

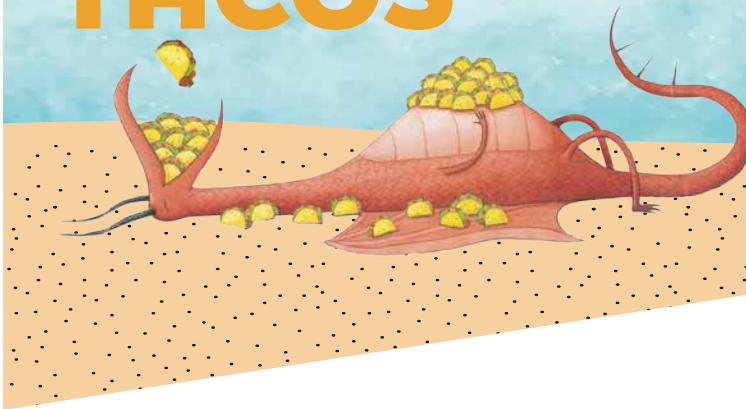
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DRAGONS LOVE TACOS



MARCH 1 - 10, 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. 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 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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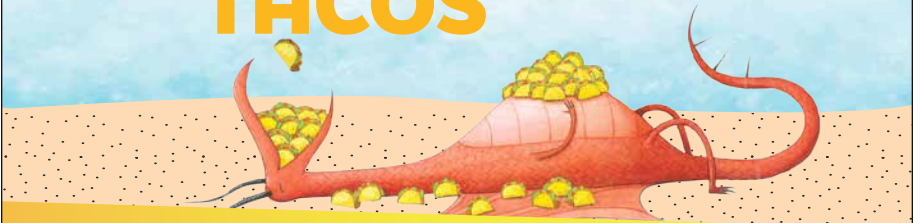
Thank you for attending today's performance of *Dragons Love Tacos*. There is something special about seeing a favorite book come alive; especially watching our favorite dragons come alive! Children's theatre is so very special as we get to watch a play through the eyes of our youths with their joy of innocence and belief in the power of theatre. Thank you for sharing the gift with our future audiences and performers.

Our 2023-24 season continues to be special with *Ivy + Bean The Musical* and *School of Rock* yet to come. Both will be fun theatrical experiences for the whole family. In addition, we have summer classes and the Friday Funday Adventure Clubhouse (theatre for 4-6 year olds). There is always something happening at The Playhouse.

The most exciting news is our construction project. We still have some interior tasks to wrap up. It has been a bit of challenge with noise, dust, and the occasional smells, but we think it is worth it. And we know you will agree. Starting in April, we hope to begin the addition to the building which will expand our classroom space, give us an even more efficient costume shop and administrative offices, and make the theatre experience one to remember for all participants. If you would like to make a donation towards the capital campaign, please let us know. We are getting closer and closer to our \$4.2 million goal, but we aren't finished yet.

For more than 90 years, The Playhouse has presented shows for youth and with youth. 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! Thank you for playing your part.

DRAGONS LOVE TACOS



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

Director of Philanthropy
515.974.5370
jbles@dmpplayhouse.com

**Donors listed are current from Mar. 1, 2023 to
Jan. 24, 2024.**

An * indicates a deceased donor.



Cast of A Charlie Brown Christmas 2023-2024 Season.

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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@dmplayhouse.com. Gifts of \$100 or more are listed in every playbill throughout the season. Gifts under \$100 are recognized in the spring musical playbill each year.



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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 Series performance schedule is 7:30 PM Wednesdays through Saturdays, and 2:00 PM Sundays. The regular Kate Goldman Children's Theatre Series 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

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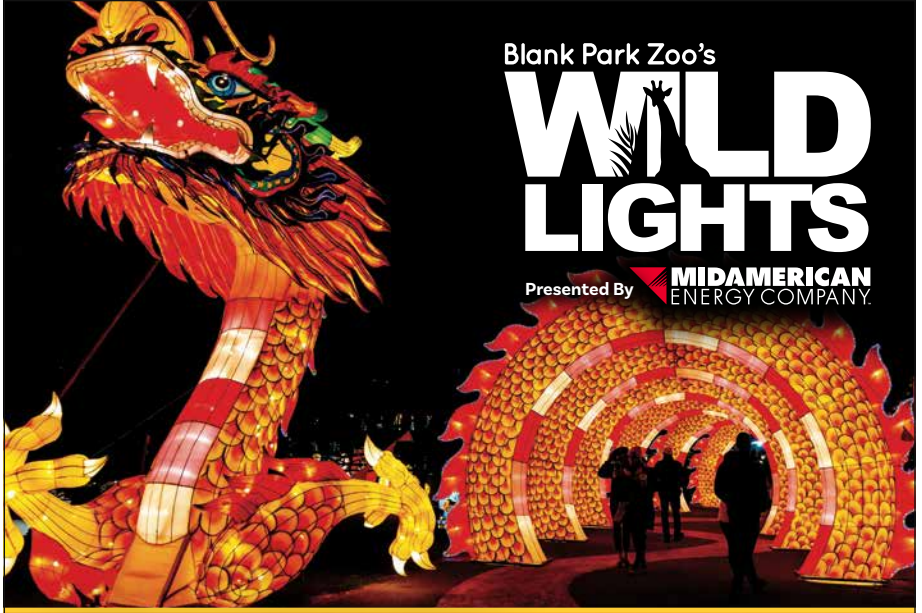
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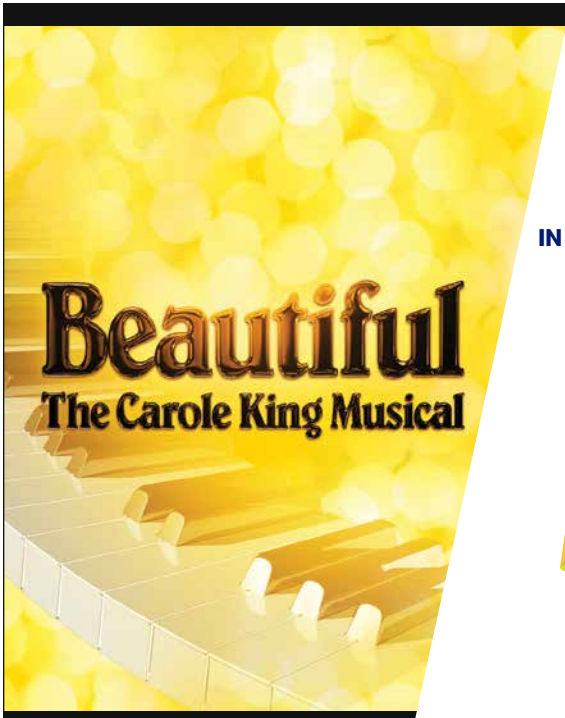
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Opening March 1, 2024
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Kate Goldman Children's Theatre Presents in the John Viars Theatre

DRAGONS LOVE TACOS

Written by Ernie Nolan
Based on the book by Adam Rubin and illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
With music by Chris LaPorte

Presented by **Nationwide**

Director: **David A. VanCleave**
Choreographer/Assistant Director: **Michael Beasley**
Scenic Designer: **Katherine Stepanek**
Costume Designer: **Jessica Van Essen**
Lighting Designer: **Daniel Abens**
Properties Designer: **Katie Hughes**
Stage Manager **Jenna N. Darsee**
Assistant Stage Manager: **Jonathan Garton**
Artistic Director: **Katy Merriman**

Cast

*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Mom (voiceover)	Jenna N. Darsee
Boy	Knox Schupbach*
Leroy, a dog	Amaya Veldkamp
Man in Suit/Moxy Clean Guy/Telenovela Character	Bobby Nalean
Red Dragon	Michael Howland
Blue Dragon	Cedric Fevrier
White Dragon	Maggie Miller*
Yellow Dragon	Amanda Arthur-Struss

Time: Present Day
Place: Boy's Home

Dragons Love Tacos is performed with one 15-minute intermission.

Dragons Love Tacos is produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences.

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

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February 1 - March 8, 2024

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All art exhibitions are held in the Anderson Gallery in the Harmon Fine Arts Center.

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CAST NOTES



Amanda Arthur-Struss (*Yellow Dragon*) is a theatre renaissance woman. She made her Playhouse in 2005 as a Who in *Seussical the Musical* and has been going strong ever since. In addition to her acting credits, she has

designed props at The Playhouse and Tallgrass Theatre and was costume designer for *Pippin* at Tallgrass Theatre. Mandi operates two businesses: Arthur Therapeutic Massage and Rainbow Lizard Design. She is a scriptwriter, herb gardener, and professional painter specializing in pet portraits.



Cedric Fevrier (*Blue Dragon*) is a familiar face at The Playhouse most recently portraying Billy in *Once*. His other Playhouse stage credits include Hercule Poirot (Dionysos Award winner) in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the*

Orient Express, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Curtains*, *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel*, *The Producers*, *Native Gardens*, and *The Boxcar Children*. Recently, he has joined The Playhouse's education staff. Cédric made his feature film debut last year in *The Cross*.



Michael Howland (*Red Dragon*) is an award-winning actor whose roles include Harold Hill in *The Music Man* (Union Street Players, Pella), Bert in *Mary Poppins* (Newton Community Theatre), Dan Goodman in *Next to Normal*

(Indianola Carousel Theatre), Enjolras in *Les Misérables* (Playhouse), Captain Hook (Playhouse, Dionysos Award nominee) in *Tinker Bell*, among others. In addition to his acting credits, Michael has participated in 46 marathons in 46 states with a goal of competing in all 50 states.



Maggie Miller (*White Dragon*) has always wanted to audition for The Playhouse. She says *Dragons* is her perfect debut show since, as a first-grade teacher with Johnston Community Schools, this is one of her favorite books to read to her

students. She dreams of playing Anne Boleyn in *Six* because Anne's costume is fabulous and Anne is so energetic. When Maggie isn't flexing her acting muscles, she enjoys reading, yoga, and spending time with friends and family.



Bobby Nalean (*Man in Suit/Moxy Clean Guy/Telenovela Character*) was last seen at The Playhouse as Jesse Kiplinger in *Plaza Suite*. His shows include *Love Letters* (Andrew Makepeace Ladd III), *Les Misérables*, and *Fiddler on*

the Roof (Yussel/Bottle Dancer) at The Playhouse. His favorite role was Peter Shaw (Dionysos Award nominee) in *Silent Sky* at The Playhouse. Bobby is director of student success initiatives at Des Moines Area Community College. When he isn't acting, Bobby enjoys traveling with his spouse, Anna, running, and cheering on the Hawkeyes.



Knox Schupbach (*Boy*) is new to The Playhouse stage but has attended classes at the theatre including Broadway Bound, Playhouse TV, and Playmakers.

A fifth grader at Jordan Creek Elementary in West Des Moines, Knox is involved in orchestra, band, and archery. He enjoys writing and editing videos and attending the latest Playhouse shows in his free time. Knox lives with his dad, mom, and younger brother, Beck, in West Des Moines.



Amaya Veldkamp (*Leroy*), an eighth grader at Merrill Middle School in Des Moines, made her Playhouse debut as Evelyn in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Since then, she has been in several plays including *Tinker*

Bell; *Pippi Longstocking* (playing the title character, Dionysos Award winner); and *Junie B in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells!* at The Playhouse and *Wait Until Dark*, *The Wicked Queen*, and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* at Tallgrass Theatre. In addition to acting, Amaya likes dancing, singing, and getting inspiration from her dogs.



David A. VanCleave (Director) is the education director and NewPlayFest dramaturg at AACT (American Association of Community Theatre). He received his B.F.A. in theatre arts/directing from The Theatre School at

DePaul University (Chicago), where he directed *Closer*, *Laramie Project*, and *The Death of Gaia Divine* (world premiere). In Des Moines, he has

CAST NOTES

directed for The Playhouse (*Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*, *Cabaret*, *Little House Christmas at Plum Creek*), Des Moines Onstage (*Cabaret*, *My Name is Rachel Corrie*), Noce (*Last Five Years*, *Normal Heart*), and Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (*Rent*, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*) where he was executive artistic director from 2014-20. David has also directed at Quincy Community Theatre (*The Hobbit*) in Illinois and Market House Theatre (*Girls' Weekend*, *On Golden Pond*) in Paducah, KY. Dramaturgy credits include *with their eyes: September 11th: The View from a High School at Ground Zero* (Playhouse) and the world premieres of *Launch Day* by Michael Higgins and *Of Men and Cars* by Jim Geoghan.



Michael Beasley (*Assistant Choreographer/Assistant Director*) has numerous Playhouse stage credits including *Kinky Boots*, *Guys and Dolls* (Vernon), *Charlotte's Web* (Second Narrator, Dionysos Award recipient), and *Roald Dahl's*

Matilda the Musical (Children's Entertainer/Big Kid). They also were an assistant choreographer for *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*. They received the 2022 Playhouse Spirit Award, given to an actor who has assisted in a show in ways beyond their role. Beasley enjoys gardening, hiking, creating joy through macramé, and jamming with the family band.



Katherine Stepanek (*Scenic Designer*) received her M.F.A. in scenic design from the University of Tennessee. This is her second time designing for The Playhouse—her previous show was *Don't Let the Pigeon*

Drive the Bus! The Musical! Among her favorite scenic designs are *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* at Dallas Children's Theatre, *Super Cat and Reptile Robot* at Birmingham Children's Theatre, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* at Main Street Theatre, Dallas, and *SpongeBob SquarePants* at Crane River Theatre, Kearney, NE. Katherine is a professor of scenic and lighting design at Colorado Mesa University. Away from the theatre, she enjoys painting, reading, and hiking.



Jessica Van Essen (*Costume Designer*) has spent much of her career in schools as a professor/costume shop manager and working with professional theatres as a costume designer and technician. Before moving back to Iowa, Jessica spent three seasons with the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA, as their costume designer and shop manager designing such shows as William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Comedy of Errors* among others. She is delighted to bring the joy of live theatre to younger audiences as well.

Daniel Abens (*Lighting Designer*) is a stagehand at the Orpheum Theatre in Marshalltown where he designed lights and set for *Foxfire*, *Meredith Willson's The Music Man*, and *Something's Afoot*. At The Playhouse, he was master electrician for *Our Town*. Daniel likes writing poetry and short fiction and performs with the band Shake Them Bones.



Katie 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 Annelie in their production of *Steel Magnolias*. Katie made her Playhouse debut as Grete Ohlsson in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*, 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, and most recently operated Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*. A graphic designer and gift shop lead for UnityPoint Foundation, Katie likes knitting, film, and attending festivals.



Jenna N. Darsee (*Stage Manager*) has been a fixture at The Playhouse since she started taking classes in 1996. She is best known for saying, "She came to The Playhouse and never left."

In her 28 years, she has served many roles at the theatre, including actor, educator, production team member, stage crew member, and usher. Her favorite roles to date are stage manager for *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (based on one

CAST NOTES

of her favorite books) and Beth in *Little Women*, a co-production of The Playhouse and Terrace Hill Productions. By day, Jenna serves as art teacher at Johnston Summit Middle School and coach for both Johnston's Track and Cross Country Teams. By night, if not at The Playhouse, Jenna can be found keeping her cat, Charlie, out of trouble; laughing with her girlfriend, Natalie Jo Lourens; and taking too many photos of her dogs Greta Garbo and Ingrid Bergman.



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 past fall, he served as stage manager for *Seussical TYA*. 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.



Ernie Nolan (*Playwright*) is the executive artistic director of Nashville Children's Theatre and an award-winning director and playwright. He has written commissions for La Jolla Playhouse (La Jolla, CA),

Adventure Theatre (Glen Echo, Md.), Circle Theatre (Omaha, Neb.) in partnership with the Institute for Holocaust Education, Nashville Children's Theatre, and The Milwaukee Zoological Society. In collaboration with Grammy-nominated recording artist Justin Roberts, he also wrote *Hansel and Gretel: A Wickedly Delicious Musical Treat*, which premiered at the Broadway Playhouse (Chicago). Dedicated to creating new work, Nolan has collaborated with such writers as Idris Goodwin, Marisela Treviño Orta, Marcy Heisler, Zina Goldrich, Dave Deveau, and Anton Lipovetsky. Also a resident artist of The Coterie Theatre (Kansas City, Mo.), he has directed and choreographed world premieres by such Tony-nominated artists as Willie and Rob Reale, Stephen Schwartz, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, and Bill Russell and Henry Krieger. In March 2012, Nolan made his off-Broadway debut with *Lucky Duck* at The New Victory Theater (New York City). Nolan currently sits on the executive committee of ASSITEJ, a global theatre for young audiences service organization. In 2014, he received the Illinois Theatre Association's Excellence in Theatre for Young Audiences award. He earned his bachelor's degree in the musical theatre program at the University of Michigan and his master's degree in directing at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

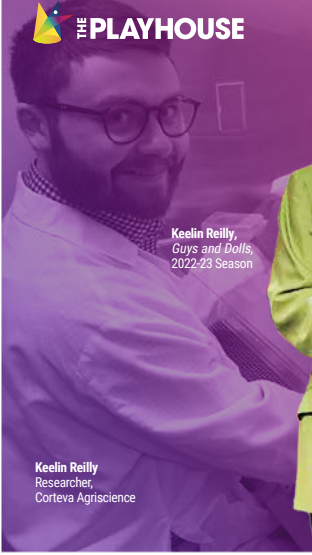
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Light Board Operator: **Jenna N. Darsee**

Set Construction: **Mylo Bissell, Lakayla Robinson, George Sparks**

Set Painting: **Kathleen Baustian, Matthew Dicks, Harold Hinkhouse, Pam Iano, Megan Marrow, Darlene Pullen, Ann Ungs**

Make-up Design: **Jessican Van Essen**

Make-up Artist: **Lynette Smith**
Properties Crew: **Allisa Olson**

Light Crew: **Ash Howland, Allisa Olson**

Audition Crew: **Jenny Bryant, DC Felton**

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

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

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

Ensemble: **Cidney McMillan**
Guest Services: **Brenda Amro, Ann Anhalt, Clifton Antoine, Mia Backous, Naomi Backous, Giovanni Bahena, Victoria Bakros, Ann Barfels, Emery Blackford, Miranda Blackford, Bonnie Braatz,**

Adelaide Brennan, Lily Briggeman, Julie A Bruns, Jenny Bryant, Darlene Cangas, Dan Chase, Fin Cowden, Julie Cowden, Rhya Cowden, Carol Culmer, Makenna Davis, Bill Dodd, Kathleen Doherty, Linda Dunham, Daniel Dunham, Marcella Edmonds, Mark Eikenberry, Jerry Eisenhour, Susan Eisenhour, Mark Ferguson, Susan Ferguson, Tami Fetters, James Finan, Jane Flagler, Sharon Gee, Fred Gee, Jill Gray, Tesa Greenlee, Deb Grover, Genevieve Gualerzi, Andrea Hallman, Charlene Haluska, Amelia Hanson, Keith Hayes, Myrna Heifner, Linda Hendricks, Harold Hinkhouse, Riley Hogendorn, Sandi Holland, Laura Hollinrake, Tamela Holzhauser, Gavin Houchins-

McCallum, Debbie Jayne, Charlie Johnson, Laurie Johnson, Lloyd Kaufman, Angela Knowler, Frank Koss, Tom Ksobiech, Susan Lee, Avery Lewis, Jean McCartan, Linda McClure, Barbara Joan Merrill, Jack Meyer, Marisa Mickunas, Kennedy Midkiff, Maggy Miller, Ethan Mitchell, Tushita Mullick, Judy O'Keefe, Pamela O'Keefe, Ingrid Oakley, Dale Oakley-Bentlage, Aimee Oakley-Runyan, Sarah Paulsen, Kathy Polson, Darlene Pullen, Mark Pullen, Kayla Rees, Georgia Rowley, Stefi Sarafimova, Sara Scott, Kristi Sithonnorath, Amy Skarin, Shane Snitker, Lu Spaine, Oliver Thrun, Lori Van Zee, Neli Vosloh, Mary Walsh, Janet Whiteside, Sharon Worthen, Ashlyn Yu, Grace Zimmerman

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!



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PLAYHOUSE ADMINISTRATION



THE PLAYHOUSE

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Katy Merriman, *Artistic Director*

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Alayna Ballard, *Ticket Office*
Lee Ann Bakros, *Marketing & Public Relations Director*
Lindsey Ballard, *Concessions Manager*
Lynn Bjorlin, *Concessions*
Jordan Bles, *Director of Philanthropy*
Robert Canada, *Marketing Intern*
Paul Cartwright, *Technical Director*
Ellie Chungath, *House Manager*
Adi Hayble, *House Manager*
Mary Hofer, *Finance*
Abi Houston, *House Manager*
Debbie Jacobson, *Ticket Office Manager*
Abby Kilpatrick, *House Manager*
Angela Lampe, *Associate Artistic Director*
Caulinez Lovan, *Concessions*
Katy McCaull, *Marketing & Philanthropy Coordinator*
Cherie Moen, *House Manager*
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
Allison Crain
Jenna Darsee
Katie Dorrell*
Rusk Dorsett
Tali Eisenstadt
Cedric Fevrier
Anne Frett
Robin Breen Fulton*
Maren Grant
Ron Hyde
Nate Jorgensen
Greg Millar
Taylor Millar
Catie Miller
Deb Paul
Brett Spahr*
Molly Thorsen
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Manisha Paudel, *City of Des Moines*
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Pre-Intern Program (PIPs)

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

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ROOSEVELT

“Sensational!”
★★★★ -KATHY

*“A delightful
romp!”*
★★★★ -CHELSEA

“Absurdly enjoyable!”
★★★★ -KRISTIN

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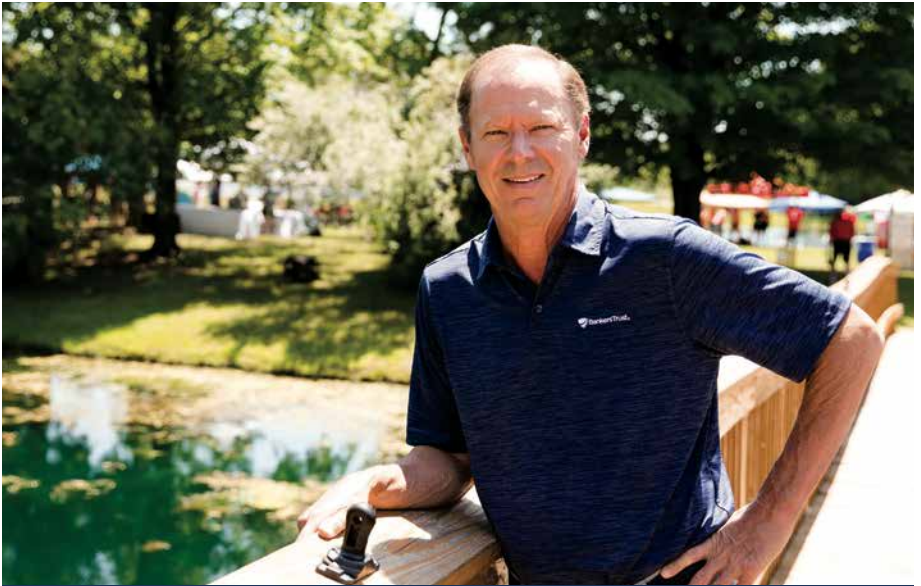
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Throughout my career, I've supported several nonprofits. One that is especially meaningful to me is Easterseals Iowa, where I've found great reward from serving in nearly a dozen volunteer roles. As a community bank, Bankers Trust encourages all team 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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