

[illegible]

100

THE PLAYHOUSE



#DMPlayhouse

Welcome To Your Playhouse



David R. Kilpatrick
Playhouse
Executive Director

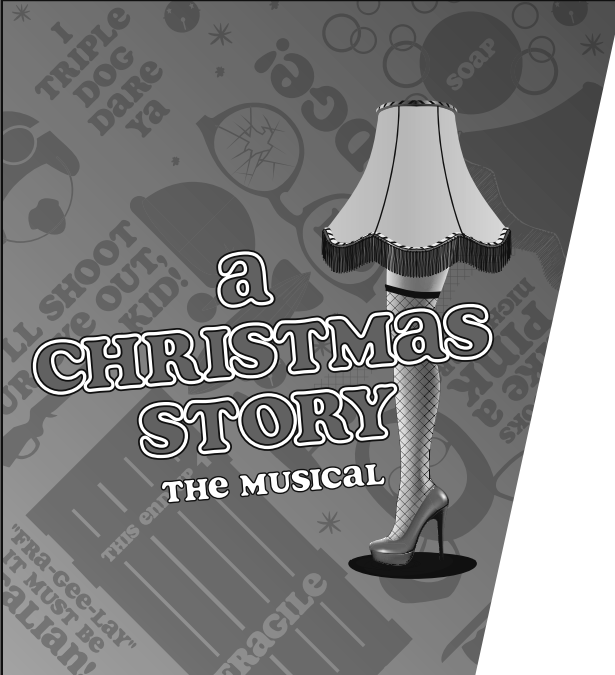
Thank you so much for choosing the Playhouse. This year, we celebrate 100 years. Our children's theatre programming has been integral to our operations almost from the very beginning. Thank you for introducing your youth to a lifetime of theatre experiences.

Disney's Freaky Friday One Act is particularly exciting as we don't often present children's theatre on the Mainstage, thus our performers and traditional young audience members are getting a special treat. This production also expands the Playhouse reach to include teenagers too. We are a community Playhouse and we want to serve the entire community.

One big reason *Freaky Friday* is on the Mainstage is our 100th birthday bash. We want to have a special party for the Playhouse and we need every space we can get. Our birthday begins with the Ultimate Cast Party on Friday, Nov. 8. It is free to anyone who has ever been part of a Playhouse production as a performer, technician, usher, or audience member. On Saturday, Nov. 9, we are having the Celebration of the Century with a special gala dinner, a unique production that will highlight 100 years of entertaining our community, and a special recognition for our retiring executive and artistic director, John Viars. We will honor John's contributions to the City of Des Moines, the community theatre industry, and the world of theatre. Please mark your calendars or, better yet, purchase tickets at the ticket office.


This season under the leadership of our new artistic director, Katy Merriman, promises to be an exciting year for both the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre and the Mainstage. Please consider becoming a season ticket holder. Make it a special year for the entire family and see ALL of the productions. Every show will be a memorable event for everyone.

On behalf of those who are part of the Playhouse, thank you for all that you have done to make the Des Moines Community Playhouse a success for the past 100 years and for the next 100 years.



**a
CHRISTMAS
STORY
THE MUSICAL**

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ON THE MAINSTAGE

We triple dog
dare you to see
this show!

Dec. 6-23, 2019

FOR TICKETS:
515.277.6261
DMPlayhouse.com

Thank You For Your Support



From all the volunteers, cast, crew, and staff at the Playhouse, thank you so much for your support!

Those in the following lists have generously supported the Playhouse since January 1, 2019.

If we've made a mistake, please contact Samantha Ohlson, office manager, at 515-974-5356 or sohlson@dmplayhouse.com.

Donors who generously support the Playhouse at the \$1,000 level and above annually qualify for the Director's Circle.

Gifts of \$100 or more are listed in every playbill throughout the season. Gifts under \$100 are recognized in the spring musical playbill each year.

Donors listed are current as of September 16, 2019.

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Special thanks to the corporate partners who support Mainstage and Children's Theatre productions.

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Your personal gift to the Playhouse may be eligible for a corporate match, increasing your impact. Many corporations recognize the volunteer work of their employees by making a donation on their behalf. We extend our thanks to the following for matching employees' and retirees' contributions and honoring employees' volunteer efforts.

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Tribute Program

The Tribute Program provides an opportunity to celebrate milestones such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and graduations. It can also be a way to honor the memory of friends and relatives.

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In Memory of John Beattie, Jr.

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Century Club

In our first century, the Des Moines Playhouse changed lives one at a time. The Century Club is a celebration of the Playhouse's first 100 years. The goal is to increase the endowment by \$1 million, one gift at a time. The culmination of

small gifts from many supporters will create a sustainable future for your theatre.

Cornerstone Level (\$5,000+)

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Heritage Level (documented estate plan gift)

We also recognize those who have included the Playhouse in their estate plans prior to the Century Club.

Anonymous
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Standing OVATION 2019-2020 SEASON

Guest Information

Accessibility



The Playhouse strives to make its facility and performances accessible to all guests. Theatres are wheelchair accessible. Service animals are welcome. Assisted listening devices are available at Mainstage performances. If your hearing aid has a T-coil, toggle to that setting to receive the audio signal directly without any headset or other equipment needed. Large-print programs are available at all performances. ASL interpreted performances and audio description are regularly scheduled for most productions. For these and other needs, please call the ticket office with specific service requests.

Cameras

The taking of photographs and the use of recording devices are not allowed during a performance and are a violation of state and federal copyright laws.

Cancellations

If a show is cancelled due to bad weather, an email will be sent to ticket holders. Cancellations will be noted on the phone system, website, and social media sites. Tickets for a cancelled performance may be exchanged for another performance. Please be sure the ticket office has your email information and current phone in the event a performance is cancelled. The Playhouse does not sell its contacts and does not sell or trade its email addresses.

Concessions

A variety of beverages and candy are available for purchase. No outside drink or food are allowed in the theatre. Beverages and candy are allowed in the auditoriums. Avoid the line at intermission by pre-ordering your drink and then picking it up at the designated location. Staff reserve the right to deny alcoholic beverage service to anyone at their discretion.

Elevator

An elevator between levels is located at the east end of the building.

Emergency Exits

Please note the exit nearest your seat location. In the event of an emergency, ushers will provide direction.

Etiquette

Latecomers will be seated at an appropriate break in the play. Lobby chimes are sounded five minutes before curtain as well as the close of intermission. Disruptive, unruly guests, regardless of age, will be asked to leave. Cell phones should be turned off.

Lost Items

Lost items will be held in the ticket office.

Parking

Free parking is available in the Playhouse lots and on streets surrounding the theatre. After 5:00 PM daily, free parking is available in the Shops at Roosevelt's east/back parking lot. Parking in the west/front Shops parking lot is restricted to Shops customers at all times. The Playhouse is not responsible for loss of any personal property left in vehicles.

Performance Content

The Playhouse does not rate subject matter as sensitivities vary from person to person. Questions about content, age appropriateness, or other aspects of the show such as strobe lights and other theatrical affects should be directed to the ticket office.

Performance Schedule

The regular Mainstage performance schedule is 7:30 PM Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2:00 PM Sundays. The regular Kate Goldman Children's Theatre performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. The Family Holiday Classic performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. All times are subject to change.

Tickets

Each audience member must occupy a seat and have a ticket, including infants.

Ticket Office Hours

The ticket office is open Noon to 6:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday and two hours prior to curtain time. It is also open on performance days through intermission. Tickets are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, online. Ticketing fees are the same whether purchased online, by phone, or at the ticket office.

Des Moines Community Playhouse

831 42nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50312



DMPlayhouse



dmplayhouse_

DMPlayhouse.com

**Ticket office and
administrative office:**

515-277-6261

Group sales reservations:

515-974-5361

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*Standing*OVATION 2019-2020 SEASON

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JAMES
and the
GIANT PEACH
BASED ON THE BOOK BY ROALD DAHL


Auditions
6:30 PM, MON., NOV. 4, 2019
PERFORMANCES: Jan. 3-19, 2020
PRESENTED IN THE Children's Theatre
Directed by Nicholas Amundson

CAST NEEDS:
Men: 3 - Age 16 & up, Boy: 1 Age 8-16
Women: 2 - Age 16 & up
Ensemble: Boys & Girls Ages 8-16

DMPlayhouse.com/audition

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CELEBRATE Christmas at Central

Thursday, December 5

7:30 PM **SWCC Chamber Singers**

Sunday, December 8

5:00 PM **Children's Pageant**

Sunday, December 15

4:00 PM **Service of Lessons & Carols**

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 PM **Family Service**
7:00 PM **Traditional Service**



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.....

NOVEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					MIL 7:00 PM	RED 6:00 PM
3	4	5	6	CHI 10:30 AM	8	ONT 7:00 PM
ONT 3:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14	15
CHI 5:00 PM	17	18	MIL 7:00 PM	19	20	21
BAK 3:00 PM	24	25	TEX 7:00 PM	26	27	28
					29	30
						FLX 7:00 PM

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*Standing*OVATION 2019-2020 SEASON

Cast List

108th Production
25th Season

Opening October 18, 2019
Closing November 3, 2019

The Kate Goldman Children's Theatre Presents
The Des Moines Community Playhouse Production of

FREAKY FRIDAY

Book by Music by Lyrics by
Bridget Carpenter Tom Kitt Brian Yorkey

Based on the novel *Freaky Friday* by
MARY RODGERS
and the Disney films

Orchestrations by Michael Starobin & Tom Kitt
Vocal Arrangements by Carmel Dean & Tom Kitt
Dance Arrangements & Incidental Music by Tom Kitt
Additional Orchestrations by Marco Marinangeli
Additional Incidental Music by Carmel Dean

Director/Choreographer: Megan Helmers
Music Director: Taylor Anne Layden
Scenic Designer: Kevin Shelby
Costume Designer: Jessica Van Essen
Lighting Designer: Abby Kilpatrick+

Sound Designers: Aaron DeBoer & Katrina Sieck
Properties Designer: Barb McClintock
Stage Manager: Rachel Meyer
Technical Director: Nate Lawrence-Richards
Artistic Director: Katy Merriman

+Teen Mentorship Program

CAST

*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Ellie Blake.....	Anastasia Deace	Dr. Ehrin/Minister	Michael Howland
Katherine Blake	Chelsea Haaland	Ms. Blumen/Officer Kowalski	Emily Griffin
Fletcher Blake.....	Quentin Steinbach*	Ms. Luckenbill/Mrs. Time.....	Jenny Throckmorton
Mike	Chris Ennis	Senorita O'Brien.....	Shelby Kephart
Karl.....	Michael Bundy II	Ms. Meyers	Lyndsy Darland
Monica.....	Tatum Lowell	Students.....	Marquis Bundy*, Madeline Davis,
Adam	Jordan Potter		Bailey Dorr*, Mya Fisher, Will C. Johnson
Savannah.....	Annika Baker		Joseph Maxwell, Addison Tullis*, Addie Van Dyke
Kitty.....	Maisy Russell*	Cater Waiters	Bailey Dorr*, Shelby Kephart,
Torrey	Stacie Bendixen*		Taylor Lantz, Elaine Struthers*,
Daniel.....	Jack Griffin*		Rachael Watrous*, Jenna Wieskamp
Louis	Daniel Perkins*		

Freaky Friday One Act Edition is performed with a 15-minute intermission.

Freaky Friday One Act Edition is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 W 54th St, New York, NY 10019, www.MTIShows.com

Musical Numbers

Prologue

Just One Day (part 1)... Ellie

Scene 1: Blake House, Kitchen

Just One Day (part 2)... Katherine, Torrey, Cater Waiters, Walters

Just One Day (part 3)... Ellie, Katherine, Company

The Hourglass... Ellie, Katherine

I Got This (part 1)... Ellie, Katherine, Students

Scene 2: Pinewood Falls High School, Hallway

I Got This (part 2)... Savannah, Katherine, Students

Scene 3: Blake House, Kitchen

Scene 4: High School, Biology Lab

Oh Biology... Ellie, Adam, Savannah, Students

Scene 5: Blake House, Kitchen

Scene 6: High School, Hallway & Principal's Office

Scene 7: Vintage Antiques

I Got This (reprise)... Katherine, Students

Scene 8: High School, Gymnasium

Watch Your Back!... Ms. Meyers, Ellie, Adam, Students

Scene 9: Katherine's Car

Parents Lie... Katherine

Scene 10: Blake House, Backyard

I'm Not Myself Today... Katherine, Ellie, Torrey, Ensemble

Scene 11: Bus Stop

Scene 12: Blake House, Backyard

Scene 13: The Hunt, Various Locations

Go... Adam, Ellie, Students

Scene 14: Blake House, Kitchen

Scene 15: Mrs. Time & The Finish Line

Tug of War... Students

Scene 16: Blake House, Kitchen

The Other Hourglass... Ellie, Katherine

Today and Ev'ry Day (part 1)... Katherine, Ellie

Scene 17: Blake House, Backyard

Today and Ev'ry Day (part 2)... Ellie, Katherine, Company

Epilogue

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Cast Notes



Annika Baker (*Savannah*) is a senior at Hoover High School where she has appeared in *Singin' in the Rain*, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*, and *Freaky Friday* (Katherine Blake) and also choreographed and

designed props. Her numerous area credits include *Annie Jr.* and *Fame Jr.* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre and *The Sound of Music* (Gretl von Trapp) at the Playhouse. She has worked with Playhouse theatre classes as a Playhouse PIP (pre-intern program) since seventh grade. Annika plays viola and ukulele.



Stacie Bendixen (*Torrey*) is a communications consultant at Wells Fargo. She is active at Ankeny Community Theatre where she has served on the board of directors, assistant directed, and appeared in *Kiss Me, Kate*;

Honk!; and, her favorite to date, *110 Stories: A 9/11 Tribute*. Other area shows include *Guys and Dolls*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *State Fair*, and *Meredith Willson's The Music Man* at Urbandale Community Theatre. This is her Playhouse debut.



Marquis Bundy (*Student*) is a junior at Lincoln High School where he is involved in the theatre department, appearing in *Spring* (Mitch) and *Honk!* (Drake) as well as working on publicity. His favorite role was Harold Hill in

The Music Man Jr. with the Playhouse's Performance Academy. Marquis enjoys singing, dancing, and graphic design.



Michael Bundy II (*Karl*) says his favorite role to date was Seaweed J. Stubbs in *Hairspray Jr.* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. At the Playhouse, he has appeared in *Disney's Newsies*, *Ragtime*, and *Junie B. Jones The Musical*

(Sheldon Potts, Dionysos Award nominee for Outstanding Performance) as well as Performance Academy productions. A graduate of Lincoln High School and barista/bookseller at Barnes & Noble, Michael's hobbies include playing guitar, bodybuilding, and watching films.



Lyndsy Darland (*Ms. Meyers*) is an administrative assistant at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. Her favorite role to date was Gingy in *Shrek The Musical* at the Playhouse. Her Playhouse shows include *The Sound of*

Music, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* (Ms. Teavee), and *Choices* (Liz Mayfield, Dionysos Award nominee for Outstanding Performance). Lyndsy enjoys acting, singing, writing, and spending time with her husband, Jeff Mease.



Madeline Davis (*Student*) was a Ballet Girl in *Billy Elliot The Musical* at the Playhouse last fall (Dionysos Award nominee for Outstanding Performance). Her area credits include *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Frozen Jr.*

(Anna), and *Hairspray Jr.* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre; *Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Carousel Theatre (Indianola), and *Annie Jr.* (Annie) at CAP (Altoona). Maddie is a seventh grader at Grand View Christian School where she plays trombone.



Anastasia Deace (*Ellie Blake*) has been involved with the Playhouse since her debut in 2016 as Violet Beauregard in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. More recently she was Squirrelle 3 in *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* Other area

credits include *Hairspray Jr.* (Tracy Turnblad) and *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Paulette) at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre and *Eat Your Heart Out* (Evie) with Tallgrass Theatre. Anastasia is the assistant manager at Ragstock and plays guitar and bass.



Bailey Dorr (*Student/Cater Waiter*) is a freshman at Carlisle High School. While this is her Playhouse debut, she has numerous credits at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre including *13 the Musical* (Lucy), *Legally*

Blonde Jr. (Kate), and *High School Musical Jr.* (Brainiac). In middle school, she played Ti Moune in *Once on This Island Jr.* One of Bailey's favorite things to do is belt out entire musicals when no one is home.



Chris Ennis (*Mike*) is familiar to Playhouse audiences from *Elf – The Musical* (Mr. Greenway) and *Catch Me If You Can* (Carl Hanratty, for which he received a Dionysos Award nomination for Outstanding Performance).

His favorite role was Cornelius Hackett in *Hello, Dolly!* at Vive Les Arts (Killeen, TX). An afternoon show host for Life 107.1, Chris likes traveling the world and playing PUBG (PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds). He and his wife, Melinda, have five children, Kaelyn, Trysten, Ewan, Declan and Rylen.



Mya Fisher (*Student*) trained pre-professionally in dance at The Rock School for Dance Education, Kansas City Ballet School, and Iowa Ballet Academy. She has performed for many years with Iowa Dance Theatre in shows

such as *Dracula* and *The Nutcracker*. She took classes at the Playhouse as a child and made her Playhouse debut this summer in *Disney's Newsies*. A sophomore at Iowa State University, Mya is an undergraduate research assistant at the Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence.



Emily Griffin (*Ms. Blumen/Officer Kowalski*) is involved in theatre throughout the community, directing, stage managing, costuming, and designing props. Her favorite stage role to date is Claire in *Proof* (Ankeny

Community Theatre). Emily received her B.A. in communication and theatre education from the University of Northern Iowa and is the theatre director at Hoover High School. She has been a teacher in the Playhouse's theatre department since 2009.



Jack Griffin (*Daniel*) is making his Playhouse debut. He is a junior at Drake University working on his B.F.A. in musical theatre with a music minor. At Drake, he played Professor Bhaer in *Little Women* and Dennis Ziegler in *This Is Our*

Youth and was featured in Theatre Durang-ed. In addition to singing, dancing, and theatre, Jack enjoys practicing yoga, going to concerts, traveling, and hiking.



Chelsea Haaland (*Katherine Blake*) has directed several Playhouse Performance Academy productions as well as *Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Legally Blonde The Musical*, and *Les Misérables* at Waukee High School.

As a performer, she has appeared in *Six-on-Six: The*

Musical (Right Brain Productions) and *A Chorus Line* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (both at the University of Northern Iowa). Chelsea is a speech teacher at Prairieview School, Waukee. She and her husband, Thomas, have two children, Liliana and Grayson.



Michael Howland (*Dr. Ehrin/Minister*) counts among his favorite stage roles Houdini in *Ragtime* and Enjolras in *Les Misérables* at the Playhouse, Bert in *Mary Poppins* at Newton Community Theatre, the Beast in *Disney's Beauty and*

the Beast at Carousel Theatre (Indianola), and the Baker in *Into the Woods* at K-ACT (Knoxville Area Community Theatre). Michael is running a marathon in all 50 states and recently finished number 33. He also participates in Ironman competitions. He and his wife, Julie, have twins, Josiah and Sierra.



Will C. Johnson (*Student*) is a sophomore at Valley High School with numerous area credits including *Disney's Newsies* (Crutchie, Dionysos Award nominee for Outstanding Performance), *Elf – The Musical*,

and *Disney's The Little Mermaid* at the Playhouse; *The Music Man Jr.* and *Camp Rock The Musical* with the Playhouse's Performance Academy; and *Kiss Me, Kate* at Ankeny Community Theatre. He has also volunteered on backstage crews for *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and other shows at the Playhouse.



Shelby Kephart (*Senorita O'Brien*) has appeared on the Playhouse stage in *Elf – The Musical* and *Catch Me If You Can*. She was also in *Six-on-Six: The Musical* and *State Fair* at Urbandale Community Theatre. Shelby has a passion for

singing, as a teacher and as a performer. She sings in the choir at Heritage Assembly Church where she also directs the children's choir and directs musicals at Windsor Elementary. Shelby is a caregiver with Des Moines Public Schools' Metro Kids.



Taylor Lantz (*Student*) made her Playhouse debut in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. She has also participated in Playhouse camps including the Performance Academy production of *Annie Kids*. Her area stage credits include

Pepper in *Annie* at Urbandale Community Theatre as well as musicals at Lutheran Church of Hope. A sophomore at Waukee High School, Taylor enjoys singing, playing guitar, and spending time with friends.



Tatum Lowell (*Monica*) has numerous area credits including *Billy Elliot The Musical* (Debbie, Dionysos Award winner for Outstanding Performance) and *Ramona Quimby* (Ramona) at the Playhouse, *13 the Musical* (Kendra) and *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* (Aunt Sponge) at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, and *Les Misérables* (Young Cosette) at Waukee High School. Tatum is a Playhouse PIP (pre-intern program). A freshman at Waukee's Timberline School, Tatum plays piano and enjoys making TikToks.



Joseph Maxwell (*Student*) made his Playhouse debut in *Ramona Quimby* (Cub Scout) and was more recently seen in *Meredith Willson's The Music Man* and *Ragtime*. Joe is a junior at Valley High School where he is in Choralation show choir and participates in Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) competitions. He has been active in drama at school, appearing in *The Rimers of Eldritch* and *Tuck Everlasting*. Joe plays piano.



Daniel Perkins (*Louis*) is a billing review analyst at Equian LLC. He received his B.A. in voice from Simpson College. At Peru (NE) State College, his credits include *No Sex Please, We're British*; *Marcus is Walking*; *Andromache*; *Marat/Sade*; and, his favorite, *Pippin* in which he was Leading Player. He also was makeup designer for *Pippin*. In his free time Daniel enjoys reading, singing, knitting, and crocheting.



Jordan Potter (*Adam*) began his Playhouse affiliation as assistant stage manager for *Catch Me If You Can*. He moved on stage for *Disney's Newsies*, playing Smalls. Jordan is a sophomore at Des Moines Area Community College. He also works at Centro.



Maisy Russell (*Kitty*) is a sophomore at Drake University studying business and leadership development with a minor in musical theatre. In her hometown of Traverse City, MI, she played Belle in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and Fantine in *Les Misérables* at Central High School and was in the Old Town Playhouse cast of *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein*. Maisy stays active ice skating and paddleboarding and loves bullet journaling.



Quentin Steinbach (*Fletcher*) is a sixth grader at St. Theresa Catholic School where he participates in mock trial and plays trumpet. He is also active in Boy Scouts of America. Although this is his Playhouse and stage debut, Quentin played Horton the Elephant in *Seussical Kids* and has taken numerous classes, all through the Playhouse education department.



Elaine Struthers (*Cater Waiter*) has participated in multiple Playhouse classes and is now making her stage debut. Elaine enjoys the arts, drawing, listening to music, and studying fashion. She is an eighth grader at Waukee Prairieview and active in 4-H.



Jenny Throckmorton (*Ms. Luckenbill/Mrs. Time*) is an auditor at Nationwide Insurance. Her area credits include Carol Strong in *Catch Me If You Can* (Playhouse) and Grace Farrell in *Annie* (Urbandale Community Theatre). She has volunteered on set construction and makeup crews and ushered for various productions at Valley High School and Iowa Dance Theatre. Jenny writes music and sings with several bands and stays fit with long-distance running. Jenny has two children, Jordan, who is also in *Freaky Friday*, and Laila.



Addison Tullis (*Student*) is an eighth grader at Northview Middle School, Ankeny. This is her Playhouse debut, but she has been on stage in *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* (Little Alice) at CAP Theatre, Altoona, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Linus Van Pelt) and *13 the Musical* (Patrice) at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. In her free time, Addie enjoys singing, dancing, and shopping.



Addie Van Dyke (*Student*) has been taking classes at the Playhouse since she was in the second grade and is now a classroom PIP (pre-intern program) in the education department. She made her Playhouse debut as Ballet Girl in *Billy Elliot The Musical*. At Carousel Theatre, Indianapolis, she was in *Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. A freshman at Norwalk High School, Addie likes dancing, cooking, and watching Marvel movies.



Rachael Watrous (*Cater Waiter*) is making their Playhouse debut. Rachael is a senior at Norwalk High School where their show credits include *Abandon All Hope Ye Who Enter Here: The Story of a Prom and Suitable for Hanging*.

They enjoy drawing, listening to music, cosplay, and planning for a career on Broadway.



Jenna Wieskamp (*Cater Waiter*) is a junior at Dallas Center-Grimes High School. She has numerous stage credits and counts among her favorites *Ensemble in Elf – The Musical* at the Playhouse

(Dionysos Award nominee for Outstanding Performance) and *Child #8 in I Never Saw Another Butterfly* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Jenna is a dietary aide at Kennybrook Retirement Home.



Megan Helmers (*Director/Choreographer*) made her Playhouse director/choreographer debut with *A Chorus Line*. She was awarded the Cloris Leachman Excellence in Theatre Award for Best Choreography in 2019 for

Disney's Newsies (Des Moines Playhouse) and in 2018 for *Bring It On: The Musical* (Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre), for which she also received a Best Direction nomination. Her work as a director/choreographer includes *Ordinary Days* (Tallgrass Theatre Company), *tick, tick...Boom!* and *Murder Ballad* (Noce), and numerous productions with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre where she also serves on the board of directors. Recent choreography includes *Hello, Dolly!* (Theatre Cedar Rapids); *Chaplin* (Revival Theatre Company); *Elf – the Musical*, *Billy Elliot The Musical*, and *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Des Moines Playhouse); and *Fun Home* and *Company* (Iowa Stage Theatre Company). She appeared in *Closer* (Anna) and directed *Lungs* at Open Door Rep. Megan made her Playhouse debut as a performer in *Chicago*. Her favorite Playhouse performance to date was Brooke Wyndham in *Legally Blonde The Musical*. Megan is the director of marketing and public relations at the Des Moines Symphony and teaches at the School of Classical Ballet and Dance. When she is not working on a show, Megan enjoys cooking, traveling, and dancing around the house with her husband Charlie Reese and their pets, Elliott Patrick Swayze Helmers-Reese, Detective Olivia Benson Helmers-Reese, and Jane.



Taylor Anne Layden (*Music Director*) has served as music director for Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre productions of *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*, *School of Rock*, and *Bring It On, The Musical*. Taylor took classes at

the Playhouse as a child, was a college intern with the Playhouse's education department, and now teaches at the Playhouse. Taylor is a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Urbandale Middle School. Newly wed to Eric, she enjoys reading young adult novels, planning future vacations, and spending time with her nephew and nieces, Sam, Paisley, and Essie.



Kevin Shelby (*Scenic Designer*) resident Kate Goldman Children's Theatre designer, has created countless sets for Central Iowa theatres over the years including over 130 designs for the Playhouse. Among his Playhouse favorites

are *Girls' Weekend*, *Miss Nelson Is Missing!*, *The Stinky Cheese Man*, and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*.



Jessica Van Essen (*Costume Designer*), an Ottumwa native, has spent much of her career in schools as a professor/costume shop manager and working with professional theatres as a costume designer and technician. Before

moving back to Iowa, Jessica spent three seasons with the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA, as their costume designer and shop manager, designing such shows as William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Comedy of Errors* among others. She is delighted to bring the joy of live theatre to younger audiences as well. Costume history fun fact: High-heeled shoes were originally created for men and developed in Persia (located in the Middle East) as a way to help soldiers keep their feet in their stirrups and were later adopted by European nobility as a means to show off their wealth.



Abby Kilpatrick (*Lighting Designer*) is a junior at Valley High School. While at La Crosse (WI) Community Theatre, she designed props and lights for various productions and played Sheila Tubman in *Tales of a Fourth Grade*

Nothing. At the Playhouse, she has been a light board operator and is a PIP (pre-intern program) with the education department. Abby is a cashier at B-Bops. Her interests include theatre and reading.



Barb McClintock (*Properties Designer*) has been working backstage for several years, serving on shift crews at both StageWest and the Playhouse. After running lights for *Working at StageWest*, she discovered props and has been assisting or designing ever since. She has worked on *Parade*, *Distracted*, and *Good People* at StageWest; and *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Peter Pan*, *The Hundred Dresses*, *Girls' Weekend*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Into the Woods*, *Junie B. Jones*, *The Musical*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Miss Nelson is Missing!*, and more at the Playhouse.



Taylor Millar (*Assistant Director/ Assistant Choreographer*) most recently appeared on the Playhouse stage as Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime*. Her long list of theatre credits includes *Meredith Willson's The Music Man* (Zaneeta Shinn) and *A Chorus Line* (Judy Turner) at the Playhouse. She has choreographed the Playhouse's summer Performance Academy productions. Taylor received her B.A. in performing arts with emphases in acting/directing and technical design from Iowa State University. She is an associate member with the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and won the SDC Directing Scholarship in 2017. Taylor joined the Playhouse this season as education coordinator/volunteer coordinator.



Rachel Meyer (*Stage Manager*) was seen on the Playhouse stage in *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein*, *Sister Act* (Michelle), and *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Stepmother). She received a 2019 Dionysos Award for Outstanding Performance for her portrayal of Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot The Musical*. Rachel has served as stage manager for several Playhouse productions, including *Mamma Mia!*, and volunteers with the Curtain Crowd, the theatre's young adult group. She was assistant director, stage manager, and costume designer for productions at her alma mater, New Hope Christian College (Eugene, OR). Rachel is an office administrator for Real Property Management.



Sydney Allen (*Assistant Stage Manager*) has been involved in various productions in Greater Des Moines, most recently playing Deb in the Cloris Award Nominated Best Musical, *Ordinary Days* at Tallgrass Theatre Company. Her Playhouse credits include Ensemble in the Cloris Award Winning Best Musical, *Ragtime*, and Butterfly in *Pinkalicious* (2014). She is a member of the theatre's education department,

acting in Friday Funday programs throughout the year. When Sydney is not working on a show, she can be found crafting cocktails at Noce Jazz and Cabaret or hanging out with friends.



Mary Bricker (*Assistant Stage Manager*) began her Playhouse career in 2000 as Mrs. Medlock in *The Secret Garden*. Her other Playhouse credits include *Billy Elliot The Musical* (Grandma), *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein* (Frau Blucher, for which she received a Dionysos Award for Outstanding Performance), and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Mrs. Meers). She is a member of the Friday Funday cast. She has numerous credits at other area theatres, both onstage and backstage as stage manager, assistant stage manager, shift crew, props crew, and guest services. Mary enjoys all things theatre, yoga, thrifting, and improv cooking. She and her husband, fellow actor Joe Smith, have two sons, Carter and Jeff.



David R. Kilpatrick (*Lighting Design Mentor*) joined the Playhouse staff as executive director in May 2017. In addition to management, his artistic credits include stage management, directing, and lighting design. As a lighting designer, his credits include *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and *Mamma Mia!* at the Playhouse. At other theatres his shows have included *Mary Poppins*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Bus Stop*, *The Dining Room*, and *The Sound of Music* to name a few. He is excited to be part of the inaugural Teen Mentorship Program in which theatre professionals share their passion for creating with the next generation of artists.



Nate Lawrence-Richards (*Technical Director*) says he is a man of too many talents and obviously not enough focus. He has been a construction worker, cook, librarian, lumberjack, teacher, mechanic, carpenter, and vagabond. His first task at the Playhouse was to build the stage revolve used in *Misery* and *Ragtime*. Playhouse administrators decided he was useful after this and decided to keep him around. Nate has worked as a technical director in Iowa since 2011 with a brief stint in Colorado in 2016.



Katy Merriman (*Artistic Director*) has been an active member of the local theatre community since moving to Des Moines in 2013. Her Playhouse stage credits including *Meredith Willson's The Music Man* (Marian Paroo), *Into*

the Woods (Cinderella), *Les Misérables* (Cosette), and *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Elle Woods). She was the musical director for the Playhouse Performance Academy production of *Meredith Willson's The Music Man Jr.* and directed *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* Katy has worked with Iowa Stage Theatre Company as a resident artist where her performance credits include *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura) and *Our Town* (Emily). She also directed their 2018 production of *Fun Home*. Prior to her time in Des Moines, Katy worked with numerous theatres as a performer, director, and administrator. She has a Bachelor of Music from Butler University in Indianapolis, IN. Katy and her husband, Max Wellman, have a son, Jack.



Bridget Carpenter (*Book*), a playwright, television writer, and producer, created the 2016 miniseries *11.22.63* for Bad Robot and Hulu from Stephen King's bestselling novel. It premiered at the Sundance Festival, was nominated for a Writers Guild Award, and won the Saturn Award for best limited series. She wrote and co-executive-produced all five seasons of the Peabody Award-Winning series *Friday Night Lights*, was a consulting producer for HBO's *Westworld*, and a co-executive producer for *Parenthood*. Bridget's plays have been produced by Steppenwolf, the Public Theater, the Alley Theatre, La Jolla Rep, Berkeley Repertory Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and many other theatres across the country. She has written several songs for film (*Basmati Blues*; *Dear Dumb Diary*) and has adapted *Freaky Friday* as a movie musical for the Disney Channel, airing in 2018. Her awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Jerome Fellowship, a McKnight Grant, the Princess Grace Award, the Kesselring Prize, and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. An alumnae of New Dramatists, Bridget received her B.A. and M.F.A. from Brown University. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Chris Harrison, and their children, Rita and Henry.



Tom Kitt (*Music*) received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama as well as two Tony Awards for Best Score and Best Orchestrations for *Next to Normal*. *Next to Normal* also received the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Score. He is the composer of *If/Then* (Tony nomination, Outer Critics nomination); *High Fidelity* (Broadway); *Bring it On, The Musical* (co-composer with Lin-Manuel Miranda, Broadway); *Superhero* (2nd Stage); *Disney's Freaky Friday* (stage production, Original Disney Channel Movie Musical); *Dave* (Arena Stage); *The Winter's Tale*,

All's Well That Ends Well, and *Cymbeline* (The Public's NYSF); *From Up Here* and *The Madrid* (MTC); *Orphans* (Broadway); *The Retributionists* (Playwrights Horizons); and *As You Like It* (Toho Co., Japan). As a music supervisor, arranger, and orchestrator, credits include *SpongeBob Squarepants*, *The Musical* (Tony nomination, Outer Critics nomination, Drama Desk nomination); *Head Over Heels*; *Jagged Little Pill*; *Grease Live!*; *Rise* (NBC); and *American Idiot*. His work with Green Day also includes additional arrangements for their Grammy Award-winning album *21st Century Breakdown* and their album trilogy, *¡Uno!*; *¡Dos!*; *¡Tré!* Tom received an Emmy Award as co-writer (with Lin-Manuel Miranda) for the 2013 Tony Award opening number, *Bigger*. Other television songwriting credits include a musical episode of *Royal Pains*, and songs for *Penny Dreadful*, *Sesame Street*, and *Julie's Greenroom*. As a musical director, conductor, arranger and orchestrator, his credits include the Pitch Perfect films, *2 Cellos featuring Lang Lang* (*Live and Let Die*), *The Kennedy Center Honors*, *13, Hair*, and more. Upcoming projects include musical adaptations of the films *Almost Famous*, *Magic Mike*, and *The Visitor*.



Brian Yorkey (*Lyrics*) received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama as well as the 2009 Tony Award for Best Score for *Next to Normal*. He was also nominated for the Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Book of a

Musical for *Next to Normal* and his work on the show earned him the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Score. He partnered again with the *Next to Normal* team on *If/Then* (Tony Award Nominee for Best Score) starring Idina Menzel. Brian co-wrote the libretto for *The Last Ship* (Outer Critic's Nomination, with John Logan) with a score by Sting. His musical adaptation of *Freaky Friday* for Disney Theatricals enjoyed a National Tour before being adapted into a Disney Channel Original Movie. Current theatrical projects in development include the original musical *Jesus in My Bedroom*, with composer Tim Symons, as well as stage musical adaptation of *Magic Mike*. He has directed off-Broadway and regionally and for seven years was associate artistic director at Village Theatre in Washington state, one of the nation's leading producers of new musicals. Brian is currently the executive producer and showrunner of *13 Reasons Why* for Netflix, Paramount Television and Anonymous Content. He is a graduate of Columbia University where he was artistic director of the Varsity Show, an alum of the BMI/Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, and a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the WGA.

Production Crews

Assistant Director/Choreographer: **Taylor Millar**

Lighting Design Mentor: **David R. Kilpatrick**

Assistant Stage Managers: **Sydney Allen, Mary Bricker, Gabriel Ray Carnes**

Set Construction Crew: **Madeline Davis, Tatum Gloden, Ryan Henzi, Mike Johnson, Danny Kelly, Mark Pullen, Aaliyah Trimble**

Set Painting Crew: **Jerry Eisenhour**

Costume Crew: **Devin McCain**

Run Crew: **Sydney Allen, Mary Bricker, Gabriel Ray Carnes, Devin McCain**

Sound Board Operators: **David Galloway, Katrina Sieck**

Light Board Operator: **Colleen Hunkele**

Followspot Operators: **Natalie Grote, Alli Kroeger, Eddie Llambias**

Playhouse Ambassadors: **Judy Blessington, Mary Bricker, Annette Duffy, Alma Hackbart, Pat Henson, Jolene Huen, Jean Leibold, Sunny Liston, Mary Marshall, Mark Morrison, Becky Scholtec, Mary Whisenand, Sherill Whisenand**

Playhouse Partners: **Dani Boal, Mary Bricker, Edward Corpus, Peter Dean, Denise Forney, Anne Frett, Pam Gabby, Micheal Howland, Jill Lippincott, Rebecca Masucci, Greg Millar, Mark Morrison, Charlie Reese, Maxwell Schaeffer, Jackie Schmillen, Tony Tandeski, Josh Visnapuu, Eva Williams**

Audition Crew: **Cheryl Critelli, Sue**

Dittmer, Bonnie Hodson

Subscriber Services: **Gloria Filean**

Daytime Ticket Office Volunteers: **Gloria Filean, Cheryl Hamilton**

Playhouse Photographers: **Steve Gibbons, Brent Isenberger**

Playhouse Historians: **Mark Morrison, Lloyd Von Hagen**

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Advisory Council

Pamela Bass-Bookey
Jon Batesole
Joanne Brown
Judy McCoy Davis
Allison Engel
Suzanne Engman
Tom Goldman
Peter Hedges
Donn Hutchins
Donald H. Kagin, Ph.D.
Cloris Leachman
Gerard Neugent
Mary Urban
Bob Veenstra
Sandra Windsor

Education Staff

Mary Bricker
Janet Casson
Melissa Chavas-Miller*
Nicole Chavas-Schwegler
Jenna Darsee
Peter Dean
Katie Dorrell
Rusk Dorsett
V. Dumas-Wines*
Tali Eisenstadt
Anne Frett
Robin Breen Fulton*
Emily Griffin
Chelsea Haaland
Ron Hyde
Jay Jacobson
Nate Jorgensen
Allison Koontz
Taylor Anne Layden
Ed McAtee
Annie Mielke
Greg Millar
Mark Morrison
Maddie Ripperger
Megan Schettler Schug
Cody Schug
Brett Spahr*
Carol J. Taylor*
Meredith Toeppen
Sarah Beth Weinberg

*Master Teacher

Staff

David R. Kilpatrick, *Executive Director*
Katy Merriman, *Artistic Director*
John W. Viars, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

Administration

Chris Andersen, *Director of Philanthropy*
Lee Ann Bakros, *Marketing & Public Relations Director*
Robin Spahr, *Education Director*
Taylor Millar, *Education Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator*
Mary Hofer, *Finance*
Samantha Ohlson, *Office Manager/Database Manager*
Ellen Vroege, *Marketing Intern*
Lindsey Ballard, Elissa Johnson, Cherie Moen,
House Managers
Debbie Jacobson, *Ticket Office Manager*
Shelby Jensen, Jody Kile, Mark Morrison,
Ticket Office
Lindsey Ballard, Lynn Bjorlin, Caulinez Lovan,
Cherie Moen, Samira Sayeed, Jerri Young,
Barenders
Jerry Eisenhour, *Final Act Ensemble Director*

Production

Nicholas Amundson, *Scenic Designer*
Angela Lampe, *Costume Designer*
Jessica Van Essen, *Costume Shop Supervisor*
Nathan Lawrence-Richards, *Shop Supervisor*
Kevin Shelby, *Resident Scenic Designer/Master Carpenter*

Pre-Intern Program (PIPs)

Crey Abbas
Kelsie Anderson
Annika Baker
Meridan Boyd
Maggie Brosnahan
Francesca Cannon
Julia Cannon
Caitlyn Dean
Charlie Deyoe-Snyder
Carson Doss
Paige Fahrenkrug
Cael Fitch
Audrey Frett
Sarena Gibson
Maren Grant
Natalie Grote
Grace Harvey
Teddi Karnes
Abby Kilpatrick
Allison Koch
Taylor Lantz
Lauren Logue
Tatum Lowell
Zoe Marckmann
Samantha Miller
Kathryn Reeves
Lulu Rongerude
Hattie Ruhland
Ashlyn Russell
Gabe Schebel
Madelynn Striker-Seay
Lily Spahr
Josie Talley
Rachel Talley
Kathryn Theisen
Eliza Tutty
Addie Van Dyke
Mady Yu

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