amy P. Nabors (*Mum*) (she/her) is grateful to be making her New Moon debut in this thrilling production. Amy is an actor, vocalist, and licensed speech pathologist specializing in voice disorders. Love and thanks to Dabney, the Mascara Mob, Brian, and my sweet Jacob. www.amypolumbo.com



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ABOUT THE CAST



Nolita Palomar (*Lily/Farmer's Daughter/Parson's Daughter 2*) (she/her) is a junior at Rhodes College and so excited to be making her debut in community theatre! Some of her previous stage credits include *Young Frankenstein*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Wire in the Garden* (Ostrander Nom.), *Fools*, and most recently *Amelie*. Originally from Dayton, Ohio, she serves as the Rhodes Theatre Guild VP, loves to read books and scuba dive. She is honored to participate in such a fantastic production and hopes you enjoy the show!

John Reynolds (*Monster*) (he/him) adept at navigating chaos on and off stage, excels in missed cues and memorizing the wrong lines while juggling domestic duties assigned by his wife. He extends heartfelt thanks to the cast and crew for enduring his unpredictable pratfalls and spontaneous dances, inspired by his world-renowned dancer daughter. In the theater of mayhem, they emerge as the true heroes.



Nicholas Weaver (*Anton*) (he/him) is thrilled to make his debut at New Moon. Originally from Tacoma, WA, Nicholas has recently performed on the stages of Hattiloo Theatre in productions like *The Color Purple* and *Take the Soul Train to Christmas*, and delighted audiences in *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* at Theatre Memphis. Professionally, he is a nonprofit leader who collaborates with local nonprofits and executive-level talent to connect them to area resources. Personally, Nicholas is a passionate art enthusiast and musician, having lent his vocals to Jennifer Hudson and various indie artists as a background vocalist. He's thrilled to be part of this incredible production and is excited to perform for you! Follow his journey on [Instagram: Nicktwe](#).

ABOUT THE CREW



Justin Asher (*Set Design*) (he/him) is excited to be working with New Moon Theatre again after directing Stephen King's *Misery* for New Moon. Other directing credits include *Titanic*, *The Musical* at The Harrell, which took home 2 Ostrander awards for Best Set Design (div 2) and Best Overall Production, and *Blithe Spirit* for Theatre Memphis last year.

Laurie Boller (*Props*) (she/her) is excited to be back working with New Moon Theatre! Most recently, Laurie designed props for *Misery* (Ostrander nominated), *Quills*, *Pillowman* (Ostrander nominated), *Small Mouth Sounds* and *Eurydice*. Laurie's stage managing credits at Theatre Memphis include, *Rasheeda Speaking; Judy, Just For You;*



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TIM MANER, AND
ALAN STEVENS HEWITT

DIRECTED BY
KELL CHRISTIE
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
EILEEN KUO

2024!

Starring!

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Jaclyn Suffel, Annie Freres
& Joy Brooke Fairfield



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By Tracy Letts

Directed by Gene Elliott

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Biggest Secrets*

A PARTICLE
of DREAD
(Oedipus Variations)



By Sam Shepard
Directed by Jeff Kirwan

May 23 - June 8, 2025

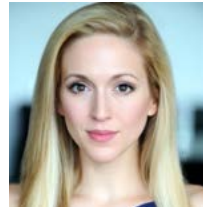
ABOUT THE CREW

Laurie Boller (*continued*) and her previous Assistant Stage Manager credits (also at Theatre Memphis) include, *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, *August Osage County*, *39 Steps*, *The Submission*, *As You Like It*, and *The Royal Family*. Many thanks to her family: Greg, Rae, Gabe & Zoe and Jamie & Hugh for their constant love and support.



Sarah Christine Bolton (*Aerial Coordinator*) (she/her) owns High Expectations Aerial Arts, an aerial arts and circus studio that offers classes for all ages and all levels. She has more than 25 years of experience as an aerialist, dancer, choreographer, and movement educator.

Whitney Branan (*Movement Director*) (she/her) Born in Memphis, Whitney lived in New York for thirteen years where she was the resident tap-coach for the Broadway show *Billy Elliot* and two of its national tours. The day after graduating from Wagner College in NYC, she started work as the personal/executive assistant to Charles Strouse (composer of *Annie*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Applause!*). Whitney has worked across the country (Bally's Casino in Las Vegas) and across the ocean (three "Pick of the Fringe" Award-winning trips to the International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland). A favorite director/choreographer credit is crafting four musical productions aboard the American Queen, the largest luxury paddle boat in the world. In 2022, she was awarded the Otis Smith Legacy Dance Award at the Ostranders and the Mitzzi Award for Artistic Excellence at the B.B. Awards. Whitney has received multiple Ostrander, Allie, BroadwayWorld, and NY Innovative Theatre awards and nominations for her work. Proud Member of SAG-AFTRA, AEA, and SDC unions. whitney-branan.com insta: [whitneyfbranan](https://www.instagram.com/whitneyfbranan)



Natalie Chamblin (*Assistant Stage Manager*) (she/her) is excited to be making her (behind the scenes) New Moon debut. She previously ASMed *Sister Act* at Theatre Memphis and most recently crewed *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* as a follow spot at Theatre Memphis. Natalie would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for this opportunity.

Jeremy Allen Fisher (*Lighting Design*) (he/him) is a member of United Scenic Artists USA Local 829, the Production Manager and Resident Lighting Designer for Tennessee Shakespeare Company, as well as the Resident Lighting Designer for Opera Memphis and Youngblood Studios. Some of his credits include lighting Memphis' Broad Avenue Water Tower, Wiseacre's Taproom and several works at Saint Jude's Research Hospital. In 2017 he received the TAC Individual Artist Award and has 11 Ostrander Award nominations with four wins for his lighting designs.





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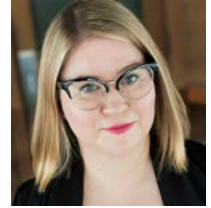
www.GTComePlay.org

ABOUT THE CREW



Joe Johnson (*Sound Design*) (he/him) is a singer-songwriter, composer, sound designer, and educator. He performs regularly in and around Memphis and writes and records with musicians and theatres in Memphis. He has received numerous awards for composition and sound design, including the Ostrander awards for theatrical sound design for Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* and *Sherlock's Last Case*. He has composed music for films, plays, and commercial presentations. Joe studied Education and Music at Mississippi State University.

Aliza Moran (*Director*) has a BFA from the University of Memphis in Theatre Performance and a M.A in Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities from NYU ('18). At NYU, she studied abroad in Ireland and the UK studying Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) and devising processes within foreign communities. Aliza has been an arts educator and community collaborator for 15+ years within the Memphis community. Previously, she worked as the drama teacher and after school site coordinator for Hillcrest High School in Whitehaven, TN. Aliza is the Executive Director of Les Passees Kids on the Block which provides educational puppet performances to area non-profits and educational institutions.



Courtney Oliver (*Stage Combat Choreography*) (she/her) is Playhouse on the Square's Director of Auditions and Special Events. She is pleased to join New Moon again after creating the fight choreography for *Misery* last season, and *Reefer Madness* this past fall. Courtney is a trained actor/combatant in Unarmed, Rapier & Dagger, and Quarterstaff and has created the fight choreography for over 50 shows here in Memphis in the last two decades, including The Circuit Playhouse's *Sweat* (Ostrander nomination) and Theatre Memphis' *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Ostrander Award for Fight Choreography).

Marya Paolillo (*Stage Manager*) (she/her) is delighted to be making her New Moon debut. She has also stage managed for Theatre Memphis, Germantown Community Theatre, The Harrell Performing Arts Theatre, Theatre Oxford and Lost in Found Production Company. Marya would like to thank her family & friends for always supporting her and her love of the arts. Special thanks to Aliza, Natalie and the amazing cast and production team.



Upcoming Productions

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May 24 - June 2
Actors Renaissance
Presents TBA

TheatreWorks
@ The Evergreen Theatre

May 24 - May 26
Play Slam!
Presents TBA



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Texting or viewing texts on is not allowed during performance.

No photography or recording devices allowed of ANY kind.

ABOUT THE CREW



Amy Rush (*Assistant Director/swing*) (she/her) moved to Memphis from Prague in 2020 and she quickly found an artistic home with New Moon in its production of the puppetry cult classic *Shockheaded Peter* and later that season as Marie in *Art*. She also has appeared in New Moon's *Small Mouth Sounds* and *The Squirrels*. Other Memphis credits: Theatre Memphis' *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Ostrander for Best Supporting Actress), Germantown Community Theatre's *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* and Circuit Playhouse's *POTUS*. Amy earned an M.A. in Puppet Arts at Univ. of Connecticut.

April Vincent (*Sound Operator*) (she/her) is excited to join her first New Moon production! Thanks to Aliza and Marya for their support and encouragement. Special thanks to Emerson for taking care of Evie when I'm at rehearsal!



Ashley Whitten-Kopera (*Costume Designer*) (she/her) is a freelance costumer who has designed for many New Moon productions over the years. Most recently for New Moon, she costumed *The Squirrels*, as well as *Reefer Madness*, *Evil Dead the Musical*, and *Agnes of God*. Ashley also has designed for many other theatres and schools in the area, including Germantown Community Theatre, Theatre Memphis, Harrell Theatre, and Christian Brothers High School. She received her BA in Theatre and Art from Mercer University, and

studied Costume Design at the University of Memphis.
www.etsy.com/people/foureyedgirl

DIRECTOR NOTES

Welcome to New Moon's production of *A Monster Calls*. I am deeply honored to bring this poignant story to life. Having had the opportunity to witness the original production at the Old Vic in 2018, I was moved by its resonance and imaginative storytelling. This narrative holds a deeply personal significance for me, and I believe that its exploration of grief is profoundly important.

Grief is a universal experience, one that touches each of us in unique and profound ways. It is a journey marked by pain, resilience, and ultimately, acceptance. My own battle with cancer has added another layer of connection to this piece, as I grapple with the complexities of mortality and the enduring human spirit.

Throughout the rehearsal process, our cast, crew, and designers have embarked on a collaborative journey, fostering a bond of trust and creativity. We have delved deep into the emotional core of this story, striving to honor its authenticity and depth. We are aware that the themes explored in *A Monster Calls* may evoke strong emotions, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you throughout the performance. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any assistance or support. Your well-being is our priority, and we are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment for everyone.

As we embark on this journey together, I am filled with a sense of privilege and gratitude. It is a profound honor and may our shared exploration of grief and resilience serve as a beacon of hope and healing for all who witness it.

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