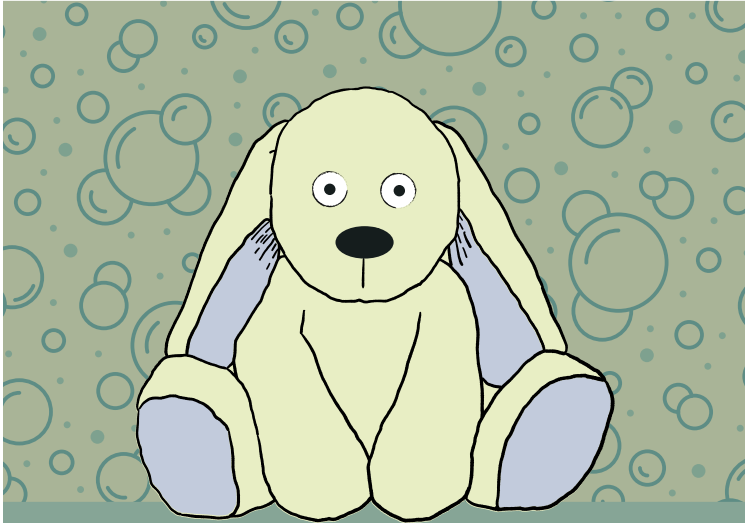


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## KNUFFLE BUNNY

A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL

**MAR. 28-APR. 13, 2025**



**THE PLAYHOUSE**

**#DMPlayhouse**

# Great Red Wine

*made in Iowa  
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## ***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.

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## ***2021 Iowa***

### ***Petite Pearl***

is a dry red with a lightly acidic entry transitioning to dark fruit and a long, drying finish. Made from Petite Pearl grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, *2021 Iowa Petite Pearl* will pair nicely with grilled meat or pasta with a tomato-based sauce.



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# WELCOME TO YOUR PLAYHOUSE



**David R. Kilpatrick**  
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Thank you for attending today's performance of *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical*. From the page to the stage can be particularly rewarding as you experience the same stories via different media. And both shows and books exercise your imagination, making you part of the experience! Also, thank you for introducing a young person to the world of possibilities found in arts and literature. Give yourself an extra hug!

Our 2024-25 Season continues with the classic tale of *Alice in Wonderland*. It won't be the Disney version, but rather much closer to Lewis Carroll's original. Our performance will be memorable as we will have a different shaped stage and the audience will get even closer to the performers. We hope you will return to The Playhouse and experience all that make us special.

We have been entertaining our younger members of the audience for more than 90 years. Our programming includes plays and musicals, classes and workshops, opportunities to be part of shows, productions aimed for four- to six-year-olds, and of course a family friendly holiday production. I know you can find something for you and your family at The Playhouse.

Of course, our opportunities for youths require the support of parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, and others. We do what we do because we know you believe in the power of the arts, particularly theatre, to change the world, one youth at a time! Thank you for playing your part.



**KNUFFLE BUNNY**

**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...

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Cast of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* 2024-25 Season.

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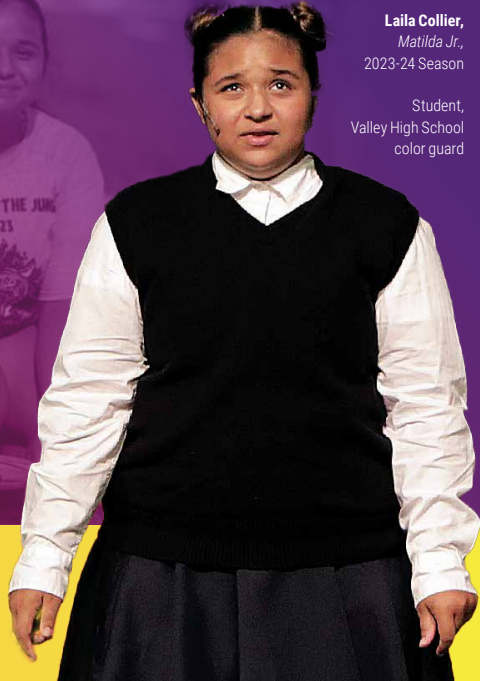
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# GUEST INFORMATION

## 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. 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.

## 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.

## 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 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

## 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.

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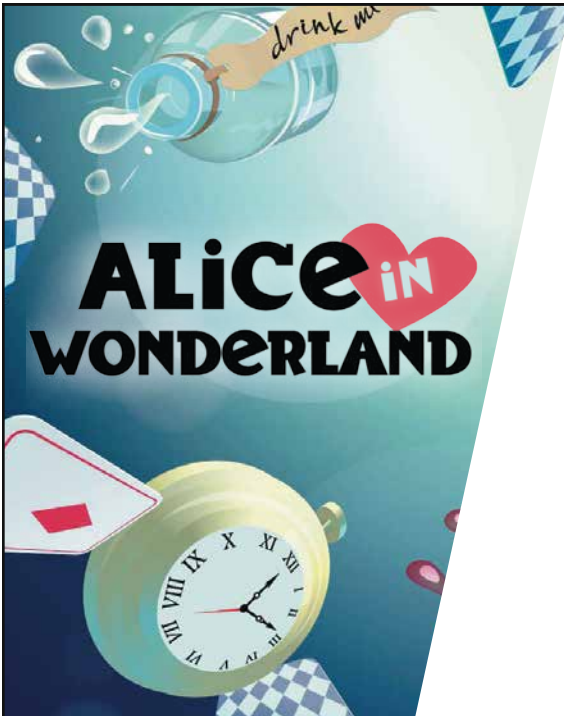
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128th Production  
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The Des Moines Playhouse Presents in the Studio Theatre

# ***KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL***

Based on the book *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* by Mo Willems

Published by Hyperion Books for Children

Script and Lyrics by Mo Willems

Music by Michael Silversher

This play was commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was first produced at the Kennedy Center during the 2009-2010 season.

Presented by **Nationwide**

**Director:** Bridget Grace Sheaff

**Music Directors:** Theodore Bartemes, Nancy Hill Cobb

**Choreographer:** Marquis Bundy

**Scenic Designer:** Sam Stephen

**Costume Designer:** Jessica Van Essen

**Lighting Designer:** JP Ungs

**Properties Designer:** Pluto Evans

**Stage Manager:** DC Felton

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Travis Edrington

**Artistic Director:** Katy Merriman

**Cast**

\*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Mom .....	<b>Payton Boesch</b>
Dad .....	<b>Lou Ramsey</b>
Trixie .....	<b>Nora Lynch*</b>
Ensemble .....	<b>Vivian Rosalie Coleman, Chelsea Flynn, Shelby Kephart, JP Ungs</b>
Trixie Understudy .....	<b>Vivian Rosalie Coleman</b>

*Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* is performed without intermission.

*Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

Note to Audience: Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

"Overture" .....	Orchestra
"Tricky with Trixie" .....	Mom, Dad, Trixie
"Walkin' Dad - I" .....	Dad, Trixie
"Walkin' Dad - II" .....	Dad, Trixie
"Washy Washy" .....	Dad, Trixie, Ensemble
"Spin Cycle" .....	Orchestra
"Aggle Flaggie Klabble" .....	Trixie
"Long Walk" .....	Orchestra
"Really, Really Love You" .....	Dad, Trixie
"Run Back!" .....	Orchestra
"Aggle Flaggie Klabble (reprise)" .....	Trixie
"Don't Worry" .....	Mom, Dad, Ensemble
"Knuffle Bunny" .....	Mom, Dad, Trixie, Ensemble
"Last Scene" .....	Orchestra
"Bows" .....	Company

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# CAST NOTES



**Payton Boesch** (*Mom*) is familiar to Playhouse family audiences for her roles as Max the Pirate in *How I Became a Pirate* and Elf Ellen in *Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!* Other area credits include Ancestor in *The Addams Family*

(Ankeny Community Theatre) and Ms. Fleming/Veronica's Mom in *Heathers: The Musical* (Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre), a favorite role. Payton works at Cetera Financial Group. She enjoys reading and playing video games with her husband, Tyler.



**Vivian Rosalie Coleman** (*Ensemble/Trixie Understudy*) made her Playhouse debut in *Playhouse on the Air Presents: Miracle on 34th Street* and she's been a familiar face ever since, playing Marcy in *School of Rock*,

Bean in *Ivy + Bean The Musical*, and Harriet in *Harriet the Spy*. Of all her Playhouse roles, her favorite was Marta in *Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music*. She has also been a PIP (pre-intern program) in the theatre's education department. Vivian is a freshman at Johnston Middle School where she is on the cheerleading squad.



**Chelsea Flynn** (*Ensemble*) was last seen at The Playhouse in *A Christmas Story, The Musical* where, among other roles, she got to be a dancing leg lamp, and *Elf The Musical*. Chelsea is the PGA

operations senior specialist at Athene. She enjoys reading, crafting, kickboxing, and spending time with her husband, Nick, and their daughter, Amara.



**Shelby Kephart** (*Ensemble*) is a favorite with Des Moines audiences whose area shows include *Ivy + Bean The Musical*, *Godspell*, *Disney's Freaky Friday One Act*, and *Elf The Musical* at The Playhouse; *The Wizard of*

*Oz and Bye, Bye, Birdie* at Urbandale Community Theatre; and *White Christmas* and *She Loves Me* at Ankeny Community Theatre. Shelby is an enrichment leader at Perkins Elementary School, Des Moines, and directs Easter and Christmas dramas at Bethany Full Gospel Church. She enjoys crocheting.



**Nora Lynch** (*Trixie*) is making her Playhouse debut but has taken many classes. Nora is a sixth grader at Des Moines Merrill Middle School. She enjoys acting, drawing, dancing, singing, reading, and playing with friends.



**Lou Ramsey** (*Dad*) credits his love of theatre to his family, who brought him to The Playhouse as a child. He has numerous area stage credits including *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*

at The Playhouse, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Francis Flute) with Iowa Stage Theatre Company, and *Kiss Me, Kate* at Ankeny Community Theatre. He has also worked backstage, most recently for *Jersey Boys* at The Playhouse. Lou is a tax assistant at Jackson Hewitt and self-proclaimed history nerd. He enjoys dancing, puppetry, and going to the movies.



**JP Unga** (*Ensemble/Lighting Designer*) has been involved in many shows at The Playhouse, most recently appearing as Pig Pen in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Lt. Brannigan in *Guys and Dolls*, and Little Old Lady in *Don't Let*

*the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!* They've also been involved with The Playhouse's Penguin Project, working backstage for *Annie Jr.* and as props designer for *Disney's High School Musical Jr.* JP graduated from Drake University with a B.F.A. in theatre design and technology and works as a freelance theatrical designer and special education associate for Waukee schools.



**Bridget Grace Sheaff** (*Director*) is a director and playwright. Her directing work has been seen across stages in Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, Illinois, and Missouri. Her writing can be found on stages and in

classrooms across the U.S. and Canada. Bridget is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab 2019 and Directors Lab North 2022. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from The Catholic University of America. Bridget works in development for Hoyt Sherman Place. [www.bridgetgracesheaff.com](http://www.bridgetgracesheaff.com)

## CAST NOTES



**Theodore Bartemes** (*Music Director*) composed the music for *Tis the Season* and *Smarty Pants* for Maples Repertory Theater in Macon, MO. A graduate of Drake University with degrees in music and computer science, he works

as a software engineering manager at Corteva. In his free time, Theo enjoys playing board games and Dungeons and Dragons.



**Nancy Hill Cobb** (*Music Director*) is an American composer and conductor who spent 44 years as a music faculty member and administrator at universities around the country. She retired from the University of Northern

Iowa in 2019 where she served as an associate provost for faculty and was a professor of music. Nancy's musical, *The Suffragist*, premiered in 2021 at Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center in Cedar Falls. At The Playhouse, she was music director for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. She holds a D.M.A. in composition from the University of Oklahoma, an M.M. in composition from Michigan State University, and a B.M. in theory and composition from Oklahoma Baptist University. She and her husband, retired businessman Terry Trimpe, spend a lot of time playing tennis. They also enjoy being with their five children and 11 grandchildren.



**Marquis Bundy** (*Choreographer*) is excited to be back at The Playhouse. He was last seen on The Playhouse stage as Barry Belson in *Jersey Boys* and Lead Drifter in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. He was in the Chicago

Premiere of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!* with Young People's Theatre of Chicago. He will be choreographing *The SpongeBob Musical* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Marquis works as the store manager of Smokey Row Coffee in Ankeny.



**Sam Stephen** (*Scenic Designer*) has a B.A. in live entertainment design and technology from North Central College, Naperville, IL. They recently 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 recently 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](http://www.DesignsBySamuelStephen.com)



**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 designed

costumes for many productions at 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.



**Pluto Evans** (*Properties Designer*) is a production intern at The Playhouse and a senior at Dallas Center Grimes High School. At DCG, they were Hawking Clam in *Peter and the Starcatcher* and in the ensembles of *Disney's The*

*Little Mermaid*, *Footloose*, and *Radium Girls*. They have also worked on props crew, set crew, and hair and makeup crew for various DCG productions. Pluto has been involved with acting and technical camps at Des Moines Area Community College. They enjoy art, crocheting, and reading.



**DC Felton** (*Stage Manager*) is excited to be returning for his fourth show with The Playhouse after serving as assistant stage manager for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*; *Go, Dog. Go!*; and *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical*. He

recently directed *The Prom* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre and served as stage manager for

their production of *Descendants: The Musical*. In 2023, he returned to the stage in his dream role of Man in Chair in Urbandale Community Theatre's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. When not serving onstage or off, DC enjoys writing reviews for *Broadway World*. He also serves as a judge for the Iowa High School Speech Association and the Cloris Awards and as an adjudicator for the Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards.



**Travis Edrington** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) has volunteered as mentor assistant with The Penguin Project at The Playhouse and designed sound and operated the sound board for Penguin Project productions of *Disney's*

*Frozen Jr* and *Disney's High School Musical Jr*. A Dionysos Award winner as volunteer of the year, he has served on many Playhouse technical crews, most recently running sound for *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Travis is also the sound technician for The Playhouse's Adventure Clubhouse shows. In his free time, he enjoys playing with computers and participating in aquatic activities.



**Mo Willems** (*Book and Lyrics*) is all about letting imaginations run wild. He is the beloved artist and author behind #1 *New York Times* (NYT) bestselling and Caldecott Honors-awarded picture books like *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the*

*Bus!* and the Knuffle Bunny series as well as his celebrated Elephant & Piggie early reader series for which he's won two Theodor Seuss Geisel Awards, five Geisel Honors, and an Eisner Award. Mo's title *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* was the inaugural induction into the Picture Book Hall of Fame. Mo has published more than 70 children's books – more than 50 of them NYT bestselling titles – with over 26 foreign language translations. In addition to his Caldecott Honors, he garnered six Emmy Awards for his writing on *Sesame Street*, where he began his remarkable career. Mo also has created three television specials, six animated series, seven musical adaptations, five licensed theater productions, and three touring exhibits. Mo loves playing in new sandboxes. He regularly collaborates with other globally renowned artists and organizations to create bright and innovative new works in the worlds of classical music, opera, comedy concerts, dance, painting, and digital content. Mo's art has been exhibited around the

world including in major solo retrospectives at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and The New York Historical Museum in NYC. Over the last decade, he has become the most produced playwright of Theatre for Young Audiences in the U.S., having written or co-written four musicals based on his books. In 2023, Mo co-founded the Hidden Pigeon Company to extend the reach of his beloved characters and stories across multiple platforms. Mo is a former child.

**Michael Silversher** (*Music*) is a Grammy Award winning songwriter (*Elmo in Grouchland*) with three prime time Emmy nominations including two for Winnie-the-Pooh and one for The Muppets who collaborated with Joy Sikorski to create SingBabySing @'s exclusive prenatal and infant music singing CD for moms, dads, grandparents, nurses, and early childhood educators. He is currently the composer for the background music of the hit children's TV show *Dinosaur Train*, songwriter for Pajanimals, and composer/co-lyricist for *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* which premiered at the Kennedy Center. Michael, in collaboration with Patty Silversher, also wrote the theme songs for Disney's television series, *Tale Spin* and *Gummi Bears*. Together Michael and Patty have over 100 songs in the Disney catalog. Michael has written over 43 musical theatre works and has worked extensively with Jim Henson Productions, MGM, Sony, Warner Bros., The Learning Channel, Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Opera, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and Sundance Institute. He is co-founder of the West Coast Songwriters Association and an advisory board member of the Academy for New Musical Theatre and the list goes on and on. Joy Sikorski and Michael are currently collaborating with Richard Hellesen on a new musical, *Gathering Blue*, based on a novel by the same name by Newbery Award winner Lois Lowry.

**Music Theatre International** (*Theatrical Licensing Agency*) (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists, and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials, and dynamic theatrical resources to

## CAST NOTES

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**Katy Merriman** (*Playhouse 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* (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 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.

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*How I Became a Pirate,*  
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## PRODUCTION CREWS

Volunteer & Production Coordinator: **Derek Phelps**

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

Sound Board Operator: **Avery Johnson**

Sound Effects: **Travis Edrington**

Set Construction: **Charlee Bender, Pluto Evans, Dave Piper, George Sparks**

Set Painting: **Kathleen Baustian, Harold Hinkhouse, Pam Iano, Anne Jung, Shari Piper, Darlene Pullen, LaKayla Robinson**

Audition Crew: **Cheryl Critelli, Kate Garner, Sara Scott, Shawn Simmons**

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### DIARY OF A WIMPY KID SPECIAL THANKS

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

Guest Service Volunteers: **Michelle Anthony, Thora Anthoney, Mia Backous, Naomi Backous, Kathy Bermel, Corley Blackford, Emery Blackford, Miranda Blackford, Kim Blakesley, Steve Blakesley, Amy Borness, Anna Borness, Anna Brown, Carmyn Brown, Ella Brown, Joshua Brown, Juls Bruns, Rhya Cowden, Kent Davis, Madeline Davis, Patty Davis, Marcella Edmonds, Mary Ellerbroek, Nick Friesleben, Andi Hallman, Charlotte Heijerman, Sara Heijerman, Ruth Hindal, Harold Hinkhouse, Ngoc Ho, Katie Hughes, Maylene Jones, Shawnae Jones, Michael Kloos, Tom Ksobiech, Alyssa Lee, Jodie Lee, Susan Lee, Katey Lindaman, Lacey Lindaman, Amanda Martin, Sally Mattern, Emily Mayfield, Maggy Miller, Marie Mullin, Kaylee Nelson, McKenna O'Meara, Michelle O'Meara, Ingrid Oakley, Dale Oakley-Bentlage, Aimee Oakley-Runyan, Alissa Olson, Becky Pillack, Kathy Polson, Kayla Rees, Linda Ruppert, Ridge Rutherford, Amy Skarin, Shane Snitker, Iris Stanley, Samiya Ward, Janet Whiteside, Kailan Wing**

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music, and a heaping  
scoop of friendship.

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# WAITRESS

# THE ROOSEVELT SHOPPING CENTER

**"FIVE  
STARS!"**  
-Dolly

**"QUITE  
FAB!"**  
-Paul

## FEATURING

Transformations

JouJou

Capital Chiropractic

Iowa HBOT

Alterations & Custom Made by Tran

Susan Noland Designs in Gold

Rumors Vintage

Rogue Planet Music

Central Iowa Music Lab

**Not to be missed: The Roosevelt Shopping Center!**

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# PLAYHOUSE ADMINISTRATION



THE PLAYHOUSE

The Playhouse receives funding support from



Support for The Playhouse is provided by



Playhouse partners include



## Leadership

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

## Staff

Nicholas Amundson, *Technical Director for Scenery*  
Lee Ann Bakros, *Marketing & Public Relations Director*  
Lindsey Ballard, *Concessions Manager*  
Charlee Bender, *Production Intern*  
Lynn Bjorlin, *Concessions*  
Jordan Bles, *Director of Philanthropy*  
Jerry Eisenhower, *Final Act Ensemble Director*  
Pluto Evans, *Production Intern*  
Maria Heath, *Marketing & Philanthropy Intern*  
Mary Hofer, *Finance*  
Gavin Houchins-McCallum, *House Manager*  
Abi Houston, *House Manager*  
Debbie Jacobson, *Ticket Office Manager*  
Kathy Jacobson, *Ticket Office*  
Angela Lampe, *Associate Artistic Director*  
Caulinez Lovan, *Concessions*  
Tess Meggison, *House Manager*  
Katy McCaull, *Marketing & Philanthropy Coordinator*  
Cherie Moen, *Ticket Office, Concessions*  
Derek Phelps, *Volunteer & Production Coordinator*  
Jake Skarin, *House Manager*  
Robin Heldt Spahr, *Education Director*  
Sam Stephen, *Technical Director for Audiovisual*  
Jessica Van Essen, *Costume Shop Supervisor*  
David A VanCleave, *House Manager*  
Claire Ward, *Costume Shop Intern*  
Nate Weber, *Education Outreach*  
Luci White, *Production Intern*

## Education Staff

Melissa Chavas-Miller*	Allison Koontz
Nicole Chavas-Schwlegler	Taylor Ann Layden
Allison Crain	Megan Lenstra
Jenna Darsee	Greg Millar
Katie Dorrell*	Catie Miller
Rusk Dorsett	Deb Paul
Napoleon Douglas	Sarah Schaefer
Tali Eisenstadt	Brett Spahr*
Cedric Fevrier	Molly Thorsen
Anne Frett	Tanner Tiltoston
Robin Breen Fulton*	Kim Van Haecke
Maren Grant	Henry Vermeer
Ron Hyde	Anna Zimney
Nathan Jorgensen	* Master Teacher
Allison Koch	

## Board of Directors

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Jess Truby, *Corteva Agriscience*  
Kevin Waetke, *Sammons Financial Group*

## 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 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.

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



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happening  
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**THE**

**SHOPS**

**AT**  
**ROOSEVELT**

*“Sensational!”*  
★★★★ -KATHY

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

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

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**STARRING**

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Adamantine Yoga • The Cheese Shop • Iowa IV  
Pop & Nod • La Mie Bakery • Perennity Home  
The Juice Company • DSM Salon & Spa • Worn  
Roosevelt Barber Shop • Cabana Swim  
Electric Diamond Tattoo • Silver Fox

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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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