



JEFF HUNSICKER - DIRECTOR, THE WEDDING SINGER

Jeff is thrilled to direct for the first time at The Barn, a theatre that has often felt like a second home to him over the past decade. In addition to assistant directing *Honeymoon* in Vegas with Jim Hopper, he has performed in six shows with The Dramateurs from 2011-2023! It is hard to pick favorites, but he is super proud of his back-to-back-to-back roles as Henry in *Next to Normal*, Moritz in *Spring Awakening* and Freddy in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Jeff is a proud member of AEA, and has acted with dozens of theatres in the Philadelphia area and in Wilmington, DE. He is currently pursuing an M.A. in Theatre at Villanova University as a fully-funded Tuition Scholar, where is learning everyday how to be a better actor, director and theatre artist. His favorite directing projects so far are *Passing Strange* with City Theatre Company in Wilmo and *Ordinary Days* at the Magic Circle

Theatre Festival. He will be appearing as Jaxton Smithton in Villanova Theatre's February production of *The Thanksgiving Play*.

Why this Play Now?

Is it a cop-out to say we all need a little levity and fun right now? I'm not generally a huge fan of fluffy musicals or movies adapted into musicals but, somehow, I just love *The Wedding Singer*. It has the right level of goofy humor, lovable characters, and catchy musical numbers to win over even my cold, pretentious heart... And at its core, beneath all the velour and the neon spandex sheen, it's the timeless story of true love triumphing against all odds. Pressured by society to succumb to the soulless Capitalist ideals of greed and selfishness in the height of 1980s Reaganomics, Robbie and Julia fight to discover what is really important: money/success/fame or actually caring about other human people? Will they abandon the corporate dreams of wealth and stability foisted upon them to pursue genuine happiness with each other? If you somehow haven't seen the original Adam Sandler movie or any of the many other productions that have been popping up yet, then come find out the (obvious) answer with us in June at the Barn Playhouse!