



2020 – 2021 Season Annual Report

Revised 9/09/2021

Compiled and edited by
Nancy J. Humes
Administrative Assistant to the Chief Executive & Artistic Director

A note from the Chief Executive & Artistic Director



As T.S. Eliot wrote in *Four Quartets*, “Last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice.” In the spirit of T.S. Eliot’s words, I must once again thank Weathervane’s supporters during the most difficult challenge of the last eight decades. Theatre and the Performing Arts were, as you know, among the hardest hit during the pandemic and our theater was the honored recipient of many generous donations. My gratitude goes to the local businesses who reached out in our time of need, to our funders who were willing to see the light at the end of a long, dark tunnel, to Tom and Shelly Koutnik, who donated funds to re-create our coffee bar and concessions area, and to Jim and Maureen Kovach, who donated funds to put a new surface on our much-loved stage floor. Many thanks to our Board of Trustees, which has been working diligently to fundraise; to our generous donors, who have been giving what they can to help Weathervane survive this pandemic safely; to our dedicated and talented staff, who have adapted to new ways to work and make art; to our steadfast and enthusiastic volunteers who work side by side with staff to make the magic happen; to our students and audiences and their willingness to master new technology to connect with us; to our interns, who helped Weathervane thrive during the quietest days our stage has ever seen; and to the directors, choreographers, musicians and instructors who are supporting Weathervane in new and innovative ways.

We were able to produce a significant amount of virtual content including eleven projects. This included four films, which allowed us to partner with 8x10 Award winning playwright Scott Mullen, the Akron-Canton Airport, the Akron Zoo and Canal Park, home of the Akron Rubber Ducks; three virtual cabaret & interview episodes for *Ordinary Days*, *Leap of Faith*, and *Kinky Boots*; and four special projects including a thank you video for our donors, *The 12th Annual Ryan Humbert Holiday Extravaganza*, a Christmas Eve presentation of *Amazing Peace* by Maya Angelo read by our very own Richard Morris, Jr., and *Joseph All The Time: 20 Years of Holiday Dreams in Akron*. Producing virtual content allowed Weathervane to collaborate with our volunteers, keep in touch with our staff, and employ local artists and accumulated 12,000 combined views to date.

As proud as I am of what we were able to achieve this past year, I know we all desperately missed the magic of in-person, live performances. This is the core of the art form that we love and share. Before the theatre shut down in March, Weathervane was experiencing historically strong single-ticket sales and class enrollments. Over the past 3 seasons, seven of the top 10 revenue-producing shows took place. I’m delighted to reopen the theatre with the production *Kinky Boots*, and the essential message “Just be who you want to be!” Coming back to the stage with this beautiful story about acceptance is central to the mission of Weathervane and reflective of the great changes in the world over the past year. As we return to the core work of our mission, we will

focus on stories of social justice and support the positive changes happening in the country and the world.

I'm deeply gratified to share that Weathervane was able to retain our entire staff, largely due to the company's appreciation for the dedicated and talented team that works tirelessly for our theatre. Weathervane's leadership and Board of Trustees committed to providing health insurance for furloughed staff to ensure their well-being during these challenging times. Retaining our employees has allowed Weathervane to reopen quickly and safely, two critical goals as we enter into Weathervane's 87th season.

Thank you all for your support of Weathervane Playhouse and our mission. Thank you for making us who and what we are. Your time, talents, and financial support provide a home for our Weathervane family and make the dreams of our mission a beautiful reality.

Looking forward to our next opportunity to be together,

Melanie YC Pepe
Chief Executive & Artistic Director

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanie YC Pepe
Chief Executive Artistic Director

WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE 2020- 2021 — A “SEASON” OVERVIEW

The *Pandemic* year was unlike anything any of us could have imagined or expected to happen. *Covid-19* created a moving target for us on how to produce any art, we were literally put ‘on hold for the duration’. Most of the staff was furloughed although we were able to continue Education classes virtually. Our innovative staff explored projects and pastimes using old and new skills to keep active. Many of the staff put these skills and talents to work to keep our patrons engaged in a multitude of ways. This allowed us to expand our reach to other communities in order to offer some form of entertainment to audiences, we partnered with the Akron/Canton Airport and Rubber Duck’s Stadium to film playscripts with volunteer actors. We also partnered with the Akron Zoo for virtual classes on site, and worked on a Murder Mystery at the zoo. Volunteers participated in socially distanced virtual cabaret series filmed on our mainstage. So in spite of ‘sheltering-in-place’ directives, we were able to utilize innovative techniques and technology to reach audiences by producing over 9 films, cabarets, social media and special projects that continue to be available for viewing on-line. If you haven’t seen them visit our website: weathervaneplayhouse.com

The Results speak for themselves!

In addition to reaching our patrons, work was being accomplished inside the theater — a new stage floor was donated by James & Maureen Kovach, the new bar and café, donated by Tom & Shelley Koutnik has been completed. All to prepare for the re-opening the theater.

BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS:

Throughout the two months that virtual films, cabarets and special projects were posted online, our on-site visits **increased by 673%** up (11,441 visits) from our usual average of 1,700 visits per month. This calculation was provided by Google Analytics.

For some projects we were able to track views taken from YouTube and Facebook such as for the Holiday Extravaganza Ryan Humbart’s Site, the Akron Zoo and the Akron Art Museum.

PROJECTS COMPLETED

SHORT FILMS

My Cellphone Says You're My Soulmate, by Scott Mullen

1,666 views

Stuck, by Scott Mullen

1,360 views

Baggage, by Scott Mullen

949 views

Judgement Call, by Frederick Stroppel

877 views

4,852 views



My Cellphone Says You're My Soulmate



Stuck



Baggage



CABARETS

Virtual Cabaret, Episode 1, Leap of Faith	753 views
Virtual Cabaret, Episode 2, Ordinary Days	602 views
Virtual Cabaret, Episode 3, Kinky Boots	<u>966</u> views
	2,321



Leap of Faith



Ordinary Days

SPECIAL EVENTS

Music Video for donors	496 views
Joseph All The Time: 20 Years of Holiday Dreams In Akron	1,584 views
Akron Art Museum Variety Show, Amazing Peace by Maya Angelou	<u>1,785</u> views
	3,865



**A Technicolor
Surprise**



**12th Annual Ryan Humbert
Holiday Extravaganza**



**Amazing Peace
by Maya Angelou**

12 th Annual Ryan Humbert Holiday Extravaganza – Streaming 2020	1,299 views
+Five “Weathervane Family” Interviews with Volunteers and Patrons (Release April/May 2019)	342 views

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS/CABARETS IN PROCESS

“Boys of Steel” – 2 episodes

A NEW musical about the 2 teens in Cleveland who created Superman, the composer/book author live in Cleveland.

“Bright Star” – 1 episode

A Broadway musical set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina in 1945-46 with flashbacks to 1923. The musical is inspired by Steve Martin and Edie Brockell’s Grammy-winning collaboration on the 2013 bluegrass album *Love Has Come for You* and, in turn the folk story of the Iron Mountain Baby.

PARTNERSHIPS

We worked with the Akron Zoo with one of their fundraisers by providing actors for their murder mystery party. Many thanks to:

Fred Gloor, appeared as Frank Wright Lloyd, Architect of Wild Asia

Scott K. Davis, who appeared as Parker Jackson, Akron Zoo enthusiast,

Josh Larkin, who appeared as Drake Crane, the disgruntled bird keeper

Richard Morris, Jr., who appeared as Kit Lucas, Star Wars fan

for their time and talents. It was a lot of fun and a good time was had by all.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Total students served through our educational programming reached over 860. Although we did not reach our non-pandemic numbers, because we were not able to host our daytime matinee performances or offer face-to-face classes and workshops or participate in multiple community events where we have information tables, games, and even demonstrations sometimes, our numbers are quite remarkable. However, to see how amazingly our Education Department adapted to a 'new normal' and brought theater education into our patrons' homes. See the following Education Department Report for specific details of what they were able to accomplish.

Education Department 2020-2021 Annual Report

Total Served through Educational Programs: 860

Virtual Academies 2020-2021

Throughout our 2020-2021 season, we shifted our education programs to a virtual platform. Through this process we created brand new classes and programs all designed to be done virtually. We welcomed many new students along with our returning students and created new partnerships.



Fall Virtual Academy 2020

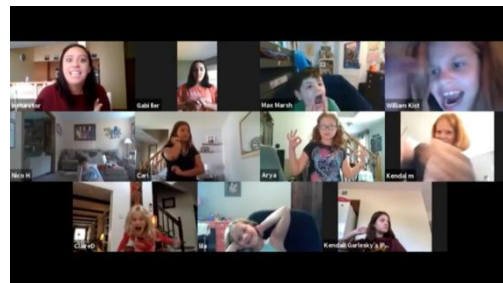
- We offered **6 virtual classes** for an 8-week long session serving a total of **59 students**.

Winter Virtual Workshops 2021

- We are offered **5 virtual workshops** and had a total of **38 registrations**.
- We offered package deals for students to take part in more than one workshop at a discount.

Spring Virtual Academy 2021

- We offered **5 virtual classes** for an 8-week long session and had a total of **34 students**.



TWO Summer Theatre Academies for 2021



- For the first time we offered TWO Summer Theatre Academies.

- Our In-person Summer Academy served **98 students**, all 8 camps offered were full.

- Our Virtual Summer



Academy offered virtual camps for students to participate from home. We partnered with Case CLC to offer scholarships for their students to participate.

- We also offered one-day musical theatre cabaret workshops serving **17 students**.

Adult Classes 2020-2021

- We served over **17 adult students through virtual classes**.

Partnerships and Off-site programs

- We offered virtual classes and workshops with some NEW partners including: Master's Preparatory Academy, St. Vincent De Paul, and Fort Island Primary.
- We partnered with the Akron Zoo's Habitat Heroes summer program for the second year in a row. Campers were able to learn more about animals through fun choreography with Weathervane.
- We continued a partnership with Akron Public School's College and Career Academies program, participating in their Virtual Career expo and programs.
- **Other partnerships include:** The Shaw JCC, Arrowhead Primary Elementary, Fort Island Primary School, Old Trail, Miller South for the Visual and Performing Arts, Firestone High School, Case CLC, and West Side Vocal Academy, Akron Zoo.

Scholarships

We provided **over 30 partial scholarships** to students who would have been unable to take part in classes otherwise. Thank you our funders the Millennium Fund for Children of Akron Community Foundation, Acme Fresh Market Foundation, Tom and Shelley Koutnik, and the Weathervane Volunteer Guild.

Virtual Master Classes and Virtual Events

- We hosted a Dialect master class with Chuck Ritchie serving over **10 students**.
- We had a "Come as your Character" Halloween party for our Fall Virtual Academy students to attend for FREE.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

No Report would be complete without acknowledging those who support our theater financially. We want to honor and celebrate all donors who made donations to our theater – to keep Weathervane alive and well during the pandemic. Although there were no performances, classes or workshops to take they donated. We will simply call them our *ANGELS!*

DIAMOND

Tom & Shelley Koutnik

Michael Russell

PLATINUM

Audio-Technica
Anonymous
Ralph & Wendy Cooley
Helen Davison Fleming
April & David Deming
Richard & Mary Beth Ellison
Terry & Mary Kay Finn

Dale Gilbert
Charlene Hyland
John & Jill Judge
James & Maureen Kovach
Robert Logan
John P. O'Neill
Partners for Theater

Melanie & Christopher Pepe
Michael Purdy
S. A. Comunale
Frederick Specht
Darwin Steele
Dr. Aileen Thong

GOLD

Anonymous
Lisa & James Armstrong
Kathleen Ashcroft
Mark & Sandy Auburn
Mary & Roland Bauer
Kenneth Bedell
Mary Ann Bell
David L. Bird
Shelley & Daniel Boyle
Judi & Scott Dalton

Rebecca De Bolt
Sandra Eaglen
Kay Franks
Mr. & Mrs. William
Hergenrother
Jim Horvath
Nancy & Bob Humes
David Jesse
Kara Kirby
Doug & Kathy Kohl
Martha Mazak

Ron Mullis
Lucy Randles
Roger Read
Todd & Diane Rosenberg
David Scott
Kenneth Siloac
Kent Smith
Sue Smith
Thomas Stephan
Rosanne Summerville

SILVER

Akrochem
Pat Ameling
Anonymous
Glenn & Maryellen Atwood
Kristabeth Balchak & Robert
Boxler
Ted & Jenny Banker
Craig Benson
Robert Brauning
Ken & Carol Button
Keith Campbell
Frank Castorena Jr.
Mike Chapman
Gail Cheslock
Crum & Company
Scott K. Davis
Constance Dubick
Tiffany Edwards
Larry Emery

Kristina Ennis
Giselle Fleming
Joe & Diane Geiger
Doug & Jane Gormley and
Family
Ian Haberman
Jay Hershey
Meg Hopp
Charles Johnson
Millie Keyser
William & Stephanie Kist
Keith A. Klafehn
Richard & Judy Kotick
Kevin & Aimee Lambes
Marilyn Landers
Margaret Lloyd
Suzanne Lund
Patricia Marmaduke
Kathy & Keith Morgenstern

Elizabeth & Charles Nelson
PNC Foundation
Diana Rosa
Steven Schmidt
Debbie Shama Davis &
Steve Davis
Amy & David Shoaff
Sandra Smith
Jack Steele
Sarah Steiner
James Switzer &
Gretchen Laatsch
Dean Uher
United Way of Southwestern
Pennsylvania
Alexandra VanAllen
Sean Vollman
Tom & Shirley Waltermire
Scott Whitney

PATRON

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Anonymous
Lynn & Chuck Asente
Alice H. Bergstrom
Richard & Mary Ann Brockett
Winnie Brown
Chris Capron
Alan & Pamela Costa
Dean Davis
Sandra & Arne Englehart
Barry Friedman
Paige Giannetti
Tamara Gonsiewski
Michael Hairston

Fran Hardesty
Tatiana & Richard Harris
Judy Holder
Evie Kidder
Alan Klesh
Rob & Judy Konya
John Kurtz
Nina Lane
Jane Leonard
Bill & Anne Lowery
Joanna Mack
Rance Mack
John & Margaret McBride
Julie Modlik

George & Roberta Nehrenz
Glenn & Donna Orr
Richard Shirey
Lois A. Simmons
Margo Snider
Debra Tefs
Thomas Towell
United Way
Ellen Vollman
Alasandra Whitley
Karen Wood
Anthony Woods-Mitchell
Richard Worswick & John
Grafton

SUSTAINING

Alyce & Chuck Altwies
Anonymous
Patricia & Bernie Arnold
Kimberly Baler
Stephanie Barnett
Geraldine Beha
Norma H. Blank
Patricia Brubaker
Carol Bruml
Elizabeth C. Campbell
Martha Carman
Wesley Carney
Donna & Fletcher Carroll
Susanne Clapper
Charissa Costa-Bauhaus
Catherine & George Csanyi
Judy & Tom Di Nardo
Jerold Dorton
Bill & Phyllis Dreyer
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Bryan Goodman
Pat & Dave Gynn
Lisa Hale
Bart & Jeannie Hamilton

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Donald Hogue
David & Beverly Hutson
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Kirklyn Kuzdrall
Michelle Laguardia
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Diane & Orien LeBlanc
Ralph & Kathleen Lux
Richard Malone
David Mann
Bob & Kim McElwee
Dave McPeek
Pat McRowe
Catherine Messner
Elizabeth Mitevski
William Morgan
Lois Murray
Dennis O'Connell
Ben O'Donnell
Jennifer O'Neill
Richard & Cathy Parker
Larry & Brenda Prince

Michael Rickman
Kathryn Rodgers
Lola Rothman
Charles Schreckenberger
Carol & Dan Seiberling
Linda Shaw
Paige Sheeks
Jim Shoenfelt
Francesca Shoup
Harry Skeen
Randall Snure
Diana Stalker
Janet Stewart
Richard & Marsha Stratton
The Center for Applied Drama
& Autism
John & Paula Troche
Joseph Varca
Frank & Helen Vari
Ann VerWiebe
Larry & Sheila Wallerstein
Justin Williams
Carolyn Wilson

CONTRIBUTORS

Angela Abdo
Anonymous
Stephanie Allen
Mary Ellen Amer
Christine Ashcroft
Darlene Banfield
Mary Lu Barbour
Mitchell & Diana Barkman
Stephanie Beeson
Tiffany Bird
Loretta Bower
Drea Brown
Kimberly Brueck
Valerie Bugge
Kaylena Burdette
Kevin Butler
Joanna Caley
David Casanova
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Linda Coy
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Carole Pollard
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Katie Recuperero
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Jill White
Mary Whitmer
Judith Willemsen
Anne Wilson
Christine Youngless
Sally Zimmerman
Barbara Zubenko

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
FOR WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE
PROVIDED BY

Acme Fresh Market Foundation
Akron Community Foundation
Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust
Michael James Carmack Family Fund
Clear Gold Audio and Lighting
Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
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GAR Foundation
Huntington-Akron Foundation
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Lehner Family Foundation
Bill and Anne Lowery Fund
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Laura R. & Lucian Q. Moffitt Foundation
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Northeast Ohio Boomer and Beyond Magazine
M. G. O'Neil Foundation
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Sisler McFawn Foundation
Lloyd L. & Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation
Synthomer Foundation
The Estate of Vaughn Austin
The Welty Family Foundation
Weathervane Playhouse Volunteer Guild
L. R. Wilcox Charitable Fund
WKSU 89.7 FM

FINANCIAL STATUS

Over the past 18 months, Weathervane Playhouse has received pandemic relief funding from several sources, including Summit County the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Nonprofit Assistance, the Ohio Arts Council Awards in CARES Act Economic Relief for the Arts, Akron CARES – City of Akron, Green Streets Akron, and the U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant. These grants provide emergency assistance for eligible businesses and non-profits, and all of which contained provisions specifically related to Capital Improvement Projects. Several capital projects at Weathervane need critical attention at this time, including: masonry repair, tuck-pointing and exterior building paint, roofing repairs and replacement, and HVAC repairs and upgrades. These projects are intended to both improve the health and safety of our patrons and to maintain the Playhouse's infrastructure as we re-open and move into the future.



Painting the building has begun!

PANDEMIC PASTIMES

Our Staff may have been furloughed, but no one was sitting still. Many used theater skills while others used many of the unsung, unrealized skills in the market place as we were involved in work and activities outside of our homes. Some used our talents or learned new skills being involved with projects that were home based. Here are the “*musings*” from some of the staff – some are personal, some are job related — but, they are the “*experiences during the pandemic*” (To show no preferences, they are listed alphabetically).

Keith Campbell - The Weathervane box office had just come off a huge hit when “*Memphis*” closed on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Who knew things would change so incredibly over the course of the next week? And who knew it would be a year and a half before we could open another show on our stage?

Once it became clear that our remaining performances in our 2019-2020 season would be impacted severely by the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, the box office scrambled to alert ticketholders of all the cancellations, postponements and other news. After that, it just became a waiting game. How soon would the theater reopen? This was still impossible to predict even months into our shutdown. While everyone waited, our patrons stood by us. Hundreds of our subscribers and single-ticket buyers donated back their tickets to the theater, and even many more kept their “Kinky Boots” and 8x10 tickets active so that they could return once these shows were eventually rescheduled.

One of the biggest developments for the box office during our shutdown was this: Behind the scenes, as we all waited patiently to come back to work at the theater, the Weathervane box office switched to a new ticketing platform.

Here’s a bit of backstory to this switchover: This change was our second software change in three years.

Back in 2018, after nearly 25 years with Choice Ticketing, the Playhouse switched to a ticketing company named Vendini. We made this switch after Choice Ticketing was acquired by the Shubert Organization (and then announced a new platform and a more expensive rate structure). After interviewing three of Choice Ticketing’s competitors, the theater staff chose Vendini, and this software proved to be quite easy to use by both staff and volunteers once we started using it in August of 2018.

However, Vendini was gobbled up in 2019 by one of its competitors, AudienceView. At first, there were no changes to Vendini.

But then, in the summer of 2020 – when no one was selling tickets to anything! – We learned that our Vendini software would be transitioning to the AudienceView platform. The folks at AudienceView urged us to sign up, and they presented Weathervane with fairly nice terms to do so.

AudienceView is just one part of a group of businesses that includes Ovation Tix, University Tickets, and the TheaterMania.com and WhatsOnStage media brands. Like its predecessors, AudienceView allows us to sell tickets, subscriptions and gift cards at the box office, over the phone and through our website. The software combines a patron's ticket-purchase history along with his or her donations and thus it tracks what is commonly called a person's "engagement" with Weathervane.

To be sure, jumping into something new right after a big shutdown has not been simple. AudienceView has definitely presented a steep learning curve as we return to live performances on our stage, but so far the online training and customer service have enabled us to relaunch our season with a fair amount of confidence. Getting to know the new software has been a little bit like assembling an enormous puzzle – and that reminds me of those great lyrics from the song "Putting it Together" by Stephen Sondheim: "Bit by bit, putting it together! Piece by piece – only way to make a work of art!" If it is true that the world only spins forward, then so do we at Weathervane!

Scott K. Davis - Like many of us at the start of the Pandemic, I thought it would only last a couple months, and life would be back to normal, and boy were we wrong. At the beginning, I said I wasn't getting my hair cut or shaving until after everything was over. While I finally broke down and shaved and trimmed my beard, I held fast with growing out my hair since I had never had an opportunity over this long of a time period to do so. I must say that when I finally got it trimmed in June, I was pretty happy with how it all turned out.

I found at the beginning of all of this, I needed something to help me stay sane. Since the Governor and Doctor Acton recommended safe outdoor activities, I decided that walking, with and without my 2 dogs, would help keep me emotionally calm. On the over 2,000 miles that I traversed on foot, I saw bald eagles in the wild, the Cuyahoga River flowing through beautiful snow banks, most of the Summit Metro Parks, beautiful homes and abandoned buildings, Highland Square looking like a ghost town and so many other things. I also hiked the entire length of the Towpath Trail from north of Peninsula to south of Akron. Twice.

In between all of my walks and hikes, I managed to fit in some other things too. I learned the art of grocery shopping for two people to last 3 – 4 weeks. I acted in an independent short film and Stan Hywet's interactive virtual production of *Murder in the Mansion* and did a Zoom play reading as John Keating in *Dead Poets Society*. I directed the short film *Baggage* and helped with the production of the three other short films Weathervane produced. I stayed active in the Greater Akron Chapter of DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) and was surprisingly appointed their 2020 Volunteer Administrator of the Year. Most important of all, I planned a baby shower for my baby sister, as she and her husband prepared to welcome the newest member of our family.

There were a lot of ups and a lot of downs over the shut down, and it was great while simultaneously being very not great. I am a firm believer in every choice I make and every experience that I have helps make me the man that I am, so I am pretty ok with what happened to me personally. That being said, I cannot express the EXTREME JOY that I have now that we are working on bringing live theatre back!

Fred Gloor - I spent some of my time learning how to shoot and edit video for the various media projects that the theater worked on during the past 18 months. I also was able to use these skills to do the same type of work for the Ohio County (WV) library system's St. Patrick's Day programming. During the time away from the theater, I moved into a wonderful house near the gorge in Cuyahoga Falls.

Nancy Humes - The question "*what do I do now that I'm home 24/7?*" was foremost in my mind and not a pleasant thought as far as I was concerned! But being a 'doer' and not a 'sitter/sit stiller', I began the pandemic by using my sewing skills. These were skills that I had used for years making clothing and costumes for myself, family and friends and continued to use at area theaters as a costume designer (here at Weathervane, at Coach House and at Ohio Shakespeare), a stitcher for the costume department here and at OSF and had made 80+ robes for our own Wizard's Academy. I feel I put these skills to good use as I made over 1,000 masks – some were for schools, (figuring out where to put the school's initial and the for the band ones, what size buttonhole each instrument needed for its mouth piece was a challenge as was putting the buttonholes in ((thank heavens for a professional buttonhole attachment – over 400 buttonholes in total!!!))). Some masks were for local businesses, area theaters (all with logos) and many for friends and family with fun fabrics. I learned to improve my "searching the computer" skills, as I was determined to find the *right* fabrics for masks and then for a much more fun project – the right fabrics for baby quilts so I could revive my quilt making skills to make quilts for the local *theater babies*. But alas, my desire to eliminate the stock-pile of fabrics and sewing projects did not come to fruition – I failed as I only managed to put a small dent into it.

Like so many others, I also spent some time with basic home refreshing by painting walls. I happen to be one of the few people who actually love to paint and find it relaxing! When that was done, reorganizing space became a focus – specifically my sewing room and then all of my supplies for our wizards' academy, and I spent time curriculum gathering for our inquiring wizards, which is always a challenge – finding something new that's easy and not dangerous! I had just started refinishing furniture, which I love to do, when I ruptured two tendons in my right hand (naturally I'm right handed) and sadly began more self-care!

In my spare time I spent time on Facebook, read a multitude of books and thought 'deep thoughts'. And like many others, I was forced I realized that staying at home wouldn't be so bad if I could spent time with my children and grandchildren. However, that was not

the case – as we older adults were told not to be out in the general population as we were most vulnerable and I resented that a great deal.

Then I was forced to focus on something I really resented — self-care. Healthcare issues came to visit and were not a welcomed visit by any means. But deal with these issues I did and am. Although they took a lot of time, patience (which I had to dig deep to discover), I had to learn to change expectations of myself and learn to ask for help – a really hard lesson to learn and one with which I continue to struggle and probably always will. I learned that self-care is not necessarily a bad thing – we all need to take care of ourselves, our families and our friends (the last two much easier than the self-care!). The results of my forced self-care have led me to be healthier life style and to take time for myself – all good things. And, as many of my friends have often called me the “*energizer bunny*,” (because I always seem to be doing something), well I can now officially be considered a REAL *energizer bunny* as self-care led me to a Pacemaker/Defibrillator, but promise I won’t run around beating a drum!!!

But Covid did touch my family as some tested positive, had to quarantine and actually experienced mild symptoms. But I consider myself one of the fortunate ones – I was able to get my vaccines, have managed to get healthier and am very excited that I can now put my skills and talents back to work at work here at Weathervane. The SHOW IS GOING ON!!!

Justyn Jaymes - What I did or thought, etc. during the pandemic – or how I spent my time.

As an introvert, I was a natural for a pandemic. I sat on the porch (even in December and as soon as March) and read and yelled at imaginary children to get out of my yard. I discovered the show “Paranormal Caught on Camera” and now have evidence that no one ever gets any real footage of Bigfoot. I mailed a holiday card in mid-December to my brother, who lives 2 hours away in Western Pa, and it came back to me in mid-February. I learned I could hate grocery shopping even more as people hoarded items as odd as hot sauce and bologna (two major food groups for me). Even worse was shopping at Giant Eagle where they made aisles one way, creating a grocery store version of Chutes and Ladders; I would just walk backward up aisles with my cart. I shopped on Amazon for many things, thereby giving a percentage of my purchases to Weathervane. (If you want to set this up, ask me how!) The dogs then barked at every delivery truck while jumping all over the couch and giving a new meaning to “throw pillows.” With a shortage of flour in the stores, I tried a gluten-free recipe for Pecan Sandies that should have been called Pecan Sands – this little cookie could suck all the moisture out of your mouth with just one bite – if I had a cat, I might have tried them in the litter box. I contributed to infrastructure issues by having a new bridge installed in my mouth. I created a method to open produce bags without licking my fingers. I learned how to breathe in a mask so as not to fog up my glasses; I practiced apologizing for walking into strangers before that. I came to dread the question, “What

are we having for dinner?” I sat through zoom meetings and discovered that I have attended a life-time of meetings unaware that I have many bad hair moments. And, through it all, time continued to pass, and I learned that there is much wisdom in the phrase, “Don’t sweat the small stuff.”

Kathy Kohl - On 3/16/2020 the theater officially was closed due to the pandemic – staff was furloughed and there would be no visitors or guests allowed in the building. Since no part of my job can be done from home, I continued coming in, volunteering for 2 – 3 hours a day in the shop, finishing the last strike, cleaning and organizing. When it got to the point of needing a second person to help move things, I moved to the basement to start on the greenery/ floral area, which had become an impenetrable jungle mess! My routine seemed to become volunteer, return to staff, volunteer, return to staff, mix and repeat. It seemed that this was my pattern during most of the pandemic closure. It felt like I never really left.

Dale Gilbert was permitted to join me for a couple of weeks at the beginning of April.

We built a set of shelves on the SL loft, which got a whole bunch of awkward girder connectors out of the shop. As PPP came through for 6 weeks I was back on my daily regular schedule. On May 18, 2020 we began the installation of Masonite over the entire stage floor. After a hiatus to Myrtle Beach, Dale and I completed the floor at the end of June.

My goal was to take advantage of the wide open time provided by the pandemic and get as many projects done as possible - the kind that we never have time for during normal schedule! Over the rest of the summer Dale and I also accomplished a new ramp from the Dietz to SL (totally Dale!), a new pit cover, finished many floor details, and built a trough for wires across the front of the stage. We also built a couple of shelf units for Jasen in costumes.

In October it was another hiatus – this time a trip to Disney. Upon return it was back to a spotty volunteer schedule until time to prepare the stage for Ryan Humbert to use for his Christmas show. In February I finally got back to the greenery area in basement. Chris Capron also returned at this point to continue the awesome cleaning and reorganization she’d been long working on in the under-stage side and props cage.

After returning from St Thomas in mid-March, it really got crazy! We lost our storage space at Schnee School! It was relocated to a smaller room with poor access. That meant some stuff got moved to the new space, a lot was sacrificed, and some keepers came back to the theater - where they sat on stage for 2 months for lack of other space. (A shout out to Dale, Chris, Dave, Jack, and Bob for their amazing help!!). It forced the issue of needing to clean out and reorganize the whole basement. But I HAD to finish the greenery area first! Then Richard came in to help choose items we no longer wanted or needed, and the exodus to the lobby began in preparation for a Rummage Sale on May 22. Considering that the objective was to have things go away, not to be a fundraiser, between props, furniture, misc, and costumes, we made \$2000!! The

basement and greenery areas have been totally transformed with new shelving and aisles and total reorganization of the space. Again, many thanks to Dale and Chris for their help!!! On June 22 we started working on Kinky Boots!!

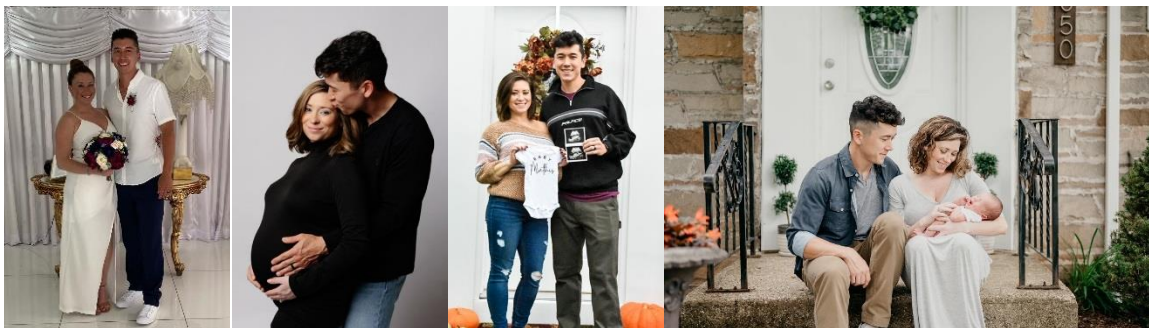
In my “spare time” during the pandemic, I volunteered over 700 hours in 2020 with Middlebury Housing rehabbing homes in the Middlebury neighborhood of Akron, a cause near and dear to my heart. That effort continues through the present. So what did I do during the pandemic? I worked, I volunteered, I was fortunate to do some travelling. I think we accomplished some good stuff during the closure - we got some needed projects finished, we have a new stage floor, an organized properties area and I’m ready to face what else 2021 brings.

Josh Larkin - While the Playhouse was shut down, I used what time I had away from managing the financial standing of the organization to prepare for the arrival of Brooke’s and my first child, Ronan Timothy Larkin. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to spend more time than would have otherwise been possible with my family in Tuscarawas County before moving up to Akron this April. Otherwise, I filled my time by reconnecting with old passions, discovering new ones, and remaining connected to Weathervane through the production of the Digital Cabaret Series.



Josh, Brooke & Ronan
Birthdate: 06/30/2021
8 lbs, 1 oz,
22 inches

Lauren Sprowls Mathis - was one of the two employees not furloughed. Lauren took on new territory in creating virtual classes.



Education Director, Lauren Mathis married her Husband Connor Mathis on June 27, 2020 in Las Vegas. They also welcomed a new addition to their family, Theo Akinobu Mathis was born on May 20, 2021 7lbs, 13 oz.

Richard Morris Jr., - like so many others on staff took on new roles during the pandemic. These are just a few of the projects that demanded his time.

- ** Taught online classes in SKETCHUP.
- ** Video Editor for “Weathervane Playhouse Virtual Cabaret
- ** Designed a Production of “Greenwood: an American dream destroyed”
- ** Content Creator for a Warner Brothers Animated Feature
- ** Co-Founder of Bigg Boy 216 Animation Studios

Charlie Morton - is a Master Carpenter and Assistant Tech Director, and came to Weathervane Playhouse in September of 2019. He and is happy to be a part of the Weathervane family.

Charlie’s theater career started in 1989, at Warrensville Heights Senior High, where he started set building and painting. From there, he went on to work at Heights Youth Theater and Karamu Performing Arts Theater, where he was mentored by some of the best in the Cleveland theater scene. Charlie co-designed and built his first set for True North Theatre in 2017.

When he’s not at Weathervane, he is a father to five beautiful daughters, an animal lover, an artist, and a tattoo artist (@charliehustle1010).

Melissa Tippin Moyseenko – I worked on the spring and summer education programming during the pandemic. My husband Michael and I bought a house, got a puppy Coda, and are now expecting *Baby Moyseenko* in February of 2022!

Melanie YC Pepe – was the one of the two employees not furloughed. She was charged with the awesome responsibility of holding the theater together! She didn’t really have spare time!

Jasen J. Smith – “So? What do we do now that we can’t design costumes?” That is the question that was asked many times for many days on the Costume people page on Facebook, where I am a member. This group of professional Designers and Educators is my go to place for information, advice and inspiration.

So what do you do when you can’t design costumes during a pandemic? The answer was “We make masks.” During the first months of the shutdown I made over 2,000 masks for people in our community. I was working with other designers and the CDC testing fabrics and coming up with a pattern, how many layers of fabric of non-woven filters, to create a safe homemade mask. I enjoyed the challenge and was using my skills to help people, and it gave me something to do. Then suddenly the market was

flooded with commercially made masks and I found myself with less and less masks to make and less and less tasks to keep my idle hands busy.

I found myself with nothing to look forward to each day but a quick trip to the grocery store to get food for dinner. I was quickly becoming a 1950's househusband. Laundry, house work, grocery shopping, making dinner and doing the dishes. I was slowly falling into a depressive state. So to give me something else to do I started working for Instacart, grocery shopping for other people.

Then in early October I found out that I had to quarantine.

One evening, John said to me that he had seen that World Market was hiring Seasonal help and that he thought I should apply. I muttered something grumpy and continued to marinate in my stew of sadness. Begrudgingly, I picked up my phone and applied online. Twelve hours later, I had an interview and I met Holly Hemminger, General Manager of World Market. The interview lasted 5 minutes and I was hired (she liked that my email address is Just Jasen, a reference to the 90's sitcom Will and Grace).

After a few weeks, I started to realize that there were many similarities to what I do at Weathervane. Each day I have a project that I need to complete, then customers come in and I stop to help them find a rug, or point them in the direction of the cookies from England they are looking for, then I answer the phone and look up an item for someone, then someone buys a table and needs help getting it into their truck, and I still have to get that project done.

At Weathervane I am getting ready for a show, an actor comes in, he has ripped his pants, I am fixing that, then someone can't find her glove, then someone needs help with their wig, then I am needed on stage, and I still need to get the show ready.

At World Market I take a Schematic (a rendering of how the shelves/set up should look) and make a 3 dimensional display.

At Weathervane I take a drawing and make it into a 3 dimensional garment.

At World Market I work with customers helping them find items for their homes that help tell the stories of their lives.

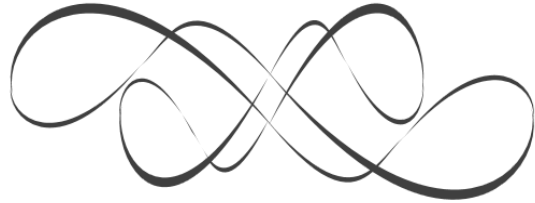
At Weathervane I help actors tell the stories of the characters.

At World Market I feel seen, appreciated, valued and loved.

At Weathervane I feel seen, appreciated, valued and loved.

I started out thinking that this job would be a way to get out of the house, I never thought that it would be a lifesaver. I never thought that I would find similarities between

part-time job and my full-time passion. And most of all, I never expected to find a silver lining during a worldwide pandemic, but I did.



As you can see, our talented staff didn't simply sit still during the pandemic. New talents and interests were developed and will be used here at the theater in the future.

WEATHERVANE STAFF

Melanie YC Pepe, Chief Executive & Artistic Director

Fred Gloor, Marketing Director/Associate Artistic Director

Keith Campbell, Director of Audience Development

Joshua T. Larkin, Business Manager

Justyn Jaymes, Director of Development

Scott K. Davis, Coordinator of Volunteers

Nancy Humes, Administrative Assistant to the Chief Executive & Artistic Director

Lauren (Sprowls) Mathis, Education Director

Melissa (Tippin) Moyseenko, Education Assistant and Education Event Coordinator

Richard Morris, Jr., Technical Director

Kathy Kohl, Assistant Technical Director

Charlie Morton, Master Carpenter

Jasen J. Smith, Resident Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager

Jack Ina, Master Electrician

John Coyne, House Sound Technician

Kim Shores, Bookkeeper

We would also be remiss if we didn't take time to acknowledge all of our hardworking volunteers, whether it be behind the scenes backstage, in the spotlight on stage or participating by offering their time and talents serving on our Board of Trustees. Like the staff, we were all sheltering in place but much work was still happening.

2020/2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Committee

William Kist, President

Mary Kay Finn, First Vice President

Alasandra Whitley, Second Vice President

Ian Haberman, Secretary

David Bird, Treasurer

Kevin Lambes, Member-at-Large

Trustees

Lisa Armstrong

Kathy Ashcroft

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April Deming, Ex-Officio

Tiffany Edwards

Diane Geiger

Joe Geiger

Michael Hairston

Jill Judge

Rance Mack

Nancy Schafer

Alex VanAllen

VOLUNTEER REPORT

Our Volunteers may have been, for the most part, “*sheltering-in-place*” but all together these 97 people managed to accomplish 2280.5 hours of volunteer hours of service to our theater. Saying a simple *THANK YOU* seems to be inadequate, for all the work they did, but it is all we have. So, a huge *THANK YOU* to these folks for all you have done.

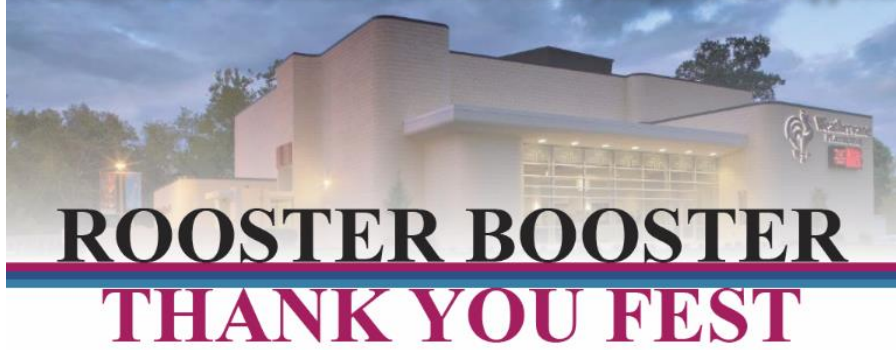
Lisa Armstrong
Kathy Ashcroft
Joseph Ball
David Bird
Jay Boughner
Jordan Boughner
Frank Bradshaw
Aiden Brueck
Mary Bulgrin
Karen Burridge
Chris Capron
Frank Castorena
Mike Chapman
Lucas Cinko
Ryan Ciriaco
Jeannie Clarkson
Colin Cook
Pam Parks Costa
Heather Culotta
Billy Cummins
Holly Custer
Gary Davis
Scott K. Davis
April Deming
Dave Deming
Michelle Duffy
Tiffany Edwards
Amanda Erickson
Mary Kay Finn
Jim Fippin
Diane Geiger
Joe Geiger
Dale Gilbert

Adrian Go
Emma Goubeaux
Danielle Gruhler
Ian Haberman
Michael Hariston
Annika Hall
Bradley Haramis
Allison Harris
Melanie Hauer
Erika Haver
Haley Quinn Heffernan
Sarah Heffner
Tony Heffner
Dominic Henry
Lindsay Ibos
Jack-Anthony Ina
Bonita Jenkins
Jill Judge
Millie Keyser
William Kist
Peter Kolodzig
Kevin Lambes
Marissa Leenaarts
Ayron Lord
Brooke Lytton
Joanna Mack
Rance Mack
Marcus M. Martin
Connor Mast
Jonathan Merechant
Kenyah Merritt
Spencer Morgan

Maeve Morris
Melissa Moyseenko
Michael Moyseenko
Ben Neiberlein
John O’Neill
Marci Paolucci
Christopher Pepe
Sterling Perry
Rob Phillips-Brown
Jessie Pollak
Jordan Potter
Tabitha Rox
Audrie Ryan
Jacob Schafer
Nancy Schafer
Melanie Scott
Linda Shaw
Jae Snow
Nick Sobotka
Jack Steele
Henri Sudy
Michael Swain-Smith
Christian John Thomas
Joelle Valdez
Alex VanAllen
Adam Vigneault
Amanda Vigneault
Alasandra Whitley
Justin Williams
Anthony Woods-Mitchell
Michael Younkin
Kathleen Zion

WE ARE BACK !

Weathervane Playhouse wants to thank you for your support!



Attended by 160+



Our 2021 – 2022 Season

AS WE ALL KNOW 2020 2021 WAS AN EXTREMELY CHALLENGING TIME FOR ALL OF US. AS WE MOVE FORWARD AND RE-OPEN WE ARE EXCITED TO TAKE WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED DURING THE PANDEMIC AND HAVE AN ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC 2021 – 2022 SEASON.

WE KICK OFF OUR 87TH SEASON WITH



AND THEN BRING BACK OUR TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY PRESENTATION OF
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT



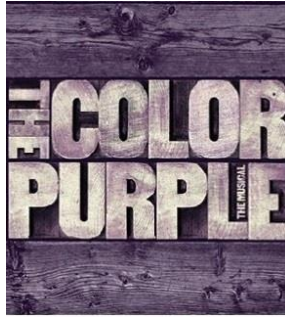
FOR ITS 19th YEAR RUNNING

(featuring Weathervane Playhouse Youth Choirs)

THE 8X10 THEATREFEST



THE COLOR PURPLE

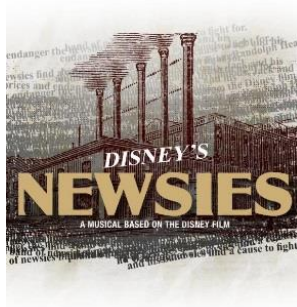


CLUE



AND END OUR SEASON WITH

NEWSIES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NO ONE WANTS TO MISS ANY OF THESE FANTASTIC PERFORMANCES!