

POSSUM POINT PLAYERS

Presents



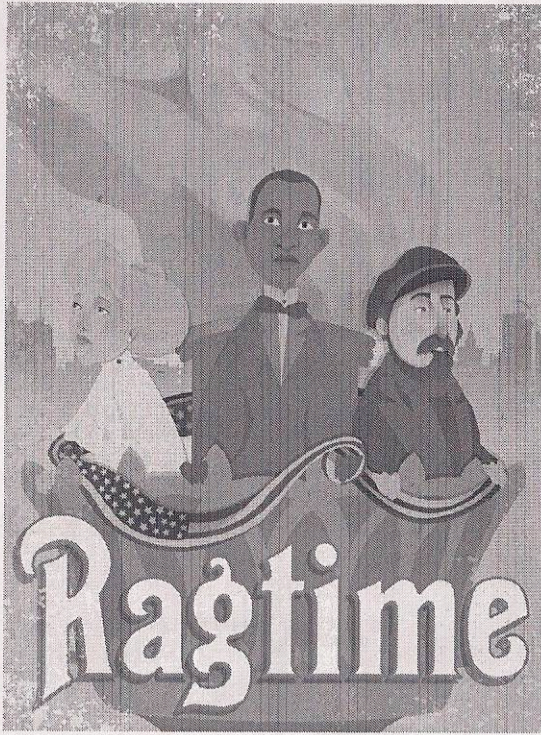
September 23, 24, 25, 30

October 1 & 2, 2011

Possum Hall

Georgetown, DE

Possum Point Players
Presents



Presented by special permission music theatre international.

Book by **TERRENCE MCNALLY**

Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

Lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**

Based on the novel, *Ragtime*, by **E.L. DOCTOROW**

Directed by: **KENNEY WORKMAN**

Music Director: **MELANIE BRADLEY**

Choreographer: **AIMEE VOSHELL STRING**

Delaware
Division of the

Arts

This program is made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

Director's Notes

Who knew that 34 years ago, when I performed in my first Possums' musical, I would arrive at this day – directing my favorite Broadway musical of all time, *Ragtime*. I first fell in love with the music of *Ragtime* when I purchased the original Broadway cast recording, knowing very little about it. Then, Rosanne, some friends and I went to see our dear friend Susan Powell, Miss America 1981, play Mother in a production at the Fulton Theatre in Pennsylvania – and I was hooked!!

At the heart of *Ragtime* is the story of three remarkable families – one upper middle-class white, one Jewish socialist immigrant, and one Harlem black – whose member's lives become dramatically entangled as they embark on personal voyages of self-discovery. Father, Mother, and Younger Brother, each searching for new horizons, eager to grow beyond the rigid limitations of their privileged society... Tateh, the immigrant artist, empowered only with his imagination to capture a piece of the American dream... and Coalhouse Walker Jr., the gifted ragtime musician who battles racial injustice to pave the path of freedom and dignity for his beloved Sarah, their infant son, and for future generations. As their journeys proceed, each becomes entwined with the lives of the era's most famous and colorful characters.

These themes are what attracted me to *Ragtime* – the way it addresses the great social issues of the twentieth century – racism, immigration, social violence, political activism, poverty, and women's rights – issues that we continue to struggle with today.

I hope you will enjoy our production – one that could not have happened without the help of many people. First, a big thank you to the Possum Point Players for allowing me this opportunity. Second, I have to personally thank my dear friends – Melanie and Aimee – for taking another of these crazy journeys with me. To the EXTREMELY talented cast and crew – thanks for bringing all of these characters to life. And, a special thank to Rosanne for her continued support and understanding and for tolerating my absences both physical and mental from the home-front for the last several months.

Now, sit back and enjoy the MAGIC of *Ragtime*.

Kenney Workman



Ragtime

CHARACTERS
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

ADMIRAL PEARYMike Williams
BARON ASHKENAZY.....John Zinzi
BARON'S ASSISTANT.....Michael Murnin
BRIGITTE.....Pam Taylor
BUREAUCRATS.....Beth Howlett, Dawn Conaway
BLACK LAWYERJames Davis
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.....Terron Quailes
CHORINES & SOB SISTERSDawn Conaway,
Alexandra Hale, Tara Megee,
Summer Okaye, Deni Robinson
CLERK.....Sandy Browning
COALHOUSE WALKER, JRJay Collier
COALHOUSE WALKER, III.....Andru Johnson
COALHOUSE'S GANG ..Claudius Bowden, James Davis,
Matt King, Mike Taylor
CONDUCTORMike Williams
DOCTOR.....Michael Murnin
EMMA GOLDMAN.....Trish Herholdt
EVELYN NESBITLeigh Usilton
FATHER.....Steve Givens
FIREMENSchyler Conaway, Pat Erhardt
GRANDFATHERBill Howlett
HENRY FORDJerry Birl
HENSON.....Claudius Bowden
HOUDINIChris Hager
IMMIGRANTS.....Schyler Conaway, Pat Erhardt,
Nina Galerstein, Trish Herholdt, Beth Howlett,
Pat Hudson, Ally Ibach, MaryAnn LaLave,
Devon Lynch, Lauren McLane, Michael Murnin,
Susan Newark, Deni Robinson,
Judi Simpson, Marsha Shull, John Zinzi
J.P. MORGANJim Hartzell
JUDGEPat Erhardt

Ragtime

CHARACTERS
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

JURY FOREMAN.....Schyler Conaway
JURORS.....Schyler Conaway, James Davis,
Don Megee, Michael Murnin, Mike Williams
KATHLEEN.....Kelly Hale
LITTLE BOYRyan Bradley
LITTLE GIRLAlly Ibach
MOTHERLorraine Steinhoff
MRS. WHITSTEINPat Hudson
NEWSBOYSDevon Lynch, Kyle Steele
PEOPLE OF HARLEMClaudius Bowden, Jay Collier,
James Davis, Alexandra Hale, Kelly Hale,
Dulcena Kemmerlin, Summer Okaye,
Terron Quailes, Debbie Ryder, Azandra Smith,
Mike Taylor, Pam Taylor
PEOPLE OF NEW ROCHELLERyan Bradley,
Sandy Browning, Dawn Conaway, Steve Givens,
Bill Howlett, Matt King, Don Megee, Tara Megee,
Kyle Steele, Lorraine Steinhoff, Mike Williams
POLICEMAN.....Schyler Conaway
REPORTERSMaryAnn LaLave, Susan Newark,
Marsha Shull
SARAHDebbie Ryder
SARAH'S FRIENDDulcena Kemmerlin
TATEH.....John Zinzi
UMPIRE.....Bill Howlett
WELFARE OFFICIAL.....Pat Hudson
WHITE ATTORNEYMichael Murnin
WHITMAN.....Michael Murnin
WILLIE CONKLINDon Megee
YOUNGER BROTHERMatt King

Ragtime

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Ragtime.....Ensemble
 Goodbye My Love/Journey On.....Mother, Father, Tateh
 Crime of The CenturyEvelyn, Chorines/SobSisters,
 Judge, Jurors
 What Kind of Woman.....Mother
 A Shtetl Iz AmerekeTateh, Immigrants
 Success.....JP Morgan, Tateh, Immigrants
 His Name Was Coalhouse WalkerCoalhouse,
 People of Harlem
 The Gettin' Ready RagCoalhouse, People of Harlem
 Henry FordHenry Ford, Immigrants
 Nothing Like The CityMother, Tateh,
 Little Boy, Little Girl
 Your Daddy's SonSarah
 The Courtship/New Music.....Ensemble
 Wheels of A DreamCoalhouse, Sarah
 The Night That Goldman Spoke at Union Square..Emma,
 Younger Brother, Ensemble
 GlidingTateh
 JusticeEnsemble
 PresidentSarah
 Till We Reach That DayEnsemble

— *INTERMISSION* —

Ragtime

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT TWO

Coalhouse DemandsEnsemble
 What A Game.....Father, Little Boy, Male Ensemble
 Atlantic CityEvelyn, Houdini, Ensemble
 Buffalo Nickel Photoplay Inc.Tateh
 Our ChildrenMother, Tateh
 Sarah Brown Eyes.....Coalhouse, Sarah
 He Wanted To SayEmma, Younger Brother,
 Coalhouse's Followers
 Back To BeforeMother, Female Ensemble
 Look What You've DoneBooker T. Washington
 Make Them Hear You.....Coalhouse
 EpilogueEnsemble

SPECIAL THANKS

Floyd Megee Jr.
 Beaman's Old And Gnu Antiques
 Habitat Restore
 Gerone C. Hudson Electrical Contractors, Inc.

Support those who support us!

Ragtime

Production Staff

Director.....Kenney Workman
 Musical DirectorMelanie Bradley
 ChoreographerAimee Voshell String
 Stage ManagerChris Reed
 Scrim OperatorFred Dean
 Set DesignKenney Workman
 Set ConstructionJim Hartzell
 Set Construction CrewRob Baker, Mary Boucher,
 Claudius Bowden, Sandy Browning,
 Dawn Conaway, Fred Dean, Pat Erhardt,
 Nick Flomp, Nina Galerstein, Howard Gregory,
 Linda Gregory, Chris Hager, Trish Herholdt,
 Bill Howlett, Pat Hudson, John Hulse, Ken Jester,
 Matt King, MaryAnn LaLave, John LaLave,
 Don Megee, Michael Murnin, Ed O'Connor,
 Chris Reed, Kyle Steele, John Zinzi
 Costumes.....Louise Hartzell
 Costumes Crew.....Rosa Barnes, Mary Haller,
 Marsha Shull, Anita Smith,
 Mary Jo Timmons, Fior Zinzi
 PropsDonna Flomp
 Lighting.....Jim DeBastiani
 SoundLogan Lynch
 Projections.....Michael Phillips
 Makeup & HairMary Boucher
 Musicians.....Melanie Bradley, Jan Glasscock,
 Scott Gordy, Glenn Leudtke,
 Liz Messick, Arvin Noel, Dave Schiff

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

JERRY BIRL – Henry Ford – A native of Lewes, Jerry is the music instructor at Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences and a minister of music at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior. Past shows include *The Secret Garden*, *South Pacific*, *Oliver!* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

CLAUDIUS BOWDEN – Henson; Harlem Chorus; Coalhouse's Gang – most recently played Orlando in PPP's New Faces of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. He was the voice of the plant in *Little Shop of Horrors* and numerous other plays. Claudius is currently serving as Vice President of Possum Point Players. He is the owner of Sir Claude's DJ Service.

RYAN BRADLEY – Edgar, Little Boy; New Rochelle Chorus – is a fifth grader at Milton Elementary. He has played the roles of Tiny Tim in *Scrooge* and Joe Crowell in *Our Town*. This is his first time on the Possum stage and he's happy to be in this show with his mom.

SANDY BROWNING – Clerk; New Rochelle Chorus – is a proud and happy member of the Possum Point Players since our first musical, *Carnival*, 38 years ago. She has performed as Lucy in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!*, Sr. Robert Anne in *Nunsense* and has sung in many choruses.

JAY COLLIER – Coalhouse Walker, Jr.; Harlem Chorus – was last seen on the Possum stage as Leaf Coneybear in *Spelling Bee*, at Community Players in *Jekyll and Hyde* and is presently in *Urinetown* at Salisbury University where he is a music education/vocal performance major. His hobbies include playing the guitar, writing music and, obviously, theatre!

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

DAWN CONAWAY – Bureaucrat; Chorines & Sob Sisters; New Rochelle Chorus – was last seen on the PPP stage in 1974 as Eileen in *Wonderful Town*. Now a native of Seaford, married to husband Gary and has three beautiful children Garon, Erika and Schyler with whom she is so happy to be sharing the stage in this performance. To Dad and Neal – For You!!

SCHYLER CONAWAY – Immigrant; Jury Foreman; Juror; Fireman; Policeman – has performed in over 13 different Possum productions the last one being *Chicago*. Schyler is also the former President of Possum Juniors (PJs) and was a counselor for our Summer Theatre Academy for 6 years.

JAMES DAVIS – Black Lawyer; Coalhouse's Gang; Harlem Chorus; Juror – This is James' first performance on the Possum stage. He directed the PJs *Robin Hood* this past summer and has been in numerous shows at Sussex Central High School and Possum Juniors and has been a counselor for our Summer Theatre Academy. James will be attending Del Tech in the Spring.

PAT ERHARDT – Judge; Immigrant; Fireman – has been involved in theatre most of his life. He was last seen on the Possum stage in *Brush Up Your Broadway*. Pat is happy to be working with this great cast in this wonderful show!

NINA GALERSTEIN – Houdini's Mother; Immigrant – has been involved with PPP for 30 years. Her directing credits include *A Christmas Carol*; *Stinkin Rich*, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Favorite musical roles include Golde (*Fiddler on the Roof*); Mother Abbess (*Sound of Music*); Sr. Mary Regina (*Nunsense*) and a chorus member in many musicals. Nina was most recently seen in *Jekyll and Hyde* in Salisbury, Maryland.

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

STEVE GIVENS – Father; New Rochelle Chorus – has been involved with Possums since he was 17 years old when he was in *My Fair Lady* and PPP's *25th Anniversary Extravaganza*. Most recently he was seen in *Brush Up Your Broadway*, *Spelling Bee* and *Broadway Duets*.

CHRIS HAGER – Harry Houdini – is making his Possum stage debut but comes to us from Salisbury Community Players where he performed in *Snoopy* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. Other shows include *Annie*, *Cheaper By The Dozen* and school activities.

ALEXANDRA HALE – Chorines & Sob Sisters; Harlem Chorus – is a model and actress as well as holds the title of Miss Junior Teen Delmarva, 2011. She performed in Sussex Tech's production of *Hairspray*.

KELLY HALE – Kathleen; Harlem Chorus – is very excited to be a part of this production as she makes her theatre debut with this being her first theatre experience. Kelly is an active member of the Worship Team at her church.

JIM HARTZELL – J.P. Morgan – has been in theater since his 6th grade operetta. Directorially, Jim's musicals most recently include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Urinetown*; *Jekyll and Hyde*; *The Pirates of Penzance*; and *The King and I*; and a number of Christmas shows and cabarets and non-musicals. He has been on stage for more than 45 other PPP productions. Jim and his wife, Louise, are two of the founding members and current trustees of PPP, are both retired, and live in Georgetown.

TRISH HERHOLDT – Emma Goldman; Immigrant – has been in many community theatre productions. She especially likes playing an actual historic figure in *Ragtime*.

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

BETH HOWLETT – First Bureaucrat; Immigrant – is a founding member of PPP and so proud of our community theatre! Her first role was before the PPP's first show *Carnival* to raise money to pay for the royalties. At Millsboro's Big Thursday she played "Madame Possuma" and gave tarot card readings in a tent. Since then she has been acting, singing, directing, makeup, tickets, ushering -- everything she can.

BILL HOWLETT – Grandfather; Umpire; New Rochelle Chorus – is an original Possum as well and has performed in many shows in addition to working as set designer and scenic designer. Bill has also performed with the Dover Singers, Candlelight Dinner Theatre, and in the Virgin Islands.

PAT HUDSON – Welfare Official; Mrs. Whitstein; Immigrant – was last seen on the Possum stage as a victim of Mr. Hyde in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Since then she spends more time behind the PPP bar mixing your favorite drinks. Her favorite role is Nettie Fowler in *Carousel* with Possums.

ALLY IBACH – Little Girl; Immigrant – was last seen on the Possum stage in the PPP Theatre Academy production of *A Tale of A Mermaid* and NFS's *As You Like It* as a forester, narrator and goddess. She sings in four choirs with school and loves singing, acting and art.

ANDRU JOHNSON -- COALHOUSE WALKER III – is the son of Kenneth Johnson Sr. & Audra Johnson & the brother of Terron Quailes :-). He is making his theatre debut with *Ragtime* at 2 1/2 years old.

DULCENA KEMMERLIN – Sarah's Friend; Harlem Chorus – is making her stage debut at Possums with this production. She has been seen performing at Second Street Players and with Clear Space. Dulcena is a 5th grade teacher at Lulu M. Ross Elementary and lives in Milford with her husband of 34 years. They have 2 sons Ralph, Jr (aka Doc) and Prince.

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

MATTHEW KING – Mother's Younger Brother; Coalhouse's Gang; New Rochelle Chorus – is thrilled to be back on stage in this musical after an 8 year absence. Matthew has performed in *Peter Pan* and *It's All In the Timing* with Cape Henlopen High School's theatre in 2002 and 2003.

MARY ANN LaLAVE – Immigrant; Reporter – has been involved in many Possum productions from performing to set construction, since moving to the area in 2007. She dedicates this performance to Domenico Barbarito who arrived on Ellis Island from Italy, December 31, 1911.

DEVON LYNCH – Newsboy; Immigrant – was last seen on the Possum stage as the Bishop in *Robin Hood*, James in *James and the Giant Peach*, Passépartout in *Around the World in 80 Days* and Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*. He also performed as The Cat in the Hat in Second Street Players' *Suessical*.

LAUREN McLANE – Immigrant – has been taking acting, singing and dancing classes for 6 years. She has performed in *Annie Get Your Gun*, *A Thousand Paper Cranes*, *Guys and Dolls, Jr.*, *Cats, Jr.*, and PPP's PJ production of *Robin Hood*.

DON W. MEGEE – Willie Conklin; Juror; New Rochelle Chorus – has been involved with PPP both on stage and behind the scenes since *The Dinner Party* in 2007. He is proud to be sharing the stage with his beautiful wife, Tara, and their daughter.

TARA MEGEE – New Rochelle Chorus; Chorines & Sob Sisters – is anxiously awaiting the birth of their daughter in November. Tara is Possums' PJ Advisor and has performed in *Pirates of Penzance*, *WPPP*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *A Christmas Carol*.

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

MICHAEL MURNIN – Whitman; Baron's Assistant; Doctor; White Attorney; Juror; Immigrant – recently relocated to Delaware from New York City. He was last seen on the Possum stage as Fr. Flynn in *Doubt* and the adult Ralphie narrator in *A Christmas Story*.

SUSAN NEWARK – Reporter; Immigrant – is making her stage debut with Possums with this production but has performed many shows with Second Street Players, Milton Theatre, and the Kent County Theatre Guild. In her spare time, she works as an RN at Bay Health Medical Center in Milford.

SUMMER OKAYE – Harlem Chorus; Chorines & Sob Sisters – says “theatre and the performing arts have been part of her life forever. She is always making up plays or involved in a school production like *Beauty and the Beast*, *Music Man*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. Performing will be with her forever.

TERRON QUAILES – Booker T. Washington; Harlem Chorus – is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in vocal performance at Salisbury University and aspires to teach as well as pursue a career in vocal performance. Mr. Quailes recently portrayed the role of Preacher Oedipus in *The Gospel at Colonus* and performed in an original presentation, *Talk Opera!*. He was a participant in the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland, a 1st place winner of the 2010 MD-DC National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions, and took 3rd at the Mid-Atlantic Regionals, and placed 2nd in Junior Men's Classical Music at the state level.

DENI ROBINSON – Immigrant; Chorines & Sob Sisters – is usually behind the scenes as a choreographer, most recently *Urinetown*. This is her third show on stage. Deni has been a dance instructor and choreographer for 24 years. She resides in Lewes with her husband and 4 kids and is going to school to be a registered nurse.

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

DEBBIE RYDER – Sarah; Harlem Chorus – is making her Possum debut with this production but has been in the performing arts for the past 4 years. She does Drumline, is a CNA and is the queen of hopscotch.

MARSHA SHULL – Immigrant; Reporter – has appeared in several PPP musicals, most recently, *Urinetown*. She has also performed in *A Love Affair* and *Move Over Mrs. Markham*. Marsha is constantly designing and sewing costumes for PPP productions as the Costume person on the PPP Artistic Committee. She also sings with the Southern Delaware Choral Society.

JUDI SIMPSON – Immigrant – is making her theatre debut on the Possum stage. We hope to see more of her here at the theatre. She enjoys playing the piano and singing in the praise band at Midway Baptist Church.

AZANDRA SMITH – Harlem Chorus – has performed for J. Brook Productions and JLT Church plays. Her hobbies include find and seek puzzles and singing as well as spending time with her children and grandchildren at the beach.

KYLE STEELE – New Rochelle Chorus; Newsboy – is in the 8th grade attending Sussex Academy of Arts and Science. He was last seen on the Possum stage as Schwartz in *A Christmas Carol*. He loves to sing, act and swim. He looks forward to performing in more shows here at Possum Point Players.

LORRAINE STEINHOFF – Mother; New Rochelle Chorus – is the Drama Teacher at St. Thomas More in Magnolia. She was last seen on the Possum stage in *Brush Up Your Broadway* and *Guys and Dolls*. She has also performed with Clear Space and Second Street Players in *Chicago*, *Into The Woods*, *The Spitfire Grill* and *The Sound of Music*.

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

MICHAEL TAYLOR – Coalhouse's Gang; Harlem Chorus – is making his theatre debut here at Possum Point Players. We hope to see more of him in future productions.

PAMELA TAYLOR – Brigitte; Harlem Chorus – has performed with J Brook Productions, Impact Entertainment, Rodney Davis Productions, Second Street Players and many church productions. Her hobbies include coaching cheerleading at Milford Middle School and performing on stage.

LEIGH USILTON – Evelyn Nesbit – was last seen on the Possum stage in *Brush Up Your Broadway*, *Urinetown*, *Spelling Bee* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Other shows she has performed in include *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Cabaret*. Leigh teaches voice at Salisbury University.

MIKE WILLIAMS – Admiral Peary; Juror; New Rochelle Chorus – has been seen on the Possum stage in *A Christmas Carol*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Urinetown* and *A Christmas Story*. Mike has been the Pastor of Georgetown Presbyterian Church for the past 10 years. He enjoys golf, model railroading & beach time!

JOHN ZINZI – Baron Ashkenazy; Immigrant; Tateh – was last seen on the Possum stage as the frustrated vice principal in *Spelling Bee* and the corporate tycoon in *Urinetown*. As Tateh, John has tapped into his own Bronx, NY upbringing to find a character whose journey is not unlike his own immigrant grandparents' passage through and beyond Ellis Island. He dedicates his performance to his grandfathers, Giovanni Labruzzo and Luigi Zinzi: two men who crossed an ocean to earn America for their children and grandchildren.

WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW

KENNEY WORKMAN – Director -- is a Sussex County native who has been involved in Community Theatre for the last 34 years as an actor, singer, dancer, set designer, producer and director. His directing credits include many musicals and comedies, most recently PPP productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Chicago*, *The Dinner Party* and *Little Shop of Horrors* and Second Street Players productions of *Cabaret* and *The Spitfire Grill*. He currently serves as President of the Possum Point Players and is thrilled to be directing this production of *Ragtime*. In his other life, he is a Senior Financial Analyst at Merck Animal Health in Millsboro. He and his better half, the lovely Rosanne Pack, and their numerous cats, deer, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, and, of course, Possums, live in Milford.

MELANIE BRADLEY – Musical Director -- This is Melanie's sixth production with Kenney Workman as director. They have collaborated at Possum on productions of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Guys and Dolls* and last year's fundraiser, *Broadway Duets*. She is thrilled to be in another production with her son, Ryan (Edgar), and to have her dream team assembled in the pit. Melanie has degrees in piano from Ithaca College and U.of MD, College Park, and lives in Lewes with her husband and two sons.

AIMEE VOSHELL STRING – Choreographer – has been dancing, teaching and choreographing for over 20 years. This is her 3rd Possum's production. She is the proud mother of two, a dance teacher, a volunteer for the Miss Delaware Organization and in her spare time she works full time as a Senior Criminal Justice Planner for the State of Delaware's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Aimee would like to thank her husband Dan for playing Mr. Mom while she attended rehearsals and her assistant choreographers Brynn (4 years old) and Colton (18 months).