# PLAYBALL

**THEATRE ROW - THEATRE 4** 





#### VISCERAL ENTERTAINMENT & PJ PRODUCTIONS COMPANY

present



Book, Music & Lyrics by JOHN GRISSMER

Starring

#### ANTHONY SAGARIA

DAVID BEACH TYLER BELO NICK BERNARDI MILENA J. COMEAU JESSE LYNN HARTE AKINA KITAZAWA ALEC LUDACKA STEVE MCCOY LUKAS POOST ELENA RICARDO JAMAL SHURIAH DANIELLE J. SUMMONS SCOTT WHIPPLE EJ ZIMMERMAN

Scenic Design DAVID GOLDSTEIN Costume, Hair & Make-Up Design MATTHEW SOLOMON

Lighting Design ANDREW GARVIS & JAMIE RODERICK

Sound Design **KEVIN HEARD** 

**Production Props** 

Associate Director BRENDAN MCCANN TUAN MALINOWSKI Associate Choreographer **BRIAN NELSON** 

Production Stage Manager WILLIAM SPINNATO

Assistant Stage Manager MIRANDA SHAFFER

Associate Producer JOSEPH FUSCO

Casting Director **EISENBERG CASTING** DARYL EISENBERG, CSA

Press Representative **KEITH SHERMAN & ASSOCIATES** 

Executive Producer & General Manager VISCERAL ENTERTAINMENT

Music Director **MATTHEW A. STEPHENS**  Music Supervisor & Arrangements **RUSS KASSOFF** 

Choreography by ASHLEY MARINELLI

Directed by **DANNY SALLES** 



## **AUTHOR'S NOTE**

When Jim Naismith invented basketball on December 21, 1891, he had no idea the colossal impact he was making on the world for the next century and beyond.

For me, basketball has always been the source of immense joy...and at times...tremendous anguish!

Today we speak names like Shaq, LeBron, Magic, Kobe, and Jordan as if we know them personally. But the name of the obscure gym coach from Canada who created the sport has largely been forgotten to time.

As a basketball fan, I needed to know his story. As a writer I needed to tell his story. Bringing the story of the invention of basketball is the culmination of a lifelong ambition. Musicals are my favorite shows. In telling this story I chose to bring Coach Naismith from 1891 to the 21st century courtesy of a mysterious time travel device.

I am very proud of the work this production has brought to telling the story of Jim Naismith and his perfect game.

> - John Grissmer, Author of THE PERFECT GAME

# **CAST**



Anthony Sagaria



David Beach



Tyler Belo



Nick Bernardi



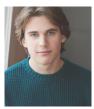
Milena J. Comeau



Jesse Lynn Harte



Akina Kitazawa



Alec Ludacka



Steve McCoy



Lukas Poost



Elena Ricardo



Jamal Shuriah



Danielle J. Summons



Scott Whipple



**EJ Zimmerman** 

#### STAGE MANAGEMENT William Spinatto Miranda Shaffer

**DANCE CAPTAIN** Milena J. Comeau

#### **RUN TIME**

1 Hour 50 Minutes with One 15-Minute Intermissino

## **CAST**

#### (in order of appearance)

Bobbie & Others	Danielle J. Summons		
Pat & Others	Tyler Belo		
Jim Naismith	Anthony Sagaria		
Ex-Coach Nancy	EJ Zimmerman		
Dr. Luther Gulick & Others	David Beach		
Amos Alonzo "Lonnie" Stagg & Others			
Frank Mahan & Others			
Julie Gulie & Others	Jesse Lynn Harte		
Cheerleader #1 & Others	Akina Kitazawa		
Cheerleader #2 & Others			
Dr. Ladd & Others	Steve McCoy		
Maude Sherman Naismith & Others	Elena Ricardo		
Coach Frank & Others	Nick Bernardi		
Male Student #1 & Others	Jamal Shuriah		
Male Student #2 & Others	Scott Whipple		
BAND			
Conductor / Keyboard	Matthew A. Stephens		

## **BIOS**

ANTHONY SAGARIA (Jim Naismith) is thrilled to be on stage at Theatre Row! Broadway: American Psycho (OBC), Frozen. National Tours: Wicked. NYC/Regional: Kinky Boots, The Bad Years, Murder Ballad, Into the Woods. TV/Film: "Orange Is The New Black," "Madam Secretary," "Dead Sound." Big thanks to DGRW and Eisenberg Casting. @Anthony\_Sagaria.

DAVID BEACH (Dr. Luther Gulick & Others) Broadway: Something Rotten, It's Only A Play, Fish in the Dark, Mamma Mial, Urinetown, and Moon Over Buffalo. Tv/Film: "Veep", "New Amsterdam", "Elementary", "Dangerous Book For Boys", "The Good Wife", "Person of Interest", "Submissions Only", "Delocated", "Blue Bloods", "The Sopranos", "Law & Order", among others. NYT Modern Love column: "Just Don't Call Me Mom", Graduate: Dartmouth and LAMDA

**TYLER BELO** (Pat & Others) is a Long Island, New York native. National Tour/International credits include the Angelica Tour of Hamilton (Hercules Mulligan/James Madison) and the Gander production of Come From Away (Bob & Others). Tyler has also been seen in NY at the Argyle Theatre in Spring Awakening (Otto). Television: "Blue Bloods". He is a Five Towns College Alum (BFA 2019) and an Irene Ryan Acting Finalist. Tyler sends love to Whole Artist Management, and most importantly, to his family.

**NICK BERNARDI** (Coach Frank & Others) Nick has performed all around the globe. Favorite credits include: Rooster in the most recent Annie National Tour, Tommy DeVito in Jersey Boys, Stacee Jaxx in Rock of Ages Hollywood, Tony Manero in Saturday Night Fever. Forever Love to his Family, Friends and his dog Indiana Bones. @ bernardi\_nick

MILENA J. COMEAU (Cheerleader #2 & Others) dreams of humanity in movement. Up next: The Outsiders (Broadway); Recent: Bandstand and Jesus Christ Superstar on tour; Lempicka (La Jolla Playhouse); MCC's Alice By Heart (Dance Supervisor); Dance Lab New York. Proud Pittsfield native, Harvard grad. For Gramps -- Maroon & White // Go Huskies @milenajcomeau

JESSE LYNN HARTE (Julie Gulie & Others) is freshly off the Legally Blonde National Tour (Margot) and thrilled to be joining this stellar team! She's recently played some other iconic cheerleaders, like Patty Simcox (Grease) at The Argyle, and Serena (Legally Blonde) at The Palace Theatre. Thanks to the fam, Carl, Broad Talent, and Eisenberg Casting. @JesseLynnHarte

**AKINA KITAZAWA** (Cheerleader #1 & Others) is excited to join The Perfect Game. She was born and raised in Japan. Favorite Credits: New York, New York (Dance Captain, OBC), Christmas

## **BIOS**

Spectacular (Radio City Music Hall), Candide (Carnegie Hall), The King and I (National Tour), Jerome Robbins' Broadway (Eliza) Instagram: @ akinakitazawa

**ALEC LUDACKA** (Frank Mahan & Others) is ecstatic to be making his professional NYC debut! Regional: The Drowsy Chaperone and Kinky Boots (PCLO). Television: "Mayor of Kingstown." Film: "Anything's Possible" (Mike). LINK. Huge thanks to Eisenberg Casting, the creative team, his management team, friends, and family! Proud Carnegie Mellon graduate. All glory to God! IG: classic\_al\_2000

**STEVE MCCOY** (*Dr. Ladd/Coach Roach & Others*) just spent the last two months playing Ebenezer Scrooge in *Scrooge the Musical* at The Fireside Theatre. Veteran of nine national tours including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Grandpa Joe), and *Spamalot* (King Arthur) for which he holds the world record of playing the role more than any other professional actor. Proud member of Actors Equity Association.

LUKAS POOST (Amos Alonzo "Lonnie" Stagg & Others) is so grateful to be here with you! NY Credits: Unlock'd (Prospect Theater Co), Black Hole Wedding (NYMF), That Bachelorette Show (Davenport). Recent: Jersey Boys (Gaudio at The Gateway Playhouse), Gent's Guide (Monty, The Hippodrome), Kinky Boots (Charlie, Gateway, Moonlight, 3-D). Let's be good to one another! @ lukaspoost

ELENA RICARDO (Maude Sherman Naismith & Others) was most recently seen performing across the country as the title role in Beautiful: The Carole King Musical. Broadway: Mamma Mia! (Sophie Sheridan), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (u/s Carole). Regional: The Nutty Professor (Stella), Peter Pan (Peter), Spring Awakening (Wendla), Bring It On! The Musical (u/s Campbell/Eva). TV: "Modern Love", "Law & Order", "The Last OG", "New Amsterdam". For family and Paul.

JAMAL SHURIAH (Student #1 & Others) was most recently seen performing at Ford's Theatre in Shout Sister Shout as Little Richard and others! Other credits: The Nutcracker (CT Dance), Passing Strange (SLC Acting Company) and Hair (Geva Theatre). Other favorite credits include touring Internationally with Green Day's American Idiot playing the role of Simba/Jafar/Scar/Jaq on Disney Cruise Line as well as featured dancer work on "Pose", and the movie "Hello Again". BFA in Musical Theatre from The Hartt School.

**DANIELLE J. SUMMONS** (Bobbie & Others) Off-Broadway: Pay the Writer (Gigi), Baby (Pam), Dorothy Dandridge Musical (Vivian). National Tour: Les Misérables (Eponine/ Ensemble), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Janelle). Regional: The Color Purple (Shug Avery) at The Signature Theatre, Sister Act (Deloris Van Cartier) at Geva Theatre. TV/Film: "The Time Traveler's Wife" (HBO Max).

**SCOTT WHIPPLE** (Student #2 & Others) is excited to be making his NYC and Off-Broadway debut with this incredible show! Previous credits: Mary Poppins, Count of Monte Cristo, Matilda, Newsies, Oklahoma!, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Scott would like to thank this amazing creative team, his agent Katie, and his family! Much Love! @scottwhipple

EJ ZIMMERMAN (Ex-Coach Nancy) Broadway: Les Misérables (Eponine u/s, Ensemble). National Tour: Avenue Q. Other favorites: Sally Bowles in Cabaret, Nancy in Oliverl, Kim in Miss Saigon, Reza in Once, Julia in Writing Kevin Taylor, Mira in The Porch on Windy Hill, Iris in Yoko's Husband's Killer's Japanese Wife, Gloria, and all the roles originated and developed in workshops and readings. Representation matters.

JOHN GRISSMER (Book, Music & Lyrics) has taught courses in Theater Arts at The University of Connecticut, American University, and at Xavier University. He is the producer /writer of the feature film "The Bride", starring Robin Strasser and John Beal, also the writer and director of the feature film "Scalpel" starring Robert Lansing and Judith Chapman, and director of the feature film "Blood Rag" starring Louise Lasser. He is also the author of the Civil War novel, "The Ghosts Of Antietam". His comedy How To Write An Irish Play will soon be produced Off-Broadway. Proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

DANNY SALLES (Director) is writer/director/ producer for television and theater. He directed the holiday movie, "The Christmas Thief" for ION TV and 4 seasons of the ABC comedy "The Middle". He was showrunner and director on various comedic reality series: Joan Rivers' "Joan and Melissa" (WeTV), "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List" (Bravo, Emmy nomination), "Dice Undisputed" (VH1), "The Joe Schmo Show" (Spike), "Todrick" (MTV), and this year's Emmy-winning "Recipe for Change" (YouTube). For the stage, Danny wrote book and lyrics and directed the original musical comedy satire The First Annual Trump Family Special in LA and Off-Broadway starring Gina Gershon. Danny is Director of Creative Development at Visceral Entertainment.

ASHLEY MARINELLI (Choreographer) is so happy to have found a show that combines her love of dance and basketball! Favorite Choreographic redits include Stranger Sings: The Parody Musical (Off Broadway, Winner of Broadway World's "Best Off-Broadway Choreography" Award), A Musical About Star Wars (Off Broadway), The True and Unquestionable Account of Dr. Joseph Snodgrass (Players Club, NYC), Mystic Pizza (Engeman Theater), Techies (Miller Theater, Winner of Kennedy Center CTF's "Outstanding Choreography" Award), Once Uponzi Time (McCarter Theater), American Psycho (Little Theater) and The Singularity Play (NYC Premiere).

## **BIOS**

RUSS KASSOFF (Music Supervisor & Arrangements) is an accomplished jazz pianist, music director, orchestrator, and arranger throughout the music world. Russ toured as pianist to Frank Sinatra by request from '80-'91 with The Ultimate Event Tour ('88-'89) featuring Sammy Davis, Jr., Dean Martin, and Liza Minnelli touring for 18 years ('82-'01). On Broadway he was MD/Conductor for Twyla Tharp's Come Fly Away (2010) and conductor/pianist for Charles Aznavour in concert ('98). Russ continues as music director with the legendary EGOT recipient Rita Moreno - since 2003. Russ has enjoyed a musical collaboration with John Grissmer since 2001.

MATTHEW A. STEPHENS (Music Director) is an NYC based Music Director, conductor and pianist who has performed alongside Broadway and opera luminaries in venues ranging from Lincoln Center to Club Cumming. NATIONAL TOUR: The Sound of Music (Associate Conductor), NEW YORK/OFF BROADWAY: The Body Politic (NYMF), King of Pangaea (NAMT). REGIONAL: RENT (Madison Theatre), The Cher Show (Gateway Playhouse), Gypsy (Arizona Broadway Theatre). CONCERT: Yours Sincerely, Stephen Sondheim (Princeton Festival), My Fair Lady (Utah Symphony). A passionate advocate for new works, Matthew collaborates with the music teams for the American Opera Project, NYU-Tisch MT Writing Program and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. @maspianist

DAVID GOLDSTEIN (Scenic Designer) Off Broadway: Black Odyssey, Emojiland, Trump Family Special, Mr. Parker, Winnie The Pooh Show, Church and State, Stalking the Bogeyman, That Golden Girls Show (Also US Tour), The Portal, Very Hungry Caterpillar Show (Also West End, Tour), Soul Doctor. Regional: Portland Stage, Barrington Stage, Zoetic Stage Miami, Sierra Rep, Timberlake Playhouse, Tibbets Opera House, Seattle Children's Theatre, NCStageCo, WVPublic Theatre, Penguin Rep, and many others. www.davidgoldsteindesigns.com

MATTHEW SOLOMON (Costume, Hair & Make-Up Designer) Solomon's works include: "Blue Bloods", "The Food That Built America, The Mega Brands that Built America, CocoMelon, Monster High Live!, "Pose" (FX), "Jesus Christ Superstar Live!", "Live with Kelly and Ryan!", and A Chorus Line. Solomon has also worked at theaters such as the Lincoln Center Theater, New York City Center, Manhattan Theater Club, Roundabout, Fifth Avenue, North Shore, Cape Playhouse, New York Stage and Film. www.kr38iv.com/

**ANDREW GARVIS** (Co-Lighting Design) is a New York City based Lighting and Video Designer. He is thrilled to work on The Perfect Game. His work spans across theatre, dance, opera, concerts, and live events. His work has been seen in NYC, Dallas, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Edmonton Fringe Festival.

RODERICK Design) (Co-Lighting Off-Broadway: Make Me Gorgeous, Small, ¡Americano! The Musical, Disney's Winnie The Pooh, Emojiland, Stranger Sings, Midnight at the Never Get (Drama Desk Nomination), Arms and The Man, Candida, Mrs. Warren's Profession, Caesar & Cleopatra, Safeword, Accidentally Brave, We Are The Tigers, Red Roses, Green Gold, The Woodsman, Afterglow, A Dog Story. London: It Happened in Key West. Regional: Super You, Denis DeYoung's Hunchback Of Notre Dame, The Bikinis!, Romeo & Juliet, Twelfth Night, Midsummer, Macbeth, Hamlet. JamieRoderick. com

**KEVIN HEARD** (Sound Design) Broadway: Good Night, Oscar (Associate Sound Designer), Off-Broadway: Lizard Boy, Yes, I Can Say Thatl, Americano! The Musical, In & Of Itself, The Hello Girls, Midnight at the Never Get, Neal Brennan's Unacceptable, Einstein's Dreams, safeword., #DateMe. International premieres: Fun Home, Kinky Boots and Matilda in Manila, Philippines. Dozens of regional sound designs. Producer: The Jinkx & DeLa Holiday Show. Member of United Scenic Artists. HeardAudio.com

BRENDAN MCCANN (Production Props). Recent design/production credits include: Make Me Gorgeous, ...Wholesale at CSC, Stranger Sings: A Parody Musical (2023 Drama Desk Nominee - Best Scenic Design of a Musical (Production Props) alongside Walt Spangler, The Prom, A Gentleman's Guide..., and more. Instagram: @bren\_bash

**WILLIAM SPINNATO** (*Production* Stage Manager) is thrilled to be bringing this musical to life with a wonderful cast and crew! Thanks to Danny, Chase and Jen for this opportunity and to his wife Ariel for her support and taking care of their feline son Oswald while he's at the theatre. IG: DJWillySpinnz

MIRANDA SHAFFER (Assistant Stage Manager) is a NYC based Stage Manager who is excited to be a part of this production! Some credits include: The Minutes, Macbeth, Hamilton, & Juliet, Heartbreakers in Hell, and In The Trenches. IG: miranda.shaffer?

**JOSEPH FUSCO** (Associate Producer) is a film and theater director, actor, and producer from New York City. Theater directing credits include: Agatha Christie's *The Stranger* (Players Theater), *To Love For* (UCPAC), and *Hoyt St* (Theater Row). josephfusco.net

EISENBERG CASTING / DARYL EISENBERG, CSA (Casting Director): Broadway: Gettin' The Band Back Together. NY Theatre: White Rose, Love & Science, Baghdaddy, SuperHero, Powerhouse, Bedlam, WP Theater, DVRF, Cherry Lane. Regional: Dallas Theater Center, May We All, Heartbreak Hotel (Broadway in Chicago), Folger Theatre, Theater J, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Arizona Theatre Company. Film: "The

## **BIOS**

Cathedral" (Sundance), "Hey, Viktor!" (Tribeca), "The MisEducation of Bindu" (Peacock), "Menorah In The Middle" (Hulu), "Hands That Bind", "Kendra & Beth", "Angry Neighbors", "Shadows" (HBO). Audio: "Limetown", "Shipworm", "Academy", "The Callisto" "Protocol", "City of Ghosts". @ EBCastingCo. www.ebcastingco.com

**KEITH SHERMAN & ASSOCIATES** (*Press Representative*) is the communications firm for a diverse range of entertainment, arts, lifestyles and international brands. KSA has represented hundreds of Broadway, Off-Broadway and touring productions, films, television broadcasts, music projects and major events globally. The company represented *The New York Times* for a decade, the Tony Awards for 18 years and the Drama Desk Awards for ten years. ksa-pr.com

VISCERAL ENTERTAINMENT (Executive Producer & General Management). Founded by Michael Chase Gosselin and Tim Sulka, Visceral executive produced four consecutive NYT Critics' Picks: Emojiland; Midnight at the Never Get; Life Sucks; and Happy Birthday, Wanda June. Visceral's shows have received and been nominated for Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critic's Circle, Off-Broadway Alliance, Bistro and MAC awards. Other highlights: His Story The Musical, Stranger Sings! The Musical Parody, ¡Americano! The Musical, Starcrossed (U.K. premiere), A Turtle on a Fence Post, Rescue Rue, Period Piece, Falling in Love With Mr. Dellamort, Money Talks, Endangered and the album of Disenchanted!

#### GENERAL MANAGEMENT

VISCERAL ENTERTAINMENT

General Partner	Michael Chase Gosselin
General Partner	Tim Sullka
Director of Creative Developm	entDanny Salles
Associate General Manager	Jen Sandler

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Cole Leachman

#### CASTING DIRECTOR

EISENBERG CASTING Daryl Eisenberg, CSA Casting Assistant: Chelsi Kern

#### PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

VISCERAL ENTERTAINMENT

## STAFF

Production Stage Manager	Miranda Shaffer Milena J. Comeau Tuan Malinowski
Associate Scenic Designer Assistant Scenic Designer Assistant Costume Designer Assistant Lighting Designer Production Electrician Sound Supervision Keyboard Programming	Annie YoungEmily MarshburnSam EisnerOlivier Plamondon .Five OHM Productions
Head Audio (A1) Assistant Audio (A2) Wardrobe & Hair Supervisor House Manager	Katie Reif Cleo Blackketter
Logo Design	Visceral Entertainment
Payroll ServicesAON / A Services Inc	

Rehearsed at Theatre Row

## **CREDITS**

Scenery built by New England Scenic. Lighting Equipment provided by Theatre Row & Hayden Production Services. Audio provided by Five OHM Productions. Instruments provided by Boulevard Carrol. Mainstage rig provided by Andrew McNamara. Special thanks to: Masque Sound.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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The Actors and Stage Managers are appearing through an Agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Nonprofit Building for the Arts expands access to the performing arts by providing creative space, learning opportunities, and hubs for artistic connection.

BFA operates Theatre Row, an Off-Broadway multi-theater complex that serves as an affordable home for performing artist organizations, and a lively, accessible venue for diverse audiences.

Through the American Playwriting Foundation, BFA presents the Relentless Award — the largest annual cash prize in American theater to a playwright in recognition of a new play.

Music and the Brain brings a music literacy curriculum, whole-class keyboard instruction, and ongoing professional development to schools in under-resourced communities, empowering students to succeed academically and in life.

To learn more about Building for the Arts or support our work, visit bfany.org.

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Emmarose Campbell
Caitland Winsett

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There is no smoking anywhere in this theater or in the theater complex, including, lobby, stairways and restrooms.



The use of cameras and other recording devices in this theater is prohibited by law.



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