

DECEMBER 2-18, 2022



Great Red Wine

made in Iowa from Grapes grown in Iowa

Iowa In the Dark

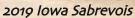
assel Rido

In the Dark

Tassel Rid

Sabrevois

is a dry red with light, fresh notes. First impressions are tangy acid followed by black cherry fading to plum, a dry mid-palate, and a long, pleasing finish. Made from Marquette, St. Croix, Petite Pearl, and Steuben grapes grown in Iowa, it's a versatile wine that pairs well with grilled meat and spicy foods.



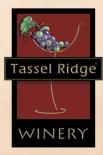
assel Ridge

Reserve Marquette

is a dry red with bold aromas of spices and leather on the nose followed by blackberry and plum notes with hints of baking spice, smoke, and licorice on the palate. Made from Sabrevois grapes grown in our lowa vineyards, it pairs well with grilled meat.

2020 Iowa Reserve Marquette

is a dry red with bright cherry notes and hints of baking spice on the nose and palate followed by a long, moderately acidic finish. Made from Marquette grapes grown in our lowa vineyards, it pairs well with spicy foods.



Tassel Ridge wines are sold at over 400 retailers in Iowa. For a list, visit www.tasselridge.com/retail. Or Tassel Ridge Winery can ship wine directly to you in Iowa, Arizona, California, Colorado, DC, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas. Call the Winery at 641.672.WINE (9463) to place your order. Adult signature required for receipt of wine. Visit www.tasselridge.com, our Facebook page, or call 641.672.WINE (9463) for updates on hours, Wine Tasting, and Wine & Food Events.

Tassel Ridge Dry Red Wines...Simply Extraordinary®



David R. Kilpatrick Executive Director

Thank you so much for joining us this holiday season. We know that it is a grand tradition to attend The Playhouse at this time of year, sharing the fun of theatre and enjoying a classic tale. Of course, today's version of *Cinderella* is a little different from the Disney story, but it still captures the imagination and excitement of a shared experience.

The Playhouse is very much looking forward to 2023. In the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre there will be a special theatrical event with *Go, Dog. Go!*, a pop-up book that comes to life. We return to the John Viars Theatre for an American classic,

August Wilson's The Piano Lesson, a co-production with Pyramid Theatre Company. In addition to these productions, the year will continue with classes in full operation, Friday Funday performances for youths 4-6 years old, and many more musicals and comedies to lift our spirits. Please join us as often as you can.

The highlight of 2023 is much more than our productions. We are engaged in a capital campaign, "Tomorrow Begins Today," with a goal to modernize our children's theatre! If you have ever seen a show in that theatre, imagine sitting in more comfortable seats, with improved air conditioning, and better theatre technology. The world of possibilities just expanded for us! If you would like to make a donation towards the capital campaign, please let us know. We are halfway toward our \$3.5 million goal, and we could use your help.

For more than 100 years, The Playhouse has presented shows for the community. We do this because of the support from those who believe in the power of theatre to transform lives. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you for playing your part.

Here is a holiday good cheer to our Playhouse family - may you enjoy theatre the whole year!!



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 Mar. 1, 2022 to Nov. 1 , 2022.

An * indicates a deceased donor.

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Playhouse Archives Online

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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We recognize those families who made a donation above and beyond the cost of Summer Camp/class registration:

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Your personal gift to The Playhouse may be eligible for a corporate match, increasing your impact. Many corporations recognize the volunteer work of their employees by making a donation on their behalf. We extend our thanks to the following for matching employees' and retirees' contributions and nonring employees' volunteer efforts.

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Tribute Program

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.

In Honor of Annie Jr performers, volunteers, and staff Jill Featherstone The Oakley Family

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Heritage Club

(documented estate plan gift) We recognize and honor those donors who have included The Playhouse as a beneficiary in their wills or estate plans. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Ryan Crane, Director of Philanthropy, at rcrane@dmplayhouse.com or 515.974.5370.

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Don't see your name? Those listed in this program have generously supported The Playhouse since Mar. 1, 2022. If we've made a mistake, please contact Katy McCaull at 515.974.5359 or <u>kmccaull@dmplayhouse.com</u>. 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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JOHN VIARS THEATRE Guys & Dolls Sept. 9-25, 2022

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S Cinderella Dec. 2–18, 2022

AUGUST WILSON'S The Piano Lesson Feb. 3–19, 2023

Kinky Boots Mar. 17–Apr. 2, 2023

Native Gardens June 2–18, 2023

Little Shop of Horrors July 14–30, 2023

KATE GOLDMAN CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Harriet The Spy Oct. 28-Nov. 13, 2022

Go, Dog. Go! Jan. 6-22, 2023

The Hundred Dresses Feb. 24–Mar. 12, 2023

How I Became A Pirate Apr. 21–May 7, 2023

> Charlotte's Web 2021-22 Season



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RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA

Katy Merriman, Playhouse Artistic Director

The story of Cinderella is as old as 7 B.C.E. and has been told throughout the world from ancient Greece to Twelfth Century France, China, Cambodia, Italy, South Africa... The list is long and spans hundreds of years. The story has inspired operas, ballets, paintings, and many a homemade theatrical rendition if your childhood playtime was anything like mine.

You may be most familiar with the 1950 Disney movie. Rodgers and Hammerstein first wrote their version for live television in 1957. It starred Julie Andrews. Their script aired live again in 1965 with Lesley Ann Warren in the title role and was made into a television film starring Brandy Norwood and Whitney Houston in 1997. Regardless of which re-telling speaks most to you, it is certain that this is a lasting folk tale that has reached nearly every corner of the globe and every generation of people.

Today you will see Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway version of the Cinderella story, updated in 2013 with a nod to more modern audiences. In this iteration of the story, a peasant class servant is still lifted from poverty by marrying someone royal, *BUT*... she also does so much more than that.

Ella (short for you know what) inspires a young and impressionable leader, Prince Topher, to help the people who she knows need it most. She opens his eyes to a world that he has never lived in and teaches him to use his power and influence where it will do the most good. Ella and Prince Topher come together because they find friendship and mutual respect for each other – how sexy is that? To be clear, I love the magical dress changes and fairy tale creatures as much as any of you, and we have certainly delivered on that. But it is so lovely when we can pair a beautiful story full of magic and love with a message of standing up for those who need help most; a message that taking time to listen and learn about people who you don't know can lead to a happier kingdom.

P.S. If you are looking for some holiday swag that will remind you of the magical experience you are about to have, check out the Cinderella Capsule Collection of merchandise at shop.rodgersandhammerstein.com.

All net proceeds from sales benefit Saving our Cinderellas. Co-founded by Keke Palmer, who was the first Black actress to star as Cinderella on Broadway, Saving Our Cinderellas uses the arts to integrate values of confidence and leadership into the lives of young women of color.





GUEST INFORMATION

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, ushers will provide direction.

Etiquette

Latecomers will be seated at an appropriate break in the play. Lobby chimes are sounded five minutes before curtain as well as the close of intermission. Disruptive, unruly guests, regardless of age, will be asked to leave. Cell phone ringers should be turned off.

Lost Items

Lost items will be held in the ticket office.

Parking

Free parking is available in The Playhouse lots and on streets surrounding the theatre. After 5:00 PM daily, free parking is available in the Shops at Roosevelt's east/back parking lot. Parking in the west/front Shops parking lot is restricted to Shops customers at all times. The Playhouse is not responsible for loss of any personal property left in vehicles.

Performance Content

The Playhouse does not rate subject matter as sensitivities vary from person to person. Questions about content, age appropriateness, or other aspects of the show such as strobe lights and other theatrical affects should be directed to the ticket office.

Performance Schedule

The regular John Viars Theatre performance schedule is 7:30 PM Wednesdays through Saturdays, and 2:00 PM Sundays. The regular Kate Goldman Children's Theatre performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. The Family Holiday Classic performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. All times are subject to change.

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, Tuesday through Friday, and 90 minutes before each performance. Tickets are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, online. Ticketing fees are the same whether purchased online, by phone, or at the ticket office.

Des Moines Community Playhouse 831 42nd Street Des Moines, IA 50312

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Ticket office and administrative office: 515-277-6261

Group sales reservations: 515-277-6261

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CAST LIST

Opening December 2, 2022 Closing December 18, 2022

Des Moines Community Playhouse Presents in the John Viars Theatre

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA

Music by Richard Rodgers Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II New Book by Douglas Carter Beane Original Book by Oscar Hammerstein II Orchestrations by Danny Troob Music Adaptation & Arrangements by David Chase

Presented by Corteva Agriscience

Director: David R. Kilpatrick Music Director: Brenton Brown Choreographer: Michael Tomlinson Scenic Designer: Kit Mayer Costume Designer: Angela Lampe Lighting Designer: Virgil Kleinhesselink Sound Effects Designer: Michael Meacham Properties Designer: Katelyn Hughes Stage Manager: Jessie Worden Intimacy Director: Katy Merriman Assistant Music Director: Emma Feldhans Assistant Choreographer: Michael Beasley Assistant Stage Manager: Jonathan Garton Substitute Stage Manager: Abby Kilpatrick Playhouse Artistic Director: Katy Merriman

Cast

In Order of Performance *Indicates Playhouse Debut

Ella		Charlotte Samantha Aaron
Fox	Maverick Mundt*	FootmanHeather Tragesser
Raccoon	Charlotte Rempe	DriverStacie Bendixen
Giant	Jonathan Garton	Pages Isabella Rempe, Sophia Towns*
Topher		Ensemble Javier Anselmo, Stacie Bendixen,
Sebastian	Josh Sampson	Toné Cheré*, Joey Furnald*, Jillian Gabby,
Lord Pinkleton	Greg Millar	Ben Hall*, Greta Hammond, Connor McAdoo*,
Marie	Julie Larson*	Maverick Mundt*, Caitlyn Porter*, Charlotte Rempe,
Jean-Michel	Keelin Christopher Reilly	Maddie Topliff, Heather Tragesser, Stella Webster
Madame	Alexandra Gray	Jean-Michel (Dec. 9, 5:00 PM Dec. 10) Evan Schettler
Gabrielle		

Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella is presented with a 15-minute intermission.

Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella is produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. <u>www.condcordtheatricals.com</u>.

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue	Ella & Chorus
Me, Who Am I?	Topher, Sebastian, Lord Pinkleton, Knights, Pages
In My Own Little Corner	Ella
	Ella, Topher
Your Majesty	Lord Pinkleton, Topher
The Prince Is Giving a Ball / Now is The Time	Sebastian, Jean-Michel,
	Lord Pinkleton, Marie, Crowd
In My Own Little Corner (Reprise)	Ella, Marie
Impossible	Ella, Marie
It's Possible	Ella, Marie, Chorus
Ten Minutes Ago	Topher, Ella
Ten Minutes Ago (Reprise)	Ella, Topher, Lord Pinkleton, Guests

ACT II

Stepsister's Lament Call To Arms He Was Tall	Lord Pinkleton, Topher, Knights
When You're Driving Through the Moonlight	
A Lovely Night	Ella, Charlotte, Gabrielle, Madame
A Lovely Night (Reprise)	Gabrielle, Ella
Loneliness Of Evening	Topher, Ella
The Prince Is Giving a Ball (Reprise)	Sebastian, Lord Pinkleton, Pages
There's Music in You	Marie
Now Is the Time (Reprise)	Jean-Michel, Gabrielle, Marie
Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?	Topher, Ella
Eight O'clock and All Is Well	Lord Pinkleton
The Proposal	
The Wedding (Finale)	

Additional Lyrics by Douglas Carter Beane, David Chase, & Bruce Pomahac

CAST NOTES



Samantha Aaron (Charlotte) is excited to return to The Playhouse stage after a 10-year absence, having played Tracy Turnbald in Hairspray (Dionysos Award nominee). Her numerous Kansas credits include Footloose and

Grease at the Lawrence (KS) Community Theatre and *Into the Woods* at Johnson County Community College. Samantha received her bachelor's degree in theatre performance with a minor in costume design from Simpson College. She is engaged to Riley Goemann and says her sister, Erin, is the biggest Cinderella fan.



Javier Anselmo (Ensemble) is a junior at Drake University studying theatre: acting, writing, and directing. He will make his directorial debut Feb. 24, 2023, with "Please Have a Seat..." at Drake. He made his Playhouse

debut last December as Baron Elberfeld in *The Sound of Music*. In addition to acting, Javier loves writing songs, hanging out with friends, and trying new foods. He is grateful to his friends and family for their belief in him.



Stacie Bendixen (Driver/ Ensemble) has numerous area credits including Disney's Freaky Friday One Act (Torrey) at The Playhouse and Bye Bye Birdie (Gloria) at Urbandale Community Theatre as well as shows with

Ankeny Community Theatre and Altoona's Class Act Productions (CAP). She has served on the board of the Ankeny Community Theatre. Stacie works in communications for the Wells Fargo Foundation. In her free time, she enjoys outdoor adventures, taking care of shelter cats, and conversations with her sassy cat Jemma.



Faith Brooks (*Ella*) has an extensive background in solo singing and singing competitions but is still relatively new to the world of theatre. She played Lindsay in *Godspell* at Ankeny Community Theater and Lorelle

Robinson in *Dreamgirls* at Theatre Cedar Rapids. Faith received her A.A. and A.S. degrees from Des Moines Area Community College in music and biology. She hopes to make performance her full time job soon. Faith enjoys learning music from all genres, playing piano, and spending time with her dog, Giovanni.



Toné Cheré (Ensemble) is a senior at Drake University, earning a B.F.A. in musical theatre. At Drake, she has appeared in 9 to 5 The Musical (Kathy) and Pippin (Player) and choreographed It Shoulda Been You. At The Playhouse, she was

choreographer for *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* and *Beaufield Berry's Buffalo Women*. She also appeared in *Bring It On: The Musical* (Danielle) with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT). Toné loves dancing, writing songs, playing video games, and watching movies when she has the free time.



Dakota Eiselstein (Topher) is making his debut at The Playhouse. His stage credits include Mary Sunshine in Chicago and Jesus in Godspell at Tipton (IA) High School and Pinocchio in Shrek The Musical at Cedar County

Spotlight Players, Tipton. Dakota is working on his B.F.A. in musical theatre with a minor in Spanish at Drake University. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, trying new foods, and traveling.



Joey Furnald (Ensemble) is making his Playhouse debut in Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella. At West Des Moines Valley High School, he participated in band, choir, show choir, plays, musicals, and mime. He was a theatre performance

major at the University of Northern Iowa and involved with the campus radio station, KULT 94.5, and philanthropic work with Kappa Sigma fraternity. Joey works at Urban Cellar while pursuing an acting career.



Jillian Gabby (Ensemble) grew up on The Playhouse stage, first performing as Tessie in Annie and as Young Cosette (Dionysos Award recipient) in Les Misérables, a show very dear to her heart. More recently, she's been on The

Playhouse stage in *Catch Me If You Can* (a favorite) and *Guys and Dolls*. A graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in linguistics, Jillian spent a year in Paris and now works as an English tutor.



Alexandra Gray (Madame) was last seen at The Playhouse as Stagecoach Mary in Beaufield Berry's Buffalo Women. Her other Playhouse shows include Singin' in the Rain (Zelda Zanders), Disney's Newsies (Medda Larkin), and Sister

Act (Deloris Van Cartier, Dionysos Award recipient). 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.



Ben Hall (Ensemble) is in his first Playhouse show but was active in theatre at West Des Moines Stilwell Junior High where his shows included Aladdin Jr (Jafar) and Murder in the Knife Room. He also played a Pirate Captain in the

Des Moines Performing Arts summer camp *Space Pirates!* Ben is a freshman at Dowling Catholic High School where he plays football, is part of the drumline, and sings in choir. In his free time, he enjoys ninja training and weightlifting.



Greta Hammond (Ensemble) played Sister Margaretta in The Sound of Music and appeared in Singin' in the Rain in The Playhouse's last season. She has cultivated a love for performing over the years, starring in high school musicals

and graduating with a B.M. in vocal performance from Drake University. During the day she keeps busy managing Friedrich's Coffee and reading books, and at night she is excited to be on stage.



Julie Larson (Marie) stepped away from the stage for 20+ years, venturing back this spring to play The Baker's Wife in Into the Woods (Tallgrass Theatre Co). Highlights from her professional career include Lily St. Regis in

Annie (Networks Productions National Tour), Cassie in A Chorus Line (Forestburgh [NY] Playhouse), and Radio City Christmas Spectacular. She married her Prince Charming, earned her master's from Columbia University, had four children, became a psychotherapist/speaker, and eventually moved to lowa.



Connor McAdoo (*Ensemble*) received his B.A. in vocal performance with an emphasis on choral conducting from Central College in Pella. This is his Playhouse debut, but his Central productions include *Speed Dating*

Tonight (Obsessive Screen Disorder Dater). Connor is a purchasing agent at Cupertino Electric Inc. He enjoys riding his motorcycle, golfing, shooting sports, and tabletop games.



Greg Millar (Lord Pinkleton) is a favorite with Des Moines area audiences. He has had lead roles in many shows including, at The Playhouse, Annie, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Fiddler on the Roof, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Leaving

lowa, and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!* His favorite roles are Harold Nichols in *The Full Monty* and Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys & Dolls.* Greg teaches spring break and summer theatre classes at The Playhouse. His hobbies include horse racing and baking.



Maverick Mundt (Fox Puppeteer) is a fourth grader at Brookview Elementary School in West Des Moines who likes math and writing. He is a member of the Boys Junior Olympic Team at Chow's Gymnastics where he competes

at level 3 on all six apparatuses. His favorite is floor. This is Maverick's stage debut.



Tatum Murphy (Gabrielle) is a junior at Ankeny Centennial High School where she is in show choir. She has been in multiple school productions including *Chicago:* Teen Edition (Matron "Mama" Morton) as well as *The Addams*

Family: Young @ Part (Morticia Addams) with Altoona's Class Act Productions (CAP). She served as assistant music director for *Into the Woods Jr* at CAP. In her free time, she loves fashion, thrifting, antique clothing, and watching videos of cute animals.



Caitlyn Porter (Ensemble) received her music degree from The School for Music Vocations, Southwestern Community College. She is a piano teacher at Arrow Academy of Music in Urbandale, jazz arranger, and songwriter. She performs gigs

around Des Moines. This is her Playhouse debut, but her area credits include in *Godspell* at Ankeny Community Theatre, and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey) and *Honk!* (Ida) at Des Moines Lincoln High School, the latter of which earned her a nomination for the Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards triple threat award.



Keelin Christopher Reilly (Jean-Michel) grew up on the East Coast where he was involved in productions of *The Drowsy* Chaperone (Robert) and Cabaret (Herr Schultz) with Johns Hopkins Barnstormers (Baltimore, MD),

Monty Python's Spamalot (Sir Lancelot) at Delaware Allstate Theatre (Wilmington), and Avenue Q (Princeton) at Archmere Academy (Claymont, DE). After completing his bachelor's degree at Johns Hopkins University, Keelin moved to Des Moines to take a research position with Corteva Agriscience. Earlier this fall he made his Playhouse debut as Harry the Horse in *Guys and Dolls*.



Charlotte Rempe (Raccoon Puppeteer) is a fifth grader at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic School and is happy to be back at The Playhouse after making her debut in Charlotte's Web as Wilbur (Dionvsos Award recipient). This

fall, she has taken on percussion and choir, as well as continuing with violin, dance, and climbing. In her free time, Charlotte likes to go shopping at Barnes and Noble to grow her huge Thinking Putty collection.



Isabella Rempe (Page) is excited to be onstage for her second Playhouse show after receiving a Dionysos Award for playing the title character in Pippi Longstocking this past spring. Bella is an eighth grader at Saint Francis of Assisi

Catholic School where she was Cinderella in *The Granny Awards*. She enjoys acting, playing the violin, volleyball, baking, hanging out with friends and family, and playing with the new family dog, Agnes.



Josh Sampson (Sebastian) has been active in area theatre, having appeared in Leaving Iowa, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, High School Reunion, and Of Mice and Men at The Playhouse; Borrowed Beats, Aura, Otherwise Engaged, and Proof

at Ankeny Community Theatre; and *Wait Until Dark* at Tallgrass Theatre. Josh enjoys family time with his wife, Megan, and their children, Max, Sophia, and Lucy, golfing and snow skiing. He is a systems architect at Advanced Automation.



Evan Schettler (*Jean-Michel Dec.* 9, 5:00 PM Dec. 10) is familiar to Playhouse audiences as Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* and as Colonel Arbuthnot in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express.* He has numerous credits

at Simpson College where he earned his bachelor's degree in music education. His Simpson roles include The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Polyphemus in *Acis and Galatea*, and Tartuccio in *Prospera's Island*. Evan's interests range from running and practicing yoga to video games and Dungeons and Dragons.



Maddie Topliff (Ensemble) is glad to be back at The Playhouse after performing in Singin' in the Rain this past spring. More recently, she played Columbia in The Rocky Horror Show shadow cast at The Garden Nightclub.

Maddie graduated from Drake University and is a communications specialist at Kum & Go and freelances for Dotdash Meredith. In her free time, Maddie enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her girlfriend and dog.



Sophia Towns (Page) has taken Playhouse classes and has performed in Performance Academy productions of Disney's Aladdin Kids, Disney's Frozen Kids, and Matilda Jr (Amanda Thripp/ Sergei). Her other performances

include *The Claw Musical* and *Space Pirates!* at Des Moines Performing Arts. Sophia is an eighth grader at Prairieview School in Waukee. Her other interests include singing, cooking, and Taekwondo, where she has earned a first degree black belt.



Heather Tragesser (Footman/ Ensemble) is excited to return to The Playhouse where her past performances include Choices, Proof, and her favorite, Schoolhouse Rock Live! The past few summers she could be seen

at Urbandale Community Theatre in *Bye Bye Birdie, Annie,* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator, a favorite role). Heather is a reading specialist at Ashland Ridge Elementary in Ankeny. She enjoys traveling with her family (especially to Disney), kickboxing, and performing in musicals with her daughter, Ember.



Stella Webster (Ensemble) began her Playhouse career as a youth in Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr and recently played Acrobat/Big Kid in Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical. Other area shows include Legally Blonde Jr (Brooke Wyndham, a

favorite role), *Fame Jr*, *Annie Jr*, and *Hairspray Jr*. at Des Moines Young Artist's Theatre (DMYAT). Stella is a choreographer at Des Moines Roosevelt and Lincoln high schools. A junior at Iowa State University, Stella is majoring in performing arts with a double emphasis in musical theatre and dance.



David R. Kilpatrick (Director) has been part of The Playhouse since May 2017. His career has included producing artistic director of a small professional theatre, owner of a dinner theatre, production manager. director. lighting

designer, and professional stage manager. David's past productions at The Playhouse include Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, Rounding Third, Disney's Newsies, Catch Me If You Can, and Mamma Mia! Other favorite directing experiences include Titanic The Musical; Sister Act; The Dining Room; Boeing, Boeing; and Sideways Stories from Wayside School to name a few. His education includes degrees from George Mason University, Missouri State, and University of Missouri.



Brenton Brown (Music Director) says Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella is his 59th show for The Playhouse. Recent Playhouse shows include Fiddler on the Roof, Les Misérables, Mary Poppins, Mamma Mial, Billy Elliot

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*. Brenton is artistic director of the Harmony Delegation Chorus. He and his wife, Jessica, enjoy spending time with their children, Lindy and Bennett.



Michael Tomlinson

(Choreographer) spent 2022 and 2020 with Big League Productions' National Tour of An American in Paris and South Pacific. Other dance credits include Jennifer Muller/The Works, Male Call,

Provincetown, MA (dancer, choreographer), Tristian Griffin Dance Company, Lawrence, KS (guest artist), and Seamless Dance Theater, Lenexa, KS (dancer). A graduate of the University of Missouri – Kansas City with a B.F.A. in dance, Michael teaches yoga and likes hiking, camping, cooking, and enjoying and sharing the magic of theatre.



Kit Mayer (Scenic Designer) is from Lacrosse, WI. He has been a longtime staple in the regional theatre scene of the upper Mississippi valley, working as a resident designer for professional, university, and communitybased theatres. He has also designed for touring productions in Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and Australia. Away from theatre, he is a songwriter and performer who has produced several albums of original music as a solo artist and with his group the Mayer Brothers Band.



Angela Lampe (Costume Designer) began her tenure with The Playhouse with the 1993 production of Guys and Dolls. Since then, she has designed costumes, sets, and props for nearly 300 productions including Guys and

Dolls, Les Misérables, Disney's The Little Mermaid, West Side Story, Into the Woods, 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 multiple Cloris Awards for excellence in costuming and puppetry.



Virgil Kleinhesselink (Lighting Designer) owns VTEC Productions sound company and is technical director at Des Moines Hoover High School where he designed lights for their production of Les Misérables School Edition. Virgil began his

Playhouse career in 1979 and since then has been involved with more than 200 shows as designer or actor.



Michael Meacham (Sound Designer) has been actively volunteering at The Playhouse for more than 25 years. While mostly designing sound for plays and musicals, he enjoys being on stage when the right old guy part comes

along. Michael's favorite role is Grandpa in *You Can't Take It with You* for which he was recognized with the Dionysos Award for Best Actor. Michael has enjoyed a 55-year career as a voice actor and sound designer for radio, TV, film, and live theater.



Katelyn Hughes (Properties Designer) 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 and more recently played Miss Agatha Trunchbull in Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical for which she received both the Dionysos Award and Cloris Award for outstanding performance. A graphic designer and gift shop lead for UnityPoint Foundation, Katie likes knitting, film, and attending festivals.



Jessie Worden (Stage Manager) is excited to be back for her second production at The Playhouse. In January 2022, she stage managed the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre production of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*

Previously residing in Omaha, she stage managed productions such as *Tuck Everlasting* (Bellevue Little Theatre), *Little Women* (Chanticleer Community Theatre) and *Into the Woods* (Papillion La Vista Community Theatre). She works for Stride Autism Centers as a Registered Behavior Technician and performs as a princess for a character entertainment company. Jessie is newly married to Christopher.



Emma Feldhans (Assistant Music Director) is taking on her first production role at The Playhouse. She previously worked as the assistant music director for Heathers The Musical and Bring It On The Musical, both at Des

Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT). Emma received her bachelor's degree in vocal music education from Iowa State University and works as a vocal music teacher at Parkview Middle School in Ankeny. Her hobbies include painting and reading.



Michael Beasley (Assistant Choreographer) grew up in southeast Iowa and maintained an active role in the local theatre community. A selection of Beasley's previous performances includes Grease (Rizzo), Dracula

(Lucy), and *Trojan Women* (Vestal Virgin). They were last seen on The Playhouse Stage in *Guys & Dolls* and were seen earlier this year in *Charlotte's Web* (Second Member, Dionysos Award recipient) and *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* (Children's Entertainer/Big Kid). They also received the 2022 Playhouse Spirit Award, given to an actor who has assisted a show in ways beyond their role. Michael enjoys connecting with nature through gardening, ultra-hiking, and mycology; creating joy through macramé; dancing in the kitchen; and jamming with the family band.



Jonathan Garton (Giant/

Assistant Stage Manager) made his Playhouse stage debut in Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express and since then has worked backstage on most John Viars Theatre shows for

which he received a 2022 Playhouse Volunteer of the Year award. At Iowa State University, he worked on the crew for shows at Fisher Theatre. Jon's favorite theatre experience was squeezing into a TV cart and wheeling a projection around the stage for *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. An avid photographer, Jon's day job is with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He and his husband, Nenad, have two children, Milos and Sofia.



Abby Kilpatrick (Substitute Stage Manager) is a sophomore at Northwest Missouri State University studying business management and theatre tech and design. At NWMSU, she is the theatre department's front-

of-house manager. This past fa^{II}, she was stage manager for NWMSU's production of *A Small Fire*. At The Playhouse, Abby most recently designed lights for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!* Abby is thrilled to be back at The Playhouse this winter, volunteering for *Cinderella* and designing lights for *Go, Dog. Go!*



Katy Merriman (Artistic Director) has been an active member of the local theatre community since moving to Des Moines in 2013. Some of her Playhouse directing credits include *Guys and Dolls* and *The Roommate*. 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 throughout the Midwest.

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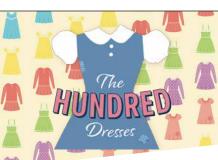
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Dance Captain: Toné Cheré

Dresser: Kirsten Buniak

Run Crew: Jenny Bryant, Gavin Burg, Pilar Burg, Sam Claassen, Laila Collier, Madeline Davis, Jonathan Garton, Sofia Garton, Ash Howland, Huck Nidey, Hudson Pulver, Joe Reed, Helen Reicher, Emmitt Ryerson, Jenny Throckmorton, Grace Zimmerman

Sound Board Operator: **Troy Ellerbroek, Lindsey Nelson**

Light Board Operator: Sam Claassen

Set Construction: Christopher Worden

Scenic painter: Nicholas Amundson

Set Painting: Kathleen Baustian, Harold Hinkhouse, Annie Jung, Darlene Pullen, Hudson Pulver

Costume Crew: Joy Barlean, Susan Eisenhour, Barb Mydland

Properties Crew: Jonathan Garton, Sofia Garton

Audition Crew: Hannah Beuse, Kyle Bochart, Jenny Bryant, Pilar Burg, Cheryl Critelli, Troy Ellerbroek, Tonie Farris, DC Felton, Brandon Record

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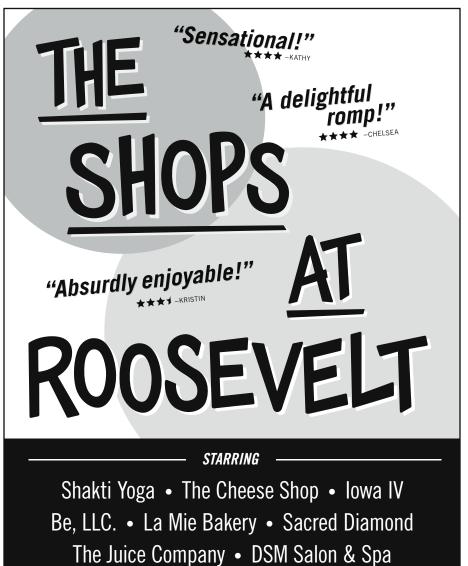
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