

# VACT

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COMMUNITY THEATER  
presents



# the wedding singer

*The Musical Comedy*

January 18, 19, 20, 2024 - 7:30 pm

January 20, 21, 2024 - 2:00 pm

Verona Area High School Fine Arts Center  
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33rd Season, 177th Show



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The Verona Area Community Theater  
Production of



Book by  
**CHAD BEGUELIN**  
and **TIM HERLIHY**

Music by  
**MATTHEW SKLAR**

Lyrics by  
**CHAD BEGUELIN**

Based upon the New Line Cinema film  
Written by **TIM HERLIHY**

Originally produced by  
Margo Lion New Line Cinema The Araca Group  
Roy Furman Douglas L. Meyer / James D. Stern  
Rick Steiner / The Staton Bell Osher Mayerson Group JAM Theatricals  
Original Broadway production directed by John Rando  
Orchestrations by Irwin Fisch

*The Wedding Singer*

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
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Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

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# Acknowledgements

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Tanya Bjork

Sharon Blattner Held

Kari Borgmeyer

Rachel Bradley

Mallory Brey

Geraldine Brown

June Brown

Jeanne Burt

John Calderone

Jensena Carlson

Stephen Carlton

Shane Spencer Ceniza

Kendra Cerniglia

Brian Clark

Eileen Collins

Juliana Cox

Randall Cullen

Angie Cyr

Hillary Davis

Theresa Dickson

Kelley Engle

Kate Ewings

Shelby Frazier

Margaret Fuguitt

Nate Gagnon

Margaret Gailey

Ryan Gailey

Katina Gehn

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# friends of VACT

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Marchelle Mertens  
Iris Mickey  
Susan Mielke  
Sara Milhans  
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Sydney Miller  
Karen Mitten  
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Ryan Small  
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Ashley Wu  
Haixin Xu  
Elisabeth Zraggen  
Daniel Ziegler  
Pamela Ziemlewicz  
Holly Zimmer

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# the production staff

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|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Director . . . . .                              | Jay Gile                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Producer . . . . .                              | Dale Nickels                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Producer . . . . .                              | Sarah Lederer                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Music Director . . . . .                        | Dr. J. Adam Shelton                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Assistant Music Director . . . . .              | Shawn D. Padley                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Choreographer . . . . .                         | Lyn Pilch                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Assistant Choreographer . . . . .               | Caroyln Stoughton                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Costume Design . . . . .                        | Craig Schlagel                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Assistant Costume Design . . . . .              | Austin Brummett                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Hair and Makeup Design . . . . .                | Issaka Aguirre                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Stage Manager . . . . .                         | Chris Diorio                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Assistant Stage Managers . . . . .              | Liz McCartney, Bill Owens                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Lighting Design . . . . .                       | Zak Stowe                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Sound Design . . . . .                          | Dale Nickels                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Assistant Sound Design . . . . .                | Tom Blankenheim                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Set Design / Set Construction Manager . . . . . | Rachel Erickson                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Props Manager . . . . .                         | Marie Kyle                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Dance Captain . . . . .                         | Cassie Derfus                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Dance Captain / Swing . . . . .                 | Alexa Schaefer                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Ropes . . . . .                                 | Kinjal Vyas                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Spotlights . . . . .                            | Cera Malueg, Nick Moser                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Orchestra Manager . . . . .                     | Tom Blankenheim                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Orchestra Conductor . . . . .                   | Anne Vanderbloemen                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Accompanist . . . . .                           | Chris Barry                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Programs . . . . .                              | Sara Pfantz                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Tickets . . . . .                               | Lynn Vilker                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Website/ Publicity . . . . .                    | Sara Ward-Cassady                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Set Building . . . . .                          | Emma Bartholomew, Jonathan Chen, Cassie Derfus,<br>Aiya Islam, Mya Lebakken, Loren Lindgren, Nick Moser,<br>Omeed Soltaninassab, Corbin Schroeder, Dusty Smith,<br>Chris Telfer, John Unertl IV, Susan Wernsing, Sage Yort |

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

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# notes from the director

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As humans one of the biggest things we strive for is connection. This search for connection can come in many forms: community, friendship, rivalry, or -biggest of all - love. For me, love has been a motivating factor in how I live my life and the community that I try to foster. When I first read *The Wedding Singer*, what drew me to this show was how it's ultimately about the idea that love can come in so many forms. At the start of the show we see Robbie having devoted himself to the idea that his love of love was all encompassing and would be able to move him through anything that came his way. Julia, however, has been constantly told HOW she should love and who is the right person to love. Throughout the show both of these people go on journeys of self-discovery and realize that there is more to the idea of love and life than what they've led themselves to believe.

My biggest hope for audiences is that you also go on a journey of love while you watch our show. *The Wedding Singer* is such a fantastic show for audiences to fall into the joy of remembering your first dates, your weddings, those awkward first moments of a crush. It even allows you to contemplate on relationships that didn't go the way you had wanted. I know it's done all that for me and I hope it will do that for you.

To my cast: Watching all of you bring this show to life has been such an honor. You all are incredible performers and brought such dedication, courage and playfulness to this process that I'm overwhelmed with joy. You've made this show your own and I am so proud of you all! Now, go have fun!

To my creative team: Thank you all for keeping me level and being my sounding board during this process. It is always so amazing watching you all do what you're good at. Thank you for taking my weird ideas and making them into something cohesive and manageable. Let's do it again sometime!

Finally, thank you to the audiences who have come out to show your support for not only *The Wedding Singer*, but also for VACT. The Arts are such a vital part of the world and for any community, I thank you for helping to keep them alive. I hope you enjoy the show and remember; love is what we do.

Jay Gile

*Enjoy the show!*



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# the orchestra

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Conductor: ANNE VANDERBLOEMEN

Keyboard: NICK NYDEREK, CAROLINE MOORE, MICHAEL BUTKUS-BOMIER

Guitar: JOE HARRIS, JEFF WILLIAMS

Reeds: JERRY HROVAT, TOM BLANKENHEIM

Trumpet: MARK SALTZMAN

Bass: JOHN DOWLING

Drums: LAURA SCHRAM

Percussion: COLIN MORTIMORE

## the musical numbers

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It's Your Wedding Day  
Someday  
Awesome  
Someday (Robbie's Reprise)  
A Note From Linda  
Pop!  
Somebody Kill Me  
A Note From Grandma  
Casualty of Love  
Come Out of the Dumpster  
Today You Are a Man  
George's Prayer  
Not That Kind of Thing  
Saturday Night in the City

*There will be one 15 minute intermission*

Entr'acte  
All About the Green  
Someday (Julia's Reprise)  
Right in Front of Your Eyes  
All About the Green (Reprise)  
Single  
If I Told You  
Let Me Come Home  
Not That Kind/If I Told You (Reprise)  
Move That Thang  
Grow Old With You  
It's Your Wedding Day (Finale)  
Bows

# the cast

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|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Robbie Hart    | Joe BonDurant    |
| Julia Sullivan | Aly Bitter       |
| Sammy          | Corbin Schroeder |
| George         | James House      |
| Holly          | Katie Norton     |
| Glen Guglia    | Loren Lindgren   |
| Rosie          | Lisa Gingles     |
| Linda          | Emma Bartholomew |
| Angie Sullivan | Gail Gomach      |

## Understudies

Shane Ceniza (Robbie), Austin Brummett (Sammy), Patrick Christ (George),  
Erica De Lacerda (Julia), Kenzie Ford-Merucci (Holly), Marcus Wisniewski (Glen),  
Susan Wernsing (Rosie), Julia Fure (Linda), Stefanie Merucci (Angie)

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| David Fonda                | Tim Fehling                   |
| Harold Fonda               | BJ Ford-Merucci               |
| Debbie Fonda               | Mya Lebakken                  |
| Waitresses                 | Victoria West, Peyton Morgan  |
| Priest                     | Craig Heuer                   |
| Mookie                     | John Unertl IV                |
| Crystal                    | Olivia Rose                   |
| Donny                      | Ethan Zimmermann              |
| Tiffany                    | Lauren Rowe                   |
| Waiters                    | Paul Oshefsky, Patrick Christ |
| Shane                      | BJ Ford-Merucci               |
| Donatella                  | Julia Fure                    |
| Father of the Bride        | Adam Bradshaw                 |
| Mother of the Bride        | Ann Heaslett                  |
| Bad Haircut Guy            | Cal Compe                     |
| Sideburns Lady             | Alli Buckets                  |
| Trekkie Guy                | Riley Custer                  |
| Twinkie Lady               | Cassie Derfus                 |
| Jared Shapiro              | BJ Ford-Merucci               |
| Grandpa Moishe             | Christopher Telfer            |
| Clerk                      | Lauren Rowe                   |
| Glen's Secretary           | Stefanie Merucci              |
| Junior Secretary           | Rose Lindgren                 |
| Ricky The Bartender        | Omeed Soltaninassab           |
| Bum                        | Aiya Islam                    |
| Airline Agent              | Anna Plaunt                   |
| Billy Idol Impersonator    | Cal Compe                     |
| Mr. T Impersonator         | Olivia Rose                   |
| Ronald Reagan Impersonator | Tim Yanacheck                 |
| Nancy Reagan Impersonator  | Ann Heaslett                  |
| Tina Turner Impersonator   | Alexia Keating                |
| Cyndi Lauper Impersonator  | Sage Yort                     |
| Imelda Marcos Impersonator | Shane Ceniza                  |

# the cast

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## Bridesmaids

Erica De Lacerda, Cassie Derfus, Kenzie Ford-Merucci,  
Julia Fure, Elyse Mancilla, Peyton Morgan

## Strippers

Austin Brummett, Cassie Derfus, Jamie Hoverson, Elyse Mancilla

## Glen's Pals

Lindsey Buehler, Jessica Contreras, BJ Ford-Merucci, Aiya Islam,

## Suits

Marcus Wisniewski, H Rose, Kyla Pilliod, Tim Fehling, Stefanie Merucci,  
Adam Bradshaw, Patrick Christ, Kenzie Ford-Merucci, Craig Heuer, Sage Yort

## Wedding Guests

AJ Boissonass, Austin Brummett, Shane Ceniza, Cal Compe, Erica De Lacerda,  
Cassie Derfus, Kenzie Ford-Merucci, Craig Heuer, Jamie Hoverson, Kyla Pilliod,  
Olivia Rose, Omeed Soltaninassab, Christopher Telfer, Susan Wernsing,  
Victoria West, Marcus Wisniewski, Sage Yort, Ethan Zimmermann

## New Yorkers

AJ Boissonass, Austin Brummett, Shane Ceniza, Cal Compe,  
Erica De Lacerda, Cassie Derfus, Kenzie Ford-Merucci, Jamie Hoverson,  
Kyla Pilliod, Olivia Rose, Omeed Soltaninassab, Victoria West, Marcus Wisniewski,  
Sage Yort, Ethan Zimmermann

## Wedding Dress Mannequins

Alli Buckets, Rose Lindgren, Anna Plaunt

## Delivery Men

Alli Buckets, Riley Custer, Christopher Telfer

## Happy Couples

Jessica Contreras & Riley Custer, Patrick Christ & Paul Oshefsky,  
Olivia Rose & John Unertl IV, Alexia Keating & H Rose, Lindsey Buehler & Mya Lebakken



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# the cast

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EMMA  
BARTHOLOMEW



ALY  
BITTER



JOE  
BONDURANT



LISA  
GINGLES



GAIL  
GOMACH



JAMES  
HOUSE



LOREN  
LINDGREN



KATIE  
NORTON



CORBIN  
SCHROEDER

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# who's who in the cast

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**EMMA BARTHOLOMEW** (Linda) is thrilled to be back for her fourth show at VACT. With almost ten years of experience in community theater, some of her favorite past shows and roles include Badass Betty in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*, and Francisca in *West Side Story*. Emma wants to give a huge shout out to the cast and production team of *The Wedding Singer*; she's so proud of the show and grateful for all the amazing friends and collaborators who have worked so hard to make it something truly special. "Break legs, everyone!"

**ALY BITTER** (Julia Sullivan) is thrilled to be in her very first VACT show playing Julia, a dream role. Some of her favorite roles include Eliza (*My Fair Lady*), Squeaky (*Assassins*), Little Sally (*Urinetown*), and Gertrude McFuzz (*Seussical the Musical*). Aly is thankful to her loved ones for their unwavering support. She hopes you enjoy this love letter to the '80's!

**JOE BONDURANT** (Robbie Hart) is overjoyed to be in his first ever VACT show! He is a recent graduate from Edgewood College with a BA in General Theatre and a minor in Music. You may have seen him in Edgewood's *Sister Act: The Musical* (Eddie), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Barfée), as well as in Madison Savoyard's *The Pirates of Penzance* (Ensemble/Frederic u/s). He would like to thank everyone at VACT for their warm welcome, and all his family and friends who have supported him all these years!

**LISA GINGLES** (Rosie) is experiencing pure joy to be in her second VACT show, playing Rosie (Grandma). She is so honored to be included, and learning from this talented group. Lisa thanks the following for fueling her musical theater passions over the years and helping her prepare: Maven Vocal (Lauren Rowe), Ignacio Meneses, Heidi Hakseth, and Broadway Week-ends. "Love to my family for their support, especially to Santi who is allowing me to be an Abuela in real-life. Thanks to the audience for supporting community theater."

**GAIL GOMACH** (Angie Sullivan) is thrilled to be involved in her 20th VACT show. Favorite past roles include: Mama Ogre (*Shrek*) VACT - 2015, Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours (*Sister Act*) VACT 2017, and Mrs Gloop (*Willy Wonka*) VACT 2018. When she's not onstage, Gail enjoys being crafty and spoiling her doggos.

**JAMES HOUSE** (George) thinks it's radical to be a part of another wonderful show and cast/crew with VACT! The chance to relive this musical again over a decade later has been a dream come true and he is thankful for the experience he's been able to have in collaboration with Jay, Dr. Adam Shelton, Lyn, Joe, Corbin and many other old/new friends. You may have seen James in past productions of *Elf the Musical* or *Beauty and the Beast* with VACT, *Shrek the Musical* or *I Hate Hamlet* with SPCT or perhaps most recently in *It's a Wonderful Life- A New Musical* with Capital City Theatre. Nevertheless, please sit back and enjoy as James thinks you guys are ready for this; you and your kids are gonna love it!

**LOREN LINDGREN** (Glen Guglia) is psyched to be in his third VACT production and his first role as the bad guy! Previous roles include Beast and Uncle Henry. He can't wait for his three kids to be old enough to come see him in shows with this much cursing.

**KATIE NORTON** (Holly) is grateful for the privilege to be performing with so many talented people! This is her second show with VACT, the first being her performance as Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. She's a Madison native with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from UW Stevens Point. A few of her favorite past roles include: Natalie in *All Shook Up*, Olive in *Spelling Bee*, Janet in *Rocky Horror*, Jeannie in *Hair*, Polly in *Crazy For You*, Marta in *Company* and dancing as a Goth Cheerleader for Weird Al Yankovic's world tour.

**CORBIN SCHROEDER** (Sammy) is thrilled to be in his fourth VACT show! Some of his favorite roles with VACT have been the tin man understudy (*The Wizard of Oz*) and Sam/first Santa (*Elf the Musical*). Corbin would like to thank his family, friends, and girlfriend for all of their support! "Enjoy!"

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# who's who in the crew

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**JAY GILE** (Director) This is Jay's first time directing with VACT and is thrilled to be a part of this show. They would like to thank everyone that has attended and hopes you have fun! Past favorite directing credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Stage Q), *Dog Sees God* (Stage Q), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (MTG), *Southern Baptist Sissies* (Stage Q). They would like to thank VACT for trusting them to helm this wonderful show. Thank you to the entire *The Wedding Singer* crew, none of this could've happened without you! Special thanks to Abi and J Fish for dealing with/listening to the crazy that happens when Jay directs a show.

**SARAH LEDERER** (Producer) is excited to be co-producing *The Wedding Singer*! Sarah has been producing shows at VACT since 2019 and spends most of her time working with our youth productions. Some of the shows she has recently produced are *Lion King KIDS*, *Singin' in the Rain Sr.* and *Frozen KIDS*. Thanks to the fantastic production team and a special thanks to her family for their love and support! "Enjoy the show!"

**DALE NICKELS** (Producer/Sound Design) Dale has produced or directed many VACT shows and designed the sound for nearly every show since *The Wizard of Oz* in 1996. 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. His most recent directorial outing was *Elf the Musical*. "Thanks to my lovely wife, Deb, for letting me play."

**DR. J. ADAM SHELTON** (Music Director) is an opera singer by trade and a country singer by heart. At home in multiple genres, his career highlights include operatic roles in English, Italian, French, musical theater, drag, tuxedos, and cowboy boots. A graduate of UW-Madison, Adam has a killer sweet tea recipe that he blends with his unique perspective on elevating queer voices in country music. Reviewers and fans alike note his "fine tenor flamboyance" and how he is "Effortlessly hilarious... like Harvey Feirstein with pitch." As a pedagogue, he teaches at the collegiate level at Edgewood College in Madison, WI and maintains the Shelton Private Voice Studio. He trains singers from bel canto to Broadway, Mozart to metal with students cut-

ting albums, touring internationally, and even singing in the church choir. In 2022 he launched a singing course with Spectre Digital Academy in collaboration with Ty Christian of Lords of the Trident and is launching another course in 2024 focused on distortion techniques. Future projects include: balancing the finances for WI Chapter NATS, an EP of original songs misrepresenting his family, a summer of conferences, and a deserved trip to Aruba. FB: @SPVSLLC/ IG: @SheltonPrivateVoice.

**SHAWN D. PADLEY** (Assistant Music Director) is a Madison-based actor, director, and musician. Previous directing credits include: *Transcodicil*, *The Agency*, *Molinda Falls*, *Kindred Spirits*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (StageQ, Inc); *The Universal Language* (Edgewood College Theatre); *Matilda Jr.* (Asst. Music Director, Children's Theater of Madison Summer Stage).

**LYN PILCH** (Choreographer) is excited to make her VACT debut! This year, Lyn's choreography was featured in Stoughton Village Players Theatre's *Twelfth Night*, Sun Prairie Civic Theatre's *Cinderella*, TNW's *A Woman Is--* a Toronto Fringe Festival selection--and she debuted her first original dance production, *When You're Falling* and first variety burlesque revue. She teaches weekly drop-in classes through Dance Fabulous. Lyn is grateful to the entire cast and crew for being so welcoming, with extra love to Dale, Jay and Carolyn! Thank you for supporting live performances!

**CAROLYN STOUGHTON** (Assistant Choreographer) is thrilled to be a part of her first VACT show as the assistant choreographer. This is the first musical she is helping choreograph, and she is so appreciative of this opportunity. It has been a blast! Carolyn has loved working with all of the fantastic dancers in the cast, and can't wait to see them rock it on stage.

# who's who in the crew

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**CRAIG SCHLAGEL** (Costume Design) is very excited for his first opportunity to costume a production with VACT and work with such a talented production team. Craig has a bachelor's degree in Theater Arts with an emphasis in costume design and construction from the UW-Platteville. Since 2010 he has worked on such productions as *Clue*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, *Into the Woods*, *The Music Man*, and many others! He would like to thank all of the cast volunteers that came together to make this production the highest caliber that we are able to give. This is his second time working on *The Wedding Singer* and he hopes that each of you enjoy your dive into this 1980s feast for the eyes, ears, and heart. "Enjoy!"

**AUSTIN BRUMMETT** (Assistant Costume Design/Ensemble/Sammy U/S) Austin is excited to be a part of yet another radical show with VACT. You may have seen him on the VACT stage in *Beauty and the Beast* and *Matilda*, or in SPCT's *Rent* as Benny. His previous costuming credits include VACT's *Disaster! the Musical* and *Elf the Musical*, as well as McFarland High School's *Cinderella* and *Legally Blonde*. He is delighted to once again work with Costume Designer Craig in a new capacity as well as to take on the role of understudy in addition to his ensemble role! He'd like to thank his friends and family for their never-ending support, especially NR, KFM, and his mom. "Enjoy the show!"

**CHRIS DIORIO** (Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of his first VACT show! You may have seen him around the Bartell Theater stage managing *Gruesome Playground Injuries* and *Fake Mom* or making directorial debut with *Laced* last year. He'd like to thank his friends and family for dealing with him during this time and to Jay for pulling him on for another show.

**BILL OWENS** (Assistant Stage Manager) Bill is excited to join the crew for *The Wedding Singer*! After making his stage debut with VACT in 2017's *The Little Mermaid*, Bill didn't take too long to find a true home for his acting talents in backstage work. Sharp-eyed patrons may previously have glimpsed Bill in the shadows of *Mamma Mia!* and *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, as well as numerous kids' shows from *Annie KIDS* through *Footloose: Youth Edition*. "Pay no attention to the man in the headset!"

**LIZ MCCARTNEY** (Assistant Stage Manager) Liz is so pleased to join this totally rad production of *The Wedding Singer*! Marking her 7th show and counting, she is always delighted to be a part of the VACT community, whether on or backstage. "Thanks to Sara WC for teaching me the ropes and to my family for their unwavering support."

**ZAK STOWE** (Lighting Design) is an award-winning designer, producer, director, and photographer. Zak currently serves as President of the Bartell Theatre Foundation and is Lighting Supervisor for the Overture Center for the Arts. He also tours the country as a pyrotechnician and photographer for Tora!Tora!Tora! Air Shows. Lighting credits include: *Hedwig & the Angry Inch*, *Cabaret*, *Falsettos*, *Laced* (StageQ); *The Wiz*, *The Mole Hill Stories* (Children's Theater of Madison); *La traviata*, *Così fan tutte* (UW Opera); *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Four Seasons); *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Edgewood College); *Born Yesterday*, *Working* (Madison Theatre Guild); *CLUE: On Stage*, *Shrek the Musical* (Mercury Players); *And Then There Were None* (Strollers Theatre). "Love always to Josiah". [www.zakstowedesign.com](http://www.zakstowedesign.com)

**RACHEL ERICKSON** (Set Design / Set Construction Manager) is very appreciative to be allowed the opportunity to set design for the second time for VACT, the previous being *The Wizard of Oz* this summer. They are happy to be able to work with all the people who participate in VACT. They would like to thank their family for supporting and encouraging them.

**MARIE KYLE** (Props Manager) 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.

# who's who in the crew

**TOM BLANKENHEIM** (Orchestra Manager, Assistant Sound Design) 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 *Annie Get Your Gun* (2007). Tom coordinates musician recruitment, pit setup, and ensures the pit runs smoothly so that Anne may concentrate on the music. Tom also assists Dale with sound design and setup. It has been a pleasure working with Anne, Dale, Sarah, and all of the talented musicians, cast, and staff to bring this musical to the Verona Community.

**ANNE VANDERBLOEMEN** (Orchestra Conductor) Anne is, like, so psyched to be leading the orchestra for her second VACT production. It was super gnarly conducting *The Wizard of Oz*, so she signed on for another totally awesome show. She loves teaching band at Glacier Creek Middle School in Cross Plains and attending Broadway shows with her family. Anne was the proud owner of Trapper Keepers, jellies, Aqua Net, and scrunchies in the actual '80s, and they made her look totally rad.

**ALEXA SCHAEFER** (Swing/Dance Captain) is beyond excited to be back working with VACT. She is currently a student at UW Madison majoring in Dance. Alexa has performed in VACT shows since she was five years old. Some credits include; Newsie (*Disney's Newsies*), The Acrobat/Big Kid (*Matilda*), Featured Dancer/Dance Captain (*Beauty and the Beast*) with VACT, and Frenchie (*Cabaret*) with Rock River Repertory Theatre. Alexa has also enjoyed working off-stage for many VACT productions. Currently, she is directing and choreographing *Matilda JR* with VACT and choreographing *The Wizard Of Oz* at Monona Grove High School. She was also awarded Best Choreography for her recent work last year in Monona Grove High School's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Alexa would like to give a special thanks to her family and friends for always supporting her in everything she does! "Enjoy the Show!"

**CHAD BEGUELIN** (Book & Lyrics) is a four-time Tony Nominee whose works include *Disney's Aladdin* (Tony Award Nomination for Best Book and Best Original Score, Drama Desk Award Nomination for Outstanding Lyrics and Best

Book) and *The Wedding Singer* (Tony Award Nomination for Best Book and Best Original Score, Drama Desk Award Nomination for Outstanding Lyrics). 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* (NYMF Award for Excellence in Lyric Writing), *The Rhythm Club* (Signature Theater) and *Wicked City* (American Stage Company). 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.

**TIM HERLIHY** (Book) has written or co-written the films *Billy Madison*, *Happy Gilmore*, *The Wedding Singer*, *The Waterboy*, *Big Daddy*, *Little Nicky* and *Mr. Deeds* and was an executive producer of *Anger Management* and *The Longest Yard*. These nine films have grossed more than one billion dollars in worldwide box office revenue. From 1994 to 1999, he serves as writer, head writer and ultimately producer of the television series "*Saturday Night Live*," for which he received an Emmy nomination.



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# who's who in the crew

**MATTHEW SKLAR** (Music) is a Tony®, Emmy®, and Drama Desk Award-nominated composer. His works include the Broadway musicals *Elf* and *The Wedding Singer* (Tony Award Nomination for Best Original Score, Drama Desk Award Nomination for Outstanding Music). He also wrote the music for *The Rhythm Club* (Signature Theatre), *Judas & Me*, and *Wicked City* (American Stage Company). 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 is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild, ASCAP, and the American Federation of Musicians, Local 802. His music is published by Warner/Chappell Music. Matthew was educated at The Juilliard School of Music (Pre-College Division), the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and New York University.

**MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL** (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

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# recent VACT Productions

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- 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 Christmas
- 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 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; Hairspray; Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka; Little Shop of Horrors; Annie KIDS; Legally Blonde Jr.; A Christmas Story
- 2019 The Odd Couple; The Giver; 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 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; Willy Wonka KIDS; Rock of Ages MSE; Elf The Musical
- 2023 The Children's Hour; The Lion King KIDS; The Little Mermaid JR.; The SpongeBob Musical; The Singin' In The Rain SR.; The Wizard Of Oz Disaster! the Musical; Frozen KIDS; Footloose: Youth Edition
- 2024 The Wedding Singer: The Red Flags

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

#### Officers

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 *The Wedding Singer*. Like many arts organizations, the past several years caused many changes for VACT. Our regular operations were greatly disrupted and for the first time in VACT's almost 30 year history we were forced to cancel productions and stop operations. We are thrilled to again be bringing 10 live shows to the stage! We are so grateful for all of the support we received during the last several years. Every kind message, donation, and show of support has meant the world to us. VACT will always work to reach new theatrical heights alongside members of the greater Verona area and surrounding communities. We will also work to make our programs accessible to anyone with an interest in any of our programs or productions. Please consider making a donation to VACT and help us continue to bring theater and arts programming to the community.

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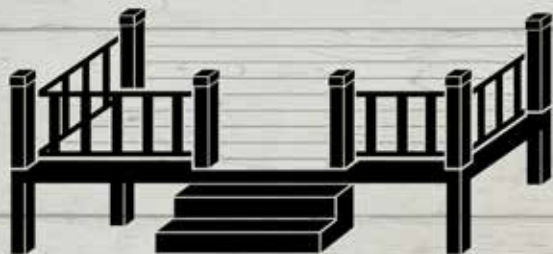


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