

HOW TO OVERTHROW YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT CAST LIST

JEN BELCHER... Charlotte Speyer
JULIUS CAESAR... Phoebe Glesius
ENSEMBLE AND OTHER CHARACTERS...
Max Canonico
Preston Day
Haley Felgar
Steve Vereb

WOMEN CAST LIST

JO- Rosie Horvath
MARMEE- Max Canonico
MEG- Carson Adelstein
MR. LAWRENCE/CLOVIS/CARL- Seamus Buelow
AMY-Ashayla West
BETH/BHAER- Abhinav Venkataraman
MR. BROOKS Rashad Jordan
LAURIE- Orlee Steinberg

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTORS- ABRAHAM ADAMS, ESMA EDDEB
STAGE MANAGER/PROPS DESIGNER- KATHERINE SWARTZBECK
LIGHTING DESIGNER- KELLY SHERLOCK
COSTUME DESIGNER- APRIL ROCK
PROJECTIONS/SOUND DESIGNER- BEN NEEDHAM
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR- CLARENCE HOWARD
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR- JOSIAH RAGSDALE
RUN CREW- SOPHIA GLESIUS, AL BICKHAM

SOMEBODY THAT I USED TO KNOW

Song by Gotye

**Directed by
Ben Needham**

**Performed by
Charlotte Speyer & Legend Young**

Created by the Academy Design/Tech Students Class of 2026 & 2027

**Al Bickham
Sophia Glesius
Clarence Howard
Mackenzie Ipavec
Chloe Link
Josiah Ragsdale
Demiel Snyder
Mario Zingale**

**Vocal Coach
Emily Morgan**

**Costume Design
April Rock**

**Technical Advisor
Kelly Sherlock**

**Sound Engineer
Aaron Needham**

**Remix Artist
Robert Lilly**

**Special Thanks
Dan Hendrock
Abraham Adams
Katherine Swartzbeck
Dave Kimbell
Matt Volk
Jason Potts
Mike Daugherty
Jeff Mclean
Jake Brent
GeordysRocketry
Max Canonico
CFEVS Staff and Administration**

A

PLAYBILL 2025-2026 ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Eliza Gonzales

EURYDICE IN HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION 24-25

Photo by Daren Stahl

THE ACADEMY

For The Performing Arts
A Program Of Excel Tecc

The Academy for the Performing Arts is a college preparatory program of Excel TECC, serving the 11 high schools' ten school districts in the Mayfield Consortium. Excel TECC offers college preparatory programs within the high school curriculum that keep constant pace with business and industry. The program prepares students for professional employment or continued higher education.

ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mission

To provide talented high school juniors and seniors with a joyful, challenging and inspiring training experience in the theatre; an educational and performance experience that builds confidence, courage and mastery in creative self-expression preparing students for high-level college and professional opportunities.

The training students encounter at the Academy will challenge them to know themselves as creative and imaginative individuals. The discoveries and procedures essential to creativity on the stage, are equally vital to all human beings in their daily lives. The courage to create, the confidence to stand calmly before others in stressful situations, the facility to be expressive, the sense of play that makes one young at heart, the wisdom to see the big picture, the rare and essential skill to

communicate clearly, the sensitivity to find meaning in relationships and the business of life - these are all real-world benefits of the training at the Academy. At the Academy, we believe creativity in itself is an end. Because by mastering it, the student develops an expansiveness of self and a thriving confidence that can affect and change the world.

2025-2026 marks the eighteenth year of the program. During this season each student will study a wide range of performing arts courses for a half day (morning and afternoon) at the Chagrin Falls High School Performing Arts Center.

ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

GOALS

To provide a comprehensive pre- professional course of study in all aspects of theatre, from literature, technique and history to actual performance.

To create challenging performance opportunities for students to demonstrate acquired skills in the new Performing Arts Center and drama wing. The Academy mounts 8 theatrical plays each year, including plays from many styles of the world theatre - from classical, restoration, modern European theatre, American theatre, and Musical Theatre.

To provide professional, visionary leadership by prominent performing arts educators and professionals who have strong ties to the regional theatre, university system and other professional performing arts venues.

To employ professional artists/ teachers and outstanding, highly credentialed faculty.

To prepare students for post-secondary education in the performing arts and related subjects; assisting with audition, contact, interview support and professional guidance in selecting educational and career opportunities.

MAKE IT BELIEVABLE **COURSE LIST**

The Actor has three primary concerns; **Mind, Will and Sense**. If all three are properly engaged, we will develop imaginary circumstances that have been built solely from the imagination — even in the joyous, larger-than-life **Musical** or the grand soulful world of **Shakespeare** or the naturalistic milieu of **Chekhov**.

We begin with sense; teaching the body to respond to imaginary circumstances that have been built solely from the imagination.

Theatre Etiquette

Theatre Practicum

Theatre History

Intro to Tech

Voice/Movement

Stanislavski Fundamentals

Meisner

BFA College

BA College

College Portfolio

Improv

Prop Practicum

Photoshop

Intro to Stage Management

Advanced Stage Management

Costume Design

Film Making

Scene Study

Michael Chekhov

Audition Technique

Masks

Shakespeare

Acting Styles

Dialects

Musical Theatre

Sensory/Experiencing

Acting for the Camera

Clown

Film History

Business of Theatre



BEN NEEDHAM

PROGRAM DIRECTOR / RESIDENT DESIGNER

MFA Theatre Design - University of Georgia
 BA Theatre Arts - Case Western Reserve University
 Owner - Digital Squirrel Studios

Ben serves as the Academy's Program Director as well as for the past 18 years has been the Academy's Resident Designer, overseeing the technical theatre and film aspects of the Academy. Ben holds an MFA from the University of Georgia in Theatre Design and a BA from Case Western Reserve University in Theater Arts. He served as Adjunct Professor for the University of Georgia, Case Western Reserve University, Lakeland Community College, Lake Erie College, and Kent State University.

He is the Owner and Principal Designer of Digital Squirrel Studio - www.digitalsquirrel.net, a full-service animation, design, and architectural illustration studio. He has designed over 1000 theatre productions over the past 30 years. His film and television projects include set designer for Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*, *Kill the Irishman*, *Killing Lincoln*, *Killing Kennedy*, *Killing Reagan*, ABC's *The Kingmakers*, Meg Ryan's *Ithaca*, Amazon's Original Series *Point of Honor*, PBS's *Mercy Street*, and AMC's *Turn: Washington's Spies*. Ben was most recently a set designer on the films *The Outpost*, *Son of the South*, and the CW TV series *Valor*.



DAN HENDROCK

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / LEAD INSTRUCTOR

MFA - Case Western Reserve University
 BFA - Kent State University
 M. Ed - Kent State University
 Certified Career Technical Educator - State of Ohio
 Member - AEA

Dan is a professional actor, director, and teaching artist. He has been professionally directing and acting in Cleveland, NYC, and Chicago for the past fifteen years. Dan has his MFA in Acting from the Cleveland Play House/Case Western Reserve University graduate acting program, his M.Ed in Career Technical Teacher Education, his BFA in Musical Theatre from Kent State University, serves as the Vice President of the board of trustees for Ballet Theatre of Ohio, and is a proud member of AEA.

Dan takes on some heavy lifting at the Academy; serving as the Artistic Director and Lead Instructor in Acting, Speech, Movement, History, Acting for the Camera and Dialects - along with whatever other hats he can throw into the ring! Dan also holds his teaching certificate in the Michael Chekhov Technique from the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. His performing credits include many television, film, and commercial appearances, regional theatres, national tours, and Off-Broadway. Dan has found his passion in sharing his expertise about the craft with the next generation of performers.



ABRAHAM ADAMS

ACTING INSTRUCTOR /
BOX OFFICE MANAGER

M. Ed - Kent State University
MFA Acting- Ohio University
BFA Acting- University of Utah

Abraham holds a BFA from the University of Utah, an MFA from Ohio University, and an M.Ed from Kent State University.

He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional stage performers and managers. Over the course of 25 years, Abe has worked in many theaters, film sets, and sound stages throughout the country, along with nearly all of the prestigious theaters locally.

His current area of research involves the psychological-physical connection between a performer's physicality and the inner sensations that arise through the embodiment of physical forms. He specializes in the training methods of Viewpoints, Laban Fundamentals, Suzuki, and Grotowski. Abe is currently training in the second of three modules to become certified in the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique.



KATHERINE R. SWARTZBECK

TECHNICAL THEATRE INSTRUCTOR /
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

M. Ed - Kent State University
BA Theatre Stage Management -
Baldwin Wallace University

Katherine is excited to be starting her fourth year at the Academy! She is a freelance stage manager and prop maker based in Northeast Ohio.

Katherine is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace University with a B.A. in Theatre: Stage Management and Kent State University with a Master's in Education. Katherine has been stage managing for 9 years, and has worked on world premieres, devised theme park productions, immersive experiences, musicals, plays, and filmed productions.

She has worked with companies including Dobama Theatre, Talespinner Children's Theatre, the Virginia Repertory Theatre, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Shadow of the Run, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, The Beck Center for the Arts, Playhouse Square, and more. She would like to thank her friends, family, and Will. Enjoy the work of our amazing students!



RYAN SANTA

IMPROV INSTRUCTOR

BA - Case Western Reserve University

Ryan is already in his 5th year teaching at The Academy! As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're teaching kids how to play improv games".

Ryan is a founding member of Imposters Theater in Ohio City, where he helped create a year-long comedy training center. He also works with corporations and government agencies, bringing the philosophy of improvisation into the office. Recently, his own improv team "Booze & The Boys" (featuring Katie Booze-Mooney and Alex Shaver) headlined at the Columbus Comedy Festival. You can find more info about his work and performance schedule at imposterstheater.com.

As always, Ryan remains grateful for the opportunity and trust given to him by his fellow teachers and students.



APRIL ROCK

COSTUME DESIGNER

MFA - Costume Design -
Kent State University

April graduated with her Master's of Fine Arts Degree in Costume Design from Kent State University. April is the Resident Costume Designer/Shop Supervisor for both Lorain County Community College and The Academy for the Performing Arts in Chagrin Falls.

She also works as a freelance designer throughout the greater Cleveland area. Recent costume design credits include *Hadestown*, *SIX*, and *Alice in Wonderland* (The Academy for the Performing Arts); *Anastasia*, *Wait Until Dark*, and *The Music Man* (Rabbit Run Theatre), and *She Kills Monsters* and *Cinderella Confidential* (LCCC Theatre/Spark Theatre for Youth)

**NATE BACHOFSKY**

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Nate (He/Him) is thrilled to return as music director for this year's Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Academy productions! He serves as Director of Vocal Arts for the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools, where he leads vocal ensembles for grades 7–12 and teaches a songwriting course.

Recent credits include *Godspell* and *Mamma Mia!* (Chagrin Falls High School) as well as *The Wild Party* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Performing Arts Academy), among many others during his time in Chagrin. Nate extends heartfelt thanks to the students and staff of the Academy for their creativity, dedication, and passion for the arts.

**KENYA WOODS**

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER

Kenya is a highly respected and sought-after choreographer and teaching artist based in Cleveland. She has worked with both the dance and theatrical communities for over 20 years. She is a certified Horton Technique teacher and is trained in Classical Ballet.

Theatrical Choreography and Director credits include: *A Son Is Given* (The Hanna Theater), *Rent* (Cain Park), *The Bubbly Brown Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* and *Passing Strange* (Karamu House), *The Little Mermaid*, *Scrooge: The Musical*, *Brooklyn: The Musical* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Near West, Co-Director/Choreographer), *Cabaret* (The Maltz/CWRU MFA and Undergraduate Program), *Everybody* (The Helen Theater/CWRU MFA Program), *Blood At the Root* (CWRU Undergraduate Program), *Through Her Eyes*, *The Absolutely Amazing and True Adventures of Miss Joan Southgate* and *Ya Mama!* (Cleveland Public Theater, New York International Fringe, and Hollywood Fringe). *Once on This Island* (Playhouse Square, CSA Theater Elite), *Bunnacula* (Cleveland Play House), and *Through Her Eyes*. (Cleveland Public Theater)

This is her first time working with the lovely staff and members of The Academy of Performing Arts Chagrin, and she is excited to work with their theater community.



ESMA EDDEB

GUEST DIRECTOR/ GUEST ARTIST IN
THEATRE HISTORY

BA Theatre: Acting/Directing -
Baldwin Wallace

Esma is thrilled to be a part of the Academy team for the second year, her first year teaching. Esma is a Director and Dramaturg in the Cleveland area. She graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre: Acting/Directing. She's worked at multiple theatre companies, including Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Beck Center For The Arts, American Shakespeare Center, and more.



JEN GALLAGHER

GUEST ARTIST IN IMPROV

Jen is a producer and improv comedian based in Cleveland, Ohio. They serve as a showrunner for Improv Death Match and perform monthly with Mischief LLC, a house team at Imposters Theater.

You can often catch them as a guest on local shows like *Cleveland Comedy Court*, *The "Panel Show" Show*, and *What Are We Doing*. They're passionate about creating exciting, collaborative art with their friends, whether that's through podcasting, sketch comedy, or a game of Dungeons & Dragons.



KELLY SHERLOCK

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Kelly Ann Sherlock is a scenic artist working as the scenic artist for the Cleveland Play House, as well as the Scenic Charge Artist at Barrington Stage Company in western Massachusetts.

They have been freelancing around Northeastern Ohio since 2018 on projects including the All City Musical, events for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Cleveland Institute of Music Operas, and theatrical sets for the Academy for the Performing Arts in Chagrin Falls



Carson Adelstein

Grade 11 • Solon High School

Carson is extremely thrilled to be a 1st year student at the Academy. Some of her past roles include Ms. McQueen in *Urinetown the Musical*, Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*, and a troupe member in *Something Rotten*. Her favorite theater experiences have been performing with Broadway stars at Playhouse Square and traveling to New York with Stagecrafters Cabaret Troupe. Outside of the theater, Carson enjoys spending time with friends and being the president of her school club, "Letters of Love". She would like to thank her family, friends, and her voice coach, Leslie, for their endless support.



Bri Baioni

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Bri is excited for her second year at the Academy. She is currently a senior at Chagrin Falls High School. She has previous tech experience in the play *Space Girl*. She also played a role in *Alice in Wonderland*. She is excited for whatever life brings her.



Al Bickham

Grade 11 • Mayfield High School

Al's early roles include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* as the construction and deck crew. Sophomore year, they were promoted to be Mayfield's Scenic Charge Artist/Paint Lead and have been in that role as well as deck crew for Mayfield productions of *Little Shop Of Horrors* and *The Music Man*. Outside of school, Al was the Scenic Artist for the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival for *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth* for the 2025 summer season. Al wants to thank the friends they've made, the directors at Mayfield, and their parents for constantly supporting them with their theater and artistic career!



Ms. Riann Brown

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Riann is excited for her first musical at the Academy. Some favorite roles are the Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*, Dorothy and Glinda in *Oz*, and Eurydice in *Myth Adventures*. Overall, she has been in 10 productions and a movie. She also works behind the scenes at her school in the A/V club. Outside of theatre, Riann is a piano and violin player, a choir singer since 3rd grade with an impressive vocal range, a model, a professionally experienced dancer, and she teaches kids at her church every Sunday. She wants to thank her family, friends, and Ms. Sturdivant for always believing in her and introducing her to theatre.



Bailey Bryant

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Bailey is sure her second year at the Academy is going to be a remarkable one to cherish! Some of her standout roles from past productions from both Brush and Chagrin include: Alice (*Wonderland*), The Wicked Witch (*Oz*), A Lady In Waiting (*Six*), and a Worker (*HadesTown*). Outside of the theater, Bailey is the President of Brush's National Honor Society, is involved in her church, and loves a good movie. She wants to thank her Mom, Dad, and Kayleigh for supporting her no matter what. Bailey would also like to thank her best friends Eliana and Noah for being the most loyal and genuine people in her corner.



Seamus Buelow

Grade 11 • Orange High School

Seamus is currently enrolled at Orange High School (go lions!) as well as the Performing Arts Excel TECC program. They have previously played Sir Evelyn Oakley in *Anything Goes*, the Narrator in *Into the Woods*, and Leaf Coneybear in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. They have also performed backstage work on many shows. When not in the general vicinity of a stage, Seamus enjoys hiking with their scout troop and building with their robotics team. (Go Circuits!) After whatever show this bio is on the playbill for Seamus intends to eat a Toblerone. They would like to thank their friends and family.



Charlie Burck

Grade 12 • Solon High School

Charlie is ecstatic to be back at the Academy for his senior year. He starred as Orson during his junior year of the Academy, and he assisted in the production of numerous Academy productions. Outside of theatre, he plays for the varsity bowling team and is team manager for the football team. Charlie would like to thank his father, mother, brother Fred, sisters Bethany and Annie, along with everyone else who has helped get him to this point in life and who will guide him along in his future endeavors.



Keziah Campbell

Grade 11 • Eastlake North High School

Keziah is absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. They are currently a junior at Eastlake North High School. Outside of the Academy, Keziah devotes their time to the North High School Treble Choir. They have participated in the OMEA Solo and Ensemble, the LCMEA Choir Festival, and several concerts throughout the years. They want to thank their immediate family for their continued support, and their best friend, Kolie, for giving them the inspiration to pursue theatre and never faltering in her love and support.



Max Canonico

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Max is thrilled to be attending the Academy. Max is deeply involved in the school's musical community. He is a member of the marching band, jazz band, and select choir. Max made his acting debut in the ensemble of *Little Women* and expanded his musical theatre portfolio with his performance as Judas in *Godspell*. He had the honor of performing at the KeyBank State Theatre during the Dazzle Awards ceremony. He is grateful to his family, friends, teachers, and directors for their encouragement and support. Max is excited to continue growing as a performer and can't wait to perform for all of you.



Madeline Cecere

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Madeline is thrilled to be back at the Academy! She has been in *The Addams Family* as Alice, *Twelfth Night* as Viola, and *The Odd Couple* as Florence. Outside of theatre, Madeline performs with the Evergreen Ensemble. She also enjoys working at the Aurora Community Theater's Summer Camp, where she teaches kids ages 6–14 choreography, singing, acting, and the importance of being part of a cast. She would like to thank her parents, her brother Chris, and her friends for their endless love and support. Madeline is eager to see what the future holds and is committed to keeping theater in her life.



Stephanie Cohen

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Stephanie is very proud to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a senior at Mayfield High School and is in her second year with the Performing Arts Excel TECC program. Outside of school, Stephanie enjoys spending time with friends, watching movies, and singing. She would like to thank her mom and all of her friends at the Academy for constantly showing love and support.



Simone Conde

Grade 12 • Solon High School

Simone is super happy to be a part of the Academy. Some favorite productions have been *Once Upon a Time... In Denmark!* as Hamlet, *Something Rotten!* as an ensemble member, *101 Dalmatians* as Perdita/Boxer Dog 2, Shakespeare's *King Lear* as an ensemble member, and being in an evening in *One Acts 3* times since freshman year! Simone also likes to spend time writing songs, producing music, writing poetry, baking, and listening to r&b, pop, and rap music! She would like to thank her Mom and Dad and both sides of the family for supporting her dreams! She is very excited to see what happens in her future!



Layla Daouk

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Layla is a senior at Brush High School and is very excited for her second year at the Academy for the Performing Arts. She performed in the ensemble of *Alice in Wonderland*, Spencer in *OMG We Ate a Guy*, and did tech for *Hadestown*—all at the Academy. Layla would like to thank everyone for this wonderful opportunity, but especially wants to shout out her mom and her art teacher, Ms. Curry, for always supporting and believing in her.



Preston Day

Grade 11 • Mayfield High School

Preston is excited to be part of the Academy. He played Burt in *Mary Poppins Junior* in 7th grade and joined the ensemble for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* his freshman year and *The Music Man* this past spring. He is in his third year of marching band as a cymbal player and previously sang with the Apollo chorus before joining the Limited Edition Show Choir this year. Preston also plays guitar and is currently taking lessons. He would like to give a shout out to the band director Mr. Treiber, choir and musical director Mr. Fancher, assistant musical director Sarah B., his youth pastor Nate, and his friends and family.



Haley Felgar

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Haley is very excited to work with the Academy of the Performing Arts over the next two years. Although she has mostly been given background roles, a few favorites include Minnie Kirke from *Little Women*, and a featured dancer in *Beauty and the Beast*. Outside of school, she has been involved in many of the Cleveland Ballet's productions, such as *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo & Juliet*. She wants to give special thanks to her friends in and outside of the academy, as well as her family, for believing in her and supporting her throughout her life. Haley is excited to see where this new path in life takes her!



Adeline Garcia

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Adeline is a second-year student at the Academy and a senior at Brush High School. She enjoys dancing, acting, performing, and spending time with family and friends. Her favorite show she's been in is *Twelfth Night*, and she loves getting the opportunity to embrace her creativity at the Academy. Outside of theatre, she pursues singing lessons, reading, and writing. She would like to thank her mom, dad, and stepdad for all of their help in her journey so far!



Jane Gerdes

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Jane has participated in various summer workshop productions at Aurora Community Theatre. She also has enjoyed being in musicals like *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Legally Blonde* at Aurora High School. Jane is grateful to be a part of Academy shows like *Alice in Wonderland*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Hadestown!* Outside of theatre, Jane also loves to sing and play guitar at open mic nights! She wants to thank her parents and grandparents for being so supportive, even when she randomly bursts into song every three seconds. Jane wants to thank her teachers and classmates for making the Academy such a magical place!



Natalie Gerstenberger

Grade 12 • West Geauga High School

Natalie is thrilled to be a returning student at the Academy. She was recently given the opportunity to be a part of productions such as *Seussical* (Jojo), *OMG! We Ate a Guy* (Timberlee), and *Hadestown* (Worker/Eurydice understudy). Outside of school and theater, she is a majorette for her High School Marching Band, and spends her time reading, creative writing, watching *Gilmore Girls*, and volunteering as a Redcoat at Playhouse Square. Thank you Cassie for always being there to cheer the loudest, family and friends for supporting every creative endeavor, and Grandma Gale—for teaching me how to dream.



Phoebe Glesius

Grade 11 • Orange High School

Phoebe is excited to be in this production of *Hairspray!* She loves all things theater and has been in many shows, most recently Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Stage Managing *13: The Musical*. Outside of theatre, she enjoys practicing guitar and voice, and watching movies with friends. She wants to shout out to everyone involved who has worked so hard to make this show amazing. A special thank you to her amazing parents and siblings, Claire Connelly, Sabrina Fellingner, Joan Ellison, and Adam Hoffman, for fostering her love of performance and for being the most encouraging and inspiring educators a girl could ask for.



Sophia Glesius

Grade 11 • Orange High School

Sophia is so excited to be a student at the Academy for the Performing Arts for their junior year! They are a student at Orange High School, where they have also participated in theater. Sophia was the stage manager in training for *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and recently stage-managed *Airness* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. They have also been on the run crew for *Into the Woods*. Sophia would like to thank their friend Annalise for teaching them everything they know about stage management, and all of the directors.



Amber Goff

Grade 12 • West Geauga High School

Amber is very excited to be a senior at the Academy this year. Some of their favorite roles consist of Sophie Scholl (*Antigone in Munich* - C440), Peter Pan (*Peter Pan and Wendy* - C440), The Baker (*Into the Woods JR.* - C440), and now, Wilbur Turnblad (*Hairspray* - Academy)! Outside of theatre, they have been involved in choir and a community program that challenges students to perform throughout the school year. They would love to thank their grandma and dad, as well as everybody related to Curtain 440 and the Academy. You guys have changed their life, and they are forever grateful.



Eliza Gonzales

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Eliza is very excited to return to performing with the Academy. Some favorite productions include *Hadestown: Teen Edition* as Eurydice, *Six: Teen Edition* as Catherine Parr, and *Beauty and the Beast* as Belle. Outside of the theater, Eliza participates in many clubs and performances at The Aurora School of Music, and is a proud varsity tennis player on the Chagrin ladies tennis team! She would like to thank her family for always supporting her dreams, her teachers at the Academy for pushing her to become a better performer, and Ciara, her voice teacher, for helping her grow vocally.



Kayla Greene

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Kayla is a proud member of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a senior at Brush High School. The productions she had the fortune of being in were *Twelfth Night*, *Once Upon a Time in Denmark*, and *Hairspray*. She would like to thank her parents and teachers for encouraging her along the way.



Brianna Harris

Grade 11 • Richmond Heights High School

Brianna is currently a junior at Richmond Heights High School and is excited to be a part of the Academy this year and next year because it's going to teach her how to strengthen her acting and performing skills. She has some experience in the arts having performed in her school choir. She would like to thank her mom and grandparents, for believing in her no matter what and always supporting her! She is excited to see how this program will change her moving forward!



Abriana Henderson

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Abriana is a senior at Brush High School. Past roles include Fabian in *Twelfth Night*, Caterpillar in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Rosencrantz in *Once upon a time in Denmark*. Outside of theatre, Abriana participated in gymnastics for 11 years and played softball for 5 years. Other hobbies include working out, spending time with family and her dogs, and watching *The Rookie*, *Station 19*, and *Grey's Anatomy*. She would like to give a special thanks to her whole family for showing up at her shows and supporting her dreams.



Lucy Hopkins

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Lucy is thrilled to be back for her second year at the Academy as a senior. Some recent roles include a Worker in *Hadestown*, "Bless the Lord" in *Godspell*, Kendall in *OMG We Ate A Guy*, and Mrs. Kirke in *Little Women*. Outside of Theatre, Lucy is president of the Chagrin Falls drama club, a doubles player on the varsity tennis team, a player on the flag football team, and a student at the Aurora School of Music. She is appreciative of her parents and directors for giving her encouragement and always believing in her.



Róisín (Rosie) Horvath

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Rosie's favorite performances include a featured role in *Wassail! An Irish Appalachian Christmas* with Apollo's Fire, Chip in *Beauty and The Beast*, and Socrates/solo instrumentalist in *Godspell*. Outside of theatre, Rosie is starting her 13th year at The Cleveland Institute of Music Academy, where she studies violin and voice. She is also in the CIM Academy Chamber Choir and is a violinist with The Cleveland Contemporary Youth Orchestra. Rosie would like to thank her family for being supportive! She'd love to extend a special thank you to her educators who have shown up when it matters most! Grazie Mille!



Clarence Howard

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Clarence is glad to be in the Excel Tecc program at Chagrin Falls. He's currently a junior at Brush High School and a first-year student at the Performing Arts Academy. He performs with Brush High School choir, and outside of school, Clarence takes piano lessons. He wants to thank his mom, dad, and his many siblings and others who've supported him through his Journey. Clarence is thrilled to see the new paths that will open up for him in the near future!



Mackenzie Ipavec

Grade 12 • Willoughby South High School

Mackenzie is so excited to be back at the Academy! She worked on multiple productions as a costume assistant and a member of the wardrobe crew. She was the costume designer for Chagrin Falls' production of *Godspell*. She can't wait to be a part of this season's performances and is grateful to be doing what she loves. Outside of the theatre, Mackenzie works at a pottery studio. She would like to thank her family (mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, and Aunt KK) for their constant love and support, and for coming to every show last year. After graduation, Mackenzie plans to study technical theatre with a focus on costume design.



Rashad Jordan

Grade 11 • Mayfield High School

Rashad is excited to start his first year at Academy for the Performing Arts. He is currently a junior at Mayfield High School, as well as a first-year student within the Performing Arts Excel TECC program. He enjoys dancing and acting on stage. He also does show choir for Mayfield, along with getting involved in his school musicals. Outside of the theater, Rashad also does cheerleading and is involved in clubs. He wants to thank his parents, friends, and his Excel TECC teachers for giving him this opportunity! Rashad is looking forward to doing more shows and to getting to know the program better.



Roman Kline-Bossman

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

After appearing as Orpheus in *Hadestown* and the King of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland* his junior year, Roman is so excited to be back at the Academy for his senior year. He is setting his eyes toward the future of pursuing musical theatre as a profession, and making final memories in the Academy shows this season. This year has already brought him great memories and opportunities, like playing Henry in Near West Theatre's production of *Next to Normal*, and becoming a top 10 finalist in Shining Star CLE singing competition. He would like to thank his mom, family, friends, and church for all the love and support.



Chloe Link

Grade 12 • West Geauga High School

Chloe is a senior at West Geauga High School and a second-year student at the Academy. She did lighting for her home school show of *Seussical*, costumes and makeup for *Alice in Wonderland*, performed in *Twelfth Night* as the Second Officer, and was the Assistant Stage Manager for *Hadestown*. Chloe also volunteers at Playhouse Square as a redcoat. She wants to thank her family and friends for all of their support! She can't wait to see what this year will bring!



Rachel Marzullo

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Rachel is very excited to be back for her second year at the Academy for the Performing Arts. Previously, she has performed onstage as Grandma in *The Addams Family* at Aurora High School and received a Dazzle nomination for best supporting actress. On the academy stage, her most notable roles have been Sebastian in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and Claudius in *Once Upon a Time in Denmark*. Outside of school, she likes to play her violin and guitar. She also takes voice lessons at The Aurora School of Music. She wants to thank her family for always supporting her! She hopes you continue to support the arts.



Hannah Miller

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Hannah is very excited to be part of the Academy for the Performing Arts for her second year! Some of her favorite productions that she has been in include *Hadestown* as ensemble, *Twelfth Night* as Viola's Attendant, and *Legally Blonde* as Chutney Wyndham. Besides doing theater, Hannah loves to spend time reading, baking, and listening to music. She wants to thank her family and her friends for encouraging her and pushing her to be her best! Hannah is really excited for her senior year and can't wait to do shows and create more friendships this year!



Evelyn Minotas

Grade 12 • West Geauga High School

EV is a senior at West Geauga High School, and is excited for her second year at the Academy for the Performing Arts! Some of the productions she was given the opportunity to be a part of include *Twelfth Night* and *OMG We Ate a Guy*. Outside of the theater, Evelyn plays soccer for her high school team and enjoys reading and listening to music. She wants to thank her family and friends for always supporting and believing in her! Evelyn can't wait to see where this year takes her!



Maya Ochiai

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Maya has been thrilled to play the few roles she has played including the Mad Hatter from *Alice and Wonderland*, and Cory Collins in *Hairspray!* In their free time, Maya designs and writes for characters and the worlds they live in, both for their own creative endeavors and collaborative storytelling projects such as *Dungeons & Dragons*. She also loves to help out at her local farm and spend time with the fowl! She would like to give warm regards to her mother and peers of the Academy, as well as the Galvez family, for all the love and support they have provided. Maya is looking forward to what's in store for this coming year!



Shiane Porter-Means

Grade 11 • Richmond Heights High School

Shiane is excited to begin her journey in the performing arts and explore all the opportunities it has to offer. She looks forward to learning, growing, and discovering new ways to express herself on stage and beyond. Shiane is grateful for the love and encouragement she receives from her family, especially her mom, dad, and aunties, who continue to inspire her to follow her dreams. She would also like to thank her dog, whose constant joy and energy remind her to always keep smiling. Shiane is thrilled to take part in this experience and hopes it is just the beginning of many more to come.



Westley Quintin

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Westley is very excited for his second year in the Academy for the Performing Arts. He is currently a senior at Chagrin Falls High School. Some of his favorite roles/productions include Brett in *OMG We Ate a Guy*, Worker in *Hadestown*, and ensemble/saxophonist in *Godspell*. Outside of the theater, Westley sings with the Chagrin Falls Select Choir, plays in the school band and jazz band, and climbs competitively on the Shaker Rocks Climbing Team. He wants to thank his family for always supporting him in his many ventures.



Josiah Ragsdale

Grade 11 • Beachwood High School

Josiah is currently a junior at Beachwood High School. He's been a Shark, a Tree, and a Chef for *Little Mermaid*, a Student and Docent for *Judy Moody and Stink: The Mad Mad Mad Mad Treasure Hunt*, and a Zombie in *10 Ways To Survive The Zombie Apocalypse*. He was sound for *Lord of the Flies*, ASM for *Fools*, an Ancestor in *The Addams Family*, and ASM for *Brigadoon*. He'd like to thank his parents and siblings, and everyone who is a part of Hilliard Davidson theatre—as that's where he fell in love with theatre.



Charlotte Rohr

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Charlotte is thrilled to be participating in another year at the Academy. Favorite roles have been Madame De La Grande Bouche (Wardrobe) in *Beauty and the Beast*, Aunt March in *Little Women*, and singing "All Good Gifts" in *Godspell*. Outside of theatre, Charlotte is a Cantor at Saint Joan of Arc Church, and she sings with the Saint Joan choir. She also runs cross country and participates in the student council. Charlotte wants to express her extreme appreciation to her immediate family for their support. (Mom, Dad, Johann, Heidi, Madeleine, and Albert). Charlotte can't wait to see what the future brings!



Cameron Scott

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Cameron is very grateful to be a part of the Academy. Some of his past theatrical productions include *Alice in Wonderland* as a Conductor, *Murder on the 518* as Owen Casey, *The Wizard of Oz* as Oz, *Alice in Wonderland* as a Flower, *Myth Adventures* as Echo, and *Seussical* as Horton. When he's not doing theater, he is usually outside biking and spending time with his friends. He would like to thank his choir teacher (Ms. Sturdivant), his family, and everyone at the Academy for supporting him. He is excited to do more shows and improve further!



Asher Shafer

Grade 11 • West Geauga High School

Asher is currently a junior at West Geauga High School. This is his first year at the Academy for the Performing Arts. Asher has previous experience playing many roles in theatrical productions. He is very excited to see what the future holds.



Jordin Sipili

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Jordin is so excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a senior at Aurora High School, as well as a second-year student within the Performing Arts Excel Tecc program at Chagrin Falls. Some of her favorite productions she's gotten the opportunity to be included in are *OMG We Ate a Guy* as Ramona, *Twelfth Night* as the Priest, and *Alice in Wonderland* as a Flower. Outside of the theater, Jordin spends her time reading or working out. She wants to thank her family (Mom, Dad, and Luke) for always being supportive of her. Jordin is excited to see what this new chapter in life brings her.



Mary Sirl

Grade 12 • Eastlake North High School

Mary can't wait for this year at the Academy! Some favorite productions are *Puffs* as The Narrator, *The Absolute True Story of King Arthur* as Willima, and *Omg! We Ate a Guy* as Aubrey. She spent four years in the choir but ultimately resigned to focus on acting. She'd like to thank her mom for always supporting her dreams. She wouldn't be anywhere she is now without her unrelenting positivity. As well as the Acada-family for being the kindest, most supportive group of peers ever. Her love for school has skyrocketed because of them. She is beyond ecstatic to continue her dreams in her senior year.



Demiel Snyder

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Demiel is overjoyed to be continuing their journey at the Academy of the Performing Arts. Currently, they are a senior at Chagrin Falls High School. Some of their favorite shows are Chagrin Falls High School's production of *Godspell* as a Philosopher and ensemble, as well as *Little Women* as Hannah. While they strive to act and perform, they are looking forward to a career in stage and production design. They want to thank Mom, Dad, and Ella for always supporting them, as well as their friends (including but not limited to Star and Cam). They can't wait to see what their final year of shows will bring!



Charlie Speyer

Grade 11 • West Geauga High School

Charlie's favorite productions include *Seussical the Musical* as Mayzie La Bird, *Shrek the Musical* as Fiona, *Legally Blonde* as El Woods, and *Newsies* as Elmer. Charlie is a member of her school marching band dance team and she helps out with costumes and stage management for middle school productions. She wants to thank her parents, who taught her to never back down from her dreams and her siblings and grandpa, for giving her a life growing up full of love and adventure. Charlie is grateful for the family she's made here. She cannot wait to open up the curtain to this new theatrical chapter!



Orlee Steinberg

Grade 11 • Beachwood High School

Orlee is currently a junior at Beachwood High School and a first-year student within the Performing Arts Excel TECC program at Chagrin Falls. She has no previous acting experience, but she has been a member of the Beachwood High School Volleyball Team for several years. She would like to thank her immediate family (Mom, Dad, Jacob, and Talia) as well as her extended family and close friends for all of their support. Orlee is very excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts and can't wait to see where this new journey takes her.



Chloe Sutter

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Chloe is so excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a senior at Aurora High School and a second-year student within the Performing Arts Excel TECC program at Chagrin Falls. Previously, she's been in *The Addams Family* as Wednesday, *Alice in Wonderland* as Dormouse, *Legally Blonde* as Brooke Wyndham, and many more. One of her favorite roles was Wednesday in *The Addams Family Musical* at Aurora. In her free time, she enjoys guitar, singing, and playing with her band at the Aurora School of Music. She would like to thank her Mom and Dad for all the support they give her!



Ellie Sypniewski

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Ellie is very thrilled to continue her acting journey at the Academy as a senior. Some of her favorite roles are the China Princess in *Oz*, Jillian Hills in *Murder on the 518*, Scarlet Mays/Ms. Polly in *Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery*, and Mrs. Mayor in *Seussical*. Outside of acting, Ellie sings, dances, and participates in sports. She would like to thank her parents for encouraging her to reach for the stars and showing up to every performance. She would also like to thank Bailey for being one of the best friends and supporters a girl could ask for! Ellie can't wait to shine on stage and really bring the characters to life!



Greco Thornton

Grade 12 • Richmond Heights High School

Greco is thrilled to be a part of this year's Academy production. He is currently a student at Richmond Heights High School. While this is his first time performing on stage in this form of the arts, Greco has been active in the performing arts for many years as a clarinet player in the school band since 5th grade, and as a tenor/bass singer in the school chorus. He would like to give a special thank you to his mom, dad, and close friends back at Richmond for their constant love, encouragement, and support.



Ameliya Tucker

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Ameliya is very happy to be back for her second year at the Academy as a senior at Brush High School. Some of her favorite productions throughout her high school years include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Murder on the 518*, and *All My Flowers*. Outside of school, she enjoys tennis and figure skating. She plans to play tennis for her school and eventually join her figure skating club. She wants to give thanks to her dad, mom, brother, grandparents, and her auntie for always finding a way to show up and out for her, no matter how big or small the roles may be!



Abhinav Venkataraman

Grade 11 • Solon High School

Abhinav is a junior at Solon High School, as well as a first year student at the Academy for the Performing Arts. One of his performances at his homeschool was doing the high school one-acts. There were four acts, and he was in one called *Kafila* which was also performed by Mr.K, Conner's father. Abhinav is also a part of the football and baseball teams. He wants to thank his mom and dad for always taking care of him and supporting him to push on through his education and sports. Hopefully, he'll have a chance to get better when he's in this program.



Steve Vereb

Grade 11 • Aurora High School

Steve is a bright and talented junior from Aurora High School who is thrilled to be part of the Academy for Performing Arts. Some of his favorites roles include Glenn Cooper in *Rumors*, Simba in *The Lion King*, and part of the ensemble in *The Addams Family*. When he's not performing on stage, Steve enjoys watching movies, playing his sousaphone, and bowling. He would like to thank his parents and grandparents for always supporting him, his friends for always making him laugh, and even his brother, who can be a pain sometimes. Steve can't wait for new opportunities the Academy provides.



Railyn Walker

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Railyn has been looking forward to being a student at the Academy since 8th grade. She is a senior at Brush, and a second-year student at the Academy. A few productions include *Alice in Wonderland* as the Yellow Flower, *Once Upon a Time in Denmark* as Ophelia, and *A Stupid Love Story* as Lady C. Outside of the theatre, Railyn spends her time baking, working in the Audio Visual Club, and traveling with her mom. She would like to thank her mom, grandfather, and the rest of her family for always supporting her dreams. Railyn is excited to see what this new chapter in her life has in store for her.



Ashayla West

Grade 11 • Willoughby South High School

Ashayla is so excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts! She is currently a junior at Willoughby South High School and is thrilled to be stepping onto the stage for the first time. Outside of the theater, Ashayla enjoys singing, dancing, and spending time with friends and family. She would like to give a special thank you to her parents and loved ones for always supporting her dreams and encouraging her to shine. Ashayla can't wait to share her energy and passion with the audience in this production!



Legend Young

Grade 12 • Willoughby South High School

Legend is looking forward to being a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts this year. She is currently a senior at Willoughby South High School. Her most recent and renowned role was Catherine of Aragon in the production of *Six the Musical*. Outside of theatre, Legend loves cheerleading, track and field, and spending time with family and friends. She wants to show her love and appreciation for her parents, who always support her with everything she does. She also wants to thank her extended family and friends who take the time to show up and support. She's so excited for this new chapter in life.



Mario Zingale

Grade 12 • Willoughby South High School

Mario is so happy to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts and help them with their amazing shows. He is a senior at Willoughby South High School as well as a senior member of drama club. Some of his favorite productions are *Hadestown*, *SpongeBob the Musical*, and *Footloose*. He would love to thank his mom for helping him find his place in drama club, his dad for taking him to rehearsals when needed, and all of his accepting friends at both schools!



Junior Class 2027



Set Design by Ben Needham



Senior Class 2026



Set Design by Ben Needham

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hairspray - Directed by Dan Hendrock

When *Hairspray* first burst onto the stage, it was more than a dazzling, high-energy musical—it was a celebration of joy, resilience, and the power of young people to change the world. At its heart, *Hairspray* is about belonging. It's about daring to imagine a community where every voice is heard, every body is celebrated, and every person has a place to dance.

Though set in 1962, the issues it tackles—racial inequality, body image, and the fight against exclusion—remain strikingly relevant today. We live in a time when questions of representation, inclusion, and justice are still very much alive. *Hairspray* reminds us that progress is not only possible, it is achievable when people come together, lift one another up, and refuse to accept the world as it is.

This show also insists on joy. It dares to sing, dance, and laugh in the face of injustice, showing us that joy itself can be a radical act of defiance and hope. Tracy Turnblad's optimism is not naïve; it is revolutionary.

As you watch tonight, I invite you to celebrate with us—but also to reflect. Who is still waiting to be welcomed into the room? How can we, in our own communities, make space for every person to shine? Because as *Hairspray* teaches us, you really can't stop the beat.

Sincerely,

Dan Hendrock

**Mac beth**

Directed by Abraham Adams

Raw, visceral, and powerfully modern—MAC BETH reimagines Shakespeare's classic tragedy through the lens of contemporary teenage girls who unravel a tale of ambition, betrayal, and bloodshed. Adapted by Erica Schmidt, this fierce and haunting interpretation strips the story to its brutal core, placing the witches, warriors, and madness in a world disturbingly close to our own. A gripping theatrical experience, MAC BETH delivers Shakespeare as you've never seen it before—bold, urgent, and unforgettable.



Improv Show

Directed by Ryan Santa & Jen Gallagher

Get ready to laugh until your sides ache as the hilarious Academy seniors take the stage for their legendary Senior Improv Show 2024! It's a tradition like no other, where the wittiest minds and wildest imaginations collide in an uproarious display of spontaneous comedy. Led by the one and only instructor extraordinaire, Ryan Santa, these soon-to-be graduates have honed their improv skills to perfection. From side-splitting scenes to absurd characters, they'll leave you in stitches with their quick thinking and outrageous antics. The Senior Improv Show 2025 is here to deliver an unforgettable evening of laughter, mischief, and comedic genius.



Scripts in the Spotlight

Directed by Abraham Adams & Esma Eddeb

Two nights. Two stories. One unforgettable experience. Scripts in the Spotlight shines a light on the power of words and the potential of new voices as our students take on staged readings of two compelling plays. Stripped down to the essentials—actor, script, and spotlight—this intimate performance invites audiences to experience the raw emotion, humor, and ideas at the heart of each story. A spotlight on words that matter.

JUNIOR PLAY FESTIVAL 2026

MARCH 10TH AND 11TH

Junior Play Festival

Live in our Studio Theatre featuring Guest Directors

The spotlight shines on our rising stars in Junior Play Festival 2026, an exciting evening of theatre featuring two one-act plays performed in repertory by our entire junior class. From heartfelt drama to side-splitting comedy, this showcase highlights the diverse talents and imaginative spirit of our next generation of artists. It's a bold and joyful celebration of collaboration, growth, and the creative voice of our young performers.

SOMEBODY THAT I USED TO KNOW

BY GOTYE

A BREAKUP STORY ... ON MARS

MARCH 2026

Somebody That I Used to Know

Presented as part of the Junior Play Festival

Written and Directed by Ben Needham

Heartbreak has never looked so otherworldly. Somebody That I Used to Know is a stunning new short film produced in our virtual production studio that redefines the breakup story...on Mars. Blending sci-fi visuals with raw emotional storytelling, this original video project explores isolation, memory, and letting go in a world light-years away. A cinematic debut like no other, it's love and loss with a cosmic twist.



Little Shop of Horrors

Directed by Dan Hendrock

Feed the need for musical mayhem with Little Shop of Horrors, the cult classic where doo-wop, dark comedy, and a man-eating plant collide. When meek flower shop assistant Seymour discovers a mysterious new plant with a taste for blood, he quickly learns that fame comes at a steep price. Featuring catchy songs, quirky characters, and a delightfully twisted plot, this beloved musical is a wildly entertaining romp that's equal parts horror and hilarity.



4Reelz

Premiering at the 2025-26 Academy Awards Celebration

Directed and Adapted by Dan Hendrock

Lights, camera, Academy! 4REELZ is our annual spring film project, showcasing original cinematic work created by our students from script to screen. Currently in development, this year's production promises a fresh blend of storytelling, performance, and visual artistry—culminating in a one-night-only premiere that puts our students' vision on full display. Stay tuned for a film experience that's bold, boundary-pushing, and 100% Academy.

MAY 2026

Special Thanks

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Curtis Howell

2025-2026 SEASON

OCTOBER 23, 25 & 26

Hairspray

DECEMBER 11-14

Mac beth

DECEMBER 17

Improv Show

FEBRUARY 20 & 21

Scripts in the Spotlight

MARCH 10 & 11

Junior Play Festival / Somebody I Used to Know

APRIL 30 - MAY 2 & MAY 3

Little Shop of Horrors

MAY - TBA

Academy Awards/ 4Reelz (Academy Film Project)