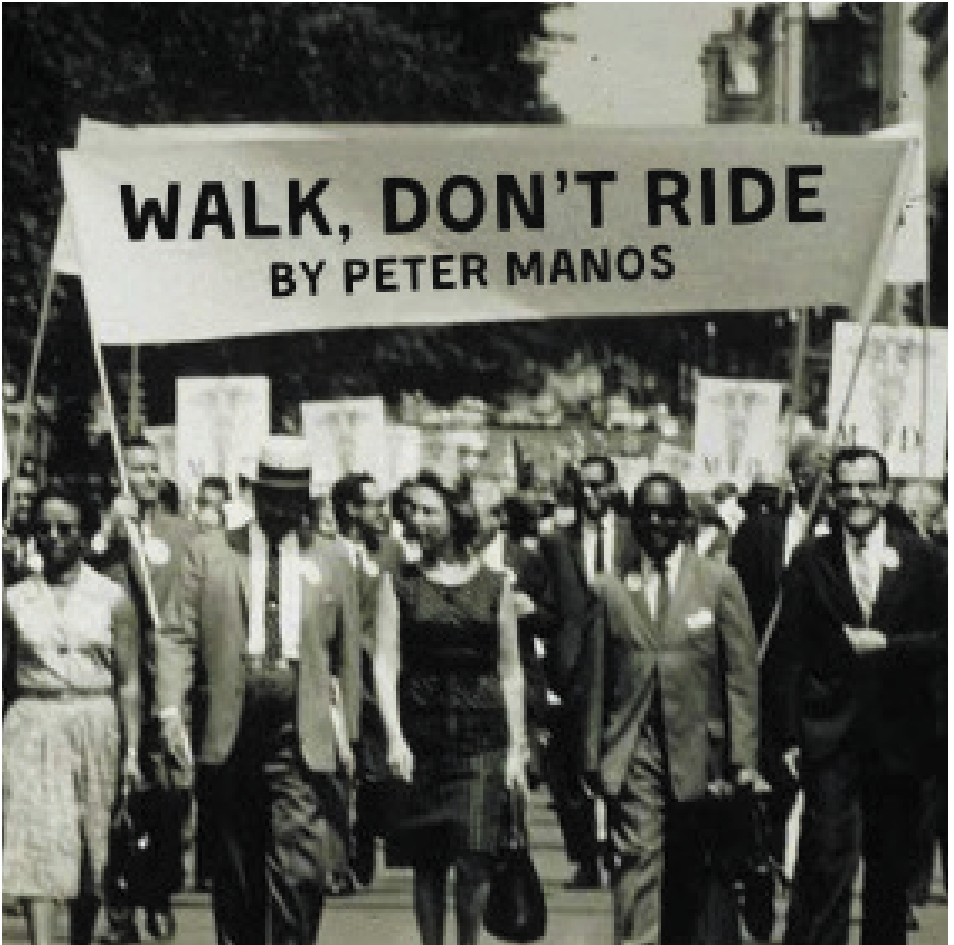




WordPlayers
Theatre
Company

THE WORDPLAYERS PRESENTS



TOURING HISTORY SHOW
FEBRUARY 2025



ABOUT THE WORDPLAYERS

Our mission is to produce excellent theatre, telling culturally-relevant stories from a faith-based perspective. With touring shows throughout East Tennessee, MainStage shows in Knoxville theatre venues, and other programming, The WordPlayers delights in influencing and entertaining with Christ-centered art. The WordPlayers encourages a positive, loving and creative work environment for artists.



WALK, DON'T RIDE!

Walk, Don't Ride by Peter Manos is a presentation of drama and song depicting events that helped shape American freedom.

Events included are the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Nashville Lunch Counter Sit-ins, and the Greyhound/ Trailways Freedom Rides.

Walk, Don't Ride ends with a recollection of Dr. King's famous dream and with a moving call to keep it alive.

These powerful stories are told to celebrate the participants who fought for change in that volatile period of American history. Because of their efforts, their courage, and their sacrifices, there is today a whole new paradigm for American society and the meaning of freedom in America.

Tracey Halter, Director

WALK, DON'T RIDE! is presented by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing, Inc.

WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN?

Feb. 13 at 12:30 PM: Memorial Park Community Center, 510 Bert St., Johnson City

Feb. 15 at 4:00 PM: Oak Valley Baptist Church, 194 Hampton Rd., Oak Ridge

Feb. 22 at 2:00 PM: Maryville Friends Church, 2044 Sequoyah Ave., Maryville

Feb. 23 at 4:00 PM: Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, 2500 E. 5th Ave., Knoxville

Feb. 26 at 6:30 PM: Concord United Methodist, 11020 Roane Dr., Farragut

SEASON SPONSORS



Joseph Brown

Joseph "Joe" Brown is a talented performer who graduated from Carson Newman University and hails from Nashville, Tennessee. He brings a wealth of experience to the production, as *Walk, Don't Ride!* marks his third tour with The Wordplayers and his fourth production overall with the company. Joseph has previously showcased his skills in *Walk, Don't Ride!* once while at Carson Newman University. Known for his talkative and gregarious nature, he adds a vibrant energy to the cast, making him a delightful presence both on and off stage.

Our current season is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.027 awarded to Knox County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Arts & Culture Alliance.



STAFF

Ethan Norman, Artistic Director
Leslie Arnold, Managing Director
Joe Jaynes, Webmaster
Xandria Stavros, Social Media Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Weber, President/ Treasurer	Leann Dickson
Chan Vinson, Secretary	Cheryl Masur
Karen Bowdle	Paul Pardue
Robert Bright	Tomi Robb
Jenny Bushkell	Ron Turner
Tom Cervone	James Williams

SPECIAL THANKS

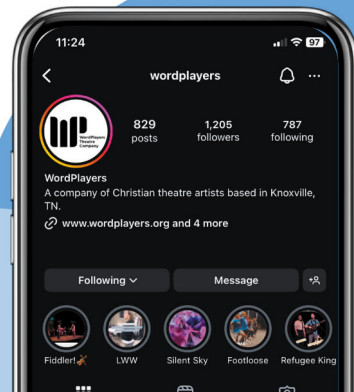
Leslie Arnold (Leslie Claire Photography), Ariana Dotson,
Jeni Weber, Terry Weber, the cast and crew of
The WordPlayers' *Freaky Friday*

STAY CONNECTED!

@wordplayers
on Facebook & Instagram



To receive periodic updates,
please join our email
newsletter list and mailing list
on our website!



Ethan Norman

Ethan came on the scene with The WordPlayers in 2010 as an actor in *Godspell*. He fell in love with The WordPlayers' mission of excellence in faith-based storytelling. He then began writing and directing touring shows such as *Sleepers, Wake!*, *In These Dark Streets*, *West Of Bethlehem*, and *The Ends We Seek*. The WordPlayers produced his first full-length play with music, *The Refugee King*, for the first time in 2022.

Ethan started as an actor. Then he learned to sing, picked up an old, beat-up guitar that someone was giving away, and learned to play it. Writing songs was a natural progression. After some years as a professional performer, Ethan returned to his roots and worked in music, youth, and college ministries, and finally finished undergraduate work in Bible and Ministry Leadership. He took over as Artistic Director for The WordPlayers in August of 2023 and tends to dream big, both in the office and on marathon courses. He hasn't ruled out surfing, though it's hard to do around here. If you don't catch him with The WordPlayers, he is probably outside somewhere with his wife and two sons or playing a weekend gig at some local watering hole.

TALES FROM THE

Arabian Nights

**THEATRE CAMP
FOR YOUNGER THEATRE ARTISTS**

Ages 8 - 12

Camp 1: June 2 - 6

Camp 2: June 16 - 20



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Jennifer Pagnard

Jennifer is excited to return to The WordPlayers having participated in last year's History tour of *Jackie Robinson Steals Home*. She grew up in Knoxville and attended Cokesbury United Methodist Church. While earning her Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of Tennessee, she was a scholarship singer at Church Street United

Methodist Church, singing with the Youth and Adult Choirs. After graduation, she sang for a summer with the Lake Junaluska singers in Lake Junaluska, NC. She then moved to the Washington, DC area and taught elementary school music for one year in Prince Georges County, Maryland. In 1992, she won an alto vocalist position with The United States Air Force Singing Sergeants. During her Air Force career, she performed as a soloist and in ensembles, and as a concert announcer, for military and civilian events, including 32 national concert tours throughout 48 states, as well as 28 recording projects. While in the Air Force, she also completed a Master of Arts in Music from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. After retiring from the Air Force in 2015, Jennifer continued to perform as an actor, singer and concert emcee in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. In 2022, her husband, Christian, also retired from The U.S. Air Force Band after winning the position of principal trumpet with the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera. Jennifer and her family relocated to Knoxville in July 2022. She and her family are active members of Concord United Methodist Church in Farragut.

Theatrical experience: Aurora Theatre: *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* (Genie Klein); The Keegan Theatre: *Parade* (Sally Slaton), 1st Stage: *Floyd Collins* (Miss Jane); National Tour, *Amazing Grace* (Mrs. Catlett); Workhouse Arts Center: *Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Princess Puffer); Creative Cauldron: *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts), *Nevermore* (Muddy); Source Festival, Washington, DC: *Perfect Arrangement* (Kitty); The Little Theatre of Alexandria: *Sweeney Todd...* (Mrs. Lovett – WATCH award), *Ragtime* (Mother), *The Odd Couple - Female Version* (Florence); Pipeline Playwrights: *A Very Present Presence* (Alice); The McLean Players: *Drowsy Chaperone* (Mrs. Tottendale); The Arlington Players: *Deathtrap* (Myra)

SCENES FROM



**THEATRE CAMP
FOR YOUNG THEATRE ARTISTS**

Ages 12 - 16

June 23 - 27

wordplayers.org



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Support The WordPlayers

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!

Corporate Sponsorship is a wonderful way to support The WordPlayers' faith-based programming, reach its diverse audience, and market your company as "community and arts-minded."



For More Information on Partnership Opportunities, Contact Managing Director Leslie Arnold at leslie@wordplayers.org



Amy Ruby

Amy is very thrilled to be in her third production with The WordPlayers and her twelfth production overall. Amy is a Knoxville native who is a wife, mother of 3 and works as a Childcare Director. Amy also leads worship at several churches within the city and serves as Youth Leader and Worship Director at her home church, OBC. "I believe this production is just as relevant today as it was during the 1960's. I am so proud of the work we have done and I hope all who see this, especially the young people, see its purpose. It's been a blessing to do this process with my cast mates and our wonderful Director Tracy. I wish you all PEACE IN CHRIST."

FREASY FRIDAY

A NEW MUSICAL

JULY 11 - 13, 2025

at the historic Bijou Theatre

Tickets on sale April 2025!

WORDPLAYERS.ORG



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THE CONTRIBUTORS*

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR OUR
CONTRIBUTING PLAYERS!

ALL WORLD PLAYERS (\$1000+)

Jenny Banner, Tom Cervone & Susan Creswell, Jim & Leann Dickson,
John & Susan Ferguson, Richard & Lee Graham, David & Lindsey Harrell,
Leslie Hull, Jill Lagerberg, Paul & Michelle Pardue, Bill & Dotty Vinson,
Terry & Jeni Weber

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS (\$500-\$999)

John & CeCe Campbell, Shawn & Alice Carson, Barbara Darce,
Carolyn & Don Harrell, Sara & Matthew Heaton, Chris & LeAnn Hilemon,
Jim & Jan McKinney, Steven & Nancy Pearson, Zane Scarlett,
Matthew & Jaime Straining

ALL STAR PLAYERS (\$250-\$499)

Sandra Butler, Mary Farmer, Stan & Rosalie Hadley, Joe & Kim Jaynes,
Steve & Mary Kremasky, Buddy & Janet McLean, Beth Peters,
Col Frederick & Beverly Kuhlman, Jim & Emily Plemmons, Ernie Roberts,
Paul & Jane Slay, Dick & Irene Townsend, Ron & Peggy Turner

MAJOR PLAYERS (\$100-\$249)

Greg & Elaine Anderson, Richard & Margaret Ashworth,
Doug & Sandi Banister, Ben & Missy Blalock, Danny Bryant,
Central Baptist Bearden Adult Sunday School Class 6A,
Darrin & Jessica Cross, Doug & Sandra Dutton, Tom Eubanks,
Ed & Melissa Flanagan, Reid & Nancy Gerhardt, Loretta Harber,
Mark Hedrick, Susan Joiner, Steve & Anne Jones, Jay & Susan Kohlbusch,
Kay D. Lenox, Jack & Marjorie Lloyd, Michael & Nancy Lofaro,
Christin McDaniel, Dr. Joseph McQuighan, Jim & Celia Montgomery,
Mark & Doris Moreland, Bill & Sheila Moyer, Fares & Harriet Schlank,
Jami Schmid, Jeff & Carrie Slavin, Lisa & David Stockton,
Charles & Ann Snodgrass, Leontyne Yeary Stone, Larry G. Welch

UTILITY PLAYERS (\$25-\$99)

Mary E. Amber, Robert & Kathleen Greenwell, Lou & Kim Kiernan,
Frank & CeCe Morris, Charles & Janet Purkey, Nancy Schowalter,
Mike & Carol Slavin, Phillip & Dr. Dana Spears

*Gifts given as of February 1, 2025.



Abigail Tardy

Abigail is excited to be performing in *Walk, Don't Ride!* with the Wordplayers! She was last seen with The Wordplayers as Chava in their summer production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and is preparing to perform with UT Opera in their production of *Les Dialogues des Carmelites* as Soer St. Charles. In her "free time," she's a sophomore at the University of Tennessee majoring in Journalism and Media. She would like to thank Ethan Norman, Tracey Halter, her family, and Jesus for having faith in her and pushing her into this opportunity.

The WordPlayers are impacting the greater Knoxville community for the Kingdom of Christ. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated!

The WordPlayers is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Please send your tax deductible gifts to P.O. Box 50451, Knoxville, TN 37950-0451

FREAKY FRIDAY

Performances July 11 - 13 at the Historic Bijou Theatre

Tickets on sale in April

For more info, visit wordplayers.org/auditions

SUMMER THEATRE CAMPS

TALES FROM THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

This musical-theatre camp features acting basics, vocal training, fabulous costumes, set creation, dance, and great parts for all.

Ages 8 - 12

Camp 1: June 2 - 6 | Camp 2: June 16 - 20

SCENES FROM PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

This theatre camp features training in acting basics, team building, and English country dance.

Ages 12 - 16

June 23 - 27

For more info, visit wordplayers.org/education

For more information regarding our season, please visit
wordplayers.org

To receive periodic updates, please join our email newsletter list and mailing list. Also, follow us on Facebook (The WordPlayers) & Instagram ([wordplayers](http://wordplayers.org))!