



Setting the **STAGE**

BY REBECCA SVEC | PHOTOS BY CARRIE WILSMAN

BEFORE THERE IS GLAMOUR, THERE IS GRIT. A lucky few actors rise to stardom overnight. For the rest, the rise is incremental. That's why, in those famous acceptance speeches—clutching an Oscar, Tony or Emmy—many thank their family and the fact that they never gave up. Mike Dale and Jen Kater know why. They traded college theatre for professional theatre and the journey is ahead. Today their goal is to earn a living doing what they love. The acceptance speeches remind them it's good to dream.