

December 12 & 13, 2022
10AM & 12:30PM

A NJPAC SchoolTime Performance

Lightwire Theater presents

A Very Electric Christmas

Artistic Director
Ian Carney

Managing Director & Co-Creator
Eleanor Carney
Corbin Popp

Executive Producer
Barry Mendelson

Road Manager
Kevin Chick

Music Director
Jay Weigel

The Company
Zack Belway, Kevin Chick, Veronica DeWitt
Lisa Kobbish, Clay Moore, Tristan Rodney

As a courtesy to the performers and fellow audience members, please be sure to silence all mobile devices.
The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs are strictly prohibited.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts,
a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts

meet the cast

Ian Carney (*Artistic Director, Ensemble*) is best known for his long run in Billy Joel and Twyla Tharp's musical, *Movin' Out* on Broadway. Born in New Hampshire and raised in New Orleans, he started dancing as a child, studying ballet in New Orleans and in New York City. He danced lead roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and many other ballets. He has been a guest dancer, teacher and choreographer in companies across the United States. While still performing, he earned a degree in English literature from Tulane University. He is the co-creator of the family shows that continue to delight audiences around the world — *Dino-Light*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Lightwire the Show*, *A Very Electric Christmas* and *The Tortoise and Hare: The Next Generation*. He has appeared on television with Lightwire Theater on *America's Got Talent*, *Game of Talents*, Italy's *Tu si Que Vales*, TFI's *The Best Show in France* and as the 2014 winner of Tru TV's *Fake Off*.

Eleanor B. Carney (*Managing Director, Ensemble*) Originally from New Orleans, Eleanor began her dance training with Harvey Hysell and Joseph Giacobbe. She graduated from Southern Methodist University with a BFA in dance and a BA in anthropology. She has danced professionally with Indianapolis Ballet Theater, the Lexington, Northwest Florida, Delta Festival and Montgomery Ballet. Career highlights include dancing Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, Desdemona in *The Moor's Pavane*, the title roles in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella*, *Giselle* and *Coppélia* and, of course, the Sugarplum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. She is delighted to have appeared with Lightwire Theater on *America's Got Talent*, Italy's hit show *Tu si Que Vales*, *Game of Talents*,

The Best on TFI and as the 2014 winner of Tru TV's *Fake Off*. She is eternally grateful to work beside her husband Ian, and share their art with the world.

Corbin Popp (*Co-Creator, Technical Supervisor*) is from Lincoln, Nebraska. He earned a degree in biochemistry at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, while also studying math, physics and dance. Opting for dance, he performed in *The Phantom of the Opera* as well as Billy Joel and Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out* on Broadway. He has toured throughout the United States with many shows and all over Europe with Tharp's dance company. He speaks German, studied in Germany on a Fulbright scholarship and recently graduated from dental school, yet still continues to perform and collaborate with Lightwire Theater.

Zachary Belway (*Ensemble*) from Santa Barbara, California discovered his passion for dance while studying engineering in college. Since then, he's thrown himself into many different styles of dance but especially the social dances: ballroom, Latin, swing, blues and many more! These days he can be seen fire dancing at festivals or dancing in Mardi Gras parades with the Star Steppin' Cosmonauts.

Kevin Chick (*Road Manager/Ensemble*) is a puppeteer and clown standup comedian. Most notable credits include: The Jim Henson company, The Kimmel Center of Philadelphia, The Guthrie of Minneapolis, Southern Colorado repertory theater, educational theater throughout South America, Mexico and Argentina; Coca-Cola Zero commercials

meet the cast

and political activist puppet videos with daily show writer Liz Winstead. He hails from Iowa and received his BA in theater from the University of Iowa. Most recently he accomplished one of his dreams by blasting across the United States on his motorcycle. He would like to say a big thank you to his family for their continued love and support.

Veronica DeWitt (*Ensemble*) was raised in Sixes, Oregon and Austin, Texas. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a BA in dance in 2003 and since then has worked as a professional dancer, choreographer, aerialist, Master Teacher of DanceAbility and professional musician. She has toured both domestically and internationally and feels very grateful to see the world both near and far through working as an artist. She has had the privilege to work in the companies of Robin Stiehm, Alito Alessi, Kathy Dunn Hamrick, The Curtain Climbers and ArtSparkTexas, as well as produce her own work. She is also an avid songwriter. She plays her music with a band called Dry Spell...check them out online! This is her first tour with Lightwire Theater, and she is tickled to be a part of the company.

Clay Moore (*Ensemble*) is originally from Houston, Texas and grew up in the world of competitive dance. After graduating he trained in Los Angeles and New York City and worked with the Edge Performing Arts, Mark Morris Dance, Terrill Mitchel and Dorrell Martin before relocating to Austin, Texas. Now an Austin-based choreographer and performer, he is a current company member with

Blue Lapis Light where he performs in aerial apparatus. He has been featured in works with ARCOS Dance, BLIPSWITCH, Jennifer Sherburn, Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company and many more. He has been featured in local ATX artist music videos including Tomar & the FCs. He shares his passion for movement by teaching and choreography with nonprofit groups and schools in the AISD and LISD. This is his first tour with Lightwire Theater.

Lisa Kobdish (*Ensemble*) is an Austin-born dance maker and performer with appreciation for collaborative projects and high-energy, athletic shows. She is extremely excited to join Lightwire this season for a debut in electroluminescent theater! She has a BFA in dance from UT Austin, and an MA in dance performance from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. She lived, taught and produced dance theater work in NYC and has performed with companies including Kristin Sudeikis Dance and Depth Dance. Now back in her hometown, she keeps a lively lifestyle as a freelance dance performer with various companies including KDH Dance and Jennifer Sherburn, an aerialist with Blue Lapis Light and as a co-producer for Austin Dance Festival film screenings. Outside of the dance and performing spheres, she maintains a casual yet constant profile as a trusted dog, cat and house sitter under the profile Sweet Potato Pet Care.

Tristan Rodney (*Ensemble*) is a graduate of the University of Technology, Jamaica earning a BA. in Communications Arts & Technology (BaCAT). His dance training includes Jamaica's Quilt Performing

meet the cast

Arts Company, Ashe, University Dance Society, the Company Dance Theater as well as Texas Ballet Theatre. His commercial experience spans Mary Kay's *Friends of Time*, Arlington Music Hall, Amway International, Texas State Fair, DIFFA Dallas, Eclipse Entertainment and most recently Universal's *Jurassic World*. He was a founding member of TMJ Dance Project, Ballet North Texas, soloist with Dallas Neo Classical Ballet, company member with Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico, Urban Performing Company, Herrera Dance Project and Beckles Dancing Company. This is his second year touring with Lightwire Theater's holiday tour.

about the company

Lightwire Theater has been featured as the winner of Tru TV's *Fake Off* (season one), semi-finalists on *America's Got Talent* (season seven) and as finalist on *My TFI's*, *The Best Le Meilleur Artiste in Paris*, ABC's *Game of Talents* and Italy's *Tu Si Que Vales*. Internationally recognized for their signature brand of electroluminescent artistry and poignant storytelling, Lightwire Theater is based in New Orleans and continues to create and deliver innovative theatrical experiences to audiences worldwide including: Hong Kong, Taipei, Estonia, Brazil, Russia, Europe, Belarus, China and Abu Dhabi.

njpac on the mic

For post-show resources, please visit:
njpac.org/education-program/livewire-theater-a-very-electric-christmas-resources

acknowledgements

Mendelson Entertainment Group LLC proudly manages and represents Lightwire Theater.

A very special thanks to The Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, who commissioned and premiered Lightwire's first show, *Darwin the Dinosaur*, on October 13, 2007 in Detroit, Michigan.

Major support provided by:



Generous support for NJPAC's SchoolTime Performance series provided, in part, by:



Generous support for NJPAC Arts Education provided by The Joan and Allen Bildner Family Fund, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., The Arts Education Endowment Fund in honor of Raymond C. Chambers, Jennifer A. Chalsty, Judy and Stewart Colton, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Mimi and Edwin Feliciano, The Izzo Family, Don Katz & Leslie Larson, McCrane Foundation, Inc., care of Margrit McCrane, The MCJ Amelior Foundation, Albert+ and Katharine Merck+, NJ Advance Media, David & Marian Rocker, The Sagner Companies/The Sagner Family Foundation and an anonymous donor.

+deceased