University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

blast

Sunday, January 6, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by

The Village
MASON ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
and
BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS, INC.
present

featuring
Julianne Beisswenger, Wes Bullock, Elizabeth Clapper, Ben Classon, David Cox,
Jeremy Deaton, Lucas W. Derr, Roque Diaz, Ben Dixon, Mitch Dunham, Peter Eichler,
Matthew Finger, T. Scott Guthrie, Ben Handel, Jeff Harrigan, Katie Harris,
Paula Hyman, Danielle James, Nathan Jones, Jenni Kears, Lance Kindl,
Megan McKinney, Seth Murphy, Bill Muter, Joey Oakley, Rafael Pagarigan,
Kristin Rea, Jose J. Rincon, Paul Sinclair, Andrew Smith, Jason Sulliman,
Bryan Anthony Sutton, Kaysey Leigh Thompson, Ryan Tiscareno, Mike Welch

Artistic Director
JAMES MASON

Acting Director
GEORGE PINNEY

Musical Director
JEFFERSON S. LEE

Staging Director
JONATHAN VANDERKOLFF

Original Set Design by
MARK THOMPSON

Costume Design by
MARK THOMPSON

Original Lighting Design by
HUGH VANSTONE

New Set Design by
ROB BISSINGER

New Lighting Design by
CHARLIE MORRISON

New Sound Design by
MARK HOOD

Associate Producer
DONNIE VANDOREN

Choreography by
JIM MOORE/GEORGE PINNEY/
JONATHAN VANDERKOLFF

Executive Producer
DANIEL SHER

Exclusive Tour Direction by Big League Productions, Inc.
John Starr, Director of Booking
SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Bolero (M. Ravel)
Color Wheel (J. Lee)
Split Complimentaries (J. Talbott)
Everybody Loves the Blues (M. Ferguson/N. Lane)
Loss (D. Ellis)
Simple Gifts/Appalachian Spring (A. Copland)
Battery Battle (T. Hannum/J. Lee)
Medea (S. Barber)

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Color Wheel Too (J. Vanderkolff)
Gee Officer Krupke (L. Bernstein/S. Sondheim)
Lemontech (J. Vanderkolff)
Tangerinamadidge (J. Mason/J. Vanderkolff)
Land of Make Believe (C. Mangione)
Spiritual of the Earth:
Marimba Spiritual (M. Miki)/Earth Beat (M. Spiro)
Malaguena (E. Lecuona)

THERE WILL BE ONE TWENTY-MINUTE INTERMISSION

“Bolero” used courtesy of Theodore Presser Music/ASCAP; “Everybody Loves the Blues” used courtesy of Maynard Ferguson Music/ASCAP and Destructive World Music/ASCAP; “Loss” used courtesy of Objective Music Company BMI; “Simple Gifts from Old American Songs, Set I” and “Appalachian Spring”: the use of this music in Blast! is granted by permission of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc., copyright owner, and Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., sole agent and licensee; “Medea” used courtesy of G. Shirmer, Inc./ASCAP; “Gee Officer Krupke” is used courtesy of Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., sole agent and licensee; “Land of Make Believe” is used courtesy of Gates Music, Inc./BMI; “Spiritual of the Earth: Marimba Spiritual” is used courtesy of Minore Miki Publishing/Ongaku No Tomo Sha, “Malaguena” is used courtesy of Edward B. Marks Music Co./BMI.

All videotaping, audio recording and photography are strictly prohibited.
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

JULIANNE BEISSWENGER
New Brighton, Minnesota
St. Cloud State University
Visual Ensemble

WES BULLOCK
Knox, Indiana
Butler University: B.S. Music Education.
Conductor/Tour Artistic Supervisor/Music Manager.
Didgeridoo Soloist

ELIZABETH CLAPPER
Lexington, Ohio
Univ. of Central Florida: Music Performance.
Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Cornet, Piccolo, Mellophone, French Horn, Percussion, Didgeridoo

BEN CLASSON
Orlando, Florida
University of Central Florida:
Music Composition, Trumpet Performance.
Trumpet, Cornet, Piccolo Trumpet, Didgeridoo

DAVID COX
Westerville, Ohio
University of Georgia: Music.
Percussion, Snare Drum Soloist

JEREMY DEATON
Huntington Beach, California
University of Southern California:
B.S. Jazz Studies / Cinema-Television.
Trumpet, Piccolo Trumpet, Percussion

LUCAS W. DERR
Sterling, Colorado
Boise State University: German, Dance.
Visual Ensemble, Cymbals

ROQUE DIAZ
Morehead City, North Carolina
East Carolina University
University of Phoenix: B.S. Business.
Trumpet Soloist, Flugel Horn, Percussion

BEN DIXON
Colorado Springs, Colorado
East Carolina University: B.M. Music Performance.
Trombone, Euphonium

MITCH DUNHAM
Orlando, Florida
University of Central Florida:
Bachelor Music Performance.
Trumpet, Cornet, Mellophone

PETER EICHLER
Pigeon, Michigan
Michigan State University: B.A. Music
Dance Specialization.
Visual Ensemble, Swing

MATTHEW FINGER
Anderson, Indiana
Butler University: B.M. Music Performance.
Percussion, Marimba Soloist

T. SCOTT GUTHRIE
Youngstown, Ohio
Youngstown State University
Dana School of Music: Music Performance.
Trombone, Didgeridoo

BEN HANDEL
Warsaw, Indiana
Indiana University: B.A. Telecommunications.
Percussion Captain, Swing

JEFF HARRIGAN
Ellicott City, Maryland
Towson University: B.S. Music Performance.
Trombone Soloist, Euphonium, Didgeridoo

KATIE HARRIS
Aurora, Colorado
Visual Ensemble

PAULA HYMAN
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
University of Central Florida
University of Phoenix: Business.
Visual Ensemble

NATHAN JONES
Mustang, Oklahoma
Oklahoma City University:
Bachelor Music Education / Master of Music.
Percussion

JENNI KEARNS
Madison, Kentucky
University of Kentucky:
Bachelor Music Performance.
University of Southern California.
French Horn, Mellophone, Didgeridoo

LANCE KINDL
Atlanta, Georgia
University of Georgia:
Bachelor Music Education.
Percussion, Snare Drum Soloist

MEGAN MCKINNEY
Arvada, Colorado
Colorado State University
University of Phoenix: Business.
Visual Ensemble, Synthesizer
JAMES MASON  
*President/CEO of MEG and Artistic Director/Composer/Arranger*

Recipient of the 2001 Tony Award for Best Theatrical Event (*Blast!*). He was also nominated in the Best Director category for the 2002 National Broadway Theatre Award (*Blast!*). Mason has been the creative driving force behind the Star of Indiana/Blast Inc. since its founding in 1984 and served as its President/Executive Director. A lifelong veteran of drum and bugle corps and other musical activities, Mason marched in a World Championship drum corps and then directed the Star of Indiana to the World Championship title in 1991. He created and directed an All Star Corps that received national visibility through appearances in the Cotton, Orange and Fiesta Bowl parades, and the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. In 1989 and 1990 he produced and directed the first opening ceremonies for the Summer Music Games World Championship. In 1994 with the Canadian Brass he created Brass Theater which played at Lincoln Center, Hollywood Bowl and Tanglewood. Mason has produced and created entertainment for Disney’s Epcot Center and California Adventure theme parks along with the NBA All Star Game, U.S. Open Tennis Championship and countless other sporting and corporate events. His company, Mason Entertainment Group (MEG) has been responsible for the creation of the theatrical productions *Blast!, Shockwave* and *Cyberjam*. Mason is an avid fly fisherman, painter and father of three sons AJ, Todd and Grant.

DONNIE VANDOREN  
*COO of MEG and Casting Director*

Has been involved in the drum and bugle corps activity for more than 35 years. Throughout his career, he has worked with numerous musical organizations. Under his leadership as a brass manager,
he has developed several world championship brass programs and is noted for his relentless
pursuit for perfection and his commitment to excellence in brass performance. Donnie
came to the Star of Indiana organization as the brass manager in 1986, and has been a
part of the organization’s evolution from what was a competitive drum and bugle corps
to what is now theatrical stage productions (i.e. Blast!, Shockwave, Cyberjam, and MIX).
He was inducted into Star of Indiana’s Wall of Fame in 1997, inducted into the Cadets
of Bergen County’s Hall of Fame in 2002, and in 2004, was inducted into Drum Corps
International’s Hall of Fame. A native of Easton, Pennsylvania, Donnie relocated to Indiana
in 1998 to fully commit to the Blast! project. In addition to being the Casting Director for
Blast!, he is also the Chief Operating Officer for Mason Entertainment Group. He holds
a bachelors degree in business administration from Villanova University.

**JONATHAN VANDERKOLFF** (Staging Director, Choreography, Composer) serves on the
creative team for Blast!, Shockwave and Cyberjam and has been a member of the Blast!
organization for the past 12 years. Jonathan, along with the choreography team, received
an Emmy Award for the PBS broadcast of Blast!. They were also nominated for the 2002
Tony Award and 2002 National Broadway Theatre Award in Choreography. Born in
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, he has been the stage director and choreographer for many
award-winning organizations throughout the world. Jonathan graduated with an honors
degree in music theory and composition from the New England Conservatory in Boston.

**JEFFERSON S. LEE** (MEG — Music Director, Composer/Arranger and MIDI programmer)
Jeff’s involvement with Blast! began in 1998 as a percussion and electronics arranger.
Following Blast!’s London premier, Jeff was hired to compose new music for the show as
well as become more involved in the production of the overall percussion package. In
2003 Jeff moved from the San Francisco area of California to assume the full time position of
Music Director for Blast Inc. / Mason Entertainment Group. Originally from Albuquerque,
New Mexico, Jeff completed his Master of Arts degree in percussion performance from the
studio of Dr. Steven Schick in 1989 (CSU, Fresno). Jeff’s musical career has evolved from
that of freelance musician to band director, to freelance arranger, composer, educator, and
clinician. Jeff is also known for his ten years of work as the front ensemble director of the
Concord Blue Devils and his involvement as an arranger and consultant with numerous
music ensembles in the United States, Asia and Europe.

**GEORGE PINNEY** (Choreography) With his colleagues Vanderkolff and Moore, George
Pinney was Tony nominated in choreography for Blast! and was winner of the Emmy Award
for best choreography for the PBS Special of the London production of Blast!. George, a
Professor of Theatre and Drama at Indiana University, has directed and/or choreographed
over 100 productions for regional and university theatres. Considered a master teacher,
George holds the prestigious Friederich Herman Lieber Award for Distinguished Teaching
and is a member of the honorary Faculty Colloquium of Excellence in Teaching. At IU
George teaches musical theatre and stage movement.

**JAMES PRIME** (Orchestrations) has been writing professionally for brass and percussion
groups since 1977. Focusing his efforts on outdoor music pageantry, he has arranged the
scores for the Star of Indiana and Garfield Cadets International champion drum corps, as
well as many other ensembles throughout North America. With many published titles to
his credit, he was a primary orchestrator for the Canadian Brass/Star of Indiana concert
and Brass Theater tours of 1994–98. His arrangements were featured in the recent London
stage production and PBS television special of Blast!

**JIM MOORE** (Choreography) has been dancing professionally for 12 years, beginning
his career as a principal dancer for the Georgia Ballet Company. Along with Jim’s ballet
career, he has been the choreographer for many world champion organizations in the
Winter Color Guard and Drum & Bugle Corps communities, including the Cadets of Bergen
County and the Emerald Marquis. Jim serves on the choreography team for Blast! as well
as working extensively on training the cast in all movement technique.
MARK THOMPSON (Scenic and Costume Design) Mark Thompson read drama at Birmingham University. Theatre: Rep work includes Worcester, Exeter, Sheffield, Leeds, Royal Exchange Manchester: JUMPERS, The Country Wife, Mumbo Jumbo (also at the Lyric Hammersmith) and School for Scandal. Others: Owners (Young Vic), Good (Brussels), The Scarlet Pimpernel (Chichester and Her Majesty’s), Cabaret (Strand), The Sneeze (Aldwych), Ivanov and Much Ado About Nothing (Strand), A Little Night Music (Piccadilly) and Shadowlands (Queen’s Theatre and Broadway), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Palladium, Canadian, Australian and American Tours), Six Degrees of Separation (Royal Court and Comedy Theatre), Hysteria (Royal Court and Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles), The Kitchen (Royal Court), Insignificance and Company (Donmar Warehouse), Dr. Dolittle (London Apollo Hammersmith) and The Blue Room (Donmar and Broadway). RSC: Measure for Measure, The Wizard of Oz, Much Ado About Nothing, The Comedy of Errors, Hamlet and The Unexpected Man (and Duchess). Almeida: Volpone, Betrayal, Party Time and Butterfly Kiss. RNT: The Wind in the Willows, Madness of George III and Arcadia (Haymarket, Lincoln Center Theater, New York) Pericles, What the Butler Saw and The Day I Stood Still. Most recently he designed Mamma Mia!, the new ABBA musical and Alan Bennett’s new play The Lady in the Van starring Maggie Smith (Queen’s Theatre). Opera: Falstaff (Scottish Opera), Peter Grimes (Opera North), Ariadne auf Naxos (Salzburg), Il Viaggio a Reims (Royal Opera House). Hansel and Gretel (Sydney Opera House), The Two Widows (ENO) and Queen of Spades (The Met, New York), Costume design only for Montag Aus Licht (La Scala, Milan). Ballet: Don Quixote (Royal Ballet). Film: costume design for The Madness of King George. Awards: 1990/91 Oliver Award, Plays and Players, and Critics’ Circle Award for The Wind in the Willows. 1992 Olivier Awards for Set Design and Costume Design for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and The Comedy of Errors, 1994 Olivier Award for Set Design for Hysteria, 1995 Critics’ Circle Award for The Kitchen.

HUGH VANSTONE (Lighting Design) Theatre: West End: The Blue Room (1999 Olivier Award, and on Broadway), Juno and the Paycock, The Front Page and Insignificance (Donmar Warehouse); Doctor Dolittle (London and UK tour); The Unexpected Man (1999 Olivier Award); Closer (and Broadway); Art (1996 Olivier Award nomination, also in America, Australia and Argentina); The Day I Stood Still, The Homecoming (RNT); When We Are Married; Copacabana; Scrooge (and Australia); Once On This Island; and Moby Dick. Other theatre includes: Dance of the Vampires (Vienna and Stuttgart); Peter Pan and Romeo and Juliet (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Miss Julie (Young Vic); Butterfly Kiss (Almeida); Mrs. Warren’s Profession, Moll Flanders (Lyric Hammersmith). RSC: most recently Antony and Cleopatra, Bad Weather, Cymbeline and Hamlet (1997 Olivier Award Nomination). Opera: Macbeth (Bastille, Paris); The Carmelites and La Boheme (ENO); Carmen (Opera North); The Bartered Bride (Glyndebourne); The Rake’s Progress (WNO); Die Fledermaus (Scottish Opera). Ballet: Alice in Wonderland (ENB).

MARK HOOD (New Sound Design) has lent his audio expertise to projects with Bob Dylan, James Taylor, John Mellencamp, David Sanborn, Diana Ross, Rodney Dangerfield, Zamfir, John Scofield, Robert Mirabal, Bob Mintzer, the Washington Winds and the Cincinnati Pops among many others. His work for film and television includes Southie, Dear Lola, Hard Choices, So Fine, Doin’ What the Crowd Does, Music From A Painted Cave, All My Children and Thundercats. Theater credits include Sound Design for Cyberjam (London West End), Shockwave (U.S. Tour) and Blast! (London, New York, U.S. and Japan Tours).

ROB BISSINGER (New Set Design) Broadway credits include: Funny Girl benefit concert for the Actor’s Fund. Broadway credits as an associate designer include: Jackie: An American Life, Arthur Miller’s A View From the Bridge, the 1999 revival of You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Dance of the Vampires for designer David Gallo, as well as 42nd Street for designer Douglas W. Schmidt. Off-Broadway design credits include: Rhapsody in Seth at The Actor’s Playhouse, Melancholy Baby at Arts Nova, Strictly Personal at SoHo Playhouse,
Gabrielle Lansner’s Crush and Holocaust Stories, George F. Walker’s Theatre of the Film Noir, the Mosaic Theatre Company’s The Stumbling Tongue, and Edward Albee’s The Zoo Story. Mr. Bissinger has also worked on many national tours, and has designed Scooby Doo in Stagefright for Clear Channel Family Entertainment.

CHARLIE MORRISON (New Lighting Design) Charlie’s lighting for theatre, national and international tours, architecture, and events has been seen worldwide on four continents and in every state in the U.S. national and international tours include: Aida; Gypsy; 42nd Street (United States and Japan); Miss Saigon; Smokey Joe’s Café; The Who’s Tommy (Japan and Europe); Titanic; The Music Man; Footloose; The King and I (United States, South America, Korea); many others. Regional: Shakespeare Theatre Company; Papermill Playhouse; Goodspeed; Olney Theatre Center; Playmaker’s Rep; many others. Charlie is the recipient of the 2006 and 2007 Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design, and has been nominated for five Helen Hayes awards over the past two years. For more information, please visit www.cmlighting.com

DANIEL SHER (Executive Producer) After spending the early part of his career touring in the worlds of opera, music and dance, Mr. Sher came to Big League Theatricals in 1995 as the General Manager/Associate Producer for The Who’s Tommy, Five Guys Named Moe, and A Grand Night for Singing. In 1997, he took over the position of Executive Producer and is proud to have produced Big League’s critically acclaimed North American tours of How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, The King and I, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (starring Rip Taylor), 1776, Footloose (Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and National Tour), Peter Pan, Titanic and Meredith Willson’s The Music Man as newly conceived by Susan Stroman. Other acclaimed productions have been the four year tour of the newly conceived Miss Saigon as developed with Cameron Mackintosh, 42nd Street with the Tony Award winning creative team, as well as Blast! Most recently, he produced the new touring production of Elton John and Tim Rice’s Aida which, following its U.S. tour, will travel throughout the world including China and the UK. Other international highlights have included the European, Japanese and South American tours of The Who’s Tommy, The King and I in Brazil, 42nd Street in Japan. Future productions include Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and Ain’t Misbehavin’ starring Ruben Studdard and Frenchie Davis.

BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS, INC. is celebrating its 19th season of producing, general managing, and booking Broadway musicals and special attractions for touring throughout North America and the world. By special permission from Disney Theatricals, Big League just developed and toured extensively a brand new production of Elton John and Tim Rice’s AIDA to great critical acclaim (visit www.theaidatour.com). In addition to its current tour of the unique spectacular Blast!, Big League is preparing an international tour of Aida in the forthcoming season. Among the recent highlights was a new touring production of the world famous mega-musical, Miss Saigon, developed in collaboration with Cameron Mackintosh, which toured the United States and Canada for four years. Other productions of notoriety were the Japanese and North American touring productions of 42nd Street with the creative team from the recent Tony Award winning Broadway revival as well as a three year tour of Meredith Willson’s The Music Man as conceived by Susan Stroman. Other successes have included Footloose (Las Vegas, Atlantic City, North American Tour), tours of Titanic, 1776, Peter Pan, as well as A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum starring Rip Taylor. Big League’s renowned production of The Who’s Tommy has been see throughout North America, South America, Europe, and most recently in Tokyo. Future highlights will include the 30th Anniversary National Tour of the Tony Award winning musical Ain’t Misbehavin’ with direction by the Tony Award winning Director Richard Maltby and starring American Idol winner recording artist Ruben Studdard as well as Frenchie Davis of Idol fame. Also in the works is the development of a new dynamic production of the stage adaptation of the iconic renowned children’s film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. The booking department at Big League, helmed by John Starr, is among the most respected in the industry. Visit www.bigleague.org
STAFF FOR BLAST! MEG ENTERTAINMENT

Design Team
James Mason, George Pinney, James Prime,
Jonathan Vanderkolff, Thom Hannum,
Wayne Downey, Jim Moore, Jeff Lee

Musical Arrangers
James Prime, Thom Hannum, Wayne Downey,
Jon Vanderkolff, Josh Talbott, Michael Spiro,
James Ancona, Jeff Lee

Choreography
Jim Moore, George Pinney, Jon Vanderkolff

Music Manager/Tour Artistic Supervisor
Wes Bullock

Music Instruction
Jeff Lee, Wes Bullock, Ben Handel

Visual Manager
Bryan Anthony Sutton

Visual Instruction
Jon Vanderkolff, Wes Bullock, Bryan Anthony Sutton

TOUR STAFF FOR BLAST!

GENERAL MANAGER .......................................................... T.J. YOUNG
COMPANY MANAGER .......................................................... MARK JOHNSON
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER .............................................. JAY MCMANIGAL
PRODUCTION CARPENTER / PRODUCTION MANAGER .......... DEMETRIUS GRANDEL

Head Carpenter ................................................................. ERIC J. STEELE
Assistant Carpenter ............................................................. JON RODRIGUEZ
Head Electrician ............................................................... KENT ARNESON
Assistant Electrician ......................................................... FORREST HINMAN
Assistant Electrician ......................................................... CHRIS WALTERS
Assistant Electrician ......................................................... MOLLY GOODER
Head Sound Engineer ...................................................... JOSHUA SCHACHT
Assistant Sound ................................................................. KRISTI WOOD
Head Wardrobe ................................................................. KRISTI WOOD
Props/Assistant Stage Manager ............................................. SARISSA MICHAUD
Assistant Company Manager/Physical Therapist ......... BROOKE FURNISS

STAFF FOR BLAST! BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS

Associate Lighting Designer ........................................... JOHN BURKLAND
Production Electrician ..................................................... JEREMY WRABLE
Costume Coordinator ..................................................... GREGORY YOUNG
House Accountant .......................................................... CONNIE CAULO
Office Manager .............................................................. STEPHANIE CARNRIGHT
Banking .............................................................................. J.P. MORGAN CHASE
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Insurance ........................................................................... C&S INTERNATIONAL
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