

# PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

## **BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL**

These description notes were provided by Mel Primorac, audio describer, and will be shared in advance of scheduled audio-described performances.

*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*: Book by Douglas McGrath, words and music by Gerry Goffin, Carole King, Barry Mann, and Cynthia Weil. Directed by Casey Hushion, choreographed by Jennifer Werner, musical direction by Wendy Bobbitt Cavett, scenic coordinator and additional designs by Kelly James Tighe, costume design by Jen Caprio and wig, lighting design by Jess Creager, sound design by Sun Hee Kil, hair & makeup design by Roxanne De Luna.

There will be one 15-minute intermission. Theatrical haze, bright lights, and adult subject matter are featured in this production.

*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* recounts Carole King's life and rise to fame as a singer, songwriter, and musician through the 1960's and 70's.

## **SCENERY**

As you enter the theater, there are four supporting art deco golden columns on the left and right that support a golden dual-level atrium structure. The columns also have detailing that looks like skyscrapers. The atrium is lit from within with a soft amber glow. There are chaser lights (commonly referred to as marquee lighting) lining each level of the atrium. Beneath the center section of the atrium, there is a grand piano and microphone dimly illuminated by a spotlight. As the show begins, Carole King is seated at the grand piano playing a concert at **Carnegie Hall**.

The space beneath the atrium is open and various pieces of scenery slide in and out of view from left and right to transform the space into different areas of Carole's life. Those areas include but are not limited to:

# PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

**Carole's childhood home**, located underneath the front-right portion of the atrium, has muted green floral leaf wallpaper. There is a window in the middle of the wall with pale yellow-green curtains. There is a chartreuse couch in the center of the room. To the left of the couch is a black, wooden, upright piano and piano bench. To the right of the couch sits an end table with a lamp on top of it. A small antenna television is set up diagonally across from the couch.

**Carole and Gerry's office at 1650 Broadway**, also located underneath the front-right portion of the atrium, has a wall of brown wood paneling in the back. In front of this wall is a small desk with a plant and a picture frame atop it. There is a dark brown, wood, upright piano and piano bench in the far-left side of her office. In the far-right of her office is a dark cherry vanity with various books and trinkets on it.

**Cynthia and Barry's office at 1650 Broadway**, located underneath the front-left portion of the atrium, has a wall of brown wood paneling in the back. In front of this wall is a tan, upholstered couch. To the left of the couch is a brown wooden end table with a lamp on top of it. To the right of the couch is a black, wood, upright piano and piano bench.

**The ski chalet in Vermont**, located underneath the front-left portion of the atrium, has a small fireplace in the center of the chalet towards the back. On top of the fireplace are two brown wooden snowshoes. There is a small wooden bar cart stocked with glasses and spirits in the far-left section of the ski chalet. To the far-right of the ski chalet is a patterned couch and a small wooden coffee table in front of the couch.

**Carole's suburban home**, located underneath the front-left portion of the atrium, has a tan wood wall with a large window and floral wall art. The window has vibrant floral window drapes and floor length white curtains. In front of the wall, there is a bright yellow couch. To the left of the couch is an electric guitar set against a guitar stand. To the right of the couch is the upright piano from Carole's childhood home.

# PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

**The Bitter End**, a Greenwich Village bar and music venue, takes up the entirety of the open space beneath the atrium. There are four small, circular tables scattered throughout the bar. There are two black bar chairs at each table. Towards the back of the bar is a keyboard and a drum kit. In the center of the bar there is a black microphone on a microphone stand.

**Carole's dressing room at Carnegie Hall** is located underneath the front-right portion of the atrium. There is a wooden vanity with a light up mirror on top and a wooden bench towards the right of the dressing room. In the center of the dressing room is a tan door.

The atrium cells also serve as various **recording studios** in different configurations: sometimes individual cells make up their own studio, and sometimes the full space on top and/or below is used as a full studio. One such studio includes a large microphone on a recording stand in the center, and a smaller microphone on a recording stand is set up on a right diagonal angle behind the large microphone.

# PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

## CAST & CHARACTERS

**Carole King**, played by Kyra Kennedy, is a tall-ish white woman with fair/olive skin in her early thirties, and round hazel eyes. Her face is heart-shaped with high cheek bones, thick eyebrows, full lips, and a straight nose. She has long brown curly hair with side bangs that is neatly styled for act 1 and the majority of act 2. Towards the end of act 2, she lets her curly hair hang naturally. Her clothing is conservative, aside from a brightly colored floral print dress she wears for her performance at Carnegie Hall.

**Gerry Goffin**, played by Marrick Smith, is a 5' 11", medium-build white man with straight brown hair parted to the side and green-blue eyes. He is first seen in a deep blue T-shirt, dark gray dress pants, and a brown leather jacket. When working and listening to music Gerry often chews on his nails and fingertips and folds his arms tightly across his chest.

**Cynthia Weil**, played by Samantha Massell, is a 5'6" white woman with an oval-shaped face and brown eyes. Cynthia changes hairstyles throughout the show: she starts show with a blonde, pin curled pixie cut. In the middle of act 2, she her hair is a straight blonde bob with bangs. Her clothing is brightly colored with flashy patterns and chunky accessories. She is first seen wearing a bright blue/purple/green patterned dress, a matching short-sleeved jacket with big gold and black buttons, a golden brooch, and a thin blue belt.

**Barry Mann**, played by Jacob Ben-Shmuel, is a short white man with dark curly hair. His clothing is eclectic, with lots of different colors and striped patterns. He is first seen in a light blue, mustard yellow, and white striped button-down shirt, black tie, and black dress pants.

**Don Kirshner**, played by Bryan Fenkart, is a 6'1" lean white man with dark brown hair parted to the side and earlobe-length sideburns. He is clean-shaven, with a set jaw and prominent nose. His clothing is professional, donning a tailored dark gray 3-piece suit and tie for most of the show.

# PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

**Genie Klein**, played by Suzanne Grodner, is a 5'4" white woman in her 60s with dark brown curly hair that is pulled back in a tight updo. She has a round face, pointed jaw, and big green eyes. She is first seen in a turquoise and black plaid dress with a pearl necklace, pearl earrings, and conservative tan heels.

**Janelle Woods**, played by Danielle J. Summons, is a tall black woman. She wears a tight fitting, royal purple, sequined dress with matching royal purple heels.

**The Shirelles**, played by Danielle J. Summons, Mikayla White, Tavia Revée, and Jana Djenne Jackson, is a singing group of Black women. They wear royal purple fringe dresses with matching royal purple heels.

**The Drifters**, played by Tavis Cunningham, Prentiss E. Mouton, Jay Owens, and Isaiah Reynolds, is a singing group of Black men. They wear matching light gray tuxedos.