



A complete list of students participating in this production and the high schools they attend is included at the end of this release.

**Press Contact:** Bridget Morgan  
[bmorgan@5thavenue.org](mailto:bmorgan@5thavenue.org)  
(206) 625-1418 x274

**Contact Info for Publication:**  
[www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org)  
206-625-1900 / 888-5TH-4TIX (584-4849)

**The 5th Avenue Theatre Presents Rising Star Project 2016:  
*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying***  
*This hysterical mod musical hit featuring the talent of local students marks  
the 5th anniversary of The 5th Avenue Theatre's Rising Star Project*

**March 3-5, 2016**

*Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser*

*Book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert*

*Directed by Chryssie Whitehead; Choreographed by Trina Mills*

(Tuesday, February 16, 2015– SEATTLE, WA) Nearly 80 high school students from across Washington State are gathering regularly in Downtown Seattle to mount a wickedly funny production of ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*** featuring an all student cast, orchestra and technical crew for four performances only at **The 5th Avenue Theatre**. The fifth annual **Rising Star Project** is well underway, and is a tuition free program for talented teens to partner with theater professionals, receiving direct mentorship in a variety of fields ranging from performance and orchestra to stage management and technical crew to fundraising and producing responsibilities. The program culminates in a fully-staged production using the original costumes, props and set on the historic 5th Avenue stage.

**Rising Star Project: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* runs March 3-5, 2016** (with a by-invitation-only performance on March 3) at **The 5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 5th Avenue, Seattle). For single tickets (starting at \$15) and information, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org), call the Box Office at (206) 625-1900 or visit the Box Office at 1308 5th Avenue in Downtown Seattle. Tickets may also be purchased at (888) 5TH-4TIX. Group ticket buyers (10 or more) may call (888) 625-1418.

The Rising Star Project is proudly sponsored by a generous grant from **The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation** that ensures the effects of this immersive experience extend far beyond the run of the show. Audiences will laugh the night away at this satire of big business while supporting the hard work of local students on- and off-stage in this hilarious production of ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying***.

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The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101  
email [bmorgan@5thavenue.org](mailto:bmorgan@5thavenue.org) • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610

Orlando Morales, Director of Rising Star Project and Internships at The 5th, remarked, “**How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying** marks the fifth anniversary of **Rising Star Project** (RSP), the hallmark mentoring program of The 5th Avenue Theatre. Over the last five years, RSP has used the resources and professional knowledge at The 5th to help every young person we interact with achieve a fulfilling career, a stronger sense of self, and confidence in their ability to inspire positive change in the world. The growth RSP students achieve goes far beyond the practical skills attained during their on- or off-stage mentorship. They leave this program with professionalism and confidence that carries into their chosen career path, whatever that may be. It’s a great privilege to work with such dedicated and passionate young adults and to witness their transformation firsthand on The 5th Avenue stage!”

**Matt Seib** stars as J. Pierrepont Finch alongside **Alia Thomaier** as Rosemary Pilkington. They are joined by **Henri Fitzmaurice** as J. B. Biggley, **John Han** as Mr. Twimble/Wally Womper, **Angelica Hines** as Miss Jones, **Blayne Shamarin** as Bud Frump, **Lydia Weir** as Smitty, **Erin Hyatt** as Hedy La Rue and **Tate Busby** as Bert Bratt. Swinging tunes like “Company Way,” “Brotherhood of Man” and “I Believe In You” are accompanied by slinky Fosse-inspired choreography and a spectacular professional set design inspired by ‘60s artist Piet Mondrian.

*How to Succeed* is directed by **Chryssie Whitehead**, choreographed by **Trina Mills** and music directed by **John Callahan**. These artists recreate the original direction by **Bill Berry**, choreography of **Bob Richard** and music direction of **Dan Pardo**, who created The 5th Avenue’s critically acclaimed production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. This student run production also utilizes main stage production’s original set design by **Tom Sturge** and **David Sumner**, costume design by **Rose Pederson**, lighting design by **Robert J. Aguilar**, sound design by **Justin Stasiw** and hair and makeup design by **Mary Pyanowski Jones**.

### **About The Cast**

Ambitious J. Pierrepont Finch is played by **Matt Seib**, a junior at Seattle Prep in his Rising Star Project debut. Sieb’s favorite performances include *Legally Blonde* (Emmett) and *Addams Family* (Gomez) at Village Theatre’s KIDSTAGE and *Pippin* (Pippin) at Seattle Prep HS.

Devoted romantic Rosemary Pilkington is played by **Alia Thomaier**, a senior at Edmonds Heights. Her recent credits include *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *My Fair Lady* at Lyric Light Opera, and *Side Show* and *Shrek* at Edmonds Heights.

**Henri Fitzmaurice**, a senior at Roosevelt High School, returns to Rising Star Project for his 5th production at The 5th Ave as the boisterous World Wide Wicket owner, J.B. Biggley. His recent productions include *Visiting Olivier* (Olivier) at Roosevelt High School, *The Wizard of Oz* at Seattle Children’s Theatre and *Kiss Me Kate* at Village Theatre, First Stage.

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**Lydia Weir**, a junior at Everett High School, plays World Wide Wicket secretary and office confidant, Smitty. She is ecstatic to return for her third Rising Star Project, with credits in *Carousel* and *Monty Python's Spamalot* at The 5th. Weir was recently seen in *The Addams Family* (Morticia) and *Anything Goes* (Reno Sweeney) at Village Theatre's KIDSTAGE.

Joining the steno pool are **Erin Hyatt** as Hedy La Rue and **Angelica Hines** as Miss Jones. **Erin Hyatt**, a junior at Edmonds Heights, is thrilled to be part of the Rising Star Project for the first time. Her recent credits include *Children of Eden* (Eve/Mama Noah) at EH K-12, *bare* (Ivy) at Ballyhoo Theatre, and *Seussical* (Mayzie) at VT's KIDSTAGE. **Angelica Hines**, a freshman at Kentridge High School, joins the cast in her Rising Star Project debut, recently seen in *Snow White and the 7* at Langston Hughes Theatre and multiple performances at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

The staff of the World Wide Wicket Company includes **Blayne Shamarin** as Bud Frump, **John Han** as Mr. Twimble/Wally Womper and **Tate Busby** as Bert Bratt. **Blayne Shamarin**, a junior at Ingraham High School, returns to The 5th Avenue stage, last seen as Enoch Snow Jr. In last years' Rising Star Project, *Carousel*. Recent credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* (Conrad Birdie) and *Shrek the Musical* (Donkey) at Broadway Bound and *Les Miserables* at Ingraham HS. **John Han**, a student at Cascadia College makes his Rising Star Project debut with this production. Recent credits include *Addams Family*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Shrek* at Studio East and multiple productions at Bothell High School. **Tate Busby** is a senior at Edmonds Heights and is elated to return to The 5th Avenue stage in one of his all time favorite shows. His recent roles include *Children of Eden* (Adam/Noah), *Big Fish* (Edward) and *Pippin* (Pippin) at Edmonds Heights and *RSP: Carousel* (Officer Timony) at The 5th.

Rounding out the workforce, the ensemble includes **Tom Bentsen**, **Tyler Bocock**, **Max Boone**, **Emily Brooks**, **Sarah Dennis**, **Emilie Hanson**, **Derek Hoyden**, **Cameron Lee**, **Atreal Loyd**, **Anthony Lord**, **Javier Luna**, **Sophie Poole**, **Shalondra Powell**, **Ben Sanders**, **Mackenzie Taylor**, **Brandon Weglin**, **Shelby Willis** and **Ava Yaghmaie**.

### About the Creative Team

The production features original scenic design by **Tom Sturge** and **David Sumner** and original costume design by **Rose Pederson**. The design team also includes lighting designer **Robert Aguilar**, sound designer **Justin Stasiw** and hair and wig designer **Mary Jones**. Additional staff includes assistant director **Kelsey Thorgalsen**, student director **Emma Hokoda**, associate choreographer **Gabe Corey** and associate sound designer **Kevin Heard**. The production features orchestrations by **Bruce Monroe**. Student stage managers include **Peter Davies**, **Esmé DeCoster**, **Matthew Lewis** and **Noah Sarkowsky**.

### About The 5th Avenue Theatre

The non-profit 5th Avenue Theatre is acclaimed as one of the nation's leading musical theater companies and is especially renowned for its production and development of new works. Since 2001, the Seattle-based company has produced 17 new musicals. To date,

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nine (including the sensational hit *Disney's Aladdin*) have moved on to Broadway premieres, earning a combined 15 Tony Awards, including two for Best Musical (*Hairspray* and *Memphis*). The 5th Avenue Theatre is also known for its world class, critically acclaimed productions of musicals chosen from both the contemporary canon and the Golden Age of Broadway.

Unique in its Chinese-inspired design, this exquisite theater opened in 1926 as a venue for vaudeville and film. Today, under the leadership of Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong, Managing Director Bernadine C. Griffin and Producing Artistic Director Bill Berry, this non-profit theater company attracts an annual attendance of more than 300,000, including over 25,000 subscribers – one of the largest theater subscriptions in North America.

In addition to its main stage productions, The 5th Avenue Theatre is also committed to encouraging the next generation of theatergoers through its extensive educational outreach programs which served over 74,000 students last year. For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org).

### **About our sponsors**

Rising Star Project is proudly sponsored by The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation. Additional support for Rising Star Project comes from The Herman and Faye Sarkowsky Charitable Foundation, Susie and Phil Stoller, The Boeing Company, Washington State Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, GM Nameplate, Jean K. Lafromboise Foundation, Nichols Foundation, and ProMotion Arts (in-kind).

The 5th Avenue Theatre has a number of additional sponsors that support our education programs, including the following major donors not listed above: ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, 4Culture, Seattle Foundation, R.B. and Ruth H. Dunn Charitable Foundation, Alaska Airlines, HomeStreet Bank, Protiviti, BDO USA, LLP, David Bernhard, Eric Blom and Min Park, KPMG, Northern Trust, Regence, Schultz Family Foundation, and DCG One (in-kind).

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### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

**WHAT:** The Pulitzer Prize-winning and multi-Tony Award®-winning musical comedy hit ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*** featuring an all student cast, orchestra and technical crew opens for four performances only at **The 5th Avenue Theatre**. The annual **Rising Star Project** is a tuition free program for promising theatre students aged 14 to 19 in the greater Seattle area. Partnered with theatre professionals, students are mentored in their area of study (cast, orchestra, creative leadership or stage management) and ultimately mount a full production using the original costumes, props and set on the historic 5th Avenue

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stage. The Rising Star Project is made possible through a generous grant from The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation and the effects of this immersive experience extend far beyond the run of the show. Audiences will laugh the night away at this satire of big business while supporting the hard work of local students in this hilarious production of ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying***.

**WHEN:** 10:30 AM, March 3, 2015 (*Invitation Only*)

10 AM, March 4, 2015

8 PM, March 4, 2015

2 PM, March 5, 2015

**WHERE:** **The 5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 5th Avenue, Seattle)

**TICKETS:** For tickets (\$15-\$25) and information, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org) or call the Box Office at 206-625-1900. Tickets may also be purchased at (888) 5TH-4TIX. Groups of 10 or more may receive additional discounts by calling 888-625-1418.

For more information about discounted tickets for schools (\$9 per ticket, valid only for the performance on March 4 at 10 AM) and the invitation-only performance on March 3, please contact Orlando Morales at [educationprograms@5thavenue.org](mailto:educationprograms@5thavenue.org) or 206-625-1418.

### **About the students**

The students selected for the **Rising Star Project: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*** are the best and brightest in the region. All successfully auditioned or interviewed for their positions on the team. Most come directly from school to rehearse, prepare backstage, and work in the administrative offices.

| School             | Last Name | First Name | Age | Department | Position                   |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----|------------|----------------------------|
| A.C. Davis HS      | TAYLOR    | Mackenzie  | 17  | Performer  | FEMALE ENSEMBLE            |
| Bellarmino Prep    | HANSON    | Emilie     | 15  | Performer  | FEMALE ENSEMBLE            |
| Bellarmino Prep    | RIVERS    | Dylan      | 15  | Crew       | Carpenter (Deck) or Flyman |
| Bellevue College   | WILLIS    | Shelby     | 16  | Performer  | FEMALE ENSEMBLE            |
| Bellevue HS        | LEWIS     | Matthew    | 16  | Crew       | Stage Management           |
| Big Picture HS     | SORENSEN  | Max        | 18  | Crew       | Costume and Wardrobe       |
| Bishop Blanchet HS | FESALBON  | Teresa     | 15  | Crew       | Carpenter (Head Carpenter) |
| Cascadia College   | HAN       | John       | 20  | Performer  | TWIMBLE/WOMPER             |
| Eastlake HS        | DENNIS    | Sarah      | 17  | Performer  | FEMALE ENSEMBLE            |
| Eastlake HS        | BARNEY    | Ryan       | 18  | Orchestra  | Percussion                 |

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*Rising Star Project: How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at The 5th Avenue Theatre

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|                                |            |           |    |           |                                 |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|----|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Eastlake HS                    | SAATHOFF   | Ryan      | 16 | Orchestra | French Horn & Rehearsal Pianist |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | HYATT      | Erin      | 17 | Performer | HEDY                            |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | BOWEN      | Grace     | 17 | Crew      | Costume and Wardrobe            |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | BUSBY      | Tate      | 17 | Performer | BERT BRATT                      |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | SMITH      | Isabelle  | 18 | Crew      | Costume and Wardrobe            |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | SMITH      | Natalie   | 15 | Crew      | Sound (Key Sound)               |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | GRAMBIHLER | Katherine | 16 | Crew      | Electrician (Key)               |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | GRIFFIN    | Annie     | 15 | Crew      | Props                           |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | THOMAIER   | Alia      | 17 | Performer | ROSEMARY                        |
| Edmonds Heights K-12           | BURNETT    | Sophie    | 16 | Crew      | Props                           |
| Everett HS                     | WEIR       | Lydia     | 17 | Performer | SMITTY                          |
| Garfield HS                    | PAPERMAN   | Milo      | 14 | Orchestra | Percussion                      |
| Highline College               | NGUYEN     | Daniel    | 18 | Admin     | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT            |
| Holy Names Academy             | HOKODA     | Emma      | 17 | Admin     | DIRECTING                       |
| Homeschool                     | BROOKS     | Emily     | 15 | Performer | FEMALE ENSEMBLE                 |
| Homeschool                     | WOHLF      | Annika    | 15 | Crew      | Hair and Makeup                 |
| Ingraham HS                    | BOYLE      | Bridget   | 15 | Crew      | Hair and Makeup                 |
| Ingraham HS                    | SHAMARIN   | Blayne    | 16 | Performer | FRUMP                           |
| International Community School | HUNT       | Emma      | 18 | Admin     | Development                     |
| International School           | BENTSEN    | Tom       | 15 | Performer | MALE ENSEMBLE                   |
| Juanita                        | ELLIS      | Shaina    | 15 | Orchestra | Alto Sax (Reed 2)               |
| Juanita                        | IZHAKY     | Tali      | 15 | Orchestra | Tenor Sax (Reed 3)              |
| Juanita                        | ZIMMERLE   | Leonardo  | 17 | Orchestra | Clarinet                        |
| Kent-Meridian HS               | HERNANDEZ  | Aaron     | 16 | Crew      | Stage Crew - Sound              |
| Kent-Meridian HS               | LUNA       | Javier    | 16 | Performer | MALE ENSEMBLE                   |
| Kent-Meridian HS               | LUNA       | Ciana     | 15 | Admin     | CREATIVE TEAM                   |
| Kent-Meridian HS               | POWELL     | Shalondra |    | Performer | FEMALE ENSEMBLE                 |
| Kentridge HS                   | HINES      | Angelica  | 14 | Performer | MISS JONES                      |
| Kentridge HS                   | TSANG      | Julien    | 17 | Orchestra | Alto Sax                        |
| Kentridge HS                   | LORD       | Anthony   |    | Performer | MALE ENSEMBLE                   |
| Kentridge HS                   | SAWREY     | Benjamin  | 17 | Orchestra | Rehearsal pianist & Keyboard    |
| Lakewood HS                    | HOYDEN     | Derek     | 17 | Performer | MALE ENS/MR. PETERSON           |
| Marysville Pilchuck            | Loyd       | Atreal    | 15 | Performer | MALE ENSEMBLE                   |
| Meadowdale HS                  | DAVIES     | Adrianna  | 18 | Admin     | Development                     |

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|                             |                  |          |    |           |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|----|-----------|------------------------------|
| Meadowdale HS               | DAVIES           | Peter    | 16 | Crew      | Stage Management             |
| Mercer Island HS            | POOLE            | Sophie   | 15 | Performer | FEMALE ENSEMBLE              |
|                             | DURANT           | Samantha | 19 | Crew      | Costume and Wardrobe         |
| Monroe HS                   | LEE              | Cameron  | 18 | Performer | MALE ENS/MR. GATCH           |
| Monroe HS                   | LEE              | Matthew  | 16 | Admin     | PRODUCING                    |
| Monroe HS                   | ROCHE            | Jordan   | 17 | Crew      | Electrician (Head)           |
| Rainier Beach HS            | ROBERSON         | Essence  | 16 | Crew      | Hair and Makeup              |
| Roosevelt HS                | FITZMAURICE      | Henri    | 18 | Performer | J.B. BIGGLEY                 |
| Roosevelt HS                | LAMBERT          | Parker   | 16 | Crew      | Electrician/Light Programmer |
| Roosevelt HS                | URNER            | Rachel   | 17 | Crew      | Costume and Wardrobe         |
| Roosevelt HS                | YAGHMAIE         | Ava      | 17 | Performer | FEMALE ENSEMBLE              |
| Roosevelt HS                | JONES            | Porter   | 18 | Orchestra | Trombone                     |
| SAAS                        | BOONE            | Max      | 17 | Performer | MALE ENSEMBLE                |
| SAAS                        | DECOSTER         | Esmé     | 15 | Crew      | Stage Management             |
| SAAS                        | SARKOWSKY        | Noah     | 17 | Crew      | Stage Management             |
| Seattle Prep                | SEIB             | Matt     | 17 | Performer | FINCH                        |
| Shorecrest HS               | BENHAIM          | Amalya   | 14 | Crew      | Stage Crew                   |
| Shorecrest HS               | GORDON-SANDWEISS | Zachary  | 17 | Orchestra | Trumpet                      |
| Shorecrest HS               | RESING           | Heidi    | 15 | Crew      | Sound (Head)                 |
| Shorecrest HS               | WONG             | DeMeaus  | 15 | Orchestra | Flute                        |
| Tahoma HS                   | BOCOCK           | Tyler    | 15 | Performer | MALE ENSEMBLE                |
| The Evergreen State College | WRIGHT           | Zoe      | 19 | Crew      | Carpenter (AUTO)             |
| The Northwest School        | SANDERS          | Ben      | 15 | Performer | MALE ENS/MR. JOHNSON         |
| The Overlake School         | SMITH            | Lauren   | 17 | Crew      | Costume and Wardrobe         |
| The Overlake School         | MCQUEEN          | Maya     | 16 | Admin     | PRODUCING                    |
| The Overlake School         | HITCHCOCK        | Maddie   | 16 | Admin     | PRODUCING                    |
| Tree Leaf Homeschool        | FIELDER          | Kamalani | 16 | Orchestra | Orchestra                    |
| West Seattle HS             | WEGLIN           | Brandon  | 16 | Performer | MALE ENS/MR. JENKINS         |

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