

# CARRIE

THE MUSICAL



DEC. 4-14, 2025

875 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14222

*Bellissima*  
PRODUCTIONS

# CAST

**Carrie White:** Julia Witt

**Margaret White:** Susana Breese

**Sue Snell:** Anne Gerace

**Tommy Ross:** Alex Reiser

**Chris Hargensen:** Hannah Schubring

**Billy Nolan:** Brent Hetrick

**Miss Gardner:** Megan Mahaney

**Mr. Stephens/Priest:** Christopher Cummings

**Frieda:** Gabriella Galante

**Norma:** Katelyn Gard

**Helen:** Neshiah Alston

**George:** Alexis Rivas Ayala

**Stokes:** Asher Freudenhammer-Glass

**Freddy:** Ryan Butler

**Teen Ensemble:** Natalie Culverwell,

Amelia Mussachio, Ethan Saraf, Beatrice Schickling

# PIT

**Conductor/Piano:** Phoebe Herreid

**Guitar 1:** Christopher Navarro

**Bass:** Dominic Vesely

**Drums:** Matt Weidmann

# PRODUCTION TEAM

**Director:** Jake Grear

**Choreographer:** Carly Welling

**Music Director:** Kathleen Dunne

**Stage Manager:** Meghan Putnam

**Intimacy Director:** Nicolette Navarro

**Scenic Designer:** Sean Wrafter

**Costume Designer:** Meghan Putnam

**Light Designer:** Nicolette Navarro & Meghan Putnam

**Sound Designer:** Tyler Rahner

**Light Operation:** Alvaro Rodriquez

**Spot Operation:** Myshawn Sikes

**Property Designer:** Meghan Putnam

**Fight Choreographer:** Stefanie Warnick

**Conductor:** Phoebe Herreid

**Poster Designer:** Bailey McCartney

# SONG LIST

## Act I

1. "In" – Students
2. Shower Aftermath (Underscore) – Orchestra
3. "Carrie" – Carrie
4. "Open Your Heart" – Reverend Bliss, Margaret, Carrie & Choir
5. "And Eve Was Weak" – Margaret & Carrie
6. "The World According To Chris" – Chris, Billy, Sue, Tommy & Students
7. "Evening Prayers" – Carrie & Margaret
8. "Dreamer In Disguise" – Tommy
9. "Once You See" – Sue
10. "Unsuspecting Hearts" – Miss Gardner & Carrie
11. "Do Me A Favor" – Sue, Chris, Tommy, Billy & Students
12. Telekenesis (Underscore) – Orchestra
- 12A. The Invitation (Underscore) – Orchestra
- 12B. Thank You (Underscore) – Orchestra
13. Act I Finale: "I Remember How Those Boys Could Dance" – Carrie & Margaret



# SONG LIST

## Act 2

14. Entr'acte – Orchestra
15. "A Night We'll Never Forget" – Carrie, Chris, Billy, Sue & Students
- 15A. I'm Just Disappointed (Underscore) – Orchestra
16. "You Shine" – Tommy & Sue
17. "Why Not Me?" – Carrie
18. "Stay Here Instead" – Margaret & Carrie
19. "When There's No One" – Margaret
20. "Prom Arrival" – Helen, Frieda, Norma, Freddy, George & Stokes
21. "Unsuspecting Hearts (Reprise)" – Carrie & Miss Gardner
22. "Dreamer in Disguise (Reprise)" – Tommy, Carrie, Kids & Teachers
23. "Chris And Billy Prom" – Chris, Billy, Frieda, Helen, Stokes, George & Freddy
24. "Prom Climax" – Carrie, Tommy, Chris, Billy, Kids & Teachers
25. "Alma Mater" – Students & Teachers
26. "The Destruction (Part 1)" – Carrie & Ensemble
27. The Destruction (Part 2) – Orchestra
28. "Carrie (Reprise)" – Margaret
29. "Epilogue" – Sue & Company
30. Bows – Orchestra

# CAST BIOS

**Neshiah Alston (Helen)** is a senior at Buffalo State University majoring in Communications and Theater. Neshiah has credits in directing, costume design, and acting. Past credits include - Kenmore East: Mamma Mia (Tanya), Tiny Beautiful Things (Director), STAGE: Beauty and the Beast (Babette), Mean Girls (Mrs. George, Costume Designer), Buffalo State: Medea (2nd Women of Corinth), On The Verge (Fanny), and Little Shop of Horrors (Ensemble & Chiffon u/s). Neshiah is thankful to be taking on the role of Helen and gives thanks to God, her family, friends, and cast for their love and support!

**Susana Breese (Margaret White)** is honored to play Margaret White in Carrie with Bellissima Productions. This powerful and emotionally charged role is a deeply special opportunity, and she is grateful to bring such a complex character to life alongside an incredible cast and creative team. Over the years, she has worked with Alleyway Theatre, BUA, Lancaster Opera House, MusicalFare Theatre, O'Connell & Company, Road Less Traveled, & many others. Thanks to Jamie for his constant love and support.

**Ryan Butler (Freddy)** is thrilled to be playing Freddy in his first production with Bellissima. Ryan is a Western New York Regular. He's been nominated for or won multiple theatre awards including: The Kenny Awards (2022 Winner), The Broadway Word Buffalo Awards (Two-time Runner-up), The Jimmy Awards (2022 Nominee), and The KCACTF Musical Theatre Program (Won Comedic Performance award). Some recent favorite credits include: Davey in Newsies (Kav), Percy Jackson in The Lightning Thief (Spotlight), Cladwell in Urinetown (University at Buffalo), and many more. He would like to thank his friends, family, and the entire creative team for the show!

**Christopher Cummings (Mr. Stephens/Priest)** is excited to be back on stage with Bellissima in CARRIE. Credits Include: BONNIE AND CLYDE (Preacher), SPRING AWAKENING (Virtual) (Otto) with Bellissima Productions; WAITRESS (Ensemble), ALL IS CALM (Ensemble), ELF THE MUSICAL (Chadwick) with MusicalFare; PARADE (Luther Rosser) with ART/WNY. Chris would like to thank his family, especially his wife, for always being his biggest supporters.

**Asher Freudenhammer-Glass (Stokes)** is a Buffalo State graduate who is very excited for their first professional role. Previously you may have seen them as Ismene in Antigone or Lennox in Macbeth, both at Buffalo State. They are thankful to their friends and family for all their support and the wonderful theatre community they've found here in Buffalo so far from home.

**Gabriella Galante (Frieda)** is excited to be making her Bellissima Productions debut! She has recently been seen in 9 to 5 (Kathy/Ensemble) at the Historic Palace Theatre in Lockport and in Elephant & Piggie's: "We Are In A Play!" (Squirrelle) at the Kenan Center. Recent credits include Make Way For Ducklings (Mrs. Mallard) and Pete the Cat (Mrs. Creech) at Hanger Theatre and The Sisters Fitz&Startz: Cook With Kids (Liza) produced by Fitz&Startz Productions and Walking on Water Productions as part of the Kitchen Theatre's Kitchen Sink Family Fare Series. Some of her other favorite roles include A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Phoebe), As You Like It (Celia), The Musical of Musicals the Musical! (Abby), and Peter and the Starcatcher (Prentiss). Gabby wants to thank her friends and family for their endless love and support. You can keep up with Gabby by checking out her Instagram at @gabby.galante or her website at [www.gabriellagalante.com](http://www.gabriellagalante.com).

**Katelyn Gard (Norma)** is thrilled to be making her Bellissima Productions debut in *Carrie: The Musical*. A native of WNY, Katelyn is an actor, singer, and voiceover artist. Some of her recent credits include Jerusha in *Daddy Long Legs* (Dramatic Dynamics), Ensemble in *The Informer* (ART), and Bea in *Shades of Blue* (Main Street Studios). She is an avid dancer and an advanced stage combatant with the SAFD. When not performing, you may find her baking, thrifting, or daydreaming about travel adventures she can't afford. Katelyn would like to thank her family and friends for their endless love and support.

**Anne Gerace (Sue Snell)** is a junior at Buffalo State University, majoring in Writing & Theatre Arts, and thrilled to be making her professional acting debut in *CARRIE THE MUSICAL*! At BSU, she also serves as the President of Casting Hall Productions. With over 5+ years of theatre experience, Anne has worked both on and off stage as an actor, singer, set builder, and stage manager. She has also worked as a teaching artist and creative assistant for educational programming at Shea's Performing Arts Center. Some of her favorite credits include *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* (Audrey, BSU), *ANTIGONE* (Antigone, BSU), *INTO THE WOODS* (Little Red, NCCC), and many more.

**Brent Hetrick (Billy Nolan)** is pumped to be Billy in this production of *Carrie*. He just finished another show in this great city; having played Drew in Ujima's production of *Straight White Men*. Brent is a proud graduate of SUNY Fredonia where he acquired a BFA in Musical Theatre. He is also real life boyfriend to the wickedly talented Hannah Schubring (Chris), and is so happy to have a relationship with so much love and support; a far departure from what is being portrayed on stage. He would like to send love to his friend, family and everyone else who has been there for him on this wild ride.



**Megan Mahaney (Miss Gardner)** is excited to work with Bellissima Productions again after Lizzie and Alice By Heart, in this classic story (a movie she's always enjoyed). She was most recently seen in Iolanthe with Opera-Lytes. Other recent credits include Oklahoma! and Wicket at O'Connell & Company, The Pajama Game, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and The Rocky Horror Show at the Lancaster Opera House, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, Rumors, and Hair with Aurora Players. Thank you Mom for taking care of Jinju so I can enjoy my hobby! Thank you Dad for supporting every show! Remember to always be kind.

**Alex Reiser (Tommy Ross)** is excited to make his Bellissima debut as Tommy in Carrie. Alex was recently seen as Joseph in Joseph..., Phoebus in The Hunchback of Notre Dame, and Sweaty Eddie in Sister Act. He is also a three-time nominee for the Kennedy Center's Irene Ryan Acting Award (Festival 56). At the festival, he received the final award for Outstanding Performance in a 10-Minute Play.

**Alexis Rivas Ayala (George)** is a fourth year Music Education student at Buffalo State University. This is his first production with Bellissima Productions and he is very excited! Alex's previous credits include Ride the Cyclone (Ricky Potts), Little Shop of Horrors (Orin Scrivello), SpongeBob the Musical (Perch Perkins), and A Bronx Tale (Jesse). He wishes to thank his friends and family for their continued support.

**Hannah Schubring (Chris Hargensen)** is a recent graduate of SUNY Fredonia's BFA Musical Theatre Department and is thrilled to be playing Chris in Carrie! She's originally from Buffalo and is excited to be back home for a bit as she's been spending her time post grad at Cedar Point singing and dancing to country music and at Dorney Park singing jazz arrangements. Favorite credits include: Vivienne (Legally Blonde), Christine (Andrew Lloyd Webber Pops Concert), and Belle (Scrooge). She'd like to thank her family and friends for their endless support, and Brent for being a better boyfriend in real life than in the show. :)

**Julia Witt (Carrie White)** is excited to make her Bellissima debut in Carrie! She is a recent UB graduate and has been seen recently in the Murder of Rodger Ackroyd at the Alleyway Theater. Past favorite roles include the Narrator in Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat, God in A Crack in the Egg : A New Musical and Brooke in Noises Off. You can see her next as Sophie in Mamma Mia! at Shea's 710 theater (presented by 2nd Generation).

# CREW BIOS

**Kathleen Dunne (Music Director)** is a classically trained vocalist and music educator, with a Bachelor's in Music Education with a minor in Theater and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction. She works in the Buffalo Public Schools as a K-6 general music teacher, teaches private vocal/piano lessons at Matt's Music and has 5 years of music directing/directing experience at the educational level. Some of her favorite music directing credits include Little Shop of Horrors (BSU), Pippin (BSU), Wizard of Oz (Youth Edition) and Seussical Jr. Katie is extremely excited to be making her professional music direction debut with Bellissima!

**Jake Grear (Director)** is thrilled to be making his directorial debut with CARRIE THE MUSICAL at Bellissima Productions. He graduated from Buffalo State University ('23) with a BA in Theatre Arts with the Dean's Award for Excellence. Some of his favorite credits include: LEGALLY BLONDE (Assistant Director, MusicalFare/Shea's 710), NEXT TO NORMAL (Production Assistant, MusicalFare Theatre), KINKY BOOTS (Ensemble, MusicalFare Theatre), HEATHERS THE MUSICAL (Ram Sweeney, ART of WNY), LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (Assistant Director & Stage Manager, BSU), PIPPIN (Pippin, BSU). Jake currently serves as the Arts Education Coordinator at Shea's Performing Arts Center where he is also the Program Manager of the Shea's Wonder Awards, a program involved in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, the Jimmy Awards. In his spare time, he enjoys photography and reading queer literature.  
[www.jakegrear.com](http://www.jakegrear.com)

**Phoebe Herreid (Conductor)** is excited to be returning to Bellissima Productions for the pit of *Carrie*. She has previously worked with Bellissima on several shows throughout the years as Music Director or in the pit, including their productions of *Dogfight*, *American Idiot*, *Head Over Heels*, and *Alice By Heart*. Now back in the Buffalo area after 2 years away, she happily teaches Music & Chorus at Transit Middle School in Williamsville.

**Nicolette Navarro (Intimacy Director)** is a seasoned director, intimacy director, and educator with extensive experience in both Buffalo and NYC. She currently serves as the Artistic Director of Bellissima Productions. She is a proud recipient of the Intimacy in Practice Grant. Passionate about advancing the field of intimacy direction, she is dedicated to establishing standard practices for this vital work in educational and professional theatre throughout Western New York and beyond. In addition to her directing work, Nicolette has taught consent-based practices at colleges, universities, and theatre prep programs across New York State.

**Tyler Rahner (Sound Designer)** has had the pleasure of being Bellissima Productions' audio designer and operator for the last six years. Outside of briefly taking the stage during their 2020 production of *Meteor Shower*, Tyler has stayed behind the scenes working with Bellissima Productions for sixteen of their twenty-five productions across four different theaters and through the COVID-19 lockdown.



**Stefanie Warnick (Fight Director)** is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Fight Directors of Canada. She holds a BFA in acting from Oklahoma City University and is the Artistic Director of The Brazen-Faced Varlets. Favorite fight direction credits include: Monsters of the American Cinema (Buffalo United Artists), Hamlet, Titus XX, Desdemona: a play about a handkerchief (The Brazen-Faced Varlets), The Play That Goes Wrong (Amherst Central High School), and King Lear (Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park).

**Carly Welling (Luksch) (Choreographer)** is excited to add Carrie The Musical to the plethora of stage productions she has choreographed over her 12-year career. She is making her debut with Bellissima Productions and is especially thankful for the opportunity to work alongside Director Jake Gear, whose precise and organized approach has been instrumental. Carly's movement style, rooted in the instruction she received at Dancentral, is known for being story-driven, crisp, and sharp with strong visuals. Other choreography credits include Jesus Christ Superstar, Parade, and Meet Me in Saint Louis: A Live Radio Play. Carly was also honored with an Artie Award nomination for Best Choreography of Heathers the Musical.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear reader,

I first want to extend the deepest thank you for taking the time to attend this incredibly special production of *Carrie the Musical*. It is an honor of the highest regard to make my directorial debut with the most incredible team and having the opportunity to tell this sensational story that has impacted audiences and readers, including myself, for nearly 50 years. I could not be more proud of what we've created.

Three weeks into our rehearsal process, we encountered the unexpected crisis of losing the theater we were meant to perform this production in. Almost the entire show had been staged, choreographed and learned at this point and we had to make a full pivot. We went into full crisis management mode and eventually through the extreme generosity of the team at Lafayette Church, we were able to still bring this production to life. We cannot thank the individuals here at Lafayette Church enough for their support and willingness to collaborate with us. This production could not have moved forward without them.

When *Carrie the Musical* first premiered on stage, its bold mixture of horror, tragedy, and musical storytelling was met with equal parts fascination and disbelief. After its first performance on Broadway in 1988, it was met with both boos and applause from the audience. After only 5 official performances, the show closed, securing its place as one of the biggest and most expensive disasters in Broadway history. Luckily, the fans and writers never gave up on this show. In 2012, *Carrie the Musical* re-opened Off-Broadway with a completely reworked version featuring a new book, new themes, and new songs to positive reviews and a run that was extended. This reworked version, taking place within the mind of the sole survivor, shows us that *Carrie* is less a supernatural thriller than it is a painfully human portrait of what happens when fear eclipses empathy, when difference is punished

instead of understood, and when a young girl's plea to be seen goes unheard until it is too late.

Unfortunately, I think these themes are more relevant in 2025 than they ever have been before. We live in a moment where the pressures facing young people have never been more intense and systemically manipulated. Carrie's journey out of the shadows and into the light is not just about bullying; it's about the damage inflicted by religious psychosis, the danger of unchecked cruelty, and the life-shattering weight of believing that you are fundamentally unworthy of love. So, why tell *Carrie* now? Because it asks us to look at the systems that we have created and how people are affected by them. It reminds us that cruelty rarely begins with solely malicious intent, but rather with carelessness and a hive-mind mentality. It reminds us that sometimes, compassion is a radical act.

This production has been crafted with deep respect for its story and the complexity of its characters. As you watch tonight, I invite you to challenge your own ways of thinking. To reflect on the ways we shape one another, intentionally or not. I invite you to gaze into the mirror and don't break eye contact just because you don't like what might be staring back.

# **THANK YOU:**

**Bellissima Productions would like to  
extend a special thank you to:**

**Lafayette Presbyterian Church  
Buffalo State University  
Ronald Schwartz  
Teresa Navarro**

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**Ghost: The Musical**



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# Bellissima Productions

Bellissima Productions prioritizes inclusivity and safety, fostering empathy through consent-forward intimacy direction and education on and off stage.

Bellissima Productions is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization. Our mission focuses on four primary pillars of culture: consent-forward, education, diversity, and innovation. By prioritizing consent-forward practices, our company places a unique focus on the safety of all members involved in our productions.

All donations are tax-deductible.

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