



Biography: Meet the Cast!



THE CAPITOL STEPS (left to right, top to bottom, plus [Mark Eaton](#) all over): Felicia Curry, Jenny Corbett, Morgan Duncan, Tracey Stephens, Mike Tilford, Evan Casey, Anne Willis Hill, Brian Ash, Andy Clemence, Janet Davidson Gordon, Kevin Corbett, Richard Paul, Elaina Newport, Bill Strauss, Jack Rowles, Mike Forrest, Ann Schmitt, Mike Carruthers, Brad Van Grack, Jamie Zemarel, Bari Biern, Mike Thornton, Nancy Dolliver, Delores Williams, Ann Johnson; Our pianists are Marc Irwin, Howard Breitbart, Emily Bell Spitz, Lenny Williams and David Kane.

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Brian Ash

"Once more into the cow suit!" exclaims Brian Ash as he prepares for his 18th year with the Capitol Steps. Brian graduated from Brandeis University in 1987 and worked for an online database covering Congressional activities before deciding impersonating Dick Cheney was the correct career path for him.

When not performing, Brian handles production details for all performances of the Capitol Steps from inside Capitol Steps World Headquarters. If you think it's fun to coordinate the flight plans of four touring casts in an election year...then maybe you should consider applying for his position. Big shout out to my wife Darlene and my dog Zoe. *Carthago delenda est!*

NEW Jon Bell

Jon Bell is the newest member of the Capitol Steps and his background has prepared him for anything. He's performed all over the Washington area in shows such as *Dreamgirls*, *Crazy for You*, *Sugar*, *Finian's Rainbow*, and *Jesus Christ, Superstar*. He's been Bernardo in *West Side Story*, an educational body puppet, a troll, a pig, Aladdin, a priest, a King, a hare, a giant, and a baby bear. Jon was a lead singer for several seasons at Busch Gardens (not to be confused with George Bush Gardens, which doesn't exist!) and you might have seen him as "screaming fan" in a national Pepsi commercial. Or not. Either way, he's very, very, very, very excited to be in the Steps!

Bari Biern

Bari Biern has been Stepping since 1993 and has appeared in several Capitol Steps off-Broadway runs.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Bari has performed extensively around the DC area. She currently reviews plays and videos for Metro Connection on WAMU-FM. Fans of the video game *Star Trek: Legacy* will recognize Bari as the voice of evil Vulcan scientist, T'Uerell. She is also a playwright/lyricist, whose first musical, *A Dance Against Darkness: Living with AIDS*, (with music by Roy Barber), was nominated for Helen Hayes Awards as Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Resident Musical.

She has collaborated on several children's musicals with fellow Steps Lenny Williams and Emily Bell Spitz. Bari, Mike Tilford and Lenny Williams have also co-authored a totally tasteless musical comedy adaptation of *Titus Andronicus*. In 2006, the InSeries presented Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro: the Las Vegas Version* with Bari's lyrics and book by Elizabeth Pringle. Thanks to Scott, multi-talented husband/actor/artist/teacher extraordinaire for his love and support.

📺 Bari recently recounted to the *NY Times* the bizarre [real-life adventures](#) of carrying props through airline security.

Howard Breitbart

Following a brief stint as Arnold Schwarzenegger's body double, Howard joined the Capitol Steps as staff disciplinarian and pianist. During his 12-year tenure with the Steps, he has become particularly adept at laughing heartily at routines he has heard hundreds of times, and, even more spectacularly, not falling asleep during the spoken bits. He is currently working on a book entitled *Gyms of Small Town America* based on his travels with the Steps. Oh and by the way, he has also been musical director/pianist for Washington, D.C. productions of *The Last Five Years*, *Closer Than Ever*, *Romance, Romance*, *A Broadway Christmas Carol* and dozens of concerts for the Smithsonian Institution.

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Mike Carruthers

After working for Congressman Joseph Minish (D-NJ), Mike toured in several shows including Seven Brides for Seven Brothers as Frank. He appeared as Hysterium opposite Nipsey Russell in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Mike also appeared off-Broadway in *Unzippin' My Doo-Dah*, *It Ain't Over 'Til the First Lady Sings*, *When Bush Comes to Shove*, and *Between Iraq and a Hard Place*.

NEW Evan Casey

Evan Casey is happy to be a member of the Capitol Steps. Of course, he's also happy for a nice nap, a news segment that involves puppies, and any good anti-itch cream. In addition to giving himself back-handed compliments, he is a surprisingly good actor. You may have seen his halfway-decent work at such DC-area theatres as The Kennedy Center, Ford's Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Signature Theatre, Round House Theatre, and Olney Theatre Center, among others. What's that? No, you haven't? Well perhaps you've seen him in your own living room on such successful TV programs as TruTV's *Missing Persons Unit?* Nothing? OK, back to the impressive stuff -- he is a graduate of Catholic University, a certified personal trainer, a Helen Hayes Award nominee, and he is skilled in stage combat, which is definitely useful when traveling with the Steps.

Andy Clemence

Andy joined the Steps in 1996, and has spent the last five years trying to keep his frightening portrayal of President George W. Bush from rubbing off in real life. He appeared Off-Broadway in the Steps productions of *Unzippin' My Doo-Dah*, and *It Ain't Over 'Til the First Lady Sings*, for which he was described as "ready for prime-time" by Variety magazine. Previous roles include Tony Whitcomb in The Kennedy Center's *Shear Madness*, Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (Ford's Theatre), John Proctor in *The Crucible* (Patuxent Theatre), and Arnold Epstein in *Biloxi Blues* (Petrucci's Main Street Theatre). If you watch the Discovery Channel, you've most likely heard his voice on many of their documentaries and specials. Andy holds a Fine Arts degree in Acting from Catholic University and began his career on tour with the National Players. He is currently writing music and lyrics for an original musical *Alias Jimmy Valentine*, based on an O'Henry short story.

Jenny Corbett

Jenny Corbett moved to DC from Chicago four years ago, where she studied improv and comedy at the Players Workshop of The Second City and did endless children's theatre productions, including - but not limited to - every single fairytale known to humanity. DC has given her the privilege of working as an actor and a teaching artist with several local theatres such as Rorschach Theatre, Round House Theatre, Imagination Stage, Cherry Red Productions, Alden Theatre and Madcap Players. Jenny currently makes an uproarious living mocking our political leaders (and stupid people in general) in the Capitol Steps.

Kevin Corbett

Kevin has been working with the Capitol Steps for 5 years, including two off-Broadway runs at the Houseman Theater. His other recent stage credits include *Personals* (where he played many characters, including horny high school boy), *The Santaland Diaries* (a Macy's elf), *Forever Plaid* (Sparky), *Wait Until Dark* (Mr. Roat), *Beyond Therapy* (Stuart), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *Mere Mortals*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare - Abridged*, and his one-man show *I'm Paranoid*. His feature film credits include *The Replacements*, and *Sleep Furiously*.

 The *Washington Post* has more on the the [secret lives](#) of Jenny and Kevin Corbett.

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NEW Felicia Curry

Felicia Curry is a new member of the Capitol Steps, but before winning this dubious distinction, she was the winner of Baltimore Idol as well as a two-time state talent winner for the Miss America Scholarship Organization.

She's performed at the Kennedy Center in the mighty role of Tina Turner in *Bee Hive* and was nominated for Helen Hayes awards for her roles in *Aida* and *Godspell*. And, as if that weren't enough, she graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Broadcast Journalism and boasts such skills as rollerblading, gymnastics and ZFX flying. All of which qualifies her very nicely for a career in the Capitol Steps.

Nancy Dolliver

Nancy Dolliver started out part-time with The Steps, while working full-time in television production. Production Management duties on shows such as *The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour* and for political clients on Capitol Hill often put her in contact by day with the politicians she parodied by night with The Capitol Steps. Fearing that these two careers would one day collide with disastrous consequences, she now works full time with the Steps. She has also appeared as Amy in *Company* at Signature Theater and starred in American Century Theater's production of *Laughter at Ten O'Clock*, appearing in skits made famous by her favorite comedienne, Carol Burnett.

Morgan Duncan

Morgan Duncan holds a BFA from Howard University. He has appeared regionally at the Arena Stage in Washington, DC, the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, MN and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR. He has served as a company member of the Washington Stage Guild and on the faculty of the Round House Theatre School. Morgan appeared in the Capitol Steps 2003 production at the Houseman Theater, *Between Iraq and a Hard Place*.

Mark Eaton

Mark joined the Capitol Steps in 1993. He worked on Capitol Hill for ten years before leaving for the seamy underbelly of life as a lobbyist. His film credits include "out-of-focus man sitting next to boy eating peach in the distance" in a cable access after-school special. Mark is the most spiritually advanced and intellectually gifted member of the Capitol Steps -- he also got to write his own bio.

Michael Forrest

Michael Forrest has been living and working professionally in the Washington, DC area for twenty years, and has been a member of the Capitol Steps since 1996. Michael has also worked at Signature Theatre, Ford's, Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center, and Shakespeare Theatre. Film and television credits include *Homicide*, *The Wire*, *America's Most Wanted*, *Major League 2*, and *Syriana* with George Clooney. Michael resides in Silver Spring, MD with his beautiful wife, choreographer Debbie Saady Forrest and cat, Boo Radley.

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Janet Davidson Gordon

Janet has happily been a member of the Capitol Steps for 13 years and loves travelling the country and making people laugh for a living. Before joining the world of political satire, she enjoyed such roles as Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Eva Peron in *Evita*, Val in *A Chorus Line*, and originated the role of Aunt Tilly in *It's a Wonderful Life*. She also enjoys coming up with new ideas for songs for the Capitol Steps. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with husband, Neil, and cocker spaniel, Holly. *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Anne Willis Hill

Anne Willis Hill has been a member of the Capitol Steps since 1987. Her loves (in addition to her family) include music and politics, and the Capitol Steps have provided the perfect wedding! Anne received her Bachelor's and Master's in Vocal Performance from Temple University's College of Music. She began her career on Capitol Hill in 1981 working for Sen. Lawton Chiles (D-FL) on the Senate Committee on Aging(!), Senate Governmental Affairs (!), Senate Budget Committee (!) A liberal Democrat, Anne retired herself temporarily from the Hill in 1995...

She has performed various and sundry roles through her career including Baskin-Robbins, babysitting, oh, you mean MUSICAL stuff-- *Magic Flute*, *Old Maid and the Thief*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hello Dolly!*, you get the idea! She is also a long standing member of St. John's United Methodist Church choir in Springfield, Virginia.

She loves her job with the Steps -- "Where else can I be a Democratic Donna Reed during the day and then put on a red dress and high heels and perform at night?" Lots of love to Robert and Caitlin for their support!

Marc Irwin

Despite being a highly educated musician who holds a doctorate in musical composition from Peabody University, Marc has spent the past seven years with the Capitol Steps. During that time, he has discovered that actual musical training is useless in this setting, and has played every song in the show in every key possible and also some in modes not previously heard in western music, in order to accommodate the "preferences" of the singers in the cast. Go Yankees.

Ann Johnson

Ann joined the Capitol Steps in August of 1993. (Congress was in recess and it just seemed like the thing to do.) Prior to her seduction into the world of political satire, Ann received two Helen Hayes Award nominations for her portrayal of "Trina" in Studio Theater's *March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland*. Other roles include "Mama Rose" in *Gypsy*, "Sally" in Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* and the starring role in *A Second Chance*, a musical theater piece written for her by New York playwright, Terry Quinn.

Ann hopes to remain in the Capitol Steps long enough to portray the first woman president -- even if she has to use a walker to get on and off stage!

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Dave Kane

Important events in Dave's Life:

1955 born in Scotland
1963 learned to play piano and compose
1965 emigrated to US
1970 learned to play jazz
1973 finally got a date- didn't get another one until 1976
1975 moved to DC
1981 joined the Opera House Orchestra of the Kennedy Center, wrote first film score
1989 released first original CD
1991 started playing with National Symphony Orchestra
1992 defeated Russian Chess Grandmaster Leonid Shamkovitch in a game later published in Chess Life Magazine
1996 joined the Capitol Steps
1997 married
1998 closed down Denver Airport
2003 adopted first child
2005 adopted 2nd child
2005 brain remnants studied by NIH

If you need more, visit [my website](#).

Elaina Newport

A founding member of the Capitol Steps, Elaina has been with the group since 1981 (for those of you trying to figure out her age, she began as an ovum). Elaina worked for seven years on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Charles Percy and then, after his untimely defeat, for Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who was also defeated. Although she has worked for two Republicans, Elaina considers herself an extreme moderate, and although she is married to a former Clinton appointee, she denies responsibility for having caused any of the scandals which later became song material.

Richard Paul

Before joining WAMU (Washington, DC public radio station), Richard was National Affairs Press Secretary for Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Press Secretary for the Senate Subcommittee On Children, Families, Drugs And Alcohol. He has been a member of The Capitol Steps for 21 years.

Jack Rowles

Jack began squinting his eyes to play Donald Rumsfeld for the Capitol Steps about four years ago and has never looked back. He performed in *Between Iraq and a Hard Place* at the Houseman Theater in 2003. Other off-Broadway credits include: *Clue -- The Musical*, *Finnegan's Farewell*, and *Equinox* (York Theater). Regionally: *All I Really Need to Know* (Asolo Theatre Company); *Li'l Rascals* (Goodspeed Opera House); *Forum* (Theatre Virginia); *Playground* (Lewis Allen, Producer); *Guys and Dolls* (Shenendoah Summer Theater) as well as numerous productions at Kansas City Starlight, Music Theatre of Wichita, Mill Mountain Theatre, Totem Pole Playhouse and Allenberry Playhouse. Directing: *Forever Plaid* (Cumberland Theatre) *Stage Management: The Civil War* (National Tour).

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Ann Margaret Schmitt

Ann Margaret Schmitt made her stage debut at the ripe old age of four. Favorite roles include Electra in *Gypsy*, Helene in *Sweet Charity*, Peggy in *Godspell* and Nita in *Captain's Paradise*. She appeared in the NBC-TV movie "*Murder in Music City*" and has enjoyed singing the National Anthem at Giant's Stadium and Madison Square Garden. She has appeared Off-Broadway several times with The Capitol Steps and in other productions. In a review from "Variety" of the Off-Broadway production "It Ain't Over Till the First Lady Sings" it reads, "...Ann possesses a better singing voice than many musical-comedy performers residing on Broadway."

Emily Bell Spitz

Emily Bell Spitz is a musical director and accompanist in the Washington area. She received her Masters of Music in Musical Theatre Direction from Arizona State University and has worked for many area theatres and dance companies in addition to accompanying the Capitol Steps. In collaboration with fellow Stepper Bari Biern, she has written two children's musicals which have been performed in Washington, DC.

Tracey Stephens

Tracey has been seen in two previous Capitol Steps off-Broadway runs, *When Bush Comes to Shove*, and *Between Iraq and a Hard Place*. Previously, she has been seen as Molly (*Unsinkable Molly Brown*), Eve (*Children of Eden*) and on Troika's national tour of *Fiddler on the Roof*, to name a few. She is on the original cast album of the new musical *Rasputin* and appeared as Grete in Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis* on the Discovery Channel, where she was assaulted by a giant bug. Tracey would like to thank her family and Kevin and Robbie, for all their pushing and pulling to the city.

Bill Strauss

Bill Strauss was a co-founder of the Capitol Steps, dating back to when he was chief counsel of the Senate subcommittee that put on the first show. He was coauthor of [six books](#) about American generations, playwright of two musicals (*MaKiddo*, *Stopsandal.com*), cofounder of the Cappies high school critics and awards program, and dad to four great kids.

Read [more about Bill Strauss](#).

Mike Thornton

Mike has fun doing Bush and Clinton (did I say that out loud??) Off Broadway: *It Ain't Over Till The First Lady Sings* - Fairbanks Theater & *Unzippin' My Doodah* - Houseman Theater with The Capitol Steps; Peter in Edward Albee's *Zoo Story*; John Guarre's *A Day For Surprises*; Chelsea Repertory's *Madwoman of Chaillot*; and the American Premiere of *Blood Brothers*. Out of town: Eddie Lawrence and Nick Rosetti in *Shear Madness*; Joe Cantwell in *The Best Man* - American Century Theatre; Colonel Ricci in *Passion* - Signature Theatre. Love and great thanks to my Maria, Fosse and Tess. Check out [my website](#).

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Mike Tilford

Mike joined the Capitol Steps in 1992 when they realized they didn't have anyone quite sleazy enough to portray Clinton. In addition to once working on Capitol Hill ("I was young! I needed the money!") he has performed roles as varied as the violent Sweeney Todd, the gentle Don Quixote, the obligatory Jud, the questionable Bernardo, and -- inexplicably -- a St. Bernard. Mike has performed in all of the Capitol Steps off-Broadway productions. He has co-authored three musicals and three children, and is currently slaving away creating another. Musical, that is--get your mind out of the gutter.

Brad VanGrack

Equally at home performing Shakespeare in London to musical comedy in Atlantic City, Brad was chosen by *Playbill* on-line as the best featured actor in a musical for the Capitol Steps Off-Broadway at the Houseman Theatre. His favorite roles are Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Vernon in *They're Playing Our Song* and Leo in *Chapter Two*. In addition to work in commercials, T.V. and film, Brad is an accomplished director.

Delores King Williams

Delores King Williams is thrilled to enter her 8th year with the Capitol Steps! She is a native of Baltimore, Maryland where she began her musical studies at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. She continued studying music and theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. She currently performs "musical political satire" as a featured member of The Capitol Steps.

Ms. Williams is equally at home in theatrical productions as well as concert settings, having performed in musicals, plays, cabaret, commercials, concerts, and video productions. Performance highlights include: international appearances at the North Sea, Montreux, and Vienne Jazz Festivals, a tour of India, performances at the White House and Carnegie Hall, and off-Broadway run with The Capitol Steps, an Australian tour of *Porgy and Bess* with the Washington National Opera, and *Carmen Jones* at the Kennedy Center with the Washington National Opera.

Delores has had the privilege of working with inspiring talents such as Quincy Jones, Betty Carter, The Smithsonian Masterworks Orchestra directed by David Baker, Keter Betts, Rich Matteson, Jay McSchann, Gene DiNovi, Vanessa Williams, and former president Bill Clinton.

Delores is a winner of a *Downbeat* magazine award, a semi-finalist in the Thelonious Monk Vocal Competition, a winner of the "Billie Holiday Vocal Competition," and a former soloist for the United States Army Band.

In addition to performing, Delores also immensely enjoys her work as a clinician and vocal coach. She can be heard singing the music of Hoagy Carmichael on "Heart and Soul" -- her latest recording with the buselli/wallarab Jazz Orchestra.

Lenny Williams

Lenny Williams is an Emmy-award winning composer who accompanies the Capitol Steps in spite of this fact. We know he doesn't need the money but by his own account, "needs to get out more," and playing for the Steps is the perfect opportunity to get away from that high-brow artistic stuff once in a while.

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Jamie Zemarel

Jamie has been with the Capitol Steps since 1994. Before joining the Steps, James appeared as "Gaston" in the National tour of *Gigi*, and as "Aristede" in *Can Can*, at Harrah's in Atlantic City with the New York City Rockettes. Other roles in his career have included "Jesus" in *JC Superstar*, "The Pirate King" in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and "Henry Higgins" in *My Fair Lady*, which is where he met his wife, Jeanne, who was "Eliza"!

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