

Bellissima
PRODUCTIONS

Ghost

THE MUSICAL

Directed by Nicolette Navarro

May 15 & 16 | 7:30PM

May 22 | 7:30PM | May 23 | 3PM & 7:30PM

May 29 | 7:30PM | May 30 | 7:30PM

Church of the Nativity UCC
1530 Colvin Blvd, Buffalo NY 14223

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Cast

Sam Wheat: Alex Reiser

Molly Jensen: Heather Casseri

Oda Mae Brown: Spud

Carl Bruner: Chris Cummings

Subway Ghost/Orlando Jones: Michael Dobrasz

Clara/Ortisha Jones: McKenzie Gilmore

Louise/Officer Wallace: Taylor Lee Hall

Mrs. Santiago/Bank Officer: Sarah Emmerling

Hospital Ghost/Lionel Ferguson: Matt Giangreco

Willie Lopez: Lio Salazar

Pit

Conductor/Piano: Phoebe Herreid

Guitar: Jacob Elibol (weekend 1),
Dillon Slater (weekend 2 & 3)

Bass: Dominic Vesely

Violin: Andrew Wang

Drums: Peter Kazmierczak (weekend 1),
Cooper Potts (weekend 2 & 3)

Production Crew

Director/Intimacy Director: Nicolette Navarro

Music Director/Conductor: Phoebe Herreid

Light Designer/Operator: Meghan Putnam

Spotlight Operator: Jacob Ducoli

Sound Designer/Operator: Tyler Rahner

Costume/Property Designer: Nicolette Navarro

Fight Choreographer: Stefanie Warnick

Poster Designer: Bailey McCartney

Artistic Assistant: Devon Bradley



Song List

Act 1

Prologue- Orchestra

“Here Right Now”- Sam and Molly

“Unchained Melody”- Sam and Molly

“More”- Carl and ensemble

“Three Little Words”- Sam and Molly

“Sam’s Death/Higher Spirits”- ensemble

“You Gotta Let Go Now”- Hospital Ghost

“Are You a Believer”- Oda Mae Brown, Rosa

Santiago, Clara, Louise

“With You”- Molly

“Suspend My Disbelief/I Had a Life (Act 1 Finale)-
Sam, Molly, Carl, ensemble

Act 2

Entr’acte- Orchestra

Rain/Hold On- Sam, Molly, Carl, ensemble

Life Turns on a Dime- Carl, Molly, Sam

Focus- Subway Ghost, Sam

Nothing Stops Another Day- Molly

I’m Outta Here- Oda Mae Brown, ensemble

Unchained Melody (Reprise)/Fall of Carl/Ascension-
Sam, Molly, Carl, Oda Mae

Cast Bios

Heather Casseri (Molly Jensen) is thrilled to be back performing with Bellissima Productions, having previously appeared in Lizzie (Lizzie) and Rent (Maureen). Favorite credits include: Newsies (Katherine) with Kavinoky Theatre, Into the Woods (Baker's Wife), Sunset Boulevard (Betty) & Reefer Madness (Sally) with O'Connell & Company and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Sally) at TOY. Heather holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Niagara University and directs the Iroquois High School Drama Club. She would like to thank her friends, family and her fiancé Johnny for their love and support. www.heathercasseri.weebly.com
@heathercasseri

Chris Cummings (Carl Brunner) is excited to be on stage in GHOST THE MUSICAL. Credits Include: ALL IS CALM (Ensemble), ELF THE MUSICAL (Chadwick), WAITRESS (Ensemble) MusicalFare; BONNIE AND CLYDE (PREACHER), CARRIE (Mr. Stephens/ Rev. Bliss) with Bellissima Productions; PARADE (Luther Rosser) with ART/WNY; MY FAIR LADY (Freddy Eynsford Hill) and CHILDREN of EDEN (Cain) with NRTG. Chris would like to thank his family, especially his wife, for always being his biggest supporters.

Michael Dobrasz (Subway Ghost/Orlando Jones/Passerby 1/Minister) is a recent graduate of Canisius University where he was in many plays and musicals. Since then, he has been in a production of Heathers with Teal's Niagara Theatre. Michael also cantors at St. Michael's Church in downtown Buffalo. In his free time, Michael likes to play video games and spend time with his cats.

Sarah Emmerling (she/her) (Mrs.Santiago/Bank Officer/ Second Nun) is an actor based in Buffalo, NY with a BFA in Theatre Performance from Niagara University. She is very excited to be returning to Bellissima Productions, after previously playing Ben in AMERICAN IDIOT. Other recent acting credits include: Lydia in PRESERVATION and Elissa in TO THE NEW GIRL (First Look Buffalo); Abby in NOW AND THEN and Susan Hollander in DON'T DRINK THE WATER (Desiderio's Dinner Theatre); Guildenstern in HAMLET and Friederike in ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT (Brazen-Faced Varlets); Mrs. Cratchit in WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, Sylvia in RUST & REDEMPTION, and Joan/Vicky in FALL FROM THE GRACE OF GOD (ART of WNY); Miss Casewell in THE MOUSETRAP (HARP Productions); and Catherine in PROOF (Carriage House Players). In addition to performing on stage, Sarah enjoys working with children and is a character performer with Enchanting Birthdays of WNY. She is also an aerialist and fine arts model.

Matt Giangreco (Hospital Ghost/Lionel Ferguson/Det. Biederman) is extremely gratified to return to the Bellissima stage! Recent credits: Making God Laugh, Death of a Salesman (Rocking Horse Productions); Bonnie & Clyde, Alice by Heart (Bellissima). By day he practices as an associate dentist at Lockport Dental Group. As ever, he thanks his parents, friends (the Nerd Herd), and his beautiful and supportive wife Kathryn.

Mckenzie (Kenzie) Gilmore (Clara/Ortisha Jones/First Nun/Assistant) is excited to join Bellissima for this production of Ghost The Musical! Some of her previous roles include Lady McDuff/Fleance in Macbeth, Crystal in Little Shop of Horrors, Asaka in Once on This Island, Little Red in Into the Woods, and Lil Inez in Hairspray. She has been performing since she was 11 years old with school, community, and semi-professional theatre companies. She would like to thank her first Music Teacher Nicole Bilson, her first Vocal Coach and Choir Director Christina Custode, her first Director and Theatre Teacher Kate Muldoon, and her Mother for attending every show and concert. She can't wait to show you what she's got!

Taylor Lee Hall (Louise/Officer Wallace/Passerby 2) is thrilled to be back with Bellissima Productions! Past roles include Dogfight (Marcy) and Brace for Impact (Lily) (Artie Nom. for Best New Play) with Bellissima Productions, and Shrek (Shoemaker's Elf and Other), Grumpy Old Men: The Musical (Fran), and Khan!!! The Star Trek Musical (Ensemble) with O'Connell & Company. She would like to thank her friends, family, and partner Michael for their constant love and support!

Alex Reiser (Sam Wheat) is excited to return to Bellissima as Sam Wheat in a musical adaptation of one his favorite movies, Ghost. Alex was recently seen as Tommy Ross in Carrie, Joseph in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, 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.

Lio Salazar (Willie Lopez) is super excited to return to their home company, Bellissima Productions! This is the second time that someone's died in a show because of Lio, versus being the one that dies, making the score 2-3. Lio's incredibly grateful to Nicolette and all of Bellissima for having them back, and they sincerely hope that everyone who's reading this is having a good day... or night. Depending on when you're reading this :3

Spud (Oda Mae Brown) (they/them) is a local singer/songwriter/musician, and is excited to get back into the theatre scene after a four year hiatus! Originally from Las Vegas, NV they've been in shows such as In The Heights (Abuela Claudia), Newsies (Medda Larkin), Falsettos (Dr. Charlotte), and had the pleasure of playing Oda Mae nine years ago in Hurricane, UT and is excited to bring new life and experience into the role! spud has also worked as a composer (Nevada Series Tour Show) and music director (Drowsy Chaperone, Lizzie, Between the Lines), and can be found playing music around town, including at Nietzsche's on Allen every Tuesday!"



Crew Bios

Phoebe Herreid (Music Director/Conductor) is excited to be returning to Bellissima Productions for the pit of Ghost. 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 (Director/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 seventeen 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).



Director's Note

Hello, and welcome to *Ghost the Musical*, Bellissima's last production of the 2025/26 season! As we wrap up our eighth season, I want to thank both you, the audience, and every person who has supported us during the past eight seasons! Bellissima Productions is truly a labor of love and whether this is your first or tenth time seeing us, we appreciate your support. Especially this year as we had to pivot two productions to a different location than originally planned. I want to personally thank the Church of the Nativity for allowing us to perform *Ghost* here.

Ghost the Musical is rarely produced, and after its short-lived Broadway run in 2010, it largely faded from the spotlight. I first discovered the show in high school before eventually watching the movie, and I was immediately drawn to its love story, the hilarious and heartfelt Oda Mae Brown, and its raw portrayal of grief and loss.

When planning this season, our team struggled to decide which show to produce. Then *Ghost* came back into my mind. It felt like the perfect fit: a lesser-known musical with darker themes and a lot of heart. At the same time, I was navigating my own private grieving process, and revisiting this score connected with me in a completely different way.

Cont.



Now, I'll be honest, parts of this show are undeniably cheesy. Some lines are clunky, and a few songs feel like unexpected choices. But beneath all of that is a story with tremendous heart. And when this show lands emotionally, it really lands.

Bringing this show to life has been a joy. Our cast, pit, and creative team have been a pleasure to work with, truly some of the kindest people I know. Watching everyone pour themselves into this production, into a story about love, loss, and learning how to let go, has been incredibly moving. Theater is such a fleeting art form; once the curtain closes tonight, this exact version of Ghost will never exist again. That's what makes live theater so special. For a few hours, we all get to experience this story together.

I hope tonight's performance makes you laugh, cry, and maybe call someone you love when you get home. Thank you for spending your evening with us and for continuing to support local theatre. We could not do this without you.

Enjoy the show!

Nicolette Navarro



Thank You!

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

**Church of the Nativity UCC
Maria Ta Phakkhonkham**

Coming Up:

**Bellissima Productions is excited to
announce our 2026/2027 season:**

**Natasha, Pierre, & The Great
Comet of 1812**

Assassins

Dear Evan Hansen

Stay tuned for more information!

Bellissima Productions

Please consider making a donation to our theatre company. Each gift makes a massive impact on a small company such as ours and allows us to better compensate our company as well as book performance spaces. As we do not have a resident theatre space, donations help us to build our own stock of necessary items to supply these spaces when we need to, such as lighting and sound equipment. Thank you for supporting the arts and Bellissima Productions!

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