

# Greenbelt Arts Center Presents



November 4 – 19, 2022



[greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)

# **The Last Five Years**

Written and Composed by Jason Robert Brown

Originally produced for the stage by Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell

Originally produced by Northlight Theatre, Chicago, IL

Directed by Meg Nemeth

Music Directed by Rolanda Brown

Produced by Pamela Northrup

## **Book Cast**

Performing Nov. 4, 6, 12, 18

Jamie - Matt Wetzel

Cathy - AnnaBelle Lowe

## **Clock Cast**

Performing Nov. 5, 11, 13, 19

Jamie - Joshua Nettinga

Cathy - Ashley Rudy

**Talkbacks with the cast and production team will immediately follow the matinee performances on Nov. 6 and 13.**

# **Musical Numbers**

## **Act I**

Still Hurting  
Shiksa Goddess  
See I'm Smiling  
Moving Too Fast  
I'm a Part of That  
The Schmuel Song  
A Summer in Ohio  
The Next Ten Minutes

## **Act II**

A Miracle Would Happen  
Climbing Uphill  
If I Didn't Believe In You  
I Can Do Better Than That  
Nobody Needs to Know  
Goodbye Until Tomorrow/I Could Never Rescue You

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

The Last Five Years is presented through arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

## Production Staff

Director \_\_\_\_\_ Meg Nemeth  
Music Director \_\_\_\_\_ Rolanda Brown  
Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Pamela Northrup  
Assistant Director \_\_\_\_\_ Stephen Yednock  
Stage Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Valerie Mikles  
Lighting Design \_\_\_\_\_ Jason Kanow  
Sound Design \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Adams  
Set Design \_\_\_\_\_ Meg Nemeth  
Set Construction \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Kleinberg, Wynne Kleinberg  
Set Painting \_\_\_\_\_ Meg Nemeth, Stephen Yednock,  
Ashley Rudy, Valerie Mikles  
Set Decoration \_\_\_\_\_ Meg Nemeth, Laura Fisher  
Costume Design \_\_\_\_\_ Valerie Mikles  
Properties Design \_\_\_\_\_ Laura Fisher  
Hair and Makeup Design \_\_\_\_\_ The Cast  
Photography \_\_\_\_\_ Kris Northrup  
Poster and Cover Art \_\_\_\_\_ Peg Yednock  
Front of House Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Shaw  
Gallery Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Linda Thompson  
Website Team Lead \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Kleinberg  
Webmaster \_\_\_\_\_ Kris Northrup  
General Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Sian MacAdam

## Musicians

Piano \_\_\_\_\_ Rolanda Brown  
Guitar/Bass \_\_\_\_\_ Ethan Hart

## Director's Notes

I have always been intrigued with stories that play with time. Time travel, divergent timelines, time-loops and the like are among my favorite pieces of media. While the interesting use of time within *The Last 5 Years* was what initially drew me in, it is not what has kept me coming back to it.

*The Last 5 Years* is about relationships and dynamic characters. Everyone has had a moment in their life where a relationship, be it romantic or otherwise, has fallen apart. Everyone has been riddled with self-doubt in their career path or when exploring their passion. Everyone has had a night where suddenly everything went right, and all they want to do is sing and dance. These moments are what I connect to, and I think you, the audience, will connect to them as well. Jamie and Cathy, while they are very specific characters, have these relatable moments that make them so endearing. We can debate who is in the wrong, when things went awry, and everyone will have a different opinion on that. However, I think we can all agree that both Jamie and Cathy are only human. Those human mistakes are what we connect to.

In this production, we focus on the relationship between these two characters. Everyone involved with production has worked to create a deceptively simple show. While there are only two characters, minimal set pieces, two musicians, almost no dialogue, and simple lighting, the intricate details abound. This cast and crew has challenged me to find these details, analyze them, and put them on display, for you the audience to enjoy. We hope that you find a detail, a moment, a song, a character, a metaphor, or a relationship with which you connect.

- Meg Nemeth, Director

## A Message from the Producer

Language matters, and despite the old schoolyard rhyme, words can and do hurt people. We are aware that a word in this show has, since the time of its writing, been acknowledged as a slur. Unfortunately, the contract that GAC signs to have the rights to produce a show does not permit us to change any lyrics. We requested permission to do so, but were not granted it. We strive to make GAC a welcoming place to all, and will continue to fight for that. I am sorry that we were not able to do that in this case.

- Pamela Northrup, Producer

# Cast

## Book Cast

Nov 4, 6, 12, 18



**Matt Wetzel**

Jamie



**AnnaBelle Lowe**

Cathy

## Clock Cast

Nov 5, 11, 13, 19



**Joshua Nettinga**

Jamie



**Ashley Rudy**

Cathy

# Production Team



Meg Nemeth

Director



Rolanda Brown

Music Director



Pamela Northrup

Producer



Stephen Yednock

Asst. Director



Valerie Mikles

Stage Manager



Ethan Hart

Guitar, Bass

## Cast (in alphabetical order)

**AnnaBelle Lowe** (Cathy, Book Cast) is thrilled to be on the GAC stage for the first time! Recent roles include Sibella (*A Gentleman's Guide To Love and Murder*, RCP), Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*, TAP), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, HBP), and Florika (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, TAP). Other favorites: Elvira (*Blithe Spirit*, PTP), Marta (*Company*, TCP), and Marian Paroo (WATCH Award, *The Music Man*, PTP). She is exceptionally grateful to this incredible cast, and to Meg and Rolanda for their tireless work at the helm. AnnaBelle is overjoyed to be sharing the stage with her endlessly loving and supportive partner Matt: he is, simply and factually, the best human.

**Joshua Nettinga** (Jamie, Clock Cast) is thrilled to be a part of this production and applauds the efforts of Ashley, AnnaBelle, and Matt in helping to bring these characters and this relationship to life. A recent transplant to the DMV, he is excited to continue to work and grow in this vibrant and supportive theater community. Most recently he was seen as "Jimmy Ray" in *Bright Star* (LTA). Favorite past roles across the country include "Harold Hill" in *The Music Man* (TBA - Anchorage), "Johnnie B. Goode" in *Hope Springs Eternal*, an original melodrama (Fur Rendezvous Festival - Anchorage), "Jesus" in *J.C. Rocks*, an original rock musical (WTC - San Antonio), "Garcin" in *No Exit* (W&L - Lexington), "John" in *Dangerous Obsession* (GGCT - Garden Grove), and "Robert" in *Don't Dress for Dinner* (GGCT). Thanks to Maura, ej, Justin, Mom, Dad, Jess, Rosie, and Eliza.

**Ashley Rudy** (Cathy, Clock Cast) is thrilled to be making her Greenbelt Arts Center debut in *The Last 5 Years*. Some past area credits include *Chess* (Svetlana, 2nd Star Productions), *It's the Rest of the World That Looks So Small* (BWW Nominee Best Actress in a Musical, Flying V), *The Ravens* (Marg, Venus Theatre), *Boeing Boeing* (Gloria, Highwood Theatre), *Carrie* (Sue Snell, Dominion Stage), *Cabaret* (Sally, St. Mark's Players). Ashley has also worked with Red Branch Theatre, Solas Nua, Maryland Ensemble Theatre, Kensington Arts Theatre, Capital Fringe, and more. She would like to thank Chris, Grandma, and her dog, Piper, for their unwavering love and support.



**Matt Wetzel** (Jamie, Book Cast) is very excited to be once again performing in a musical! It has been a few years since he's had the opportunity to do so, but he is thrilled to be back on stage! Previous roles include Igor in *Young Frankenstein* (Silhouette Stages), Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop...* (Purple Light), Barnum in *Barnum* (Heritage Players), and Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern...* (FPCT). More than anything, Matt is over-the-moon to be sharing the stage with his partner, AnnaBelle Lowe. He is extremely grateful to her for all the ways she's made this past year one of the happiest of his life. *Have I mentioned today how lucky I am to be in love with you?*

## Production Team (in alphabetical order)

**Jim Adams** (sound design) is finally dipping his toe gingerly back into the waters of live theater. Frequently seen on stage rather than above it, the last time Jim designed sound for a show was 1998, and he's discovered sound board technology has changed a little in 24 years. Jim has spent COVID performing online for several zoom shows, including running Foley (live sound effects) for a variety of old-time radio shows, which prepared him for a natural progression to getting back into sound design. Love to Kale Pajamas.

**Rolanda Brown** (music direction) is making her debut at Greenbelt Arts Center and is thrilled to be part of a phenomenal crew for The Last Five Years. She has participated in musical theater in many capacities, including playing in Pippin, Oklahoma, and Oliver, stage crew for "Something's Afoot", and has been the musical director for children's theater at Bond Mill Elementary for 18 years. Some of the shows she has directed include, "A Pirate's Life for Me", "Romeo and Harriet", and most recently, "The Enchanted Bookshop". As a music teacher, she is thrilled to direct her first show with adults! ~Thank you to my husband, Leroy, and son, Ray for your love, patience, and support throughout this new endeavor!

**Laura Fisher** (properties and set decoration) is excited to return to GAC after a long time away, and is happy to assist this tremendously talented group of folks with this stellar production. Thanks to Pamela for bringing her in for this one! She was last seen around these parts Stage Managing Big River, but has been supporting GAC in various roles for pretty much

her entire life. She is looking forward to being back onstage here in Arcadia in 2023, after playing "Thomasina" in GAC's previous production in the 90s.

**Ethan Hart** (guitar and bass) is a music teacher who enjoys playing in musicals and has done so since his first pit experience playing trombone in South Pacific while in High School. In the Last 5 Years (or so) he has played bass for Sky Is The Limit Theater and Artistic Synergy of Baltimore. This is his first time playing guitar in a musical. He is pumped to be playing this show with an awesome cast and a fantastic piano player. He would like to extend a shout out to his wife Kayla for all her love and support, as well as the director Meg for asking him to join.

**Jason Kanow** (lighting design) is working on his fourth show with GAC. He played Liam in Bad Jews and in Almost, Maine he played Steve, a man who could feel no pain, Randy, someone literally "falling in love" with his best friend and Daniel, a man who has lost Hope, in more ways than one. Jason also made his directorial debut in Almost, Maine directing "Seeing the Thing" a story of friends teaching each other about love. This is Jason's second show as lighting director. Previously, he designed the lights for Dinner with Friends making beautiful off stage sunsets. Jason took a year off during the pandemic to "focus on his career" Now he is very excited to be back at GAC, working on an amazing show with an amazing cast. Quite envious of those on the stage, he is very happy to be creating beautiful scenes. Break a leg to everyone!

**Valerie Mikles** (stage manager, costume design) loves dancing, writing, astronomy, sci-fi, and grapes. By day (like for money) she works on weather satellites for NOAA. The rest of her time is filled writing queer sci-fi novels, playing songs on her ukulele, producing short films, and vacuuming cat hair. Her motto in life is "I can be everything I want, just not all at the same time."

**Meg Nemeth** (director, set design) is happy to step to the other side of a community theater production as director. While she has been acting, directing, and producing theatrical productions for over 20 years, this is her first time directing adults in community theater. By day, Meg works at Monarch Global Academy where she teaches K-5 Arts Integration and middle school theater. She also recently joined the board here at GAC as

an at-large member. Meg would like to thank our ridiculously talented cast and crew for giving their time and talents to support this production. She would also like to thank her husband, boys, Mom, and brother Stephen for all of their love and support. “I don’t know how anybody survives in this life without someone like you.”

**Pamela Northrup** (producer) is more often performing rather than producing, but when Meg asked, she couldn’t say no to being a part of this beautiful show. Most recently seen as Tracey in *Sweat* with 2nd Star Productions, she has appeared on the GAC stage in nine productions since 2013 and has served as the Vice President of Programs on the GAC Board of Directors since 2019. Love to my Q, Kris, Laura, and Jim, and as always to Zoe. I love you, Monkey.

**Stephen Yednock** (assistant director) has been involved in community theater in the DC Metro area for over 20 years performing with a number of theaters including Kensington Arts Theatre, Little Theater of Alexandria, Greenbelt Arts Center, Goddard Space Flight Center’s Music and Drama Productions, St. Mark’s Players, Laurel Mill Playhouse among others. Over the pandemic he helped to produce “Come Together: A DMV Solidarity Cabaret” with LA TI DO. Earlier this year he appeared as “Dom Claude Frolo” in Laurel Mill Playhouse’s production of “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” with Meg, his sister and as “Count Hernando Verrada” in Victorian Lyric Opera Company’s production of “El Capitan”. He is so glad he can assist his sister with this production . He has a dog. His name is Mugsy and he is very cute. Love always to Kristin.

## Creator

**Jason Robert Brown** (music and lyrics) is the ultimate multi-hyphenate - an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director and performer - best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining *The Last Five Years*, his debut song cycle *Songs for a New World*, and the seminal *Parade*, for which he won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score.

Jason Robert Brown has been hailed as "one of Broadway's smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim" (Philadelphia Inquirer), and his "extraordinary, jubilant theater music" (Chicago Tribune) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own incendiary live performances. The New York Times refers to Jason as "a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical." Jason's score for *The Bridges of Madison County*, a musical adapted with Marsha Norman from the bestselling novel, received two Tony Awards (for Best Score and Orchestrations). *Honeymoon In Vegas*, based on Andrew Bergman's film, opened on Broadway in 2015 following a triumphant production at Paper Mill Playhouse. A film version of his epochal Off-Broadway musical *The Last Five Years* was released in 2015, starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan and directed by Richard LaGravenese. His major musicals as composer and lyricist include: *13*, written with Robert Horn and Dan Elish, which opened on Broadway in 2008 and was subsequently directed by the composer for its West End premiere in 2012; *The Last Five Years*, which was cited as one of Time Magazine's 10 Best of 2001 and won Drama Desk Awards for Best Music and Best Lyrics (and was later directed by the composer in its record-breaking Off-Broadway run at Second Stage Theatre in 2013); *Parade*, written with Alfred Uhry and directed by Harold Prince, which won both the Drama Desk and New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards for Best New Musical, as well as garnering Jason the Tony Award for Original Score; and *Songs for a New World*, a theatrical song cycle directed by Daisy Prince, which has since been seen in hundreds of productions around the world since its 1995 Off-Broadway debut, including a celebrated revival at New York's City Center in the summer of 2018. *Parade* was also the subject of a major revival directed by Rob Ashford, first at London's Donmar Warehouse and then at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Jason conducted his orchestral adaptation of E.B. White's novel *The Trumpet of the Swan* with the National Symphony Orchestra, and recorded the score for PS Classics. Future projects include a new chamber musical created with Daisy Prince and Jonathan Marc Sherman called *The Connector*; an adaptation of Lilian Lee's *Farewell My Concubine*, created with Kenneth Lin and Moisés Kaufman; and a collaboration with Billy Crystal, Amanda Green, Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel on a musical of *Mr. Saturday Night*. Jason is the winner of the 2018 Louis Auchincloss Prize, the 2002 Kleban Award for Outstanding

Lyrics and the 1996 Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Award for Musical Theatre. Jason's songs, including the cabaret standard "Stars and the Moon," have been performed and recorded by Ariana Grande, Audra McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Renée Fleming, Jon Hendricks and many others, and his song "Someone To Fall Back On" was featured in the Walden Media film, *Bandslam*.

As a soloist or with his band The Caucasian Rhythm Kings, Jason has performed concerts around the world. For the past four years (and ongoing), his monthly sold-out performances at New York's SubCulture have featured many of the music and theater world's most extraordinary performers. His newest collection, "How We React and How We Recover", was released in June 2018 on Ghostlight Records. His previous solo album, "Wearing Someone Else's Clothes", was named one of Amazon.com's best of 2005, and is available from Sh-K-Boom Records. Jason's 2012 concert with Anika Noni Rose was broadcast on PBS, and he was the featured soloist for a live episode of *Friday Night Is Music Night*, broadcast live from the London Palladium and featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra. His collaboration with singer Lauren Kennedy, "Songs of Jason Robert Brown", is available on PS Classics. Jason is also the composer of the incidental music for the Broadway revival of *You Can't Take It With You*, David Lindsay-Abaire's *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Fuddy Meers*, and Kenneth Lonergan's *The Waverly Gallery*, and he was a Tony Award nominee for his contributions to the score of *Urban Cowboy the Musical*. He has also contributed music to the hit Nickelodeon television series, *The Wonder Pets* as well as *Sesame Street*. Jason spent ten years teaching at the USC School of Dramatic Arts, and has also taught at Harvard University, Princeton University and Emerson College.

For the musical *Prince of Broadway*, a celebration of the career of his mentor Harold Prince, Jason was the musical supervisor and arranger. Other New York credits as conductor and arranger include *Urban Cowboy the Musical* on Broadway; *Dinah Was*, off-Broadway and on national tour; *When Pigs Fly* off-Broadway; William Finn's *A New Brain* at Lincoln Center Theater; the 1992 tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (recorded by RCA Victor); Yoko Ono's *New York Rock*, at the WPA Theatre; and Michael John LaChiusa's *The Petrified Princ*" at the Public Theatre. Jason orchestrated Andrew Lipka's *john and jen*, Off-Broadway

at Lamb's Theatre. Additionally, Jason served as the orchestrator and arranger of Charles Strouse and Lee Adams's score for a proposed musical of *Star Wars*. Jason has conducted and created arrangements and orchestrations for Liza Minnelli, John Pizzarelli, and Michael Feinstein, among many others.

Jason studied composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., with Samuel Adler, Christopher Rouse, and Joseph Schwantner. He lives with his wife, composer Georgia Stitt, and their daughters in New York City. Jason is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. Visit him on the web at [www.jasonrobertbrown.com](http://www.jasonrobertbrown.com).

## Upcoming At Greenbelt Arts Center

December 10, 11, and 17: ***Returning Presence***

- An a cappella concert by The Chromatics

February 3-11, 2023: ***The Belle's Stratagem***

- A production from our Troupe In Residence, the Rude Mechanicals

March 3-18, 2023: ***Arcadia***

- Directed by Randy Barth

March 24 - April 1, 2023: ***The Beaux' Stratagem***

- A production from our Troupe In Residence, the Rude Mechanicals

April 14-29, 2023: ***The Mountaintop***

- Directed by Rikki Howie Laceywell

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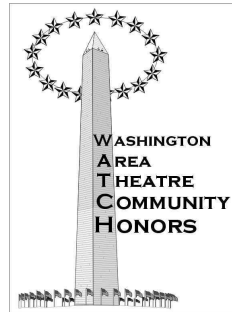
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### Arts: \$100-\$249

Randy Barth, Gary Brick, David & Sara Buckingham,  
Amy Hansen & Bobby Candey,  
Alan Duda, Joshua Engel, Den & Malca Giblin, Susan Harper,  
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Penny & Gerald Martin, Margaret Nemeth,  
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**GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG**

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*All events subject to change*