The School of Theatre and Dance
2024-2025 Season

Sept. 27–Oct. 2
Wright-Curtis Theatre

CRUCIBLE
By Arthur Miller

Oct. 25–Nov. 3
E. Turner Stump Theatre

PRIDE & PREJUDICE
The Musical
By Lawrence Rush

Nov. 22–24
E. Turner Stump Theatre

BELONGING
Fall Faculty Dance Concert

Feb. 21–March 2
E. Turner Stump Theatre

The WIZ
Book by William F. Brown
Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls
From the story The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
by L. Frank Baum

March 28–30
E. Turner Stump Theatre

SPRING Faculty Dance CONCERT

April 18–27
Wright-Curtis Theatre

MEN ON BOATS
By Jaclyn Backhaus

Tickets
330-672-2787
kent.edu/theatredance

Center for the Performing Arts
1325 THEATRE DR. | KENT, OH 44242

"THE WIZ" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals, www.concordtheatricals.com
"MEN ON BOATS" is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)
"THE CRUCIBLE" is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)
Welcome!

On behalf of Kent State University and the College of the Arts, I am pleased to welcome you to Porthouse Theatre. We are excited to present our 2024 season and are glad you have joined us today. I hope this performance inspires you to believe in miracles.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the wonderful team of actors, designers, directors, staff – everyone – who brings theatre to life here at Porthouse each summer.

We are grateful to the many donors, supporters and sponsors who make a gift, of any amount, to Porthouse Theatre each year. Your generosity helps ensure we can bring live theatre to Northeast Ohio audiences in this beautiful outdoor venue. You have helped make miracles happen here at Porthouse Theatre.

We encourage you to continue to engage with Kent State University’s College of the Arts and learn more about our academic programs and events throughout the year. Please visit us online at www.kent.edu/artscollege or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at @KentStateArts.

We invite you to join us all summer long. Enjoy the show!
Porthouse 2024 Company

Terri J. Kent^ .................................................... Producing Artistic Director; Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie”
Tony Hardin .................................................... Executive Producer; Scenic Designer, Season
Kari Erdmann ..................................................... Associate Artistic Director; Production Manager
Rebecca Balogh Gates ................................................ Managing Director
Jennifer Crabtree .................................................. Director of Communications and Marketing
Jason Gates .......................................................... Scenic Shop Supervisor
Madi Getz ........................................................... Marketing Associate
Tom Humes* ........................................................ Production Stage Manager
Aimee Johnson ...................................................... Costume Shop Supervisor
Jennifer Korecki .................................................... Porthouse Academy Coordinator, Ensemble Singing Instructor; Music Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar”
Alexandra Swiger .................................................... Performing Arts Office Manager
Frankie Teuber* ..................................................... Scenic Art and Props Supervisor
Felix Albino ........................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Annie”; Assistant Musical Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar”
Melody Amigo ........................................................ Scenic Artist
Thomas Anstine ..................................................... Lighting Designer, “Nunsense”
Becca Bailey ........................................................... Dance Captain; Actor, “Nunsense”
Nicole Berrios-Parga ................................................ Scenic Charge Artist; Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Annie”
Nicolene Baker ........................................................ Assistant Head Electrician/Programmer
Bri Clark .............................................................. Wardrobe Supervisor
Jordan Dean ........................................................ Facilities and Concessions Staff
Eriksson Peyton ...................................................... Box Office Staff
Colleen Longshaw* ................................................. Actor, “Nunsense”; Design Assistant, “Annie”
Ella Leonard ........................................................... Assistant House Manager
Hannah Jencius ...................................................... Swing, “Nunsense”
Ava Kimble ........................................................... Actor, “Annie”
Emily Kirkpatrick .................................................... Assistant House Manager
Jake Koneval ........................................................ Carpenter
Emma LaMantia ...................................................... Electrics Overhire
Gennie Neuman Lambert ........................................ Set Designer, “Nunsense”
Leslie B. Lemp ....................................................... Props Artist, “Jesus Christ Superstar”, “Annie”
Davon Leonard ..................................................... Co-Box Office Manager
Dana Levin .......................................................... Assistant House Manager
Jennifer Lawrence .................................................. Assistant Stage Manager
Colleen Longshaw* (Jackson) .................................. Actor, “Nunsense”
Judah Nicole Lyles .................................................. Assistant Company Manager
Alexandre Marr ..................................................... Music Director, “Annie”
Noah McCullers .................................................... Actor, Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Annie”
Victoria Mearini ................................................... Costume Designer, “Nunsense”
Enrique Miguel ..................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”
Morgan Mills ....................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”
Anna Morrison ...................................................... Assistant Props Artist, “Annie”
Livil Mosca .......................................................... Carpenter
Dante J.L. Murray .................................................. Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
De’Ontae Murray .................................................... Box Office Staff
Rylee Nelson ......................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
Adam Newborn ...................................................... Porthouse Academy Mentor/Acting Instructor
Nolan O’Dell .......................................................... Set Designer, “Annie”
Josh Outman ....................................................... Concessions Manager
Taylor Patterson .................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
Eriksson Peyton ................................................... Box Office Co-Man/Minor Child Supervisor
Backoff Polunas* .................................................. Sound Designer, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
Tomya Pryor ........................................................ Props Artist, Props Manager for
Sophia Robson ...................................................... First Hand
Kyla Rodenborn ................................................... Actor, “Annie”
Sandra Ross ....................................................... Actor, “Nunsense”
Chloe Royak ........................................................... Dresser
AT Sanders ......................................................... Box Office Co-Manager/Minor Child Supervisor
Mary Savocchia ................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”, “Annie”
Samantha Schwartz .............................................. Dresser
Austin Scott ........................................................ House Manager; Assistant Director,
“Jesus Christ Superstar”; “Annie”; Recipient of Dr. Yoko Endo’s
Richardson Scholarship
Jakyung C. Seo ..................................................... Lighting Designer, “Jesus Christ Superstar”, “Annie”
Madison Shannon .................................................. Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
Jordan Shaw ....................................................... Assistant Company Manager
Juliana Shumaker .................................................. Actor, “Annie”
Brandy Strickland .................................................. Wardrobe Supervisor
Michelle Hunt Souza .......................................... Costume Designer, “Jesus Christ Superstar”
Erik Stanke .......................................................... Draper
Draper
Ellie Stark ......................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
Natalie Steen ...................................................... Scenic Overhire
Fiona Thackaberry Stevens .................................... Actor, “Annie”
Ivy Stewart .......................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
Robert S. Taylor .................................................. Box Office Staff and Event Manager
Brandi Thomas .................................................... Concession Manager
Rohn Thomas* .................................................... Actor, “Annie”
Parker Towns ...................................................... Actor, “Annie”
Lara Troyer .......................................................... Actor, “Nunsense”
Mason Uline ....................................................... Assistant Stage Manager
Eric van Baars* .................................................... Director and Choreographer, “Nunsense”
Kristopher Weeks ................................................ Electrician and Follow Spot Operator
Mia White ........................................................... Box Office Staff
Draper
Susie Williams ...................................................... Draper
Tegan Wilson ..................................................... Props Artist, Props Manager for
Bethany Winters .................................................. Sound Designer, “Annie”
Karen Wilson ...................................................... Actor, “Annie”
Samantha Zugnoni .............................................. Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;
Dominic Young .................................................... Actor, “Jesus Christ Superstar”;

*Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.
‡Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
^Member of the international Alliance of Theatre Stage Employees.
+Member of represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

Productions at Porthouse Theatre can contain loud noises, theatrical haze, fog or strobe lights.
Dear Porthouse family and friends,

Welcome to Porthouse Theatre, where miracles happen! Miracles, surprising and welcome events, happen every day, but to receive a miracle, you must believe in miracles. I do and so do the main characters in each of our shows this summer. No one embodies this faith more than the title character in “Annie.” Even in her darkest hour she sings, “The sun will come out tomorrow.” That may be difficult to believe for those of us who live through the dreary winters of Northeast Ohio, but the sun is shining, the summer has come and we are reunited at our favorite theatre.

We open with “Jesus Christ Superstar,” the first musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice to be produced for the professional stage. “Jesus Christ Superstar” has wowed audiences for over 50 years. A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally known series of events but seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Loosely based on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, “Superstar” follows the last week of Jesus Christ’s life. The story, told entirely through song, explores the personal relationships and struggles between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, his disciples, his followers and the Roman Empire.

Our second show is “Nunsense!” This riotous show is a fundraiser put on by the Little Sisters of Hoboken to raise money to bury sisters accidentally poisoned by the convent cook, Sister Julia (Child of God). Updated with new jokes, additional lyrics, two new arrangements and a brand-new song, this madcap musical was recorded for television starring Rue McClanahan as the Mother Superior.

We close with “Annie,” based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray. With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone’s hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. She is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage that is run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. With the help of the other girls in the Orphanage, Annie escapes to the wondrous world of NYC. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan’s evil machinations... and even befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt! She finds a new home and family in billionaire, Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

I believe the arts have the power to transform lives and I believe in miracles. Thank you for believing in us!
KSU MUSEUM

Museum Hours

Monday: Closed
Tuesday - Saturday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m.

SHANNON ROGERS AND JERRY SILVERMAN: DAZZLING DAY AND NIGHT
through July 28, 2025

“Dazzling Day and Night” celebrates the creative legacy of the KSU Museum’s founders, Shannon Rodgers and Jerry Silverman. In 1959 Silverman and Shannon established their own company, Jerry Silverman, Inc. which became one the most successful manufacturers of women’s better dresses in the industry through the 1960s and 1970s.

Sponsored by Leslie Resnik with a sustainability grant from the Ohio Arts Council

THE HEPBURN STYLE: KATHARINE AND HER DESIGNERS
through May 25, 2025

Katharine Hepburn left the New York stage for Hollywood in 1930. Compared to theatre, movies offered an affordable form of escapism from the Depression. Movies also had a greater influence on culture, as millions of Americans crowded theaters.

Sponsored by Karen and Ken Conley, Ken Robinson and Pat Brownell in honor of Logan Brownell with a sustainability grant from the Ohio Arts Council

NANCY CROW: QUILTS
opening September 6, 2024

Nancy Crow is internationally renowned as a leader in contemporary quilt-making and fiber arts since the 1970s. She continues to develop innovative techniques that provide a range of expressive imagery.

Sponsored by Dr. Linda L. McDonald

Free admission for students
515 Hiltop Drive
Kent, Ohio 44242
330-672-3450
www.kent.edu/museum
Welcome!

For 56 years Porthouse Theatre has provided Northeast Ohio with the best in summer theatre, thanks to the Porthouse Family, the Porthouse Foundation and patrons like you. We are also indebted to the Ohio Arts Council for their continued support of Porthouse Theatre and many arts organizations across the state.

As you enjoy the performance, please join me in extending gratitude and appreciation of the many people who have worked tirelessly both on stage, backstage and in the front of house. Porthouse Theatre is a family and exemplifies the idea that it takes a village. From the continuing efforts of David and Sherry Joy on the surrounding landscape, our season sponsors Art and Sherri Stehlik, to our 12-month faculty and staff in the School of Theatre and Dance.

I welcome and encourage you to come to Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance to see the fabulous Theatre and Dance productions this Fall and Spring including “Pride & Prejudice-The Musical” and “The Wiz.” This amazing season highlights and showcases some of the artists, technicians, staff and faculty you’ll see this evening.

And last, but certainly not least, I thank you for being here. Without an audience, theatre does not exist. It takes you to complete the storytelling. Theatre tells the story of the human condition and fosters empathy in those participating in the communal experience. It is cathartic, miraculous and incredibly necessary in the world today. Please, sit back, relax and enjoy!

Special Thanks to

Todd A. Diacon, Ph.D.
President, Kent State University

Melody Tankersley, Ph.D.
Provost, Kent State University

Diane H. Petrella, D.M.A.
Dean, College of the Arts
An Agreement and a Pledge

Porthouse Theatre’s story began in 1968 with an agreement between Kent State University and the Cleveland Musical Arts Association, the parent company of the Cleveland Orchestra.

That year, Kent State University president Robert White and Musical Arts Association president Frank E. Joseph formally announced a partnership between the two organizations to develop educational and cultural facilities on 37 acres of university-owned land adjacent to the newly constructed summer home of the Cleveland Orchestra, Blossom Music Center.

When the time came to plan for facilities on the university’s Blossom-adjacent land, Kent State University trustee Cyril Porthouse and his wife Roberta (shown left) answered the call. In October 1969, an announcement was made at the university’s annual alumni homecoming luncheon that the Porthouse’s were making a $60,000 challenge gift to jump start the construction of a theatre at the Blossom site. This gift, as well as funding provided by Gerald and Victoria Read (shown right), allowed the university to fulfill its plans and construct the Porthouse Theatre and Read Pavilion in 1970.

The Show Must Go On, Even If It’s In A Tent

The founders of Porthouse Theatre, theatre professors Louis O. Erdmann and Willam H. Zucchero, wasted no time in getting Kent State’s summer theatre program off the ground in the summer of 1969, months before any funding was secured to construct the building. That July, the first KSU-Blossom Center Repertory Company began performances of Arthur Miller’s “Death of a Salesman” and Tennessee Williams’ “A Streetcar Named Desire” in E. Turner Stump Theatre on the campus of Kent State. To ensure that the connection to Blossom Music Center wasn’t lost, the Company also performed as strolling players on the grounds of Blossom prior to concerts.

By the following summer, construction of Porthouse Theatre was well underway with a planned opening date of July 25, 1970. But when construction delays threatened the start of the season, the Blossom Festival School Theatre vowed that the show would go on.

And on the show went, in a large tent that had been assembled in the soon-to-be opened theatre’s parking lot. That summer, the 24 members of the repertory company performed “Golden Boy” and “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” in the makeshift space with the nearly complete theatre rising in the background.

Less than two years after the original challenge gifts were made and three years after the Kent/Blossom partnership was formalized, Porthouse Theatre was officially dedicated on July 7, 1971. The dedication, as Kent State President Robert White described, was a step forward in a dream. It’s a dream that grew over the decades and now, over 50 years later, that dream continues.

Times and Names Might Change, But Not the Mission


Over the years, the Porthouse Theatre summer program has been called many things. It has gone from producing four to five repertory productions per summer in two locations to three consecutive
musicals all on the Porthouse stage. Attendance has skyrocketed, tickets are no longer $3.00 each, the Company now boasts close to 150 members each year and Porthouse's physical plant has expanded by nearly 100 acres and 3 permanent structures. The faces have changed too as one generation of Porthouse staff and students made way for the next and the next. But Porthouse Theatre's mission, to train student theatre artists from around the country in a professional environment, remains the same.

Through the 1970s and 1980s, Porthouse grew and challenged itself, staging dance and light opera as well as theatre productions. Seasons were sometimes presented thematically, like 1973's western motif that included screenings of classic western films or included inventive takes on established shows, such as the 1979 production of “Jesus Christ Superstar” designed to be set on the Great Lakes waterfront of the 1930s.

In 1980, Porthouse Theatre's neighbors James and Betty Hudkins, donated their 95 acre farm, which adjoined Porthouse's grounds, to Kent State University. The Hudkins' generosity allowed Porthouse's grounds to expand to more than 125 acres.

While Porthouse continued to grow, an era was also coming to an end as by the mid-1980s William Zucchero and Louis Erdmann (shown right) were ready to retire. Together, the dynamic duo had crafted Porthouse into a program that guided and nurtured student artists and prepared them for professional careers beyond a university setting. Several of the students under their tutelage, such as Tony Award winner Alice Ripley (“Next to Normal”) and Emmy Award winner Jeff Richmond (“Mean Girls the Musical,” “30 Rock,” “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt”), went on to considerable success in theatre, film and television.

Throughout the 1980s Porthouse also embraced its namesake identity, gradually forgoing the Blossom School name and branding itself comprehensively as Porthouse Theatre. This change coincided in earnest with the milestone of Porthouse Theatre’s 20th Anniversary in 1988 when the theatre earned full professional status after signing a letter of agreement with the Actors’ Equity Association.

This affiliation furthered the promise that the Kent/Blossom programs set forth at their inception, not only allowing student artists to work alongside professional but to be billed as professionals themselves.

**Coming Full Circle**
While the late 1980s ended one era at Porthouse, the start of the 21st century ushered in a new one. By the mid-1990s, Terri Kent and Karl Erdmann, who had met at Kent and Porthouse and been friends for more than a decade, both found themselves back at Kent State. And when Kent was named artistic director of Porthouse in 2001, it was very much like a homecoming. Members of the generation that had learned from Porthouse's founding fathers were now the ones guiding the ship.

Under Kent’s leadership, Porthouse Theatre has blossomed. Over time the theatre's subscriber base has grown nearly 400%. The seasons have been streamlined and tailored to benefit both the audiences and the student artists. Porthouse now presents three musicals per summer and fully employs artists-in-training and professionals in all areas from actors, stage managers and designers to company managers, technicians and front of house staff. The Thornbury and Hackett Pavilions have been added, allowing patrons to picnic prior to performances in all types of weather. And Porthouse's educational components have expanded with the introduction of academy programs for high school, college and international students.

As it celebrates its 56th Anniversary Season, Porthouse Theatre truly is fulfilling both the dreams set out by Kent State and the Cleveland Orchestra’s leadership and the road that was paved by Lou Erdmann and Bill Zucchero. Porthouse isn’t merely a place to see or perform in a theatre production. Porthouse is an experience. Like its company members, Porthouse’s patrons return year after year, often arriving more than an hour before the show begins to picnic on the grounds and enjoy Porthouse's extensive grounds.

Thank you for joining Porthouse on its journey. Here’s to many more years to come!
Art and Sherri Stehlik

It all started with a picnic table...or rather the lack of picnic tables at Porthouse Theatre.

One day in the early 2000’s, Terri Kent, artistic director of Porthouse Theatre, was walking around the grounds introducing herself to new theatregoers. Terri struck up a conversation with Art Stehlik, the topic of which turned to picnic tables on the Porthouse Theatre grounds and the shortage of places for patrons to sit to enjoy a meal before the show. Shortly after the introductory meeting between the two, a number of picnic tables were delivered to the Porthouse grounds, generously donated by Art.

For almost twenty years, Art and Sherri Stehlik have been proud supporters of Porthouse Theatre. But their connection to the theatre goes beyond that of a typical donor. The Lakewood, Ohio natives come to multiple shows during the summer season, bringing friends and family. And in return, they’ve become part of the Porthouse Theatre family.

The Stehlik’s first met in 1979 at work, first knowing each other as colleagues. Fast forward many years, they reconnected. In 2009, when Art and Sherri were planning their nuptials, they asked if they could be married at Porthouse Theatre. Terri Kent officiated their wedding on stage, which was set up for the production of “The Odd Couple,” with their reception held in a pavilion on the grounds. During a 2016 production of “Sister Act,” Art transitioned from audience member to cast member, having a walk-on role as the Pope, surprising his family with his pontifical position.

The Stehlik’s are passionate about helping others and giving back, donating to multiple arts and non-profit organizations in the Northeastern Ohio community.

The Porthouse Theatre 2024 season is sponsored by Art and Sherri Stehlik.
Jesus Christ Superstar

June 14–29, 2024
KENT BLOSSOM Music Festival
SUMMER 2024
PRESENTED BY THE KULAS FOUNDATION
A Summer Partnership with The Cleveland Orchestra
JUNE 23 — JULY 28
Featured Guest Artists Include:
Imani Winds, 2024 Grammy Award Winner
Poiesis Quartet
Artists from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
Musicians from The Cleveland Orchestra
Tickets & Subscriptions:
WWW.KENT.EDU/BLOSSOM
Jesus Christ Superstar

Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
& Lyrics by TIM RICE

Directed by Terri J. Kent^*^

Choreographer/Artistic Collaborator
Martín Ceşpedes^*

Costume Designer
Michelle Hunt Souza

Technical Director
John Rawlings

Assistant Director
Austin Scott

Music Director
Jennifer Korecki

Scenic Designer/Producer
Tony Hardin

Production Stage Manager
Tom Humes*+

Lighting Designer
Jakyung C. Seo

Sound Designer
Jeff Polunas‡

Props Manager
Tomya Pryor

Dance Captain
Mary Savocchia

NOTE TO AUDIENCE: The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

*Member – Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

^Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

+Member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

‡Member of represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group. www.concordtheatricals.com
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jesus of Nazareth ........................................................... Enrique Miguel
Judas Iscariot ................................................................. Matthew Gittins
Mary Magdalene ........................................................... Madison Shannon
King Herod ................................................................. Tim Culver
Caiaphas ................................................................. Collin Geter
Peter ................................................................. Dominic Young
Pontius Pilate ............................................................. Dante J.L. Murray
Simon Zealotes ............................................................ Felix Albino
Annas ................................................................. Morgan Mills
Apostles ................................................................. Thomas Anstine, Nicholas Bradley, Casper Dickey,
                                                Tyler Dumas, Elai Houpt, Noah McCullers, Ian Stewart,
                                                Sawyer Swick, Jeremy Szymanski
Ensemble ................................................................. Kristiana Corona, Rylie Nelson, Taylor Patterson,
                                                Mary Savocchia, Ellie Stark, Samantha Zugnoni
Swings ................................................................. Ariel Renee Brinker, Drew Fitzgerald

Understudies
U/S Jesus of Nazareth ................................................... Felix Albino
U/S Judas Iscariot ........................................................... Dominic Young
U/S King Herod ............................................................ Ian Stewart
U/S Caiaphas ............................................................. Jeremy Szymanski
U/S Pontius Pilate ........................................................ Nicholas Bradley
U/S Mary Magdalene .................................................. Kristiana Corona
U/S Annas .............................................................. Casper Dickey

MUSICIANS

Keyboard 1/Conductor ........................................... Jennifer Korecki
Keyboard 2 .......................................................... Kathryn Sees  Guitar .................... Ryan McDermott
Percussion .......................................................... Scott Thomas  Bass ......................... Don T. Day

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
MUSIC NUMBERS

Act I
“Heaven on Their Minds” ................................................................. Judas
“What’s the Buzz?” ................................................................. Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Girls, Boys
“Strange Thing Mystifying” ......................................... Judas, Jesus, Girls, Boys, Choir
“Everything’s Alright” ................................ Mary Magdalene, Judas, Apostles, Women, Boys
“This Jesus Must Die” ........................................... Annas, Caiaphas, Priest 1, 2 & 3, Boys, Girls, Mob
“Hosanna” .................. Jesus, Crowd (Men & Women), Caiaphas, Girls, Boys
“Simon Zealotes/ Poor Jerusalem” .......................... Jesus, Simon, Ensemble
“Pilate’s Dream” ........................................................................ Pilate
“The Temple” .................................................. Jesus, Girl, Boy, Lepers, Crowd, Girls, Boys
“Everything Alright (Reprise)” .............................. Mary Magdalene, Jesus
“I Don’t Know How to Love Him” ................................. Mary Magdalene
“Damned For All Time/ Blood Money” ............... Judas, Caiaphas, Annas, Girls, Boys

Intermission

Act II
“The Last Supper” ................................................................. Jesus, Judas, Apostles, Boys
“Gethsemane” ........................................................................... Jesus, Judas
“The Arrest” ................. Peter, Jesus, Apostles, Crowd, Girls, Caiaphas, Annas, Ensemble

“Peter’s Denial” ................................. Peter, Maid by the Fire, Mob, Old Man, Mary Magdalene
“Pilate and Christ/ King Herod’s Song” ..... Jesus, Pilate, Annas, Herod, Ensemble

“Could We Start Again, Please?” ........ Mary Magdalene, Peter, Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 (Girls), Group 4

“Judas’s Death” ................................................. Judas, Annas, Caiaphas, Ensemble
“Trial Before Pilate/ 39 Lashes” .... Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, Jesus, Mob
“Superstar” ................................................................. Judas, Angels, Soul Girls
“Superstar” ................................................................. Jesus, Girls, Men, Ladies
“John 19:41” ................................................................. Orchestra
AUTHORS

TIM RICE has worked in music, theatre and films since 1965 when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim’s ambitions to write rock or pop songs they turned their attention to Andrew’s obsession – musical theatre. Their first collaboration was based on the life of Dr. Thomas Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist, “The Likes of Us.” Their next three works together were much more successful – “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Evita.”

Tim has since worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (“The Lion King,” “Aida”), Alan Menken (“Aladdin,” “King David,” “Beauty and the Beast”), Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (“Chess”) and Stuart Brayson (“From Here to Eternity”). He has also written with Freddie Mercury, Burt Bacharach and Rick Wakeman among others.

Tim founded his own cricket team in 1973, which has now played over 750 matches and was president of MCC, founded in 1789, in 2002. He crops up here and there in all branches of the media, drawing on his extensive knowledge of the history of popular music.

As an EGOT, he is one of only 17 people in the world to have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony award, was knighted by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1994 and is the proud owner of a boxer dog and two dozen chickens.

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER has composed the scores of some of the world’s most famous musicals. From “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” (1969) to “Cinderella” (2021), his work has been consistently seen on world stages. Before the COVID pandemic hit, Lloyd Webber had shows continually running in the West End for 48 years and on Broadway for 41. When “Sunset Boulevard” joined “School of Rock,” “CATS” and “The Phantom of the Opera,” he equalled Rodgers & Hammerstein’s record of four shows running simultaneously on Broadway. He is one of the select group of artists with EGOT status, having received Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Awards.

Lloyd Webber owns seven London theatres, including the iconic London Palladium and Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Over the past three years the latter has been completely restored and renovated at a cost of over £60 million. It is one of the biggest projects ever undertaken by a private theatre owner in recent times. His mantra that every penny of profit made from his theatres is ploughed back into the buildings has meant that considerable work has been undertaken across his theatre portfolio during the pandemic, including the complete remodelling and reseating of the Gillian Lynne.

Lloyd Webber is passionate about the importance of musical education and diversity in the arts. The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation provides 30 performing arts scholarships every year for talented students with financial need and supports a range of projects such as the Music In Secondary School Trust and commissioning research into diversity in theatre.

Andrew Lloyd Webber was knighted in 1992 and created an honorary life peer in 1997. To mark his 70th birthday, his bestselling autobiography “Unmasked” was published by Harper Collins in March 2018.
Nunsense
A Musical Comedy

July 5–13, 2024
Our 15th annual student support program was a success!

Thank you to all of the donors for your support this summer.

Marcia Adair & Dick Edwards
Nelson & Suzanne Burns
Todd Diacon & Moema Furtado
Janet & David Dix
Conni Dubick
Rob & Cathi Eberly
Tom & Dottie Emerick
Vicki & John Emig
Linda Ferlito
Ken & Anne Ferlito
Roe Green
Shawn & Kirk Gordon
Jane Gwinn & Fran Hardesty
Anita & Leigh Herington
Dan & Lisa Joy
Sherry & Dave Joy
Bruce & Peeps Kinney
Knight Sound & Lighting, Inc.
Dr. Yuko Kurahashi & Mr. Bob McDowell
Mike & Rebekah Kulis
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As of June 21, 2024
**Nunsense**

A Musical Comedy

Book, Music & Lyrics by

DAN GOGGIN

Director and Choreographer

Eric van Baars

Music Director

Jonathan Swoboda

Lighting Designer

Joe Burke

Costume Designer

Victoria Mearini

Scenic Designer

Gennie Neuman Lambert

Producer

Tony Hardin

Sound Designer

Jeff Polunas

Technical Director

John Rawlings

Stage Manager

Nicole Berrios-Parga

Props Manager

Jenica Jenick

Dance Captain

Becca Bailey

*NUNSENSE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

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CAST OF CHARACTERS
Sister Mary Regina, Mother Superior ............................. Sandra Ross
Sister Mary Hubert, Mistress of Novices..... Colleen Longshaw* (Jackson)
Sister Robert Anne ......................................................... Theresa Hall
Sister Mary Amnesia ....................................................... Lara Troyer
Sister Mary Leo ............................................................. Becca Bailey

Understudies
Swing .............................................................. Hannah Jenciuis

MUSICIANS
Keyboard/Conductor ......................................................... Jonathan Swoboda
Reeds ................................................................ Craig Wohlschlager
Bass .............................................................................. Don T. Day
Drums/Percussion .......................................................... Mell Csicsilla

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
MUSIC NUMBERS

Act I
“Veni Creator Spiritus” ......................................................... Robert Anne & All
“Nunsense Is Habit-Forming” ................................................... All
“A Difficult Transition” .......................................................... All
“Benedicite” ........................................................................... Leo & Hubert
“The Biggest Ain’t The Best” ................................................ Hubert & Leo
“Another Surprise” ............................................................... Robert Anne
“Playing Second Fiddle” ....................................................... Robert Anne
“Second Fiddle Conclusion” ................................................... Robert Anne
“So You Want to Be A Nun” ..................................................... Amnesia & Annette
“Mock Fifties” .................................................................... Leo & Robert Anne
“One Last Hope” ................................................................. Hubert, Rev. Mother, Leo & Robert Anne
“Turn Up the Spotlight” ......................................................... Rev. Mother
“Lilacs Bring Back Memories” ............................................... Leo, Hubert, Amnesia & Rev. Mother
“Turn Off That Spotlight/ Tackle That Temptation” ..................... All

Intermission

Act II
“Growing Up Catholic” ....................................................... Robert Anne, Hubert, Leo & Amnesia
“Clean Out The Freezer” ....................................................... Hubert, Amnesia, Anne & Leo
“Just A Coupla Sisters” .......................................................... Hubert & Rev. Mother
“Second Fiddle (Reprise)” ..................................................... Robert Anne
“I Just Want to Be A Star” ....................................................... Robert Anne
“The Drive-In” ................................................................. Robert Anne, Leo & Amnesia
“I Could Have Gone to Nashville” .......................................... Amnesia
“Gloria In Excelsis Deo” ............................................................. All
“Holier Than Thou” ................................................................. Hubert & All
“Nunsense (Reprise)” ............................................................. All
DAN GOGGIN, a writer and director, came to New York from Alma, Michigan to study as a classical countertenor. He began his professional career singing in the Broadway production of “Luther,” starring Albert Finney. While appearing in a comic folk-duo called “The Saxons,” he began writing. This led to scores for the off-Broadway musical “Hark!” (in which he also appeared), the Broadway production of “Legend” and two revues.

Mr. Goggin received the 1986 Outer Critics’ Circle Awards given to “Nunsense” for Best Musical, Best Book and Best Music. His “nunless” musical “Balancing Act” has toured the U.S. and played in London and Australia. “Nunsense” and “Nunsense 2: The Second Coming,” both starring Rue McClanahan, have been recorded for the A&E Television Network. “Nunsense 3: The Jamboree” toured the U.S. starring Georgia Engel and has been recorded for television at the Grand Ole Opry starring Vicki Lawrence. “Nunsense A-Men!” opened at the 47th Street Theatre in New York in June 1998 and has since been produced with Laugh-In’s Arte Johnson, impressionist Frank Gorshin and Olympic Champion Greg Louganis. “Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical” premiered in October 1998, followed by a national tour starring Dody Goodman, Jeff Trachta and Dawn Wells.

“The Nuncrackers” television special played on the PBS network, starring Rue McClanahan with guest star John Ritter and received an Emmy nomination for Best Musical Score. Mr. Goggin’s “Meshuggah-Nuns: The Ecumenical Nunsense” premiered in September 2002 and is currently available on DVD. The all-star touring production of “Nunsense” starring Kaye Ballard, Georgia Engel, Mimi Hines, Darlene Love and Lee Meriwether marked the 20th anniversary of the original show. In 2004 Mr. Goggin’s “serious piece,” The Traditional Latin Mass, was recorded by cast members and friends. 2005 marked the premiere of “Nunsensations: The Nunsense Vegas Revue” and in 2008, the 25th Anniversary tour starred Sally Struthers. “Sister Robert Anne’s Cabaret Class” (a one-nun musical) and “Nunset Boulevard: The Nunsense Hollywood Bowl Show” premiered in 2012.
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Book by THOMAS MEEHAN
Music by CHARLES STROUSE
Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN

Original Broadway Production Directed by MARTIN CHARNIN

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Originally Produced at The Goodspeed Opera House, Michael P. Price, Executive Director

Director Terri J. Kent*

Choreographer/Artistic Collaborator Martín Ceşpedes^ 
Costume Designer Abbie Hagen
Sound Designer Betty Winters
Assistant Director Austin Scott

Music Director Alexandre Marr
Scenic Designer Nolan O’Dell
Technical Director Jonathon W. Taylor
Dance Captain Mary Savocchia

Lighting Designer Jakyung Seo
Producer Tony Hardin
Production Stage Manager Tom Humes*+
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Annie ................................................................. Ava Kimble, Parker Towns
Oliver Warbucks .................................................. Dante J.L. Murray*
Grace Farrell ....................................................... Courtney Elizabeth Brown*
July ..................................................................... Ava Kimble, Parker Towns
Pepper .................................................................. Morgan Lehman
Kate .................................................................... Vivien Morrison
Molly .................................................................... Kyra Rodenborn
Duffy .................................................................... Juliana Shumaker
Tessie ............................................................ Fiona Thackaberry Stevens
Orphan .................................................................. Charlotte Mae Dressel
Miss Hannigan .................................................... Amy Fritsche*
Rooster ................................................................ Matthew Gittins*
Lily ..................................................................... Mary Savocchia
Officer Ward .......................................................... Elai Houpt
Drake .................................................................... Jeremy Szymanski
Boylan Sister ......................................................... Madison Shannon, Ellie Stark, Rylie Nelson
Bert Healy ............................................................... Sawyer Swick
Roosevelt ................................................................ Rohn Thomas*
NYC Soloist ............................................................ Sam Zugnoni
Ensemble ................................................................... Felix Albino, Nicholas Bradley, Kristiana Corona,

Tyler Dumas, Noah McCullers, Rylie Nelson, Taylor Patterson,

Madison Shannon, Ellie Stark, Ian Stewart, Sawyer Swick,

Jeremy Szymanski, Dominic Young, Sam Zugnoni

Sandy ................................................................. Bean Kent
Swing ..................................................................... Ariel Renee Brinker

Understudies
U/S Oliver Warbucks .................................................. Elai Houpt
U/S Grace Farrell ....................................................... Madison Shannon
U/S Molly, Kate, Tessie, Duffy, July and Pepper ........... Charlotte Dressel
U/S Rooster ............................................................. Nicholas Bradley
U/S Lily ................................................................ Taylor Patterson
U/S Mr. Bundles and Roosevelt ................................. Jeremy Szymanski

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MUSIC NUMBERS

Act I

“Maybe” ......................................................................................... Annie
“It’s the Hard-Knock Life” ..................................................... Annie and The Orphans
“It’s the Hard-Knock Life (Reprise)” ..................................... The Orphans
“Tomorrow” ................................................................................ Annie
“We’d Like to Thank You, Herbert Hoover” ...................... Sophie, Ensemble
“Little Girls” ........................................................................ Miss Hannigan
“Little Girls (Reprise)” ......................................................... Miss Hannigan
“I Think I’m Gonna Like It Here” .................................. Grace, Annie, Drake, Cecille, Annette, Mrs. Pugh, Ensemble

“N.Y.C.” ................................. Warbucks, Grace, Annie, A Star To Be, Ensemble
“Easy Street” ................................................................. Miss Hannigan, Rooster, Lily
“You Won’t Be an Orphan For Long” ......................... Grace, Drake, Mrs. Pugh, Cecille, Annette, Warbucks, Ensemble

Intermission

Act II

“You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile” .... Bert Healy, Ensemble
“You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile (Reprise)” ..The Orphans
“Easy Street (Reprise)” .................................................. Miss Hannigan, Rooster, Lily
“Tomorrow (Reprise)” ................................................. Annie, FDR, Warbucks, Ensemble
“Something Was Missing” ............................................. Warbucks
“I Don’t Need Anything But You” ................................. Warbucks, Annie
“Maybe (Reprise)” ................................................................. Annie
“A New Deal for Christmas” .... Annie, Warbucks, Grace, FDR, Ensemble

MUSICIANS

Piano/Conductor .... Alexandre Marr
Keyboard ...................... Kathy Sees
Guitar ............................ Andy Dyet
Bass ..................... Giustina Ricchiuti
Violin...... Michael Potter-Schneider
Cello ................. Hannah Benjamin
Trumpet............... Dave Banks
Reed 1 ...... Craig Wohlschlager
Reed 2 ........ Summer Canter
Drums/Percussion..... Scott Thomas
THOMAS MEEHAN (Book) received the Tony Award for co-writing the book for “The Producers” in 2001 and in 2003 for co-writing the book for “Hairspray.” He received his first Tony Award in 1977 for writing the book of “Annie,” which was his first Broadway show and has written the books for the musicals “Rocky,” “Elf the Musical,” “Cry-Baby,” “Young Frankenstein,” “Chaplin,” “Bombay Dreams,” “I Remember Mama,” “Ain’t Broadway Grand” and “Annie Warbucks.” In addition, he was a long-time contributor of humor to The New Yorker, an Emmy-Award winning writer of television comedy and a collaborator on a number of screenplays, including Mel Brooks’ “Spaceballs” and “To Be Or Not To Be.” Mr. Meehan was also a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild. He and his wife, Carolyn, divided their time between a home in Nantucket and an apartment in Greenwich Village, near which, on Hudson Street, she owned and presided over the long-running and near-legendary children’s store Peanut Butter & Jane.

CHARLES STROUSE (Music) A long-standing member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and in January 2002, an inductee into The Theater Hall of Fame, Charles Strouse’s first Broadway musical, “BYE BYE BIRDIE” (1960), won him a Tony® Award and the London Critics Best Foreign Musical Award. In 1970, “APPLAUSE,” starring Lauren Bacall, achieved the same honors and his smash hit, “ANNIE” (1977), also won a Tony® for Best Score as well as two Grammy Awards®. Some of his other musicals include “ALL AMERICAN,” “GOLDEN BOY” (starring Sammy Davis Jr.), “IT’S A BIRD, IT’S A PLANE, IT’S SUPERMAN,” “I AND ALBERT,” directed in London by John Schlesinger and “DANCE A LITTLE CLOSER,” written with Alan Jay Lerner. “CHARLIE & ALGERNON” won a 1981 Tony® nomination for Best Score, as did “RAGS” in 1987 and “NICK AND NORA” in 1992. He wrote both the music and lyrics for off-Broadway’s “MAYOR” and teamed again with Martin Charnin to create “ANNIE WARBUCKS,” the sequel to “ANNIE.” His film scores include “BONNIE & CLYDE,” “THE NIGHT THEY RAIDED MINSKY’S” and “ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN.” “Those Were The Days,” the theme song for TV’s “ALL IN THE FAMILY” is a Strouse song, with lyrics by his most frequent collaborator, Lee Adams. “Born Too Late”, a 1958 pop song written with Fred Tobias, was a top-10 BILLBOARD chart hit and is still heard on many oldies stations. The quadruple platinum album title song by Jay-Z, “Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem,)” won the 1999 Grammy for the best Rap album, charted for more than a year and won the BILLBOARD 1998 R&B Album of the Year Award. Strouse’s far-ranging talents include chamber and orchestral works, a piano concerto, a two-piano sonata and operas. His latest choral work, “The Child In Us All,” premiered in Spring, 2000. “NIGHTINGALE,” an opera based on the Hans Christian Andersen story for which he wrote music, book and lyrics, was recorded by Sarah Brightman. Strouse was commissioned in 2001 to write “CONCERTO AMERICA” for the pianist Jeffrey Biegel. The work premiered in June 2002 with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall. Charles Strouse created the ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop in New York, where he encouraged the talents of countless young composers, writers and performers. In 1999, Strouse received the ASCAP Foundation Richard Rodgers Award for Career Lifetime Achievement in Musical Theatre. In December, 1995, a tv reinterpretation of the classic “BYE BYE BIRDIE” (starring Jason Alexander and pop-star Vanessa Williams) aired on ABC-TV. The 1995/96 Emmy for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Music and Lyrics was given to the new song written for and performed by Vanessa Williams: “Let’s Settle Down.” Another tv interpretation in 1999, “ANNIE,” aired on ABC’s “Wonderful World of Disney,” swept the ratings by winning over 40 million viewers, won the 1999 Peabody Award and 2 Emmy Awards. The show starred Kathy Bates, Audra McDonald, Alan Cumming, Kristin Chenoweth, Victor Garber, Andrea McArdle and Alicia Morton as Annie and ranked #1 as movie of the year. A revised “GOLDEN BOY” was produced by the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven (November, 2000); and the “ENCORES!”
Series presented the show in March, 2002. Future projects: “GOLDEN BOY” will be performed at the Greenwich Theatre in England in June, 2003. “THE NIGHT THEY RAIDED MINSKY’S,” which Charles Strouse originally scored for film, has been turned into a full-length musical. The Broadway-bound version has a book by the late Michael Okrent and Evan Hunter, lyrics by Susan Birkenhead. The Manhattan Theatre Club has scheduled the show for its 2003-04 season. An adaptation of the Paddy Chayevsky film “MARTY,” had a successful regional theatre run at Huntington Theatre in Boston in September, 2002. The show reunites Strouse with Lee Adams as lyricist; the book is by Rupert Holmes. John C Reilly starred in the Huntington production and will later again star when the show comes to Broadway next season.

MARTIN CHARNIN (Lyrics) created the role of Big Deal in the original Broadway company of “West Side Story” in 1957, the only acting job he ever had. He began writing during “West Side Story” and his first collaborator was Mary Rodgers.


In the 60’s and 70’s he turned to Television and created 7 specials that garnered over 15 Emmy Awards and the Peabody Award for Broadcasting.

His collaborators included Peter Allen, Harold Arlen, Vernon Duke, Keith Levenson, Michael Danziker, Peter Sipos, Mary Rodgers, Marvin Hamlisch, Richard Rodgers and Charles Strouse.

He wrote for and directed among others, Fred Astaire, Jack Lemmon, Anne Bancroft, Lena Horne, Danny Kaye, Angela Lansbury, Johnny Mathis, Bill Murray, Jon Stewart, Bebe Neuwirth, Bernadette Peters, Sarah Jessica Parker, Gilda Radner, Molly Ringwald, Chita Rivera, Lou Reed, Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins, Joan Rivers, Chuck D., Phoebe Snow, Shirley MacLaine, Marlo Thomas, Julianne Moore, Martha Plimpton and Barbra Streisand.

Charnin was the artistic director of Seattle’s Showtunes for 7 years, before moving back to New York for the 4th incarnation of “Annie” on Broadway. He also created a one woman theatrical entertainment for his wife, Broadway and television star Shelly Burch.
FELIX ALBINO (Simon Zealotes and U/S Jesus, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”; Assistant Musical Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is beyond excited to be joining Porthouse this summer and to be with such a talented cast to tell the stories of Simon Zealotus in “Jesus Christ Superstar” and ensemble in “Annie.” As of recent you may have seen them on Kent State’s main stage musical “RENT” as Angel and the character J in the play “Passage.” They want to give a special thanks to their family both in school and at home. Without them they wouldn’t be where they are today. Lastly, they hope you enjoy the show!!

THOMAS ANSTINE (Apostle, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is very excited to be making his professional theatre debut as an apostle in “Jesus Christ Superstar.” He has previously only ever done productions through his schools. Some of his previous roles include Huey Calhoun in “Memphis the Musical,” Officer Lockstock in “Urinetown the Musical” and most recently a swing for “Rent” at Kent State University. He would like to thank everyone that has given him support and opportunities and a special thank you to his family for supporting him in every aspect of his life. He would also like to thank Teri Kent and Jennifer Korecki for giving him his first opportunity.

BECCA BAILEY (Sister Mary Leo, “Nunsense”) is over the moon to be returning to Porthouse Theatre for a third summer after spending this past semester studying abroad in London. While there, she had the privilege of training with professional dance companies and studios across the city. She returns as a rising senior with a B.F.A. in musical theatre and a minor in dance and nonprofit studies. Recent credits include: “Passage” (B), “The Prom” (Ensemble, Dance Captain), “A Funny Thing... Forum” (The Geminae, Dance Captain), “Somewhere” (Sybil). Becca sends so much love to her amazingly supportive family and friends, and the incredible Porthouse Family. Soli Deo gloria. Cheers! @becca.graceb

NICHOLAS BRADLEY (Apostle, U/S for Pilate and Ensemble, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; U/S Rooster and other roles, “Annie”) (originally from Dayton, OH) graduated this spring with a B.F.A. in musical theatre from Kent State. They had the joy of playing The Emcee in “Cabaret” at Kent during the fall semester and are beyond excited to be making their Porthouse debut this summer. An unapologetic lover of both “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie,” they couldn’t have asked for a better season to end their time in Kent. Some other favorite credits include Regional Productions: “Spring Awakening” (Ernst Robel) and “Something Rotten” (Troupe) as well as “Bright Star” (Jimmy Ray Dobbs), “Sweeney Todd” (Tobias Ragg) and “Children of Eden” (Adam). A big shoutout to their immensely supportive parents, family, friends and also Carol Burnett’s portrayal of Miss Hannigan which made them fall in love with theatre.

ARIEL RENEE BRINKER (Swing for “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Annie”) is very excited to be making her Porthouse debut. Ariel is a rising senior in the B.F.A. musical theater program at Kent State University. Ariel’s favorite past roles include “A Chorus Line” (Cassie), “Steel Magnolias” (Shelby), “Anything Goes” (Dippy) and originating a character in the new musical “Louder Than Words” (April). While Ariel’s first love is performing, she is no stranger to the other side of the table as a dance teacher, acting coach and choreographer. She wants to thank the cast and crew for an amazing experience! arielrenneebrinker.com

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
COURTNEY ELIZABETH BROWN* (Grace Farrell, “Annie”) Most recently, she appeared in the regional premier of “Make Believe” at Dobama Theatre as Adult Kate. Workshop and reading of “Louder” at the Cleveland Playhouse. Favorite roles include the recent world premiere of “An Enemy of the People” at Rubber City Theatre, “9 to 5” at Porthouse Theatre, “Romeo and Juliet” at Oberlin Summer Theatre, “Top Girls” at Mamai Theatre, “Angels in America” (both parts), “Eurydice,” “Militant Language,” “I Love you Because,” “Reefer Madness” at Know Theatre of Cincinnati; “Burn This,” “Spain at Actor’s Express” in Atlanta, GA. Courtney holds an M.F.A. in acting from USM and is associate professor of voice and acting at Kent State University, member of Actors Equity Association, a Lessac Certified Body Voice Trainer and current President of the Lessac Training and Research Institute.

KRISTIANA CORONA (Ensemble and U/S Mary Magdalene, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) is so ecstatic for her first Porthouse summer and regional theatre debut! Originally from Arizona, she did community theatre around the Valley from ages 6-18 until attending Kent State University for their B.F.A. musical theatre program. She was seen recently as Mimi Márquez in Kent State’s production of “RENT.” Other Kent State credits include: Ens. in “Much Ado About Nothing,” female swing in the world premiere of “Chaining Zero” @kristianacorona_

TIM CULVER (King Herod, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) was last seen at Porthouse as Hysterium in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” Before that, he delighted Porthouse audiences as Mr. Mushnik in “Little Shop of Horrors,” Sancho Panza in “Man of La Mancha,” Mr. Bumble in “Oliver!” and Mr. Cellophane/Amos Hart in “Chicago.” He is extremely excited to be back this summer in “Jesus Christ Superstar.” Since 2006, Tim has been teaching voice in Kent State University’s Hugh A. Glauser School of Music where many of his students have gone on to successful performing careers. He lives in Stow with his wife and three children.

CASPER DICKEY (Apostle and U/S Annas, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is thrilled to return for his second summer at Porthouse Theatre. Last summer, he was seen in “The Prom” (Ensemble) and “A Funny Thing... Forum” (Swing). Other credits include “Head Over Heels” (Ensemble) and “Dance ‘23 – One World” (Jazz Dancer, Couple Corps) at Kent State University, “The SpongeBob Musical” (SpongeBob) at Farmington Hills Theatre, and Broadway’s Arts for Autism Benefit Concert (“Born to Hand Jive” Soloist) at The Gershwin Theatre. From Metro Detroit, he is a rising senior at Kent State pursuing a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre with a minor in Digital Media Production. Casper thanks his family for their love and support, as well as the Porthouse company for a wonderful summer experience! @casperdickey

CHARLOTTE MAE DRESSEL (Orphan and U/S Molly, Kate, Tessie, Duffy, July and Pepper, “Annie”) is a sixth grader who loves acting, singing, playing cello and soccer. She is overjoyed to be making her debut with Porthouse Theatre. Other roles that Charlotte has loved to perform include Matilda in “Matilda, Jr.,” Amanda in “Matilda,” Jane in “Mary Poppins,” Eliza in “Peter Pan” and Private the Penguin in “Madagascar, Jr.” Charlotte has had the honor of singing the American and Canadian National Anthems for the Cleveland Monsters (2024) and for the NCAA Division II Basketball Championship Game (2023). Charlotte is thrilled to be in Porthouse Theatre's production of “Annie” and she hopes you love the show!!
TYLER DUMAS (Apostle, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Ensemble and other named roles, “Annie”) (he/him) is a rising senior musical theatre major at Kent State University. Most recent credits include ensemble in “Elf The Musical” at the Beck Center for the Arts, Herr Schultz (u/s) in “Cabaret” at Kent State University and Corin in “Somewhere” at Kent State University. Tyler is full of happiness to be involved with his first season at Porthouse. He would like to thank his friends and family for all the love and support, as well as everyone involved with Porthouse Theatre!

DREW FITZGERALD (Male swing, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is a rising sophomore Musical Theatre major at Kent State University. Drew’s favorite roles have been Spongebob in “Spongebob Squarepants,” Nigel in “Something Rotten,” and The Baker in “Into The Woods.” Drew would like to thank his amazing parents and beautiful friends for helping him survive in Ohio. This is Drew’s first summer at Porthouse and he is grateful for the opportunity and is ready to slay.

AMY FRITSCHE (Miss Hannigan, “Annie”) is excited to be back home with Porthouse Theatre. She is currently an associate professor of acting and musical theatre at Kent State University. She has directed a number of plays and musicals and gave a TedX on “Theater as a medium of Social Change” through the lens of “Irena's Vow.” She has worked with Fox Animations Studios, toured nationally with “Annie” and internationally in the world premiere of “Best Intentions” in London, England and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She performed at Cleveland Play House, Phoenix Theater, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, CATCO Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Porthouse Theatre, Mamai Theatre and Odyssey Theater in Los Angeles. Favorite roles include, “Next to Normal” (Diana), “Arcadia” (Hannah Jarvis), “Superior Donuts” (Officer Randy), “9 to 5” (Violet), “As You Like It” (Rosalind), “A Little Night Music” (Countess Charlotte) and “Violet” (Violet). While performing with Porthouse she received the 2015 Cleveland Critics Circle Theater Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Violet in “Violet” and the 2018 Cleveland Critics Circle Theater Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Diana in “Next To Normal.” She is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA, AGVA and AEA.

COLLIN GETER (Caiaphas, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is a graduated senior from Kent State University, majoring in theatre performance with a minor in digital media production, joining the Porthouse Theatre company for the first time to play Caiaphas in “Jesus Christ Superstar.” In his time at Kent State, he acted as the vice president of the Black Theatre Association, was general manager of Black Squirrel Radio and performed as Benny Coffin III in “RENT,” Atlas in “Corktown” and Little Boy Bill in “Urinetown.” Some of his regional credits include doing shows like “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,” “Anything Goes” and narration work for documentaries and short films alike.

MATTHEW GITTINS (Judas Iscariot, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Rooster, “Annie”) is an actor, composer/producer, lyricist, playwright, conductor and musician from Chardon, Ohio. He graduated from Otterbein University where he received his B.F.A. in musical theater performance in 2019. Previous Porthouse credits include “Newsies,” “Oklahoma!,” “Anything Goes” and “9 to 5.” Matt’s original musical, “YOU GO ON,” is a three time Eugene O’Neill semi-finalist and will have its first staged production in the spring of 2025 in cooperation with the Cincinnati Black Theater Company. AEA and Eugene O’Neill cabaret alumni. Thankful for my family.

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THERESA HALL *(Sister Robert Anne, “Nunsense”)* (she/her) Eternally grateful. Recent Credits include: “Jimmy Buffet’s Escape To Margaritaville” (Priscilla Beach Theatre), “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” (Millbrook Playhouse), “Kinky Boots” (Bucks County Playhouse). Rider University: B.F.A. musical theatre. @theresahallx. theresamariehall.com

ELAI HOUPT *(Apostle, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Officer Ward and U/S Oliver Warbucks and other roles, “Annie”)* is ecstatic to be making his first professional debut with Porthouse Theatre. Elai is a rising sophomore B.F.A. musical theatre student with a minor in psychology at Kent State University. Favorite credits include: Hot Blades Harry (“UrineTown”), Oliver Warbucks (“Annie”), Mr.Mushnik (“Little Shop of Horrors”) and Willard Hewitt (“Footloose”). Elai would like to thank the Porthouse Theatre company, for giving him this amazing opportunity. He would like to give a huge thanks to the cast and crew for their astonishing talent and work! Lastly, he would like to thank his family, friends and you for your endless support. Thank you so much for being here! Enjoy the show! IG:@elai.houpt

HANNAH JENCIUS *(Swing, “Nunsense”)* holds a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music in voice performance from Kent State University. Throughout her performance career she has been seen in operas, plays, musicals, as well as in rock bands, pop and jazz groups and in celtic beltane festivals. Hannah has been selected twice as a Young Artist with Nightingale Opera Theatre and has been a featured soloist in area concerts with repertoire ranging from bluegrass to Beethoven. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and is currently the Ohio District Membership Director for 2024-2026. Hannah currently teaches at Kent State University and the Akron Music Institute where she works with students of all ages in diverse vocal styles.

AVA KIMBLE *(Alternate Annie and Alternate July, “Annie”)* is thrilled to be double-cast as both, Annie and July in Porthouse Theatre’s production of “Annie the Musical.” 11 years old, Ava is a member of Weathervane’s Musical Theatre Company in Akron. Her theatre credits include Dorothy in “Wizard of Oz Jr.,” July in “Annie Jr.,” Hortensia in “Matilda the Musical” and Camille in “Junie B. Jones” – all performed with Rubber City Theatre. Ava studies voice at the Denise Milner Howell Voice Studio and recently won first place in the 2024 Ohio NATS Vocal Competition for Children’s Musical Theatre. She has also performed the National Anthem at Rubber Duck’s Stadium and was a semi-finalist in the 2022 Hammerstein International Youth Vocal Competition. Whether she’s stepping into the optimistic shoes of Annie or embracing the spirited nature of July, Ava hopes to remind everyone that, no matter what the circumstances, “the sun will come out tomorrow.” Ava would like to thank her voice teacher, Denise Milner-Howell, and all her friends, family and teachers for supporting her dream, and the team at Porthouse for this amazing opportunity. Follow her on Instagram @avafullofgrace

MORGAN LEHMAN *(Pepper, “Annie”)* is an 11-year-old 6th grader at Highland Middle School and is thrilled to make her Porthouse Theatre Debut! Most recent past roles and companies include Sarah Crachit in Playhouse Square’s “A Christmas Carol,” Dory in “Finding Nemo Jr.,” Pilar in “Legally Blonde Jr.” Mrs. Paroo in “The Music Man,” Alice in “Alice in Wonderland” at Stage Door Studios, Toto in Ohio Youth Ensemble’s “Wizard of Oz,” Red Riding Hood in “Little Red Riding Hood” at Stage Door Studios, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” at Rubber City Studios and many more. Morgan enjoys cheerleading, vocal lessons and dance, as well as playing with her puppy and guinea pigs. She appreciates everyone coming tonight to support this AMAZING cast of “Annie.”

I Corinthians 13:13

NOAH MCCULLERS (Apostle, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) with a fire under his feet and a fresh B.F.A. from Kent State, Noah McCullers is excited for his Porthouse debut and for you to enjoy the work he and his peers have done this summer. He would like to thank his family and friends who have always been supportive push he needed. Insta:@noahmccullers, website: noahmccullers.com

ENRIQUE MIGUEL (Jesus, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is a singer-actor based out of New York City! A Cleveland native, Enrique began his career performing throughout northeast Ohio at the age of 12. He received his undergraduate degree at Baldwin Wallace University #BWMT20, before moving to NYC and continuing on to perform for audiences all over the world. He is stoked to be back in the LAND performing for his community once again, in such a remarkably iconic piece! Infinite thanks to his family and friends, Clear Talent Group, voice teacher Gregory Harrell and collaborators Terri and Martin. @3nriquemiguel

MORGAN MILLS (Annas, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is an Ohio native who has been working on stages across the country for the last 10 years. He has most recently been seen in last year’s production of “The Prom,” “Elf The Musical,” a staged reading of “Infamous The Musical” and “The Little Shop Of Horrors.” When not acting on the stage he can be found playing in bands, producing his own music and creating visual art. IG: nagrom_the_grey

VIVIEN MORRISON (Kate, “Annie”) is thrilled to be making her Porthouse Theatre debut! Vivi caught the acting bug when she played Molly in Chagrin Valley Little Theatre’s production of “Annie.” Since then, some favorite roles have included Susan in CVLT’s “Miracle on 34th Street,” Les in CVLT’s “Newsies,” Hortencia/Matilda in ACT’s “Matilda” and Puck in CVLT’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” She is a fifth grader at Hawken School and would like to thank Jake, Mr. Mike, her friends and family.

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DANTE J.L. MURRAY (Pontius Pilate, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Oliver Warbucks, “Annie”) is extremely grateful and excited to be working here with Porthouse Theatre and Kent State University. Danté was just seen in “Ragtime” at American Stage Theatre in St. Petersburg, FL where he played Colehouse Walker Jr. Other recent credits include “Ain’t Misbehavin’” (Ken) “Once on This Island” (Agwe) “The Bridges Of Madison County” (Robert Kincaid). Last Fall he previewed his One Man Broadway Cabaret at Feinstein’s in Carmel, IN. Other favorite credits include “Memphis” (Delray), “Sister Act” (Curtis), “Color Purple” (Mister; Best Male Actor nomination by Broadway World Regional 2018), “Little Shop of Horrors” (Audrey II), “Big River” (Jim), “5 Guys Named Moe” (Big Moe), “Jesus Christ Superstar” (Judas), “AIDA,” “Tarzan” and “Frankenstein, A New Musical.”

RYLIE NELSON (Ensemble, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) is a Tampa, FL native and a rising senior B.F.A. musical theatre major at Kent State University. Some of her favorite credits include: “Urinetown” (Little Sally), “And The World Goes ‘Round,” “Grease” (Teen Angel), “Thoroughly Modern Millie” (Mille) and “Gypsy” (Baby June). She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support.

TAYLOR PATTERSON (Ensemble, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; U/S Lily, Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) is delighted to be returning to Porthouse this summer to perform in “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie.” Taylor is currently a rising junior at Kent State University pursuing a B.F.A. in musical theatre alongside a B.A. in dance studies. During her time at Kent State, Taylor has had the privilege of being a part of several productions including “Head Over Heels” (Ensemble) and “Dance ‘23: One World.” In previous summers, Taylor has been seen on the Porthouse stage in “West Side Story” (Jet Female Swing), “A Funny Thing…Forum” (The Geminiae) and “The Prom” (Ensemble u/s Angie). Many thanks to her family, friends and the entire Porthouse team for their endless support. Enjoy the show! Follow Taylor on Instagram: @taylpat19.

KYRA RODENBORN (Molly, “Annie”) is a rising third grader at Moreland Hills School. Previous roles include Master William/Tiny Tim in “A Christmas Carol” at Great Lakes Theater Festival, Copperbottom’s Escort in “Lunar Collision” at the Marilyn Bianchi Kids Playwrighting Festival and featured roles in the music videos “Anyone” and “Stairway to Heaven” created by students at the Academy for the Performing Arts at Chagrin Falls High School. Besides acting, Kyra enjoys gymnastics, reading and writing stories, creating art and hanging out with her friends. She is thrilled to be making her Porthouse debut, and dedicates her performance to her family and her teachers. Thank you!

SANDRA ROSS (Sister Mary Regina, Mother Superior, “Nunsense”) is so excited to perform with Porthouse Theater this summer. Equally at home on both operatic and musical theater stages Ms. Ross has performed with such companies as Cincinnati Opera, Cleveland Opera, Central City Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland and ten seasons with the Ohio Light Opera. In Hamburg, Germany, Ms. Ross appeared as Madame Giry in Andrew Lloyd Weber’s “The Phantom of the Opera.” A frequent concert soloist Ms. Ross has performed works including Howard Shore’s “Lord of the Rings Symphony,” Janacek’s “The Cunning Little Vixen,” Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 9,” Prokofieff’s “Alexander Nevsky,” to name a few with organizations including the orchestras of Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Ashland, Toledo and Youngstown. When not performing Ms. Ross is a voice instructor at Kent State University and busy caring for her two wonderful boys. She would like to thank the entire production team at Porthouse and her wonderful colleagues.
MARY SAVOCCHIA (Ensemble and Dance Captain, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Lily and Dance Captain, “Annie”) is joyous to be returning to the Porthouse stage this summer in “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie!” Mary is a rising senior at Kent State pursuing a B.F.A. in musical theatre alongside a B.A. in dance studies. She was last seen at Porthouse Theatre in “The Prom” (Ensemble, u/s Dee Dee & Mrs. Greene), “A Funny Thing... Forum” (Panacea, u/s Domina) and “West Side Story” (Clarice). She’s recently performed at Kent State in “Cabaret” (Texas, Dance Captain and u/s Fraulein Kost), “Urinetown” (Ensemble, Dance Captain, u/s Becky, Sue), “Head Over Heels” (Ensemble), “Freaky Friday” (Swing), “Dance ’22: Shifting Landscapes” and “Dance ’21: Love Stories.” She’s honored to be a part of the incredibly talented Porthouse company! Mary would like to thank the wonderful cast, crew, creative team, her family and her friends! Let’s make our way down to Easy Street! Instagram: @maryelena192

MADISON SHANNON (Mary, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; U/S Grace, Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) (she/they) is a rising senior musical theatre major at Kent State University with a minor in political science. She was most recently Usher/God/Understanding in the mainstage play “Everybody” and Sally Bowles in the mainstage musical “Cabaret.” She is so excited to be a Porthouse Theatre company member for her first summer and hopes everyone enjoys the summer season!

JULIANA SHUMAKER (Duffy, “Annie”) is a rising 8th grader at Kenston Middle School and is thrilled to make her debut with Porthouse Theater! Most recently she was seen on stage as Little Red with Heights Youth Theater’s production of “Into the Woods.” She was named 2023 Rising Star by Cleveland Critics Circle for her role as Small Alison in “Fun Home” at Cain Park. Some of her other favorite roles include “Annie” (Annie) at Stagecrafters, “Make Believe” (u/s Kate) at Dobama Theater, “Matilda” (Matilda) at HYT and “Descendants” (Mal) at HYT. Juliana would like to thank Terri Kent and the amazingly talented cast and crew for all their work and dedication in putting this show together. And she would like to thank YOU for supporting the arts! Hope you enjoy the show!!

ELLIE STARK (Ensemble, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) is thrilled to be making her Porthouse and professional debut this summer! In the fall, she will be a junior musical theatre major at Kent State with a minor in environmental studies and you may have seen her as one of the Kit Kat Girls in Kent State’s production of “Cabaret” last year! She wants to thank the creative team for their stunning vision and for trusting her with this opportunity, the wonderful cast and crew for the countless hours and limitless energy they have poured into this production and her beautiful family and friends for their constant support. Enjoy the show! @ellie_stark_

FIONA THACKABERRY STEVENS (Tessie, “Annie”) is a third-generation actor. She is thrilled to be making her Porthouse debut on the same stage where her grandmother has performed! Her favorite credits include: Lavender in “Matilda the Musical,” Sharpay in “High School Musical, Jr.,” Tiny Tim in “Scrooge the Musical,” Titania in an adaptation of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” Hortensia in “Matilda the Musical” and Mrs. Greer in “Annie, Jr.” Fiona is grateful to her teachers Christine McBurney, Kathleen Faubel, Eugene Sumlin and Denise Milner Howell. Fiona is a member of the Weathervane Musical Theater Company. Fiona is a rising seventh grader at Laurel School and her favorite subject is math. A huge thank you to the production team, cast and crew. And, thank you to the audience for supporting live local theater!
IAN STEWART (Apostle and U/S Herod, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) (he/they/she) is over the moon to be making their Porthouse debut this season! Ian just graduated from Kent State University this May with a B.F.A. in musical theatre. Roles of note have been Bobby in “Cabaret,” Nigel in “Something Rotten!” and Phil Taylor in “White Christmas.” Ian recently assistant music directed Kent State’s production of “Rent” and has composed and produced numerous musical numbers for their theatrical productions. Ian is grateful to his parents and brother for their love and support and would like to thank the Porthouse team for this wonderful opportunity!

SAWYER SWICK (Apostle, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Bert Healy and Ensemble, “Annie”) in his first season with Porthouse Theatre, Sawyer is thrilled to be making his debut in “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie!” Sawyer is a musical theatre major with a minor in dance in the class of 2025 and you may have seen him in previous production with Kent State University including “Cabaret” as Ernst Ludwig or the” 2023 Fall Faculty Concert” as a tapper in “Sing, Sing, Sing!” or, more recently, in “Everybody” as various roles. After a summer in Pennsylvania working with Hershey Park, Sawyer is very excited to be staying local and working with Porthouse and couldn’t be more grateful for the experience and the people around him. He’d like to thank his parents, his family, his fellow cast and crew members and his instructors for always pushing him to be the best that he can be!

JEREMY SZYMANSKI (Apostle and U/S Caiaphas, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Drake, U/S Mr. Bundles, U/S FDR and other roles, “Annie”) is ecstatic to be in his first ever Porthouse Season in “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie.” He is studying musical theatre at Kent State University. Some of his past credits include “Rent” (ensemble) at Kent State University, “Something Rotten” (Nick Bottom) at Saint Francis de Sales School and “Les Miserables” (Jean Valjean) at the Croswell Opera House. He studies voice with Tim Culver and would like to thank him. He also would like to thank his family and friends for their endless support. He would finally like to thank the amazing directors and cast. He hopes you enjoy the show!

ROHN THOMAS* (Roosevelt, “Annie”) has been a professional actor and director for over 45 years and has spent most of his career in the Northeast Ohio area. He has performed in theater, film, television, radio and TV commercials. His first role at Porthouse was Dr. Lombardi in Goldoni’s “Servant of Two Masters” in 1988. Since then some of his favorite Porthouse roles include Erroneous, Eli Whitney, Monsignor O’Hara, Alfie Doolittle, Moonface Martin, Mayor Shin, Coach Benny, Doc Gibbs, Reverend Chasuble, Nathan Detroit and Wilber Turnblad. Rohn directed “The Odd Couple,” “The Foreigner” and “The Sunshine Boys” at Porthouse. His film and television credits include “The Ides of March,” “The Shawshank Redemption,” “Welcome to Collinwood,” “The Mothman Prophesies,” “West Wing,” “Sudden Death,” “Telling Lies in America” and many others. He has taught at KSU for 30 years. His specialty is teaching Acting for Camera and has students working in London, New York, L.A. and countless other places throughout the world. Rohn is a longtime member of Equity and SAG-AFTRA. Thanks to TJK.

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
PARKER TOWNS (Alternate Annie and Alternate July, “Annie”) made her stage debut in the summer of 2022 as Gretl in “The Sound of Music” (Blossom Music Center) and has been performing ever since. Other performances include: “Pippin” (Theo) at Baldwin Wallace University, “Christmas Carol” (Tiny Tim) at Cleveland Playhouse Square, “Annie Jr.” (Mollie) and “Honk Jr” (Bullfrog) with her youth theater, award- winning, competition group, Caryl Crane. Parker has many people to thank and appreciates all the support both her friends and family have shown her. She’s very grateful for all the opportunities that have come her way and is excited to see what her future holds. Shout outs to Brian Marshall, Amber Michalak, Valerie Gould, Ivy Artist Management, Eris Talent Agency, and The Moving Company School of Dance for coaching her along the way. Follow her @parkerpie_official

LARA TROYER (Sister Mary Amnesia, “Nunsense”) described as singing with an engaging, robust tone (clevelandclassical.com), Ms. Troyer was recently the soprano soloist in “A Night at the Opera” with the Battle Creek Symphony in Battle Creek, Michigan. Ms. Troyer made her Porthouse Theatre debut in the summer of 2023, performing in “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” and “The Prom.” She will be traveling to Melbourne, Australia later this summer to sing the role of Krystyna in Jake Heggie’s opera, “Two Remain,” with Nightingale Opera Theatre. She has performed soprano solos with the Master Singers Chorale, Akron Baroque, Singer’s Companye, Kent/Blossom Music Festival, Summit Choral Society, Kent State Chorus and Orchestra, Chamber Music Society of Ohio and the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra. She also spent four years as an associate artist with Cleveland Opera. She has made solo appearances with the Akron Symphony, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Battle Creek Symphony, Heights Chamber Orchestra, Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Symphony Orchestra, Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Lansing Lyric Opera, Opera in the Ozarks and Bay View Music Festival. She is currently on the voice faculty at Kent State University.

DOMINIC YOUNG (Peter and U/S Judas, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Ensemble and other roles, “Annie”) is 21 years old and going to be a senior B.F.A. musical theatre major with a dance minor at Kent State in the Fall. This is his third season with Porthouse Theater, previously performing in “The Prom” as Kevin, “A Funny Thing… Forum” in the Ensemble and “West Side Story” as Baby John. Some previous credits of his include Kent State’s: “Rent” (Roger), “Cabaret” (Emcee), “Urinetown” (Hope), “Head Over Heels” (Ens./Dance Captain) and “Freaky Friday” (Adam). Other credits from his hometown in Naples, Florida, include: “The Wedding Singer” (Robbie Hart), “Heathers” (JD), “Footloose” (Ren), “Joseph… Dreamcoat” (Joseph) and “She Loves Me” (Arpad). Dominic would like to thank his parents and family for all of the support. Love you Mom and Dad (Christina too). Instagram: dominic.youngg

SAMANTHA ZUGNONI (Ensemble, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; NYC Soloist and Ensemble, “Annie”) is so excited to return to the Porthouse stage for the second year in a row! She made her Porthouse debut last summer as Gymnasia (“A Funny Thing…Forum”) and Kaylee (“The Prom”). Sam is a rising junior at Kent State University where she had the incredible opportunity to be in the cast of “Cabaret” (Frenchie) this past year. She would like to thank her wonderful family, as she would not be here without their endless love and support. Sam hopes you enjoy the show just as much as we enjoy performing it for you!
TERRI J. KENT*^  
(Producing Artistic Director; Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie”) is a professor of musical theatre and acting at Kent State University where she has taught for 34 years. This marks her 24th year as artistic director of Porthouse Theatre, although her affiliation with Porthouse Theatre began 39 years ago when she had her first paid acting position as an ensemble member in “Man of La Mancha.” Past directing credits include the award-winning “Newsies,” “9-5,” “Footloose,” “Hairspray,” “South Pacific,” “The Sound of Music,” “Big River,” “Bye, Bye Birdie,” “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Anything Goes,” “Chicago,” “The Music Man,” “Guys and Dolls,” “Oklahoma!,” “Brigadoon,” “The Spitfire Grill,” “Godspell,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” “Sweet Charity,” “Quilters,” “Altar Boyz,” “Man of La Mancha,” “Little Shop of Horrors” and “West Side Story,” among others. Recent Porthouse acting credits include Sister Mary Lazarus in “Sister Act,” Desiree in “A Little Night Music,” Dolly in “Hello, Dolly!” and Sarah in “Quilters.” As a professor at Kent State University, Terri coordinates the B.F.A. Musical Theatre Program. KSU directing credits include: “Chaining Zero,” “Hair,” “Children of Eden,” “Little Women,” “Thoroughly Modern, Millie,” “Plain and Fancy,” “Rent,” “Jane Eyre the Musical,” “Urinetown,” “Side Show,” “A Chorus Line,” “The Fantasticks,” “Cabaret” and many more. Terri has directed for The Musical Theatre Project in partnership with Kent State University. Credits include “Babes in Arms,” “Zorba,” “The Cradle Will Rock” and “Allegro,” and most recently, “It’s a Bird, It’s a Plane, It’s Superman.” Terri serves on numerous committees throughout the university and was recently elected to the Faculty Senate. She was a recipient of the 2016 President’s Excellence Award and the 2018 College of the Arts Centennial Ward. Terri is a Fulbright Professor, a proud member of the Actors’ Equity Association and the Society for Directors and Choreographers. She thanks her family for all their support.

TONY HARDIN  
(Executive Producer; Scenic Designer, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is excited to serve as the director of the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University. Passionate about theatre education since his very first undergraduate theatre class, Tony holds a B.F.A. in design and technology from the University of Kentucky and an M.F.A. in scenic design from the University of Virginia. Over the past 25 years, Hardin has taught courses in scenic design, lighting design, scenic painting, introduction to theatre and stage management at the University of Kentucky and Longwood University. As a freelance scenic and lighting designer, Hardin’s work has appeared nationally and internationally at Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Mount Washington Valley Theatre, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, The Lexington Children’s Theatre and Operafest Internazionale in Italy. Some of his favorite designs include “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” “Cabaret,” “Treasure Island,” “The Snow Queen” and “The Neverending Story.” He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

KARL ERDMANN  
(Production Manager and Associate Artistic Director) is entering his 42nd year at Porthouse. A 1984 KSU alum, he holds a master’s from Michigan State. He also worked for ABC-TV in Hollywood as a scenic artist on such shows as “General Hospital,” “Home Show,” “The Emmy Awards” and “The Academy Awards,” and spent five seasons at Nebraska Repertory Theatre and two seasons at Boarshead Theatre as an AEA stage manager. Karl continues to dedicate his involvement with Porthouse Theatre to the memory of his father Louis O. Erdmann and his stepbrother Peter Schoettler. Love to my wife Mel and our son Drew.

^Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.  
*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
Artistic and Administrative Staff

REBECCA BALOGH GATES (Managing Director) is a proud Kent State alumna. Rebecca has served as the managing director for Kent State’s School of Theatre and Dance and Porthouse Theatre since the summer of 2005 and has been a part of the Porthouse staff as a stage manager since 1997. She was also proud to have worked as a stage manager at the Cleveland Opera, Cain Park and the Halle Theatre. With much love and respect to her family and friends.

JENNIFER CRABTREE (Marketing, Communications and PR Director) serves as the director of marketing, communications and PR for Kent State University’s College of the Arts and Porthouse Theatre. She has been a specialist in visual design and marketing communications for over 20 years and is a graduate of KSU with a B.A. in visual communication design and a minor in dance. When not working on a project, Jen can be found spending time with her family and pets.

JASON GATES (Scene Shop Supervisor) first worked at Porthouse in the summer of 2001. He has worked locally at many Cleveland venues and was assistant technical director with Cleveland Opera and was employed at Erie Street Theatrical Services for 10 years. Jason serves as the scene shop supervisor for Porthouse Theatre and Kent State’s School of Theatre and Dance since 2009.

MADI GETZ (Marketing Associate) is an alumni of Kent State University’s visual communication design program. She has been working in marketing for over four years, specializing in graphic design and copywriting. This is Madi’s second year working for Kent State University and Porthouse Theatre.

TOM HUMES (Production Stage Manager) currently serves as an assistant professor for the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University. He teaches Stage Management, Theatre Management, Production and Stage Management, Graphics for the Theatre, Flashes 101 and serves as production stage manager at Porthouse Theatre. Tom’s primary background is in stage management for venues such as: Cain Park, Cleveland Play House, McCarter Theatre Center, DOBAMA Theatre, Beck Center for the Arts, Karamu House, Cleveland Orchestra and Opera Cleveland. He also has a background as a theatrical electrician and lightboard operator for Cleveland Play House in the Bolton Theater and in the Allen Theatre complex. He is a member of Actors’ Equity Association and local 27 of the IATSE.

AIMEE JOHNSON (Costume Shop Supervisor) holds a B.F.A. in theatrical design and technology from The University of Central Florida and an M.F.A. in costume design from The Pennsylvania State University. Both of these, along with work throughout the country, instilled a passion for making things and problem solving in costumes. Prior to joining Kent State and Porthouse, she served as the costume shop supervisor at Brenau University where Aimee’s background in Cirque du Soleil and regional theatre elevated the costume production and the work of the costume students. In addition to running the shop, Aimee served as draper on productions, a mentor to the students and designed productions. Past professional credits also include the resident costume design assistant at The Long Wharf Theatre and staff positions at The Santa Fe Opera and Busch Gardens in Tampa, FL.
JENNIFER KORECKI
(Musical Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar”; Porthouse Academy Coordinator, Ensemble Singing Instructor) is an associate professor at the Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance. She is a graduate of KSU with a Masters in Music. Jennifer studied piano and accompanying with Lois Ozanich. She has music directed and/or accompanied numerous musical theater productions and master classes across the midwest. Jennifer recently received the “Best Music Director” BroadwayWorld Cleveland 2023 Theatre Award for the Kent State University production of “Cabaret.” In the past year she was asked to accompany for the Musical Theatre National At Unified Auditions and Master Classes in Norwalk, Connecticut as well as auditions for Carnival Cruise Lines. In past summers she was the music director for many Porthouse Theatre productions, the most recent being “A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum” and “Little Shop of Horrors.” In 2018, she received the Cleveland Critics Circle Best Music Director Award for Oklahoma! She thanks her husband, Charles and their daughter, Anna, for their constant love and support.

ALEX SWIGER (Performing Arts Box Office Manager) is thrilled to be back at Porthouse for another fantastic season! She began her tenure as Performing Arts Box Office Manager at Kent State in 2019 where she works with each of the exceptional schools within the College of the Arts, as well as the Kent State Museum. Alex holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Ohio University. When not working with the Kent State College of the Arts, Kent Blossom Music Festival and Porthouse families you can find Alex and her husband Travis running after their two sets of twins.

FRANKIE TUEBER+ (Props Supervisor and Assistant Scenic Designer, Season) is a scenic art and properties supervisor at Kent State and freelance designer based out of Cleveland, OH. She received her B.A. from the University of Toledo and her M.F.A. in scenic design and props from the University of Houston. She has been working professionally in the industry for the last 18 years and has worked on over 100 theatrical productions. She served as the assistant props master for the Cleveland Playhouse for four years and has worked with many different companies all over the United States. Currently, she is a member of IATSE Stage Mechanics and Moving Pictures Local 209 and has also been on the extra list for IATSE Stagehand Local 27 for the last six years. This is her second full season with Porthouse and she is happy to be part of such a wonderful company!

NICOLE BERRIOS-PARGA (Stage Manager “Nunsense”; Assistant Stage Manager, Season) is a dynamic and dedicated senior student at Kent State University, where she is pursuing her B.F.A. in theatre design and technology with a specialized focus on stage management, complemented by a minor in scene design. With a passion for bringing theatrical productions to life behind the scenes, Nicole has already left an indelible mark on Kent State’s mainstage productions, including standout contributions to “Head Over Heels,” “Kent Dance Ensemble: Collective Impressions,” “Passage” and “Everybody.” Eager to expand her horizons and continue honing her craft, Nicole is thrilled to return to Porthouse Theatre for her second summer, where she will make her professional stage manager debut with the beloved production of “Nunsense.” Additionally, she would love to thank her family, friends and fuzzy cats for always supporting her crazy schedule and being so supportive! Hope you enjoy the show!
JOE BURKE (Lighting Designer) is an award-winning designer whose creativity spans a wide range of performance types and creative disciplines. Centering his creative offerings on lighting and projection designs has afforded him opportunities to design and tour nationally and internationally. His artistry has been seen and appreciated in venues producing live theatre, exhibits, visual art installations, and music performances. Lighting design highlights include “Jersey Boys” (FlatRock Playhouse), the premiere and tour of “Metamorphosis” (Third Coast Percussion); “Cabaret” (Case Western Reserve University); “Part II of a Mexican Trilogy” (Teatro Vista); “Dialogue of the Carmelites” (Northwestern Bienen School of Music); “The Hunger Games: The Exhibition” (Imagine Exhibitions Inc.); “Paddle to The Sea” (Third Coast Percussion); “Burnham’s Dream” (Lost and Found Productions).

MARTÍN CÉSPEDES^ (Choreographer, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie”) choreography credits include “Man of La Mancha” at Porthouse Theatre, “Billy Elliot,” “The Wild Party,” “American Idiot the Musical,” “As You Like It” and “Much Ado About Nothing” for Great Lakes Theater, “The Fantasticks” at St. Louis Repertory Theater, “Jane Eyre” at Cleveland Musical Theatre, “Something Rotten” at Beck Center. Performance credits include Broadway tours of “Man of La Mancha” with Jack Jones, Ron Holgate, David Canary, “The King and I” with Hayley Mills, Marie Osmond, Faith Prince, “South Pacific” with Robert Goulet, “West Side Story” with Bebe Neuwirth and “Le Cid” with Placido Domingo and the Washington National Opera, broadcast live from Kennedy Center. Television appearances include: “NBC Dance Fever, Weekday Fever.” Concert performances with Earth, Wind and Fire and The Bee Gees. Martín was assistant to the late John Kenley on his final theatre season. Martín was awarded the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Cleveland Critics Circle winner for Best Choreographer and recently honored for artistic achievement at the 2019 Hispanic Leadership Conference. As an educator, Martín has taught Broadway dance intensives for the School of Cleveland Ballet and Theater Dance in NYC. He is presently an adjudicator for Playhouse Square’s Dazzle Awards. Martín is a proud member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Actors Equity Association. He recently choreographed in Cleveland for the feature film “Lost & Found” (due out next spring), featuring Dennis Haysbert, Martin Sheen and Loretta Devine. His work in the show is dedicated to Rosa, Gabriel, Marion.

ABBIE HAGEN (Costume Designer, “Annie”) (She/Her) is ecstatic to be returning to Porthouse Theatre this summer as the costume designer for “Annie!” Last summer, Abbie made her Porthouse debut as costume designer for “The Marvelous Wonderettes.” Abbie is a rising third-year M.F.A. candidate studying costume design and technology at Kent State University. This means that her calendar is packed with taking classes, designing shows, working in the costume shop and teaching lecture and lab classes for undergraduate students! Her previous Kent State theatre design credits include “Everybody” (Costume Designer), “Urinetown” (Co-Costume Designer), “Passage” (Assistant Costume Designer, Wardrobe Captain & Dramaturg), “Head Over Heels” (Assistant Costume Designer & Wardrobe Captain). Watch out for Abbie’s designs in Kent State’s upcoming production of “Pride & Prejudice: The Musical,” coming to the stage in November 2024!

JENICA JENICK (Props Artist) has been involved in theatre since the third grade, but this is their first time working at Porthouse. They’re very excited for the opportunity to be props manager for a show and especially excited to be building another puppet from scratch! They’d like to thank their family for their support and Jessica for putting up with being called at the slightest inconvenience.
ALEXANDRE MARR (Musical Director, “Annie”) enjoys an active and diversified career as a soloist, music director, collaborator, artistic director and educator. Currently based in Northeast Ohio, he serves as music director for both Fairmount Temple and Church of the Western Reserve, executive artistic director for music from The Western Reserve and the CWR Concert Series, assistant director of the Akron Symphony Chorus and as owner/founder of the Akron Music Institute, downtown Akron’s premier school of music. Most recently, Alexandre was appointed as Music Director/Pianist for the 23/24 national tour of four-time EMMY® and GRAMMY®-nominated musical comedian Randy Rainbow. Alexandre is a member and pianist of the TRIO NOIR, a Cleveland-based ensemble with violinist Maude Cloutier and cellist Brendon Phelps. Previous Porthouse credits include “Godspell” (2022) and “The Prom” (2023). Learn more at alexandremarr.com

VICTORIA MEARINI (Costume Designer, “Nunsense”) designed “Godspell,” directed by Dylan Ratell, last summer for Porthouse Theatre. As a graduate student, she designed “Somewhere,” directed by Fabio Polanco, Porthouse’s “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” directed by Terri Kent, “Rent” directed by Amy Fritsche and “Much Ado About Nothing,” directed by Jameeka Holloway. Victoria recently graduated from Kent State University, Working under Michelle Hunt-Souza and Grace Cochran, in the costume area earning an M.F.A. in design and technology. Originally a professional ballerina for over twenty years, she came to Cleveland to dance with the Cleveland San Jose Ballet. She graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art with a B.F.A. in jewelry and metals in May of 2017. Ms. Mearini designed costumes for choreographer Claudia Schreier at The Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Silicon Valley and the world premiere of The Cleveland Ballet. Victoria also designed “Hindsight” with songs by Chrissie Hynde and the Pretenders by choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett (“Footloose,” “Bewitched,” “Swing!”) for Groundworks Dance Theatre. Victoria originally attended Kent State University for costume design, under Susie Campbell. Her portfolio brought her to Paris, where she worked as an assistant to Renato Bianchi, costume designer at La Comedie Francaise. There she researched design and materials for Tramway staged by Lee Breuer, set design by Basil Twist. She also constructed a corset and a tricorn hat in the millinery department.

GENNIE NEUMAN LAMBERT (Scenic Designer, “Nunsense”) has collaborated successfully with organizations like Berkshire Theatre Group, Southern Illinois University School of Theatre and Dance, The City College of New York, New York Musical Theatre Festival, Crossroads Theater Company, Lyric Theater @ Illinois, Bucknell University, Lafayette College and now Porthouse Theatre. As a scenic designer, she focuses on productions that connect communities while challenging audiences and creatives to consider others’ experiences. You may have seen her most recent shows, “Rent” and “Cabaret,” at Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance. At KSU, she works with a great team and together, we teach students the tools to visually tell stories, design spaces, craft beautiful things and use their voices to create positive change.

NOLAN O’DELL (Set Designer, “Annie”) celebrates designing “Annie,” his twenty-fourth scenic design created with his artistic family at Porthouse. A native of Cuyahoga Falls, he is currently the resident scenic designer and teaching assistant professor of set design at East Carolina University. Design credits include works for theatre and opera across the Midwest and Southeast. Nolan has also served as a scenic art and properties artisan for Universal Studios Florida and Broadway. Some of his favorite designs for Porthouse audiences have been “Oklahomat,” “The Music Man,” “Newsies” and “West Side Story.”
JEFF POLUNAS (Sound Designer, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Nunsense”) (He/They) is thrilled to be designing this production for Porthouse Theatre. Polunas is the assistant professor of sound design at Kent State University. Polunas received his M.F.A. in sound design from UC-Irvine, CA. He has designed more than 160 productions during his career including “Million Dollar Quartet,” “La Havana Madrid,” “She Loves Me,” “Shakespeare in Love,” “The Sisters Rosensweig,” “Venus in Fur” and “Between Us Chickens” (World Premiere) (South Coast Repertory, CA); “The Winter’s Tale,” “As You Like It” (Great River Shakespeare Festival, MN), “Everybody” (CWR/Cleveland Play House) “Les Liaisons Dangereuses” (Antaeus Theatre Company, CA); “A Doll’s House Part 2,” “Silent Sky,” “Fences,” “Abigail/1702,” “A Walk in the Woods” and “Uncanny Valley” (International City Theatre, CA); “Passion Play,” “Seminar and A Bright New Boise” (Chance Theater, CA); and “Company,” “Much Ado About Nothing” and “The Importance of Being Earnest” (PCPA Theaterfest). He received Scenie Awards (StageSceneLA) for Sound Design in 2015 and 2017 and has been nominated for NAACP, Stage Raw and Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival awards. Polunas has also recently been nominated 4 times in 3 states for the Broadway World Sound Design Award, for Cleveland, Los Angeles and Minneapolis.

TOMYA PRYOR (Props Artist)

JOHN RAWLINGS (Technical Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Nunsense”) is the technical director at Ball State University. He previously served as the assistant production manager and facilities manager for Porthouse Theatre. John received his bachelor’s degree in theatre from the University of West Florida and his M.F.A. in technical direction from Kent State University. John has worked previously as the technical director for the Kenan Theatre Company at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the technical director for the North Port Performing Art Center in North Port, Florida and the assistant technical director for the Cleveland Public Theater.

AUSTIN SCOTT (House Manager and Assistant Director, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie”) is a recent graduate of Kent State University and is thrilled to be working alongside Terri Kent and Martin Cespedes. Before coming to Kent State, Austin was originally a performer before finding his passion in theatre management. Over the past few years, Austin has worked as a stage manager, graphic designer, assistant director and more for many Kent State productions. With all the knowledge gathered, Austin is beyond prepared to step into his first professional gig out of college with Porthouse Theatre. He would like to thank his family and friends who have stuck by him and supported his passion for theatre. He would also like to thank Terri Kent for giving him the opportunity to grow as a professional. Enjoy the show!

†Member of represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.
JAKYUNG C. SEO (Lighting Designer, “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Annie”)

Jakyung C. Seo is a distinguished lighting designer with a portfolio spanning over 100 productions. Her work has graced renowned theaters such as the Cleveland Play House, Steppenwolf and Congo Square Theatre in Chicago, as well as Dobama Theatre and Cleveland Public Theatre in Cleveland. Additionally, she has made significant contributions to Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) in Columbus, HEAR theatre in New York and Lodestone Theatre in Los Angeles. Internationally recognized, Seo’s lighting designs have been showcased at esteemed venues including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in the UK, Avignon Off Festival in France and the Sibiu International Theatre Festival in Romania. She has also participated in the Busan International Performing Arts Festival and earned accolades for her work with the Thrust Dance Company at the International Dance Festival in Saitama, Japan.

As a scholarly practitioner, Seo has presented over 20 sessions at prestigious events such as PQ Scenofest in Prague, United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) and the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) since 2004. Currently serving as the Artistic Director of the Global Women Performing Arts Festival (GWPAF), Seo is dedicated to amplifying the voices of female artists. Under her leadership, GWPAF has hosted virtual events, including a collaboration with the Martha Graham Dance Company. In addition to her creative and scholarly endeavors, Seo is a passionate educator. She has conducted lighting design workshops in Thailand, Singapore, and South Korea. Seo holds the position of professor of lighting design and serves as the coordinator of B.F.A. and M.F.A. design, technology and production at Kent State University (KSU). Prior to her tenure at KSU, she held teaching positions at the University of Cincinnati, California State University, Fresno and University of Toledo.

MICHELLE HUNT SOUZA (Costume Designer, “Jesus Christ Superstar”)

Ms. Souza’s professional costume design work has been featured at a wide range of nationally- and regionally-recognized theatres, including the Cleveland Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Summit Performance Indianapolis, Crossroads Repertory Theatre, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Moxie Theatre and many others. Her writing and scholarship has been featured in Theatre Design and Technology Magazine, HowlRound Theatre Commons, TheatreForum International Performance Journal, at the Prague Quadrennial and in the USITT Teaching Archive. She is currently on the faculty of the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University. Michelle’s work can be seen online at msouzadesign.com.

JONATHAN SWOBODA (Musical Director, “Nunsense”) is a graduate with High Distinction in piano performance from the University of Michigan and holds a Masters degree from the University of Nebraska. He has music directed over 85 productions throughout the country and done numerous national tours. Jonathan has won the Cleveland Critic’s Circle Award for Best Music Direction in 2015 for “A Little Night Music,” 2017 for “Newsies,” and 2021 for “Altar Boyz.” Jonathan is on the faculty of the Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance. Previously, he was a resident music director at PCPA Conservatory Theatre in CA, directed choral music at Purdue University and freelanced as a musician for years. Jonathan is seen often as a featured keyboard artist for the popular group “Mannheim Steamroller.”
JONATHON W. TAYLOR (Technical Director, “Annie”) (he/him) is an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at East Tennessee State University where he is the resident scenic designer and teaches scenic design, costume design, stage management, rendering and drafting and theatre design basics. Jonathon earned his M.F.A. in theatrical design and production from the University of Oregon in Eugene, OR. Jonathon’s teaching and professional career in theater spans over two decades. He has served as designer and/or technical director at various venues in the US and he has held various academic positions including production designer at The University of Virginia’s College at Wise (Wise, VA), technical director for the Earl Ernst Lab Theatre (Honolulu, HI) and the scenic and costume designer and technical director at the University of Nevada, Reno. Recent design credits include “Heathers the Musical,” “These Shining Lives,” “Little Shop of Horrors,” “Bright Star,” “Men on Boats” and four giant puppets for the ETSU Marching Bucs halftime show. Jonathon is the author of several articles published in Southern Theatre Magazine and Theatre Symposium. He is originally from Jonesborough, TN.

ERIC VAN BAARS*^ (Director and Choreographer, “Nunsense”) is thrilled to be reunited with friends old and new this summer. For Porthouse, he has directed “Tintypes,” “BKLYN the Musical,” “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Sister Act,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Pump Boys and Dinettes” and “Dames at Sea” and choreographed “Once On This Island,” “Big River,” “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” and “The Fantasticks.” As a director/choreographer, Eric’s work has been seen at MAC Theatre of Busan, Korea, St. Louis Rep, Connecticut Rep, Berea Summer Theatre, Halle Theater, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Weathervane Playhouse and Cain Park. In 2014, Eric served as guest faculty for Dongseo University in Busan, South Korea, where he directed the Korean premier of “Children of Eden.” He is a KSU alumna and Emeritus faculty member in the School of Theatre and Dance, where he directed and or choreographed over 25 productions including “Freaky Friday,” “Into the Woods,” “She Stoops to Conquer,” “Ragtime,” “Oklahoma,” “The Divinners,” “Lysistrata,” “Big Love,” “Working,” “The Wild Party,” “A New Brain” and “Honk!” Porthouse audiences may remember him in “The Prom” (Barry), “Oliver” (Fagin), “Damn Yankees” (Applegate), “The Odd Couple” (Felix), “The Foreigner” (Charlie), “The Music Man” (Harold Hill), “Anything Goes” (Lord Evelyn), “Sweet Charity” (Oscar), “Jesus Christ Superstar” (Herod) and many others. As a long-standing member of Actors Equity Association and the Society of Directors and Choreographers, Eric lives in Sarasota, Florida, where he is a teaching artist and cat dad. All Praises to these Nunsense sisters. They have been a heaven-sent bunch! www.ericvanbaars.com.

TEGAN WILSON (Draper) is a senior B.F.A. theatre design, tech and production student with a concentration in scenic design and is excited to be joining the summer 2024 Porthouse season as a prop artist! Recent work at Kent State University’s School of Theatre and Dance includes “Everybody” as co-scenic designer, “Rent” as co-projections designer, as well as “Passage” and “Urinetown” as prop manager. When not in the theatre, Tegan can be found crocheting or playing with their cat, Wicket.

BETHY WINTERS (Lighting and Sound Supervisor/ Sound Designer, “Annie”) is a recent graduate of Kent State University with a B.F.A. in theatre design technology and production with a concentration in lighting and sound. This will be her third summer at Porthouse Theatre. She spends most of her time in a theatre, but when she isn’t working on a show, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, watching TV, volunteering at her local church and learning to play the piano.
MELODY AMIGO (Scenic Artist) is a recent Kent State graduate from the School of Theatre and Dance with a B.F.A. in theatre design, technology and production. This is Melody’s third season with Porthouse as a scenic artist. Her previous works include charge artist for Kent State’s productions of “Rent,” “Passage” and “Urinetown.” She’s looking forward to another great summer at Porthouse!

MADELINE BARBER (Assistant Head Electrician/Programmer)

MORGAN BEDILION (Stitcher/Dresser Intern, Season; Design Assistant, “Nunsense”) is a rising senior at Kent State University majoring in costume design. This is her first season working with Porthouse Theatre and she is looking forward to spending her summer with such a talented crew. Along with serving as a practicum student within the costume shop throughout the past three years, some of her previous credits at Kent State include costume designer for “On the Cusp Kent Dance Ensemble 2024,” assistant costume designer/wardrobe supervisor for “Passage,” craftsperson for “Everybody” and craftsperson for “Somewhere.” Morgan would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support and she hopes you enjoy the show!

JENNIFER BLACK (Porthouse Academy Dance Instructor) is a full-time faculty professor at Kent State. She began her dance education in New York and New Jersey, training with the prestigious choreographers of today such as Tony Award winner Christopher Gattelli and Emmy Award winner Tyce Diorio. While in New York, she studied at the world renowned Broadway Dance Center and Steps with teachers such as Finis Jung, Mia Michaels and Sheila Barker. As a child, she was the first title winner of Miss Dance Educators of America and received scholarships at David Howard and Alvin Ailey. Jennifer earned her B.F.A. degree and finished as a cum laude from The University of Akron.

DANIEL BRAUN (Sound Engineer/A1) is an upcoming senior at Kent State University pursuing a B.F.A. in theatre design, technology and production (sound) and a theatre management minor. He is happy to return to Porthouse Theatre for his second summer with the company. Some favorite shows he has been involved with are “Passage” as the sound designer, “Urinetown: The Musical” as the A1 mixer and “Rent” as a sound technician, all at Kent State. He also works at Cuyahoga Falls High School as a substitute for the auditorium manager whenever he has the opportunity and recently was the sound designer for “Aida” at Weathervane Playhouse. He would like to thank his family and his girlfriend Olivia for supporting him in pursuing his passion.

SAGE AYELET BROWN (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be an assistant stage manager for the Porthouse 2024 summer season. Sage will be a senior in the B.F.A. design and technology production major with a concentration in stage management and minor in theatre management. Sage has most recently stage-managed “Everybody,” “Fall Faculty: One World,” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Sage would like to thank their family and friends for their support in continuing to pursue their passions.

WES CARNEY (Assistant Technical Director) is excited to join the team for his first Porthouse Theatre season! Wes is a graduate student at the Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance studying theatre design and technology with a concentration in technical direction. Over the past few years, Wes’s technical direction and scenic design work was on display for 15 productions at a few theatres in the Cleveland area, most notably Cassidy Theatre and French Creek Theatre. Wes has worked on over 70 productions in the Cleveland and Cincinnati areas over the past 15 years. Wes hopes you enjoy the show, especially the set!
SCOTT CARVER (Sound Mic Technician) Hello! This is his first season working at Porthouse Theatre. Currently, he is attending Kent State University’s School of Theatre and Dance and concentrating on being a stage manager. Scott has been a part of two productions at Kent State. He was an assistant stage manager on “Rent” and A2 for “Everybody.” Enjoy the show!

BRIANNA CLARK (Scenic Charge Artist) is an artist and performer who has been a Scenic Charge Artist for the past five years and this is her third year here at Porthouse. She has a B.A. in Musical Theatre Performance from Heidelberg University and is currently working toward her MBA. Bri is very excited to help bring visions to life this season at Porthouse!

EVA CLEMENTS (Assistant Stage Manager) is fulfilling the role of assistant stage manager. Eva is a sophomore at Kent State University, pursuing a B.F.A. in theatre design and production with a concentration in stage management. Eva’s recent productions include Kent State University’s School of Music opera productions from Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Kent State University’s School of Theatre and Dance productions of “Everybody,” “Cabaret,” “Passage,” “Urinetown” and “Corktown” and Aurora Community Theatre’s production of “Urinetown.” She is very thankful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing team.

BETH COLLINS (Event Manager) Hi! I’m the white haired lady that is here to greet you to Porthouse. Thank you to all my wonderful Porthouse family for bringing me back every year. Enjoy the shows!

JENNA CONLEY (Carpenter) is a rising senior theatre design, technology and production student at Kent State University. She focuses in technical direction with some props work on the side. Previously, Jenna has worked as the props carpenter for the 2023 Porthouse season and is excited to return this year as a carpenter! This past school year, Jenna had the opportunity to work as assistant technical director on Passage and “Rent.” She is very excited to work her second season at Porthouse with a great cast and crew. Jenna is grateful to be apart of such a fantastic group of artists and would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support.

EMILY CRANSTON (Stitcher)

MICHAEL DANIELS (Carpenter) is a senior at the University of Kentucky where he studies theatre and graduates this December of 2024. Daniels has interests and participated in many elements of theatre such as carpentry, acting, sound design and lighting design during his time at the UofK. Daniels is very excited to be working as a theatre carpenter for his very first professional theatre job in Porthouse and is eager to gain a lot more experience, make new connections and meet a lot of friends on his journey during his time at Porthouse and Kent State. Michael wants to thank his friend and mentor Zak Stribling, who has guided him a long his carpentry journey through his time at UK and he would love to thank his family and God, who has watched him grow and supported him every step he has taken through his life!

CHRISTOPHER DAVIS (Electrician/Spot Operator) is an incoming transfer student at Northern Michigan University working towards a BFA in Theatre Tech and Design, transferring from Heidelberg University. At Heidelberg, Christopher participated in all aspects of theater from the production side to on stage performances. Behind the scenes, Christopher has light designed shows such as “Woman in Black,” “Endgame,” and assistant light designed several shows including “Assassins” and “Fiorello!” He also had his directorial debut this past spring in the world premiere of “The Letter G.” He could also be seen on stage as John Wilkes Booth in “Assassins” and Alan in “One Man Two Guvnors.” This is Christopher’s first summer at Porthouse and he is so excited to have the opportunity to work in such an amazing place with such incredible people.

FENNEL DENNING (Wardrobe Supervisor) is a recent graduate of Kent State University with a degree in theatre design and technology with a concentration in costuming. In 2023, they worked wardrobe crew for “Something Funny Happened on the Way to the Forum” at Porthouse. In the fall semester of 2023, Jillian completed their capstone draping project in KSU’s production of “Cabaret,” where they draped for Sally Bowles and The Emcee. Most recently, they worked first hand for KSU’s production of “Everybody.” After graduation they plan on moving to Cleveland and are currently working as a contract seamstress for the Cleveland based small business Yellowcakeshop.
ABBY DOANE (Assistant House Manager) is a junior theater and history double major with minors in music theater, dance and women's and gender studies at Miami University. She had previously worked as assistant stage manager for "Bright Star and Puffs", danced in Miami Moves, worked as a part of the special effects run crew for "The Play That Goes Wrong" and worked as the production stage manager for New Wave Theater Company's production of "Rumormates." Abby has also acted as production stage manager for several productions in high school. She would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the production!

LILY DRENNON (Stitcher/Dresser Intern; Design Assistant, “Annie”) is thrilled to be working her first year at Porthouse Theater! She is a rising second-year B.F.A. costume technology student at Rutgers University, though originally from Maryland. Previous credits at Rutgers include "Heavenly Fools," “Holy Week” and “The Giant Void in My Soul.” Outside of Rutgers, she has worked as a dresser on the 97th Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and as the head of costumes for Wootton High School. She sends lots of love to her friends and family and hopes you enjoy the show!

JACK DRINAN (Sound Engineer/A2) just finished his second year at Kent State University as a B.F.A. theatre design and production major with a sound concentration and a music minor. Previously, he has worked on seven different mainstage productions at Kent State University and he worked as an A2, electrician and assistant sound designer at Cain Park last summer. He is very excited to be working in yet another new theater and hopes you all enjoy the season!

NICK EBERTS (Head Electrician) is a senior at Kent State majoring in theatre technology with a focus in lighting and projection design. This year at the School of Theatre and Dance he enjoyed designing projections for “Passage” and lighting for “Rent.” Nick has been passionately involved in the performing arts for many years and has garnered numerous awards for his contributions in the arts. Nick utilizes his design skills while working at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts and the Charleen & Charles Hinson Amphitheater in Columbus. He enjoys creating professional work by using his diverse background of technical skills and is excited to be back at Porthouse Theatre this summer as Head Electrician.

ALEX FUNK (Co-Company Manager; Porthouse Academy Mentor/Acting Instructor) originally from Columbus, is an actor and teacher in the Northeast Ohio area. He holds a B.A. in theatre arts from The University of Akron and an M.F.A. in acting at Kent State University. Alex was the theatre instructor at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts from 2015-2022. He has also worked for Weathervane Playhouse, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, The Greater Cleveland Aquarium, Cleveland Shakespeare Festival and Rubber City Theatre. Memorable acting credits include “Scapino” (Scapin), “The Great God Brown” (Billy Brown), “The Bacchae 2012” (Dionysus), “As You Like It” (Rosalind, Celia), “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (Demetrius, Oberon/Theseus), “Much Ado About Nothing” (Benedick), “Macbeth” (Hecate/Malcolm), “Hamlet” (Hamlet), “Romeo and Juliet” (Mercutio/Prince), “Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure” (Sherlock Holmes), “Love’s Labour’s Lost” (Berowne), “The Importance of Being Earnest” (Lady Bracknell), “Passage” (H) and “Everybody” (Usher/God/Understanding, Evil).

BAILEY GAMMON (Stitcher/Dresser Intern; Design Assistant, “Jesus Christ Superstar”) is a rising junior B.F.A theater design technology and production major at Kent State University. She is originally from Uniontown, PA. She is excited to make her debut as assistant costume designer and stitcher/dresser intern for “ Jesus Christ Superstar.” This is her first summer with Porthouse and is excited to work with the talented cast and crew.

NINA GOLDSTEIN (Facilities and Concessions Staff)

STEPHANIE GUNAWAN (First Hand) recently graduated from Kent State University with a B.F.A. in fashion design and a B.A. in theatre production this spring with the support of her incredible parents, friends, professors, advisors and a few extra scholarships. During this time she has studied haute couture techniques in Paris, created an 8-look thesis collection, worked as a dresser for “Faculty Dance 22’” and “Somewhere” and co-designed/wardrobe supervised “Dog Sees God.” As a lover of all things related to textiles, crafting and sewing Stephanie is honored to start her professional theatre career with Porthouse this summer! You can find her and follow her career at www.Stephasaurus.com
KORDELL HARR (Scenic Artist) is a scenic graduate student attending Kent State University. Having completed his first year in graduate school. He is delighted to have the opportunity to work for Porthouse. This year he has worked as a scenic artist on multiple shows such as “Passage,” “Cabaret” and “Everybody.” He was also a scenic change artist for “Rent.”

JEFFREY HASSEL (Facilities and Concessions Staff) is delighted to be working for Porthouse this summer. He is going into his senior year at Kent State University for Psychology. He is appreciative to be working with Porthouse and the Facilities and Concessions team and is excited for the shows this season!

MCKENNA HASSEL (Facilities and Concessions Staff) is so excited to be joining the Porthouse team this summer. She is going into her junior year at Kent State University studying musical theatre. She thanks Porthouse for the opportunity to learn and grow with the Porthouse Community.

MERCEDES HILL (Design Assistant, Season) is delighted to be making her debut as assistant costume designer and craftsperson for this season at Porthouse Theatre. She recently was an assistant designer for “RENT” and firsthand for “Everybody” at Kent State Theatre. She is a B.F.A. student at Kent State University Theatre and Dance for theatre design, technology and production and is excited to graduate in 2025. She aspires to live by the wisdom of late Jedi, Yoda, “Do or do not, there is no try.”

CARTER-ZION HUBBARD (Facilities and Concession Staff)

ABIGAYLE HUFF (Box Office Staff) is a recent graduate of Capital University with a Bachelor of Music in music industry with a minor in business management. This is her second summer working in the Porthouse Theatre Box Office. Abigail is an avid lover of musical theatre and hopes to pursue a career as a pit orchestra musician and in arts administration. She is a woodwind specialist playing clarinet, oboe and saxophone.

EMILY KIRKPATRICK (Assistant House Manager) is a rising junior at Kent State University! She is double majoring with a B.F.A. in musical theater and a B.A. in dance. Most recently she was a featured dancer in “The Prom” at Weathervane Playhouse. She was part of Porthouse Academy this summer and loves the energy that the cast and crew brings. She is very grateful for the opportunity to spend her summer with the Porthouse family!

JAKE KONEVAL (Carpenter) is a senior at Kent State University studying to earn a degree in theatre production and design. In his free time, he spends time with friends or family, rock climbing/bouldering, golfing, playing tennis and handball, skiing and hanging out with his dogs Akira, Roxy and Zeus. In his college experience he has been pulled in many directions and majors, but becoming a scenic carpenter has been great for him. Having a creative outlet is so important; He loves the way theater is used to tell stories and is very excited to get to work with the wonderful artists at Porthouse to bring this season’s productions to life.

ELLA LEONARD (Co-Box Office Manager) is going to be a junior at Kent State University majoring in criminology and justice studies. She spent the last two school years working in the performing arts box office and this will be her second year with Porthouse Theatre. Ella is really excited to work in the box office and gain more experience within the theatre world.

HANNAH LEWIS (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working at Porthouse this summer. Hannah is a musical theatre education major at Heidelberg University where she has played Squeaky Froome (“Assassin’s”) and Lucio (“Measure for Measure”) as well as worked on props, set and stage management teams. She hopes you enjoy the show.

DINA LEVIN (Assistant House Manager) is a rising junior majoring in theatre studies with a concentration in production. She is overjoyed to be working at Porthouse this summer and experience outdoor theatres and summer stock for the first time. She has been involved with theatre since junior high. Previous Kent State shows include “Head over Heels,” “Urinetown,” Kent Dance Ensemble ‘23, “Collective Impressions” and “Cabaret.” She would like to thank her friends, family, her high school theatre teachers and especially the Kent State School of Theatre and Dance faculty and staff for supporting her and encouraging her in doing what she loves.

JUDAH NICOLE LYLES (Assistant Company Manager) is a 22-year-old musical theatre B.F.A. candidate and dance minor at Kent State University. She previously studied at Wilkes
University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and George Washington-Carver Center for the Arts and Technology in Towson, Maryland. She has most recently been a swing in Kent State’s production of “Rent,” Penelope Pennywise in Kent State’s “Urinetown” and ensemble/understudy in Kent State’s “Head Over Heels.” Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, theatre and dance are only two of her many passions—she published her first book, “How She Belongs,” at 18 and continues to tutor and assist others in their academic writing. She has a genuine belief in the power of pursuing your passions and would love to be a part of encouraging others to do the same.

LIVI MOSCA (Carpenter) graduated with an undergraduate degree in theatre design and technology from Slippery Rock University (SRU) in May 2024. This is her third summer at Porthouse, but she is very excited to be on the carpentry team for the first time this summer! Most recently she has worked on “9 to 5” (SRU) as scenic paint charge and on “Tragedy: a tragedy” (SRU) as a scenic designer.

DE’ONTAE MURRAY (Box Office Staff) grew up in Akron, OH with his mother and grandmother. He enjoys hanging with friends, doing extracurriculars, going to theatrical performances and most of all being involved in the arts in any capacity. He hopes to one day have feet in both sides of theater, whether it be on stage or behind the scenes. Lastly, De’Ontae lives by the motto of “be the change you want to see in the world!” He believes by doing this you can pave the way for a better world not just for yourself but for everyone around you.

ADAM NEWBORN (Co-Company Manager; Porthouse Academy Mentor/Acting Instructor) originally from Hershey, PA, is thrilled to be a part of the Porthouse Family! Currently he holds a M.F.A. in acting from Kent State University and a B.F.A. in acting from Long Island University C.W. Post. Adam has worked professionally as an actor in theatre, film and tv. His theatre credits include: “Somewhere,” “Corktown,” “La Cage Aux Folles,” “The Boyfriend,” “Angels in America,” “Dearly Departed,” “Beyond Therapy,” “Aladdin,” “Beasts” and “Orson’s Shadow.” His tv/film credits include: “Law & Order: SVU,” “The Get Down” and “Life.”

Previously seen performed in “Passage” as S understudy and Kurogo, “Corktown” as Homeless Person, Customer 2, and Ensemble, and “Dog Sees God” as Beethoven. He will continue his education at Kent State University in the fall to pursue an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs.

ERIK PEYTON (Box Office Staff) is thrilled to work in the Box Office for Porthouse. Currently, he is a rising sophomore in the musical theatre B.F.A. program at Kent State University. He previously was an ensemble dancer in “The Prom” at Weathervane, a swing in “Cabaret” at Kent State University and others. He is very thankful for this opportunity to work for Porthouse!

SEAN E. ROBERTSON (Facilities Manager)

SOPHIA ROBSON (First Hand) this is her first season at Porthouse Theatre and she is very thankful to be on the team! She is a theatre tech B.F.A. at Kent State University, where she will graduate this coming spring. Her other credits include costume designer for “Seussical” at Lorain Palace Theater, wardrobe supervisor for “Everybody” at Kent State, as well as paint charge for “Cabaret” at the same facility. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support.

CHLOE ROYAK (Dresser) is a transfer student working towards a B.F.A. in theatre design, technology and production with a concentration in costume design at Kent State University. “Cabaret” was their first production with Kent State but they have been involved with theater since they were 10 years old. Chloe would love to thank her friends, family and partner/boyfriend for helping support her in her endeavors. This is their first time working at Porthouse on the wardrobe crew and they are incredibly grateful and excited to have this opportunity to work in a professional theater. Pronouns: she/they

AT SANDERS (Box Office Co-Manager; Minor Child Supervisor) completed her third year at Kent State University where she is pursuing a B.F.A. for Musical Theatre. This is her second season working for Porthouse where last year she was a female swing for “Little Shop of Horrors.” AT has also done shows for Kent State during the school year including “Freaky Friday” (Ensemble) and “Head Over Heels” (Pamela).
SAMANTHA SCHWARTZ (Dresser) is an upcoming senior at Central Michigan University pursuing a B.F.A. in theatre tech and design. Her focus is costume design and hair and makeup design, however she also has experience in dramaturgy, props, sound, lights, sets and performing. Her most recent work includes costume designing for CMU’s University Theatre Dance Concert and leading the hair and makeup crew for CMU’s production of “Tartuffe.” She wishes to continue pursuing costume and hair and makeup design and to let her imagination and creativity shine as bright as it can.

JORDAN SHAW (Assistant Stage Manager) is an upcoming third-year at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She has been a part of the theater community for fifteen years and has studied stage management and clarinet performance at Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts. During her recent academic year, Jordan worked as an assistant stage manager for “Spelling Bee” and “Once On This Island.” She’s looking forward to being a part of the Porthouse team this summer.

KAYLA SMITH (Dresser) is a rising senior at Kent State University with a double major in theatre studies and classics. In middle and high school, she studied creative writing and costume design at Toledo School for the Arts and has loved the technical side of theatre ever since. As a longtime nerd and enthusiast, most of her free time not sewing for classes she can be found sewing costumes for conventions or planning club events for Kent State's Anime Society. This is her first year working at Porthouse and she’s incredibly excited to play a part in making these shows come to life!

ERIN STANEK (Draper) is very excited to work at Porthouse Theatre this summer! Born and raised in Georgia, she attended the University of West Georgia where she received her B.A. in theatre. After graduating, she worked at Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Tennessee where she learned to keep up with the fast pace of a professional costume shop. In Memphis she discovered her love for country western wear and the desire to learn men’s tailoring. When not in the shop, she enjoys doing counted cross stitch and learning to knit. Erin is currently working on her thesis, “From the Yee to the Haw: The Evolution of Western Wear from Function to Fabulous” which she presented in April 2024. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University in May 2024.

NATALIE STEEN (Scenic Overhire)

ROBERT S. TAYLOR (Box Office Staff and Event Manager)

BRANDI THOMAS (Concession Manager) is an upcoming Junior in Musical Theatre here in Kent! They love helping in any way they can, whether on the stage or behind the scenes. They hope you guys enjoy the hard work here at Porthouse theatre!

MEGAN ULINE (Facilities and Concession Staff) is a rising junior musical theatre major at Kent State University. Most recently, she has been in “Cabaret” (Female Swing) and “Rent” (Ensemble) this past year at Kent State Theatre. Megan is so grateful to begin working at Porthouse over the summer and is excited to be a part of the team!

KRIS WEEKS (Electrician/Spot Operator) is a recent inductee to Porthouse Theatre. They are a senior at Bowling Green State University, graduating in December 2024. While pursuing a degree in musical theatre performance, they are also studying electrics and lighting design. While at BGSU, Kris has worked as an associate lighting designer for the BiG Moves Dance Concert and as lightboard operator for numerous shows at BGSU. In their downtime, they enjoy listening to music, singing musicals at the top of their lungs, playing video games, playing the drums and skateboarding. This is Kris’ first summer working in the Kent area and at Porthouse Theatre. They are excited to work as an electrician and a spot operator.

MICAH WHITE (Box Office Staff)

SUSAN J. WILLIAMS (Draper) joins Porthouse for her sixth season! At Cameron University, she serves as an instructor of theatre and costume shop manager, where she teaches courses in costumes, crafts, makeup and design history. Susan earned her Master of Fine Arts in costume design and technology from Kent State University and her Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre from Emporia State University. She designs regionally and has been awarded commendations for her designs through the KCATCF, USITT and Broadway World.
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is open performance evenings on the grounds from 6:30 p.m. through intermission and from 12:30 p.m. through intermission for 2:00 p.m. matinees. To make reservations call 330-672-3884. Daily Box Office hours are Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 5:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Box Office in the Roe Green Center lobby of the Center for the Performing Arts, Kent State University Kent campus, 1325 Theatre Drive, Kent, OH.

Discounted Group Rates
are available for groups of ten or more. For group information call 330-672-3884.

Seating
All sections are reserved seating. The house opens 30 minutes before curtain.

Latecomers
will be seated at appropriate intervals in the performance.

Electronic Devices
Please turn all electronic devices off or to silent ring. If you are expecting an urgent call please leave your name and seating location with the house manager. There is no texting in the theatre or during a performance.

Smoking
Smoking and tobacco use is prohibited on all Kent State University campuses and university property, including Porthouse Theatre.

Cameras and Recording Devices
are strictly prohibited in the theatre. The video taping or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Patrons who violate this rule will be asked to delete any footage and surrender their equipment to an usher until after the show.

The Concession Stand
The concession stand is open before the show and during intermission. It serves snacks, bottled water, soft drinks, candy and assorted treats.

Picnic Parties on our Grounds
Enjoy a picnic on our beautiful grounds before the show with a meal ordered from a great local business or packed at home.

Picnic Tables
are available for the enjoyment of our patrons, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Lost and Found
is located at the box office.

Accessibility
Porthouse Theatre is a barrier-free facility. Optimum seating for patrons in wheelchairs may be arranged with prior notice. Assisted Listening Devices are available at the box office. There is no charge for this service but you will be asked to leave a photo ID.

Free Parking
is available from both the main Blossom entrance and Kent State Drive. Using the east entrance to Blossom from Northampton Road is often the easiest way to get to the theatre.

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