

UPCOMING EVENTS

SING IT! VOCAL FESTIVAL

Thursday, February 9
7:30 PM - Sebitts Auditorium

BAND CONCERT

Tuesday, February 14
7:30 PM - Sebitts Auditorium

JAZZ FESTIVAL 2023

LATIN JAZZ MEETS VOCAL JAZZ
Friday, February 17
7:30 PM - Sebitts Auditorium

PROJECT H WITH CONCERT JAZZ BAND (PRESENT ORIGINAL MUSIC)

Saturday, February 18
7:30 PM - Sebitts Auditorium

MORTEN LAURIDSON'S LUX AETERNA

Monday, February 20
7:30 PM - Sebitts Auditorium

GET YOUR TICKETS AT [FRIENDS.EDU/FINEARTSTICKETS](https://friends.edu/fineartstickets)

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY PRESENTS



Based on the DreamWorks Motion Picture

Catch Me If You Can

The Musical

Book by Terrance McNally
Music by Marc Shaiman
Lyrics by Scott Wittman
Marc Shaiman

Originally produced on Broadway by

Margo Lion & Hal Luftig

Stacey Mindich Yuhiro

Kawaha Scott & Brian Zellinger

The Rialto Group The Araca Group

Michael Watt Barbara & Buddy Freitag

Jay & Cindy Guterman/Pittsburgh CLO

Elizabeth Williams Johnny Roscoe Productions/

Van Dean Falcon Productions/Solshay Productions

Patty Baker/Richard Winkler Nerderlander Presentations

Inc. and Warren Trepp

In association with

Rimmel T. Dickson Pale Herald/Kate Lear Stephanie P. McClelland

Jamie deRoy Barry Feinstein Ramona J. Reyes Rodney Rigby Loraine

Boyle Amuse, Inc. Joseph & Matthew Deitz/Cathy Chernoff Joan Stein/Jon Murray

"The World Premier of CATCH ME IF YOU CAN was produced by The 5th Avenue

Theatre, David Armstrong, Executive Producer and Artistic Director, Bernadine Griffin,

Managing Director, Bill Barry, Producing Director"

SEBITS AUDITORIUM

FEB 3 - 5, 2023

DIRECTORS NOTE

CAST



Our heroes, who we admire and hold in high esteem, are imperfect beings just like us. They are constantly striving to fill the gaps in their lives with strategies that they consider suitable, efficient, and manageable. Our parents, who often play the role of heroes in our lives, are no exception. They too face their own challenges and have developed their own methods of coping. However, because they are our parents, we hold them to an even higher standard of excellence. We see the world through their eyes and their victories and failures deeply impact us.

"Catch Me If You Can" explores the concept of heroes through the complex lens of the father-son relationship. This dynamic shapes how young men handle conflict, joy, sorrow, and even love. Our parents can teach us how to survive, but eventually, it's up to us to figure out what we need to thrive. The shortcomings of Paula and Frank Abagnale Sr. have a lasting impact on Frank Abagnale Jr. When faced with the difficulties of a broken family, Frank runs away in search of a better life, but without any resources of his own, he relies on what he has seen others do. He deceives like his father, runs like his mother, avoids, and slips into different lives to escape the pain.

Our parents, mentors, guides, and heroes do the best they can with what they have. How do we break away from someone else's survival methods and find our own? What happens when our heroes no longer hold weight in our lives and we don't know who we are? We turn to worldly distractions to ignore the parts of us that need attention. FBI agent Hanratty speaks to this when he says, "You'll get tired of running." Eventually, we figure out what truly matters to us and what we're willing to do to protect it. From this purpose, our personal identity is born.

Let's shed the layers of the past that cloud our view of humanity. Let's remove the rose-tinted glasses that make our heroes appear perfect and take an honest look at our own lives. Let's say goodbye to the facade of who we think we should be and embrace who God intended us to be.

This production takes us on a journey from naivety to self-awareness to self-respect. Along the way, we will see humans express their most profound thoughts and feelings. We will encounter situations that challenge our perspectives and make us question our beliefs. When those moments of discomfort arise, I hope you approach them with open ears, a patient mind, and an inviting heart.

Peace, Love, and Blessings

SHELDON MBA, MFA

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| Frank Abagnale Jr. | Zachary Garraway |
| Carl Hanratty | Joshua Kelley |
| Frank Abagnale Sr. | Davis Green |
| Paula Abagnale | Rachel Mullen |
| Brenda Strong | Salma Peña |
| Roger Strong, Jack Barnes, Tailor | Jarod Daniel |
| Carol Strong, Cindy | Gretchen Otter |
| Agent Branton, Frank Jr. u/s..... | Braden Sweet |
| Agent Cod | Nicholas Wetta |
| Agent Dollar | Josiah Watney |
| Cheryl Ann, Attractive Assistant, Showgirl, Nurse | Ali Kells |
| Nellie, Hotel Manager, Showgirl, Nurse, Paula u/s | Mia Krebs |
| Betty, Stewardess, Nurse, Carol u/s | Lillian Smith |
| Mindy, Attractive Assistant, Nurse | Madyson Groves |
| Showgirl, Nurse | Adelynn Hobbs |
| Principal, Attractive Assistant, Intern 1 | Andrea Powers |
| Jane, Nurse, Swing | Sarah Pressnell |
| Bartender, Nurse | Gemma Watts |
| Kellie | Abigail Hale |
| Nurse | Lilly Busatti |
| Doctor Wanamaker, Judge, Hanratty u/s..... | Lorenz Looney |
| Railroad Agent, Pan Am Executive | Dimante McLeod |
| Nerd, Ben Casey | Eric Perales |
| Jock, Atlanta Doctor | Jason Payne |
| Bank Teller | Katrina Leddy |
| Ben Casey Intern | Sydney Nelson |
| Ensemble Dancer | Linnea Meade |
| Ensemble | Alayna Duffield |

PRODUCTION

Stage Director & ChoreographerSheldon Mba
Music Director & ConductorMatthew Schloneger
Assistant DirectorCaitlyn Fox
Assistant Choreographer / Dance CaptainSarah Pressnell
Set Design & ConstructionJohn Gale
Set Design AssistantKaren Smith
CostumerEmily Baldridge
ProjectionsOriginal design by Robert Andrew Kovach
Provided by Music Theatre Wichita
Lighting DesignDan Harmon
Technical Director & Sound DesignBob Hett
Stage ManagerRebecca Grosselin
Rehearsal PianistsJoan Ehresman & Cindy Blasdel
Lightboard Operator / Backstage CrewElias Pino
Projections OperatorKelley McDonald
Follow Spot OperatorsTaylor Athanasiou, Michael Taylor
Backstage CrewElias Pino
Set Construction and PaintingHolly Ruth Gale, Jarod Daniel
Rolaine Hetherington, & John Hetherington
Costume & Wig AssistantAli Kells
Costume PurchasingAdelynn Hobbs
Poster and Program DesignFaith Cox

ORCHESTRA

ConductorMatthew Schloneger
Keyboard 1Joan Ehresman
Keyboard 2Jace Nelson
FluteAmy Hoffman
ClarinetChris Johnson
Alto Sax, Soprano SaxSorrel Jacobs
Tenor Sax, Bass Clarinet, ClarinetNate Brightup
Bari Sax, PercussionBecker Truster
Trumpet 1Nicholas Schroeder
Trumpet 2Kellon Johnsen
TromboneGabe Karst
GuitarRandy Zellers
BassDevon Gassman
DrumsAdam Tillberg



Rachel Kasper de Benedet
Music Theatre Wichita
Dr. Amy Bragg Carey
Dr. Nathanael May
Robyn Mabe
Alyssa Whalen
Nick Schroeder
Irene Vickers Baker Charitable Trust



ZACHARY GARRAWAY is currently a sophomore and is excited to be back on the stage for another Friends University production. He is ecstatic to be playing a dream role of his and to be leading his first college production. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continual love and support. He would also like to thank his director, production team, band, and fellow cast mates for collaborating with him to make such an amazing show.



JOSHUA KELLEY is a junior this year at Friends and is studying Music Theater. You may recognize him from last year's production of *Little Women* where he played Braxton or from his solo "Delivery" in the 2021 production of *Working as Freddy Rodriguez* as well as many other productions at Friends. Josh has enjoyed working on *Catch Me if You Can* and is thankful to cast, crew, orchestra, and directing team for making this show the best it can be.



DAVIS GREEN is a sophomore studying Vocal Music Education with a minor in Music Theatre. He has been performing for 9 years. He has performed with various groups such as the Wichita Grand Opera, Trinity Academy, and Stagelights Theatre Co. In his free time, Davis likes to play the guitar & piano, listen to classic rock records, operate with Amateur Radio/Ham Radio, and hang out with his nephews. He hopes to direct a college and/or church choir in the future.



RACHEL MULLEN is a sophomore majoring in Music Theatre and is elated to be performing in her first musical at Friends University! She is very excited for audience members to see all the hard work this cast has put in. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support. She is grateful to all her professors for their guidance and teaching that got her to where she is today.



SALMA PEÑA is a senior studying Vocal Music Education with a minor in Musical Theatre. Throughout her time at Friends, Salma has appeared in *Fables*, *Alcina*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Working* the musical. Salma is currently the Student Conductor for the world-renowned Singing Quakers. She serves as a section leader in the Hill Singers Choir at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. Salma has thoroughly enjoyed the process of learning and telling Brenda's story and hopes you enjoy the show!



JAROD DANIEL is a returning Friends student. After attending Friends a few years ago, he took some time off where he worked as a professional performer and lead puppeteer at Field Station: Dinosaurs in Derby. He is currently pursuing a Music Theatre degree with the hopes of directing one day. Jarod is really excited to be back at Friends, and he is appreciative of Professor Mba and Dr. Schloneger for giving him the chance to be a part of this show.



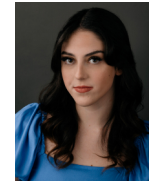
GRETCHEN OTTER is a junior pursuing a B.A. in Music Theatre and minor in Dance at Friends University. She was last seen on the Friends' stage as "Izzy" in *Rabbit Hole* and "Amy" in *Little Women*. She also had the pleasure of directing Friends' production of *Dani Girl* this past summer. She would like to thank her family and friends for relentlessly supporting her artistic endeavors. She hopes you enjoy the show!



BRADEN SWEET is a junior here at Friends University. He is currently working on a degree in Music Theatre, and is thrilled to be portraying Agent Branton as well as Frank Jr u/s. Some of his recent credits include *Rent* with Crown Arts Collaborative, and *Titanic* with Forum Theatre. When he is not performing, Braden directs at Foundations Youth Theatre. Braden would like to thank Sheldon Mba, Matt Schloneger, Caitlyn Fox, and all the wonderful people who have spent time putting together this wonderful show. Enjoy! (Jeremiah 29:11)



NICOLAS WETTA is thrilled to be performing in his 3rd show at Friends! He is a sophomore here at Friends University and has recently been seen here as Rodrigo in *Little Women* and Sherlock Holmes in *Baskerville*; in the community he has been seen as Tom Sawyer in *Big River (Roxy's Downtown)*, Prince Ben in *Descendants (Laughing Feet)* and most recently in *All is Calm* with the Wichita Grand Opera. He would like to thank the entire cast and crew for their continued support and hopes you enjoy the show!



ALI KELLS is a sophomore Music Theatre major here at Friends University. Along with the show *Dani Girl* also at Friends, you may have seen her on stage at Roxy's Downtown in *Carrie: The Musical*. She is also a Character Performer at Wichita Princesses. She would like to thank her professors, family, friends, and classmates for all their support.



SARAH PRESSNELL is thrilled to be in *Catch Me if You Can* as she concludes her time at Friends. Sarah loves the Fine Arts and has been doing theatre since she was a sophomore in high school. Some of her favorite productions she's performed in are *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *The Little Mermaid* and now *Catch Me if You Can*. When not in school or performing, she enjoys spending time with her husband, drinking coffee, eating good food or curling up in a blanket with a good book and her cat.



DR. MATTHEW SCHLONEGER - MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Matthew Schloneger, Associate Professor of Voice, is excited to be back in the Sebits pit for *Catch Me If You Can*. Now in his sixth year at Friends, he has served as music director, conductor, and producer of numerous productions. He recently took students to the finals of National Opera Association's Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition for the

third straight year, coming away with a 2nd place in the nation finish. He also serves as the founding Executive Director of Opera Seme, a young artist opera program in Arezzo, Italy and is Board President of Opera Kansas. He hopes you enjoy tonight's powerful story of redemption.



CAITLYN FOX - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Caitlyn is so grateful to have had the opportunity and privilege of being the assistant director of *Catch Me if You Can!* She would like to thank Sheldon for being an amazing mentor and for trusting and supporting her throughout this process. She would also like to thank the cast for all of their hard work and dedication to this production. Caitlyn is a recent graduate of

Friends University after completing her BA in Music Theatre this past December. She has also performed with many theatrical groups around town such as the Crown Arts Collaborative and the Forum Theater. You can see more of her work at www.caitlynbfox.com! Enjoy the show!



The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

