



presents

# SENSE & SENSIBILITY

by Kate Hamill  
based on the novel  
by Jane Austen



**June 6, 7, 13, 14, 2025 7:00 pm**

**June 8, 15, 2025 3:00 pm**

**Columbia Academy High School Auditorium**

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# SENSE & SENSIBILITY

by Kate Hamill

Based on the novel by Jane Austen

Directed by  
Leslie Marberry

## Cast

Fanny/Lucy Steele/Lady Middleton/Gossip.....	Chelsea Ranelle
Colonel Brandon/Thomas/Lady Middleton/Gossip.....	Evan M Hernandez
Marianne .....	Isabel Smith
Elinor.....	Rachel Penner
Edward/Robert/Lady Middleton/Gossip .....	Max Fleischhacker
Willoughby/John Dashwood/Gossip.....	Austin Jeffrey Smith
Margaret/Mrs Ferrars/Gossip.....	Reid Gregory
Mrs Dashwood/Anne Steele/Gossip .....	Kay Ayers
Mrs Jennings/Gossip.....	Deb Meeks
John Middleton/Doctor/Servant/Gossip .....	Dan Kassis

## Production Team

Stage Manager.....	Susan Gaw
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Caleb Finley <sup>+</sup>
Assistant Director .....	Milly Johnson*
Technical Director.....	Justin Blackburn
Intimacy Director .....	Cate Bounds
Composer .....	Austin Fields
Scenic Design.....	Payton McCarthy
Costume Design .....	Sara McLoud
Light Design.....	Sarah Hall
Sound Design.....	Justin Blackburn
Properties Design .....	Dani Rust
Scenic Artist .....	Krista Totten
Wig Stylist.....	MaryAnne Luther
Production Assistant.....	Leah Worden
Technical Crew .....	Joyce Blackburn, Sarah Kennedy, David Sharp*

<sup>+</sup>Member of Artist's Lab for WPT

\*Member of WPT Apprentice Company

***There will be one 15-minute intermission between acts.***

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,  
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

*Photography, video and audio recording are prohibited during the performance.*

## Director's Note



Jane Austen is known for her brilliant job blending satire and romance; for the beautiful poetry through her writing. I respect her so much because what most people don't realize is that Austen was a very strong woman who didn't live by social norms. And the women she wrote about are the same. *Sense and Sensibility* is known to be one of the best works in literary fiction. And these characters are still among us today, which is why it's so important to continue producing material like this. The thing that I kept coming back to while reading/researching/directing this show is: An 18th-century heart beats in 2025. And it's true.

Yes, of course there's romance in this production — come on, it's a Jane Austen story — but the show REALLY centers around sisterhood. To me, the male lovers in this story are very important, but they serve to bring Elinor and Marianne Dashwood closer together; sisters who couldn't be any different, but who discover that the best parts of them will save each other. Kate Hamill's adaptation that you will see today is not your average Austen show; it will throw curveballs at you. And whether you're an Austen fan or not, I hope you'll be entertained.

Thank you all for being here and for supporting this production.

— *Leslie Marberry*  
[www.lesliemarberry.com](http://www.lesliemarberry.com)



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# The Cast



**Kay Ayers** (Mrs Dashwood/Anne Steele/Gossip) has been a key figure in Middle Tennessee's theater scene for decades. A Millikin University theatre graduate, she has performed on many stages across Middle Tennessee. Recently, Kay played June Levant in *Good Night Oscar* with Franklin Theatrical Fellowship. She was also seen in WPT's *Romeo and Juliet* as Lady/Lord Capulet and Marmee in *Little Women*.

Other notable roles include Juror 8 in *Twelve Angry Jurors*, Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion In Winter*, Antonia in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Tracy in *Sweat*, Mother Superior in *Nunsense*, and Betty in *The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical*. Additionally, Kay's work extends to regional films and national voice-over projects such as Veggie Tales, Franklin Towne, Soup Apples, The Shunning, and an upcoming audiobook-musical. She is a member of the Tennessee Voiceover Exchange and the Voiceover Network.



**Max Fleischhacker** (Edward Ferrars/Robert Ferrars/Gossip/Lady Middleton) is thrilled to be returning to Watershed Public Theatre after appearing in last season's *The 39 Steps*. He has recently been seen in *A Christmas Carol* at Nashville Repertory Theatre and *Spamalot!* with Thin Air Theatre Company. You can catch him next in Franklin Theatrical Fellowship's production of *Guys and Dolls!*



**Reid Gregory** (Margaret/Mrs Ferrars/Gossip) is so happy to be back at Watershed Public Theatre. Huge thanks and love to the cast and crew! Recent credits include: *Proof* (Catherine, Watershed), *Henry V* (Sir Thomas Grey, PCPA), *The Clockmaker's Daughter* (Mab, PCPA), *Elf* (PCPA), and *Bright Star* (PCPA). Thanks for supporting us and local art!

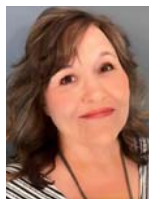


**Evan M Hernandez** (Colonel Brandon/Thomas/Lady Middleton/Gossip) is an all-around theater professional who has built sets for Broadway, acted in national commercials, toured with the Seattle Shakespeare Company, and stage managed in prisons and community centers for the Public Theater Mobile Unit. A playwright and novelist, his debut novel, *Breaking the Skies*, has delighted fantasy readers of all ages. He is the founding director of the Rough & Tumble Shakespeare Company, which offers classes in literature, and performance.



**Dan Kassis** (John Middleton/Doctor/Servant/Gossip) is a California native who has been active in the Nashville Theatre scene since 2003. He has appeared in over 25 productions at Pull-Tight Players, Franklin Theatrical Fellowship and with the Nashville Shakespeare Festival. Dan is a Senior Communications Specialist at VUMC, a voice-over artist, and a drummer with experience in musical theatre.

## The Cast (continued)



**Deb Meeks** (Mrs Jennings/Gossip) has been sharing her love of theatre with audiences for some fifty-odd years, telling more stories than she can name! After moving into the greater Nashville area nearly five years ago, she has had the privilege of taking the stage with The Keeton Theatre, Consider This Theatre, Watershed Public Theatre, The Studio Players, and Nashville Repertory Theatre. It is her joy to, once again, join a fabulous group of artists at WPT! Previous Watershed credits include *Carousel* (Starkeeper), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lady Bracknell), *Anastasia* (Dowager Empress), *Romeo & Juliet* (Nurse), and *Little Women* (Aunt March/Ms Kirk). She hopes you enjoy the wonderful retelling of this timeless story!



**Rachel Penner** (Elinor) is excited to make her Watershed Public Theatre debut in this Jane Austen classic! You might have seen her in Nashville Shakespeare Festival's *Hamlet*, Lipscomb University Theater's *Much Ado About Nothing*, or *That Woman Monologue Show* with the Tennessee Playwright's Studio. Rachel graduated with her BFA in Acting from Lipscomb University this May, and is excited to see what the future holds. All of her love to her incredible family and friends for their constant encouragement and support! Luke 1:37



**Chelsea Ranelle** (Fanny/Lucy Steele/Lady Middleton/Gossip), a Jane Austen FANATIC who was last seen as Mother in *A Christmas Story* (The Keeton Theatre), is thrilled to be making her debut on the Watershed stage in this fresh twist on a timeless classic. Other mentionable credits include Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Chava (*Fiddler On The Roof*), Paige Caldwell (*The Outsider*), and Liza Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*). Chelsea extends her gratitude to our wonderful director Les as well as this entire cast and crew who have brought so much creativity, joy, and talent to this production.



**Austin Jeffrey Smith** (Willoughby/John Dashwood/Gossip) is elated to be joining Watershed Public Theatre for the first time! Austin holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Lipscomb University and a BM in vocal performance from Cumberland University. You may have seen him in many Nashville productions, including at Nashville Repertory Theatre (*Violet*), Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre (*Annie* and *Wedding Singer*), and the Grand Old Opry (*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*). He is very grateful to Leslie for this amazing experience, the cast and crew for the fun along the way, his friends and family for their love and support, and to his loving wife for all she does on and off the stage. Thanks be to God!



**Isabel Smith** (Marianne) could not be more thrilled to be returning to WPT to help tell this beautiful story. Isabel has a BFA in Musical Theatre from Lipscomb University. You may have previously seen her in *Carousel* at Watershed Public Theatre or in Nashville Shakespeare Festival's productions of *Pericles* (Dionysa/Gower) or *The Tempest* (Ariel). She would like to thank her family and friends for their unfailing love and support and her incredible husband, who she finally gets to share the stage with. All glory to God!



# The Production Team

**Joyce Blackburn** (Technical Crew) is putting her skills to work on yet another Watershed Public Theatre production. For years, Joyce has been a proud board member, theatre wife and theatre auntie. Until her debut as Mask Artisan for WPT's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, she was unaware that she was also a theatre kid herself. As a learning and development professional, her passion for live performance art is fueled by the important life skills and joy she sees theatre give to individuals of all ages. Joyce is very grateful to her husband, Justin, for introducing her to the world of theatre and to Watershed for welcoming her into productions. Thank you for supporting the arts!

**Justin Blackburn** (Technical Director/Sound Designer) is excited to work on yet another production with Watershed Public Theatre. Prior to joining the WPT team, he was actively involved in Theatre Charlotte and worked a variety of jobs on several productions. In his spare time he enjoys thrifting, practicing magic and providing support for theatre programs in Middle Tennessee schools. He resides in Mount Pleasant with his amazing wife Joyce and dogs Rickie and Ellie. Thank you for supporting local arts!

**Cate Bounds** (Intimacy Director) is a theatre artist living and working in Nashville and the surrounding areas after finishing their BFA in Theatre Performance at Belmont University. During their time at Belmont, Cate gained an appreciation for intimacy direction and coordination and grew passionate about creating a safe and comfortable environment in which to play. Other intimacy direction credits include *A Marriage Has Been Arranged* and *The 39 Steps*. Cate looks forward to continuing their intimacy education by attending workshops and classes with Theatrical Intimacy Educators in the coming months.

**Austin Fields** (Composer) is a musician and composer based in Nashville, Tennessee. Fields has scored films, podcasts, and other live theatrical productions. He is thrilled to make his Watershed Public Theatre debut as well as help tell this classic story through music. Love, as always, to Kristen for everything.

**Caleb Finley** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of another WPT production. Previous WPT credits include directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, properties for *Carousel*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Carousel*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The 39 Steps*, and *Robin Hood & Friends*. On stage, they have been seen in WPT's *Anastasia* and heard voicing the Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood & Friends*.

**Susan Gaw** (Stage Manager) holds a degree in theatre from Winthrop University and has been working in live entertainment for more than 30 years. Thanks to Nate, Allison, and Adam for all the stuff!

**Sarah Hall** (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be working on her first Watershed Public Theatre production! She recently graduated from MTSU where she designed lights for a staged reading of Stephen Sondheim's *Company* as well as several dance pieces. She also recently served as assistant lighting designer for *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas* at Studio Tenn in Franklin. Sarah is so grateful to have been a part of this process, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

## The Production Team (*continued*)

**Milly Johnson** (Assistant Director) is honored to have been a part of this production and to have had the opportunity to work with its incredible director, Les. Milly is a member of Watershed's Apprentice Company and a senior at Building Block School for the Arts. When not in rehearsals, Milly enjoys watching movies, writing, and annoying her sister.

**Sarah Kennedy** (Technical Crew) is enjoying yet another Watershed Public Theatre experience. By day she is the director of Ghostlight Books. In between peddling books, teaching, directing and keeping up with her son Benjamin and miscellaneous pets, she also coordinates youth arts field trips and advises for youth arts and education in multiple organizations regionally and nationally, including serving as WPT's Education & Outreach Manager.

**MaryAnne Luther** (Wig Stylist) loves getting to work on Watershed Public Theatre productions. She has been making costumes and styling wigs for historic interpretation, cosplay, and theatre for more than 25 years. When she isn't making things she enjoys gardening, cooking, and reading, as well as spending time with her three cats, six chickens, and husband who has resigned himself to finding random wig heads in strange places around the house.

**Payton McCarthy** (Scenic Designer) is so excited to be a part of creating the world for this production. Payton's previous scenic designs include *Carousel* (WPT) and *Cabaret* (MLT). You may have seen his directing work on *Carousel* and *Anastasia* with Watershed Public Theatre, as well as *Cabaret* (MLT) and *Stop Kiss* (MTSU). Enjoy the show!

**Sara McCloud** (Costume Designer) is a passionate reuse textile artist with a knack for discovering unique materials in thrift stores and through creative repurposing. Hailing from Murfreesboro, TN, she honed her costume and fashion design skills at MTSU. Her career took her to New York City, where she made her mark designing for the Fringe Festival, sewing for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, and collaborating with various costume designers while running crew for off-Broadway shows. Sara is thrilled to return to WPT following her successful designs for *Anastasia* (2023) and *Carousel* (2024), among others. She now resides in Columbia with her two children, Arthur and Beatrice, and her fiancé, Alex Saylor.

**Leslie Marberry** (Director) is a Nashville-based theatre director who is passionate about bringing the exercise of radical empathy to the stage. She has had the privilege of working both onstage and off with many of the region's most celebrated theatre companies, including: Nashville Repertory Theatre, Studio Tenn, Street Theatre Company, The Nashville Symphony, Nashville Ballet and many more. Leslie recently directed *The Wolves* for Nashville School of the Arts, *Alice by Heart* for Street Theatre Company, and *Fun Home*, which was voted Best Theatrical Production of 2024 by readers of the Nashville Scene. Other productions that hold a place in her heart include: *Lizzie: The Musical*, *Ordinary Days*, *Little Women*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. In her spare time, Leslie enjoys coaching performers, teaching workshops, leading children's camps, directing staged readings and participating in the developmental process, as well as periodically flexing her acting muscles. She currently lives in Nashville with her partner, Delaney, and several artificial houseplants. All my love to Delaney Joy. [www.lesliemarberry.com](http://www.lesliemarberry.com)



## The Production Team (*continued*)

**Dani Rust** (Properties Design) is excited to be working on her third production with Watershed Public Theatre. Her previous productions include *The 39 Steps* and *Anastasia*. Dani also attended MTSU for five years with a props focus. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their support over the years.

**David Sharp** (Technical Crew) is a student at Middle Tennessee State University who is majoring in theater. He began his theater career while attending Columbia State Community College. He is currently an apprentice with Watershed Public Theatre and loves all things theater. He has worked behind the scenes as a crew member and on the stage as an actor.

**Krista Totten** (Scenic Artist) is a scenic artist who is honored to be working with Watershed Public Theatre. She previously worked with WPT on *Proof*, *Carousel*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The 39 Steps*, *Robin Hood & Friends*, *Anastasia*, *Those Wicked Stepsisters*, *Little Women*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. She began painting sets in 2003 in Indianapolis with Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre. She studied under Kristopher Steege of Marian College. One of her favorite sets was for a childrens production, *The Curious Quest for the Sandman's Sand*. Krista sends a heartwarming thank-you to family and friends for supporting the local arts!

**Leah Worden** (Production Assistant) is thrilled to be working on her first Watershed Public Theatre production. She is a rising second-year stage management major at Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre in St Louis. Recent productions include assistant stage managing *Our Town* and *The Legend of Georgia McBride* as well as working in sound for the spring production of *Cinderella*.



### Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for providing in-kind donations of goods and services in support of this production:

Joyce & Justin Blackburn  
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Austin Fields  
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Cynthia Holzapfel

Laura Holzapfel  
Sherry Johnson  
Beverly Mitchell  
Katelyn Rust  
McKenna Steel  
Jessica Stockdale  
Sarah Tatom  
Leah Worden



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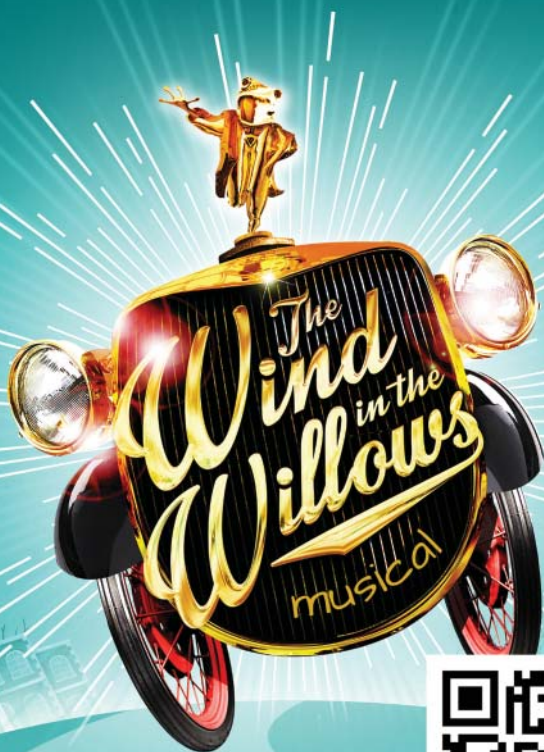
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