

TRI-DISTRICT ARTS



***TRI-DAC THEATRE STAFF AND
GUEST ARTISTS BIOS***

Richard K. Blair: Guest Artist

Richard received his Master of Fine Arts in Directing from USC, and his Bachelor's in Performance, from College of Charleston. While residing in Columbia, he directed and acted with Trustus, Workshop Theatre, South Carolina Shakespeare Company, and Town Theatre. Before living in Columbia, Richard acted in Los Angeles, Richard was an entertainer for Princess Cruise Lines, and a Tour guide at Universal Studios. He currently resides in Maine. Richard loves working with the Tri-DAC Drama team and Donna Wilson!

Greg Boatwright, Musical Director

Greg Boatwright began his musical career as pianist for his church at age 12. After many musical achievements in middle school and high school, he completed the BM, MM, and DMA degrees at USC. Dr. Boatwright's mentors include Max Camp, Arpad Darazs, and Dick Goodwin. He has been the recipient of numerous awards for performance and composition. Boatwright has been music director for theatrical productions at USC, Heathwood Hall, Town Theatre, Workshop Theatre, Palmetto Center for the Arts, FBN Productions, and others. His compositions include the opera, *Goldilocks*, the musical, *Far Above Rubies*, the song and dance work, *Sistine De Michelangelo*, the musical, *Mother Juice*, and the upcoming musical, *Mother Juice in China*. Boatwright serves as director of music for Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church. He currently is the accompanist for the USC Musical Theatre Concentration and will be artistic director for the new Broad River Arts Center.

Patrick Faulds, Technical Director

Patrick graduated from the State University of New York with a degree in broadcast journalism. He spent 3 years as a radio DJ and program director at WCVN in New York. He first appeared before audiences as a stunt performer with the Titus Lake Water Ski Devils nearly 50 years ago.

His record as an actor and magician includes over 100 productions on stage and television. His portrayal as Santa Claus keeps him very busy with public and commercial appearances and includes annual live broadcasts on network affiliates as well as a guest spot on ABC's Extreme Makeover Home Edition.

Patrick has been at Columbia College for 36 years where he is currently the artistic technical director. He retired as the head soccer coach at the college in 2006 and was recently inducted into the College Athletic Hall of Fame.

A professional scenic and lighting designer, Patrick has created hundreds of designs for dance, theatre, concerts, commercial artists and television, including academy award winner, Delbert Mann. His performance and design work has been seen at such venues as the Spoleto Festival in Charleston and the Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is also the technical director for Workshop Theatre, recently designing sets and lights for *The Color Purple*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Kinky Boots* and *A Chorus Line*. He has worked with Tri-DAC since 1989.

Cynthia (Cindy) Flach, Coordinator

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Ms. Flach has taught for the University of South Carolina's Department of Theatre and Dance since 1989. She has been active in musical theatre since elementary school, training at St. Louis area dance schools and performing for many years with the St. Louis Municipal Opera (THE MUNY). A graduate of Webster University, she has been on the faculty of numerous dance and theatre schools as well as The University of Missouri, Stephens College, Lincoln University and Columbia College in Columbia, Mo. as well as Columbia College in Columbia, South Carolina.

With over 300 dance and theatre productions on her choreographic and directing credits, Ms. Flach lists many favorites. Recent productions that Ms. Flach has directed include "Hairspray" and "The Producers" at

Workshop Theatre and “The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley” for the Columbia Children’s Theatre. Other favorites from the past in Columbia include “Guys and Dolls” at Town Theatre, “Annie”, “Ain’t Misbehavin’”, “Beehive”, “A Chorus Line”, “Bubbling Brown Sugar”, “Dreamgirls”, “Will Rogers Follies” and “Fiddler on the Roof” at Workshop Theatre as well as “Kiss Me Kate”, “Anything Goes”, “Oh, What A Lovely War” and “King Lear” at Theatre USC. She has worked with Tri-DAC for over twenty-five years. Ms. Flach has also been the director for USC’s Choreography Showcase productions from 2004-2021. She is honored and thrilled to be coordinating Tri-DAC Theatre with Diane Gilbert.

Diane Gilbert, Coordinator

Diane Gilbert is a National Board Certified instructor in Richland School District Two. As a teacher, she has served in the areas of drama, video production, and language arts. Currently, she is the Technology Learning Coach for Muller Road Middle School. In this role, she seeks to support and encourage the use of technology for teaching and student development in the 21st Century Skills: Creativity, Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving, and Collaboration. In order to develop as a manager, she has earned her degree in administration and utilizes key strategies and concepts in her roles as Technology Specialist and Tri-DAC Coordinator.

Outside of the academic arena, her pursuits include performing at local theaters, serving as a church soloist, and spending time with her two sons, Keegan and Rory. With theatre and education having been the perfect career marriage, she has enjoyed directing school shows while also performing in the community. Her directing projects have included orchestrating the school-wide talent show along with key assemblies for Veteran’s Day and Black History, developing original play scripts with students, integrating media in a variety of ways into live-action theatre as well as directing over 50 shows including *Willy Wonka, Jr*, *Babes on Broadway*, *How to Eat Like a Child* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

Diane feels that keeping her hand in the performing arena keeps her current with challenges for the performer and assists her with directing and coaching. This requires research, memorization, rehearsal, and artistry. All of these skills and processes for achieving them she endeavors to keep

fresh in her toolkit for assisting students. As a performer, she is a church soloist, singing repertoire from the classical, contemporary, and gospel arenas. In the stage arena, some of her favorite acting roles include, Nancy in *Oliver*, the Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*, Sister Mary Robert Anne in *Nun-crackers*, Bianca in *Othello*, Jan in *Grease*, Mrs. Brice in *Funny Girl*, and Mrs. Stanley in *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*. She is thrilled to serve as one of Tri-DAC's coordinators with Cindy Flach and is excited to develop students' artistic expression in collaboration with such an accomplished group of instructors and administrators.

Nancy Pope, Instructor

Nancy Pope began formal theatre training in her teens at the Greenville Fine Arts Center. She followed with a Bachelor degree in Theatre and then a Master's degree in Teaching Theatre, both from the University of South Carolina. She taught Middle school and High school Theatre at Hand Middle and Dreher High for a decade. Her students earned many awards across the state and nation during her tenure in the classroom. She followed her classroom teaching with the position of Richland One Coordinator of Visual & Performing Arts.

Throughout, Nancy was a Company Member at Trustus Theatre where she performed many times under the guiding hands of Jim Thigpen, Dewey Scott-Wiley and learned about the business of the arts with the incomparable Kay Thigpen as her mentor. She directed both in the educational setting and the Midlands community theatre, including Workshop Theatre and Village Square Theatre. She is delighted to be working with Tri-DAC as she holds her time teaching as her most magical moments in a long and continuing career in Theatre.

Heather Stokes Kopacz, Choreographer

Heather Stokes is a graduate of AMDA New York City, is a dancer, choreographer, and fitness trainer in the Columbia area. She has performed with the Unbound Dance Company as well as the Fireside Theatre in the show *Once Upon A Mattress*. Located in Fort Atkinson Wisconsin as an ensemble member and Lady Larkin understudy.

Recent projects include: choreographer for Hairspray at Town Theatre, as well as Beauty and the Beast and Guys and Dolls for Spring Valley High School. She has taught for the University of South Carolina Dance Program and currently teaches and choreographs for SC Summer Dance and Broadway at USC. Heather performs with Unbound Dance Company and has trained with the Bolshoi Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, The Radio City Rockettes, and the University of South Carolina. Heather's so excited to be back at Tri-DAC!

Erin Wilson, Intern

Erin Wilson is a Tri-DAC alumni, a Donna Wilson Award recipient (from her time in Tri-DAC), and an intern for the 2023 Tri-DAC year. She began acting at an early age, participating in local high school performances, church musicals, and Town Theatre productions.

She graduated from Westwood High School in 2022 and committed to attending Newberry College. She currently plays for the college softball team, and is working on a biology/nursing degree.