

Creative Team

Chandler Davis (Director) Chandler Davis holds a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance from Emory and Henry College in Virginia. After college, she made her professional debut at Barter Theatre, the state theatre of Virginia. Chandler has worked at several professional theatres on the East Coast and Midwest. Since moving to Wilmington in 2013, Chandler has served as Managing Director for City Stage Co. and Artistic Director of Thalian Association Community Theatre. She is a Wilmington Theatre Awards winner for Best Director of a Musical for The Bridges of Madison County, a former Actors Equity Association member, and a proud current member of the Dramatists Guild. Previous local directing credits include Mister Roberts on the USS North Carolina, Elf, Pippin, Something Rotten, Little Miss Sunshine, Beauty and the Beast, and Godspell, just to name a few. Thank you for supporting local theatre!

Reagan Blackburn (Production Stage Manager) is excited and thankful for the chance to stage manage this legendary show in celebration of our country's 250th birthday! She is an honors graduate of East Carolina University with degrees in Theatre Arts and Public Relations. Other stage management credits include "Mary Poppins" and "Heathers," as well as a plethora of wonderful youth theatre productions. Additionally, you may have recently seen her as The Ghost of Christmas Future in "Ebenezer," Magenta in "The Rocky Horror Show," and Enid Hoopes in "Legally Blonde." She hopes you leave this show with the fire in you to fight for the country where we ALL belong.

Mark Hayes (Set Construction) is a Wilmington native who has enjoyed building sets for Thalian Association since 2016. You may have seen his handiwork in the recent Thalian Association productions, Mary Poppins, Legally Blonde, The Rocky Horror Show, Ebenezer, Home, and Murder on the Orient Express. Thanks to Becky, Eddie, Julie, Maggie and Teddy.

Ethan Golden (Sound Designer) is a Sound Engineer and Designer native to Wilmington, NC. After running a weekly radio show featuring live music at The University of North Carolina Greensboro, his interest in Sound Engineering led him to The Carolina Theatre (the Greensboro one, not the Durham one). After honing his audio skills there, he returned to Wilmington and began Sound Designing for a number of Thalian Association Musicals. All that time in Thalian Hall eventually led to him being hired as the Hall's Assistant Technical Director. He is excited to be back in the saddle, designing for Thalian Association's 1776!

Hannah Funderburke (Lighting Designer) is nearing the end of her first year as Technical Director at Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts. She has been designing lights across Wilmington stages since 2005, with her debut in Thalian Association's Pippin. Recent credits include A Chorus Line (2023), Thalian Association, Hadestown Teen Edition (2025), Panache Theatrical Productions, and Santa Vs The Martians (2025), Big Dawg Productions. Hannah thanks the amazing team at Thalian Association for the many wonderful opportunities over the decades, Thalian Hall Staff and Tech Crew for their tremendous support during tech week, and her Husband and four Children for their support and many delicious dinners brought to the theater. Cheers to many more ENCORES!!!

Timothy A Mills (Choreographer) has been choreographing for Thalian Association since 2016. Past credits include Rock of Ages, Frog and Toad, Damn Yankees, Godspell 2018, Cinderella, The Wedding Singer, and Freaky Friday. Thank you for seeing the show!

Denice Hopper (Music Director) has enjoyed Music Directing for the Thalian Association since 2007. She graduated from Belmont University with a Bachelors of Music in Commercial Piano Performance. Denice is a Performing Artist, and a Certified Early Childhood Music and Movement Educator. Denice serves as a Worship Arts Coordinator in a local church and loves to spend time with her daughter Sommer shopping and going to the beach.

Hunter Wyatt (Set Designer) is an actor-turned-designer making her Scenic Design debut with 1776. She is currently wrapping up her Interior Design degree at CFCC and will be taking on the challenge of designing The Wizard of Oz next. Many thanks to Thalian Association for this opportunity to return to the theatre in a fresh and exciting way!

Shannon Puschaver (Costume Designer) is an avid seamstress who is seam-lessly joining the world of costume design! She made her debut with Thalian Association's recent youth production of Little Women and is delighted to be part of Thalian Association's production of 1776. Shannon is incredibly grateful to her family, the cast, and the creative team for their continued encouragement and support.

Denise Simon (Assistant Costume Designer) Originally from New York, Denise has helped with several shows for Thalian Association Community Theatre since moving to Wilmington. You may have seen her daughter, Georgie Davis, performing at Thalian Hall as Paulette in Legally Blonde or at the title role in Cinderella. Thank you for supporting the arts!

Logan Hayes (Production Manager) is thrilled to help produce 1776 in collaboration with THCPA. This is Hayes' fourth season as Thalian Association's Production Manager, and he loves doing anything to help support the arts community here in Wilmington. He loves working behind the scenes, as well as performing here and there. He would like to thank the audiences for buying a ticket and supporting the arts - we could not do it without you! Don't forget- the midterm elections are coming up, and we must show up for ALL of us! #vote

Joshua Zieseniss (Technical Director) is thrilled to join the Thalian team as technical director this season. Previously Resident Stage Manager for TACT, he now works as a producer at Wallaby Film Production. Josh is excited to support the creative teams, designers, and casts this season. Thank you for supporting community theatre, and don't forget, Black Lives Matter.

Meet the Cast

Carson Sikorski (John Adams) is excited to be back on stage at Thalian Hall playing John Adams in this production of "1776"! Carson began his love of theater in high school, where he played Jack Kelley in Newsies. More recently, he played Brad in "The Rocky Horror Show" and Franz in "Rock of Ages". He'd like to thank the team behind "1776" for entrusting this role to him, and his family and friends who have supported his love of performing!

Mark Sutton (Benjamin Franklin) is a newbie to the Wilmington theatre community, was most recently seen here at Thalian Hall as Virgil, the conspiracy theorist, in Orion's Choice. A proud member of Port City Playwrights, Mark is so looking forward to the 10-Minute Miscellany of new plays later this spring! Past roles have included Cyrano de Bergerac, Richard III, The Elephant Man, and crazy old Maurice in Beauty and the Beast. Also a songwriter and puppeteer, Mark has two sons, two daughters, and two ex-wives. He's grateful to Chandler for taking a chance on him.

Christopher Jones (Thomas Jefferson) is ecstatic to return to Wilmington to be a part of this revolutionary production! His most recent performances include Legally Blonde (Elle's Dad/Winthrop/Ensemble), A Few Good Men (Lt. Daniel Kaffee), and Beauty and the Beast (Cogsworth). Chris would like to thank his amazing wife, Maura, for all that she does, and his incredible mother, Laura, for coming to every single show. Big thank you to all of you for coming out and supporting local theatre!

Christopher Linn (John Hancock) is pleased to make his Wilmington theater debut in this most necessary production of 1776! Previously, Chris appeared in Asheville, NC, as Duncan in Macbeth, The Ghost in Hamlet, and Henry II in The Lion in Winter. Prior to Asheville, he performed in theaters all over Long Island, NY, in over 125 productions, including critically acclaimed performances at East Hampton's Guild Hall as George Hay in Moon Over Buffalo, Macduff in Macbeth, and Cervantes/Quixote in Man of La Mancha. Offstage, Chris has had an equally long and distinguished career as C. L. Young, Registered Piano Technician, and had the distinct privilege (before she passed) of tuning the piano of the Grand Dame of NY theater, Stella Adler. Thanks to Vicki & Kiera for indulging me!

Jeff Hidek (Richard Henry Lee) returns for his fourth production of 1776 in as many decades, having previously played the courier with Pensacola Little Theater and Judge Wilson in two productions with Opera House Theatre Co. Thanks to Mom, Dad, Stacie, Finley, and the Lees, who inspired me — Andy Metzger and Jason Aycock. Forward, ho!

Susie Lukens (John Dickinson) is grateful to be a part of this amazing production with this brilliant creative team and cast! 1776 is a Lukens family Fourth of July tradition, how our founders succeeded and fell short, and how we must do better, is always at the center of our celebration. Love and thanks to my family, and to Chandler for entrusting me with Dickinson. Susie has performed with Thalian Association in Godspell, Young Frankenstein (Dracula), The Wedding Singer (Julia), and Company (April), as well as teaching with TACT Youth programs and CAC summer camp.

Madeline Reese (Abigail Adams) is thrilled to be back on stage with Thalian Association. She made her Wilmington and TACT debut in Legally Blonde as Vivienne Kennsington in May 2025. Other favorite theatre credits include Singin' in the Rain (Kathy Seldon) and Taming of the Shrew (Katharina). She holds a BA in Theatre and English from Princeton University. She'd like to thank the entire cast and crew and Chandler Davis for this incredible opportunity. Playing Abigail, especially at this moment in time, has meant the world to her. Andrew, she's yours, yours, yours, yours, yours.

Reilly Callaghan (Col. Thomas McKean) is the founder of Rei Cal Improv & Acting, a youth theatre after-school program here in Wilmington. He has loved his working relationship with Thalian Association as a teacher, director, and actor, amongst other things. He is excited to be working with them again on this stage! If he doesn't make a fool of himself today, and you want your kiddo to join our after-school theatre community, visit ReiCalimprov.com and come have a laugh with us!

Benjamin Flom (John Rutledge) is absolutely thrilled to be part of 1776! His recent credits include Max/Officer in Cabaret (Gilbert Theatre), Harry MacAfee in Bye Bye Birdie (OHTC), and Aaron Schultz in Legally Blonde (TACT). He would like to thank his family and friends for all of their support, especially his cat, Mabel.

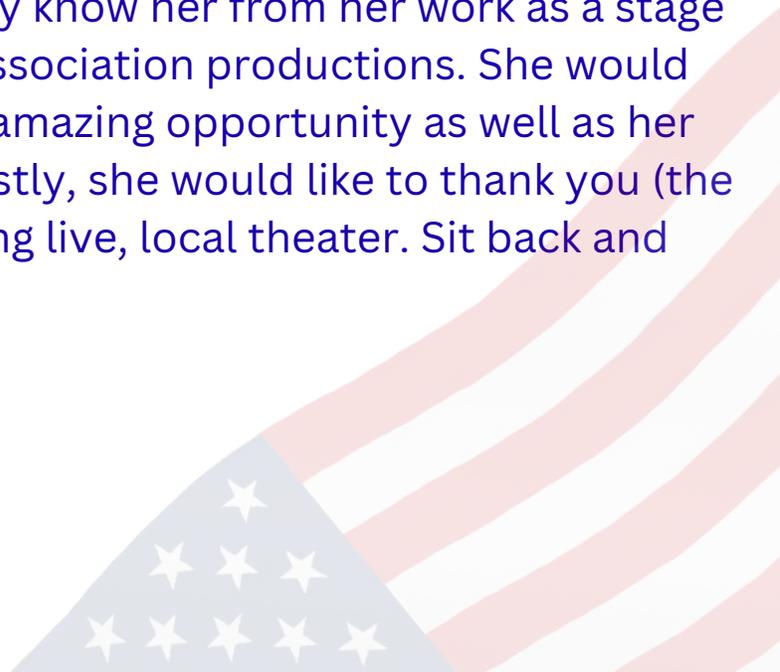
Katie Mahn (Marth Jefferson) is so excited to be part of her second Thalian Association production! She has been part of the Wilmington theatre community for over 20 years. She was last seen on stage as Grace in Annie (OHTC), Jan in Grease (OHTC), and Grace in Cinderella (Thalian)—to name a few. She is currently a lead performer for The Kennedy Singers. Katie wishes to thank Chandler, Tim, and Denice for giving her this opportunity! She also wants to thank her parents, Dan and Cindy, as well as her boyfriend, Dalton, for their love and support. Enjoy!



Los Angeles native **Michael Lugenbuehl (Charles Thomson)** is thrilled to return to the stage at Thalian Hall and deeply honored to be part of 1776 during America's 250th celebration. Since relocating to Wilmington two years ago, he has appeared as General Waverly in White Christmas and Admiral Boom in Mary Poppins with Thalian Association, and as Mr. Tinsworthy in 9 to 5 and the Sheriff in Oklahoma! with Opera House Theatre Company. Michael is a trained improv performer and former student of The Groundlings Theatre in Hollywood. He is grateful to be part of Wilmington's vibrant arts community and proud to call Wilmington his creative home.

Stephen Terry (Andrew McNair) is glad you're here, and "Compliments" you on your excellent choice to see this show. He invites you to "Sit Down, John" and "Piddle, Twiddle and Resolve" to make yourself comfortable before the show starts, and enjoy the company of equally "Cool, Cool, Considerate Men" (and/or women and/or both and/or neither), who are clearly people of comparably fine taste. He knows you'll enjoy the show so much, it will feel like it's over in a blink, but "Till Then", he encourages you to check out the concession stand for everything from "Molasses to Rum." He wishes a happy anniversary to the U.S., a country that is, in fact, "Yours, Yours, Yours."

Mia DeCarlo (Dr. Lyman Hall) is so grateful to be part of 1776! You may have seen her as an ensemble member in Legally Blonde (2025), Elf (2023), & The Wedding Singer (2023) or you may know her from her work as a stage manager on several previous Thalian Association productions. She would like to thank the creative team for this amazing opportunity as well as her friends and family for their support. Lastly, she would like to thank you (the audience) for coming out and supporting live, local theater. Sit back and enjoy!

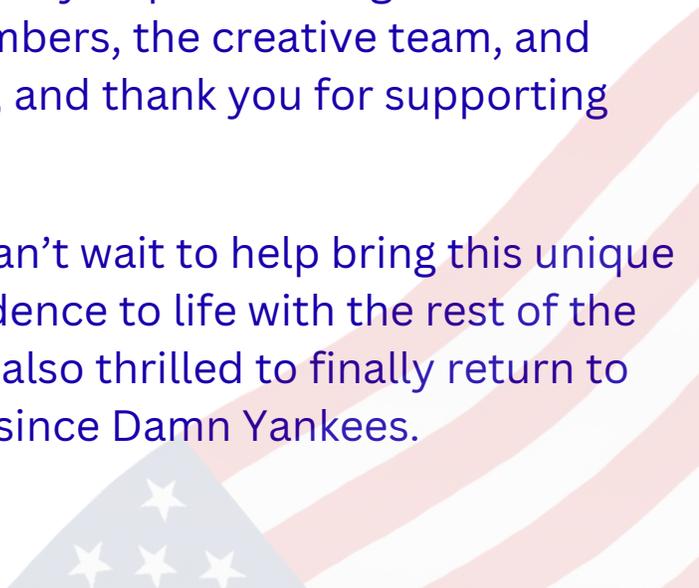


Anna Harris (Joseph Hewes) is thrilled to be back on stage for this fun production with a wonderful cast! Her most recent role was behind the scenes as the production stage manager for Ebenezer (TACT), and she was previously on stage in TACT's Legally Blonde and Godspell. Anna is so excited to be sharing the stage with her husband, Brandon, for the first time! She'd like to thank the creative team for this opportunity and her friends and family (including the pups) for their support! Enjoy the show!

Alain Norman (Roger Sherman) is thrilled to join in a Thalian Association production for the first time. He started journeying into the world of theater with the role of Templeton the Rat in his 3rd grade's musical version of "Charlotte's Web." He subsequently emceed student shows, and acted in productions of the Little Theater Group of Costa Rica (e.g., The Mousetrap), the Silver Spring [Maryland] Stage (e.g., The Crucible), and the Brunswick Little Theater [BLT] (And Then There Were None, Spring 2025). He has repeatedly been on stage at the Bucky Stein (e.g., Six Seconds, Fall 2023; Orion's Choice, Fall 2025). He also serves on the Board of Port City Playwrights (PCPP) – a collaborative local group who write original scripts. Two of his short works – What Virginia Dares and Perseverance – have already been staged here in Wilmington. Alain thanks all his colleagues, mentors, and audiences along this wonderful journey!

Brandon Harris (Judge James Wilson) is excited to join the cast of 1776. He most recently appeared in Thalian's productions of Ebenezer (Young Scrooge & Ensemble) and A Few Good Men (Corporal Dunn & Ensemble). This is Brandon's first time sharing the stage with his wife Anna, and he could not be more excited for this opportunity to perform together! He would like to thank her, his fellow cast members, the creative team, and the crew for their support. Enjoy the show, and thank you for supporting the local arts!

Aidan Van Nynatten (Robert Livingston) can't wait to help bring this unique vision of the genesis of American independence to life with the rest of the skilled cast, crew, and creative team. He is also thrilled to finally return to TACT and the main stage for the first time since Damn Yankees.



Henry Styron (Stephen Hopkins) appeared as the Pig in a first-grade production of The Little Gingerbread Man and has done a lot of theater since in various capacities. It's been several years since he was last on stage, and he's very happy to be making his Wilmington debut in 1776 with this great cast and crew. He hangs out with his charming wife Renee, works at Target, volunteers in his church's nursery, and ironically (given the rum-guzzler he's playing) rarely drinks anything stronger than diet Pepsi.

Dennis Michael Waling (Caesar Rodney)) started singing professionally in 1970 with Accent 70, a backup group of 4 singers. In 1973 sang with the Max Davey Singers, based out of Detroit, an amateur group of 42 individuals. In 1974, the group won the Valley Forge Freedom Award, beating out all of the professional choruses of the day like the Mike Curb Congregation and the Percy Faith Singers. In 1975, moved to Las Vegas and sang in several "Showcases". Sang German Opera with the Seattle Symphony in the 1984-1985 season. Acted in Godspell in Detroit, playing the part of St. John the Greater.

Ethan Warren (The Courier) is grateful to be doing his third production with Thalian Association! His recent credits include Dick Wilkins in Ebenezer (Thalian), Ensemble in Rocky Horror (Thalian), and Ensemble in Oklahoma! (Opera House), and Mischa in Ride The Cyclone (UNCW). Ethan would like to thank Chandler Davis for this incredible opportunity and the amazing cast and crew for creating such a wonderful show!

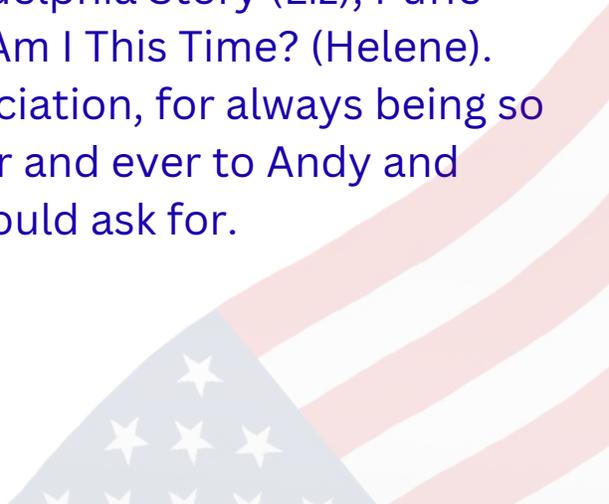
Jenny Heck (Rev. John Witherspoon) is grateful to return to the stage with Thalian Association Community Theatre alongside an incredibly talented cast and creative team. Her TACT credits include ensemble in Wedding Singer and White Christmas, as well as tenor saxophone in Rocky Horror Picture Show. Jenny holds a B.M. in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has worked as a music director for the Palace Youth Theatre in Manchester, NH. She has performed alongside the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and the Cape Fear Chorale and currently directs the chorus program at Murray Middle School.

Tyler Smith (Delegate) is 27 years old and was born in Ethiopia. He was very active in high school theatre, including a part in Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School's Theatre production of In The Heights in 2016. He has been an active member of Theatre For All, Wilmington's only theatre company for people with disabilities, for over ten years. Tyler enjoys singing, improv, dancing, video games, and playing with his family's three French bulldogs. He made his Thalian debut in "Elf" the Musical in December 2023 & returned for "Ebenezer" the Musical in 2025. Now he's proud to take part in "1776 the Musical" for America's 250th birthday!

Nat Pressley (Josiah Bartlett) is so honored to be doing this production of 1776 and is grateful to Chandler, Denice, Tim, Reagan, and the rest of the cast and crew who have made this show so revolutionary! Nat has been in previous Thalian productions such as Mary Poppins, Young Frankenstein, and Godspell. They were also seen recently in OHTC's production of To Kill a Mockingbird and UNCW's Head Over Heels. They hope you enjoy the show!

Judson Smith (George Read) is thrilled to be a member of the Second Continental Congress! Thank you, Chandler, Tim, Denise, and Reagan for this opportunity. Thanks to my amazing wife, Stacie, for encouraging me to be a part of this incredible world. So Sit Down John, enjoy the show, and as always, Delaware seconds!

Beth Corvino (Lewis Morris) is stoked as heck to be reunited with TACT after haunting the Frankenstein place in The Rocky Horror Show last year! She was last seen in Big Dawg's Santa Claus Conquers the Martians playing an actual child. Other credits include The Philadelphia Story (Liz), Puffs (Sally Perks), Urinetown (Little Sally), and Who Am I This Time? (Helene). Thanks, Chandler and everyone at Thalian Association, for always being so encouraging and supportive, and thanks forever and ever to Andy and Miles for being the best little gremlins a mom could ask for.



Elise Cooley (Samuel Chase) is beyond thrilled to be back on stage for the first time since 2021 and to be making her theatre debut in Wilmington. Previously, she's played Hermia in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Belle/Martha in A Christmas Carol, Marion in The Music Man, as well as the ensembles of Les Miserables, Elf the Musical, and James and the Giant Peach. In addition to singing with Cape Fear Chorale, Elise spends her time in ballroom dancing, for which she won a bronze medal in 2024.

Patsy Hayes (Delegate/Leather Apron) dedicates this performance to her late father, Special Forces Army Master Sergeant Juan Diego Gonzalez. In his honor and in memory of his love of the theatre, she hopes you will make a donation to Thalian Association Community Theatre to help keep these shows running for years to come.

Directed by Chandler Davis

Stage Managed by Reagan Balckburn

Choreography by Timothy A Mills

Music Direction by Denice Hopper

Set Design by Hunter Wyatt

Set Construction by Mark Hayes, Logan Hayes, Kaylyn
Jennkins, Chandler Davis

Projections by Karahann Kiser

Lighting Design by Hannah Funderburke

Sound Design by Ethan Golden

Costume Design by Shannon Puschaver, Chandler Davis,
Denise Simon

Technical Director Joshua Zieseniss

Production Manager Logan Hayes



1776

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