



# The Musical

December 1, 2, 3, 2022 - 7:30 pm December 3, 4, 2022 - 2:00 pm

Badger Ridge Middle School Performing Arts Center (300 Richard Street, Verona)

32nd Season, 167th Show



# Enjoy the night of entertainment with Verona Area Community Theater



# The Verona Area Community Theater Production of



## Book by Music by Lyrics by THOMAS MEEHAN MATTHEW SKLAR CHAD BEGUELIN & BOB MARTIN

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum

Originally produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures in association with Unique Features

ELF-THE MUSICAL

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.com

Please enjoy all refreshments in the lobby only and remember to turn off all audible electronic devices, cell phones. watches etc. during the performance.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Smoking on school property is prohibited by state law.

## Acknowledgements

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Sara Ward-Cassady, Sage Yort



# notes from the director

*Elf* started as a very successful Christmas comedy film starring Will Ferrell in 2003. Based on the success of the film, a Broadway musical was created for the 2010 and 2012 Christmas seasons. After touring nationally, it soon became available for community theater productions. Fans of the movie will notice some differences, but the heart of the story remains the same.

COVID prevented us from launching this production for a couple of years, but we are delighted to present this wonderful show now. It has been a joy to work with such a talented cast and crew over the past months. You will see the energy of this cast on display.

It takes many hands to bring a show like this to the stage. I have been blessed with a talented production team. I have not one, but two cheery producers backing me up, as Sara Ward-Cassady is mentoring brand new producer, Kim Eckmayer. At my right hand is Sara Pfantz as assistant director, providing valuable twinkle for the acting process. One of my favorite people is music director Adam Shelton, who always makes me laugh, and has this way of getting our cast to dazzle. The cast is sparkling with color from the work of our costume designer, Austin Brummet. Keeping everything moving on stage are our jolly stage managers, Noelle Hattleberg and Tom Arnol. This show has a lot of props, and Marie Kyle has been relentless in finding or building the ones that jingle. Keeping our cast shiny showy on stage are our wonderful choreographers, Justin McDermott and Liz Nickels with dance captain Alexa Shaefer. At VACT, we are lucky to have the best ring-a-lingle orchestra around. Many thanks to Tom Blankenheim our orchestra manager who recruited all our musicians, and especially to Patty Schlafer who waves the stick! Working many Saturday mornings with our set crew has been Dusty Smith who was able to transform my crude block diagrams into a wonderful, tingley set. Shining a bright light on all that razzles is lighting designer and tech wizard, Steve Nickels. It is a great privilege to work again with son, Steve, and daughter, Liz!

Thank you to everyone that helped with costumes, props, sets, backstage, ushering and everything else that makes this production possible!

Buddy the Elf says: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" Here's hoping this performance gets you in the Christmas spirit this year!

Dale Nickels, Director Sara Pfantz, Assistant Director



# the orchestra

Conductor: PATTY SCHLAFER Bass: JOHN DOWLING Cello: JAMES WESSON Drums: DAVE WHITFORD Keyboard 1: NICK NYDEREK Keyboard 2: SUE MIELKE Keyboard 3: JEFF INGEBRITSEN Percussion: KELLY FERGUSON Reed 1: TOM BLANKENHEIM Reed 1:SHERRI SWARTZ Reed 2: KATI SEITER Reed 3: JERRY HROVAT Trombone 1: KATIE KRETSCHMAN **Trombone 2: AARON MAES** Trumpet 1: ANDY SGRIGNOLI Trumpet 2: GREG GILLESPIE Violin 1: BRETT WAGNER Violin 2: JENNIFER MCFARLAND



# ANDERSON SHAPIRO

# the scenes and musical numbers

### ACT ONE

Happy All the Time
Norld's Greatest Dad
n the Way Greenway Employees
SparklejollytwinklejingleyBuddy, Jovie, Macy's Manager, Macy's Elves
'll Believe in You
n the Way (Reprise)
ust Like Him Greenway Employees
A Christmas Song
Norld's Greatest Dad (Reprise)

There will be one 15 minute intermission

### ACT TWO

Nobody Cares about Santa	Buddy, Fake Santa's, Waitress
Never Fall in Love (with an Elf)	
There is a Santa Claus	Emily, Michael
The Story of Buddy	Buddy, Walter, Michael, Emily,
	Mr. Greenway, Greenway Employees
Nobody Cares (Santa Reprise)	
A Christmas Song (Reprise)	Buddy, Jovie, Emily,
	Michael, Walter, Company
Finale	



The Midwest's premier piano restoration workshop. Praise to Timothy Farley! It is simply amazing how he manages to restore old pianos and to bring them to new life again. -Paul Badura Skoda

I am profoundly grateful to Timothy Farley, piano rebuilder, scholar, technician and tuner par excellence, for demonstrating the precious benefits there are in applying older, traditional tunings to keyboard instruments.

-Peter Serkin

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Buddy the Elf
Jovie
Walter Hobbs
Michael Hobbs
Emily Hobbs
Santa / Understudy Walter
Understudy Buddy
Understudy Jovie
Understudy Michael
Understudy Santa
Understudy Emily
Understudy Mr. Greenway
Understudy Security / Police / Central Park ManShane Ceniza

### Macy's Store

### **Greenway Press**

Mr. Greenway	
Chadwick	
Matthews	
Deb	
Sam	
Sara	
Jim	
Security Guards	Paul Carlson, Brianna Johns-Hill
Employees	Codie Mahon, Julia Fure, Elizabeth McCartney,
	Quinn Singer, Kasara Sinkula, Ashley Vanderbush

### the cast

### North Pole

Mrs. Claus
Charlie
TiaraJenna Dholung
Elf #1
Elf #2 Kedzie Johnson
Elf #3 Addison Buchmann
Boy Elf Tristan Schmelzer
Elves Brooks Bartell, Norah Busse, Harper Bidlingmaier,
Owen Buchmann, Annabelle Charles, Maddie Dahlen, Emma Eckmayer,
Oliver Eckmayer, Kyrra Fury, Bradie Greiber, Charlotte Hoy,
Lanee Joe, Abigail Johns, Charlie Sayre, Carsten Tereba, Preston Van Eck

### New York City

Taxi Person
Souvlaki Vendor
Flier Guys
Jogger
Teenager
Businessman
Salvation Army Lady
Charlotte Dennon
Camera Person
Central Park Man Paul Carlson
Central Park Woman
Rockefeller Center Skaters
Emma Eckmayer, Oliver Eckmayer, Bradie Greiber, David Joe,
Brianna Johns-Hill, Mya Lebakken, Codie Mahon, Elizabeth McCartney,
Stefani Merucci, Alexa Schaefer, Quinn Singer, Ashley Vanderbush

#### **Chinese Restaurant**

### **Finale Tappers**

Alyssa Ayen, Emma Bartholomew, Jennifer Becker, Jessica Contreras, Natalie Coombs, Maddie Dahlen, Lauren Dunn, Nicole Gile, Gail Gomach, Maya Greengus, James House, Brianna Johns-Hill, Aria Johnson, Mya Lebakken, Callie Lederer, Kenzie Merucci, Stefani Merucci, Brian Mullen, Kent Mullen, Liz Nickels, Alexa Schaefer, Danielle Slusser, Hailey Van Eck, Sara Ward-Cassady, Sage Yort, Pamela Ziemlewicz

# the cast



ANDREW BACSIK



NATALIE COOMBS



HEIDI HALLBERG ZEIMENTZ



DAVID JOE



**KENZIE** MERUCCI



BROOKS BARTELL



KARL DAHLEN





KELLY **KENDRICKS** 



BRIAN MULLEN



PAUL CARLSON



KAI DERUBIS



CRAIG HEUER



ERIC LEDERER



CHASE **SCHUTTE** 



CALVIN СОМРЕ



JENNA DHOLUNG



JAMES HOUSE



CODIE MAHON



SARA WARD-CASSADY



OLIVIA HAVEN

**ANDREW BACSIK** (Charlie) is giddy with delight to have the opportunity to play Charlie, the task-driven, focused, warehouse elf-manager. This is his first, all-ages VACT production after having played Teeki, the cheeky seagull in *Pirates Past Noon* and other roles over the past 2 years in VACT Youth productions. Thank you to the VACT Family for all the hard work and to my family, who let me sing and dance my heart out, preparing for this delightfully festive show!

BROOKS BARTELL (Understudy Michael Hobbs) is thrilled to have the role of Michael's understudy. Brooks is in 6th grade at Badger Ridge Middle School and Elf is his first VACT all ages production. He was also a part of VACT's Seussical Jr., Pirates Past Noon and Rock of Ages in the last year. Prior to VACT, Brooks participated in First Act Children's Theatre. His favorite roles to date include Captain Bones (Pirates Past Noon) and Pinocchio (First Act.) Brooks loves sharing his enthusiasm for singing and performing and would like to thank his family and friends for supporting his passion for the arts. Enjoy the show!

PAUL CARLSON (Understudy Mr. Greenway, Security/Police, Fake Santa, Central Park Man) This marks Paul's7thshowwithVACT. ThemajorityofPaul'sacting experience has been with Community Players of Southwest Wisconsin and UW-Platteville Richland theater both in Richland Center WI. Some of Paul's favorite rolls are George Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and Fist in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. Paul is having a great time with this great Christmas classic! Paul would like to thank the directors, choreographers, cast and crew to help make this show come alive. Merry Christmas!

**CALVIN COMPE** (Buddy the Elf) is absoposalutely delighted to have the opportunity to join VACT and the wonderful cast of *Elf*! Cal first got a taste for musicals in high school, playing in the DeForest Area High School's production of *The Little Shop of Horrors* as Orin the Dentist. Now, he is incredibly excited to return to the stage after a seven year hiatus and put on a show! Cal would like to thank his music teacher, Dr. J. Adam Shelton, for convincing him to audition at the last minute, and wish his dad (who Cal will attest is the World's Greatest Dad) a happy birthday!

**NATALIE COOMBS** (Deb) is tickled pink to be performing in her 10th show at VACT. Previous favorite roles at VACT include Fiona in *Shrek* and Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other roles locally include Connie in *A Chorus Line* and The Mayor's Wife in *Seussical* at Middleton Players Theatre. Thanks to Garrett and Penelope for their support and getting through bedtime without me!

**KARL DAHLEN** (Walter Hobbs) returns for his third VACT show, after a several decade hiatus from theater. Karl couldn't be more excited to play the role of Walter Hobbes. His prior VACT productions include *It's a Wonderful Life The Musical* (Clarence) and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He thanks all of his fellow cast members; his three theatrical daughters, Maddie (with whom he shares this stage), Caroline and Grace for encouraging him to get back on the stage; and his wife Sue, who manages the chaos and makes it possible for him to indulge in such pursuits.

**KAI DERUBIS** (Understudy Buddy The Elf, Store Elf) is excited to be in his second VACT show and to experience what it's like to be an understudy! This year you may have seen him as Shakespeare in *Something Rotten* at VACT, Race in *Newsies* at Middleton High Sschool, or in many other roles. Kai would like to thank Dr. J. Adam Shelton for teaching him to harness his voice, and his family for always being supportive!

**JENNA DHOLUNG** (Tiara) is very grateful and happy to be able to have this opportunity in playing a named character in this show! Though she has acted in other musicals such as *The Rockin Tale Of Snow White* (Middle school musical) and elementary school musicals. Jenna is overjoyed this is her 1st ever VACT show and hopes to do many more VACT shows in the future.

**HEIDI HALLBERG ZEIMENTZ** (Understudy Emily Hobbs, Customer) is thrilled to return to the stage after more than 30 years, and couldn't be more delighted to be here with VACT! Some of her "younger self "credits include *Grease* (Rizzo), *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), and *Peter Pan* (Grown Up Wendy). Heidi thanks the production staff, crew and fellow castmates of *Elf* for so generously welcoming her back to musical theater, and is truly grateful for the love, support and encouragement of her family and friends. She will be listening backstage for your hearty laughter. **OLIVIA HAVEN** (Charlotte Dennon, Store Elf) is thrilled to be a part of her second VACT production! A few of Olivia's favorite past shows include *Beauty and the Beast* (Silly Girl), *Don Giovanni* (Opera Chorus), *The Heidi Chronicles* (Becky, Clara), and *The Addams Family Musical* (Morticia Addams). She would like to thank her friends, family, and students for supporting her throughout this process. "You mean more to me than you will ever know!"

**CRAIG HEUER** (Macy's Santa, Understudy Santa) is thrilled to be part of his 36th production with VACT! Past favorite shows include *Camelot* (Pellinore), *The Wizard of Oz* (Title role), and *The Curious Savage* (Jeffery). When not performing you may see Craig at the Hy-Vee in Fitchburg where he is the Wine and Spirits manager or spending time with his incredible wife Marsha, their amazing son Theo or their 4 cats. "Thank you, Come again."

JAMES HOUSE (Chadwick, Fake Santa) is feeling extra festive to be a part of his 2nd VACT production! You may have caught him in the past production of *Beauty and the Beast* as The Baker and Monsieur D'Arque or as Donkey in *Shrek the Musical* with Sun Prairie Civic Theatre. It has been a thrill to continue the connection with all these wonderful people in VACT and he wishes you leave the show feeling all warm and snuggly!!

**DAVID JOE** (Santa) is excited to be cast in *Elf the Musical* with his daughter, Lanee and feels blessed to be a part of the VACT community. This show has a special place in his heart as Christmas is his favorite time of year and *Elf* is one of his favorite Christmas movies. The Christmas fanatic he is, Santa is really the role of a lifetime! He was previously in the VACT productions of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, The Little Mermaid, Willy Wonka* and *The Christmas Story*, all making memories with Lanee. "I would like to thank VACT for trusting me with this role. Ho, ho, ho, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." **KELLY KENDRICKS** (Manager) is incredibly excited to join the cast of Elf for his 9th VACT show! Some of Kelly's previous VACT roles include Curtis in *Sister Act*, Higsbee's Santa in *A Christmas Story*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest During a Pandemic*, Otis in *Radio Play Disaster*, Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast* and most recently, Harold Hill in VACT's *Encore*. After many years of working behind the curtain directing shows, it's been an incredible joy to be on stage over the past five years with VACT and he hopes for many more opportunities whether in front, behind or even on the side of the curtain!

**ERIC LEDERER** (Matthews, Fake Santa) is having a blast in his first show with VACT/foray into community theater. He credits choreographer Liz Nickels with convincing him to audition after she recognized his singing and dancing talents in a mid-sized karaoke bar in Manchester, England. When not lighting up the stage, he works as a software developer at Epic in Verona and is the proud father to two guinea pigs, Peppa-Pig and Jigglypuff. Thanks to Mom, Dad, co-workers, friends and the team at VACT for your support!

**CODIE MAHON** (Understudy Jovie, Employee) is overjoyed to be in her first VACT show and is beyond thankful for the opportunity to not only be in the show, but also to experience being an understudy! She wants to thank her boyfriend and her dog for being understanding of the late nights and missed walks; her coworkers and manager for allowing her to leave right on time; and finally Dr. J. Adam Shelton for convincing her to audition in the first place.

**KENZIE MERUCCI** (Jovie) is excited to be on stage, once again, with VACT! Previous roles at VACT include; *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette), *Mamma Mia!* (Ali), and *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel). Kenzie has also choreographed previous VACT productions including: *Rock of Ages MSE, Encore, Something Rotten, Singin' in the Rain Jr.* and *Matilda* (which she also Co-Directed). You may also know Kenzie from productions with Edgewood College Theater (*SHOUT: A Mod Musical, Calamity Jane, Clue: The Musical*). Kenzie would like to thank her mother (Stefanie), fiancé (BJ), and friends (some of which are also involved in the production) for always supporting her throughout her theatrical journey.

# who's who in the cast

**BRIAN MULLEN** (Greenway) is excited to be in his first role with VACT. Favorite roles from past shows with other companies include Bert (*Mary Poppins*), Etches (*Titanic*), The Bishop and Papa Ogre (*Shrek*) and Captain Scott (*Peter and the Starcatcher*). Thanks to my family for indulging me and to you for supporting the arts. Let's all be SparkleJollyTwinkleJingley!

**CHASE SCHUTTE** (Michael Hobbs) is thrilled to be in his 5th VACT production. In the past year he has been Judge Yertle in Seussical the Musical Kids, Jack in Pirates Past Noon Kids, Children's Ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast*, and most recently he was Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka Kids*. He also played Bruce in *Matilda* with Children's Theater Madison this past summer. Chase would like to thank everyone at VACT, the audience, friends, and family for all of their support. He looks forward to many more productions and hopes to someday make it to Broadway. **SARA WARD-CASSADY** (Emily Hobbs) is thrilled to be performing the role of Emily in this SparkleJollyTwinkleJingly production! Sara enjoys working both onstage and offstage, with favorite onstage roles at VACT including Sandy, in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Mother, in *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, and Kate, in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and favorite offstage roles including directing VACT's *Matilda the Musical*, *The Radio Play Disaster*, and *High School Musical 2 Jr*. and producing and stage managing many other VACT productions. Many thanks to the amazing cast and staff of this joyful production and to Colin and Erin for their never ending humor, patience, love, and support.



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# who's who in the crew

DALE NICKELS (Director, Sound Design) This is Dale's fourth musical as director, having previously directed *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, Singin' in the Rain* and *South Pacific.* He has directed non-musicals: *Four Weddings and an Elvis, Bus Stop, Barefoot in the Park and Rehearsal for Murder*, and produced many VACT shows. From time to time he shows up on stage. Most of the time he lives behind the soundboard, dealing with an increasing number of wireless microphones. He has been blessed with a fantastic cast and crew and wonderful support staff at home. "Thanks to my lovely wife, Deb, for letting me play."

**SARA PFANTZ** (Assistant Director) You may have seen Sara on the VACT stage as Vanessa Wells in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple*, or Lina Lamont in *Singin' In The Rain*. Sara has also used her talents to costume shows such as *Encore 2022*. For Sara, working on VACT shows is an amazing, challenging adventure and Assistant Directing is the latest challenge she has taken on. Sara is in awe of these actors and crew, inspired by their talent, and thankful for their help in bringing *Elf The Musical* to the VACT stage. "Dale, thank you so much for showing me the ropes and to my family and friends, thank you and I love you."

KIM ECKMAYER (Producer) is nervous and excited to be acting as a Producer for the first time with VACT. As a board member, costume volunteer and parent of two kids active in VACT shows she knows a bit about this amazing organization but is learning so much more and has a greater respect for the entire production team. Kim has never been on stage before but her favorite shows have been *Annie Kids* that included both her kids and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Kim would also like to thank all the people showing her the way as a producer, she would also like to thank her husband who supports her even when he thinks she should say "no" and her kids who are taking this magical Christmas journey with her. **DR. J. ADAM SHELTON** (Music Director) An opera singer by trade and a country singer by heart, Dr. J. Adam Shelton is at home in multiple genres with career highlights that include operatic roles in English, Italian, French, musicals, drag, tuxedos, and cowboy boots. A graduate from UW- Madison, this DMA in vocal performance has a killer sweet tea recipe and voice. Reviewers and fans alike note his "fine tenor flamboyance" and how he is "effortlessly hilarious... like Harvey Feirstein with pitch."

As a pedagogue, Dr. Shelton teaches at the collegiate level (Edgewood College) and maintains the Shelton Private Voice Studio. He has trained at the CCM Vocal Pedagogy Institute at Shenandoah Conservatory in jazz, pop/rock, country, and gospel and recently dropped *Own The Stage* with Spectre Digital Academy. His students have gone on to national competitions and awards programs while recording their own albums, podcasts, and gigging.FB: @SPVSLLC IG: sheltonprivatevoice

LIZ NICKELS (Choreographer) is delighted to be co-choreographing such a fun production this fall which has given her an excuse to start playing Christmas music in September. Previous choreography credits include VACT's *Willy Wonka* and *South Pacific*. When not singing and dancing onstage with her friends and 10 year old son, Liz works as a TS at Epic. "It's just nice to meet another human who shares my affinity for elf culture."



# who's who in the crew

JUSTIN MCDERMOTT (Choreographer) is a graduate from the University of Northern Iowa where he received his degree in Theatre for Youth. After graduating from UNI, Justin has performed, worked, and choreographed for multiple different theatre companies. Most recently, he sailed the seas while performing onboard Disney Cruise Line. Justin is thrilled to be co-choreographing his second production with VACT. He wants to thank his friends and family for always supporting his theatre/dance endeavors. Justin wishes you a happy holiday and hopes you enjoy the show! :)

ALEXA SCHAEFER (Dance Captain) is beyond excited to be back on stage, performing with VACT. She is currently a freshman at UW Madison. Alexa has been performing in shows at VACT since she was five years old. Some of Alexa's favorite shows have been Billy Elliot (Tina Harmer), Newsies (Newsie), Matilda (Acrobat/ Big Kid), and Beauty and the Beast (Featured Dancer). Alexa has also enjoyed working off stage for many VACT productions (starting when she was nine years old!), most recently as Dance Captain for Matilda and Beauty and the Beast and Choreographer for High School Musical 2 Jr and Rock of Ages MSE. Special thanks to my Mom and Dad for always supporting me in everything I do! Hope you enjoy the show!

**AUSTIN BRUMMETT** (Costume Director) is excited to be a part of his 3rd production with VACT, this time behind the scenes. You may have seen him on the VACT stage in *Beauty and the Beast* and *Matilda*. Costuming a show is an entirely different experience than performing in one and Austin would like to thank all of the folks who helped him with this new role and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

**NOELLE HATLEBERG** (Stage Manager) is ecstatic to return for her second show with VACT. She previously stage managed *Don't Dress for Dinner* as well as numerous shows with UW Madison and Madison Theatre Guild. She would like to give a special thanks to her husband Dan, her parents, brother, family and friends for their support. Of course, she can't forget about Tom Arnol who after years of begging convinced her to get back into theater with *Don't Dress for Dinner*. She couldn't ask for a better group of people than the folks at VACT. **TOM ARNOL** (Assistant Stage Manager) is extremely pleased to be participating in his 17th VACT show. He has been on stage as well as behind the scenes as a producer, director, stage manager/crew, and in set design and construction. He also serves on the board of directors. Big thanks goes out to his wife Tammy for her never ending support in these ventures and his son Morty whose lifelong passion for theater is a true inspiration.

**STEVE NICKELS** (Lighting Design) has been designing lights for VACT shows for over 15 years, and can usually be found in the lighting booth. He has also worked backstage as a stage manager, ropes operator, spotlight operator, and producer, and occasionally can even be found on stage, but always manages to be involved with the lights. "May the Light shine on you!"

**PATTY SCHLAFER** (Conductor) has been conducting business in the pits of VACT since the 1995 production of *Fiddler on the Roof.* Some of her favorites include *White Christmas, Matilda, Mamma Mial* and *Music Man Sr.* She would like to thank all of the wonderful orchestra members who joined her in the pit for the VACT experience! The view is great from down here!

**DUSTY SMITH** (Set Design and Construction) has enjoyed the fast-paced build schedule and appreciated all the elves who made trips from the North Pole to help in the VACT workshop making our sets. A few of his favorite VACT highlights over the years include *Something Rotten* (Stage Manager), *Matilda* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Mama Mia!* (Stage Manager), and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Assistant Stage Manager), He has also directed Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein!* and *The Odd Couple* - Female Version. There are many more that shall be noted but not named! "A big thank you to my family and friends for their love and support!"

# recent VACT Productions

2012	Noises Off; Welcome to the Jungle; Seussical Jr.; Grease; Encore! 2012:
2012	Celebrating 20 Years; High Society; The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
2013	The Producers; Disney's Winnie The Pooh KIDS; Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.;
	Legally Blonde, The Musical; Peter Pan; Seven Brides for Seven Brothers; The Best
	Christmas Pageant Ever
2014	Heaven Can Wait; Disney's 101 Dalmatians, KIDS; Encore Jr.; Bye Bye Birdie;
	The Music Man; How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying;
	Getting to Know The Sound of Music; White Christmas
2015	Singin' In The Rain; Aladdin, KIDS; Hairspray Jr.; The Drowsy Chaperone;
	Shrek The Musical; Forever Plaid; Elf The Musical Jr.; A Very Merry Hometown
2016	Christmas Brichten Beech Mension Discourse Before Dark KIDC High School Menioel In
2016	Brighton Beach Memoirs; Dinosaurs Before Dark, KIDS; High School Musical Jr.;
	Bring It On the Musical; Mary Poppins; Billy Elliot the Musical; A Seussified
2017	Christmas Carol; It's A Wonderful Life the Musical
2017	South Pacific; The Lion King, KIDS; Guys and Dolls Jr.; West Side Story; The Little
	Mermaid; Sister Act the Musical; Stone Soup; Godspell Jr.
2018	The Hunchback of Notre Dame; Bus Stop; A Race To The Finish; The Jungle Book
	KIDS; Bye Bye Birdie YPE; Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka; Little Shop of Horrors; Annie
	KIDS; Legally Blonde Jr.; A Christmas Story
2019	The Odd Couple; Three Nanny Goats Gruff; The Aristocats KIDS; 42nd Street YPE;
	Disney's Newsies; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; Young Frankenstein; We Are Monsters;
	Disney's Frozen Jr.
2020	Mamma Mia!; 4 Weddings and An Elvis; Chicago High School Edition*;
	Getting To Know Footloose The Musical*; Seussical KIDS*; Pajama Party*;
	VACT Virtual Youth Theater Fall 2020; A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday
	(*cancelled due to COVID)
2021	The Importance of Being Earnest In a Pandemic; VACT Virtual Youth Theater Spring 2021;
	The Radio Play Disaster; Seussical KIDS; Singin' In The Rain Jr.; Matilda The Musical
2022	Dan't Drass for Dinner, Something Dettenly Diretes Dest Moon VIDS.

2022 Don't Dress for Dinner; Something Rotten!; Pirates Past Noon KIDS; High School Musical 2 Jr.; The Music Man Sr.; Disney Beauty and the Beast; Encore! 2022

For a complete list of VACT's past productions since 1992, please visit www.vact.org/page-pp

### Verona Area Community Theater, Inc

VACT, Inc. originated in the summer of 1992 and is now producing ten shows a year. From the beginning, our goal has been to offer the people in the Verona Area community opportunities to utilize their talents in all facets of the arts. Our primary goal is to have fun! If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact one of the board members listed below:

### VACT Inc., Board of Directors

<u>Officers</u> President: Dale Nickels Vice President: Sara Ward-Cassady Secretary: Elizabeth Kraemer Treasurer: Brian Johnson

Additional Members Tom Arnol, Dee Baldock, Kim Eckmayer, K.B. Kendricks, Marie Kyle, Sarah Lederer, Alex Rosenbaum, Lynn Vilker



Thank you so much for attending *Elf The Musical*. Like many arts organizations, COVID-19 caused a great deal of change for VACT. We are so grateful for all of the support we received. Every kind message, donation, and show of support meant the world to us as we navigated time without live theater and figured out how to adapt. While there is a light at the end of the tunnel, your support will help us return to live theater and come back stronger than ever. If you're a theater lover who is in a position to help, please consider making a donation to VACT. Donations can be made through our website by going to www.vact.org and clicking on the "donate now" link at the top of the page.

Visit www.vact.org/donate-now to make your donation today!



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MARIE KYLE (Prop Master) has been the elementary music teacher at Sugar Creek Elementary School in Verona for over 25 years. She has worked as the music director, and appeared on stage for many VACT shows, as well as directing the teen productions of *Grease, Legally Blonde, Bye, Bye Birdie* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Favorite roles include Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*, Betty Haynes in *White Christmas* and Mother Superior in *Sister Act*. Marie loves being in shows with her husband Jim and playing the role of mom to sons Joe and Tom.

**TOM BLANKENHEIM** (Orchestra Manager) If VACT is producing a musical, you can usually find Tom in the pit with an assortment of clarinets and/or saxophones. Tom's first VACT pit appearance was for (2007). This is Tom's 35th appearance in a VACT orchestra pit. Not satisfied with simply 'playing' the pit, Tom has taken on the responsibilities of recruiting orchestra musicians and working with Patty, Dale, and Kim to make sure that everything goes as planned down below. Tom has also been assisting Dale with sound when not wielding a clarinet or sax. It has been a pleasure to work with Patty, Dale, Kim, and all of the talented musicians to bring this holiday musical to the Verona Community.

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 nearlegendary children's store Peanut Butter & Jane.

BOB MARTIN (Book) has been working as an actor and writer in Canadian theatre, film and television for over 3 decades. He has had a long association with the Toronto Second City, where he co-wrote and performed in four Second City revues, directed three, and had a stint as Artistic Director. He is a co-creator of The Drowsy Chaperone, and has performed in many of its incarnations including Ahmanson Theatre (Los Angeles), Marquis Theatre (Broadway), Novello (London). Bob has won a number of awards for his work including an LA Drama Critics Circle Award, an L.A. Stage Alliance Ovation Award, a Drama Desk Award, a Theatre World Award, and a Tony Award. He is also co-creator of the critically acclaimed dramatic series Slings & Arrows. Recent TV projects include Michael: Tuesdays and Thursdays I & II (CBC), Sensitive Skin I & II (HBO), and Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas (NBC). Recent theatre projects include Elf (Broadway), Minsky's (Ahmanson LA), and in dev., Gotta Dance, The Sting, and Millions. Bob reunited with Elf collaborators Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin to create the new musical The Prom, which ran on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre and was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

MATTHEW SKLAR (Music) is a Tony<sup>\*</sup>, Emmy<sup>\*</sup>, and Drama Desk Award-nominated composer. His works include the Broadway musicals *Elf* and *The Wedding Singer*. He also wrote the music for *The Rhythm Club, Judas & Me*, and *Wicked City*. Matthew reunited with *Elf* collaborators Chad Beguelin and Bob Martin to create the new musical *The Prom*, which ran on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre and was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Matthew received a 2015 Primetime Emmy<sup>\*</sup> Award Nomination for Outstanding Music Direction for the critically-acclaimed NBC stopmotion animated TV special *Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas*, starring Jim Parsons. He adapted and arranged the music of Marvin Hamlisch for the Emmy Award-winning documentary film *Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did For Love*, seen on PBS/American Masters. Matthew has contributed original songs/music to *Sesame Street*, *Wonder Pets!*, and the NBC Broadcast of *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade*.

# who's who in the crew

CHAD BEGUELIN (Lyrics) is a four-time Tony Nominee whose works include Disney's Aladdin and The Wedding Singer. He also wrote the lyrics for the Broadway musical Elf, which broke several box office records at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. His play HARBOR premiered off-Broadway at Primary Stages. Chad also wrote the book and lyrics for Judas & Me, The Rhythm Club and Wicked City. Chad reunited with Elf collaborators Matthew Sklar and Bob Martin to create the new musical The Prom, which ran on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre and was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. He is the recipient of the Edward Kleban Award for Outstanding Lyric Writing, the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award, the Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Musical Theater Award and the ASCAP Foundation Richard Rodgers New Horizons Award. Chad is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Dramatic Writing Program.

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MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide.

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