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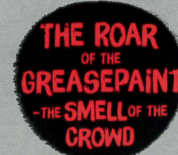
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World Premiere  
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Drama  
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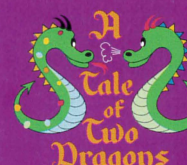
Drama  
Feb. 26 - Mar. 8, 2015



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Comedy  
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[www.weathervaneplayhouse.com](http://www.weathervaneplayhouse.com)





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## A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

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

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members -- Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch -- and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works -- even opera -- with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space "Weathervane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weathervane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935, the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan, with the other founders, offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938, a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. This group is now the Volunteer Guild.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951, the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75th season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 80th Season.



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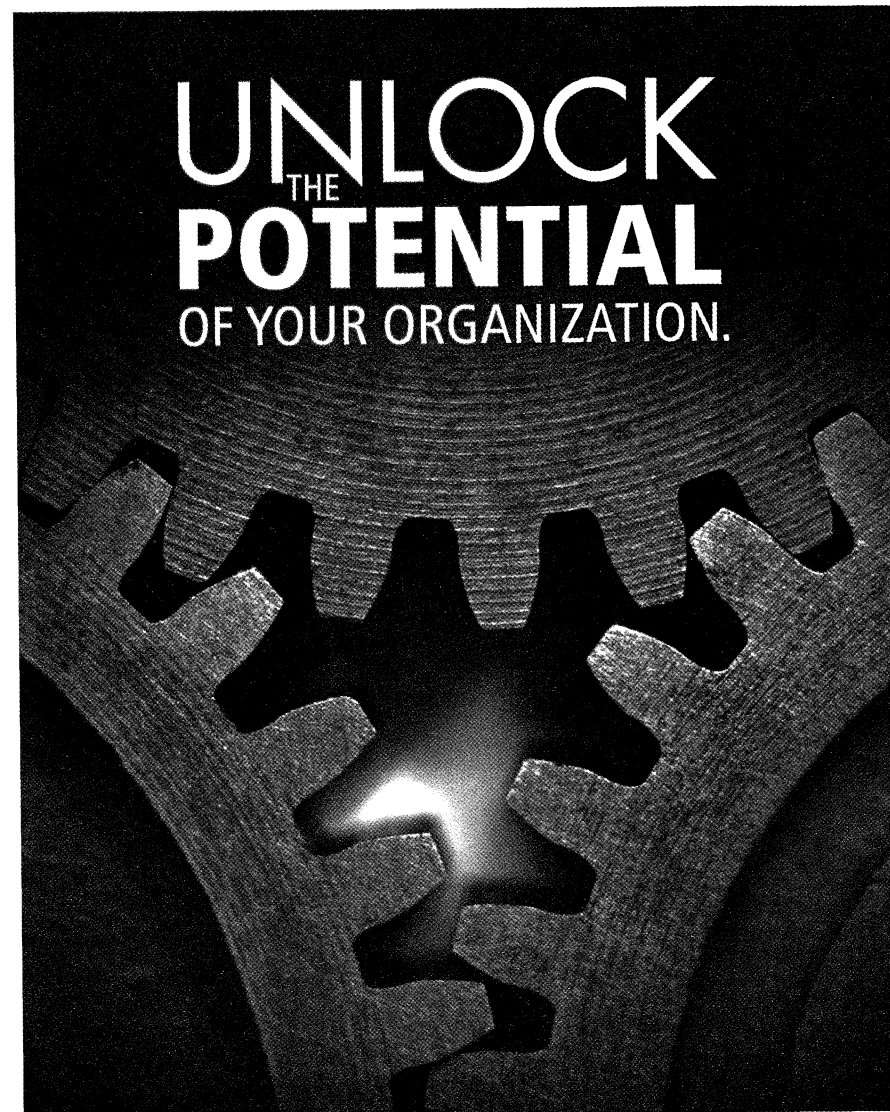
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Your Legacy Gift to Weathervane's Endowment Fund can be as simple as including the Playhouse in your will, establishing a life insurance policy or trust, or making the theater a beneficiary of your retirement savings plan. Or, ask us about Charitable Remainder Trusts.

For more details, contact Janis Harcar at 330-836-2626 ext. 16.

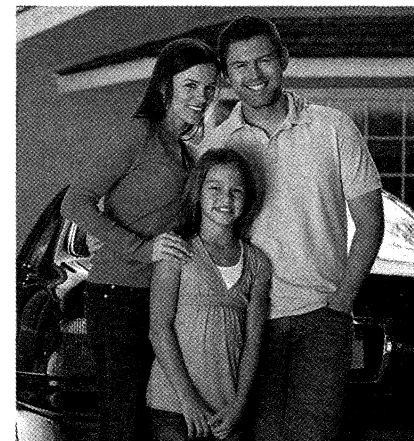
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# Weathervane's Thank You Dollar Program

If you've enjoyed your experience at Weathervane, we ask that you please consider giving a "Thank You Dollar" as you exit the theater. (You'll see contribution boxes near the lobby's exit doors.)

As you probably know, earned income accounts for only 65% of our total expenses. The plain fact is, if each Weathervane patron gave just \$1 extra after each show, we would be able to meet our goal for Individual Contributions! Won't you show your appreciation of this performance with a "Thank You Dollar" after the show?

## Guide:

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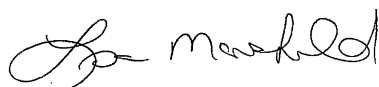
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**Cheer!!! \$3**

**Bravo!!!! \$4**

On behalf of all of us here at Weathervane, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Lisa Mansfield  
Managing Director



## In the Harris Family Gallery

### Quilts for the 21st Century by Carole Pollard

Quilting has always fascinated me. In centuries past, the making of quilts was a necessity that also embodied artistic expression. In the 19th and early 20th century, as the pioneers made their way across the country, quilts, and the creation of them, were of utmost importance. The quilts provided much needed warmth and the making of them brought women together, forging bonds of friendship and community. Today, they are more likely to be the medium for the artist's creative statements. To me, Carole Pollard's work is an extension and exploration of the techniques and subject matter of the quilts that were made during those pioneer years when the story of *Oklahoma!* takes place.

Carole Pollard always loved art and entered KSU in 1957 intending to major in art and English. Despite her love of art, she realized that the greater promise of success lay with English. So, Carole set aside art to concentrate on English. She earned B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in English. During her doctoral studies, she decided that she wanted to work where business, industry and education met and where students could lift themselves and change their lives. Having set aside literature, she taught at Stark State College's Communicative Skills (now English) Department focusing on Technical Writing from 1975 to 2000. Now, in retirement, she has returned to both art and literature discovering that the literature she studied for so many years can inspire the art she intends to make for the rest of her years.

The artist explains: *Art is the love of my life. I began quilting in 1995 with a desire merely to create beautiful things using curved two-patch piecing. The consistency and predictability of the method's design, however, became somewhat boring, and I now find myself groping towards greater significance. I have no desire to do confrontative political work and have discovered that I don't do 'ugly' which often masquerades as 'modern art.' The 'Aha!' was that my degrees in literature have given me a portal into a realm where verbal images can be expressed as visual art. Each piece represents a segment of my life's time, and life is too short to do indifferent work. Thus, I approach each piece with intensity and passion.*

I hope you will enjoy Carole's artistic vision in this exhibit.

Marci Paolucci, Gallery Curator

**Bring your group to  
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## About the Play and Playwright

### About the Play

A groundbreaking masterpiece that launched the golden age of the Broadway musical, *Oklahoma!* spins the tale of the high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys in the Indian territory of Oklahoma at the turn of the twentieth century. This provides a colorful background against which Curly, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey, a winsome farm girl, play out their love story.

Considered a revolutionary show in its 1943 debut, *Oklahoma!* challenged theatrical boundaries, traditions and conventions. The show was the first to introduce a "dream ballet," in which a character's inner thoughts are expressed through an extended dance sequence. And because the musical's song lyrics were written before the music, the show became one of the first musicals in which the songs drove the dramatic action of the play.

In so doing, composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II chose a notable departure from the popular musical plays and operettas of their day, in which songs were often just "dropped in" between plot-driving scenes of dialogue and action. *Oklahoma!* is often cited by theater historians and literary critics as the first "book musical" -- meaning the show's songs and dances are fully integrated into a well-made story with serious dramatic goals that is able to evoke genuine emotions other than laughter.

Featuring such unforgettable songs as *The Surrey with the Fringe on Top*, *Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'*, *Kansas City*, *I Cain't Say No* and the show's stirring title song, *Oklahoma!*, which celebrates young love, the enduring spirit of American optimism and the triumph of hope over pessimism.

### Production History

*Oklahoma!* launched a new era in the American musical and was the beginning of the most successful songwriting partnership in Broadway history. The show opened at the St. James Theatre on Broadway on March 31, 1943. At that time, the longest-running show in Broadway history had run for three years. *Oklahoma!* surpassed that record by two more years, running for a marathon 2,212 performances before closing on May 29, 1948. The national tour played across the United States for an unprecedented 10-1/2 years, visiting every single state, and playing before a combined audience of more than 10 million people. In 1947, *Oklahoma!* opened at the Theatre Royal on Drury Lane in London, where it ran for 1,548 performances, the longest run of any show up to that time in the 267-year history of the theatre. In 1953, the Oklahoma State Legislature named *Oklahoma!* the official state song. In 1955, the motion picture version of *Oklahoma!*, starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones and produced by Rodgers and Hammerstein, was released to great success. Broadway has seen four revivals of the musical (in 1951, 1953, 1979 and 2002).

### About the Creators

Composer **RICHARD RODGERS'** (1902-1979) contributions to the musical theatre of his day were extraordinary, and his influence on the musical theatre of today and tomorrow remains legendary. His career spanned more than six decades, his hits ranging from the silver screens of Hollywood to the bright lights of Broadway, London and beyond. A recipient of countless awards, he wrote more than 900 published songs and 40 Broadway musicals. His first collaborator was Lorenz Hart (1895-1943) with whom he wrote more than 15 musical comedies.

**OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II** (lyrics and book) (1895-1960) His father, William, was a theatre manager and for many years director of Hammerstein's Victoria, the most popular vaudeville theatre of its day. His uncle, Arthur Hammerstein, was a successful Broadway producer and his grandfather, Oscar Hammerstein, a famous opera impresario.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical collaborations included *Carousel*, *Allegro*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Me and Juliet*, *Pipe Dream*, *Flower Drum Song* and *The Sound of Music*. Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote one musical specifically for the big screen (*State Fair*) and one for television (*Cinderella*). Collectively, their musicals have garnered dozens of awards including numerous Pulitzer Prizes, Tonys, Oscars, Emmys and Grammys.

After Hammerstein's death in 1960, Rodgers continued to write for the musical stage, including *No Strings*, and collaborations with Martin Charnin, Stephen Sondheim and Sheldon Harnick. His fortieth, and final, Broadway musical, *I Remember Mama* opened on Broadway less than eight months before his death on Dec. 30, 1979.



## From Our Managing & Artistic Directors

*Welcome to Weathervane!*



After ten years together on staff, Lisa Mansfield and Melanie Pepe are delighted to be greeting you as the new Managing Director and Artistic Director of Weathervane Playhouse!

Welcome to *Oklahoma!*, the final production of our 80th season.

We may be coming in at the end of the season, but since *Oklahoma!* is known as the musical that launched the golden age of the Broadway musicals, it seems the perfect place for us to start. While we may not (yet) have the name recognition of Rodgers and Hammerstein, we hope to have a long and successful tenure here at Weathervane and continue the mission of creating high quality productions with volunteer artists and designers.



We invite you to take a look at the upcoming season of productions and we are thrilled to share our new season with you. We hope that you will join us not only in the audiences of these fantastic productions, but behind the scenes as well. The title song from *Oklahoma!* says, "They couldn't pick a better time to start in life -- it ain't too early and it ain't too late!" Make a new start with us and join us in this new season at Weathervane!

Sincerely,

Lisa Mansfield  
Managing Director

Melanie YC Pepe  
Artistic Director



### Chanticleer Awards ~ August 22, 2015

*Keep track of your favorites!* If you see all seven mainstage shows, OR the Dietz shows OR all three Young Actor productions, you will be able to cast your vote at the end of the season in the following categories:

Sound Design, Lighting Design, Properties Design, Lead Actor -- play & musical,  
Supporting Actor -- play & musical, Lead Actress -- play & musical,  
Supporting Actress -- play & musical, Best Production, Youth Production  
Technical Element, Dietz production Technical element,  
Actor & Actress performances in a Dietz production.



Here's to powerful performances.

We're pleased to support the Weathervane Community Playhouse and applaud its many years of engaging and entertaining performances.

**FirstEnergy**



**Weathervane**

— PLAYHOUSE —

80th Season -- 2014 - 2015  
Mainstage Series Production #578  
June 4 - 28, 2015



**Music by Richard Rodgers**  
**Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II**

Original dances by Agnes deMille/Based on the play *Green Grow the Lilacs* by Lynn Riggs

Directed & Choreographed by **Sarah Elaine Bailey**  
Musical Direction by **Sharon Dobbins Alberson**

Dream Ballet Choreography by Marissa Leenaarts  
Fight Choreography by John Davis

Production Stage Manager  
**JERRY DORTON**

Sound Designer  
**HAZEN TOBAR**

Properties Designer  
**CHRIS SIMMONS**

Lighting Designer  
**JONATHON HUNTER**

Assistant Stage Managers  
**TODD DIERINGER**  
**JAMIE ORITI**

Scenic Designer  
**ALAN SCOTT FERRALL**

Costume Designer  
**JASEN J. SMITH**

Sponsored by **FirstEnergy**

*Oklahoma!* is produced by special arrangement with Rodgers & Hammerstein  
Theatre Library, 229 West 28th Street, New York, NY 10001.

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





## About Our Directing Team



**SARAH ELAINE BAILEY** (Director/Choreographer) On our stage this past summer, she directed and choreographed *The Wizard of Oz*. Her other Weathervane directorial credits include *The Music Man*, *Honk!*, *Annie*, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Seussical*, *Madeline and the Gypsies*, *Madeline's Rescue and Go, Dog. Go!* She also directed and choreographed our Annual Holiday show *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for the past 12 years! As a performer on the Weathervane stage, she played Trix (the aviatrix) in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Sister Margaretta in *The Sound of Music* and Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense* (for which she won a Chanticleer Award). In September 2010, she joined the Playhouse's professional staff as its

Education Outreach Coordinator, assisting the Playhouse's education department in coordinating the hiring and training of the many teachers who staff Weathervane's participation in the Akron After School. Just last month, she became Weathervane's Director of Education. She received her bachelors degree in music from Ohio Northern University and her masters 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 performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland. Her favorite roles include Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Juliette in *Romeo and Juliette* and as Cherubino in *Le Nozze de Figaro*. Her grandest roles, however, remain mother to three daughters -- Isabelle, Sophia and Cecilia -- and wife to husband Kyle, with whom she makes her home in Cuyahoga Falls.



**SHARON DOBBINS ALBERSON** (Musical Director) is a graduate of Kent State University School of Music and was a Blossom Music Scholar with the Cleveland Orchestra. A graduate of The University of Akron School of Law, Harvard Divinity School and Oxford University, Sharon is a minister, lawyer and musician. She is the founder and director of Faith Musicals, a faith-based musical company that produces eight original musicals for the benefit of local and national charities. Her musical *The Trial of Job* was performed in February of this year at the Akron Civic Theatre as a benefit for The University of Akron School of Law Human Trafficking Re-Entry Clinic. For Weathervane Playhouse, Sharon served as the musical director

for the 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Wizard of Oz* (2014), *Honk!* (2013), *The Music Man* (2013), *Annie* (2012), *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (2011) and *Seussical* (2010). Sharon lives in Cuyahoga Falls with her husband Ramsey and is the proud mom of Heather, who is a senior at The Ohio State University.



**MARISSA LEENAARTS** (Dream Ballet Choreographer) grew up performing in the Akron and Cleveland areas. She moved back to Ohio after five years as an Equity performer for Walt Disney World. At Disney she was contracted in several shows including *The Hoop Dee Doo Revue*, *Disney's Voyage of the Little Mermaid* and *My Disney Girl's Perfectly Princess Tea Party*. She has performed in both professional and community theatres throughout Ohio and Florida. Marissa choreographed Akron School for the Arts productions of *Mary Poppins* and *Ghost the Musical*. She is also the choreographer for Akron's All City Musical. Marissa is a member of Actors' Equity Association.



**JOHN DAVIS** (Fight Choreographer) has directed *Hamlet* (2015), *Our Town* (2013), *The Taming of the Shrew* (2012) and the 2011 world-premiere production of *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes* for Weathervane Playhouse. A professional actor, director and fight choreographer for the past 28 years, John is best known for his comedy sword-fighting show, *Hack and Slash*, which has been seen in 16 countries with more than 4,000 performances, including more than 100 performances for the allied forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan. John is a professor in the theater department at Oberlin College.



## Cast

Aunt Eller.....	Meg Hopp
Curly.....	Jonathan Gruich
Laurey.....	Abbey Kane
Ike Skidmore (Dance Captain).....	Kevin Lambes
Fred.....	Kardierre Allen
Slim.....	Zachary Troyer
Will Parker.....	Jay Sigler
Jud Fry.....	Jason Calvert
Ado Annie Carnes.....	Tiffany Cagwin
Ali Hakim.....	Jonathan Merechant
Gertie Cummings.....	Jacqueline Leach
Andrew Carnes.....	Chris Macchione

### Ensemble

Ellen.....	Hannah Vinograd
Kate.....	Jane Adams
Sylvie.....	Kaitlyn Harris
Aggie.....	Julia Figler
Edna LaRue.....	Hailey Ginesi
Mertie Mae.....	Sarah Montgomery
Dottie.....	Danielle Grubler
Irene.....	Erin Rose Hunter
Cord Elam.....	Brad Ferguson
Mike.....	Scott Thanasiu
Joe.....	Daniel Walker
Sam.....	Frank Castorena
Billy.....	Logan Chapman
Josephine.....	Anna Clawson
Dot.....	Alexis Robles
Bessie.....	Giovanna Abucejo
Myrtle.....	Annabelle Otto

**NOTE: Prop guns will be used and fired during this performance.**

The Setting: The Indian territory of Oklahoma  
The time: Just after the turn of the Twentieth Century

There will be ONE 15-minute intermission between the acts.

### PLEASE...

- ♦ Turn OFF your cell phone because even silenced calls and text messages interfere with the sound system backstage, on stage and throughout the theater.
- ♦ Be sure your cell phone is turned off again after intermission when appropriate.
- ♦ If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- ♦ NO PHOTOS inside the theater or recording of the show in any way.
- ♦ Unwrap cough drops or mints before the performance begins.

### For Your Safety...

- ♦ We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- ♦ NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



## Cast Biographies



**MEG HOPP** (Aunt Eller) is honored to be part of this amazing cast and crew and considers herself blessed to perform in Rodgers and Hammerstein's first collaboration. Meg truly enjoys being a part of the Weathervane family. She played Sheila in this season's comedy *Relatively Speaking*, and earned a Chanticleer for her performance as Muriel Eubanks in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. She counts Mrs. Paroo (*The Music Man*), Princess Puffer (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*), *Night Must Fall*, *My Way*, *A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra* and *Arsenic and Old Lace* as her favorite WCP roles/shows. Meg lives in Akron with her husband Steve and works at St. Hilary Catholic Parish in Fairlawn. "Hugs to the cast and crew -- love you all."



**JONATHAN GRUICH** (Curly) is thrilled to be performing on Weathervane's stage for the first time with such a beautiful piece like *Oklahoma!* Jonathan is a current English Education/Theatre major at Kent State University. He is extremely grateful for all of the opportunities he has been blessed with in the theatre world. Some of his favorite credits include, *Hair* (Barn Theatre), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Barn Theatre), *Legally Blonde* (KSU), *Spring Awakening* (KSU), *Almost Maine* (KSU), and *Hairspray* (Akron Civic). He thanks his family and friends for all the love and constant support. "Enjoy the show! Psalm 18: 1"



**ABBEY KANE** (Laurey) couldn't be more grateful to be saddling up in one of her dream roles 'longside such an amazing company! Abbey just completed her junior year at Kent State University as a Musical Theatre Major, where she just appeared as Bonnie Parker in *Bonnie and Clyde: The Musical*. At KSU she's also been seen in *Legally Blonde*, *Plain and Fancy*, *Finian's Rainbow* and *You Can't Take It with You*. She has worked professionally throughout Ohio in *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy Gale), *Gypsy* (Tessie Tura) and *West Side Story* (Anita). So much love and thanks to Sarah and Sharon for this opportunity to continue her passion, and of course her family for being the best support system and "theatre family" in the whole world! "This one's for you guys!"



**KEVIN LAMBES** (Ike Skidmore/Dance Captain) is thrilled to be appearing in *Oklahoma!*, his third exclamation point musical, after serving as

Dance Captain for *Hello, Dolly!* and seeing *Oh, Calcutta!* on Broadway. He hopes to continue this trend by locating productions of *Oliver!*, *I Do! I Do!*, and *Carnival!* to participate in. A life-long lover of punctuation, he lobbies tirelessly to have the semicolon promoted to full-time status.



**KARDIERRE ALLEN** (Fred) is happy to return to the Weathervane stage. You may recall his performances as Gad in this season's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and as Bert Healy in *Annie* in 2012. Kardierre also has portrayed Javert in *Les Miserables* and Albert Blossom in *Doctor Dolittle*, both at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. He is a freshman at Firestone High School in the vocal program.



**ZACHARY TROYER** (Slim) is in 10th grade at Firestone High School, where he is in the vocal program. He also performs with the ETC School of Musical Arts All American Show Choir. Zack has previously appeared at Weathervane Playhouse in *The Music Man* in 2013 and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2012, 2013 and 2014. He also was in the cast of the All City Musical production of *Bye, Bye Birdie* in 2014. In addition to singing and theater, Zack enjoys tap dancing. This year Zack volunteered at Playhouse Square through its STARS program. He is excited to be part of this incredible *Oklahoma!* cast!



**JAY SIGLER** (Will Parker) is pleased to be back on the Weathervane stage. He was last seen here in *Christmas My Way*, *A Sinatra Holiday Bash* in 2013. He has had the pleasure of performing in many shows locally and out of state. His favorites include *Forever Plaid* (Sparky), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert Martin), *Noises Off* (Lloyd Dallas), *1776* (Richard Henry Lee) and *Horn!* (the Cat). When he is not performing, he is a mathematics teacher at Mogadore High School. "Go, Wild Cats!" He thanks the amazing cast and crew for making this a great show! He also thanks his friends and family who come to see him perform and support community theater!



**JASON CALVERT** (Jud Fry) is pleased to be making his second appearance at Weathervane Playhouse. After graduating from Kent State University with an Arts Degree in Theater Studies,



## Cast Biographies - continued

he continued working for the public sector at Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library. He has been in several productions including *A Christmas Carol* (Ebenezer Scrooge), *A Winter's Tale* (Father Time) and, most recently, as the Gravedigger/Player King in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Jason thanks the wonderful cast and creative team, his ever-supportive and loving family and, especially, his beautiful and patient girlfriend, Elizabeth. (Portrait by Bethany Zadai Photography)



**TIFFANY CAGWIN** (Ado Annie Carnes) is so excited to be back on the Weathervane stage after performing in the ensemble of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* last year! Other Weathervane credits

include Zaneeta Shinn in *The Music Man*, the 2011 and 2013 productions of *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Tiffany also played the title role in *The Little Mermaid* at Brecksville Theatre on the Square and Penny Pingleton in *Hairspray*, Akron's first annual All-City Musical. As a senior at Malone University in Canton, Tiffany will be student teaching this fall and graduating in December with a degree in both Early Childhood Education and K-12 Special Education. Matthew 5:16



**JONATHAN MERECHANT** (Ali Hakim) is thrilled to return to Weathervane this summer. You may recall his many performances in *Joseph... Dreamcoat* on our stage from 2007 to 2012. He also played the role of Dr. Watson in *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes* and The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical the Musical*, 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 is a student at Bowling Green State University.



**JACQUELINE LEACH** (Gertie Cummings) is thrilled to be back on the Weathervane stage! Almost ten years ago, Jacqueline played Liesl in Weathervane's production of *The Sound of Music*, where she made lifelong friends. Last year, she performed in Beck Center's production of *Mary Poppins* (Katie Nanna) and Mercury Summer Stock's *Sunset Boulevard* (Betty Schaefer). Before moving back to Cleveland, Jackie toured with the Columbus Children's Theatre, where she enjoyed bringing the magic of theatre to children all over Ohio. Jacqueline dedicates this performance to her friends at

Hekima Place. "It's everybody's duty to give the world a reason to dance." - Kid President



**CHRIS MACCHIONE** (Andrew Carnes) has appeared in a number of community theater productions with Aurora Community Theater, Chagrin Valley Little Theater, ANTIC in Cuyahoga Falls and Hudson Players. He works in Twinsburg and lives with his wife and daughter in Hudson. He is grateful for this opportunity to appear on stage at Weathervane.



**HANNAH VINOGRAD** (Ellen) is thrilled to be back on Weathervane's main stage. Hannah also loves working behind the scenes. She has been the stage manager for *Joseph... Dreamcoat* for the last 5 years. She has recently dipped her toe into property design. She was the props designer for *Crazy Man* and co-props designer for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Hannah thanks her family and friends for coming to see her show. A huge thank you to her wonderful husband, Igor.



**JANE ADAMS** (Kate) is excited to be playing the role of Kate in *Oklahoma!* This is her first show with Weathervane and she is enjoying doing two of her favorite things -- singing and dancing, with new friends. Some of her favorite past roles include Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Gertrude in *Seussical*, Urleen in *Footloose* and Brenda in *Hairspray*. She'd like to thank her parents and Julian for their support and the cast, crew and directors for the wonderful time! "Woooo!"



**KAITLYN HARRIS** (Sylvie) is so excited to be back again at the amazing Weathervane Playhouse! Her most recent production was *Into the Woods*, where she appeared as Little Red Riding Hood! In her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends, working out and working as a Princess for Tiaras and Treasures! She thanks her amazing family, friends and boyfriend, Tyler, for being so supportive through this adventure!



**JULIA FIGLER** (Aggie) is excited to make her Weathervane debut with this production of *Oklahoma!* Past credits include Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes*, Mary Hatch in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Cosette understudy in *Les Miserables*, Tweedle Dee in *Alice in Wonderland*, and





## Creative Team Biographies

Enchantress in *Beauty and the Beast*, all at Walsh Jesuit High School. Julia has taken 15 years of ballet and is a sophomore at Baldwin Wallace University majoring in Early Childhood Education. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. Julia thanks all her friends and family, especially the Walsh Jesuit theatre community.



**HAILEY GINESI** (Edna LaRue) is extremely excited to be participating in Weathervane's production of *Oklahoma!* This is her first Weathervane production. Hailey recently moved to Ohio from Memphis, TN, and is a junior at Medina High School. She has always had a passion for acting starting from when she was little and would write and put on plays with the neighbors' children. Hailey trained as a dancer at NVS Dance studio in Tennessee and would like to continue to pursue acting as a career when she is older. She thanks the entire cast and crew for being so helpful and dedicated in bringing this all to life.



**SARAH MONTGOMERY** (Mertie Mae) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a nearly two-decade absence. She was seen at Weathervane as April in *Company*. She is currently working as a Client Service Specialist at Millennial Group. In her spare time she enjoys reading, cooking and being a mother to her 11-year-old son, Aidan. She thanks her friends who gave her the encouragement to dip her toe back into the theater world!



**DANIELLE GRUHLER** (Dottie) is thrilled to return to the Weathervane stage under the direction of Sarah Bailey. She was last seen as Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet*. Other stage credits include Sophia in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Hannah Tupper in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and Pick-a-Little Lady Maud Dunlop in *The Music Man*. She assistant stage-managed WPH's most recent staging of *Joseph... Dreamcoat*. Danielle is the mother of two sons, Henry (8) and Charlie (15) both backstage and onstage Weathervane veterans respectively. Danielle teaches in The College of Education at Kent State University. Much love and many thanks to Marty, who fully supports her side-effects from being bitten by the theater bug two summers ago!



**ERIN ROSE HUNTER** (Irene) Although she has worked behind the scenes on many shows here at Weathervane, this is the first time Erin has been a performer on the stage. She was in numerous productions at Field High School and took a few acting classes in college before graduating with an accounting degree. Although she has a Monday through Friday office job, she has always volunteered her time with the performing arts whenever possible. Erin dedicates her performance in *Oklahoma!* in memory of her son, Jethro Joseph, who taught her that every day is precious and to live a life without regrets.



**BRAD FERGUSON** (Cord Elam) This is Brad's first production at Weathervane. Prior to this, he recently performed in *Hairspray* at the Olmsted Performing Arts Theater. He hopes to be involved in more productions with Weathervane in the future. He thanks his family for their support, the theater for giving him this opportunity, and God for providing the opportunity! Also, a shout out to every audience member who came out to support the production!



**SCOTT THANASIU** (Mike) This is Scott's first on stage performance. He thanks Sarah and the entire production team for this opportunity and for having shared with him the gift of their direction, talents and amazing appreciation for the beauty of live theater. Likewise, working with this cast has been a most thoroughly joyful experience -- you are so talented! To his dearest friend and cast mate Danielle Gruhler, Scott gives special thanks for her encouragement and inspiration, without which he might never have known this joy. To his lovely wife Diane and his wondrous daughters -- Shannon, Kylie and Grace -- Scott thanks them for having introduced to him this form of artistic expression and for their support and love.



**DANIEL WALKER** (Joe) will be a junior at Kent State University in the fall and is studying theatre with a concentration in performance. This is his 5th play at Weathervane, where he recently played Guildenstern in *Hamlet*, along with Peter in *Taming of the Shrew* and John Holcomb in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Daniel's first play was *The Outsiders* in 2008. Past productions elsewhere have included *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Hello*,



## Cast Biographies - continued

*Dolly!* and Jacob Marley in *A Christmas Carol*. Daniel works as a pirate at Cedar Point Halloween weekends, and enjoys performing Shakespeare. He has trained with John Davis learning stage combat. After graduation, he hopes to become a professional actor.



**FRANK CASTORENA** (Sam) is very excited to be a part of *Oklahoma!* under the direction of Sarah Bailey. Other Weathervane credits include *The Music Man*; *August: Osage County*; *Two Swords*, *a Bag of Marbles* and *a PB & J* (written by Scott Ferrall) and *Man of La Mancha*. Originally from Los Angeles, CA, Frank has worked on numerous projects in film, television and stage. In addition, Frank was a Weathervane staff member/teacher and is now part of Weathervane's Volunteer Guild. Frank holds his BA degree in Speech/Drama from California State University, Northridge, and now lives in the North Hill area of Akron.



**LOGAN CHAPMAN** (Billy) is a student at Akron's Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, where he was seen as Bloom in *Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical* and in *Les Miserables* in 2014 and *School House Rock Live!*, Jr. in 2013. At Weathervane, he was in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Joseph...earlier* this season. Logan studies trombone and steel drum and has been dancing for eight years. He is also a member of the Miller South Show Choir and the ETC Show Choir. He will travel to Eupoe this July to compete with the Miller South Show Choir!



**ANNA CLAWSON** (Josephine) is a sixth-grade vocal and dance student at Miller South School. She got her start at Weathervane playing the title role in *Annie*. Other Weathervane credits: *The Music Man* (Gracie Shinn), *Honk!* (Dot), *Joseph and the Amazing Technical Dreamcoat* (children's choir) and *The Roar of the Greasepaint-- The Smell of the Crowd* (Urchin). Her biggest theater

thrill yet was auditioning for and receiving a callback for *Matilda* on Broadway last year. Anna also played a workhouse boy/pickpocket in *Oliver!* at Porthouse Theatre and Young Cosette in *Les Miserables* at school. She studies piano, ballet and jazz. Next, Anna looks forward to performing in the professional world premiere of *Kris Kringle the Musical* in Cleveland. She will compete with her school show choir this summer in Slovakia.



**ALEXIS ROBLES** (Dot) will be in the seventh grade this fall. She performed on the Weathervane stage last summer in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Honk!* in 2013. She was in the ensemble of *Les Miserables* at her school, Miller South and also in *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.* She was also in the ensemble of *Seussical* for Hudson Players. Away from the stage, Alexis also enjoys karate.



**GIOVANNA ABUCEJO** (Bessie) is excited to be back on the Weathervane stage. In the past, she has participated in *The Wizard of Oz* at Weathervane Playhouse as a Munchkin barrister, a poppy, and a jitterbug. She is currently in the sixth grade at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn, where she has sung a solo, gotten onto the school's honor roll and plays clarinet in the advanced band. Her favorite things to do in her free time, aside from performing, include writing, singing in her school's choir and playing the piano. Giovanna loves gymnastics and playing volleyball. She hopes to be in more productions as exciting as this one.



**ANNABELLE OTTO** (Myrtle) This is Annabelle's first production at Weathervane Playhouse. She has been a participant for three years in the youth education program and has looked forward to this opportunity for a long time. She has been singing her heart out ever since she could talk. She is seven years old and will be in third grade this fall.





## Creative Team Biographies



**JERRY DORTON** (Stage Manager) served as Stage Manager for *The Music Man* in 2013. Before that, he was stage manager for *Pippin*, *Man of La Mancha* and *Fences*, and assistant stage manager for *The Lion in Winter*. As an actor, Jerry appeared here in *The Sound of Music* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He appeared in *Don't Dress for Dinner* with Stow Players. Jerry also has directed 12 productions at Kimpton Middle School and is currently a fourth grade teacher in Stow. A graduate of Crown College in Minnesota, he has an MA degree in education from Kent State. He was chosen as the Stow PTA's outstanding educator in 2010. He and his wife, Alison, have three children: Amanda, Jonas and Isaac.



**TODD DIERINGER** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to celebrate his 10-year anniversary at Weathervane with this production. He is a two-time Chanticleer Award winner -- scenic and properties design for *Three Tall Women* and properties co-designer for *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Todd served as an assistant stage manager for the Chanticleer winner of Best Production, *The Music Man*. Scenic Design credits include *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Amadeus*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Children of a Lesser God*, and *The Sisters Rosensweig*. Other credits include properties co-design for *The Wedding Singer* and properties design for *Pippin*. Todd helps build scenery for many of our productions, along with his father, and serves as co-chair of our properties dept.



**JAMIE ORTI** (Assistant Stage Manager) was co-designer for props in our production of *The Wizard of Oz* earlier this season. She has served as a props designer and assistant stage manager for *Joseph...* for three seasons, crew for *Amadeus*, co-properties designer for *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Chanticleer Award recipient) and assistant stage manager for *The Music Man*. Elsewhere, she has performed in *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Give My Regards to Broadway*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Oliver!* She holds a Master of Arts degree from The University of Akron and works as an Academic Advisor at Kent State University. She and her fiancé, Rob, reside in Broadview Heights.



**CHRIS SIMMONS** (Properties Designer) is thrilled to be returning to Weathervane after over a decade's hiatus! He was last here appearing on stage in

the 2004 and 2005 productions of *Joseph...* He has earned his Bachelor's degrees in Theatre Arts and Education as well as a Master's degree in Education from The University of Akron. He has designed props for numerous shows, including *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *Kindertransport* and *Hairspray*. Chris currently serves as the Managing Director of Rubber City Shakespeare Company and is going into his third year as the Director of Drama at Nordonia High School.



**JONATHON HUNTER** (Lighting Designer) has designed lighting for Weathervane productions including *A Delicate Balance*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Music Man*, R&H's *Cinderella* and *Pippin*. He holds an MFA degree in Lighting Design from the University of Virginia and is currently Weathervane's Technical Director. Jonathon also designed properties for *A View from the Bridge*, *Breaking the Code* and *The Sum of Us* and was stage manager for *They're Playing Our Song*.



**HAZEN TOBAR** (Sound Designer) is excited to return to Weathervane. He previously designed sound for *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 BA degree in Audio Recording Technology, Business & Electronics from BGSU and graduated from the Recording Workshop.



**ALAN SCOTT FERRALL** (Scenic Designer) began as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 18th season as a Weathervane staff member. He has also designed for Cuyahoga Falls High School, The Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage and Western Reserve Public Media.



**JASEN J. SMITH** (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008 as its Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. Since then, he's designed costumes for more than 50 Weathervane productions. He has won three Chanticleer Awards for costume design and a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on *Children of Eden*.



## Production Team

Jonathon Hunter -- Technical Director  
Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

### SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson  
Roger Dieringer  
Dale Gilbert  
Zac Tomko  
James Baskerville  
Marco Colant  
Alli Mayher  
David Deming  
Chris Capron  
Bill Lambacher  
Meg Hopp  
Kelly Chaff

### COSTUMES

Christopher Ersing  
First Hand  
Therese Sheffer  
Joanna Mack  
Elizabeth Frisina  
Pat Nichols  
Millie Keyser  
Nancy Evans  
Melanie Hauer  
Emily Darling - Intern

### SOUND

Stephen Moushey  
Ashley Collins

### LIGHTS

Sue Stout Davis  
Dale Gilbert  
Michael Pitt  
Bill Lambacher  
*Follow Spot*  
Laura Troyer  
Essence Cain  
Mike Chapman  
Mark Brown

### PROPERTIES

Ed Butch  
Laura Troyer  
Jerrold Mirman  
Joe Hunter

### Acknowledgements

Aimee Lambes (Special photo shoot)  
Roadway Inn of Wooster (Bedding for *Unnecessary Farce*)  
The Donut Scene (15033 Pearl Rd. Strongsville, OH 44136)

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Beverly Ricks

Christina Sanyo  
Nancy Schaffer  
Dorothy Shaffer  
Therese Sheffer  
Sue Smith  
Helen Vari

## Your Directors

**LISA MANSFIELD**, was named Managing Director of Weathervane Playhouse in April 2015, and has worked at the theater since 2006. She began working part-time in the box office before being named Patron Services Manager and eventually transitioning to the theater's education department. Lisa earned a B.A. degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English and History from The University of Akron. She's currently taking courses in Nonprofit Management at Kent State University. The *Akron Beacon Journal* named Lisa a "Woman of Excellence" in 2005 for her service to military families during her husband's deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lisa serves as President of the Akron Board of Education and was elected to the Board in 2009 and again in 2013. She lives in West Akron with her high school sweetheart and former local TV anchor, Eric Mansfield, and their three sons, Joshua, Jacob, and Teddy.

**MELANIE YC PEPE**, Artistic Director, holds a B.F.A. degree in Theatrical Performance and Management from Kent State University, where she is currently serving on the School of Theatre and Dance Advisory Board. She is currently working on her graduate certificate at Cornell University. At Weathervane, she has produced more than 35 theatrical productions. In her career, she has acted, directed and designed in more than 50 theatrical productions and two independent films. She also designed for the Master's medical training program at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Melanie served as Director of Education and Producer of the Emerging Artist Series from 2005 to 2015 and was recognized by the Weathervane Board in 2011 with the Trustees Award. During her years as Director of Education and Producer of the Emerging Artist Series, participation in Weathervane's Education programs grew by 411% and participation in the EAS productions by 375%. She believes strongly in vitalizing the love of theatre in our communities. She lives in West Akron with her husband Christopher Pepe and their children, Calista, Xavier and Jude.



## Director's Notes

*Oklahoma!* revolutionized musical theatre. Never before had a musical seamlessly combined lyric melodies with innovative dances that were both beautiful and integral to the story. As a child, I would sit in my room and listen to my record and simply dance around the room. I am delighted to direct Weathervane Playhouse's 578th production.

**The Music:** Richard Rodgers began his musical career working with Lorenz Hart. Although they wrote many hit musicals together, Hart was a difficult partner -- he was unreliable and often drunk. Rodgers approached Oscar Hammerstein II in 1942, to work with him on an adaptation of Lynn Riggs' *Green Grow the Lilacs*. The two men believed in "integrated musicals" in which the music and dance advanced the storyline. The music contains both narrative action in *The Surrey with the Fringe on Top* and romantic lyricism in *People Will Say We're in Love*. Listening to Richard Rodgers' music is like listening to the emotions of the characters. When words are not enough, melodies help express the inexpressible.

**The Dance:** Like Rodgers and Hammerstein, choreographer Agnes de Mille was a pioneer in her field. She had just choreographed Aaron Copland's *Rodeo* and was delighted to be asked to collaborate on *Oklahoma!* De Mille brought the dream ballet down to earth. She incorporated humor and truth while creating an emotional arc for the character of Laurey. The audience is transported into the dreams of a girl who is unsure of her future. In this sequence, her dreams turn into nightmares. Our choreography stays close to the original work by de Mille, and costume designer Jasen Smith incorporates an innovative design for the characters' dream sequence costumes. The other dances in the show are also true to the characters in *Oklahoma!* and to much of de Mille's original work. Although I have chosen to modify and change the actual steps, much of the style remains. De Mille was part of the creative process of the work and I found it important to honor her vision in the piece.

**The Story:** "We know we belong to the land and the land we belong to is grand." From the opening strains, we are transported to the Oklahoma Territory in 1906. Oklahoma is on the verge of becoming a state and the characters in the show are growing up and maturing. Each character must come to grips with his or her own desires. Laurey must decide where her future lies; Curly and Will remain constant in their quests for love and Jud is overcome by his desires which eventually drive him over the edge.

**The Legacy:** In 1943, America was reeling from the batterings that Japan and Germany dealt in World War II. Mary Rodgers spoke of the opening of *Oklahoma!* She remembered being in New York as soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder in packed houses, longing to connect to the America they were fighting for. This musical provides us all with hope during our dark days. A trip to the theater can be your escape into a world filled with love, comedy and joy. Sit back and enjoy our scenic design by Alan Scott Ferrall, intended to transport you to the farmstead and to allow for seamless, open scene changes.

Sarah Bailey



## Weathervane Playhouse Fifth Annual 8x10 TheaterFest\* July 10, 11, 12, 2015



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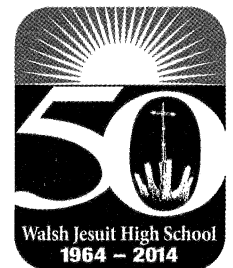
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## Musical Numbers & Musicians



### Act I

Overture .....	Orchestra
Oh What a Beautiful Mornin' .....	Curly
Laurey's Entrance .....	Laurey & Curly
The Surrey with the Fringe on Top .....	Curly, Laurey, & Aunt Eller
Kansas City .....	Will Parker, Aunt Eller, Male Ensemble
I Cain't Say No .....	Ado Annie
Entrance of Ensemble .....	Will, Ado Annie, Curly, Aunt Eller & Ensemble
Many a New Day .....	Laurey and Female Ensemble
It's a Scandal! It's a Outrage! .....	Ali Hakim & Ensemble
People Will Say We're in Love .....	Curly & Laurey
Pore Jud Is Daid .....	Curly & Jud
Lonely Room .....	Jud
Out of My Dreams/Dream Ballet .....	Laurey & Dream Figures

### Act II

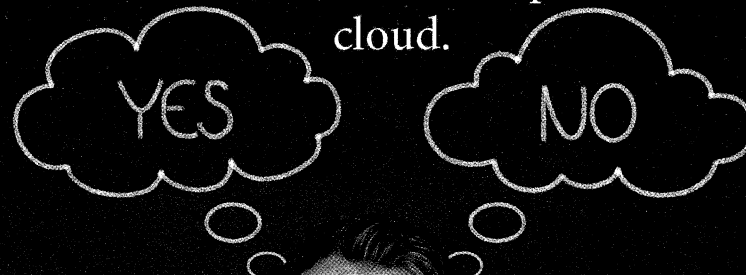
Entr'acte .....	Orchestra
The Farmer and the Cowman .....	Andrew Carnes, Aunt Eller, Curly, Gertie Cummings, Will, Ado Annie, Laurey, Ike Skidmore, Cord Elam & Ensemble
All Er Nuthin' .....	Will & Ado Annie
People Will Say We're in Love (Reprise) .....	Curly & Laurey
Oklahoma! .....	Curly, Laurey, Aunt Eller, Ike Skidmore, Cord Elam, Fred, Andrew Carnes & Ensemble
Finale Ultimo .....	Company

### Musicians

Michelle Worthing, Flute  
 Joyce Elliott, Violin I  
 Natalie Mitchell, Violin II  
 Tim Shaffer, Trumpet & Flugelhorn  
 Louis Turndick, Percussion  
 Sharon Dobbins Alberson, Piano

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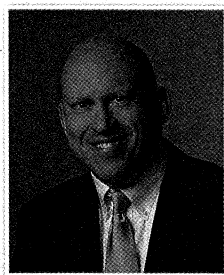
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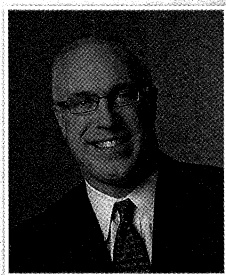
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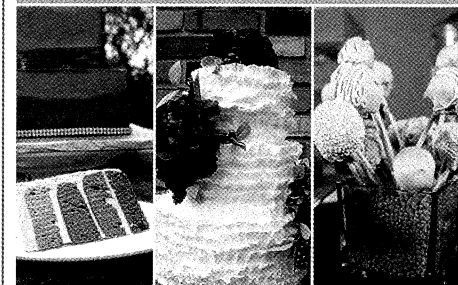


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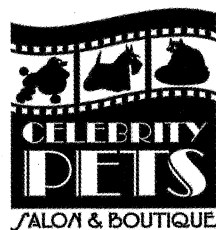


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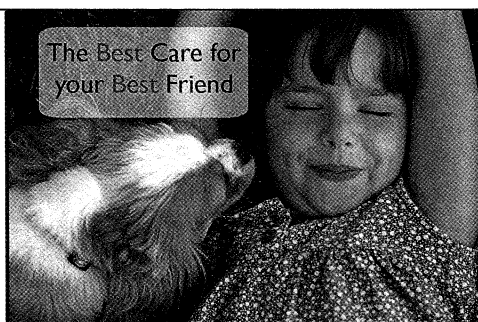
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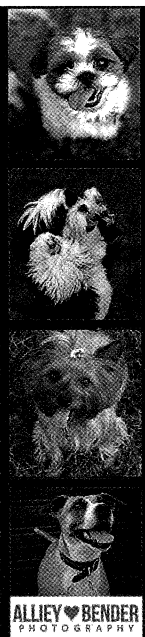


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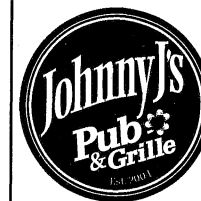


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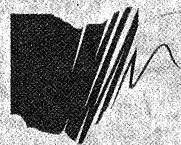
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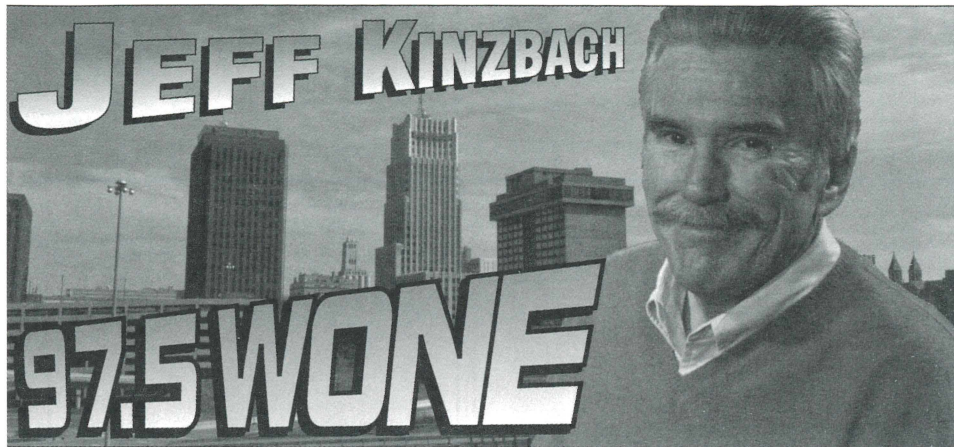


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