

Jane Austen's  
*Persuasion*



ROMANTIC COMEDY

FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 8



**PERSUASION**

**Jane Austen**

ADAPTED BY

**Kaitlyn Hohl & Jennifer Hohl**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

James B. Parker

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Spencer Hohl

**DIRECTED BY**

Jennifer Parker Hohl

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**

Seth Larson

**SET & LIGHTING DESIGN**

James B. Parker

**COSTUME DESIGN**

Rebecca Fenton

**COSTUME ASSISTANTS**

Paige Burton, Lauri Baird, Mary Virginia Camp, Laralynn Clark, Summer Fenton, Amy Goodwin, Sadie Nagle

**SOUND DESIGN**

Spencer Hohl

**PROPERTIES BY**

Erin Oliphant

**HAIR & MAKEUP**

Shannara Jones

**Stage Manager**

Olivia Simmons

**Dialect Coach**

David Weekes

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**DIRECTORS NOTE**

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of one of our great authors, Jane Austen! She only wrote six books in her life... And her last one, Persuasion, was actually published by her brother, six months after she passed away. Many critics and fans alike regard Persuasion as her finest work. It is a story of lost love and second chances. I'm not the only one who wonders if this piece isn't semi-autobiographical. We don't know much about Jane's personal life... Not her love life anyway, excepting she never married. Anne Elliot's character says, "All I will claim for my own sex is that of loving longest when all hope is gone." It does make you wonder if the words Jane wrote for our heroine, Anne Elliot, was not an echo of own personal love life. Did Jane Austen have a secret love? That is a mystery we will probably never solve! The detective in me would love to know... But the friend in me is glad that her personal life has remained her own.

I would like to thank this wonderful cast who have gone far and beyond to tell you this wonderful story with depth and grace. Thank you to Rebecca for her beautiful costumes and to Erin for her thoughtful props. I think the set and lighting is some of the most beautiful my brother Jim has ever designed. He's kind of a genius. The beautiful music for the sound design was all chosen by my son, Spencer. He's kind of a genius as well. My daughter-in-law, Kaitlyn, wanted to try her hand at script writing... her adaptation of Persuasion is the result... I think she's a genius too.

Can't do any of this without two wonderful men in my life — my right hand, man, Seth Larson, the production assistant, and my dear husband, Michael, who, in addition to playing the Admiral so admirably and moving set pieces, has to live with me while I'm directing it! Add two more geniuses to the list! Lastly, I'd like to thank my mom for her words of encouragement, and of course to Jane Austen, whom I consider a personal friend.

I hope someday that Jane and I can walk in a heavenly country garden somewhere talk about our families and remark, while laughing arm and arm, on the shrubberies. Happy birthday, my friend! XO.

*Jennifer Parker Hohl*

# SUMMARY

Jane Austen's *Persuasion* unfolds amidst the elegant society of early 19th-century England. Anne Elliot, a thoughtful and reserved young woman, finds herself at a crossroads when Captain Frederick Wentworth, a former suitor whom she was persuaded to reject years ago, reenters her life as a wealthy and successful naval officer. Set against the backdrop of societal expectations and personal regrets, "*Persuasion*" explores themes of love, regret, and second chances.

## CAST

### ANNE ELLIOTT

#### MADELINE THATCHER

Madeline is happy to be back at the Parker for her third "Jane-uary" in a row. Some of her favorite past roles include Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Hermia (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Nurse (*Romeo and Juliet*) at the Parker; Estelle (*No Exit*) and Nora Powers (*Chains of Dew*) with Sisyphus Theatre Co.; and Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*) with the Hopebox. When Madeline isn't onstage, she also writes and directs. "For anyone who has ever related to Taylor Swift's 'This Love,' this one's for you."

### CAPTAIN WENTWORTH

#### DANIEL FREDERICKSON

After playing Slim in *Of Mice and Men* last year, Dan is pleased to be returning to the Parker. Some of his favorite roles include Frolo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Father in *Ragtime*, Adam Pontipee in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Father in *Children of Eden*, Neville Craven in *The Secret Garden*, Kerchak in *Tarzan*, and Chauvelin in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

### SIR WALTER

#### DAVID WEEKES

David is a veteran to the stage having performed in many theaters throughout Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. David is a regular performer at Hale Centre Theatre where he has played the role of 'Ebenezer Scrooge' in *A Christmas Carol* for the past 15 years. David has brought many beloved characters to life including 'Grandpa Potts' in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, 'Archibald Craven' in *The Secret Garden*, 'Chauvelin' in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, 'Michael' in *I Do! I Do!*, 'Atticus Finch' in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 'Dr. Manette' in *A Tale of Two Cities*, and 'Horace Vandergelder' in *Hello, Dolly!*. Two of his favorite roles are 'Clive' in *See How They Run* and 'Huck Finn' in *Big River*.

### MARY MUSGROVES

#### MCKELLE SHAW

Mckelle is so excited to make her Parker debut! Some of her favorite roles include: *Little Women* (Jo March), *Titanic* (Alice Beane), *Into the Woods* (The Witch), *Seussical* (Gertrude McFuzz) and *She Loves Me* (Ilona Ritter). McKelle works as an actor, teacher and makeup artist. "Thank you, Jenni and Seth for the opportunity to grow and learn, enjoy the show!"

### CHARLES MUSGROVES

#### STRATFORD HEALEY

Stratford is a graduate of Southern Utah University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Classical Acting. Some of his favorite shows he's been part of are *Private Lives*, *All My Sons*, and *Man of la Mancha*. This is his first show at Parker Theater.

### LOUISA MUSGROVES

#### EMILY STATES

Emily is thrilled to be making her Parker Theatre debut. An avid Austen admirer since childhood, *Persuasion* has long been her favorite of the authoress' novels, and it has been a joy bringing the story to the stage. Other recent credits include Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* and Guenevere in *Camelot*. Emily would like to thank her family and a patient God for their constant support even when she is quite determined.

### HENRIETTA MUSGROVES

#### ISABELLE PURDIE

Isabelle is excited to return for her fourth show at the Parker Theatre, where she was recently seen as Belle in *A Christmas Carol*. Favorite credits include *You Can't Take It With You* (Alice), *See How They Run* (Ida), *Sleepy Hollow* (Katrina), *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Daniel), and *Romeo & Juliet* (Juliet). Isabelle grew up watching her parents perform and started acting when she was seven-years-old. She is currently pursuing a BFA in Acting at UVU.

When not on stage, Isabelle enjoys playing with her two dogs and spending time with her husband, Ethan. "I'm so grateful to my husband and family for supporting me. Special thanks to my sister, Ivy Purdie, who is the real life Louisa to my Henrietta. I hope everyone enjoys the show!"

### MR SHEPHERD/ CAPTAIN HARVILLE

#### GREGORY RAMPTON

Gregory Rampton (Capt. Harville, Mr. Shepherd, Servant). Gregory is very thrilled to be appearing in his first show at The Parker Theatre, and his first staged adaptation of a Jane Austen novel! Some of his favorite previous roles include Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family Musical* (Twice! At Timpanogos Arts and Lehi City Arts) and the vicar Lionel Toop in *See How They Run* (Pleasant Grove's PG Players). He thanks each of the wonderfully talented cast and crew for such making

this production so much fun! Finally, "Thank you, God, for these talents. Thank you forever, to my wife and my ten daughters who never cease to amaze me and make me proud. Thank you for supporting me. You are my first and cherished audience, always."

### ADMIRAL CROFT

#### MICHAEL HOHL

Michael was last scene on the Parker stage as the "Actor" in *The Woman in Black*. Favorite credits include Hale Centre Theatre - *Hello Dolly!* (Horace Vandergelder), *Bright Star* (Mayor Dobbs), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lord Astor), *Big River* (Pap), *Big Fish* (Amos Calloway), *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Jacob), and *The Three Musketeers* (Athos); West Valley Arts - *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mr. Mushnik), *She Loves Me* (Mr. Maraceck); CenterPoint Legacy Theatre - *To Kill A*

*Mockingbird* (Atticus Finch), *Noises Off!* (Freddy), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Teddy). Michael has a BS in Business Management from Westminster College. "For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbors, and laugh at them in our turn? "

### MR. ELLIOTT

#### JOHN HAYES NIELSEN

John has done things at places and is excited to do this thing at this place. He has a job and loves his family. "Giving my life to a Rainbow like You"

### BENWICK

#### JOSH AUGENSTEIN

Josh is thrilled to be performing in *Persuasion* for his first performance at the Parker Theater! He holds a love for storytelling of all mediums with credits spanning the screen and the stage. Some of his recent theater credits include Biff Loman in *Death of a Salesman* and Greg from *BYU's 24 Hour Theater Project See*. In front of the camera, he has portrayed Charlie in *The Ballad of the Westwind Kid*, participated in *BYU AdLab*

commercials for *Lyft* and the *Red Cross*, and you might spot him in the background in episodes of *Angel Studios' The Chosen*. He thanks his family, friends, and fellow cast members for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

### LADY RUSSELL

#### MELANIE MURANAKA

This is Melanie's first time on the Parker stage and she is delighted to be in this beautifully adapted show with such a warm and talented group of performers and production staff. Melanie has been performing her whole life and hopes to continue for many years to come! Some of her roles include Mrs. Bennet in *Pride & Prejudice* (HCTO), Mrs. Frank in *Diary of Anne Frank* (HCTO) and Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance* (HCTO) as well

as her many film and television appearances over the years. She wishes to extend her heartfelt gratitude to Jenni for her gentle and inspired guidance.

### MRS. CROFT

#### CECILY BILLS

Cecily's favorite credits include: *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder*, *The Music Man*, *Little Women*, *Candide*, *The Secret Garden*, *Ragtime*, *The Pirate Queen*, and *Sweeney Todd*. She has a performance diploma in Musical Theatre from the AMDA and both a Bachelor's and Master's of Music in Voice Performance from U of U. Cecily works as a Adjunct Professor in Vocal Performance at UVU and BYU

and as a private vocal instructor. "Thank you to the Jenni and the Parker for this wonderful opportunity to tell a beloved story, to my family and friends who are so generous to help with the kids, and my three main guys: Justin, Clark, and Wyatt."

### MRS. CLAY

#### SHAYLIA JOHNSON

Shaylia is so excited to be making her Parker Theater debut! Some of her other favorite roles include Mrs. Potts (*Beauty and the Beast*), Jane Bingley (*Pride and Prejudice*), Queen Constantina (*Cinderella*), Aquata (*Little Mermaid*), *Follies Girl* (*Crazy For You*), and a very pregnant Sister Mary Leo (*Nonsense*). Her all-time favorite roles, however, are wife and mother. Shaylia has a BA in Family and Consumer Sciences as well as a minor in Ballroom Dance from BYU. Off stage she can

be found chasing around her four crazy kiddos, teaching voice lessons, volunteering in the PTA, and creating incredible wigs and costumes. "All my love to Bryan! Thank you for persuading me to marry you thirteen years ago! Happy Anniversary!"

### ELIZABETH ELLIOTT

#### NICOLE HOLBROOK

Nicole Holbrook is so excited to premier at the Parker Theatre with such an amazing cast and crew! She hails from Vista, CA. She graduated with a BA in Stage and Screen Acting from UNLV in Las Vegas, NV, and while there originated the role of Helen Price in the period horror short, *It Lives In a Cave in the Woods*. Nicole's first play was *The King and I* at The Grande Theatre at the tender age of five. Since then, her favorite roles i

nclude *Mother* (*Blood Wedding*), *Susan* (*The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*), *Mrs. Webb* (*Our Town*), *Mary Bailey* (*It's A Wonderful Life*), *Ms. Bates* (*Emma*), *Hortense* (*The Boyfriend*), *Honour* (*Tom Jones*), and *Anne Shirley* (*Anne of Green Gables*). Thanks to my kids and husband, who daily dream and imagine with me! Thank you, Jenni, for this wonderful opportunity. You are forever the best witch in the Woods!



### MRS. SMITH

#### MARIAH BOWLES

Mariah is delighted to be a part of the Parker Theatre's production of "Persuasion." Originally from St. George, UT, Mariah received her BFA in acting from Brigham Young University. Favorite roles include Elizabeth Proctor in "The Crucible" (BYU Main Stage), Mina Mulwray in "The Bookbinder's Tale" (Hive Collaborative Theater), Vera Claythorne in "And Then There Were None" (Echo Theater), Cecily Cardew in "Travesties" (BYU Main Stage), and Joanna in "Savior of the World" (Conference Center Theatre). When not performing, Mariah enjoys reading, cooking, and being outdoors. A huge shout out to her wonderful family for always being so supportive and thank you to everyone who helped make this production a success!



### NURSE ROOK

#### BRENNA BROWN

This is Brenna's first production with the Parker Theatre and it is an honor to be welcomed with wide open open arms. She was not anticipating being cast two weeks before opening, but is very grateful to have been! Some of her previous roles include Miss Kelly in Harvey, Suzanne Hendricks in Wait Until Dark, Essie in You Can't Take It With You, and a reoccurring role as Mother in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. She has also stage managed a handful of shows including See How They Run and She Loves Me. Alongside being an actress and a stage manager, Brenna is also a notable set painter. All off this is made possible by the support and love of her family. And what an exciting experience it has been to be perform with her youngest child, Ian!



### MUSGROVE BOY 1

#### WYATT BILLS

Wyatt has recently discovered he wants to be an actor like mom and dad. A 5th Grader at Salem Elementary he loves to play his oculus, snuggle his puppies and lego. His favorite roles to date are Tiny Tim and Fredrick in A Christmas Carol, Winthrop Paroo in The Music Man and Colin Craven in The Secret Garden.



### MUSGROVE BOY 2

#### LIAM BROWN

Ian is 5 years old and this is his first play! He has been begging to be on stage since the age of 2 and is beyond ecstatic to finally have the opportunity. He loves Spiderman, muddy puddles, and marine animals. One of his favorite home activities is filling random containers with water and leaving them throughout the house with toy fish inside. If you exist then he is your friend with out question. His favorite foods include breakfast sandwiches, mini muffins, and ham-cheese-peanut butter sandwiches.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

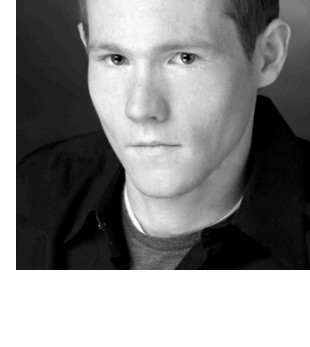
### DIRECTOR



#### JENNIFER PARKER HOHL

Jennifer recently directed Pride & Prejudice last year at the Parker and is a true fan of Jane Austen. Jennifer is an accomplished director, writer, musician and performer. Favorite credits include: The Light in the Piazza (Margaret Johnson), Hello, Dolly! (Dolly Levi), Fiddler On The Roof, Into the Woods, Little Women, Mary Poppins, and Joseph... Dreamcoat. She has written, directed, and performed for the last 14 years in Witchapalooza at Gardner Village, works as a vocal instructor, and is a well-known director and music director in the Utah theatre community. She holds a BA in Music from BYU. "Thank you to my dearest husband, children, and grandchildren: you are all the most interesting and hilarious people I know."

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANT



#### SETH LARSON

Seth's Stage Manager and Production Assistant credits include Emma (Parker Theatre), Into the Woods (Hale Centre Theatre) Pirates of Penzance (Hale Centre Theatre), Witchapalooza (Gardner Village), She Loves Me (West Valley Arts) and the state sponsored production of "Spike 150" celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike.

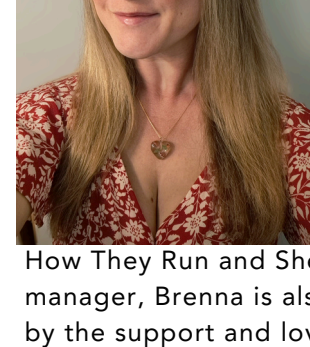
### STAGE MANAGER



#### OLIVIA SIMMONS

Olivia is excited to be stage managing this wonderful Jane Austen production. She has years of experience working behind the scenes in stage management and tech, including five years stage managing Witchapalooza at Gardner Village. She's thrilled to be part of this production and looks forward to helping bring it to life!

### ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER



#### BRENNA BROWN

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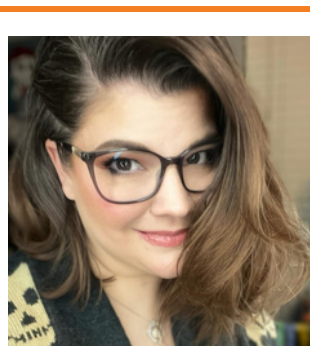
### SET & LIGHTING DESIGN



#### JAMES B. PARKER

In addition to playing countless roles as an actor, James has been designing lights and building sets since for what feels like...most of his life. Starting way back in the City Rep days at the old Utah Theatre, through the Utah Children's Theatre years, and now the Parker Theatre. In addition to sets and lighting, James has designed and remodeled the historic Avalon Theatre along with the Soda Fountain and Studio. James is the Executive Director of the Parker Theatre.

### COSTUME DESIGN

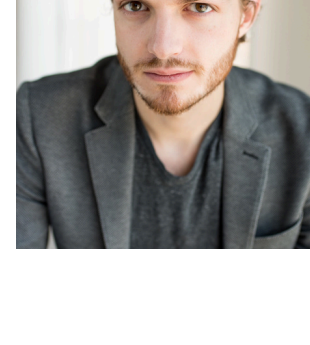


#### REBECCA L. FENTON

Rebecca always feels so blessed every time she gets to costume a Parker Theater production. This is her fifth show for Parker and her tenth show overall since beginning costuming for theater in 2023. This process has been so fun. She is delighted classic favorite has been produced in such a meaningful way. Parker Theater really knows how to do beautiful storytelling with no detail overlooked. To render stuff about Rebecca. She has her own custom bridal and bridal alterations business. She has been doing fashion design for 30 years along \

with a variety of different careers. She has her Rotor Wing Pilot's License and Aircraft Dispatchers License. Rebecca has 3 kids and 1 husband for whom she owes a huge debt of gratitude for his loving patience and easy laughter. She loves to paint (all kinds), craft (all the crafts) and read (like a lot). She really hopes you enjoy this performance and this awesome cast has put their time and excellent talents in to.

### SOUND DESIGN



#### SPENCER HOHL

Spencer has composed the music and sound effects for several productions at the Parker Theatre - including Emma, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Christmas Carol and many others. Spencer also serves the Associate Artistic Director at the Parker.

### PROPERTIES



#### ERIN OLIPHANT

Erin has done many productions at Parker Theater, and is thrilled to be working with them again. For 16 years she has volunteered in various capacities with the Herriman Children's Theater program. By day, Erin can be found teaching reading groups at a local elementary school. She loves managing props as a creative outlet and opportunity to mingle with amazing new people. Erin appreciates the support of her sweet husband and seven awesome kids.

### HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN



#### SHANNARA JONES

Shannara has a Master Esthetician license, and she is thrilled to be using her skills in designing makeup and hair/wigs at the Parker Theatre. She has been designing for The Parker for a few years now and loves it. Her love for makeup originally was inspired by the behind-the-scenes footage of Lord of the Rings.

# Ready For a Special Treat?

Stop by the soda fountain before the show or at intermission!

## PERSUASION SPECIALTY MENU

Persuasion Pomegranate Raspberry Rose Soda

Red Velvet, Chocolate and Strawberry Dipped Almonds

Raspberry English Tea Cookie Trio

Vanilla & Raspberry Heart Macarons

English Tea Tray  
2 Vanilla Bean Scones with Clotted Cream & Wilkins & Sons Apricot Preserves

Sweetheart Sweet & Salty Mix

Cherry Cheesecake Sundaes



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David S. Ward

Adapted from the Academy Award winning film

made popular with the dynamic duo of Paul Newman & Robert Redford.

The Sting is an exhilarating journey into the world of high-stakes cons and dangerous alliances, where every move counts and trust is a luxury. With its gripping storyline, memorable characters, and meticulous attention to detail, the play invites theatergoers to experience the thrill of the ultimate sting firsthand, leaving them on the edge of their seats until the final curtain call.

# THE STING



ACTION

MARCH 29 - MAY 3

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We would love to hear your thoughts of the show!

