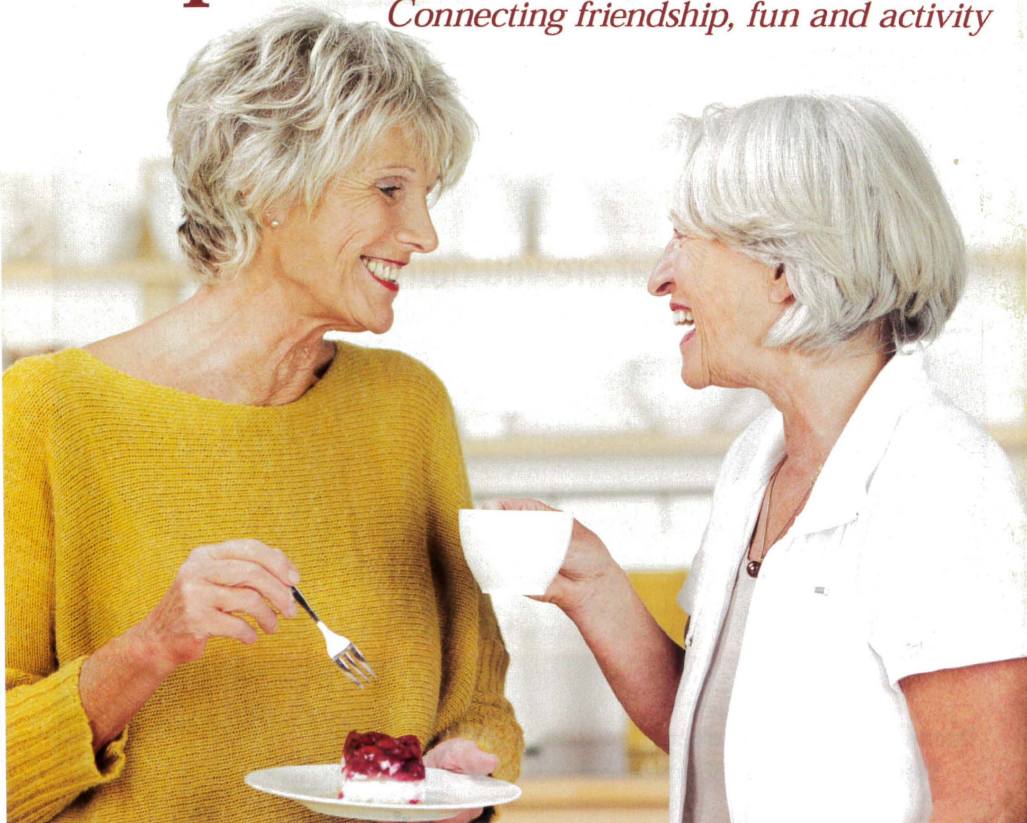


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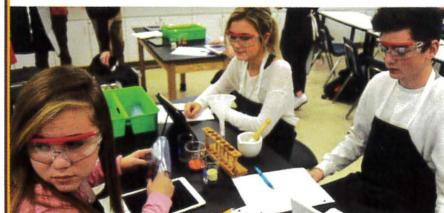
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WHAT'S INSIDE

A Brief History of WeatherVane Playhouse	7
Thank You to our Production Underwriters	7
WeatherVane Boards and Staff	8
Our Generous Donors	9
In the Harris Family Gallery	11
Hairspray	13
Show Information	14
From the Artistic Director	16
From the Director	17
The Cast	18
Cast Biographies	20
Creative Team Biographies	26
Thanks to our Hard-Working Volunteers	29

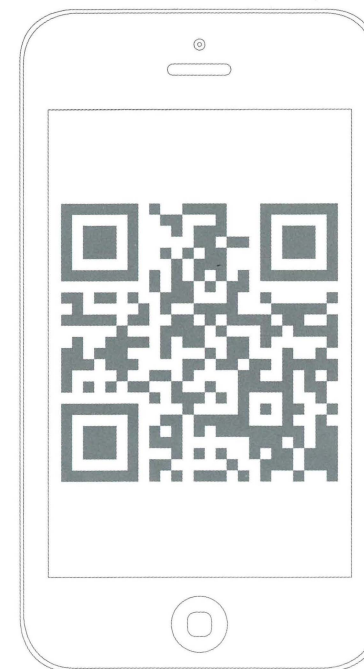
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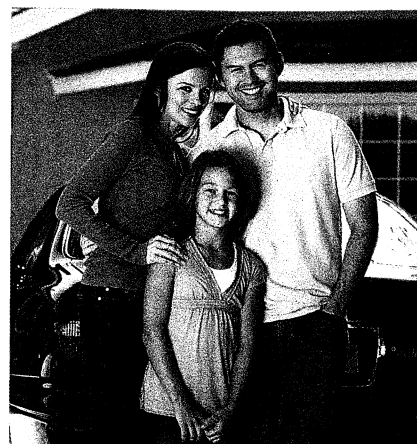
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

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 82nd 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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- Be sure your cell phone is turned off again after intermission when appropriate.
- If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- NO PHOTOS 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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Weathervane Community Playhouse is proud and honored to have artists who are part of the Hattie Larlham Creative Arts Program featured in The Harris Family Gallery.

Established in 1961, Hattie Larlham is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Twinsburg, Ohio. The organization provides residential, medical, recreational, and work training services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Statewide, 1,800 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive services from Hattie Larlham.

Hattie's Creative Arts is an art program that empowers people with developmental disabilities to communicate through artistic expression. With the assistance of an 'Art Tracker', people with developmental disabilities paint, create ceramic pieces and take photographs. "Art Trackers" are professional artists who assist in carrying out another artist's vision. At Hattie's Creative Arts, the trackers are an extension of the artist's tools and supplies. The tracker establishes a functional communication system with the artist to ensure their project is successful. Utilizing charts and a complex series of "yes and no" questions, trackers respond to the artist's choices and answers by applying color, form and texture to the work in progress. As a result, the artist's ideas are translated into a tangible work of art. Hattie's Creative Arts is located at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. For more information, visit www.hattielarlham.org.

Just as Tracy Turnblad, the lovable teen in our production of *Hairspray* wants the other students at her school to include her in their activities, the artists with Hattie Larlham also want to feel that they, too, have a place and purpose with other young people. They accomplish this with the beautiful art that they create. We are so happy to include them among the other artists featured in The Harris Family Gallery over the years.

The work in the exhibit is for sale. If you wish to make a purchase, please inquire at the Box Office or the Gift Shop. Thank you for supporting the artists of the Hattie Larlham Creative Arts Program.

Marci Paolucci
 Gallery Curator

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ABOUT THE CREATORS

John Waters (Film) Growing up in Baltimore in the 1950s, John Waters was not like other children; he was obsessed by violence and gore, both real and on the screen. With his weird counter-culture friends as his cast, he began making silent 8mm and 16mm films in the mid-'60s; he screened these in rented Baltimore church halls to underground audiences drawn by word of mouth and street leafletting campaigns. As his filmmaking grew more polished and his subject matter more shocking, his audiences grew bigger, and his write-ups in the Baltimore papers more outraged. By the early 1970s he was making features, which he managed to get shown in midnight screenings in art cinemas by sheer perseverance. Success came when *Pink Flamingos* (1972) - a deliberate exercise in ultra-bad taste - took off in 1973.

Waters continued to make low-budget shocking movies with his Dreamland repertory company until Hollywood crossover success came with *Hairspray* (1988), and although his movies nowadays might now appear cleaned up and professional, they retain Waters' playfulness, and reflect his lifelong obsessions.

Thomas Meehan (Book) received the Tony Award for co-writing the book for *The Producers* in 2001 and in 2003 for co-

writing the book for *Hairspray*. He received his first Tony Award in 1977 for writing the book of *Annie*, which was his first Broadway show, and has since written the books for the musicals *I Remember Mama*, *Ain't Broadway Grand* and *Annie Warbucks*. In addition, he is a long-time contributor of humor to *The New Yorker*, an Emmy-Award winning writer of television comedy, and a collaborator on a number of screenplays, including Mel Brooks' *Spaceballs* and *To Be or Not to Be*. He and his wife, Carolyn, divide their time between a home in Nantucket and an apartment in Greenwich Village, near which, on Hudson Street, she owns and presides over the long-running and near-legendary children's store Peanut Butter & Jane. Mr. Meehan is a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild.

Mark O'Donnell (Book) His plays include *That's It, Folks!*, *Fables for Friends*, and *The Nice and the Nasty* (all produced at Playwrights Horizons), and *Strangers on Earth* and *Vertigo Park* (both produced by Zena Group Theatre). He wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Tots in Tinseltown*. Mr. O'Donnell collaborated with Bill Irwin on an adaptation of Moliere's *Scapin* and he co-authored a translation of Feydeau's *A Flea in Her Ear*, both for the Roundabout. For Manhattan Theatre Club he translated Jean Claude Carriere's *La Terrasse*. He has published two collections of comic stories *Elementary Education* and *Vertigo Park and Other Tall Tales* (both Knopf) as well as two recent novels *Getting Over Homer* and *Let Nothing You Dismay* (both now in Vintage paperback). His humor, cartoons, and poetry have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Spy*, *The New Republic*, and *Esquire*, among many others. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lecomte du Nuoy Prize, and the George S. Kaufman Award.

Marc Shaiman (Lyrics) has been writing music, lyrics, arrangements, orchestrations and very lengthy Emails since entering show business at the age of 16, at La Ma Ma, in 1976.

He has won a Tony (for co-writing the score to *Hairspray* with co-lyricist Scott Wittman), a Grammy (also for *Hairspray*), an Emmy (for his work on Billy Crystal's Oscar appearances) and if he hadn't lost each of his five Oscar nominations (for *Sleepless In Seattle*, *Patch Adams*, *The First Wives Club*, *The American President* and *South Park-Bigger, Longer & Uncut*), he could boast of being an EGOT. Till then, he remains an EGT.

Other film work includes *Beaches*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *City Slickers*, *The Addams Family*, *A Few Good Men*, *Sister Act*, *Hocus Pocus*, *The Bucket List*, and *Parental Guidance* to name a few.

Scott Wittman co-wrote (with Marc Shaiman) the lyrics for the Olivier Award-winning musical *Hairspray*, for which the pair received Tony and Grammy Awards. He also served as an executive producer

on the hit film starring John Travolta. They teamed up again on Broadway for *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*, which he also directed, and *Catch Me If You Can*, which received a Tony nomination for Best Musical. For their original songs on NBC's musical drama *Smash*, Scott & Marc were nominated for two Emmy Awards, a Grammy and a Golden Globe. On *Smash* they have composed songs for Jennifer Hudson, Uma Thurman, Bernadette Peters, and Liza Minnelli. Their original score for the Marilyn Monroe musical "Bombshell" was released on Sony Records. Scott co-wrote the lyrics to *Charlie and Chocolate Factory* directed by Sam Mendes. For Patti LuPone, Scott has created and directed two Broadway shows, three recordings and three sold-out Carnegie Hall concerts. At La Ma Ma, Scott conceived and directed *Jukebox Jackie* starring Justin Vivian Bond, Cole Escala, Steel Burkhardt and Bridget Everett.

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Hairspray is timeless to me. Tracy is my hero. She's a girl who wouldn't accept the world as it was and is willing to do something about it. We need more Tracys as we continue to break down bigotry, chauvinism, narrow-mindedness, discrimination, and intolerance. We, like Tracy, need to see people as individuals and be willing to fight for and believe that we can create a better and more considerate world.

In 1962, minimum wage was \$1.25, a local call on a pay phone cost 10 cents, and Johnny Carson hosted his first *Tonight Show* on NBC-TV with guest star Joan Crawford.

The influence of television was strong and everyone watched to learn the latest trends – the fashion trends that were “hip,” what music was “fab,” and, of course, which dances were “outta sight!” The world was changing quickly. Outside the iconography of the American dream on the black and white TV, the fight for human rights and equality was developing into a Technicolor reality.

I hope you take a bit of Tracy's spirit with you today. Together we can do a lot to overcome what has divided us. “You've gotta dream big to be big!”

In 1962, the cost of a dozen eggs was 32 cents. The mashed potato was a something you had with your dinner and a popular dance. *Hairspray* filled the air, and on your living room TV, squeaky-clean white teens danced The Madison and The Pony to the latest tunes. The only black and white combination on most television shows came from the lack of color on the screens. However, the world outside television was changing quickly, the fight for human rights and equality had begun, and the television scene was becoming a bright and

colorful world. 1962 was a time of change. A plus-sized teen heroine, Tracy Turnblad, breaks boundaries in a time when historic change was everywhere. *Hairspray* still holds relevance in today's society. I hope that you laugh, sing, and tap your feet through this upbeat, fast-paced show but take this lesson away – we as an audience must always continue to strive for acceptance in all people. Together, we can do so much more to overcome what has divided us in the past. “YOU can't stop the beat!!”



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CAST LIST

Jeff Bixby.....	CAMERAMAN
Matthew Blasio	SKETCH
Grant Carr	BRAD
Zachary Charlick.....	FENDER
Ryan Ciriaco	CORNY COLLINS
Anna Clawson	DOREEN
Meghan Cordier.....	PENNY PINGLETON
Peggy Coyle.....	VELMA VON TUSSLE
Sarah Craven	AMBER VON TUSSLE
Bronwyn Craven	PRUDY PINGLETON, GYM TEACHER, ENSEMBLE, MOM
Marissa Davis	LORRAINE
Scott K. Davis	MR. PINKY, FLASHER, POLICEMAN
Patrick Michael Dukeman.....	EDNA TURNBLAD
Aliyah Evans.....	LITTLE INEZ
Eleasha Garrett.....	JUDINE (Dynamite)
Onaniah Garrett.....	DIANA
Kaitlyn Harris	LOUANN
Alexandra Hartenstein.....	MATRON, PRINCIPAL
Brian Hirsch.....	LINK LARKIN
Russell B. Kunz.....	SPRITZER, BUM, GUARD, NEWSCASTER (voice)
Rocky Kunz.....	NANCY, HOOKER, CUE CARD HOLDER
Jeanne Luster.....	LUCY, BEATNIK CHICK, SWING
Amaya Mathis	KAMILAH (Dynamite)
Jonathan Merechant.....	SEAWEEED J. STUBBS
Alden Munnerlyn.....	THAD
Jada-Lynn Pledger	SHAYNA (Dynamite)
Mary Rohrer	SHELLEY (Dance Captain)
Robert Rush.....	MIKEY
Larry Sims.....	DUANE, PHOTOGRAPHER
Jared Sparks.....	IQ, HOT DOG MAN
Hope Spinner.....	BRENDA
Angelina Stallings.....	CINDY
Tom Stephan.....	WILBUR TURNBLAD
Gracie Thanasiu	TAMMY
Sydney Thomas.....	MOTORMOUTH MAYBELLE
Destinee Thompson.....	FRANCINE
Sarah Jane Toy.....	TRACY TURNBLAD

SETTING

Baltimore, 1962

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act 1

<i>Good Morning Baltimore</i>	TRACY & COMPANY
<i>The Nicest Kids in Town</i>	CORNY COLLINS & COMPANY
<i>Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now</i>	EDNA, TRACY, PENNY, VELMA, AMBER & COMPANY
<i>I Can Hear the Bells</i>	TRACY & COMPANY
<i>Miss Baltimore Crabs</i>	VELMA
<i>The Nicest Kids in Town-Reprise</i>	CORNY COLLINS & COMPANY
<i>It Takes Two</i>	LINK, TRACY & MEN
<i>Velma's Revenge</i>	VELMA
<i>Welcome to the 60's</i>	TRACY, EDNA & COMPANY
<i>Hear the Bells-Reprise</i>	LINK
<i>Run and Tell That</i>	SEAWEEED, LITTLE INEZ, & COMPANY
<i>Big, Blonde & Beautiful</i>	MOTORMOUTH, TRACY, EDNA & COMPANY

Act 2

<i>The Big Dollhouse</i>	WOMEN
<i>Dollhouse Playoff</i>	MATRON & COMPANY
<i>Good Morning Baltimore-Reprise</i>	TRACY
<i>You're Timeless to Me</i>	EDNA & WILBUR
<i>Timeless-Reprise</i>	EDNA & WILBUR
<i>Without Love</i>	TRACY, LINK, PENNY, SEAWEEED & COMPANY
<i>Without Love Playoff</i>	COMPANY
<i>I Know Where I've Been</i>	MOTORMOUTH & COMPANY
<i>(It's) Hairspray</i>	CORNY COLLINS & COMPANY
<i>Cooties</i>	AMBER & COUNCIL MEMBERS
<i>You Can't Stop the Beat-Part 1</i>	ENTIRE COMPANY
<i>You Can't Stop the Beat-Part 2</i>	ENTIRE COMPANY
<i>Bows</i>	ENTIRE COMPANY

ORCHESTRA

John Ebner - Piano
 George Dean - Guitar
 John Chambers - Bass
 Mick Shaull - Drums



JEFF BIXBY (Stage Manager/Cameraman) is eager to return to Weathervane after having played the role of Jacob in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Recent stage credits include *Monty Python's Spamalot* (Sir Not-Appearing), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lord Astor) and *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* (Ebenezer Scrooge). Other Weathervane credits include *Hamlet* (Polonius) and *See How They Run* (Mr. Humphries). He won a Marquee Award for his performance as The Barber in *Man of La Mancha*. He's busy off stage, too, having been stage manager for *Hair*, *Xanadu*, *Annie* and *The Taming of the Shrew* and assistant stage manager for *Monty Python's Spamalot*. He also helps with set, props and lighting. Growing up in Medina, and then graduating from Kent State University, he taught elementary school for thirty years in Cincinnati, before retiring and moving back to his hometown.



MATTHEW BLASIO (Sketch) is excited to be in his first musical at Weathervane as Sketch! Other recent credits include *Legally Blonde* (Emmett Forrest), *White Christmas* (Phil Davis), and

Into the Woods (Jack), all done at Walsh Jesuit High School. Matthew trained in many styles of dance as a company dancer at Center Stage Dance Studio, earning high rankings and even a national title. He is a four-year member of three different award-winning choirs including a show choir, of which he is the dance captain. Mathew will be continuing his passion for performing as a Musical Theatre major with a minor in dance at Kent State University in the fall.



GRANT CARR (Brad) has participated in community show choir for two years as well as heavy participation within both Archbishop Hoban and Firestone High School's theatre programs.

Grant has been a thespian his entire high school career and has a passion for performing. He is very excited to perform on Weathervane's stage for the first time as "Brad."



ZACHARY CHARLICK (Fender) will enter high school in the fall at the Jackson School for the Arts in Canton. He loves the theater and has been performing on stage since the age of 6.

Zachary has been a part of many productions but highlights include portraying Bruno in *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and flying as John in *Peter Pan*. Zachary spent the last 3 summers in a 6 week musical theater intensive at Interlochen Arts Camp in Northern Michigan. Offstage, Zachary enjoys computer programming, throwing shot put and discus, and playing the guitar. Zachary is happy to be back at Weathervane with great friends after appearing as a brother in *Joseph...* last December. "Thanks to my mom for driving me 45 minutes to and from the theater every night!"



RYAN CIRIACO (Corny Collins) A native of Los Angeles, Ryan moved to Cleveland just over two years ago and is making his Northeast Ohio theater debut. During his time in Hollywood,

he worked both in front of the camera as well as behind the scenes in talent management and as a producer. Ryan has been featured as a member of the ensemble in *The Rocky Horror Show*, as well as various elementary school productions.



ANNA CLAWSON (Doreen) is an eighth-grade vocal and dance student at Miller South who's appearing in her eighth Weathervane production! Favorite roles: Keeley Gibson in *Billy Elliot*,

Annie in *Annie*, and Dan's Wife in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Anna also has performed at Beck Center for the Arts, Porthouse Theatre and Angel Polar Bear Productions. She studies ballet, pointe, jazz, tap and modern and assists at Spotlight School of the Arts. Anna, a member of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts, has danced with Verb Ballets (*Peter Pan*), Neos (*Dracula*) and the Moscow Ballet (*The Nutcracker*). She performs with Chanticleers show choir and was a 2015 top-25 Weathervane volunteer.



MEGHAN CORDIER (Penny Pingleton) is thrilled to make her Weathervane Playhouse debut. Meghan is a junior Musical Theater Major at Baldwin Wallace University from Princeton, NJ.

She was most recently seen in *Bring It On* at the Beck Center for the Arts. Favorite shows include *A Chorus Line* (Bebe), *All Shook Up* (Mayor Matilda Hyde), and *Mamma Mia* (Ali). She is grateful to her friends and family for always supporting her dream. "Break legs to the cast and crew!"



PEGGY COYLE (Velma Von Tussle) is excited to be in her first production at Weathervane. Thank you to Marissa Leenaarts for this opportunity and the chance to work with such a

great cast and crew! Peggy is a '78 graduate of Akron's Central-Hower High School and its Performing Arts Program. She also appeared in the Goodyear Musical Theatre Production of *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*. After high school, she immediately starting working as a singer, and has enjoyed almost 40 years in NE Ohio making music with the incredible talent this area offers. She also does the occasional voice/over for radio and TV. She sends a shout out to her mom, Sarah (Mamma Mia) and to her Weathervane Preview Night pals: Karen, Kathie and Sally.



SARAH CRAVEN (Amber Von Tussle) is very excited to be appearing on the Weathervane stage once again! She was most recently seen in *Joseph... Dreamcoat* as Naphtali's wife and

the dance captain. She has also been seen on the Weathervane stage in *Annie*, *Honk!*, *The Music Man*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and several others. She was also seen at Firestone High school in *Disney's the Little Mermaid* and *In the Heights*. She has taken 12 years of dance. She "thanks you all for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!"



BRONWYN CRAVEN (Prudy Pringleton, Gym Teacher, Ensemble, Mom) is excited to be appearing on Weathervane's stage for a second time with her daughter, Sarah. She was last

seen as the pick-a-little lady, Mrs. Squires, in *The Music Man*. Bronwyn's on stage credits over the years include Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*, Jeannie in *Brigadoon*, and the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Her most recent project was as director of the spring play for A Children's Theater in Hudson. She spends her days teaching math to 8th graders at Hudson Middle School and is an active member of her Worship Team at her church.



MARISSA DAVIS (Lorraine) is in her third year as a Theatre (Performance) major at Kent State University. She loves music and theatre because artists are able to express themselves and various emotions in countless ways; an actor can be a different person each day, each week, each performance. She would like to thank the director, Marissa Leenaarts, for this opportunity. Marissa has had a great experience working with the *Hairspray* cast at Weathervane Playhouse.



SCOTT K. DAVIS (Mr. Pinky, Flasher, Policeman) 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. He has since been involved in countless productions either on stage or behind the scenes. Roles include Clown 1 in *The 39 Steps*, Curtis Lyons in *The Lyons*, Eric Sheridan in *Unnecessary Farce*, Orgon in *Tartuffe* and Lenny Ganz in *Rumors*. Scott also performed as Guy Johnson in the Canadian national touring company of *Heart of Africa*. He was most recently seen in Weathervane's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scott wishes to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.



PATRICK MICHAEL DUKEMAN (Edna Turnblad) was last seen on our stage as King Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Crummet the Elf in *The Santaland Diaries*. Other credits last season include *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 on our stage in his dream role, Man in Chair, in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, for which he also won a Chanticleer Award. Since his relocating back to Akron from San Francisco, where he had been acting professionally for 20 years, he has played in *The Producers* (Roger) and *Honk!* (Ugly). 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.



ALIYAH EVANS (Little Inez) is a freshman at Akron School for the Arts, where she studies theatre. She has appeared previously in several Weathervane productions including ... as a wife, *Willy Wonka* as an Oompa-Loompa and *A Christmas Carol* as Sally Anderson. Most recently Aliyah was in a production of *In the Heights* at FHS. She studies voice with Sarah Bailey and dance at Spotlight School of the Arts with Marissa Leenaarts. She is excited to be joining women's chorus at Firestone next year.



ELEASHA GARRETT (Judine) is a 7th grade student at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. This is her first Weathervane show. She has been in choirs for 3 years of her life, including her acceptance into the Miller South Show Choir at the end of 2016. Her first time participating in a musical was 2012. She has always loved Musical Theatre. Eleasha has enjoyed being a part of *Hairspray* and hopes to be in more Weathervane productions in the future.



ONANIAH GARRETT (Diana) is a freshman student at Firestone CLC. At Firestone is enrolled in the Theatre Program, the International Baccalaureate Program, and was just recently

accepted into the Young Scholars Program for Ohio State. She began acting at the age of 11, and has been in love ever since. Onaniah is known for positivity, determination, and caring nature. She has been in several plays, but this will make her first Weathervane show and her very first musical. This show is one of her favorites, and she has had a blast being a part of it. She hopes to be in many more Weathervane productions in the near future.



KAITLYN HARRIS (Louann) is very excited to be returning to Weathervane for this amazing show! She was most recently seen in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *I Love You Because*. Other credits include April in *Company* and Olive Ostrovsky in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!* Outside of the Theater she owns Maid 2 Sparkle Cleaning Service and works as a Princess for Tiaras and Treasures! You will most likely find her as well as the rest of the cast at Bricco after the show! "Enjoy!"



ALEXANDRA HARTENSTEIN (Matron, Principal) is delighted for her first production with Weathervane Playhouse. Alexandra attends Kent State University, pursuing a Bachelors in Vocal Performance, where she works with tenor Timothy Culver. Alexandra was last seen on stage as Iris in *The Harpies* and 2nd Lady in Kent State's production of *The Magic Flute*. She was also part of the ensemble of *La bohème* with Cleveland Opera Theatre. This summer she will be attending Red River Lyric Opera Company in Wichita, Texas as part of their Young Artist Program. She has also been seen on stage as Leila in *Iolanthe*, Mrs. Higgins in *My Fair Lady* and The Announcer in *The Gallantry*. Alexandra would like to say a huge thanks to her friends, family and her voice teacher (aka, Dad.) She wouldn't be where she is without the love and support from each and every one of you. Luke 6:38



BRIAN HIRSCH (Link Larkin) is happy to return to the Weathervane stage. He was last seen in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2011. He is currently a computer

engineering student at The University of Akron, where he is a part of Alpha Sigma Phi and Nuance. Recent roles include *Shrek the Musical* (Prince Farquaad), and *Ghost the Musical* (Sam Wheat).



RUSSELL B. KUNZ (Spritzer, Bum, Guard, Newscaster) is very pleased to appear in *Hairspray* at Weathervane Playhouse. His last production here was *Red* earlier this season, and prior to that *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*, this is his first time onstage with his daughter Rocky. "No doubt about it, I gotta get another hat."



ROCKY KUNZ (Nancy Hooker, Cue Card Holder) has been performing since she was 3 years old. She started with ballet for 7 years at Nan Klinger Excellence in Dance, then moved on to jazz and hip-hop for 7 more. In middle school, she was in her first professional performance at Barberton's Magical Theater, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Rocky attended Miller South and Firestone high-school participating in their visual and performing arts programs and studied opera with Sue Wallin at West Side Vocal Academy. In addition to voice and dance recitals, her stage credits include *Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Mary Poppins*.



JEANNE LUSTER (Lucy Beatnik Chick, Swing) is excited to perform in her first production at Weathervane Playhouse. She is an incoming sophomore at Firestone High School Akron School of the Arts, and recently appeared in their production *In the Heights*. She would like to thank the amazing cast for her wonderful experience performing in *Hairspray*.



AMAYA MATHIS (Kamilah) plays one of the Dynamites in *Hairspray*, and she is in the 9th grade and will graduate in 2020. This is her second time performing in a musical; her first musical

was *Godspell*. She loves love singing and acting and thought it would be fun to be in a musical (and *Hairspray* is one of her favorite musicals). *Hairspray* was the very first live musical she saw, and ever since that day she has wanted to entertain people. She's very excited to perform with such talented people.



JONATHON MERECHANT (Seaweed J. Stubbs) Jonathan has been on the Weathervane stage in their productions of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney), *Hair* (tribe), *Peter Pan* (Starkey) and *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakim). He made his backstage crew debut on the props crew for *Dracula*. You also may recall his many performances as Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* from 2007 to 2012. Other roles include Dr. Watson in *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes* and The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, both at Weathervane. Other credits include Benjamin Coffin III in *Rent* at North Canton Playhouse, ensemble in *Ragtime* at Kent State University and ensemble in *The Producers* at Firestone High School. Jonathan currently attends Akron University for business.



ALDEN MUNNERLYN (Thad) returns to our stage after making his Weathervane debut in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* last summer and performing as Simeon in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* this past winter. He is a senior at the STEM high school in Akron. His stage credits include *The Wiz*, *Paul: A Musical Journey*, *The Music Man*, and *High School Musical*. Alden plans on attending The University of Akron to pursue audio and video editing. He sings in his church choir, is the only tuba player and leader of the low brass section in his school band and the leader of his school Robotics Club.



JADA-LYNN PLEDGER (Shayna) is thrilled to be returning to the Weathervane stage after appearing as Grandma Josephine in last summer's production of *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. She is a seventh-grader studying Drama, Dance, and Show Choir at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. She is also a

member of the Weathervane's Chanticleer Show Choir. Her previous stage credits include *Cinderella* (Featured Dancer/Footman), *Once on This Island* (Featured Soloist), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Children's Choir), *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet* (Narrator), and more. She has also performed at the Akron Civic Theatre for Miller South's Big Show and Helen Welch's Winter Concert. Jada was recently inducted into the National Junior Thespian Society as well. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to Disney and *Hamilton* tunes, gymnastics, and shopping with friends.



MARY ROHRER (Shelley, Dance Captain) is a sophomore at Firestone High School. She participates in the ASA Dance program and is in women's chorus. She plays soccer, softball, and is in the Catalina club. She has also been three musicals at FHS. Mary been dancing for 12 years with Miss Sheena Mason. This is her second production at Weathervane Playhouse and is excited for this experience. "Thank you to my friends and family for the support!"



ROBERT RUSH (Mikey) celebrates his Robbie Rush's first performance at Weathervane Playhouse. Before being here, he has been in the past five shows performed at Woodridge High School. His favorite roles among these were Lysander (*A Midsummer's Night Dream*), Lefou (*Beauty and the Beast*), and Judas (*Godspell*). He would like to thank all of his friends and family who came out to the show to support him. Robbie would like to dedicate his performance to all of his friends who have helped him grow immensely in the theatre!



LARRY SIMS (Duane, Photographer) is thrilled to be making his Weathervane debut in *Hairspray*. He has performed in a number of shows for Firestone Theatre, Akron-All City, and the Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop (YEPAW). Larry's favorite previous productions include *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *The Wiz*. He is looking forward to being a part of this show because it is one of

his favorites. Larry is an elite gymnast, four year member of YEPAW, has been a member of the Akron School of the Arts dance department (intro), and has also attended master classes for the Dance Theatre of Harlem. In his spare time, he enjoys dancing, tumbling, and hanging out with friends. He plans to not stop his beat as he moves to Atlanta, Georgia this summer! Lastly, Larry would like to thank Marissa for the opportunity to be onstage with such a talented cast, and hopes everyone enjoys the show!



JARED SPARKS (IQ, Hot Dog Man) is over the moon to be surrounded by such a talented group of people in his fourth production at Weathervane. He just finished performing as one of the Apostles in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Jared has been involved in theater since a very early age both on and off stage. Some of his favorite roles have been Ensemble in *Ordinary Days*, Charlie Gordon in *Flowers for Algernon*, Butch Myers in *Leading Ladies*, Kenickie in *Grease*, and Japheth in *Two by Two*. Jared would like to thank Melanie as well as his friends and family for their support and for putting up with the "I can't. I have rehearsal" excuses. Philippians 4:13



HOPE SPINNER (Brenda) is very excited to return to the Weathervane stage this summer. Previously she appeared at Weathervane in two productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Asher's wife/Levi's wife). She spent last summer on the Medina CAMEO stage in its production of *Godspell* (The First Disciple). Other favorite past roles include *The Sound of Music* (Liesl), *West Side Story* (Conseula), *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel) and *High School Musical* (Gabriella). Hope has also been featured in the Akron Civic's All-City productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Shrek: The Musical*. Hope will be a senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in the fall, where she is Vice President of the school's Thespian Society and an active member of the choral department. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support as she continues to pursue her dreams in musical theater.



ANGELINA STALLINGS (Cindy) This is Angelina's first Weathervane production and she's very excited! She recently graduated from Akron's School for the Arts and was very involved in theatre at Firestone. Her favorite role is Esther in *Intimate Apparel*. She is planning to attend Kent State University in the fall as a Performance major in Theatre.



TOM STEPHAN (Wilbur Turnblad) was last seen on the Weathervane stage – in a musical – in 2002 when he played one of the fathers in *The Fantasticks*. After a 15-year hiatus he decided it was time to try it again, and once again he's playing the father. A 35-year Weathervane veteran, he fulfilled a life-long dream last season when he played the irascible Sheridan Whiteside in the award-winning *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Since then he's appeared in *The Best Man* with Seat of Your Pants Productions, *Bus Stop* at Aurora Community Theater, and *Sex Please, We're Sixty* at Stow Players. He's also known as "The Voice of Stow" and sits on the boards of several local service, charity, and philanthropic organizations.



GRACIE THANASIU (Tammy) is so excited to be back performing at Weathervane! Some of her favorite roles here include *Peter Pan*, the Narrator in *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, and Kit Tyler in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. In the fall, she is entering her senior year at Firestone High School, where she is a member of the Akron School for the Arts Theatre Program, serves as secretary of Thespian Troupe 5570, belongs to National Honors Society, and sings in Madrigals and Symphonic Choir.



SYDNEY THOMAS (Motormouth Maybelle) a freshman Musical Theatre major at Kent state university. It is her first production with Weathervane and hopefully will not be her last! Sydney has been in many productions before including *Shrek the Musical*, *The Addams Family*, *Children of Eden* and many others. Thank you for joining us and she hopes you have an amazing experience while here.



DESTINEE THOMPSON (Ensemble) is a senior at Firestone High School. She has appeared in many shows at Firestone such as, *The Odd Couple: Female Version* in which she played Olive, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Romeo and Juliet* in which she played the Nurse, Dear Gabby and *In the Heights* in which she played Carla. She has also appeared in the Akron All-City Musical for the past two years. Destinee loves to perform, and when she graduates, she plans to go to college to major and pursue her career in Musical Theater. This is Destinee's first Weathervane production and she plans to keep coming back for more.



SARAH JANE TOY (Tracy Turnblad) is so thrilled to take the stage as Tracy Turnblad in her first show at Weathervane! Tracy is one of Sarah Jane's dream roles and she feels so blessed to be able to perform with such a talented cast and crew. This will be her first leading role in the 13 years she's been doing theatre and couldn't imagine a more fitting role to be her first. Being Tracy has taught her to love yourself from the inside out and be who you are no matter what. Some of her most recent roles include Aquata (*The Little Mermaid*), Morgan (*Godspell*), and Alice Beineke (*The Addams Family*), all at North Canton Playhouse. She is also a choreographer for the North Canton Playhouse and has performed in over 40+ shows. She would like to thank Audra Kate, Jared and her parents for loving and supporting her in all that she does.



MARISSA LEENAARTS (Director and Choreographer, AEA) -Grew up performing in the Akron-Cleveland area. She lived in Florida and performed as an Equity singer/dancer at Walt Disney World for a number of years. At Disney she was contracted in several shows including *The Hoop Dee Doo Revue*, *Disney's Voyage of the Little Mermaid*, and *My Disney Girl's Perfectly Princess Tea Party*. Marissa has choreographed Firestone High School's productions of *The Little Mermaid*, *Mary Poppins* and *Ghost the Musical*. Other choreography credits include productions at the Akron Civic Theatre with the All-City Musical productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, Weathervane Playhouse's Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka*, *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oklahoma!* as well as Ohio University's *Mary Poppins*. Marissa is owner of Spotlight School of the Arts located in Medina. She lives happily in Akron, with her husband Jason and their rotten boxer dog, Mr. Dempsey...as well as her baby boy who is due August 9 this year. Marissa is a member of Actor's Equity Association.



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, Theatre 8:15, Voices of Canton, Weathervane Playhouse, and Western Reserve Playhouse. He retired from teaching music after 33 years, but continues to work with schools in Stark and Summit counties. John has had some great opportunities over the years including working with Arthur Fiedler and Paul Williams as well as performing at Cleveland's House of Blues. He has won four Chanticleers and a YACTA Marquee Award for his work at the Weathervane. He has also done commercial work with the Cleveland Cavaliers. He has a Master of Music in Education from The University of Akron and is a member of the American Federation of Musicians and Ohio Music Education Association.



JERRY DORTON (Stage Manager) served as Stage Manager for *Spamalot* in 2017. Before that he was on the Stage Managing teams for *Peter Pan*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Music Man*, *Pippin*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *Fences*. He has volunteered on props and lighting crews for several other Weathervane productions. As an actor, Jerry appeared here in *The Sound of Music* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He appeared in *Don't Dress for Dinner* with Stow Players. Jerry also has directed fourteen productions at Kimpton Middle School. He teaches seventh grade science in Stow. A graduate of Crown College in Minnesota, he has a Master of Arts degree in education from Kent State University. He was chosen as the Stow PTA's outstanding educator in 2010. He and his wife, Alison, have three children: Amanda, Jonas and Isaac.



CHRIS SIMMONS (Properties Designer) makes his return as a props designer after designing for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* this winter, and *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* and *Monty Python's Spamalat* this past summer, *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* last season and *Oklahoma!*, for which he won a Chanticleer Award. He earned his B.A. in Theatre Arts and Master's in Education from The University of Akron. His other properties design credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Kindertransport*, *Hairspray* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Chris started his fourth year as the Director of Drama at Nordon High School this past fall.



HANNAH VINOGRAD (Properties Designer) is thrilled to be back at Weathervane. Hannah also loves working behind the scenes. She has been the stage manager for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She was the props designer for *Crazy Man* and co-designer for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Hannah thanks her family and friends for coming to see her show. A huge thank you to her wonderful husband, Igor.



KEVIN RUTAN (Lighting Designer) This is Kevin's second design for Weathervane Playhouse. Kevin is a full time IT professional, he is also a member of IATSE Local 48 Stagehand Union.

Previously, you would have seen his work at Actors' Summit Theater, where he was the Staff Light and Sound designer for 6 seasons. While there, he received an Honorable Mention by the Cleveland Critics Circle, for his sound design of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. He has also designed at Cleveland Public Theatre and Ohio City Theater Company. Some of his favorite shows to design were, *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, *A Girl's Guide to Coffee*, *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!*, and *Snake Oil*. Kevin is glad to be at such a wonderful local theater.



JOHN COYNE (Sound Designer) has been with Weathervane as a Sound Designer for two years, putting his talents to work on shows such as *Peter Pan* (2013), *A Christmas Carol* (2014), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (2016). John is planning to attend Kent Stark University for Theatrical Design and Technology in the fall of 2017.



LOREN "COCO" MAYER (Costume Designer) is very proud to have returned to her hometown of Akron, Ohio to work again at Weathervane Playhouse! This Buchtel Griffin graduate attained her Master Degree in Costume Design for Theater from CCM at the University of Cincinnati and has worked in Regional Theater at such venues as The Goodman Theatre in Chicago. She has also taught Fashion Design, Draping and Pattern Making to students at IADT Sanford Brown College in Orlando, Florida. Her most magical moment was being a Costumer for Creative Entertainment at Walt Disney World in Orlando, for over 18 years! Her devoted Puggle, Princess Bella, is always by her side for her creative endeavors in Costume Shops across the United States.



JASEEN 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.



RICHARD MORRIS, JR. (Scenic Designer and Technical Director) holds a B.A. in Scenic and Lighting Design from Kent State University. He was the Technical Director/Production Manager for Karamu House Performing Arts Theatre in Cleveland since 1997. He has designed scenery and lighting for over 104 productions and was the recipient of the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival award for "Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design." In 2013, he was Keynote Speaker at Alabama State University on "African Americans In Scenic Design." Some of Richard's design credits include: *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 Oberlin College Theatre: *Blade to the Heat* and *Omnium Gatherum*, and *TopDog/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 *Cemetery Club*. For Weathervane Playhouse: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Clybourne Park*, *Seven Guitars* and *Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting*.



KATHY KOHL (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a masters 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 painter for the theater department at Firestone High School. Most recently, she was scenic co-designer for our productions of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In 2015, she was a recipient of the Trustee Award and 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 their three children. When not at Weathervane, she very much enjoys being "Ommie" to Parker, Fiona, Beckett and Maisie.



KELLIE ROSSINI (Master Electrician) has been with Weathervane since October of 2016 as the Master Electrician. She designed lights for *The Santaland Diaries* in 2016 and *A Kid Like Jake* in 2017. 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 is currently working on a second in Accounting.

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION:

Phyllis Bernel, Jennifer Desberg, John Kurch, Millie Keyser, Loren "Coco" Mayer, Pat Nichols, Andrea Niekamp, Sterling Perry, Jasen J. Smith

COSTUME INVENTORY CREW:

Yvonne Chapman, Diane Geul, Melanie Hauer, Linda Jarvis, Joanna Mack

LIGHTING CREW

Kellie Rossini
Ken Hardman
Sue Davis
Logan Chapman

RUNNING CREW

Lights
Sue Davis
Kenneth Hardman
Cindi Shama
Sean Vollman

Sound
Juliet Eagon
Daniel Herron
Katie Rowland

Follow Spot
Mike Chapman
Sue Davis
Cindi Shama

Props Crew
Dayna Charlick
Jeannie Clarkson
Meg Hopp
Ginny Kelleher
Chris Simmons
Chrissie Spinner

Set Crew
Logan Chapman
Kayla Foy
Samantha Woodill

Fly Operator
Kenneth Hardman
David Lee

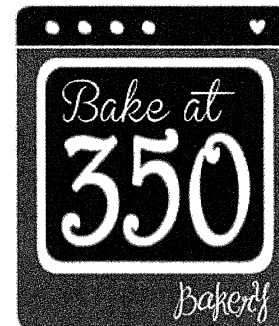
Set Construction Crew
Richard Morris, Jr. - Technical Director
Kathy Kohl - Assistant Technical Director

Bob Brauning
Dale Gilbert
Prophet Seay

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who have recently contributed time and talents.

Patti Alderson	April Deming	Bryson Lambes	Bev Ricks
Mary Lu Barbour	David Deming	Joshua Larkin	Katie Rowland
Phyllis Bernel	Jennifer Desberg	Natalie Laymon	Christina Sanyo
Jeff Bixby	Jerry Dorton	David Lee	Susan Sawyer
Mathew Blazio	Patrick Dukeman	Frank Lucas	Nancy Schaffer
Bob Brauning	Juliet Eagon	Jeanne Luster	Paula Schleis
Karen Burrdige	Denise Eletic	Joanna Mack	Prophet Seay
Eleanor Campbell	Aliyah Evans	Loren "Coco" Mayer	Cindi Shama
Grant Carr	Jill Forster	Coco Mayer	Chris Simmons
Hannah Case	Kayla Foy	Andrew McConahay	Jared Sparks
Logan Chapman	Diane Geul	Cari Meixner	Chrissie Spinner
Mike Chapman	Dale Gilbert	Richard Morris, Jr.	Tom Stephan
Yvonne Chapman	John Grafton	Susan Mullikin	Grace Thanasiu
Dayna Charlick	Ken Hardman	Alden Munnerlyn	Sydney Thomas
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Jason Davis	Ginny Kelleher	Sterling Perry	Sean Vollman
Marissa Davis	Millie Keyser	Stuart Pflaum	Brian Westerley
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List includes volunteer hours worked in the month of April, 2017



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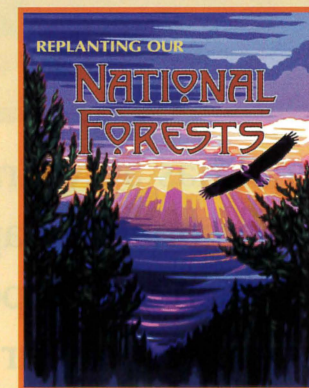


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