



Presents...

Royal Flush

By:
Frank Pesci

World Premiere
March 11-13, 2021

Tennessee Amphitheatre at World's Fair Park
Knoxville, TN

Cast

<u>Role</u>	<u>Thursday/Saturday (matinee)</u>	<u>Friday/Saturday (evening)</u>
"Rosie"	Sarah-Clementine Mire	Ryan Colbert
"CeeCee"	Kayla Beard	Jacquie Brecheen
"Frankie"	Tori Franklin	Whitney Myers
"Annie"	Ashlee King	Jenna Renee` Ziccardi
"Delores"	Sarah Klopfenstein	Aubrey Odle

Directed by: Kathryn Frady

Accompanied/
Music Direction by: Brandon Coffey

Production Staff

Founding Executive Artistic Director:	Kathryn Frady
Managing Director:	Brandon J. Gibson
Administrative Director:	Kayla Beard
Covers:	Adia Evans-Ledon Christine Alfano Cornelia Lotito Kylie Humber

Synopsis

Four sisters (either by blood or common experience) size each other up over one hand of Poker. The fifth - their "Mother" - manages the proceedings, calls the game, and calmly deals. With each card, one of the four sisters reflects on the hand they are dealt - both in the game and in their lives - and, in the process, reveals their "tell." The stubbornness and competitiveness of the four sisters push them all to advance terrible hands while the dealer quietly assembles a Royal Flush. As they try to exploit each other's "tells," the nature of their relationships comes to light in a hilarious and heartwarming fashion.

Bios

Frank Pesci, composer, has catalogue that contains over 100 works for the concert stage, including fifty choral motets, eleven song cycles, twenty chamber and concert scores, and four operas. In 2017, his opera [*The System of Soothing*](#) was selected for the Fort Worth Opera [FRONTIERS](#) showcase. In 2020 he was commissioned to write a new work for brass and percussion for Cologne's Geurzenich Orchestra, and he will lecture as an Artist in Residence at the University of Nevada

Recent commission and collaborative partners include the Geurzenich Orchestra Cologne, UNLV Opera Theater, Marble City Opera, Fort Worth Opera, New Music Works, Boston Conservatory, Boston Opera Collaborative, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, the What is Noise ensemble, Duo Velocipede, bassoonist Lorelei Dowling, Trinity Church in the City of Boston, the London Review of

Books, National Book Award winning poet Terrance Hayes, and Saturday Night Live writer Simon Rich.

He performed as a choral singer and supernumerary in more than 150 performances at Cologne Opera and the Baden State Theater in Karlsruhe, Germany. He had a twelve-year career as a professional liturgical musician, working from Mississippi to Massachusetts, and touring England and France. He held teaching positions at performing arts non-profits throughout the mid-Atlantic and New England regions, served as Associate Artistic Director of Boston Opera Collaborative, and was Executive Director of the New Hampshire Music Festival.

Born in Washington, D.C., he graduated from the University of Cincinnati and the University of Southern Mississippi, where he received the Theodore Presser Award. He studied with Luigi Zaninelli, John Heiss, and Daron Hagen. Currently he lives in Cologne, Germany.

Kathryn Frady, stage director, has worked throughout the United States, Europe, and South Africa. As a leading pioneer in producing opera in alternative spaces, Kathryn's recent production of *Gallantry* was praised by Arts Knoxville, who wrote, "Kudos to Stage Director Kathryn Frady for an accomplishment that reminded the audience what theatre is all about." Kathryn was also named among the "10 Women who make a Difference in Knoxville" by the Knoxville Mercury newspaper. In 2019, A Step Ahead Foundation recognized Kathryn as a Trailblazer in her field.

A passionate advocate of new works, Kathryn directed the world premiere of Larry Delinger's *Shadowlight*, which Arts Knoxville called "A Stunning Celebration of the Art and Life of Beauford Delaney" in a "marvelously immersive" production. Other recent credits include productions of *Dido* and *Aeneas* at Baldwin Wallace University, *Beneath Suspicion* at Marble City Opera, *Cold Sassy Tree* at Amarillo Opera, *Tosca* at North Carolina Opera, *Barber of Seville* and *L'elisir d'amore* for Wichita Grand Opera, *Barber of Seville* for Knoxville Opera, *H.M.S. Pinafore* for The Living Opera, and new opera works at Cleveland Opera Theater. International credits include work on *Carmen* for Opera Africa in Pretoria and Johannesburg, *Amelia Lost* with the Opera in the City Festival in London; and *L'elisir d'amore* for the Centre for Opera Studies in Sulmona, Italy.

Brandon Coffey, music director, is a Knoxville native and earned his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Carson Newman University and also served as a staff accompanist there from 2013-2016. Currently he serves as accompanist at First Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN, frequently accompanies both singers and musicians in concert performances, and also plays for events and musicals. He is also a piano instructor at LeGrand Music Studios.

Singers

Name & Voice type: Sarah-Clementine Mire, Soprano

Hometown: Lubbock, Texas

Where you live now: Knoxville, Tennessee

Opera Companies: Knoxville Opera, San Antonio Lyric Opera

Symphonies: Lubbock Symphony, Texas Tech Symphony, University of Tennessee Symphony

Name & Voice type: Ryan Colbert, soprano

Hometown: Cleveland, TN

Where you live now: Cleveland, TN

Opera Companies: Marble City Opera, Moon River Opera, Spooky Goose Opera, International Summer Opera Festival of Morelia, OperaRox Productions, Midwest Institute of Opera, Oak Ridge Philharmonia, University of Delaware Opera Theatre, University of Tennessee Opera Theatre

Symphonies: Oak Ridge Philharmonia, University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra, Morelia Symphony Orchestra, Hidden Hills Orchestra, University of Delaware Contemporary Music Ensemble, University of Tennessee Contemporary Music Ensemble

Name & Voice type: Kayla Beard, Soprano

Hometown: Buffalo, MN

Where you live now: Knoxville, TN

Opera Companies: Marble City Opera, Harrower Opera Company, Knoxville Opera, University of Tennessee Opera Theater

Name & Voice type: Jacqueline Brecheen, soprano

Hometown: Hammond, LA

Where you live now: Knoxville, TN

Opera Companies: MCO, Knoxville Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Central City Opera

Symphonies: Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Helena Symphony

Name & Voice type: Whitney Myers, soprano

Hometown: Johnson City, TN

Where you live now: Tulsa, OK

Opera Companies: Marble City Opera, Tulsa Opera, Mississippi Opera, Dallas Opera, Roanoke Opera, Music on Site Inc., Greensboro Opera, UK Opera Theatre, Schmidt Opera Outreach

Symphonies: Presidential Orchestra of Ukraine, Tulsa Symphony, UK Symphony

Name & Voice type: Tori Franklin, soprano

Hometown: Knoxville, TN

Where you live now: Brooklyn, NY

Opera Companies: UT Opera, Knoxville Opera, Janiec Opera, NY Lyric Opera, Sarasota Opera

Symphonies: Brevard Music Center

Name & Voice type: Ashlee King, soprano

Hometown: Knoxville, TN

Where you live now: Knoxville, TN

Opera Companies: Oberlin in Italy, Berlin Opera Academy, ISOFOM, Harrower Opera Workshop

Name & Voice type: Jenna Renée Ziccardi - Soprano

Hometown: Knoxville, TN

Where you live now: Pittsburgh, PA

Opera Companies: Knoxville Opera, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Marble City Opera, Steel City Opera, and Pittsburgh Savoyards

Symphonies: AIMS Festival Orchestra

Name & Voice type: Sarah Klopfenstein, Mezzo-soprano

Hometown: Fort Worth, TX

Where you live now: Tampa, FL

Opera Companies: Nashville Opera, Kentucky Opera, Cincinnati Opera, St. Petersburg Opera, Opera New Jersey

Symphonies: Lexington Philharmonic, Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Orchestra, Owensboro Symphony Orchestra, Eureka Ensemble

Name & Voice type: Aubrey Odle, mezzo-soprano

Hometown: Portland, Oregon

Where you live now: Knoxville, Tennessee

Opera Companies: Knoxville Opera, Marble City Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Utah Lyric Opera, Lyrical Opera Theatre, Brigham Young University Opera Theatre

Symphonies: Brigham Young University Philharmonic, Utah Valley Symphony, Atlantic Music Festival Orchestra

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Presented at St. John’s Cathedral

The specifics of each show are tentatively set at this time with respectful regard to the ongoing
COVID-19 pandemic.

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