

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK
BERKSHIRE
THEATRE GROUP

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For immediate release, please: Tuesday, July 15

**Tony Award-nominated
Working: A Musical
Begins Performances on July 18
Directed by James Barry**

**With Music by Pulitzer, Tony and Grammy Award-Winner
Lin Manuel Miranda
Grammy Award-Winner James Taylor
Grammy, Oscar and Golden Globe Award-Winner Stephen Schwartz
Among Several Others**

Pittsfield, MA— Berkshire Theatre Group is proud to present Tony Award-nominated *Working A Musical*, based on **Studs Terkel's** best-selling book of interviews, at The Unicorn Theatre (6 East Street) in Stockbridge, MA. *Working* features music by Pulitzer, Tony and Grammy Award-Winner **Lin Manuel Miranda** (*Hamilton*, *In The Heights*, *Moana*); Tony Award-nominee **Craig Carnelia** (*Sweet Smell of Success*); Grammy Award-Winner **Micki Grant** (*Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*); Tony Award-nominee **Mary Rodgers** (*Once Upon a Mattress*); Grammy and Tony Award-nominee **Susan Birkenhead** (*Jelly's Last Jam*); Oscar, Golden Globe and Grammy Award-Winner **Stephen Schwartz** (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Godspell*) and Grammy Award-Winner **James Taylor**.

Directed by **James Barry** (Broadway: *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*; BTG: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Director), *Naked, A Thousand Clowns*), this production features **Farah Alvin** (Broadway: *It Shoulda Been You, Nine, The Look of Love, Saturday Night Fever*) as Rose Hoffman, Kate Rushton, Candy Cottingham; **Katie Birenboim** (Off Broadway: *Fiorello!* BTG: *Hair, Arsenic and Old Lace, Mary Poppins*) as Amanda McKenny, Delores Dante; **Erica Dorfler** (*Book of Mormon*) as Sharon Atkins, Maggie Holmes; **Julie Foldesi** (Broadway: *Sunday In The Park With George* [2017 revival with Jake Gyllenhaal], Disney's *NEWSIES*, Lincoln Center's *South Pacific, Little Women, The Full Monty*) as Terry Mason, Grace Clements; **Tim Jones** (BTG: *Tarzan, The Music Man*) as Frank Decker, Eddie Jaffe; **Deven Kolluri** (Off Broadway: *The Boy Who Danced On Air*) as Freddy Rodriguez, Raj Chadha, Utkarsh Trujillo, Charlie Blossom; **Denis Lambert** (Broadway: *A Chorus Line, Doctor Zhivago*; BTG: *A Little Night Music*) as Allen Epstein, Mike Dillard, Tom Patrick; **Jaygee Macapugay** (Broadway: *School of Rock*; Off Broadway: *Here Lies Love, Wild Goose Dreams, Hello, Dolly!*) as Roberta Victor, Theresa Liu; **Rob Morrison** (Off Broadway: *Avenue Q, Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe, Pinkalicious*) as Rex Winship, Anthony Coelho, Ralph Werner; and **Miles Wilkie** (Wagner College production: *Working*) as Conrad Swibel, Joe Zutty.

This production is sponsored by David and Susie Auerbach, Massachusetts Cultural Council and The Shubert Foundation.

Based on **Studs Terkel's** best-selling book of interviews with American workers, *Working: A Musical* paints a vivid portrait of the men and women that the world so often takes for granted: the schoolteacher, the phone operator, the waitress, the millworker, the mason and the housewife, just to name a few. Nominated for six Tony Awards, this classic has been updated for a modern age, featuring songs by Tony Award-Winning **Lin-Manuel Miranda** (*Hamilton, In the Heights*), as well as favorites by **Stephen Schwartz** (*Wicked, Pippin, Godspell*), **Craig Carnelia** and Berkshire beloved and multi Grammy Award-Winner **James Taylor**.

Working: A Musical is a timeless musical exploration of 26 people from all walks of life and how people's relationships to their work ultimately reveal key aspects of their humanity.

There will be talkbacks on **Friday, July 26 and Friday, August 2** after the performance. On **July 26**, the talkback will focus on work and identity. Austen Riggs Center colleagues will discuss work and identity across the lifespan, concentrating on the developmental work of retirement. The Austen Riggs colleagues participating in the talkback are **Jane G. Tillman, PhD** (Evelyn Stefansson Nef Director of the Erikson Institute of the Austen Riggs Center) and **Edward R. Shapiro, MD** (Former Medical Director/CEO of Austen Riggs Center). On **August 2**, the talkback will focus on working artists, with **David Adkins** (actor, playwright and Director of the BTG Acting Intern

Program), **Katie Birenboim** (actress, director, writer and cast member of *Working*) and **Alan Filderman** (casting director and BTG Artistic Associate).

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield; at the Fitzpatrick Main Stage Ticket Office at 83 East Main Street, Stockbridge; by calling (413) 997-4444 or online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org. Ticket Offices are open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

Working: A Musical

from the book by Studs Terkel

adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso

with additional contributions by Gordon Greenberg

songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Mary Rodgers, Susan Birkenhead, Stephen Schwartz and James Taylor

orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire

directed by James Barry

music direction by Casey Robert Reed

choreography by Ashley DeLane Burger

with Farah Alvin, Katie Birenboim, Erica Dorfler, Julie Foldesi, Tim Jones, Deven Kolluri, Denis Lambert, Jaygee Macapugay, Rob Morrison and Miles Wilkie

at The Unicorn Theatre

The Larry Vaber Stage

BTG's Stockbridge Campus, 6 East Street

Previews: Thursday, July 18 at 7pm and Friday, July 19 at 8pm

Opening/Press Night: Saturday, July 20 at 8pm

Closing: Saturday, August 24 at 8pm

Tickets: Preview: \$65

Tickets: A: \$75 B: \$25

Sponsored by: David and Susie Auerbach, Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Shubert Foundation

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Louis "Studs" Terkel was born in the Bronx in 1912 and moved with his family to Chicago in 1921. Terkel learned his politics at home and developed his performance skills as an actor at Chicago Repertory. During the Great Depression Terkel worked for the Federal Writer's Project, producing scripts and acting in Radio soap operas. After the war, he starred in a Chicago Television show about ordinary people, where he ran afoul of anticommunist agitators. He then began interviewing people regarding their everyday lives for a Chicago radio station. He produced nine major works of oral history,

including *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do*, which was adapted into *Working A Musical* in 1977 and for the stage play *The American Clock* (1980). When he died in 2008 after a long productive life as an actor, radio broadcaster and oral historian, Studs Terkel left behind a pioneering body of work chronicling the lives and desires of average Americans.

James Barry (Director) is always honored to return to BTG, a place which has been an essential artistic home for him for the past 20 years. He directed and music directed *Million Dollar Quartet* for BTG, a production which earned him the 2017 Best Director of a Musical from the Berkshire Theatre Critics Association. As an actor, James has appeared in over a dozen BTG productions since the year 2000, favorites including: *The Caretaker*, *The Who's Tommy*, *A Thousand Clowns* and most recently, last fall's production of Pirandello's *Naked*. Berkshire audiences may also know him from his extensive work as an actor with the Chester Theatre Company, where favorite credits include: *The Night Alive*, *The Aliens* and *Wittenberg*. Other acting credits include: *These Paper Bullets* (Yale Rep, The Geffen, The Atlantic), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (The Public, Broadway) and *Million Dollar Quartet* (1st natl tour and several regional productions totaling over 700 performances as Carl Perkins, also often serving as the musical director). As a composer, James' music was featured in the 2017 Studio Theatre productions of *Three Sisters* and *No Sisters*, co-produced by New Neighborhood, a company he is a proud member of. James also releases original rock music as a solo artist and with the band, Secret Pint. You can check out James' theatre and music projects at jamesbarrystuff.com.

Farah Alvin (Rose Hoffman, Kate Rushton, Candy Cottingham) Broadway credits include: *It Shoulda Been You*, *Nine*, *The Look of Love*, *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease*, among others. Off Broadway credits include: *Window Treatment* (cast album), *Goldstein*, *The Last Smoker In America* (cast album), *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Drama Desk Nomination, cast album), *I Love You Because* (cast album) and more. Lots of regional, including: Papermill Playhouse, Goodspeed Opera House, Signature Theatre (Helen Hayes Award), Cape Playhouse, Geva Theater and Alabama Shakespeare. She has performed as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestras of Indianapolis, Cleveland, Detroit, and the National Symphonies of the United States and Canada. She is also occasionally a funny voice on your radio. Proud member of Actor's Equity for 25 years. Please find Farah under her name on social media for more.

Katie Birenboim (Amanda McKenny, Delores Dante) is thrilled to be back at Berkshire Theatre Group, where she's previously performed in *A Little Night Music* (Ensemble, Anne u/s), *Mary Poppins* (Mary), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Elaine) and *Hair* (Crissy). Select New York credits include: *Fiorello!* (Marie) at Classic Stage Company (a BTG transfer!) and workshops of *Rapture* (Sister Wife) at the Barrow Group and *Fuenteovejuna* (Pepita) with the Upstart Creatures. Katie has also assistant directed *The New Yorkers* at City Center Encores!, *The Royal Family of Broadway* at Barrington

Stage Company and *Popcorn Falls* at the Davenport Theatre. She is a proud graduate of Princeton University.

Erica Dorfler (Sharon Atkins, Maggie Holmes) was most recently seen in *I Married An Angel* at New York City Center. Broadway: *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*, *Book of Mormon*, *Memphis*, *Baby It's You!*, *Scandalous*. Off Broadway: *Carmen Jones* (Classic Stage Company, dir. John Doyle), *Witness* (Playwrights Realm), *Avenue Q*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *Silk Stockings* (York Theatre). Tours: *Rent*, *Mamma Mia!*. Regional/NYC: *The Way of the World* (Folger Theatre, dir. Theresa Rebeck), *Pamela's First Musical* (Two River Theater), *THIS* (Barrington Stage), *Here's Hoover* (Les Freres Corbusier), *West Side Story* with the L.A. Philharmonic (Hollywood Bowl), *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* (ART), *Bull Durham* (Alliance Theater). Television: *The Family*. www.ericadorfler.com

Julie Foldesi (Terry Mason, Grace Clements) is an actress, singer, songwriter, writer and musician. Broadway: *Sunday In The Park With George* (2017 revival with Jake Gyllenhaal), Disney's *NEWSIES*, Lincoln Center's *South Pacific*, *Little Women* and *The Full Monty*. Her original folk-Americana music can be found in all the usual places: iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, SoundCloud, etc. She recently co-created a screenplay for Hallmark, featuring five of her songs, which will be released mid-August. Her music has been featured in web-series, musicals, independent films and has won multiple songwriting awards. She hails from Raleigh, NC and is a graduate of UNC- Chapel Hill with a degree in Opera performance. She is most importantly a mom. www.juliefoldesi.com

Tim Jones (Frank Decker, Eddie Jaffe, Tom Patrick) is a Berkshire native and recent graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a Master's in Aerospace Engineering. He is delighted to be returning to BTG, having appeared in *Tarzan* (Tarzan), *The Music Man* (Ewart) and *A Christmas Carol*. Some favorite credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (The Hanover Theatre), *Assassins*, *Avenue Q* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (WPI).

Deven Kolluri (Freddy Rodriguez, Raj Chadha, Utkarsh Trujillo, Charlie Blossom) Recent credits: *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?* (TheDramaLeague), *The Boy Who Danced on Air* (Abingdon), *The Secret Garden* (Virginia Stage Co.), *Man of La Mancha* (Engeman), *The Humans* (TheatreSquared). Select workshops: *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *Monsoon Wedding*, *Mommie Dearest*, *Heading East*, *Salaam Medina*, *Heartland*. @devenkolluri

Denis Lambert (Allen Epstein, Mike Dillard) BTG: *A Little Night Music*. Broadway/Tours: *A Chorus Line*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *The Producers*, *White Christmas*. New York/Regional: *Guys and Dolls* (Carnegie Hall), *Pipe Dream*, *Finian's Rainbow* (Encores!), *A Chorus Line* (New York City Center/Hollywood Bowl), *Yank!*, *Zorba* (York Theatre), *The Music Man*, *Carnival!* (Kennedy Center), *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

(Hudson Stage Company), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Syracuse Stage), *Show Boat* (Asolo Rep), *Mary Poppins* (Lexington Theatre Company), *Aspects of Love* (Walnut Street), *Hairspray* (Theatre Aspen), *Oklahoma!* (Finger Lakes Musical Theatre), *Annie* (Pittsburgh CLO/Music Theatre of Wichita), *Dying City* (TBG Theatre), *Fly* (Dallas Theater Center). TV/Film: *Modern Love*, *The Professor*. MA Classical Acting, LAMDA. BFA Musical Theatre, CCM.

Jaygee Macapugay (Roberta Victor, Theresa Liu) Broadway: *School of Rock* (OBC/cast recording). Off Broadway: *Here Lies Love* (Imelda Marcos, Public Theater), *Wild Goose Dreams* (Mrs. Guk, Public Theater), *Hello, Dolly!* (Irene Molloy, Pershing Square Signature). Regional favorites: *Here Lies Love* (Imelda, Seattle Repertory), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Brenda, Maltz Jupiter), *Miss Saigon* (MUNY, 5th Avenue), *The King & I* (KC Starlight). Featured soloist: Lincoln Center's American Songbook Series. Jaygee has a passion for collaborating on new musicals, including *Ma Vie En Rose* (Duncan Sheik, Steven Sater), *Broadway Bounty Hunter* (Joe Iconis), *Hercules* (Alan Menken, David Zippel). Film/TV: *Conversations With My Ex*, *False Positive*, *Watch What Happens Live*. She proudly sang for our troops with the USO. Salamat!

Rob Morrison (Rex Winship, Anthony Coelho, Ralph Werner) is overjoyed to be making his BTG debut. Rob was most recently seen as the title role in an all-new actor/musician production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Cincinnati Playhouse. Off Broadway: *Avenue Q*, *Nevermore*, *Pinkalicious*. Regional: *NERDS* (Philadelphia Theater Company and North Carolina Theater), *Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical* (Dallas Theater Company), *Urinetown* (Lyric Theater of Boston). Rob is the voice of Doodle the dog on Nickelodeon's *Sunny Day*, as well as over 25 different characters on the Emmy-winning PBS series *Peg + Cat*. Other TV/film credits include: *Bug Diaries* (Amazon), *Alpha House* (Amazon), *Unforgettable* (CBS) and *Freedom* (w/ Cuba Gooding, Jr). A multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, Rob is a member of the folk-rock band, The Hollows. His music has been featured in short films and TV series, including Hulu's *It Could Be Worse*. He composed the score for the award-winning independent film *Sun Belt Express*. Emerson College alum. Much love to Lauren. @therobmorrison

Miles Wilkie (Conrad Swibel, Joe Zutty) From small town Decorah, Iowa, he's currently a rising junior Theatre Performance major at Wagner College on Staten Island. Previous credits include: *Working* at Wagner College's MainStage, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Dogberry in *Much Ado about Nothing* and most recently in a new work at Wagner, *Our New Town*. He feels so lucky to be doing the job he loves and sharing it with all of you!

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County schoolchildren annually. BTG's celebrated stages reflect the history of the American theatre; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community.