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By donating items on our wish list you can help Weathervane enhance artistic programming.**

Below is a list of items currently needed at Weathervane.

• New HD Digital Camera for Marketing (\$600)	DONATED
• Internship for an Arts Administration/Education/Design student (\$1,000)	DONATED
• Landscape Beautification Project for Weathervane (\$1,500)	
• Backstage speaker monitors for the stage (\$2,000)	DONATED
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***If you would like to cross something off our remaining list, call or email Melanie Pepe at:
mycp@weathervaneplayhouse.com | 330.836.2626**

Weathervane Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Donations are deductible as provided by law.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of these donors, Weathervane has raised much of the money to complete this season's wish list. There are still a few items left. Thank you, to all who donated.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

From the “barn” to Copley Road to the Valley ...

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members—Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch—and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works—even opera—with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space “Weathervane” after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weathervane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935, the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan, with the other founders, offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938, a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. This group is now the Volunteer Guild.

The “barn” was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75th season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 84th season.

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- If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
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The Pinball Evolution: from the Court of Louis XVI to “Pinball 2000”

And

Original Fantasy Artwork by Robert A. Kraus

This exhibit has two complementary components. The first explores the history of pinball machines.

In 1777, a party was thrown in honor of Louis XVI and the Queen at the Chateau de Bagatelle, recently erected at great expense by the kings' brother, the Count of Artois. The highlight of the party was a new table game featuring a slender table and cue sticks, which players used to shoot ivory balls up an inclined play field. The game was dubbed “bagatelle” by the Count and shortly after swept through France.

Some French soldiers carried their favorite bagatelle tables with them to America while helping to fight the British in the American Revolutionary War. In 1871, British inventor, Montague Redgrave was granted US Patent #115,357 for his “Improvements in Bagatelle.” This was the beginning of the pinball evolution.

In 1931, “Bingo” was manufactured by D. Gottlieb & Company which was contracted to produce the game for the Bingo Novelty Company. “Baffle Ball” was also released that year and was made by Gottlieb as well. That same year, “Bally Hoo,” the first coin-operated pinball game was invented by Raymond Maloney, the founder of the Bally Corporation. The term “pinball” itself as a name for the arcade game wasn't seen until 1936.

The tilt mechanism and the re-design of the machines so they could be plugged into electrical outlets came about in 1934. This allowed for new sound, music, lights, lighted back glass, and other features. Bumpers followed in 1937, flippers in '47. Pinball machines in the early '50s began to use lights behind the glass scoreboard to show scores. The first two player games were also introduced in the '50s. The years from 1948-1958 are referred to as the “Golden Age of Pinball.”

Pinball machines were banned from the early '40s to 1976 in many major cities. It was considered a game of chance instead of skill. Considering that the first pinball games didn't have any flippers, the perspective was pretty accurate. At one time, the NYPD would even run raids on establishments to confiscate pinball machines.

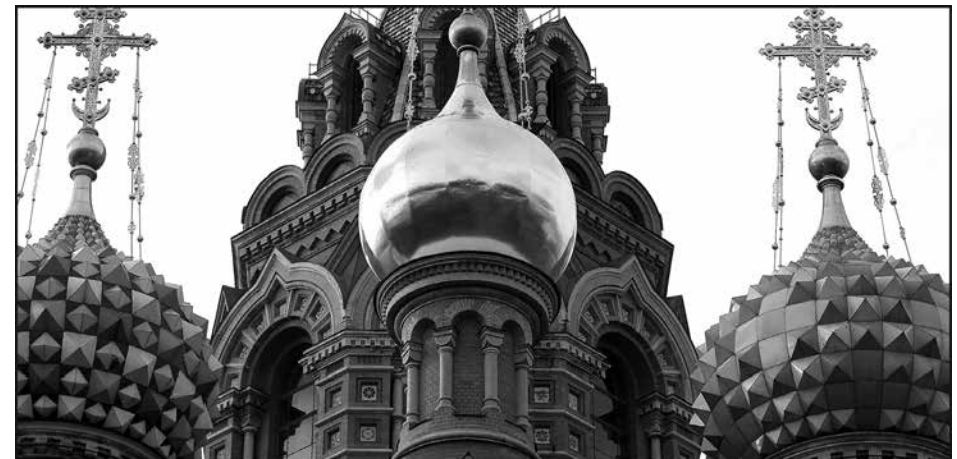
Bally released the first digital scoring pinball machine, “Rally Girl” in 1966. In 1975, Micro released the first solid-state electronic pinball machine, the “Spirit of 76”. However, by the late '80s, video games were becoming more popular and were replacing pinball. Williams released their new “Pinball 2000” series machines with video screens in 1998. Traditional pinball can now only be played in Pinball Museums.

Two versions of “Tommy-the Wizard Pinball Machine” were released in 1994, nearly 20 years after the movie's debut. They played 21 songs from the movie. A re-furbished version of the machine, manufactured by Bally, sells today for \$5,999.

The second component of our exhibit features the work of Robert A. Kraus, a very well-known, local fantasy artist. He is the owner/creator of RAK Graphics. Kraus's original artwork presents his unique interpretations of the characters in the play, *Tommy*. Kraus also embellished *Tommy* movie posters with his artwork. Robert is the creator of RAK Attack Monsters, and Superfreaks, and the sole designer of the board game “Dragon War” and the hundreds of expansions to go with it. Robert is involved in many Comic Cons throughout the year and many of the Wizard World Cons. He has just recently returned from a successful trip to the San Diego Comic Con. Visit www.rakgraphics.com to see all Kraus's work.

The artwork by Robert A. Kraus (RAK) is for sale. If you wish to make a purchase, please inquire at the Box Office. Robert has generously offered to donate a portion of the proceeds of all sales to Weathervane. Thank you for supporting the arts!

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Amazing journey Narrator
Sparks Orchestra
Amazing Journey (Reprise) Narrator
Christmas Choir, Walker, Mrs. Walker, Uncle Ernie, Cousin Kevin,
 Relatives, Minister, Minister's Wife, Narrator
Do You Think It's Alright? Walker, Mrs. Walker
Fiddle About Uncle Ernie, Male Ensemble
See Me, Feel Me Narrator
Cousin Kevin Cousin Kevin, Lads, Lasses
Sensation Narrator, Lads, Lasses
Eyesight To The Blind Hawker, Harmonica Player, Harlots, Thugs
Acid Queen Gypsy
Pinball Wizard Cousin Kevin, First Local Lad,
 Second Local Lad, Lads, Lasses

ACT TWO

Underture Orchestra
Aferture Mrs. Walker
There's A Doctor I've Found Walker, Mrs. Walker
Go To The Mirror, Boy Specialist, Assistant, Ten-Year-Old Tommy,
 Mrs. Walker, Walker, Young Tommy, Tommy
Tommy, Can You Hear Me? Cousin Kevin, Lads
I Believe My Own Eyes Walker, Mrs. Walker
Smash The Mirror Mrs. Walker
I'm Free Tommy
Miracle Cure Cousin Kevin, Lads
Sensation (Reprise), I'm Free (Reprise),
Pinball Wizard (Reprise) I'm Free (2nd Reprise) Company
How Can We Follow? Company
Tommy's Holiday Camp Uncle Ernie
Sally Simpson Cousin Kevin, Sally, Mr. Simpson,
 Mrs. Simpson, Guards, DJ, Tommy
Welcome Tommy, Cousin Kevin, Guards, Company
Sally's Question Sally
We're Not Gonna Take It/Finale Company
Bows & Exiture (Orchestra)

ORCHESTRA

Keyboards—John Ebner
 Guitars—George Dean, Chandler Carpenter
 EWI—Tonya Duus
 Bass—John Chambers
 Drums—Mick Shaull



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DES MACANUFF (Book) received Tony Awards for his Broadway stagings of *Big River* (1985) and *The Who's Tommy* (1993). He directed Lee Blessings's "A Walk in the Woods" on B'way in 1988 and in Moscow and Lithuania in 1989-90. He is Director-in-Residence of the La Jolla Playhouse where he was Artistic Director from its 1983 revival until 1994, during which time the theatre won more than 200 awards for excellence. He has directed for the American Rep Theatre at Harvard, Yale Rep and Stratford Festival of Canada and is a former faculty member of the Juilliard School. MacAnuff is married to actress Susan Berman and they are the proud parents of Julia Violet.



PETE TOWNSHEND (Music and Lyrics) was a member of The Who from 1962-82; the group's first recording was in 1964. He has written hundreds of songs, many of which have been chart hits. He has written and composed several major collections that have won international recognition; *Tommy* is the best known. Awarded the Ivor Novello Award by his songwriter peers in 1981 and the British Phonograph Industry Award in 1983 for service to the British music industry. In 1990, he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. He has been nominated for two Grammys and an Academy Award (for the *Tommy* film score). He has most recently been honored with the 1993 Tony Award for Best Original Score for *Tommy* on Broadway. Recordings with The Who (1965-82): *My Generation*; *Who's Next*; *Tommy* and *Quadrophenia* (rock operas). Solo (1980-89): *Empty Glass*, *Chinese Eyes*, *White City* (with long-form video), *Iron Man* (songs for a musical based on Ted Hughes' original story). Active as a songwriter, performer and producer, he continues to work as an editor at Faber and Faber, which he joined in 1983. Married, with three children, he lives in Twickenham, England.

rebel panda productions



ROBERT KOWALEWSKI (Captain Walker) has worked at numerous theatres in the north east Ohio area since relocating here in 2016, but this is his first production at Weathervane! Favorite highlights include: *Next to Normal* (Henry), South Pacific (Cable), *The All Night Strut*, *Gift of the Magi*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Einstein), *Sweeney Todd* (Anthony), *Weird Romance* (Daniel/Paul) at Broadview Hts. Spotlights; *Titanic* (Bride/Hartley) at Cassidy Theatre; *Spring Awakening* (Melchior) at Near West Theatre. Most recently: *West Side Story* (Riff) with the Akron Symphony and *Bright Ideas* (Joshua Bradley) at Brecksville Theatre. He thanks everyone who made this project possible! #actorsupportingactors



ALEXANDRA VANALLEN (Mrs. Walker) is proud to be back on the Weathervane stage. She was last seen in *Listening* for our annual 8x10 TheatreFest. Previous Weathervane credits are as a Gargoyle in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, as the Witch in our production of *Into the Woods*, Rebecca in *It Shoulda Been You*, and Inga in *Young Frankenstein*. VanAllen has been participating in theatrical productions since she was eight years old and is happy to have found a new theater family at Weathervane. When she isn't performing, she works as the Business Development Manager for Kislign, Nestico and Redick, spends time with family, and participates in charity functions sponsored by her work.



PATRICK MICHAEL DUKEMAN (Uncle Ernie), an Akron native, was last seen on the Weathervane stage as Harry in the incredible sell-out run of *Mamma Mia!* His other recent Weathervane credits include Mae Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*, and James Wicker in *It's Only A Play*. Past years have seen him as King Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Crumpet the Elf in *The Santa Land Diaries*; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Vanya), *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Beverly Carlton), for which he won a Chanticleer Award, and Margaret Mead in *Hair*. More credits at Weathervane include *The Roar of the Greasepaint—The Smell of the Crowd* (Sir), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Lawrence), *Xanadu* (Calliope/Aphrodite) and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Chairman). He made his debut at on our stage in his dream role, Man in Chair, in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, for which he also won a Chanticleer Award, after relocating back to Akron from San Francisco, where he had been acting professionally for 20 years. In San Francisco, his portrayal of Jerry Springer in *Jerry Springer the Opera* garnered him a

Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Best Actor nomination. He also received a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Best Supporting Actor nomination for his portrayal of The Stepmother in *Cinderella* at CCMT.



TONY HEFFNER (Narrator/Tommy) is excited to be back on the Weathervane stage after his portrayal of another deaf individual, Quasimodo, in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* last October! He is a proud member of the Equity Membership Candidacy Program and is eligible to become an Equity actor following this past June's production of *Ragtime* at Cain Park! He lives in Berea and has participated in many productions in the greater Cleveland area including Cain Park, Blank Canvas Theatre, Beck Center and Cassidy Theatre. Along with Quasimodo, some of Tony's other favorite credits include *Next to Normal* (Gabe), *Bonnie and Clyde: A New Musical* (Clyde Barrow), *American Idiot* (Johnny), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad/Olive's Dad), and *Catch Me If You Can: The Musical* (Frank Abagnale, Jr.). Tony would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting him in all he does! GBOGB! For Bug.



MICHAEL SWAIN-SMITH (Cousin Kevin) is an Akron native and Ohio Northern University graduate, where he received his BFA in Musical Theatre & minor in Arts Administration. He's very excited to be returning to Weathervane for *The Who's Tommy*. Right after this, he's off to China to tour with Nickelodeon. Thanks to his mother and grandmother for their never ending love and support. Proverbs 3:6! Faith, Love & Trust. Enjoy the show! @michaelswsm



AIDEN BRUECK (Tommy, age 10) is honored to join the cast of *The Who's Tommy*. He previously appeared in Weathervane's productions of *School of Rock!* (Zach), for which he learned to play the electric guitar, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Ensemble). He has performed in school productions of *The Music Man* (Winthrop), *Magic Treehouse: Pirates Past Noon* (Jack), and *Seussical Kids* (JoJo). Aiden lives in Green with his family and attends Green Middle School. He plays lacrosse and enjoys eSports. His guest appearances on Sypher PK's YouTube channel have garnered over 20 million views.



EMILY GRAY SULLIVAN (Young Tommy) is thrilled to be part of the cast of *The Who's Tommy* for her first show at Weathervane! She's performed previously in Rubber City Theatre's *A Christmas Carol* and Rising Stars Center for the Arts in *Willy Wonka* and *Aladdin Jr.* Emily loves to dance and takes classes at Martell. In her free time, Emily enjoys hanging out with her dogs, making art, and singing show tunes.



ZACK WOJNO (The Lover/Ensemble) Zachary is a super excited to be in his first show at Weathervane. He would like to thank his family for always standing by his passion, his friends for always being there, and the people that taught him his worth. Credits include: Frank N Furter in *Rocky Horror*, Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*, George Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Danforth in *The Crucible*, and Doctor Gibbs in *Our Town*.



TOM WANG (Hawker, Ensemble) is excited to make his Weathervane Playhouse acting debut, be part of this talented cast and crew, and to once again work with his friend, director Fred Gloor. In recent years, Tom fulfilled a childhood goal playing Harold Hill in *The Music Man*. In 2017, he was part of the inaugural season with the Resident Theatre Company in West Chester, PA, as a member of their Barrymore Award-nominated ensemble in *Spamalot!* Then again as the Foley Artist in RTC's 1945 original radio broadcast version of *A Christmas Carol*. In July, Tom enjoyed directing the first *Tech Track Camp* here at Weathervane. He dedicates this performance to Laura, Lucian and Dan. "We're not gonna take it!"



DELISA MEDLEA (The Gypsy) returns to Weathervane after appearing as Effie Melody White in last season's *Dreamgirls*. Delisa was born and raised in Cleveland, OH and is a graduate of John Hay High School. She has a bachelor's degree from The College of Wooster in Political Science with a minor in Black Studies. She has been a singer her entire life and has participated in many choirs. She traveled with the Kent State University gospel choir and has participated in multiple musical productions, including the Black History Musical at the South Euclid United Church of Christ. She has performed as a professional singer for several private functions such as weddings and anniversary celebrations. She was awarded the opportunity to appear in the *Black Nativity* production at the Karamu House Theater. Although, this is only her third theatrical production, her life experiences have equipped her for this very moment.



LARRY EMERY (Minister/The Specialist/Ensemble) wants to thank all involved for the opportunity to be in the musical *The Who's Tommy* at Weathervane Playhouse. It has been almost three years since my Woodstock Opera House days in Woodstock, IL. From *Little shop of Horrors* as Mushnik, to *Young Frankenstein* as a cast member, to *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* as Reuben, the ride has been fun and educational. Looking forward to the performing learning, singing, and yes, even some dancing in this production with a phenomenal cast, crew, and staff.



TAYLOR MARIE SCOTT (Sally Simpson/Ensemble) is excited to be performing in her second show at Weathervane Playhouse. Most recently, she appeared as Sophie Sheridan in Weathervane's sold-out run of *Mamma Mia!* Taylor teaches drama at many area schools, and is also a teaching artist for the Arts in Stark SmARTs program. Taylor has been seen on local stages, recently as Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* at Carnation City Players, Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Belle in *A Christmas Carol* and Squeaky Fromme in *Assassins*. When she's not teaching, Taylor owns a "Princess Party" business and visits children's parties and other charitable events as the "Snow Sisters." Taylor enjoys sharing her love for the arts and feels incredibly lucky to share the stage with such an amazingly talented group of human beings. Taylor would like to thank Fred, John, Josh, and Ayrton for giving her such an incredible opportunity, and also her dad for introducing her to the incredible music of The Who.



BEN ARRINGTON (Second Officer/ Ensemble) Ben Arrington was last seen on the Weathervane stage as Jehan/ Gargoyle in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Other credits include *Dogfight* (Fector) and *Heathers The Musical* (*Hipster Dork*) at Western Reserve Playhouse, *Titanic The Musical* (Lightoller) at Players Guild Theatre, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Coneybear/Carl Dad) and *All Shook Up* (Dennis) at North Canton Playhouse. Ben is working toward a Master's degree in Communication.



GIOVANNA ABUCEJO (Ensemble) is excited to be participating in *The Who's Tommy*. Gia's favorite roles are Veruca Salt in *Willy Wonka* (Weathervane Playhouse) and Little Red Ridinghood in *Into the Woods* (St. Hilary School). She is currently a junior at St. Vincent St. Mary High School. She would

like to thank her siblings Bella and Josh, all of her close pals, and everyone who supports her. And, of course, she would like to thank her parents for tolerating her and taking her to rehearsals almost every night. Gia hopes you will experience the magic when you see this amazing show.



JACKSON BIRD (Ensemble) is thrilled to be returning to the Weathervane Stage for his eighth production, after most recently playing Peter Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He's also recently appeared in 2016's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Holes* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Jackson is a ninth-grader at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. Jackson has also appeared at Weathervane as Mr. Hawkins in *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, an Ishmaelite in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 2016* and Jem Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. He has played Scar in *The Lion King*, Og the Leprechaun in *Finian's Rainbow*, and Oliver Twist in *Oliver Twist*. Jackson is also a proud member of ETC Heid's School of Musical Arts Main Street Singers show choir. In his downtime, Jackson enjoys playing baseball and volunteering at Weathervane behind the scenes, when he isn't appearing on stage. Jackson is so thankful for his Weathervane family and the opportunities provided here. He thanks his family for their unfailing love and support.



JAY BOUGHNER (Ensemble) is thrilled and honored to be part of this ridiculously talented cast. He last appeared on the Weathervane stage as East in *Almost, Maine* earlier this year. Other favorite roles include Scuttle in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, Prince John in *The Trials of Robin Hood*, and Jackie Fitzhugh in *The Wedding From Hell*. He would like to thank his family for their love and support, especially his wife, Joie. "You're the air in my lungs—you're the song on my tongue that keeps me singing."



JUDAH CALLAHAN (Ensemble) is a former Student at Woodridge High School, who also participated in the school's Concert and Rhapsody Choirs. He also sings with the worship team at Word of His Grace Church, as well as helps behind the scenes in audio-visual tech. His other skills include playing trumpet, bass guitar, and building computers. During the week, when not at rehearsals, Judah works at Retro Dog in Cuyahoga Falls. There, he saves his money so he can purchase a car, and pay for college. He plans on attending Stark State, and The University of Akron, where he will major in computer engineering, and minor in Theater.



EMILY CONTI (Ensemble) will be a senior at Our Lady of the Elms. Emily is thrilled to be returning to Weathervane's stage, especially with such an amazing cast. Her recent roles include Ensemble in *School of Rock*, Asher's Wife in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and ensemble in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Emily is a member of her school's Chamber Choir and the school's theatre program. She loves volunteering here at Weathervane and teaching children about music. Emily is incredibly grateful for every opportunity she has and how supportive her family is.



TONYA DUUS (Ensemble) most recently appeared as Potiphar's Wife in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Doris McAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* here at Weathervane and Julia/Florrie/Susan in *Agatha Christie's Butter in a Lordly Dish* at Coach House Theatre. Some of her favorite past roles include Olive in *The Odd Couple* (female version); Hot Lips Houlihan in *M*A*S*H*; the Child Catcher in *Chitty Chitty, Bang Bang*; and The Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*. In her spare time, Tonya likes to lift heavy things, make costumes, bake, and is mother to a precocious 10-year-old daughter, and wife to a roadie. Much love to Prudence & David.



ISABEL MARIE GILL (Ensemble) Isabel is currently a Senior at Northwest High School. She has been performing since the age of five and *The Who's Tommy* will mark her 49th theatrical production. Favorite Previous work includes: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary Magdalene), *Les Miserables* (Eponine), *Hairspray* (Amber) and *Gypsy* (Baby June). At Northwest, she performs in Chorale, Women's Chorus, Northwest Singers and Kokopelli. As well as being a member of Teen Institute, Interact, Pep Club and the International Thespian Society. Isabel is a voice student of Sarah Elaine Bailey, and has studied with the Players Guild Theatre, Weathervane Playhouse, "Making it on Broadway" and the Baldwin Wallace Summer Musical Theatre programs. She is thrilled to be a part of this production. Enjoy the Show!



RUSSELL B. KUNZ (Judge/Harmonica Player/Ensemble) is very pleased to appear in *The Who's Tommy* here at Weathervane Playhouse. His last production here was *Noises Off*, and prior to that *Hairspray* (2017), *Red* (2016), and *Chicago* in 1987, where he met Deb Lemire of Queen Bee Productions. Fun fact: that production brought together at least 2 other couples that later married. First cast here in 1973's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, he is very excited to be working again with his daughter Rocky. "No doubt about it, I gotta get another hat."



MELODY LEWIS (Ensemble) is a 2019 graduate from Cuyahoga Falls High School. This is Melody's first appearance onstage at Weathervane. Melody was in her High School's productions of *Radium Girls* playing the role of Irene Rudolf and One Act Festival production of *Facebook Ruins Everything* as Teen 2. She was also involved in A Cappella Choir, M&M's show choir, and Cross Country. Melody is currently employed at Starbucks and Totally Cooked Catering.



LAURA NIEHAUS (Specialists Assistant/Ensemble) is excited to join the cast of *The Who's Tommy*. She was last seen on stage in *Omnipotent* in our Ninth Annual 8x10 TheatreFest. Before that, she was in Weathervane's marvelous production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Laura would like to sincerely thank Scott, Melanie, and everyone at Weathervane who has welcomed her into this crazy, wondrous family and helped make this theater her second home. Laura would also like to thank her mom and dad for always nurturing her creativity, allowing her to dream new and exciting things, supporting her through every bump in the road, and also for giving her the confidence to say "I can do that!" and the work ethic to make it happen. She loves you all and all the color you bring to her life!



JORDAN POTTER (Ensemble) is very excited to be making his Weathervane debut! Other recent credits include *Heathers* (Ram Sweeney) at Western Reserve Playhouse, *Godspell* (Jesus) at Avenue Arts Theater, and *Titanic* (Murdoch), *The Full Monty* (Reg Willoughby), and *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Frederic) at the Canton Players Guild. A huge thank you to his family and friends for the continual support, the whole Weathervane production team and staff, and the north east Ohio theater community for giving him an escape where he can do the things he loves with so many talented people.



MADISON PELLE (Ensemble) is a new freshman at Kent State University majoring in Theater Production. She loves to perform, and she feels that *The Who's Tommy* is a great opportunity to widen her experience. Madi has been in past Weathervane Productions such as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She does her fair share of crew work as well, such as costuming and props in Weathervane's *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Dream Girls*, and *School of Rock* just to name a few. She would like to thank her family for their overwhelming support for her following her dreams. As well as Jasen Smith for introducing her into the Weathervane family.



BRITTANY LYNN TOSATTO (Ensemble/Dance Captain) was last seen in our sold-out run of *Mamma Mia!* Brittany has a BA in Dance Studies and a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Kent State University. Her dance training spans most of her life. Brittany has participated in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, lyrical, contemporary, musical theatre and pointe. While growing up she competed in dance, and now she choreographs and teaches dance to younger students at Art in Motion Dance Center. In addition, Brittany choreographs local high school musicals such as: *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Cinderella*, *Do You Wanna Dance*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Boyfriend*, *The Music Man*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. She co-choreographed productions such as: *The Little Mermaid*, *Elf Jr.* and *Lion King Jr.* She would like to thank her niece, parents, siblings, and dance students for their continuous love and support.



ALEX TROMBLEY (Ensemble) Alex is an 18 year-old graduate of Amherst Steele High School. He attends LCCC and is working towards an Associate's Degree in the Arts. Some of the past shows he has done include *Aladdin* (Aladdin), *Seussical: The Musical* (Cat in the Hat), *Freaky Friday* (Mike), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour U/S), *Addams Family* (Male leads U/S), *Sweeney Todd*, *RENT*, *Aida*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Mamma Mia!* He has also performed at Playhouse Square in the past. He thanks you for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!



VANESSA YOVANOVICH (Ensemble) could not be happier to be back at Weathervane in *The Who's Tommy*. She has spent most of her life on stage with favorite roles including *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad), *Hello Dolly!* (Dolly Levi), and *Into the Woods* (Lucinda). Vanessa would like to thank her grandmother for always supporting her and encouraging her to follow her dreams.



FRED GLOOR (Director) is currently the Associate Artistic Director and Marketing Director at Weathervane Playhouse. He has directed five shows at Weathervane: *Noises Off*, *It's Only a Play*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Lyons* and *4000 Miles*. He taught

Intro to Theatre, All levels of Acting, and Theatre History at Tri-C West, and is currently a member of the Theatre and Dance Faculty at Baldwin Wallace University, where he teaches Intro to Theatre, Improv, and Script Analysis. A graduate of Kent State University, Fred's other directing credits include Cleveland Public Theatre, Dobama, TitleWave, Charenton, The Second City Cleveland, Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, and Tri-C West. As an actor, he has performed at The Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Dobama, The Beck Center, Cain Park, The Second City Cleveland, The Ensemble Theatre, and as a cast member of Something Dada. A member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA, he has appeared in numerous commercials and such films as *The Dream Catcher* and *Pirates* with Leslie Nielsen, Eric Idle, and Rodney Dangerfield. He would like to thank Josh and John for being great friends and collaborators, and the entire cast and crew for all their hard work.



JOSHUA LARKIN (Choreographer) is pleased to be choreographing *The Who's Tommy* right before directing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* later this season. Stage credits include—Weathervane Playhouse: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Spamalot*, *You Can't Take It With You* (Chanticleer Award), *Red* (Chanticleer Award), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Western Reserve Playhouse: *Love Letters*. Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County (LTTC): *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (State OCTAFest Award), *The Crucible*, *Bye Bye Birdie*.



JOHN EBNER (Musical Director) has worked extensively as a keyboardist, musical director and accompanist for the Carousel Dinner Theatre, Coach House Theatre, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Players Guild of Canton, Weathervane Playhouse, Western Reserve Playhouse and the Voices of Canton. He continues to work with schools in Stark and Summit counties after retiring from teaching music for 33 years. John has had great opportunities over the years including working with Arthur Fiedler and Paul Williams, performing at Cleveland's House of Blues and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He has won seven Chanticleers and a YACTA Marquee for his work at the Weathervane. He has done commercial work for the Cleveland Cavaliers and won an Addy Award for this work with members of the cast from Weathervane's *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee*. He has a Master of Music Degree in Education from the University of Akron and is a member of the American Federation of Musicians and Ohio Music Education Association. Performing *Tommy* has been a dream since high school. Thanks to Fred, Josh and everyone who made this possible.



AYRON LORD (Stage Manager) is proud to have become a regular face among the many wonderful and talented volunteers at Weathervane Playhouse. Previously Ayron has contributed to the Weathervane Playhouse by designing lighting for *Mamma Mia!*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Assistant Stage Manager for *Mamma Mia!*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, co-designer of properties for *Into the Woods* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Ayron is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, with a major in Computer Engineering, and has put his skills and knowledge to use for the Greater Cleveland area. He looks forward to continually

improving his skills here at Weathervane Playhouse and hopes that he will be able to continue supporting the magic of theater at this venue and the Akron area for quite some time.



role, Assistant Stage Manager.

ROCKY KUNZ (Assistant Stage Manager) graduated from Firestone High School and is pursuing her options in vocal performance. She has performed here at Weathervane in *Hairspray* and *Talking With...* For this production she is stepping into a new



KAREN BURRIDGE (Properties Designer) Some of Karen's favorite properties designs at Weathervane are *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Next Fall*, *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, *The Music Man*, *Amadeus*, and *The Mousetrap*. Her favorite costume designs are *Ain't Misbehavin'*, at Weathervane and *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* at Stow Players. On Sundays Karen is a part of the *Sunday Oldies Jukebox* (FM 88.9). She lives in Brimfield with her husband Patrick, her 2 grown children, and a couple of grand-puppies.



CHRISTOPHER PEPE (Sound Designer) has been working with live sound for over 30 years. Projects include audio for events with artists Sandra Joseph (from the Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera*) and Graham Nash. He is taking his own production company into its 11th year. He is very much at home designing sound at Weathervane, including productions of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Dreamgirls*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Annie*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Joseph*, *Dracula*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Spamalot*, *Red*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Doubt* and *Into the Woods*. Mostly, he is looking for any excuse to work with his amazing wife...



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the professional staff of Weathervane Playhouse in 2008. Our recent production of *Mamma Mia!* marked his 100th show here at the playhouse. In past seasons, he has designed *Children of Eden*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Hair*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Life with Father*, *Into the Woods*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Dreamgirls* and many, many more. Regionally, Jasen has designed *The White Devil* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Robin Hood* (Ohio Light Opera), *The Philadelphia Story*, *How I*

Learned to Drive, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Tartuffe*, *The Firebugs*, *Medea*, and *Stage Door* (Case Western Reserve University), *The Odd Couple* (Porthouse Theater), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* starring Richard Kind for the Stephen Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts. Beyond all the costumes he has designed here, Jasen has found an extended family. He cannot do what he does without the support of John, Melanie Hauer, Jen Desberg and Dawn Sniadach Yamokoski. Thank you, Millie Keyser, Robin Van der Grift, Joanna Mack, Jenny Banker, Phyllis Bernel, Carol Smith, Carol Armstrong, Nancy Ross for all of the hours of hard work and friendship you generously give. Love to Melanie, Fred, Josh, Lauren, Scott, Justyn, Nancy, Keith, Richard, Kathy, Kellie, Kim, Aimee, Lisa, Sarah, Mama Jan, Barbie, and Marci. Jasen is excited to see what the next 100 shows here at Weathervane have in store for him.



RICHARD MORRIS, JR. (Lighting/Scenic Designer and Technical Director) Most recently directed *Dreamgirls*, *Holes* and *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* here at Weathervane Playhouse. Some of his other directorial credits include *Leap of Faith*, *Black Nativity*, *Christmas is Commin Uptown*, *The Government Inspector*, *Raisin*, *Dracula*, *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman*, *Purlie Victorious*, *The Jungle Book*, *Seussical*, *Willie Wonka*, *Birds of a Feather*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Into the Woods*, *The Aristocats Jr.*, *Goldilocks on Trial*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Xanadu*, *The Trials and Tribulations of Stagerlee Booker T Brown*, and *The Submarine Steetcar*. For 10 years, he was Production Director for the Karamu Arts Summer Camp, where he introduced many teens and young adults to the art of theatrical performance. For 19 years he also served as Technical Director/Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer for Karamu Performing Arts Theatre. He has designed over 149 Productions. In 2011 he was the recipient of the National Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design (National Black Theatre Festival) and was keynote speaker at Alabama State University on "African Americans in Scenic Design." Mr. Morris has also received the 2001 Actors Guild Award for his Scenic/Lighting design for *Riff Raff* and *Treemonisha*. In 2008 he also won *Scene Magazine's* "Best Scenic Design" for *Caroline, or Change*. He has designed for many theaters in the Northeast Ohio area, such as Ensemble Theatre, Dobama, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cuyahoga Community College, Oberlin College Theatre, Firestone Theatre and Jubar Productions, just to name a few. He is a graduate of Kent State University. In December 2016, he joined Weathervane's professional staff as Technical Director/Resident Scenic Designer. Richard is currently working on a new musical production, *Two Boys from Glenville*, the story of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the creators of Superman.



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KATHY KOHL (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in business management from Aurora University. She began her theater career at Weathervane as a volunteer on many lighting, set construction, and props crews, joining the professional staff in 2002. She also served for seven years as master carpenter and master painter for the theater department at Firestone High School. Most recently, she was the scenic designer for our productions of *It's Only a Play*, *The Flick*, and the co-designer of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In 2017, she received the Producer's Award, and in 2015, she was a recipient of The Trustees Award. She holds three Chanticleer awards for her properties designs for *Enchanted April*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, and *The Philadelphia Story*. She lives with her husband Doug, in West Akron where they raised three children. When not at Weathervane, she very much enjoys being "Ommie" to Parker, Fiona, Beckett, Maise, and Greyson.



JACK-ANTHONY INA (Master Electrician) is a currently junior Stage Management major at Baldwin Wallace University. Jack got his start in theatre in high school, and in that short period of time has done over 100 productions in theatres all over Cleveland as a director, designer, stage manager, and technician. Recent Credits include *Dreamgirls* (Assistant Lighting Designer, Weathervane Playhouse), *Newsies* (Director/Music Director, Geauga Lyric Theater Guild), and *Secrets: A Spy Musical* (Director, Feinstein's/54 Below). Upcoming Productions include *Kinky Boots* (Production Stage Manager, Baldwin Wallace University), *The Scottsboro Boys* (Production Stage Manager, Beck Center for the Arts), and *He's Lost His Marbles* (Director).



ROB PECK (Lighting Designer) has worked as a technical director, production manager, stage manager, sound, lighting and scenic designer as well as a properties master. He has worked for The Cleveland Play House, Ensemble Theatre Company, Dobama, Cleveland Public Theatre and Opera Cleveland as well as serving as the Technical Director and Resident Designer for Hathaway Brown School. Rob also had the pleasure of serving as an artist in residence at The Cleveland School of the Arts.



JOHN COYNE (House Sound Technician) has been around the Akron/Canton theatre scene for five years and is currently pursuing a BA in Theatrical Production at Kent State University. He has served as the lead sound designer for six other productions at Weathervane Playhouse (*Peter Pan*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hairspray*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Mamma Mia!*) and for the recent student-directed and-designed production of *Of Mice and Men* at Kent State University at Stark. In addition, he has served as an assistant sound designer for five other productions at Kent State University at Stark (*Consider the Oyster*, *Virtual Devotion*, *26 Pebbles*, *Unnecessary Farce*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*). He is very excited to be back on board at Weathervane for this production of *Mamma Mia!* and he hopes you enjoy the show! Outside of theatre, John works with Akron-based company Clear Gold Audio and Lighting, providing professional-level live sound and lighting services all over Northeast Ohio and beyond.

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