

# THE DROWNING GIRLS

NEW MOON  
THEATRE COMPANY

*Written by*  
**Beth Graham,  
Daniela Vlaskalic, &  
Charlie Tomlinson**

*Directed by*  
**Aliza Moran**  
*Movement Director by*  
**Katy Stanfield**

**Oct. 17 thru Nov. 2, 2025**

Season  
Sponsor!  
Dorothy Kirsch

**Fri & Sat at 8:00, Sun at 2:00**

*Theatreworks at the Square, 2085 Monroe Ave.*  
**901-484-3467, [www.NewMoonTheatre.org](http://www.NewMoonTheatre.org)**



# *The Drowning Girls will be presented in one act.*

## **CAST**

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Alice.....Nolita Palomar  
Bessie.....Kate Peckham  
Margaret.....Nichol Pritchard  
Swing.....Allison Reingold

## **ARTISTIC / MANAGEMENT STAFF**

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Director.....Aliza Moran  
Movement Director.....Kate Stanfield  
Stage Manager.....April Vincent  
Set Designer.....Chris Sterling  
Costume Designer.....Ashley Whitten Kopera  
Composer/Sound Designer.....Emily Rooker  
Lighting Designer.....Melissa Andrews  
Props Designer.....Laurie Boller  
Dialect Coach.....Conor McGiffin  
Asst Stage Manager.....Michelle Malone, Alison Reingold  
Set Construction.....Tim Romine  
Backstage Crew.....Michelle Malone, Alison Reingold  
Glue Master.....Sam Weakley  
Artistic Director.....Gene Elliott  
Poster Photography.....Chase Yarwood-Gustafson

# *The Drowning Girls*

Written By Beth Graham, Daniela Vlaskalic,  
& Charlie Tomlinson

*The Drowning Girls* premiered at Alberta Theatre  
Projects on March 6, 2008, as part of the  
Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays.

*The Drowning Girls* is produced by permission of the  
Playwright and Marquis Literary  
(Colin Rivers) [www.MQlit.ca](http://www.MQlit.ca)

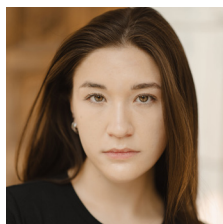


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Dorothy Kirsch!  
Thank you, Dorothy!*

## ABOUT THE CAST

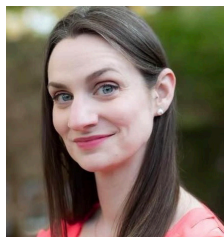
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**Nolita Palomar** (*Alice*) —originally from Dayton, Ohio and Spain— is a recent Rhodes College graduate and is thrilled to return to the New Moon stage! Her favorite Rhodes Theatre Guild (RTG) productions include *Wire in the Garden* (Elsie Woolcott), *Amélie* (ensemble), and *Alice by Heart* (Red Cross Nurse/Queen of Hearts), each recognized as Best Ensemble Ostrander winners. In Memphis, performance credits include *A Monster Calls* (Lily, Best Ensemble

Ostrander winner) and most recently *Nunsense* (Sister Mary Amnesia). Other favorite performances include *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet Van de Graaff), *Young Frankenstein* (Elizabeth Benning), and *Legally Blonde* (Serena). Nolita extends her admiration to her fellow *Drowning Girls*, Nichol and Kate, for making rehearsals feel like home, and thanks Aliza, Katy, and Emily for being nothing short of incredible. She sends all her love to her mom, her biggest fan, while dedicating this performance to her father—who will always have the best seat in the house. She hopes the show takes your breath away! [@nolitapalomar](#)

**Kate Peckham** (*Bessie*) is always grateful for an opportunity to perform with New Moon! She has previously performed with New Moon in *The Minutes*, *Reefer Madness!* *The Musical*, *The Squirrels*, *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and *Shockheaded Peter*. Other favorite credits include *Cabaret*, *Spamalot!*, *The Smell of the Kill*, and *The Western Park Album*. Kate also loves working with the neurodivergent community with Germantown Community Theatre's A Stage For All! "Big love and thanks to mom, dad, Christopher, and the cats for all their love and support, and for letting me spend so much time playing pretend."



**Nichol Pritchard** (*Margaret*) is thrilled to join the cast of *The Drowning Girls*. Some of her favorite regional roles include: Violet (Violet, GCT), Swartz (The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Theatre Memphis), Miss Thorne ( *Ruthless! The Musical*, Theatre Memphis, Ostrander Nomination), Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*, Theatre Memphis, Ostrander win), and Alice Beane (*Titanic*, Harrell Theater,

Ostrander Win). "Thanks to my family and friends, especially the mascara mob, for their love and continuing support and kisses to Joe."

## ABOUT THE CREW

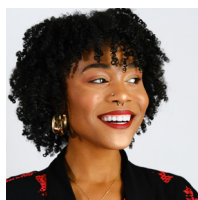
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**Melissa Andrews** (*Lighting Designer*) (she/her) is thrilled to return to New Moon after having most recently designed *A Particle of Dread* (*Oedipus Variations*) and *The Minutes* (Ostrander nomination). Other recent credits include *Pippin* (Kudzu Playhouse), *Tragedy Sound* (POTS@theWorks), and *Alice by Heart* (Rhodes Theatre Guild; Ostrander nomination).

Melissa is grateful to Aliza and the production team for the opportunity to help tell this story.

**Laurie Boller** (*Properties Designer*) is excited to be working with such a talented cast and crew! Most recently, Laurie designed props and set dressing for Lonetree Live's Ostrander nominated production of *Dance Nation*. Her other notable projects include New Moon Theatre's productions of: *A Monster Calls*, *Squirrels*, *Misery* (Ostrander nominated), *Quills*, *Pillowman* (Ostrander nominated), *Small Mouth Sounds* and *Eurydice*. Laurie's stage-managing credits at Theatre Memphis include: *Rasheeda Speaking* and *Judy, Just For You*. 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*. She would like to thank her family, especially her husband, Greg, for their constant love and support.



**Jabria Chanel** (*Charge Artist*) is a scenic painter and set designer based in Memphis, Tennessee. She is currently pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts Design at Southwest Tennessee Community College. You may have last seen her work in New Moon Theatre's productions of *The Minutes* and *A Particle of Dread: Oedipus Variations*. *Drowning Girls* marks her third production with New Moon Theatre, and she is delighted to continue collaborating with the company.

**Michelle Malone** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be involved with her first New Moon production and the first time as assistant stage manager. Michelle was last seen onstage as Kate in *The Best Thing I Ever Did* in Emerald Theatre's 10 Minute Play Fest. Michelle also plays a nurse and president of Woodruff Fontaine Museum (Come see us) "Much love to Mike and our two furry children for supporting my latest venture!"



## ABOUT THE CREW

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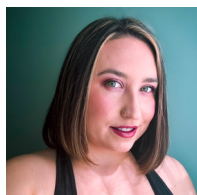
**Conor McGiffin** (*Dialect Coach*) (he/him) is a NY based actor, puppeteer, and writer. He's a proud University of Michigan graduate and is thrilled to work his first show as a dialect coach! Recent productions: "MST3K" (TV and Tour), *42nd Street* (Arts Center Coastal Carolina), *12 Angry Men: A New Musical* (Asolo Rep), Ken Ludwig's *Lady Molly of Scotland Yard* (World Premiere), *Clue* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre) *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Show*, (Arts Center Coastal Carolina) *Sunset Boulevard* (ACT) and *Titanic: The Musical* (NSMT). Catch him as Tom Servo on the MST3K streaming app and PlutoTV! "Many thanks to Aliza and Angel for inviting me to participate! Mom, Dad, and Bridget, I love you!"  
IG: [@conormcgiffin](https://www.instagram.com/conormcgiffin)

**Alison Reingold** (*Assistant Stage Manager/Swing*) is thrilled to join her second New Moon production. She was previously the swing in *A Particle of Dread* and is very thankful for this challenging opportunity.



**Tim Romine** (*TD/Set Construction*) (he/him) is a MacGyver type of a genius when working on design ideas! He has worked with New Moon several times. For *Evil Dead the Musical* he was instrumental in developing the blood delivery devices. Tim appeared in *Quills* playing Lunatic Bouchon, and with *Buried Child* he did Prop design. He also works with Absent Friends doing Prop design and fabrication.

**Emily Rooker** (*Composer/Sound Designer*) is delighted to join the New Moon team for the first time. Emily Rooker is a songwriter, producer, vocalist and composer whose recent works include Ostrander-nominated sound design for *Dance Nation* (Lone Tree Live), and her fourth studio album (Self-Titled). Rooker independently produced and directed her original rock opera *The Long Goodbye* in 2022 and 2023, which debuted at Evergreen Theater after a successful \$15k crowdfunding campaign. Rooker was Memphis Songwriter Association's 2022 Songwriter of the Year, and won the 1st Place Jury Prize in the Hometown Music Video category at the 2022 Indie Memphis Film Festival. You can often find her singing in the choir at First Congo, walking dogs at the Humane Society, or forcing her friends to do readings of her work-in-progress musicals. Rooker thanks New Moon for the opportunity to get to know the classic hymn "Nearer My God to Thee" better than she knows most of her own music.





# New Moon Theatre 2025-2026 Season

**Oct. 17 - Nov. 2**

*The Drowning Girls*  
By Beth Graham  
Directed by Aliza Moran

**Feb. 6 - 22, 2026**

*The Revolutionists*  
By Lauren Gunderson  
Directed by Kell Christie

**May 22 - June 7, 2026**

*Collective Rage*  
By Jen Silverman  
Director Ann Marie Hall



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TBA

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Oct 17 - 19  
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watches or any other  
noise creating devices.**

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performance.

*No photography or recording devices  
allowed of ANY kind.*

## ABOUT THE CREW

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**Katy Stanfield** (*Movement Director*) is thrilled to be joining the New Moon team for the first time! In her past life she was a professional ballet dancer with Ballet Memphis, Nashville Ballet, and Madison Ballet. She has recently been seen on stage in *Nunsense* (GCT) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Theatre Memphis) and choreographed *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (GCT) and *The Lightning Thief* (Hutchison School). “Thank you to the Drowning Girls for letting me play in bathtubs with you!”

**Chris Sterling** (*Set Design*) has designed the sets for *The Minutes*, *Lizzie 2024*, *The Squirrels*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Misery*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *Pillowman*, *Lizzie*, *Killer Joe*, *Haint* (Ostrander winner for Best Set Design), *Bug* and *The Rainmaker*. He has been seen on several local stages over the years, and for NM he appeared in our production of *The Rainmaker*. He has also appeared in *Secret Garden*, *Newsies* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Theatre Memphis; *The Hollow* and *The Mousetrap* at GCT.



**April Vincent** (*Stage Manager*) is a long-time fan, first-time (cue) caller of New Moon Theatre Company! “Thanks to Ali-za for the opportunity and to my mom for watching Evie while 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, as well as several other theaters in the region. She received her BA in Theatre and Art from Mercer University, and studied Costume Design at the University of Memphis.



### New Moon Theatre Company Board of Directors

Melissa Andrews, James Kevin Cochran,  
Kell Christie, Gene Elliott, Jeff Kirwan,  
Chris Sterling, Mystie Watson



## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

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**Aliza Moran** (*Director*) has a BFA from the University of Memphis ('04) 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. She continues to produce and support new theatrical experiences by collaborating with local Memphis artists, educators, community organizations, and creatives. Aliza's most recently directed *Smell of the Kill* at Germantown Community Theatre and *A Monster Calls* at New Moon. Aliza is the Executive Director of Les Passees Kids on the Block which provides educational puppet performances to area non-profits and educational institutions.

## Next Up at New Moon Theatre!

**THE REVOLUTIONISTS**

**By Lauren Gunderson**  
**Directed by Kell Christie**

**Feb. 6 - 22, 2026**



Germantown Community Theatre

# SEASON 54

## "HADESTOWN" Teen Edition

Jul 24th - Aug 3rd, 2025

at The KROC Center

Director - Christina Hernandez

Music Director - Adam Jeffrey

Choreographer - Abbie Martin

## "THE HOUSE"

by Savannah S. Miller

Jan 28th - Feb 1st, 2026

Creative team collaboration with  
Cazateatro Bilingual Theatre Group

## "NUNSENSE" the Musical

Sept 12th - 28th, 2025

Director - Elizabeth Perkins

Music Director - Eileen Kuo

Choreographer - Christi Hall

Sponsors Rusty & Donna Chandler Newman

## "GODSPELL" the Musical

Feb 27th - Mar 15th, 2026

Director - Jaclyn Suffel

Music Director - Nathan McHenry

Choreographer - Daniel Stuart Nelson

## "FRANKENSTEIN"

adapted by Nick Dear

Oct 23rd - Nov 2nd, 2025

Director - James Kevin Cochran

Stage Manager - JJ Townsend

## "JULIUS CAESAR"

all female cast

Apr 17th - May 3rd, 2026

Director - Meghan Lisi Lewis

Sponsor Alia Wealth Partners

## "ANNIE JR." the Musical

Dec 5th - 21st, 2025

Director - Rose Blakeman

Sponsored by The Kiwanis Club of Germantown

## "FALSETTOS"

William Finn Musical

Jun 5th - 21st, 2026

Director - Jordan Nichols

Music Director - Gary Beard

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Gave Us Amazing Assistance!  
We Couldn't Have Done It Without  
You!*

Brian Ruggaber in the University of  
Memphis Department of Theatre and  
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Aaron James, Sam Weakley, Mimi  
Herren, The Ginger's Bread Co.,  
Rhodes College, Playhouse on the  
Square, Theatre Memphis,  
Germantown Community Theatre,  
The Woodruff-Fontaine House

Theatreworks would like to thank  
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