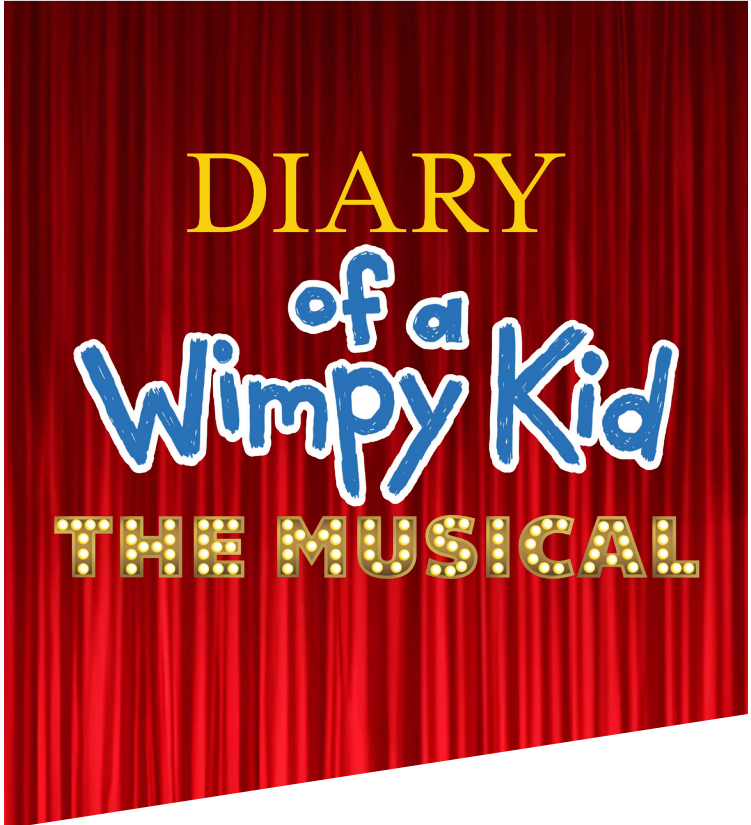




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THIS PRODUCTION
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DIARY
of a
Wimpy Kid
THE MUSICAL

JAN 17 - FEB 2, 2025

 **THE PLAYHOUSE**

#DMPlayhouse

Great Red Wine

*made in Iowa
from Grapes
grown in Iowa*



Iowa In the Dark

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

2021 Iowa Sabrevois

is a dry red with bold aromas of spices and leather on the nose followed by blackberry and plum notes with hints of baking spice, smoke, and licorice on the palate. Made from Sabrevois grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, it pairs well with grilled meat.

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

Thank you for attending today's performance of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. There is something special about seeing a favorite book come alive, especially with youth on stage that look like our audience. I was introduced to theatre in fourth grade and there was an actor on the stage that I knew from my school. I was inspired enough to make theatre my life-long career. No one knows who might be transformed because they are in the audience today. Thank you for sharing the gift of theatre with future audiences and performers.

Yes, we finished the Studio Theatre (formerly known as the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre) but we've come to realize that our youths should have broad theatre experiences which means both in an intimate space as well with a grandiose proscenium stage. Thus, our family series will include shows in both spaces at The Playhouse going forward.

Our 2024-25 season continues with *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* and *Alice in Wonderland*, two stories very closely related to books which give your students the chance to experience a narrative through different mediums. Anything that can expand their understanding of the world around them has to be a good thing.

For more than 90 years, The Playhouse has presented shows for youths and with youths. We do this as parents, grandparents, siblings, and everyone else who believes in the power of theatre support us. The Playhouse couldn't do it without you! So, thank you for playing your part.

See you at the theatre.

A promotional graphic for the musical 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical'. The background is a red curtain. The title 'DIARY of a Wimpy Kid THE MUSICAL' is centered. 'DIARY' is in yellow, 'of a Wimpy Kid' is in blue with a white outline, and 'THE MUSICAL' is in yellow with a white outline. Below the title is a yellow banner with the text 'VOTE for your favorite performances!' in purple. At the bottom left is the Playhouse logo, a colorful star shape. At the bottom center is a QR code with the text 'Scan the QR code to tell us who your favorite performers were today! Outstanding performances are recognized at the Dionysos Awards each September.' At the bottom right is another QR code.

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

Thank you for your support!

To make a donation, please contact:

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jbles@dmplyhouse.com

Donors listed are current from Dec. 3, 2023 to
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An * indicates a deceased donor.



Cast of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* 2024-25 Season.

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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.

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

831 42nd Street, Des Moines, IA 50312



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Sunday, March 9, 3:00 p.m.

**Drake University Wind Symphony:
Robert Meunier, conductor**

Sunday, March 30, 1:30 p.m.

**Drake Symphony Orchestra:
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Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

All events are held in Sheslow Auditorium and are free and open to the public.



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The Des Moines Playhouse Presents in the John Viars Theatre

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

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by Jeff Kinney and the 20th Century Fox Films

Additional Orchestrations by Christopher Jahnke

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Assistant Stage Managers: Troy Ellerbroek, Avery Johnson

Artistic Director: Katy Merriman

Cast

*Indicates Playhouse Debut

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Greg Heffley..... | Wesley Goerend* | Christine Hosey..... | Liliana Haaland |
| Rowley Jefferson..... | Charlie Syverson* | Lionel James..... | Jacob McBride* |
| Rodrick Heffley..... | River Wilber* | Pauline..... | Chloe O'Neil |
| Frank Heffley (Dad)..... | Kyle Bochart | Yvette..... | Mila Bowen* |
| Susan Heffley (Mom)..... | Katie Saldanha | Claire..... | Annie White |
| Manny Heffley..... | Ben Borness* | Mr. Winsky/Bill Walter/Mr. Huff..... | Lou Ramsey |
| Chirag Gupta..... | Raunak Raman* | Mrs. Clayton/Fregley's Mom..... | Preshia Paulding |
| Patty Farrell..... | Stella Hogan* | Charlie Davis..... | Joel Peterson* |
| Fregley..... | Maverick Mundt | Teen Hooligans/Overgrown Kids..... | Lydia Davis*, Spencer Mayfield* |
| Bryce Anderson..... | Alex Onken* | Ensemble..... | Lydia Kinney*, Eliana Pitkin*, Kalyani Stone* |
| Joshie/Mr. Underwood/ Löded Diper Band/Neighbor..... | Maia Talarico | | |

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is performed with a 15-minute intermission.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing Global.
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Note to Audience: The videotaping or audio and/or visual recording of this production is a violation of United States Copyright Law and an actionable federal offense.

MUSICAL NUMBERS


ACT I

| | |
|--|---|
| "Overture" | Ensemble, Greg |
| "The Middle of it All" | Greg, Rodrick, Mom, Dad, Students, Teachers, Ensemble |
| "The Cheese Touch" | Claire, Ensemble |
| "The Middle of it All" | Greg, Ensemble |
| "Joshie Says" | Rowley, Greg |
| "The Middle of it All (Parents Reprise)" | Mom, Dad |
| "Better Than You" | Greg, Rowley, Patty Farrell, Yvette, Pauline, Kids |
| "You're Changing" | Dad |
| "All About the Mom Bucks" | Greg, Rowley, Chirag Gupta, Ensemble |
| "Winter Talent Show" | Greg, Mrs. Clayton, Mom, Dad, Patty Farrell, Christine Hosey, Lionel James, Rowley, Rodrick, Löded Diper, Fregley, Ensemble |

ACT II

| | |
|--|---|
| "Animal Heart" | Joshie, Ensemble |
| "Safety Patrol" | Mr. Winsky, Greg, Rowley, Kindergarteners, Ensemble |
| "Doin' My Thing" | Greg, Rowley |
| "He Made It" | Greg, Ensemble |
| "Do the Right Thing, Greg" | Mom, Greg |
| "Rodrick Rules" | Rodrick, Ensemble, Rowley |
| "The Fregley Song (That'd Be Fun)" | Fregley, Greg, Fregley's Mom, Ensemble |
| "Dear Diary" | Greg, Rowley |
| "Fregley's Apology" | Fregley |
| "You're Changing (Reprise)" | Dad |
| "Zoo-Wee Mama" | Ensemble |
| "The Fight" | Greg, Rowley, Teen Hooligans, Ensemble |
| "The Middle of it All (Finale)" | Greg, Rowley, Ensemble |
| "Bows" | Full Company |

Rehearsal and performance tracks and software are provided by Right on Cue Services, rightoncueservices.com.

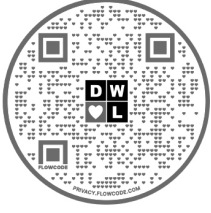


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CAST NOTES



Kyle Bochart (*Frank Heffley*) made his Des Moines acting debut as Sir Bedevere in *Monty Python's Spamalot*, played Mr. Bucket in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*, and was in the barbershop quartet in *Meredith Willson's The Music Man*,

all at The Playhouse. His favorite role to date has been Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. A graduate of Simpson College, Kyle enjoys mystery books, horror movies, and Christmas music.



Ben Borness (*Manny Heffley*) is excited for his Playhouse debut in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. He has played several ensemble roles in his school's yearly plays and was proud to be selected for the ensemble in Valley High School's

production of *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* when he was in fourth grade. Now a fifth grader at Westridge Elementary in West Des Moines, Ben loves spending time with his family and their Golden Retriever, Macaroni, and playing Roblox.



Mila Bowen (*Yvette*) is making her Playhouse debut. A born performer, her previous credits include *The Wizard of Oz* (Poppie, Munchkin), *Seussical* (Sour Kangaroo), *Camelot* and *Camalittle* (Ruth), *Magic Tree*

House (Captain), and *Schoolhouse Rock* (Interplanet Janet). Mila enjoys singing, dancing, and hanging out with her two bulldogs, who are her pride and joy.



Lydia Davis (*Teen Hooligan One/ Overgrown Kid*) is making her Playhouse acting debut after serving on crew for *Go, Dog. Go!* and receiving a Volunteer of the Year award for her work in guest services. Lydia's stage credits

include *The Baker's Wife* in *Into the Woods* (CAP, Altoona) and *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* and *The Addams Family*, both at Southeast Polk High School where she is a senior. Lydia works as a barista at Caribou Coffee and enjoys sewing and baking.



Wesley Goerend (*Greg Heffley*) started his theatre journey in 2021 with a musical theatre camp at Des Moines Performing Arts, a program he continues each summer. He is excited to be making his Playhouse debut.

A sixth grader at South Middle School in Waukee, Wesley has also been seen as Captain Scott in Des Moines Young Artist Theatre's production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Wesley enjoys hanging out with friends and playing with his hamster, Bubbles.



Liliana Haaland (*Christine Hoseny*) was last seen at The Playhouse as Madison in *School of Rock*. She received a Playhouse Dionysos Award and a Cloris Award Rising Star for her debut as Matilda in *Roald Dahl's Matilda The*

Musical. She has participated in several classes in The Playhouse's education department. A seventh grader at Waukee Middle School, she stage managed her sixth grade play. Liliana enjoys making jewelry, dancing, and singing along to Taylor Swift.



Stella Hogan (*Patty Farrell*) is making her Playhouse debut but is no stranger to the stage. She has appeared in many shows including *She Kills Monsters* (Lilith) at Urbandale High School, *Shrek the Musical* (Wicked Witch)

at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, and *Singin' in the Rain Jr.* (Cosmo Brown) at CAP Theatre, Altoona. She has also worked behind-the-scenes as stage manager, on the tech crew, and in publicity. A junior at Urbandale High School, Stella enjoys buying stickers (but never using them) and eating SpongeBob popsicles.



Lydia Kinney (*Ensemble*) is an eighth grader at St. Luke's the Evangelist Catholic School, Ankeny, where she sings in the choir and plays on the basketball team. She played Ladybug in her school's production of *James and*

the Giant Peach. Lydia has taken several summer theatre classes and is now making her Playhouse stage debut. She enjoys reading, singing, and basketball.

CAST NOTES



Spencer Mayfield (*Teen Hooligan Two/Overgrown Kid*) is making his Playhouse debut, but has been active in shows at school including *Aladdin Jr* (Genie), *Moana Jr* (Mau), and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Edmund).

A seventh grader at Indian Hills Junior High in West Des Moines where he sings in show choir and plays French horn, Spencer also composes music.



Jacob McBride (*Lionel James*) is a seventh grader at West Des Moines Indian Hills Junior High. He participates in American Ninja Warrior classes and likes magic. While this is his Playhouse debut, he has been involved in theatre at school, playing Kassim in *Aladdin Jr*, Chief Ancestor in *Moana Jr*, and, his favorite role to date, Les in *Disney's Newsies* at Southeast Polk High School.



Maverick Mundt (*Fregley*) made his Playhouse debut as Fox in *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* for which he received a Dionysos Award nomination. Maverick is a sixth grader at South Middle School in Waukee where he sings in the choir and plays oboe in band. He has two dogs, Bear and Marley, and a cat named Jeffery. Maverick has a passion for singing, dancing, and theatre. He is thrilled to be a part of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.



Chloe O'Neil (*Pauline*) made her Playhouse debut as Fern Arable in *Charlotte's Web*, a role which earned her a Dionysos Award nomination. She enjoys dancing, singing, reading, and traveling. Chloe is a seventh grader at Waukee Middle School.



Alex Onken (*Bryce Anderson*) is making his Playhouse debut. He was last on stage as Olaf in *Frozen Jr* with the Ballard Community School, where he is in eighth grade. Alex enjoys acting, playing soccer, serving on his school's student council, and babysitting his baby brother, Dansby.



Preshia Paulding (*Mrs. Clayton/Fregley's Mom*) received Playhouse Dionysos Awards for her roles as Judy Garland in *Beyond the Rainbow* (2010), Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* (2014), Annie Wilkes in *Misery* (2017), and Annie in *Calendar Girls* (2022). She recently lent her voice as Narrator in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. In addition to theatre, her résumé includes voiceovers, jingles, and film including a mini-series with Kris Kristofferson. Preshia is a music director at New Hope United Methodist Church.



Joel Peterson (*Charlie Davis*) enjoys tennis, Taekwondo, reading, and science. He is in eighth grade at Timberline School in Waukee. This is Joel's Playhouse and stage debut.



Eliana Pitkin (*Ensemble*) has been taking Playhouse classes and summer camps since preschool and is now making her Playhouse stage debut. She has previously performed as Monday in *Leap Year* in Des Moines Performing Arts' summer program. A sixth grader at Summit Middle School in Johnston, Elle enjoys crafting, traveling and exploring, and playing Roblox.



Raunak Raman (*Chirag Gupta*) is a seventh grader at Bergman Academy, Des Moines, where he appeared in the school drama club's production of *Beetlejuice*. This is his Playhouse debut.

Raunak enjoys playing tennis, piano, and video games and creating things with Legos.



Lou Ramsey (*Mr. Winsky/Bill Walter/Mr. Huff*) grew up at The Playhouse, attending summer camps, and has a number of area stage credits including *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. Lou has also worked backstage, most recently for *Jersey Boys*. He is a tax assistant at Jackson Hewitt.

CAST NOTES



Kate Saldanha (*Susan Heffley*) loves performing at The Playhouse and has had some fun roles: Countess Andreyi in *Agatha Christie's Murder On The Orient Express* (Dionysos Award nominee), Mrs. Soames in *Our*

Town, and Cook in *Harriet The Spy* (Dionysos Award winner). She also loves being a part of the Adventure Clubhouse cast. When she is not pretending to be someone else, she is mom to her three hilarious children and wife of her wonderful husband, Chris.



Kalyani Stone (*Ensemble*) is making her Playhouse debut. Last summer, she was a Munchkin, Poppy, and Flying Monkey in *The Wizard of Oz* at Urbandale Community Theatre. Kalyani attends Summit Middle School

in Johnston where she plays saxophone in the band. She also plays piano, basketball, and soccer, and likes singing, dancing, and watching animé cartoons in her free time.



Charlie Syverson (*Rowley Jefferson*) has been taking Playhouse classes and camps since he was 5 and is now making his Playhouse debut. He was Edmond in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* at Des Moines

Young Artists' Theatre. Charlie is a sixth grader at St. Augustin School in Des Moines. He enjoys playing the trumpet and piano.



Maia Talarico (*Joshie/Mr. Underwood/Löded Diper Band/Neighbor*) made his Playhouse debut in *Ella Enchanted* (Olive, Dionysos Award nominee). More recently he played Tinker Bell (Dionysos Award winner) in

Tinker Bell, Richard in *Kinky Boots*, and a Drifter in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. A seasoned actor, his credits include *Rapture*, *Bliстер*, *Burn* (Avery) at Iowa Stage Theatre Company, *Keely and Du* (Keely) and *Twelfth Night* (Viola) at the Stella Adler Studio, and *Treasure Island* and *A Christmas Carol* at Iowa State University.



Annie White (*Claire*) is an eighth grader at Johnston Middle School. She has been in *The Hundred Dresses* at The Playhouse and *A Christmas Carol* at Iowa Stage Theatre Company. She has also been a mentor for The Penguin

Project at The Playhouse. In her free time, she loves hanging out with her friends and family and watching movies.



River Wilber (*Rodrick Heffley*) is in eighth grade at Des Moines Central Academy and Brody Middle School. They have been involved in many school theatre projects over the past few years at Brody including playing Janice

in *Attention Detention*. They enjoy making art, both drawing and painting. They also play bass guitar.



Nathan Jorgensen (*Director*) is a teacher, director, and coach at Waukee High School. He made his Playhouse debut in *Tuck Everlasting* and more recently appeared in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*,

A Charlie Brown Christmas, and *The Play That Goes Wrong*. With Iowa Stage Theatre Company, his shows include *Romeo and Juliet* (Mercutio), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Nick Bottom), and *Twelfth Night* (Sir Andrew Aguecheek). He directed Playhouse productions of *Holes*, *The Boxcar Children*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and is on the theatre's education staff. For Waukee Theatre Arts, Nate's directorial credits include *Macbeth*, *Mary Poppins*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and his favorite to date, *The Book of Will*.



Julia Weisshaar-Mullin (*Music Director*) is a veteran music educator from Southwest Iowa. She has performed in professional, repertory, and community theatre in Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa, produced and

directed shows in school and community settings, and collaborated with musicians and actors of all ages. She loves to make music with her family and is grateful for their support. Julia was a Playhouse regular in the 1980s and 1990s and is thrilled to return to the supportive, creative community at

CAST NOTES

The Playhouse. (She hopes the spirit of former Playhouse music director Paul Dieke will graciously smile down upon her)!



Natalie Thomas (*Choreographer*) has choreographed shows for Simpson College, Tallgrass Theatre, St. Mark Lutheran Church in West Des Moines, and Children's Fantasy Theatre in West Des Moines. On The Playhouse stage, Natalie has performed in *Ragtime* and *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical* and choreographed Penguin Project productions of *Annie Jr*, *Disney's High School Musical Jr*, and *Disney's Frozen Jr*. Natalie says her hobbies are singing and dancing with her kids, binge watching reality TV with her husband, and rereading the Harry Potter series for the gazillionth time.



Kurtis Nethington (*Scenic 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 *42nd Street*. He played his favorite role, Davey in *Disney's Newsies*, at Magic Circle Players in Montrose, CO. Kurtis spent this summer as The Playhouse's production intern and made his Playhouse debut in *Jersey Boys* earlier this season. Kurtis likes traveling, musical theatre, playing piano, and all things Disney, but loves to cook.



Angela Lampe (*Costume Designer*) began her tenure with The Playhouse in 1993 and has designed costumes, sets, and props for 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 an M.F.A. in theatre from the University of Nebraska. She is the recipient of four Claris Awards for excellence in costuming and puppetry.



Virgil Kleinhesselink (*Lighting Designer*) owns VTEC Productions sound company and is technical director at Des Moines Hoover High School, where he designed lights for their production of *Les Misérables Jr*. Virgil began his Playhouse career in 1979 and since then has been involved with more than 355 shows. He has held at least 17 positions in those shows, including stage manager for *Annie Get Your Gun*, props, dresser, box office, scenic designer, sound designer, run crew, and acting. Be sure to check Virgil out on our Playhouse Legends wall.



Beth Gibbins (*Properties Designer*) began at The Playhouse as a painter for *Red* (2014) and co-designed props for *Jersey Boys* (2024). This is her first show as a solo props designer. A nonprofit events and communications professional, she now consults for Historic East Village, where she lives with her husband, Paul. While raising their four kids, Beth enjoyed creating Halloween costumes and overzealously decorating for Trunk-or-Treat. Her two-year-old grandson now gives her the perfect excuse to play with crayons and Play-Doh.

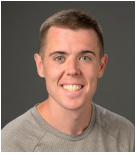


Jenna N Darsee (*Stage Manager*) is no stranger to The Playhouse community, from early performances at the age of 7 to now serving on the theatre's education staff and stage-managing shows. Jenna's favorite roles to date have been stage managing *Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical* (also her favorite book!) and playing Ma Ingalls in *A Little House Christmas*. Jenna is an art teacher and cross-country and track coach in the Johnston Community School District. While she is notorious for overbooking herself, in her spare time she enjoys building up her plant collecting, creating art and cookies, running road races throughout Des Moines, dreaming of a bright future, taking way too many photos of her fur babies (Greta, Grace, Ingrid, Charlie, and Clark), and hanging out with her and her partner Natalie Jo Lourens' many nieces and nephews.



Avery Johnson (*Sound Designer/ Assistant Stage Manager*) is back at The Playhouse after serving on the production team for *The Sound of Music* in 2021. Avery is pursuing her B.L.S. in organizational studies

and leadership from the University of Iowa online college. She works as an IATSE Local 67 stagehand at the Civic Center, Wells Fargo Arena, and Vibrant Music Hall as a hands, electrics, and audio team member. While a high school student, Avery won the Outstanding Stage Management award with Waukee Theatre Arts for *Shrek The Musical* but says her favorite part of high school tech was mentoring underclassmen. She enjoys rollerskating, gaming, baking, and tap dancing and has recently gotten into content creation on Twitch.



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*; run crew for *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*; 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.



Kevin Del Aguila (*Book*) is an Emmy-winning writer and Broadway performer. He is the bookwriter of the Off-Broadway musical hit *Altar Boyz* (New York Outer Critics Circle Award, Best Off-Broadway Musical) and lyricist

of *Click Clack Moo* (Lortel Award nomination for Outstanding Musical; Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Lyrics). His other musical adaptations include the DreamWorks film *Madagascar and Dog Man: The Musical*. Kevin has written for numerous children's television shows, including *Peg + Cat* (PBS), *Waffles + Mochi* (Netflix), and as head writer of *Blue's Clues & You* (Nick Jr.). Children everywhere have heard Kevin's voice as a Troll in the Disney movie *Frozen*.



Michael Mahler (*Music & Lyrics*) and Alan Schmuckler are a songwriting team whose experience includes *The Secret of My Success* (NBC/Universal); musical TV pilot *Boyfred* (ABC/Sony/Shoe Money Productions);

animated feature *My Little Pony 2* (Hasbro, Ron Fair); music video *LEGO Store: The Musical*. Musicals in development: *Night at the Museum* (Kevin McCollum) with Alan Menken, Shawn Levy and Bob Martin; *An American Tail* (CTC/NBC/Universal) with Itamar Moses; Frankenstein adaptation *The Monster* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) with Chelsea Marcantel. Winners of the Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre. Other credits include: lyrics, *Miss Saigon* (West End, Broadway); music and lyrics, *October Sky* (NBC/Universal).



Alan Schmuckler (*Music & Lyrics*) and Michael Mahler are a songwriting team whose experience includes *The Secret of My Success* (NBC/Universal); musical TV pilot *Boyfred* (ABC/Sony/Shoe Money Productions);

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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

CAST NOTES

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

Run Crew: **Charlie Bender, Kathy Pearson, Madalyne Rutledge, Lisa Sacripino-Wiggins**

Sound Board Operator: **Avery Johnson**

Light Board Operator: **Jenna Darsee**

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

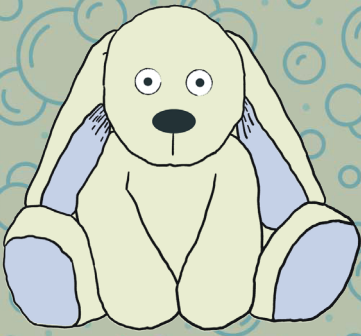
Playhouse Archives: **Harold Hinkhouse**

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID SPECIAL THANKS
Kathleen Pearson

LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET SPECIAL THANKS

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

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Claire Ward, *Costume Shop Intern*
Nate Weber, *Education Outreach*

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| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
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| Nicole Chavas-Schwegler | Taylor Ann Layden |
| Alison Crain | Megan Lenstra |
| Jenna Darsee | Greg Millar |
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| Maren Grant | Henry Vermeer |
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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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