

# Standing OVATION

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## Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

NOV. 5 - 14, 2021



THE PLAYHOUSE

#DMPlayhouse



# Great Red Wine

*made in Iowa from Grapes grown in Iowa*

## ***Iowa In the Dark***

is a dry red with light and fresh flavors. First impressions are tangy acid followed by black cherry fading to plum followed by a drying mid-palate and a long, pleasing finish. Made from Marquette, St. Croix, Petite Pearl, and Steuben grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, *Iowa In the Dark* is a versatile wine that will pair nicely with grilled meat and spicy dishes including Asian and Mexican. Serve at room temperature.

## ***2019 Iowa Marquette***

is a dry red that teases the palate with a fresh, lightly acidic entry transitioning to raspberry and black cherry and a medium-long finish. A versatile food pairing wine, *2019 Iowa Marquette* will pair nicely with grilled beef, chicken, or pasta. Serve at room temperature.

Tassel Ridge wines are sold at the Winery and over 400 retailers in Iowa (visit [www.tasselridge.com/retail](http://www.tasselridge.com/retail) for a list). Winery operations are continually changing. As of September 1, 2021, Tassel Ridge Winery is open only for to-go purchases. Please visit [www.tasselridge.com](http://www.tasselridge.com) for updates on hours and the return of Wine Tasting, Tours, Events, and Food Service. You can also order Tassel Ridge Wine shipped directly to your door in Iowa, Arizona, California, Colorado, DC, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas (adult signature required for receipt of wine).



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**David R. Kilpatrick**  
Executive Director

Thank you so much for joining us for the opening of our 2021-22 Kate Goldman Children's Theatre season. We appreciate your support of theatre for young audiences and your enthusiasm to introduce youths to the power of theatre. We applaud you!

For more than 75 years, serving young audiences and performers has been integral to our operations. Last fall, we offered video options including the reading of stories and recordings of Friday Funday scripts. In spring 2021, we offered children's theatre in the John Viars Theatre as this larger auditorium allowed us to practice social distancing and keep everyone as safe as possible. This past summer we presented a production just for young theatregoers outdoors under a tent and added in-person educational offerings.

As our new season began, we made the decision that we can safely offer in-person classes and performances. We also made the decision to keep all shows in the John Viars Theatre for the rest of 2021. It is our intention to return to the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre in January 2022. Of course, we know that life continues to demand flexibility and adaptation, and The Playhouse will always respond with creativity and solutions.

If you are not already a Kate Goldman's Children's Theatre season ticket holder, we invite you to become one. Your single ticket today can be applied towards the purchase of a season ticket which means you start saving immediately. Our four-show season promises to have something for all ages and those young at heart. In addition to *Junie B. in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells!* we are presenting a new script of a contemporary classic, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*, plus two family favorites, *Charlotte's Web* and *Pippi Longstocking*. Each production promises to be a special theatrical experience that has the power to inspire, spark imagination, and change a life. This is the value of theatre for young and old!

We invite you to make the commitment to yourself and your family to experience all that The Playhouse offers.

P.S. Again, thank you for supporting theatre for young audiences. By bringing a young audience member or helping a youth performer, you are making the world a better place for all!



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From all the volunteers, cast, crew,  
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**To make a donation, please contact:**

**Ryan Crane**

Director of Philanthropy  
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Donors listed are current from January 1, 2021 to  
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In our first century, The Des  
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**Don't see your name?** Those listed in this program have generously supported The Playhouse since January 1, 2021. If we've made a mistake, please contact Jada Smith, office administrator, at 515.974.5356 or jsmith@dmsymphony.org. 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 from January 1, 2021 to October 1, 2021.



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# HOUSE INFORMATION

## COVID-19 UNIQUE POLICIES

- Guests are required to wear face coverings while inside the building.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the lobbies for public use.
- Guests with COVID-19 symptoms such as a temperature of 100.4°F or higher or other symptoms, either before or during a performance, are asked to leave and exchange their tickets for a later performance.
- All tickets will be refunded or exchanged without fee upon request.
- Programs are accessed digitally.

## GENERAL PRACTICES

### Accessibility

The Playhouse strives to make its facility and performances accessible to all guests. Our theatres are wheelchair accessible. Service animals are welcome. Assisted listening devices are available in the John Viars Theatre. 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. ASL interpreted performances and audio description performances are available upon request. 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 may be available for purchase and are allowed in auditoriums. No outside drink or food are allowed. 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, guest services staff 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 phone ringers 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 always restricted to Shops customers. 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 John Viars Theatre 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 Wednesdays through 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 5:00 PM, Tuesdays through Fridays, and 90 minutes prior to performances. 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.

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## Singin' in the Rain

MAR. 25-APR. 10, 2022

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## Matilda The Musical

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DEC. 3-19, 2021

IN THE KATE GOLDMAN CHILDREN'S THEATRE

## Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!

NOV. 5-14, 2021

## Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!

JAN. 7-23, 2022

## Charlotte's Web

MAR. 4-20, 2022

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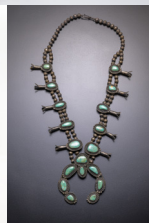
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27th Season

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## ***JUNIE B. IN JINGLE BELLS, BATMAN SMELLS!***

By Allison Gregory

*Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* Was commissioned by and presented in a world premiere at Childsplay, Inc., Tempe, AZ, David Saar, artistic director, Steve Martin, managing director

Presented by Nationwide

Director: **Jen Green**

Scenic Designer: **Nicholas Amundson**

Costume Designer: **Angela Lampe**

Lighting Designer: **Chris Hanian**

Properties Designer: **Ellen Harvey**

Stage Manager: **Elise Wellman**

Assistant Director: **Rachel Meyer**

Assistant Properties Designer: **Dawnetta McGowan**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Olivia Burkhart**

Playhouse Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

### Cast

\*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Junie B. Jones.....	<b>Emmersyn Gustafson*</b>	Lucille .....	<b>Ruth Christie*</b>
May.....	<b>Amaya Veldkamp</b>	Elf Ellen.....	<b>Payton Boesch*</b>
Mrs. Scary .....	<b>Rachel Meyer</b>	Ms. Toot .....	<b>Anastasia Deace</b>
Herb.....	<b>Jackson Ransom*</b>	Sheldon .....	<b>Harper Hagins*</b>
Grandpa Miller/José/Philip Johnny Bob..	<b>Sergio Puente</b>		

*Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* is presented with a 15-minute intermission.

*Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* is presented by arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.,  
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## CAST NOTES



**Payton Boesch** (*Elf Ellen*) was active in theatre at her alma mater, Southwest Minnesota State university in Marshall, appearing in *The Crucible* (Elizabeth Proctor), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Jean), and her favorite *Boeing, Boeing* (Bertha). This is her Playhouse debut. Payton works at Cetera Financial Group. In her free time, she likes watching movies, reading, and playing with her dogs, a border collie mix named Skeeter and a Welsh corgi named Loki.



**Ruth Christie** (*Lucille*) is a homeschooled freshman and competitive cheerleader, ice skater, and gymnast. She recently won first place in the Bill Riley Talent Search prelims and will be competing at the 2022 Iowa State Fair. Ruth is a print ad model. She made her TV debut alongside Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles in "Understood: Simone Biles Inspires Two Sisters with ADHD to be Unstoppable." Ruth is making her stage and Playhouse debut as the ever-so-fabulous Lucille.



**Anastasia Deace** (*Ms. Toot*) is familiar to Playhouse audiences as Ellie in *Disney's Freaky Friday One Act* and Violet Beauregarde in *Road Dahl's Willy Wonka*. Other area roles include Paulette in *Legally Blonde Jr* and Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray Jr*, both at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Anastasia plays guitar and bass and loves to read. She will be attending Des Moines Area Community College in the spring to study psychology.



**Emmersyn Gustafson** (*Junie B. Jones*) is a sixth grader at Grand View Christian School, making her Playhouse debut. She spends most of her days hanging out with her siblings and friends and participating in various school and church activities. Emme loves baking, playing basketball, creating art, and designing new spaces. She recently discovered her love for acting after (nervously) auditioning for her first play, *Junie B.*, on a whim.



**Harper Hagins** (*Sheldon*) is an eighth grader at Southeast Polk Junior High School where he played Thing 2 in *Seussical the Musical*. He was also in Iowa Dance Theater's *The Nutcracker* playing the Gold Angel. This is his Playhouse debut, although he has taken several classes at The Playhouse including the audition workshop this past summer. Harper enjoys hiking, camping, and cartoons.



**Rachel Meyer** (*Mrs. Scary/ Assistant Director*) made her Playhouse debut as Cinderella's Stepmother in *Into the Woods* and later wowed audiences as Mrs. Wilkerson in *Billy Elliot The Musical*. More recently, she has been involved at the theatre as a stage manager, dialect coach, and assistant director. Rachel works for Fetch Pet Care and relaxes with cross-stitch, animé, and playing *The Legend of Zelda* video games.



**Sergio Puente** (*Grampa Miller/ José/Philip Johnny Bob*) is a recent graduate from Lakota West High School in West Chester, OH, where he played Joseph Pulitzer in *Disney's Newsies*. At The Playhouse, he recently appeared in *with their eyes: September 11th: The View from a High School at Ground Zero*. Sergio has an eight-year contract with the U.S. Navy where he will be training to be an electronics technician. A nerd for Marvel comics and movies, he loves to meet new people and audition for anything.



**Jackson Ransom** (*Herb*) is making his Playhouse debut, having taken several classes at the theatre. He has credits on area stages including *Treasure Island* (Dick the Dandy, his favorite role to date) and *The Boy on the Edge of Everything* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre and *Charlotte's Web* (Gander) and *The Night Before Christmas* (Benjamin) at The Winterset Stage. Jackson is a freshman at Interstate 35 Community Schools where he has appeared in *Ghost Hunt* and *Complaint Department and Lemonade*.





**Amaya Veldkamp** (*May*) is excited to be back on a live stage. She has been seen in *Tinker Bell* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at The Playhouse and *Duets* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre.

Gloria in *Wait Until Dark* at Tallgrass Theatre was a favorite role because she got to yell and throw things. Amaya is a sixth grader at Des Moines Merrill Middle School who enjoys singing, dancing, and playing with friends.



**Jen Green** (*Director*) made her Playhouse debut as Mom in *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt* and received a Dionysos Award for her role as Williamina Fleming in *Silent*

*Sky*. This past season she was stage manager for *I and You*. Jen is the drama director at Des Moines Christian School where she has directed *The Lion*, *the Witch*, and *the Wardrobe* and *Disney's Mary Poppins*. The latter received the Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards Outstanding Music Production Award, the program's highest honor. Jen received her M.A. in professional communication from Clemson University, Clemson, SC. She is the morning show co-host of *Mornings with Taylor and Jen* on Life 107.1.



**Nicholas Amundson** (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*, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*, *A Chorus Line*, *Choices*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Ragtime*, *Catch Me If You Can* and many more at The Playhouse. In the 2019-20 season, he directed and designed *James and the Giant Peach* in the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre. 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 The 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.



**Chris Hanian** (*Lighting Designer*) received his B.A. in theatre design and production from the University of Northern Iowa and has designed lights for shows across the country including *Always...*

*Patsy Cline* at New London (NH) Barn Playhouse and *Lost Girl* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Their past stage credits include Paul in *Hair* (UNI Strayer Wood Theatre) and, at The Playhouse, *Singin' in the Rain*. Chris' interests include reading, writing, and biking.



**Ellen Harvey** (*Properties Designer*) is a longtime Playhouse volunteer who has served as props mistress for many shows including *Annie*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Anne of Green*

*Gables*. A favorite show to prop was *Seussical the Musical* because of the unique, creative props, her favorite being a goldfish in a bowl, worn on the head. When not at the theatre, Ellen tackles home remodeling projects with her husband, David, and likes to sew and craft.



**Elise Wellman** (*Stage Manager*) was active in theatre at West Des Moines Valley High School, providing stage management for productions of *The Miracle Worker*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,

*Bright Star*, and her favorite, *Tuck Everlasting*. This past summer, Ellie was assistant stage manager for *Godspell* in The Playhouse's summer Tent Theatre



## CAST NOTES

series. In her free time, she enjoys playing video games and hanging out with her cat.



**Dawnetta McGowan** (*Assistant Properties Designer*) has been interested in theatre since she was little, but says she never had the opportunity or confidence to get involved. After moving

to Des Moines from Colorado, she decided to try something new. Seeing The Playhouse's production of *James and the Giant Peach* motivated Dawnetta to reach out. As someone who enjoys arts and crafts, she decided to try properties design. Dawnetta is an RN at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. She stays active hiking, running, and biking.



**Olivia Burkhardt** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is involved in her first Playhouse production but has been properties master and on the sound crew for production at Ankeny Centennial High School

where she is a junior and has taken multiple theatre camps at Ankeny Community Theatre. Liv is involved in a wide variety of arts: She writes, paints, creates digital art, sews, does hand knitting, sings in show choir, and choreographs.

**Allison Gregory** (*Playwright*) has had her plays produced nationally and internationally, and she has received commissions, grants, and development from Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Kennedy Center, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, ACT Theater, Orlando Shakespeare Festival, and more. Her work has been the recipient of the Julie Harris Playwriting Award, South Coast Repertory's Playwright's Award, Garland & Dramalogue Awards, and finalists for the O'Neill Conference, Bay Area Playwright's Festival, and American Blues Blue Ink Award. She was recognized this year by TYA USA as "One of the 10 Most Produced TYA Playwrights." Allison's plays for young audiences include *Go Dog. Go!*, adapted from the P.D. Eastman book and co-written with Steven Dietz; *Even Steven Goes to War* ("Zoni" Best New Script Award; AATE and UPRP awards; Kennedy Center New Visions/New Voices selection); *Peter and the Wolf* (Seattle Times Best New Play Award; National tour), *Junie B. in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells!* and *Junie B. is Not A Crook*

(over 200 professional productions), adapted from the beloved book series by Barbara Park. *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter*, adapted from Astrid Lindgren's story, premiered at Teatr Pinokio in Poland and had its U.S. premiere this year. Her adaptation of *Judy Moody & Stink* was a seven-theatre commission premiering at all seven theatres in 2019. Allison lives in Seattle and Austin where she is the co-founder of the Marthas, a playwright collective. Her plays are published by Playscripts, Smith & Krauss, Dramatic Publishing, and Rain City Press. <http://allisongregoryplays.com>



**Katy Merriman** (*Artistic Director*)

has been an active member of the local theatre community since moving to Des Moines in 2013. Her Playhouse directing credits include the recent co-

production with Pyramid Theatre Company, *A Love Offering* (co-directed with Tiffany Johnson), *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Stuart Little, I and You*, *The Roommate*, *Love Letters*, and *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* Prior to becoming artistic director, Katy appeared on The Playhouse stage in shows including *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Les Misérables* (Cosette), *Completeness* (Molly), and *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Elle Woods) and was the musical director for The Playhouse Performance Academy from 2016 to 2018. Katy 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.



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