



**Denise S Bass**, has several television credits to her name including Matlock, One Tree Hill, HBO's East Bound and Down with Danny McBride and Katy Mixon, and TNT's production of T-Bone and Weasel starring Gregory Hines, Christopher Lloyd, and Wayne Knight. Also to her credit are several film productions including The Road to Wellville with Anthony Hopkins and Matthew Broderick, Black Knight with Martin Laurence, and The 27 Club with Joe Anderson. She has been performing theatrically since 1981 working from NC to Florida and touring the Southeast with the American Family Theatre out of Philadelphia. Denise's most recent roles include Ethel in Thalian Association's production of "Barefoot in the Park" (Winner 2017 Thalian Award Best Actress in a Play), Dottie in Thalian Association's production of "Noises Off" (Nominee 2016 Thalian Award Best Supporting Actress in a Play), and Madam Thenadier in Opera House Theatre Company's production of Les Miserable. Other notable roles over the years include Sally in "Follies", Dolly Levi in "Hello, Dolly!", Molly Brown in "The Unsinkable Molly Brown", Delightful in "Dearly Departed", Diana Morales in "A Chorus Line", and Mrs. Meers in "Thoroughly Modern Mille". She is a producer and featured performer with Ensemble Audio Studios and was part of the cast for the audio production of "The King's Child", which was selected in 2017 at the Hear Now Audio Festival for the Gold Circle Page. She also voiced several characters for the very popular audio book "Percy the Cat and the Big White House". She is currently writing a collection of short stories and looks forward to teaching Fundamentals of Acting for TACT.



**Katie Deese** received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Georgia in Athens and was a music and theatre arts educator for 12 years. Her teaching career included experiences in public, private, and charter schools in North Carolina and Georgia, working with students from early childhood through adults. In 1998, Katie received a Grammy Award for her performance as a vocalist on the Classical Album of the Year. In 2015, Katie received her Master of Science degree in Instructional Technology and began working as an instructional designer. Katie lives in Wilmington with her husband and two young daughters, and the entire Deese family is involved in local community theatrical and musical endeavors



**Kendra Goehring-Garrett**, received a B.F.A. in Musical Theater from Elon University. Kendra currently can be seen in the movie "Parental Guidance" (in theater's now) starring Billy Crystal, Bette Midler & Marisa Tomei. She performed regional theatre all across the country and is proud to call Wilmington home. Kendra has graced the Wilmington stages performing with many local theatre organizations such as Opera House, City Stage and On Broadway, to name a few. Some of her favorite roles include: Peter in "Peter Pan", Belle in "Beauty and the Beast", Millie in "Thoroughly Modern Millie", "A Chorus Line" and "Hello Dolly". Kendra's talents extend far behind the stage curtain having directed and choreographed for adult as well as children's theatre productions & this summer Kendra directed "RENT" at Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts. She had been a preschool teacher for the past 6 years and is currently pursuing a second degree in Early Childhood Education. In her "down-time" she enjoys spending time with her husband Mitch, and their doggie baby Otis. Kendra will teach Star Power, TACT Tots and Outreach Classes at the Community Boys and Girls Club. This Season Kendra will teach: TACT Tots and Star Power, as well as Thalian Association Community Outreach Classes at the Community Boys & Girls Club, which is in the Youth Enrichment Zone.



**Kayla Hager**, was born and raised in West Virginia and has recently made Wilmington her home. She is 24 years old, loves the beach, and has a strong passion for teaching the performing arts! She began learning music and performing when she was 11 years old and eventually fell in love with teaching music and the arts to others. After obtaining her Bachelor of Arts in English from Marshall University, Kayla decided to branch out and bring her talents to Wilmington. She specializes in teaching acting, dance, music, and voice.



**Courtney Harding**, is excited to start her second year as a TACT Academy Instructor. She graduated with honors from UNC Charlotte in Theatre Education and a minor in dance. She now teaches theatre at New Hanover High School by day and performs in local theatre by night!



**Tina Leak**, is a former Radio City Music Hall Rockette and has performed throughout the United States and 14 countries, as a featured entertainer in touring companies, concerts, cruise ships and film, working with such artists as: Gregory Hines, Maurice Hines, Ben Vereen, Jennifer Holiday, Gregg Burge, Mercedes Ellington, Carleton Carpenter, Dennis Hopper, Gloria Estefan & the Miami Sound Machine, John Leguizamo & Muhammad Ali. She has been a featured dancer at the MGM Grand, Harrah's Casino & the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, Chinese New Year Celebrations in Hong Kong, in commercials for Honda Motorcycles, Sapporo Beer, Diet Pepsi, Pepsi and as a back-up dancer for PINK. While living in NY & Las Vegas she regularly studied with: Henry LeTang, (choreographer of *The Cotton Club*, *Tap*, *Black & Blue*, *Eubie*) Savion Glover, Gregory Hines, Chita Rivera, Alan Onickle (*A Chorus Line*), Obba Babbatunde (*Dream Girls*), Phil Black (teacher/choreographer for Liza Minelli, John Travolta, Jennifer Lopez, etc). Over the summer Tina continued her tap education with Michelle Dorrance (*Stomp*, *Dorrance Dance*), Sarah Reich (Post Modern Jukebox, *Syncopated Ladies*). Tina has choreographed for cruise ships, television and theaters in Japan, Puerto Rico and the United States, she most recently choreographed Thalian Association's *Young Frankenstein*, at Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts. She is listed in *Who's Who in Dance*; has been awarded: American Dance Achievement Award; Reach Out Touch a Youth Award and the Radio City Music Hall Rockette Showmanship Award.



**Ella Reischer**, graduated from the "FAME" School in New York City and has a BS in psychology/ sociology with minors in Theatre and Elementary Education and received her professional training with the Charles and Lowe Studios in New York City. Ella has more than 30 years of experience in all aspects of theater from acting to directing to producing. She has performed as an actor in more than sixty plays and has directed in more than forty productions, overseas as well as in the United States. Ella has appeared on television in both sitcom and commercials and has acted in industrial films. Some of her favorite roles include Angel in "Celebration", Elvira in "Blithe Spirit" and Nancy in "Oliver". Ella has an extensive theatre teaching background, specializing in teaching both children and adults. She was an instructor with Fairfax County's (Virginia) Educational Theatre Programs for more than 10 years. She also has taught theatre for many years in private schools including the Langley School in Northern Virginia. Since moving to NC last year, Ella has taught acting for Lincoln Elementary School, Thalian's children's programs and the Leland Cultural Center.



**Elisa Eklof Smith** Her love for performing and the arts has been an integral part of her life since she was young girl. She specializes in musical theatre, but loves all aspects of the arts. For the past 15 years, Elisa has taught in various capacities from private vocal/piano instruction, to after-school music/drama programs. She was recently a resident teacher for the Cape Fear Wilson Center's theatre summer camp this past summer. When she's not teaching Elisa loves to perform--some of her latest local shows include, *Macabre* (Theatrenew), *Camelot*(OHTC), and as a Diva in *Priscilla Queen of the Dessert*(OHTC).