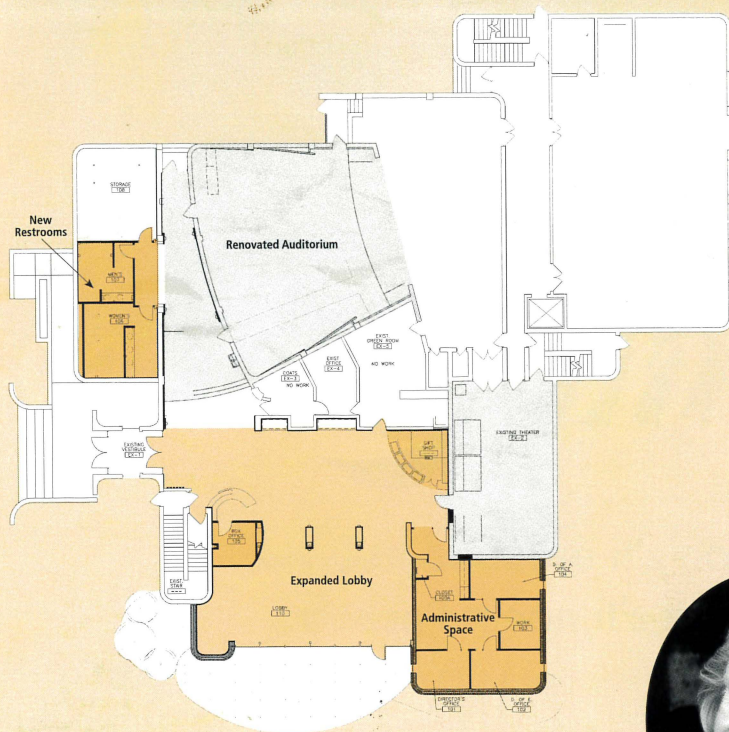


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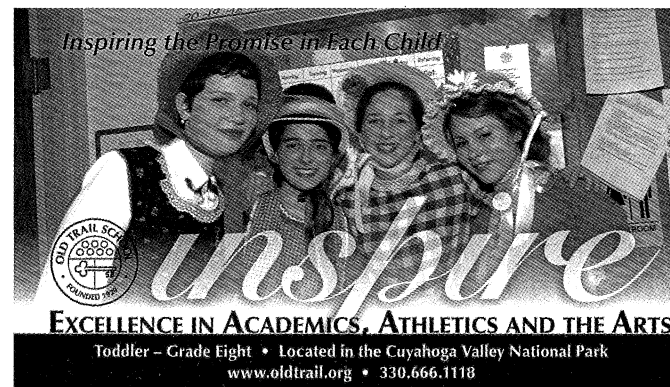
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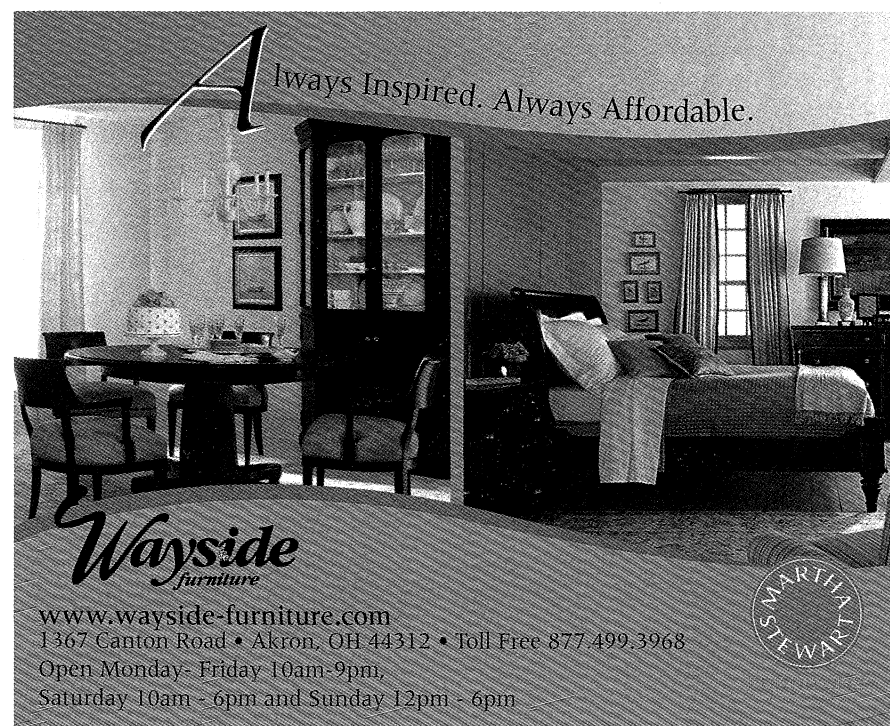


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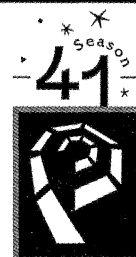
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From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley...

Weather vane Community Playhouse began its run as a live theater 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.

Their first problem was money to pay the rent and to cover production costs. Money was in short supply in 1935 so the women chose a carnival as their fundraiser. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60 which encouraged them to continue. They named their space Weather vane after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weather vane 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. It, too, continues to this day.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1471 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 there were fewer and fewer people willing to commit to directing a play, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. Belfance held the position from 1961-69 and again from 1974-92. 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 planned, plotted and raised funds. It all came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon*. There was ample space and a mortgage. 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. Two major additions to the facility followed; these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop in 2005 became the John L. Dietz Studio/Theater/Classroom, where experimental productions are presented.

Weather vane Playhouse now looks forward to a third expansion and a 75th anniversary.

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In the Harris Family Gallery

I am delighted to exhibit these pieces done by Sally Petersen in the Harris Family Gallery. We are so fortunate that Sally agreed to take on this somewhat daunting task. She has made paper dolls depicting various characters in *The Man of La Mancha*, and has used photographs of the actors' faces to personalize them. Sally lives in Sharon Center with her husband, Lee. Their daughter, Austin, is teaching in China.

Sally states that, "Art is a collaborative process. The ideas may come from a conversation that sparks an idea, a memory of a friend that gives insight to a character, a song that evokes a color or form, or the support and comfort of family and home that gives the love that leads one through the creative process. We are all each other's cast in learning our craft. Our interactions provide the basis for our artistic intent."

As a child, I loved making clothes and habitats for my Betsey McCall and Elizabeth Taylor paper dolls. As an adult, I rediscovered this form as a way to amuse and honor friends with personalized dolls. Now, each piece of paper, thread, button, or shiny bit of junk sparks an idea for another doll. Who knows how many I will make before another art form begs to be discovered? The joy is in finding out."

Marci Paolucci, Gallery Director



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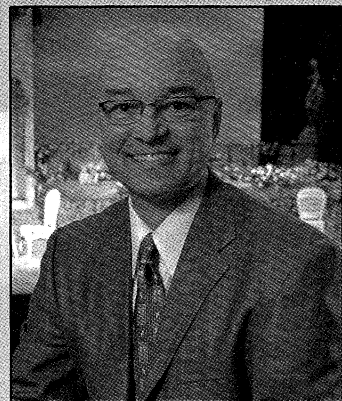
The Human Rescue Plan

In an important study titled "Gifts of the Muse – Reframing the Debate About the Benefits of the Arts," a comprehensive case is presented for both the *instrumental* value of the arts (the indirect benefits) as well as their *intrinsic* value (benefits inherent in the arts experiences themselves). Examples of Weathervane's instrumental value to our community are: improving the capacity of young people to learn, bringing our community together for shared social interaction, being a major contributor to the quality of life in our area and serving as an economic catalyst for Akron and the Merriman Valley. Our total economic impact to the greater Akron area is estimated to be nearly \$1.8 million.

Further, in our local schools there is an ongoing dialogue about the need for students to be "work-ready, college-prepared and ready to earn a living wage." To do that in the 21st century requires creativity and engagement with one's imagination. General Electric's motto, for example, is "Imagination at Work." The testing results from Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, where the school is consistently rated Excellent With Distinction by the State of Ohio in every major academic area, serves as testimony to the veracity that the arts are an essential element of learning and human development. These students go on to have highly successful lives working in a variety of fields, the least of which are full-time careers in the arts.

Perhaps the more important element that the arts bring to our community, though – and less quantifiable – is of a more intrinsic nature. Our commitment at Weathervane is to give people a way of accessing a sense of their own humanity through involvement in dramatic art – both as participants and as audience members. Through looking at the world from someone else's point of view and "walking in their shoes," there can emerge a greater sense of understanding and empathy for others. You can only look at the stunning results of the Shakespeare Behind Bars program in Louisville, Kentucky as an example. This is a program where convicted felons rehearse and perform plays by William Shakespeare over a period of years while incarcerated. What's been learned from this work is that the recidivism rate for those inmates who participated in the program and were released from prison was zero, compared to the national rate estimated at over 67%. This is an incredible finding given the fact that many of the over 2.3 million people currently serving jail time in our country are eventually going to be released back into our communities. What would having access to similar kinds of arts experiences have on people before they get to the point where they contemplate criminal behavior?

We believe the arts can not only contribute mightily to our country's financial rescue plan, but they can also play an integral role in our nation's human rescue plan as well.



John Hedges
Executive Director
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ROBYN E. COOPER

Man of La Mancha is produced by special arrangement with
Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc. 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022.



Weathervane productions are sponsored in part by **Ohio Arts Council**

Weathervane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186
Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 • Fax: 330-873-2150 • weathervaneplayhouse.com



About the Musical's History

Weathervane's first production of *Man of La Mancha*, directed by Bob Belfance, was the opening production of the 1981-1982 season.

Man of La Mancha was inspired by a novel written by Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes (1547 to 1616). The stage version first began as a television adaptation by American writer Dale Wasserman. The CBS TV network aired *I, Don Quixote* on November 9, 1959, as part of its 90-minute, monthly anthology series *The DuPont Show of the Month*.

Wasserman returned to his teleplay in the mid 1960s to collaborate with composer Mitch Leigh and lyricist Joe Darion to create a new musical version that the men called *Man of La Mancha*. The show's first production opened in 1964 at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut. For the starring role of Cervantes/Quixote, the producers selected Rex Harrison but ultimately replaced him with Richard Kiley (who would, once the show moved to New York, win the 1966 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical).

After its initial Connecticut production, *Man of La Mancha* moved to the off-Broadway ANTA (American National Theatre and Academy) Washington Square Theatre in Greenwich Village, where it opened on Nov. 22, 1965. By the time it closed on June 26, 1971 – performance No. 2,328 – *Man of La Mancha* had emerged as the third-longest-running Broadway show of its era. For the 1965-1966 Broadway season, the show earned seven Tony Award nominations and won five: Kiley as best actor in a musical, best musical, best composer and lyricist, best scenic design of a musical and best direction of a musical.

As a testament to the show's perennial popularity, Broadway has revived *Man of La Mancha* four times since the original production. Forty-five years after its first Connecticut production, *Man of La Mancha* has traveled around the globe to be performed in dozens of languages: German, Hebrew, Swedish, Urdu, Icelandic, Siamese, Japanese, Slovenian, Finnish, Polish, Swahili – and even in nine distinct dialects of Spanish. In any language and in any venue, *Man of La Mancha's* impossible dream continues to thrive.

About the Writing Team

Dale Wasserman (Bookwriter) was born in Rhineland, Wisconsin, in 1914. He was one of 14 children whose parents had immigrated from Russia. Wasserman left home in his early teens and traveled throughout the United States by way of hopping on freight trains. Despite little schooling, he ended up working in theater.

In the 1950s, Wasserman quit his job as a director of a play on Broadway after becoming frustrated with the process. Television became his next goal. He churned out teleplays for such TV anthology series as *Studio One*, *Matinee Theatre*, *The Alcoa Hour* and *Kraft Television Theatre*.

In 1963, Wasserman adapted Ken Kesey's novel, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, for the Broadway stage. Two years later, he collaborated with composer Mitch Leigh and lyricist Joe Darion to create the musical *Man of La Mancha*. Right up to his death last year from congestive heart failure, he continued to write. His last play, *Premiere!*, opened this past January at Theater Works in Peoria, Arizona.

Composer, producer, director and businessman Irwin Michnik – who later changed his name to **Mitch Leigh** – was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1928. After graduating from Yale University in 1951 with a degree in music, he went to work in Manhattan as a jazz musician and also wrote commercials for radio and television. (One of his more famous jingles was the catchy "Nobody doesn't like Sara Lee.") In 1965 he composed the music for the show that would become his best-known work, *Man of La Mancha*. For his creative contributions, Leigh won two 1966 Tony Awards: one for best musical and one for best composer.

In addition to his Tony Awards for *Man of La Mancha*, Leigh's honors include the Contemporary Classics Award from the Songwriter's Hall of Fame for "The Impossible Dream," the Drama Critics Circle Award and the distinction of being the only living composer whose work was included in the Metropolitan Opera's Centennial Celebration. In 2001, Yale University named its new music building after Leigh and his wife, Abby.

Born in 1917 in New York City, **Joe Darion** (lyricist) was educated at City College of New York. After serving in the navy in World War II, he began to carve out a prolific career as a lyricist in radio, TV, films, theatre and even symphonic music. As a lyricist, his songwriting credits include "Ricochet" (a novelty song for Teresa Brewer) and "Changing Partners" (a Top 10 hit for Patti Page). Darion died of natural causes in 2001.



Man of La Mancha -- Cast In Order of Appearance

Captain of the Inquisition/Dulcimer.....Mike Groom
Sancho Panza.....Ian Haberman
Cervantes/Don Quixote/Alonso.....Tom Barnes
Governor.....Bogdan Pecic
Duke.....Eddie Nabring

Muleteers:

José.....Jackson Sturkey
Anselmo.....Aaron Keen
Pedro.....Frank Castorena

Guitar Player.....Michael Curtis
Aldonza/Dulcinea.....Rebecca Marks
Innkeeper.....Bogdan Pecic
Maria (Innkeeper's Wife).....Nicole Ellesin
Antonia (Alonso's Niece).....Sarah Bailey
The Housekeeper (for Alonso).....Sarah Anne Edwards
The Padre.....Donny Ellesin
Dr. Sanson Carrasco.....Eddie Nabring
The Barber.....Jeff Bixby
Prisoners/Dancers.....Hannah Drake, Tiffany Battey
Trumpet.....Malachy Rodriguez
Flute.....Beth Thompson

The time and place: A dungeon in Seville, Spain, at the end of the 16th century and various places in the imagination of Miguel de Cervantes.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.



For Your Safety...

- We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- The use of cameras, recording equipment and laser pointers is forbidden during this performance.
- As a courtesy to fellow audience members, please make sure that cell phones and pagers are turned off during the performance.
- Until our new seats are installed, refreshments may be taken into the auditorium. Please remove wrappers before the performance begins.
- NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



About Our Directors

Jacqi Loewy (Director/Choreographer) is thrilled to be returning to Weathervane after winning several Chanticleer Awards and serving at the helm of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *The Full Monty*, *The Last Five Years*, *Proof* and *The Laramie Project*. Now in her third decade as a full-time theatre professional, she is the Artistic Director of Charenton Theater Company, the Board President of the Cleveland Theater Collective (www.clevelandtheater.com) and will join the faculty of Notre Dame College this fall. Her direction has been seen at the Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Ensemble Theatre, TrueNorth Cultural Arts, the Youngstown Playhouse, The University of Akron, Case Western Reserve University and (three seasons) Lyric Opera Cleveland. She is also a commissioned playwright, a busy radio/television/film talent and the creator of two social-issue pieces: *Mr. Lewis Rules: Stories from the Juvenile Justice System* (born here at Weathervane with Myron Lewis) and *Both Sides of the Family* (an interfaith marriage play now booking nationally). Jacqi appeared on the WCP stage in *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Prelude to a Kiss* and has also performed on Broadway and at many of the professional venues here in Northeast Ohio. She was the Artistic Supervisor for Cleveland's longest-running show (*Tony 'n Tina's Wedding* at PlayhouseSquare), holds a BFA degree in Dance/Musical Theatre, an MA degree (University of Akron) in Theatre Arts, and feels blessed on a daily basis for the opportunities to do the work she loves and the audiences (you!) who allow the work to breathe. Thanks to the FABULOUS cast, staff and crew here who made the *La Mancha* dream a reality!

Eddie Nabring (Musical Director/Duke/Dr. Carrasco) last served Weathervane as the musical director for the 2007 Young Actors Series production of *The Frog Prince*. By day, Eddie serves as the 4th- and 5th-grade orchestra director for Aurora City Schools, for which he has also worked as a musical director for productions of *Grease*, *Into the Woods* and *Bye, Bye Birdie*. As a performer, local audiences have seen him in *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Stow Players and *Assasins* at Theatre 8:15 in Uniontown. He holds a bachelor's degree in music and art education from Miami University. He and his wife, Diana, live in Aurora with their children, Sam and Max.

Musical Numbers

Overture

<i>Flamenco</i>	Prisoner Maria
<i>Man of La Mancha</i>	Don Quixote, Sancho
<i>It's All the Same</i>	Aldonza, Muleteers
<i>Dulcinea</i>	Don Quixote, Anselmo, Muleteers
<i>I'm Only Thinking of Him</i>	Antonia, Housekeeper, Padre
<i>I Really Like Him</i>	Sancho
<i>What Do You Want of Me?</i>	Aldonza
<i>Little Bird, Little Bird</i>	Cervantes, Anselmo, José, Pedro
<i>Barber Song</i>	Barber
<i>Golden Helmet of Mambrino</i>	Don Quixote, Barber, Sancho, Prisoners
<i>To Each His Dulcinea</i>	Padre

Intermission

<i>The Impossible Dream</i>	Don Quixote
<i>Knight of the Woeful Countenance</i>	Innkeeper, Prisoners
<i>The Impossible Dream</i> (first reprise)	Don Quixote
<i>Man of La Mancha</i> (first reprise)	Don Quixote
<i>Moorish Dance</i>	Don Quixote, Sancho, Prisoners
<i>Aldonza</i>	Aldonza
<i>A Little Gossip</i>	Sancho
<i>Dulcinea</i> (reprise) Aldonza / <i>The Impossible Dream</i> (reprise) Aldonza, Don Quixote /	
<i>Man of La Mancha</i> (reprise) Don Quixote, Sancho, Aldonza / <i>The Psalm Padre</i>	
<i>Finale Ultimo: The Impossible Dream</i> (reprise)	Prisoners



Cast Biographies

MIKE GROOM (Captain of the Inquisition/Dulcimer) makes his Weathervane debut in this production. This is also his second go-round with *Man of La Mancha* because he appeared as a guard last year in a production with the Canal Fulton Players, where he also appeared in productions of *On Golden Pond* and *Christmas Gifts*. Off the stage, Mike works as an engineer in radiation therapy for Summa Health System.

IAN HABERMAN (Sancho Panza) was last seen at Weathervane as Teddy in the 2008 production of *And the Winner Is*. His other Playhouse credit include Merv Kant in *The Sisters Rosensweig*, Dr. Scott in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Dr. Kelekian in *Wit* and Senex in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He collected Chanticleer Awards for his performances as Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Zaretsky in *Conversations with My Father* and Lenny in *Doubles*. It would, actually, take several columns to list the productions in which Ian has performed to the pleasure of Weathervane audiences. He has also served as a Playhouse trustee and president of its board in addition to heading the play-selection committee for many years. He has received the Trustees Award for his service to the Playhouse. Ian lives in Sharon Center, holds a law degree from Case Western Reserve University and practices law in Medina.

TOM BARNES (Cervantes/Don Quixote) last appeared on our stage as Coalhouse Walker, Jr. in *Ragtime: The Musical*. Weathervane audiences have also enjoyed his performances in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*, *The African Company Presents Richard III* and *The Piano Lesson*. A fervent sound designer as well, he most recently designed the sound for our production of *A Doll's House* and, previously, for *Sylvia*, *Having Our Say*, *Communicating Doors*, *Dracula*, *The Chosen*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and *All My Sons*. Tom has also been in productions for The Morrison Playmakers and The Bang and the Clatter Theater Company.

BOGDAN PECIC (Governor/Innkeeper) is a registered nurse with Summa Health System, but over the years he has managed to squeeze in some time for theatrical pursuits. He played in the cast of two Shakespeare plays at Weathervane, *Julius Caesar* and *The Taming of*

the Shrew, and in one at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. He is married to Barbara, and the couple has three children.

EDDIE NABRING (Duke/Dr. Carrasco) See Musical Director bio.

JACKSON STURKEY (José/Muleteer) has just completed his senior year at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy in Cuyahoga Falls, where he most recently played Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*. His other theatrical credits at CVCA include productions of *The Music Man*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Oliver!*, *Law of Love* and *Trial of Job*. This production marks his Weathervane debut.

AARON N. KEEN (Anselmo/Muleteer) is a student at Ball State University majoring in Theatrical Studies. He was last seen in *Street Scene: An American Opera* as Charlie Hildebrand and Officer Murphy at The University of Akron. Aaron is excited to be taking on the role of Anselmo once again, as he appeared in The University of Akron's production last August. Aaron is a graduate of Firestone High School, where he appeared in *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Grease*, *Urinetown: The Musical* and *Side Show*. He was also a part of the E.T.C. All-American Youth Show Choir, and after his high school graduation he returned to E.T.C. as an assistant choreographer for the 2008-2009 Season. Aaron is excited to be joining the Weathervane family and to have the opportunity to work with such talented individuals.

FRANK CASTORENA (Pedro/Muleteer) is new to the Akron area and is very excited to be working in *Man of La Mancha* at Weathervane Playhouse. He is originally from Los Angeles, California, and has worked on numerous projects in film, television and stage. Movies he appeared in are *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas*, *Gone in 60 Seconds* and *Ghost World*. TV shows include *The Drew Carey Show*, *ER*, *Melrose Place*, *Chicago Hope* and *NYPD Blue*. His favorite stage credits include *Working*, *Grease*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Frank holds his BA in Theatre Arts from California State University, Northridge.

MICHAEL CURTIS (Prisoner/The Guitarist) is an adjunct music faculty member in guitar at Malone College and at the College of Wooster. He is an Akron native and studied



Cast Biographies - continued

at The University of Akron, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in 1985. He received his Master of Music degree from the University of Arizona in 1988, and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the joint program of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University in 1993. He has studied flamenco guitar in Spain, and also spent one year in Uruguay studying guitar on a Fulbright Scholarship and one year in Ecuador with a Graduate Rotary Scholarship. He performs regularly with other musicians, including two groups who recently recorded CDs.

REBECCA MARKS (Aldonza/Dulcinea) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful *Man of La Mancha* cast! Classically trained with a degree in vocal performance, Rebecca has enjoyed working in many genres of music from opera, jazz, musical theater, R&B to pop/rock. Once having toured the Midwest and the Northeastern states, Rebecca now lives in Cleveland, where she has enjoyed many roles in regional and local theaters including Opera Cleveland (*La Boheme*), the Cleveland Play House, the Hanna Theater at Playhouse Square (where she originated the role of Donna Marsala in *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*), Great Lakes Theater Festival and the Beck Center for the Performing Arts. She has also performed with the all-occasion bands The Impostors Off the Record, and her own band, After 6. Rebecca dedicates her performance to her loving husband, Josh, and their two children, Zachary and Madeline. "Dream big, my knight and my lady...for you there truly is no dream that is impossible."

NICOLE ELLESIN (Maria, the Innkeeper's Wife) is on the stage in her debut performance at Weathervane Playhouse. She has been in several other musicals with Amarinic Productions out of Wooster. Some of her roles included Babette in *Beauty and the Beast*, Patty Simcox in *Grease*, and Louise Bigelow in *Carousel*. She also has played Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Ermengarde in *Hello, Dolly!* and Amaryllis in *The Music Man*. She is very excited to be sharing the stage once again with her husband, Donny. She hopes you enjoy this production!

SARAH BAILEY (Antonia) Sarah has directed our Young Actors Series production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for the past six years. Her other Playhouse directorial credits include *Go, Dog. Go!* and *Madeline's Rescue*. In 2004, she appeared on our

Mainstage as Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense* (for which she won a Chanticleer Award). Sarah has taught many classes in our theater-education department. She holds a bachelor's degree in music from Ohio Northern University and a master's degree in music and pedagogy from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. She has sung at Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic and was a grand finalist in Guangdong, China International Vocal Competition and has also performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. She and her husband Kyle have three daughters – Isabelle, Sophia and Cecilia.

SARAH ANNE EDWARDS (The Housekeeper) is a Clevelander who holds a bachelor of arts degree in theatre from the College of Wooster. Northeast Ohio audiences have seen her as Lucy in *Jekyll and Hyde* (at Geauga Lyric Theater Guild), in *Dracula* (at Stage Left Theatre Company) in *Sweet Love Adieu* (with the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival) and in *Plainsong* (at the Cleveland Play House). She thanks Keith Maag and her family for their love and support.

DONNY ELLESIN (Padre) is performing for the first time on the Weathervane Playhouse stage. His most recent performance was as Rick Steadman, a.k.a The Nerd, in Larry Shue's *The Nerd* for Medina County Show Biz. He has been in several other musicals with Amarinic Productions out of Wooster. Some of his roles include LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast*, Kenickie in *Grease* and Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*. He is dedicating this performance to his beautiful wife, Nicole, who is also in this show and wrote this bio. Donny hopes you enjoy the show!

JEFF BIXBY (The Barber) has, after a long absence, returned to Weathervane, where in 1971 he played Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He was in the 1973 cast of the Playhouse's production of *Indians* and the 1974 production of *Celebration*. He was born in Lakewood but grew up in Medina, where his family for many years operated the popular Bix's Restaurant on the Square. In 1978, he graduated from Kent State University with a degree in elementary education and moved downstate to Cincinnati, where he enjoyed a 30-year career as an educator with the city's public schools. During his time in the Queen City, he lectured at the Cincinnati Art Museum and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. He also created and directed



Cast Biographies - continued

a special theater project at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden that incorporated Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. His retirement from teaching in 2008 inspired him to move back to his roots in the Akron area.

HANNAH DRAKE (Prisoner/Dancer) has just completed her freshman year as an acting major at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where she served as the assistant costume designer for *Intimate Apparel* and the assistant make-up/hair designer for *The Full Monty*. She graduated from Stow-Munroe Falls

High School, where she enjoyed several roles in front of the footlights in such productions as *Aida*, *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Kiss Me, Kate*.

TIFFANY BATTEY (Prisoner/Dancer) makes her Weathervane debut in this production. She has just completed her senior year at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy in Cuyahoga Falls. Her theatrical resume from CVCA includes roles in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Oliver!*, *The Music Man* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Creative Team Biographies

JERRY DORTON (Stage Manager) served as the assistant stage manager for last season's production of *The Lion in Winter*. In 2006, he stage managed the Playhouse's revival of *Fences*. As an actor, Jerry appeared in our productions of *The Sound of Music* (2006) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2003). Elsewhere, Jerry appeared in *Don't Dress for Dinner* with Stow Players and he has also directed nine productions for Kimpton Middle School in Munroe Falls, where he is a seventh-grade science teacher. A graduate of Crown College in Minnesota, he has a master of arts degree in education from Kent State University and was named an outstanding teacher in *Who's Who of American Teachers*. He and his wife, Alison, have three children: Amanda, Jonas and Isaac.

TODD DIERINGER (Scenic Designer) is pleased to return for his third show as a scenic designer. His other design credits include *The Sisters Rosensweig* and *Children of a Lesser God*. He has helped build sets for most of the Playhouse's shows since 2005. In addition, he made the scenery fly each night for both *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Full Monty*. Todd has a bachelor's degree in public relations from The University of Akron, where he also studied theatre. He currently serves as the systems administrator in the admissions office at UA. Todd says, "Weathervane has become a second home and the people here are like family. Thanks for helping me make the magic on this show!"

HEDY JONES (Costume Co-Designer) is a retired art teacher for Revere Local Schools, where she painted the backdrop for a production of *Oklahoma!* She holds degrees, including a Ph.D., from The University of

Akron as well as a BFA degree in art from Kent State University. She has painted murals for the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm (hobo exhibit, rainforest exhibit and the "Snakes Cage"). She also painted the mural for the old Ayres Branch Library in West Akron many years ago as well as other paintings for the Akron-Summit County Public Library. She also worked as a freelance artist for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, painting backdrops for puppet shows and creating drawings for other park projects.

JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Co-Designer) joined the Playhouse staff in the summer of 2008. This season he has designed *Children of Eden*, *Joseph*, *Bloody Murder* and *Intimate Apparel*. Before coming to WCP, he served for four years as the Costume Designer and Theatre Rentals Manager for Akron Design and Costume. From 2001 to 2004 he was employed by the College of Wooster as the Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager. At Wooster, he also served as the resident costume designer for the Ohio Light Opera's 2003 and 2004 summer seasons. He is a graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama. From 1997-2001 he was a Wardrobe assistant at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and he designed costumes for its Graduate Acting Company's production of *The White Devil* in 2001. He is a part-time instructor at Case Western Reserve University, where he teaches costume design and construction. He is the recipient of the Lois S. Garren Award for Excellence in Costume Design from Region Four of the American College Theatre Festival for his designs for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (in 1999) and *Tartuffe* (in 2000).



Creative Team Biographies - continued

ERIN KATZ FORD (Lighting Co-Designer) is a dedicated and longtime Weathervane volunteer who can be found in our scene shop many evenings after work. By day, she is the religious school director for Congregation Bethaynu in Pepper Pike and received her master's degree in Jewish Education. Erin designed the lighting for such Weathervane productions as *The Rainmaker*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Sisters Rosensweig* and *The Chosen*. **ALAN SCOTT FERRALL** (Lighting Co-Designer) began his association with Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. Scott has earned five Chanticleer Awards – one as stage manager for *Fences*, and the others for his lighting designs for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson Before Dying* and his co-lighting design for both *A Man for All Seasons* and *The Full Monty*. Scott also takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players, who appear at Weathervane's annual Chanticleer Awards banquet. He lives in Cuyahoga Falls.

DAVID RUGGLES (Sound Co-Designer) has been a backstage volunteer at the Playhouse for six years. Most recently, he designed the lighting for Weathervane's *Perfect Wedding*. And earlier this spring, he helped design some of the theatrical trickery behind the large mailbox chute that dominated the set of the Playhouse's production of *A Doll's House*. He designed the lighting for Weathervane's 2006 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and sound for *Madeline's Rescue* in the same year. He has also designed lighting for several recent Cuyahoga Falls High School productions such as *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *The Outsiders* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He is a freshman at Kent State University.

M.J. COULSON (Properties Co-Designer) last designed props for the Playhouse's Dietz

Theater production of *And the Winner Is*. An active Weathervane volunteer for the past 16 years, her other props-design credits include our productions of *Moon Over Buffalo* and *The Full Monty*. Retired as a registered nurse with Summa Health System, M.J. enjoys working with the many young people who come to volunteer their time and talents with the Playhouse – and she cherishes the opportunity to chair the Erin Dillon Youth Award presentation at our annual Chanticleer Awards ceremony. In her spare time, M.J. enjoys traveling all corners of the globe as well as spending time in Florida, where her two sons and two grandsons reside.

TOM ABDOO (Properties Co-Designer) is a resident of Clinton whose previous props-design credits with Weathervane include *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *The Dinner Party*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *A Man for All Seasons*. He works on the management team of Parrish-McIntyre and is the proud father of three and doting grandfather to six.

ROBYN E. COOPER (Assistant Stage Manager) last stage managed the Playhouse's 2007 production of *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. She has designed sound for three Young Actors Series productions: *Go, Dog. Go!*, *The Frog Prince* and *Joseph* (twice). Her other Weathervane credits include co-designing both props and costumes for *String of Pearls*, properties for *I Do! I Do!* and *The Rainmaker* and she has also worked on the lighting, sound and properties crews for such shows as *The Full Monty*, *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Outside of Weathervane, Robyn is a member of PNR Improv Troupe and a partner in Innovative Title in Parma. She is the mother of two sons, Randy and Kristiansan.



Production Team

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director
Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson
Kevin Ford
Tom Marshall
Erin Katz Ford
Roger Dieringer
Len Cheslock
Judy Willemssen
David Ferrall
Katie Ferrall
Conor Ferrall
Mackenzie Smith

COSTUMES

Susanne Abernathy
John S. Catlos
Randie O. Sass
Diantha Seibert
Helen Vari
Judy Adamson
Susie Stech
Connie Velotta
Karen Burridge
Melissa Owens

LIGHTS

Leslie Johnson
Leah Magnus
Jen Maxson Draher
Kelly Gifford
Jerry Mirman

SOUND

Justin Miller
Megan Mendel
Hillary Messenger
Margaret Pebbles
Charles Korecki

PROPERTIES

Karen Burridge
John Hujar
Jen Maxson Draher
John Grafton
Pamela Parks Costa
J.J. McAdams
Sylvia Collier
Faith King
Jill Clark

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Faye Sholiton for dramaturgy
Jim Horvath
Boy Scouts of America

Stagecoach Antiques
Kent State University
Department of Theatre and Dance

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

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

Peru Agrawal	Helen Fleming	Nancy Mahoney	Sue Smith
Susan Baker	Trish Forkel	Jo McGarvey	Amy Snell
Patrice Bechtol	Jill Forster	Mitzi Mild	Susan Speers
Mary Blazewicz	Caroline & Steve Garritano	Sheila Motter	Susie Stech
Karen Burridge	Chuck Hass	Lois Murray	Jacquie Sukie
Ken Carder	Marilyn Heagerty	John O'Neill	Barbie Trotter
John S. Catlos	Linda Heath	Pat Obenour	Vera Vander K ovi
Gail & Leonard Cheslock	Dave Heltebran	Bess Raines	Helen Vari
Wendy Cooley	Dave Heinbaugh	Ruth Richardson	Connie Velotta
Thelma Coss	Evie Kidder	Carol Seiberling	Marta Williger
MJ Coulson	Carol Krueger	Pearl Sentelik	Mary Wolfman
Margaret Dietz	Bunny Lacey	Nancy Schafer	Gen Woods
Shirley Edwards	Leslie Lund	Lois Simmons	

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges has an extensive background in theatre as both an actor and a producer. Prior to coming to Weathervane, John spent ten years in the acting company at the Barter Theatre in Virginia, where he performed in over sixty shows. Other acting credits include performances at Town Hall in New York and the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles. Regionally he has worked at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the American Stage Festival where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in *The Cherry Orchard*. John has been Managing Director of First Stage Milwaukee, Associate Producer of North Shore Music Theatre, Business Director of Gloucester Stage Company and General Manager of New York's award-winning Pearl Theatre Company. Mr. Hedges is a member of Actors' Equity Association, served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource and chaired its Strategic Planning Committee, been a Conference Panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education and written for *American Theatre* magazine. He studied at Indiana State University and the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware, is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds an honorary MFA in theatre from Stafford University. He lives in Akron with his wife, Melissa Owens, and their daughters Rachel and Mary, and is a current class member of Leadership Akron.



*Come to our
Diamond
Cabaret*

Weathervane's **75th** Anniversary Party
October 3, 2009

We Only Turn 75 Once!



We invite you to share Weathervane photos and memorabilia for our 75th Anniversary celebration.

Please bring items to the box office between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Mondays or between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Be sure to tag your item with your name and address so it can make a safe return back to you.

How are we doing?

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