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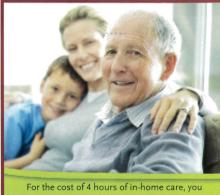


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## onstage

Cast Biographies

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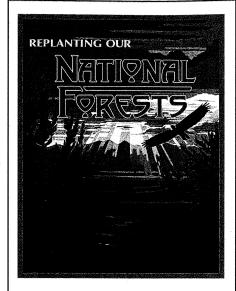
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### A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

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, Laugine 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 81st Season.

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- Be sure your cell phone is turned off again after intermission when appropriate.
- If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please tum off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- NO PHOTOS inside the theater or recording of the show in any way.
- Unwrap all candy and food before the performance begins.

### FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- Please remain seated until the house lights have come up at Intermission and after the curtain call.
- NOTE: in case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue,
- Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance.

Weathervane Playhouse is pleased and excited to feature students from Firestone High School in the Harris Family Gallery during the run of Clybourne Park. Firestone High School, Campus for International Baccalaureate and Visual & Performing Arts, is a one-of-a-kind program in the area. It is designed for students interested in drama, dance, visual art, or vocal/instrumental music who plan a career in an arts profession. The International Baccalaureate program is in its 14th year and has a very rigorous series of courses. During those fourteen years, 82% of students earned the prestigious I.B. diploma; the world average for this period was 79%.

All the students participating in this exhibit are from Mr. Patrick Dougherty's Portfolio Class. Eight of these students are juniors in the VPA (Visual and Performing Arts) program and art is their main focus. The rest of the students are seniors in advanced classes, having taken Drawing I & II, and, in some cases, painting. There are also two students from the International Baccalaureate Program who are in the Art Studio Program.

Each student chose the medium in which he or she wanted to work. The theme for the exhibit is "Family: A Narrative." The students discussed the play Clybourne Park. The art they've created reflects their thoughts and feelings as they relate to their own families and the families portrayed onstage.

Nathaniel Duvuvuei, Learning Specialist of the APS (Akron Public Schools) Fine Arts Department, approved funding for the materials needed for this important project. Weathervane would like to thank him for supporting this special exhibit. We are delighted to have this opportunity to feature the talents of these gifted students in The Harris Family Gallery.

Marci Paolucci Gallery Curator



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### By Bruce Norris

CLYBOURNE PARK was produced on Broadway by Jujamcyn Theaters at The Walter Kerr Theatre, 2012.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of CLYBOURNE PARK Off-Broadway in 2010.

### Directed by **JIMMIE WOODY**

Stage Manager **ERIN RIFFLE** 

Lighting Designer

JONATHON HUNTER

Scenic Designer **RICHARD MORRIS** 

Sound Designer **HAZEN TOBAR** 

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Technical Director JONATHON HUNTER

Assistant Technical Director KATHY KOHL

**JASEN J. SMITH** 

CLYBOURNE PARK is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2012 Tony Award for Best Play, *Clybourne Park* examines the "life" of one house over a 50-year span.

In Act I, community leaders anxiously try to stop a black family from moving into a house in an all-white neighborhood. In Act II, set 50 years later, we encounter the same house in the present day, as the now predominantly African American neighborhood battles to hold its ground in the face of gentrification.

With a nod to Weathervane Playhouse's 2015 production of *A Raisin in the Sun*, the celebrated *Clybourne Park* can be viewed as a kind of "sequel" to Lorraine Hansberry's classic play: The house at the center of Clybourne Park is the same one that the Younger family has just purchased at the end of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

The Broadway production of *Clybourne Park* opened on April 19, 2012, at the Walter Kerr Theatre, where it ran for 157 performances before closing on Sept. 2, 2012.

### ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**BRUCE NORRIS** is the author of *The Qualms*, which premiered in July 2014 at Steppenwolf Theatre, and Domesticated, which was commissioned by Lincoln Center and premiered there in November 2013. Earlier in 2013 the Royal Court premiered The Low Road in London. His play Clybourne Park won the Tony Award for Best Play in 2012, the Laurence Olivier Award and Evening Standard Award (London) for Best Play of 2011 and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2011. It is currently receiving productions throughout the United States as well as Germany, Australia, and elsewhere. Otherplays include The Infidel (2000), Purple Heart (2002), We All Went Down to Amsterdam (2003), The Pain and the Itch (2004), The Unmentionables (2006) and A Parallelogram (2010), all of which had their premieres at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago.

His work has also been seen at Playwrights Horizons (New York), Lookingglass Theatre (Chicago), Mark Taper Forum (Los Angeles), Philadelphia Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre (Washington, D.C.), Staatstheater Mainz (Germany) and the Galway Festival (Ireland), among others. His plays have been published by Northwestern University Press, Nick Hern Books, Faber & Faber and Dramatists Play Service. He is the recipient of the Steinberg Playwright Award (2009) as well as two Joseph Jefferson Awards (Chicago) for Best New Work. As an actor he can be seen in the films A Civil Action, The Sixth Sense and All Good Things. He lives in New York.

(Sources: The Whiting Foundation, the Internet Broadway Database and The New York Times)

I'm so happy to return to Weathervane Playhouse after directing last season's production of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun.* And I am equally happy to return to Weathervane Playhouse for this year's production of Bruce Norris's *Clybourne Park.* 

These two highly celebrated productions examine the fabric of America in such an articulate and humorous way that it provides insight as well as reflection.

Bruce Norris himself reconsidered *Raisin* in the context of his own childhood, growing up in Texas in the 1970s when his family fought the city's busing legislation. "I, like Karl Lindner, was one of those problematic white people," he said and this led him to explore how white Americans continue to deal with issues of race and "whether, in our supposedly sophisticated, post-modern, post-racial world, anything had changed."

While growing up in Cleveland, I myself bore witness to the challenges, the transformation and evolution of a city that has dealt with these similar themes as presented in *Clybourne Park*. And furthermore, I feel *Clybourne Park* is not a sequel but a reflection to *A Raisin in the Sun*, which provides a cross-section of middle-class life both black and white.

Therefore, I am excited to take on the formidable task of directing a play that's both "searingly honest and unexpectedly funny."

My hopes are that audiences will allow themselves to go on this journey and enjoy this production as a complement to Ms. Hansberry's masterpiece.



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Managing Director

A Los Angeles Times reviewer said of Clybourne Park, "Unlike its predecessor, Clybourne Park would rather make you squirm than tear up. Its stylized staccato dialogue is the music of disharmony — the chitchat sound of regular folks failing miserably at their attempts to get along." The production that Weathervane Playhouse did last spring of A Raisin in the Sun resulted in many Chanticleer wins for the cast and high acclaim throughout the city. While this play does follow the Younger family and then the evolution of the house and neighborhood after the events of Raisin..., it takes the fairy tale possibilities out of any happy ending we, as an audience, might have fashioned after last year's production. The struggles of not only the family but the house and neighborhood to which they moved, remind us that there are things we still need to talk about. Feelings run deep and old prejudices are not far below the surface. I hope you enjoy this production, but mostly I hope it gets you talking.

### MELANIE YC PEPE

Artistic Director

Critics have referred to *Clybourne Park* as "ferociously smart," "sharp-witted" and "insightful." They have also said that the play is "complicated," "thorny and disturbing" and "a time bomb." And let's not forget "funny!" *Clybourne Park* is intentionally provocative, and centers on the challenges and difficulties we continue to experience in our country when we talk about race. It forces us to ask the question: Are we any better at talking about these issues now than we were in 1959?

The issues can be uncomfortable: racism, a history of oppression, white privilege... Does "political correctness" hinder free speech or expand it? Does social activism help or hurt a movement in the long term?

The playwright Bruce Norris said, "I think there's something essentially rotten in human nature that will not allow us to resolve those problems." But in Act II, Bev states, "I really believe things are about to change for the better. I firmly believe that." What are your thoughts?

I look forward to the conversations we will have about this play. Please do find me and let me know what you think!



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### SETTING

The near northwest of central Chicago

Act One: 1959 Act Two: 2009

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

### PRODUCTION TEAM

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See your playbill insert for Sound, Lights and Properties Crew Lists and other acknowledgements.

### THANKS TO OUR HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS

The following are the dedicated volunteers who have assisted us recently.

The following are the de	dicated voiding
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JIMMIE WOODY (Director)
Some of his most recent
directorial credits include: A
Raisin in the Sun by Lorrainne
Hansberry (Weathervane
Playhouse), The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams, Two Trains Running by August Wilson (Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C)), Suzanne Lori Parks' 365 days/365 plays (Cleveland Public Theatre), When the Chickens Came Home to Roost by Laurence Holder (Karamu House), August Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone (Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C)), Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman (Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, Cleveland Public Library and the Cleveland Botanical Garden), Underground Griots by Natalie Parker & Keith Josef Adkins (Cleveland Public Theatre, The National Black Theatre Festival and Here Cafe), Wilberforce by Keith Josef Adkins (Cleveland Public Theatre, The National Black Theater Festival), for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf (Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C)), The Baachae written by Wole Soyinka (Cleveland Public Theatre and Columbia University), Song by Daniel Gray Kontar and InCogNegro by Lisa Langford (Cleveland Public Theatre).

As an actor he has appeared in numerous productions including: MacBeth in Voodoo Macbeth at Ensemble Theatre, Paul in 8 at Cleveland Play House, Julio in The Mother F\*\*ker With The Hat at Dobama Theatre, Cholly in The Bluest Eye at Karamu House, William in Lobby Hero at The Beck Center for the Arts, Booth in Topdog/Underdog at The Beck Center for the Arts, Hamlet in Hamlet at Cuyahoga Community College, Tigre in Dream On Monkey Mountain, portrayed multiple characters in The Colored Museum at Karamu House directed by Terrence Spivey and Caroline Jackson-Smith, and he appeared in Cleveland Public Theatre's production of Eugene O'Neill's The Hairy Ape directed by David Herskovitz. Jimmie directed and performed the role of Dionysus in Cleveland Public Theatre's production of The Bacchae of Euripedes a Communion Rite written by Wole Soyinka. Hollis in Hollis Mugley's Only Wish at The Public Theater. Pozzo in Waiting for Godot at The Oscar Hammerstein Theater in New York City. Spaniard in Cymbeline at New Shakespeare Festival.

Jimmie received his M.F.A. in acting from Columbia University. He is a 2012 Creative Workforce Fellow and is currently a Resident Teaching Artist at Center for Art-Inspired Learning. In addition, Jimmie is a Resident Teaching Artist of theater at the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and he teaches acting at Cuyahoga Community College.



ERIN RIFFLE (Stage Manager) first fell in love with theater in Akron, where she has been a teaching artist and stage manager for Weathervane Playhouse. In 2010 she began stage managing

throughout Northeast Ohio, working on regional and world premiere productions. She has worked on projects with Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Weathervane Playhouse, Actors' Summit and Blank Canvas Theatre. Erin completed her M.A. in Nonprofit Administration from John Carroll University in August 2015 and has a Bachelor's degree in music therapy.



RICHARD MORRIS (Scenic Designer) is a native of Cleveland and holds a B.A. in Scenic and Lighting Design from Kent State University. He is currently Technical Director/Production

Manager for Karamu House Performing Arts Theatre in Cleveland. Since his return to Karamu in 1997, he has designed scenery and lighting for over 104 productions. Mr. Morris was the recipient of the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival award for Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design. In 2013, he was the Keynote Speaker at Alabama State University on African Americans In Scenic Design. Some of Richard's design credits include The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, Cut Flowers, Ceremonies in Dark Old Men, The Color Purple, The Bluest Eye, Gem of the Ocean, Ruined, God's Trombones, Yellowman, Caroline, or Change, Purlie Victorious, Holes, King Headly II, Jar the Floor, Bee-luther-hatchee, Raisin, The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Colored Minstrel Show, Riff Raff, Jelly's Last Jam, Steal Away and The Tap Dance Kid. For Ensemble Theatre: The Rabbit Foot, Later Life, and Meetings on the Porch. For Weathervane Playhouse: Seven Guitars and Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting. For Oberlin College Theatre: Blade to the Heat, Omnium Gatherum and TopDog/

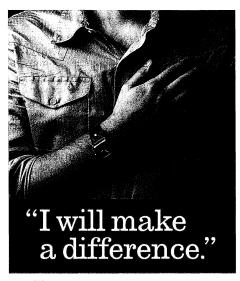
### CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

UnderDog. Oberlin Lighting Design credits include: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Macbeth, The Compromise and Death of a Salesman. For Rabbit Run Theatre: Enchanted April, Ragtime, and The Cemetery Club.



JONATHON HUNTER (Lighting Designer) has designed lighting for Weathervane productions including A Christmas Carol: The Musical, Peter Pan, Oklahoma! (for which he won a Chanticleer

Award), A Delicate Balance, The Roar of the Greasepaint — The Smell of the Crowd, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Music Man, Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella and Pippin. He holds an M.F.A. in lighting design from the University of Virginia and is currently Weathervane's Technical Director. Jonathon's other Weathervane credits include properties designer for A View from the Bridge, Breaking the Code and The Sum of Us and stage manager for They're Playing Our Song and scenic design for Peter Pan and scenic co-design for Dracula.



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HAZEN TOBAR (Sound Designer) has spent a lot of time with us the past few months, most recently as sound designer for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. He previously designed sound

for Hair, Oklahoma! and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, as well as ran the board for Unnecessary Farce, Hamlet, Don't Dress For Dinner, Uncle Vanya and The Music Man. Hazen recently completed a B.A. in Audio Recording Technology, Business & Electronics from Bowling Green State University and graduated from the Recording Workshop.



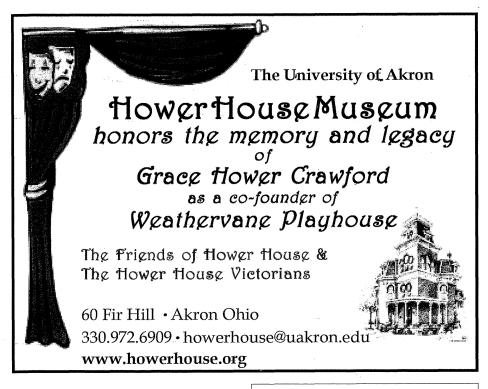
JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. Since then, he's designed costumes for dozens of Weathervane productions. As a co-designer,

he and Hedy Jones took home Weathervane's Chanticleer Award for best costume design for *Man of La Mancha* in 2009. He also won a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on *Children of Eden*. Elsewhere, his design work has been seen on the stages of Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.



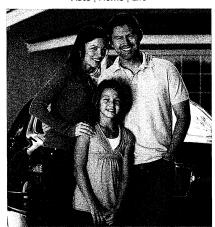
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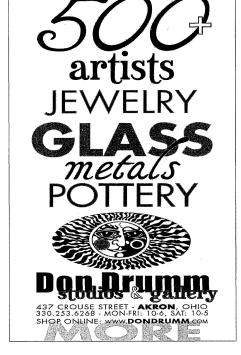


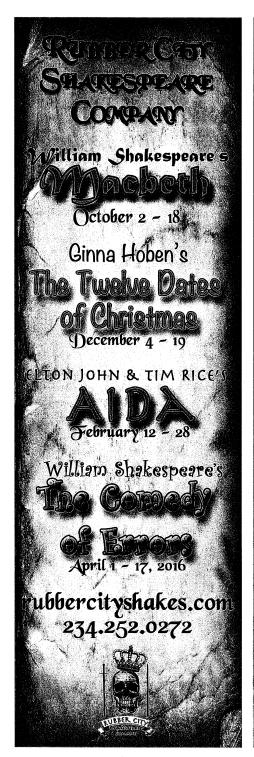
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RICHARD WORSWICK (Russ/Dan) returns to Weathervane after appearing in last year's production of Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance. He is happy to be in this wonderful cast and with two

fellow associates from A Delicate Balance, Moriah Roberts and Craig Joseph. Other Weathervane stage credits include Amadeus, Breaking the Code, The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?, Someone Who'll Watch Over Me, Love! Valour! Compassion!, The Chosen, The Laramie Project, The Mystery of Irma Vep and The Dinner Party, among others. He's performed at Coach House Theatre, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, none to fragile theatre, Dobama Theatre, Charenton Theatre Company, The Bang and The Clatter Theatre Company, Cleveland Play House and Playhouse Square. He lives in Bath with his husband, John, and Great Danes: Apollo and Baachus.



MORIAH LYNN (Bev/Kathy) is excited to return to the Weathervane stage. She was last seen here as Julia in Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance. Moriah mainly has done theater in Canton.

Some of her roles include *We Rise* (Alex), *Sweet Confinement* (Amy) and *God of Carnage* (Annette). By day she is a human resources professional at a local company, and by night she tries to keep her creative juices flowing by acting or writing.



KEEYA CHAPMAN-LANGFORD (Francine/Lena) is excited to be returning to Weathervane Playhouse in this dynamic production. 2015 was a very busy year for her. She appeared

in Black Nativity (Lead Soloist), Dreamgirls (Dena Jones understudy and Charlene), Julius Caesar Set in Africa (The Soothsayer), and Purses (Darling), all Karamu House productions. She was presented the 2014-2015 Chanticleer Best Actress Award by Weathervane Playhouse for her performance as Mama Lena Younger in A Raisin in the Sun and she also was presented the International Model and Talent Associations 2015 Actress of the Year award. In addition to being a passionate actress, Keeya is a gospel recording artist, playwright, published author

of Violated by the Enemy, and seasonal radio talk show host of Real Talk 4 Real Women Today. She has written and directed several plays. To name a few: When Jesus Knocks, The Toys are Talking, and a set of monologues entitled The Women Who Met Jesus. Keeya thanks her family for their support, especially her loving husband, Darnae Langford, and their four children, Kiosha, Montrel, Robert, & Kayla.



**SCOTT CRIM** (*Jim/Tom*) is excited to be back on stage here at Weathervane Playhouse. His work here recently has been behind the scenes. He helped kick off the current season designing

psychedelic lighting for Hair. Other Weathervane lighting design credits include A Raisin in the Sun, Night Must Fall and The Goat, or Who is Slyvia? He also served as stage manager for the Chanticleer Award winner of Best Production 13-14 Life With Father. Other Weathervane acting credits include And The Winner Is, Angels in America (parts one and two) and The Mystery of Irma Vep. Scott has recent performance credits with Rubber City Shakespeare Company: The Taming of the Shrew (Baptista), All's Well That Ends Well (King of France/Lavatche), Richard III (Duke of Buckingham), As You Like It (Duke Fredrick/Duke Senior) and Macbeth (Macduff), for which he also designed the set. Scott is a graduate of Mount Union College, where he earned a B.A. in Theatrical Arts. He would like to extend a huge thank you to his family and friends for the continued support of the arts in Akron.



DANIEL WALKER (Kenneth) is a junior at Kent State University, where he is studying theater. Past Weathervane credits include Oklahoma! (Joe), Hamlet (Guildenstern), The Witch of

Blackbird Pond (John Holcomb), The Taming of the Shrew (Peter) and The Outsiders (Paul). Other local credits include The Boys Next Door (Barry), A Christmas Carol (Jacob Marley), Hello, Dolly! (Waiter Dannie), Bye Bye Birdie (ensemble), Grease (ensemble) and Little Shop of Horrors (ensemble). During the fall months, Daniel can be found portraying a pirate at Cedar Point's Halloweekends.



JARED SPARKS (Kenneth) returns to Weathervane after his debut in the ensemble of Ordinary Days this fall. He is a junior at Kent State University working on his B.A. in Psychology. Some of his

favorite past shows include Flowers for Algernon (Charlie Gordon), Two By Two (Japheth), Sweeney Todd (Ensemble), and Grease (Kenickie). Most recently, Jared was the musical director for The Addams Family at North Canton Playhouse. On the side, he also works as a musical director for New Directions Performing Arts Academy at local middle schools. He would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support and Jimmie for giving him the opportunity to be a part of this amazing show. Philippians 4:13



TYSON SEBREE (Albert/Kevin) has been acting for the last year and has been working hard to build a good name for himself. A few of his major roles include John in the world premiere of

Crazy Man at Weathervane, Fred in Blue Miss Billie and as one of the four cast members in Ma'Sue Productions' ... Or Does It Explode? In addition, he has performed in many workshops and short-length plays. Tyson is a former jeweler, bouncer, hospital worker, dog daycare employee, and deep sea diver. When he is not studying his lines, Tyson is attending The University of Akron, where he is majoring in mathematics and minoring in Arabic. What little off-time he has is spent writing, being the world's greatest uncle, and fostering deaf dogs.



CRAIG JOSEPH (Karl/Steve) is excited to make his Weathervane acting debut after directing last season's Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance. A native of Canton, with a Masters in Directing from

Northwestern University, he's most often at the helm of productions like *Picnic, South Pacific, Other Desert Cities, Avenue Q, God of Carnage* and others. Every so often, though, it's fun to take the stage, most recently in *Chesapeake, Shrek: The Musical, The Master Builder* and *Our Town.* The creative director for a branding agency and art gallery curator by day, Craig relishes any opportunity to play with the interaction between words and images, and he's grateful for the opportunity to do that onstage at night. "Thanks much for your support of theatre in Northeast Ohio."



ALLISON KUMP (Betsy/Lindsey) is delighted to be returning to the Weathervane Playhouse stage after her debut as Lucy Westphal in Dracula. A graduate of Bowling Green State University with a

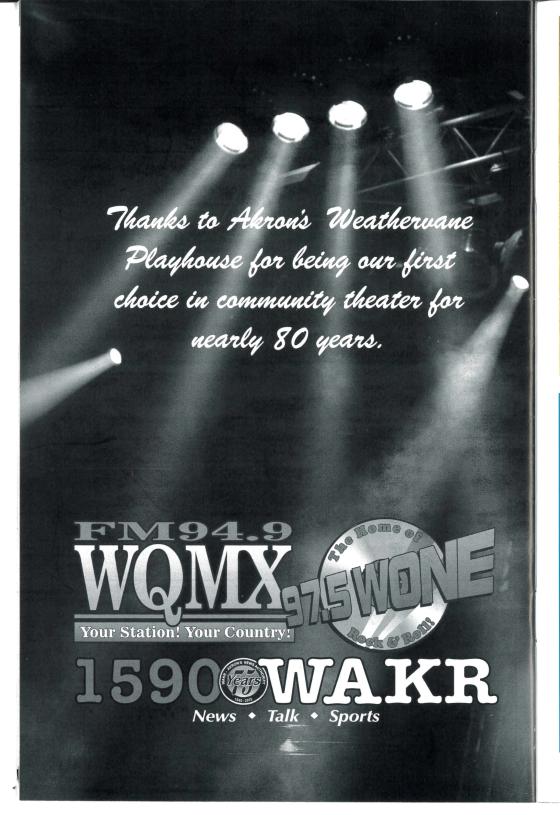
degree in theatre, some of her fondest BGSU shows include *The Memory of Water* (Teresa), *Dutchman* (Lula), *Frankenstein* (puppeteer), the Treehouse Troupe touring production of *Aesop's Fables* (Aesop) and *Dancing on Checkers' Grave* (director). She has also enjoyed performing in the ANTIC productions of *Les Misérables* (Fantine) and *Auntie Mame* (Gloria Upson) in her hometown of Cuyahoga Falls. Allison would like to thank Jimmie Woody for this opportunity, the cast and crew for all of their hard work, her family and friends for their continued support, and the audience for their patronage of the arts.



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ADDITIONAL SET CONSTRUCTION CREW

Chris Capron Richard Morris Joe Hunter Ryan Neal Bill Lambacher **Prophet Seay** 

Tom Marshall

Diane Thanasiu Gracie Thanasiu

Iennifer Klika

### Additional Creative Team

April Helms (Properties Designer) is excited to make her Weathervane debut. She is the longtime special products editor for Record Publishing Co. in Kent. April has appeared on stage locally, including in ANTIC's Twelve Angry Jurors and a nonmusical production of Les Miserables. However, this is her first official foray in working behind the scenes. She has enjoyed working with a theater production from another point of view.

Jared Sparks (Assistant Stage Manager) - see his acting bio in the playbill

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