

# STANDING OVATION

THIS PRODUCTION  
GENEROUSLY PRESENTED BY



**Seussical**  
**THE MUSICAL** <sup>TYA</sup>

The central graphic features a stylized illustration of a hand holding a pink, spiky flower. The background is a light blue field with darker blue circular patterns. The title "Seussical" is written in a large, yellow, bubbly font with a blue outline, and "THE MUSICAL" is in a smaller, yellow, blocky font with a blue outline. A small "TYA" trademark symbol is positioned to the right of "THE MUSICAL".

**OCT. 27 - NOV. 5, 2023**



**#DMPlayhouse**

# Great Red Wine

*made in Iowa  
from Grapes  
grown in Iowa*



## ***Iowa In the Dark***

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.

## ***2021 Iowa Sabrevois***

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 Iowa 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 Iowa 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](http://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](http://www.tasselridge.com), our Facebook page, or call the Winery at 641.672.WINE (9463) for information about hours, Seated Wine Tastings, and Wine & Food Pairing Events at Tassel Ridge Winery.

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**David R. Kilpatrick**  
Executive Director

Thank you for attending today's performance of *Seussical™ TYA*. This is a play we like to present every few years in part because it is so much fun. More importantly it is good to be reminded that we are all persons, and a person is a person no matter how small. Thank you for sharing the power of theatre with your small family members.

What a busy year we have ahead! Construction on the Kate Goldman Theatre, classrooms, and other spaces on the theatre's lower level is currently scheduled to begin in November, so every children's theatre production this season will be in the John Viars Theatre. We are still going to meet some wonderful personalities that will include Charlie Brown and all the Peanuts gang, dragons who love tacos (Don't we all?), and Ivy and Bean. Each theatre experience will be a wonder for the whole audience.

Of course, throughout this season, we will continue to offer classes for kindergartners through ninth graders and Friday Funday Theatre for 4-6 year olds. There is something for everyone at The Playhouse.

For more than 90 years, The Playhouse has presented shows for youths and with youths. We do this because of the support of parents, grandparents, siblings, and everyone else who believes in the power of theatre to transform lives. The Playhouse couldn't do it without you! So, thank you for playing your part.

P.S. If you would like to donate towards our construction project to upgrade the children's theatre, please let us know. It is not too late to make a gift that will help all children now and in the future.



The graphic features a blue background with white polka dots. In the center, a cartoon worm character holds a pink, spiky flower. Below the character, the text "Seussical" is written in a large, yellow, bubbly font, with "THE MUSICAL" in a smaller, black, blocky font underneath. The letters "TYA" are positioned to the right of "THE MUSICAL".

**VOTE for your favorite performances!**

 **Scan the QR code to tell us who your favorite performers were today!**  
Outstanding performances are recognized at the Dionysos Awards each September.



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, 2023 to  
Sept. 25, 2023.

An \* indicates a deceased donor.



Once, 2023-2024 Season

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Donors who generously support The Playhouse at the \$1,000 level and above qualify for the Director's Circle.

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The Playhouse is embarking on an exciting campaign to raise funds for the construction of an upgraded theatre facility. These donors have already generously contributed to this transformational project.

Listing is cumulative from Oct. 1, 2021 – Sept. 20, 2023

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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. Soon 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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## 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.

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**JOHN VIARS THEATRE**  
**DEC. 1-17, 2023**

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# 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.

## Safety Protocols

In order to best serve our whole community, The Playhouse respectfully requests the following items are not brought into theatre:

- Alcohol, drugs, illegal substances, or any paraphernalia associated with drug use
- Weapons of any type, including chains, knives, and firearms (excluding law enforcement officers)
- Pepper spray/mace/other chemicals
- Noisemakers such as air horns
- Laser Pens/Pointers of any type
- Fireworks

## 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



[DMPlayhouse.com](http://DMPlayhouse.com)

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

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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

### *Seussical Overture*

<i>Oh, The Thinks You Can Think!</i> .....	JoJo, The Cat in the Hat, Ensemble
<i>Horton Hears a Who</i> .....	The Cat in the Hat, JoJo, Horton, Bird Girls, Citizens of the Jungle
<i>Biggest Blame Fool</i> .....	Sour Kangaroo, Young Kangaroo, Wickersham Brothers, Gertrude, Mayzie, Horton, JoJo, Ensemble
<i>Gertrude McFuzz</i> .....	Sour Kangaroo, Gertrude, Wickersham Brothers, Jungle Citizens
<i>Here on Who</i> .....	Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Mayor, Horton, Citizens of Who
<i>Meet JoJo the Who</i> .....	Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Mayor
<i>How to Raise a Child</i> .....	Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Mayor
<i>Oh, The Thinks You Can Think! (Reprise)</i> .....	The Cat in the Hat, JoJo
<i>It's Possible</i> .....	JoJo, Cat in The Hat, Fish
<i>Alone in the Universe</i> .....	Horton, JoJo
<i>The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz/Amazing Mayzie</i> .....	Gertrude, Mayzie, Bird Girls
<i>Amazing Mayzie</i> .....	Gertrude, The Cat in the Hat, Bird Girls
<i>Monkey Around/Chasing the Whos</i> .....	Wickersham Brothers, Horton, Sour Kangaroo, Bird Girls, Jungle Citizens

## ACT II

<i>Notice Me, Horton</i> .....	Gertrude, Horton
<i>How Lucky You Are</i> .....	Mayzie, The Cat in the Hat
<i>Egg, Nest and Tree</i> .....	Sour Kangaroo, Bird Girls, Wickersham Brothers, Citizens of the Jungle, The Cat in The Hat, Horton
<i>Sold/Mayzie in Palm Beach</i> .....	Citizens of the Jungle, Mayzie, The Cat in the Hat
<i>Mayzie at the Circus</i> .....	Mayzie, Horton
<i>Amazing Horton</i> .....	Mayzie, Horton
<i>Alone in the Universe (Reprise)</i> .....	Horton
<i>Solla Sollew</i> .....	Horton, JoJo, Mayor, Mrs. Mayor, Circus Animals
<i>All for You</i> .....	Gertrude, Dr. Drake [The Cat in the Hat], Bird Girls, Horton
<i>The Whos Return/The People Versus Horton the Elephant</i> .....	Horton, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Mayor, JoJo Sour Kangaroo, Wickersham Brothers, Gertrude, Marshal [The Cat in the Hat]
<i>The People Versus Horton the Elephant</i> .....	Horton, Judge Yertle, Marshal [The Cat in the Hat], Sour Kangaroo, Gertrude, Wickersham Brothers, Bird Girls
<i>Yopp!</i> .....	The Cat in the Hat, Horton, Gertrude, Kangaroos, Butter Battlers, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Mayor, JoJo, Ensemble
<i>Alone in the Universe (Reprise)</i> .....	Horton, Gertrude, The Cat in he Hat, JoJo
<i>Oh, The Thinks You Can Think! (Finale)</i> .....	Company
<i>Green Eggs and Ham (Finale Bows)</i> .....	Company
<i>Exit Music</i>	

# CAST LIST

122nd Production  
29th Season

Opening October 27th, 2023  
Closing November 5th, 2023

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

## **SEUSSICAL™ – THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES**

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

Co-Conceived by Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty, and Eric Idle

Based on the Works of Dr. Seuss

*Seussical for Young Audiences* premiered at the Coterie Theatre, Kansas City, MO, Jeff Church,  
artistic director

Presented by **Nationwide**

Director/Choreographer: **Kent Zimmerman**

Music Director: **Brandon Record**

Set Designer: **Nicholas Amundson**

Costume Designer: **Angela Lampe**

Lighting Designer: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**

Properties Designer: **Kerrie Lee**

Stage Manager: **Jonathan Garton**

Assistant Choreographer: **Marquis Bundy**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Jennifer Bryant**

Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

### Cast

\*Indicates Playhouse Debut

The Cat in the Hat .....	<b>Blake Clyde</b>
JoJo .....	<b>Nina Spahr</b>
Horton the Elephant .....	<b>Jeremy Jorgenson</b>
Gertrude McFuzz .....	<b>Natalie Jo Lourens</b>
Mayzie La Bird .....	<b>Dani Boal</b>
Sour Kangaroo .....	<b>Aria Huizenga*</b>
Young Kangaroo .....	<b>Emma Salgado*</b>
Mr. Mayor .....	<b>Scott P. Silipino*</b>
Mrs. Mayor .....	<b>Kaitlyn Meylor*</b>
Bird Girls .....	<b>Anastasia Cesarz*, Dawson Huinker, Grace Powell*</b>
Wickersham Brothers .....	<b>Laila Collier*, Taryn Cook*, Jacob Mentzer*</b>

*Seussical™ – Theatre for Young Audiences* is performed with a 15-minute intermission.

*Seussical™ – Theatre for Young Audiences* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

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

## CAST NOTES



**Dani Boal's** (*Mayzie La Bird*) more recent and noteworthy stage credits at The Playhouse include *Ragtime* (Mother, Cloris Award Nominee, Dionysos Award winner), *Mary Poppins* (Mary Poppins), *The Addams Family* (Morticia), and *Les Misérables* (Eponine). She is also a two-time Cloris Leachman Award winner for her work in *Pippin* (Tallgrass Theatre) and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Urbandale Community Theatre). Dani holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She enjoys her new role at home with Everett (4) and Eleanor (2).



**Anastasia Cesarz** (*Bird Girl*) is glad to be making her Playhouse debut. She is a junior at Drake University earning her B.F.A. in musical theatre. She is a costume TA at Drake. Her favorite past role was The Baker's Wife in *into the Woods* in Leesburg, VA. Ana is thankful for the support and encouragement from her fellow cast members and crew, as well as her mother and her partner.



**Blake Clyde** (*The Cat in the Hat*) is familiar to area audiences from his roles as Coalhouse Walker Jr in *Ragtime* (Dionysos Award winner) and Sebastian in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Dionysos and Cloris Awards winner) at The Playhouse and Leading Player in *Pippin* with Tallgrass Theatre Company (Cloris Award winner). He is a development coordinator with Proteus, Inc. Blake likes trying new restaurants with friends, road trips, and being the best roommate he can be to his tuxedo cat and beagle.



**Laila Collier** (*Wickersham Brother*) is a sophomore at West Des Moines Valley High School where she is part of the colorguard. At The Playhouse, she played Hortensia in the Performance Academy production of *Matilda Jr.*, served as dresser for *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*, and ran lights for *Charlotte's Web*. She's also been seen as Annie in Urbandale Community Theatre's production of *Annie*. Outside of theatre, Laila enjoys sewing, dance, singing, and fashion.



**Taryn Cook** (*Wickersham Brother*) has been active in the drama department at Des Moines Lincoln High School, where they are a senior. They have been onstage in *Almost, Maine*; *Carrie the Musical*; *She Kills Monsters*; and *Freaky Friday*, a favorite in which they played Savannah. Taryn also has experience on the sound crew at Lincoln. They are a jewelry maker and sell their work at the Renaissance Fair at Sleepy Hollow.



**Dawson Huinker** (*Bird Girl*) is an eighth-grade student at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in West Des Moines, where she is in choir, show choir, band (tuba), mock trial, and volleyball. She found her love for the stage when she played Cruella de Vil in The Playhouse's *101 Dalmatians* summer camp. She has been on stage at The Playhouse (Louisa von Trapp, *The Sound of Music*), Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (JoJo, *Seussical Jr.*), and Iowa Stage Theatre (Belinda, *A Christmas Carol*).



**Aria Huizenga** (*Sour Kangaroo*) is pursuing her Bachelor of Musical Arts degree at the University of South Dakota (USD). She has been onstage in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Mamma Mia!* and also served as dance captain for those shows, both at the Vermillion (SD) Community Theatre; designed sound for *Cinderella Waltz* at USD; and musical directed *Disney's High School Musical 2 Jr* at Sioux Empire Community Theatre in Sioux Falls, SD. Aria is the development manager for the Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus.



**Jeremy Jorgenson** (*Horton the Elephant*) is thrilled to be returning to The Playhouse stage after an 18-year hiatus. He was last seen as Toad in *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Other Playhouse credits include *Beast* in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, Anthony in *Master Class*, Jean Michel in *La Cage aux Folles*, Adam/Noah in *Children of Eden*, and Dan in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. An advocate for Down syndrome awareness and a teacher for Des Moines Public Schools, Jeremy and his wife, Sarah, have four children, Jaren, Keira, Liam, and Marek.

## CAST NOTES



**Natalie Jo Lourens** (*Gertrude McFuzz*) was most recently seen at The Playhouse as Mrs. Wormwood in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*, which was one of the best experiences of her life. Other Playhouse roles include assistant stage manager for *Choices* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, and Mrs. Bucket in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. A key accounts specialist at F&G Annuities & Life, Natalie loves spending time with her girlfriend, Jenna, her friends and family, and 12 nieces and nephews.



**Jacob Mentzer** (*Wickersham Brother*) is making his Playhouse debut, although he is no stranger to the stage. He played the title character in *Shrek the Musical* at Des Moines North High School. Jake is a composer of rock, pop, and dance music. While he does create some instrumental pieces, most of his compositions have vocals. [www.facebook.com/JMentzerMusic](http://www.facebook.com/JMentzerMusic)



**Kaitlyn Meylor** (*Mrs. Mayor*) is a recent graduate of Iowa State University. This is her first production with The Playhouse. Her most recent role was Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Ankeny Community Theater. A cashier at Wells Fargo, Kaitlyn is grateful for the support from her partner, Alyssa, and her father, Mike.



**Grace Powell** (*Bird Girl*) has many stage credits including Olive Ostrovsky in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Indianola High School), Yvette in *Clue: On Stage* (Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO), and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (William Jewell College, Liberty, MO). She is devoted to the arts with interests in musical theatre, vocal performance, dance, and crocheting. Grace is taking a gap year in her studies and is shift manager at Smokey Row in Carlisle.



**Emma Salgado** (*Young Kangaroo*) is a sixth-grader at Christ the King Catholic School in Des Moines. This is her Playhouse stage debut, but she has been attending shows at The Playhouse with her Nana in both the children's theatre and mainstage theatre since she was a little girl. Emma

has had roles in summer camp classes at Des Moines Performing Arts. Emma enjoys dance, volleyball, and track.



**Scott P. Silipino** (*Mr. Mayor*) is making his Playhouse debut. Recent performances include featured soloist and Lem Billings in Andrew Lippa's *Unbreakable* for Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus; tenor soloist in Saint-Saens' *Christmas Oratorio* for Capella Festiva in Poughkeepsie, NY; and Gangster 2 in *Kiss Me, Kate* and Ensemble for various productions with Delaware Valley Opera in Sullivan County, NY. Scott is a workforce analyst for Wells Fargo.



**Nina Spahr** (*JoJo*) has honed her art in numerous Playhouse classes including Performance Academy productions of *Disney's Frozen Kids* (Middle Anna, a favorite role). She received a Playhouse Dionysos Award for the shared role of The Little Girl in *Ragtime* and for the shared title role in *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. She also won a Cloris Award for playing Matilda. Nina is a freshman at Prairieview School in Waukee where she is in show choir.



**Kent Zimmermann** (*Director/Choreographer*) is thrilled to be making his Playhouse debut with *Seussical™*. Before moving to Iowa in 2020, he lived in New York City for 23 years and has worked on Broadway, across the country, and in Europe in various shows. His directorial credits include *Sister Act*, *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein*, and *La Cage aux Folles* (Red Mountain Theatre Company), which he also choreographed. Other choreography credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (The Armory). Associate choreographer credits include *Ragtime* (The Armory); *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman!*, *Cabaret*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Dallas Theater Center). Theatre credits include *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Thou Shalt Not* (Broadway); *Show Boat* (London); *The Producers*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Footloose*, and *Show Boat* (National Tour); *Monty Python's Spamalot* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Ogunquit Playhouse); *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman!*, *Cabaret*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Dallas Theater Center); *Ragtime*, *West Side Story*, and *A Christmas Carol* (The Armory); *Randy Newman's Faust* (The Goodman); *A Chorus Line* and *42nd Street* (Casa Mañana); *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Arts Center of Carolina);

## CAST NOTES

and *White Christmas* (TUTS). His film/TV credits include *The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Producers*, and *My Favorite Broadway: The Love Songs*. For my BPZ – Oh, the Places You'll Go! Psalms 91:1



**Brandon 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 in choral conducting at

Simpson College. This is his fifth show with The Playhouse as part of the production team, 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 director of choirs and vocal music teacher at Des Moines Lincoln High School, artistic director and conductor of the Des Moines Diversity Chorus, and a teaching artist at City Voices. He spends his free time traveling, playing board games, and being with family, friends, and puppy, Fynn.



**Nicholas Amundson** (*Set 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.



**Angela Lampe** (*Costume Designer*) began her tenure with The Playhouse in 1993 and has designed costumes, sets, and props for 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.



**Virgil Kleinhesselink** (*Lighting Designer*) owns VTEC Productions sound company and is technical director at Des Moines Hoover High School where he designed lights for their production of *Les Misérables Jr.* Virgil began his Playhouse career in 1979 and since then has been involved with more than 200 shows as a designer or actor. This fall he was inducted into The Playhouse Legends.



**Kerrie Lee** (*Properties Designer*) is a visual artist and owner of Dream Up. She has appeared on The Playhouse stages in *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* (Actress 1) and *James and the Giant Peach* (Aunt

Spiker). Kerrie has also used her considerable talents backstage. She was assistant stage manager for *The Velveteen Rabbit*. She received a 2020 Dionysos Award from The Playhouse for her work backstage, dressing actors in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, creating the Bumpus Hounds and properties for *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*, and working as light board operator for *The Diary of Anne Frank*.



**Jonathan Garton** (*Stage Manager*) answered a volunteer call for *The Sound of Music* in fall 2021 and has been highly involved at The Playhouse since, being named a Playhouse Volunteer of the Year in the 2021-22 Season. Though

initially hesitant to stage manage, he couldn't resist and has enjoyed watching the show's development. Jon is a supervisor at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and shares his love for photography within and outside The Playhouse. He's grateful to his husband, Nenad, and their children, Milos and Sofia, for their unwavering support.



**Marquis Bundy** (*Assistant Choreographer*) is happy to be back at The Playhouse, this time behind the table. He was last seen in *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.



Marquis is a performer, director, and choreographer, and has been involved with multiple theatre companies across the Midwest. His most recent choreography credit was *Tick, Tick... Boom!* with The Home Creative Company in Elgin, IL. Outside of the theater, Marquis is the store manager of Smokey Row Coffee in Ankeny. He enjoys video games, lava lamps, and spending time with his friends.



**Jennifer Bryant** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) began her Playhouse career in 2012 on the backstage crew for *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* and last season was stage manager for *The Hundred Dresses*. She has been

assistant stage manager, stage manager, or on the backstage crew for more than 40 productions at The Playhouse, Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, and Urbandale Community Theatre. She has been named a Playhouse volunteer of the year for her service. Jenny received her degree in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa and was a summer education intern at The Playhouse. She is a second grade teacher at Colfax Mingo Elementary School.



**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 *Go, Dog. Go!*; *Guys and Dolls*; *The Sound of Music*; the world premiere

of *Escaping the Labyrinth*; *A Love Offering* (co-directed with Tiffany Johnson and Pyramid Theatre Company); and *I and You*. Other local performance and directing credits include *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura), *King Lear* (Cordelia), *Our Town* (Emily), and *Fun Home* (director) with Iowa Stage Theatre Company. She has coached for IHSSA and will adjudicate the monologue competition this summer at American Association of Community Theatre's national festival. Prior to her time in Des Moines, Katy worked with numerous theatres in the Midwest as a performer, director, musician, and administrator.



**Lynn Ahrens** (*Lyrics/Book*) won Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards and received two Grammy nominations for Broadway's *Ragtime*. For Twentieth Century Fox's animated feature film

*Anastasia*, she was nominated for two Academy Awards and two Golden Globes. She and longtime collaborator Stephen Flaherty received the Oscar

Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement, and in 2015 they were inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame. Broadway: *Anastasia*; *Once On This Island* (Olivier Award, Best Musical; Tony nominations, Best Book and Score); *Seussical* (Grammy nomination); *My Favorite Year*; *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*; *Rocky*; *Madison Square Garden's A Christmas Carol*; *Ragtime* (2010 Broadway revival). Off-Broadway and regional: Lincoln Center Theater's *Dessa Rose*, *The Glorious Ones* (both Drama Desk-nominated) and *A Man of No Importance* (Outer Critics Circle Award, Best Musical); *Lucky Stiff*; *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center world premiere). Film and television credits include *A Christmas Carol* (NBC-TV); *Camp* (IFC Films); *Schoolhouse Rock* (ABC-TV); and others (Emmy Award and four Emmy nominations). She is a council member of the Dramatists Guild of America, a co-founder of the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program, and a Lilly Award winner for lyrics. [www.ahrensandflaherty.com](http://www.ahrensandflaherty.com)



**Stephen Flaherty** (*Composer/Book*) is the composer of the Broadway musicals *Ragtime* (Tony, Drama Desk, OCC Awards, two Grammy nominations), *Seussical* (Grammy, Drama Desk nominations), *Once on This Island*

(Tony nomination, Olivier Award, Best Musical) and *Rocky*. Additional Broadway includes *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* (original songs) and Neil Simon's *Proposals* (incidental music). Stephen has also written four musicals at Lincoln Center Theatre: *The Glorious Ones* (OCC, Drama Desk nominations), *Dessa Rose* (OCC, Drama Desk nominations), *A Man of No Importance* (OCC, Best Musical, Drama Desk nomination) and *My Favorite Year*. Other theater includes *In Your Arms* (Old Globe), *Little Dancer* (Kennedy Center), *Lucky Stiff* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Loving Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein* (Chicago's Jefferson Award, Best New Musical.) Film includes *Anastasia* (two Academy Award and two Golden Globe nominations), the documentary *After The Storm*, and *Lucky Stiff*. Stephen's concert music has premiered at the Hollywood Bowl, Boston's Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Guggenheim Museum, and Symphony Space. Stephen has a 35+-year collaboration with lyricist-librettist Lynn Ahrens. Stephen and Lynn are members of the Dramatists Guild Council and co-founders of the Dramatists Guild Fellows Program. In 2015 they were inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame. [www.ahrensandflaherty.com](http://www.ahrensandflaherty.com)

# Join us for *Winter Safari* camps at **Blank Park Zoo**

**Theme** | Turtle Power 🐢  
**Dates** | December 27, 28 and 29  
**Ages** | 5-9 years old

Cowabunga! Jump into the radical world of turtles. Learn the difference between turtles and tortoises, train in the ways of the turtle and discover how turtles have their own mutant-like powers in the animal kingdom.

*Winter Safari is for children ages 5-9 years.  
Children must be registered for each day separately.*



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## PRODUCTION CREWS

Technical Directors: **Nicholas Amundson, Paul Cartwright**

Run Crew: **Haddy Dixon, Mike Howland, Abby Kilpatrick, Kat Lindman**

Sound Board Operators: **Jenny Bryant, Lindsey Nelson**

Set Construction: **Isaiah Cunnally, Lucas Forte, George Sparks**

Set Painting: **Natalie Batiste, Kathleen Baustian, Harold Hinkhouse, Debbie Jaym, Darlene Pullen, Ann Ungs**

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

Playhouse Audition Crew: **Peggy Cokeley, Cheryl Critelli, Janice Crouch, DC Felton, Kate Garner**

Playhouse Photographers: **Jonathan Garton, Steve Gibbons, Brent Isenberger**

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

Spotlight Literacy Schools: **Lovejoy Elementary School, Des Moines; Colfax-Mingo Elementary School**

### ONCE SPECIAL THANKS

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

Guest Services: **Brenda Amro, Ann Anhalt, Ella Artzer, Mia Backous, Naomi Backous, Giovanni Bahena, Linda Baltzley, Natalie Batiste, Stacie Bendixen, Emery Blackford, Corley Blackford, Miranda Blackford, Kim Blakesley, Steve Blakesley, Judy Block, Anna Briggeman, Lily Briggeman, Shannon Bristow, Megan Brown, Julie A Bruns, Jennifer Bryant, Alison Buechler, Darlene Cangas, Kenneth Converse, Karna Converse, Judi Cooper, Rhya Cowden, Carol Culmer, Maddie Davis, Patty Davis, Kathleen Doherty, Linds Dunham, Deborah Dunham, Daniel Dunham, Marcella Edmonds, Travis Edrington, Mark Eikenberry, Karen Elrod, Tami Fetters, Pat Finan, Ellen Fisher, Jeff Fisher, Ellen Fisher, Jane Flagler, Mackenzi Frush, Joseph Furnald, Jillian**

**Gabby, Fred Gee, Sharon Gee, Jill Gray, Connie Gross, Deb Grover, Noah Hackbart, Charlene Haluska, Cathy Hanes, Ellen Harvey, Maria Heath, Linda Hendricks, Harold Hinkhouse, Ngoc Ho, Laura Hollinrake, Tamela Holzhauser, Abigail Houston, Josie Houston, Debbie Jayne, Charlie Johnson, Anne Jung, Lloyd Kaufman, Abhishek Khanna, Susan Lee, Joyce Lehman, Marcia Lyon, Linda McClure, Jack Meyer, Marisa Mickunas, Sheila Mullen, Judy O'Keefe, Pamela O'Keefe, Ingrid Oakley, Dale Oakley-Bentlage, Aimee Oakley-Runyan, Traci Petersen, Kathy Poetting, Levi Pollmann, Kathy Polson, Caitlyn Porter, Darlene Pullen, Mark Pullen, Shirlee Reding, Denice Rees, Kayla Rees, Georgia Rowley, Stefi Sarafimova, Peter Schubert, Sara Scott, Maureen Sexton, Amy Skarin, Shane Snitker, Benjamin Spera, Julia Spera, Brian Sturges, Jennifer Throckmorton, Oliver Thrun, Angie Umthun, Neli Vosloh, Nancy Ward, Fran Watson, Randy Watson, Janet Whiteside, Kailan Wing**  
Run Crew: **Kerry Doyen**

## Did You Know?

The actors and crew members of today's performance are volunteers who live in greater Des Moines — people just like you who love theatre!



Do you have time and talent to share?  
Grab a flyer in the lobby or visit

**DMPlayhouse.com**



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# PLAYHOUSE ADMINISTRATION



THE PLAYHOUSE

The Playhouse receives funding support from



Support for the Playhouse is provided by



Playhouse partners include



## Leadership

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

## Staff

Nicholas Amundson, *Technical Director*  
Alayna Ballard, *Ticket Office*  
Lee Ann Bakros, *Marketing & Public Relations Director*  
Lindsey Ballard, *Concessions Manager*  
Paul Cartwright, *Technical Director*  
Ryan Crane, *Director of Philanthropy*  
Mary Hofer, *Finance*  
Debbie Jacobson, *Ticket Office Manager*  
Abby Kilpatrick, *House Manager*  
Angela Lampe, *Associate Artistic Director*  
Katy McCaull, *Marketing & Philanthropy Coordinator*  
Cherie Moen, *House Manager*  
Bartley Mullins, *House Manager*  
Ben Pellizzari, *Marketing & Philanthropy Intern*  
Derek Phelps, *Volunteer & Production Coordinator*  
Robin Heldt Spahr, *Education Director*  
Jessica Van Essen, *Costume Shop, Supervisor*  
David A. VanCleave, *House Manager*  
Nate Weber, *Education Outreach*

## Education Staff

Nicole Chavas-Schwegler	Nate Jorgensen
Allison Crain	Greg Millar
Jenna Darsee	Taylor Millar
Katie Dorrell*	Catie Miller
Rusk Dorsett	Deb Paul
Tali Eisenstadt	Brett Spahr*
Cedric Fevrier	Molly Thorsen
Anne Frett	Kim Van Haecke
Robin Breen Fulton*	Anna Zimney
Maren Grant	*Master Teacher
Ron Hyde	

## Board of Directors

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Eric Smith, *Grinnell State Bank*  
Lu Spaine, *Zumi LLC*  
Kevin Waetke, *Sammons Financial Group*

## Pre-Intern Program (PIPs)

Corley Blackford	Caroline Muelhaupt
Dagny Bradish	Hudson Pulver
Celeste Brown	Jaslynn Ragsdale
Anica Burch	Caitlyn Robertson
Riley Burnette	Ridge Rutherford
Hannah Butts	Evie Smith
Vivian Coleman	Lily Spahr
Delaney Dorsey	Nina Spahr
Mar Feitelson	Quinn Syverson
Katelyn Gallagher	Sophie Thomsen
Kayla Giberson	Sophia Towns
Aya Haidar	Aaliyah Trimble
Kylir Jorgensen	Emmett Van Haecke
Teddi Karnes	Amaya Veldkamp
Kalya Kothavale	Gennie Weis
Brooke Krug	Cyril Werzberger
Mackenzie Larson	Franny Winn
Alex Louis	Ashlyn Yu
Ailie McLaren	McKenna Yu

## MISSION

To create extraordinary, shared experiences through live theatre.

## VISION

To be the home for artistic collaboration where any story can be told.

## STATEMENT ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

We at The Playhouse grieve at the injustice and systemic inequalities committed to marginalized people in our world. We support community as we bond to create awareness and encourage dialogue.

We denounce racism and violence against all people.

Our team makes it our mission to engage and enrich all people to provide lifelong educational opportunities and is committed to creating and supporting an inclusive theatre that will give everyone a platform to heal and to move forward into better days.

*Published: June 2, 2020*

## POLICY ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

All volunteers who come to audition for a show at The Des Moines Community Playhouse are welcome, and we do not ask or keep a record of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, age, or disability status.

The Playhouse is deeply committed to and supportive of diversity in local theatre. We work to include and serve all members of the community, to the extent possible, in stage productions and in our educational offerings.

The Playhouse has a strong and well-documented history of reaching out to diverse groups for inclusion in its programming. Our goal is to provide a rewarding experience for all volunteers and participants, from performers and students to their families and our audience members.

*Policy published August 18, 2016*

*Reiterated June 2, 2020*

**THE**

**SHOPS**

*“Sensational!”*  
★★★★ -KATHY

*“A delightful  
romp!”*  
★★★★ -CHELSEA

*“Absurdly enjoyable!”*  
★★★★ -KRISTIN

**AT**

**ROOSEVELT**

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The Juice Company • DSM Salon & Spa • Worn  
Roosevelt Barber Shop • Cabana Swim  
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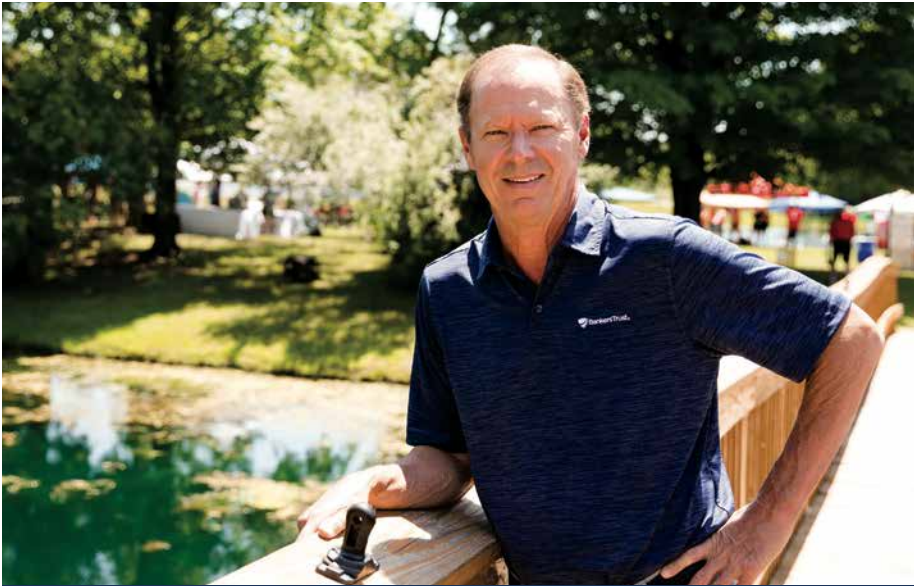
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THE DIFFERENCE IS

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Throughout my career, I've supported several nonprofits. One that is especially meaningful to me is Easterseals Iowa, where I've found great reward from serving in nearly a dozen volunteer roles. As a community bank, Bankers Trust encourages all team members to get involved with organizations they're passionate about, and our efforts total over 12,000 volunteer hours each year. We add to this by giving \$1 million annually to causes spanning arts to inclusion to community development.

It's part of our collective commitment to helping our communities thrive. It's part of the Bankers Trust Difference.

**Don Coffin**  
CEO and President



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