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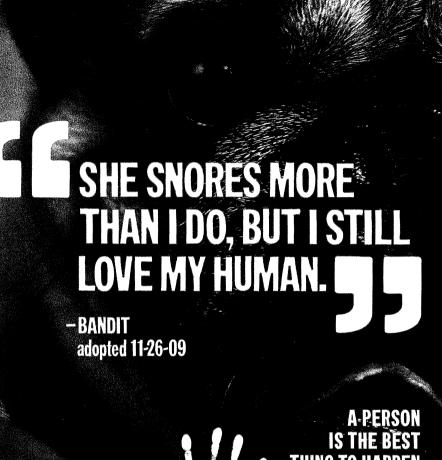
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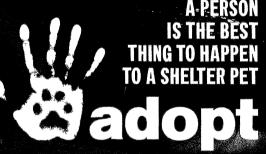
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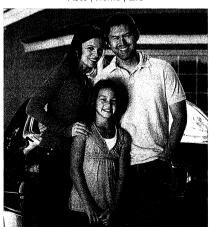


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A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

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

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

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

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

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75th season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 82nd Season.

MISSION STATEMENT

Weathervane Playhouse produces high-quality live theater with volunteer artists, designers, and technicians under professional direction, provides education and training in theater arts and appreciation, and engages and entertains its audience and constituents to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

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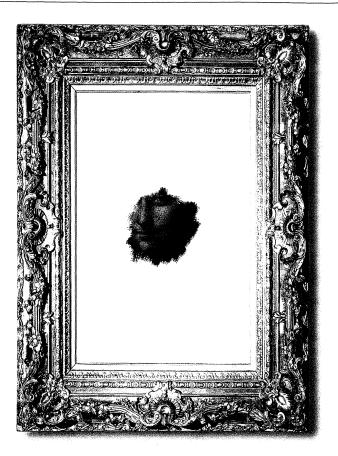
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"Give My Regards to Broadway!" A celebration of Broadway, plays, and New York City

The best way to celebrate "It's Only a Play", the opening mainstage production of Weathervane's 83rd Season, is with an exuberant, colorful, and historical display of all things relating to theatre, Broadway, and New York City. Thanks to the generosity of Weathervane friends, actors, and audience members, The Gallery is filled with Broadway posters, playbills — both from Broadway and from Weathervane productions —, original cast recordings of Broadway shows, and amazing jigsaw puzzles of the New York City skyline and Times Square. It has been quite the journey locating, assembling and hanging all these treasures!

Heartfelt thanks to all who so generously and enthusiastically entrusted their wonderful memorabilia for this exhibit. Those contributors are: Harriet DeVeto, Tom Stephan, Wendy and Ralph Cooley, Josh Larkin, Holly Humes Custer, Aimee Lambes, Magical Theatre, Ian Haberman, Melanie YC Pepe, Wendy Duke, Rachel Kall, and John, Elizabeth and Gabe Riazi.

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For over 80 years, and more than 700 productions, Weathervane Playhouse has entertained our community with high quality live theater. It has been a place for people of all backgrounds to experience and appreciate live theater onstage, backstage or in the audience. We are proud to be associated with Weathervane Playhouse.



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Weathervane Playhouse presents

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Comedy

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Playwright Terrence McNally was born in 1939 and grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, listening to radio broadcasts of The Green Hornet and the Metropolitan Opera. McNally's love of the opera and especially of the famous diva Maria Callas would surface in his work, most notably in his Tony award-winning Master Class (1996). His love of music also inspired him to collaborate on several musicals, including The Rink (1984), Kiss of the Spider Woman (1993), and Ragtime (1996).

Graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia in 1960 with a degree in English, McNally enjoyed a fellowship in Mexico where he wrote a play that earned the attention of the Actors Studio and got him a job as a stage manager, allowing him to acquire some practical theatre experience. In 1961, he enjoyed bonding with John Steinbeck and his family, on tour with them through Europe as the Steinbeck children's tutor. After McNally's first Broadway play And Things That Go Bump in the Night flopped, gaining notoriety for being 1964's most scandalous, he went forward working odd jobs until his subsequent and successful play Next elevated him to full-time playwright status.

From the macabre to the farcical, the range of McNally's satire and drama borrows from his personal life and his personal understanding of the world. McNally's plays about homophobia, love, fear, and AIDS, among other things, illuminate the dominant theme of how people connect and fail to connect. McNally has no fear of offending as he explores new territories with his pen. His controversial 1999 play Corpus Christi dramatized a homosexual version of Jesus Christ, drawing mobs of angry protesters to his home theater at the Manhattan Theatre Club, and inciting a fatwa or death sentence from a Muslim group in England.

Despite the controversy surrounding some of his plays, Terrence McNally is one of the most beloved and prolific modern-day playwrights. Besides the afore-mentioned, some of his other notable credits include: The Ritz (1975), Frankie and Johnny at the Claire de Lune (1987), The Lisbon Traviata (1989), Andress Mother (1990), Lips Together, Teeth Apart (1991), and Love! Valour! Compassion! (1994). In addition to four Tony Awards, McNally has received two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Rockefeller Grant, the Lucille Lortel Award, the Hull-Warriner Award, and a citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Welcome! It is our great pleasure to have you here with us for our first mainstage production of the year, Terrence McNally's hilarious "It's Only a Play." The play is about a group of theatre insiders who have staked themselves out in the producer's bedroom as they wait for the reviews to come in - most importantly the review from *The New York Times*. At first glance, the play seems to be a hilarious celebration of the foibles, mean-spiritedness, and pettiness of theatre producers, artists, and critics.

However, this play is so much more. It most certainly lampoons all of the theatre archetypes: the neurotic and high-strung writer, the mediocre actor who became a star and has "gone Hollywood," the drugged-out and washed-up starlet, the feted director who has no idea what he is doing, and the theatre critic who is really a frustrated playwright, but this play also speaks to some very real issues of a life in (and out of) the arts. The fact that all of your hard work can be crushed by

one powerful opinion. That once you achieve success, you can be consumed with holding, on to it by any means. That we are a society that seems to value the celebrity of the "cash me ousside" girl and the Kardashians over the actual accomplishments of artists, and that we rely on "tastemakers" to tell us what we should like instead of seeking it out ourselves.

The beautiful thing is that the play helps us to see these things by making us laugh. Laughter is an idea understood, and at many times cathartic as we watch others struggle and allow ourselves to feel that we are better people since we aren't them. Watch them, feel sorry for them or don't, but please feel free to laugh at them.

Oh, and if some of the naughty words upset you, remember "It's Only a Play."

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CAST LIST

Gus P. Head	KYLE BURNETT
James Wicker	PATRICK MICHAEL DUKEMAN
Virginia Noyes	OLIVIA WIMBERLY
	WILL C. CROSBY
	APRIL DEMING
	BRIAN O. JACKSON
	SCOTT K. DAVIS
TV Announcer	JASEN SOKOL
	BOBBI HORVATH

SETTING

The Time of the play is the recent past. The Place of the play is Julia Budder's apartment There will be one Ten-minute intermission.



KYLE BURNETT (Gus P. Head) is thrilled to be making his Weathervane debut! He recently graduated from Kent State University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. He was last seen

on the Cleveland stage in City of Angels (Pasco/ Gene) at Beck Center for the Arts. Favorite credits include Alice and the Dream Child (Charles) at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Kiss Me, Kate (Gremio/Flynt) at KSU, American Idiot (Ensemble) at Beck Center for the Arts, Godspell (Judas) at CAMEO, and South Pacific (Seabee) with the Akron Symphony Orchestra. After this show, you can catch him in as a Phantom in The Rocky Horror Show at Blank Canvas Theatre. He'd like to thank Fred, Josh, Patti, and the rest of the cast and crew for this wonderful opportunity and for all the laughs! www.kyle-burnett.com



WILL C. CROSBY (Frank Finger) Originally from Lakewood, Will has worked all over the Northeast Ohio area as an actor, director, and stage manager. On our stage, Will was a Pharisee

in last season's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and before that he was Prince Herbert/ Not-Dead-Fred in Monty Python's Spamalot. He stage managed last season's You Can't Take It With You, and directed the sold-out run of I Love You Because. Other notable roles include Shrek in Shrek the Musical (Olmsted Performing Arts), Smee in Peter and the Starcatcher (Weathervane), Nicely Nicely Johnson in Guys and Dolls (Olmsted Performing Arts), Franz Liebkind in The Producers (Cassidy Theatre), William Barfee in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Huntington Playhouse). Will has worked as the Director of the Garfield Middle School drama program in Lakewood. His other directing credits include Avenue Q at Chagrin Valley Little Theater, last year's 8 x10 TheatreFest at Weathervane, Company at Independence Community Theater, and Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka at Brecksville Theatre on the Square. "Thank you for supporting live theatre!"



SCOTT K. DAVIS (Peter Austin) has been involved with theatre in some way since the age of 8 when he was cast as Jack in the musical The Beanstalk and Jack. He earned his B.A. in Theatre

and Psychology from Muskingum University,

where he also served as the Theatre Department costumer for three years. He has since been involved in countless productions either on stage or behind the scenes. Roles include Clown 1 in The 39 Steps, Curtis in The Lyons, Eric Sheridan in Unnecessary Farce, Orgon in Tartuffe and Lenny Ganz in Rumors. Scott also performed as Guy Johnson in the Canadian national touring company of *Heart of Africa*. He was most recently seen in Weathervane's Hairspray and the 8x10 TheatreFest. Scott wishes to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.



APRIL DEMING (Julia Budder) is honored to be a current Weathervane Playhouse Trustee. She was seen most recently as Sonia in Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike at Weathervane

and in August: Osage County (Mattie Fae) in 2012. She has performed and directed for 30 years, most of that happening in Green Bay, WI, where she lived until 2011. Some of her favorite roles are: Regina in The Little Foxes, Martha in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Stephanie in The Cactus Flower and Zorah in Inspecting Carol. She feels very blessed to have found such a wonderful theatre so close to home where she can work and play.



PATRICK MICHAEL **DUKEMAN** (James Wicker) was last seen on our stage as Edna Turnblad in Hairspray, King Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar, and Crumpet the Elf in The Santaland

Diaries. Other credits last season include Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (Vanya), The Man Who Came to Dinner (Beverly Carlton), for which he won a Chanticleer Award, and Margaret Mead in Hair. More credits at Weathervane include The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd (Sir), Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (Lawrence), Xanadu (Calliope/Aphrodite) and The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Chairman). He made his debut on our stage in his dream role, Man in Chair, in The Drowsy Chaperone, for which he also won a Chanticleer Award. Since his relocating back to Akron from San Francisco, where he had been acting professionally for 20 years, he has played in *The Producers* (Roger) and Honk! (Ugly). In San Francisco, his portrayal of Jerry Springer in Jerry Springer the Opera garnered him a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle

Best Actor nomination. He also received a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Best Supporting Actor nomination for his portrayal of The Stepmother in *Cinderella* at CCMT.



BRIAN O. JACKSON (Ira Drew) is so happy to be back on the Weathervane stage. He is appearing in his 7th Weathervane Production and was last seen here as as Renfield in *Dracula*. He was most recently

seen as Doug in An Impending Rupture of the Belly at None Too Fragile. He has been on stages all over the Akron and Cleveland area and plans to do so for many years to come. Much love to the wonderful cast and crew of this crazy show. As always, thank you to my friends and family for their support over the many years. And a super big thank you to his sister Laura, who never fails to book a flight home right before a show opens or right after it closes before I've even auditioned. Every. Single. Time. She's officially his good luck charm.



OLIVIA WIMBERLY (Virginia Noyes) is thrilled to be playing the part of the Virginia Noyes in *It's Only a Play* in her debut performance at Weathervane Playhouse. Other favorite credits

include the Emcee in *Cabaret*, Dame Proops in *Jekyll and Hyde*, and Emma Goldman in *Assassins* at Players Guild Theater; Mrs. Lyons in *Blood Brothers* at Carnation City Players; Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* for The Producers' Society; and Buttercup in HMS Pinafore at Gordon College Opera. Mrs. Wimberly wants to thank her husband, family, and friends for their continual support through her life as a theatre artist. www.oliviaraewimberly.com



PATTI ALDERSON (Stage Manager) is excited to be working as stage manager for *It's Only a Play* after doing last season's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Prior to that, she served as assistant

stage manager for Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike, also at Weathervane. She has also co-directed several shows for the 8x10 TheatreFest. She lives in Stow with her husband Adam and son Alex, whom she would like to thank for their love and support during this busy show.



SCOTT K. DAVIS (Properties Co-Designer) SEE ACTING BIO



FRED GLOOR (Director) is currently the Associate Artistic Director/Marketing Director at Weathervane Playhouse. Most recently, he directed *Our Town* at French Creek Theatre, and

You Can't Take It With You, The Lyons, and 4000 Miles (all for Weathervane Playhouse). He teaches in the Theatre Departments of Baldwin Wallace University and Cuyahoga Community College (West). A graduate of Kent State University, Fred's other directing credits include Cleveland Public Theatre, Dobama, TitleWave, Charenton, The Second City Cleveland, CVLT, and Tri-C West. As an actor, he has performed at The Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Dobama, The Beck Center, Cain Park, The Second City Cleveland, The Ensemble Theatre, and as a cast member of Something Dada. A member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA, he has appeared in numerous commercials and such films as The Dream Catcher, and Pirates with Leslie Nielsen, Eric Idle, and Rodney Dangerfield. He would like to thank Patti, Josh, Jasen, Kathy, Tom, Hazen, and the entire cast and crew for all their hard work and passion. He would especially like to thank his beautiful wife and daughter, Liz and Oliva, for all their love and support and to his awesome doxies Lola and Lennon for being happy to see him every time he walks in the door.



KATHY KOHL (Scenic Designer/ Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a masters degree in business management

from Aurora University. She began her theater career at Weathervane as a volunteer on many lighting, set construction and props crews, joining the professional staff in 2002. She also served for seven years as master painter for the theater department at Firestone High School. Most recently, she was scenic co-designer for our productions of Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike and Monty Python's Spamalot. In 2015, she was a recipient of the Trustee Award and holds three Chanticleer awards for her properties designs for Enchanted April, The Sisters Rosensweig, and The Philadelphia Story. She lives with her husband, Doug, in West Akron where they raised their three children. When not at Weathervane, she very much enjoys being "Ommie" to Parker, Fiona, Beckett and Maisie.



JOSHUA LARKIN (Assistant Director) has previously worked with Weathervane Playhouse in numerous roles, here for the first time as an assistant director. He has previously worked behind

the scenes on Weathervane's recent productions of I Love You Because and The Santaland Diaries, and as a director during the 6th and 7th annual 8x10 TheatreFests. A native of Dover, OH, Joshua has appeared on stage in a number of productions in Eastern Ohio. Favorite credits include; Weathervane Playhouse: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Spamalot, You Can't Take it With You, RED, Jesus Christ Superstar. Western Reserve Playhouse: Love Letters. The Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County: Little Shop of Horrors, The Drowsy Chaperone, and Bye Bye Birdie. In addition to his day job as Business Manager, Joshua is looking forward to making his directorial debut at Weathervane with this spring's It Shoulda Been You.



TOM LIGGETT (Lighting Designer) is a newcomer to Weathervane and was involved with the recent production of Disney's The Little Mermaid. Most of his stage experience comes

as a musician, having performed all around the region on keyboards, guitars and vocals in bands high-profile and small. It was during this period that he started to spend more time with the light and sound crews and became fascinated with that side of the stage. Now that he has retired from the music scene, Tom sees lighting design as a wonderful artistic outlet. He further fueled his interest in live theater, and the room it provides for boundless creativity, while directing his daughters in several musicals during their school years. Tom is thankful to Weathervane and its staff for not only giving him the opportunity but especially for welcoming him and treating him like an old friend so quickly. A graduate of The University of Akron, he spent 10 years working for his alma mater starting in Alumni/ Development and then moving into media relations in the department of Sports Information for the bulk of his tenure. Tom would like to thank his wife Susan and his daughters Erin and Anna (the latter of whom recently appeared in Disney's The Little Mermaid) for allowing him to find ways for artistic expression. Tom also wants to send a shoutout to Weathervane Playhouse board member Sean Vollman for introducing him to the Weathervane family.



RICHARD MORRIS, JR. (Technical Director) holds a B.A. in Scenic and Lighting Design from Kent State University. He was the Technical Director/Production Manager for Karamu

House Performing Arts Theatre in Cleveland since 1997. He has designed scenery and lighting for over 104 productions and was the recipient of the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival award for "Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design". In 2013, he was Keynote Speaker at Alabama State University on "African Americans In Scenic Design." Some of Richard's design credits include: Chad Deity, Cut Flowers, Ceremonies in Dark Old Men, The Color Purple, The Bluest Eye, Gem of the Ocean, Ruined, God's Trombones, Yellowman,

Caroline or Change, Purlie Victorious, Holes, King Headly II, Jar the Floor, Bee Luther Hatchee, Raisin, The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Colored Minstrel Show, Riff Raff, Jelly's Last Jam, Steal Away and The Tap Dance Kid. For Ensemble Theatre: The Rabbit Foot, Later Life, and Meetings on the Porch. For Oberlin College Theatre: Blade to the Heat and Omnium Gatherum, and TopDog/UnderDog. Oberlin lighting design credits include: Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Macbeth, The Compromise, and Death of a Salesman. For Rabbit Run Theatre: Enchanted April, Ragtime, and Cemetery Club. For Weathervane Playhouse: Little Shop of Horrors, Clybourne Park, Seven Guitars and Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting.



MELANIE YC PEPE (Properties Co-Designer) holds a B.F.A. in Theatrical Performance and Management from Kent State University, where she is now serving on the School of Theatre

and Dance Advisory Board. At Weathervane, she has produced over 50 theatrical productions and recent directing credits include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *Red*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. As always, she sends special thanks to her husband and children for their incredible love and support.



KELLIE ROSSINI (Master Electrician) has been with Weathervane since October of 2016 as the Master Electrician. She designed lights for *The Santaland Diaries* in 2016 and *A*

Kid Like Jake in 2017. She has been a member of I.A.T.S.E. Local #48 since 1999 and has worked for The Canton Palace Theatre, Verb Ballets, The Manchester Dance Ensemble, Martell School of Dance, Ohio Ballet, The University of Akron Dance Department and The Dance Institute at the University of Akron. She received her first bachelor's degree in technical theatre from Kent State University and is currently working on a second in Accounting.



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. Since then, he's designed costumes for dozens of Weathervane productions. As

a co-designer, he and Hedy Jones took home Weathervane's Chanticleer Award for best costume design for *Man of La Mancha* in 2009. He also won a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Alliance for his work on *Children of Eden*. Elsewhere, his design work has been seen on the stages of Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.



HAZEN TOBAR (Sound Designer) has spent a lot of time with Weathervane this season, most recently most recently for *The Disney's The Little Mermaid.*Other sound design credits

include Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka, Monty Python's Spamalot, Clybourne Park, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Hair, The Flick, Oklahoma! and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, as well as ran the board for Unnecessary Farce, Hamlet, Don't Dress For Dinner, Uncle Vanya and The Music Man. Hazen recently completed a B.A. in Audio Recording.









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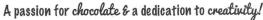
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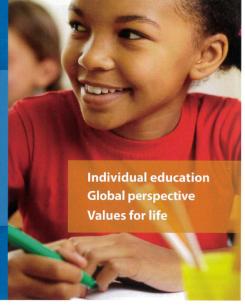
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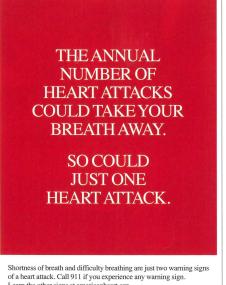




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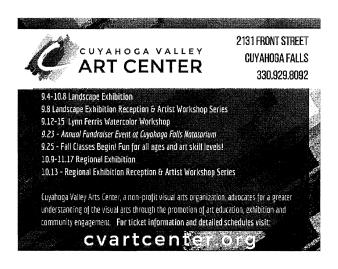


Tiffany Bird (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be assisting this wonderful production as stage manager. She is an attorney and avid theater goer, who has been active both on and behind stage. She has appeared most recently as Clairee Marmillion in Steel Magnolias for Miller Productions. Tiffany has also been onstage in Oliver Twist and The Princess and the Pauper at Orrville Community Theater and made her directorial debut this

spring in *Pride and Prejudice* also at Orrville Community Theater. Tiffany's children are also active both on and off the stage. She would like to thank her family for supporting her in all her crazy endeavors!

Bobbi Horvath (TV Theatre Critic) has been on air in Northeast Ohio for longer than she cares to discuss, and joined Rubber City Radio Group nine years ago. She can be heard from 10-2 each weekday with Jasen Sokol, tackling the big issues and getting closer to her goal of meeting every single person in Akron. She and husband Steve have been living, and working on, their big old house in Highland Square for more than twenty years.

Jasen Sokol (TV Announcer) is the host of "The Jasen Sokol Show," a daily news and sports talk show on 1590 WAKR. He is also the public address announcer for the Lake County Captains, a Class A affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. Jasen grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland before going to Baldwin Wallace University and Kent State University, where he worked at WKSU as the Morning Edition producer. After graduating in 2013, he joined WAKR and sister stations WQMX and WONE as a traffic reporter. In 2014, Jasen was given his own show. Each day, he leads a discussion on the air about the big stories of the day and interviews newsmakers, reporters, and influential Akronites.



ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Production Stage Manager

Tiffany Bird

Set Construction and Painting Crew

Bob Brauning

Chelby Benson

James Boyd

Chris Capron

Logan Chapman

Ralph Cooley

April Deming

Dave Deming

Dale Gilbert

Ron Hays

Light Crew

Kellie Rossini

Sue Davis

Ken Hardman

Costume Crew

Yvonne Chapman

Diane Geul

Melanie Hauer

Linda Jarvis

Millie Keyser

Joanna Mack

Light Board Operators

Sue Davis

Ken Hardman

Sue Snyder

Sound Operators

Logan Chapman

Daniel Herron

Katie Rowland

Platt Safford

Additions/Corrections

Board of Trustees

Pat Ameling

Eileen Moushey

Mary Kay Finn

Special Thanks

Laura Niehaus