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MARCH 4 - 20, 2022



#DMPlayhouse

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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 lowa vineyards, lowa 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.

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Winery is open only for to-go
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WELCOME



David R. Kilpatrick Executive Director

Thank you for choosing to spend time at The Playhouse and trusting us to give you our best production of *Charlotte's Web*. Watching a classic tale come to life right before our eyes is part of what makes theatre so special. I hope you get a chance to read the book, or re-read it, as it is a very human tale of life and loss.

The Playhouse has always embraced our mission to entertain and engage, no matter the age of the participant, either as an audience member or as a performer. Thank you for allowing us to serve the community. We also want to

acknowledge those who have very important roles to play but are never seen by the audience: the parents, grandparents, and special family and family-like mentors and caretakers who recognize the value of a theatre experience. Thank you so much for bringing your youth to today's production. We are here because of you!

We hope to see you back in the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre when we present *Pippi Longstocking* in late April. You know that we will always give you our best.

Again, thank you for all that you do for The Playhouse. Our success tomorrow is wholly dependent upon our audiences of today!

Enjoy the show!



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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Special thanks to the corporate partners who support John Viars Theatre and Kate Goldman Children's Theatre productions.

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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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(documented estate plan gift) We also recognize those who have included The Playhouse in their estate plans prior to the Century Club.

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An * indicates a deceased donor.

Don't see your name? Those listed in this program have generously supported The Playhouse since March 1, 2021. If we've made a mistake, please contact Katy McCaull at 515.974.5359 or kmccaull@dmplayhouse.com. Gifts of \$100 or more are listed in every playbill throughout the season. Gifts under \$100 are recognized in the spring musical playbill each year.



THIS PRODUCTION IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE

IN THE JOHN VIARS THEATRE

MAR. 25 - APR. 10, 2022



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 quests. 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.

Flevator

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.

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.

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 Des Moines, IA 50312



(f) 🛗 🕑 🕜 DMPlayhouse



DMPlayhouse.com

Ticket office and administrative office: 515-277-6261

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116th Production 27th Season Opening March 4, 2022 Closing March 20, 2022

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents in the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

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

Presented by Nationwide

Director: Chelsea Haaland
Scenic Designer: Nicholas Amundson
Costume Designer: Jessica Van Essen
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Properties Designer: Ellen Harvey
Stage Manager: Jenny Throckmorton
Assistant Stage Manager: Ellie Chungath
Playhouse Artistic Director: Katy Merriman

Cast In Order of Appearance *Indicates Playhouse Debut

Narrators	Michael Beasley*,	Goose
	Ruth Christie, Gbomi Kayode	GanderBlake Dreckman*
Fern Arable	Chloe O'Neil*	SheepLuke Parker*
John Arable	Adam Beilgard	LambVivian Rosalie Coleman
Martha Arable	Angela Gallagher*	Reporter, Photographer, Spectators,
Avery Arable	Zachary Jordan*	Judges, Fairgoers, Announcer,
Homer Zuckerman	Kilian Farrell*	Uncle, SpidersMichael Beasley*,
Edith Zuckerman	Payton Boesch	Declan Beilgard*, Ruth Christie,
Lurvy	Jackson Ransom	Vivian Rosalie Coleman, Blake Dreckman*,
Wilbur	Charlotte Rempe*	Ella Frost, Katelyn Gallagher, Aya Haidar*,
Templeton	Miles Burrell	Gbomi Kayode, Xavier Leonard* Luke Parker*
Charlotte	Isabella Nielsen	

Time: The Present and The Past Place: The Arable Farm, the Zuckerman Barn, the County Fair

Charlotte's Web is presented with a 15-minute intermission.

Charlotte's Web is presented through special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, IL.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



Michael Beasley (Narrator/ Second Member/Photographer) has appeared in numerous Mount Pleasant (IA) Community Theatre productions, and, at The Museum of Repertoire Americana, as an entr'acte performer for Toby and

Susie. A singer/songwriter, they are currently a principal performer with The Lounge Act. Michael is the movement tools manager for The Center for Popular Democracy/Action. They like connecting with nature through gardening, ultra hiking, and mycology; creating joy through macramé; dancing in the kitchen; and jamming with the family band.



Adam Beilgard (John Arable) is familiar to area audiences from Shrek The Musical, A Christmas Story: The Musical, and Playhouse on the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street, all at The Playhouse, and Ugly Lies the Bone at StageWest.

He has two sons, Declan, who is also in *Charlotte's Web*, and Shea, and he works at Wells Fargo. Adam likes drawing and animating (poorly), playing rugby (poorly), and watching movies (expertly). Fun fact: He won a family vacation to Disneyland when he was 12.



Declan Beilgard (Second Spectator/First Fairgoer/Second Spider) is a third grader at West Des Moines Western Hills Elementary where he appeared in the show We Will Rock You – Young @ Part. Declan plays soccer, plays

bass guitar, and likes playing video games.



Payton Boesch (Edith Zuckerman) made her Playhouse debut earlier this season in Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! and recently played multiple characters, including a bus engine, in Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The

Musica!! She appeared in several shows at Southwest Minnesota State University (Marshall) including Boeing, Boeing. Payton works at Cetera Financial Group. She likes watching movies, reading, and playing with her dogs, a border collie mix named Skeeter and a Welsh corgi named Loki.



Miles Burrell (Templeton) is happy to be back on The Playhouse stage, having made his debut two years ago as Young Cosmo in Singin' in the Rain. He is constantly involved with local shows including Disney's Descendants The Musical (Des

Moines Young Artists' Theatre) and *Pippin* (Drake University). Miles is a seventh grader at Waukee Middle School where he participates in show choir. He looks forward to many more years of performing on Des Moines area stages.



Ruth Christie (Narrator/First Member/Voice on Loudspeaker) is a homeschooled freshman and competitive cheerleader, ice skater, and gymnast. She won first place in the Bill Riley Talent Search prelims and will be competing at the 2022

lowa State Fair. She made her TV debut alongside Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles in "Understood: Simone Biles Inspires Two Sisters with ADHD to be Unstoppable." Ruth made her Playhouse debut as the ever-so-fabulous Lucille in Junie B in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!



Vivian Rosalie Coleman (Lamb/ Judge) is a sixth grader at Johnston's Summit Middle School who enjoys acting, singing, and dancing. Her Playhouse credits include a favorite, Marta von Trapp in The Sound of Music, voiceover

for Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, and Annie Carroll/Susan Walker in Playhouse on the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street. Other stage credits include Snow White in Disney's Descendants The Musical at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre.



Blake Dreckman (Gander/Judge) is excited to be making his stage debut, having taken multiple Playhouse theatre classes and camps. A fifth grader at Waukee's Brookview Elementary, he plays piano and flute and is an avid

reader. Blake lives in West Des Moines with his mom, dad, little sister Nora, and his guinea pigs.



Kilian Farrell (Homer Zuckerman) is making his Playhouse debut. He was active in theatre at Norwalk High School, appearing in Abandon All Hope, Ye Who Enter Here (Rex), Murder in the Knife Room (General),

Fugue (Harry), The Pajama Game (Ensemble), and, his favorite, Speed Date (All Male Roles). Kilian likes listening to music, reading, writing, and working out.



Ella Frost (First Spectator/Second Fairgoer/First Spider) is a seventh grader at Des Moines' Brody Middle School who likes playing soccer. She has taken many classes at The Playhouse and says her favorites include the Performance Academy

presentation of *Disney's The Lion King Kids*, A Mixedup Fairytale, and Game of Tiaras. Her Playhouse stage credits include Second Twin in *Tinker Bell*, a favorite role, and Cambridge Rabbit/Toy Boat/ Sheriff's Man in *The Velveteen Rabbit*.



Angela Gallagher (Martha Arable) is happy to be making her stage debut. A fan of The Playhouse, she served on the theatre's board of directors, 2015-2020. Angela is passionate about giving back to the community and is active on

several non-profit boards and committees. In her free time, she enjoys reading, volunteering, and traveling. An executive coach currently working with Drake University, Angela and her husband, Terry, have one daughter, Katelyn, with whom she is excited to share the *Charlotte's Web* stage.



Katelyn Gallagher (Announcer/ Third Spider) is a ninth grader at Johnston Middle School who stays busy with theatre, volleyball, weightlifting, singing, and show choir. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering and spending time

with family and friends. Katelyn made her Playhouse debut as Wendy in *Tinker Bell*. She has taken classes and camps at the theatre and is a Playhouse education PIP (pre-intern program).



Aya Haidar (Goose/Judge) has taken several classes at The Playhouse, including Fractured Fairytales, and is now making her stage debut. A sixth grade at Crossroads Park in West Des Moines, she likes singing in chorus.

playing soccer, and acting.



Zachary Jordan (Avery Arable) is an eighth grader at Winterset Junior High. While this is his Playhouse debut, he has been in shows at The Winterset Stage including The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Ralph Herdman) and Charlotte's Web

(Avery Arable). Zach likes playing baseball and video games.



Gbomi Kayode (*Narrator/Third Member/Reporter*) is familiar to Playhouse audiences as Violet in *Miss Electricity* and as Maxine in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.* Her other area credits include *Annie* (July) at Urbandale Community

Theatre, and Disney's Descendants The Musical (Jafar), Seussical the Musical (Yertle the Turtle), and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Schroeder), at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. An eighth grader at Des Moines' McCombs Middle School, Gbomi plays soccer and volleyball, is a guitarist and pianist, and enjoys reading.



Xavier Leonard (*Uncle/Third Fairgoer*) is making his stage debut. He has found the rehearsal process to be fun. He enjoyed meeting his castmates and is excited for the performances. Xavier works for DoorDash and enjoys playing video

games and working out.



Isabella Nielsen (Charlotte) has been involved with The Playhouse for many years, appearing in The Kid Who Ran for President; Ramona Quimby; Sarah, Plain and Tall; and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and more recently

in A Christmas Story: The Musical. She has also volunteered as lightboard operator for shows. Other area credits include The Hobbit (Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre) and The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Carousel Theatre, Indianola). Isabella is a simulation technician at Des Moines Area Community College.



Chloe O'Neil (Fern Arable) is making her stage and Playhouse debut in Charlotte's Web. In addition to singing and dancing, she likes writing and rollerblading. Chloe is in fourth grade at Grant Ragan Elementary in Waukee.



Luke Parker (Sheep/Judge) has taken several classes at The Playhouse including Kids Invent Theatre, Creative Characters, and Creative Drama. This is his stage debut. In addition to acting, Luke likes art and playing video games.

Luke is a fifth grader at Timber Ridge Elementary in Johnston.



Jackson Ransom (Lurvy) made his Playhouse debut as Herb in Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! His area shows include Treasure Island (Dick the Dandy, his favorite role to date) and The Boy on the Edge of Everything at Des Moines Young

Artists' Theatre and *Charlotte's Web* (Gander) and *The Night Before Christmas* (Benjamin) at The Winterset Stage. Jackson is a freshman at Interstate 35 Community Schools where he has appeared in *Ghost Hunt* and *Complaint Department and Lemonade*.



Charlotte Rempe (Wilbur) is a fourth grader at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic School in West Des Moines. She enjoys playing the violin, rock climbing, dancing, acting, and singing. She can often be found drawing. This is

Charlotte's stage debut.



Chelsea Haaland (Director) has worked in educational theatre as a teacher, director (Les Misérables and The Hunchback of Notre Dame at Waukee High School; The Wiz and Little Shop of Horrors at Des Moines Hoover High School), and

occasional performer (*Disney's Freaky Friday One Act*, The Playhouse Dionysos Award nominee for Outstanding Performance). She has taught in The Playhouse's theatre department for 14 years. Chelsea is the related arts curriculum facilitator for Waukee Schools. She and her husband, Thomas, have two children, Liliana and Grayson.



Nicholas Amundson (Scenic Designer) earned his B.F.A in theatre design and technology from the University of South Dakota. Working on theatre all over town, he has designed in many different styles with StageWest Theatre

Company (*Ugly Lies the Bone, Marjorie Prime*), Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (*The Hobbit,* James and the Giant Peach Jr.), Noce (bare: A Pop Opera), and Kata Klysmic Productions (The Rocky Horror Show, Reefer Madness). He served as scenic designer for The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, A Chorus Line, Choices, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Ragtime, Catch Me If You Can and many more at The Playhouse. In the 2019-20 season, he directed and designed James and the Giant Peach in the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre. His favorite thing about theatre is creating out-of-the-box ways to present a story that gives the audience something fun to experience.



Jessica Van Essen (Costume Designer) has spent much of her career in schools as a professor/ costume shop manager and working with professional theatres as a costume designer and technician. She spent three

seasons with the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA, as their costume designer and shop manager, designing such shows as William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew, The Winter's Tale*, and *The Comedy of Errors* among others.



Meredith Toebben (Sound Designer) made her composition debut with Adolescent Anarchy's Lord of the Flies in 2013. She has since composed music for many productions including The Boxcar Children, A Little House

Christmas, Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, Ramona Quimby, and James and the Giant Peach, all at The Playhouse. She received a 2017 Special Achievement Cloris Award for her compositions for Ramona Quimby, and a 2021 BroadwayWorld Award for her work on She Kills Monsters Virtual Realms at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Meredith is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she majored in music education and composition, and is currently teaching elementary and middle school music in Bellevue, NE.



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



Ellen Harvey (Properties Designer) is a longtime Playhouse volunteer who has served as props mistress for many shows including Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!; Honk!; Shrek The Musical; Annie; and Anne of Green Gables. A

favorite show to prop was Seussical the Musical because of the unique, creative props, her favorite being a goldfish in a bowl, worn on the head. She has also volunteered with guest services for more than 20 years. When not at the theatre, Ellen tackles home remodeling projects with her husband, David, and likes to paint and craft.



Jenny Throckmorton (Stage Manager) volunteers in all areas of the theatre, onstage, backstage, and guest services. Onstage at The Playhouse, she has been Carol Strong, a favorite role, in Catch Me If You Can. Mrs. Time/

Mrs. Luckenbill in *Disney's Freaky Friday One Act*, and a Nun in *The Sound of Music*. Her other area shows include *The Bridge of Madison County Concert Version* at Tallgrass Theatre and *Annie* (Grace Farrell) at Urbandale Community Theatre. Jenny sings with various bands, writes music, and runs. She works at Nationwide.



Ellie Chungath (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore at Des Moines Roosevelt High School where she loves studying the humanities, especially sociology and economics. She has taken a number of Playhouse theatre

classes and said her most memorable was a summer camp based on A Series of Unfortunate Events. Ellie made her stage debut as a Pirate in *Tinker Bell*. When not at the theatre or school, Ellie enjoys playing clarinet and piano. She is also a rower.



Joseph Robinette (Playwright) 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."



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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