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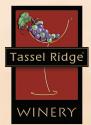


is a dry rea with light, fresh notes. First impressions are tangy acid followed by black cherry fading to plum, a dry mid-palate, and a long, pleasing finish. Made from Marquette, St. Croix, Petite Pearl, and Steuben grapes grown in lowa, it's a versatile wine that pairs well with grilled meat and spicy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

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#### **WELCOME TO YOUR PLAYHOUSE**



David R. Kilpatrick
Executive Director

Thank you so much for coming to our summer production of *Waitress*. This is a moving story about friends helping each other become their best. With wonderful music and a collection of colorful characters, what's not to enjoy? I hope you have as much fun seeing the show as we had creating it.

Today's production wraps up our 106th Season. There have been wonderful experiences, including a new theatre space and imaginative storytelling. We've also had sold-out shows!

Become a season ticket holder. A season ticket is a smart and convenient way to enjoy theatre, get priority access to your favorite seats, and eliminate the stress of last-minute ticket purchases or sell-outs. If you have already renewed, thank you! (And tell the person sitting next to you to become a subscriber too!)

Our 2025-26 season of musicals, comedies, murder mysteries, and family shows starts in September. It will include visits to Appalachia for *Bright Star*, the kingdom of Arendelle for *Disney's Frozen*, Monkswell Manor for Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, Las Vegas for the George & Ira Gershwin musical Crazy for You, a theatre for Noises Off, and Harvard University for Legally Blonde. For our families, we will put on The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, hear the wolf's side in Red Riding Hood; befriend one of the sons of Poseidon, The Lightning Thief; and join the citizens of Rockaway for Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical. I guarantee that you will be amazed and entertained.

Our mission is simple: "Create extraordinary, shared experiences through live theatre." Our volunteer performers, backstage technicians, and guest service teams and professional staff want you to have the best time possible. If there is anything we can do to make your visit even more memorable, please tell us. This is your community theatre: by you, the community, and for you, the community.

Again, thank you for choosing to spend time with us. We are grateful for your support of the arts in Central lowa.





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# From all the volunteers, cast, crew, and staff at The Playhouse...

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Cast of Jesus Christ Superstar 2024-25 Season

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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 guests 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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#### **ABOUT**

#### **WAITRESS**

Katy Merriman, Director

If you're a fan of Broadway musicals from the past decade, you're likely familiar with Waitress. Based on the 2007 indie film written and directed by Adrienne Shelly, Sara Bareilles and Jessie Nelson adapted the movie for the stage with its first performance in 2015. Bareilles, a world-famous singer/ songwriter/actress wrote the music and lyrics, and Nelson wrote the book. Nominated for four Tony awards in 2016, Broadway's Waitress team made history as the first show with the top four creative spots filled by women: Bareilles as composer/lyricist, Nelson as adaptor of the book, Lorin Latarro as choreographer, and Diane Paulus as director. We love this record!



Alicia Kodá Scott, Hannah Zepeda, & Emily Duvick

When I start rehearsing a play, I ask the cast to talk about what themes and messages *they* think are in the story. This brilliant and thoughtful cast suggested self-reliance, friendship, struggling through change, knowing what matters to you. I agree. The heart of this production of *Waitress* lies in the bond between Jenna, Becky, and Dawn and the assertion that change is inevitable, or as the song says "Everything Changes." Whether for the better or worse, life ticks on. When you have good people to weather it with, you can get through it and find happiness.

The way the show flows seamlessly from one moment to the next seems to mimic that fact that life flows on and doesn't pause. The ensemble ensures this not only by moving set pieces in, out, and around Jenna; at times they even move Jenna. The full cast movement at the top of the show mirrors and supports Jenna's thoughts, and you will see that they continue to be an extension of her ideas and desires throughout the show. Like a modern Greek chorus, they demonstrate pie recipes, encourage Jenna to stash away more money for the future, and even coax her into a much needed (loving) romp with her doctor.

Production elements that support Jenna's struggle and eventual triumph often involve color in our show. The diner is designed to look dated, brown, tan, and silver. When things turn around for Jenna, you'll notice a clear change in colors in the diner that are bright and much "happier." Lighting supports this color change and also help us clarify when Jenna is lost in her thoughts versus interacting in her real world. If Jenna is isolated in a pool of light, and things look darker, softer, and hazier around her, she is escaping into her own thoughts and memories. Jenna's costumes also reflect change. You'll be able to tell when Jenna's world goes from dingy and tinged in grey to something much sunnier.

On a personal note, it has been an honor to direct this musical. Not only is it a favorite of mine, it is a production I've been hoping to bring to The Playhouse since I stepped into my current role here as artistic director. It reminds us that nobody is perfect and life can be hard, but redemption and happiness are possible. We can survive tough times by relying our friends and community and remembering that even though things might look dark and scary and impossible, there will be light on the other side. As Jenna says, not just "happy enough" but "really happy."



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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. Closed captioning is available in the John Viars Theatre via GalaPro. The GalaPro app is available for free in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. For these and other needs, please call the ticket office with specific service requests.

#### All-Gender Restroom

An all-gender restroom is located on the lower level across from the coatrack.

#### 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.

#### **Changing Stations**

Changing stations are located in the men's and women's restrooms on the lower level.

#### Concessions

A variety of beverages and candy may be available for purchase and are allowed in auditoriums. No outside drink or food are allowed. Staff reserve the right to deny alcoholic beverage service to anyone at their discretion.

#### Flevator

An elevator between levels is located at the east end of the building.

#### **Emergency Exits**

Please note the exit nearest your seat location. In the event of an emergency, 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 quests. regardless of age, will be asked to leave. Cell phone ringers should be turned off.

#### Lost Items

Lost items will be held in the ticket office.

Free parking is available in The Playhouse lots and on streets surrounding the theatre. After 5:00 PM daily, free parking is available in the Shops at Roosevelt's east/back parking lot. Parking in the west/front Shops parking lot is 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 Thursdays and 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, excluding the December show, will begin 30 minutes prior to curtain in the west lobby. The December show will have preshow music 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 the theatre:

- Alcohol, drugs, illegal substances, or any paraphernalia associate 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

Each audience member must occupy a seat and have a ticket, including infants.

#### **Ticket Office Hours**

The ticket office is open Noon to 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday, and 90 minutes before each performance. Tickets are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, online. Ticketing fees are the same whether purchased online, by phone, or at the ticket office.

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

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## **WAITRESS**

Book by Jessie Nelson Music & Lyrics by Sara Bareilles

Based on the motion picture written by Adrienne Shelly

Orchestrations by Sara Bareilles & The Waitress Band Music by Arrangement with Sony Music Publishing

Originally Produced on Broadway by Barry & Fran Weissler, Norton & Elayne Herrick, David I. Berley, Independent Presenters Network, A.C. Orange International, Peter May, Michael Roiff, Ken Schur, Marisa Sechrest, Jam Theatricals, 42nd.club/Square I Theatrics, Bejamin Simpson & Joseph Longthorne/Shira Friedman Alecia Parker. Executive Producer

Original motion picture produced by Michael Roiff/Night & Day Pictures

World premiere produced by the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University, Aug. 2, 2015
Diane Paulus, Artistic Director and Diane Borger, Producer
Peter Duchan, Script Consultant for A.R.T. Production

Presented by Oak Park

Director/Artistic Director: Katy Merriman
Music Director: Tristan Miedema
Choreographer: Kent Zimmerman
Scenic Designer: Nicholas Amundson
Costume Designer: Jessica Van Essen
Lighting Designer: Sam Stephen
Properties Designer: Katie Hughes
Stage Manager: Jessie Worden
Intimacy Director: Stephanie Schneider
Assistant Director: Toni K Farris

Assistant Music Director/Assistant Stage Manager: Hudson Pulver

Assistant Lighting Designer: **Kurtis Nethington**Assistant Stage Manager: **Troy Ellerbroek** 

#### Cast

\*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Jenna	Hannah Zepeda*
Becky	
Dawn	Emily Devick*
Dr Pomatter	Alex Schaeffer
Earl	
Cal	Mark Mangum
Ogie	Andy McKissick
Joe	Maxwell Schaeffer
Francine Pomatter	Grace Smithey*
Nurse Norma	Kim Wilty*
LuluVivian Armstrong*, Hazel Hartmann*	

Melina Murrane*, Austin	ysus Lewis Manuel Jr,
Jenna Cover	
Becky Cover	•
Dawn Cover	•
Dr Pomatter Cover	Noah Hackbart
Earl Cover/Cal Cover	
Ogie Cover	Tanner Tillotson
Francine Pomatter Cover/	
Nurse Nancy Cover	Caitlyn Porter

Waitress is performed with a 15-minute intermission.

Waitress is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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

#### **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

#### ACT I

"What's Inside"	Jenna
"Opening Up"	Jenna, Becky, Dawn, Cal, Company
"The Negative"	Jenna, Becky, Dawn
"What Baking Can Do"	Jenna
"When He Sees Me"	Dawn
,	Dr Pomatter, Jenna
	Ear
	Jenna, Becky, Dawn
	Ogie, Company
"Bad Idea"	
	ACT II
"I Didn't Plan It"	Becky
"Bad Idea (Reprise)"	Jenna, Dr Pomatter, Becky, Cal, Dawn, Ogie, Company
"Mama's Pie Song"	Jenna
"You Matter to Me"	Dr Pomatter, Jenna
	Ogie, Dawn, Company
	Joe, Company
	Jenna
"Everything Changes"	Jenna, Becky, Dawn, Company
"Opening Un (Eingle)"	Company





**Tilynne Cartmill** (Ensemble) is excited to appear in her first Playhouse production. She recently graduated from Waukee Northwest High School and will attend

Roosevelt University – Chicago College of Performing Arts for a B.F.A. in musical theatre in the fall. While at Northwest, she appeared in *Chicago* (Squish/June), *Mean Girls* (Gretchen), and *Anastasia: The Musical* (Countess Lily). When she's not performing, Tilynne enjoys shopping, cooking, and listening to podcasts.



**Emily Devick** (*Dawn*) is thrilled to make her Playhouse debut in her all-time favorite musical. Her past show credits include Roxie Hart in *Chicago* at Ankeny Centennial High

School, and Kate in *Legally Blonde* and Marge in *Call Me Stan*, both at Drake University. Emily is a senior at Drake, earning a B.F.A. in musical theatre. In her free time, she likes crocheting, painting, and playing video games.



**Chelsea Haaland** (Ensemble) was last seen as Ms. Sheinkopf in The Playhouse's production of *School of Rock*. She serves as the related arts curriculum facilitator for the

Waukee Community School District and has directed multiple productions at Waukee High School. She is a teacher in The Playhouse's education department and has directed many Performance Academy productions as well as *Charlotte's Web* in the family series. Chelsea and her husband Thomas have two children, Grayson and Liliana, the latter who is helping with prop pies for this show.



Noah Hackbart (Ensemble/Dr. Pomatter Cover) first appeared on The Playhouse stage as Michael Darling in Peter Pan (2013). His more recent Playhouse credits include Michael Wormwood in *Roald Dahl's Matilda* and Production Intern/Dramaturg for *Calendar Girls*. He was an Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards Triple Threat nominee for Ankeny High Schools' production of *It Shoulda Been You* and won a BroadwayWorld Award for Des Moines Young Artists Theatre's *Dog Sees God*. A University of Northern Iowa graduate and former congressional staffer, Noah enjoys coffee, tennis, and reading. He also enjoys ushering for Playhouse shows year-round!



Mark Mangum (Cal) made his Playhouse debut in Singin' in the Rain. He currently serves as the board president of CAP Theatre in Altoona where he co-directed and co-designed

sets with his wife Megan and created the Beast puppet for *Beauty and the Beast Jr* and produced *Frozen Jr*. He is also a Cloris Awards judge. Mark is a senior technical program manager at Corteva Agriscience. When he's not performing, he's creating art or watching his "much more talented" sons, Jude and Ezra, perform.



**Dionysus Lewis Manuel Jr.** (*Ensemble*) made his Playhouse debut as Howie Newsome in *Our Town*. Since then, he has appeared in *Last Stop on Market Street* (Tatted

Man), School of Rock, and, his favorite, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (Drifter). He volunteered with the backstage crew for Jersey Boys and is in the theatre's Adventure Clubhouse cast. Dionysus is earning his B.F.A. at Des Moines Area Community College. In his free time, he enjoys singing and hanging out with friends.



**Andy McKissick** (*Ogie*) made his Playhouse debut this spring in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He originated the role of Owen in the Off-

Broadway production of *Game Boy* as well as Dean in an industry reading of the new Broadway musical *R-E-S-P-E-C-T* at New York Stage and Film. His favorite regional shows include *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (LeFou), *Forever Plaid* (Jinx), and *Altar Boyz* (Mark).



Melina Murrane (Ensemble/ Dawn Cover) is making her Playhouse debut. Her last appearance was as Specs and Miss Medda Larkin in Disney's Newsies at Southeast Polk

High School. She is studying music (voice) and theatre at Iowa State University. In her spare time, Melina arranges music for her acapella group, Mezzo Forte.



Austin Myers (Ensemble/ Earl Cover/Cal Cover) made his Playhouse debut as Dewey in School of Rock for which he won a Playhouse Dionysos Award and a Cloris

Award nomination. His favorite musical is The Phantom of the Opera. Austin works as an operations dispatcher at DART. He enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and singing.



Caitlyn Porter (Ensemble/ Norma Cover/Francine Cover) has been on The Playhouse stage in several shows, including Jersey Boys (Lorraine), Beautiful: The

Carole King Musical (Betty), and Kinky Boots. She recently choreographed White Christmas for Ankeny Community Theatre. Caitlyn is a piano teacher at Arrow Academy, a preschool music teacher with Music Class for Tots, and a voice teacher at Drake University Community School of Music.



Alex Schaeffer (Dr Pomatter) last appeared on The Playhouse stage in The Producers. Since then, he's been a MainStage performer for Disney Cruise Line and

studied with Improv Olympic, Second City, and Vagabond School of the Arts, all in Chicago. Alex works as a growth and development consultant at Holmes Murphy. He enjoys writing plays, hanging with friends, nerding out over movies, and spending time with his wife, Ashley, and their "spunky" daughter, Lilah.



Maxwell Schaeffer (Joe) has many Playhouse credits, both on and off the stage. He made his debut in A Woman in Mind in 1990 and his numerous roles since then

include Javert in Les Misérables and Max Bialystock in The Producers. As a director, he helmed The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein (Cloris Award winner), Disney's The Little Mermaid, Elf The Musical, and A Christmas Story: The Musical. He was named a Playhouse Legend in 2012. Max enjoys songwriting and composing music.



Alicia Kodá Scott (Becky) most recently appeared on The Playhouse stage in Disney's Beauty and the Beast (Madame de la Grande Bouche). Her favorite stage

role has been Olive in *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* (Ankeny Community Theatre).
Alicia is studying criminal justice at Des Moines Area Community College. She plays right tackle and defensive end for the Iowa Phoenix, a women's semi-professional tackle football team. She enjoys playing board and card games with her family. Alicia is thankful to her friend, Kat, who helped her prepare for her *Waitress* audition



**Tyler Smith** (Ensemble) is a professional voice actor and stage performer. His notable stage roles include Buddy in *Elf The Musical*, which earned him the honor of Outstanding

Actor in a Leading Role, Albert in *On Christmas Day in the Morning*, and Professor Karpathy and Jamie in *My Fair Lady*, all at Union Street Players (USP) in Pella, and Carter in *Witness for the Prosecution* at Ankeny Community Theatre. He lives in Ankeny with his wife, Camille, and their pup, Loki.



**Grace Smithey** (Francine/ Ensemble/Jenna Cover) says she grew up taking classes but this is her Playhouse debut. No stranger to the stage, she's appeared in Pippin (Tallgrass

Theatre), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne, Ankeny Community Theatre), and *Bright Star* (Alice Murphy, North Polk High School). Grace is a rising junior musical theatre major at Oklahoma City University where she appeared in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and is active in her Alpha Phi sorority's projects. Grace is Miss lowa Teen USA



**Tanner Tillotson** (Ensemble/ Ogie Cover) last appeared at The Playhouse in School of Rock. His favorite role was Roger in Rent at Des Moines East High School. His other

roles include Ram in *Heathers* with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, and Orlando in *As You Like It* and Arvide in *Guys and Dolls*, both at Simpson College. Tanner is a speech teacher in the Waukee Community School District and is on The Playhouse's education staff. In his free time, he likes playing Dungeons & Dragons.



Kim Wilty (Nurse Norma/ Becky Cover) is appearing in her first show in 27 years. She's performed as Sarah Brown in Guys and Dolls and Salome in The Robber Bridge

Groom, both at Dana College in Blair, NE, and as the church lady who yells "Fire!" in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (CAP Theatre, Altoona). Kim works as a software engineer consultant at Nationwide Insurance. She enjoys baking, yoga, gardening, and singing in the church praise band at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona.



Josh Wing (Earl) was last seen at The Playhouse in Jersey Boys (Norm Waxman). His other Playhouse credits include Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Disney's

Newsies, and Once, a favorite due to the fact the actors played their instruments live. Elsewhere in the metro he has appeared in The One Act Play That Goes Wrong and The Odd Couple (Female Version) with Ankeny Community Theatre and The Drowsy Chaperone with Urbandale Community Theatre. Josh is a community living instructor. He loves spending time and watching movies with his wife, Kailan, and five kids.



Hannah Zepeda (Jenna) is making her Playhouse debut and this show marks her first time on stage in 10 years! Hannah's past roles include Mrs. Potts in Disney's Beauty

and the Beast, Narrator in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and Kala in Tarzan, all at Spotlight Youth Theater in Aurora, IL. She works as a newsletter editor for dotdash Meredith. Like Jenna, Hannah loves to bake. She also enjoys writing, going to the park with her dog, Melo, and adding to her vinyl record collection.



**Katy Merriman** (*Director/ Artistic Director*) moved to
Des Moines in 2013 and has
worked with numerous arts
organizations as a performer,
director, musician, teacher,

and administrator. Her recent Playhouse directing credits include *Disney's Beauty* and the Beast (music director); School of Rock: Our Town: Once (music director): and Native Gardens. Other local performance and directing credits include Once (Girl) 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 Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) and serves on the education committee for the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). Katy was the festival chair for ACCT's YouthFest 2025, which was hosted at The Playhouse in June 2025.



**Tristan Miedema** (Music Director) is in his fifth year at Drake University as a teaching associate in musical theatre voice. He received a Cloris Award for music

direction of Kinky Boots (Playhouse) and a Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival commendation for music direction/ conducting of the world premiere of WINGS by Danny K. Bernstein at Drake. Tristan is a studio vocal artist for BMK Arrangements in Chicago, specializes in gender affirming voice/speech care for trans and non-binary students, and directs TRANScendent, lowa's first trans and non-binary ensemble within the Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus. His stage credits include Light in the Piazza (Fabrizio) and Le Tragedie de Carmen (Lillas Pástia) at the University of Iowa.



Kent Zimmerman (Choreographer) made his Playhouse debut as director/

Playhouse debut as director/ choreographer of *Seussical TYA*. Before moving to lowa in 2020, he lived in New York

City for 23 years and 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); and The Producers, Guys and Dolls, Footloose, and Show Boat (National Tour). 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 91:11



Nicholas Amundson (Scenic Designer) earned his B.F.A. in theatre design and technology from the University of South Dakota. Working on theatre all over town, he has designed

in many different styles with StageWest Theatre Company (*Ugly Lies the Bone, Marjorie Prime*), Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (*The Hobbit, James and the Giant Peach Jr*), Noce (*bare: A Pop Opera*), and Kata Klysmic Productions (*The Rocky Horror Show, Reefer Madness*). He served as scenic designer for *The New Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, A Chorus Line, Choices, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Ragtime, Catch Me If You Can and many more at The Playhouse. This season, he directed and designed <i>Disney's Beauty and* 

the Beast. His favorite thing about theatre is creating out-of-the-box ways to present a story that gives the audience something fun to experience.



Jessica Van Essen (Costume Designer) joined The Playhouse team in 2018 after many years working with different theaters and universities around the

country. She has costume designed many productions for The Playhouse including *Disney's Newsies, Calendar Girls, Dragons Love Tacos, The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* among others. Born and raised in Iowa, she earned her B.A. in technical theatre from University of Northern Iowa and her M.F.A. in costume design from Wayne State University. Costume history fun fact: The "whale bone" found in Victorian corsets is not bone at all but baleen, the stiff filter material found in the mouths of whale species like humpback and blue whales



Sam Stephen (Lighting Designer) has a B.A. in live entertainment design and technology from North Central College, Naperville, IL. They won a Cloris Award for their

lighting design of All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 (Playhouse). They have worked on a multitude of permanent design installations in Chicago as well as designing The Odd Couple (Harper College, Palatine, IL), Footloose (Big Noise Theatre, Des Plaines, IL), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical and School of Rock (Des Moines Playhouse), Clue and The Woman in Black (Theatre Cedar Rapids), and The Addams Family and The Legend of Georgia McBride (Metropolis Performing Arts, Arlington Heights, IL). Sam joined The Playhouse staff this season as technical director of audio visual. www. DesignsBySamuelStephen.com.



Katie Hughes (Properties Designer) made her Playhouse debut as Greta Ohlsson in Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, played Miss Agatha Trunchbull in

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical (Dionysos Award and Cloris Award for outstanding performance), Westfeldt/Renfield in Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors, and designed props for several shows including Disney's Frozen Jr (Penguin Project). A graphic designer and gift shop lead for UnityPoint Foundation, Katie likes knitting, film, and attending festivals.



Jessie Worden (Stage Manager) recently made her Playhouse acting debut in Men on Boats, a finalist in the American Association of Community Theatre AACTFest

play competition. She has been stage manager for several shows including *Little Shop of Horrors*. Jessie is an infant teacher at New Creations, West Des Moines, and a character performer with Magical Moments Entertainment. When she is not spending time with her husband, Christopher, or chasing her adorable one-year-old, Anna, Jessie enjoys Disney movies, shopping, and reading thrillers.



#### Stephanie Schneider

(Intimacy Director) is an intimacy director/coordinator and performer based in Des Moines. Her intimacy direction credits include Salome and

American Apollo at the Des Moines Metro Opera, The Good Kids at Simpson College, Wings at Drake University, The Bridges of Madison County and Equus at Tallgrass Theatre Company, Heathers The Musical at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, Bonnie & Clyde at Central College, and more. Intimacy coordination credits include the independent films Salvages (Matriarch Films), 5683

(Cintree/Dojojo Films), Roulette Girl (Matriarch Films), and others. She also teaches workshops in consent and boundaries. When not performing or directing, you can find her at dance class, reading, nerding out on Star Wars, and playing Dungeons & Dragons.



Toni K Farris (Assistant Director) has been involved with The Playhouse since 1989 and considers it her home-away-from-home. Toni has worked in virtually

every theatre production team role available except costumes. She particularly enjoys the audition process and being a fresh pair of eyes at technical rehearsals. Happily retired, she enjoys reading, traveling, trying new restaurants, and supporting Liverpool Football Club. She is always on the lookout for a great London Fog drink.



**Hudson Pulver** (Assistant Music Director/Assistant Stage Manager) made his Playhouse debut as John Darling in *Tinker Bell* (2019). More recently, he served as the assistant stage

manager for The Playhouse's production of Little Shop of Horrors. Hudson is a sophomore at Des Moines Roosevelt High School. He works as a lighting technician at Des Moines Performing Arts. He plays piano and oboe and also enjoys golfing, tennis, and reading.



**Kurtis Nethington** (Assistant Lighting Designer) is earning his B.F.A. from Drake University where he has appeared in productions of Carrie: The Musical. The

Theory of Relativity, and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. He played his favorite role, Davey in *Disney's Newsies*, at Magic Circle Players in Montrose, CO. Kurtis spent last summer as The Playhouse's production intern, made his Playhouse debut in *Jersey Boys* earlier this season, and

is spending this summer as a Playhouse education intern. Kurtis likes traveling, musical theatre, playing piano, and all things Disney, but <u>loves</u> to cook.



**Troy Ellerbroek** (Assistant Stage Manager) has volunteered for virtually every backstage role – sound board operator for Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella.

Disney's Newsies, A Christmas Story The Musical, and Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music; stage manager for Weekend Comedy; assistant stage manager for Diary of a Wimpy Kid; run crew for Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express and Jesus Christ Superstar, archival videographer – receiving a Volunteer of the Year Award for the 2021-22 season. Troy is a sixth-grade teacher at Westridge Elementary in West Des Moines. He likes running, supporting local hockey, and spending time with family and friends.



Jessie Nelson (Book) wrote the musical Waitress with music and lyrics by Sara Bareilles. The show played on Broadway for four years and moved to the West End

in London. Sara and Jessie went on to create the show Little Voice which they executive produced with JJ Abrams for Apple TV. Jessie wrote, directed, and produced Corrina Corrina and I Am Sam starring Sean Penn, who received an Academy Award nomination for his performance. Among her other directing credits are Curb Your Enthusiasm and Love, the Coopers with Diane Keaton. Her writing credits include Step Mom and The Story of Us. She produced Fred Claus and Danny Collins. In London, Jessie directed Alice by Heart which she co-wrote with Steven Sater with music by Duncan Sheik at the National Theater Connections Program and again at MCC in NYC. She began her career as an actress at the Public Theater working with the awardwinning experimental theater Mabou Mines and at the New York Shakespeare Festival. She wrote the children's book Labracadabra. She has been the artistic director of the Sundance Screen Writers Lab



Sara Bareilles (Music & Lyrics) can be seen starring in Tina Fev's series, GIRLS5EVA, Sara first achieved mainstream critical praise in 2007 with her widely successful hit "Love

Song," which reached No. 1 in 22 countries around the world from her debut album Little Voice. Since then, Sara has gone on to receive seven Grammy® nominations throughout her career, which include Song of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for "Love Song" and one Album of the Year for her highly acclaimed third studio album. The Blessed Unrest. Her book. Sounds Like Me: Mv Life (So Far) in Song, was released in the fall of 2015 by Simon & Schuster and is a New York Times best seller. Making her Broadway debut, Sara composed the music and lyrics for Waitress, for which she received her first Tony® Award nomination for Best Score and a 2017 Grammy® Award nomination for Best Musical Theater Album, She also made her Broadway acting debut in 2017 by stepping into the lead role in Waitress. In 2018 – a big year for Sara – she co-hosted the Tony Awards®, was nominated for an Emmy® and a Grammy® for her role in Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert, and was awarded with the Songwriters Hall of Fame's Hal David Starlight Award. Sara also teamed up with Apple as an executive producer for Little Voice, a 10-episode series for which she created the original music. What's Inside: Songs from Waitress, her most recent solo studio album, is out on Epic Records. On April 5, 2019, Sara released her fifth full-length and first album of original material since 2013. entitled Amidst the Chaos. For this latest body of work, she joined forces in the studio with legendary Academy® Award-winning

producer T Bone Burnett. As a result, the album spotlights her voice as a singer and storyteller like never before while making an enduring statement.

**Adrienne Shelly** (Film) is celebrated as the writer of the 2007 film Waitress. An actor (Trust) and director (Waitress, I'll Take You There, Sudden Manhattan) for almost 20 vears, she conceived the film while pregnant with her daughter Sophie (Lulu in the film). for whom she wrote it as a "love letter" in just two weeks. Adrienne's legacy includes The Adrienne Shelly Foundation, created after she died in 2006 to support Women Filmmakers. It's awarded 60+ production grants to talented women all over the world. Please visit www. adrienneshellyfoundation.org to honor Adrienne's memory and support ASF's critical artistic mission



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#### **PRODUCTION CREWS**

Volunteer & Production Coordinator: **Derek Phelps** 

Technical Directors: **Nicholas Amundson, Sam Stephen** 

Dance Captain: Caitlyn Porter

Run Crew: Troy Ellerbroek, Hunter Horn, Mike Howland, Kat Lindaman, Chelsea Myers, Madalyne Rutledge

Sound Engineer: Brian Dodson

Sound Board Operators: **Avery Johnson, Wren** 

Royer

Light Board Operator: Rhya Cowden

Set Construction: Pluto Evans, Evan Larson, Dave Piper, George Sparks

Set Painting: Kathleen Baustian, Zach Brewer, Jamie Dahlgren, Leslie DesCamps, Katie Ferry, Harold Hinkhouse, Pam Iano, Anne Jung, Meg Marker, Shari Piper, Darlene Pullen

Costume Crew: Laila Collier, Susan Eisenhour, Miranda Hughes, Marshall Moore, Suzanne Stanton, Claire Ward

Master Electrician: Virgil Kleinhesselink

Photographers: Jonathan Garton, Steve Gibbons, Brent Isenberger

Playhouse Archives: Harold Hinkhouse

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR SPECIAL THANKS
Due to print deadlines, these individuals could
not be acknowledged in the previous playbill.
Guest Services: Debbie Anderson, Ann Anhalt,
Giovanni Bahena, Marylou Bandstra, Rachel
Barton, Sandy Barton, John Beals, Kathy
Bermel, Corley Blackford, Miranda Blackford,
Kim Blakesley, Steve Blakesley, Randy Breese,
Andy Briggs, Katie Briggs, Juls Bruns, Darlene
Cangas, Callan Clark, Lisa Clement, Megan
Clement, Lindsay Compiano, Karna Converse,

Ken Converse, Judi Cooper, Caro Culmer, Lydia Davis, Patty Davis, Daniel Dunham, Linda Dunham, Mark Eikenberry, Mark Ferguson, Susan Ferguson, Pat Finan, Maarz Friesleben, Nick Friesleben, Sharon Gee, Deb Goddard, Jill Gray, Kristi Green, Tesa Greenlee, Deb Grover, Genevieve Gualerzi, Noah Hackbart, Casey Harms, Ellen Harvey, Sara Heijerman, Linda Hendricks, Marcia Hewitt, Harold Hinkhouse, Pat Hipple, Ngoc Ho, Carol Holland, Laura Hollinrake, Tamela Holzhauser, Ginny Hood, Deb Huber, Katie Hughes, Inga Jahn, Tara Johnson, Mary Kacere, Angela Kermoade, Abhishek Khanna, Cheryl Kimberley, Jack Kimberley, Marcie King, Trent King, Angela Knowler, Mary Ann Koehler, Patricia Kowalkowski, Tom Ksobiech, Katey Lindaman, Raz Marquardt, Amanda Martin, Sally Mattern, Linda McClure, Barb Merrill, Maggy Miller, Judy Moeller, Morgen Neuhauser, Kim Newman, Judy O'Keefe, Pamela O'Keefe, Becky Pillack, Kathy Poetting, Kathy Polson, Sydney Rowley, Sara Scott, Maureen Sexton, Paden Sheumaker, Olivia Simons, Amy Skarin, Shane Snitker, Lu Spaine, George Sparks, Ben Spera, Julia Spera, Iris Stanley, Eavan Swanson, Eve Swanson, Shea Swanson, Oliver Thrun, Lori VanZee, Nancy Ward, Jennifer Washington, Lily Wasserman, Fran Watson, Randy Watson, Cliff Wendel, Susan Wendel, Sherill Whisenand, Janet Whiteside, Stephanie Wilber, Steven Willem, Lauren Winders

ALICE IN WONDERLAND SPECIAL THANKS Due to print deadlines, these individuals could not be acknowledged in the previous playbill. Guest services: Ann Anhalt, Michelle Anthoney, Thora Anthoney, Ella Artzer, Corley Blackford, Emery Blackford, Miranda Blackford, Kim Blakesley, Steve Blakesley, Juls Bruns, Anna Bylund, Lisa Clement, Megan Clement. Rhya Cowden, Carol Culmer, Leah Dillon, Deborah Dunham, Mark Eikenberry, Nicholas Friesleben, Sharon Gee, Sydney Gilmore, Deb Gray, Jill Gray, Deb Grover, Genevieve Gualerzi, Noah Hackbart, Andrea Hallman, Charlotte Heijerman, Sara Heijerman, Linda Hendricks, Harold Hinkhouse, Ngoc Ho, Carol Holland, Tamela Holzhauser, Michael Kloos, Angela

#### PRODUCTION CREWS

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#### PLAYHOUSE ADMINISTRATION

The Playhouse receives funding support from



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Molly Thorsen Tanner Tillotson Kim Van Haecke Henry Vermeer Anna Zimnev

\* Master Teacher

#### 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 platfrom 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 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 memhers

Published Aug. 18, 2016; Reiterated June 2, 2020





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<u>AT</u>

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#### THE DIFFERENCE IS

# Community

At a young age my parents taught me how important it is to give back to my community. It was their example that led me to join the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity board five years ago.

For more than 100 years, Bankers Trust has taken pride in helping our community thrive. It's why we encourage employees to get involved with organizations they're passionate about. Bankers Trust lives out what my parents instilled in me: to leave a community better than you found it.

It's part of the Bankers Trust Difference.

Tina Smith Fritz

EVP, Chief Operations Officer

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