

Standing OVATION



PLAYHOUSE **ON THE AIR** PRESENTS

Miracle
ON
34TH STREET

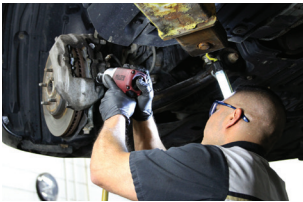
DEC. 4 - 20, 2020

 **THE PLAYHOUSE**
#DMPlayhouse



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DRIVING THE ULTIMATE GUEST EXPERIENCE



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Welcome to your Playhouse!



David R. Kilpatrick
Executive Director

Thank you so much for joining us this holiday season. Whether you are sitting inside the theatre watching the live show or watching it at home on demand, we are so very excited to bring to the stage a special version of a classic holiday tale. Yes, it has been our past tradition to do a big holiday musical, suitable for the whole family to share and experience together. However, in response to current conditions, we didn't believe a musical was the right choice. Still we wanted to present something that could be shared together. With pride and commitment to tradition, please enjoy *Playhouse on the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street*.

At this time of year, we are reminded that even though we may be different in many ways, in actuality we are all the same in that we all have need for human connection, made even more apparent in 2020. As you are able, we invite you to reach out and connect to someone. Surely there is an individual you know who doesn't have a family. Why not find a way to include them in yours? Perhaps there is someone who doesn't have enough. Can you share some of what you have with them? If you know someone who is hurting, offer them a hug (if they are in your bubble) or a smile or encouraging word otherwise; often even the simplest touch lets another know they are not alone. These are gifts that we can give that cost us so little and yet change lives.

In December, The Playhouse is partnering with fellow non-profit organizations and asking you to join us in making an impact in our community. Throughout the month, The Playhouse staff and guests along with the members from Table Church, which meets in the theatre Sunday mornings, are collecting non-perishable food items for Impact Community Action Partnership. Impact has food pantries in several locations including the adjacent Drake neighborhood.

The Playhouse is very much looking forward to 2021. We are planning plays that we can do that will continue to keep theatre live in Greater Des Moines. We are working on classes that continue to inspire and challenge the youth in our community. We are exploring projects that expand our reach and serve the whole community. The Playhouse has been unstoppable this past year and the next year will be no different. We hope you will join us as often as you can!

Theatre is the celebration of human to human connection. And this year, we need theatre more than ever! So, thank you for playing your part. Here's to you and your whole family, immediate and extended: May you enjoy theatre all season long!

From all the volunteers, cast, crew,
and staff at The Playhouse...

Thank you for your support!

To make a donation, please contact:

Ryan Crane

Director of Philanthropy
515.974.5370
rcrane@dmplayhouse.com

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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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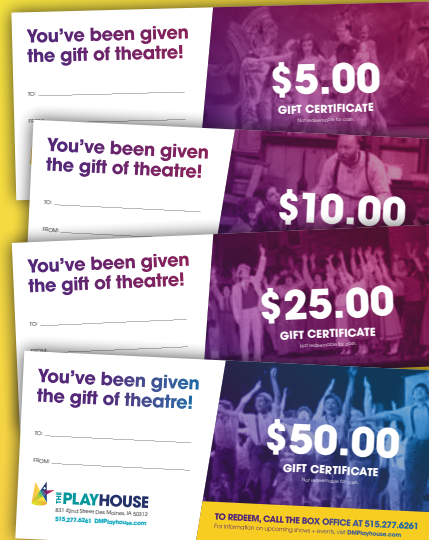
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ABOUT

PLAYHOUSE ON THE AIR PRESENTS: MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Katy Merriman, Artistic Director

The show you are about to see is an original and a classic. Playhouse executive director David Kilpatrick has adapted a well-loved holiday story, *Miracle on 34th Street*, into a re-telling reminiscent of a radio hour in the 1940s.

Valentine Davies wrote the story in 1947 for the film version of *Miracle on 34th Street* starring Maureen O'Hara, Edmund Gwenn, and, as young Susan, Natalie Wood. Davies then adapted the story into a novella published by Harcourt Brace & Company the same year the film was released. Davies won an Academy Award for Best Story for the film and continued working as a writer, producer, and director on notable films including *It Happens Every Spring* (1949), *The Bridges at Toko-Ri* (1954), and *The Benny Goodman Story* (1955).



There are several adaptations of the story including a 1994 remake of the film starring Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, and Mara Wilson, even a 30-minute puppet version for Macy's department store. Meredith Willson, who wrote the book, music, and lyrics for *The Music Man*, wrote a 1963 Broadway musical adaptation of *Miracle on 34th Street* called *Here's Love*.

Our adaptation brings the audience into the radio story from the very start. You may notice a stage manager setting the stage as you enter the theatre, as if you are a part of the live studio audience from the moment you enter the space. You are an integral part of this story: When the applause sign illuminates, you are meant to supply hearty claps. If the story is funny, your laughs will fill the radio airwaves along with the voices of actors and actresses.

Take special note of the foley artists in this production. They say very little but make more noise in the show than any other actor. True to the homemade magic of old-fashioned radio, these two artists will create all the snow crunches, door knocks, and hundreds of other sound effects that bring the story to life. If you were expecting a radio play to lack visual stimulation, I invite you to take a glance at the foley tables.

This year has brought more challenges than many are accustomed to, and while we will come through it stronger and wiser, we think it may do us all some good to relax and enjoy a holiday story that will remind us of warmer, peaceful times. Whether you tune in from home or join us in the theatre, we offer you a story about believing in the best of people. Happy Holidays and enjoy *Playhouse on Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street*.

642nd Production
102nd Season

Opening December 4, 2020
Closing December 20, 2020

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents at the John Viars Theatre

PLAYHOUSE ON THE AIR PRESENTS: MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

Adapted by David R. Kilpatrick
Based on the book by Valentine Davies

Director: **Katy Merriman**
Costume Designer/Properties Designer: **Angela Lampe**
Lighting Designer: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**
Stage Manager: **Hannah Harthoorn**
Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

Cast

★Indicates Playhouse Debut

Diane Merriwether/Narrator	Melanie R. Hall
Trevor Ashe/Kris Kringle	Dan Chase
Mary Lindsey/Doris Walker	Maggie Schmitt
Peter Carey/Fred Gailey	Adam Beilgard
Annie Carroll/Susan Walker	Vivian Rosalie Coleman★
Samantha Terrance/Voice Artist.....	Preshia Paulding
Rod Rhymer/Voice Artist.....	Adam Patrick Fast★
Ethyl Malleus	Susan Eisenhour
Tommy Pinna	Jerry Eisenhour

Time: 1947
Place: WDMP Radio Studios

Playhouse on the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street is presented without intermission.

This production is dedicated to The Playhouse's Final Act Ensemble and all radio actors who bring stories to life in the "theatre of the mind."

CAST NOTES



Adam Beilgard (*Peter Carey/Fred Gailey*) counts among his Playhouse shows *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt* (Dad), and *A Christmas Story The Musical* (Jean Shepherd). His other area credits include *Barefoot in the Park* (Tallgrass Theatre), *Guys & Dolls* (Urbandale Community Theatre), and *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Stevie, StageWest). Adam is a real estate tax specialist at Wells Fargo who enjoys drawing, animation, and playing rugby. He has two sons, Declan and Shea.



Dan Chase (*Trevor Ashe/Kris Kringle*) has been in numerous Playhouse shows including *Wait Until Dark* (Roat) and *All Shook Up* (Jim). Other area shows include *Guys & Dolls* at Urbandale Community Theatre and *Assassins* (Booth) at the Drama Workshop. He has served as director, music director, and production manager for Urbandale Community Theatre and acts professionally with *Jest Murder Mystery*. Dan has a theatrical family that includes wife Carol Palmer and their daughter Madeline Palmer-Chase.



Vivian Rosalie Coleman (*Annie Carroll/Susan Walker*) is a fifth grader at Horizon Elementary, Johnston, who likes dancing and singing. Her past stage experience includes *Elf – The Musical*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, all at Great Theater (Waite Park, MN), and *Peter Pan Jr.* at CAP Theater in Altoona. This is her Playhouse debut.



Jerry Eisenhower (*Tommy Pinna*), a retired theatre professor, has extensive experience on stage and off. At The Playhouse, he has played Theo in *Still Life*, Dr. Spivey in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Mr. Anagnos in *The Miracle Worker*. He also directs the Final Act Ensemble, a group of Playhouse performers 60 years and older who perform classic and original radio scripts. Jerry's interests include American theatre history and gardening. He is married to fellow foley artist Susan.

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CAST NOTES



Susan Eisenhour (*Ethyl Malleus*) is spending her retirement quilting, creating costumes at The Playhouse and as a member of the International Costumer's Guild, and working in ceramics.

She has received The Playhouse Dionysos Award as Volunteer of the Year. Her Playhouse acting career began as a youth in *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* and she recently played Rev. Hopkins in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Susan is married to *Miracle* cast member Jerry.



Adam Patrick Fast (*Rod Rhymer/Voice Artist*) is an accomplished voice actor. He is making his Playhouse stage debut but has volunteered behind-the-scenes as lightboard operator

and followspot operator. His area acting credits include *The Foreigner* at Tallgrass Theater Company, *And Then There Were None* at ACTORS (Ames), *No Shame Theater DSM* at Teehee's Comedy Club, and *The Mousetrap* and *Clybourne Park* at his alma mater, Grand View University. Adam is a production assistant at WHO-TV13 News.



Melanie R. Hall (*Diane Merriwether/Narrator*) is familiar to Des Moines audiences as Edith Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Lucinda in *Ella Enchanted*, Mother in *The Best Christmas*

Pageant Ever (2018), and Mrs. Paroo in *Meredith Willson's The Music Man*, all at The Playhouse, and Melissa Frake in *State Fair* and Mrs. Potts in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* at the Urbandale Community Theatre. Melanie plays ukulele and enjoys reading and knitting.



Preshia Paulding (*Samantha Terrance/Voice Artist*) won Playhouse Dionysos Awards for Outstanding Performance for her roles as Judy Garland in *Beyond the Rainbow* (2010), as

Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* (2014), and as Annie Wilkes in *Misery* (2017). Her extensive résumé includes theatre, television and radio voiceovers, jingles, the Kris Kristofferson mini-series, *Amerika*, and several films. Preshia is a mother of six, a grandmother, and a legal assistant at Law Group of Iowa.

"The sky is falling!"

Chicken Little

Now-Dec. 20, 2020

"Stay on the path!"

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THE PLAYHOUSE
Friday Funday

CAST NOTES



Maggie Schmitt (*Mary Lindsey/Doris Walker*) is familiar to Playhouse audiences from *Singin' in the Rain* (Lina Lamont), *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Sibella, Dionysos

Award for Outstanding Performance), and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (The Woman, Dionysos Award). She is also a Playhouse Friday Funday cast member. Other credits include Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* with Kata Klysmic Productions and Julie Jordan in *Carousel* at the Grand Opera House (Dubuque).



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

including *Guys & 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.



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.



Hannah Harthoorn (*Stage Manager*) received her B.A.

in theatre from Grand View University and her B.A. in art from Drake University. Her extensive theatre résumé includes director,

costume designer, scenic designer, hair and make-up design, stagehand, and stage manager. She has also appeared on stage at Grand View Theatre

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in shows as diverse as *Roshomon*, *Arcadia*, *The Norman Conquests*, and *The Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch of the West). In her spare time, Hannah likes listening to true crime podcasts. She is married to Samuel.



Katy Merriman (*Director/Artistic Director*) has been an active member of the local theatre community since moving to Des Moines in 2013. Her Playhouse stage credits include *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 R. Kilpatrick (*Playwright*) joined The Playhouse staff as executive director in May 2017. His past productions at The Playhouse have been as director or lighting designer. However, prior, his playwriting experience included *The Last Christmas Gift*, *Annie's Arrival*, *The Kiss*, and a Halloween radio show, *Ghost Stories*. While at Missouri University, David taught Introduction to Playwriting and received a minor in directing new works. David is grateful to all playwrights who work so hard to create stories for the stage. He shares a household with his wife, Barbara, their daughter, Abby, and his mother, Jeanne.

Onyx Script Reading Series

Join us free twice a month via Zoom for these upcoming readings that illuminate Black voices!

A Raisin in the Sun Dec. 20, 2020

Fences Jan. 5, 2021

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PRODUCTION CREWS

Technical Director:

Nate Lawrence-Richards

Associate Technical Director:

Tim Harris

Costume Intern: **AD Logsdon**

Scenic Charge Artist:

Alex Snodgrass

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, Michael Howland, Jill Lippincott, Rebecca Masucci, Greg Millar, Mark Morrison, Charlie Reese, Maxwell Schaeffer, Jackie Schmillen, Tony Tandeski, Josh Visnapuu, Eva Williams

Playhouse Photographers:

Steve Gibbons, Brent Isenberger

Playhouse Historians:

Mark Morrison, Lloyd Von Hagen

Internet Playhouse Database

(IPDb) Volunteers: **Marilyn Amadeo, Marlie Atwood, Kally Barnes, Robin Bourjaily, Ashley Boydston, Shaun D. Boyle, Jason Chen, Eileen Diaz, Sarah Eichhorn, Karen Farley, Toni Farris, Gloria Filean, Allison Haag, Angela Harvey, Keith**

Hayes, Harold H. Hinkhouse, Diane Horn, Amanda Hornsby, Julie Joyce, Stephanie Kempf, Kate Kielkopf, Abby Kilpatrick, Jeanne Kilpatrick, Isabel Lewis, Zoey Lohse, Andrea McFarlan, Stella Montgomery, Abigail Patters, Traci Petersen, Halle Phillips, Deb Polchow, Kathy Polson, Seth Porras, Emily Rhein, Barbara Slinker, Mac Stanfield, Payton Strobel, Kara Stuart, Anne Zdrojewski

Mary Marshall, Linda McClure, Marisa Mickunas, Deb Miles, Cherie Moen, Carol Palmer, Sara Petersen, Traci Petersen, Kathy Polson, Shirlee Reding, Steve Schaaf, Amy Skarin, Jordan Skarin, Barbara Slinker, Bill Smith, Mark Standley, Isla Tempero, Islalucia Tempero, Oliver Thrun, Jazz Underwood, Donald Walth, Laura Walth, Peggy Welter, Janet Whiteside, Eva Williams

PLAYHOUSE ON THE AIR

PRESENTS: MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET SPECIAL THANKS

Greg Parmeter for his inspiration and challenge, and to LaCrosse Community Theatre for first staging this production in 2013.

WEEKEND COMEDY AND I AND YOU SPECIAL THANKS

Due to print deadlines, these individuals could not be acknowledged in the previous playbill.

Guest Services: **Bonnie Braatz, Reagan Brooks, Jennifer Bryant, Ann Buell, Colton Buell, Jake Buell, Dan Chase, Judi Cooper, Ryann Daggett, Jenna Darsee, Lydia Davis, Maddie Davis, Patty Davis, Jerry Eisenhour, Susan Eisenhour, Karen Elrod, Mark Ferguson, Susan Ferguson, Alex Finch, Julie Finch, Ellen Fisher, Jeff Fisher, Fred Gee, Sharon Gee, Angela Harvey, Ellen Harvey, Keith Hayes, Pat Henson, Harold Hinkhouse, Grant Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Stephanie Kempf, Marcie King, Trent King, Marcia Klindt, Susan Lee, Joyce Lehman, Sunny Liston, Holly Lowell, Tatum Lowell, John Marquart,**

HOUSE INFORMATION

COVID-19 UNIQUE POLICIES

General Practices

- Guests are required to wear face coverings, such as masks or face shields, and physically distance between groups and parties as much as possible while on the premises.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the lobbies for public use and should be used regularly.
- 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 guests who attend productions at The Playhouse will have reservations with contact information retained in the ticket office to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
- Programs are accessed digitally.

Exchanges & Refunds

The Playhouse ticket exchange policy allows guests to exchange tickets for a different performance if experiencing any symptoms of illness or if they learn they have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Seating

- Seats are assigned the day of the performance by staff based on reservation counts and group size. Seats are assigned to ensure physical distancing within the theatre space. Seat requests will be reviewed but not guaranteed. Requests for wheelchair seating will be honored.
- Seating will begin 1 hour prior to curtain to reduce congregating in the theatre.

Concessions

- Concessions are prepacked, individual servings, bottles, or cans.
- Concessions are available pre-show only.

Restrooms

- Only one individual or one family in a restroom at a time.
- Flushing handles, water, soap dispensers, and towel dispensers are touchless to reduce unnecessary contact.
- Identifiers on the floor will guide appropriate distancing for line management.
- After each guest use, surfaces including doors, door handles, grab bars, and sink counters will be wiped down.

Stairs & Elevators

- The use of stairwells and elevators will be managed to maintain appropriate physical distancing. Stairwells will be designated one direction only at a time.
- The elevator will be for one person/family/seating group at a time and buttons will be sanitized after each use.

Lobbies

- Lobbies will be managed to ensure appropriate distancing between guests.
- Seating and tables in the lobbies will be reduced to maintain safe distance between groups.

Preshow Talk

A preshow talk for each performance will begin 30 minutes prior to curtain, inside the theatre.

Intermission

There will be no intermission in order to reduce uncontrolled gatherings.

OTHER 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 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.

HOUSE INFORMATION

Concessions

A variety of beverages and candy may be available for purchase. No outside drink or food are allowed in the theatre. Beverages and candy are allowed in the auditoriums. 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 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 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 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 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 3:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. 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
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PLAYHOUSE ADMINISTRATION

The Playhouse
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David R. Kilpatrick, *Executive Director*
Katy Merriman, *Artistic Director*

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Robin Spahr, *Education Associate*
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Debbie Jacobson, *Ticket Office Manager*

Production

Angela Lampe, *Artistic Associate*
Nate-Lawrence-Richards, *Technical Director*
Tim Harris, *Associate Technical Director*

Performance Staff

Lindsey Ballard, Elissa Johnson, Cherie Moen, *House Managers*



THE PLAYHOUSE

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