

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

UNC Charlotte College of Arts + Architecture and
The Department of Theatre, The Department of Dance, and The Department of Music
present

PIPPIN

Book by Music & Lyrics by
ROGER O. HIRSON STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Originally produced on the Broadway stage by Stuart Ostrow
Originally directed on the Broadway stage by Bob Fosse

2013 Broadway revival directed by Diane Paulus
Theo Ending Originally Conceived In 1998 by Mitch Sebastian

DIRECTOR
Dean Adams

CHOREOGRAPHER
Delia Neil

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Bill Congdon

CIRCUS DIRECTION
CarlosAlexis Cruz

ASST. CHOREOGRAPHER
Krysta Rogden

COSTUME DESIGN
Allison Amidei

LIGHTING DESIGN
Bruce Auerbach

SCENIC DESIGN
Gordon W. Olson

SOUND DESIGN
Benjamin G. Stickels

STAGE MANAGER
RJ Binford

PIPPIN

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 541-4684 Fax: (212) 397-4684
www.MTIShows.com

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Thu Apr 21- Sat Apr 23, 2022 | 7:30 pm
Sat Apr 23 & Sun Apr 24, 2022 | 2 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Director's Note

"Now you see it, now you don't."

What started as a concept for our production of *Pippin* became awkwardly prescient when, on March 13, 2020, we had to suspend rehearsals because of the COVID-19 pandemic. What was initially going to be a two-week delay became two years. Props, costumes, and scenery that had been partially built were moved to storage. In those two years, students graduated or moved on, and we began rehearsing this year with half the cast and all the student management crew being new. We honor that original group of student artists, directors, builders, and managers whose names appear elsewhere in this program.

It takes a village to put on a musical, and all three performing arts departments in the College participated in the selection of *Pippin* and provided students and faculty. Our Musical Theatre Certificate program, directed by Laura Waringer and Dr. Sequina DuBose, supports a wide variety of musical theatre training for music, dance, and theatre majors. Many of the performers you will see in *Pippin* are certificate students. The cirque arts courses in theatre, led by Carlos Alexis Cruz have enabled the spectacular skills that you will see showcased in this production. All of these programs require in-person training, and we have only recently been able to work on skills in a face-to-face classroom.

Pippin has been popular on university campuses since its original Broadway production in 1973, in part because its eponymous character is a college graduate who is looking for something "completely fulfilling." Jaqueline Wingard's article elsewhere in this program will give you some perspective on Bob Fosse's conceptualization of composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz's and Roger O. Hirson's book. The original artists allegedly fought over the development of the musical, with Fosse favoring a much darker and more cynical version than Hirson and Schwartz had intended. The final musical was arguably the better for it. The 2013 Broadway revival directed by Diane Paulus introduced a circus concept that has revitalized the show for the 21st century. We are performing this version while paying homage to Fosse's original work and introducing our own steampunk-infused magical contributions.

We have all been changed by the pandemic, just as Pippin is changed by his experiences. As we slowly make our way back to large gatherings, we hope that you will celebrate the immediacy and value of live performance- and perhaps reconnect with a neighbor or two.

- Dean Adams

PIPPIN

Cast

(members of the 2020 company in bold)

PIPPIN

Logan Pavia

LEADING PLAYER

Erika Rush

LEWIS

Tanner Bowers

CHARLES

Connor Wilson

THEO

Deity Brinson

BERTHE

Chloe Shade

FASTRADA

Allison Hancock

(Originally cast as The Players)

CATHERINE

Carly Helms

THE PLAYERS

Sabrina D'Aiello

Jeanine Diaz

Kat Fletcher

Aidan Higgins

Malia McCarthy

Sam Pomerantz

Krysta Rogden

Brooke Russo

Heath Tillman

Trinity Turner

Kaila Ward

Jaquelyn Wingard

Sabrina D'Aiello

Krysta Rogden

Krysta Rogden

AERIALISTS

Jaquelyn Wingard

CIRQUE CAPTAIN

DANCE CAPTAIN

Understudies

PIPPIN	Sam Pomerantz
LEADING PLAYER	Deity Brinson
LEWIS	Heath Tillman
CHARLES	Drew Coley
THEO	Sabrina D'Aiello
BERTHE	Jeanine Diaz
FASTRADA	Kat Fletcher
CATHERINE	Malia McCarthy
AERIALIST	Nicole Sparks

Orchestra

Musical Director/Keyboard 1	Bill Congdon
Keyboard 2	Mark Adam Watkins
Reed 1	Haven Gallegos*, Sean Stanton*
Reed 2	Sadie McNair*, Jack Murray
Trumpet	Brad Wilcox
Trombone	Lee Caesar*
Guitars	Tim Murray
Bass	Anna Stadleman
Percussion	Evan Corey
Drums	John Pickett*
Violin/Viola	Kirsten Allen
Cello	Liz Burns
Vocals	Drew Coley
Vocals	Jocelyn Cabaniss

**current student*

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Scene 1: THE OPENING

“Magic to Do” The Players

“Corner of the Sky” Pippin

Scene 2: HOME

Scene 3: GLORY

“War is a Science” Charles and The Players

“Glory” Leading Player and The Players

Scene 4: THE FLESH

“Simple Joys” Leading Player and The Players

“No Time at All” Berthe and The Players

“With You” Pippin and The Players

Scene 5: REVOLUTION

“Spread a Little Sunshine” Fastrada

“Morning Glow” Pippin and The Players

ACT II

Entr'acte

Scene 1: POLITICS

Scene 2: ENCOURAGEMENT

“On the Right Track” Leading Player and Pippin

Scene 3: ORDINARY LIFE

“Kind of Woman” Catherine

“Extraordinary” Pippin and the Players

“Love Song” Pippin and Catherine

Scene 4: THE FINALE

Leading Player, Pippin and The Players

**The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production
is strictly prohibited.**

Dramaturg's Note

Bob Fosse lived 60 years as choreographer, director, screenwriter, dancer, and actor. Given that Fosse grew up during the beginning of the Great Depression, dance lessons were not a priority for his family. Marguerite Comerford taught Bob Fosse the dance steps that allowed his future career to take off. At the young age of 13 he began performing with the Riff Brothers and committed the remainder of his childhood to dance classes and vaudeville engagements. As these performances with the Riff Brothers continued, Fosse was exposed to a world of older women who would become the focus of his psychotherapy. This exposure would affect him later in life, as both of his wives were older than him. Upon graduating high school, Fosse decided to join the Navy where he performed in a variety of shows through The Entertainment Branch. Once leaving the Navy, Fosse landed the role in the national company of *Call Me Mister* where he was the dance lead. Finally, in 1950 Bob Fosse made his Broadway debut in *Dance Me a Song*. While working on this show, he met Joan McCracken, his soon-to-be second wife, while working as a featured dancer alongside his then-wife, Mary Ann Niles.

Not long after *Dance Me a Song*, Fosse was performing in *Kiss Me Kate* and was able to choreograph a piece of the film, which then landed him the job as choreographer for *The Pajama Game*. In 1950, *Damn Yankees* led him to meet Gwen Verdon, who became Bob Fosse's leading lady in most of his work and also, his third wife. From the late 1960s to the late 1970s, Fosse created a variety of groundbreaking musicals and films. His work greatly reflected the desire for sexual freedom that was expressed across America, and he experienced great success. He also found himself entangled in affairs and drug abuse; this appeared to be his way of coping with his depression. Still, by 1972 he had put on four Broadway productions. Then, in 1973, Bob Fosse received two Tonys, three Emmys, and one Oscar award. This occurred in a span of two months and has yet to be matched by another artist five decades later. After receiving these awards, he continued to choreograph, direct, and write until he died of a heart attack prior to the opening of *Sweet Charity* at the National Theater in Washington, D.C. at just 60 years old.

The story of *Pippin* began as a musical written by Stephen Schwartz. To drum up investor interest, the book was rewritten by Roger O. Hirson, and many claim that Bob Fosse had a great influence on the storyline as well. Once *Pippin* made it to the Broadway stage, Bob Fosse acted as the director and choreographer, despite frequent conflicts with composer Stephen Schwartz who thought Fosse was making the show too dark.

Fosse and Schwartz still managed to produce a seventies pop-style show that dismisses a happy ending and welcomes a real-world conclusion.

Bob Fosse's original direction produced an unusual and disturbing production. Fosse created surreal moments that play on the collective imagination and appear and disappear within the audiences' mind. This show acts as an alternative take on the American Dream. The audience observes the realities of life facing Pippin and how he will confide in the Leading Player to guide him through each situation. Fosse's way of adding cynicism to the show was to have the Leading Player manipulate Pippin's attempts to find meaning in life. The artificial play that is created by the "players" helps to move Pippin from scene to scene while masquerading the characters' ultimate goal for him: "The Finale."

Many that worked with Fosse on *Pippin* recall that each character became a reflection of Fosse's personal life, whether that be his relationship with women, depression/suicidal thoughts, or his vaudeville past. Through acting, dance, and song, Fosse and Schwartz were able to clearly depict a metaphorical world that drives the show. The central metaphor of the sun is repeated many times as versions of sunrise, sunset, sun, and "son." In the Grand Finale the players ask Pippin to "think about the sun," but the climactic moment takes a dark turn. Will the Leading Player guide Pippin in the right direction so that he can achieve the fulfillment he has been searching for?

- Jaquelyn Wingard

Works Cited

Gottfried, Martin. *All His Jazz: The Life & Death of Bob Fosse*. Da Capo Press, 2003.

Miller, Scott. *From Assassins to West Side Story: The Director's Guide to Musical Theatre*. Heinemann, 1996.

CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Associate Dean for Performing Arts Services

Elizabeth A. Yoder, Production Manager

Beverly Lueke, Interim Performing Arts Operations Manager

Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director

Hali Hutchison-Houk, Costume Lab Manager

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Master Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer

Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Audio Engineer and Asst. Production Manager

Rachel Swenson Watkins, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management

Hazel Doherty, Music Stage Manager

Kyra Hubert, Music Stage Manager

Wendy Van Rees, Performing Arts House Manager

Alex Gomes, Performing Arts House Manager

Robinson Hall Technicians

Emmett Cleaver, Mary Groff, Leenah Newby, Chloe Shade, Renee Szeghy

Performing Arts Audio Technician

Emily Parker

Production Team

(members of the 2020 company in bold)

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Elizabeth A. Yoder
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Matthew B. Fraiser
PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN	Rick Moll
COSTUME LAB MANAGER	Hali Hutchison-Houk
COSTUME LAB SUPERVISOR	Rachel Engstrom
SOUND ENGINEER	Benjamin G. Stickels
STAGE MANAGEMENT MENTOR	Rachel Swenson Watkins
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	Ren Bell, Stacy Fernandez, LeAnne Niedziela
ASST. STAGE MANAGER- SPOTS	D.J. Cook
ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGN	Emily Parker
PROPS DESIGN	Dean Adams, Gordon W. Olson
PROPS ASSISTANT	Ren Bell
MAGIC ILLUSIONS	Dean Adams
MAKEUP DESIGN	Tasha Kay
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Chase Brantley
SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS	Brandy Brown, Rayden Leeder, Diego Lopez, Irene Nash
FRONT OF HOUSE MIX	Emily Parker
AUDIO & VIDEO TECHNICIAN	Nianza Nsiambote
DECK CREW	Aaron Anthony, Oliver Clodfelter, Sarah Freeman, Riley Kneer, Megan Nowik
WARDROBE CREW	Duncan Bayer, Olivia Pardo, Oliver Snyder, Sydney Scott, Ashley Waugh
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR	Beth Killion
COSTUME LAB TECHNICIANS	Sophia Bradley, Emma Suzik, Adriana Tavira-Garibay, Mandy Worley
COSTUME LAB CREW	Helen Ciavolella, Tyler Clare, Olivia Colone, Micah Contee, Tiffany Gaskins, Deanna Giovacchini, Lily Lafave, Ellie McCutchen, Summer Post, Astrid Reed-Kennedy, Brooke Russo, Emma Suzik, Olivia Thonissen
LEAD ELECTRICIAN	Dan Mulder
LIGHTING LAB TECHNICIANS	DJ Cook, James Hornburg , Tasha Kay, M. Lupino
LIGHTING LAB CREW	Alex Bissette, Emmett Cleaver, Isabelle Grise, Alyce Hyder, Summer Post, Rebecca Vaughan
LEAD SCENIC CARPENTERS	Kyle Harris, Jack Mathura
SCENIC CARPENTERS	Macey Biddinger, Joseph Ellsworth , Ana Risch, Daniel Ruiz, Pavlo Smith
SCENIC PRACTICUM	Duncan Bayer, Julia Moser, Erika Rush

Original *Pippin* Company (2020)

(members not involved in this production)

Cast

LEWIS	Blake Briles
CHARLES	Drew Coley
THEO	Amanda Bolton
BERTHE	Migdalia Ramirez
FASTRADA	Jocelyn Cabaniss
THE PLAYERS	Carmen Ballard, Rachel Bierly, Blake Briles Aly Claypool, Amber Coleman, M. Lupino Emma Montecalvo, Kenny Raynor

Orchestra

Reed 1	Bryanna McKeon
Trumpet	Andrew Beiter
Trombone	Ryan Hoag
Cello	Sydney Norwood, Lincoln Gaskins
Keyboard 2	Mac McKinley

Design Team

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER	Michael Lee
ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER	Emma Montecalvo

Production Team

STAGE MANAGER	Tori Fagan
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Sierra Bavis, Madi Strickland
DANCE CAPTAIN	Emma Montecalvo
STITCHER	Melody Branch, Beth Killion
COSTUME LAB WORKERS	Anh Nguyen, Sarah Putnam, Sydney Sprangrud, Madison Strickland
COSTUME LAB CREW	Lea Rose Allbaugh, Kayla Clark, Kristin Fast, Isabelle Grise, Dylan Ireland, Bambi Johnson, Derrick Jones, Jillian Klosek, Alexis Logan, Caroline Marolda, Kayley McLamb, Meredith Pack, Ella Sanchez, Katherine Temple
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Joshua Murray
LEAD SCENIC CARPENTER	Reid Hibbard
SCENIC CARPENTERS	Joshua Smith, David Tilley, Tanner Wenning, Patrick Werner
SCENIC PRACTICUM	Blake Briles, Dylan Delagarza

College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Under Construction
Student Choreography Concert
Mon Apr 25 & Tue Apr 26
Robinson 118

Jazz Ensemble
Wed Apr 27 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Orchestra
Thu Apr 28 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band
Fri Apr 29 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Range of Motion
Student Dance Concert
Fri Apr 29 & Sun May 1
Robinson 118

MAY

Percussion Ensemble
Sun May 1 | 2 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

University Chorale
Mon May 2 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Women's & Men's Choirs
Tue May 3 | 7:30 pm (W) & 8:30 pm (M)
Anne R. Belk Theater