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A Brief History of Weatherovane Playhouse

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

Weatherovane 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 "Weatherovane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weatherovane 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 Weatherovane 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. Weatherovane is proud to celebrate its 80th Season.



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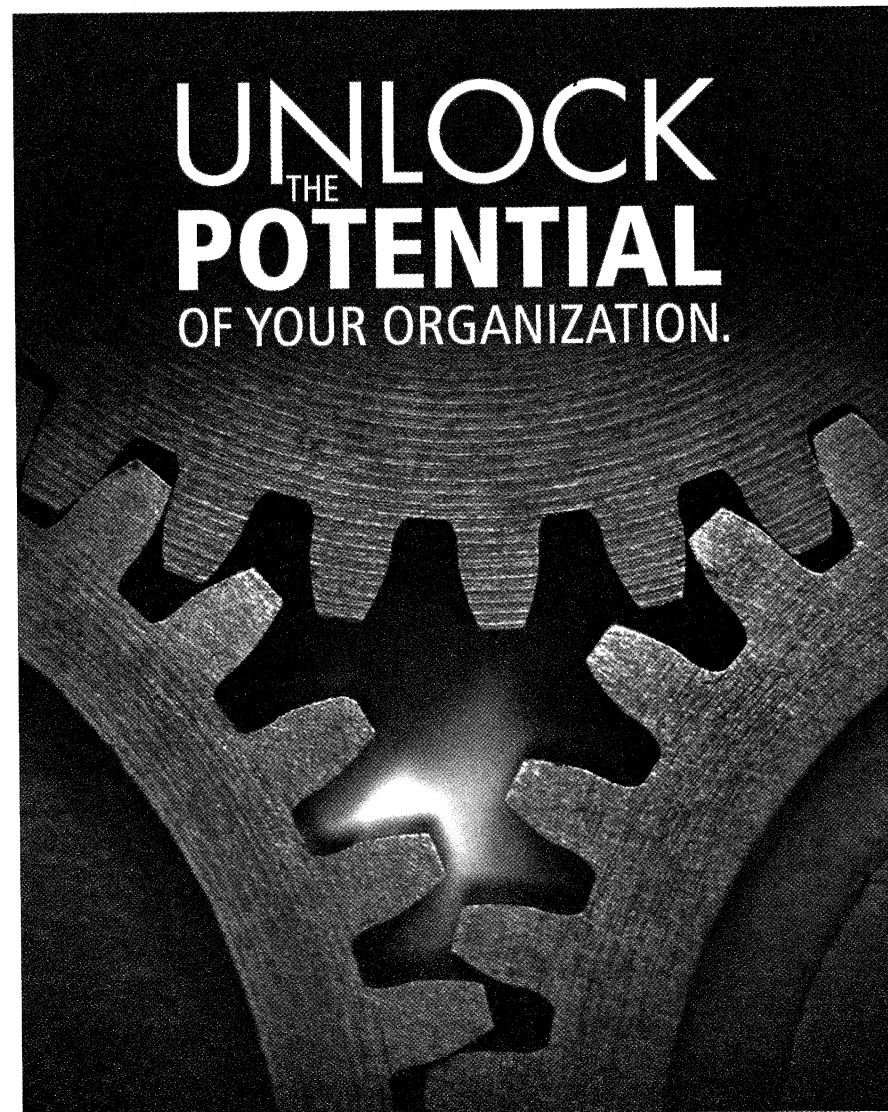
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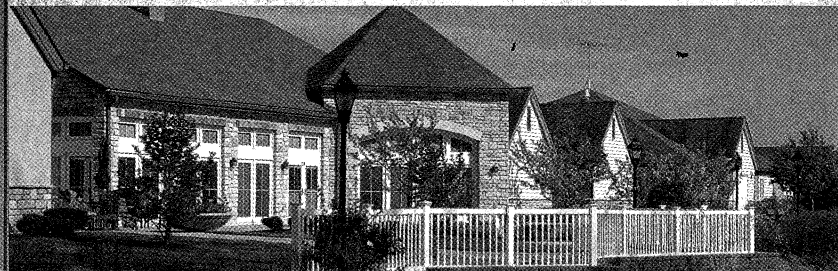
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Your Legacy Gift to Weathervane's Endowment Fund can be as simple as including the Playhouse in your will, establishing a life insurance policy or trust, or making the theater a beneficiary of your retirement savings plan. Or, ask us about Charitable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

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

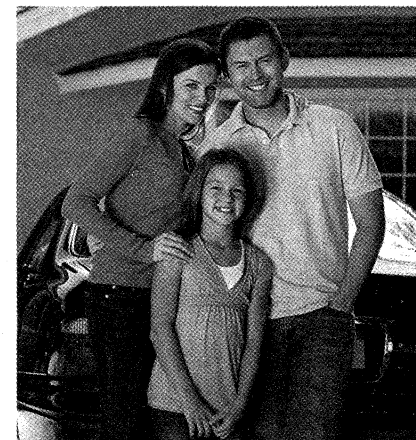
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Welcome to Weathervane!

From the Managing Director
LISA MANSFIELD



Peter Pan was the first musical I ever saw brought to life. I had seen movie musicals on late night television and had even done a high school musical or two. But during my junior year, a friend

and her family took me to Goodyear Community Theater during some of the final dress rehearsals of *Peter Pan*.

I had listened to and memorized dozens of musicals from the albums by that time and they created beautiful pictures in my head, but this was real and right before my eyes. Everything was so visceral – the sound of the orchestra warming up, the smells of make-up, saw dust and a bit of sweat backstage, the lights and faces of excited people. I was literally hooked... pun intended. I helped backstage to set props for the run of the show and I think I ushered every single performance. Come to find out so many years later that several Weathervaners such as Ian Haberman, Jack Steele, Kevin Lambes and maybe some of you were involved in that same production.

The fact that it is the first show in my first season as Managing Director at Weathervane Playhouse has made me pause in the past few weeks and be thankful for the huge circle that life seems to have given me with these two firsts. It is my hope that our audience contains not only people who share my love of this show, but also theatergoers experiencing this classic musical as their very first show. No matter whether you are here for your first or your hundredth theatrical experience, may *Peter Pan* inspire an everlasting love of theatre in all of us!

What was your first show?

From the Artistic Director
MELANIE YC PEPE

The world of theatre is make-believe. We make houses out of scraps of wood, curtains out of bed sheets and tablecloths and Neverland out of colors, lights, sounds and lots of imagination. With our fairy dust we invite our audiences to come with us through the open window and journey to another world. The stage is a beautiful place for this story to live and breathe!



Peter Pan is about a boy who lives world filled with fairies, pirates and mermaids. He lives with a pack of boys who will follow him anywhere as they share in endless adventures. A boy

who lives each moment of his life to the fullest. A boy who is afraid that growing up will take away his sense of magic and adventure.

Despite Peter's concerns, he is drawn to Wendy, who has no qualms about growing up. Peter brings her to Neverland, where she can stay and play and never grow up, but she eventually decides to return home and continue her journey to adulthood. In the real world, growing up is inevitable. But does it have to be what Peter thinks it is?

Ultimately, *Peter Pan* is a story about choices, about becoming boring or remaining adventurous, about living in the moment or choosing to consider consequences. If you could chose to remain a child forever, would you really?



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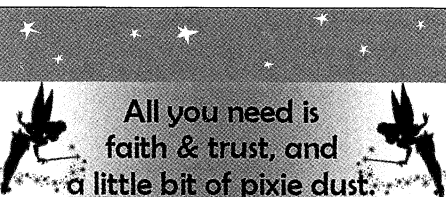
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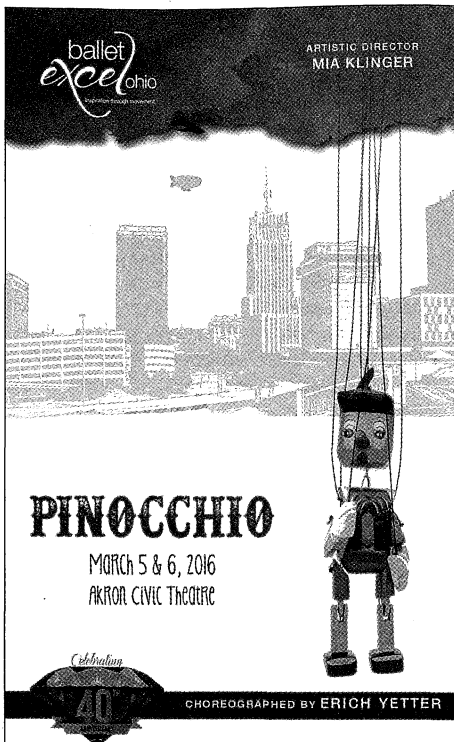
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From the Gallery Curator

MARCI PAOLUCCI



Weathervane's 75th Anniversary Display –

The History Panels created by Alan Scott Ferrall

The history panels were created six years ago to celebrate Weathervane's 75th year of continuous operation. Weathervane is now celebrating its 81st anniversary. The panels depict different chapters of the Weathervane story, representing who we were and the journey that brought us to where we are today. They illustrate:

The Founders There would be no Weathervane without our Four Founders, each of whom brought her own set of skills to the project.

The Buildings in which we performed are very much a part of who we are, just as much as the people who filled them with their talents in drama and music.

Women's Board, which had its origins in service to the theatre. The Women's Board has now become The Volunteer Guild, which continues to provide service to Weathervane in many ways.

Education, which, of course, was at the forefront in the minds of our Founders. This continues to be an important aspect of Weathervane's mission.

A Life in the Theater These panels honor those volunteers who started their acting careers at the beginning of Weathervane's existence – from the Marshall Avenue Barn through the Copley Road years and who also spent significant time at the new building here at Weathervane Lane. Robert and Florence Beard, Margaret McKinley Moore, and Noble S. "Jim" Elderkin were all charter members of Weathervane.

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- 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.

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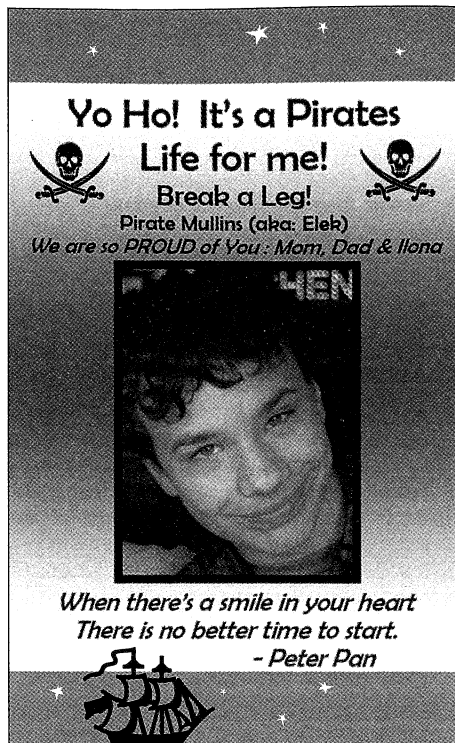
- Please remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
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**Isabella,
Giovanna,
& Joshua**

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About the Play

About the Show and Its History

Peter Pan is a musical adaptation of Sir J.M. Barrie's 1904 play *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*. The immense success of Barrie's play prompted various amounts of adaptation on the story, including other plays. In the 1950s, Edwin Lester, the founder and director of the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera at the time, had obtained the American rights to the work and planned to produce an adaptation that added music for Mary Martin.

Directed by Jerome Robbins and with original music by Mark "Moose" Charlap and lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, the adaptation had a pre-Broadway tour across the West Coast that was not terribly well received. As a result, Robbins hired lyricists Betty Comden and Adolph Green along with composer Jule Styne to write several new songs, effectively turning the show into a full-scale musical.

Peter Pan opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway on Oct. 20, 1954. Starring Mary Martin and Cyril Ritchard, the show's producer planned for a limited run of performances, having previously made a deal with NBC to air the show on television. The Broadway production closed on Feb. 26, 1955, and was followed by NBC's Producers' Showcase broadcast on March 7, 1955. The initial broadcast of the musical attracted a huge audience of 65 million viewers.

After the immense popularity from the television broadcast, the musical found a new home on Broadway through several revivals. The first came in 1979 at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. Another production came in 1990 starring Cathy Rigby. Two more revivals launched in 1998 and 1999 and numerous national tours.

Last December, a new generation rediscovered this classic American musical when NBC aired a live broadcast featuring Allison Williams in the title role.

Source: Music Theatre International

About the Show and Its Creators

Lyricist **CAROLYN LEIGH** was born in New York City on Aug. 21, 1926. After attending Queens College in New York City, she worked as a copywriter for radio stations and advertising agencies. Collaborating with composers such as Cy Coleman and "Moose" Charlap, Leigh also wrote the Broadway stage scores for *Peter Pan*, *Wildcat* and *Little Me*. Leigh also contributed to the film scores of *The Cardinal* and *Father Goose*.

Composer **MORRIS "MOOSE" CHARLAP** was born in Philadelphia on Dec. 19, 1928. Though he composed songs for several Broadway shows, he remains best known for *Peter Pan*. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Wisconsin and the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. He also is listed as the composer for the 1969 TV movie musical *Hans Brinker*, which starred Eleanor Parker (though her singing voice was that of Charlap's wife, Sandy Stewart).

The team of **BETTY COMDEN** and **ADOLPH GREEN** (additional lyrics) — the 1991 recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors, and the longest running creative partnership in theatre history — began writing and performing their own satirical comic material in the late 1930s in a group called The Revuers, which included the late Judy Holliday. Comden and Green went on to collaborate with Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins on what was the first show for all of them, *On the Town*.

Also with Bernstein they collaborated on the score for *Wonderful Town*. They also wrote the book for *Applause*, the book and lyrics for *On the Twentieth Century* and the lyrics for *The Will Rogers Follies* (with Cy Coleman) and *A Doll's Life*. *Applause*, *Wonderful Town*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *The Will Rogers Follies* and *Hallelujah, Baby!* won them six Tony Awards. Their many film musicals include *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Band Wagon*, *On the Town*, *It's Always Fair Weather*. Two of these screen musicals, *The Band Wagon* and *It's Always Fair Weather*, received Academy Award nominations and, along with *On the Town*, won the Screenwriters Guild of America Award.

JULE STYNE (additional music) made Broadway sing for 50 years before his death in 1994. In addition to *Peter Pan*, he composed the music for such shows as *High Button Shoes*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Two on the Aisle*, *Hazel Flagg*, *Gypsy*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Do Re Mi*, *Subways Are for Sleeping*, *Funny Girl*, *Fade Out* — *Fade In*, *The Red Shoes*, *Darling of the Day*, *Lorelei* and *Sugar*. Over his lengthy career, his musical achievements were honored by such organizations as the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the American Theater Hall of Fame. He was a 1990 recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors, the winner of two Grammys and an Oscar winner for "Three Coins in the Fountain."

Source: Music Theatre International

Congrats Sydney!

*We are so proud of you! Good luck! Have fun!
Love, Mom & Dad, Jacob & Sam*

We love you Wesley.

*Love, Mommy, Daddy, Harper,
PopPop, Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Kate,
Uncle Matte, Aunt Maggie, Uncle Jeff,
Uncle Chris & Aunt Maggie.*





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PETER PAN

BROADWAY'S
TIMELESS MUSICAL

A Musical Based on the Play by
SIR JAMES M. BARRIE

Lyrics by
CAROLYN LEIGH

Music by
MORRIS (MOOSE) CHARLAP

Additional Lyrics by
BETTY COMDEN and ADOLPH GREEN

Additional Music by
JULE STYNE

Originally directed, choreographed and adapted by
JEROME ROBBINS

In 1929 Sir J.M. Barrie bequeathed Peter Pan to GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN IN LONDON which has benefitted thousands of children since then. The producers are proud and happy that everyone who has bought a ticket for today's performance of Peter Pan is helping towards making the hospital the incredible center of hope it is today.

Directed and Choreographed by **SARAH ELAINE BAILEY**

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The Cast

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wendy Darling | Emma Ilg |
| John Darling | Stanley Niekamp |
| Liza/Tiger Lily | Sabrina Reed |
| Michael Darling | Jake Spencer |
| Nana/Crocodile | Conor Clawson |
| Mrs. Darling/Rising Flower | Mary Grace Corrigan |
| Mr. Darling/Captain Hook | Douglas Lizak |
| Peter Pan | Gracie Thanasiu |
| Smee | Charlie Gruhler |

ENSEMBLE

Lost Boys

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Twin #1 | Giovanna Abucejo |
| Spanky | Isabella Abucejo |
| Twigg | Joshua Abucejo |
| Slim | Sophia Bailey |
| Nibs | Lucy Jane Geiser |
| Tootles | Henry Gruhler |
| Shorty | Casey Noah Ha |
| Froggie | Sara Thien An Ha |
| Slightly | Wilson Anthony Truong Ha |
| Crimp | Lydia Ilg |
| Gerber | Tyler Montgomery |
| Scout | Wesley A. Nelson |
| Blightly | Gabriella Nestico |
| Twin #2 | Giovanna Nestico |
| Curly | André Rudlosky |

Indians

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Rising Tide | Isabelle Bailey |
| Willow Feather | Sydney Grossman |
| Dancing Coyote | Lucy Kaczmar |
| Cuyahoga | Ilona Kitchen |
| First Brave | Autumn Reed |
| Kocoum | Madison Renner |
| Little Big Panther | Kendyl Rudlosky |

Pirates

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Weatherby | Lukas Gregg Cinko |
| Madeye | Gabi Ilg |
| Gully | Morgan Isabella |
| Mullins | Elek Kitchen |
| Noodler | Jamie Mayfield |
| Cecco | Julia Mercier |
| Starkey | Jonathan Merechant |
| Jukes | Alexis Robles |
| Grapple | Parker Thompson |

Musical Numbers

Act I

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <i>Tender Shepherd</i> | Wendy, John, Michael, Mrs. Darling |
| <i>I Gotta Crow</i> | Peter |
| <i>Neverland</i> | Peter |
| <i>I'm Flying</i> | Peter, Wendy, John, Michael |
| <i>Pirate March</i> | Captain Hook, Pirates |
| <i>Hook's Tango</i> | Captain Hook, Pirates |
| <i>Indian Dance</i> | Tiger Lily, Indians |
| <i>Wendy Bird</i> | Lost Boys, Indians, Tiger Lily, Wendy |
| <i>Wendy</i> | Peter, Lost Boys |
| <i>Hook's Tarantella</i> | Captain Hook, Pirates |
| <i>I Won't Grow Up</i> | Peter, Wendy John, Michael, Lost Boys |
| <i>Oh, My Mysterious Lady</i> | Peter, Captain Hook, Pirates |

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.

Act II

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Underground Opening</i> | Lost Boys |
| <i>Uhg-A-Wug</i> | Peter, Tiger Lily, John, Michael, Indians |
| <i>Distant Melody</i> | Wendy, Michael, John |
| <i>Hook's Waltz</i> | Captain Hook, Pirates |
| <i>Crow Reprise</i> | Peter, Indians, Lost Boys |
| <i>Grow Up Reprise</i> | Wendy, John, Michael, Lost Boys, Mrs. Darling, Mr. Darling, Nana |

PETER PAN MUSICIANS

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sharon Dobbins Alberson | Piano |
| Michelle Worthing | Flute |
| Denise O'Malley | Clarinet and Saxophone |
| Louis Turndick | Percussion |



Cast Biographies

EMMA ILG (Wendy Darling) is spending her fourth consecutive summer on the Weathervane stage. Last summer she sang and danced with our Ozian ensemble in *The Wizard of Oz*. In 2013, she flapped her wings as Beaky Duckling in *Honk!* And you might also recognize her as one of the two young girls who shared the title role in our 2012 production of *Annie*. This coming fall, she begins the eighth grade at Claggett Middle School in Medina. Recently, Emma earned second-place honors in The Medina Voice, a vocal competition for Medina middle-school students.



STANLEY NIEKAMP (John Darling) is very excited to be appearing in this production. Stanley will be a fourth grader this fall at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts. He first appeared as Michael Banks in the Firestone High School production of *Mary Poppins*. He also has appeared with Hudson Players in *Seussical* (JoJo), Barberton's Magical Theatre Company's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (Jimmy), the Akron All-City Musical *Bye Bye Birdie* (Randolph) and in the ensemble of Porthouse Theatre's *Oliver!* Recently, Stanley appeared as Young Shrek in the Akron All-City Musical production of *Shrek: The Musical*. Stanley studies voice and piano. He enjoys soccer and swimming in his spare time.



SABRINA REED (Liza/Tiger Lily) previously on our stage played Issachar's Wife in the 2014 *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, appeared with the ensemble of *The Wizard of Oz* and performed as a River City Kid in *The Music Man*. Most recently, she appeared in *Shrek: The Musical*, the Akron All-City Musical, at the Akron Civic Theatre. This past spring, she played Oda Mae Brown in *Ghost: The Musical* at Firestone High School, where this fall she will begin her sophomore year. She is an alumna of Akron's Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, where she played Eponine in *Les Misérables*. Off the stage, Sabrina enjoys soccer (she was a freshman starter on Firestone's varsity team and earned a letter), volleyball, reading and writing. Sabrina says that she is very excited to be on stage with her best friends, Gracie Thanasiu and Mary Grace Corrigan, for the third time this year. "I am even more excited," she says, "to share the stage with my little sister, Autumn, for the second time, and I hope there will be even more shows where we can share the stage together!"



JAKE SPENCER (Michael Darling) is entering third grade at Timmons Elementary in Bainbridge. He made his professional theatre debut at Cleveland Play House last year as Randy in *A Christmas Story*. He recently performed in his first musical when he portrayed Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins* at the Kenston Center Stage. Jake's passion for theatre began at the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, where he has participated in the youth theatre program's performances of *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wolf and The Seven Kids* and *The Sword in the Stone*, as well as the main stage production of *The Curious Savage*. Jake is excited to fly across the stage for his first-time performance with Weathervane Playhouse. He also loves playing video games, wrestling with his little brother Sam and eating dill pickles.



CONOR CLAWSON (Nana/Crocodile) is a second grader at Resnik CLC. He is very excited to make his theatrical debut playing two awesome animals in *Peter Pan*. Conor has enjoyed participating in Weathervane's Neighborhood Playhouse camps as well as Weathervane classes at Resnik Drama Club. Baseball and soccer are his favorite sports. Other hobbies include playing with Legos and Skylanders and hanging out with his little black cat, Zuki. Many thanks to big sisters Elise and Anna, Weathervane actresses who have shared the joy of theater with him since he was a toddler. Extra-special "woofs" and "tick-tocks" to Mom and Dad!



MARY GRACE CORRIGAN (Mrs. Darling/Rising Flower) this fall will be a junior at the Akron School of the Arts at Firestone High School and is excited to be in her second show at Weathervane Playhouse under the direction of Sarah Bailey. Recently, Mary Grace appeared as one of the Three Pigs in the All-City Musical production of *Shrek: The Musical* at the Akron Civic Theatre. Last year, she was part of the very colorful cast in *Joseph... Dreamcoat* right here at Weathervane. She was also thrilled to be part of her own local community theater recently when she performed in the ensemble of *The Addams Family* and portrayed Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical* with Hudson Players. Mary Grace enjoys anything having to do with music and the arts and is so grateful to have another opportunity to work with such talented actors and directors here at Weathervane Playhouse.



DOUGLAS LIZAK (Mr. Darling/Captain Hook) is proud to be a part of Weathervane's production of *Peter Pan* as the villainous Captain Hook. He graduated from Otterbein University in 2014 with a degree in music education. There, he performed

in several operas such as *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *La Bohème*. Lizak has now returned to his hometown of North Canton, where he has since worked as a substitute teacher and private voice teacher. Continuing his vocal-performance practices, he has been involved in a multitude of musical organizations. Most recently, he played Tom O'Brien in the Akron Symphony's production of *South Pacific*. He would like to thank his family for supporting him in all of his musical endeavors. He would also like to thank Weathervane's directorial staff for giving him the opportunity to perform such a fun role alongside such skilled and talented individuals.



GRACIE THANASIU (Peter Pan) earlier this summer appeared as one of the Three Blind Mice in *Shrek: The Musical*, the Akron All-City Musical at the Akron Civic Theatre. A few of her other Weathervane credits include Zebulon's Wife in the 2014 *Joseph...*

Dreamcoat, an ensemble member of *The Wizard of Oz*, Kit Tyler in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, one of our two narrators in the 2013 *Joseph... Dreamcoat* and Henrietta in *Honk!* While a student at Akron's Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, she was very active with the Junior Thespians (earning two Double Superior Individual Event ratings at Junior Thespian conferences). This fall, she will be a sophomore at Firestone High School in Akron, where she is a member of Thespian Troupe 5570 and she sings with the school's Women's Chorus, Symphonic Choir and Madrigal Ensemble.



CHARLIE GRUHLER (Smee) appears on the Weathervane stage for the eighth time in this production of *Peter Pan*. He has been a brother in three productions of *Joseph... Dreamcoat*, and has had ensemble roles in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Annie*, *The Music Man* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Most recently, he appeared as the Big Bad Wolf in the Akron All-City Musical production of *Shrek: The Musical* at the Akron Civic Theatre. Most memorable roles include Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* and Matthew Mugg in *Doctor Dolittle* at Miller South. Charlie will be a sophomore at Firestone High School, where he is an engineering student and a member of the Robotics Team, Symphonic Choir and the Madrigal Singers. In his free time, he enjoys gaming, Belegarth and LAN parties.

GIOVANNA ABUCEJO (Twin #1) made her Weathervane Playhouse debut last year in *The Wizard of Oz*. Now she has returned to the stage to perform as a Lost Boy in this production. This is Giovanna's third show. Earlier this summer, she appeared



as one of the five children in Weathervane's *Oklahoma!* Giovanna sang a solo a few years ago in her school's spring program. She also enjoys singing and dancing with The Chanticleers, Weathervane's new show choir. Other activities she enjoys are writing, playing the piano, participating in gymnastics and playing volleyball. In the fall, Giovanna will start the seventh grade.



ISABELLA ABUCEJO (Spanky) sang and danced on our stage last summer in *The Wizard of Oz*, and she is equally delighted to spend another summer performing in a classic musical here at Weathervane. After summer, she looks forward to continuing her studies at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn, where come fall she begins the fifth grade.

JOSHUA ABUCEJO (Twigg)

makes his Weathervane debut in this production, and he has enjoyed "sharing the stage" with his two sisters. Once *Peter Pan* closes, Joshua will enjoy a short break from his theatrical pursuits — and then it will be time for the start of a new school year at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn, where he'll be entering the second grade.



ISABELLE BAILEY (Rising Tide) has studied dance for eight years, and she is thrilled to demonstrate her training for our *Peter Pan* audiences. Last summer, she appeared here in *The Wizard of Oz*. In 2013, she appeared in two of our productions, singing and dancing with the ensembles of both *The Music Man* and *Honk!* For the past two Decembers, Isabelle also was delighted to dance with the company of Moscow Ballet when its *Great Russian Nutcracker* appeared at the Music Hall at the Cleveland Public Auditorium. After her Weathervane summer winds down, Isabelle will begin the seventh grade at St. Joseph School in Cuyahoga Falls.

SOPHIA BAILEY (Slim) will enter the fifth grade this coming fall at St. Joseph School in Cuyahoga Falls. Previously on our stage she appeared in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Honk!* Outside of school and her Weathervane activities, she has studied ballet for five years. She was thrilled to put her dance training into action last December when she performed with the company of Moscow Ballet in *Great Russian Nutcracker* at the Music Hall at Cleveland Public Auditorium.





LUCAS GREGG CINKO (*Weatherby*) is a fifth grader at St. Francis De Sales School in Coventry Township. This is his first show at Weathervane, and he is very excited to be a part of this production. He appeared in his school's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and was in the chorus of *Disney's Mulan Jr.* Lukas is a member of the youth choir group in his parish. He loves acting, impersonating characters and singing. When he's not busy producing his own "play" (he even created his own stage at home!), Lukas enjoys swimming and playing tennis.

LUCY JANE GEISER (*Nibs*) is a seventh grader at Jackson Memorial Middle School in Jackson Township. She is thrilled to be making her Weathervane debut in *Peter Pan*. Previous favorite roles include Donkey in *Shrek: The Musical*, Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz* and Portia in *Cinderella*, all at the North Canton Playhouse. She also enjoyed being an orphan in the Canton Players Guild production of *Annie*, and Amaryllis in Voices of Canton's production of *The Music Man*. Lucy is blessed to be a cancer survivor and is very active in the music programs at her church and school. She would like to thank her family and the *Peter Pan* cast and crew for giving her the opportunity to be in this show.



SYDNEY GROSSMAN (*Willow Feather*) makes her Weathervane Playhouse debut in this production, and she has very much enjoyed this exciting opportunity. After a summer of rehearsing and performing, Sydney says that she's looking forward to seeing her school chums again at Old Trail School in Bath Township, where she will be entering the fifth grade.

HENRY GRUHLER (*Tootles*) is excited to take the stage for the first time, and he is grateful to Sarah Bailey for trusting him with this part. He is a backstage crew veteran of Weathervane musicals, assisting with props and quick-changes in three productions of *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, and acting as the "dog wrangler" for Toto (aka Zsa Zsa) in *The Wizard of Oz*. Henry will be a third grader this fall at King School in Akron and hopes to attend Miller South. In his free time, he enjoys gaming, riding his bike, and vegetable gardening with his dad. He looks up to his older brother, Charlie, who encouraged him to audition for this show. Whether he prefers backstage or onstage work remains to be seen!



CASEY NOAH HA (*Shorty*) enjoys dancing, acting, singing and drawing. He has performed in over 20 dance and theatre productions. His Weathervane credits include *Honk!*, *Annie* and *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*. For NEOS Dance Theatre, his credits include Count: *The Legend of Dracula* and *Snow White* and the *Magic Mirror: A Grimm Tale*. Casey also receives intermediate level dance instruction (classical ballet, jazz, tap, ballroom) at the Dance Institute at The University of Akron and performed in both *The Snow Maiden* and *The Sleeping Beauty: Act III*. Casey plays Suzuki piano and guitar. He recently won first place for both the NYACC comic book cover contest, and the "Free Comic Book Day" art contest three years in a row.



SARA THIEN AN HA (*Froggie*) played several roles (Coroner, Poppy and Jitterbug) last summer on our stage in *The Wizard of Oz*. Her other Weathervane credits include *Fortunate Fishy/Fussy Frog in Honk!* and a River City Kid in *The Music Man*. When Sara was in the first grade, she played Molly in Weathervane's *Annie*, her very first show. Sara is very excited to perform in *Peter Pan*. She says that she has met so many friends through her Weathervane experiences. Sara says that she loves to "free dance," sing, draw and play with her guinea pigs. She looks forward to seeing all her friends when she begins the fifth grade this fall at Old Trail School in Bath Township.



WILSON ANTHONY TRUONG HA (*Slightly*) is honored to be in this production. This marks his sixth production at Weathervane, and he is very excited. He was an ensemble member here last fall in *The Roar of the Greasepaint — The Smell of The Crowd* and the Mayor of Munchkinland in *The Wizard of Oz* last summer. In 2013, he played Greylag in *Honk!* and in 2013 played Winthrop Paroo in *The Music Man*. He also was an ensemble member in 2012's *Annie*. Wilson will be entering seventh grade this fall at Old Trail School in Bath Township. He looks forward to more acting and singing experiences.



GABI ILG (*Madeye*) will begin the sixth grade this coming fall at Sidney Fenn Elementary School in Medina, where her prior stage credits include Principal Rose in *And the Winner Is* and Miss Taymor in *Hello, Broadway!* *Peter Pan* marks her third appearance on our stage (after performing in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Honk!*).



LYDIA ILG (*Crimp*) is enjoying spending her summer singing and dancing on our stage for the first time — and she says that it's been fun to do so alongside her sisters, Emma and Gabi. Once her *Peter Pan* experience winds down, she will be looking forward to starting the fifth grade at her school, Sidney Fenn Elementary School in Medina.

MORGAN ISABELLA (*Gully*) is thrilled to return to the Weathervane stage, having previously been seen in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* and *Annie*. Morgan also is a proud member of Weathervane's show choir, The Chanticleers. While Morgan's true passion is the stage (whether singing or acting), she also loves hanging out with friends, inhaling jars of Nutella and binge-watching movie musicals or *Friends* on Netflix. Morgan is enjoying summer but she is very much looking forward to freshman year at Firestone High School, where she'll study theater in the fall. Morgan would like to thank her favorite director, Sarah Bailey, for this incredible opportunity and also her loving family for their support. Morgan wishes the cast and crew a big "Break a leg!" and she hopes you all enjoy the show!



LUCY KACZMAR (*Dancing Coyote*) made her Weathervane debut in our production of *The Wizard of Oz* ensemble last summer, and she is pleased to entertain audiences once again in this production. Come fall, she will begin the fifth grade at Old Trail School in Bath Township. Outside of school and her performance activities, she enjoys gymnastics and swimming.

ELEK KITCHEN (*Mullins*) just completed his eighth-grade year at Falcon Academy of Creative Arts, where he appeared as The Candy Man in *Willy Wonka Jr.*, Hunk/Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz Jr.* and The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical Jr.* He has also performed in *Fruitcakes*, *Peter Pan* and *Honk!* with Dynamics Community Theater as well as in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Joseph...Dreamcoat* at Weathervane Playhouse. Elek is a part the All Americans show choir team at ETC School of Musical Arts. Away from the stage, Elek enjoys making videos, Boy Scouts, taking dance classes, travelling across the country and running cross country and track. In the fall, he will be attending Firestone High School in Akron and will be a part of the men's choir as a freshman. Elek would like to wish the cast and crew of *Peter Pan* to "Break a leg!"



ILONA KITCHEN (*Cuyahoga*) is 11 years old and going into the sixth grade. She has recently been awarded with the 2015 Garrettsville Idol Winner (youth division). Her stage credits include *Willy Wonka Jr.* and *The Wizard of Oz Jr.* (Falcon Academy Creative Arts), *Fruitcakes*, *Peter Pan* and *Honk!* (Dynamics Community Theater). At Weathervane, she appeared in *The Wizard of Oz* and she sang with the children's choir in *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. Ilona is currently a Main Street Singer at ETC School of Musical Arts. Ilona would like to thank the staff and cast of *Peter Pan* for "all your hard work and dedication to make this a fabulous show!"



JAMIE MAYFIELD (*Noodler*) last appeared on our stage in *The Wizard of Oz*. Elsewhere, she played Marie in *The Aristocats* and Violet in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* at Jackson Community Theatre, and she played seven roles (including a flying monkey, a poppy, a crow and a chick!) in *The Wizard of Oz* at Canal Fulton Players. Jamie's love for helping family and friends is where she shines the most! She hosted a successful princess fundraiser for a sweet little friend. Weathervane is a special place for Jamie because it is where her grandmother enjoyed many plays with her grandfather. Jamie says she sings loud when she is on stage so her grandmother can hear her in Heaven.

JULIA MERCIER (*Cecco*) is thrilled to perform at Weathervane for the first time. Going into her senior year, she attends Louisville High School, where she is an avid participant in the drama club. In the past, she has appeared in such musicals as *The Music Man*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* and *Once on This Island*. She also played the part of the Widow and Peter Pan's understudy in her school's production of *CSI: Neverland*. Julia would like to thank her friend Isabella for directing her at Weathervane as well as her mother for all her support.



JONATHAN MERECHANT (*Starkey*) was recently on our stage as Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!* You also may recall his many performances in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* on our stage 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 is a student at Bowling Green State University.



TYLER MONTGOMERY (Gerber) played Drake the Butler in *Annie* at Our Lady of The Elms last year, and he is now very eager to entertain Weatheravane audiences in his debut here. He is a student at Hillcrest Elementary School in Richfield, where he enters the second grade come fall.

WESLEY A. NELSON (Scout) with this production celebrates his first appearance on our stage. Previously, he appeared in his church's Christmas play, and he has enjoyed spending his summer rehearsing and performing with his fellow Lost Boys. Once summer winds down, he will begin the second grade at Uniontown Elementary School.



GABRIELLA NESTICO (Blightly) will enter the third grade this fall at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn. She is very excited to make her Weatheravane Playhouse debut in this production, and she hopes everyone will enjoy the show!

GIOVANNA NESTICO (Twin #2) is a proud member of Weatheravane's show choir, The Chanticleers, and she spent last summer on our stage in the ensemble of *The Wizard of Oz*. The summer before that, she made her Weatheravane debut in *Honk!* Come fall, she will be a sixth grader at St. Hilary School in Fairlawn.



AUTUMN REED (First Brave) has studied dance for eight years and is thrilled to display her training in this production. Previously on our stage, she sang with one of the children's choruses in the 2011 *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. Outside of her performance activities, she enjoys playing volleyball on a Junior Olympic team and a travel team, and she likes to play the flute and steel drums. In the fall, she will begin the eighth grade at Akron's Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, where she appeared with the *Les Misérables* ensemble in 2014.

MADISON RENNER (Kocoum) will be a senior come fall at Woodridge High School. As this is her last "summer of freedom" before graduation, she cannot think of a better way to spend it than rehearsing and appearing on stage with her fellow *Peter Pan* cast members.



ALEXIS ROBLES (Jukes) will be in the seventh grade this fall. She recently performed on our stage in *Oklahoma!* Her other Weatheravane credits include *The Wizard of Oz* and *Honk!* She was in the ensemble of *Les Misérables* at her school, Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, and also in *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.* Recently, she was in the ensemble of *Seussical* with Hudson Players. Away from the stage, Alexis also enjoys karate.

ANDRÉ RUDLOSKY (Curly) will be a third grader in the fall at Highland Elementary School in Stow. After enjoying his experiences with a couple of Weatheravane classes, he is now very pleased to make his debut on our stage. André has earned a brown belt in karate and also enjoys playing basketball. "Thank you, Miss Sarah," says André, "for this opportunity to perform at Weatheravane!"



KENDYL RUDLOSKY (Little Big Panther) is very excited to return to Weatheravane for a third time after appearing here previously in *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Music Man*. Elsewhere, she has also performed as Maxine in the *Act-It UP!* Theater production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Away from the stage, Kendyl is active in ballet, jazz, piano and choir. She was the recipient of a first-place award in the Children's Concert Society's Scholastic Composer's Contest for her original compositions entitled "Relevé in D Major" and "Friendship = Happiness." In the fall, Kendyl will be a sixth grader at Lakeview Intermediate School in Stow. Kendyl thanks Miss Sarah for this opportunity to perform in *Peter Pan*.



PARKER THOMPSON (Grapple) will begin the eighth grade this fall at Claggett Middle School in Medina, where he is active in the drama club and the band. His previous stage credits include President Roosevelt in *Annie Jr.*, Godfather in *Cinderella Liberated* and Speeding Car in *Bumper Snickers*.



Creative Team Biographies



SARAH ELAINE BAILEY (Director and Choreographer) most recently on our stage directed and choreographed *Oklahoma!* Her other Weatheravane directorial credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *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 Weatheravane 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 Weatheravane's participation in the Akron After School program. This past May, she became our 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 the 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 di 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 at the Akron Civic Theatre as a benefit for The University of Akron School of Law Human Trafficking Re-Entry Clinic. Her new musical, *Fair Trade*, will be performed in October at the Ohio Fair Trade Expo at John Carroll University. For Weatheravane Playhouse, Sharon served as the musical director for the 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oklahoma!* (2015), *The Wizard of Oz* (2014), *Honk!* (2013), *The Music Man* (2013), *Annie* (2012), *Rodgers and 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.



DANE CT LEASURE (Assistant Director and Fight Choreographer) joined the Weatheravane staff this summer as the Education Coordinator and Literary Manager. He holds an M.F.A. and M.Litt. in performance and Shakespeare from Mary Baldwin College and a B.A. in humanities from The University of Akron. Dane has been working as an instructor and actor for the education department at Weatheravane for over five years. He was assistant director for Weatheravane's *Honk!* and *The Wizard of Oz* as well as serving as dramaturg/fight captain/actor for *Hamlet*. In addition to his work at Weatheravane, Dane also is a part-time instructor at Cuyahoga Community College. He is a professional actor and director who founded Rubber City Shakespeare Company, with which he also serves as artistic director.

JERRY DORTON (Production Stage Manager) went right from stage managing *Oklahoma!* to working on *Peter Pan*. He has also served here as the stage manager for *The Music Man*, *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 a Master of Arts degree in education from Kent State University. He was chosen as the Stow PTA's Outstanding Educator in 2010. He and his wife, Alison, have three children: Amanda, Jonas and Isaac.





CHRISTOPHER J. HA (Stage Manager) has extensive experience as a stage manager, dancer, actor and singer. He has worked on and performed in over 40 productions at Weathervane Playhouse, E.J. Thomas Hall, Akron Civic Theatre, Dance Institute at The University of Akron, NEOS Dance Theatre, and The Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival. Recently, Christopher was the Stage Manager for *Shrek: The Musical* at the Akron Civic Theatre. He is no stranger at Weathervane, gaining the honors of Top Volunteer (2012-13 season), and 2nd Top Volunteer (2013-14). His Weathervane stage management (and ASM) credits include: *The Roar of the Greasepaint — The Smell of the Crowd*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Our Town*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. "On stage" credits at Weathervane include: *Honk!*, *The Music Man*, *Annie*, *R&H's Cinderella* and five consecutive years of *Joseph... Dreamcoat*. Christopher is an improvisational Suzuki pianist, and studies classical dance instruction at the Dance Institute.

MADDIE MILLER (Assistant Stage Manager) is a rising senior at Firestone High School. This is her first Weathervane Production. She was the assistant stage manager for *Shrek: the Musical* (2015) at the Akron Civic Theatre and is thrilled to be a part of this production as the assistant stage manager. Her previous theater experience has been playing the piano for the pit orchestra in the musicals *Mary Poppins* (2014) and *Ghost* (2015). She also was an ensemble member of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (2013). She is a member of the Firestone Women's Chorus. Maddie also took piano lessons for 10 years and is currently taking voice and guitar lessons at The Hudson School of Music.



JASEEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. Since then, he's designed costumes for dozens of Weathervane productions. As a co-designer, he and Hedy Jones took home Weathervane's Chanticleer Award for best costume design for *Man of La Mancha* in 2009. He also won a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on *Children of Eden*. Elsewhere, his design work has been seen on the stages of Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.

JONATHON HUNTER (Scenic and Lighting Designer) has designed lighting for Weathervane productions including *Oklahoma!*, *A Delicate Balance*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint — The Smell of the Crowd*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Music Man*, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* and *Pippin*. He holds an M.F.A. degree in lighting design from the University of Virginia and is currently Weathervane's Technical Director. Jonathon's other Weathervane credits include properties designer for *A View from the Bridge*, *Breaking the Code* and *The Sum of Us* and stage manager for *They're Playing Our Song*.



ED BUTCH (Properties Co-Designer) is becoming a regular at Weathervane. He was the stage manager for *4000 Miles* and properties co-designer for *The Wizard of Oz*, both this past season. Previously, he was involved with the Salem Community Theatre in Salem, OH, since 1999. Ed has been involved in all of the different production aspects of shows over the years; most recently on stage as Fred in *A Christmas Carol*, Blind Pew/Captain Smollet in *Treasure Island* and Willum Cubbert in SCT's revival of *The Nerd*. He also worked as the stage manager for *Footloose*. He resides in Cuyahoga Falls and works as a Senior Academic Advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State University.

JAMIE ORITI (Properties Co-Designer) recently finished a run as our assistant stage manager for *Oklahoma!* She also was co-designer with Ed Butch for properties for *The Wizard of Oz*. Jamie has served Weathervane as a props designer and assistant stage manager for *Joseph... Dreamcoat* for three seasons, crew for *Amadeus*, properties co-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.



JOHN COYNE (Sound Designer) is currently a senior at Cuyahoga Falls High School, where he's served on the theater crew since 2013, holding one of six higher-up positions on the team. He has helped to put together and run many shows in the school's auditorium and Little Theatre, including *Grease*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Almost, Maine*. This marks his first year at Weathervane Playhouse, having first served on the crew for *A Delicate Balance*. He hopes to attend Kent State University starting in the fall of 2016 to study technical theater and sound engineering.



Production Team

Technical Director **JONATHON HUNTER**
Assistant Technical Director **KATHY KOHL**

Set Construction

Chris Capron
John Coyne
Brandon Davies
Roger Dieringer
Joey Garlando
Joe Garlando
Suzette Garlando
Dale Gilbert
Joe Hunter
Mary Jo McGuire
Andrea Nelson
Gabriella Nestico
Giovanna Nestico
Ruth Richardson
Zac Tomko
John Webb

Costumes

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

Sound

Ashley Collins
John Coyne
Jim Kitchen
Chris Macchione
Andrea Nelson

Flight Operators

Chris Ilg
Kate Ilg
Andrea Niekamp
Chris Niekamp
Brian Spencer
Jamie Spencer
Diane Thanasiu
Scott Thanasiu

Lights

Jonathan Abucejo
Merrilyn Abucejo
Deborah Brenize
Greg Cinko
Steve Clawson
James Ha
Jeremy Ha
Natalie Montgomery
Nichelle Reed
Jay Sigler

Properties

Kelly Chaff
Libby Cinko
Leslie Corrigan
Steve Deutsch
Julie Geiser
Christine Grossman
Joe Hunter
Beth Kaczmar
Beth Kitchen
Carrie Mayfield
Jim Mayfield
Andrea Nelson
Carmen Robles
Tony Rudlosky
Brian Thompson

Thanks to our Hard-Working Volunteers

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Helen Vari

Acknowledgements

Ballet Excel Ohio – formerly Cuyahoga Valley Youth Ballet (Loan of scenery including the pirate ship)

Aimee Lambes (special photo shoot)

Rubber City Shakespeare Company (loan of props)

Special Thanks to Hall Associates Flying Effects and StageSwords.com



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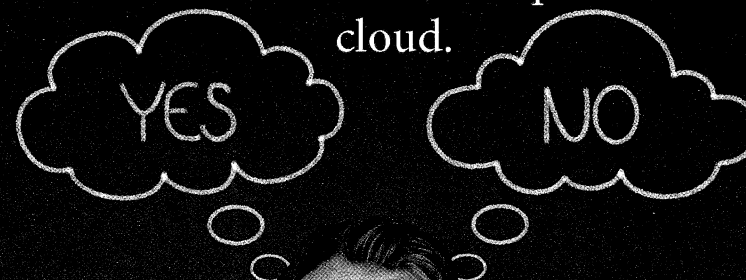
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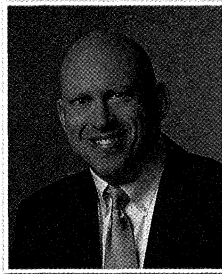
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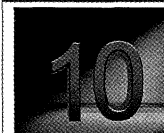


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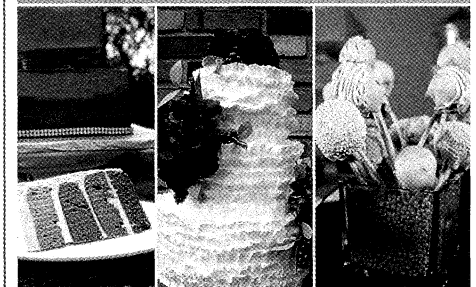


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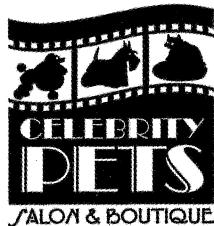


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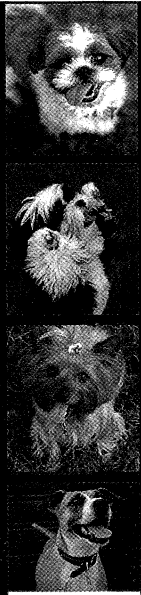
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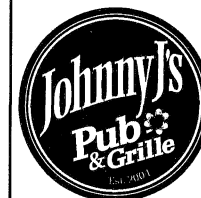


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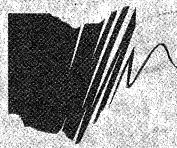


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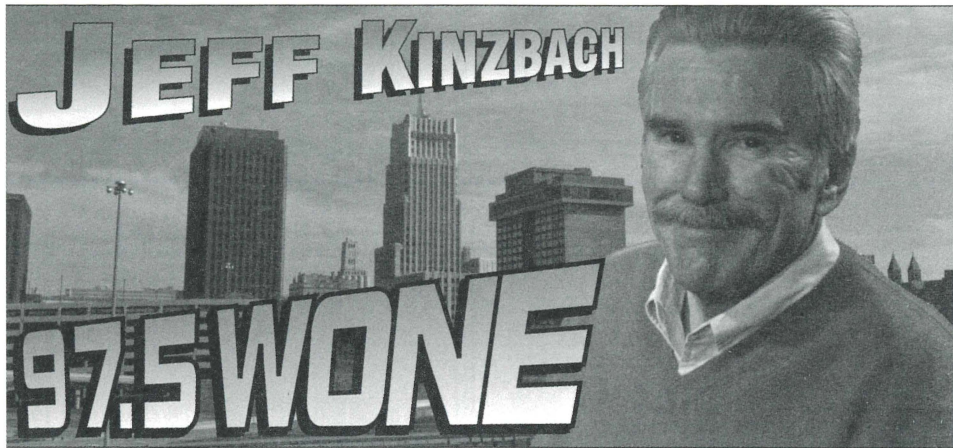
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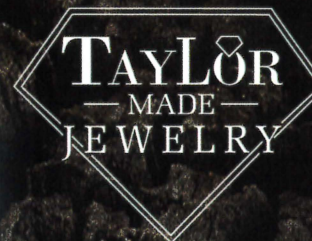
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