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Welcome to your Playhouse!



David R. Kilpatrick
Executive Director

In 2020, regardless of the challenge – and we know there were many – The Playhouse remained unstoppable with live productions, livestreams of opening night performances, and even video-on-demand. Who could have imagined?

Now as we begin 2021, we continue to **march forward**. We are excited by our mini-season this spring, which includes *Leaving Iowa* and a Kate Goldman Children's Theatre Series production of *Stuart Little*, running concurrently. We are also eager to present our first musical in over a year, *Some Enchanted Evening*, in April as well as our second production for the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre series, *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

In addition to our mini-season of four shows this winter and spring, we contributed resources to Miriam Randolph and Henry Parizek of Two Steps to the Left Productions. *nature of the dream* shares Black Iowan stories through a series of scenes and monologues filmed at our theatre and on location throughout Des Moines. It is a multimedia devised work. This streamed-only production with a premiere in late February was a special opportunity to better appreciate that there are too many untold narratives.

We created new Friday Funday videos for our youngest audience members, available for streaming to our local and regional schools as well as families. We continue with our education offerings, expanding classes to include opportunities for adults!

The Playhouse will always creatively find solutions to whatever challenges we face. And we do so because of you.

I know we do it a lot, but we really can't thank you enough for all that you do for The Playhouse. Whether it is as an audience member, a donor, a volunteer, a student taking classes, or someone who is watching a video of our shows, we appreciate the opportunity to share unique theatre experiences.

We know we must serve the whole community, which includes those who are ready for live theatre and those who feel safer staying home. Regardless of your preference, we want to meet your needs, so please let us know how we can help. We are all in this together!

Someday we will again gather, share an experience, and find our world just a little brighter. This is the power of theatre and this is what The Playhouse has done for more than 100 years. So, thank you for playing your part!

See you at the theatre.

P.S. If you are seeing *Leaving Iowa*, we invite you to check out *Stuart Little*, and vice versa. I promise you it will be a wonderful experience.

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

Thank you for your support!

To make a donation, please contact:

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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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LEAVING IOWA AND STUART LITTLE

Katy Merriman, Artistic Director

The word “pivot” doesn’t feel quite strong enough to describe the wave of changes in plans and operations at The Playhouse since last March. We are used to working at least a year in advance on productions, hearing live orchestras, and casting up to 30 performers to work with crews of 10 to 20. The silver lining, from my perspective at least, is that we have also been challenged to tell stories with less... everything. We have to change hearts with words alone without relying on something big and shiny in the background to keep things interesting. It makes us remember that we only need a performer and someone to watch to have a moving theatrical experience.



Clockwise from lower left, Debra Garner, Hope Walker, Sam Sides, and Gregory Millar in *Leaving Iowa*.

We began performing plays “in rep” last fall, alternating performances each week, and continue this schedule into the 2021 portion of our current season. While the fall shows shared a unit set with fixed walls that housed realistic cabin and bedroom looks, our winter plays take place on a more open stage and make room for your imagination to build the worlds you will visit.

Stuart Little, written by E. B. White and adapted for the stage by Patrick Flynn, draws viewers into the adventures of a small and remarkable mouse with only five actors and the boxes and crates they’ve brought with them to the day’s performance. Similarly, *Leaving Iowa*, by Tim Clue and Spike Manton, uses four actors, a few boxes, and a beautiful Iowa landscape to transport the audience to a family’s story of road trips and what we really mean to our loved ones.



Will C. Johnson in *Stuart Little*.

Don’t mistake the simplicity of set and visual elements of either production for a lack of excitement – you will be swept into each story the moment one performer starts communicating with one viewer, you.

CAST LIST

642nd Production
102nd Season

Opening February 19, 2021
Closing March 21, 2021

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents at the John Viars Theatre

LEAVING IOWA

By Tim Clue and Spike Manton

Media Sponsor **Iowa PBS**

Directors: **Peter Dean & David R. Kilpatrick**
Scenic Charge Artist: **Alex Snodgrass**
Costume Designer/Properties Designer: **Angela Lampe**
Lighting Designer: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**
Stage Manager: **Jordan Skarin**
Assistant Stage Manager: **Travis Edrington**
Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

Cast

In Order of Appearance

★Indicates Playhouse Debut

Don Browning.....	Sam Sides★
Dad	Gregory Millar
Mom	Debra Garner
Sis.....	Hope Walker★
Multiple Character Guy.....	Josh Sampson
Multiple Character Gal.....	Elysa Koss

Time: 1985 & 2005 and various years in between

Place: Winterset, IA, to Hannibal, MO, with various stops along the way

Leaving Iowa is presented without intermission

Leaving Iowa is presented by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, IL.

111th Production
26th Season

Opening February 26, 2021
Closing March 14, 2021

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents Kate Goldman Children's Theatre at the John Viars Theatre

STUART LITTLE

By Joseph Robinette
Based on the book by E.B. White

Sponsored by **Nationwide**
Media Sponsor **Iowa PBS**

Director: **Katy Merriman**
Scenic Charge Artist: **Alex Snodgrass**
Costume Designer/Properties Designer: **Angela Lampe**
Lighting Designer: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**
Stage Manager: **Jenny Bryant**
Assistant Stage Manager: **Malibu Brown**
Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

Cast

In Order of Appearance

1st Actor.....	Michael Howland
2nd Actor.....	Julie Howland
3rd Actor.....	Brad D. Church
4th Actor.....	Lexus Thiessen
Stuart Little.....	Will C. Johnson

Stuart Little is presented without intermission.

Stuart Little is special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, IL.

CAST NOTES



Debra Garner (*Mom/Leaving Iowa*) is familiar to Playhouse audiences from *Steel Magnolias*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Enchanted April*, and *The Cemetery Club*. Retired from

Meredith Corporation, where she was director of corporate training and development, Debi is a watercolor artist who currently has a show at the Urbandale Public Library. She and her husband, John Richards, enjoy ballroom dancing at Lake Robbins. Debi's love for theatre was shared by her mom, Marian, who passed away recently.



Elysa Koss (*Multiple Character Gal/Leaving Iowa*) has appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Shaindel), *A Little House Christmas* (Mrs. Oleson), and *Meredith Willson's The Music*

Man (Alma Hix) at The Playhouse. Other area credits include period melodramas and medicine shows at Living History Farms, shows with the Final Act Ensemble, The Playhouse's radio play performance group, and local commercials. She portrays standardized patients for Des Moines University. Elysa plays handbells and guitar and likes to bike.



Gregory Millar (*Dad/Leaving Iowa*) has many Playhouse credits including *A Christmas Story, The Musical* (Santa); *Elf – The Musical* (Santa); and his favorite, *The Full Monty* (Harold

Nichols). He frequently stage manages, teaches in the theatre's education department, and is part of The Playhouse's Friday Funday cast. Greg, a courier for UnityPoint, enjoys solving escape rooms and crossword puzzles and follows horse racing. He and his wife, Carol, have three adult children, Ben, Shelby, and Taylor.



Josh Sampson (*Multiple Character Guy/Leaving Iowa*) has been active in area theatre, appearing in *Proof* and *Otherwise Engaged* at Ankeny Community Theatre and, his favorite role

to date, as Mike Talman in *Wait Until Dark* at Tallgrass Theatre. At The Playhouse, his shows include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Of Mice and Men* (Whit). Josh enjoys family time with his wife,

Megan, and their children, Max, Sophia, and Lucy. A systems manager at Advanced Automation, his hobbies include golfing and snow skiing.



Sam Sides (*Don Browning/Leaving Iowa*) is making his Playhouse debut but has numerous area credits including *Disney's The Hunchback of*

Notre Dame, *Shrek: The Musical* (Lord Farquaad), *Disney's High School Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Seussical*, and *1776* at Carousel Theatre, Indianola, and *Wait Until Dark* at Tallgrass Theatre. Sam received his bachelor's degree in journalism and communications from Wartburg College. He enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons, movie marathons, and binge-watching anime, and looks forward to traveling again when it's safe.



Hope Walker (*Sis/Leaving Iowa*)

is a recent graduate of Valley High School, earning her A.A. degree at Des Moines Area Community College. While this is her Playhouse debut, she was

active in school plays and musicals throughout her schooling, from Western Hills Elementary, where she was also part of the Backstage Ninjas, to Stillwell Junior High and Valley, where she appeared in *The Miracle Worker*. Hope likes reading, listening to music, and sketching in her free time.



Peter Dean (*Director*) counts among his numerous Playhouse shows *Choices* (Frank Gates), *The Addams Family* (Lurch), *Girls' Weekend* (Sheriff Tom), *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (Mr.

Hatcher), *The Wizard of Oz* (Cowardly Lion), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Gangster), and *How I Became a Pirate* (Sharktooth, for which he won a Dionysos Award). He has been an assistant director at The Playhouse for the 2018 production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and the 2019 production of *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. He is a member of the Friday Funday cast, member of Playhouse Partners, and was a recipient of a 2017 Dionysos Award for Volunteer of the Year. Peter co-directed the Iowa premiere of *The Wolves* at Roosevelt High School where he is also a speech coach for IHSSA. He is an adjudicator for both the

IHSSA and IHSMTA supporting the arts in Iowa High Schools. Peter and his wife, Melody, have three daughters, Riley, Caitlyn, and Kenzie.



David R. Kilpatrick (*Director/Leaving Iowa*) has been part of The Playhouse since May 2017. His career has included producing artistic director of a small professional theatre, owner of a dinner theatre, production manager, director, lighting designer, and professional stage manager. David's past productions at The Playhouse include *Weekend Comedy*, *Rounding Third*, *Disney's Newsies*, and *Mamma Mia!* Other favorite directing experiences include *Titanic*; *The Dining Room*; *Boeing, Boeing*; and *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* to name a few. His education includes degrees from George Mason University, Missouri State, and University of Missouri, where his dissertation was the exploration of the audience as it prepares for the show.



Jordan Skarin (*Stage Manager/Leaving Iowa*) made his Playhouse debut as a Shepherd in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2001). More recently, he appeared on The Playhouse stage as Dog and Penguin in *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* His other area stage credits include *Seussical The Musical* (Wickersham Brother) and *Shrek The Musical* (White Rabbit and other roles) at The Playhouse and *Miss Nelson Is Missing!* (Raymond) and *Ghost Bike* (Rider 3) at Grand View University. He has volunteered in nearly every area at The Playhouse, including guest services. Jordan received his Bachelor of Music Education from Grand View University and is an elementary music teacher with Des Moines Public Schools. He is a Kansas City Chiefs season ticket holder.



Travis Edrington (*Assistant Stage Manager/Leaving Iowa*) has volunteered on numerous backstage crews, running the lightboard and sound board for shows in both the John Viars Theatre and the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre. He's even helped as a backstage "kid wrangler" for *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt*. Travis works as a lifeguard at area

pools. He enjoys swimming and mermaiding, studying meteorology and computers, and teaching youths how to swim, specializing in kids six months to five-years-old.



Brad D. Church (*3rd Actor/Stuart Little*) is a favorite with Playhouse audiences having played everyone from Josh Baskin in *big: The Musical* and Harry in *Mamma Mia!* to Mr. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and the title character in Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* (Dionysos Award winner for Outstanding Performance). Brad is a program integrity examiner with Disability Determination Services. He follows college football and basketball, enjoys hiking, biking, and traveling, and likes visiting craft breweries.



Julie Howland (*2nd Actor/Stuart Little*) plays many volunteer roles at The Playhouse. On stage, she has appeared in *James and the Giant Peach* (Ladybird), *The Kid Who Ran for President* (Mom), and *Charlotte's Web* (Edith Zuckerman). She has stage managed numerous shows. Julie is a special education associate at Webster Elementary, Urbandale. She enjoys volunteering with high schoolers at Valley Church and spending time with her husband Michael, who is also in *Stuart Little*, and their twins Josiah and Sierra.



Michael Howland (*1st Actor/Stuart Little*) counts among his many roles Enjolras in *Les Misérables* (Playhouse) and the Beast in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Carousel Theatre, Indianola). He recently played his first villain, Captain Jas. Hook in *Tinker Bell* at The Playhouse. Michael is running a marathon in all 50 states and has completed 36. He and his, wife, Julie, who is also in this production, have teen twins, Josiah and Sierra, and love being in the audiences and stands for their activities.



Will C. Johnson (*Stuart Little/Stuart Little*) is a junior at Valley High School with numerous area credits including *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*; *Disney's Freaky Friday One Act*; *Disney's*

CAST NOTES

Newsies (Crutchie, Dionysos Award and Cloris Award nominee); *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 shows at The Playhouse.



Lexus Thiessen (*4th Actor/Stuart Little*) is familiar to Playhouse audiences from her roles in *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*; *Disney's Newsies*; *Ragtime*; and *Disney's The Little Mermaid*

(Andrina). At her alma mater, Central College, she played her favorite role to date, Irene Hobbs in *The Ice Fishing Play*. Lexie is a K-5 music teacher and high school drama coach with the Carlisle Community School District. She enjoys cooking, running, and creating and listening to music. Lexie is married to Nathan Thiessen.



Katy Merriman (*Director/Stuart Little, 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.



Jenny Bryant (*Stage Manager/Stuart Little*) has been involved at The Playhouse – running followspot, shifting scenery, designing properties, and other run crews – for more than 30 shows. As a high school student, she

was a recipient of a 2015 Volunteer of the Year Dionysos Award for her work both backstage and in the education department as a PIP (pre-intern program). Jenny was a Playhouse summer theatre education intern in 2017. A recent graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in elementary education, Jenny is a substitute teacher.



Malibu Brown (*Assistant Stage Manager/Stuart Little*) is a graduate of Collins-Maxwell Middle/High School. At Collins-Maxwell, she took to the stage as Ellie Blake in *Freaky Friday*

and the title character in *Annie* and also served as stage manager for *Matilda The Musical*. Additional stage experience includes Mac in *Teen Beach Movie* at Nevada's Center Stage theatre and Hattie in *Ella Enchanted* at The Playhouse. Malibu plays the ukulele and likes dancing and hanging out with her friends.



Alex Snodgrass (*Scenic Charge Artist*) has worked as a freelance designer and instructor locally and up and down the East Coast. He is a graduate of the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at

Webster University (Missouri). Alex is the technical director/designer at Grand View University. He has worked with The Playhouse as stage manager and designer, most recently as scenic designer for the summer's Live Theatre Drive-In productions; Repertory Theater of St. Louis (lighting designer, prop artisan); Opera Theatre of St. Louis (prop artisan); Des Moines Social Club (scenic and lighting designer); Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (scenic and lighting designer); Northern Stage (props management) and Saint Michael's Playhouse (scenic design), both in Vermont; and more. He has served as a technical theatre teacher and coach at Des Moines Roosevelt High School and Waukee High School. Alex is the recipient of the 2016 Cloris Award for Best Lighting Design for his work on DMYAT's *The Hobbit*. His favorite Playhouse memory is throwing large things out the trap door in *Seussical The Musical* on the mainstage.



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 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.



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.

Tim Clue (*playwright/Leaving Iowa*) wrote stand up comedy for his first writing gig. In 1991 he established Short Story Theatre, a multimedia theatrical company that combined short fiction adaptations with documentary footage. *Greek Streets* was their inaugural work, using short stories by Harry Mark Petrakis. *Other Definitions of Confinement* premiered at the National Jewish Theater in 1993, introducing the life and writings of Russian political prisoner Dmitry Stonov, and in 1997 *Coloring Potential* debuted and focused on the stories of Chicago's inner-city youth. In 1999, Spike Manton and Clue wrote and directed a Chicago-based television sitcom pilot entitled *Tiny Pig* that "made it into the can," but not onto TV; it is now being adapted into a comedy musical. Their play *Leaving Iowa* is being written as a screenplay. Clue and Manton's next full-length work, currently being workshoped, is another Midwestern-themed play called *Standing in Mattoon*, a comedy about two desperate souls who enter a unique contest of endurance in hopes that they can win a van and change their lives. Clue grew up in Rochelle, IL, and still lives in Chicago with his wife, Kathryn, and their daughter, Bailey.

Spike Manton (*playwright/Leaving Iowa*) was born on a farm in far upstate New York, but his parents soon moved the family to a bustling metropolis of almost 2,000 people, where he grew up in a standard 1960s family unit of four kids, two parents, and one station wagon. As child number three, Manton is very familiar with the seating location known as "the way back." After graduating from Bradley University, he moved to Chicago, quit his Procter & Gamble sales job, got married, and began a career in standup comedy. Standup led to cable TV shows like *An Evening at the Improv* and appearances on MTV and Comedy Central. More importantly, it led to a career in Chicago radio, where Manton spent 10 years hosting FM talk shows and sports talk shows on ESPN Radio. Along the way, he has been creating and producing original works with his writing partner, Tim Clue. *Leaving Iowa* is their best example of executing that plan to date, although they have many projects at various stages of production. Manton lives in Chicago with his wife, Tami, and their two children, Mickey and Samantha.

Joseph Robinette (*playwright/Stuart Little*) is a Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk Award nominee for the libretto of the acclaimed *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. He is the author or co-author of 55 published plays and musicals. His works have been produced at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, The Theater at Madison Square Garden, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City; the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle; the Goodman Theatre in Chicago; the BBC in Britain; in all 50 states; and in 21 foreign countries. Twelve of his works have been translated into foreign languages, and another five have been anthologized. Robinette collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and he wrote the musical version with Charles Strouse (*Annie and Bye, Bye, Birdie*). Other dramatizations include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Anne of Green Gables*; and Debbie Macomber's *A Gift to Last* and *The Inn at Rose Harbor*. He is the recipient of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education's Distinguished Play Award for *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and the Children's Theatre Foundation of America medallion for his "body of dramatic works for family audiences in the United States and beyond."

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PRODUCTION CREWS

Properties Crew/*Stuart Little*:
Rebecca Rainwater, Britney Steele, Jennifer Throckmorton

Sound Board Operator: **Tim Harris**

Light Board Operator/*Leaving Iowa*: **Travis Edrington**

Light Board Operator/*Stuart Little*: **Jenny Bryant**

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

Playhouse Photographers:
Steve Gibbons, Brent Isenberger

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

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MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET SPECIAL THANKS
Due to print deadlines, these individuals could not be acknowledged in the previous playbill.

Guest Services: **Randy Bosworth, Reagan Brooks, Judi Cooper, Maddie Davis, Patty Davis, Susan Ferguson, Ellen Fisher, Jeff Fisher, Laura Foley, David Gerdes, Julie Gerdes, Miranda Gerdes, Chloe Gilbert, Kathy Gilbert Gallinger, Donna Gustafson, Angela Harvey, Keith Hayes, Elly Johnson, Grant Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Sam Johnson, Will Johnson, Stephanie Kempf, Marcie King, Trent King, Grace Koch, Lily Koch, Megan Koch, Patience Koch, Andrea Konz, Nick Konz, Susan Lee, Dylan Loe, Zach Loe, Mary Marshall, Linda McClure, Marisa Mickunas, Paige Olson, Jan Pitcher, Kathy Polson, Darlene Pullen, Mark Pullen, Amy Skarin, Jordan Skarin, Bill Smith, Mark Standley, Jazz Underwood, Barbara White, Janet Whiteside**



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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.

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.

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.

HOUSE INFORMATION

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
Des Moines, IA 50312



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**Ticket office and
administrative office:**
515-277-6261

Group sales reservations:
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School matinee reservations:
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PLAYHOUSE ADMINISTRATION

The Playhouse
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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, Jada Smith, House Managers



THE PLAYHOUSE

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