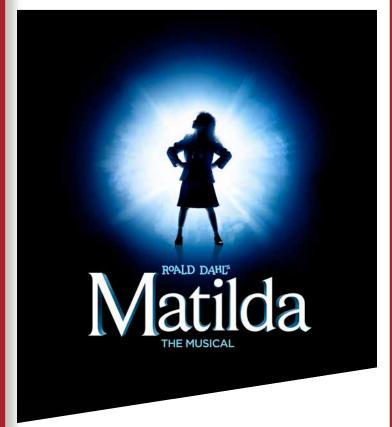
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JULY 8 - 24, 2022



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 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.

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 lowa 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 lowa (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 lowa, Arizona, California, Colorado, DC, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas (adult signature required for receipt of wine).





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Tassel Ridge

In the Dark

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WELCOME



David R. Kilpatrick Executive Director

Thank you so much for coming to our summer production. *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* is such a great theatre experience with a wonderful story about a special young lady and those who care for her, those who ignore her, and those who fear her, told in song and dance. I hope you brought someone with you to share this exceptional Playhouse event.

Today's production wraps up our 103rd season and what a season we have had! From musicals to plays, to theatre for youths and adults and everyone in between, all our productions have been something to talk about and share.

Our 104th season will be no different. We are traveling into the sewers of New York, to a prince's ball, to Philadelphia, to a shoe factory, to the backyard, and to Skid Row! (See our ad on this page for the list of 2022-23 season shows.) Every time you enter the theatre you are going to wonder where in the world we will go today. With a whole year of stories, songs, and dances, I know that it's an obvious choice to become a season ticket holder. And, if you haven't renewed, what are you waiting for? Do it today!

For more than 100 years, we have had one goal: to give you the greatest value in theatre. Our volunteer performers, backstage technicians, customer services representatives, and the entire staff work hard to create memorable and rewarding experiences. If there is anything that we can do to make your time with us even better, just let me know. We are your theatre: by the community and for the community.

Again, thank you for choosing to spend time with us. We are grateful for your support of theatre and all of the arts in the greater Des Moines.



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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An * indicates a deceased donor.



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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 conversion of thousands of print materials to digital files is nearly complete. In 2022, The Playhouse will unveil a website on which donors can find many historical records from prior plays and performances. The donors listed below made contributions toward the effort.

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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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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.





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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 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

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Group sales reservations: 515-277-6261

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A melodic rock station with soul; a musical melting pot, blending rock and roll with jazz and soul; stirring in some blues and acoustic music, and flavoring with world beat and reggae. KFMG features musicians who live in our town and our state, and musicians who are coming to our town. We are as musically diverse as our city and our listeners,

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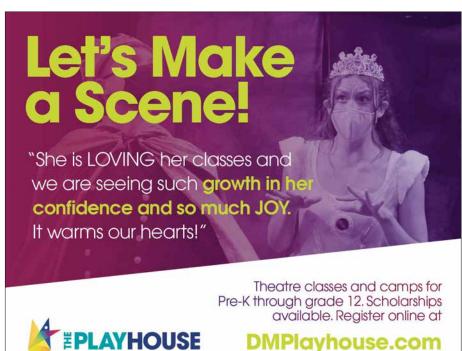


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ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Katy Merriman, Playhouse Artistic Director

The story of fictional Matilda Wormwood champions the young and their power to create world-changing magic. While this page of your playbill is typically reserved for information about the performance today, we would like to instead share stories of a few real children who have had lasting and miraculous impacts on our world. Grown-ups, talk to your children about these inspiring youths. Kids, remind your grown-ups how kind, powerful, and wonderful you are. Together, please enjoy today's story of a little girl who learned that she could do a lot.



Divinia Maloum (2004-Present) Pronounced: [dee-

Pronounced: [dee-VEE-nee-ah ma-LOOM] From: Cameroon

In 2014, Divina visited family in the north of Cameroon where she

witnessed firsthand the impact of radicalization and violent extremism on children. She saw children separated from their families and facing exploitation, abuse, and recruitment as child soldiers. Divina learned of child brides and child suicide bombers. Determined not to abandon them, she went back home and started the "I am standing up for peace" campaign, spreading the story of the north.

In 2015, Divina went on to create the movement, Children for Peace (C4P), to promote youth participation in peace building and sustainable development. Divina believes that children are the true carriers of peace and that peer education is the best way to reach them.



David Hogg, Emma Gonzalez, Jaclyn Corin, and Matt Deitsch

From: Florida, United States of America

David, Emma, Jaclyn, and Matt are survivors

of the Feb. 14, 2018, school shooting at Marjory

Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. In the aftermath of the horrific event, they co-founded March for Our Lives to demand peaceful solutions for safer schools and communities.

Millions of people were inspired. Hundreds of thousands showed up at a march on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., and more than 800 sister marches were held in all 50 US states and around the globe. Each one called for a peaceful solution to ensure safer schools and communities. What started out as a global cry for a safer future turned into a well-defined youth-led movement. The heart of the organization now consists of more than 20 young people who manage more than 1200 local teams from a central office.



Iqbal Masih (1983-1995)

Pronounced: [IK-bal MA-see] From: Pakistan

Iqbal Masih was sold as a debt slave at the age of four and

started laboring in a carpet factory in Pakistan soon after. He often worked 14 hours a day in backbreaking conditions where factory guards commonly abused children as punishment.

After he gained freedom, Iqbal attended the Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BLLF) school. He discovered the Charters of Freedom and soon became an activist against child slavery. He spoke at meetings and encouraged other debt slave children to leave their owners. Iqbal's cause inspired the creation of organizations such as We Charity, a Canada-based charity and youth movement, and the Iqbal Masih Shaheed Children Foundation, which has started over 20 schools in Pakistan.



652nd Production 103rd Season Opening July 8, 2022 Closing July 24, 2022

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents in the John Viars Theatre

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Book by Dennis Kelly Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin

Matilda was first commissioned and produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company and premiered at The Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, England on 9 November 2010. It transferred to the Cambridge Theatre in the West End of London on 25 October 2011 and received its US premiere at the Shubert Theatre, Broadway, USA on 4 March 2013.

Orchestrations and Additional Music - Chris Nightingale

Presented by EMC Insurance Co

Director: David A. VanCleave
Music Director: Brandon J. Record
Choreographer: Alison Shafer
Scenic Designer: Nicholas Amundson

Costume Designer/Properties Designer: Angela Lampe

Lighting Designer: Sam Stephen
Stage Manager: Jenna N. Darsee
Assistant Choreographer: Abby Rogers
Assistant Stage Managers: Jenny Bryant, DC Felton
Production Intern: Tess Meggison
Playhouse Artistic Director: Katy Merriman

Cast In Order of Appearance

*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Matilda Wormwood	Liliana Haaland*, Nina Spahr
Miss Agatha Trunchbul	Katelyn Hughes
Miss Honey	Mia Alaimo
Mr. Wormwood	Scotty Cartwright*
Mrs. Wormwood	Natalie Jo Lourens
Michael Wormwood	Noah Hackbart
Mrs. Phelps	Lyndsy Darland
Bruce	Franny Winn
	Jeanella McKinney*
Amanda	Katelyn Henzi
Nigel	Andrew Nelson*
Eric	Shea Beilgard
Alice	Vivian Rosalie Coleman
Hortensia	Hana Shan Khokhar*
Tommy	Gemma Brice*
	Escapologist
	Christopher Rozenboom

Sergei Caitlyn Dean Children's Entertainer Michael Beasley Big Kid/Ensemble Shelby Dale, Gbomi Kayode, Carolyn Kester*, Michael Lopez*, Hudson Pulver, Abby Rogers*	С
Understudies	U
Bruce/Amanda Gemma Brice*	
Lavender/NigelVivian Rosalie Coleman	
Mrs. PhelpsShelby Dale	
Mrs. Wormwood/Miss Trunchbull Lyndsy Darland	
Miss Honey	
MatildaHana Shan Khokhar*	
Michael Wormwood	

The Acrobat Stella Webster

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical is presented with a 15-minute intermission.

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical 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

Miracle Naughty Acrobat Story I School Song Pathetic The Hammer Naughty Reprise (Superglue) Chokey Chant Loud This Little Girl Bruce	
Bruce	Small Kids

INTERMISSION

ACT II

•	Small Kids, Big Kids, Miss Honey, Matilda
I'm So Clever	Mr. Wormwood
Acrobat Story IV (I'm Here)	Escapologist, Matilda
The Smell of Rebellion	
Quiet	Matilda
My House	Miss Honey, Escapologist
Revolting Children	Small Kids, Big Kids
Priyatna Paznakomitsa	Sergei



Mia Alaimo (Miss Honey) is a senior at Drake University earning her B.F.A. in musical theatre. Some of her favorite productions include 9 to 5 The Musical (Violet), Ordinary Days (Claire), and Into the Woods (Baker's Wife Understudy) at Drake. She

also appeared on The Playhouse stage in Mamma Mia! (Lisa/Ensemble). When Mia isn't on stage, she enjoys playwriting and directing.



Michael Beasley (Entertainer/Big Kid/ Ensemble) 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. They were last seen on The

Playhouse stage in *Charlotte's Web*. A singer/songwriter, they are a principal performer with The Lounge Act. They like connecting with nature through gardening, ultrahiking, and mycology; creating joy through macramé; dancing in the kitchen; and jamming with the family band.



Shea Beilgard (Eric) made his Playhouse debut in Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt and has continued to appear onstage in A Christmas Story, The Musical (Randy) and Pippi Longstocking. Shea is a sixth grader

at Western Hills Elementary. His school shows include We Will Rock You, The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood, and Schoolhouse Rock Jr. Shea loves science, playing hockey and basketball, reading, and playing video games.



Gemma Brice (Tommy/Bruce Understudy/Amanda Understudy) is new to The Playhouse but not to the stage. She performed in Pinocchio (Toy Ensemble) with the Missoula Children's Theatre and The Claw Musical (Dot), both at the George

Daily Auditorium in Oskaloosa. Playing Dot in *The Claw Musical* has been Gemma's favorite role. She is a sixth grader at Oskaloosa Middle School who enjoys singing, songwriting, playing piano, reading, and writing chapter books.



Scotty Cartwright (Mr. Wormwood) is excited to make his Playhouse debut. He recently moved to Des Moines after spending eight years in Los Angeles. An lowa native, Scotty got his start acting at Tipton (IA) Community Schools before moving

on to Central College, Pella, where he graduated with a theatre major. He has acted in shows with Theatre Cedar Rapids, Pella Shakespeare Festival, Union Street Players in Pella, Cedar County Stoplight Players in Tipton, and The Iowa Fringe Festival among others.



Vivian Rosalie Coleman (Alice) is a seventh grader at Johnston's Summit Middle School who enjoys acting, singing, and dancing. Her Playhouse credits include Charlotte's Web (Lamb/Judge), The Sound of Music (Marta von Trapp), Agatha Christie's

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



Shelby Dale (Big Kid/Ensemble/ Mrs. Phelps Understudy) is a recent graduate of the University of South Dakota where she earned her B.F.A. in musical theatre. Some of her credits there include She Kills Monsters (Agnes), Men on Boats (Hall), and

The Hunchback of Notre Dame. At The Hilltop Theatre in Baumholder, Germany, she played Ariel in Disney's The Little Mermaid. She made her Playhouse debut as Paula in Escaping the Labyrinth. Shelby works as a behavior technician at Stride Autism Center. She is an active reader, puzzler, and dance enthusiast.



Lyndsy Darland (Mrs. Phelps/ Mrs. Wormwood Understudy/Miss Trunchbull Understudy) holds an acting certification from Columbia College as well as a B.A. in English from Simpson College. Her first Playhouse performance was in The

Sound of Music, her most recent in Disney's Freaky Friday One Act, and her favorite role has been Gingy in Shrek The Musical. In her free time, she spends time with her family and trains her two Australian shepherd dogs. Lyndsy works at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield as an administrative assistant.



Caitlyn Dean (Sergei/Big Kid/ Ensemble/Miss Honey Understudy) is no stranger to The Playhouse. She started attending classes in kindergarten and joined the preintern program (PIP) in fifth grade. Her Playhouse credits include Tales

of a Fourth Grade Nothing (Sheila); Sarah, Plain and Tall (Anna); The Best Christmas Pageant Ever; and more. Caitlyn acted in Disney's The Lion King Jr, The Addams Family, and Mamma Mia! (Rosie) at Des Moines Roosevelt High School. She starts Drake University in the fall with a double major in vocal performance and vocal music education.



Liliana Haaland (Matilda, July 9, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24) was first introduced to The Playhouse through the Broadway Babies class and is now making her stage debut. In 2021, she was a soloist in Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre Sings Broadway

workshop. Liliana will be entering the fifth grade at Waukee's Grant Ragan Elementary School this fall. She enjoys reading Harry Potter, baking, the Marvel Cinematic Universe, fashion, and being a big sister to Grayson.



Noah Hackbart (Michael Wormwood) has numerous acting credits including Peter Pan (Michael Darling) at The Playhouse, It Shoulda Been You (Marty Kaufman) at Ankeny High School (AHS), and Dog Sees God (Broadway World Best Actor Award

winner) and Akeelah and the Bee at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT). Behind the scenes he was student director and stage manager for Schoolhouse Rock Live! at AHS and production dramaturg for DMYAT's production of 13: The Musical and The Playhouse's production of Calendar Girls.



Katelyn Henzi (Amanda) made her Playhouse debut in Pippi Longstocking (School Child). She has participated in The Playhouse's Performance Academy production of Disney's Frozen Kids and performed in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

(Woodstock) with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. at Class Act Productions Theatre (Altoona), and Disney's Mary Poppins Jr. at the Story Theater Company (Ames). When not in the theatre, she enjoys visiting museums and zoos. Katelyn will be a ninth grader at Northview Middle School in Ankeny.



Katelyn Hughes (Miss Agatha Trunchbull) is an art/theatre graduate from Central College in Pella where she performed as Penelope Pennywise in Urinetown The Musical. She designed the puppets for Little Shop of Horrors at

Spencer (IA) Community Theatre and played Annelle in their production of *Steel Magnolias*. Katie made her Playhouse debut as Greta Ohlsson in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. A graphic designer and gift shop lead for UnityPoint Foundation, Katie likes knitting, film, and attending festivals.



Gbomi Kayode (Big Kid/Ensemble) has been involved with The Playhouse since 2018 when she performed in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Maxine). Other Playhouse stage appearances include Miss Electricity (Violet) and Charlotte's Web (Narrator). Gbomi also acted in *Disney's Descendants: The Musical* (Jafar) with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT) and *Annie* (July) with Urbandale Community Theater. Gbomi is an incoming freshman at Des Moines Lincoln High School who plays soccer and volleyball and runs track.



Carolyn Kester (Big Kid/Ensemble) recently moved to Urbandale from Minneapolis where she served as a costume designer and shop manager for the theatre program at Bethel University. Her favorite acting experiences include The

Drowsy Chaperone, Evita, Into the Woods, Bye Bye Birdie, Godspell and other productions at the Clinton Area Showboat Theatre. She was a member of the Treasure Village Family Theatre (Okoboji). At Northwestern College (Orange City, IA), she earned her B.A. in theatre, specializing in Christian theatre ministries.



Hana Shan Khokhar (Hortensia/ Matilda Understudy) is a sixth grader at Bergman Academy who is thrilled to be making her stage debut in Matilda. She has played the viola since the age of four and is a member of the Des Moines Symphony

Academy Youth Sinfonia where she continues to hone her skills. In her spare time, she enjoys creating fanciful artwork, researching obscure animals, scaling walls, bike riding, tree climbing, and singing showtunes in the car.



Michael Lopez (Big Kid/Ensemble) is making their Playhouse debut in Matilda. They have learned a tremendous amount about acting, singing, and dancing in a short timeframe. Before coming to The Playhouse, Michael didn't realize a

musical has more singing and dancing than a play, but they learned very quickly. During their free time, Michael enjoys doing anything outside.



Natalie Jo Lourens (Mrs. Wormwood) is excited to get "Loud" with the cast of Matilda. She has been involved with many productions at The Playhouse both on and off-stage including playing Mrs. Bucket in Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka and volunteering

as assistant stage manager for *Choices*. She received a 2019 Playhouse Volunteer of the Year award for her work on *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Natalie works for F&G Annuities and Life and is the proud aunt to 12 nieces and nephews.



Jeanella McKinney (Lavender) is an incoming freshman at Des Moines Roosevelt High School who fell in love with musical theater at Des Moines Oak Park Elementary with her first show, The Music Man Kids. Other area credits include Disney's The Little

Mermaid Jr. (Ursula) at Oak Park; Schoolhouse Rock Livel Jr. (Shulie) at Des Moines Harding Middle School; and The Boy at the Edge of Everything at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Jeanella studies music at City Voices and performed at the 80/35 Music Festival with Des Moines Music Coalition.



Andrew Nelson (Nigel) became passionate about musical theatre when he participated in Des Moines Performing Arts' musical theatre camp. He performed in Charlotte's Web (Wilbur) and The Best Christmas Pageant Eyer (Charlie) with The

Winterset Stage. This will mark his first performance with The Playhouse. A favorite memory of his was performing on the Civic Center stage as a featured soloist in last summer's Broadway Summer Academy Showcase. Andrew enjoys playing soccer, piano, and saxophone, and taking voice and dance lessons.



Hudson Pulver (Big Kid/Ensemble) made his Playhouse debut in 2020 as John Darling in Tinker Bell and returned for Miss Electricity (Freddy). Before that, he performed at the Ankeny Community Theatre in A Christmas Story (Ralphie Parker).

Hudson is an eighth grader at Bergman Academy. He likes mountain biking, playing piano, guitar, and trumpet, and 3D design.



Abby Rogers (Big Kid/Ensemble/ Assistant Choreographer) is a junior at Drake University pursuing a B.F.A. in musical theatre with a directing and technical theatre minor. At Drake, she has been involved in multiple productions including It Shoulda

Been You (Rebecca Steinberg, a favorite role), Into the Woods (Cinderella Understudy), and 9 to 5 The Musical (assistant director). In her home state of Florida, she has been involved in numerous productions including Disney's Newsies (Katherine) at Harrison School for the Arts in Lakeland, FL, Oklahoma! (Laurey) at All Saints Academy in Winter Haven, FL, and Disney's The Little Mermaid (Aquata) at Theatre Winter Haven. Outside of performing, Abby's enjoys directing, choreographing, costume design, and teaching.



Christopher Rozenboom (Rudolpho/ Doctor/The Escapologist) began his Playhouse career in 2007 with Disney's High School Musical. More recent Playhouse shows include Disney's The Little Mermaid (Scuttle), The New Mel Brooks Musical Young

Frankenstein (Dr. Frankenstein), and Sister Act (Eddie) for which he received a Dionysos Award. He has lent a helping hand backstage as assistant stage manager for Mamma Mia! and Playhouse On the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street. Christopher works at Wells Fargo and spends his free time with his boyfriend, Kody DePauw, and his dog, Flynn.



Nina Spahr (Matilda, July 8, 10, 14, 15, 21, 23) has honed her art in numerous Playhouse classes including Performance Academy productions of Disney's Frozen Kids (Middle Anna, a favorite role), Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids, Disney's The Jungle Book Kids,

and Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Kids. Nina and her older sister, Lily, won a Playhouse Dionysos Award for the shared role of The Little Girl in Ragtime. Nina will be an eighth grader at Prairieview School in Waukee. She likes to combine her interests of singing and dancing by participating in show choir.



Stella Webster (Acrobat/Big Kid/ Ensemble) has many show credits to her name such as Annie Jr., Hairspray Jr., and, her favorite, Legally Blonde Jr. (Brooke Wyndham) with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. In 2013, she performed in Disney's

Alice in Wonderland Jr. (Ensemble) at The Playhouse and is excited to be back. Stella is a junior at lowa State University studying arts with a double emphasis in musical theatre and dance and works at Des Moines Roosevelt and Lincoln high schools as a choreographer and at Waukee Chiropractic Center as a chiropractic assistant.



Franny Winn (Bruce) has been in Playhouse Performance Academy productions of Disney's The Jungle Book Kids and Disney's Frozen Kids (Hans) as well as Disney's Descendants: The Musical (Maurice) at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre.

This summer they are a Playhouse PIP (pre-intern program). Franny will be an eighth grader at Des Moines Callanan Middle School. In addition to all things theatre, they are on a synchronized swimming team and like playing Mario Kart.



David A. VanCleave (Director) grew up at The Playhouse, volunteering onstage, backstage, and on production teams. He received his B.F.A. in theatre arts/directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University (Chicago) where he

directed Closer, The Laramie Project, and The Death of Gaia Divine (world premiere). Since returning to Des Moines in 2012, he has directed at The Playhouse (Cabaret, The Laramie Project, Little House Christmas at Plum Creek), Des Moines Onstage (Cabaret, My Name is Rachel Corrie), Noce (The Last Five Years, The Normal Heart), Des Moines Social Club (Iphigenia 2.0), and Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (Rent, I Never Saw Another Butterfly, Dog Sees God) where he was artistic director for six years. As an educator, David has worked with Des Moines Public Schools, ArtForce lowa, The Playhouse, and more. David is the education coordinator for AACT (American Association of Community Theatre), co-director of HOPE! Drama Troupe, and a freelance director, dramaturg, and educator.



Brandon J. Record (Music Director) is a Des Moines based conductor, director, performer, and teacher. He has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Sioux Falls and is working on his master's degree at Drake University. This is

his third show with The Playhouse, but he is not new to theatre. His numerous credits include performing, stage management, lighting design, directing, and musical direction. His favorite onstage role was Shrek in *Shrek the Musical* at the Powder River Playhouse (Gillette, WY), and his favorite production team roles to date have been music director for *Hairspray* and *Matilda*. Brandon is the new director of choirs and vocal music teacher at Des Moines Lincoln High School and will be involved with The Playhouse again next season. Offstage, he spends his time traveling, giving voice lessons, and spending time with family, friends, and puppy, Fynn.



Alison Shafer (Choreographer) is a freelance artist who most recently choreographed Mame and Disney's Beauty and the Beast for Quincy (IL) Community Theatre (QCT) and Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical for Children's Musical Theatre in

Bartlesville, OK. Other recent projects include directing/choreographing Frozen Jr. for Market House Theatre in Paducah, KY, and choreographing The Bikinis at Venice Theatre, FL. She directed Stuart Little and choreographed Elf the Musical and She Loves Me for QCT. At The Playhouse she has directed/choreographed Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Seussical The Musical, Smokey Joe's Café, and Honk!, and choreographed A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, Ragtime, Monty Python's Spamalot, Mary Poppins, Cabaret, Chicago. Hairspray, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and The New Mel Brooks

Musical Young Frankenstein (Cloris Award for Best Choreography). Other productions Alison has directed/choreographed include Caucus the Musical, Six On Six, and Utopia (Epic Stage Productions, Des Moines), and se choreographed Tree Wishes (Georgia Pacific Events Group, Atlanta, GA) and Marathon Dancing (Engarde Arts, New York, NY). Alison is thrilled to be back in Des Moines collaborating with The Playhouse!



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-thebox ways to present a story that gives the audience something fun to experience.



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 an M.F.A. in theatre from the University of Nebraska. She is the recipient of four Cloris Awards for excellence in costuming and puppetry.



Sam Stephen (Lighting Designer) has a B.A. in live entertainment design and technology from North Central College, Naperville, IL. They reside in Chicago and have recently designed the 2021-22 season at Citadel Theatre, Living Newspaper Festival at

Jackalope Theater, and Footloose with Bravo Performing Arts. They are excited to be returning to The Playhouse after performing in *The Addams Family* (Ancestor) and being a part of the theatre's pre-internship program (PIP). www.DesignsBySamuelStephen.com



Jenna N. Darsee (Stage Manager) grew up at The Playhouse, taking classes, acting onstage, and later making her way through The Playhouse teaching staff as a PIP (pre-intern program), college intern, and now a theatre education teacher.

Her favorite roles to date include Dr. Livesy in *Treasure Island* and Raya in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* both at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, Ma Ingalls in *A Little House Christmas* at The Playhouse, and Beth in *Little Women*, a co-production of The Playhouse and Terrace Hill. As a stage manager, she has managed *Escaping the Labyrinth* and *with their eyes: September 11*": *The View from a High School at Ground Zero*. Jenna is an art teacher and fine arts lead teacher at Irving Elementary, Indianola. In her free time Jenna enjoys playing with her dogs Greta Garbo and Ingrid Berman, collaging, getting lost in the Des Moines Art Center, baking, spending time outdoors, and supporting her friends in their theatre endeavors.



Jenny Bryant (Assistant Stage Manager) 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. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and is a teacher with Adair-Casey Schools.



DC Felton (Assistant Stage Manager) is new to The Playhouse but not to theatre. He was last seen helping backstage as stage manager for the Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre production of Disney's Descendants: The Musical. When not backstage, he

enjoys spending time onstage and was last seen in Open Door Rep's production of *The Manic Monologues*. In his spare time, he enjoys seeing productions and writing reviews for Broadwayworld.com as well as serving as an adjudicator for the lowa High School Musical Theater Awards and as a judge and coach for the lowa High School Speech Association.



Tess Meggison (Production Intern) made her stage debut in 2015 with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre in Little Women (Amy March). Her credits at The Playhouse include Charlotte's Web (Baby Spider), Meredith Willson's The Music Man

(Amaryllis), and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Beth Bradley). Tess has also been a member of the HOPE! Drama Troupe since 2019 and participated in

The Playhouse's pre-internship program (PIP) during the summers of 2018 and 2019. At Dallas Center-Grimes High School where she will be a junior, Tess is a varsity cross-country and track athlete, member of the varsity show choir, three-time All-State IHSSA speaker, participates in mock trial, and is active in the theatre department.



Dennis Kelly (Playwright) has works for theatre including Debris, Osama the Hero, After the End, Love and Money, Taking Care of Baby, DNA, Orphans, The Gods Weep, and The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas. He has written the book for the new

musical of *Pinocchio* which opened at the National Theatre at the end of 2017, and in 2018 his new play *Girls and Boys* opened at the Royal Court. His plays have been performed worldwide and to date have been translated into nearly 40 languages. For television he co-wrote and co-created *Pulling* and wrote and created *Utopia*, and for film he wrote the screenplay for *Black* Sea, directed by Kevin MacDonald. He also wrote the book for the Olivier- and Tony- winning *Matilda The Musical*



Tim Minchin (Composer/Lyricist) is a musician, actor, comedian, writer, and director. He's toured extensively in the US, UK, and Australia, performing solo, with bands, and with symphony orchestras. He's released five DVDs, the most recent recorded with the

Heritage Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. His screen acting credits include *Robin Hood Origins* (2018), *Secret River* (2015), and *Californication* (Season 6, 2013). His stage acting credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Sydney Theatre Company) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (UK/Australia tours). Tim has written extensively for theatre and is the composer/lyricist of *Matilda The Musical* (with Dennis Kelly) and *Groundhog Day the Musical* (with Danny Rubin).

Roald Dahl (Book Author) was the author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, The BFG, and many more of the world's best-loved children's stories. He remains one of the world's greatest storytellers and is celebrated annually by the world's biggest author-based event, Roald Dahl Day, which is recognized across the globe on Sept. 13. His first children's story, James and the Giant Peach, was published in 1961 and was a huge hit. Every subsequent book became a best-seller. Today, his stories are available in 59 languages, and, by a conservative estimate, he has sold more than 250 million books. Many of these stories have also been adapted for stage and screen, including the 1971 film classic Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Wes Anderson's acclaimed Fantastic Mr. Fox, and the Royal Shakespeare Company's multi-award-winning production of Matilda The Musical. www.roalddahl.com • Facebook.com/roalddahl • Twitter. com/roald_dahl • Instagram.com/roald_dahl



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; I and You; The Roommate; 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 lowa 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.





PRODUCTION CREWS

Technical Director: **Nicholas Amundson**

Dance Captain: Stella Webster

Run Crew: Lizzy Brandos, Sam Claassen, Jon Garton, Sofia Garton, Ella Leistner, Alex Michael, Blake Ottaway, Emily Wilcox

Master Carpenter: Nate Weber

Wig Stylist: Joshie Tay

Costume Crew: Susan Eisenhour, Elaine Lindgren, Kristine Lucas, Barb Mydland

Master Electrician: Virgil Kleinhesselink

Playhouse Audition Crew: Hannah Beuse, Cheryl Critelli, Toni Farris, Liz Griffin

Playhouse Ambassadors: Judy Blessington, Mary Bricker, Annette Duffy, Alma Hackbart, Pat Henson, Jolene Huen, Jean Leibold, Sunny Liston, Mary Marshall, Mark Morrison, Becky Scholtec, Mary Whisenand, Sherill Whisenand

Playhouse Partners: Dani Boal, Mary Bricker, Edward Corpus, Peter Dean, Denise Forney, Anne Frett, Pam Gabby, Michael Howland, Jill Lippincott, Rebecca Masucci, Greg Millar, Mark Morrison, Charlie Reese, Maxwell Schaeffer, Jackie Schmillen, Tony Tandeski, Josh Visnapuu, Eva Williams

Playhouse Photographers: Steve Gibbons, Brent Isenberger

Playhouse Historians: Mark Morrison, Lloyd Von Hagen

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL SPECIAL THANKS

Acrobat animation courtesy of Kurt Houghton; Planned

Parenthood Book Sale; Select costumes courtesy of Theatre Cedar Rapids

CALENDAR GIRLS SPECIAL THANKS

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

Jenna Darsee

PIPPI LONGSTOCKING SPECIAL THANKS

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

Dima Alqaysi, Thora (Michelle)
Anthoney, Paige Bernard,
Corley Blackford, Emery
Blackford, Miranda Blackford,
Kim Blakesley, Steve
Blakesley, Anne Marie Buell,
Torie Burrell, Ellie Chungath,
Ellery Conrad, Judi Cooper,
Lola Costello, Carina Crouse,

Kauai Cua, Lydia Davis, Maddie Davis, Patty Davis, Cyd Denton, Kathryn Fitzpatrick, Jane Flagler, Maarz Friesleben, Ayla Hanson, Keith Hayes, Stephanie Henzi, Harold Hinkhouse. Sandi Holland. Charles Johnson, Sam Johnson, Sheridan Johnson, Carter Jones, Linda McClure, Nancy McCurdy, Sabrina McGuire, Jack Meyer, Maizy Mintzer, Ingrid Oakley, Dale Oakley-Bentlage, Aimee Oakley-Runyan, Kathy Polson, Debra Quintero, Lisa Richards, Katie Rose, Erin Schaben, Morgan Schlee, Saffron Schleusner, Isabel Serio, Elise Sigler, Amy Skarin, Mary Staplin, Maren Stegh, Rebecca Taylor, Kristin To, Amity Wagner, John Wagner, Connie Walker, Abigail Walter, Janet Whiteside





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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Playhouse partners include











Leadership

David R. Kilpatrick, Executive Director Katy Merriman, Artistic Director

Staff

Nicholas Amundson, Associate Technical Director Lee Ann Bakros, Marketing & Publications Director Lindsey Ballard, Concessions Manager Ben Connolly, Drake University, Education Intern Allison Crain, Simpson College, Education Intern Ryan Crane, Director of Philanthropy

Maren Grant, Drake University,
Education Intern
Mary Hofer, Finance
Debra Jacobson, Ticket Office Manager
Elissa Johnson, House Manager
Allison Koch, Iowa State University,
Education Intern

Angela Lampe, Associate Artistic

Kaitlynn McCaull, Ticket Office Marketing Emma McDowell, Iowa State University, Marketing & Philanthropy Intern Cherie Moen, House Manager Kendric Santos-Briggs, Northwest

Missouri State University, Production Intern Jada Smith. Office Manager/Volunteer

Coordinator
Robin Heldt Spahr, Education Director
JP Ungs, Drake University, Education &
Production Intern

Jessica Van Essen, Costume Shop Supervisor David VanCleave, House Manager

Education Staff

Nicole Chavas-Schwegler Jenna Darsee Katie Dorrell* Tali Eisenstadt Anne Frett Robin Breen Fulton* Ron Hyde Nate Jorgensen Taylor Layden Taylor, Millar Greg Millar Catie Miller Deb Paul Brandon Record Abby Rogers Sarah Schaefer Brett Spahr* Molly Thorsen Kim Van Haecke Sarah Beth Weinberg Anna Zimney

*Master Teacher



EPLAYHOUSE

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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



