

# VACT

VERONA AREA  
COMMUNITY THEATER  
presents



Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**

---

**THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**

---


©Disney

June 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 2022 - 7:30 pm

June 19, 2022 - 2:00 pm

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

31st Season, 163rd Show



# PROUD TO SUPPORT THE VERONA AREA COMMUNITY THEATER!

**Brian Wagner, Agent**  
204 W Verona Ave  
Verona, WI 53593  
Bus: (608) 845-8304  
bwagne1@amfam.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies,  
American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 007250 – Rev. 1/17  
©2017 – 7205523

The Verona Area Community Theater

Production of

Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**

---

**THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**

---

© Disney

Music by  
**ALAN  
MENKEN**

Lyrics by  
**HOWARD ASHMAN  
& TIM RICE**

Book by  
**LINDA  
WOOLVERTON**

*Originally Directed by  
Robert Jess Roth*

*Originally Produced by  
Disney Theatrical Productions*

*Original Music Supervision and New Arrangements by Michael Kosarin  
Dance Music Arrangements by Glen Kelly  
Orchestrations by Danny Troob*

*Disney's Beauty and the Beast  
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)*

~~~

Please enjoy all refreshments in the lobby only and remember to turn off audible pagers  
and cell phones 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

---

---

AGRES - Alan Miller  
St. Bernard Players  
Families of Cast and Staff  
Surroundings Events and Floral  
**friends of VACT 2021**

---

---

**ANGEL**

**\$25,000 and Over**

**BENEFACTOR**

**\$10,000 - \$24,999**

**UNDERWRITER**

**\$5000 - \$9999**

Dale & Deb Nickels  
Jeff & Christine Molzahn

**PRODUCER**

**\$1000 - \$4999**

C. Joseph & Carole J. Anderson  
Terry & Julia Miller  
In Honor of Nadia Veit  
Robert Herbst  
Owens Family

**DIRECTOR**

**\$500 - \$999**

Tom & Paula Blankenheim  
Susan Dahlen  
Stephen Nickels  
Greg & Denise Quinn  
William Roman  
Nicole Smith  
Dee & Jon Baldock  
Anne Veit

**ACTOR**

**\$100 - \$499**

Mary Ellen Bakken  
Kathryn Berry  
Jennifer Bradley  
Amy Broadbridge  
Robert & Janelle Elmer  
Freiberg Family  
Daniel Yachcik & Noelle  
Hatleberg  
Richard & Ruth Jensen  
Kent & Sally Klagos  
Lytle Family  
Marilyn Lytle  
Keith Meyer  
Music by Mickey / Mickey Lytle

Krista Nelson

Joan Raffel

Angela Rohan

Dana Roffers

Chuck & Marilyn Roum

Rick Stach

Jessa Valentine

Allison & Nate Volkman

Pat & Steve Wehrley

Weiss Family

Timothy Yanacheck

Sage Yort

Timothy Ziemlewicz

JoAnn Zingg

**PATRON**

**Up to \$99**

Jodi Amble

Tonya Benz

Kelly Berceau

Mary Breiten

Adam Bergh

Shane Ceniza

Iris Chen

Kelly Christenson

Kim Cleveland

Vicki Cocalis

Lauren Cohen

Pat Collins

Breanna Collins

John Dahlen

Michelle Dahlie

Tom Day

Scott Diegel

Paige Diertl

Emerald Doll

Stephanie DuVarney

Kim Eckmayer

Florence Edwards-Miller

Kelley Engle

Thomas Engle

Hollie Faulkner

Ann Feiler

Barbara Foley

Thomas Gomach

Shannon Hanson

Nicole Haworth

Ann Heaslett

Jim Heitman

Lindsay Herb

Joe Herr

Casey Hoernemann

David Hoffert

Emily Hottmann

Faith Howe

Quinn Huibregtse

James Isaac

Debra Jaskulske

Kathryn Jerdee

Dera Johnsen-Tracy

Christina Kaspryk

Robin Kelby

Katherine Keranen

Chris Kiefert

Lisa Kirby-Mangas

Rachel Kleber

Sarah Klein

Jennifer Klemm

Leroy Kluever

Carole Kretschman

Ann Kruse

Tim Kuhn

Alice Leidel

Kay Lera

Mitchell Lewandowski

Marsha Lichte-Crow

Michael Lienau

Britta Lindberg

Robert Liska

Dave Little

Patricia Madden

Beth Marshall

Lisa Masri

Andrea Matzelle

Mark McDermid

Tara Meester

Marianne McCrary

Jamie McSherry

Patty Means

Sara Milhans

Rebecca Mochocki

Calli Monnier

---

# friends of VACT 2021

---

Kristina Nardi  
Crystal Neely  
Krista Nelson  
Elizabeth Nickels  
Suzanne Olajos  
Sheila Olson  
Jane Orosco  
Judy Owens  
Kayleen Parker  
Shawn Ptaszynski  
Amanda Reichhold  
Rick & Janeen Reuschlein

Susan M. Ripp  
Angela Rohan  
Kim Rogosienski  
Alex Rosenbaum  
Ma'Lou Sabino  
Leigh Schmidt  
Steve Schmieding  
Amy Schurhammer  
Shannon Seip  
Jill Sibilla  
Don Sikora  
Aaron Snook

Aaron Steger  
Stacy Sutcliffe  
Jill Testrake  
Jordyn Thaves  
Kasey Thompson  
John Tolle  
Helga Vransy  
Molly Walter  
Susan Watters  
William Windels  
Roberta Woolums  
Pamela Ziemlewicz

Thank you to everyone for your generous support. If we have made an error in your listing, please contact Dee Baldock at 608-332-7991

---

---



LEGACY AUTO SALES

**Jay Sass - Owner**

608-239-1808  
714 N Watertown Ave  
Jefferson WI 53594

100+ vehicles in stock  
3 month/ 3,000 mile warranty on EVERY vehicle  
50 UNITS UNDER \$10,000  
Financing Available  
CUDL Sponsored Dealership

[www.legacyautosales.org](http://www.legacyautosales.org)

---

---



## No Detail Too Small

Farley's House of Pianos is home to one of the nation's only full-service piano restoration workshops.

Farley's restoration experts have skillfully rebuilt pianos for over 45 years. Their attention to detail produces unsurpassed sound and beauty.

**Farley's House of Pianos<sup>llc</sup>**

See and hear pianos at [farleyspianos.com](http://farleyspianos.com)  
6522 Seybold Road, Madison · 608.271.2626



# the production staff

---

---

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-Director             | Mattie Isaac                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Co-Director             | Shannon Seip                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Producer                | Sarah Lederer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Music Director          | Amanda Reichhold                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Co-Choreographer        | Cassie Derfus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Co-Choreographer        | Justin McDermott                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Costume Director        | Pam Ziemlewicz                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Stage Manager           | BJ Ford                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Katie Monk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Lighting Design         | Steve Nickels                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sound Design            | Dale Nickels                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Conductor               | Patty Schlafer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Set Design              | Alex Rosenbaum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Prop Master             | Marie Kyle                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Dance Captain           | Alexa Schaefer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Ropes                   | Eve Garty, Alex Kiefert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Spotlights              | Elise Benz, Maddie Koski, Sarah Strube                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Fly Operators           | Tom Arnol, Austin Brummett,<br>Maddie Dooher, Dusty Smith                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Orchestra Manager       | Tom Blankenheim                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Programs                | Sara Pfantz                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Tickets                 | Lynn Vilker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Website                 | Sara Ward-Cassady                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Costume Helpers         | Jennifer Becker, Paula Blankenheim, Amondee<br>Brandt, Austin Brummett, Cassie Derfus,<br>Samantha Dom, Emma Eckmayer, Kim Eckmayer,<br>Nicole Giles, Gail Gomach, Tom Gomach, Gina Hamon,<br>Claire Johnson, Rachel Kleber, Stefanie Merucci,<br>Kenzie Merucci, Liz Nickels, Sara Pfantz, Macarey Reimer,<br>Craig Schlagel, Tristan Schmelzer, Chase Schutte, Sarah Shaw,<br>Donna Spencer, Kait Wieman, Emily Williams,<br>Jeff Wisniewski, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Gen Ziemlewicz |
| Set Build               | Tom Arnol, Lydia Black, Austin Brummett, Paul<br>Carlson, Bradley Carter, Patrick Christ, Shane Ceniza,<br>Kayleigh Cleary, Emma Eckmayer, Kim Eckmayer,<br>Julie Erdmann, Josh Erickson, Rachel Erickson, Loren Lindgren,<br>James Listug, Stefanie Merucci, Nick Moser, Liz Nickels,<br>Bill Owens, Tristan Schmelzer, Dusty Smith, Nick Taylor,<br>Allison Volkman, Georgia Volkman, Matt White,<br>Jeff Wisniewski, Heather Young, Mina Young                                  |

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

# notes from the director

---

---

As we emerge from the pandemic into a “new normal,” this fairytale that once seemed far-off fiction hits close to home today. With themes of wanting to feel human again, isolation, fear of the unknown, and hope and redemption, Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* is a wonderful way for us to bring love and light to such a dark time.

Right before the pandemic struck, the three of us (Shannon, Mattie, and Amanda) played the three girlfriends in VACT’s *Mamma Mia*. Though we’d never met before, we became fast friends and talked about working on something creative together. Two years-and many of life’s ups and downs later—here we are!

With nearly 200 people who came out for this audition, we’ve been blown away by the immense talent in the Verona community. Thank you to all of the cast members for being open to new ways of approaching rehearsals, for digging deep into character work, and for creating a caring and supportive community.

It’s one thing to have a vision, and it’s another to have smart and capable people to help bring it to life. Thanks to co-choreographers Cassie and Justin for your fresh and creative staging, and to our dance captain, Alexa, for your talents and balancing all of this in your senior year!

To our fearless producer, Sarah, thank you for being such a light of positivity and supporting us as we all figure this out together.

To Dale, Steve, Alex, Tom, and Marie: your expertise and support makes our work so much easier, and thank you for embracing our out of the box ideas and for your collaboration on this beautiful project.

To Pam and her costume crew: we absolutely could not have done this without you. We never imagined we’d have so many conversations about life-size silverware!

To BJ, Katie, and the rest of the backstage crew, thanks for organizing the chaos, keeping us on cue, and helping move some heavy castle sets around.

Patty—your professionalism, approachability, and cheery attitude make this an enjoyable experience for us all.

A big thanks to the VACT board who entrusted us with this production, and to Sara who helped us get the ball rolling.

To all of you who have felt different, odd, or isolated, we wish that you find hope, love, and understanding as you enjoy this classic and magical musical tale.

-Shannon, Mattie (Co-Directors), and Amanda (Music Director)

# the orchestra

---

Conductor: PATTY SCHLAFER  
Bass: ARLENE SYKORA  
Cello: JAMES WESSON  
Horn: REBECCA SCHROEDER  
Keyboard 1: NICK NYDEREK  
Keyboard 2: SUE MIELKE  
Percussion: LAURA SCHRAM  
Reed 1: SHERRI SWARTZ  
Reed 2: KATI SEITER  
Reed 3: TOM BLANKENHEIM  
Reed 3: JERRY HROVAT  
Trumpet: ANDY SGRIGNOLI  
Violin: JENNIFER MCFARLAND  
Violin: BRETT WAGNER

**STATE  
BANK**  
OF CROSS PLAINS

Yeah, we can do that.

**Verona**

108 N. Main Street

**(608) 798-3961**

[crossplainsbank.com](http://crossplainsbank.com)



*Mouse Magic*  
**Travel**

*Book your vacation package (minimum \$3000) with Diane  
Receive a \$25 gift card!*

Diane McLain, Travel planner  
[dmclain@mousemagictravel.com](mailto:dmclain@mousemagictravel.com) | 608.698.2269



# the scenes and musical numbers

---

---

## ACT ONE

|                                     |                                         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Belle . . . . .                     | Belle, Villagers                        |
| No Matter What . . . . .            | Maurice, Belle                          |
| Maurice Travels . . . . .           | Maurice                                 |
| Me . . . . .                        | Gaston, Belle                           |
| Belle (Reprise) . . . . .           | Belle                                   |
| Home . . . . .                      | Belle                                   |
| Home (Tag) . . . . .                | Mrs. Potts, Madame                      |
| Gaston . . . . .                    | Gaston, LeFou, Villagers                |
| Gaston (Reprise) . . . . .          | Gaston, LeFou                           |
| How Long Must This Go On? . . . . . | Beast                                   |
| Be Our Guest . . . . .              | Lumiere, Chip, Mrs. Potts, Castle Staff |
| If I Can't Love Her . . . . .       | Beast                                   |

*There will be one 15 minute intermission*

## ACT TWO

|                                         |                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Something There . . . . .               | Belle, Beast, Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts                    |
| Human Again . . . . .                   | Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts, Chip,<br>Babette, Madame, Staff |
| Beauty and the Beast . . . . .          | Mrs. Potts                                                      |
| If I Can't Love Her (Reprise) . . . . . | Beast                                                           |
| A Change in Me . . . . .                | Belle                                                           |
| The Mob Song . . . . .                  | Gaston, D'Arque, Villagers                                      |
| Home (Reprise) . . . . .                | Belle                                                           |
| Transformation/Finale Ultimo . . . . .  | Belle, Prince, Company                                          |



# the cast

---

---

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Belle . . . . .                      | Jillian Hepinstall |
| Beast . . . . .                      | Loren Lindgren     |
| Gaston . . . . .                     | Garrett Coombs     |
| LeFou . . . . .                      | Riley Custer       |
| Cogsworth . . . . .                  | Kelly Kendricks    |
| Lumiere . . . . .                    | Craig Schlagel     |
| Babette . . . . .                    | Kenzie Merucci     |
| Mrs. Potts . . . . .                 | Abi Johnson        |
| Madame . . . . .                     | Lauren Welch       |
| Chip . . . . .                       | Kedzie Johnson     |
| Maurice . . . . .                    | Matthew White      |
| Monsieur D'Arque . . . . .           | James House        |
| Les Filles de Ville 1 . . . . .      | Olivia Haven       |
| Les Filles de Ville 2 . . . . .      | Denali Kraemer     |
| Les Filles de Ville 3 . . . . .      | Alyssa Ayen        |
| Les Filles de Ville 4 . . . . .      | Cassie Derfus      |
| Enchantress . . . . .                | Rhian Bucholz      |
| Narrator . . . . .                   | Rachel Kleber      |
| Young Prince . . . . .               | Matthew Powell     |
|                                      |                    |
| Shepherd . . . . .                   | Bill Owens         |
| Marie . . . . .                      | Peyton Morgan      |
| Tavern Master . . . . .              | Austin Brummett    |
| Laundry Lady . . . . .               | Gail Gomach        |
| Baker . . . . .                      | James House        |
| Milkmaid . . . . .                   | Lydia Black        |
| Flower Seller . . . . .              | Tess Williams      |
| Sausage Curl Lady . . . . .          | Kait Wiemann       |
| Candlemaker . . . . .                | Shane Ceniza       |
| Hat seller . . . . .                 | Heather Felker     |
| Bookseller . . . . .                 | Patrick Christ     |
| Crony 1 . . . . .                    | Brian Miller       |
| Crony 2 . . . . .                    | Paul Carlson       |
| Male Villager 1 (Mob Song) . . . . . | Nick Taylor        |
| Male Villager 2 (Mob Song) . . . . . | Marcus Wisniewski  |
| Female Villager (Mob Song) . . . . . | Rachel Kleber      |
| Butler (in Prologue) . . . . .       | Bill Owens         |
| Gargoyle . . . . .                   | James Lustig       |

---

---



# the cast

## Wolves

Emma Bartholomew, Liz Nickels, Justin McDermott, Alexa Schaefer, Marcus Wisniewski

## Adult Chorus

Morty Arno, Emma Bartholomew, Bradley Carter, Alex Christy, Kayleigh Cleary, Heather Felker, Lucas Gonzalez, Antonio Jacobson, Aaliyah Johnson, James Listug, Anna Martin, Justin McDermott, Stefanie Merucci, Brian Miller, Liz Nickels, Bill Owens, Matthew Powell, Amara Rea, Macarey Reimer, Alexa Schaefer, Corbin Schroeder, Danielle Slusser, Nick Taylor, Nadia Veit, Tess Williams

## Children's Chorus

Emma Eckmayer, Allison Felker, Josephine Isaac, Alex Klaas, Paige Kleber, Chase Kleber, Callie Lederer, Nolan McDermid, Luke Moser, Claire Owens, Fiona Reichhold, Payton Sarbacher, Tristan Schmelzer, Chase Schutte, Charlie Vanderbloemen, Georgia Volkman, Mina Young

## Gaston Dancers

Morty Arno, Alyssa Ayen, Emma Bartholomew, Lydia Black, Austin Brummett, Rhian Bucholz, Cassie Derfus, Gail Gomach, Olivia Haven, James House, Antonio Jacobson, Aaliyah Johnson, Denali Kraemer, Justin McDermott, Matthew Powell, Alexa Schaefer, Corbin Schroeder, Marcus Wisniewski

## Prologue/Finale Dancers

Emma Bartholomew, Gail Gomach, Antonio Jacobson, Aaliyah Johnson  
Justin McDermott, Alexa Schaefer, Corbin Schroeder, Marcus Wisniewski



## Orthodontic Specialists of Madison

Steven D. Peterson, DDS, MS  
William F. (Chip) Bird, DDS, MS  
Kevin J. Knutson, DDS, MS  
Sarah C. McDermott, MS Associate

### **WEST**

202 S. Gammon Road

**664-9500**

*Across from James  
Madison Memorial  
High School*

### **MOUNT HOREB**

115 N. Brookwood Drive

**821-0299**

### **VERONA**

1010 North Edge Trail

**845-9292**

*At the corner of  
Junction Road and  
Cross Country Road*

[www.orthomadison.com](http://www.orthomadison.com)

### **NORTHSIDE**

1410 Northport Drive

**249-2990**

### **WINDSOR**

6729 Lake Road

**846-7358**

**Orthodontics For Teens, Children, & Adults**



Enjoy the night of  
entertainment with  
Verona Area  
Community Theater



# the cast

---



**GARRETT  
COOMBS**



**RILEY  
CUSTER**



**JILLIAN  
HEPINSTALL**



**JAMES  
HOUSE**



**ABI  
JOHNSON**



**KEDZIE  
JOHNSON**



**KELLY  
KENDRICKS**



**LOREN  
LINDGREN**



**KENZIE  
MERUCCI**



**CRAIG  
SCHLAGEL**



**LAUREN  
WELCH**



**MATTHEW  
WHITE**



**KAIT  
WIEMANN**



**MARCUS  
WISNIEWSKI**

# who's who in the cast

---

---

**GARRETT COOMBS** (Gaston, Beast Understudy) is glad to be back on stage at VACT. You may recognize him from other VACT roles including Clopin (*Hunchback of Notre Dame*), Bert (*Mary Poppins*), and Shrek (*Shrek*). Other hobbies include cooking, hosting board game nights, and adventures in fatherhood. Thank you to the production team for such a thoughtfully crafted production. And many thanks to his wife, Natalie, for taking childcare duty on this show. My love to you and Penelope. Enjoy the show!

**RILEY CUSTER** (LeFou) is overjoyed to be making a fool of himself as Le Fou. A lifelong lover of the stage, Riley has recently appeared as Mr. Wormwood in *Matilda* (VACT 2021) and Igor in *Young Frankenstein* (VACT 2019). He would like to thank his friends and family (both on and off-stage) for their eternal support. He also promises the audience that the injuries he sustains during the show are only KIND OF real.

**JILLIAN HEPINSTALL** (Belle) is honored to be performing this personal dream role alongside such a talented and wonderful cast. She has appeared in other recent VACT shows, such as *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Jacqueline) and *Matilda* (Ensemble), and prior to the pandemic, performed in *Big Fish* (Josephine, St. Bernard Players), *Mamma Mia* (VACT), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Middleton Players). A “music theatre major” turned “psych major” turned “healthcare IT professional”, Jillian feels fortunate for every performance and the chance to continue her passion. She wants to thank her partner, Brian, for his ongoing love and support, her co-workers at Evergreen Healthcare Partners for being amazing, and her community of friends for believing in her. And a special shout-out to her parents, Mark and Marni, for giving her six-year-old self a *Beauty & the Beast* themed bedroom and years of endless encouragement (and picking her up from theatre rehearsals). She hopes to make you proud!

**JAMES DONOVAN HOUSE** (Monsieur D'Arque, Lumiere Understudy) is excited to finally join the VACT family with *Beauty and the Beast!* He has been busy in this “little town”; other than the bakery and the asylum you may have recently seen him as Donkey in *Shrek the Musical*, George Banks in *Mary Poppins* or John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*. This has been a fabulous production to be apart of and he is thrilled to be on stage with some amazing people. Without further ado, “Stage Manager, The Curtains, Raise Them Up!”

**ABI JOHNSON** (Mrs. Potts) is fairly certain that someone else has already made a joke about how our skills need “so much more than dusting”, so she'll spare you the attempt. This show has always been special to her and she is very excited to play Mrs. Potts. Before (and a little bit during) our “forced hiatus”, she performed as Kate McGowan (*Titanic*, SVP, 2018), Esmeralda (*Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, VACT, 2018), Shea Crescendo (*A Killer Party*, *Aligning Stars*, 2020), and Mary Poppins (*Mary Poppins*, SPCT, 2019); she hopes to stumble her way through many more accents for your entertainment in the future! Big thanks to the fam (special shout-outs to Mam, both Charlies, and the soon-to-be Stampflis).

**KEDZIE JOHNSON** (Chip) is thrilled to be performing as ‘Chip’ in her first all-ages production at VACT. Kedzie has been a stage rat since she was a baby, and has performed in 10 VACT productions to-date. She thanks her big sisters and brother for showing her the way on stage!

**KELLY KENDRICKS** (Cogsworth) is incredibly excited to be a part of the *Beauty and the Beast* show, to work with such an amazing and talented cast and even more excited to finally be back on stage after 3 years (mostly because of that dastardly pandemic thing). Kelly's previous VACT shows include *Sister Act*, *A Christmas Story*, *Young Frankenstein*, *A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday*, *The Importance of Being Earnest During a Pandemic* and *Radio Play Disaster*. Lastly, and by far most importantly, I'm dedicating my performance as ‘Cogs’ to our amazing Music Director Amanda and her dad. I hope I do you both proud!

# who's who in the cast

---

---

**LOREN LINDGREN** (Beast) is a software trainer at Epic. Father of Dawn and Warren (with a third on the way) he is very grateful to his wife Rose for letting him play make-believe with his friends every week. In days long past, he graced the stage in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Music Man*, *The Mikado*, and *Once on This Island*. It has been many years since he has performed, but this show has been an amazing experience, and he looks forward to working with VACT in the future.

**KENZIE MERUCCI** (Babette, Belle Understudy) is excited to be on stage, once again, with VACT! Previous VACT credits include; *Something Rotten* (Co-Choreographer), *Matilda* (Co-Director, Co-Choreographer), *Mamma Mia* (Ali), *Young Frankenstein*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Willy Wonka*, and *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel). You may also know Kenzie from productions with Edgewood College Theater (*SHOUT: A Mod Musical*, *Calamity Jane*, *Clue: The Musical*) and Middleton Players Theater (*Parade*, *Beauty and the Beast*). Kenzie would like to thank her mother (Stefanie), fiancé (BJ), and friends (many of which are also involved in the production) for always supporting her throughout her theatrical journey.

**CRAIG SCHLAGEL** (Lumiere) is overly excited to be taking part in his first production with Verona Area Community Theater. It would be very remiss of him not to thank the production team for giving him the opportunity to portray Lumiere and share such an amazing experience with an incredibly talented cast. Craig is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Platteville with a major in Theater and an emphasis in Costume Design. While he has not been on stage in eight years, you may have seen him in past productions such as *Kiss Me*, *Kate with Four Seasons Theatre* (Ensemble), *Christmas with the Crawfords* with Stage Q (Andrews Sister/Ensemble), *The Wedding Singer* with Edgewood College (George), and *Xanadu* with Mercury Players Theater (Thalia/Ensemble). He would like to thank his loving partner, Patrick, for being patient while he was away at rehearsals as well as his friends and family for the undying support in all the opportunities he is afforded. Now, let us pull up a chair as VACT proudly presents, *Beauty and the Beast*!

**LAUREN WELCH** (Madame) is very excited to once again perform with VACT! You may remember her from such roles as Miss Trunchbull in *Matilda*, Baroness Bomburst in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Gianetta in *The Gondoliers*, and Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act*. When she is not on stage, Lauren enjoys horseback riding and making up songs about her pets. Lauren would like to thank her parents and Jon for all of their support throughout this process. Enjoy the show!

**MATTHEW WHITE** (Maurice) is happy to be back in the theater after the long shutdown of the past few years. Everyone is poorer in the absence of the arts. Matthew has previously appeared in productions with many local theater companies, most recently in VACT's *Young Frankenstein* (ensemble) and St. Bernard Players' *Big Fish* (Karl the Giant).

**KAIT WIEMANN** (Ensemble, Mrs. Potts Understudy) is excited to perform for you alongside the rest of this incredible cast. Formerly a music major, she now hones her skills performing with her talented VACT family, singing in the car, and doing random dancing with her kids. She has a passion for roles where she can showcase her fun, spunky personality, with her most recent roles including Inga (VACT *Young Frankenstein*, 2019) and Gingly (SPCT *Shrek*, 2019). It is with deepest pride and greatest pleasure that she welcomes you to our performance! "Special thanks to Mom and Dad for always being there and supporting me. I love you!"

**MARCUS WISNIEWSKI** (Ensemble, Wolf, Gaston Understudy) is elated to be a part of this production of *Beauty & The Beast*. Recent shows of note with VACT include *Matilda* (Rudolpho), *The Radio Play Disaster* (Harlan Bean), *Mamma Mia!* (Pepper), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin Scrivello D.D.S), and *Willy Wonka* (Willy Wonka). A veterinarian, Marcus enjoys spending time with his dogs, going to the gym, badger/snake shenanigans, and having random dance parties. He would like to thank his best friend Macarey, Jeff, and his parents for their never-ending love and support. To JMC, this one (and every one), is for you.

# who's who in the crew

---

---

**MATTIE ISAAC** (Co-Director) is honored to be co-directing *Beauty and the Beast* with Shannon Seip. Mattie was first introduced to the amazing VACT community in her role as Donna in *Mamma Mia!* and is proud to be getting back to her theater roots. She has had a blast getting this show on its feet, and is especially grateful for being able to share the stage with her daughter, Josephine. Special thanks to Shannon, Amanda, Justin, Cassie, Sarah, Sara, her daughters Cecilia and Josephine, and especially her supportive husband, James, who has encouraged her to continue spending time on things she loves.

**SHANNON SEIP** (Co-Director) is thrilled to co-direct *Beauty and the Beast* as most of her work with VACT has been as a performer. A California native, Shannon's theater experience centered in the LA and San Francisco areas before moving to the Midwest. Favorite roles include: Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot*, Tanya in *Mamma Mia!*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, the Bird Woman in *Mary Poppins* and Miss Shields in *A Christmas Story*. She recently directed and produced several shorts for Nickelodeon's NickMom television network. A huge thanks to Mattie & Amanda for your teamwork, talent, and friendship! This one goes out to the Seip boys!

**AMANDA REICHHOLD** (Music Director) is excited to be working with this wonderful cast, crew and staff, bringing this enchanting story to life. Amanda teaches music at Netherwood Knoll Elementary school in Oregon, occasionally music directs VACT's youngest thespians, and co-directs the "kids' show" at home starring Liam (11), Fiona (9) and Kieran (5) with her husband, Dennis. Some favorite roles onstage with VACT include Rosie in *Mamma Mia!*, Miss Jones in *How to Succeed...*, Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street* and Lucy in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Amanda has also performed with Four Seasons Theatre, OSHP, and in the Madison Opera Chorus. "Shannon and Mattie, it's been a pleasure being a 'directymo' with you. DKM- love you forever. No matter what."

**SARAH LEDERER** (Producer) is excited to be producing her first summer show! Sarah has spent the last couple of seasons producing for the VACT youth shows. She has worked on *We Are Monsters*, *Seussical KIDS* and *Pirates Past Noon KIDS*. Thanks to the amazing *Beauty and the Beast* production team and a special thanks to her family for their love and support! Enjoy the show!

**CASSIE DERFUS** (Co-Choreographer) is so excited to be a part of this show that's so near and dear to her heart! Previous onstage works include *Matilda*, where she also got her first chance to choreograph for VACT, *Mamma Mia!*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Cabaret*, and *American Idiot*. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support. She hopes you enjoy this tale as old as time and try the grey stuff-it's delicious!

**JUSTIN MCDERMOTT** (Co-Choreographer) is a graduate from the University of Northern Iowa where he received a degree in Theatre for Youth. Throughout Justin's time at UNI he was involved with; TheatreUNI, UNI Interpreters Theatre, UNI Student Theatre Association, and Orchesis Dance Company. Justin has performed/ worked for several theatre companies in the Midwest including; Theatre Cedar Rapids, Dobbins Conservatory, and The Grand Opera House. Most recently, he sailed the seas while performing onboard Disney Cruise Line. Justin is thrilled to be co-choreographing and performing in his first show with VACT. He wants to thank the cast and creative team for being so welcoming from the start. Justin can't wait to take the stage and tell this beautiful story with such a talented group of performers.

**PAM ZIEMLEWICZ** (Costume Director) is thrilled to be designing costumes for this "Tale as old as time." Recent on-stage works include VACT's *A Christmas Story*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and *Young Frankenstein*; as well as *Big Fish* with St Bernard Players, and *Nutcracker* at The Bartell. She also enjoys Stage Managing VACT youth productions when her kids are in the spotlight. Pam would like to thank her team of costume superheroes for helping create the magic, and her family for putting up with the dining room turned garment shop.



---

---

# who's who in the crew

---

---

**STEVE NICKELS** (Lighting Designer) has been designing lights for VACT shows for over 15 years, and can usually be found up 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!"

**DALE NICKELS** (Producer/Sound) has produced or directed several 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 sound board, dealing with an increasing number of wireless microphones. His most recent directorial outing was *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. "Thanks to my lovely wife, Deb, for letting me play.

**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.

**BJ FORD** (Stage Manager) is pleased to be a part of this production. He graduated from Edgewood College in 2016; credits include John Proctor (*The Crucible*) and Stage Managing an annual student-directed One Act festival. BJ's favorite part of VACT is the C. Thank you for being a part of our community, and a special thank you to his fiancé Kenzie and future mother-in-law Stefanie both of whom are in the show.

**KATIE MONK** (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be back behind the scenes with VACT! Katie's first show with VACT was in 1998; since then, she has played onstage, backstage, behind the light board, as a director and choreographer. Her favorite role so far has been Mother to Brandon. Break a leg to all of the talent in this production!

**ALEXA SCHAEFER** (Dance Captain) is beyond excited to be back on stage, performing with VACT. She recently graduated from Memorial High School and plans on attending UW Madison in the fall. Alexa has been performing in shows at VACT since she was five years old. Some of Alexa's favorite roles have been Tina Harmer in *Billy Elliot*, a Newsie in *Newsies* and the Acrobat/Big Kid in *Matilda*. 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 *Seussical KIDS* and Co-Choreographer for *High School Musical 2 Jr*. Special thanks to my Mom and Dad for always supporting me in everything I do! Hope you enjoy the show!

**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 *Annie Get Your Gun* (2007). This is Tom's 34th 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 Sarah to make sure that everything goes as planned down below. When the COVID-19 pandemic prevented live productions, Tom ventured outside of the pit for a stint as a recording engineer, audio mixing engineer, and video editor for *A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday* (2020). Since then, Tom has also been assisting Dale with sound when not wielding a clarinet or sax. When not involved with VACT, Tom plays for several area Concert Bands and Big Bands. Tom has also performed with Coe College Bands (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) in China, Central America and Europe. It has been a pleasure to work with Patty, Dale, Sarah, and all of the musicians to bring this classic Disney musical to the Verona Community.

**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 Mia!* and *Music Man Sr*. She would like to thank all of the wonderful orchestra members who join her in the pit for the VACT experience! The view is great from down here!

## who's who in the crew

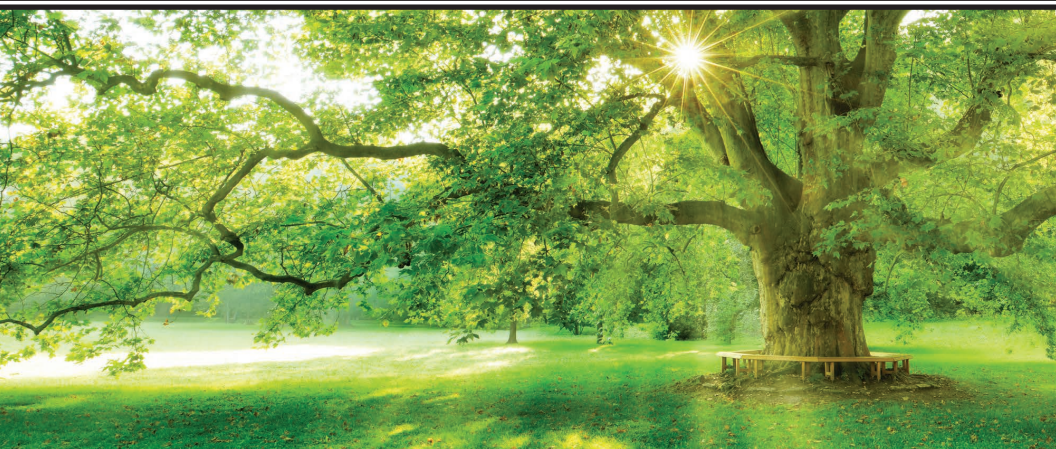
---

**ALAN MENKEN** (Composer) Theater: *God Bless You Mr Rosewater, Little Shop Of Horrors, Real Life Funnies, Atina: Evil Queen Of The Galaxy, Kicks, The Apprenticeship Of Duddy Kravitz, Beauty And The Beast, A Christmas Carol, Weird Romance, King David, Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame, The Little Mermaid, Sister Act, Leap Of Faith, Aladdin* and *Newsies*. Film: *Little Shop Of Horrors, The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, Newsies, Aladdin, Pocahontas, The Hunchback Of Notre Dame, Hercules, Life With Mikey, Lincoln, Home On The Range, Noel, Enchanted, Shaggy Dog, Tangled* and *Mirror Mirror*. Songs: *Rocky V, Home Alone 2* and *Captain America*. Awards: 8 Oscars (19 nominations), 11 Grammys (including Song of the Year), 7 Golden Globes, Tony® (plus 4 nominations), Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics, Olivier and London's Evening Standard Award, Drama League. Honors: Songwriter's Hall of Fame, Doctorates from New York University and University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

**HOWARD ASHMAN** (Lyrics) Best known as a pivotal creative mind behind the renaissance of Disney animation and his work on *The Little Mermaid, Aladdin* and *Beauty and The Beast* (which is dedicated to, "Our friend, Howard Ashman, who gave a Mermaid her voice and a Beast his soul...") Ashman's first love was theater. Ashman was a founder of off off Broadway's renowned WPA Theater, where he conceived, wrote and directed *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, as well as the classic musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* (both music by Alan Menken). In 1986, he wrote and directed the Broadway musical *Smile* (music by Marvin Hamlisch). Lamented as a lost treasure of the 1980's theater scene, *Smile* remains popular on High School and College campuses throughout the country. Howard Ashman died in 1991 from complications of AIDS. For more information, please visit [howardashman.com](http://howardashman.com).

**TIM RICE** (Lyrics) Tim Rice has worked in music, theater, and film 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 theater. Their first collaboration, *The Likes Of Us* (lyrics by Tim, music by Andrew), was an unsuccessful show based on the life of Dr. Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist. Their next three works together were much more successful: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Evita*. Tim has also worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (*The Lion King, Aida*), Alan Menken (*Aladdin, King David, Beauty and the Beast*), and Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (*Chess*). *From Here to Eternity*, with music by newcomer Stuart Brayson, coproduced with Lee Menzies, directed by Tamara Harvey, and with book by Bill Oakes, premiered in the West End at the Shaftesbury Theatre in 2013. He formed his own cricket team in 1973 and was president of the MCC in 2002. In 2013, he wrote and presented a 52-part series for BBC Radio 2, *American Pie*, a trawl through the music and musicians of every American State. He has won several awards, mainly for the wrong thing or for simply turning up.

**LINDA WOOLVERTON** (Book) Linda Woolverton's writing credits include the screenplay for the animated feature film *Beauty and The Beast* (Golden Globe winner and Academy Award Best Picture nominee); the screenplay (shared) for *Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey*; screenplay (shared) for the animated feature film *The Lion King*; the book for the Broadway musical *Beauty and The Beast* (Tony Award nomination for Best Book of a Musical, winner 1998 Olivier Award Best New Musical); and book (shared) for Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway musical *Aida*. Also she has written two young-adult novels, *Star-Wind* and *Running Before The Wind*. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from California State University Long Beach and a Master's degree in Theatre from California State University Fullerton. Linda is currently involved in writing and producing film projects for Miramax and Revolution studios. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband Lee Flicker and daughter Keaton.



# FIND LONG-TERM GROWTH STRATEGIES UNDER OUR CANOPY

- » Wealth Planning
- » Tax-Aware Investing
- » Portfolio Management
- » Retirement Planning

As an independent Registered Investment Advisor, we are focused on creating customized financial plans tailored to your unique needs. Call us to learn how we can help you achieve your financial goals.



**Eric Raether, CFP®**  
Founder & Wealth Advisor



**David Muehl, CFP®**  
Partner & Wealth Advisor



Care. Competence. Clarity.

# recent VACT Productions

---

---

- 2012 Noises Off; Welcome to the Jungle; Seussical Jr.; Grease; Encore! 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 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; 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 Don't Dress for Dinner; Somethin' Rotten; Pirates Past Noon KIDS; High School Musical 2 Jr.; The Music Man Sr.

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, Lynn Vilker



Thank you so much for attending *Disney's Beauty and The Beast*. 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](http://www.vact.org) and clicking on the "donate now" link at the top of the page.

Visit [www.vact.org/donate-now](http://www.vact.org/donate-now) to make your donation today!

*Ballet U*<sup>LLC</sup>

Verona Youth Ballet

Quality Dance Education  
Ages 2-Adult

*Inspiring a lifelong  
love of ballet*

Ongoing Enrollment

Contact us today and  
set up your first class!



411 Prairie Heights Drive Verona 608-620-5598 BalletU.com



# Masterwork Productions

VIDEOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHY

MARKETING



[MasterworkProductions.com](https://www.MasterworkProductions.com)

[Marketing@MasterworkProductions.com](mailto:Marketing@MasterworkProductions.com)

(608) 620-3785

# Enjoy the Show!



Verona  
Vision  
Care

*Great Style. Healthy Eyes.*

Tami S. Hunt, O.D. • Emmylou Wilson, O.D.

320 South Main Street • 848-5168

[www.veronavisioncare.com](http://www.veronavisioncare.com)

## THEATER BUS

For the "Over 55s"

*Established 1976*

**Day trips for seniors to plays, musicals, comedies,  
boat cruises, mystery trips and great restaurants!**

**Our promise: safe, comfortable transportation,  
premiere seating, escorts and fun for all!**



Theater Bus, Inc.  
437 S. Yellowstone Dr.  
Suite 214  
Madison, WI 53719

Email: [info@theaterbus.org](mailto:info@theaterbus.org)  
Website: [theaterbus.org](http://theaterbus.org)

Phone: 608-257-0003

# Auditions!

## for our Fall Youth Productions

Open to youth entering grades 2-5 in fall 2022, the delicious adventures experienced by Charlie Bucket on his visit to Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory light up the stage in Willy Wonka Kids, a captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale. Willy Wonka Kids will audition on Sunday, August 28; performances Nov. 17-19; rehearsals on Sundays only.



For youth entering grades 6-8 in fall 2022, Rock of Ages, Youth Edition. Set on L.A.'s famous Sunset Strip in 1987, Rock of Ages tells the story of Drew, a city boy from South Detroit, and Sherrie, a small-town girl, who have both travelled to L.A. to chase their dreams of making it big and falling in love. This classic love story is set against

the troubles at the Dupree Room, a "legendary temple of rock 'n' roll excellence" under threat by developers of being torn down and replaced with a strip mall. Can the Dupree Room be saved before it's too late? Rock of Ages will audition on Saturday, August 27; performances Nov. 17-19; rehearsals on Sundays only.

Audition registration and more information for both productions will be posted on <https://www.vact.org/auditions> in late June.

Questions can be directed to Sara Ward-Cassady at [sara@vact.org](mailto:sara@vact.org).