



Frank Higgins, Writer

Frank Higgins is the author of *The Sweet By 'n' By* which was produced with Tony-winner Blythe Danner and then future-Oscar winner Gwyneth Paltrow; and *Black Pearl Sings!* which was produced at Ford's Theatre in Washington DC with Tony-winner Tonya Pinkins. The play was also seen in KC in March at the Just-Off Broadway space, produced by Spinning Tree Theatre. His plays have been seen in New York, and at the Williamstown Theater Festival, the Old Globe Theatre, Northlight Theatre in Chicago, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theater, Inter-Act Theater in Philadelphia, Horizons Theater in Atlanta, and many other places. His plays have been published by Dramatists Play Service, Samuel French, Dramatic Publishing Company, and Pioneer Drama Service. His one act play *The True Death of Socrates* is included in *Best American Short Plays of 2013*, published by Applause Books. He has also written several plays for young audiences, including *Anansi the Spider* and *The Middle Passage*, and *The Country of the Blind*. He has also published two books of poetry, and two books of haiku.



Warren Deckert, Director/Technical Director/Designer

Warren Deckert, Director/Designer -- Warren's 45 years of theatre experience include being the Artistic/Technical Director for Great Bend Community Theatre and technical director/designer for the Bethel College Drama Department. He has designed the lighting and/or sets for over 160 productions. Currently he is an assistant house manager for Kansas City Repertory Theatre, the resident technical director/designer for KC MeltingPot Theatre and the producing director of Phoenix KC Theatre -- grateful for the ongoing partnership with MeltingPot. Upcoming projects include directing a new play by Vicki Vodrey -- "*Sue Aside...*" (KC Fringe Festival/July) and a reprise of the 2014 KC Fringe Festival show *Gidion's Knot* (September), as well as designing 2 more shows for MeltingPot.



Melissa E. Koerner, Production Stage Manager

Melissa E. Koerner, Production Stage Manager - *The Taste Test* is Melissa's sixth production with KCMeltingPot/Phoenix KC Theatre (Production Stage Manager - *The Frowning Vajayjays* of Shady Pines, *White Sangria*, *Echoes of Octavia* Waiting To Be Invited and *Truth Stands*).

Melissa is from Orlando, Florida where she was Stage Manager for The Orlando Repertory Theatre, Beth Marshall Presents, Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival, and Orlando Shakespeare Theater (*The Exit Interview*, NNPN World Premiere). For five years she was also an Entertainment Manager, Fireworks Manager and Special Event Manager for Walt Disney World Entertainment. Currently the Company Manager for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Melissa has also worked with the Fishtank Performance Studio as Production Assistant and The Coterie Theatre as Stage Manager.



Alex Murphy - Stage Manager

Alex Murphy (Stage Manager) is thrilled to make his Phoenix KC and MeltingPot debut with The Taste Test! Stage Management: *The Butcher's Son* (Westport Center for the Arts) *Drunks*, *Acocalypse*, *Film Classics Presents: Heaven So Far* (KC Fringe Festival); *The Death of Cupid*, *Hurlyburly*, *Fool for Love*, *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll*, *Dog Sees, God*, *A Bucket of Blood* (The Living Room Theatre) *A Little Night Music* (Spinning Tree Theatre) *How To Succeed in Business*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Enchanted April*, *The Time of Your Life* (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre); *In Trousers*, *Valhalla* (Egads Theatre Company). Productoin Assistant: *Sticky Traps*, *Angels in America Pts 1 and 2*, *The Santa Land Diaries* (2013, 2014), *The Who and the What*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Kansas City Repertory Theatre) *Grounded*, *Other Desert Cities* (Unicorn Theatre). Alex holds a M.F.A. In Stage Management from University of Missouri - Kansas City.



Atif Romie - Costume Designer

Atif Romie (Costume Designer) is a visual artist who designs for the performing arts. He has designed for professional and academic theatre, dance and music productions in the Kansas City area for over thirty years.

Recent productions include: "You Can't Take It With You" and "Cabaret" at Rockhurst University, "Memories of Xiaoxiang" (Susan Rieger - Dancer, Choreographer) with New Ear Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and "Lost In Yonkers" at the Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre.

He first worked on a Frank Higgins play "The Great War" in 1984 and enjoys the opportunity to do it again.