

MEET OUR FINALISTS

Cameron Burrill is ecstatic to be a part of this year's search for Conrad Birdie! Originally from California, he is now attending The Hartt School in Connecticut and pursuing a degree in Musical Theatre. In Hartford he works as a personal trainer, is a member of an improv group, and is living out his dream of being a rockstar by playing the guitar and singing in his band. Cameron is a huge fan of Elvis, and for his thirteenth birthday received his very own pair of blue suede shoes. He wants to thank NPT for putting on the event, and his family for all their support.

Byron Clohessy began pursuing acting in 2015 after receiving a Bachelor's in Creative Writing from The City College Of New York. He has had roles in Bull and Blue Bloods for CBS, as well as, Shattered, Evil Lives Here, The 1980's: The Deadliest Decade, A Crime To Remember, and The Perfect Murder for Investigation Discovery. Recently, he worked on the feature films Equal Standard with Ice-T and Honor Amongst Men with Ed Asner. His first feature film The Devil's Restaurant was just released in the iTunes Store. He was last on stage at The Barrow Group Theatre as Odoaker, prince of the Teutons, in a production of Romulus The Great. He is also a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter, and has performed all over the metropolitan area. He is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA.

Gabe DeRose is a graduate of Point Park University with a BA in musical theatre. Favorite credits include Bye Bye Birdie (Conrad Birdie), Footloose (Chuck Cranston), Hunchback of Notre Dame (Congregation/Phoebus U/S), Hairspray (Link Larkin), and The Drowsy Chaperone (Feldzieg). He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support.

Aaron Downs Originally from South Jersey, Aaron has been performing professionally all over the East coast from regional theatre to theme parks to national tours. Also, an independent recording artist, his debut album 'Chasing Nowhere' was released in 2017 and is digitally available everywhere you can stream music. Two of his songs "Chasing Nowhere" and "Love Will Find a Way" were semi-finalists in the Music City Songstar Song Writing Contest based in Nashville, Tennessee. He would like to thank New Paradigm Theatre Company for welcoming him here and is excited to perform for all of you.

Justy Kosek is an actor, writer and director born and raised in New York City and a proud graduate of Brandeis University. Favorite credits include: Two Gentlemen of Verona (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), Sunset (Shaker Bridge Theatre), Freedom Train (Theatreworks USA), Pinocchio (Berkshire Theatre Group), The Day of '98 w/ Soapy Smith (Eagles Hall, Alaska) and playing Elvis [or a time traveling facsimile] in Picasso At The Lapin Agile (Shapiro Theater, Waltham, MA). TV/Film: Mysteries At The Museum, Look Down, Love Tooth. He played Birdie once before... at age 12 in his Hebrew School's annual musical. Justy's second full-length play, Against The Wall, was produced in New York last winter. Justykosek.com.

Brendan Massar is thrilled to be in the running to play Conrad Birdie! Brendan is a Musical Theatre Major at Emerson College in the class of 2022. He believes he has the heart and rock and roll flair to make a great Conrad Birdie. Favorite stage credits include: Les Miserables, Newsies, West Side Story (Tony), Blood Brothers (Mickey), Pippin (Pippin), Annie Get Your Gun (Frank Butler), Children of Eden (Adam/Noah), First Date (Gabe) and Heathers (JD). Brendan would like to thank his friends and family for all their love and support. "This above all: To thine own self be true."

Piero Regis is a native of Katy, Texas and has been a fan of The King for most of his life. He enjoys playing basketball, drawing, doing porky pig imitations, and spending time with his friends and family. Recent engagements include a feature performance at the Best of Berklee Awards, a feature performance for Michael Wartofsky's Broadway album release concert and a recital for the Italian Consulate in Boston. He is currently an undergraduate voice student at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee under the tutelage of Victor Jannett.

Nicholas Dana Rylan is thrilled to be a part of this unique and exciting audition experience and to be back with the New Paradigm Theatre for the evening. Previous credits include: Norwalk Symphony Orchestra & New Paradigm Theatre: Diesel WEST SIDE STORY IN CONCERT; Playhouse on Park: Captain Robert Falcon Scott PETER AND THE STARCATCHER; Hartford Stage: 18th Century Apparition A CHRISTMAS CAROL; Goodspeed Festival of New Musicals: Ensemble PASSING THROUGH; Monomoy Theatre: Romain Tournel A FLEA IN HER EAR, Frid A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, Don Carney BILOXI BLUES; The Hartt School: Juan Peron EVITA, Joseph Cardin CHILDREN'S HOUR, Doctor Carasco/ The Duke MAN OF LA MANCHA. "To my Mom and Dad: without you, I would not be living this dream. I love you so much. Thank you."

Ken Sandberg As an actor, Ken has worked across the country in roles ranging from Antony in Antony and Cleopatra to Rocky in The Rocky Horror Show. Whether in stage adaptations of classic stories like The Three Musketeers and The Fall of the House of Usher or glitz and camp musicals like Grease and The Wizard of Oz, his love of a well told story is what fuels his performances. As a musician, he started playing piano at 8 years old, formed his first band when he was 15, and never looked back. He is also the composer of the 2009 Philly Fringe Festival hit Zombie! The Musical. More information, including upcoming projects, samples of previous work, and social media, is all available at www.ken-sandberg.com

HOST: Scott Bryce

PERFORMERS: Gwendolyn Jones, Christian Cardozo, Randye Kaye, Kristin Huffman, Barbara Distinti, Mark Holleran, Janelle Robinson, Sydney Maher, Ajibola Tajudeen, Scarlet Tanzer, Jaiden Jackson, Cameron Distinti, Sienna Rubin, Eli Clark, Marlena Asher, Julia Allen, Paul Litchfield

COLLEGE INTERNS: Sophie Smekens, Corinne Burkert, Emily Strassheim, Kristen Dowling, Jaclyn Garmone, Sheridan Schreyer, Grace Hanson