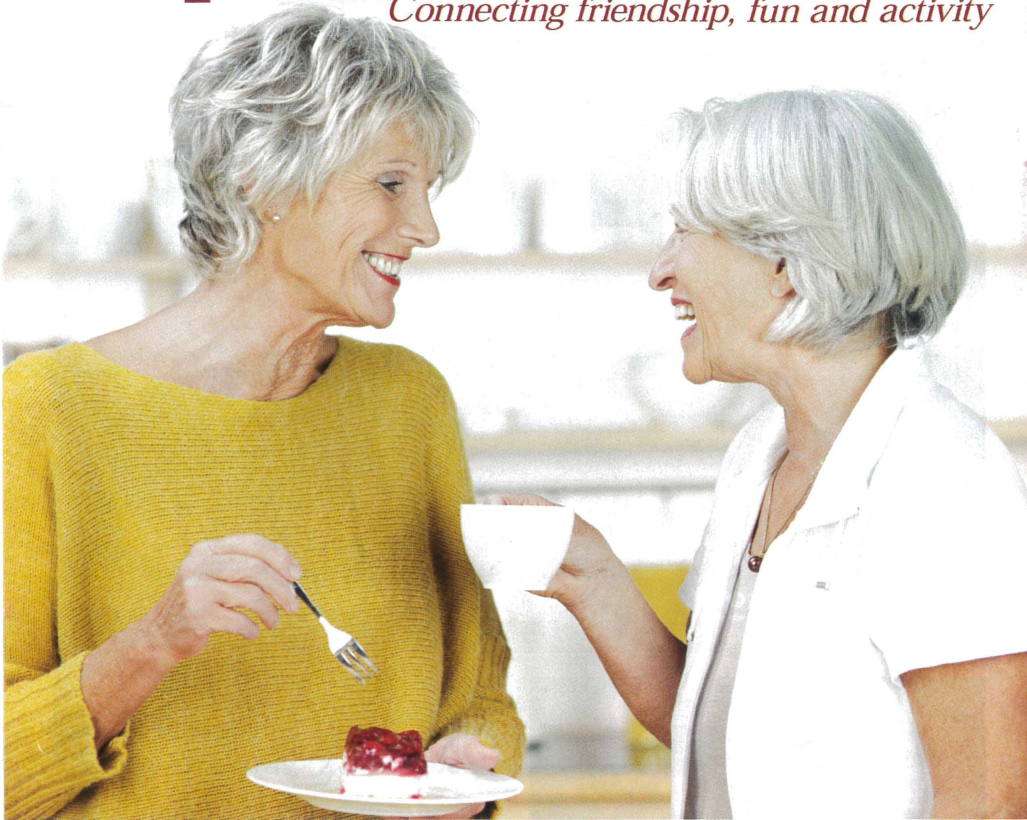


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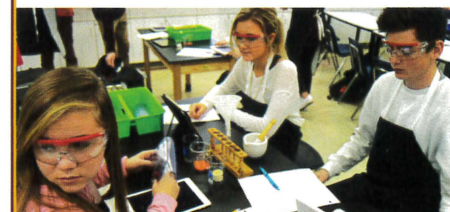
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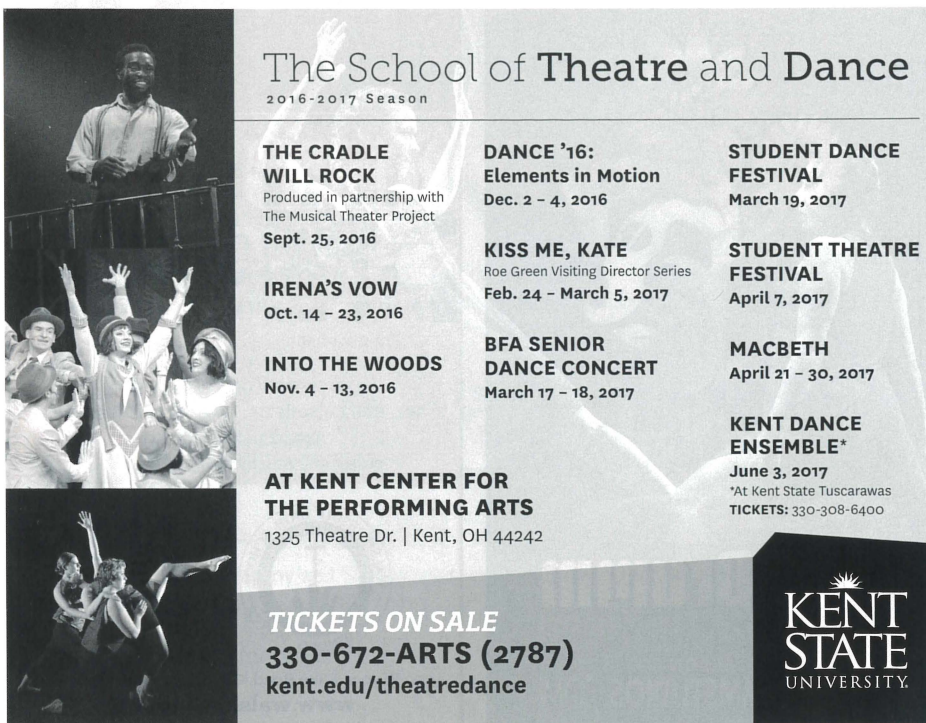
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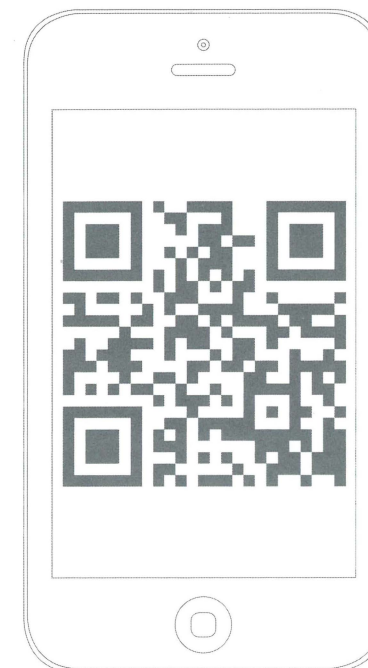
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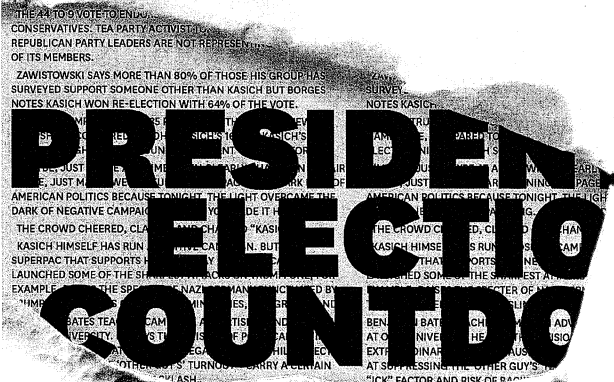


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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

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 75<sup>th</sup> season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 82<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PRODUCTION UNDERWRITERS





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## "Free to Be....."

Artwork created both by high school students and F. Jonathan Kurch, photographer

Please enjoy the artwork created by students of Woodridge High School and home-schooled students, including LGBT teens and their friends/allies, which embody and/or portray the concept of gender identity and gender expression in fine art medium.

Because the subject matter of the current production, "A Kid Like Jake," deals with a couple's concern about their four year old boy's increasing desire to be more interested in "Cinderella than G.I. Joe," I believed that an exhibit featuring artwork by members of the LGBT Community would help put the idea of being transgendered into a different context.

All but one of the high school students participating in this exhibit are students of Ms. Chelby Benson. She is a K-12 Art Educator and Theater Artistic Director at Woodridge High School. For this exhibit she worked in collaboration with Mrs. Susan Mongold, the GSA advisor. GSA is the Gay-Straight-Alliance Group for supporting LGBT Students and Community.

"Our students are very adamant about using the arts to give voice to LGBT teens. I hope that the art they turn in will embrace this concept well. Some of the works I've received are self-portraits, which shows that these students are just normal teenagers not to be feared despite an unpopular sexual orientation," says Ms. Benson.

F. Jonathan Kurch, whose photography complements the students' work, is also a member of the LGBT community. "I hope that something in my work speaks to you. That something can be beautiful regardless as to what it started out as, or what it is believed or expected to be. That something can be strong, regardless as to how delicate or fragile it may appear. That, even though one might feel utterly alone and helpless, there are always avenues of support and help waiting for us. We just need to be open to them. And remember, take a moment to stop and notice the beauty that is all around us and within us."

Because all the artists' statements could not be listed here, I hope you will take the time to read them, as they will be displayed next to their work. Their passion, sensitivity, and desire to communicate is to be applauded. Their work fulfills my hope for this exhibit, which is to show people who are transgendered aren't to be feared, ridiculed, or persecuted.

F. Jonathan Kurch's work is for sale. He has generously offered to donate a portion of the proceeds of all sales to Weathervane. If you wish to make a purchase, please inquire at the Box Office or the Gift Shop. Thank you for supporting the arts!

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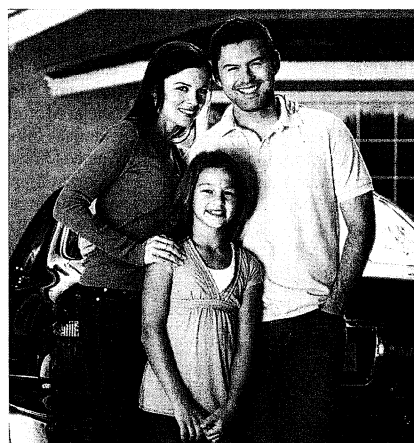
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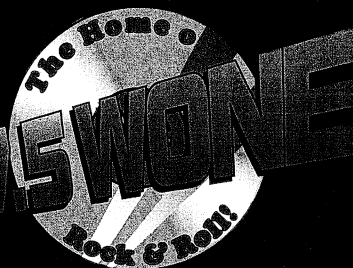
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by Daniel Pearle

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Originally Produced by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City, 2013

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A KID LIKE JAKE is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



## ABOUT THE PLAY

On the eve of the admissions cycle for one of Manhattan's most exclusive private schools, Alex and Greg have high hopes for their son Jake, a precocious four-year-old who happens to prefer Cinderella to G.I. Joe. But as the process continues, Jake's behavior becomes erratic and perplexing, and other adults in his life start to wonder whether his fondness for dress-up might be cause for concern. The story of a husband and wife struggling to do right by their son, *A Kid Like Jake* is a study of intimacy and parenthood and the fantasies that accompany both.

"[A] smart, fluent drama...Mr. Pearle has found an intriguing subject of real currency, and one that stirs our natural sympathy." —*NY Times*. "*A Kid Like Jake* is a searching, keenly perceptive look at how the nature-versus-nurture question can play out on the front lines of tolerance today." —*Time Out NY*. "Daniel Pearle's polished new dramedy...is full of perceptive details about the intense world of affluent parenting, where every child is gifted and the struggle for dominance begins at home." —*NY Magazine*.

*A Kid Like Jake* premiered in a sold-out run at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater (NY Times Critic's Pick). The play won the 2013 Laurents/Hatcher Foundation Award and was also awarded the prestigious Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation's Theatre Visions Fund Grant. It was also presented at 2012 Old Vic's TS Eliot US/UK Exchange in London.

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Mr. Pearle's other works include *The Prodigies*, *Tearin' Up My Heart* and *Plunder* (2008 Loeb Drama Center's Phyllis Anderson Prize). His short play *The Truth About Christmas* was a winner of the 2011 Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival and is published & licensed by Samuel French. Residencies/conferences include: The Blue Mountain Center, New York State Summer Writers Retreat, UCLA Writers Studio. He earned his BA from Harvard University and his MFA from The New School for Drama.

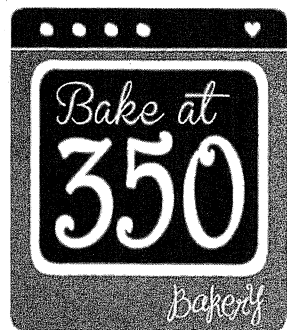
As an artist, I believe that producing theatre is an act of leadership. Artists are tasked with taking risks, telling stories from the perspectives of others, and revealing to us all how others might see us — what we may look like to the rest of the world. By doing so, artists participate in the shaping of the culture we live within. Often, the most rewarding experience in a theatre is one that stimulates thought, opens dialogue, and initiates conversation.

Community Theater is an ideal place for these compelling stories to take place for two reasons. First, because we experience these stories with our neighbors, coworkers and friends. These are the people who share our immediate world, who make decisions with us and experience similar consequences to the choices made in our community. Second, because in the theatre there is no channel changing, no pause button and no muting. Theater requires its audiences to confront and deal with the issues, story, characters, circumstances, and motivations of others.

*A Kid Like Jake* explores the powerful connection between children and the adults who care about them. The play introduces us to two parents who are trying to do what is right for their four year-old son. Jake's "gender variant play" offers this Manhattan family an opportunity to capitalize on his uniqueness in a competitive bid for exclusive kindergarten programs in New York city. But they are unsure about categorizing their son at such a young age. Is this an imaginative, artistic child with a childhood obsession with Disney princesses, or a part of his life-long identity?

Thank you for sharing this experience with us at Weathervane. I'm delighted to share this compelling and timely story with you... A story about how to support the people we love and accept others for who they are. I look forward to talking with you after the show!

Melanie YC Pepe, Artistic Director



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Christine Wright .....	Alex
Brian Westerley .....	Greg
Dede Klein .....	Judy
Allison Kump .....	Nurse

## THANKS TO OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS

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

Susan Baker	Al Costa	Chuck Hass	Megan Nelson
Jenny Banker	Pam Costa	Melanie Hauer	Pat Nichols
Mary Lu Barbour	John Coyne	Linda Heath	Laura Niehaus
Robby Bechtel	Cathy Csanyi	Meg Hopp	John O'Neill
Stacy Bechtel	Scott Davis	Tracy Jackson	Christopher Pepe
Chelby Benson	Harriet DeVeto	Sue Jeromson	Sterling Perry
Phyllis Bernel	April Deming	Craig Joseph	Bess Raines
Devin Berresford	Dave Deming	Erin Katz Ford	Ruth Richardson
Melissa Bittner	Brandi Eaton	Ginny Kelleher	Bev Ricks
Amanda Bouffard	Jill Forster	Millie Keyser	Nancy Schafer
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Eleanor Campbell	John Gill	David Lee	Jasen Smith
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Mike Chapman	Heather Halvorson	Joanna Mack	Scott Thanasiu
Christina Clackler	Sara Hardesty	Tom Marshall	Verna VanderKooi
Jeannie Clarkson	Kaitlyn Harris	Sarah Montgomery	Sean Vollman



**BOB BELFANCE** (Director) is directing his 195<sup>th</sup> production at Weathervane. In 1961 Bob signed on as Weathervane's first Managing Artistic Director and made two promises to the Board of Trustees. The first was to turn Weathervane into the best community theater in Ohio. By 1966, with attendance averaging one hundred-six percent of capacity, critics and audiences were in agreement: Weathervane was one of the premier theaters in Ohio. Bob's second promise was that a new theater would be built for the enjoyment of Weathervane's audience. In 1970 that promise was fulfilled when Weathervane's new theater opened on Weathervane Lane. Bob's many achievements and his lifelong dedication to community theater was recognized in 2002 when he was inducted into the Ohio Community Theatre Association Hall of Fame.



**RICHARD WORSWICK** (Production Stage Manager). Richard is thrilled to again be staging managing for director Bob Belfance after doing the same for Belfance's award-winning production of *The Rainmaker*. Richard previously stage managed *The Waverly Gallery* in the Dietz Theatre, the special production of *Shine* with Hal Linden and *3 Guys Naked from the Waist Down*. He has been seen on stage as an actor many times at the Weathervane Playhouse. Richard lives in Bath with his husband John Grafton and Great Danes – Apollo and Hera.



**JARED SPARKS** (Properties Designer) is thrilled to be working behind the scenes for his second show running! Jared recently stage managed *The Santaland Diaries*. He has also recently been seen on the Weathervane stage as an ensemble member in *Ordinary Days* and Kenneth in *Clybourne Park*. Jared is a senior at Kent State University, working on his B.A. in psychology. He is constantly involved in a show in some way, shape or form. His past credits include *Leading Ladies*, *Women Beware Women*, *Our Son's Wedding*, *Two By Two*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Addams Family*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, *Grease*, and *Flowers for Algernon*. He

would like to thank his family and friends for constantly putting up with the "I can't. I have rehearsal" excuses. Philippians 4:13



**KELLIE ROSSINI** (Lighting Designer, Master Electrician) holds a Bachelor's Degree in Technical Theatre from Kent State University, and is currently working toward a second degree in Accounting. She has been a member of I.A.T.S.E. Local #48 since 1999 and has also worked as the Assistant Technical Director and Lighting Designer for The Canton Palace Theatre, Production Stage Manager for Verb Ballets, Stage Manager for Martell School of Dance, Production Assistant and Stage Manager at The University of Akron Dance Department and The Dance Institute at the University of Akron, Wardrobe Mistress for the Ohio Ballet and Sound Operator for The Manchester Dance Ensemble.



**LAURA NIEHAUS** (Scenic Designer) is excited to be designing scenery for the first time at Weathervane! She has recently appeared on Weathervane's stage in *The Man Who Came To Dinner* and her debut at Weathervane, *Hair*. Last year, she received her Master's degree in Sociology from The University of Akron. Her favorite past roles include *Lend me a Tenor* (Julia) and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mae). She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support.



**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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**RICHARD MORRIS, JR.** (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.



**CHRISTINE WRIGHT** (Alex) is a writer and activist who likes Dali, salt water pools, and mint chocolate chip ice cream. In her spare time, she enjoys Pilates, snuggling with her retired racing greyhound, and embarking on home remodeling projects. She was last seen in the "9 by Nine" at Theater 8:15, and is currently serving as the President of Stow Players.



**BRIAN WESTERLEY** (Greg) has lived and worked in Ohio, New York and Los Angeles. He is thrilled to be making a return to the Weathervane stage after appearing in *Next Fall* in 2012. A skilled actor, Brian appeared in the L.A. Opera's production of *Tosca*, as well as productions of *Levitaton*, *Dearly Departed*, *Jake's Dilemma* and *Wait Until Dark*. While in L.A., Brian became an accomplished director, working with The Blank Theatre and Drama West. He directed the world premieres of *The Day I Said Goodbye* and *Shark Tank* (both of which he also starred in). He has written and directed the plays *Caught Up in a Moment* and *Denial is Not a River in Egypt*. He took *Other Desert Cities* and *Confessions from the Ladies Room* – both presented by Wolf Creek Players – to the Regional and State OCTA competitions, winning 11 awards total. He most recently directed *Thumbs* at Hudson and *Scrooge* at Cassidy. Brian has won numerous awards for his theatrical work, including trophies for directing (*Aladdin*), outstanding supporting actor (*Twilight of the Golds*) and three in a row as outstanding lead actor (*Butterflies are Free*, *A Christmas Story* and *Peanutman*).



**DEDE KLEIN** (Judy) was last seen on the Weathervane stage in *Don't Dress for Dinner*. She has also performed at Coach House Theatre, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Chagrin Little Theatre, Beck Center, and this coming spring at None Too Fragile. Some of her favorite shows include *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, *The Lion In Winter*, *The Goat or Who is Sylvia*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Doubt*, and *Blithe Spirit*. When not on stage, Dede builds and restores dollhouses.



**ALLISON KUMP** (Nurse) is delighted to return to Weathervane Playhouse after participating in *Clybourne Park* (Betsy/Lindsey) and *Dracula* (Lucy Westphal). 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 Bob Belfance 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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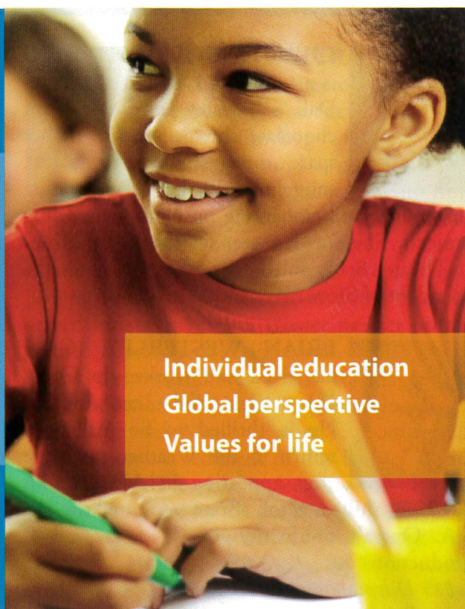


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