

STANDING OVATION

THIS PRODUCTION
GENEROUSLY PRESENTED BY



Disney
**BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST**

A detailed illustration of a vibrant red rose with a green stem and several green leaves. A single red rose petal is shown falling away from the main rose. The rose is positioned to the left of the title text, with its stem extending downwards and to the right.

DECEMBER 6-29, 2024



#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.

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.



Tassel Ridge wines are sold at about 400 retailers in Iowa. For a list, visit www.tasselridge.com/retail. Or, Tassel Ridge can ship wine directly to you in Iowa, Arizona, 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 641.672.WINE (9463) for information about hours, Seated Wine Tastings, and Wine & Food Events including Wine & Wood Fired Oven Pizza events.

Tassel Ridge Dry Red Wines...Simply Extraordinary®

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David R. Kilpatrick
Executive Director

Welcome to your Playhouse.

Thank you so much for joining us this holiday season. We know that it is a grand tradition to attend The Playhouse at this time of year. We are grateful that you share the joy of theatre with friends and family members. We send a special recognition to those who are attending for the first time. Welcome to The Playhouse!

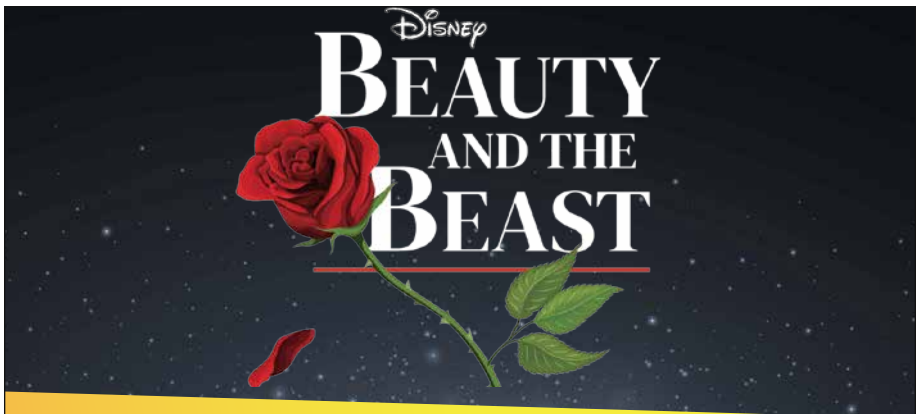
Disney's Beauty and the Beast has been part of our plans since 2020, so it is rewarding to be able to see it come to the stage – finally. This production is a passion project for many members of the staff. We hope you enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

The start of 2025 is nearly upon us, and it is going to be a great year! First, our performance schedule continues with the musical version of the book *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* which will be fun for the whole family. Adults and older teens can experience *Men on Boats*, a unique telling of the exploration of the Colorado River. A little theatrical experimentation can be surprising, so join us.

Most importantly, we are nearly done with construction. The questions of "Which door do we use?," "Why is there dust everywhere?," and "Who is in which office?" will all be answered. By the end of January, we will be together in new administrative offices with both theatres fully functioning and the return of the east parking lot so that everyone can park a little closer to the building. All this has been possible because of you and supporters like you. Thank you so much for believing in theatre.


It's not too late to consider a gift for your friends who have everything: leave a legacy at The Playhouse. Consider a chair in either theatre or a donation in someone's name. Both you and your designee will show support for the arts in our region and the value of The Playhouse. For 106 continuous years, The Playhouse has presented shows for the community. We do this because of the backing from those who know theatre can transform lives. Thank you for playing your part.

Holiday good cheer to our Playhouse family – may you enjoy theatre the whole year!!




Disney
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

VOTE for your favorite performances!

 **THE PLAYHOUSE**

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@dmplayhouse.com

Donors listed are current from Oct. 30, 2023 to
Oct. 29, 2024.

An * indicates a deceased donor.



Cast of Last Stop on Market Street 2024-25 Season.

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The Playhouse is in the midst of an exciting campaign to raise funds for the construction of an upgraded theatre facility. These donors have already generously contributed to this transformational project. Listing is cumulative from Oct. 1, 2021 – Oct. 29, 2024

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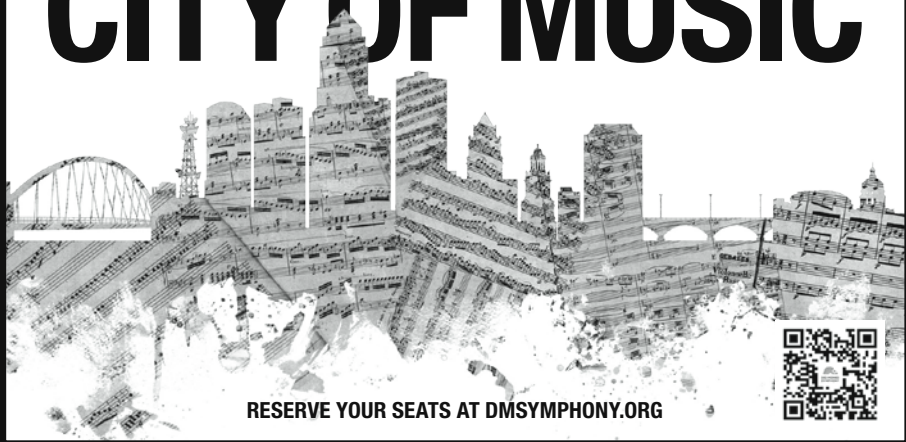
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GUEST INFORMATION

Accessibility

The Playhouse strives to make its facility and performances accessible to all guests. Our theatres are wheelchair accessible. Service animals are welcome. Assisted listening devices are available in the John Viars Theatre. If your hearing aid has a T-coil, toggle to that setting to receive the audio signal directly without any headset or other equipment needed. ASL interpreted performances and audio description performances are available upon request. For these and other needs, please call the ticket office with specific service requests.

Cameras

The taking of photographs and the use of recording devices are not allowed during a performance and are a violation of state and federal copyright laws.

Cancellations

If a show is cancelled due to bad weather, an email will be sent to ticket holders. Cancellations will be noted on the phone system, website, and social media sites. Tickets for a cancelled performance may be exchanged for another performance. Please be sure the ticket office has your email information and current phone in the event a performance is cancelled. The Playhouse does not sell its contacts and does not sell or trade its email addresses.

Companion Restroom

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

Concessions

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

Elevator

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

Emergency Exits

Please note the exit nearest your seat location. In the event of an emergency, ushers will provide direction.

Etiquette

Latecomers will be seated at an appropriate break in the play. Lobby chimes are sounded five minutes before curtain as well as the close of intermission. Disruptive, unruly guests, regardless of age, will be asked to leave. Cell phone ringers should be turned off.

Lost Items

Lost items will be held in the ticket office.

Parking

Free parking is available in The Playhouse lots and on streets surrounding the theatre. After 5:00 PM daily, free parking is available in the Shops at Roosevelt's east/back parking lot. Parking in the west/front Shops parking lot is

restricted to Shops customers at all times. The Playhouse is not responsible for loss of any personal property left in vehicles.

Performance Content

The Playhouse does not rate subject matter as sensitivities vary from person to person. Questions about content, age appropriateness, or other aspects of the show such as strobe lights and other theatrical affects should be directed to the ticket office.

Performance Schedule

The regular Signature Series performance schedule is 7:30 PM Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2:00 PM Sundays. The regular Kate Goldman Family Series performance schedule is 7:00 PM Fridays, and 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays. The December performance schedule is 7:00 PM 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.

Valet Parking

Available during the construction project, valet parking begins one hour before the performance. Valet parking can be purchased at the door or purchased in advance and at a discount online and through the ticket office. To access valet parking, drive around the building on 41st Street to the west (42nd Street) doors.

Des Moines Community Playhouse

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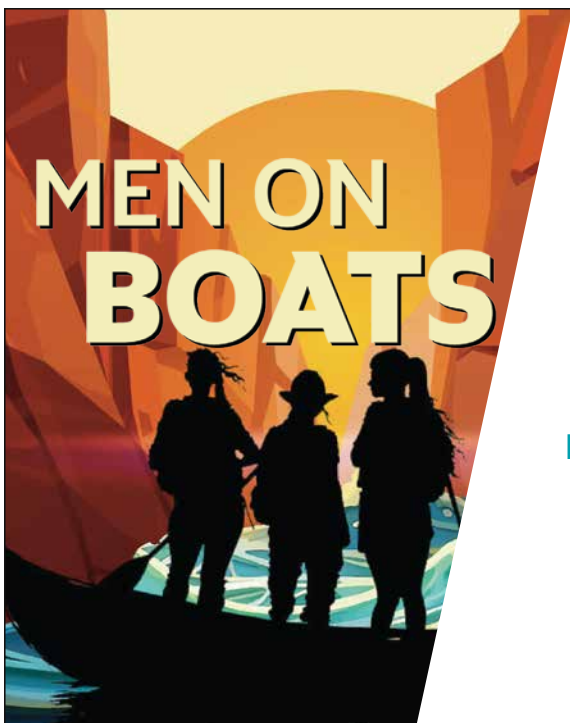
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DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Nicholas Amundson, Director

Bonjour! Be our guest as we journey through the Beast's magic mirror to a faraway land!

The original Disney animated *Beauty and the Beast* hit the big screen in 1991, quickly becoming a family favorite. It was adapted for the stage in 1993, finding its way to Broadway in 1994 with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and a book by Linda Woolverton. The Broadway musical ran for 13 years with 5,461 performances, making it the sixth longest-running show by the time it closed in 2007.

Through the years, *Beauty and the Beast* has been retold countless times and is a favorite for community theaters and schools worldwide. Many productions focus on the stained-glass aesthetic from the movie or emphasize the enchanted rose. The Playhouse production team wanted to highlight a different, favorite magical element. When an old beggar woman arrives at the castle, seeking shelter from the cold, she offers the prince a rose in exchange for kindness. But when she sees he has no love or compassion in his heart, she transforms him into a terrifying Beast and gives him a magic mirror to view the world beyond his castle. In The Playhouse production, the mirror is a central design element, as if we are watching the story unfold through it. The set is framed with a gold mirror-like design that mimics the hand prop version you'll see on stage.

When the enchantress casts her spell, the rose she offers becomes the heartbeat of the curse. The Beast must find true love before the last petal falls or he will remain a Beast forever. The spell also affects everyone in the castle. In the animated movie, the staff are transformed into inanimate objects that can move and talk. In the stage adaptation, each time the rose loses a petal, the castle staff becomes a little less human, slowly morphing into objects. This adjustment allows costume designers to add object-inspired elements to human actors, symbolizing their gradual transformation.

Theatre can change and shape lives and relationships. Like Belle and the Beast, we hope all who experience this production feel something shift within them, a reminder of the magic that happens when we look beyond appearances and find connection.



Charlotte Proctor as Belle



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667th Production
106th Season

Opening: December 6, 2024
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The Des Moines Playhouse Presents in The John Viars Theatre

The Des Moines Playhouse Production of

Disney's

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

Book by Linda Woolverton

Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth

Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

Orchestrations by Danny Troob

Vocal Arrangements by David Friedman

Incidental Music by Michael Kosarin

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Assistant Choreographer: **Michael Beasley**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Jonathan Garton**

Cast

*Indicates Playhouse Debut

Narrators	Preshia Paulding, Rick Stageman	Cogsworth.....	Steve Betz
Young Prince	Adam Jackson	Lumiere.....	Dane Van Brocklin
Old Beggar Woman	Abbey Tauchen*	Babette.....	Cami Marquart*
Belle.....	Charlotte Blue Proctor	Mrs. Potts.....	Erin Davison-Rippey
Gaston.....	Calvin Clark	Chip.....	Knox Schubbach
LeFou.....	Jake Skarin	Madame de la Grande Bouche.....	Alicia Kodá Scott
Maurice.....	Greg Millar	Ensemble.....	Henry Davison-Rippey*, Ethan Fonseca*, Adam Jackson, Alexander Lopez-Djukic*, Natalie Jo Lourens, Maggie Miller, Chandler Nye, Gavin Runles, Andrew Smalley, Reese Taggart*, Abbey Tauchen*, Devon TeKolste*, Josie Thompson, Stella Webster
Monsieur D'Arque.....	Whit Ellsworth	Chip Understudy.....	Henry Davison-Rippey*
Les Filles de la Ville.....	Aurora Navarro Cancel*, Aubrey Falter*, Meta Lobben*		
Wolves.....	Ethan Fonseca*, Josie Thompson, Stella Webster		
The Beast.....	Evan Schettler		

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is performed with a 15-minute intermission.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized materials are also supplied by MTI, www.mtishows.com

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


MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

"Overture"	Orchestra
"Prologue"	Orchestra
"Belle"	Belle, Villagers
"Maurice and Belle"	Maurice
"Wolf Chase"	Orchestra
"Me"	Gaston, Belle
"Belle (reprise)"	Belle
"Home"	Belle
"Gaston"	Gaston, LeFou, Villagers
"How Long Must This Go On?"	Beast
"Be Our Guest"	Lumiere, Chip, Mrs. Potts, Castle Staff
"If I Can't Love Her"	Beast

ACT II

"Entr'acte"	Orchestra
"Wolf Chase"	Orchestra
"Something There"	Belle, Beast, Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts
"Human Again"	Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts, Chip, Babette, Mme. de la Grande Bouche, Castle Staff
"Beauty and the Beast"	Mrs. Potts
"If I Can't Love Her (reprise)"	Beast
"A Change in Me"	Belle
"The Mob Song"	Gaston, M. D'Arque, Villagers
"Home (reprise)"	Belle
"Transformation/Finale Ultimo"	Belle, Prince, Company
"Bows"	Orchestra
"Exit Music"	Orchestra



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CAST NOTES



Steve Betz (*Cogsworth*) last appeared in The Playhouse's production of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Since his Playhouse debut in *Big River* in 1992, his roles have included Pirate Seymour Braunschwagger in *How I Became a Pirate*, Underling in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Neville in *The Secret Garden*. Other area shows include *Urinetown*, *Company*, *Godspell*, *A New Brain*, and *Falsettos* (*Whizzer*). Steve is vice president of communications at Vestaron Corporation. He and his partner, David, have three French bulldogs and enjoy delicious food and drink.



Aurora Navarro Cancel (*Une Fille de la Ville*) is making her Playhouse debut. She has previously performed 3rd Knaben/Chorus in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (Opera Bastide, Villefranche-de-Rouergue, France), Chorus in

La Traviata (University of Iowa Opera), and Reporter in *The Brain from Planet X* (Ankeny Centennial High School). She works as a music therapist with EveryStep Hospice. Outside of music-related activities, Aurora writes poetry and short stories, plays video games (especially *Zelda* and *Metroid!*), and occasionally crochets.



Calvin Clark (*Gaston*) is proud to return to The Playhouse in the role of Gaston. When he's not crippling the egg economy of small villages, he works as a news producer at Local 5. Recent roles you may have seen him in include Cliff Bradshaw in *Cabaret* at The Playhouse, Lancelot in Tallgrass Theatre Company's production of *Camelot*, and Warner Huntington III in ACTORS' production of *Legally Blonde*. As Gaston, he's looking forward to being told how great he is every night, and knows you'll enjoy his show.



Erin Davison-Rippey (*Mrs. Potts*) began singing with Des Moines Children's Chorus and since then performed with the Westminster Fine Arts Series, Des Moines Community Orchestra (*Messiah* alto soloist), Des Moines Vocal

Arts Ensemble, and the Howells Scholars at St. Paul's Episcopal. She was a founding member of Des Moines Concert Handbells. Erin currently

sings with the Plymouth Chancel Choir and works at United Way of Central Iowa as the senior community impact officer. She and her spouse, Brad, have two children, Fiona and Henry, who is also in this show.



Henry Davison-Rippey (*Ensemble/Chip Understudy*) is making their mainstage Playhouse debut. They participated in Playhouse performance classes including *Epic Zero* (Elliot), *Jack and the Sillies* (Jack), and *The Lightning Thief* (Percy). Henry sings in the treble choir and plays hand chimes at Plymouth Church and has twice been selected for solos in Plymouth performances. They enjoy drawing, singing, and reading. Henry is a fifth grader at Des Moines Perkins Elementary and lives with their parents (mom is Mrs. Potts) and sister, Fiona.



Whit Ellsworth (*Monsieur D'Arque*) is thrilled to be back on The Playhouse stage after appearing as Bob Crewe in *Jersey Boys* and Sam Craig in *Our Town* earlier this year. Other recent roles include Don John in *Much Ado About*

Nothing at Ankeny Community Theatre and Kip in *Wonder of the World* at Tallgrass Theatre Company. Whit is a graduate of Upright Citizen Brigade Los Angeles's improv and sketch writing programs. In his free time, he loves to paint and support local drag.



Aubrey Falter (*Une Fille de la Ville*) is making her Playhouse debut but is no stranger to the stage. Previous credits include Portia in *Something Rotten* and Bowery Beauty in *Disney's Newsies*, both at Silverhawk Theatre (Lincoln, NE) and Ariel in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Youth Actors Academy of Lincoln, NE). Aubrey is a first-year at Drake University studying musical theatre. In her free time, she likes to listen to music, watch movies, and thrift at local stores.



Ethan Fonseca (*Wolf/Ensemble*) is an aspiring actor, thrilled to be making his Playhouse debut. He moved to Iowa this year, but has been acting since he was 12 years old. His shows at Beaumont

CAST NOTES

High School and Riverside Community College in California include *Elf Jr.*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Nikko), *Annie* (Rooster), *Footloose* (Lyle), *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Scuttle), *West Side Story* (Riff), *Grease*, and, a favorite role, Sky in *Mamma Mia!* Ethan is a senior at Waukee High School who loves to dance, bake, and eat.



Adam Jackson (*Ensemble*) was last seen at The Playhouse as Spot Conlon in *Disney's Newsies*, a favorite role, and before that appeared in *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*. Adam is a ninth-grade English teacher at Johnston Middle School. When not teaching or acting, he enjoys all things active, especially running, frisbee, and volleyball, as well as music bingo and watching anything Marvel makes.



Meta Lobben (*Une Fille de la Ville*) is excited to be making her Playhouse debut. She spent the summer working at The Playhouse as an education intern. She is a senior at Drake University where she studies musical theatre and English. Her previous credits include Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street*, Mrs. Martin in *The Bald Soprano*, and 9 to 5: *The Musical*, all at Drake, and Sandy Cheeks in *The SpongeBob Musical* with Eagan (MN) Summer Theatre. www.metallobben.com



Alexander Lopez-Djukic (*Ensemble*) works as an arborist with CRO Outdoor Services. While this is his stage debut, he played in the pit orchestra at Southeast Polk High School for *Disney's The Little Mermaid* and *Ronald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*. In his free time, Alexander enjoys playing jazz saxophone, playing pickleball, singing, and running.



Natalie Jo Lourens (*Ensemble*) was most recently seen at The Playhouse as Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical TYA*. Other Playhouse roles include Mrs. Wormwood in *Ronald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (one of the best experiences of her life), assistant stage manager for *Choices* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, and Mrs. Bucket in *Ronald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. A key accounts

specialist at F&G Annuities & Life, Natalie loves spending time with her girlfriend, Jenna, her friends and family, and 12 nieces and nephews.



Cami Marquart (*Babette*) is a senior earning her B.F.A. from Drake University. A seasoned stage and screen actor, she is excited to be making her Playhouse debut. Some of her favorite roles include Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* at Live Theater Workshop (Tucson, AZ) and Stasia in the world premiere of *Harrison* at Drake University. She is starring in the upcoming feature film *Devin & Mariya* by Film Caffeine which is set to be released next year.



Greg Millar (*Maurice*) is a favorite with Des Moines area audiences. He has had lead roles in many Playhouse shows including *Annie*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!*, *Pippi Longstocking* (Dionysos Award recipient), and *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. He has stage managed numerous shows. His favorite roles are Harold Nichols in *The Full Monty* and Nicely-Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*. Greg teaches in the theatre's education department. His hobbies include horse racing and baking.



Maggie Miller (*Ensemble*) is a first-grade teacher with Johnston Community Schools. She began her Playhouse career earlier this year as the White Dragon in *Dragons Love Tacos*. When Maggie isn't flexing her acting muscles, she enjoys reading, yoga, and spending time with friends and family.



Chandler Nye (*Ensemble*) is back at The Playhouse after making his debut in *Disney's Newsies* as Nunzio/Theodore Roosevelt. He has also appeared in shows with Urbandale Community Theatre. Chandler works in sales at Athene Annuity and Life. In his free time, he enjoys playing board games and card games with his wife, Natasha, and their sons, Tobias and Cyrus.

CAST NOTES



Charlotte Blue Proctor (*Belle*) began acting at age eight with Class Act Productions (Altoona) where she was involved in 25 shows in four years and played Veronica in *Heathers The Musical* (Des Moines Young Artists'

Theatre). She made her Playhouse debut as Carole King in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Dionysos Award winner). At Southeast Polk High School, she appeared in numerous shows including *Disney's Newsies* (Kathrine). Charlotte attends Des Moines Area Community College, plays piano and guitar, draws and paints, and likes to roller skate.



Gavin Runles (*Ensemble*) is a favorite with Playhouse audiences from his roles in *Jersey Boys* (Frankie Vallie), *Kinky Boots* (Charlie Price, Cloris and Dionysos awards nominee), *Disney's*

Newsies (Jack Kelly, Cloris Award winner, Dionysos Award nominee), *Guys and Dolls* (Benny Southstreet), and many more shows. His love of theatre keeps him coming back, and he is thankful for the support from his mother, Jamie, and friends. Gavin works for SCI Communications.



Evan Schettler (*Beast*) was last seen at The Playhouse in *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Previously at The Playhouse, he performed in *Guys and Dolls* (Sky Masterson) and *Agatha Christie's Murder on the*

Orient Express (Colonel Arbuthnot). He has also been seen at Shakespeare on the Lawn in *Twelfth Night* (Fabian) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander.) Evan has numerous credits at Simpson College where he earned his bachelor's in music education, including *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Pirate King).



Knox Schupbach (*Chip*) is back on The Playhouse stage after appearing as Boy in *Dragons Love Tacos* and serving as a mentor in The Penguin Project production of *Frozen Jr.* A sixth grader at Jordan Creek Elementary in West

Des Moines, Knox is involved in orchestra and band, and participates in archery. He enjoys writing and editing videos and attending the latest Playhouse shows in his free time.



Alicia Kodá Scott (*Madame de la Grande Bouche*) made her Playhouse debut in *Ragtime* and most recently appeared in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Shirelle/Janelle Woods).

She works as an emergency management specialist in Dallas County and is studying criminal justice at Des Moines Area Community College. Alicia enjoys singing at karaoke and spending time with Philip, her husband of 14 years and their beautiful children, DJ, Kodä, Andre, and JJ.



Jake Skarin (*LeFou*) has past Playhouse credits including *Hairspray* (IQ), *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Oompa Loompa), and *Peter Pan* (Michael Darling). In the 12 years he was

living outside Iowa, Jake worked at Walt Disney World as a cabana boy and as a flight attendant for Spirit Airlines, and for the past four years was the director of music for Desert Spring Church in Las Vegas, NV. He is thankful for the support from his family and his partner-in-crime, Keeli.



Andrew Smalley (*Ensemble*) has previous Playhouse credits including *Catch Me If You Can*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *Elf: The Musical*. He has a degree from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and

works in warehouse operations for Goodwill of Central Iowa. In his free time, Andrew enjoys listening to music, playing piano, and spending time with family.



Reese Taggart (*Ensemble*) is ecstatic to make her debut performance at The Playhouse. She is a sixth grader at Trailridge School in Waukee and has a great passion for the stage. She played Nemo in *Finding Nemo Jr.*

with Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, earning a 2024 Rising Star nomination at the Cloris Awards. She has studied piano and voice lessons at The Vibrant Music Academy since age five. Reese also loves spending time with her family, friends, and especially her dog, Sadie.

CAST NOTES



Abbey Tauchen (*Old Beggar Woman/Ensemble*) is a self-proclaimed Disney adult. Her love for the stage began in high school when she played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. She continued performing with the Show-Me

Opera at the University of Missouri and earned three degrees: Bachelor of Journalism (magazine editing), Bachelor of Arts in English, and Master of Arts in journalism. Abbey works as a freelance writer and editor. She enjoys reading, writing fiction, and going on adventures with her husband, Jonathan.



Devon TeKolste (*Ensemble*) is a performing arts major at Iowa State University where they have performed as Tom in *Night of the Living Dead! The Musical!*, Snakelette and Acardian in *Head Over Heels*, and Judge Hawthorne

in *The Crucible*. In their free time, Devon likes to skate, perform, and be outdoors.



Josie Thompson (*Wolf/Ensemble*) last appeared on The Playhouse stage as Frieda in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. She is a sophomore at Drake, pursuing a B.F.A. in acting and a B.S.B.A. in marketing. Next semester, she will clerk for the

Iowa House of Representatives during its legislative session for the second time. She is thankful of the support provided by her parents, and grateful for this cast and crew who make the rehearsal process so enjoyable.



Dane Van Brocklin (*Lumiere*) is no stranger to The Playhouse. He was an education intern for three summers and appeared in *Ring of Fire* and *Hairspray* (Sketch).

Other notable area roles include Jack in *Into the Woods* (Tallgrass

Theatre), Arnie (Cloris Award winner) in *The One Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Ankeny Community Theatre) and Gabe (Cloris Award winner) in *Next to Normal* (Carousel Theatre, Indianola). Dane is a high tech specialist for 3E and enjoys playing guitar, kayaking, and golfing.



Stella Webster (*Wolf/Ensemble*) was choreographer for *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and assistant choreographer for *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Kinky Boots*. Other Playhouse credits include *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* and

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical. Other stage and production credits include *The Crucible* (Abigail Williams, Iowa State University), *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Brooke Wyndham, Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre), and *Mamma Mia!* and *Disney's High School Musical* (choreographer/assistant director for both) at Des Moines Roosevelt High School. Stella is the show choir choreographer at Des Moines Lincoln High School.



Nicholas Amundson (*Director/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. In the 2019-20 season, he directed and designed *James and the Giant Peach* in the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre. His favorite thing about theatre is creating out-of-the-box ways to present a story that gives the audience something fun to experience.



Katy Merriman (*Music Director/Artistic Director*) has been an active member of the local theatre community since moving to Des Moines in 2013. Her Playhouse directing credits include *Our Town; Go, Dog, Go!; Guys and Dolls;*

Rodgers + Hammerstein's 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*

CAST NOTES

(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).



Michael Tomlinson

(Choreographer) moved to Des Moines in 2022 and has choreographed shows at The Playhouse (*Guys and Dolls*, *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *School of Rock*) and

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Ankeny (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Head Over Heels, A: I Love You More*). He was a guest artist in Ballet Des Moines' 2022 production of *The Nutcracker* and assistant rehearsal director for their 2023 production. He has taught musical theatre dance, ballet, jazz, and Muller technique for DMACC, Drake University, and Des Moines DanzArts. Michael is thrilled to continue exploring his career in the arts through his new role as manager of artistic operations with Ballet Des Moines. He is thankful for his amazing partner Cody for having to listen to each of tonight's songs 1,000 times in preparation for this incredible production.



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

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



Sam Stephen (*Lighting Designer*) has a B.A. in live entertainment design and technology from North Central College, Napierville, 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 has joined The Playhouse staff as technical director of audio visual. www.DesignsBySamuelStephen.com



Derek Phelps (*Sound Designer*)

received their B.A. in directing and theatre performance from Chadron State College in Nebraska. They began volunteering at The Playhouse in 2018, portraying Younger Brother

in *Ragtime*. Since then, they have appeared in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and, more recently, *Kinky Boots*. Derek is The Playhouse's volunteer and production coordinator and a member of the theatre's teaching staff. They were music director for The Penguin Project production *Disney's High School Musical Jr.* and directed The Penguin Project production *Frozen Jr.*



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) and Westfeldt/Renfield in *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*, and designed props for several shows including *Disney's Frozen Jr.* (Penguin Project) at The Playhouse and *Peter and the Starcatcher* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. A graphic designer and gift shop lead for UnityPoint Foundation, Katie likes knitting, film, and attending festivals.



Ash Howland (*Stage Manager*)

has previously stage-managed Playhouse productions of *Disney's Frozen Jr.*, *Disney's High School Musical Jr.*, and *Kinky Boots*. They took Playhouse classes as a kid and started volunteering as a high

school student, dressing *Monty Python's Spamalot*. Ash has also worked as a stage manager with Iowa

CAST NOTES

Stage Theatre Company. They are pursuing their associate's degree in early childhood education and currently work as a preschool teacher.



Brandon Brockshus (*Fight Choreographer*) is a PhD student in kinesiology at Iowa State University and adjunct faculty at Des Moines Area Community College Ankeny. He is a recognized Society of American

Fight Directors (SAFD) actor/combatant. He has served as a fight director for The Playhouse, Iowa Stage Theatre Company, Shot in the Dark Productions, Iowa colleges and universities, and Iowa high schools. He lives in Ames with his wife, daughter, and son.



Michael Beasley (*Assistant Choreographer*) 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. Most recently Beasley's work was seen as choreographer and assistant director for *Dragons Love Tacos* (2024 Cloris Award Winner) and choreographer for Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre's *The Prom*. Beasley enjoys sunshine, their sweet cat Poluo, embroidering, and jamming with the family band.



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

Jonathan stage-managed *Seussical TYA* at The Playhouse and has assistant stage managed many other productions. He 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.



Alan Menken (*Composer*) has theatre credits that include *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Real Life Funnies*, *Atina: Evil Queen of the Galaxy*, *Kicks*, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, *Disney's Beauty and*

the Beast, *A Christmas Carol*, *Weird Romance*, *King David*, *Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act*, *Leap of Faith*, *Disney's Aladdin*, and *Disney's Newsies*. His film credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Newsies*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, *Life With Mikey*, *Lincoln*, *Home on the Range*, *Noel*, *Enchanted*, *Shaggy Dog*, *Tangled*, and *Mirror Mirror*. He has written songs for *Rocky V*, *Home Alone 2*, and *Captain America*. His awards include eight Oscars (19 nominations), 11 Grammys (including Song of the Year), seven Golden Globes, one Tony® Award (four nominations), plus Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics, Olivier, London's Evening Standard, and Drama League awards. He is in the Songwriter's Hall of Fame.



Howard Ashman (*Lyrics*) is best known as a pivotal creative mind behind the renaissance of Disney animation and his work on *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, and *Beauty and the Beast* (which is dedicated to, "Our friend, Howard

Ashman, who gave a Mermaid her voice and a Beast his soul...") Howard's first love was theater. He was a founder of off off Broadway's renowned WPA Theater where he conceived, wrote, and directed *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, as well as the classic musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* (both with music by Alan Menken). In 1986, he wrote and directed the Broadway musical *Smile* (music by Marvin Hamlisch). Lamented as a lost treasure of the 1980s theater scene, *Smile* remains popular on high school and college campuses throughout the country. Howard died in 1991 from complications of AIDS. For more information, please visit howardashman.com.



Tim Rice (*Lyrics*) has worked in music, theatre, and film since 1965, when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim's ambitions to write rock or pop songs, they turned their

CAST NOTES

attention to Andrew's obsession: musical theater. Their first collaboration, *The Likes Of Us* (lyrics by Tim, music by Andrew), was an unsuccessful show based on the life of Dr. Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist. Their next three works together were much more successful: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Evita*. Tim has also worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (*The Lion King*, *Aida*), Alan Menken (*Aladdin*, *King David*, *Beauty and the Beast*), and Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (*Chess*). *From Here to Eternity*, with music by newcomer Stuart Brayson, coproduced with Lee Menzies, directed by Tamara Harvey, and with book by Bill Oakes, premiered in the West End at the Shaftesbury Theatre in 2013. He formed his own cricket team in 1973 and was president of the MCC in 2002. In 2013, he wrote and presented a 52-part series for BBC Radio 2, *American Pie*, a tawl through the music and musicians of every American State. He has won several awards, mainly for the wrong thing or for simply turning up.



Linda Woolverton (*Book*) has writing credits that include the screenplay for the animated feature film *Beauty and the Beast* (Golden Globe winner and Academy Award Best Picture nominee); the screenplay (shared)

for *Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey*; screenplay (shared) for the animated feature film *The Lion King*; the book for the Broadway musical *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Tony Award nomination for Best Book of a Musical, winner 1998 Olivier Award Best New Musical); and book (shared) for Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway musical *Aida*. She has written two young-adult novels, *Star-Wind* and *Running Before The Wind*. She holds a bachelor's degree in theatre arts from California State University Long Beach and a master's degree in theatre from California State University Fullerton. Linda is currently involved in writing and producing film projects for Miramax and Revolution studios. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Lee Flicker, and daughter Keaton.

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Dresser: **Asia Brewer**

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Sound Engineer: **Brian Dodson**

Sound Board Operators: **Travis Edrington, Lindsey Nelson**

Followspot Operator: **Keith Hays**

Closed Captioning Operator:
Charlie Bener

Set Construction: **Charlee Bender, Kurtis Nethington, Dave Piper, George Sparks**

Set Painting: **Kathleen Baustian, London Bernstein, Kurtis Vivi Baker, Brenna Corona, Halle Davis, Maggie Flynn, Fred Gruca, Harold Hinkhouse, Pam Iano, Renzi Ingersoll, Arthur Johnson, Anne Jung, Katherine Jung, Ezra Kuenzel, Caelin Larsen, Ella Jane Losh, Meg Marker, Tanner Miller-Moore, Emmett Naber, Dmitri Norris, Shari Piper, Darlene Pullen, LaKayla Robinson, Lorenia Scofield, Madelynn Shetler, Lu Spaine, Hanalay Peterson, Cyrus Willis, Rylan Williams, Aris Yvonne, Audeleh Zarghami**

Wig Stylist: **Wally Glover**

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Playhouse Archives: **Harold Hinkhouse**

DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS SPECIAL THANKS

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

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Light Board Operator: **Kerrie Lee**

Guest Services: **Ann Anhalt, Brenda Amro, Mia Backous, Naomi Backous, Victoria Bakros, Marylou Bandstra, Stacie Bendixen, Steve**

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

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

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

Published June 2, 2020

POLICY ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

All volunteers who come to audition for a show at The 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.

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Dupaco helps members paint their own financial picture.

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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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