

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

“Back on The Magic School Bus”	.....Company
“Blast Off”	.....Ms. Frizzle, Company
“Working Time (Mercury)”	.....Students
“Lost in Space!”	.....Students
“Take the Heat (Venus)”	.....Arnold, Janet, Company
“Lost in Space! #2”	.....Students
“Isn’t it Lovely? (Earth)”	.....Ralphie, Company
“Know it When I See It (Mars)”	.....Wanda, Carlos, Company
“Lost in Space! Fakeout”	.....Students
“Flying Through the Asteroid Belt”	.....Epic Underscore
“Lost in Space! #3”	.....Students
“Pull Together (Outer Planets)”	.....Ralphie, Company
“Blast Off Reprise!”	.....Ms. Frizzle, Company
“Back on The Magic School Bus Reprise (Bows)”	.....Company

### NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Millions of young people grew up loving *The Magic School Bus*. What child doesn’t dream of having a teacher like Ms. Frizzle? Marshall Paillet, who wrote the script, was also a super-fan of the books and the television series and couldn’t wait to adapt one of the books for the stage. He knew each plot and each character inside and out, and could quote dialogue from every episode! His collaborator Matthew Lee Robinson, an Australian composer/lyricist, was also a fan of this bestselling series. As you can imagine, bringing the book to life presented many challenges, but one of the biggest was creating a new Magic School Bus theme song to replace the series’ iconic theme song. We hope the musical will inspire you to go on your own science adventure!

Enjoy the show,

Barbara Pasternack, Artistic Director

## WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

(alphabetical by role)

**ETHAN BADDERS** (*Arnold*) is a performer originally from Kansas, now sharing his passion for storytelling with audiences around the country! A graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University, Ethan has dedicated his career to bringing stories to life with warmth and energy. Most recently, he made his Off-Broadway debut in *In Harmony* at Playhouse 46, a milestone in his ever-growing journey. When Ethan isn’t performing, he can be found music directing

and teaching music classes. Ethan is endlessly grateful for the support of his family and friends – and he can’t wait to make a friend out of you too!

**FRANCO BIANCHI** (*Carlos*) is delighted to be making his debut with TheaterWorksUSA. Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he’s trained in acting, singing and various dance styles. Currently a project based performer including concert

contemporary dance, music videos and regional theater both in the US and Argentina. Franco graduated in Musical Theater from AMDA in NY/LA. Proud coachee of Mackenzie Bykowski, associate of Mike Ruckle's Studio. Franco is looking forward to his future working on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Film! @francobianchix

**LAUREN QUIGLEY** (*Janet*) (she/her) is an actress, singer, writer, and pianist who is typically based in New York City! She is originally from the Philadelphia suburbs, and received her BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch / The Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Some of her more recent work includes *Scrooge No More!* (SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment Co.) and *Here I Fall Up* (New Ohio Theatre). She is thrilled to be hopping on *The Magic School Bus*, and she hopes it inspires tons of young people to get on stage. Instagram: @laurenquigley. Thank you for coming, and enjoy the show!

**KAYLA GEROGOSIAN** (*Ms. Frizzle*) (she/her) is so excited to be making her national tour debut! Favorite regional credits include: Judy Bernly in *9 to 5* and Gary in the regional premier of *The SpongeBob Squarepants Musical* at The Barn Theater. BFA MT Kent State University. She would like to thank her parents, friends, and family for their constant support. Socials: @kaylagerogosian

**NIKO RISSI** (*Ralphie*) a proud Greek/Italian New Yorker, is so thrilled to be bringing this classic TV series to the stage with TheatreWorksUSA! With a rich background in theatre, Niko's favorite roles include *In The Heights* (Benny), *SpongeBob Squarepants: The Musical* (*SpongeBob*), he also had the incredible honor of working with Director Jeff Whiting on SUNY Cortland's *Big Fish* (Ensemble). Niko extends his heartfelt gratitude to Lynn Craver, Jessica Eden, Roger Paul, Steven Kirby, Cardenas and Rosie, and his parents, for their unwavering support and belief in him. Follow him on instagram: @Niko.rissi

**AUBRIE-MEI RUBEL** (*Wanda*) is so excited to join this national tour with TheaterWorksUSA! She recently graduated from Wagner College, with a major in Theater Performance and a minor in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies. Her favorite past roles include

Alyssa (*The Prom*), Lizzie (*Goblin Market*), and a mersister/tapping gull (*The Little Mermaid*). She would like to thank this wonderful cast, crew, and company for welcoming her with such open arms! Also a huge thank you to her Mama, agent, and friends; who have always offered an endless amount of love and support!

**ZOE PARASKEVOPOULOS** (*Stage Manager*) recently moved to NYC from DFW and graduated from the University of Evansville with a degree in Stage Management. Some favorite stage management credits include *Cat Kid Comic Club* (TWUSA), *Noises Off* (UE Theatre), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (The Hopeful Theatre Project), and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Casa Mañana). Zoe is very excited to be with *The Magic School Bus* and hopes you have fun at the show!

**ANDREW COOPMAN** (*Tour Director/Choreographer*) (they/he+) is thrilled to be returning to TWUSA again! A Directors Project FutureNow Directing Fellowship alumnus and current Drama League Artistic Associate, their work as a director and choreographer has been seen on stages in Chicago, Dallas, Milwaukee, Ithaca, New York City, and more. Credits include: *The Apollo of Bellac* (Hangar Theatre), *Cinderella Eats Rice & Beats* (Hangar Theatre), *Head Over Heels* (Lakewood Playhouse), Bryony Lavery's *Frozen: A Play* (Cabaret Theater), *Body Awareness* (Jones Playhouse), *The Wizard of Oz* (Tacoma Little Theater), *Little Women* (Seattle Musical Theater), *Cinderella* (Village Theatre), and *Orfeo y Euridice* (Seattle Opera). Upcoming: *Georgia & The Butch* (World Premier, The Tank, NYC) and *Alan Turing & The Queen of the Night* (World Premier, Players Theater, NYC). MFA Directing, University of Washington and MA, Educational Theatre, New York University – Steinhardt. Proud SDC member.

**MATTHEW LEE ROBINSON** (*Music & Lyrics/ Tour Music Direction*) New York based Australian composer/lyricist. Robinson is the composer/lyricist of *ATLANTIS* (Virginia Repertory Theatre), *The Magic School Bus* (TheaterWorksUSA national tour), the five-time Helpmann nominated musical *Metro Street*, and creator of a recently acquired DreamWorks Animation musical feature film. He has contributed songs to the Emmy-nominated television series *Dance Academy*, to live events for Coca-Cola, Nintendo and

the Australian Open Tennis Championships, and his original works have been presented in concert at Carnegie Hall, Broadway's Future Songbook Series, and the Sydney Opera House with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Robinson is a Churchill Fellow, recipient of the Australia Council Music Fellowship, and winner of the UTAS Stephen Schwartz Songwriting Award. As Co-Founder of New York-based performing arts training company, EQ Endeavours, he has led vocal workshops for the Arthur Miller Foundation Fellows Program, Broadway Dreams, Voice Academy NYC, FOX 8 TV's *The Singing Office*, and Musical Theatre programs throughout the globe.

**MARSHALL PAILET** (*Book*) loves reading, writing, and embarrassing his son. To all the teachers and parents who brought their kids to the show today: thank you for helping to keep theater alive! And to all the kids out there: if you think watching this play is cool, you should try making one!

**FRANK GALGANO & MATT CASTLE** (*Orchestrations*) are multi-faceted theater artists who are partners in creativity and partners in life. Recent projects include MADAME CLICQUOT: A Revolutionary Musical (Studio Cast Recording), DISNEY THE LITTLE MERMAID and DISNEY SEAS THE ADVENTURE (Disney Cruise Line), SCOTLAND, PA (Roundabout), FOUND (Atlantic, Philadelphia, IAMA), INTO THE WOODS (Roundabout/Fiasco), STRING (Village Theatre), CHICK FLICK, THE MUSICAL (off-Broadway), ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (Transport Group), A DOG STORY (off-Broadway), DISNEY BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Disney Cruise Line), THE ELF ON THE SHELF and AMERICAN GIRL LIVE! (Mills Entertainment), UP AND AWAY (Pittsburgh CLO), KRIS KRINGLE (Town Hall, Proctors), THE DONNER PARTY and A LITTLE PRINCESS (Sacramento); and many new works for TheaterWorksUSA, Kennedy Center, and George Street Playhouse. Browse their work at [brainstormtheatrics.com](http://brainstormtheatrics.com).

**CONNOR GALLAGHER** (*Original Direction and Choreography*) Broadway: Beetlejuice. Other: The Robber Bridegroom (Roundabout, Astaire Award); Beauty and the Beast (Disney Dream, Brass Ring

Award); Walter Paisley (La Mirada, world premiere); Found (Philadelphia Theatre Company); Elf (Kennedy Center); The Twelve (Denver Center); Tangled (Disney Magic, world premiere); and productions at The Public Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company, ACT, Two River, Westport Country Playhouse, TheatreWorks and Northern Stage. Currently developing three musicals as director: Miss Step (Playwrights/MCC) The Big Gay Jamboree, and a new project for The Walt Disney Company. Connor is a graduate of CCM, where in 2021 he received the Young Alumni Award, and right after college spent a year on Broadway as a dancing rug. [www.connorgallagher.com](http://www.connorgallagher.com) @connorga

**BRUCE DEGEN** (*Illustrator, The Magic School Bus*), is a children's literature author and illustrator, with over forty books to his credit. He is probably best known as the illustrator of THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS series of books, by Joanna Cole. He has collaborated with Nancy White Charstrom on the popular series by Jane Yolen. Degen has authored *Jamberry*, *Daddy Is a Doodlebug*, and *Shirley's Wonderful Baby*. He was encouraged by an elementary school teacher to become an illustrator, and pursue his primary love for art found in children's books. Humor is one of his key values, as expressed by a quote comparing children's illustration to traditional fine arts: "You don't see many people walking around a gallery are chuckling. And I realized that I wanted a chuckle." His career has included such diverse activities as advertising design, teaching art, teaching children's book illustration to adults, painting scenery for opera productions, and running a lithography studio in Israel. Mr. Degen currently lives in Connecticut.

**JOANNA COLE** (*Author, The Magic School Bus*), who also writes under the pseudonym B.J. Barnet, is an author of children's books who teaches science. She is most famous as the author of THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS series of children's books. Joanna Cole has written over 250 books ranging from her first book *Cockroach* to her famous series THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS. Cole was born in Newark, New Jersey, and grew up in nearby East Orange. She love science as a child, and had a teacher she says was a little like Ms. Frizzle. She attended the University of Massachusetts and Indiana University before

graduating from the City College of New York with a B.A. in psychology. After some graduate education courses, she spent a year as a librarian in a Brooklyn elementary school. Cole subsequently became a letters correspondent at Newsweek, and then a senior editor for Doubleday Books for Young Readers.

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION**, founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the U.S. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org).

**THEATERWORKSUSA** (Barbara Pasternack, Artistic Director) has led the Theater for Young and Family Audiences movement in New York City and across North America for over half a century. At TWUSA, we believe that access to art—and theater, in particular—is vital for our youth. Since 1961, the 501(c)3 not-for-profit has captured the imaginations of 100 million new and veteran theatergoers with an award-winning repertoire of over 140 original plays and musicals. Acclaimed alumni include Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (Disney's *Frozen*), Daphne Rubin-Vega (*Rent*), Jerry Zaks (*The Music Man*), Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (*Dear Evan Hansen*), Miguel Cervantes (*Hamilton*), Kathleen Chalfant (*Angels in America*), and Chuck Cooper (Tony award winning actor, *The Life*). Prior to suspending live production due to the pandemic, TWUSA's 2019-2020 season included touring eleven shows around the country, the Broadway premiere of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* and three world premieres: *Warriors Don't Cry*, based on the autobiography of Melba Pattillo Beals; *Dog Man: The Musical* Off-Broadway; and *The Pout-Pout Fish* which opened the New Victory Theater's season in October 2019. Visit [www.TWUSA.org](http://www.TWUSA.org) for more information.

#### **TWUSA**

Barbara Pasternack - Artistic Director  
Jillian Carucci - Associate Artistic Director  
Donorly - Development Department  
Kristen Gensinger - Marketing and Communications Manager  
Michael Gremo - Assistant General Manager

#### **STAFF**

Molly Huey - Costume Shop Manager  
Sylvia Jimenez - Office Coordinator  
Eliza Johnson - Finance and Accounting Supervisor  
Steve Lattanzi - Director of Systems and Administration  
LaShawn Lindsey - Human Resources Manager  
Tegan Meyer - General Manager  
Brendan J. O'Brien - Tour Operations Manager  
Beth Prather - Senior Director of Sales  
Josh Sherman - Director of Sales & Special Engagements  
Jacob Stahl - Technical Supervisor  
Mary St. Angelo - Sales Manager, Touring & Education  
Noemi Villela-Dean - Education & Community Engagement Coordinator - California

**JASON SHERWOOD** (*Scenic Design*)

**SARAH CUBBAGE** (*Costume Design*)

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