



ACADEMY FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION

BY ANAIS MITCHELL

DIRECTED BY DAN HENDROCK

MAY 1ST - 4TH

CHAGRIN FALLS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
BLACK BOX THEATRE
400 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
CHAGRIN FALLS, OH 44022
WWW.CHAGRINACADEMY.ORG

HADESTOWN TEEN EDITION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS
CORPORATION. ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY MARA ISAACS, DALE FRANZEN,
HUNTER ARNOLD AND TOM KIRDAHY.
ORIGINAL NEW YORK PRODUCTION DEVELOPED WITH AND DIRECTED BY
RACHEL CHAVKIN.
ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY
MICHAEL CHORNEY AND TODD SICKATOOSE
IF AN ALTERNATE ORCHESTRATION IS USED
ORIGINAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY
MICHAEL CHORNEY AND TODD SICKATOOSE
HADESTOWN WAS CO-CONCEIVED BY BEN T. MATCHSTICK
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VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS BY LIAM ROBINSON
ADDITIONAL VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS BY JUSTIN VERNON AND THE HADEN TRIPLETS

LINK TO TICKETS



CAST LIST

HERMES- LUX PROCTOR

ORPHEUS- ROMAN KLINE-BOSSMAN

EURYDICE- ELIZA GONZALES

PERSEPHONE- CLAIRE GUDDY

HADES- REECE ROBBINS

FATE 1- LAILA HANCOCK

FATE 2- NILANA GONZALES

FATE 3- JANE GERDES

WORKERS- NATALIE GERSTENBERGER, LUCY
HOPKINS, CAMMYRN HARRIS, BAILEY BRYANT,
GRACE SHEPPARD, WESTLEY QUINTIN, HANNAH
MILLER, GINA GARDNER, MADELINE YANKOWSKI

CREW

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS- CHLOE LINK, LAYLA
DAOUK, MARIO ZINGALE

SOUND ASSISTANT-LAYLA DAOUK

SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS- DEMIEL SNYDER, MARIO
ZINGALE

PROJECTION OPERATOR- ABRIANA HENDERSON

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR- JOJO BILLSON

WARDROBE CREW- MACKENZIE IPAVEC

USHERS- ARIEL SHULMAN, KAYLENN A PEAH

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER- DAN HENDROCK

STAGE MANAGER- KATHERINE SWARTZBECK

MUSIC DIRECTOR- MARCIA SNAVELY

SET/LIGHTING/PROJECTION DESIGNER- BEN
NEEDHAM

COSTUME DESIGNER- APRIL ROCK

PROPS DESIGNER- KATHERINE SWARTZBECK

SOUND DESIGNER- AARON NEEDHAM

ASST. LIGHTING DESIGNER- KAYLENA PEAH

ASST. PROJECTIONS DESIGNER- ABRIANA
HENDERSON

SCENIC ARTISTS- KELLY SHERLOCK, JUSTINE
SCHNEIDER

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR- LANCE SWITZER

CARPENTER- QUENTIN BALL

DANCE CAPTAIN- GRACE SHEPPARD

PIT ORCHESTRA

KEYBOARD/CONDUCTOR- MARCIA SNAVELY

CELLO- MCKINLEY GLASSER

TROMBONE- VINCENT LONGO

BASS- GIUSTINA RICCHIUTI

PERCUSSION- JUSTIN HART

GUITAR- JESSE FISHMAN

VIOLIN- ROSIE HORVATH

DIRECTOR'S NOTE – HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION

“TO THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT AND THE ONE WE LIVE IN NOW.”

THIS LINE ECHOES AT THE HEART OF HADESTOWN, AND IT HAS STAYED WITH ME THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS OF BRINGING THIS PRODUCTION TO LIFE WITH OUR TALENTED YOUNG CAST. IT'S MORE THAN JUST A LYRIC—IT'S A CHALLENGE, A WISH, AND A MIRROR HELD UP TO THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

HADESTOWN TELLS AN ANCIENT STORY OF LOVE, LOSS, HOPE, AND RESISTANCE. BUT IN THIS RETELLING, WE DON'T JUST REVISIT GREEK MYTHOLOGY—WE CONFRONT THE SYSTEMS THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES: POWER, INEQUALITY, FEAR, AND THE HOPE THAT SOMEHOW, ART AND LOVE AND COURAGE CAN PUSH BACK AGAINST THE DARKNESS.

OUR WORLD TODAY FEELS INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN. CLIMATE CHANGE, ECONOMIC STRUGGLE, POLITICAL DIVISION, AND A GROWING SENSE OF DISCONNECTION ECHO THROUGH THE SONGS OF THE WORKERS IN HADESTOWN AND THE LAMENTS OF ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE. YET THROUGH IT ALL, THERE'S A VOICE—A SONG—THAT REFUSES TO BE SILENCED. THAT VOICE SAYS: WE CAN BUILD SOMETHING BETTER. THAT VOICE SAYS: WE HAVE TO KEEP TRYING.

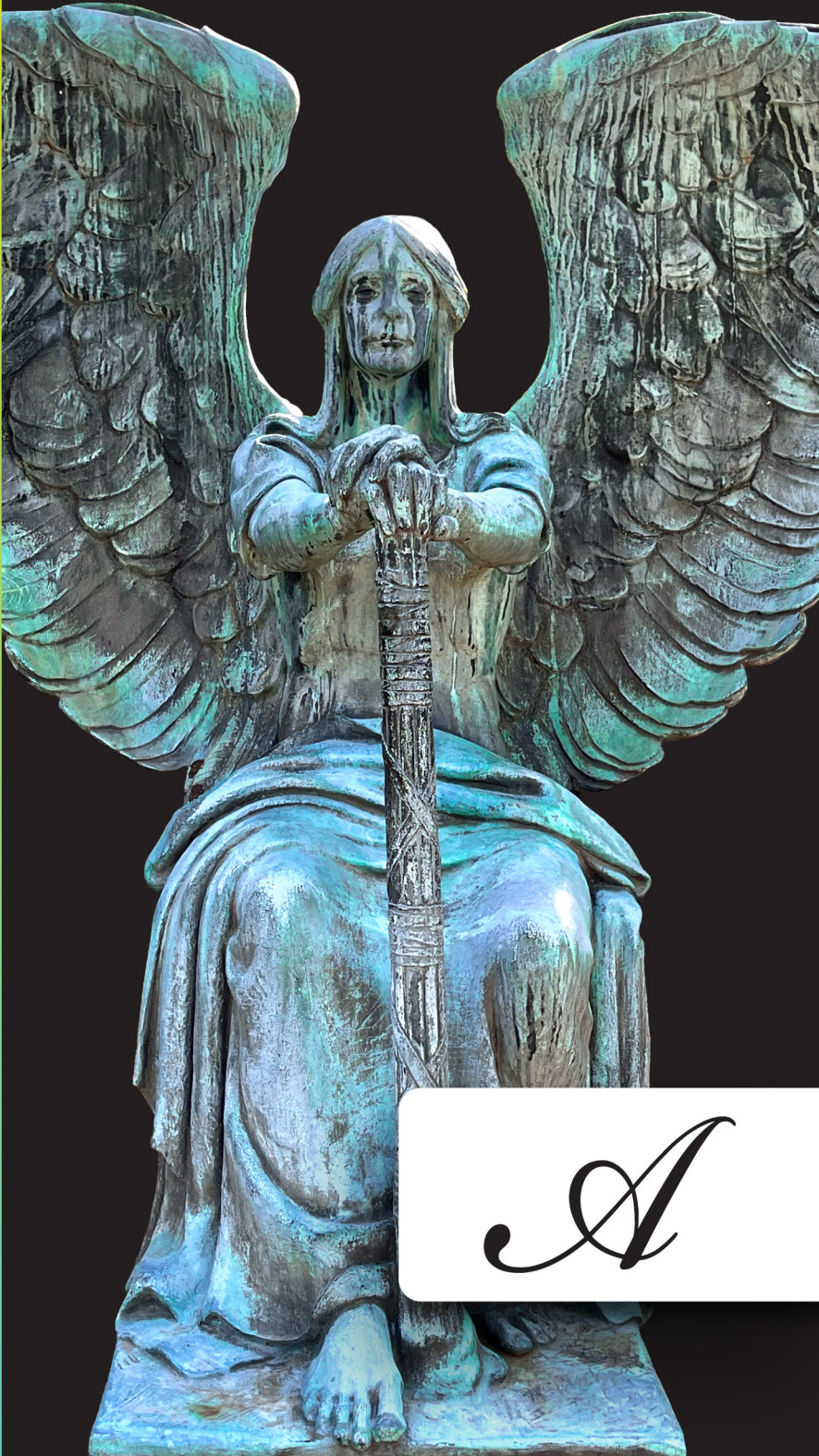
THIS IS WHY HADESTOWN MATTERS NOW. IT'S A STORY THAT REMINDS US THAT EVEN WHEN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN FEELS HEAVY AND UNJUST, WE ARE ALLOWED—AND OBLIGATED—TO IMAGINE A BRIGHTER ONE. THE DREAM OF A BETTER WORLD DOESN'T BELONG ONLY TO ADULTS WITH POWER. IT BELONGS TO THE YOUTH, TO ARTISTS, TO ANYONE WHO DARES TO DREAM AND ACT WITH LOVE.

WORKING WITH THESE TEENS HAS SHOWN ME HOW POWERFUL THAT DREAM STILL IS. THEY BRING A RAW HONESTY AND FIERCE HOPE TO EVERY SCENE. THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO LOOK AROUND AT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN—AND STILL SING FOR THE ONE WE DREAM ABOUT.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS JOURNEY WITH US.

— DAN HENDROCK —

DIRECTOR, HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION



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PLAYBILL 2024-2025 ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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.

2024-2025 marks the seventeenth 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	Costume Design
Theatre Practicum	Film Making
Theatre History	Scene Study
Intro to Tech	Michael Chekhov
Voice/Movement	Audition Technique
Stanislavski Fundamentals	Masks
Meisner	Shakespeare
BFA College	Acting Styles
BA College	Dialects
College Portfolio	Musical Theatre
Improv	Sensory/Experiencing
Prop Practicum	Acting for the Camera
Photoshop	Clown
Intro to Stage Management	Film History
Advanced Stage Management	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 3 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 900 theatre productions over the past 25 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 of 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 is an actor, educator, and playwright. He holds a BFA from the University of Utah, an MFA from Ohio University and an M.Ed. from Kent State University. He has performed on stages throughout the country from ACT in Seattle, WA to MTC Studio in New York City. Over the last eight years he has had the honor and privilege to perform on numerous stages in Northeast Ohio including Cleveland Play House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Mamaí Theatre Company, Beck Center for the Arts, None Too Fragile Theatre, Seat of the Pants Productions, and Dobama Theatre. Abraham specializes in classical texts, the Meisner Acting Technique, voice for the stage, physical movement, and dialects. He lives with his four adorable cats: George, Rosie, Albert, and Marge.

**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 third 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 Masters in Education.

Katherine has been stage managing for 8 years, and has worked on world premieres, devised theme park theatre 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 grateful to be going into his fourth year of teaching Improvisation at the Academy for the Performing Arts. His background is in Acting. (CWRU, BA 2008) From there, he spent his twenties honing his comedic craft in Chicago, IL. He completed The Second City Acting Conservatory in 2009 and began acting, writing and directing comedy throughout the city.

Since moving back to Cleveland in 2016, he has been a resident performer at Hilarities Comedy Club, co-produced Pop-Cleveland! A comedy quiz show for two years, and established his improv duo TJR, the two man/one act play.

Post-pandemic, he gained a position as an administrator and teacher at Imposters Theater in Ohio City. He has worked to create their five level training program and is the head of professional development where he is busy constructing and teaching workshops for fortune 500 companies, small businesses and private parties.

**APRIL ROCK**

COSTUME DESIGNER

MFA - Kent State University, Costume Design

April graduated with her Masters 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 Oberlin Summer Theater Festival. She also works as a freelance designer throughout the greater Cleveland area.

Recent design credits include *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Barefoot in the Park* (Oberlin Summer Theatre Festival), *The Wiz*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Near West Theatre).

**MARCIA SNAVELY**

MUSIC DIRECTOR

MA - Case Western Reserve University, Classical Organ

BS - Case Western Reserve University, Chemistry

Marcia started studying piano at the age of 5 and accompanying and performing at the age of 6. She has always had a multi-faceted career. While at Case Western Reserve University, she completed chemistry studies and a graduate program in classical organ. She has been a research scientist specializing in analytical chemistry, has co-authored a book, and is a patented inventor!

Marcia has been a church organist since the age of 12. Her last two church positions have been as Director of Music/Organist at Valley Presbyterian Church in Bainbridge and she is currently Organist at the Federated Church in Chagrin Falls where she accompanies two choirs and helps coordinate special musical programs. Marcia is a past Dean of the American Guild of Organists.

Marcia is also involved in musical theater and serves as Music Director/accompanist for many professional, school and community theater productions. She presently accompanies several choirs for the Chagrin Schools and musicals for the Chagrin Performing Arts Academy.

Her musical skills are legend, as she coaches and accompanies many musical venues in classical, light jazz, opera and Broadway. She is married to Gregory Polyak, and with their extended family they have 10 children, 22 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. With what little spare time they have, they love to travel.

**AMAYA KIYOMI**

GUEST DIRECTOR

BFA - UNC Greensboro

Amaya is a Cleveland based actor and graduate from UNC-Greensboro with her BFA in Acting. Kiyomi has frequented local Cleveland stages like Dobama, Karamu, Convergence Continuum, and has expanded her reach to Akron with Ohio Shakespeare Festival. Amaya's favorite role so far has been Princess of France in Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost with Ohio Shakes, Emily/Viveca understudy in Kristin Childs The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin with Karamu House, and Amy March in Heather Chrisler's adaptation of Little Women with Dobama Theater. Much love and gratitude to my friends, family, and local arts communities.

**QUENTIN BALL**

MASTER CARPENTER

BFA - Kent State University

Quentin is a Scenic Carpenter and Designer based out of Northeast Ohio, and is so excited to be joining the Academy for the Performing Arts this season! Quentin graduated from Kent State University with a B.F.A. in Scenic Design and Technology, and loves supporting live performance in any way he can. Enjoy the show!


SHANE BREAUX, PhD

THEATRE HISTORY TEACHER
(HE/HIM)

Ph.D - City University of New York

Shane grew up in Louisiana Cajun country. Since leaving the Gulf Coast in the previous century, he has become a performer, writer, director, dramaturg, and theatrical know-it-all, having finished his PhD in Theatre and Performance at the City University of New York in 2019.

For nearly 20 years, he taught and made theatre in New York City—most notably teaching at NYU Tisch's Drama Department and Marymount Manhattan College, and creating with New York Shakespeare Exchange and the improv troupe Amnesia Wars. Dr. Shane now lives happily in Cleveland Heights where he performs when they let him. He is also working on a book about early twentieth century musical variety and comedic performances of race and ethnicity.


AMY NALLY

CHOREOGRAPHER

MA - Case Western Reserve University

BA - Indiana University

Amy is excited to be part of the Academy for the Performing Arts as a Guest Choreographer this season. Amy has choreographed for Cleveland Area High Schools and Community Theaters and taught studio dance classes for nearly 15 years.

Favorite Choreography Credits include *Mamma Mia!*, *Mean Girls*, *Anything Goes*, and *Mary Poppins*. Amy holds a BA from Indiana University where she studied Speech Pathology, Psychology, and Dance, and a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Case Western Reserve University.

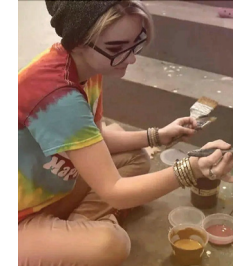
Amy continues to teach her students that even if you choose a different career path, theater and dance can still be something you love and have as part of your life. Bringing the love of dance and telling stories through movement brings her so much joy and she is so grateful she has continued opportunities to do so.


LANCE SWITZER

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Lance has had a long, varied career. He began his career at Parma City School District as audio video technician and theatre technical director and then moved onto Cinecraft Productions working in all aspects of audio and video production including producing and directing. Next, he worked with CPS Meetings as executive producer of large scale event sales meetings.

Lance spent several years at EDR Media as event producer for corporate special events. He worked with Vincent Lighting Systems as theatrical and architectural lighting project department manager. Along the way, he has performed or done lighting design at area community theatres for several decades.


KELLY SHERLOCK

SCENIC ARTIST

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



Frankie Ashkettle

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Frankie is extremely excited to start her second year at the Academy for the Performing Arts. Some of her past favorite roles have been Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*, Constanze Mozart in *Chamber Music*, Rae in *After This Episode*, and Mrs. George in *Mean Girls*. Frankie has loved her time at the Academy and would like to thank all her teachers for making these past years extremely enjoyable. She wants to shout out her parents and sisters Julia and Jayla for always supporting her. Frankie will always remember her time here!



Bri Baioni

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Bri is excited for the first year of being in the Academy. She is currently a junior at Chagrin Falls High School. She has previous tech experience in the play *Space Girl*. She's excited to be in *Alice in Wonderland* and to audition for *Six*. She is also excited for whatever life brings her.



Rylee Barzal

Grade 12 • Eastlake North High School

Rylee is a senior in the tech track at the Academy. They have worked on *Matilda*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Eastlake North High School, where they focused on props and costumes. At the Academy, Rylee has assisted with tech for *The Lightning Thief*, *John Proctor is the Villain*, and the student short film music video *Stairway to Heaven*. When not in the theatre, Rylee enjoys marching band, rock climbing, and making jewelry. After graduation, they plan on becoming a welder!



Joelle Billson

Grade 12 • Willoughby South High School

Joelle is so thrilled for her senior year at the Academy! While she can't be seen on stage, she definitely isn't relaxing. She is the student stage manager at her high school and over her high school career, she has been a part of more than 10 shows. Outside of theater, she is an active member of her competitive marching band, with more than 3 consecutive state ones. She is grateful to her very supportive family, Mom, Dad, Ava, and Stella for always encouraging her. Joelle is eager for whatever lies ahead this season!



Ms. Riann Brown

Grade 11 • Brush High School

A junior at Brush High School, Riann is ecstatic that she got accepted into the Performing Arts Academy. The most recent production she was a part of was *The Wizard of Oz* as Glinda the Good. She was also in many other productions. Outside of theater, she has many other hobbies that bring her joy such as boxing, singing, dancing, drawing, painting, piano, chess, martial arts, and many more. She wants to thank her mom, dad, and siblings for believing in her. Riann is very enthusiastic and prepared for any obstacles that come her way. (Romans 8:18)



Bailey Bryant

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Bailey is overjoyed to be a member of the Academy. Some of her favorite roles are Alice in *Alice and Wonderland*, The Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, and a dancing zombie for a rendition of *Michael Jackson's Thriller* for an original Black History Month play at Brush. Besides acting, Bailey also enjoys singing in her free time. She would like to thank her mother, father, younger sister Kayleigh, grandmother Norene, best friend Noah McCully, and extended family for always showing up to cheer her on. Bailey is looking forward to making her time with the Performing Arts Academy unforgettable!



Charlie Burck

Grade 11 • Solon High School

Charlie is delighted to join the family of the Academy for the Performing Arts. He is a Junior at Solon High School and he has not been a part of any theatrical performances. He plays for the Varsity Solon Boys Bowling team and does statistics for the Solon Varsity Football team. He would like to thank his entire family for getting him this far and would like to thank you for coming to support the Academy.



Madeline Cecere

Grade 11 • Aurora High School

Madeline Cecere is overjoyed to be part of the Academy. Madeline has been previously seen as Margot in *Legally Blonde*, Chris Gorman in *Rumors*, Suzie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Juror #2 in *12 Angry Men*. Outside of acting, Madeline has worked at ACT Children's Summer Program, helping to put together *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* and *Matilda Jr.*, by working with kids and helping them to experience the joys of acting. She would like to thank her mom and dad for all their support, her brother Chris for his unwavering kindness, and her wonderful friends. Madeline cannot wait to find more things she loves about theater!



Stephanie Cohen

Grade 11 • Mayfield High School

Steph is a junior at Mayfield High School. It is her first year at the Academy for the Performing Arts Excel TECC program at Chagrin. She loves singing on different apps and when she's home alone. She wants to thank her mom for letting her do this program with no judgment.



Simone Conde

Grade 11 • Solon High School

Simone is very excited to be part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a Junior at Solon High School. Some of her past roles are ensemble in The Junior Play Festival and Jules in *The Mummy Witch*. When she was young she also played Perdita in *101 Dalmatians*. Outside of theatre, Simone is currently in 3 barbershop quartets. She wants to thank her family for being super supportive of her!



Layla Daouk

Grade 11 • Brush High School

A first year student at the Academy, Layla has never been in a show before, but she loves theater. She is an artist who has loved making and seeing art since she was a little kid. She does origami, and likes to leave little origami flowers wherever she goes to spread beauty. Layla won an award sophomore year for art. She would like to thank her mom, for always believing in her, her dad, for his honest advice, and her grandma for encouragement. She also would like to thank her brother Sid for always supporting her, and her brother Hassan for always cheering her up. Layla thanks her art teacher, Ms. Curry, for giving her confidence.



Richelle Davies

Grade 12 • Willoughby South High School

Richelle is extremely happy to be back at the Academy. Some of the shows she has had the chance to be a part of include *Heathers* as Ensemble, *The Plot Like Gravy Thickens* as Peggy Sue, *The Wedding Singer* as Linda, *The Lightning Thief* as Ares and *Stage Frights* as Carla Damphrey. Besides acting, Richelle loves to play guitar, sing, listen to music, play video games and hangout with her friends. She wants to thank her Mom, Dad, and closest friends for always sticking by her side and supporting her. Richelle is very excited to see what the year holds.



Maddie Fishman

Grade 12 • Solon High School

Maddie is a senior at Solon High School as well as a second-year student at the Academy for the Performing Arts. She's been involved in theater for many years and is elated to be involved in Academy projects. Outside of the Academy, she plays in the Solon Music in Motion band, is an officer for the film club, and participates in Solon's drama club. Some of her favorite productions have been *Radium Girls* (Solon), *The Addams Family* (Solon), *The Lightning Thief* (Academy), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Solon), and *Curtains* (Solon).



Michael Flonnoy

Grade 12 • Solon High School

Michael is very excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. He is currently a senior at Solon High School, as well as a second-year student within the Performing Arts Excel TECC program at Chagrin Falls. The productions he was given the opportunity to be in include, *John Proctor is the Villain* as Ensemble, *Tartuffe* as Valere, and *Stage Frights* as Hank. He wants to thank his immediate family (Mom, Dad, Traci, Miloe and Travis) and extended family for always supporting and believing in him! Michael is excited to see what this new chapter in his life brings him!



Adeline Garcia

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Adeline is a junior student at Brush High School and is attending her first year at the Academy. She has enjoyed working on small school productions since elementary school, but has taken a break since the start of the pandemic. She enjoys singing, being on stage, and helping behind the scenes as well, especially with makeup and costume design. She would like to thank her mom, dad, and step dad for always being there for her and supporting her in whatever her goals are.



Gina Gardner

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Gina is super excited to be entering her second year of the Academy. A few of her favorite productions have been *Stage Frights*, *A Chorus Line*, and *James And The Giant Peach*. This year Gina is taking her academics more seriously considering she is going to college. Gina will still have high hopes for being a part of *Six The Musical* and any other show that fits her busy schedule. She is a busy woman. Gina is also a part of Mayfield's competitive show choir placing 3rd twice last season. Gina wants to thank her family for supporting her and pushing her to do her absolute best. Gina is ready for an amazing year.



Jane Gerdes

Grade 11 • Aurora High School

Jane is thrilled to explore her love for acting and meet wonderful people this year at the Academy! She was in the ensemble for *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Legally Blonde at Aurora*. Jane was also in the ensemble for *Annie*, *The King and I*, and *Shrek* at the Aurora Community Theater. She played Amanda Trripp in *Matilda* at Beachwood Community Theater, Scuttle in *The Little Mermaid* and Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins* at Aurora Community Theater. Outside of theater, Jane runs cross country, plays guitar and piano, and loves to sing. Jane would like to thank her mom, dad, Joe, and her grandparents for being the strongest support system.



Natalie Gerstenberger

Grade 11 • West Geauga High School

Natalie is very excited for her first year at the Academy. Some favorite performances have included *Into the Woods*, Jr. as ensemble, *Frozen*, Jr. as Elsa, *Newsies* as Henry, and *Seussical*, Jr. as JoJo. Outside of theater, Natalie enjoys being a part of her home school's marching band and chorale choir group. She also loves to write and study humanities. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her in her performing arts endeavors, especially Taylor for always reminding her of the difference she can make as she tells a story on stage, and Cassie, for always being there to support every road bump and success.



Harmony Glenn

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Harmony is thrilled to be a first year student at the Academy. Her favorite production was *Alice in Wonderland* the Musical as the flower, red knight, and tourist. Outside of theatre, Harmony spent time in a program called Artworks which she found as a good alternative since she was unable to attend school due to a tragic accident that left her badly injured. At Artworks she was part of two live showcases, and played a role in a radio play created and inspired by her and her peer. She wants to thank her boyfriend, Donaze Melvin IV, for his everlasting support. Harmony is looking forward to seeing what's to come this year!



Stella Glesius

Grade 12 • Orange High School

Stella is very grateful to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is a senior at Orange High School and participates in many activities, including being Drama Club President, participating in choirs, being a Girl Scout, and running her dad's Instagram account, @Rogerchops. Stella loves to be onstage, but finds herself more often backstage, stage managing, or directing. Stella thanks her friends, family, dogs, and all the amazing people she has been able to meet because of the Academy.

**Amber Goff**

Grade 11 • West Geauga High School

Amber played Peter Pan from *Peter Pan and Wendy*, Sophie Scholl from *Antigone in Munich: A Sophie Scholl Story*, and Kevin G in *Mean Girls the Musical* with Curtain 440, as well as 16 shows over 2 years. They are so thankful to Angela Miloro-Hansen for the opportunities to grow. They are also thankful to Kelly Tapager-Fox, Erica Lohan, Logan Willis, Mandi Matchinga and Maddie Furguson for believing in them and helping them hone their skills. Last, but certainly not least, their dad and grandma for the encouragement and support. Amber is so excited to see the growth and opportunities this program will bring!

**Gabriella Goldberg**

Grade 12 • West Geauga High School

Gabriella is and has always been very excited to be a part of the Academy. Some of Gigi's favorite productions she was given the opportunity to be in include Jasmine in *Aladdin*, Taylor in *High School Musical* at her home school, as well as Neleus and the Chairman in *Mary Poppins*. Outside of the theater, Gigi enjoys playing varsity tennis, waitressing, and volunteering for youths with disabilities. She'd love to thank her mama, papa, and little brother for loving and truly supporting her through all of her journeys. Gabriella is excited to see what this new chapter in her life brings her!

**Eliza Gonzales**

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Eliza is beyond excited to be a part of the Academy. A few of her favorite shows she has taken part in include, *Beauty and the Beast* as Belle, *Mean Girls the Musical* as Taylor Waddell, and *The Little Mermaid* as Jetsam. She also had an incredible opportunity this past summer to travel to New York City and perform in the Broadway Dreams Foundation's Showcase! Eliza would like to thank her parents for always supporting her and encouraging her to follow her dreams, as well as her siblings and extended family. Eliza cannot wait to create amazing memories through the Academy!

**Nilana Gonzales**

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Nilana is thrilled to continue her second year at the Academy. She's been fortunate to be a part of productions such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Chorus Line: Teen Edition*, *The Lightning Thief*, *John Proctor Is The Villain* as well as *Chamber Music*. When not on stage, Nilana enjoys hanging out with friends, singing, dancing, and binging Grey's Anatomy on Netflix. She would love to give a special thanks to her family and friends for supporting her and the Academy for giving her the chance to continue what she loves and giving her a family. She can't wait to see what the world has for her on this journey!

**Kayla Greene**

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Kayla is an inspired student getting out of her shell to explore the world of theater. She has never gotten an opportunity to appear in any shows before, so the Academy is an excellent opportunity to grow her resume. She is a junior at Charles F. Brush High School. She would like to thank her parents for the encouragement to get out and experience new things.

**Claire Guddy**

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Claire is very excited to be a returning student at the Academy. Some of her favorite productions include *Mamma Mia* as Ensemble, *Beauty and the Beast* as Babette, and *Stage Frights* as Eliza Sidecar. Outside of theater, Claire enjoys her time as a field commander in the Chagrin Falls Marching Band and playing the flute and piccolo in the Chagrin Falls Concert Band. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her in every aspect of her life. Claire cannot wait to see what this year will bring her!

**Laila Hancock**

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Laila is very proud to be in the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a senior at Mayfield High School, as well as a second-year student in the Excel TECC program at Chagrin Falls. She was involved in her first school production *Ragtime*, in her sophomore year. Last year, she was involved in her second production in *Chamber Music*. Outside of theater, Laila enjoys taking vocal lessons and working at Panini's and Sunday Memories.

**Camrynn Harris**

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Camrynn is a senior at Mayfield High School and a second-year student at the Academy for the Performing Arts. She was in the ensemble in her home school production of *Ragtime* and played a role in *Chamber Music* at the Academy's Junior Play Festival. Outside of theater, Camrynn is a member of the varsity cheer team. She would like to thank her family for their support.

**Abriana Henderson**

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Abriana is really looking forward to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts at Chagrin. This is her first year here at Excel TECC, and she is a junior at Brush High School. Outside of the theater, Abriana loves to spend time with her dog and family, and watch Grey's Anatomy with her mom. She would like to thank her family for believing in her and supporting her dreams.

**Nicolas Hodges**

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Nicolas is very excited to be part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. This will be his second year here at Chagrin. Outside of theatre, he likes to talk with friends and listen to music while playing on the PS5. Nicolas would like to thank his family and friends for always believing in everything he puts his mind to and is excited for his last year at school.



Lucy Hopkins

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Lucy is very excited to be in the Academy and can't wait to explore more of the theatre world! She recently participated in *Beauty and the Beast* as an ensemble member and *The Little Mermaid* as a Mersister. Lucy also participates in the Chagrin Falls varsity tennis team as well as the softball team. She takes voice lessons at Aurora School of Music and took piano lessons for 7 years. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her rising passion for theatre and spending much of their time chauffeuring her to and from rehearsals. Lucy cannot wait to meet new people and experience new opportunities!



Amelia Horvat

Grade 12 • Orange High School

Amelia is so excited for this year at the Academy and what it will bring! At her home school, she performed as Olive in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as well as Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods*. At the Academy, she was in *The Lightning Thief* as well as assistant stage managing for *John Proctor is The Villian*. Outside of the Academy, she enjoys doing choir clubs at her school and working with children as a babysitter and camp counselor. Amelia wants to thank her entire family, friends, and staff of the academy for supporting her and making these years so great!



Mackenzie Ipavec

Grade 11 • Willoughby South High School

Mackenzie is really excited to be a part of the Academy this year. Last year, she worked on her first show, doing costumes for *The Spongebob Musical*. Since then, she has been excited about future opportunities in costume design, and is grateful for the chance to use her talents at the Academy. She would like to thank her family and friends for encouraging her to step out of her comfort zone and join the Academy, as well as for their unwavering support throughout her whole life.



Nyshaya Jackson

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Nyshaya is currently a junior at Charles F Brush and also a first year student at the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is a team member at McDonald's, where she has honed her skills in teamwork and customer service. Nyshaya wishes special thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering support, and to her colleagues at McDonald's for teaching her the importance of teamwork and perseverance.



Roman Kline-Bossman

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Roman is thrilled to learn valuable lessons and make connections at the Academy that will prepare him for a career in the performing arts. Favorite roles include Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, The Narrator in *Our Town*, Olaf in *Frozen Jr*, and many more! Taking acting classes as a kid and seeing *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway inspired his love for theatre. He was the first freshman to get into the Chamber Choir in his previous school, and has been in choir since 6th grade. He would love to thank his mom and dad for supporting his dream, and for being willing to uproot their lives to help him.



Chloe Link

Grade 11 • West Geauga High School

Chloe is so excited to be at the Academy for the Performing Arts. She goes to West Geauga High School and is in her junior year. She has worked backstage for a few of her high school's musicals. She wants to thank her parents for supporting her in all of her endeavors! She can't wait to see what this year brings!



Rachel Marzullo

Grade 11 • Aurora High School

Rachel is thrilled to be part of the Academy for the Performing Arts! Currently she is a junior attending Aurora High School, as well as the Academy. Some productions she was involved in are *Legally Blonde* as Enid Hoopes, *Rumors* as Cookie, and she was also involved in *The Prom*. Outside of theater, Rachel loves listening to Jazz and Elton John. Rachel also attends the Aurora School of Music for vocal training and is involved with the Aurora Philharmonic Orchestra as a violinist. She wants to thank her family for being so supportive!



Hannah Miller

Grade 11 • Aurora High School

Hannah is very excited to be a part of the Academy for Performing Arts for her first year. She has performed in many productions including *Legally Blonde* as Chutney Windham, *Rumors* as Officer Pudney, and smaller roles when she was younger. Outside of the theater, Hannah loves to spend time reading, writing, playing the piano, and going on walks. She would like to thank her family and friends for always being there to support and encourage her love of theater! Hannah is thrilled to be part of this program and excited to see how this will help shape her future!



Evelyn Minotas

Grade 11 • West Geauga High School

Evelyn is currently a junior at West Geauga High School and is excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. Her past performing experiences include being in her school musicals and taking acting workshops over the summer. Outside of theater, Evelyn spends her time on the soccer field as a player on the West Geauga Girls Soccer Team. She wants to thank her family and friends for supporting her and always believing in her. Evelyn can't wait to see where this new chapter in her life will take her!



Maya Ochiai

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Maya is a junior at Chagrin Falls High School, currently in her first year with the Performing Arts Excel TECC program. Although she has not participated in several theatrical productions, she has performed regularly with her school's concert and marching band, as well as in multiple choir groups and honors ensembles. She would like to give a special thanks to her friends, family, and notably her support team for the encouragement to go through with this opportunity. Maya is looking forward to indulging in work that she can feel passionate about, and excitedly awaits the many fun experiences to come!



Delmore Parker

Grade 12 • Orange High School

Delmore is very excited to be a senior this year at the Academy. His previous roles include DJ Cerberus in *Lightning Thief The Musical*, Jeff in *13 Ways to Screw Up A College Interview*, The police Chief in *Clue*, and most recently William in *Stage Frights*. Outside of theatre, he does track as a sprinter, running the 100m and 200m. Delmore wants to thank his mom, dad, and his siblings Jaylin, Hannah, and Anthony for the continuous support of his dreams. He loves them all and is grateful every time he sees them in the audience. Delmore is ready for his final chapter of high school and wants to enjoy every minute!



Kaylenna Peah

Grade 12 • Willoughby South High School

Kaylenna is very excited to be in her last year at the Academy and a senior at Willoughby South High School. Some of her favorite productions she was given the opportunity to be in include *John Proctor is the Villain* and *Stage Frights*. Outside of Theater, Kaylenna spends her time with the Willoughby South Marching Band. She wants to thank her Immediate family (mom, dad, and aunt) and cousins for always supporting her. Kaylenna is excited to see what this new chapter in her life brings her.



Lux Proctor

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Lux is very excited for their second year at the Academy for the Performing Arts! They are currently a senior at Mayfield High School. Their favorite Academy experiences so far, have been playing Beth Powell in *John Proctor is the Villain*, and learning new things in class. Outside of theater, Lux enjoys spending time with family and friends, going out, and all things horror. They want to thank their mom for always supporting them to follow their dreams no matter what. They are looking forward to what's next.



Westley Quintin

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Westley is extremely enthused to be part of the Academy as a junior. His favorite productions he has been in include *The Little Mermaid* as the Captain, *Best Little Theater in Town* as Mr. Pennypacker, and *Mean Girls* as Christian. Outside of theater, Westley plays the alto saxophone in band and jazz band, and he also is on the Shaker Rocks Climbing Team. He wants to thank his family for always supporting and helping him. Westley is excited to see what this new opportunity will bring him.



Reece Robbins

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Reece is thrilled to return to the Academy this year! Some favorite productions include *The Lightning Thief* as Mr. Brunner/Chiron and Kurt Cobain, *John Proctor is the Villain* as Lee Turner and *Powerline* as Bartholomew/Orvis/Martin. His first high school show was *The Museum* in which he was entrusted with the lead role as The Guard. Outside of theater, Reece works at Waterway Carwash. In his spare time, he plays video games and socializes with his friends. Reece would like to thank his fellow peers and supportive teachers at the Academy, as well as his parents for encouraging him to always follow his dreams.



Finn Rodi

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Finn is thrilled to see what the future will hold. Roles have included Grover in *The Lightning Thief*, Juror 11 in *12 Angry Jurors*, and Cléante in *Tartuffe*. Fighting for a childhood dream, he looks forward to the next chapter of this journey and is thrilled to continue his story. He would like to give a special thank you to his mom and dad, for pushing him to never give up on his dreams. He would also like to thank his friend, and Academy member, Beau Salter, for their kindness, generosity, and never-ending creativity. Finally, Finn would like to thank his younger brother, Trey, for his unconditional support, love, and friendship.



Charlotte Rohr

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Charlotte is elated to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts this year. Some of her favorite roles include Madame De La Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast*, Jaques in *As You Like It*, and Flotsam in *The Little Mermaid*. Outside of theatre, Charlotte is a member of her schools select choir and a cantor at Saint Joan of Arc. She also runs track and cross country. She would like to thank her wonderful family (Mom, Dad, Johann, Heidi, Madeline, and Albert) as well as everyone else who has supported her over the years. Charlotte looks forward to the memories and friends she will make through her time at the Academy.



Beau Salter

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Beau is so happy to be at the Academy for his second year! They're currently in the tech side of the Academy but acquired a role on stage last year as Dams in *Tartuffe*. He was tech for almost every show at the academy last season, assistant stage managing, running projections and sound, and also running projections for Chagrin Falls High School's *Beauty and the Beast*. He can't wait for this year's season, and he hopes for their best performances yet! They can't wait to be on and backstage once again for this wonderful place! He would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting them and their dreams!



Cameron Scott

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Cameron really enjoys acting and is happy to be a part of the Academy. They come from Charles F. Brush High School. Previous roles include Oz from *Wizard of Oz*, Owen Casey from *Murder on the 518*, and Train Conductor in *Alice in Wonderland*. Cameron is also in the choir at their home school and this is their 5th year in choir. They would like to thank their choir teacher, Mrs. Sturdivant and their parents for taking them to rehearsals. They would also like to thank their friends Bailey and Eliana for always being there for them. Cameron is really excited to continue their acting career.



Zack Sefcik

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Zack has performed in close to 15 shows. His favorites consist of *Oliver*, his first, *Aladdin*, where he played Jafar, *Guys and Dolls*, as a gambler, *Children of Eden Jr.*, as Adam and Noah, *Bye Bye Birdie*, as Conrad Birdie, *Ragtime* as Henry Ford, and *The Lightning Thief* as Luke. Outside of Theatre, Zack is involved in the Mayfield Limited Edition Show Choir, or working at his job. Zack would like to thank his mom for giving him his voice, and his stepmom for getting him into theatre. He would also like to thank his dad and stepdad for their constant support. Zack is excited for this final year, and for whatever the future may hold.



Grace Sheppard

Grade 12 • Mayfield High School

Grace is very excited to continue her journey at the Academy. Some of her favorite productions she has been a part of have been *Tartuffe* (Madame Parnelle), *Chamber Music* (Susan B Anthony/Woman With Gavel), *The Lighting Thief* (Bianca/Ensemble) at Academy as well as *Ragtime*, *A Chorus Line*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Urinetown* at Mayfield High School. Outside of theatre Grace is a part of Mayfield's show choir "Limited Edition", and leads the crochet club at Mayfield High School. Grace would like to thank her family for always supporting her and encouraging her to follow her dreams!



Ariel Shulman

Grade 12 • Solon High School

Ariel has been involved with theater since she was a kid. At her synagogue she performed in *Alice in Wonderland*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Academy roles include a mom/cluster in *The Hoodie*, statue/ensemble in *The Lightning Thief*, light board operator for *John Proctor is the Villain*, and Kenny, Tolliver and Jesska in JPF's *Power Line*. Ariel enjoys dancing, Parkour, car rides with friends and spending time with family. She wants to thank her mom, dad, sister Marina, brother Max, and closest friends, for all the faith and support to follow her passions & dreams. Ariel is excited for this new chapter!



Jordin Sipili

Grade 11 • Aurora High School

Jordin is very excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a junior at Aurora High School, as well as a first year student within the Performing Arts Excel TECC program at Chagrin Falls. She was in one production through Aurora Parks and Recreation playing the role of a dog. Outside of theater, Jordin spends time singing, writing, and spending lots of time with family and friends. She wants to thank her immediate family (Mom, Dad, and Luke) for being supportive in every way possible. Jordin is excited to see what this new chapter in life brings her.



Mary Sirl

Grade 11 • Eastlake North High School

Mary is ecstatic to be a part of the Academy of the Performing Arts. Previously, Mary played as the Narrator in her school's production of *Puffs*. Even though that was her only major role, she's ready to keep doing shows! Outside of acting, Mary has a wide range of hobbies. She enjoys singing, art, sewing, writing, reading, makeup, film and photography. She wants to give a special thanks to her mom for supporting her dreams and giving her the resources to execute them; her friends Brooke and Liv, for giving her the confidence to keep going. She's excited to see what new opportunities come her way!



Jordyn Sledge

Grade 12 • Solon High School

Jordyn is very thrilled to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts for her second year as a senior from Solon High School. She auditioned for a play at her home school once but it didn't go as well as she hoped. She hasn't had any other performing experiences before she entered the Academy. She wants to thank her mom, sister, brother, and grandma for helping her with lines, giving her hope, and offering words of encouragement. She would also like to thank her favorite teacher who has been there for her during the good and bad times and has also supported her by coming to her plays.



Demiel Snyder

Grade 11 • Chagrin Falls High School

Demiel is ecstatic to be at the Academy for their first year. A couple of the productions they have been in include *Little Mermaid Jr.* as Ursula, *Into the Woods* as the Mysterious Man, and *Beauty and The Beast* as a Monsieur D'Arque. During their off-time, Demiel loves to paint and draw as well as write their own stories. They also spend their mornings in the Chagrin Falls Orchestra Club. They would like to thank their mother, father, sister (Ella), two dogs (Kali & Blue) for constantly being there to support them. They also extend their gratitude to their two closest friends, Star and Cam, for never giving up on them.



Julianne Speyer

Grade 12 • West Geauga High School

Julianne is so excited to attend the Academy for Performing Arts. Some of her favorite roles have been Gabrielle in Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical the Musical*, and Katherine in *Newsies*. Outside of theater, Julianne is a captain of her school's dance team, and performs for the princess/character company Northeast Ohio Creatives. Julianne would like to thank her immediate family (Mom, Dad, Caitlin, Megan, Michael, and Charlotte) as well as all of her friends for all of their support. Julianne plans to get a B.F.A in Musical Theater in college and is excited for all the opportunities for the future!



Chloe Sutter

Grade 11 • Aurora High School

Chloe is so excited to be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a junior at Aurora High School, as well as a first-year student within the Performing Arts Excel TECC program at Chagrin Falls. Previously she's been in *Mary Poppins* as Winifred Banks, *Bye Bye Birdie* as Deborah Sue, *Legally Blonde* as Brooke Wyndham, and many more. One of her favorite roles was Cassie Cooper in the Aurora High School fall play *Rumors*. In her free time, she enjoys guitar, singing, and is currently the president of Aurora High School's Zonta Club. She would like to thank everyone who made this production possible.



Ellie Sypniewski

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Ellie is super excited to be a student at the Academy for the Performing Arts. She is currently a junior at Charles F Brush High School and a first year student for the Performing arts Excel TECC program. She was cast as the China Princess in *The Wizard of Oz*, Jillian Hill in *Murder on the 518*, and an extra in *Alice in Wonderland* (the musical). In her free time Ellie swims, bakes, sings and does photography. She'd like to thank her dad, mom, and best friends for always pushing and encouraging her to do whatever struck her fancy. Ellie can't wait for this year's performances and all the fun they'll bring!!



Greco Thornton

Grade 11 • Richmond Heights High School

Greco is very excited to be making their theatrical debut with the Academy for the Performing Arts in this year's season. He is currently a junior at Richmond Heights High School. Greco is exploring the world of acting for the first time and is thrilled to be part of this experience. Despite his lack of performing arts experience, Greco has still been very active in his school band and student council. Greco would like to express deep gratitude to his, mom, dad, and close friends for their unwavering support and encouragement as he embarks on this new adventure in the performing arts.



Ameliya Tucker

Grade 11 • Brush High School

Ameliya is currently a junior at Brush High School. Her past roles include Sapphire from *Portraits Through History*, the flower and the unicorn from *Alice in Wonderland*, Rachel from *Murder on the 518*, Toni and background character in *Incredible Riches*. Outside of theater, I work with my audio visual club also known as A.V. I enjoy anything that has to do with art such as painting, drawing, photography, and I LOVE watching crime shows. I want to thank my mom, dad, brother, and my immediate family for always attending every play and giving their full support throughout my acting journey.



Railyn Walker

Grade 11 • Brush High School

After only 2 weeks, Railyn can't wait to spend the next 2 years at the Academy! Some roles include the granddaughter in one of Brush's yearly Black History Month plays, Tweedle Dum from *Through The Looking Glass*, and a few supporting roles in *Murder On the 518*. She also had a few lines in a short film about gun safety and awareness. She is very grateful to her mother, who has been her biggest supporter and is incredibly thankful for all the opportunities to follow her dreams. Railyn is excited about the upcoming shows from the Academy this year and can't wait to see where this journey leads.



Leah Williams

Grade 12 • Brush High School

Leah is from Brush High School and is currently a senior. She is a second-year student at Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Excel TECC program. Her past theatrical roles include Jeepers the Clown in *Stage Frights* from last year's JPF, and ensemble for *Murder on the 518*. Outside of theatre, she has been a member of her school's choir for four years and has also been participating in her church's choir and praise dance for six years. She wants to thank her mom, dad, and grandparents for being there for her and believing in her dreams. Leah can't wait for what amazing things will happen in her life.



Madeline Yankowski

Grade 12 • Aurora High School

Madeline plans to go to college for musical theater. Past credits include *Shrek The Musical* (Fiona), *Legally Blonde* (Vivienne Kensington), *The Lightning Thief* (Katie Gardner), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Ensemble), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Reporter), *Chamber Music* (Gertrude Stein), and more. Maddie participated in the Dazzle Awards, the NATS competition (4th place), and the Baldwin Wallace Summer CSI Program. She has taken voice lessons for the past 5 years. Outside of performing, Maddie loves to play piano, box and stay active. She would like to thank her family and the Academy for their constant support on this journey!



Legend Young

Grade 11 • Willoughby South High School

Legend is super excited to finally be a part of the Academy for the Performing Arts! She is a junior in high school, and so far she is loving the experience at the Academy. Her most recent roles in other programs have been Sandy in the *SpongeBob Musical*, and Holly in *The Wedding Singer*. She is extremely excited to be cast in more roles in the upcoming Performing Arts Academy season. She is thankful to her mom and dad for always supporting her and being present. She's ready to welcome in this new and exciting first year at the Performing Arts Academy.



Enza Zimmerman

Grade 12 • Chagrin Falls High School

Enza is ecstatic to be attending her second year at the Academy. She's been blessed to have gotten the opportunity to act in five productions since then, and is planning to do many more this year! Enza loves everything to do with film and fashion. Outside of school Enza spends her time with family and friends, or working at her movie theatre job. She has many creative pursuits such as watercoloring, creative makeup, modeling, and video game writing. Enza also wants to thank her six siblings and her parents for always being so supportive and loving.



Mario Zingale

Grade 11 • Willoughby South High School

Mario is happy to be part of the Academy for the Performing Arts. He is a junior at Willoughby South High School and a first-year student at the Performing Arts Excel TECC program at Chagrin Falls. He was a backstage crew member for, *The Wedding Singer*, *Get Smart*, and *SpongeBob Squarepants*.



Six: The Musical Set Design by Ben Needham



Junior Class 2026



Senior Class 2025



Set Design by Ben Needham



Set Design by Ben Needham



Alice in Wonderland

Anne Coulter Martens

Directed by Abraham Adams

A well-known story written by Lewis Carroll in 1865, *Alice in Wonderland* was later adapted into a play by Anne Coulter Martens in 1965, 100 years later. The story is about a girl named Alice (played by Annelise Hagen), who stumbles down a rabbit hole after chasing the White Rabbit (Luvia Thomas). Confused on how she will ever make it back in time for her birthday party, she meets an assortment of characters that help her navigate the peculiar place known as Wonderland.

CAST LIST

Alice	Claire Guddy
Chessie	Finn Rodi
The Rabbit	Harmony Glenn
Caterpillar	Abriana Henderson
Footman (King u/s)	Reginald Rucker III
Duchess	Frankie Ashkettle
Chef	Bailey Bryant
Queen	Lux Proctor
King	Roman Kline-Bossman
Knave 1	Beau Salter
Knave 2 (Humpty Dumpty u/s)	Amber Goff
Mad Hatter (Chessie u/s)	Maya Ochiai
March Hare (Hatter u/s)	Nilana Gonzales
Dormouse (Alice u/s)	Chloe Sutter
Humpty Dumpty (Queen u/s)	Enza Zimmerman
Executioner	Jordyn Sledge

FLOWERS

Cameron Scott (Blue)	Railyn Walker (Yellow)
Rachel Marzullo (White)	Madeline Cecere (Rose)
Jane Gerdes (Violet)	Jordin Sipili (Pink)

CARDS, COURTIERS, DOOR KNIGHTS, GARDENERS, & PUPPETEERS

Adeline Garcia (Duchess u/s)	Bri Baioni
Nyshaya Jackson (Hare u/s)	DJ Parker (Footman u/s)
Reece Robbins (The Rabbit u/s)	Westley Quintin
Ameliya Tucker (Dormouse u/s)	Layla Daouk
Demiel Snyder (Caterpillar u/s)	

CREW LIST

Assistant Director	Amelia Horvat
Assistant Stage Manager	Ariel Shulman
Sound	Stella Glesius
Lights	Evelyn Minotas
Run Crew	Maddie Fishman
Run Crew	Hannah Miller
Wardrobe/Makeup	Chloe Link
Wardrobe/Makeup	Mackenzie Ipavec
Wardrobe/Makeup	Laila Hancock
Lead Usher	Charlotte Rohr

The Academy for the Performing Arts Presents

LEWIS CARROLL'S

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

A Play in Two Acts by
ANNE COULTER MARTENS



Directed by Abraham Adams

OCTOBER
24th & 26th @ 7:00pm
27th @ 2:00pm

www.chagrinacademy.org

Scan for Tickets



Note from the Director

Alice in Wonderland - Directed by Abraham Adams

I had many imaginary friends as a child. They lived among the flowers in our garden, under the couch cushions, and in the kitchen pantry. Hours were spent telling fantastical stories to myself about these imagined creatures. My mother continues to remind me of my obsession, at the tender age of eight, with multi-colored fuzzy pipe cleaners that I had fashioned into human-like shapes. I called this motley collection of playthings "The Doobie Brothers".

Childhood is a magical and frightening time. We begin to understand some things and are flummoxed by others. Our self-agency begins to grow but much of what happens to us remains out of our control. Wonder abounds yet there can be great fear and trepidation in everyday occurrences. Some might argue that these very descriptions might also apply to the experience of adulthood. We may eventually leave the world of Wonderland as adults but through the power of theater we can sometimes come back for a visit.

I hope you enjoy our whimsical and wild production that features a stellar cast of hardworking young artists. Thank you for supporting arts education.

Sincerely,

Abraham Adams



Six: The Musical (Teen Edition)

Directed by Dan Hendrock

Six: Teen Edition is a full-length adaptation of Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss' international phenomenon SIX, modified for performance by teen actors for family audiences. Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. From Tudor Queens to Pop Icons, the SIX wives of Henry VIII take the mic to remix five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a Euphoric Celebration of 21st-century girl power! This new original musical is the global sensation that everyone is losing their head over.



Senior Improv Show

Directed by Ryan Santa

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 2024 is here to deliver an unforgettable evening of laughter, mischief, and comedic genius.



Twelfth Night

Directed by Abraham Adams

Set in a topsy-turvy world like a holiday revel, this comedy devises a romantic plot around separated twins, misplaced passions, and mistaken identity. Juxtaposed to it is the satirical story of a self-deluded steward who dreams of becoming “Count Malvolio” only to receive his comeuppance at the hands of the merrymakers he wishes to suppress. The two plots combine to create a farce touched with melancholy, mixed throughout with seductively beautiful explorations on the themes of love and time, and the play ends, not with laughter, but with a clown’s sad song.’



Junior Play Festival

Live in our Studio Theatre featuring Guest Directors

The Academy’s One Act Play Festival is rehearsed and performed by our first-year juniors. The plays are contemporary, diverse, inclusive, challenging, and entertaining. The plays chosen will be announced at the beginning of 2025.

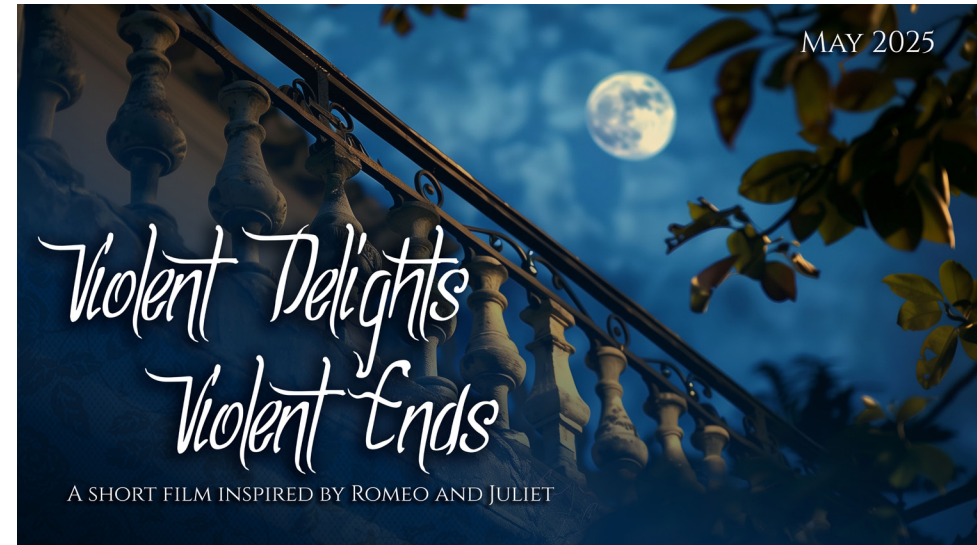


The Rock (A Puppet Parable)

Presented as part of the Junior Play Festival

Written and Directed by Ben Needham

Experience the poignant storytelling of Harry Chapin's song "The Rock" like never before in this captivating musical video featuring puppets. Through the artistry of puppetry, this video brings Chapin's evocative lyrics to life, weaving a tale of resilience, hope, and humanity. Watch as intricate puppets perform in a beautifully crafted set, capturing the essence of the song's powerful message. "The Rock: A Puppet Parable" is a unique and moving tribute to Chapin's legacy, blending music and visual storytelling to create an unforgettable experience for viewers of all ages.



MAY 2025

Violent Delights Violent Ends

Premiering at the 2024-25 Academy Awards Celebration

Adapted and Directed by Abraham Adams

The Academy for the Performing Arts has a rich tradition of bringing powerful stories to life on the big screen. From the thought-provoking "The Laramie Project" to the enchanting "Eurydice" and the timeless tragedy of "Antigone," their full-length films have captivated audiences with their depth and artistry. This year, we are set to continue this legacy with a new short film entitled "Violent Delights/Violent Ends," inspired by Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet." While details remain under wraps, this project promises to deliver a compelling and innovative cinematic experience that will leave a lasting impact on both the Academy's students and viewers alike.

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2024-2025 SEASON

OCTOBER 24, 26 & 27

Alice in Wonderland

DECEMBER 11-15

Six: The Musical

DECEMBER 19

Senior Improv Show

FEBRUARY 20-23

Twelfth Night

MARCH 11-13

Junior Play Festival / The Rock

MAY

Academy Film Project TBA/Awards/

Violent Ends Violent Delights