

Spruill Property Management &  
Starkville Community Theatre present

# ALABAMA STORY

By Kenneth Jones



Directed by Louie P. Gallo

February 15-18 and  
February 20-23, 2024



LOUIE

# ALABAMA STORY

By Kenneth Jones

## THE CAST

*In order of appearance*

Garth Williams .....	Jake Phillips
Lily Whitfield .....	Elizabeth Williams
Joshua Moore .....	Darryl Brundidge, Jr.*
Senator E.W. Higgins .....	Larry Graves
Emily Reed .....	Madeline Golden
Thomas Franklin .....	Sean Mackin

\* SCT Debut

## THE CREW

Director .....	Louie P. Gallo
Assistant Director.....	Patty Archer
Scenic Design.....	Louie P. Gallo
Lighting Design .....	Thomas La Foe
Sound Design .....	Louie P. Gallo
Sound Operator .....	Jasmine Johnson
Lighting Operator.....	Regan Plunkett
Publicity .....	Brian Hawkins and Gabe Smith
Poster Design .....	Louie P. Gallo
Box Office.....	Gabe Smith
Promotional Photography .....	Dianna Janus

## TIME AND SETTING

1959 - from February to December  
Montgomery, Alabama, the Deep South and Beyond

Locations include Emily Reeds' office, Oak Park, a boardroom in the State Capital, a street outside the Capital, outside Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, the coffee cart near the Capital, outside the Jefferson Davis Hotel

*There will be a 10-minute intermission between Act I and Act II.*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Although “Alabama Story” is set in 1959, its themes of censorship, book banning, and discrimination are more relevant than ever. Just last September, the Alabama Public Library Service created an “inappropriate books” list, and as a result, they flagged a children’s book simply because the author’s last name is “Gay.”

As someone who has worked in a library for the past ten years, I believe “Alabama Story” truly encapsulates the importance of having access to books, because the knowledge and information embedded in literature can shine a light on the problems which plague our society.

“Alabama Story” is able to intertwine the issues of book banning and racial tension in a way that is smart and serious. It’s a perfect combination of humor and drama that is intended to make audiences consider how our collective choices affect our present and our future.

*Louie P. Gallo*

## SET CONSTRUCTION

Louie P. Gallo, Madeline Golden, Larry Graves,  
Marty Haug, Simone Hinz, Jake Phillips, Abigail Phillips,  
Ally Grace Phillips, Regan Plunkett, Sean Mackin, Bob Swanson,  
Daniel Swanson, Henry Swanson, and Elizabeth Williams

## SPECIAL THANKS

Melanie Harris and Theatre MSU, Nancy Norwood and Allure,  
Sara Wade and Garrett Torbert and the Golden Triangle Theatre,  
Starkville Area Arts Council, Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum,  
Derek Aaron, Kat Trinique, Stephen Cunetto, Dianna Janus,  
Marty Haug, Quinta Prater, Quincy Campbell, Allie Hilderbrand,  
AnnaBelle Carraway, Jacque Tisdale, Paula Mabry,  
Debbie Dunaway, Regan Plunkett and Michelangelo L. Gallo

*Alabama Story* is presented through special arrangement  
with Dramatists Play Service.

# ABOUT THE CAST

## **Darryl Brundidge, Jr (Joshua)**

Darryl is ecstatic to debut with SCT. Darryl was recently seen performing (as Rolf Gruber) in Golden Triangle Theatre’s production of *The Sound of Music*. Darryl has received the “Best Actor in a Musical” nomination from the Kennedy Center. He has also recently performed at Carnegie Hall and worked as a featured actor with Netflix and Apple Entertainment. He is a student at Mississippi State University, double majoring in Music and Theatre.

## **Madeline Golden (Emily Reed)**

Madeline is happy to return to the stage at The Playhouse on Main and to again have the opportunity to “tell you a story.” She wants to thank Louie for entrusting her with this special role and to congratulate him on his directorial debut. Madeline also wants to thank her wonderful castmates for being generous scene partners and for not making her feel like an antique – despite the fact that, like the Montgomery Home News, she was established way back in 1957. “Emily Reed once said ‘the free flow of information is the best means to solve the problems of the South, the nation and the world.’ I believe that is still true today. And theatre, like books, helps with that free flow of information.”

## **Larry Graves (Senator E.W. Higgins)**

Larry is honored to play the role of “Senator E.W. Higgins” in *Alabama Story*. He has appeared in previous roles as “Garrett Breedlove” in *Terms of Endearment*, “Ken De La Maize” in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1948*, “Judge Gaffney” in *Harvey* and multiple roles in *The Laramie Project*. Larry is thankful for the support of the cast and crew of *Alabama Story* as well as the support of his wife Robin and sons Wesley and Tanner Graves. Larry is the Assistant Fleet Manager of Ashley Distribution Services in Ecru, Mississippi.

### **Sean Mackin (Thomas)**

Sean, a Starkville native, returns to the Starkville Community Theatre stage after a 7-year hiatus to go to school at NYU and is so excited to be coming back alongside such wonderfully talented performers. You may have seen him in previous SCT productions of *Incorruptible* or *Urinetown*, as well as in SHS's productions of *Legally Blonde*, *Cinderella*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Most recently, he worked alongside Wayne Durst to construct the set for SCT's production of *Bright Star* and will serve as assistant director for *Clue*. He, like someone you may get to know very soon, has decided to pursue a Ph.D., and he hopes you enjoy the show! If you want to celebrate Black History Month in his style, he recommends you read *Racism Without Racists* by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, listen to some of Esperanza Spalding's recent jazz fusion, and buy your black friends a drink!

### **Jake Phillips (Garth and many others)**

Jake is a 2007 Mississippi State grad, husband of one, dad of four, a voice actor, YouTuber, Podcaster, and TikTokker (a twerking professional). He's excited to appear in his third SCT production and hopes you'll enjoy your time with the cast and crew as we try our best to bring this story to life.

### **Elizabeth Williams (Lily)**

Elizabeth Williams is happy to be back on stage and is especially excited to be a part of this production. *Alabama Story* is a powerful play with rich characters and a message that evokes a lot of emotions. Elizabeth's most recent performances include a one-woman show, *Every Brilliant Thing*, and "Aurora Greenway" in *Terms of Endearment*. When not immersed in rehearsals, Elizabeth is busy with her family, works at the Discovery Center with the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District, and is involved in activities through Starkville First United Methodist Church. She wants to extend a special thanks to her husband (Stephen) and children (Elle and Mallory Ann) for tolerating hours of her reciting lines at home and eating microwave and hodge-podge meals as she rushes off to rehearsals. Elizabeth also wants to thank Paula Mabry, former high school theater teacher, for always pressing her to get back to doing what she loves so much, performing. on stage. And a HUGE shout out and congrats to Louie for directing his first SCT show!! From day one, Louie has been dedicated to this show, and all that it embodies. "FANTASTIC JOB, Louie!!!"

# Starkville Community Theatre

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Barbara Coats, FICF  
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This project is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part, from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.