

Violet

August 18-28



Presented by

THE
GHOSTLIGHT
THEATRE

Stage Directed by Paul Mow
Music Directed by Joshua Goines

Music by Jeanine Tesori Lyrics and Book by Brian Crawley
Based on "The Ugliest Pilgrim" by Doris Betts

GhostLightBH.com

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Violet	Emilie Kurtz
Violet (8/20 & 8/26)	Hannah Winston
Flick	Richard Allen III
Monty	Seamus Doyle
Young Vi	Paige Mulick
Father	Brady West
Old Lady	Carrie VanDenburgh
Hotel Hooker	Meggie Anderson
Bus Driver	Jonathan Clough
Bus Driver	Joel Smiedendorf
Preacher	Eric Thiele
Leroy/Virgil	Lucas Seven
Music Hall/Mabel A	Madison Jackson
Music Hall/Mabel B	Kelly Collins
Lula Huffington/Landlady	Cindy Goodson
Billy Dean	Christian Roose
Radio Singers (Offstage)	Kelly Collins, Dan Maxon, Paul Mow
Ensemble	Einra Baker, Jonathan Clough, Abbi Kalin,
.	Kate Mosher, Sofia Pate, Christian Roose, Joel Smiedendorf

UNDERSTUDIES

Monty	Brady West
Young Vi	Kate Mosher
Music Hall/Mabel	Einra Baker

ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keyboard 1	Joshua Goines
Bass	Lucas Aguado
Cello	Braden Miesse
Guitar 1	Caleb Kibby
Keyboard 2	Christine Seitz
Percussion	Carolyn Murray
Violin	Brandon Pacheco

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Paul Mow
Music Director	Joshua Goines
Assistant Director	Madison Jackson
Choreographer	Paige Mulick
Costumes	Julie Hampton-Smiy, Beth Ward
Intimacy Choreographer	Kristina McCloskey
Lighting/Sound Design	Dan Maxon
Photography	Lauren Mow
Set Design/Construction	Darin Dahms, Dan Williams
Stage Manager	Brooke Hare
Assistant Stage Manager	Madi Lee
Assistant Tech	Eric Keeler

RUNNING TIME: 105 MINUTES

NO INTERMISSION

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Paul Mow

Director

Set across the burgeoning civil rights era south in 1964, the musical *Violet* is a slice-of-life story of a young white woman, Violet, who leaves the only town she's ever known in rural North Carolina by way of a Greyhound bus bound for Tulsa, Oklahoma. Once there, she hopes to meet up with a televangelist preacher "she has seen on the TV screen", with the faith that he will heal a scar that has disfigured her face during a freak accident in her childhood. *Violet* is based on *The Ugliest Pilgrim*, a short story by Doris Betts, and its themes vacillate on ableism, racism, and prejudice in a very current way that feels as though much has not changed in America - although the setting is nearly 70 years ago!

We've chosen not to physically represent *Violet's* facial disfigurement to the audience, in accordance with *Violet's* original production design. Playwright Brian Crawley explains:

From "A Word about the Scar":

"Composer Jeanine Tesori and I wanted to write Violet together because the story spoke so deeply to us, and because it seemed to require a non-literal presentation. We wondered what would happen if instead we split the character into her adult self, and the girl she was at 13. Perhaps with these two we could examine Violet's scar in its universal, as well as its particular aspects. We soon agreed the most theatrical approach would be to not represent the scar at all. We weren't about to drive a bus onstage; why not leave the scar to the imagination as well?"

Personally, it has been an incredible pleasure to work with this hard-working cast, crew and pit orchestra. This production and some of its most difficult themes will at times make you laugh, cry, and think long and hard about our values as Americans both in the past, present and future. Ultimately, *Violet* does its level best to leave the answers to some of these questions open-ended for you to dwell on as you leave the theatre tonight, including those of women's objectification, being held to the norms of beauty standards, and the heavy burden we all share of our country's slave-owning and racist pasts.

Thank you all for coming out to this production of *Violet* to experience the tenderness and beauty of this wonderful score as well as these talented and gracious performers. I truly hope that you all enjoy yourselves and come back for even more exciting, immersive theatre next season here at The GhostLight Theatre.

Paul Mow,
Director/Artistic Director

CAST BIOS

Richard Allen III (Flick) is an alumnus from Purdue University with a bachelors in theatre acting. He has participated in supporting roles in shows such as *Angels in America*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Fiddler on the Roof*, *Poppea*, and many more. He is very grateful for the opportunity to perform in the show today and he would like to thank everyone for coming.

Meggie Anderson (Hotel Hooker) has been performing in Paul Mow's pro-

ductions for 15 years(!), most recently as the Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*. This will be her first show at GhostLight. She recently graduated with a master's degree in education and is working at Brookview Montessori. She is currently taking time to engage in her passion for music, dance, and theatre here in her hometown while she waits to see what adventure life will catapult her into next. Meggie is stoked to be playing the prestigious role of Hotel Hooker in *Violet*.

Einra Baker (Music Hall/Mabel US/Ensemble) is joining her first production with GhostLight Theatre in the ensemble for *Violet*. She previously worked with LMC as both an Ensemble Member and Set Designer/ Painter for their production of *Sweeney Todd* and appeared as Minnie Fay in Andrews Academy's production of *Hello, Dolly!* Einra is looking forward to furthering her education and continuing on to become an actress.

Jonathan Clough (Bus Driver/Ensemble) is excited to be returning to the GhostLight Theatre as an ensemble member in *Violet*. You may remember him as John Brooke in *Little Women* earlier in the GhostLight's season, or as Tobias Ragg in LMC's production of *Sweeney Todd*. Jonathan is a rising senior at Berrien Springs High School, and hopes to attend a four-year university to study music performance.

Kelly Collins (Music Hall/Mabel/Radio Singer) is so happy to be returning to GhostLight in *Violet*. You may remember her from *Little Women* (Jo) or *Significant Other* (Laura) earlier this summer. Upcoming: *Cabaret* and *Assassins* at Long Island University in New York, where Kelly is a rising senior and Musical Theatre major. She is so thankful to Paul, Josh, Brooke, and the rest of her castmates for making this such a fun process, and especially Mads for being the best mentor and music hall buddy. She would also like to thank her friends and family for their endless support, always. Enjoy the show!

Seamus Doyle (Monty) is excited to be playing the role of Monty! Seamus is a Sophomore at the University of Nebraska, The Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film where he is pursuing a BFA in performance for both stage and screen. He was also a summer intern at GhostLight this summer and is sad to be leaving.

Joshua Goines (Music Director/Conductor/Keyboard 1) is pleased to be returning to Southwest Michigan and GhostLight for *Violet*. Previous music director/conductor credits include *Spring Awakening*, *Bridges of Madison County*, *Urinetown*, *My Fair Lady*, *In the Heights*, *Caroline, or Change*, *West Side Story*, *The Light in The Piazza*, and *Ragtime*. Joshua is thrilled to be back in town working with this splendid cast, orchestra, and crew to bring this story to life!

Cindy Goodson (Lula Huffington/Landlady) is a multi-passionate educator/author/entertainer/entrepreneur. Excited to play the role of the Landlady and gospel soloist, Lula Huffington in *Violet*. R&B singer and formerly a lead singer in the 90's R&B Smash Trio, Tha Truth! Priority Records released their debut album, *Makin' Moves Everyday*, featuring Erick Sermon, Redman, and Keith Murray of Hip Hop's legendary Def Squad crew. Their album debuted on Billboard's Charts Top 100 Fastest climbing albums, with songs written and produced by Missy Elliott, Faith Evans, and Stevie J., just to name a few.

Julie Hampton-Smiy (Costumer) is thrilled to return to GhostLight, where she has worked since its opening on shows including *Urinetown*, *Light in the Piazza*, and *Bridges of Madison County*. She has also costumed for SWMSO for *West Side Story*, *Little Mermaid* and *My Fair Lady* and most recently, *Sweeney Todd* at LMC. Although she has relocated to Tennessee, the Twin Cities will always be home – and she thanks the GhostLight Theatre for the opportunity to continue to return to her “HOME STAGE”.

Brooke Hare (Stage Manager) is excited to be stage managing *Violet*, her second production at the GhostLight Theatre. She recently staged managed GhostLight's production of *Significant Other* and also stage managed LMC's production of *Sweeney Todd*. Brooke plans to continue theatre as a hobby while attending the University of California-Davis as an Animal Biology student in the fall. Brooke would like to thank her family for their continuous support, Paul Mow for this wonderful opportunity, and the cast of *Violet* for making this such a memorable experience.

Madison Jackson (Assistant Director/Music Hall/Mabel A) is a rising junior musical theatre major at Ball State University working towards her BFA. She is so excited for this opportunity to tell one of her favorite stories and assistant direct for the first time! She would like to thank her mother, father, and stepfather for their constant support and love.

Abbi Kalin (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of the cast of *Violet*. A senior at SJHS, she has loved participating in school musicals and is excited to perform with this amazing cast and crew. Abbi is a competitive dancer for Fusion, and performed on the Miss Michigan stage this year representing the communities along the Shoreline. She is grateful to Paul Mow and GhostLight for building her writing, acting, and voice skills. She thanks the cast, crew, and all volunteers for this fabulous opportunity!

Emilie Kurtz (Violet) was born and raised in Southwest Michigan and is ecstatic to be making her debut at the GhostLight Theatre as Violet. Emilie is a recent graduate of Berrien Springs High School and gained her love of music from the school's choir program under the direction of Carrie VanDenburgh. Her favorite theatre role has been Jo March in *Little Women* in the fall of 2021. Emilie will continue her studies of music and theatre at SMC under the direction of David Carew. She'd like to thank Carrie VanDenburgh, Paul Mow, and David Carew for encouraging her to keep striving for greatness. Emilie looks forward to wherever music and theatre will take her in the years to come.

Madi Lee (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to work on her first show at the GhostLight Theatre as an Assistant Stage Manager. She has worked as stage manager/crew for Berrien Springs High School's productions of *Little Women* and *Moana Jr.* and was floored at the invitation to work on her first regional theatre show. Madi would like to give a huge thanks to Mrs. Vandenburg, Sofia, Emilie, and Jon for getting her involved! She is a rising senior at BSHS and plans to continue music as a hobby while studying mechanical engineering at a four-year university.

Kristina McCloskey (Intimacy Choreographer) is a freelance Director and Intimacy Choreographer working in the Michiana region. Previous choreography work with GhostLight includes *Lewiston/Clarkston*, *Significant Other*, *Little Women*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Light in the Piazza*, and *Small Mouth Sounds*. Recent Directing credits include *Something Rotten!* with South Bend Civic, *Twelfth Night* with Midsommer Flight, and *Much Ado About Nothing* with the GhostLight Theatre. Love to Les + Georgie

Kate Mosher (Young Vi US/Ensemble) can't wait to be a part of *Violet* with this amazing cast and crew. She has danced with Fusion Center for Dance competitively for 7 years, is a cellist with Upton Middle School Orchestra, and has been taking voice lessons for 3 years with her awesome teacher, Paul Mow. Kate was in her first play with Tin Shop Theatre, 2 years ago, as Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods*. Born and raised in St. Joseph, she is excited to perform for her local community, and would like to thank her family, friends, and everyone who is a part of *Violet* for all the laughs, and support they have shared with her.

Paige Mulick (Young Vi/Choreographer) is currently a rising senior at Western Michigan University pursuing both a BFA in Dance and a BA in Arts Administration. An alumna of the Citadel Dance Company in Benton Harbor, Paige has worked with choreographers such as Seyong Kim, Kelsey Paschich, and Lari Lawrence-Gist. In addition to her studies, Paige has worked as the Student Production Manager at WMU since 2020. Paige is thrilled to be making her onstage GhostLight debut as Young Vi!

Sofia Pate (Ensemble) is a senior at Berrien Springs High School and is so excited to be a part of the *Violet* cast. Earlier this season, Sofia played Beth in the GhostLight production of *Little Women*. Sofia is planning to pursue musical theatre after high school and is under the voice instruction of Carrie VanDenburgh and Paul Mow.

Christian Roose (Billy Dean/Ensemble) is a rising senior at Interlochen Arts Academy majoring in Theatre/Acting. Christian was cast as Jake in *Lewiston/Clarkston* this summer at the GhostLight and has enjoyed his time as an intern learning the ropes behind the scenes. He is thrilled to be a part of The GhostLight Theatre team!

Lucas Seven (Leroy/Virgil) is an actor, director, and dramaturg. You may have recently seen him in the Midwest premiere of Samuel D Hunter's *Lewiston/Clarkston* as Chris. He is currently pursuing a BFA in Acting at the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Alabama. In the fall he will be directing the southern premiere of a new play by NYC based playwright Andy J Boyd, titled *Three Scenes in the Life of a Trotskyist*. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Joel Smiedendorf (Bus Driver/Ensemble) is a St. Joseph native who has participated in numerous local theatre productions. This is his first show at GhostLight. Joel last worked with many of his castmates in LMC's production of *Sweeney Todd* and is excited to be working with many new faces. Thanks for coming to the show and supporting the arts in Southwest Michigan!

Eric Thiele (Preacher) has stepped into the role of the Preacher in *Violet* following his role in *Sweeney Todd* as Beadle Bamford. Excited to perform one more time, a short hiatus will soon take him on a journey he would not dare to pass up. Eric thanks Paul Mow and the rest of the *Violet* cast and crew for the chance to add yet another character, another scene and another show to his growing acting portfolio.

Carrie VanDenburgh (Old Lady) is excited to return for her second show after playing Senora Naccarelli in GhostLight's *The Light in the Piazza* in 2021. This summer's performance of *Violet* is particularly special as she performs alongside past and present students from Berrien Springs High School, where Carrie teaches choir. Thank you to everyone in the cast/crew for being such amazing people to work with.

Brady West (Father/Monty US) works as a civil engineer with Wightman, but he has been a singer his entire life. Discovered by his parents to have perfect pitch at the age of two, Brady's vocal training began as a boy when he sang first soprano with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, an organization with which he had the opportunity to spend three weeks touring China at the age of 11. His theatre resume includes the roles of Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Theodore Laurence III in *Little Women*, and the illustrious Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*.

Hannah Winston (Violet) is overjoyed to return to the GhostLight Theatre as one of their interns this summer and to be a part of this stellar group of cast and creatives on *Violet*. She is a senior at Long Island University majoring in Musical Theatre and will be receiving her BFA in the spring. Some past favorite credits include: Millie Dillmount in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, The Somebodies in *Everybody*, and Richard II in *Insula: A Reevaluation of Shakespeare's Sonnets and Soliloquies*. She would like to thank her cast, creative, and production team, as well as her friends and family who continue to support all of her artistic endeavors. She appreciates you endlessly!

SPECIAL THANKS

Andy Sawyer
Beth and Carl Mosher
Beth Ward
Dan Maxon
Dan Williams
Danny & Laura Gilligan

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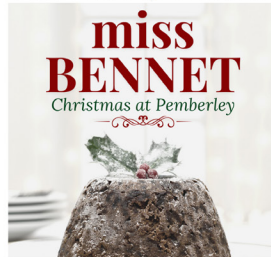
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