



2016-2017 Annual Report

(COMPILED AND EDITED BY NANCY HUMES)

2016/17

IMPACT

24,543

GUESTS

12

PRODUCTIONS

(6 PLAYS, 6 MUSICALS)

14

SPECIAL EVENTS

409

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

+13%

SINGLE TICKET SALES

673

ENROLLED IN ON SITE CLASSES

162

WEATHERVANE PERFORMANCES

\$5,843

THANK YOU DOLLARS DONATED

46,126

VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORDED

+7%

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

2,531

PROJECT STAGE PARTICIPANTS

A note from the Chief Executive Artistic Director

The job of an Artistic Director is to have faith in people's dreams. To enable these dreams to come to life and become an experience we all can share. But transforming a dream into a tangible thing is a daunting task. It takes passion, faith and trust. It takes brilliant artists. It takes an invested audience.



Theatre is a world where we all agree to suspend our disbelief. We agree to create a world together and experience a story comprised of decisions that we may, or may not, completely understand. By choosing to come to the theatre, or help create it, we're creating a place where magic can happen. A place for artists and audiences of all kinds to come together and dream. We choose to be a part of something larger than ourselves.

This year, it's been an honor to be a part of a successful season and very busy year. With 12 productions, 14 special events, 57 education classes, the changes in staff and our new organizational structure, the year has flown by.

Thank you for being a part our successes this year at Weathervane Playhouse. I am looking forward to sharing an exciting new season with all of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melanie'.

Melanie YC Pepe

Chief Executive Artistic Director

THE 2016 – 2017 SEASON IN REVIEW

This year has been both exciting and challenging to all of us at the Playhouse. We have completed a re-organization of the staff which has involved hiring several new employees, moving some current employees and establishing new ways of doing things. We are keeping the best of the old — the tried and true, and maximizing our capabilities, on stage and back stage, to maintain our essential base of volunteers. At the same time we are expanding the number of our volunteers and our audiences. All of this has been accomplished while adhering to our Mission Statement and honoring our Vision for Weathervane Community Playhouse.

During the 2016-2017 Season, we have produced 12 *high-quality live productions which included a multitude of volunteer artists, designers and technicians under the professional direction of our staff*. Knowing that we have had more attendees than ever before, we can all be proud of these accomplishments. Some of our offerings have been technically challenging and others have embraced topics that have encouraged our audiences, volunteers and staff to look at our world in new ways and perhaps broaden horizons. This supports our vision of *offering high caliber, diverse, challenging theater production that compel our community to attend, participate in, and discuss ideas and the human condition*. In addition to performances on our Stages, we have hosted 14 special events which have reached out to the community, and through the 8x10 TheatreFest, the world. Our Education Department has supported and encouraged youth and adults to learn new skills and develop existing skills and talents. Undergirding the whole, is our Volunteer Base, without which we would not exist. And finally, we have our Professional Staff which has overseen, encouraged and taught additional skills and talents necessary to accomplish our goal of providing exceptional live theater experiences for all who wish to attend. This is what makes us who and what we are.

We also made the following upgrades to our facility, adding to our capabilities. We added 26 pars to our lighting stock, LED Cyc Lights, Purchased Lightfactory, a fog machine and a dry ice-low-lying for machine, new microphones, some new curtains, and put in a new HVAC unit on the second floor, updated and soundproofed the Sisler-McFawn rehearsal room, replaced the back door lock, and continued with regular maintenance of the facility, as well as re-painting the parking lot, and staining and sealing the picnic tables.

This was an ambitious and yet very successful season on our stages involving more actors and actresses, backstage hands, and more volunteers than ever before. During the holiday season our stage once again was shared with two productions. The variety of shows, a great mix of musical, drama and comedy, led to larger ticket sales and larger audiences than in the past. As we grow, we continue to build our base of both professionals and volunteers to ensure quality productions.

We thank you all for everything you do – from sharing your time, talents and financial support and want to give a special thanks to our Production Underwriters for all of their support for the 2016 – 2017 Season.

PRODUCTION UNDERWRITERS FOR THE 2016 – 2017 SEASON

AARP

Akron Community Foundation

Akron/Summit Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust

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GAR Foundation

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The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation

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Northeast Ohio Boomer and Beyond Magazine

Northeast Ohio Parent Magazine

Ohio Arts Council

OMNOVA Solutions Foundation

WKSU 89.7 FM

The 2016 – 2017 Season On Our MAIN STAGE

Willy Wonka, Emerging Artist Series – Musical

Based on the book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl

Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

Adapted for the Stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald

July 29 – August 14, 2016

Director, Sarah Elaine Bailey

Assistant Director & Choreographer, Marissa Leenaarts

Musical Director, Sharon Dobbins Alberson

Stage Manager, Jared Sparks

Assistant Stage Manager, Bryson Lambes & Danielle Gruhler

Properties, Chris Simmons

Lights, Scott Crim

Sound, Hazen Tober

Set Design, Jonathon Hunter

Costumes, Jasen Smith

Attendance 3,224/89.56%

Opening Night Reception by 2 Girls' Café & Bakery



You Can't Take It With You - Comedy

Written by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

August 25 – September 11, 2016

Sponsored by AARP Millennial Group

Director, Fred Gloor

Stage Manager, Will Crosby

Assistant Stage Manager, Ben Mehalik

Properties, J.J. McAdams

Lights, Jonathon Hunter

Sound, Hazen Tober

Set Design, Jonathon Hunter & Kathy Kohl

Costumes, Jasen Smith

Attendance 1,865/64.76%

Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights

Little Shop of Horrors - Musical Comedy
Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman
Music by Alan Menken
Based on the film by Roger Corman
Screenplay by Charles Griffith
September 29 - October 16, 2016
Director, Bob Russell
Musical Director, John Ebner
Choreographer, Katie Zarecki
Stage Manager, Denise Eletich
Properties, April Helms
Puppet Designer for Audrey II Puppets, Ralph Cooley
Lights, David Ruggles
Sound, John Coyne
Set Design, Richard Morris, Jr.
Costumes, Sarah Russell
Attendance 1,997/69.34%
Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Emerging Artist Series – Musical
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Tim Rice
Director, Sarah Elaine Bailey
Assistant Director and Choreographer, Marissa Leenaarts
Musical Director, Sharon Dobbins Alberson
Stage Manager, Jamie Zahler
Assistant Stage Manager, Parker Thompson
Properties, Chris Simmons
Lights, Ed Butch
Sound, Hazen Tobar
Set Design, Rob Peck
Costumes, Jasen Smith
November 22 – December 18, 2016
Attendance 4,168/91.40%
Sponsored by Kohmann Bosshard Financial Services, LLC
Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights

The Santaland Diaries – Comedy

Author, David Sedaris

Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello

Director, Melanie YC Pepe

Stage Manager, Jared Sparks

Properties, Jared Sparks & Melanie YC Pepe, Co-Designers

Lights, Kellie Rossini

Sound, Christopher Pepe

Set Design, Rob Peck

Costumes, John Catlos

December 1 – 17, 2016

Attendance 1,189/55.05%

Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights



A Kid Like Jake - Drama

By Daniel Pearle

Director, Bob Belfance

Stage Manager, Richard Worswick

Properties, Jared Sparks

Lights, Kellie Rossini

Sound, Michael Rahanian

Set Design, Laura Niehaus

Costumes, Jasen Smith

January 12 – 22, 2017

Attendance 818/42.60%

Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights

To Kill a Mocking Bird – Emerging Artist Series

Adapted by Christopher Sergei from the novel by Harper Lee

Director, Jimmy Woody

Stage Manager, Patti Alderson

Assistant Stage Manager, Logan Chapman

Properties, April Helms & Jared Sparks, Co-Designers

Lights, Kevin Rutan

Sound, Kevin Rutan

Set Design, Chelby Benson & Dawn Snidak Yamokoski – Co-Designers

Costumes, Loren “Coco” Mayer

February 23 – March 12, 2017

Attendance 2,591/77.11%

Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights





Jesus Christ Superstar – Musical
 Lyrics by Tim Rice
 Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
 Director, Melanie YC Pepe
 Assistant Director & Choreographer, Kevin Lambes
 Musical Director, John Ebner
 Stage Manager, Jeannie Clarkson
 Properties, Karen Burrridge
 Lights, Richard Morris, Jr.
 Sound, Christopher Pepe
 Set Design, Richard Morris, Jr.
 Costumes, Jasen Smith
 March 30 – April 23, 2017
 Attendance 3,290/95.45%
 Opening Night Reception by 2 Girls' Café & Bakery

The Flick – Dramatic Comedy
 By Annie Baker
 Director, Craig Joseph
 Stage Manager, Andrew McConahay
 Properties, John Grafton & April Deming, Co-Designers
 Lights, John Carmola
 Sound, Hazen Tobar
 Set Design, Kathy Kohl
 Costumes, Inda Blatch-Geib
 May 4 - 14, 2017
 Attendance 961/50.05%
 Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights



Hairspray – Musical
 Book by Thomas Meehan and Mark O'Donnell
 Music by Marc Shaiman
 Lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman
 Based on the New Line Cinema film
 Written and directed by John Waters
 Director & Choreographer, Marissa Leenaarts
 Music Director, John Ebner
 Stage Managers, Jeff Bixby & Jerry Dorton
 Properties, Chris Simmons & Hannah Vinograd, Co-Designers
 Lights, Kevin Rutan
 Sound, John Coyne
 Set Design, Richard Morris, Jr.
 Costumes, Loren "Coco" Mayer & Jasen Smith, Co-Designers
 June 8 – July 2, 2017
 Attendance 3,364/99.71%
 Opening Night Reception by 2 Girls' Café & Bakery

The 2016-2017 Season on our DIETZ THEATER STAGE

Red – Drama

By John Logan

Director, Melanie YC Pepe

Stage Manager, Al Costa

Properties, Pamela Parks Costa & Chelby Benson, Co-Designers

Lights, Sue Stout-Davis

Sound, Christopher Pepe

Set Design, Rob Peck

Costumes, Jasen Smith

October 27 – November 12, 2016

Attendance 420/65.93%

Sponsored by Margaret J. Dietz

Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights



I Love You Because – Musical

Music by Joshua Salzman

Books and Lyrics by Ryan Cunningham

Director, Will C. Crosby

Musical Director, John Ebner

Stage Manager, Ashley Collins

Properties, Jay Sigler & Joshua Larkin, Co-Designers

Lights, Will C. Crosby

Set Design, Justyn Jaymes & Kathy Kohl, Co-Designers

Costumes, Jasen Smith

February 2 – 18, 2017

Attendance 656/97.62%

Opening Night Reception by Cake Bites & Other Delights

THANK YOU TO OUR SEASON SPONSORS



The 2016 – 2017 Season Through our Special Events

Inside | Out Ribbon Cutting
August 10, 2016

The Secret of the Old Queen (Canapi Fundraiser)

Monday, August 29, 2016

A Special Event Benefit Performance

All Proceeds benefitted the CANAPI (Community Aids Network/Akron Pride Initiative)

Attended by 167 people



The Secret of the Old Queen
A musical comedy
Book by Timothy Cope
Music and lyrics by Paul Boesing

Directed by Curt Arnold
Musical Direction by Butch Marshall

Original logo artwork by Chuck Ayers

David Anthony – Illusionist

September 17, 2016

This special show treated the audience to cutting-edge illusions and the audience participation brought the magic “up close and personal”. The night was enjoyed by all who attended.

Attended by 191 people

91.3 The Summit present Graham Nash

Two time Grammy Award Winner

September 23, 2016

Attended by 200 people

Weathervane Annual Gala – Miss Millie’s Speakeasy

October 22, 2016

Special Annual Fundraising Event

Amount Raised \$38,367.00

Attended by 175 people

Provided guests with exquisite food, delicious drinks and amazing items and packages upon which to bid during the live and silent auctions

HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS: Ms. Margaret J. Dietz and Ms. Helen D. Fleming

Co-Chairpersons: Corina Gaffney and Jennifer Klika

Committee Members:

Jacqueline Debose
Stephanie Dieringer
Todd Dieringer
Justyn Tyler James
Erin Katz-Ford

Kevin Lambes
Marissa Leenaarts
Lisa Mansfield
Melanie YC Pepe
Carolyn Stevens

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CD Release Party – Angie Haze Project

November 19, 2016

Holiday Drop-In

December 14, 2016

All of Weathervane's family — volunteers, donors, patrons and employees are invited to this annual holiday season event. Guests enjoyed a potluck dinner buffet and were treated to a special performance from *The Santaland Diaries*

2nd Annual Yule Ball

January 6, 2017

This is our annual semi-formal dinner and dance for middle school and high school students. Festivities include appearances by our own "School of Witches and Wizards".

A raffle and the dance is Emceed a local DJ.

Attended by 30 students

WKSU 89.7 Presents an Evening with Robert Siegel

April 27, 2017

Robert Siegel is the Senior Host of NPR's award winning evening news magazine "All Things Considered"

Attended by 232 people

1st Annual Summit StageFest Highland Square

June 3, 2017

We played an integral role in the 18 months of planning by hosting 6 months of meetings here at Weathervane.

The cast of Hairspray performed 4 numbers for the enjoyment of attendees

2017 Tony Awards Watch Party

June 11, 2017

Our 2nd annual event celebrating the Tony Awards on the Big Screen with a pre-show reception sponsored with a generous donation from Acme Fresh Market

Attended by 60 people

8x10 Theatrefest

July 13 – 16, 2017

Attended by 806 people

Director, William Morgan

This year was our 7th annual playwriting contest and theater festival of 10 minute plays. Bowing to audience demands, we increased the number of performance days from one to four. 142 scripts were submitted with the final 8 plays being performed live, on our stage. We had submissions from as close as Akron to as far away as The United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand.

This has become a highlight for Weathervane and for aspiring playwrights.

THEATREFEST 2017 WINNERS AND FINALISTS

Right after the final performance on Sunday, July 16, all of the ballots from the weekend's three performances were tallied, and the winners — as determined by the audience members — were announced!

FIRST-PLACE WINNER (\$350)

Good Surprises by Elizabeth Mowers of Mogadore, OH
Directed by Bill Morgan and Samantha Gates
Featuring Al Klesh, Pat Robertell-Hudson and Scott K. Davis

SECOND-PLACE WINNER (\$250)

Psych Nick by Scott Lummer of Santa Rosa, CA
Directed by Kyla Williger and Brandi Eaton
Featuring Stephanie Cargill, Matthew Heppe and Brandi Eaton

THIRD-PLACE WINNER (\$150)

Ghost of a Chance by Tamara Benson of Strasburg, OH
Directed by Brian Westerley and Harriet DeVeto
Featuring Chelby Benson, Beth Gaiser and Marci Paolucci

THE FIVE RUNNERS-UP

Listed in alphabetical order by title:

Good Things by Peter J. Stavros of Louisville, KY
Directed by Melanie YC Pepe
Featuring Tom Stephan, James Rizopulos and Mason Shuman

Magical Thinking by Joel Adlen of Richmond, CA
Directed by Joshua Larkin
Featuring Patty Rhodes and Adam Alderson

The Blue Album by Scott Mullen of North Hollywood, CA
Directed by Scott K. Davis
Featuring Chris Macchione, Dede Klein and Benjamin Mehalik

The Emperor's New Car by Barry Wood of Navenby, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom
Directed by Jay Sigler
Featuring Pam Daerr, Brooke Lytton and Tari Lyn Bergoine

The Unfortunate Teller by Jeff Dunne of Eldersburg, MD
Directed by April Deming
Featuring Gabriel K. Riazzi and Caitlyn Bradley

THE AUDIENCE CHOICE FOR THE 2018 THEATREFEST PROP

At the 2017 8x10 TheatreFest, the audience members chose a sock monkey as the inspirational prop to be incorporated into the plays for the 2018 8x10 TheatreFest!

66TH Chanticleer Awards

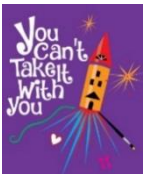
August 19, 2017

Our Annual Volunteer Recognition Event

Attended by 125 people



THE 66TH ANNUAL CHANTICLEER AWARDS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017
WEATHERVANE'S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER-RECOGNITION EVENT
123 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE



BEST MAINSTAGE PLAY
Fred Gloor, Director
Will C. Crosby, Stage Manager
You Can't Take It With You

BEST SCENIC DESIGN
Richard Morris, Jr.
Little Shop of Horrors



BEST SOUND DESIGN
Christopher Pepe
Jesus Christ Superstar

BEST COSTUME DESIGN
Loren "Coco" Mayer
Co-Designer
Hairspray



BEST MUSICAL
Marissa Leenaarts, Director
John Ebner, Musical Director
Jeff Bixby, Stage Manager
Jerry Dorton, Stage Manager
Hairspray

BEST LIGHTING DESIGN
Kevin Rutan
Hairspray



BEST PROPERTIES DESIGN
April Helms
Little Shop of Horrors

BEST LEAD ACTOR PLAY
Patrick Michael Dukeman
as Crumpet
The Santaland Diaries



BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR PLAY
Joshua Larkin
as Ed Carmichael
You Can't Take It With You

BEST LEAD ACTRESS PLAY
Cari Meixner
as Rose
The Flick





BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS PLAY
Dede Klein
as Judy
A Kid Like Jake

BEST LEAD ACTOR MUSICAL
Patrick Michael Dukeman
as Edna Turnblad
Hairspray



BEST LEAD ACTRESS MUSICAL
Sarah Jane Toy
as Tracy Turnblad
Hairspray

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR MUSICAL
Tom Stephan
as Wilbur Turnblad
Hairspray



BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS MUSICAL
Peggy Coyle
as Velma Von Tussle
Hairspray

BEST ACTOR DIETZ (TIE)
Russell B. Kunz
as Mark Rothko
Joshua Larkin
as Ken
Red



BEST ACTRESS DIETZ
Kyla Williger
as Diana
I Love You Because

BEST TECHNICAL ELEMENT DIETZ
Pamela Parks Costa and
Chelby Benson
Properties Design
Red



BEST TECHNICAL ELEMENT (EMERGING ARTIST SERIES)
Chris Simmons – Properties Design
Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

ERIN DILLON YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD

Presented to
Logan Chapman
And
Bryson Lambes

**In Appreciation of Outstanding
Dedication and Service to
Weathervane Playhouse**

2017 PRODUCER'S AWARD
Presented to
Kathy Kohl

2017 TRUSTEES 'S AWARD
Presented to
April & Dave Deming

VOLUNTEERING AT WEATHERVANE

Our staff, the backbone of our organization, depends on our Volunteers — the heart and soul of the Playhouse. Without these people, we could not exist. In keeping with our commitment to helping our volunteers attain the necessary skills and talents to perform in particular capacities we offer classes and training to fulfill our obligation to both our mission and our vision. On Saturday, March 18th our Coordinator of Volunteers, Scott Davis hosted our Stage Managers Workshop. He was assisted by three of our very experienced and capable Stage Managers — Mary Kate Clancy, Jill Forster and Christopher J. Ha. 13 People were in attendance.

Once a year, at our Chanticleer Awards ceremony, we recognize and celebrate the hard work of our Volunteers. Although we only recognize the top 25, we know that even if it is only an hour or so, this volunteered time is critical in our daily functioning, as well as bringing productions to our stages.

TOP 25 VOLUNTEERS

Jared Sparks – 889 Hours
Patrick Michael Dukeman – 842 Hours
Ralph Cooley – 772.25
Laura Niehaus – 733 Hours
Casey Ha – 627 Hours
Jeff Bixby – 585 Hours
Logan Chapman – 553 Hours
Jada-Lynn Pledger – 538.5 Hours
Jerry Dorton – 532 Hours
Aliyah Evans – 519 Hours
Zachary Charlick – 517 Hours
Jeannie Clarkson – 490.5 Hours
Sarah Craven 477 Hours
Alden Munnerlyn – 474.5 Hours
John O'Neill – 462 Hours
Mary Rohrer – 442.5 Hours
Kaitlyn Harris – 441.5 Hours
April Deming – 415 Hours
Harriet DeVeto – 414.5 Hours
Will C. Crosby – 408.75 Hours
Bryson Lambes – 407.25 Hours
Ella Stec – 392.25 Hours
Frank Lucas – 372 Hours
Eleasha Garrett – 362 Hours
Dale Gilbert – 353.5 Hours

In addition to our Top 25 Volunteer hours of 13,021 there were an additional 33,105 hours provided by all of our other volunteers for a

GRAND TOTAL OF 46,126 RECORDED/REPORTED VOLUNTEER HOURS.

Education Department

2016-2017 Annual Report



2016 Fall Session

94 students registered

Offered 12 classes in Acting, Musical Theatre, and Dance

Off-site Classes

We offered over 85 off-site educational opportunities, providing programming in Copley, Parma, Fairlawn, and Akron Public School districts. We partnered with other organizations such as the JCC, Wadsworth Library, and Akron Children's Hospital.

Akron Children's Hospital

Monthly art workshops were held for both patients and caregivers. The program was designed to help reduce feelings of isolation, reduce stress, create connections within a hospital setting, encourage self-expression, creative problem solving, encourage movement and play. Receiving a grant from the Emily List Fund for Performing Arts Therapy, Weathervane was able to provide these services at no cost to the patient and hospital.

Partnerships

Starting in May we began a partnership with West Side Vocal Academy. Susan Wallin and Ron Hazelett have been giving individual voice lessons to a number of students at Weathervane.

Scholarships

We offered 41 scholarships during the 2016-2017 season.

Master Classes

Over 6 master classes were offered. Students were able to take classes from professionals in Broadway Shows such as *Fun Home*, *Finding Neverland*, *King and I*, *Something Rotten*, and *An American in Paris* through Broadway Connection.

Yule Ball

The 2nd Annual Yule Ball had 32 people in attendance

2017 Spring Session

110 students registered

Offered 11 classes in Acting, Musical Theatre, and Dance

Spring Break Camp 2017

A Spring Camp was offered on site for students to take part in Art, Dance, Poetry and Theatre classes.

OUR DONORS (2016 – 2017)

DIAMOND (\$7,500+)

Community Foundation
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust
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GAR Foundation
Ohio Arts Council
Roush Memorial Fund of the Akron Community Foundation

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Margaret Dietz
Richard Ellison and Mary Beth
Helen Fleming
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Diane Johnson
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Eileen and Stephen Moushey
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Thank you to all our donors!

"Giving to others is a key element in well-being. It's abundantly clear from a number of studies that people who live generous lives also live happier lives."

Dr. Stephen Post, *Why Good Things Happen to Good People*

Executive Committee

2016-2017
2016 – 2017

Debbie Shama-Davis
President

April Deming
First Vice President

John Grafton
Second Vice President

Meg Hopp
Secretary

Stephannie Garrett
Treasurer

Lucy J. Randles
Member-at-Large

Trustees

2016-2017
2016 - 2017

Lisa Armstrong
David Bird
Wendy Cooley
Jacqueline V. DeBose
Belinda Duncan
Dr. Richard Ellison
Barry Friedman
Corina Gaffney
Jim Horvath
David Jesse
M. Diane Johnson
Gene Karlen
William Kist
Jay Sigler
Dean Uher
Sean Vollman
Alasandra Whitley

VOLUNTEER GUILD

Executive Board

President – Jay Sigler

President Elect – Scott Thanasiu

Vice President – Nancy Schafer

Secretary – Beverly Ricks

Treasurer – Helen Vari

Member-at-Large – Harriet DeVeto

Committee Chairs

Cast Suppers – Nancy Schafer

Concessions – Jill Forster

Harris Family Gallery – Marci Paolucci

Standing Committees

Building & Grounds – Jim Horvath/Chair

Finance – Stephanie Robertson/Chair

Governance – John Grafton/Chair

Officer Nominating – Meg Hopp/Chair

Personnel – Lucy Randels/Chair

Resource Development & Marketing –

Lisa Armstrong & David Bird/Co-Chairs

Trustee Nominating – Gene Karlen/Chair

Appointed Committees

Inclusion/Diversity – Belinda Duncan/Chair

Education – Dr. William Kist/Chair

THE NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

This was an exciting, well thought-out and ambitious undertaking resulting in a structure that makes the best use of our time, talents and expertise while at the same time continuing our quest for excellence in everything we do. This Organizational Structure brought in some new faces, challenges and helped resolve some of the existing challenges.

The actual structure is based on a business model where people/staff are grouped into areas of expertise which provides us with the opportunity to be more efficient, and economical and also allows us the opportunity to maximize talents and interests. In order to bring about the new structure, there are new job responsibilities which meant hiring some new employees and also reassigning some responsibilities to staff already in place. In October Rob Peck joined the staff as Interim Technical Director, a position he filled for the months of October and November. Also joining the staff in October were Kellie Rossini as Master Electrician, and Scott Davis as the new Coordinator of Volunteers. Richard Morris joined us in December as Technical Director and Resident Scenic Designer. January brought Joshua Larkin on as Business Manager. In February we were joined by Fred Gloor as Marketing Director Associate Artistic Director, and Nancy Humes returned as the Interim Education Director. And, in May Lauren Sprowls was hired as the new Director of Education. This group joined an already solid staff of long-time employees: Keith Campbell, Director of Audience Development, Kathy Kohl, Assistant Technical Director, Justyn James, Director of Development, Jasen J. Smith Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager, Aimee Lambes, Patron Services Manager and overseeing the staff is Melanie Pepe, Artistic Director who was promoted to Chief Executive Artistic Director in June. Nancy Humes' responsibilities changed once the new Education Director was hired and she has moved from the Education Department to a more general role, working with all staff members to help them accomplish their individual goals allotting her the job title of Administrative Associate.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

Melanie YC Pepe, Chief Executive Artistic Director

Scott Davis, Coordinator of Volunteers

Nancy Humes, Administrative Associate

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Joshua T. Larkin, Business Manager

Justyn Jaymes, Director of Development

Jim Horvath, Interim Bookkeeper

BOX OFFICE

Keith Campbell, Director of Audience Development

Aimee Lambes, Patron Services Manager

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Fred Gloor, Marketing Director Associate Artistic Director

Lauren Sprowls, Director of Education

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

Richard Morris, Technical Director and Resident Scenic Designer

Jasen J. Smith, Resident Costume Designer and Costumer Shop Manager

Kathy Kohl, Assistant Technical Director

Kellie Rossini, Master Electrician

MEET THE STAFF



Melanie holds a BFA 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*. Melanie was recognized in 2011 with the Weathervane Board of Trustees Award and is proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Melanie YC Pepe
Chief Executive Artistic Director

Mr. Davis holds a BA in Psychology and Theatre and a minor in Sociology from Muskingum University and is a longtime volunteer for Weathervane Playhouse, both on and off stage. He was Weathervane's volunteer of the month three times, has been in Weathervane's annual top 25 volunteers for the past seven years, and was awarded two Chanticleers. He has previous job experience in volunteer recruiting and retention, volunteer management, and conflict management.



Scott K. Davis
Coordinator
of Volunteers

Nancy Humes
Administrative Associate

Mrs. Humes received her Bachelor of General Studies from Kent State University and her Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School. After serving a church in Michigan, Nancy returned to her family and Ohio. She worked 3 years at Weathervane before "retiring" and returned to the Education Department in March. She now assists all the staff, in many capacities, as our Administrative Associate.



Mr. Larkin holds a BA in Public Accounting and Business Management from Muskingum University. He has been a volunteer with Weathervane for the past year and a half and has a 15 year history of volunteering in community theatre. He also served on the board of The Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County as the treasurer for two years.

Joshua T. Larkin
Business Manager

Justyn majored in theatre at Slippery Rock University where he was on the theatre staff and acted in *Our Town*, *6 Rms Rv Vu*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, *Cabaret*, *Mousetrap*, and *Deathtrap*. Locally, he has performed with the North Coast Men's Chorus and Weathervane's Not-Ready-for Main-Stage Players. He has been a costume designer at Slippery Rock University, Kent State University, Porthouse Theatre, and Actors Theatre of Louisville, and has taught Introduction to Costuming and Stage Make Up classes at Kent State University. Justyn studied higher education administration, arts management and law at The University of Akron where he was also an instructor in the Educational Foundations & Leadership Department. He also taught business management and sales as a corporate trainer for eight years with Tharaldson Lodging. Before coming to Weathervane, he enjoyed three years as a project director for a local nonprofit that focuses on assisting seniors, Mature Services, Inc. Justyn has a BA in Theatre, MA in Educational Psychology & Counseling, MAEd in Higher Education Administration, MA in Arts Administration, MFA in Theatre Design, JD in Law, and is all-but-dissertation completed on an EdD in Higher Education Administration.



Justyn Jaymes
Director of
Development

MEET THE STAFF (continued)

Keith Campbell

Director of Audience Development

Keith, a native of Canton, Ohio, graduated in 1992 from The University of Akron with a bachelor's degree in English. At UA, he served as editor of The Buchtelite and sang with the Akron Symphony Chorus. During the summers of 1995 and 1996, he interned in the box office at Porthouse Theatre. He joined the Weathervane staff in November 1996, and he was honored with the 2005 Weathervane Board of Trustees Award. He lives in Akron and enjoys volunteering with his Highland Square neighbors in Keep Akron Beautiful's Adopt-A-Site program.

Aimee Lambes

Patron Services Manager

Aimee was born in Connecticut, but moved to California as a toddler. She grew up in a creative family: she is a professional photographer, her sister is a painter, one brother makes furniture, one is a writer, one is a musician and one is also a photographer. She eschewed traditional education, and left school at a young age and traveled the country. She has lived in Connecticut, California, Oregon, Washington, Tennessee and Ohio. She now resides in the Canton area with her husband (who has been in several Weathervane productions) and their son. She maintains a photography studio, Aimee Lambes Photography, in Akron's Canal Place and takes our stunning production photos. Aimee says, "I believe in surrounding myself with creative people, and Weathervane is certainly a perfect place for that!"

Mr. Gloor worked in the Creative Arts Department at Cuyahoga Community College marketing theatre and JazzFest events. He holds a BA in Theatre from Kent State University and served as Co-Executive Director of The Cleveland Theater Collective. He has directed three shows at Weathervane: You Can't Take It with You, The Lyons, and 4000 Miles, and is a member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA. He is a lecturer at Baldwin Wallace University and a Theatre and Speech Instructor at Cuyahoga Community College.



Fred Gloor
Marketing Director
Associate Artistic
Director



Miss Sprowls holds a BA in Dance with a business cognate and will receive her MA in Arts Administration in May 2018. She has been teaching arts classes for almost 10 years, in previous work experience has supervised educational outreach programs, created curriculums, established an arts ambassador program, created program assessment surveys, marketed programs, assisted with grant writing and coordinated performances with experience in a studio setting, in school programs, and with community organizations.

Lauren Sprowls
Education Director

MEET THE STAFF (continued)

Mr. Morris holds a BA in Scenic and Lighting Design from Kent State University. He served as the Technical Director/Production Manager for Karamu House Performing Arts Theatre in Cleveland Ohio for twenty years. Since his return to Karamu in 1997, he 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, Mr. Morris was the keynote speaker at Alabama State University on African Americans in Scenic Design.



Richard Morris, Jr.
Technical Director
Resident
Scenic Designer



Before joining the Playhouse staff in the summer of 2008, Jasen served for four years as the Costume Designer and Theatre Rentals Manager for Akron Design and Costume. From 2001 to 2004 he was employed by the College of Wooster as the Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager. At Wooster, he also served as the resident costume designer for the Ohio Light Opera's 2003 and 2004 summer seasons. He is a 1999 graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1997, he worked as a wardrobe assistant for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and he designed costumes for its Graduate Acting Company's production of *The White Devil* in 2001. He is the recipient of the Lois S. Garren Award for Excellence in Costume Design from Region Four of the American College Theatre Festival for his designs for; *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (in 1999) and *Tartuffe* (in 2000). He lives in Akron.

Jasen J. Smith
Resident Costume Designer
and Costumer Shop Manager

Kathy holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's in business management from Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois. 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. 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.



Kathy Kohl
Assistant
Technical
Director



Mrs. Rossini received her first BA in technical theatre from Kent State University in 1996 and is currently working on a second. She has been a member of I.A.T.S.E. Local #48 since 1997 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.

Kellie Rossini
Master Electrician

AS YOU CAN SEE, 2016 – 2017 WAS A VERY CHALLENGING AND AMBITIOUS YEAR.
THE 2017 – 2018 SEASON WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED
DURING THIS PAST YEAR.

THE LITTLE MERMAID BEGAN THE SEASON WITH 3,410 SHOW ATTENDEES!
SO, MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR PERFORMANCES OF OUR MAINSTAGE
PRODUCTIONS.



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Mission

Weathervane Community 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.

Vision

Weathervane shall be one of the foremost community-based playhouses in the country that serves a region through theater as evidenced by: Consistent excellence in high caliber, diverse, challenging theater productions that compel our community to attend, participate in, and discuss the ideas and human conditions that are presented on our stages.

- The enthusiastic commitment of hundreds of volunteers who devote their time, talent and treasure in a uniquely rewarding environment.
- Exceptional educational programming for both children and adults that provides essential life skills through stage skills.
- Financial stability that reflects both our market value and intrinsic civic worth through maximization of earned income and diversified, robust contributed income.
- Its place as a community treasure that has a profound effect on peoples' lives.

Core Values

- Excellence
- Volunteerism
- Respect
- Openness
- Accountability
- Diversity • Collaboration • Fun!