

A HOLIDAY
ROMANTIC COMEDY



DEC 4 - 21

WRITTEN BY: HELEN R. MURRAY

MUSIC & LYRICS BY: ELI PAFUMI

DIRECTED BY: ANTHONY GERVAIS



AMERICAN STAGE

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Audience,

The Gift of the Magi is one of those timeless holiday tales that has been adapted into many new versions. The themes of sacrifice, generosity, selflessness, and love are what give the story its staying power. Setting the story inside a folk-rock concert opens up a more emotional interpretation of the gifts they give to each other. The characters in this version of *The Magi* do not cut their hair or sell their watch. They bring to light the sacrifices we make every day - big and small - for the people we love the most. By nature, there is both fulfillment and difficulty

in sacrifice. This show asks whether we can stay who we are while giving parts of ourselves to another. Maybe we become something different - not better or worse, but certainly changed. Through these vivid characterizations and this gorgeous music, this story reminds us of the reasons we make those sacrifices: for something bigger than ourselves, for the love of another.

I hope you enjoy *The Magi*.

Anthony Gervais



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CAST

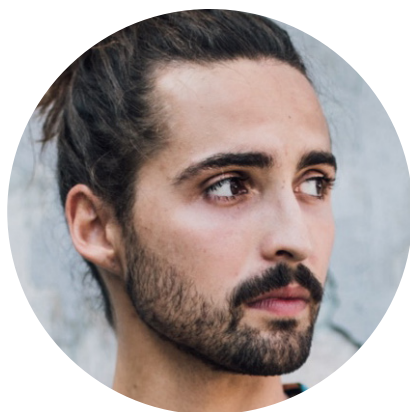
Tristan Braboy (he/him)..... Nixon
Morgan Tapp (she/her)..... Judevine

CREATIVE TEAM

Helen R. Murray (she/they) Playwright
Eli Pafumi (he/him)..... Music & Lyrics, Musical Director
Anthony Gervais (he/him)..... Director
Kevin Commander (he/him) Stage Manager
Mario Gonzalez (he/him) Lighting Designer
Christopher Kinney (he/him)..... Sound Designer/Mixer
Meyah Fortier (she/her)..... Set Decorator/Props
Kylie Knickerbocker (she/her) Costume Designer

American Stage would like to thank all our volunteers for their support.

CAST



Tristan Braboy

he/him

Nixon

Tristan Braboy is a St. Petersburg native and is thrilled to be back performing with American Stage! You may have previously seen him in last season's productions of *Ring of Fire* and *Hair*. He releases music independently and has gained over 3 million streams on Spotify. Tristan is also a member of the band All Day Breakfast (adb), playing gigs around the Tampa Bay Area. He attended Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School, graduating in 2014. Later that fall, he studied Musical Theater at The Boston Conservatory before moving to Los Angeles where he then spent 6 years as a professional contemporary dancer and musician. He has since returned to his hometown where he began recording his debut solo album, *Garden of the Mind*, which will be released in January 2026. Follow him on instagram @tristanbraboy to keep up to date with his releases and future gigs!

CAST



Morgan Tapp

she/her

Judevine

Morgan Tapp is thrilled to return to American Stage, having last been seen in *Hundred Days* earlier this season. Morgan is a Brooklyn-based actor and musician originally from St. Petersburg. She proudly holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (blaze on!!!) Other regional credits include: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (San Luis Obispo Repertory Theatre), *Once* (Red Mountain Theatre), *Gift of the Magi* (Breckenridge Backstage Theatre), *Ring of Fire*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and the world premiere of *The Figs* (American Stage). Morgan is filled with gratitude to be able to create art like this in her hometown and cannot wait to share this story with you. All the love to this wonderful team, Anthony, Mom, Dad, and Emma. www.morgantapp.com IG: @morgan.tapp

CREATIVE TEAM



Helen R. Murray

she/they
Playwright

Helen R. Murray is an award-winning director, playwright, the Producing Artistic Director of American Stage, former Executive Producer of the Aurora Fox Arts Center in Colorado and Artistic Director of the Hub Theatre in Virginia. Her original plays have been produced by the Hub Theatre, Theatre Alliance, ArtsWest, Malibu Playhouse, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and have been seen at the Kennedy Center's Page to Stage Festival. She has directed across the country and mentored writers through the Writer's Guild Initiative NYC. In addition to her roles offstage, Helen has worked as an actor in many Washington, D.C. area theaters, including Folger Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Theatre J, Forum Theatre, Theatre Alliance, Rorschach Theatre, and Keegan Theatre. Helen has also appeared in numerous independent films and commercials. Her co-adaptation of *Wonderful Life* earned her a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding New Play, and her original play, *Abominable*, was nominated for the national Steinberg New Play Award. She is also the recipient of the Puffin Foundation Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist, the Washington Canadian Partnership Award for Leadership in the Arts, and her play *Redder Blood* won the 2016 Jewish Playwriting Contest.

CREATIVE TEAM



Eli Pafumi

he/him

Music & Lyrics/Music Director

Eli Pafumi is an LA based multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer and teacher. Last year, Pafumi led and performed in Hedwig and the Angry Inch as well as composed music for the world premier of The Figs for American Stage's 2024 season. His theatrical compositions can be heard in The Magi and Merry Happy...What? by Helen Murray and Familia de Flamingos by Miguel Muñoz as well as Hurricane Diane (Aurora Fox) and Act A Lady (Hub Theatre). Eli has also performed with Cirque Berzerk on installations with Dedo Vabo (Coachella) and The Dream Emporium (Electric Forest). As a musician, Eli has performed with the likes of The Polyphonic Spree, Rozzi, Zach Day and his own sibling-band RitaRita among many others. Eli is a host and artist-in-residence of The Hotel Cafe's iconic Monday Monday showcase as well as a veteran performer in the worldwide network of Sofar Sounds, the music director of the fusion music school SaReGaMe based in Ashburn VA, a TEDx speaker, x3 Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards Finalist and Kennedy Center Award for Excellence recipient.

IG: @elipafumi, www.elipafumi.com

CREATIVE TEAM



Anthony Gervais

he/him

Director

Anthony Gervais is an actor, director, writer, and St. Petersburg native. Most recently, he served as Assistant Director on *The Good Peaches*, performed at The Mahaffey Theatre. Other directing credits include *Weird in St. Pete* at FloridaRAMA, *10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse* as a part of the *Tales by Twilight* series at Boyd Hill, and *Every Brilliant Thing* (Studio@620/Off-Central Players.) As an actor, favorite credits include Rosencrantz in *HAMLET620*, Harry Houdini in *Ragtime in the Park* (American Stage), Jamie in *The Last Five Years*, and Caryl Churchill's *A Number*, for which he received a Creative Loafing "Best of the Bay" award (Off-Central Players). Anthony currently serves as Associate Artistic Director at American Stage, and is passionate about creating opportunities for local artists. He is also an Artist in Residence at The Studio@620, where he is developing new work as a playwright. He proudly holds a BFA from The Boston Conservatory.

CREATIVE TEAM



Kevin Commander

he/him

Stage Manager

Kevin Commander is thrilled to serve as the SM Fellow for the 25/26 season. He is grateful for the opportunity to step into this role as Stage Manager and showcase his growing skills and to learn from this incredible community. Kevin extends his deepest thanks to his Mentor for the season Chloe, and to American Stage for setting him up for success. Endless love and appreciation to his friends and family for their constant support. IG: @kev.comm

CREATIVE TEAM



Mario Gonzalez

he/him

Lighting Designer

Mario is thrilled to be back at American Stage, this time designing! He graduated in 2025 from the University of Florida with his MFA in Lighting Design, where he designed multiple shows including Macbeth, Blood at the Root, and Pipeline. He also has a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Tampa. Last he was at American Stage, he was helping program for their production of The Figs. He can now be found up in the Villages working as the Lighting Supervisor at Significant Productions in the SigPro Studio. mariogonzalezlightingdesign.com

CREATIVE TEAM



Christopher Kinney

he/him

Sound Designer/Mixer

Christopher Kinney is looking forward to this production with American Stage. His last theatre credit was Musical Director and Piano player for The Last Five Years with Off-Central Players. You may have seen him at local gigs around St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay area. He has dedicated most of his career to music education, songwriting, and playing live music in local rock band ADB. You can find his solo music as Topher Kinney wherever you stream music. He's also a dedicated martial artist and a part of Kinney Karate with a goal of making athletics and martial arts fun and accessible.



Meyah Fortier

she/her

Set Decorator/Props

Meyah is thrilled to be joining American Stage again for another show. You may have seen some of her work this past season on *Ring of Fire* and *This Girl...* as Prop Master. Some of her favorite credits include being ASM at the Mahaffey for *A Very Broadway Christmas*, being ASM for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and *Ragtime in the Park* as well as Stage Managing *Three Sisters*, *Miss Julie*, *Clyde's* and *John Proctor* is the Villain with the *Asolo Conservatory*.



Kylie Knickerbocker

she/her

Costume Designer

Kylie Knickerbocker is the current Costume and Wardrobe fellow here at American Stage. She is a recent graduate from the University of Central Florida and aspiring Costumer, who's excited to grow her professional theater skills at American Stage. Check out more at knickerbockerkylie.myportfolio.com