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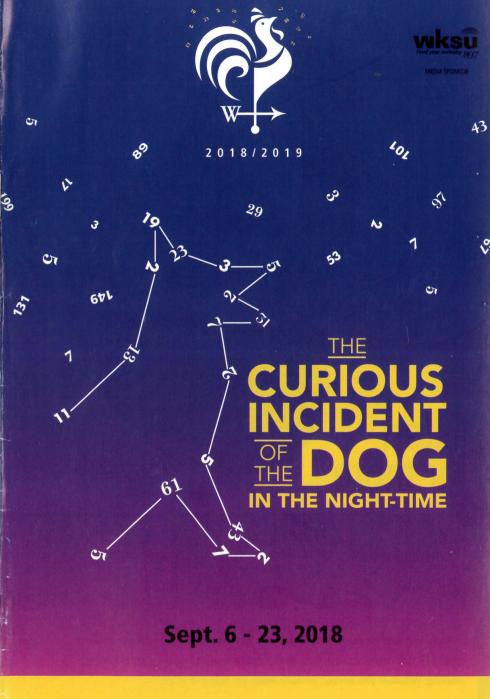
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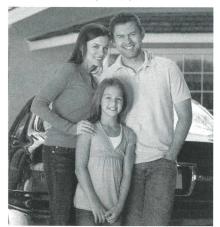


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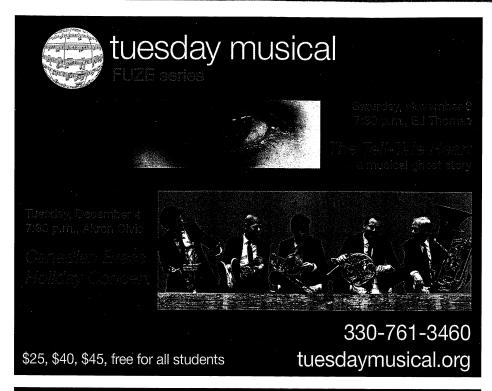
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

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, 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.

MISSION STATEMENT

Weathervane Playhouse produces high-quality live theater with volunteer artists, designers, and technicians under professional direction, provides education and training in theater arts and appreciation, and engages and entertains its audience and constituents to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

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- NO PHOTOS or VIDEO inside the theater or recording of the show in any way.
- Food and drinks are permitted in the auditorium, but please consume them quietly out of respect to your fellow audience members and performers.

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Art Across the Spectrum

Christopher, the protagonist in our current production, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time", is an autistic fifteen year old boy. He has an extraordinary brain—he is exceptional at mathematics, but, he is ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. His neighbor's dog has been murdered, and, finding himself under suspicion, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery. His detective work takes him on a thrilling journey that forever alters his world.

Because this play is centered on a young, autistic boy, I wanted the art in the Gallery to further heighten autism awareness. ASD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, is a developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is said to be a "developmental disorder" because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life. Autism spectrum disorder has an impact on the nervous system. The range and severity of symptoms can vary widely. Common symptoms include difficulty with communication and social interactions, obsessive interests and repetitive behaviors. Many persons with autism have unusual responses to sensory input, and may experience seemingly ordinary stimuli as painful, unpleasant, or confusing. Some may suffer from seizures, including epilepsy. For more about ASD and Asperger's Syndrome there are several websites/organizations with comprehensive information. The National Institute of Mental Health (www.nimh.nih.gov/health), and Autism Speaks (www.autismspeaks.org) provide overviews and information about the Autism Spectrum.

I contacted several groups in this area who offer services for those with autism and their parents and caregivers. The Autism Society of Great Akron (Lisa Thompson, contact person: 330-940-1441, ext. 2); ASPIES Greater Akron, (Joy Spencer, contact person: 330-745-5115); Nationwide Children's Hospital, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, Westerville, OH (Natalie Raff, contact person: 614-355-7500, ext. 38223; YSU, Rich Center for Autism, (contact person: Gregory Boerio, 330-941-1927).

The art in the exhibit is from several artists who responded to me. Their ages vary from 13 to over 30. Some are shy and would prefer not to have their names on their art. Others have websites and want to sell their art. Any art that is for sale will have that information on the title card next to the artwork itself. I'm so proud and honored to have these artists be a part of this!

If you wish to make a purchase, please inquire at the Box Office or the Gift Shop.

Marci Paolucci Gallery Curator Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who have recently contributed time and talents.

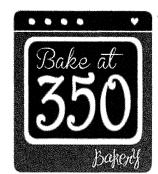
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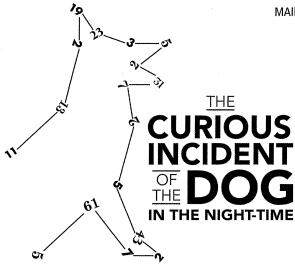


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Weathervane Playhouse

2018/2019 MAINSTAGE SERIES



A Drama

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon Adapted by Simon Stephens

Directed by **MELANIE YC PEPE**

Assistant Director/Choreographer KEVIN LAMBES

Stage Manager **TIFFANY BIRD**

Sound Designer **CHRISTOPHER PEPE**

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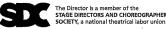
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Properties Designer BARBARA TROTTER

Costume Designer **JASEN J. SMITH**

Assistant Technical Director KATHY KOHL

> Master Electrician **KELLIE ROSSINI**



STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

MARK HADDON (Writer) was born on 28 October 1962 to Janella Murphy in Northampton, England. He was educated at Uppingham School and Merton College, Oxford, where he studied English. In 1984, he completed an MSc in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh.In 1987, Haddon wrote his first children's book, *Gilbert's Gobstopper*. This was followed by many other children's books, which were often self-illustrated. Haddon is also known for his series of *Agent Z* books, one of which, *Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars*, was made into a 1996 Children's BBC sitcom. He also wrote the screenplay for the BBC television adaptation of Raymond Briggs's story *Fungus the Bogeyman*, screened on BBC1 in 2004. In 2007 he wrote the BBC television drama *Coming Down the Mountain*.

In 2003, Haddon won the Whitbread Book of the Year Award—in the Novels rather than Children's Books category—for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. He also won the Commonwealth Writers Prize in the Best First Book category, as *The Curious Incident* was considered his first written for adults; yet he also won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, a once-in-a-lifetime award judged by a panel of children's writers.

SIMON STEPHENS (Adaptation) is an English playwright. Having taught on the Young Writers' Programme at the Royal Court Theatre for many years, he is now an Artistic Associate at the Lyric Hammersmith. He is the inaugural Associate Playwright of Steep Theatre Company, Chicago, where four of his plays, *Harper Regan, Motortown, Wastwater*, and *Birdland* had their U.S. premieres. His writing is widely performed throughout Europe and, along with Dennis Kelly and Martin Crimp, he is one of the most performed English-language writers in Germany.

DIRECTORS NOTE

"Prime numbers are what is left when you have taken all the patterns away. I think prime numbers are like life. They are very logical but you could never work out the rules, even if you spent all your time thinking about them."

— Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

For people on the autism spectrum, experiencing our world is a lot like prime numbers. Imagine the challenge: You can't identify the hidden curriculum of social interactions by reading body language, tone of voice and facial expressions. Sounds are too loud, lights too bright and everything that touches you is uncomfortable, hurts or feels like an aggressive action. Imagine living in that world; learning in that world; or working in that world.

I once heard a child say "everything you don't know is a rule," and it's true. We try things and we learn the rules for succeeding, failing and coping as we go through life. How does someone learn in a world that is too loud, too bright and too aggressive? How does someone learn in a world where there are rules that you learn through observation, and the world won't quiet or slow down?

By writing the above, I'm not making a statement about all people on the spectrum. It's called a spectrum for a reason and every person in this world experiences the world uniquely. I'm writing, and directing from the perspective of someone who knows others that struggle with these challenges, and I share with you the perspective of one young man – Christopher. We share with you today what we have learned about Christopher and his world. A story which represents a rite of passage for a young man on the verge of adulthood.

Thank you for taking this journey with Christopher, and with us.

Melanie YC Pepe

CAST LIST

Christopher	MAXWELL REES
Siobhan	GRACE MITRI
Ed	, RICHARD WORSWICK
Judy	
Voice One/Mrs. Shears/Gascoyne (and others)	LAURA STITT
Voice Two/Roger Shears (and others)	SCOTT K. DAVIS
Voice Three/Policeman (and others	STEPHEN PFISTER
Voice Four/Rev. Peters (and others)	IOHN ZIDO
Voice Five/No. 40/Punk Girl (and others)	ALLISON KUMP
Voice Six/Mrs. Alexander (and others)	

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to James McCullough for the use of his train set.





MAXWELL REES (Christopher) is super excited to be playing Christopher in Weathervane's production of *Curious Incident*. Ever since he saw the show at Playhouse Square this role has become one of his dream roles. This is his first

time performing at Weathervane and his first time performing under the guidance of a professional production team. Some of his favorite roles he played in high school were Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, John Darling in *Peter Pan*, and Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka*. Also, Maxwell is currently studying to be a high school English teacher at Kent State University and hopes to one day run a high school theatre program. Maxwell wants to thank his friends and family for their constant support and confidence in him. "Break a leg, everyone!"



GRACE MITRI (Siobhan) a Clevelander, is excited to be making her Akron debut at Weathervane! Grace holds a BA in Theatre Arts/Acting from Case Western Reserve University, and went on to continue her acting studies

at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts and the Maggie Flanigan Studio in NYC. Recent credits include: *The Taming of the Shrew* (Tranio) with the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, *The Leader* (Girlfriend) at Cesear's Forum, *Children's Letters to Satan* (Barbara Sue) at Blank Canvas Theatre, and *In The Blood* (Amiga Gringa/Beauty) at convergence-continuum. She would like to thank Melanie and Kevin for giving her the opportunity to take on this fantastic play, and the rest of the cast and crew for making her feel right at home.



RICHARD WORSWICK (Ed) returns to Weathervane after appearing most recently in *Clybourne Park* and *A Delicate Balance*. He is thrilled to be in this beautiful play *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Some of the other plays Richard has

been involved with at Weathervane are: Breaking the Code; The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?; Someone Who'll Watch Over Me; Amadeus; Love!, Valour!, Compassion!; The Chosen; The Laramie Project; The Mystery of Irma Vep; and The Dinner Party, among others. He has performed at Coach House Theatre; Ohio Shakespeare Company; none too fragile theatre; Dobama Theatre; Charenton Theater Company; Bang and Clatter Theatre; The Cleveland Play House; and the Playhouse Square Center. He lives in Bath with his husband John and Great Danes: Apollo and Hera.



JEANNIE CLARKSON (Judy) played Debbie in Passing the Time, which won first place in Weathervane's 2018 8x10 TheatreFest, Mrs. Kirby in You Can't Take It With You and has stage managed Into the Woods and Jesus Christ Superstar. She is over the moon

to play Christopher's mum in this production and is very grateful to Melanie and Kevin for giving her this amazing opportunity. Jeannie thanks her fellow cast members for their trust and friendship, the production team and crew for their many talents, and her family for their unconditional love and support.



LAURA STITT (Voice One/Mrs. Shears/Gascoyne, and others) is delighted to return to Weathervane, where she was seen in August: Osage County, Shooting Star, and The Music Man. Laura's experience as a professional actor has allowed her

the opportunity to perform in a variety of genres in Akron, Cleveland, Chicago, Vermont, and touring the country. Some of her favorite productions include, Angels in America, I Do! I Do!, A Streetcar Named Desire, and Macbeth. Laura holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Otterbien College an MFA in Acting from Case Western Reserve University. She is also the cofounder of Center for Applied Drama and Autism and an Intervention Specialist at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts.



SCOTT K. DAVIS (Voice Two/Roger Shears, and others) has been involved with theatre in some way since the age of 8, when he was cast as Jack in the musical *The Beanstalk and Jack*. He earned his BA in Theatre and Psychology

from Muskingum University, where he also served as the Theatre Department costumer for three years. Favorite roles include Curtis Lyons in *The Lyons*, Clown 1 in *The 39 Steps*, Eric Sheridan in *Unnecessary Farce*, Tyler Johnes in *And the Winner Is* and Lenny Ganz in *Rumors*. Scott also performed as Guy Johnson with the Canadian national touring company of *Heart of Africa*. He was most recently seen as Father Brendan Flynn in Weathervane Playhouse's *Doubt: A Parable*. Scott wishes to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.



STEPHEN PFISTER (Voice Three/Policeman, and others) graduated from Ashland University in May of 2016 with a multidisciplinary bachelor's degree in Anatomy & Physiology. He loves fitness and is passionate about helping people achieve their goals. He

loves watching the positive changes happen to people as they progress in their fitness and health. He currently works at his father's orthodontic practice as a Dental Aid helping people achieve a great smile. He got into acting by taking a few classes here at Weathervane Playhouse. Ever since taking those classes, he knew I wanted more out of acting so auditions were his next step. Now he has a role in this wonderful play! "I feel so blessed to be able to do the things that I do in my life and thank God for them every day!"



JOHN ZIDO (Voice Four/Rev. Peters, and others) is a theater program graduate from Firestone High School in Akron and a film and video graduate from Columbia College Chicago. He has studied improv at Second City Chicago and

The Upright Citizens Brigade in Los Angeles. John started theater at the age of fifteen, starring in a summer stock theater performance of *The Laramie Project* with Weathervane Playhouse. From there, he performed in numerous plays and musicals, such as *The Crucible* and *Urinetown*. While living in Chicago, John performed for venues such as The Gift Theatre and Sketch Fest Chicago and in 2014, he was cast in a small role on NBC's *Parks and Recreation*. Currently, he improvises with Akron's Just Go With It improv troupe and is happy to be back performing with Weathervane Playhouse for the first time in many years.



ALLISON KUMP (Voice Five/No. 40/Punk Girl, and others) is thrilled to be returning to the Weathervane stage after appearing in A Kid Like Jake (Nurse), Clybourne Park (Betsyl Lindsey), and Dracula (Lucy). 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.



HARRIET DeVETO (Voice Six/Mrs. Alexander, and others) this is Harrier's 21st play at Weathervane, her second home. Other theaters she has worked at in Ohio include Great Lakes Theatre Festival, The Cleveland Play House, Cain Park,

Dobama, Ensemble Theatre, Karamu, Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, Cassidy, Coach House, The JCC Halle Theater, The Working Theater, Cesear's Forum, Western Reserve Playhouse, Stow Players, and Hudson Players. As a former Actors' Equity member, she toured with Hal Holbrook in *Death of a Salesman*. In New York, Off-Broadway she played Halie in *Buried Child* and appeared with the American Theater of Actors and Columbia University's New Plays Festival. Favorite roles include Violet in *August: Osage County*, Kate in *Broadway Bound*, Sister Aloysius in *Doubt: A Parable*, the one-woman show, *Shirley Valentine*, and Maria Callas in *Master Class*. Hopefully there will be a few more favorites to come.









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MELANIE YC PEPE (Director) is the Chief Executive/Artistic Director at Weathervane Playhouse. She is a proud member of the *Stage Directors and Choreographers Society* and holds a BFA from Kent State University, where she is now serving on the *School of*

Theatre and Dance Advisory Board. At Weathervane, she has produced more than 70 plays and musicals as well as the 8x10 TheatreFest. In 2015, she was a recipient of Kent State University's Professional Achievement Award and in 2011 was awarded Weathervane's Trustee Award. Recent Weathervane directing credits include Into the Woods, Doubt, Jesus Christ Superstar, Santaland Diaries, Red, Peter and the Starcatcher, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and Ordinary Days. As always, she sends her gratitude to her extraordinary family for their constant curiosity, love and support.



KEVIN LAMBES (Assistant Director/Choreographer) returned to musical theater here at Weathervane Playhouse five years ago after a twenty-year hiatus. With little expectation of success, he decided to audition for a small role in *The Music Man* and

was lucky enough to be cast. It was supposed to be a one-time thing. In the time since, he has appeared in three shows, choreographed two more, this being his third, and volunteered both backstage and on various committees and projects. He has also dragged his wife and son kicking and screaming into the fold. To say he has found a home is an understatement. Kevin would like to thank everyone past and present for allowing him the opportunities and for welcoming him with second position arms.



TIFFANY BIRD (Stage Manager) is honored to return to the production booth for her third stint as stage manager, having previously managed productions of *It's Only a Play* and *A Christmas Carol: The Musical.* She is an attorney and avid theater goer

who has been active both on and behind stage. She has appeared most recently as Clairee Marmillion in Steel Magnolias for Miller Productions. Tiffany made her Directorial debut here at Weathervane as part of the 8x10 Theatrefest. Tiffany's children are also active both on and off the stage. She would like to thank Weathervane Playhouse for the wonderful volunteer opportunities they offer to this community and the chance to fulfill her passions. She would like to thank her family for supporting her in all her crazy endeavors!



BARBARA TROTTER (Properties Designer) designed props for Weathervane productions of Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill, Don't Dress for Dinner, and August Osage County; costumes for Proof; The Nerd, and Arsenic & Old Lace. She was Stage

Manager for Putting It Together, Intimate Apparel and Ahmal and the Night Visitors. Barbie appeared on Weathervane's stage in Rabbit Hole, The Music Man, Uncle Vanya, and The Man Who Came to Dinner.



CHUCK RICHIE (Voice and Dialect Coach). Chuck has served as dialect and vocal coach for more than one hundred theatre productions and media projects and worked with many individual artists. Recent coaching: for Great Lakes Theater, Sir Ben

Kinglsey (for the film *Wake*) and currently *Jane Eyre A Musical Drama* (Cleveland Musical Theater). Professor Emeritus, Kent State University. www.chuckrichie.com



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 tenth year and currently preparing for a very exciting 2018 season including a full concert production for Jefferson Starship, an intimate concert appearance with Livingston Taylor, as well as a complete series partnering with 91.3 The Summit and The Canton Symphony Orchestra for the Divergent Sound Series, which is a project of collaborative concerts between CSO musicians and local artists from different genres of music. Christopher had the wonderful experience of designing sound for The All-City Musical at Akron Civic Theatre for productions of Hairspray, Ragtime, and Bye Bye Birdie. He is very much at home designing sound at Weathervane, including productions of Annie, 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...



DENISE ELETICH (Projection Designer) having stage managed for *The Lyons* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, Denise is thrilled to continue her work at Weathervane. Denise is a Video Producer by trade and has worked for numerous companies including NASA

and is currently at Coin Ninja. She'd like to thank all her family and friends for their support and drinks.



RICHARD MORRIS, JR. (Scenic/Lighting Designer/Technical Director) most recently directed *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 The Musical, Willie Wonka, Birds of a Feather, 101 Dalmatians, Into the Woods, The Aristocats Ir, 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 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; 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.



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 Alliance 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.



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.



KELLIE ROSSINI (Master Electrician) has been with Weathervane since October of 2016 as the Master Electrician. She designed lights for The Santaland Diaries, A Kid Like Jake, Talking With..., and Les Liaisons Dangereuses. She has been a member

of I.A.T.S.E. Local #48 since 1999 and has worked for The Canton Palace Theatre, Verb Ballets, The Manchester Dance Ensemble, Martell School of Dance, Ohio Ballet, The University of Akron Dance Department and The Dance Institute at the University of Akron. She received her first bachelor's degree in Technical Theatre from Kent State University and her second in Accounting in May of 2018.



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