



Biographies of the Cast

ISRAEL ANTONIO (Mr. Davenport/Moderator) is a Tellin' Tales Theatre ensemble member who is excited to be a Six Stories Up mentor for the second time. Both of His apprentices, in 2022 and in 2024, happen to have the same first name. Acting highlights. Film: *The Bat in Section 504*. Theater, Sydney in *For Services Rendered* directed by Robin Witt. Open Casket, a short film for which he wrote the screenplay, premiered at the 2023 Chicago International Reel Shorts Festival. A USA Paratriathlon Nationals champion and seven time Boston Marathon qualifier, he's graced the cover of Chicago Athlete Magazine. He thanks his apprentice, Campbell and Campbell's parents, Cynthia and Marc, for their warmth and generosity.

MANUELA ÁLVAREZ (Principal, Abby) is an actress, writer, and educator from Bogotá, Colombia. She previously shared her writing in Tellin' Tale's *Unleashed Truth* young adult showcase. She's also acted in productions of *La Ronde*, *Piece of my Heart*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *The It*, *Batboy: The Musical*, *Hortensia and the Museum of Dreams*. Manuela holds a BA in Musical Theatre from Columbia College Chicago. Over the summer, she worked as a teaching artist for Porchlight Music Theatre, and she now works at the Chicago Children's Theatre.

HAWKEYE BEACH (Mal) is excited about their first Tellin' Tales production. Hawkeye previous played the lead in a staging of *The Emperor's New Clothes* through the Chicago Parks Department. In their free time, Hawkeye enjoys playing the drums, writing, drawing, storytelling and voice acting. He thanks his mentor, Tekki for making him the lead.

CAMPBELL CHERNOFF (Ethan/Angel/Michael/) is a 13-year-old eighth grader at Harriet Tubman Elementary. *Six Stories Up on the Campaign Trail* is his third play with Tellin' Tales. Since making his stage debut in 2022's *Six Stories Up in Discovery*, he has pursued his passion for theatre with Tellin' Tales and school musicals, playing King Triton and Chef Louis *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* and Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family Musical*. Campbell lives near Horner Park with his mother, father, and two pets; a dog and a cat. He thanks his mentor, Israel, and all the people who helped in this and his previous plays, from the directors to the other children in the cast. Campbell says the best thing about theater life and being on stage "isn't being known by a bunch of people; it's making new friends along the way."

AAROHAN DUTTA (Reed) is very excited for his first ever Tellin' Tales show! In his free time, he enjoys drawing, graphic design, playing D&D, and listening to music. Oh yeah, and also theater. One of his first shows was a family production at the Des Plaines History Center, and he also had a lot of fun taking classes at The Second City. He can't wait to see how this show turns out!

EMILY NILSEN (Jessa/Jaden) Emily is a 14 year-old Freshman in high school. She has had a wonderful time in her role with Six Stories Up! Emily has been in a number of her grade school musicals. She played Miss Trunchbull last year in *Matilda*, a tough Brooklyn Newsie, along with other supporting roles in *Pinocchio Jr.* and *The Little Mermaid Jr.* She loves singing, listening to music, drawing, and recently started boxing. She also studied dance from the age of 5 to 12. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love, support, and encouragement to express herself through her performance.

JULIANA LISICIO (Ms Merling/Playground Monitor) is happy to make her Tellin' Tales debut! Recent acting credits include *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Young People's Theatre of Chicago, Margot), *A View From the Bridge* (Shattered Globe Theatre, u/s Catherine, Jeff Award Best Production); *Space Station Safety* (The National Theatre for Children, Laika); *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Citadel Theatre, Suzanne/The Countess); *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Citadel Theatre, Nora); *Dracula* (Surging Films & Theatrics, Margaret Sullivan) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oak Park Festival Theatre, u/s Titania). Juliana is a playwright with Shattered Globe's Inclusive Playwright Project, and is represented by Shirley Hamilton. She'd like to thank her wonderful mentee Emily and the rest of the Tellin' Tales company for sharing their stories, talent, and heart.

TEKKI LOMNICKI (Director, Gaia, Olivia) is the Artistic Director of Tellin' Tales Theatre. She has written and performed over 27 solo performance pieces, and starred in the award-winning film, *The Miracle* by Jeffrey Jon Smith. She has also appeared in all of the Six Stories Up shows. She was the Tellin' Tales Theatre Lead for *Freedom Out of Order* for the Lyric Opera's Community Voices Project in 2016. Tekki received an Illinois Arts Council Artists Fellowship in New Performance Forms, the 2008 3Arts Artists Award in Theater, and the 2010 Grigsby Award for Excellence in solo performance. Tekki thanks Hawkeye for his creativity and acting skills, Steve for his script doctoring, Marlana, Koda and the rest of the cast and crew.

ELLIOTT PATTON (Violet/Lila) is the youngest member of the cast this year and is super excited as this is her first tellin tells production. Elliott loves to sing and perform and has been three musicals, including *Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *High School musical jr.* she is also a member of Uniting voices Chicago. Elliott has also done some extra work and can be seen in the background of movies and television. She is so thankful for everyone who has worked so hard on this production, including her mentor and she would like to give a special thanks to Tekki for giving her this opportunity!

Biographies of the Crew

JEREMY BELL (Composer) is a band and choral composer and dueling pianos entertainer based in Chicago, Illinois. Jeremy blends pop, rock, jazz, and classical music elements, creating a distinct quality to his compositional voice and diversity in his works. Jeremy received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition from Bradley University in Peoria, IL and his Master's Degree from Arizona State University. He is also an avid dog lover and has an English Bulldog named Oliver and a French Bulldog named Milo. When not working on music, he dedicates his time to developing his photography and videographer skills.

MARLANA MAY CARLSON (AD/SM) Marlana is thrilled to be part of Six Stories Up for her 10th season. She began her journey with 6SU back in 2010, at Prop Thtr for Six Stories Up at Ellis Island. For the few years she was not Stage Managing, she still found a way to lurk in the shadows and be supportive. She has a BA in Theatre from Oberlin College, and performed last year in Hands Up: Misunderstood Minds. She also enjoys her career as a Licensed Massage Therapist. She would like to thank Tekki, Shannon, and everyone involved in creating this fabulous production.

DEE DURFEE (choreographer) Dee Durfee, a native of Chicago, is returning to theater after a hiatus spent as a mother. Before COVID, she performed in student stand-up shows at the Second City Training Center and trained at Improv Olympic and Annoyance Theater. Her notable roles include Claudia in *Battle Axe Betty* and Jamie in *The Brat Race*, both successful productions. Dee's extensive background includes performances in musicals like *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *West Side Story*, and she has danced classical ballet for twenty years, & toured with the Ukraina Folk Dance Ensemble for seven years. She holds a BA in Theater-Arts Dance Performance from NIU and has choreographed various shows. Currently, Dee teaches ballet, theater, yoga, and Pilates, and leads aqua aerobics classes while pursuing a second BA in communication, media, and theater. She is also a proud mom to her son Jackson, who inspires her daily in her journey of learning about communication. She belongs to the improv group "What's yours Like?"

ANNIE GUTER (Costume Designer) was a homeschooling mom and an accidental costumer, originally a performance major, they found out she could sew. She has been on the team of Tellin' Tales: Six Stories for 13 years making them look beautiful, and accepting the challenge from Tekki for "something new and different." She is also an active costumer for Devonshire Playhouse in Skokie and Thin Ice Ensemble Theater. Credits include Moliere, Shakespeare, Wilder, Wilde, and more.

ELLIOT HUBIAK (Lighting Designer) is a young Chicago professional working as a designer and electrician throughout both the city and suburbs. This is his second year with Six Stories Up! and he is ecstatic to be back. Elliot has also worked with Tellin' Tales on *Six Stories Up in The Attic*, *Hands Up! Body* and looks forward to work with them on future projects. In regards to his own future projects, he'll be working with Strawdog on *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* at Writer's Theatre next month.

RAQUEL "ROCKY" NGUYEN (Backstage Assistant) is a Chicago-based filmmaker and AV tech who primarily works in post-production and writing for the stage and screen. She's a 2023 graduate of Cleveland State University's College of Arts and Sciences with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in Film & Media Arts. Her films have been featured at the Cleveland International Film Festival, the Ohio Shorts Film Festival, the Chagrin Documentary Film festival, and more! When Rocky's not producing or editing, you can find them backstage managing and running lights at the Chicago Dramatists' Youth Commons events or acting with the Naked Angels!

EVRYN SEVCECH (Box Office Manager) is beyond excited to be back with Tellin' Tales Theatre for Six Stories Up. They've had the incredible opportunity to volunteer with Tellin' Tales on various productions and with outreach over the past year. When they're not immersed in the theater world, you can find Evryn working as an ASL Interpreter in the Chicagoland area. They are very passionate about Tellin' Tales mission to shatter barriers between the disabled and non-disabled worlds through storytelling. They hope you enjoy the show!

KODA SHERRILL (Student Assistant Director) is thrilled to be rejoining the Tellin' Tales Theatre crew, as the student assistant director for this year's performances of Six Stories Up: On the Campaign Trail. His prior theatrical experiences include: starring as Gomez Addams, in the Tubman Spring 2024 production of *The Addams Family Musical*; as Ace, in the Tellin' Tales Theatre Fall 2022 production of *Six Stories Up in DISCOVERY* (also here at the Filament); and various student musical and drama performances at the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts, from Fall 2020 to Spring 2022.

ALISHIANA UYAO (Sound Board Operator) is multi-hyphenate artist based in Chicago. She graduated from the University of Illinois-Chicago with a BA in Theatre and Women's Studies. Some of her previous credits include Fefu and Her Friends (Christina), Smart People (Ginny), Limerent (SM), Pericles (ASM), and The Misanthrope (SM). Ally is excited to work with Tellin' Tales for the first time and she hopes you all enjoy the show! Facebook/Insta: alishiana.uyao