

# STANDING OVATION

THIS PRODUCTION  
GENEROUSLY PRESENTED BY

**AARP** Real  
Possibilities  
**Iowa**



**MAY 31 - JUNE 16, 2024**

 **THE PLAYHOUSE**

**#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.

**Tassel Ridge Dry Red Wines...Simply Extraordinary®**

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**David R. Kilpatrick**  
Executive Director

Thank you for choosing to spend time at The Playhouse today! We know that you have options, and we are grateful that you picked *The Play That Goes Wrong*. For individuals who create theatre, this production celebrates our craft. If you gab with anyone who has been part of a show, they will gladly laugh with you about their experience. (I once opened a door and had it fall forward around me as I was standing in the doorway. I didn't get hurt, just got an unintentional laugh.) The joy of this show is that everything happens on the same evening. And don't we all love to laugh? Particularly if the laughter is shared? The joy of live theatre!

Our 106th season begins in September, and you won't want to miss any of it. As a season subscriber, you are guaranteed a full year of entertainment at tremendous savings. If you invite a friend or two to join you, it becomes an even richer experience with laughter and the occasional tear or two. Enjoy your favorite restaurant, delight in a show, and have a drink afterwards. You won't regret it, I promise!

For more than 100 years, we have had one goal: "To create extraordinary, shared experiences through live theatre." Our volunteer performers, backstage technicians, customer relations team members, and the entire staff want you to enjoy the best we have to offer. If there is anything we could do to make your time with us more memorable, please tell us. This is your community theatre: by the community and for the community.

Once again, thank you for spending time with us. We are grateful for your support of the arts, of theatre, and especially of The Playhouse.

Have fun today at the show.



**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:

**Jordan Bles**

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Donors listed are current from Mar. 1, 2023 to  
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An \* indicates a deceased donor.

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**Don't see your name?** Those listed in this program have generously supported The Playhouse since March 1, 2023. If we've made a mistake, please contact Katy McCaull at 515.974.5359 or [kmccaull@dmplyhouse.com](mailto:kmccaull@dmplyhouse.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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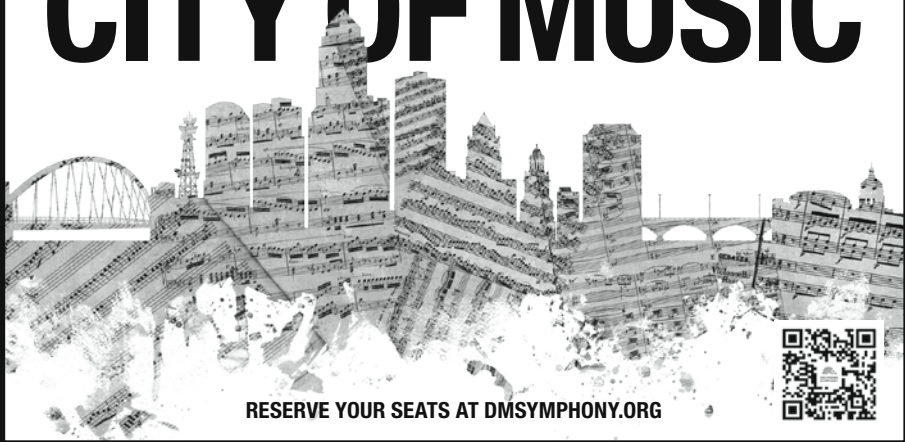
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# GUEST INFORMATION

## 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.

## Companion Restroom

A companion restroom is located on the lower level across from the coatrack.

## 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 Signature Series performance schedule is 7:30 PM Wednesdays through Saturdays, and 2:00 PM Sundays. The regular Kate Goldman Family Series performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. The December 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 Signature Series 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  
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[DMPlayhouse.com](http://DMPlayhouse.com)

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# THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Katy Merriman, Playhouse Artistic Director

If you are not yet familiar with *The Play That Goes Wrong*, buckle up! This one is going to make your day. Even seasoned critics like Ben Brantley of the *New York Times* called it "A gut-busting hit!" The Chicago Tribune said it was "Remarkable! You start to think that maybe the day you are having, or the year, really is not so bad after all!"

This critical acclaim and dig at the day or year we've been having ties in nicely with the history of the run of *The Play That Goes Wrong*. The show made its West End debut at the Duchess Theatre in 2014, where it remains the longest running play at the Duchess. It won Best New Comedy at the 2015 Laurence Olivier Awards (the British Tonys if you're not a devout theatre nerd). The long run of the show branched into successful British and U.S. Tours that were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 (a tough year for most of us). Many of you remember the abrupt halt the pandemic put on theatre world-wide, but we also saw creative pivots.

The creators of *The Play that Goes Wrong* – Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields – are

members of Mischief Theatre Company, a group they founded in 2008 as students at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. During the pandemic, Mischief Theatre was a troupe with pivots! They put on improvised comedy shows called *Mischief Movie Night* in outdoor venues in August and September of 2020 and started a podcast called "Mischief Makers." When national lockdown procedures shut down the open-air performances, they produced the show online and called it *Mischief Movie Night In*.

The creative joy and genius of the Mischief Theatre Company is obvious in the performance you're about to witness. The bulk of performances generated by Mischief Theatre center around a fictional drama group, The Cornley Drama Society. In the original West End production, Mischief members remained in the cast as their Cornley characters playing roles in the fictional drama *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. This might be confusing if you're not familiar with the show or its origin, so here is a helpful guide to study thoroughly in the next five minutes before the show begins.

## A GUIDE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CORNLEY DRAMA SOCIETY

Playhouse Actor Name → CORNLEY DRAMA SOCIETY NAME → *The Murder at Haversham Manor* CHARACTER in the play within *The Play That Goes Wrong*



**Sean Canuso** plays **ROBERT GROVE**, Cornley's wannabe lead actor, who portrays **THOMAS COLLEYMOORE** in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*



**Daniel Tuchsherer** plays **JONATHAN HARRIS**, a supporting company member often caught in love triangles, who portrays **CHARLES HAVERSHAM** in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*



**Charlie Hubbard** plays **DENNIS TYDE**, a member with an uncanny inability to remember lines, who portrays **PERKINS** in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*



**Nathan Jorgensen** plays **MAX BENNETT**, often distracted by audience reactions, who portrays **CECIL HAVERSHAM** and **ARTHUR THE GARDENER** in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*



**Shane Donegan** plays **CHRIS BEAN**, the frustrated leader of the drama society, who portrays **INSPECTOR CARTER** in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*



**Samantha Aaron** plays **ANNIE TWILLOIL**, Cornley's stage manager who discovers a passion for performing



**Jackie Schmillen** plays **SANDRA WILKINSON**, the "straight man" leading actress, who portrays **FLORENCE COLLEYMOORE** in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*



**Logan Klein** plays **TREVOR WATSON**, Cornley's technical director who is not supposed to be seen by the audience but always manages to be seen



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105th Season

Opening May 31, 2024  
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The Des Moines Playhouse Presents

# ***THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG***

Written by Henry Lewis, Johnathan Sayer, & Henry Shields

The Mischief Production of *The Play That Goes Wrong* was originally produced on the West End Stage by Kenny Wax & Stage Presence and on Broadway by Kevin McCollum, JJ Abrams, Kenny Wax & Stage Presence

*The Play That Goes Wrong* was first presented by Mischief Theatre under the title *The Murder Before Christmas* on Dec. 4, 2012, at the Old Red Lion Theatre in London.

Presented by **AARP Iowa**

Director: **John W Viars**  
 Scenic Designers: **Isabel & Moriah Curley-Clay**  
 Costume Designer: **Angela Lampe**  
 Lighting Designer: **Virgil Kleinhesselink**  
 Properties Designer: **Grace Ammann**  
 Stage Manager: **Greg Millar**  
 Fight & Stunt Coordinator: **Brandon Brockshus**  
 Intimacy Coordinator: **Lyndsy Darland**  
 Assistant Director: **Toni K Farris**  
 Assistant Stage Managers: **Pilar Burg, Jonathan Garton**  
 Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

## **Cast**

\*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Annie .....	<b>Samantha Aaron</b>	Robert.....	<b>Sean Canuso</b>
Trevor .....	<b>Logan Klein*</b>	Dennis .....	<b>Charlie Hubbard</b>
Chris.....	<b>Shane Donegan</b>	Max.....	<b>Nathan Jorgensen</b>
Jonathan .....	<b>Daniel Tuchscherer</b>	Sandra .....	<b>Jackie Schmillen</b>

Time: Present day

Place: Cornley Drama Society's production of *Murder at the Haversham Manor* by Susie HK Brideswell

*The Play That Goes Wrong* is performed with one 15-minute intermission.

*The Play That Goes Wrong* is presented by arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service under license from Mischief Worldwide Ltd.

*The Play That Goes Wrong* by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields © 2012, 2014 Mischief Worldwide Ltd. All rights reserved. *The Play That Goes Wrong*, the "falling G" logo device, Mischief, and Mischief Theatre are trademarks of Mischief Worldwide Ltd. All rights reserved. For Mischief Worldwide Ltd.: Directors: Mark Bentley, Jonathan Burke, Henry Lewis, Kenny Wax; Executive Director: Jo Danvers; Marketing Manager: Harry Lockyear; Production. Administrative Assistant: Minoli De Silva; Exclusive Agent for Literary Rights: Nicki Stoddart, United Agents LLP, London. For information about all Mischief works, please visit [www.mischiefcomedy.com](http://www.mischiefcomedy.com).

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

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## CAST NOTES



**Samantha Aaron** (*Annie*) was last seen as stepsister Charlotte in The Playhouse's production of *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Her other notable credits include *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Ursula) at Carousel Theatre of Indianola; *Hair*; *Footloose*, *Into the Woods*, and *Hello, Dolly!* at various theatres throughout Kansas; and, a favorite, *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad) at The Playhouse. Sam performs in drag as Xavier Self, likes spending time outdoors, is a great reader, cooks, and spends time with her fiancée, Riley, and her furry kiddos, Mikey, Zeus, Jaspurr, and Penny.



**Sean Canuso** (*Robert*) is an Iowa Stage Theatre Company (ISTC) resident artist. He has performed both touring and regionally in 46 states. His Des Moines credits include *Equus* (Harry Dalton) with Tallgrass Theatre, *Twelfth Night* (Malvolio), *King Lear* (Gloucester), and *A Christmas Carol* (Bob Cratchit) with ISTC and *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* (Monsieur Bouc), *A Love Offering* (Stewart Turner), and *Weekend Comedy* (Frank Jackson) at The Playhouse. Sean can be seen in the film *Opening Doors: The Simon Estes Story* and in the television series *Back to Our Nature*.



**Shane Donegan** (*Chris*) made his Playhouse debut in the 2011 production of *The 39 Steps*. His other area credits include *The Manic Monologues* with Open Door Rep, *UtopIA* for Epic Stage Productions, *The Normal Heart* at Noce, *Ugly Lies the Bone* with StageWest Theatre, and *The Crucible* with Repertory Theater of Iowa. Shane works in plant health care at Wright Outdoor Solutions. He enjoys hiking, board games, watching *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and spending time with his husband, James.



**Charlie Hubbard** (*Dennis*) returns to The Playhouse after making his debut in *Our Town*. His stage credits include Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Ankeny Community Theatre and John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Clov in *Endgame*, Henry in *Next to Normal*, and Selsdon in *Noises Off*, all at his alma mater, Northwestern

College (Orange City, IA). A math teacher at Des Moines North High School, Charlie loves to read, watch movies, and play board games.



**Nathan Jorgensen** (*Max*) is a teacher, director, and coach at Waukee High School. He made his Playhouse debut in *Tuck Everlasting* and more recently appeared in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. He directed Playhouse productions of *Holes*, *The Boxcar Children*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and is on the theatre's education staff. For Waukee Theatre Arts, Nate's directorial credits include *Macbeth*, *Mary Poppins*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and his favorite to date, *The Book of Will*.



**Logan Klein** (*Trevor*) is making his Playhouse debut but has many stage credits including Dustin in *May We All*, Scuttle in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, and Henry in *Who's Dying to be a Millionaire* (Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge), and Mickie in *Hello My Baby* and Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie* (Nevada High School). Logan loves singing, especially Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley songs. A self-described *Star Wars* nerd, he also collects Legos.



**Jackie Schmillen** (*Sandra*), a broadcast journalist for nearly 20 years, is now director of public affairs for the Iowa National Guard, the first civilian to hold the position. Her last performance in a musical was Trish in *Kinky Boots*. Her other Playhouse shows include *A Christmas Story The Musical*, *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein*, and *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Ursula, Cloris Award winner). Jackie is passionate about Des Moines and enjoys volunteering and promoting great things happening in the community.



**Daniel Tuchscherer** (*Jonathan*) was seen this winter in The Playhouse production of *Our Town* (Mr. Webb). His many theatre credits include Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (Iowa Stage Theatre Company);

Mr. Bingley in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Tallgrass Theatre); and *Rabbit Hole*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Clue The Musical*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Brookings [SD] Community Theatre). Daniel is a laboratory technician at Pepsi. In addition to acting, he likes biking, playing tennis, reading, board games, and traveling.



**John W Viars** (*Director*) was executive director of The Playhouse from 1982-2017 and artistic director until 2019. He is past president of the American Association of Community Theatre and a charter member

of the Professional Community Theatre Directors Conference where he was the facilitator and group leader for its meetings. John was national chair of the first-ever International Community Theatre Festival, held at The Playhouse in 1990 and is a frequent workshop leader and adjudicator. He has served as a member of advisory panels for the Iowa Arts Council and Nebraska Arts Council and has written reviews and articles for many publications. Employed professionally in community and educational theatre for nearly 40 years, John has directed more than 150 productions. In March 1990, he received the Elinor Robson Award from the Council for International Understanding for "significant contributions to international understanding." John holds a B.A. and M.A. in theatre from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. John and his wife, Sherryl, are exceedingly proud of four adult children.



**Moriah & Isabel Curley-Clay** (*Scenic Designers*) have been collaborating as artists since they were small children in Massachusetts. As college students, Isabel and Moriah discovered a mutual love of theatrical design while studying anthropology at New York University. The sisters went on to earn M.F.A. degrees in theatrical design from Brandeis University and began working in



regional theatre across the United States. Now based in Atlanta, GA, Moriah and Isabel's designs have earned multiple awards and critical acclaim. In February 2016, both were featured as part of American Theatre Magazine's seven theatrical artists to watch. Isabel and Moriah are both proud

members of IATSE, United Scenic Artists, 829 as scenic and costume designers.



**Angela Lampe** (*Costume Designer/ Associate Artistic Director*) began her tenure with The Playhouse in 1993 and has designed costumes, sets, and props for nearly 300 productions including *Guys and Dolls*, *Meredith Willson's The Music*

*Man*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Ella Enchanted*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Ragtime*, *Les Misérables*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *West Side Story*, *Into the Woods*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and *Hairspray*. She has a B.A. from Central College in Pella and a M.F.A. in theatre from the University of Nebraska. She is the recipient of four Cloris Awards for excellence in costuming and puppetry.



**Virgil Kleinhesselink** (*Lighting Designer*) has been involved in approximately 355 Playhouse shows in the past 44 years. In those shows, he has held at least 17 different positions, including stage manager, properties crew

member, dresser, ticket office volunteer, scenic designer, sound designer, run crew member, and actor. Virgil discovered The Playhouse when he moved to town and drove by the theatre on the way to look at an apartment. He was involved in theatre in high school and went to college on a debate scholarship, so he thought he'd give The Playhouse a try. The first show he saw was *A Little Night Music* in 1979. His first volunteer experience was building sets and hanging lights for *Man of La Mancha* that same year. As Virgil put it, "It was the easiest way to become a part of a community."



**Grace Ammann** (*Properties Designer*) is a local stage manager, choreographer, and director. She graduated from Oklahoma City University this past spring with a B.S. in dance/arts management and a minor in directing.

She frequently works with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT), The Playhouse, Ankeny Community Theatre (ACT), and Wagner Summer Theater in various roles on both the creative and technical teams. Grace has also worked with both Des Moines Roosevelt and North high schools. One of her biggest passions is inspiring people to

## CAST NOTES

use their imaginations and get involved in the arts. Grace's most recent productions include *The Marvel Spotlight* (DMYAT), *The Addams Family* (ACT), *The Crucible* (Roosevelt High School), and *Move! and The Holiday Spectacular* (Star Dance Company). Her recent choreographic credits include *Finding Nemo Jr* (DMYAT), *The Addams Family* (ACT), *Godspell* (Playhouse), and *Next to Normal* (Carousel Theatre, Indianola).



**Greg Millar** (*Stage Manager*) is a favorite with Des Moines area audiences. He has had lead roles in many shows including *Annie*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Leaving Iowa*, *Don't*

*Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *The Musical!*, and *Pippi Longstocking* (Dionysos Award recipient). He has stage managed numerous shows, most recently *How I Became a Pirate*. His favorite roles are Harold Nichols in *The Full Monty* and Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*. Greg teaches in the theatre's education department. His hobbies include horse racing and baking.



**Brandon Brockshus** (*Fight & Stunt Choreographer*) is a PhD student in kinesiology at Iowa State University and is a recognized Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) actor/combatant. He has served as a fight director

for the Iowa Stage Theatre Company, Shot in the Dark Productions, Central College, Simpson College, Drake University, Morningside University, Iowa State University, and Iowa high schools. His research interests include methods of teaching stage combat and the effects of stage combat training and practice on the human brain. He lives in Ames with his wife, daughter, and son.



**Lyndsy Darland** (*Intimacy Coordinator*) pursued her coursework and certification with both Intimacy Directors and Coordinator Professionals (IDC) and Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE) in 2020. She

continues her education with specialty coursework such as staging intimacy beyond the binary and mental health first aid for youth. She has worked on several Midwest films and in partnership with local theaters on projects including *Beautiful: The*

*Carole King Musical* and *Guys and Dolls* (Playhouse), *Exit Laughing* (Ankeny Community Theatre), and *Meredith Willson's The Music Man* (CAP Theatre, Altoona). As an actor, singer, writer, and editor who also works full time at Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in the human resources division, she feels blessed to fill her time with other creatives and cohorts to build a consent-forward culture where everyone can thrive. In her spare time, you'll see Lyndsy with her husband Jeff, friends and family, and her two mini-aussies, Nox and Cosmo.



**Toni K Farris** (*Assistant Director*) is a recipient of the Dick Brown Superior Volunteer Award. She has been involved with The Playhouse since 1989 and considers it her home-away-from-home. In shows from *A...My Name is Alice* to *Once*,

Toni has worked in virtually every theatre production team role available and has appeared onstage. In her retirement, she enjoys reading, traveling, supporting Liverpool Football Club, and searching for the perfect London Fog drink.



**Pilar Burg** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) first got involved at The Playhouse as assistant stage manager for *Elf The Musical* in 2018. Since then, she has worked on the stage management team or as followspot operator for *Catch Me If You Can*; *Disney's Newsies*; *A Christmas Story, The Musical*; *Singin' in the Rain*; *Weekend Comedy*; *The Velveteen Rabbit*; and *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. She received a Playhouse 2018 Volunteer of the Year Dionysos Award. A data transfer analyst at MMC, Pilar likes beading, sewing, cross stitching, and reading in her spare time. She and her husband, Trent, have two children, Lydia and Gavin.



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

22 Season. This year, he served as stage manager for *Seussical TYA* and assistant stage manager for *Dragons Love Tacos*. 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.



**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 *Once* (Gal) at The Playhouse and *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.

**Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, & Henry Shields** (*Playwrights*) met while training at The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). All core members of Mischief Theatre had already worked in comedy together for several years before they started out as a writing team. The three's first piece was *The Play That Goes Wrong* (winner, Best New Comedy, Olivier Awards and What's On Stage Awards). The show started out in London and the Edinburgh Fringe before touring the U.K. and internationally and then returning to the West End in September 2014 where it is still running. *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* was the trio's second piece, opening in November 2014 for a U.K. tour before a hugely successful West End season in Christmas 2015. Henry, Henry, and Jonathan recently adapted the script of *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* for the BBC, which was filmed with the original West End cast and broadcast to rave reviews on New Year's Eve. They were invited back to wreak more havoc at the BBC in 2017 with *Christmas Carol Goes Wrong* on BBC1. *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* marks their third writing project as a trio and earned them another Olivier Nomination.

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

*BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL* SPECIAL THANKS  
Due to print deadlines, these individuals could not be acknowledged in the previous playbill.

**Brenda Amro, Ann Anhalt, Riley Bable, Giovanni Bahena, Ann Barfels, Corley Blackford, Emery Blackford, Miranda Blackford, Kim Blakesley, Steve Blakesley, Bonnie Braatz, Anna Briggeman, Juls Bruns, Alison Buechler, Alex Cakerice, Carlene Cangas, Dan Chase, Karna Converse, Kenneth Converse,**

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**Lehman, Katey Lindaman, Lindsay Marquardt, Piper McCallum, Linda McClure, Barb Merrill, Maggie Miller, Judy Moeller, Desha Nielsen, Allyson Norlin, Judy O'Keefe, Pamela O'Keefe, Ingrid Oakley, Dale Oakley-Bentlage, Aimee Oakley-Runyan, Carol Palmer, Janet Peck, Traci Petersen, Becky Pillack, Kathy Poetting, Kathy Polson, Darlene Pullen, Mark Pullen, Susan Ramfjord, Shirlee Reding, Kayla Rees, Nick Root, Maureen Sexton, Amy Shafer, Kristi Sithonnorath, Amy Skarin, Jennah Skelton, Shane Snitker, George Sparks, Benjamin Spear, Julia Spera, Linda Staland, Oliver Thrun, Lori VanZee, Neli Vosloh, Nancy Ward, Fran Watson, Randy Watson, Cliff Wendel, Susan Wendel, Janet Whiteside, Philip Williams, Kailan Wing**

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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*

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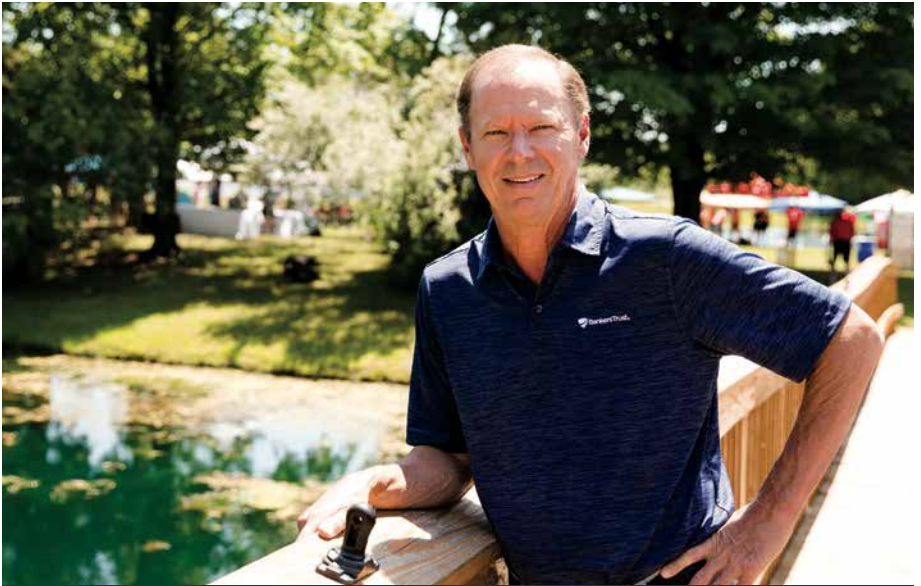
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