

Standing OVATION

THIS PRODUCTION
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MAR. 25 - APR. 10, 2022



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 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 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).



Tassel Ridge Dry Red Wines...Simply Extraordinary®

Leighton, Iowa • www.tasselridge.com



David R. Kilpatrick
Executive Director

Thank you so much for joining us today as we get a very special treat, to experience a show that has been on hold for two years. With the same design team, same directors, and same leading players, we have patiently waited two years to bring you our best!

Singin' the Rain, based on a movie by the same name, requires a few unique challenges: real rain, tap dancing on a floor that needs to be waterproof, lots of different locations, and several "movie" scenes. Regardless, it is a story so joyful that you can't help but share in the glee that makes anyone want to sing in the rain. We hope you enjoy watching it just as much as we did when creating it.

We have announced our 104th season and are very excited about what further adventures we will get to create. Our season begins with a classic musical about gangsters, *Guys and Dolls*, and continues with an American play co-produced with Pyramid Theatre Company, *August Wilson's The Piano Lesson*. The rest of the John Viars Theatre season includes the musical *Kinky Boots*, the comedy *Native Gardens*, and ends with *Little Shop of Horrors*. And of course, we have our family holiday show, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Our season promises to be something for everyone: a full year of entertainment and value. Make it easy on yourself and pre-decide to see all the shows; become a season subscriber.

Once again, thank you for choosing The Playhouse. We are grateful for your support of the arts and of theatre in the region. We are here because of you!

Enjoy the show.

Join us for our 2021–22 Season!

SEASON DEBUT: BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH
SAT SEP 25 7:30PM / SUN SEP 26 2:30PM

REVOLUTION: THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES
SAT OCT 9 7:30PM

TCHAIKOVSKY'S FOURTH
SAT OCT 23 7:30PM / SUN OCT 24 2:30PM

BEETHOVEN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO
SAT NOV 20 7:30PM / SUN NOV 21 2:30PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE POPS: THE MUSIC OF ELTON JOHN
FRI DEC 31 8:00PM

CARMINA BURANA
SAT JAN 8 7:30PM / SUN JAN 9 2:30PM

IMMORTAL BELOVED
SAT JAN 29 7:30PM / SUN JAN 30 2:30PM

BEETHOVEN & SHOSTAKOVICH
SAT MAR 19 7:30PM / SUN MAR 20 2:30PM

BEETHOVEN'S NINTH
SAT APR 9 7:30PM / SUN APR 10 2:30PM

BERNADETTE PETERS IN CONCERT
SAT APR 30 7:30PM

SEASON FINALE: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION
SAT MAY 7 7:30PM / SUN MAY 8 2:30PM

DES MOINES SYMPHONY

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Get to know us.

[DMSYMPHONY.ORG](https://www.dmsymphony.org)

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

**Donors listed are current from March 1, 2021 to
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An * indicates a deceased donor.

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The conversion of thousands
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The donors listed below
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The Tribute Program
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more about this opportunity, please contact Ryan Crane, Director of Philanthropy, at rcrane@dmplayhouse.com or 515.974.5370.

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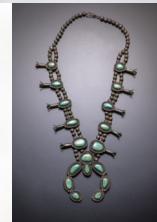
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HOUSE INFORMATION

COVID-19 UNIQUE POLICIES

- Based on CDC and state guidelines at the time of your event, protocols may include masks required regardless of vaccination, social distancing, or more.
- 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 available in print and 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.

Preshow Talk

A preshow talk for each John Viars Theatre performance will begin 30 minutes prior to curtain in the west lobby.

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.

Des Moines Community Playhouse

831 42nd Street
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515-277-6261

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515-974-5365

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Katy Merriman, Playhouse Artistic Director

You are about to see a remount of a production that began and ended (suddenly) in March 2020. A LOT has changed since then. Throughout the process of planning for the 2022 version of *Singin' in the Rain*, I reminded cast, crew, and staff that we never get a chance like this! How many times do we talk about a show after it opens and think about things we wish we had done differently or just had a little more time to create? We get a second chance at this story. A re-do! *Singin' in the Rain* has taught us that as our world becomes bigger, kinder, and more open to celebrating differences, we can hold on to what is good and make adjustments to improve what isn't working.

I can tell that our world has changed, beyond coronavirus, from how our team approached this show the second time around. We learned that we must start hiring intimacy directors (ID): production team members who are specifically trained to work on intimate moments between actors in a rehearsal setting and performance. Like a choreographer, the ID plans staging with the director and then coaches performers through moments of physical contact or similarly intimate scene work. Stephanie Schneider, who plays Kathy Selden and serves as intimacy director for this production, was monumental in establishing this practice at The Playhouse and specifically for this show back in 2020. We've grown since then to create safer spaces for performers.

We also learned that we must actively be better at casting, team building, and telling stories that reach beyond our own personal experiences. Alexandra (Lexi) Gray, who plays Zelda Zanders in this production, encouraged an important conversation when casting the 2022 *Singin' in the Rain*. When we talked to Lexi about playing the role of Zelda, we clarified the importance of not letting Zelda feel like a sidekick to Lina. One of the best parts of the audition process was for the director to watch Lexi's read with Maggie Schmitt, who plays Lina, and find power and humor in the way Lexi read for the role. In her character research and development, Lexi has turned Zelda into an homage to the women of color in the early 20th Century who should have had the same fame and platform as their white counterparts. Lexi made this happen and so graciously joins our conversations about how to better pave the way for performers of color to have the dimension and power

on stage that many people of color have not been given historically in theatre.

A final shoutout to Angela Lampe, our associate artistic director and resident costume designer. One of the first things Angie pointed out to director Erin Horst and me this time around was that women worked in the film industry as directors, writers, camera operators, and performers before the introduction of talking pictures. When cinematography was still new and niche in the 1910s, women ran studios and could conceivably still have had some place at Monumental Pictures in *Singin' in the Rain*. This cast is meant to reflect that. If you see female camera operators and studio workers, you are seeing what the beginning of the film industry really looked like and witnessing how gender roles shifted as "talkies" and feature films became mainstream.

I read my artistic director's notes from the 2019-20 Season *Singin' in the Rain* and realized that I talked mostly about the history of the Vitaphone. I am grateful for the opportunity that we have with this special production of *Singin' in the Rain* to enjoy what is fun and magical about theatre *and* to infuse this and all our shows with better knowledge and understanding of how to keep the theatre a safe and inclusive space. I hope this production feels like a breath of fresh air after a long and heavy rainfall, a spring of 2022 after the spring of 2020 and what followed. Here's to feeling glorious a little more each day!



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650th Production
103rd Season

Opening March 25, 2022
Closing April 10, 2022

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents in the John Viars Theatre

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Screenplay by
Betty Comden and Adolph Green

Songs by
Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed

Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.
Music published by EMI, all rights administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Original Movie Choreography by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen
Produced by Arrangement with Maurice Rosefield, Lois F. Rosenfield and Cindy Pritzker, Inc.

Presented by **Corteva Agriscience**

Director/Choreographer: **Erin T. Horst**

Music Director: **Brenton M. Brown**

Scenic Designer: **Teena Sauvola**

Costume Designer: **Angela Lampe**

Sound Designer: **Brian Dodson**

Lighting Designer: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**

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Stage Manager: **Ellie Wellman**

Intimacy Director: **Stephanie Schneider**

Assistant Music Director: **Addie Thrower**

Assistant Choreographer: **Sarah Aubin**

Assistant Properties Designer: **Adam Beilgard**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Lindsey Nelson**

Playhouse Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

Cast

In Order of Appearance

*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Dora Bailey	Preshia Paulding	Man on Screen	Adam Yankow
Zelda Zanders	Alexandra Gray	1st Assistant Director.....	Joy Mielke
Olga Mara	Greta Hammond	2nd Assistant Director.....	Adelaide Kuehn*
Mary Margaret.....	Adelaide Kuehn*	3rd Assistant Director	Madeline Davis
R.F. Simpson.....	Donald Kom	Wardrobe Mistress	Preshia Paulding
Roscoe Dexter	Dan Haymes	Hairdresser.....	Bethany Woemmel*
Cosmo Brown.....	James Kolnik	Production Singer.....	Madison Ray
Lina Lamont	Maggie Schmitt	Sid Phillips.....	David Robinson*
Don Lockwood.....	Charlie Reese	Miss Dinsmore	Preshia Paulding
Young Don	Embry Richardson*	Male Diction Teacher.....	David Robinson*
Young Cosmo.....	Ingrid Oakley	Sound Engineer	Brynn Kelly*
Villain.....	Eric Fredrickson	Ensemble	Katy Bird*, Kersten Daubitz,
Lady-in-Waiting.....	Riley Keough		Madeline Davis, Greta Hammond, Price Jacobsen,
Rod	Price Jacobsen		Brynn Kelly*, Adelaide Kuehn*, Joy Mielke,
Kathy Selden	Stephanie Schneider		Madison Ray, Ken Reams, David Robinson*,
Policeman.....	Price Jacobsen		Maddie Topliff*, Bethany Woemmel*
Butler.....	Ken Reams		

Singin' in the Rain is presented with a 15-minute intermission.

Singin' in the Rain is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

<i>Overture</i>	Orchestra
<i>Fit As a Fiddle</i>	Don, Cosmo
<i>All I Do Is Dream of You</i>	Kathy, Girls
<i>You Stepped Out of A Dream</i>	Don
<i>Make 'Em Laugh</i>	Cosmo
<i>Beautiful Girl</i>	Production Singer
<i>Lucky Star</i>	Kathy
<i>You Were Meant for Me</i>	Don, Kathy
<i>Moses Supposes</i>	Don, Cosmo
<i>Good Morning</i>	Kathy, Cosmo, Don
<i>Singin' In the Rain</i>	Don

ACT II

<i>Entr'acte</i>	Orchestra
<i>Would You?</i>	Don, Kathy
<i>What's Wrong with Me?</i>	Lina
<i>Broadway Melody</i>	Don, Cosmo, Ensemble
<i>Would You?</i>	Lina, Kathy, Cosmo
<i>Lucky Star (Reprise)</i>	Kathy, Don
<i>Finale - Singin' in the Rain</i>	Company
<i>Bows/Exit Music</i>	Orchestra

ORCHESTRA

Conductor: **Brenton M. Brown**

- Violin 1: **Margaret Stagner**
- Violin 2: **Hannah Cool**
- Bass: **Bridget Shoemaker**
- Reed 1: **John Morgan**
- Reed 2: **Thomas Sparks**
- Reed 3: **Jake Kiese**
- Trumpet 1: **Audrey Husted**
- Trumpet 2: **Steve Day**
- Trombone: **Brandon Kowalsky**
- Percussion: **Seth Rezek**
- Drums: **Jay Petersma, Drew Selim**
- Keyboard 1: **Brian Hutzell**
- Keyboard 2: **Josh Whitver**

Orchestra manager: **Brenton M. Brown**

CAST NOTES



Katy Bird (*Ensemble*) has her degree in fashion design from Iowa State University. While there, she performed in *My Fair Lady*. Other stage credits include Lola in *Damn Yankees* at St. Edmond High School (Fort Dodge). This is her Playhouse debut. Katy enjoys singing, sewing, and adventuring with friends.



Kersten Daubitz (*Ensemble*) was on The Playhouse stage as a youth in several shows including *Pippi Longstocking* and most recently was Sister Sophia in *The Sound of Music*. While earning her Bachelor of Music Education degree at Iowa State University, she performed in *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Chava). Kersten is an elementary music teacher with Waukee Community School District and earning her Master of Music Education from the University of St. Thomas. She enjoys reading, doing puzzles, and watching movies with her husband, Jack.



Madeline Davis (*3rd Assistant Director/Ensemble*) is a freshman at Grand View Christian School. Maddie loves to dance and anything theatrical and has been in numerous area shows including *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*; *A Christmas Story, The Musical!*; and *Billy Elliot The Musical* at The Playhouse, *Willy Wonka Kids* (Willy Wonka) and *Mary Poppins Jr* (Mary Poppins) in The Playhouse's Performance Academy, *Annie Jr* (Annie) with CAP Theatre, and *Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Carousel Theatre, Indianola.



Alexandra Gray (*Zelda Zanders*) was last seen at The Playhouse as Medda Larkin in *Disney's Newsies*. Her other Playhouse roles include Sarah's Friend in *Ragtime* (2018) and Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act* for which she received a Dionysos Award for Outstanding Performance. Her favorite role to date was Mary Sunshine in *Chicago* at Columbia College in Chicago. Alexandra is the lead teacher in the three-year-old classroom at Traditions Childcare Center. She is also the owner of Sweet Tea Baking Company and Haus of Saints Designs.



Greta Hammond (*Olga Mara/ Ensemble*) made her Playhouse debut as Sister Margaretta in *The Sound of Music*. She has a B.M. in vocal performance from Drake University and has had various

roles in collegiate productions including *The Secretary in Falstaff*, *Madame de la Haltière* in *Cendrillon*, and *Baba* in *The Medium*. Greta is a manager at Friedrich's Coffee and enjoys reading, going on long walks, and traveling. She is excited to polish her tapping shoes for this production.



Dan Haymes (*Roscoe Dexter*) is familiar to Des Moines audiences from *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* (a favorite show) and *Rumors* at Tallgrass Theatre and *Disney's High School Musical 2* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall* at The Playhouse. He has also been music director and technical director for shows in Chicago. A software engineer at Principal, Dan likes hanging with his awesome wife, Kim, and their daughter, Isla, and enjoys water that has been distilled with some sort of mash and then aged in an oak barrel.



Price Jacobsen (*Rod/Policeman/ Ensemble*) has been involved with many area theatres including The Playhouse (*Sideways Stories From Wayside School*), CAP (*Peter Pan Jr.*), Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (*School of Rock*, *James and the Giant Peach Jr.*), and Ankeny Community Theatre (sound tech, *The Diary of Anne Frank*). He is a student at Des Moines Area Community College majoring in video production, and enjoys watching and making movies, writing, and spending time with family and friends.



Brynn Kelly (*Sound Engineer/ Ensemble*) is excited to make her Playhouse debut. A junior B.F.A. musical theatre major at Drake University, she was active in theatre in her hometown of Lawrence, KS. Her selected credits include *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood) at Lawrence Arts Center, *Meredith Willson's The Music Man* (Zaneeta) at Theatre Lawrence, and *Wait Until Dark* (Susy Hendrix) at Free State High School. In her free time, Brynn likes going to farmers' markets, reading, and doing anything creative.



James Kolnik (*Cosmo Brown*) is a favorite at The Playhouse where his shows include *A Chorus Line* (Mike), *Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.* (White Rabbit), *Rent* (Angel, for which he received a 2013 Dionysos Award nomination), *Hairspray* (Corny Collins), and *Disney's High School Musical 2* (Ryan Evans). He has also taught at The Playhouse. An underwriting associate at Wells Fargo, Jim's many interests include health and fitness. He and his

husband, Nicholas, have a newly adopted baby girl, Mackenzie Mae.



Donald Kom (*R.F. Simpson*) is the director of Ames Municipal Electric Services. He has been involved with many shows at ACTORS (Ames Community Theatre) as actor, director, producer, stage manager, sound designer, and house manager. Among his favorite roles and shows are Franklin Hart in *9 to 5 The Musical* at ACTORS, *Proof* at Ankeny Community Theatre, and *Sparks Fly Upward* at Hoyt Sherman Place. Donald's hobbies include old Mustangs.



Adelaide Kuehn (*Mary Margaret/2nd Assistant Director/Ensemble*) is pursuing her B.F.A. in musical theatre at Drake University. At her high school in Fort Collins, CO, she played Carrie in *Carrie: The Musical*, Eurydice in *Eurydice*, and Woman 1 in *Songs for a New World*. This is her Playhouse debut. Addie likes traveling, camping, and watching movies.



Joy Mielke (*1st Assistant Director/Ensemble*) has been involved onstage and backstage at The Playhouse and Ankeny Community Theatre as well as with productions at Johnston High School and Drake University. Her Playhouse stage credits include *A Christmas Story, The Musical* (Bumpus Hound/Ensemble), *Ragtime*, *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* (Squirrel 2), *Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, and *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* (May). Joy is a junior at Drake University majoring in health science with an individualized minor in theatre.



Ingrid Oakley (*Young Cosmo*) is a homeschooled fourth grader who also takes art classes at Ankeny's Westwood Elementary. She dances, plays piano and guitar, writes songs, and makes music videos for YouTube. She likes sledding, riding bikes, identifying plants and animals, and making people smile. She has taken Broadway music classes at The Playhouse and made her stage debut as Gretl von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*.



Preshia Paulding (*Dora Bailey/Wardrobe Mistress/Miss Dinsmore*) has won Playhouse Dionysos Awards for Outstanding Performance for her roles as Judy Garland in *Beyond the Rainbow* (2010), Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* (2014), and Annie Wilkes in

Misery (2017). She most recently played Diana in *Next to Normal* with History Boy Theatre (Jefferson, IA) and was a featured presenter in the Des Moines Register's Storytellers Project. Her extensive resume includes theatre, television and radio voiceovers, jingles, and several films. Preshia is a legal assistant for the Law Group of Iowa.



Madison Ray (*Production Singer/Ensemble*) has performed with the Des Moines Metro Opera, played Tom Collins in *Rent* and Sarge in the world premiere of *Escaping the Labyrinth* (Playhouse), and was nominated for a Cloris Award for *tick, tick...BOOM!* (Des Moines Onstage). Madison has served as a teaching artist (Kennedy Center trained) and wrote an original musical for Des Moines Public Schools and Turnaround Arts called *Power Up!* that is a virtual slice of life performance that gives a voice to students' lifestyles, perspectives, and values.



Ken Reams (*Butler/Ensemble*) is a longtime Des Moines favorite whose more than 80 varied shows on area stages over 50 years have included *Cyrano de Bergerac, 1776, Winnie-the-Pooh, Mamma Mia!* and the world premiere of *Escaping the Labyrinth* at The Playhouse; *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre; *Amadeus* at the Drama Workshop; *Our Town* and *12 Angry Jurors* at Ankeny Community Theatre; and *Oliver!* and *Hello, Dolly!* at Urbandale Community Theatre. Ken likes reading in his retirement.



Charlie Reese (*Don Lockwood*) is a favorite with Des Moines audiences from shows such as *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein* (Dr. Frankenstein, Cloris Award winner) at The Playhouse, *The Bridges of Madison County Concert Version* (Robert) with Tallgrass Theatre, *Avenue Q* (Princeton/Rod) at StageWest, and *Company* (Bobby) and *Adore Us! Line* (Joe Biden) at Iowa Stage Theatre Company. Charlie works as a compliance officer for Wells Fargo. He enjoys dancing around the house with his wife, Megan Helmers, and their pets Det. Olivia Benson, Elliott Patrick Sawyze, and Jane.



Embry Richardson (*Young Don*) is making her stage debut in *Singin' in the Rain*. A third grader at Westwood Elementary in Ankeny, Embry likes horseback riding, singing, and creating art.

CAST NOTES



David Robinson (*Sid Phillips/Male Diction Coach/Ensemble*) received his B.A. in English and music from Simpson College. While at Simpson, he appeared in several shows including *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge), *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Constable), and, a favorite, *Kiss Me, Kate* (Paul). He volunteered on the backstage crew for the recent Playhouse production of *The Sound of Music*. David is a tutor at DMACC Upward Bound. He likes writing music, learning languages, and playing Dungeons and Dragons.



Maggie Schmitt (*Lina Lamont*) is familiar to Playhouse audiences from *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles), *Playhouse on the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street* (Mary Lindsey/Doris Walker), *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Sibella, 2020 Dionysos Award winner), *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (The Woman, 2019 Dionysos Award winner), *Ragtime*, and *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. Other credits include *The Rocky Horror Show* (Janet, Kata Klysmic Productions, Des Moines) and *Carousel* (Julie Jordan, Grand Opera House, Dubuque).



Stephanie Schneider (*Kathy Selden/Intimacy Director*) is a performer and director based in Des Moines. Recent acting credits include *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical* (Miss Shields) at The Playhouse and *The Mirror* with Vagrant Fear Productions. Represented by the Peak Agency, she works in film, improv, and voice-over as well. When not performing, you can find her reading, nerding-out on Star Wars, spending time outdoors, and playing Dungeons and Dragons! Stephanie's intimacy direction credits include *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*, *I and You*, and *Plaza Suite* at The Playhouse, *The Bridges of Madison County Concert Version* at Tallgrass Theatre Company, and *The Cake* at Iowa Stage Theatre Company. Stephanie is passionate about bringing intimacy direction to the theatre and film community in Des Moines and hopes that it becomes a standard in Iowa.



Maddie Topliff (*Ensemble*) says *Singin' in the Rain* is her first show since high school. Of her multiple credits at Grinnell Community Theatre and Grinnell High School, her favorite roles are Bird Girl in *Seussical* and Rose Mundy in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Maddie is a Drake University graduate and works as a content marketing specialist at ARAG Legal. She is also a freelancer for DailyPaws.

com. In her free time, she enjoys singing, reading, writing, working out, and cheering on the Chicago Bears and Chelsea F.C.



Bethany Woemmel (*Hairdresser/Ensemble*) is a first-year musical theatre B.F.A. student at Drake University. She likes drawing and designing, costuming, and dancing, and plays the ukulele. She has worked backstage on sound, light, and scenic crews. Her onstage credits include *Adelaide in Guys & Dolls*, a favorite role, at Permian Playhouse in Odessa, TX, and *Into the Woods* (The Witch) with Mustang Theatre Company in Andrews, TX.



Erin T. Horst (*Director/Choreographer*) is an assistant professor and head of the B.F.A. Musical Theatre Program at Drake University. She holds an M.F.A. in musical theatre from Minnesota State University in Mankato. She is familiar to Des Moines audiences from her roles at Iowa Stage Theatre Company where she played Helen in *Fun Home* (Cloris Award winner, 2019) and Marta in *Company*. Her favorite role was Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins* at Minnesota State University. At The Playhouse, she choreographed *Catch Me If You Can* and directed and choreographed the 2019-20 Season production of *Singin' in the Rain*. Erin enjoys traveling, waterskiing, spending time outside, and watching the occasional football game with her boyfriend, Barry.



Brenton M. Brown (*Music Director*) says *Singin' in the Rain* is his 57th show for The Playhouse! His Playhouse shows include *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Les Misérables*; *Mary Poppins*; *Monty Python's Spamalot*; *Into the Woods*; *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein*; *A Chorus Line*; *Disney's The Little Mermaid*; *Mamma Mia!*; *Billy Elliot The Musical*; *Elf The Musical*; *Catch Me If You Can*; *Disney's Newsies*; *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*; *A Christmas Story, The Musical*; and *The Sound of Music*. He was awarded the Cloris Leachman Excellence in Theatre Award for best musical direction of The Playhouse production of *Ragtime*. He has appeared onstage as the title character in *Sweeney Todd* at the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre and as L.M. in *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at The Playhouse. Brenton is artistic director of the Harmony Delegation Chorus. He and his wife, Jessica, enjoy spending time with their children, Lindy and Bennett.



Teena Sauvola (*Scenic Designer*) works with Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Live Entertainment as an associate art director at Disneyland. Her work can be seen across all Disney Parks in the U.S., on Disney Cruise Lines, and at Disneyland Hong Kong. She also works at The Hettema Group as a show set designer on world-class theme parks and live experiences around the globe. She is excited to be involved in her first show with The Playhouse. In her free time, she likes to draw, paint, garden, hike, and camp.



Angela Lampe (*Costume Designer/ Associate Artistic Director*) 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 Claris 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 School Edition*. Virgil began his Playhouse career in 1979 and since then has been involved with more than 200 shows as designer or actor.



Sarah Beth Weinberg (*Properties Designer*) has been onstage in numerous Playhouse shows including *Ragtime*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Babette), and *Peter Pan*. She has created props for Playhouse productions of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Catch Me If You Can*, and the 2019-20 Season production of *Singin' in the Rain*. Sarah Beth is a fourth-grade teacher at Crossroads Park in West Des Moines. She enjoys reading, knitting, crocheting, quilting, and running. She has a dog, two cats, and a hedgehog.



Ellie 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*. At The Playhouse, Ellie was assistant stage manager for *Godspell* in The Playhouse's summer Tent Theatre series and served as stage manager for *Junie B. in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells!* In her free time, she enjoys practicing yoga, playing video games, and hanging out with her cat, Betsy.



Addie Thrower (*Assistant Music Director*) is excited for her first production at The Playhouse, working alongside Brenton Brown. She is a junior musical theatre major at Drake University where some of her favorite roles have been The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* and Judy in *9 to 5 The Musical*.



Sarah Aubin (*Finale Choreographer/ Assistant Choreographer*) graduated from Drake University with a B.F.A. in acting. She counts among her Drake shows *Songs for a New World* (Woman 1) and *Into the Woods* (Cinderella). Sarah has many interests which include working out – She is a personal trainer at Genesis Health Clubs. – art, music, dance, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



Adam Beilgard (*Assistant Properties Designer*) is familiar to area audiences from *Shrek The Musical*; *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*; *Playhouse on the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street*; and *Charlotte's Web*, all at The Playhouse, and *Ugly Lies the Bone* at StageWest. He has two sons, Declan, and Shea, and he works at Wells Fargo. Adam's interests include DIY, MCU, ELO, and BLTs.

Lindsey Nelson (*Assistant Stage Manager*) has been active backstage at The Playhouse this season as a flyperson for *The Sound of Music* and *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. Their interests include theatre, painting, photography, and music.

CAST NOTES



Betty Comden and Adolph Green (*Script*), 1991 recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors and the longest running creative partnership in theatre history, began writing and performing their own satirical comic material in a group called The Revuers, which included the late Judy Holliday. They went on to collaborate with Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins on what was the first show for all of them, *On The Town*. With Jule Styne they wrote the book and/or lyrics for *Bells Are Ringing*, *Peter Pan*, and others.

They won Tony Awards for *Applause*, *Hallelujah Baby*, *Wonderful Town*, *On the Twentieth Century*, and *The Will Rogers Follies*. Their many film musicals include *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Band Wagon*, *On the Town*, and *Bells Are Ringing*. Their non-musicals include *Auntie Mame*. *Singin' in the Rain* was voted one of the 10 best American films ever made and, by a vote of international film critics conducted by the prestigious magazine *Sight and Sound*, it was ranked third among the 10 best films of all time. As performers, Comden and Green appeared in *On the Town* and later did an evening at the Golden Theatre, *A Party With Betty Comden and Adolph Green*, comprised of material from their own shows and movies, and from their act, The Revuers. In 1977 they did a new version of *A Party* and toured with it. They are both members of the Council of the Dramatists Guild, have been elected to the Theatre Hall of Fame, and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and have received the Mayor of New York's Certificate of Excellence. Some of their best-known songs include "Just In Time," "The Party's Over," "Make Someone Happy," and "New York, New York."



Arthur Freed (*Lyricist*) was a lyricist and a Hollywood film producer. Freed began his career in vaudeville and he appeared with the likes of the Marx Brothers. He soon began to write songs and was eventually hired by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. For

years, he wrote lyrics for numerous films. In 1939 he was promoted to the position of producer and helped elevate MGM as the studio of the musical. Freed choose to surround himself with film directors such as Vincente Minnelli and Busby Berkeley. He also helped shape the careers of stars like Judy Garland and Gene Kelly. His team of writers, directors, composers, and stars came to be known as the "Freed Unit" and produced a steady stream of popular, critically acclaimed musicals that lasted until the late 1950s. Freed served as associate producer on *The Wizard of Oz*. His most famous song is "Singin' in the Rain" and two of his films, *An American in Paris* (1951) and *Gigi* (1958), won the Academy Award for Best Picture.



Nacio Herb Brown (*Composer*) was a successful writer of popular songs and Broadway theater music in the 1920s, originally doing this as a sideline to his financially successful career in California real estate. In 1928 he was hired by MGM to write movie music for the new medium of sound film. For his film work, he often collaborated with lyricist Arthur Freed. He appears in the film *The Hollywood Revue of 1929*. Brown's hits included "Fit as a Fiddle and Ready for Love," "Pagan Love Song," "Singin' in the Rain," "Wedding of the Painted Doll," and "You Are My Lucky Star." He wrote the music for the musicals *Singin' in the Rain* and *Take a Chance* and additional music for *Big Deal* and *Earl Carroll's Vanities*. Brown is an inductee of the Songwriters Hall of Fame.



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 Sound of Music*; the world premiere of *Escaping the Labyrinth*; the 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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Technical Director: **Nicholas Amundson**

Dance Captain: **Brynn Kelly**

Dresser: **Maddie Mardesen**

Set Construction: **Jonathan Garton, Brynn Kelly, Virgil Kleinhesselink, Heath Norris**

Costume Crew: **Susan Eisenhour, Elaine Lindgren, Barbara Mydland**

Playhouse Audition Crew: **Toni Farris, Brandon Record**

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**

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

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
SPECIAL THANKS

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

Guest Services: **Dima Algaysi, Riley Babel, Judy Block, Barb Braband, Nicole Bradley, Juls Bruns, Ann Marie Buell, Jake Buell, Dan Chase, Judi Cooper, Carol Culmer, Marieta Danielyan, Jadyn Davis, Lydia Davis, Maddie Davis, Patty Davis, Mark Eikenberry, Abby Elsbernd, Ellen Fisher, Jeff Fisher, Kathryn Fitzpatrick, Fred Gee, Sharon Gee, Ani Ghazaryan, Melanie Hall, Ayla Hanson, Belinda Hanson, Keith Hayes, Mary Higbee, Harold Hinkhouse, Brody Johnson, Deborah Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Anne Jung, Kathryn Jung, Lloyd Kaufman, Elysa Koss, Frank Koss, Ainur Kuanyshpayeva, Carla Lawrence, Shaima Loukili,**

Maren Manning, Linda McClure, Nancy McCurdy, Sabrina McGuire, Barbara Merrill, Marisa Mickunas, Maizy Mintzer, Katie Morrison, Ariana Murdock, Joseph Murdock, Rachel Murdock, Paige Olson, Carol Palmer, Darcy Perch, Clark Peterson, Diane Pick, Kathy Polson, Darlene Pullen, Mark Pullen, Mike Schuman, Barbara Slinker, Mary Staplin, Maren Stegh, Jordyn Stokes, Katie Sweet, Sophie Thomsen, Kristin To, Bakai Tolondou Uulu, Neli Vosloh, Abigail Walter, Fran Watson, Randy Watson, Janet Whiteside, Kaylee Witznerson, Oza Zahrah, Mery Zhaksylykova, Mia Zdionica

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Katie Dorrell*	Brett Spahr*
Tali Eisenstadt	Kim Van Haecke
Anne Frett	Sarah Beth Weinberg
Robin Breen	Anna Zimney
Fulton*	
Maren Grant	*Master Teacher
Nate Jorgensen	

Pre-Intern Program (PIPs)

Crey Abbas	Claire Riesberg
Grace Aerisolphal	Lulu Rongerude
Alexander Baker	Ridge Rutherford
Isabelle Baker	Ashley Scarbrough
Meridan Boyd	Evie Smith
Kristin Coons	Lily Spahr
Caitlyn Dean	Madeline
Audrey Frett	Streaker-Seay
Katelyn Gallagher	Aaliyah Trimble
Grace Harvey	Eliza Tutty
Teddi Karnes	Ashlyn Yu
Paige Olson	
Greta Paulsen	



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Linda Westergaard, *City of Des Moines Council Member, Re/Max Precision*

THE

"Sensational!"

★★★★ -KATHY

***"A delightful
romp!"***

★★★★ -CHELSEA

SHOPS

"Absurdly enjoyable!"

★★★★ -KRISTIN

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Have you seen the Shops at Roosevelt?

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2021-22 SEASON

Coming back together at the Stoner Theater

The Cake

by Bekah Brunstetter

Nov. 12 – 21, 2021

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

by Joe Landry

Dec. 16 – 23, 2021

Long Day's Journey Into Night

by Eugene O'Neill

Feb. 11 – 20, 2022

Sweat

by Lynn Nottage

Mar. 25 – Apr. 3, 2022

Girls' Weekend 2

by Karen Schaeffer

Apr. 29 – May 15, 2022



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