# FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

# JEANINE TESORI

Books and Lyrics by

**BRIAN CRAWLEY** 

Based on "The Ugliest Pilgrim" by

DORIS BETTS

VIOLET

Violet is presented through special arrangement with MTI All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI mtishows.com

FAU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

November 11th- 20th, 2022 Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre

**FAU BOCA RATON** 

www.fau.edu/theatre

### **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

In the fall of 1999, while I was living and working as an actor in Los Angeles, I was lucky enough to be in a production of *Violet* at Laguna Playhouse. It was one of the first regional productions of the show after it premiered at Playwrights Horizons in New York City in 1997, so it was very new material – to us and to audiences. As we finished reading the script aloud on the first day of rehearsal, everyone in the room had tears in their eyes. We knew we were going to be part of a beautiful and profound piece of theatre.

Since then, the show has become a cult favorite among theatre people, but it never got the traction of other small, story-driven musicals. That has always surprised me. With its soaring score of yearning bluegrass and inspiring gospel songs, and its stirring book scenes full of nuanced characters desperately seeking human connection, it has always seemed to me to be a perfect example of musical theatre storytelling.

But maybe that's it. Maybe, like Violet, we are afraid to take the long hard look at ourselves and each other that the musical demands. Maybe the show's themes of forgiveness, redemption, and personal growth cut a little too close to the bone and challenge our comfort zones just a little too much. Maybe it's a lot to wrestle with – because, just like life sometimes, it is. But if we do, what is waiting for us at the end, in all its stillness and simple serenity, is what makes the journey worth it.

Light.

And don't we all need a little bit more of that?

Bruce Linser

# DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE presents



MUSIC BY

JEANINE TESORI

BOOK & LYRICS BY
BRIAN CRAWLEY

**DIRECTOR**Bruce Linser

Music Director
Paul Tine

Scenic Design Aubrey Kestell+ LIGHTING DESIGN
Thomas Shorrock

Costume Design
Dawn Shamburger

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Rebecca Lucatero

Sound Design
Harmon Casey

**STAGE MANAGER** Nicholas Giallourakis

#### Violet

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mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

#### CAST

Violet	Caitlin Foster+
Flick	
Monty	Kyle Smith+
Young Vi	
Father	
Preacher	Gustavo Garcia
Virgil	Paolo Pineda
Leroy Evans/Ensemble	Matthew Altef
Old Lady/Ensemble	Cait Siobhan Kiley*+
Bus Driver 1/Ensemble	Joel M. Rodriguez+
Waiter/Ensemble	Blaine DeBerry
Bus Driver 2/Ensemble	Shayna Gilberg+
Hotel Hooker/Ensemble	Sarah Sun Park+
Almeta/Ensemble	Daniella Coby
Music Hall Singer/Ensemble	Shekendra Parrish
Billy Dean/Ensemble	Eryk Dewire
Bus Driver 3/Ensemble	Doriyan De'Angelo Caty
Lula Buffington/Ensemble	Cassidy Joseph
Bus Driver 4/Ensemble	Daryan Lyew-Ayee

#### UNDERSTUDIES

Violet/Hotel Hooker: Shayna Gilberg+; Old Lady/Bus Driver 2: Ana Calise+; Almeta/Lula: Chelsea Thomas; Music Hall Singer: CassidyJoseph; Flick/Bus Driver 3: Johnathon Thompson Jr.; Father: Kyle Smith+; Monty: Blaine DeBerry; Billy Dean: Paolo Pineda

#### ARTISTIC STAFF

Director	Bruce Linser
Music Director	Paul Tine
Asst. Director	
Technical Director	Rebecca Lucatero
Stage Manager	Nicholas Giallourakis
Asst. Stage Manager	Jartavia Roundtree
Scenic Designer Costume Designer Lighting Designer	Aubrey Kestell+
Costume Designer	Dawn Shamburger
Lighting Designer	Thomas Shorrock
Sound Designer	Harmon Casey
Dance Captain	Daniella Cobý

Band		
Violin	Julia Wadsworth, Gustavo Correa	
Cello	Madalina Macovei	
Guitar	Kelly Dow	
Drums	Julie Jacobs	
Bass	Rupert Ziawinski	

#### **PRODUCTION CREW**

Costume Shop Manager	Tim Bowman
Scene Shop Manager	Matt McCord
Head Electrician	Sarah Romeo
Asst. Head Electrician	Paolo Pineda
Light Board Operator	Jessica Norton
A1	Stephanie Young
	Johnathon Thompson
Follow Spot	Toby Ambros,
	Noah Granger, Amalia Phend
Scene Painter	Ashley Hyde
Props Head	Carolina Rodriguez
Props Crew	Kalin Basford
Head Carpenter	Gustavo Garcia
Carpenter	Blaine DeBerry
Crew	Sarah Romeo,
	Hannah Roebuck, Erin McQueeney,
	Carley Knotts
Wardrobe Head	Kai Kaufman
Asst. Costume Designer	Emma Mahone
Dressers	Ashlyn Witterschein,
	Allie Gladstone, Zoe Karet
Hair/Makeup Design	Chelsea Thomas
Asst. Hair/Makeup Design	Caroline Slagle
Hair/Makeup Crew	Juliana Parris, Hunter Prew
Publicity & Graphic Design	Shayna Gilberg+,
	Ana Marie Calise+, Gaby Tortoledo
Photography	Morgan Sophia Photography
Program Assistant	Elvira Figueras
Office Assistants	Doriyan De'Angelo Caty,
	Sarah Romeo
House Manager	Marina DeCicco
Asst. House Manager	Jocelyn Richardson
Ushers	Elysa Belongie,Tina Daughtry,
	John Gonzalez, Aimee Alcine,
	Graham Oberlink, Geraldine Monsalve

#### Who's Who in our Cast

Caitlin Foster+ (Violet) is a first-year MFA candidate at Florida Atlantic University. She recently received her BFA in Acting from the University of Florida. Some recent credits include Hamlet (Horatio), Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (Rosencrantz), and Little Women (Jo March). She would like to thank her cohort for being the best support system and for teaching her something new every day. Enjoy Violet!

**Anthony Blatter**<sub>+</sub> (*Flick*) baritone, is a first-year MFA candidate at Florida Atlantic University from St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia in the Spring of 2022 where he received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance. Anthony has worked as an actor with the Larry D. Clark Repertory Theatre company and a musician with Show-Me Opera. Anthony has fallen in love with sunny south Florida and appreciates the love and support from his cohort members.

**Kyle Smith**<sub>+</sub> (*Monty, U/S Father*) is a first-year MFA candidate. He received his BFA in Musical Theater from Ohio Northern University and has been acting in theaters across the country for 15 years. Some of his favorite roles include Gabe in *NextTo Normal* (Fort Collins, Colorado), Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Vermont Shakespeare Company), Sparky in *Forever Plaid* (Pacific Conservatory Theater) and Cliff in *Cabaret* (Sierra Repertory Theater).

Olivia Beebe(Young Vi) is from Rockledge, Florida and is a junior in the BFA Musical Theater Program. Some of her favorite roles to play have been in *The Wolves* (#2), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Lady Paisley), *Chicago* (Velma Kelly), and *Into the Woods* (Cinderella). Olivia is grateful to have worked on this musical with so many wonderful and talented people, and wants to thank her teachers, friends, and family for making it possible.

**Mitchell Worrell-Olson**+ (*Father*) is an MFA candidate. He received his BA in Theatre from Sacramento State, where he played Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Orcus in *She Kills Monsters*, Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and The Narrator, Eddie, and Dr. Scott in *The Rocky Horror Show*. He is grateful for the opportunity to play Father in Violet. He would like to thank his family, director, cohort, and his partner for supporting him.

**Gustavo Garcia** (*Preacher*) is a senior here at FAU who has been privileged to work with so many talented artists on stage and in the classroom. This particular project is especially near to his heart, being his favorite musical. He plans on pursuing his MFA and open his own TYA company to inspire the next generation of artists. FAU Credits: *The Illusion* (Pridamant) *Richard III* (Edward IV) Professional: ...Lotta People Ball (Himself/ Various), *Urinetown* (Old man Strong), *The Roaches* (Actor 2)

**Paolo Pineda** (*Virgil*, *U/S Billy Dean*) is currently a senior at FAU working towards his BFA with a Concentration in Performance. Most recently Paolo has been seen in shows such as , *RENT*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Mamma Mia*, *Oliver!*, and *Urinetown*. Paolo's achievements also include the privilege of performing at Carnegie Hall twice, joining the featured choir at Disney's Candlelight Procession for several years, and competing in the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Stage.

**Matthew Altef** (*Leroy Evans/Ensemble*) is a Senior in the BA General Theatre Program. He is thrilled to return to the stage as Leroy Evans in *Violet*. He's also performed as Fender in *Hairspray*, and the Knight in *Little Women*. Matt is so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the collaborative process that has been Violet and would like to thank his Family, Friends, and Professors for all the support they have given him.

**Cait Siobhan Kiley\***+ (Old Lady/Ensemble) is an actress, writer, singer, and cinnamon roll-enthusiast originally from Elk Grove, California and most recently based in New York City. Some recent credits include *Footloose* aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines, and

taking on the iconic role of Ms. Frizzle on the national tour of *The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System.* Cait's original play, *Gamma Delta Nasty*, premiered at New York Theatre Festival's Winterfest in 2018. BFA University of Arizona, Tucson. For Daddoo.

Joel M. Rodriguez+ (Bus Driver 1/Ensemble) is a first-year Dominican-American MFA candidate.. Just last May, he graduated from the University of Missouri with two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Voice Performance and Theatre Performance. Joel has worked as a professional actor for several companies in the Midwest over the course of his undergraduate tenure. Some of his most recent roles include Franklin Hart Jr. in 9 to 5 The Musical, The Wiz in The Wiz: A SuperSoul Musical, and Basilio in Le nozze di Figaro by Mozart.

**Blaine DeBerry** (*Waiter/Ensemble, U/S Monty*) is a graduating BFA Musical Theatre student here at FAU. Previous credits include *RENT* (Mark Cohen), *Richard III* (Vaughn), and *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Mr. Hopper). He would like to thank Bruce, along with the entire cast and crew, for giving him this opportunity. He would also like to thank his parents, Sherri and David, for providing the loving support system that continues to allow him to pursue his artistic goals and dreams.

Shayna Gilberg+ (Bus Driver 2/Ensemble, U/S Violet, U/S Hotel Hooker) is a first-year MFA Acting Candidate. She is a graduate of the University of Central Florida's BFA Musical Theatre and Dance Minor programs. Recent credits include Shrek the Musical (Princess Fiona) at the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando, and First Date (Woman 1). She is SAFD certified in Single-Sword and Unarmed Stage Combat. She would like to thank her family, boyfriend, and cohort for their love and support.

Sarah Sun Park+(Hotel Hooker/Ensemble) is thrilled to be in Violet! Credits include the World Premiere of Michael Weller's A Welcome Guest at the Contemporary American Theater Festival, NCT's Broadway Mamma Mia!, BTG's Hair, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Two River Theater, Playhouse on Park, Village Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, Disney, and more. Sarah gives thanks to Jesus Christ, her family, her beautiful Godmother Marie-Michèle Ivey, and her loved ones. BFA NYU "...and do everything with love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

**Daniella Coby** (Almeta/Ensemble, Dance Captain) is currently a junior at FAU. She is majoring in Theatre Performance. Apart from acting, Daniella loves singing at her church, teaching dance classes, and creating content on platforms like Youtube and Tiktok. Her hope for the future is to continue pursuing her hobbies, perform in as many shows as she can, and to continue to create new and exciting things for the world to see. This is her very first show here at Florida Atlantic, and is super excited to put on a great show!

**Shekendra Parrish** (Music Hall Singer/Ensemble) is a junior at Florida Atlantic University. She has been singing her whole life but found a love for acting only 3 years ago. This is her first musical and she is really excited about sharing the stage with this wonderful cast! She enjoys reading, laughing and hanging out with family and friends. When Shekendra graduates she plans to move to New York to pursue a career on Broadway. She also wants to expand her children's theater company "Kendratic Expressions" into a place for creatives of every kind to come together, create and feel at home.

**Eryk Dewire** (*Billy Dean/Ensemble*) is a freshman at FAU. He has been in countless productions at his high school including Aldolpho from *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Stanley Stubbers from *One Man Two Guvnors*. He is majoring in theatre and hopes you enjoy the show just as much as he did!

**Doriyan De'Angelo Caty** (Bus Driver 3/Ensemble) is a junior in the Musical Theatre BFA program. He is thrilled to get another opportunity to perform with his peers and further his education. At the age of 21, Doriyan has participated in over 5 professional/regional productions. His recent roles include Dorian Lewis in Zoetic Stage's reading of original work Sibling Rivalries, Jack in Barclay Performing arts Into the Woods, The Minstrel in PPTOPA's Something Rotten, and the understudy for Angel and Benny in RENT here at

Cassidy Joseph (Lula Buffington/Ensemble, U/S Music Hall Singer) is a graduating senior and singing and dancing have always been her passions. Her love for theatre began at Norland Middle School and has continued until now. Her past roles include playing "Aida" in Aida, "Lil Inez" in Hairspray and "Deena" in Dreamgirls. Cassidy gives her love and gratitude to her family and friends who always support her.

**Daryan Lyew-Ayee** (Bus Driver 4/Ensemble) is a 3rd year transfer student from Broward College. There, he performed in Deadly Deception, as well as Check Please. He then performed in The Addams Family (Gomez Addams) for a community theater. He is super excited and happy to be a part of Violet playing Bus Driver #4, as well as various ensemble members. He is proud of his fellow peers who have all put in the work beside him to create an amazing and beautiful show. He'd like to thank his family for supporting him on his journey for the past 3 years that has ever so blossomed.

Ana Calise+ (U/S Old Lady, U/S Bus Driver 2) is originally from Rhode Island. She graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama. At Tisch, she studied at the Strasberg Institute, New Studio on Broadway, and Stonestreet Studios. Ana spent numerous years after graduation working as an actor, director, and writer. She wrote and starred in the short film A Different Kind of Animal. She also had the pleasure of working on multiple independent films and television projects.

Chelsea Thomas (U/S Almeta, U/S Lula) is a graduating senior at FAU majoring in Theatre Performance BA. Her previous Theatrical Credits are Various Ensemble in RENT (2022), Florence in Poof (2022), Directing/ Choreographing Cheek to Cheek (2021), Marty in Dreamgirls (2021), and Juror 2 in 12 Angry Jurors. She's very thankful for this opportunity and can't wait for everyone to witness the talent and necessary story of Violet.

**Johnathon Thompson Jr.** (*U/S Flick, U/S Bus Driver 3*) is a senior at FAU and an aspiring actor. He has been in a few productions in and out of college such as *Tartuffe, True West,* and many more. Aside from acting, he is an audio engineer and is an acting combatant. He also enjoys singing at his church and performing and writing spoken word poetry.

**Bruce Linser** (*Director*) has directed for Palm Beach Dramaworks, MNM Theatre Company, and FAU's Festival Rep including *Bonnie and Clyde, Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Into the Woods*. As an actor, Bruce has appeared at Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Palm Beach Dramaworks, The Wick Theatre, and FAU's Festival Rep including Che in *Evita*, Bobby in *Company*, and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*. Member: Actors' Equity Association. Associate Member: Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. brucelinser.com

**Paul Tine** (*Music Director*) is a Carbonell and Silver Palm Award-winning music director from Connecticut. He studied piano, voice, and politics at Ithaca College and sang with Ithacappella. He currently teaches lessons at North Broward Preparatory School. As a baritone with CONCORA, he was a featured soloist in symphonic concerts under the baton of Dr. Chris Shepard. Paul music directed the world premiere of *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife & Her Lover* at Faena Hotel Miami Beach.

### MUSICAL NUMBERS

### AcT 1

"Water In The Well"	Young Vi, Violet, Father
	Violet
"On My Way"	Violet, Flick, Old Lady,
	Bus Driver 1, Ensemble
"M&M's"	Violet, Flick, Old Lady,
	Ensemble
"Luck of the Draw"	Father, Young Vi,
	Violet, Flick, Monty
"Question n' Answer"	Violet, Monty
	Monty
	Violet, Flick,
	Monty
"Preacher Hymn II"	Preacher, Virigl,
redefici riyiii ii	Violet, Ensemble
"Let It Sing"	Flick
	Hotel Hooker
	Radio Singers,
	Father, Old Lady, Violet, Young Vi, Monty
	Monty
Transition to tho/Lonely Stranger	Violet, Monty,
W D V H W	Flick, Music Hall Singer
	Violet
"Anyone Would Do (Reprise)"	Almeta, Hotel Hooker,
	Music Hall Singer
	Аст <b>2</b>
	Bus Driver 3, Ensemble
	Flick, Violet
	Monty, Violet, Flick
	Preacher, Lula,
Kuise We op	Virgil, Ensemble
"Down The Mountain"	Father, Young Vi,
Down the Moontain	Violet, Virgil
"In The Chanel"	Violet, Virgii Violet, Preacher
Wasias Ma Lia (Parvisa)//	Violet Preacher
	Violet, Preacher
	Violet
	Father
	Violet
"M&M's (Reprise)"	Violet, Bus Driver 4,
	Ensemble
•	Flick, Violet
"Bring Me To Light"	Full Company

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Ana Marie Calise



ANTHONY BLATTER



CAIT SIOBHAN KILEY



CAITLIN FOSTER



JOEL RODRIGUEZ



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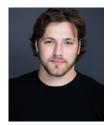


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Paula Calvo



AUBREY KESTELL



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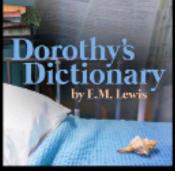
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Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Florida Atlantic University

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