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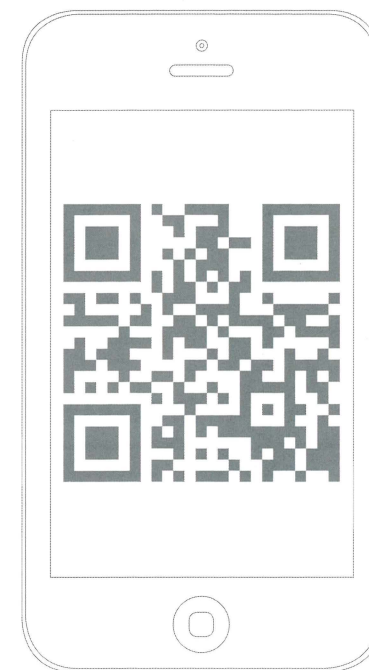
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# WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE and STAGEVIEW

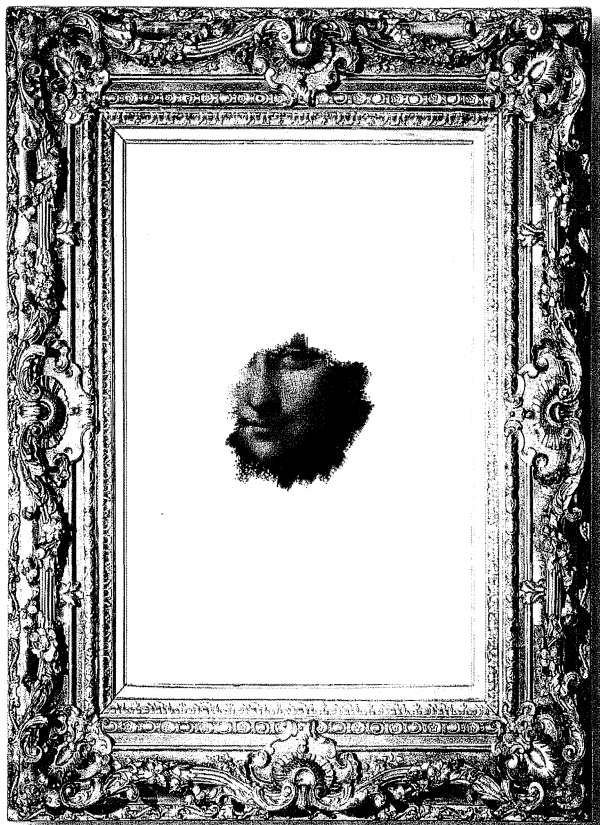


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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

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.

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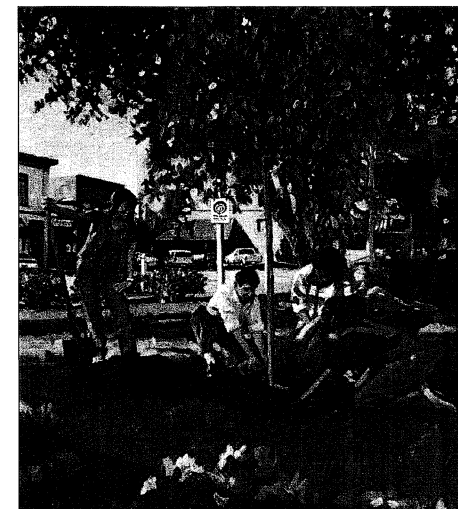
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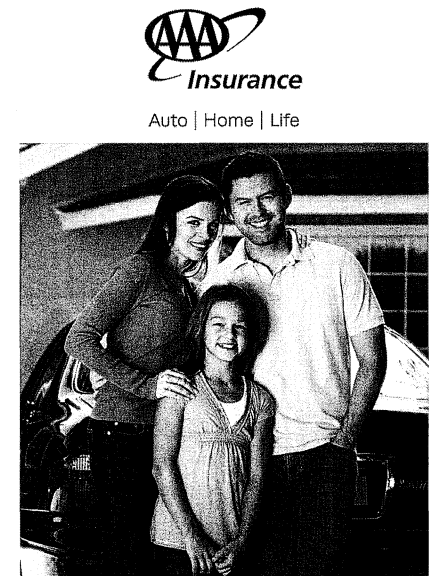
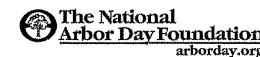
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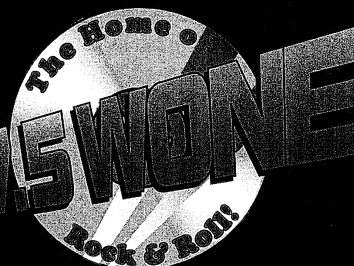


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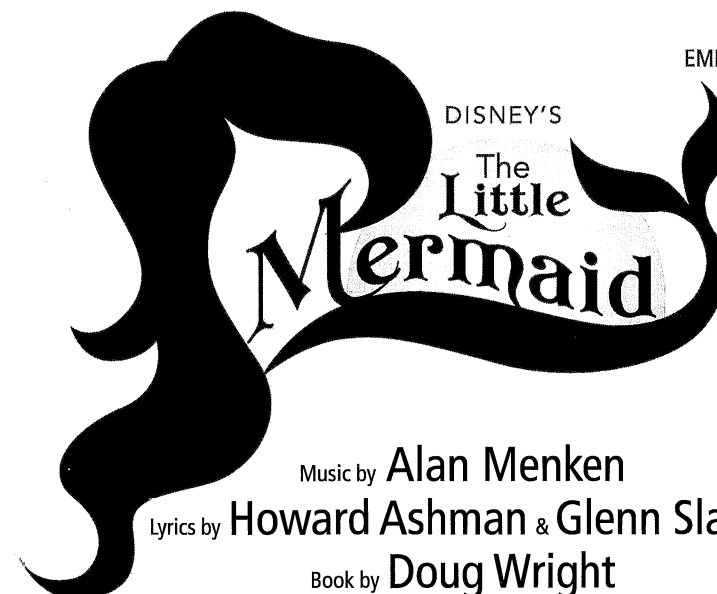


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*Disney's The Little Mermaid* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

**Alan Menken (Music)** Mr. Menken's music and lyrics have become an integral part of the fabric of our lives since his first works were produced nearly 40 years ago. His stage musicals include *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, *Atina: Evil Queen of the Galaxy*, *Real Life Funnies*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Kicks*, *The Dream on Royal Street*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Weird Romance*, *King David*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act*, *Leap of Faith*, *Newsies*, *Aladdin*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. Song and score credits for film musicals include *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Newsies*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, *The Shaggy Dog*, *Home on the Range*,

*Enchanted*, *Tangled* and *Mirror Mirror*. Individual songs for film include *Rocky V* - "The Measure of a Man", *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* - "My Christmas Tree", *Life With Mikey* - "Cold Enough to Snow", *Noel* - "Winter Light" and *Captain America: First Avenger* - "Star Spangled Man." Television credits include writing songs for *Sesame Street*, the ABC mini-series *Lincoln*, a musical episode of *The Neighbors* and the ABC series *Galavant*. His chart topping songs have included "Beauty and the Beast", "A Whole New World", "Colors of the Wind" and "Go the Distance." Winner of the 2012 Tony and Drama Desk awards for his score for *Newsies*, he has won more Academy Awards than any other living individual, including eight Oscars® with 4 for Best Score and 4 for Best Song; 11 Grammy® Awards (including Song of the Year for "A Whole New World"); 7 Golden Globes; London's Evening Standard Award; the Olivier Award; the Outer Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award. Other notable achievements include induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, Billboard's number one single ("A Whole New World") and number one album (*Pocahontas*). In 2001 he received the distinction of being named a Disney Legend. Awarded two doctorates in Fine Arts from New York University and the North Carolina School of the Arts. In 2010 he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Alan's upcoming works include a stage production of *A Bronx Tale*, a City Center's Encores series production of *God Bless You Mr. Rosewater*, a live-action film adaptation of *Beauty and the Beast*, a Sony animated movie titled *Sausage Party*, an as-yet-untitled film musical project at Universal Pictures.

**Howard Ashman (Lyrics)** is known as a pivotal creative mind behind the renaissance of Disney animation and his work on *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin* and *Beauty and The Beast* (which is dedicated to, "Our friend, Howard Ashman, who gave a Mermaid her voice and a Beast his soul...") Ashman's first love was theater. Ashman was

a founder of Off-Off Broadway's renowned WPA Theater, where he conceived, wrote and directed *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, as well as the classic musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* (both music by Alan Menken). In 1986, he wrote and directed the Broadway musical *Smile* (music by Marvin Hamlisch). Lamented as a lost treasure of the 1980's theater scene, *Smile* remains popular on High School and College campuses throughout the country. Howard Ashman died in 1991 from complications of AIDS. For more information, please visit [howardashman.com](http://howardashman.com).

**Glenn Slater (Lyrics)** co-created Disney's 2010 worldwide smash *Tangled* (2011 Grammy Winner, 2010 Oscar and Golden Globe nominee), as well as the Broadway and international hit musicals *Sister Act* (2011 Tony nominee - Best Score) and *The Little Mermaid* (2008 Tony nominee - Best Score, Grammy nominee - Best Cast Album), and, most recently *School of Rock* (2015). With longtime collaborator Alan Menken, he is Executive Producer and Lyricist for the ABC-TV musical comedy series *Galavant*, and has also written songs for the Disney animated film *Home On The Range* (2004) and the Broadway musical *Leap of Faith* (Tony nominee - Best Musical, 2012). In the West End, Glenn provided both book and lyrics for Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Never Dies* (2010 Olivier nominee - Best

Musical), the sequel to *Phantom of the Opera*. Other work includes an Emmy-nominated song for the ABC-TV comedy *The Neighbors* (2013), and the stage revue *New Yorkers* at The Manhattan Theatre Club (Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle nominations). Glenn is the recipient of the prestigious Kleban Award for Lyrics, the ASCAP/Richard Rogers New Horizons Award, and the Jonathan Larson Award. He is an alumnus of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and a member of both ASCAP and the Dramatists' Guild.

**Doug Wright (Book)** GLAAD Media Award, an Outer Critics Circle Award, a Drama League Award and a Lucille Lortel Award for *I Am My Own Wife*. His screen adaptation of *Quills* was named Best Picture by the National Board of Review and nominated for three Academy Awards. Doug was cited by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and awarded the Tolerance Prize from the Kulturforum Europa. Currently, he serves on the board of the New York Theatre Workshop and serves as Secretary on the Dramatists Guild Council. Mr. Wright's works include: *Interrogating the Nude* (1988), *Quills* (1995), *Unwrap Your Candy* (2001), *I Am My Own Wife* (2003), *Grey Gardens* (book) (2006), *The Little Mermaid* (book) (2007), *The Pavilion* (2009).



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"Far out in the ocean the water is as blue as the petals of the loveliest cornflower, and as clear as the purest glass...It is down there that the sea folk live." So begins Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*.

The story we all know and love...a young mermaid falls in love with a human prince and is willing to give her life for just a chance to be with him...originally had a much darker ending. It wasn't until 150 years later that Disney transformed it and took us "Under the Sea" with new characters and an unforgettable score by Alan Menken. I was three years old when the Disney movie originally came out, and it has always been one of my favorites. Its story, music, colors and characters make it a timeless classic. What makes it timeless all comes back to Andersen's very first words. In those few sentences you lose yourself in an underwater world as your imagination takes flight, or in this case, dives on in.

Ariel's quest for love in the world above does not come easy. She is met with prejudice and an unwillingness to look past the differences on the surface. It is her bravery to explore those differences and overcome fear that brings the two worlds together in the end. She has to discover for herself that home is not always where you are from, it is where you can be who you are truly meant to be. It is through all this that she and Eric are able to overcome all the obstacles in their way to find in each other, their very own part of their world.

I am beyond thrilled to be making my Weathervane directing debut with *Disney's The Little Mermaid* and with the Emerging Artist Series! I am continuously impressed with the level of talent and professionalism of the young actors at Weathervane. My first show with Weathervane was in an Emerging Artist show. It was *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, back in 2004, directed by Sarah Bailey. It seems like such a long time ago, but the level of expectation and care that Sarah instilled in this program is as true today as it was back then. I have witnessed it time and time again as a volunteer and designer working with these insanely talented young artists, and I am truly humbled to be able to step into the director's shoes, even if just for a show. Sarah is the reason my Weathervane story is as long as it is. I hope to do her proud.

To my cast, I am so proud of you. You have worked so hard and it shows! It has been a crazy ride as we swam "Fathoms Below," we found out that "She's in Love," and we waited to see if Eric ever would "Kiss the Girl." Thank you so much for your time and talent. I hope to be able to swim with you all again!

Thank you so much for coming, and please, enjoy the show!

Chris Simmons

## CAST LIST

Ariel .....	SARAH CRAVEN
Eric .....	SAM FUJIKAWA
Ursula .....	ALEXANDRA HARTENSTEIN
Flounder .....	CONNOR POWERS
Sebastian .....	JONATHAN MERECHANT
Scuttle .....	JESSE OYSTER
Triton .....	MICHAEL GAULT
Jetsam/Gull Dancer .....	LEXI MAJOROS
Flotsam/Maid .....	LIBBY DUNCAN
Grimsby .....	SAM JUNGMAN
Chef Louis/Sailor .....	MATTHEW HOGAN
Andrina/Gull Dancer/Princess/Dance Captain .....	RACHEL KIDD
Arista/Gull Dancer/Princess .....	EMMA ILG
Adella/Gull Dancer/Princess .....	KAYLEIGH WISNIEWSKI
Aquata/Princess .....	ANNA LIGGETT
Allana/Princess .....	GABI ILG
Atina/Gull Dancer/Ensemble/Dance Captain .....	JADA-LYNN PLEDGER
Gull Dancer/Maid/Ensemble .....	ANNA CLAWSON
Pilot/Chef/Ensemble .....	BRADFORD ZINN
Sailor/Chef/Ensemble .....	GRACE BAILEY
Sailor/Chef/Ensemble/Dance Captain .....	JAMIE BRASDOVICH
Sailor/Chef/Ensemble .....	ROBERT RUSH
Sailor/Chef/Ensemble .....	JAMIE VICTORIA MAYFIELD
Sailor/Chef/Ensemble .....	DAKOTA PUGH
Maid/Ensemble .....	LYDIA ILG
Maid/Ensemble .....	MABEL MINELLI JENNINGS
Maid/Ensemble .....	LUCY KACZMAR
Maid/Ensemble .....	ADDIE WISNIEWSKI
Ensemble .....	CONOR CLAWSON
Ensemble .....	NATALIE LAYMON
Ensemble .....	TYLER MONTGOMERY
Ensemble .....	ANNABELLE OTTO
Ensemble, Windward .....	ELLA STEC
Ensemble, Leeward .....	MAGGIE VOLLMAN

## SETTING

Under the Sea and The Palace

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

## Act 1

## Overture

<i>The World Above</i> .....	ARIEL
<i>Fathoms Below</i> .....	PILOT, SAILORS, PRINCE ERIC, GRIMSBY
<i>Daughters of Triton</i> .....	MERSISTERS
<i>Part of Your World</i> .....	ARIEL
<i>Storm at Sea</i> .....	ORCHESTRA
<i>Part of Your World (Reprise)</i> .....	ARIEL
<i>She's In Love</i> .....	MERSISTERS, FLOUNDER
<i>Her Voice</i> .....	PRINCE ERIC
<i>Under the Sea</i> .....	SEBASTIAN, SEA CREATURES
<i>Under the Sea (Reprise)</i> .....	SEBASTIAN, SEA CREATURES
<i>Sweet Child</i> .....	FLOTSAM, JETSAM
<i>Poor Unfortunate Souls</i> .....	URSULA, ARIEL

## Act 2

## Entr'acte

<i>Positovity</i> .....	SCUTTLE, GULLS
<i>Beyond My Wildest Dreams</i> .....	ARIEL, MAIDS, CARLOTTA
<i>Les Poissons</i> .....	CHEF LOUIS
<i>Les Poissons (Encore)</i> .....	CHEF LOUIS, CHEFS
<i>One Step Closer</i> .....	PRINCE ERIC
<i>Kiss The Girl</i> .....	SEBASTIAN, ANIMALS
<i>If Only (Quartet)</i> .....	ARIEL, PRINCE ERIC, SEBASTIAN, AND KING TRITON
<i>The Contest</i> .....	GRIMSBY, PRINCESSES
<i>Poor Unfortunate Souls (Reprise)</i> .....	URSULA
<i>If Only (Reprise)</i> .....	KING TRITON, ARIEL
<i>Finale Ultimo</i> .....	PRINCE ERIC, ARIEL, COMPANY
<i>Under the Sea (Bows)</i> .....	COMPANY

## ORCHESTRA

Kim Shama-Hanna - Music Director, Piano

Kris Oprisch - 2<sup>nd</sup> Piano

Mick Schaul - Percussion

John Chambers - Bass



**GRACE BAILEY** (Sailor/Chef/Ensemble) is super pumped to be in her first show at Weathervane Playhouse. She is a sophomore at Kent State University majoring in mathematics. Her past experience with theatre includes *Mame*, *Li'l Abner*, *The Addams Family*, (all Ensemble) and *Spamalot* (Laker Girl) at Perry High School. Grace absolutely loves musical theatre and being on stage. Along with performing, some of her interests include Captain America, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Disney, popcorn, Bradley Steven Perry, *The Office*, math, napping, and 50s music. She would like to thank her incredible family and friends (Taylor, Ethan, Nicole, and Sophia) for their endless support, and Weathervane Playhouse for giving her the opportunity to become "Part of their World" and continue doing what she loves.



**JAMIE BRASDOVICH** (Sailor/Chef/Ensemble/Dance Captain) is a Nordonia High School sophomore. She is thrilled to be in her first Weathervane Playhouse production! She has been in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Children's Chorus) *Almost, Maine* (Marvalyn) and *Les Misérables* (Ensemble/Gang). She spends her time singing in Nordonia's A Capella group and obsessing over Laura Osnes.



**ANNA CLAWSON** (Gull/Maid/Ensemble) is an eighth-grade vocal and dance student at Miller South who's appearing in her ninth Weathervane production! She recently played Corny Collins Council member Doreen in the mainstage production of *Hairspray*. 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 voice, ballet, pointe, jazz, tap and modern. Anna, a member of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts, has danced with Verb Ballets (*Peter Pan*), Neos Dance Theatre (*Count ... The Legend of Dracula*) and the Moscow Ballet (*The Great Russian Nutcracker*). She performs with Spotlight show choir, was a 2015 top-25 Weathervane volunteer and is a member of National Junior Honor Society.



**CONOR CLAWSON** (Ensemble) is excited to be entering Miller South as a fourth-grade vocal student in the fall. He made his Weathervane debut two years ago as Nana and the crazy Crocodile in *Peter Pan*. He has also enjoyed playing an Oompa Loompa in *Willy Wonka*, Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* and Horton in *Seussical the Musical*. Conor studies hip hop and is a member of Spotlights show choir. He participated in Weathervane's Neighborhood Playhouse camp and Weathervane classes at Resnik Drama Club. Soccer and baseball are his favorite sports. Another favorite pastime has been playing and creating in his school Lego Club for two years. Many thanks to big sisters Elise and Anna, Weathervane actresses who have shared the joy of theater with him since he was a toddler!



**SARAH CRAVEN** (Ariel) is very excited to be appearing on the Weathervane stage once again! She was most recently seen as Amber in *Hairspray*. She has also appeared three times in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as a wife, the Baker, and dance captain. Other appearances on the Weathervane stage include *Annie*, *Honk!*, *The Music Man*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. She has also been seen at Firestone High School in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* and *In the Heights*. She has taken 12 years of dance. She wants to give a special shout out to Marissa Leenaarts for helping her become a princess and Sarah Bailey for helping her find her voice! "Thanks for coming to the show!"



**LIBBY DUNCAN** (Flotsam/Maid) is excited to perform in her first production at Weathervane Playhouse. In her spare time, she enjoys painting, writing, and playing video games. She has enjoyed the time she has spent with the members of this production, and is grateful for the friends she's made. Libby looks forward to the next, and final, school year at Revere High School and feels excited for her college years. She would like to thank her friends and family, along with everyone who contributed to *Disney's The Little Mermaid*.





**SAM FUJIKAWA** (Eric) is thrilled to be making his Weathervane debut in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*! Most recently, he was onstage at Nordon High School as Marius in *Les Misérables*, a role for which he earned a nomination for the John and Patricia Chapman Best Actor Dazzle Award through Playhouse Square. Other credits at Nordon High School include: *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Topher), *Aida* (Zoser), *The Wedding Singer*, *Almost, Maine*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Benjamin). Sam has also taken vocal lessons with Mrs. Vicki Lester for the past ten years. Offstage, you can find Sam consuming a basic mixture of pop culture, pasta, and coffee. He would like to thank his family, directors, and everyone who has taught him, for their love, shared knowledge, and support!



**MICHAEL GAULT** (Triton) This is Michael's second show at Weathervane, having previously played Pharaoh in last season's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He is a graduate of Ravenna High School. His stage credits include *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow) and *Bye, Bye Birdie* (Ensemble), both at Garfield Heights Community Theater; *West Side Story* (Bernardo) at Chardon Community Theater; South Pacific (Ensemble) at E.J. Thomas Hall; *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* at Ravenna High School.



**ALEXANDRA HARTENSTEIN** (Ursula) is delighted to jump into her 2<sup>nd</sup> production at Weathervane Playhouse playing the role of Ursula. 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 Matron/Principal in Weathervane's production of *Hairspray* and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*.

Alexandra would like to say a huge thanks to her friends, family and everyone at Weathervane for welcoming her into their family! She wouldn't be where she is without the love and support from each and every one of you. "Luke 6:38"



**MATTHEW HOGAN** (Chef Louis/Sailor) is a newcomer to the stage! This is his first major performance in a musical and first at Weathervane. Excited to begin his career with this fantastic staff, he is thankful for the love and support of his family, friends and all those who come out and support the show.



**EMMA ILG** (Arista/Gull Dancer/Princess) will be a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Medina High School this fall. She is excited to return to the Weathervane stage. Past shows at Weathervane include *Annie* (title role), *Honk!*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint: The Smell of the Crowd*, and *Peter Pan* (Wendy). At Claggett Middle School, she played Annie in *Annie, Jr.*, and Nala in *The Lion King, Jr.* Last fall she played Cindy and was the understudy for Brenda in *Catch Me if You Can* at Medina High School, where she also sings in the Concert Choir and competes with the Encore Entertainment Company Show Choir. Emma also plays the piano, and enjoys writing and arranging songs.



**GABI ILG** (Allana/Princess) an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Claggett Middle School this fall, she loves performing at Weathervane. She's enjoyed playing a goose in *Honk!*, a monkey, munchkin and poppy in *The Wizard of Oz*, a pirate in *Peter Pan*, and an Oompa Loopma in *Willy Wonka*. At Claggett Middle School she played Timon in *The Lion King, Jr.*, and Wendy in *Peter Pan, Jr.* Gabi also plays the flute and performs in the Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory Symphonic Wind Ensemble.



**LYDIA ILG** (Maid/Ensemble) will be a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Claggett Middle next fall and is excited to spend another summer at Weathervane. She has played a Lost Boy in *Peter Pan*, and an

Oompa Loompa in *Willy Wonka*. At Sidney Fenn Elementary she played Harper in *The Grunch*, and this past spring she was flying high as Michael in Claggett Middle School's *Peter Pan, Jr.* Lydia also enjoys playing the piano.



**MABEL MINELLI JENNINGS** (Maid/Ensemble) most recently performed in the Ensemble of *Cinderella* at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, where she is excited to be returning as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader this year. Mabel spent the first 6 years of her life traveling around the world then landed in NYC for her first year of school. She spent 6-weeks that summer training with *On Broadway PATP* theater program where she was a featured performer. Mabel is thrilled to be a part of her first production at Weathervane Playhouse. THANK YOU to the production team for this wonderful opportunity.



**SAM JUNGMAN** (Grimsby) is a junior at Manchester High School. He loves working with the cast, crew, and directors of this show!



**RACHEL KIDD** (Andrina/Gull Dancer/Princess/Dance Captain) has been involved in musical theater with the Nordon High School district for several years from her first performance in 2011 as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* to playing *Éponine* in *Les Misérables* this past spring. Rachel is excited to make her debut on the Weathervane stage this year in a show as exciting as *Disney's The Little Mermaid*! In addition to music, she also loves to travel and play soccer. She plans to attend Cleveland State University this fall to study Mechanical Engineering. Rachel would like to give a big thanks to Chris and Megan for their hard work and dedication to every show and also to her family and friends for just being awesome.



**NATALIE LAYMON** (Ensemble) is excited to be returning to the Weathervane. She was recently seen in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She will be a third grader at Uniontown Elementary. Her summer has been

full of fun with Camp Invention, Hilton Head, K.I.D. Camp with Magical Theatre Company, and of course, *Disney's the Little Mermaid*. Natalie would like to thank her dad for giving her the gift of theater. Always remember, anyone can be part of your world!



**ANNA LIGGETT** (Aqua/Princess) is thrilled to be involved in her first production with Weathervane. She is a recent graduate of St. Vincent - St. Mary high school where she appeared this past season as Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* and Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*. She will be furthering her education studying theatre this fall at Cleveland State University. Anna would like to thank the production crew and cast of *Disney's The Little Mermaid* for their hard work, her theatre family at St. V's for their support and her parents and sister for their unwavering love and encouragement.



**LUCY KACZMAR** (Maid/Ensemble) made her Weathervane debut in the production of *The Wizard of Oz*. She has also enjoyed performing in *Peter Pan* and *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* at Weathervane. Lucy likes to fill her time participating in musical theater classes and loves singing and hanging out with her friends and family. Come fall, Lucy will be in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Old Trail School in Bath and she looks forward to being a part of the school plays! Lucy would like to wish the cast and crew of *Disney's The Little Mermaid* to "break a leg!"



**LEXI MAJOROS** (Jetsam/Gull Dancer) is appearing in her first Weathervane production as Jetsam. Her past theatre roles include Crystal in *The Wedding Singer*, Mereb in *Aida*, the raccoon in *Cinderella* and Madame Thenardier in *Les Misérables*. She plans to attend Kent State University in the fall to study Early Childhood Education and hopes to stay involved with theatre. She hopes you all enjoy the show!



**JAMIE VICTORIA MAYFIELD** (Sailor/Chef/Ensemble) is thrilled to be returning to the stage at Weathervane Playhouse, where she has celebrated her love of acting, singing and dancing in the productions of *Peter Pan*, *The Wizard of Oz* and with The Chanticleers, Weathervane's show choir. Most recently, Jamie appeared in *A Christmas Carol* at The Players Guild. Jamie also performed at the Jackson Community Theatre in her most adored roles as Marie in *The Aristocats* and Violet Beauregard in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. A few of her other credits include Tweedledum in *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Wizard of Oz* at Canal Fulton Players. Jamie is very active at her middle school where she will attend eighth grade next year and enjoyed performing in *Grease*, track, Chamber Ensemble, percussion and mock trial. Off stage, Jamie enjoys baking, singing, swimming, gymnastics, and spending time with friends and family. She is so happy to join the amazingly, talented family of Weathervane Performers and wants to thank them and her friends and family for their forever love and support.



**JONATHAN MERECHANT** (Sebastian) J has been on the Weathervane stage in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney), *Hair* (tribe), *Peter Pan* (Starkey), *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakim), and *Hairspray* (Seaweed J. Stubbs). He made his backstage crew debut on the props crew for *Dracula*. You also may recall his many performances 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 The University of Akron.



**TYLER MONTGOMERY** (Ensemble) played Drake the Butler in *Annie* at Our Lady of The Elms. He last performed at Weathervane as a member of the ensemble in *Peter Pan*. *Disney's*

*The Little Mermaid* is his second performance at Weathervane. He currently competes for the North Eastern Ohio Boys League of Gymnastics representing Gym World. He will enter fourth grade in the fall at Bath Elementary. Tyler would like to thank Mr. Simmons for this opportunity to perform again at Weathervane.



**ANNABELLE OTTO** (Ensemble) is in the fifth grade, studying vocal performance at Miller South School for Visual and Performing Arts. This is Annabelle's third Weathervane production. She's previously appeared in *Oklahoma!* (Ensemble) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (chorus). She performs with Summit Choral Society and will be making her debut in the Miller South Show Choir this fall.



**JESSE OYSTER** (Scuttle) is a junior at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy and has been involved in their last eight productions as an ensemble member including *Yes Virginia There is a Santa Claus*, *Father of the Bride*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. He also played the title character in *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, Neleus in *Mary Poppins*, and Ed in *You Can't Take It With You*. Outside of theatre, he enjoys playing percussion for his school band, performing in the chamber singers, being involved in the school robotics club, academic challenge, and student council. Outside of school, He enjoys Sci-Fi TV shows and hanging out with his peculiar set of friends. He would like to thank his parents, his Grandma Carolyn, director Chris Simmons, and the directors at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Denita King and David Myers.



**JADA-LYNN PLEDGER** (Atina/Gull Dancer/ Ensemble/Dance Captain) is thrilled to be returning to the Weathervane stage yet again after appearing in *Hairspray*. She is an eighth-grade student studying drama and dance at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts and is also a member of their show choir. Jada's favorite roles have been Grandma Josephine in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*,

a narrator in the *Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, and Dynamite Shayna in *Hairspray*. 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 playing the ukulele and walking Akron's beautiful trails.



**CONNOR POWERS** (Flounder) is making his theatrical debut on the Weathervane stage as Flounder in this production of *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. He first became involved in acting in the Stow-Monroe Falls School District, where he was cast in the role of Cubby in *Peter Pan, Jr.* in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The next year, he earned a place in the Ensemble for *The Lion King, Jr.* After completing several acting classes, Connor set his sights on a role at Weathervane, which he is thrilled to have accomplished. In addition to acting, Connor plays trumpet in the middle school band as well as the jazz band. Connor would like to thank his family for their love and support.



**DAKOTA PUGH** (Sailor/Chef/ Ensemble) was in *Les Misérables* and *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* at Nordonia. He enjoys theater and being with friends and plans on going to Ohio University to study theater. Dakota would like to thank his director, Chris Simmons, for teaching him how amazing theater can truly be.



**ROBERT RUSH** (Sailor/Chef/ Ensemble) celebrates his second performance at Weathervane Playhouse after just performing in *Hairspray*. Before being here, he was 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!



**ELLA STEC** (Ensemble/ Windward) is beyond thrilled to return to the Weathervane stage, after having performed the role of Scout in *To Kill A Mockingbird* this past winter. Other theatre credits include *Peter Pan* (Michael Darling) and *Snow White* (Bashful), both at Fairmount Center for the Arts. When not performing on stage, nine-year-old Ella spends her time playing lacrosse and thinking up convincing reasons for her parents to let her have a guinea pig. She dedicates this performance to her pet fish, Samy, a cherished prize from a carnival fishbowl ping pong toss game. Ella thanks Mr. Simmons for this opportunity to have fun under the sea as well as her very own supporting cast of family and friends who love her on stage and off! "Love ya right back!"



**MAGGIE VOLLMAN** (Ensemble/Leeward) is thrilled to be returning to the Weathervane stage after spending last summer as an Oompa Loompa in *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*. Maggie is a rising fourth grader at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. She has been dancing at the Martell School of Dance for five years and is a member of the Spotlight Singers Show Choir and the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Choir. Maggie wants to thank her family and friends (the mighty, mighty foxes) for their support as well as Mr. Simmons and the rest of the creative team for the chance to spend this summer Under the Sea.



**ADDIE WISNIEWSKI** (Maid/ Ensemble) loves everything musical theatre and participates in several musicals each year at Highland High School and in the community. Addie shows other students and adults that a disability won't keep her off the stage. Addie's recent roles include Aunt Spiker in *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.*, Godmother in *Cinderella* and Ms. Corry in *Mary Poppins*. In addition to theatre Addie is a member of the National Honor Society, a Peer Leader and a member of 4H.





**KAYLEIGH WISNIEWSKI** (Adella/Gull Dancer/Princess) is going to be a senior at Nordonía High school. She has participated in numerous productions there, such as *Aida*, *Cinderella*, and *Les Misérables*. She also is involved in Nordonía's a capella group, *Synergy*. She spends most of her time rehearsing between these two groups, and working at Rosati's Frozen Custard in Northfield. Kayleigh would like to thank her parents and her sister for being so encouraging, flexible and understanding, her entire family for always being supportive, and her incredibly amazing friends. "Break a leg, everyone!"



**BRADFORD ZINN** (Pilot/Chef/Ensemble) is excited to be making his Weathervane debut in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*! He appeared in his first show ever last spring as Jean Valjean in Nordonía's production of *Les Misérables*. He enjoys playing the guitar and watching sports. He is currently writing a musical with two of his good friends. Brad is a lifeguard and cares for horses. He hopes you all enjoy the show!



**CHRIS SIMMONS** (Director) is thrilled to be directing his first production at Weathervane with the Emerging Artist series. A former Weathervane "Emerging Artist" himself, Chris grew up in northeast Ohio and has been active as a director, actor and properties designer for over a decade. He holds Bachelor's degrees in Theatre Arts and Education as well as a Master's in Education from The University of Akron. Onstage, some of his favorite credits include: *Aida* (Zoser), the Northeast Ohio premiere of *The Gospel According to Tammy Faye* (Jerry Falwell), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Nick Bottom) and *Big River*, for which he earned an American College Theatre Festival Irene Ryan nomination for his portrayal of The King. Behind the scenes, Chris has also designed properties for over 40 productions at several different theatres, including Weathervane, where he has designed: *Joseph, Hairspray*, *Willy Wonka*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Oklahoma!*, for the latter of which he took home a Chanticleer Award. In addition to his time at Weathervane, he is also the current Assistant Artistic Director at Rubber City Theatre and is about to start his fifth year as Director of Drama at Nordonía High School, his alma mater. During his time at Nordonía, he has received the Superintendent's Award twice, an honor he truly considers to be the most meaningful of his career. Chris is so excited to add *Disney's The Little Mermaid* to his directing credits, which include productions of: Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Almost, Maine* and *Les Misérables*, which received two Playhouse Square Dazzle Award nominations this past May.



**MEGAN LEE GARGANO** (Assistant Director/Choreographer) is a native of Cleveland, where she began her training in 2003 at the Royal School of Ballet under the direction of Joanne Hughes Morscher. In addition, Megan studied at The Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts in Connecticut, BalletMet in Columbus, performed with The Pennsylvania Ballet and participated in several dance festivals throughout Ohio. In 2012, Megan received her BFA in Performance

and Choreography from Ohio University School of Dance. While studying at OU, Megan performed in faculty works by Mickie Geller and guest work by Adriana Dúrant, Stefanie Batten Bland and Sean Curran. In July 2010, Megan studied at the Laban Centre in Greenwich, London, where she furthered her studies in Limon and Release Techniques, choreography and contact improvisation. In 2009, Megan co-founded The Movement Project, a non-profit dance company located in Tremont, Ohio. The Movement Project's work has been featured at Cleveland Public Theatre, Hullabaloo/Valerie Mayen, Cellar Door Cleveland, Arts in August, OhioDance Festival at BalletMet, Baldwin Wallace University, Ohio University, Dumbo Dance Festival in NYC, The Breen Center, SPACES and Going Dutch Festival in Chicago.



**KIM SHAMA-HANNA** (Musical Director) is a choir director, drama coach and music teacher for the Akron Public Schools. She also directs the choir at St. George Church. This is her first time returning to Weathervane as a music director since *Madeline* and *the Gypsies*. Kim loves to write music, and has composed the alma mater for three schools, United We Stand supporting victims of 9/11, and the Judy Resnik song for Resnik CLC among others. She has accompanied, written and arranged for Akron's May Festival for 29 years, has been a Building Teacher of the Year twice, and a district Teacher-of-the-Year finalist. She and husband Tom Hanna have three wonderful daughters and three beautiful grandchildren, and own Replay Music and Primetime Recording. Kim is thankful to Weathervane's Melanie YC Pepe, this talented cast, her sisters Cindi Shama and Debbie Davis, and to Jesus.



**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



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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 & 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.



**DAVID LEE**

(Properties Designer) is super excited to be working alongside such talented individuals on this production of *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. David is a student at Malone University working on a Communications Degree with concentrations in Public Relations and Theatre. He passion for theatre is evident in the many projects he pursues around the theatre community, including his direction of *Next to Normal* at Malone University this Fall.



**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.



**JARED SPARKS**

(Properties Designer) is thrilled to be a part of this journey "Under the Sea" alongside David Lee. Jared just recently graduated from Kent State this May with a Bachelor's in Psychology and will be attending Walsh to work on his Master's in Counseling in the fall. He has been heavily involved in theatre since the age of ten, performing at various theatres

including Jackson Community Theater, North Canton Playhouse, Players Guild, Weathervane Playhouse, Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County, Rubber City Shakespeare Company and Kathleen Howland. Jared would like to thank his friends and family and especially David for putting up with all of the "I can't. I have rehearsal" excuses. Philippians 4:13



**STERLING PERRY**

(Costume Design) *Disney's The Little Mermaid* marks his design debut at Weathervane playhouse. Sterling has worked in the costumes several shows including *Clybourne Park*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Spamalot*, as well as wardrobe crew for *Spamalot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Hairspray*. Recently, Sterling co-designed the costumes for the Wadsworth Footlighters production of *Drinking Habits*. He would like to thank his Mother Kari Jo Atha, Jasen Smith, and John Catlos for encouraging his endeavors in theater.



**PATRICIA DONOVAN**

(Lighting Designer) began learning lighting design as an undergraduate at The University of Akron when New York lighting designer, Tom Skelton, was lighting the then Chamber Ballet, later the Ohio Ballet, and teaching classes. She became fascinated with lighting effects and how lighting can set the mood of a scene. After earning a Master's Degree in Theatre from The University of Akron, she went on to design lighting for Kenley Players both at

E. J. Thomas Hall and The Akron Civic Theatre for 13 years. Even lighting *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Papermill Playhouse in New Jersey. After 30 years as a professional stagehand, she began work as the Theatre Manager of E. J. Thomas Hall, where she still works today. It is a pleasure to come back to Weathervane, as she designed lights here for a couple of shows after she graduated.



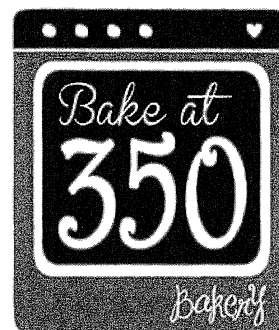
**CINDI SHAMA**

(Assistant Stage Manager) is a retired attorney who debuted at Weathervane as the featured skater in *Xanadu*. She usually spends her time off stage rather than on, having been a choreographer and assistant director at STEM High School in Akron for *Grease*, *The Music Man*, *High School Musical*, and most recently, *The Wizard of Oz*. She enjoys volunteering at Weathervane, and has worked with props, lights, and technology for many shows.



**HAZEN TOBAR**

(Sound Designer) has spent a lot of time with Weathervane this season, most recently, as sound designer for *The Flick*. Other sound design credits include *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*, *MontyPython's Spamalot*, *Clybourne Park*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Hair*. He previously designed sound for *Oklahoma!* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, as well as ran the board for *Unnecessary Farce*, *Hamlet*, *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *Uncle Vanya* and *The Music Man*. Hazen recently completed a B.A. in Audio Recording.



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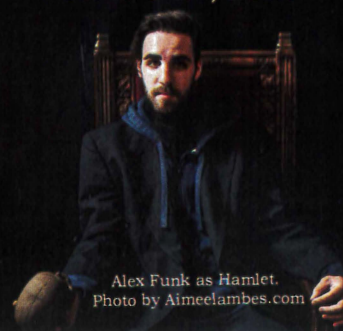
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Alex Funk as Hamlet.  
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