

PLAYHILL

PHHS PLAYERS



songs for a new world

Thurs. Nov. 11 • Fri. Nov. 12 • Sat. Nov. 13 • Sun. Nov. 14, 2021

Pascack Hills High School

Montvale, NJ

PASCACK HILLS PLAYERS Present

songs for a new world

Direction and Technical Direction by Allison Andresini

Musical Direction by Nicole D'Angelo

Choreography by Adria Warfield

Sound Design by Ryan Dore

Lighting Design by Sabrina Moe

Lighting Supervision by Frank Viskup

Costume Design by Allison Andresini

Scenic Design by Valentina Cannao

Synopsis of Songs for A New World:

It's about one moment. It's about hitting the wall and having to make a choice...or take a stand...or turn around and go back. These are the stories and characters of today, the Songs for A new World. The first musical from Tony Award winner, Jason Robert Brown (Parade, Bridges of Madison County), this moving collection of powerful songs examines life, love and the choices we make.

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

Music & Lyrics by
JASON ROBERT BROWN

Additional Book Material
DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre, New York City, 1995
(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

Original Orchestration by Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown
Songs for a New World

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"It's about one moment, that moment you think you know where you stand
And in that one moment the things that you're sure of slip from your hand
And you've got one second to try to be clear, to try to stand tall
But nothing's the same and the wind starts to blow..."

For those who are unfamiliar, *Songs for a New World* is not your typical musical. It doesn't have a linear plot or consistent characters, and on the surface, it may appear more like a concert than a traditional show. Composer, Jason Robert Brown, describes it as a theatrical song cycle, a series of discrete vignettes united by a common theme: the decision point. Every song in our show is a window into a different world, where characters across time and place are each struggling with choices that have the potential to define their lives. Each option they face opens up a "new world" of possibilities, sparked by the dream of hope or shrouded by the fear of regret.

Some characters are in the midst of making a decision; The captain of a sailing ship crossing the Atlantic tries his best to keep his crew and passengers safe during their long journey; A young woman who discovers she is pregnant on Christmas Eve grapples with her feelings, comparing her emotional journey to that of the Virgin Mary; Two lovers on the wrong side of a breakup share their feelings and decide whether or not to give their love another try.

Some characters are looking to the future and the decisions that lay in their path; An Upper East Side housewife threatens to jump off a building if she doesn't get the attention she's missing from her husband; A young basketball player juxtaposes his difficult upbringing against his goals to become an NBA star; Betsy Ross turns sewing her iconic flag into an exercise in hope and fear as she prays for the safe return of her loved ones who are out fighting for American Independence.

Other characters are looking back on decisions they made that shaped their lives for better or worse: A woman who prioritized an extravagant lifestyle over passion and love wonders whether what she gained is worth what she lost; A man looks back on his failed relationships, comparing his journey in love to his father's successes and failures running a store; A prisoner reflects on the injustice of his wrongful imprisonment, wondering whether or not his dreams can still come true or if his story has already been written.

Each of these stories may seem to have nothing in common, but as the show progresses, themes begin to appear, and patterns emerge. When planning our future, should we prioritize love or security? When the safety or happiness of others lies in our hands, how do we deal with that responsibility? Does your past define you or can you rise above your circumstances? What does it feel like when we reach a fork in the road and don't know where to turn?

As you watch our production of *Songs for a New World*, you may find yourself connecting the dots as these themes are explored, or you may just sit back and enjoy an evening of beautiful songs. Either way, the students of the Pascack Hills Players have put their hearts and souls into learning this challenging music, exploring these various characters, learning unique, contemporary choreography, and designing sets, costumes, and lighting to unite these varied stories into one, cohesive vision. The team and I would like to thank them for their hard work throughout this unusual process, and for always being on board for a new challenge.

"If you didn't try then you'd never get to fly
So you pick a spot to roam and you're welcomed home
To a new world, calling me to follow
There's a new world just behind the door
A new world calls me, and I'm ready to explore, to explore..."

— Allison Andresini

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Maddy Leibman
Hadyn Hopper
Jacob Levin
Shariany Then
Zachary Ligasan
Bethany Chen
Cameron Cho
Rachael Lokshin
Ari Sharon
Scianna Scott
Declan Cleary
Riley Solomon
G Madaio
Rebecca Cohen
Jocelyn Adereth

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

First Stage Manager.....Aaron Solomon
Second Stage Manager.....Ethan Ferrer
Assistant Stage Manager.....Kylir Alexander
Assistant Costume Designer.....Keira Ferrentino
Assistant Sound Designer.....Shaan Dalal
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Sean Manole

CREW

Stage Crew.....Kylir Alexander, Hannah Baskin,
Shaan Dalal, Matt DiBella, Ethan Ferrer, Maeve Frize,
Bridget Fullam, Gio Gonzalez, Emily Kerns, Eliza Krigsman,
Julia Mandler, Josh Mayer, Sabrina Moe, Rebecca Nicolas,
Sophia Pettaris, Lily Plechner, Rebecca Singleton,
Aaron Solomon, Brendan Swiderski, Katie Verde, Stephanie Ye

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

“The New World”	Maddy, Hadyn, Jake, Shariany, Company
“On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship, 1492”	Zach, Company
“Just One Step”	Rachael
“The River Won’t Flow”	Ari, Zach, Company
Transition to: “Stars and the Moon”	Bethany
“Stars and the Moon”	Maddy
“She Cries”	Declan
“The Steam Train”	Shariany, Company

Act Two

“The World Was Dancing”	Riley, Ari, Company
“Surabaya-Santa”	G
“Christmas Lullaby”	Scianna
“I’m Not Afraid of Anything”	Rachael
“King of the World”	Hadyn
“I’d Give it All for You”	Jake, Bethany
Transition to: “The Flagmaker, 1775”	Rebecca
“The Flagmaker, 1775”	Shariany, Riley, Rachael, Bethany, Rebecca, Scianna
“Flying Home”	Declan, Scianna, Company
Final Transition: “The New World”	Jocelyn
“Hear My Song”	Rebecca, G, Riley, Company
Bows	Orchestra

INTERMISSION

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

Snacks will be sold in the lobby.



Jocelyn Adereth



Bethany Chen



Cameron Cho



Declan Cleary



Rebecca Cohen



Hadyn Hopper



Maddy Leibman



Jacob Levin



Zachary Ligasan



Rachael Lokshin



G Madaio



Scianna Scott



Ari Sharon



Riley Solomon



Sharianny Then

photography by

SKY

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**Congratulations to the
cast and crew of**

**songs
for a
new world**

Actor, Model, Musician ~ Headshots & Portfolios



Audition Photos

for colleges, camps or catalogues



Who I Am Portraits

A portrait to celebrate individuality.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

JOCELYN ADERETH (*FINAL TRANSITION*) - Jocelyn is mainly a self-taught musician. When she was younger, she'd sing Ray Lamontagne and Neil Young on long road trips and participated in her schools' talent shows. Now she turns to the Hills stage for her first production with the PHHS Players. She is involved in other activities such as robotics and surrounds herself in the arts. Music is one of the biggest motivations in her life, along with her family and friends and she hopes to keep it that way for the rest of her life.

BETHANY CHEN (*TRANSITION I, I'D GIVE IT ALL FOR YOU*) - *Songs for a New World* is Bethany's third show with the Pascack Hills Players (*Facetime Continuum*, *Sister Act*), but her first one officially on the Pascack Hills stage! She is a sophomore who has also been part of shows at FMS (*Big*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Little Mermaid*) and with BTW (*The Wiz*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Mamma Mia*). This show has been an incredible experience for Bethany, especially with it being her first one at PHHS with a full in-person rehearsal process. She is so, so proud of her castmates and their incredible talent and cannot describe what an honor it is to perform beside them. She would like to thank Allison, Nicole, Adria, and Aaron for all the hard work they have done. She would also like to say a big thank you to Mommy, Daddy, Elijah, Christiana and her friends for all the ways they have shown support. Enjoy *Songs for a New World*!

CAMERON CHO (*ON THE DECK*) - Cameron is a sophomore at Pascack Hills high school, this is her first musical on the Hills stage, but she served on the stage crew in *Sister Act*. This is not her first musical, she has performed at Woodcliff Lake middle school's productions. When she's not with the cast, she likes to read, hang out with her friends, and write in her journal. As much as she loves hanging out with her friends at rehearsal, she would love to get some sleep. Working with this cast, taught her that there are people that are dependable, that listen, and that really do care about everyone. She looks forward to working with them on other projects. Enjoy *Songs for a New World*!

DECLAN CLEARY (*SHE CRIES, FLYING HOME*) - Declan, a Junior at hills, is extremely excited to be able to return to in-person musical theatre this year. During his freshman year, you may have seen him in *Under Pressure* (Miles), as well as in *Curtains* (Bobby). Overall, Declan is looking forward to, hopefully, his first full year of high school theatre!

REBECCA COHEN (*TRANSITION TO FLAGMAKER, HEAR MY SONG*) - Rebecca is thrilled to be able to perform in *Songs for a New World* this year. She has participated in shows such as *Seussical Jr*, *Godspell*, *Chicago*, *Curtains*, *Sister Act*, and *Mean Girls*. Rebecca's hobbies include dancing and solving crossword puzzles. She hopes you love *Songs for a New World* and its incredibly talented cast as much as she does!

HADYN HOPPER (*A NEW WORLD, KING OF THE WORLD*) - Hadyn is a sophomore and is pumped to be a part of *Songs for a New World!* This is her third show at Pascack Hills, and she can safely say she loves her theater family. Aside from theater, she is a part of Chamber Choir, Concert Band, A Capella, and Marching Band. She would like to thank the many people who have driven her to and from rehearsal throughout the rehearsal process. She'd also like to tell everyone to break a leg!

MADDY LEIBMAN (*A NEW WORLD, STARS AND THE MOON*) - Maddy is a 17-year old performer and cannot wait to perform in her fifth Hills Musical! Recently: *Curtains* (Bambi), *Under Pressure*, *Be More Chill* (Brooke Lohst), and *Sister Act* (Tina). She has thoroughly enjoyed having a normal rehearsal process back, and thanks the incredibly supportive creative team for making it happen.

JACOB LEVIN (*A NEW WORLD, I'D GIVE IT ALL FOR YOU*) - Jacob is thrilled to be back on the Hills stage for his fifth production with the Pascack Players. Jacob is a junior and has appeared in *Curtains* (Randy Dexter) and *Sister Act* (Eddie Souther) as well as serving as a development assistant for *Under Pressure* and participating in *FaceTime Continuum*. In his spare time, Jacob enjoys photography, prop building, and reading. He hopes you enjoy the show!

ZACHARY LIGASAN (*ON THE DECK, RIVER WON'T FLOW*) - Zachary is a junior and is excited to perform in his first show at the Pascack Hills theatre. Outside of theatre, Zach is a part of the Hills Chamber choir,

Acapella group, Lunch choir, Cross Country, and is even an avid member of the Track and Field team. He is proud of the cast and crew for the hard work put into this production, and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

RACHAEL LOKSHIN (*JUST ONE STEP, I'M NOT AFRAID*) - Rachael is a senior, and she is so excited to perform in her seventh musical on the Hills stage. You may have previously seen her in *Sister Act* (TJ), *FaceTime Continuum* ("Times Like This" from *Lucky Stiff*), *Curtains* (Ronnie Driscoll), *Under Pressure* (Jenna), *Chicago* (Juror), and *Godspell* (Ensemble). Outside of theatre Rachael is involved in the Hills Chamber choir and Acapella group. Rachael has loved watching this show come to life, and she hopes you enjoy it as much as she does. Best of luck to the cast and crew!

G MADAIO (*SURABAYA SANTA, HEAR MY SONG*) - G Madaio is a Junior at PHHS. This is their 4th show at the school. You can also see them in *Under Pressure* (Gigi), *Curtains* (Ensemble) and *Sister Act* (Ensemble). Outside of PHHS they have also been in *Mamma Mia* (Ensemble), *Cinderella* (Jaq), *Peter Pan* (Wendy), and *Love/Sick* (Maddie) along with many more. Outside of theatre G enjoys voice acting, participating in clubs, sports, and traveling. They hope you enjoy *Songs For a New World!*

SCIANNA SCOTT (*ON THE DECK, CHRISTMAS LULLABY, FLYING HOME*) - Scianna, a senior at PHHS, is thrilled to perform in her seventh show at Pascack Hills! You may have previously seen her in the PHHS production of *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Patrick), singing *Titanium* in the

original production of *Facetime Continuum*, and in the PHHS productions of *Curtains* (Featured Dancer), *Under Pressure* (Aubrey), *Chicago* (Clerk), or *Godspell* (Day by Day). Scianna will be applying to college for screenwriting, and spends her free time writing and editing articles for the PHHS Trailblazer! Scianna will also be directing the Fieldstone Middle School Musical this spring alongside some of her peers, and singing in the PHHS acapella choir! She can't wait for you to see all the hard work that she and her peers have put into this show, and wishes the best of luck to the amazingly talented cast and crew!

ARI SHARON (RIVER WON'T FLOW, WORLD WAS DANCING) - Ari is super excited to perform in *Songs For a New World* live on stage with the Pascack Hills Players. As a junior at Pascack Hills High School, this is Ari's fifth production. He has participated in former musicals: *Under Pressure* (Toby), *Curtains* (Harv Fremont), *FaceTime Continuum* (Singer/Writer), and *Sister Act* (Curtis Jackson). Some of Ari's other hobbies include playing piano, singing, performing with the marching band, and most of all, hoping you enjoy the show!

RILEY SOLOMON (WORLD WAS DANCING, HEAR MY SONG) - Riley is so excited to be participating in her seventh show at Pascack Hills! You may have seen her in *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Theresa), *Curtains* (Featured Dancer), *Under Pressure* (Amber), *Chicago* (Hunyak, Helen Hayes Youth Theatre Metro Award nominee), or *Godspell* (Featured Dancer). She was also a part of the cast and writers' room for the Players' virtual variety show

Facetime Continuum. Outside of theater, Riley dances at Just Off Broadway Performing Arts Academy and is an editor-in-chief of the Trailblazer. A huge thank you goes out to the cast, crew and directing team for all their hard work and dedication. Riley hopes you love *Songs for a New World* as much as she does!

SHARIANY THEN (STEAM TRAIN, FLAGMAKER) - Shariany, a Senior at Pascack Hills High School, is thrilled for everyone to see this exciting show that our cast and production team have created over the past month. This is her sixth show as a part of the Pascack Hills Players, her first being *Chicago* (Cell Block Vocalist) and second being *Under Pressure* (Summer). She was also in *Curtains* (Featured Dancer), the virtual show, *Facetime Continuum*, and *Sister Act* (Pablo) last year. Outside of theater she participates in the schools Chamber and Acapella choirs and is also a member of the Tri-M Music Honors Society. She has had so much fun watching this show come together and is thrilled for you all to see.

*The Pascack Hills
Players would like to
thank Dr. Fishbein, Mr.
Wieland, Mrs.
Schwartzman and the
entire staff,
administration, and
Board of Education for
their support of theater at
Pascack Hills.*

PRODUCTION TEAM



Allison Andresini



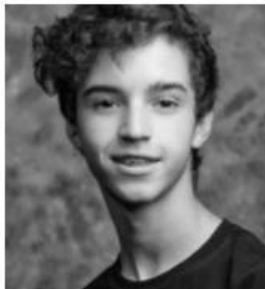
Nicole D'Angelo



Adria Warfield



Aaron Solomon



Ethan Ferrer



Sabrina Moe

WHO'S WHO ON THE PRODUCTION TEAM

ALLISON ANDRESINI (*DIRECTOR/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR*) - Allison Andresini is a filmmaker, theater director, writer, producer, and acting/vocal coach. Allison got her BFA in Acting from Montclair State University. She is co-founder and Executive Producer of Band Name Pictures, an NJ film production company. Previous musical productions at PHHS - Under Pressure: A Musical Revue, Curtains, Face-Time Continuum (our virtual variety show - now available to watch on YouTube!), and Sister Act (Winner Best Actress - Yemie Woo, PaperMill Rising Star Awards '21). Select professional theatre directing credits include Vis Major (Treehouse Theater), Maude Goes to Sleep (Luna Stage), Mallory/Valerie (The Living Theater, NY International Fringe Festival), Reefer Madness (Montclair State University Players), and Hair (Montclair State University Players). Film directing credits include Late for Brunch (2018, Winner Top Shorts Film Festival, Indie Street Film Festival), Toss-Up (2019, Hoboken International Film Festival, New York Shorts International Film Festival, Golden Door International Film Festival, Garden State Film Festival), the blue light stays on (2021, Winner Best Female Filmmaker Garden State Film Festival, Reale Film Festival, Big Apple Film Festival), and Alan Builds A Fire (postproduction). She is thrilled to be back in person in the auditorium and would like to thank her students and production team for all their hard work, and the administration at Hills for their unwavering support.

NICOLE D'ANGELO (*MUSIC DIRECTOR*) - Nicole D'Angelo (she/they) is a music director, actor, and multi-instrumentalist who works in NJ and NY. In addition to music directing at schools and community and youth theatres in both states, Nicole is a music director at the French Woods Festival for Performing Arts and the Professional Performing Arts School in NYC. Recently she appeared in Hangar Theatre's production of Once where she played Ex-Girlfriend and also played six instruments onstage. She is also known for her disability advocacy work and is passionate about empowering Autistic performing artists like herself. This is Nicole's third show at PHHS (*Curtains*, *Chicago*) but their first time music directing here! They live in Montclair with their cat Oliver.

ADRIA WARFIELD (*CHOREOGRAPHER*) - Adria Warfield began her journey in dance at Progressive Dance Studio in New Jersey. In her early teens, she auditioned for and was accepted into Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Junior Division program where she volunteered as a teacher's assistant for three years and trained until she graduated high school. Ms. Warfield then attended Montclair State University from which she graduated magna cum laude with a B.F.A. in dance. After graduating college, Ms. Warfield started an internship with choreographer Bianca Paige Smith, and she began teaching dance at various dance studios. In addition to being the choreographer for the musicals at Hills, Ms. Warfield is the color guard instructor for the marching band and is now a full-time dance teacher at a charter school in Jersey City.

RYAN DORE (SOUND DESIGNER) - Mr. Dore currently serves as the Director of Bands at Pascack Hills. Before coming to Hills Mr. Dore began his teaching career as the Director of Bands at South Plainfield HS in South Plainfield, NJ. Mr. Dore has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Grove City College, Grove City PA, and a Master of Music degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. During his time here at Hills, Mr. Dore has revitalized the Marching Band Program, traveled and competed with the Concert Band, performed with the Jazz Band as well as teaching multiple music classes. He recently completed the season for the PHHS Marching Broncos show, *Nightwatch*. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Dore is the advisor for the A/V club, Auditorium Manager, and Sound Designer for the PHHS Players. Congratulations to all, great work everybody!

AARON SOLOMON (STAGE MANAGER) - Aaron is thrilled to be involved in his seventh show with the PHHS Players, his second one as the stage manager. A senior at Hills, Aaron has appeared in the crew of *Godspell*, *Chicago*, *Under Pressure*, and *Curtains*. He took on the role of stage manager in *Sister Act* this past spring. He would like to thank Allison, Adria, Nicole, Dore, Frank, Ethan, Kylir, all of the musicians in the pit, the extremely talented cast, and especially the best stage crew ever. He hopes you enjoy our production of *Songs for a New World* and that you go follow **@phhsplayers** on Instagram and **Pascack Hills Players** on Facebook!

ETHAN FERRER (STAGE MANAGER) - Ethan is so excited to be a stage manager in *Songs for a New World*! This is his second show in this role, his first being in *Sister Act*. He has served as the prop-master in past productions. He would like to congratulate the directors, crew, cast, and most of all, Aaron, on a job well done. Break a leg everyone!

SABRINA MOE (LIGHTING DESIGNER) - Sabrina is excited to be part of *Songs for a New World*, her fourth show at Hills. This is her second show as head of lighting, with *Sister Act* being her first. Other than lights, Sabrina has assisted with building and painting sets for past productions. She is thankful for the mentors, cast, and especially fellow stage crew members who are involved in this amazing show. Good luck to everyone!

*Thanks for supporting the
Pascack Hills Players!*



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**Mark your calendars for our
Spring show:**

March 24-27, 2022

ORIGINAL SCORE & LYRICS

JASON ROBERT BROWN is the ultimate multi-hyphenate - an equally skilled composer, lyricist, conductor, arranger, orchestrator, director and performer – best known for his dazzling scores to several of the most renowned musicals of our time, including the generation-defining *The Last Five Years*, his debut song cycle *Songs for a New World*, and the seminal *Parade*, for which he won the 1999 Tony Award for Best Score.

ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keyboard.....	Nicole D'Angelo
Violin I.....	Ally Jenkins
Violin II.....	Katia Baranova
Viola.....	Emily Wong
Cello.....	Matt Peters
Guitar.....	Flip Peters
Bass.....	Tim Santo
Percussion.....	Leanne Santos
Drums.....	Jon Berger

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Parent Volunteer Coordinators.....	Audrey & Frank Scott
PlayHill Layout & Design Coordinator.....	Kari Solomon
50/50 Chair.....	Matt Solomon
Concessions Chairs.....	Jessica Cho, Tammy King
Hugs & Kisses Chair.....	Susan Levin
Volunteers.....	Rachel Baskin, Angel Chen, Christy Cleary, Jodi Cohen, Purobi Desai, Kim Ferrentino, Mary Frize, Terence Frize, Beth Fullam, Dawn Hopper, Tara Leibman, Andrea Lokshin, Ana Madaio, Jennifer Mandler

Additional Thanks To:

Dustin Fontaine of *Blue Man Group* for teaching a master class for our cast.

Kathryn Yannalfo of *Photography by Sky* for taking cast headshots.