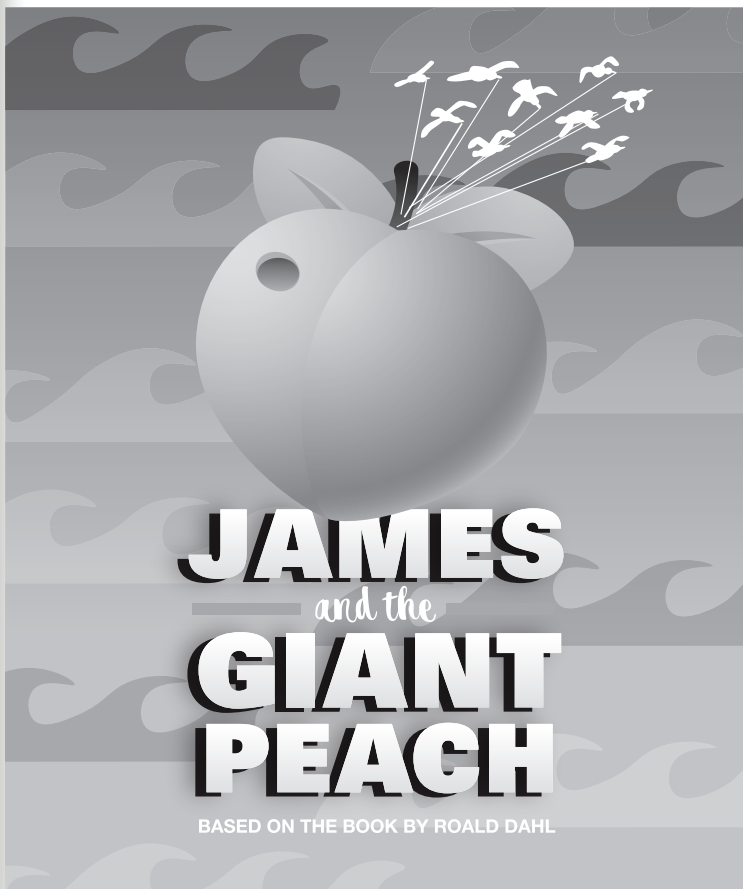


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JAMES *and the* **GIANT PEACH**

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Jan. 3 - 19, 2020



THE PLAYHOUSE

#DMPlayhouse

Welcome to your Playhouse!




David R. Kilpatrick
Executive Director

We are so excited to see you at our production of *James and the Giant Peach*. This is one of those books that allows us to be creative as we solve the epic challenges of taking the audience on a journey in a peach that has to be big enough to hold lots of bugs and fly across the ocean. This is theatre at its best: creative story telling that requires the audience's imagination. Thank you for bringing yours.

As we celebrate the new year, we remember that The Playhouse has been a part of the community since 1919. We know that our audiences have come to expect something new and different each time they enter the theatre. We are so grateful that you chose today's performance. Theatre without you is just a group of crazy people acting a little foolish. But, because of you, we create a special experience felt by all. Thank you!


We are especially appreciative that you have brought a future theatre-goer to see a show. We know that we change individuals one life at a time. Perhaps the life we change today is yours. If you would like to be part of future productions, either backstage or as a performer, stop at the ticket office and leave your name and number. Someone will get back to you.

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 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.

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Don't see your name? Those listed in this program 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. 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 December 13, 2019.





2019

- October 26, 1 pm • Merle Hay Mall
- October 27, 2 pm • Indian Hills Jr High, Clive
- December 7, 1 pm • Merle Hay Mall
- December 8, 2 pm • Indian Hills Jr High, Clive

2020

- April 18, 1 pm • Merle Hay Mall
- April 19, 2 pm • Indian Hills Jr High, Clive
- May 25, 1 pm • Memorial Day Celebration Capital Complex

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Based on the Myths of Ovid
Written and originally directed by Mary Zimmerman
November 15 – 17 & November 21 – 23

WILD WIDOW POKER
by A'ndrea J. Wilson
This project was funded through the Alumni Atelier Program for Alumni Development from the Savannah College of Art and Design.
February 20 – 23

BAGGAGE
by Sam Bobrick
March 5 – 8

THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS
Adapted from the book by Robert Munsch by A. Nora Long
April 10, 18 & 19

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HOUSE 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

Des Moines Community Playhouse

831 42nd Street
Des Moines, IA 50312



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109th Production
25th Season

Opening January 3, 2020
Closing January 19, 2020

The Kate Goldman Children's Theatre Presents

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

By Roald Dahl

Adapted by David Wood

Director/Scenic Designer: **Nicholas Amundson**

Costume Designer: **Angela Lampe**

Lighting Designer: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**

Sound Designer/Composer: **Meredith Toebben**

Properties Designer: **Nate Weber**

Stage Manager: **Nathan Jorgensen**

Technical Director: **Nate Lawrence-Richards**

Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

In Order Of Appearance

*Indicates Playhouse Debut

James.....	Carson Klein*
Old-Green-Grasshopper.....	Aaron Price
Miss Spider.....	Samantha Beard
Centipede.....	Michael Bundy II
Ladybird.....	Julie Howland
Earthworm.....	Andrew Lee*
Aunt Sponge.....	Kristina Linnane
Aunt Spiker.....	Kerrie Lee
Ensemble.....	Ben Clark, Silas Erwin*, Tatum Gloden*, Fisher Grove*, Gbomi Kayode, Erin Morris*, Nash Roe, Mia Jane Scholl*, Rachel Talley, Oscar Tjeerdsma

James and the Giant Peach is performed with a 15-minute intermission.

James and the Giant Peach (Wood) is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

CAST NOTES



Samantha Beard (*Miss Spider*) is a favorite with Playhouse audiences, having appeared in roles as varied as Rumpelsteazer in *Cats*, Peter Pan in *Peter Pan*, Dragon in *Shrek the Musical* and

Junie B. Jones in *Junie B. Jones The Musical*. For Kata Klysmic Productions, she played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Samantha works at Wells Fargo and is newly wed to Frank Beard.



Michael Bundy II (*Centipede*) appeared earlier this season as Karl in *Disney's Freaky Friday One Act*. His other area shows include *Disney's Newsies*, *Ragtime*, and *Junie B. Jones The Musical*

(Sheldon) at The Playhouse and *Bring It On: The Musical* (Twig) and *Hairspray Jr.* (Seaweed J. Stubbs, a favorite role) at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Michael is a bookseller at Barnes & Noble. He likes watching movies, reading books, and keeping fit.



Ben Clark (*Ensemble*) is an eighth grader at Bergman Academy where he is a member of the mock trial team that went to the state tournament. He has taken numerous Playhouse

classes and participated in Performance Academy, playing Adult Simba in *Disney's The Lion King Kids* and Winthrop in *Meredith Willson's The Music Man Kids*. He was in *Elf – The Musical* last winter. Ben likes writing, playing tennis, and learning Spanish.



Silas Erwin (*Ensemble*) is a fourth grader at Hubbell Elementary, Des Moines, who enjoys reading, science, and all things Star Wars. He has participated in camps the past

two summers at Des Moines Performing Arts and is now making his stage and Playhouse debut.



Tatum Gloden (*Ensemble*) has taken numerous classes at The Playhouse including Broadway Stars, Mary Poppins Jr., and Audition Class, and is now making her Playhouse and stage

debut. An eighth grader at Merrill Middle School, Des Moines, she is involved in show choir and enjoys singing, dancing, and visual arts. Tatum volunteers with Best Buddies, the Animal Rescue League, and Meals From the Heartland.



Fisher Grove (*Ensemble*) is in fifth grade at Colfax Mingo Elementary. He has taken classes at The Playhouse, playing Pinocchio, but this is his Playhouse debut. His dream is to

be in musicals and ultimately to play Harold Hill in *Meredith Willson's The Music Man*. Fisher plays baseball, creates comics, and likes to study ants.



Julie Howland (*Ladybird*) has had many volunteer roles at The Playhouse. On stage, she has played Mom in *The Kid Who Ran for President*, Mrs. Griggs/ Selma in *Ramona Quimby*, and,

her favorite, Edith Zuckerman in *Charlotte's Web*. Backstage, she has stage managed numerous shows. Julie is a special education associate with the Urbandale Community School District. She enjoys volunteering with preschoolers and high schoolers at Valley Church. Julie and her husband, Michael, are parents to twins Josiah and Sierra.



Gbomi Kayode (*Ensemble*) made her Playhouse debut as Maxine in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Her area roles include Yertle the Turtle in *Seussical the Musical* and Schroeder in *You're*

a Good Man, Charlie Brown at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre and July in *Annie* at Urbandale Community Theatre. Gbomi is a sixth grader at McCombs Middle School, Des Moines. When not at the theatre or school, she enjoys baking and spending time with friends and family.



Carson Klein (*James*) is new to The Playhouse but not to the stage. He played Joseph in the Christmas play at St. Theresa's Catholic School, Des Moines, where he is in sixth grade. Carson likes STEM, reading, and video gaming.



Andrew Lee (*Earthworm*) is making his Playhouse debut but was active in theatre while attending Hopwood Hall College in Manchester, England. His favorite role was Jacob in *La Cage Aux Folles* at Tameside Hippodrome (Manchester). Andrew enjoys cooking, singing karaoke, and nerd culture. He and his wife, Amanda, have three children, Aleena, Aurora, and Amelia.



Kerrie Lee (*Aunt Spiker*) is a mixed media sculptor and owner of Dream Up. Since making her Playhouse acting debut as Actress 1 in *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, she has volunteered backstage as a dresser on *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and was properties designer for *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. Kerrie loves collecting experiences and studied clowning, had a short run playing roller derby, and spent time farming in Ireland. She and her husband, Rob, have two sons, Brendan and Jacob.



Kristina Linnane (*Aunt Sponge*) made her Playhouse debut as a child in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. She was in Lincoln High School, Des Moines, productions of *Alice in Wonderland* and *West Side Story* and, more recently, played Glinda the Good in *The Wizard of Oz* (Kata Klysmic Productions). She received her bachelor's degree in music from the University of Iowa. A senior processing associate at Cognizant, Kristina's hobbies include burlesque, drag, and karaoke art forms.



Erin Morris (*Ensemble*) is a fifth grader at Holy Trinity School, Des Moines. She has taken The Playhouse Performance Academy summer camp *Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids*. This is her Playhouse debut. Erin is interested in science and animals, enjoys reading, and likes attending plays. She also plays basketball.



Aaron Price (*Old-Green-Grasshopper*) counts among his area roles Juror 6 in *12 Angry Men* and Mr. Gilmer in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at The Playhouse and, his favorite role to date, Daniel Kaffee in *A Few Good Men* at Ankeny Community Theatre. He enjoys reading and writing, collecting comics, and watching movies with his wife, Megan. Aaron is a customer service representative for Zimmer Biomet.



Nash Roe (*Ensemble*) made his Playhouse debut as David in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This past summer he played Roger in The Playhouse Performance Academy production of *Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids*. Nash is a fifth grader at Crossroads Park Elementary, West Des Moines. In addition to acting and singing, he plays piano and percussion. Nash likes swimming, cooking and baking, and building things.



Mia Jane Scholl (*Ensemble*) is making her Playhouse debut but has attended summer camps at both The Playhouse and Des Moines Performing Arts. She has danced in *The Nutcracker* with Ballet Des Moines the past five years. A fourth grader at Hubbell Elementary, Des Moines, Mia loves the arts: She acts, dances, sings, plays piano, and paints to relax. She enjoys playing with her younger sister, Lillian, and stays active running and playing basketball.

CAST NOTES



Rachel Talley (*Ensemble*) says her favorite role has been Violet in Dowling Catholic High School's production of *State Fair*. Other area shows include *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at The Playhouse and *Seussical Jr.* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. She has taken numerous classes at The Playhouse and is an education PIP (pre-intern program). A seventh grader at St. Theresa Catholic School, Des Moines, Rachel plays piano, is an archer, and likes cooking and baking.



Oscar Tjeerdsma (*Ensemble*) is a home schooled seventh grader who likes reading, movies, and memes. At The Playhouse, he played Hobie in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Oscar was also in Stillwell Jr. High's production of *Monty Python's Spamalot* and West Des Moines Home School Assistance Program production of *Make or Break Cliché Version*.



Nicholas Amundson (*Director/Scenic Designer*) earned his B.F.A. in theatre design and technology from the University of South Dakota. Working on theatre all over town, he has designed in many different styles with StageWest Theatre Company (*Ugly Lies the Bone*, *Marjorie Prime*), Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (*The Hobbit*, *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*), Noce (*bare: A Pop Opera*), and Kata Klysmic Productions (*The Rocky Horror Show*, *Reefer Madness*). He served as scenic designer for *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein* and *Road Dahl's Willy Wonka* and, since joining The Playhouse staff, has designed the scenery for *A Chorus Line*, *Choices*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Ragtime*, and *Catch Me If You Can*. His favorite thing about theatre is creating out-of-the-box ways to present a story that gives the audience something fun to experience.



Angela Lampe (*Costume Designer*) began her tenure with The Playhouse in 1993 and has designed costumes, sets and props for nearly 300 productions

including *Guys and Dolls*, Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Ella Enchanted*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Ragtime*, *Les Misérables*, *Disney's Little Mermaid*, *West Side Story*, *Into the Woods*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and *Hairspray*. She has a B.A. from Central College in Pella and a M.F.A. in theatre from the University of Nebraska. She is the recipient of four Cloris Awards for excellence in costuming and puppetry.



Virgil Kleinhesselink (*Lighting Designer*) owns VTEC Productions sound company and is technical director at Des Moines Hoover High School where he designed lights for their production of *Les Misérables Jr.* Virgil began his Playhouse career in 1979 and since then has been involved with more than 200 shows as designer or actor.



Meredith Toeppen (*Sound Designer/Composer*) made her composition debut with Adolescent Anarchy's *Lord of the Flies* in 2013. She has since composed music for many productions including *The Boxcar Children*, *A Little House Christmas*, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, and *Ramona Quimby*, all at The Playhouse. She received a 2017 Special Achievement Cloris Award for her compositions for *Ramona Quimby*. She also co-wrote a musical entitled *Lost & Found* which premiered in Lincoln, NE, in April 2018. Meredith is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she majored in music education and composition, and is currently teaching elementary music in Bellevue, NE.



Nate Weber (*Properties Designer*) has has B.A. in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa. He has directed *The Stinky Cheese Man* and other fair(l)ly stoopid stories, *Alice in Zombieland*, *Law & Order Fairytale Unit*, and *Crazytown* at Oelwein Community Schools. Nate is an Iowa 4-H STEM program coordinator. He

enjoys studying entomology and geology, likes to travel, and stays active camping, kayaking, and skiing.



Nathan Jorgensen (*Stage Manager*) grew up at the Playhouse, first appearing on stage in *Tuck Everlasting* in 2007. As a teen, he assisted in classrooms for which he received a 2009 Volunteer of the Year award. Nate received his B.A. in English/theatre education from the University of Northern Iowa. While at UNI, he directed a number of productions. He appeared as Mercutio in IowaStage's production of *Romeo & Juliet*. At The Playhouse, he directed *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; *The Boxcar Children*; and *Holes*. Nate is a speech and theatre teacher at Waukee High School where he has directed a number of productions including *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *The Laramie Project*. He also teaches in the Playhouse's theatre education department and co-directs HOPE! Drama Troupe.



Derek Phelps (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is familiar to area audiences as Younger Brother in *Ragtime* at The Playhouse and William Barféé in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Ankeny Community Theatre. He received his B.A. in theatre performance and directing from Chadron State College in Chadron, NE, where he also played Cogsworth in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* at the Post Playhouse. Derek likes cooking, hiking, and playing piano.



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*. The 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 also 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.



David Wood (*Playwright*) has been called "the national children's dramatist" (London Times). Among his adaptations are eight Roald Dahl stories (*The BFG*, *The Twits*, *The Witches*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Danny the Champion of the World*, *George's Marvellous Medicine*, *The Magic Finger*), Dick King-Smith's *Babe*, HRH the Prince of Wales' *The Old Man of Lochnagar*, Sam McBratney's *Guess How Much I Love You*, the award-winning *Tom's Midnight Garden*, and Michelle Magorian's *Goodnight Mister Tom*, which won the Olivier Award for Best Entertainment and Family 2013. Film screenplays include *Swallows and Amazons* and the award-winning *Back Home*. For the Queen's 80th birthday, he wrote *The Queen's Handbag*, broadcast live from Buckingham Palace Gardens. He is Chair of Action for Children's Arts. In 2004 he was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Visit his website at www.davidwood.org.uk.



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Kerry Doyen

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Elaine Lindgren

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DISNEY'S FREAKY FRIDAY ONE ACT
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Nathan Lawrence-Richards, *Shop Supervisor*
Kevin Shelby, *Resident Scenic Designer/Master Carpenter*

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Meridan Boyd	Tatum Lowell
Maggie Brosnahan	Zoe Marckmann
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