

VACT

VERONA AREA
COMMUNITY THEATER
presents



February 2021

by Don Zolidis

FEBRUARY 12TH, 2021 - 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 13TH, 2021 - 2:00 PM AND 7:00 PM

30TH SEASON, 146TH SHOW

notes from the board of directors

Thank you so much for attending VACT's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest In a Pandemic*. We are excited to bring the community this version of a show we first premiered in 2000.

Like many arts organizations, COVID-19 has caused a great deal of change for VACT and we face a tremendous amount of uncertainty moving forward. We are so grateful for all of the support we have received since the pandemic began. Every kind message, donation, and show of support has meant the world to us as we navigate this time without live theater and figure out how to adapt where we can.

Part of that adaptability has been to take our shows virtual! Never would we have imagined one of our major fall productions being put up in this format, but VACT, like so many other theaters, has been forced to reimagine what theater looks like if we want to keep art in the community.

While we don't know when we will be able to resume our regular productions, your support will help us come back stronger than ever when it is safe to do so. We will always strive to reach new theatrical heights alongside members of the greater Verona area and surrounding communities, and will always work to make our programs accessible to anyone.

If you're a theater lover who is in a position to help, please consider making a donation to VACT. Donations can be made through our website by going to www.vact.org and clicking on the "donate now" link at the top of the page.

This show would not have been possible without the support of so many, including the cast who volunteered their time, and the staff who worked tirelessly to put the show together, as well as several community partners who contributed to the production. Please make sure to check out the digital program for this show, which is linked in the description section under this broadcast, to see all of the participants who made this show possible.

Enjoy the show!

- The VACT Board of Directors

THE VERONA AREA COMMUNITY THEATER
PRODUCTION OF



by Don Zolidis

Based on the play by Oscar Wilde

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

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friends of VACT 2021

ANGEL
\$25,000 and Over

BENEFACTOR
\$10,000 - \$24,999
Michelle Hoef

UNDERWRITER
\$5000 - \$9999
Dale & Deb Nickels

PRODUCER
\$1000 - \$4999
Susan Dahlen
Robert Herbst
Stephen Nickels
William Owens
Matthew Patton
Lynn Vilker

DIRECTOR
\$500 - \$999
Tom & Paula Blankenheim
Erin Freiberg
Brian Johnson

ACTOR
\$100 - \$499
Angie Addison
Tom Arnol
Katie Auger
John Beard
Tonya Benz
Vicki Blessing
Jennifer Bradley
Amy Broadbridge
Erin Charles
Katherine Christian
Sara Cunningham
Susan Dahlen
Kim Eckmayer
Carolyn Emmanuelli
Tom & Kelley Engle
Kari Faber
Timothy Fehling
Erin Freiberg
Elizabeth Graf
Jeffrey & Allison Heil
Anya Holland Barry
Julia Hopp
Robyn Huibregtse
Jennifer Jauquet
Claire Johnson
Sheri Johnson
Marijo Kessenich

Chris Kiefert
Rachel Kleber
Karen Krause
Megan Piper & Kyle Gasser
Mark Lynch
Michelle Lytle
Derek McCarty
Shawna Mcguire
Stacey Mcwilliams
Michael & Jodi Moll
Barbara Mulcahy
Kristen Murawski
Suzanne Olajos
William Owens
Nanette Peterson
Katie Piller
Lindsay Platt
Kathy Rosenbohm
James Ruder
Sarah Sarbacker
Carol Sawyer
Susan Seal
Nicole Smith
Lesley Steffin
Aaron Steger
John Szalkowski
Alyson Tincher
Anne Veit
John & Betty Vogt
Cynthia Ward
Melissa Wegner
Sarah Westcott
Ryan Wood
Tracey Wood
Jonathan Woolums
Timothy Yanachek
Pamela Ziemlewicz
Stacy Zimmerman

PATRON
Up to \$99
Cheryl Adamson
Patricia Adduci
Kimberly Agostine
Maria Cecilia Agosto
Ingrid Aizicovici Brown
Coleen Allee
Bradley Armstrong
Tammy Arnol
Susan Ashley
Mark Ashley
Kathleen Atwood
Stephanie Auger
Amanda Auger
Jennifer Bacon

Dee Baldock
Trisha Baneck
Douglas Barnes
Rachel Barneson
Colette Bartels
Tammy Basten
Tina Bastian
Brenda Baus
Carol Bausch
Jenn Bennett
Pauline Benton
Sarah Benton
Maria Berg
Kathryn Berry
Silvia Bessonart
Victoria Betz
Robert Betzle
Lynn Bishop
Whitney Blasko
Molly Bluemner
Christopher Blythe
Stacy Bolger
Kari Borgmeyer
Herb Bostrom
Karin Bowers-Cady
Aubrey Bowser
Collin Braam
Larissa Brady
Glen Brady
Jo Braugher
Michael Bryan
Heidi Buan
Dan Bubolz
Leah Buchmann
Bruce Buchmann
Rebecca Buckley
Matthew Budd
Merodee Buechner
Virginia Buening-Henkel
Arlene Burke
Sarah Burke
Dixie Burns
Hannah Busse
Kristen Bystol
Beatriz Cabrera
Linda Call
Kerry Cassidy
Lizza Catalano
Amanda Chadwick
John Chambers
Alexia Chiclana
Teresa Chitwood
Cheryl Christensen
Joseph Christian
Martha Jo Church

friends of VACT 2021

Mary Clark
Heidi Compuesto
Rikki Conwell
Anita Cook
Garrett Coombs
Jenny Crawford
Elizabeth Cuevas
Rafael Curbelo
Riley Custer
Barbara Darling
Shelby Davison
Jenny Delonay
Tim Demeter
Brian DeZiel
Amity Dias
Christine Dicke
Susan Dinauer
Roxanne Dixon
Emerald Doll
Melody Donnelly
Julia Dorn
Linda Douglas
Marilen Driscoll
Chris Duffy
Whitney Duitsman
Lauren Dunn
Michelle Dunphy
Nancy Elson
Sarah Emond
Jamie Engebregtsen
Bernie J. Fatla
Paige Fecteau
Carol Ferge
Eve Ferguson
Ian Fischer
Martha Florey
William Frank
Shirley Freiberg
Brooklyn Gabbitas
Jorja Gander
Dana Gardener
Lori Gayan
Mary Jane Getlinger
Germaine Geuder
Gail Glaze
Gail Gomach
Deborah Grosser
Jenni Gumieny
Hillary Gunn
Lauri Halminiak
Virginie Hambrick
Michelle Hanke
Emily Harris
Mark Harrod
Kari Hart

Leigh Hartjes
Alison Haworth
Nicole Haworth
Ellen Hefty
Thomas Hefty
Kirsten Heggeseth
Lynn Heil
Jim Heitman
Renee Helin
Eric Helsher
John Herb
Lindsay Herb
Mary S. Herman
Kara Hetzel
Marsha Heuer
Carin Higgins
Angela Himegarner
Missy & Jeff Holcomb
Jason Horowitz
Mary Horowitz
Tajalli Horvat
Nancy Howard
Jerry Hrovat
Tim Huset
Lynn Hyland
Martha Isaac
Anna Isenberg
Kevin Iverson
Jennifer Jackson
Jamie Jacobson
Kathryn Jacobson
Torrey Jaeckle
Linda Jannusch
Sara Janowski
Daniel Joe
Dera Johnsen-tracy
Karen Johnson
Kristie Johnson
Miriam Johnson
Kathy Johnson
Teresa Johnson
Jeremy Johnson
Roger Johnson
Kathleen Johnson
Lynnsey Jones
Jane Jones
Helena Juergens
Jennifer Kammerud
Jordana Kammerud
Matt Kamphuis
Karen Kaphingst
Christine Kemnitz
Colleen Kenney
Mary Ellen Keough
Kathleen Keough

Susan Kerber
Heather Ketterer
Rashelle Kindschi
Jonathan Klein
Erin Krebsbach
Heidi Kretz
Karen Kritsch
Ann Kruse
Nancy Kubehl
Krista KuehnelKineiko
Lindsey LaBorde
Francine Lanier
Crystal Lawler
Kelly Lawler
Cynthia Lederer
Sarah Lederer
Cari Lennon
Jo Lindberg
Jennifer Lloyd
Patricia Madden
Nancy Magestro
Carie Maier
Amanda Margolis
Alisa & Jason Martina
Sara Marx
Kris Mcardle
Philip McCanna
Marcia Mcdermid
Jennifer Mcfarland
James Mckellar
Erin Mettert
Roy Michalik
Irene Middlemas
Sara Milhans
Carina Miller
Brian Miller
Jacqueline Mitchell
Megan Moore
Nancy Morgan
Patricia Morrissey
Cory Mortimer Martin
Patricia Moschea
Jennifer Mueller
Maureen Muldoon
Jeanne Neath
Erica Neher
Christine Neis
Kristen Nelson
Katie Nelson
Doris Neumann
Elizabeth Nickels
Terri Niles
Brian Jennifer Novinska
Tess O'Brien
Angie Oler

friends of VACT 2021

Jeanie Olson	Beth Sartori	Turino Willis
Jane Orosco	Rachel Sauer	Angela Van Houten
Kathleen Owens	Martha Saywell	Fay Van Vliet
Dean Patton	Cynthia Schaefer	Molly Vandamme
Craig Pauly	Stephanie Schanel	Jason Vandelaar
Perry Pawelka	Kristin Scheeler	Kelly Venden
Joseph Phillips	Amy Schiefelbein	Lisette Venegas
Steven Phillips	Ann Schillinger	Sarah Verber
Leonard Piontek	Sarah Schliem	Nicole Vesperman
Holly Plahuta	Cathy Schmidt	Dorothy Vesperman
Allison Plumer	Brenda Schmidt	Erin Vogel
Margaret Plumer	Stephen Schmieding	Amy Vondenberger
Heidi Pophal	Michelle Schuette	Doris Wade
Erik Popp	Marta Schultz	Katie Wagner
Sarah Popp	Daniel Schwarz	Mary Wagner
Jaimie Potvin	Amber Sehgal	Kristine Wagner
David Raemisch	Jill Sibilla	Roberta Wang
Mary Raemisch	Daniel Siehr	Patricia Ward
Mary Ann Raemisch	Jennifer Silvers	Hallie Waxenberg
Christine Ray	Stephanie Sinnett	Emily Wegner
Macarey Reimer	Maryann Smith	Grant Weina
Cynthia Reisen	Jan Seal Smith	Nicole Weiss
Sue Retzlaff	Donna Spencer	Lauren Welch
Janeen Reuschlein	Carolyn Steffl	Brooke Wentland
Ann Rice	Edward Steger	Chip Williams
Roslyn Rinaldo	Jodi Steidl	Steven Willis
Beth Ringgenberg	Darlene Sterzinger	Lynette Willsey-Schmidt
Justin Rippl	Joan Stoikes	James Winkel
Suzanne Ristic	Chuck Stonecipher	Jeff Wisniewski
Jennifer Robinson	Sarah Stoughton	Ronda Wissink
Jim & Judy Robinson	Stacy Sutcliffe	Shelly Wissink
Anne Rodgers	Arlene Sykora	Scott Woller
Dana Roffers	Juliet Taylor	Catherine Woller
Mya Rognstad	Maxine Temple	Wendy Wood
Angela Rohan	Julie Tepp	Sara Wroblewski
Alex Rosenbaum	Carol Tolejano	Diane Yokes
Heather Royer	Jodie Torkelson	Heather Young
Jon & Janet Runstrom	Kari Torkelson	Brenda Zander
Katie Sabalones	Lori Toutant	Scott & Chelsea Zillmer
Gwen Sachse	Meredith Traudt	
Kara Sanger-Johnson	Jennifer Tuescher Tammy	

the production staff

Director.....	Tom Arnol
Producer	Dale Nickels
Costume Design	Claire Johnson
Technical Director.....	Dusty Smith
Piano Music.....	Brett Wagner
Tickets.....	Lynn Vilker
Program	Sara Pfantz
Publicity.....	Sara Ward-Cassady

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

who's who in the crew

TOM ARNOL (Director) Tom is excited to be making his directorial debut for VACT, even in this virtual format. He has appeared in a half dozen shows most notably last year as Lou in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. He has also worked behind the scenes several times in set design and construction, and stage management. He is proud to serve on the VACT board of directors and contribute to this wonderful organization in as many ways as he is able. Tom has always been struck by the earnestness of people involved in putting on a VACT show, so it is only fitting that he is directing this show. In addition, Tom has been cast twice in the role of Ernie in different productions.

DALE NICKELS (Producer) 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."

CLAIRE JOHNSON (Costume Design) Claire is thrilled to be costuming again and is grateful to have been a part of this production of *The Importance of Being Earnest During In a Pandemic*. She has been a costume designer with VACT since 2017 leading the design in 9 different productions. Although eager to see theater back on a stage, she has enjoyed this experience in the virtual performance realm and is excited to see the performance on screen.

DUSTY SMITH (Technical Director) is so very excited to be Technical Director on this show. He is happy to have a theater outlet in a time when stages are dark. Some of his recent virtual highlights over the past year include, directing one of the VACT virtual youth plays last fall, *The Curious Case of the Pop Star and her Penguins*. He also helped record and edit the *A Very Virtual Merry Home Town Holiday* shows. In the 'before times' some of his credits include: Stage Manager for *Mama Mia!*, Director of Mel Brook's *Young Frankenstein*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Director of *The Odd Couple* - Female Version, Assistant Stage Manager for *Godspell Jr.*, Fly Crew for Willy Wonka, and a rare onstage appearance as a soldier in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. "Thank you to my family and friends for their love and support!"

notes from the director

Don't we all wish you were reading this with a Playbill in your hand instead of looking at a computer screen? When I was selected to direct the play for winter 2021, few of us imagined we would not be back to live theater by then. When it became clear that a virtual production would be our only option, I searched for a show, in this medium, that would be fun to perform and entertaining to watch. I was thrilled to find *The Importance of Being Earnest in a Pandemic* which is a very true adaptation of the original Oscar Wilde play for our current times.

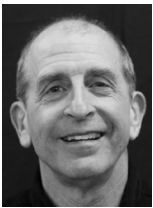
I'd like to give a shout out to Sara Ward-Cassady for spearheading VACT's foray into virtual shows back in the fall as well as the holiday show. She was very helpful as I endeavored to venture into this medium. I'd also like to thank Dale Nickels for producing this show. He also has had to adapt to the virtual format, and has done so seamlessly and as skillfully as his numerous other roles he has long assumed at VACT.

It was clear early on that directing a production in the virtual format required more than an artistic vision. The technical aspect presents an even greater challenge. So without a doubt, we would not have been able to move forward as we have without Dusty Smith who I am so grateful has assumed the role of technical director. His expertise has been invaluable.

Much appreciation to Claire Johnson for doing the costuming for the show. She has an incredible knack and vision for figuring out how best to bring the characters to life, despite their appearing only on a screen.

I am also so thankful to our cast for their hard work and dedication throughout this process and especially for cheerfully putting up with my various activities and challenges during rehearsals. While mostly seasoned actors, they have embraced the differences in performing in a virtual format with open minds and boundless enthusiasm. It is because of them that I have so enjoyed this process and have found it truly rewarding.

Finally, thank you to our audience for attending this performance. While we hope you enjoy watching our cast and presentation, we miss being able to see you and draw energy from your physical presence and reactions. It has been a challenging time for live arts and we look forward to resuming in the near future. In the mean time, it is our pleasure to be able to offer this virtual production.



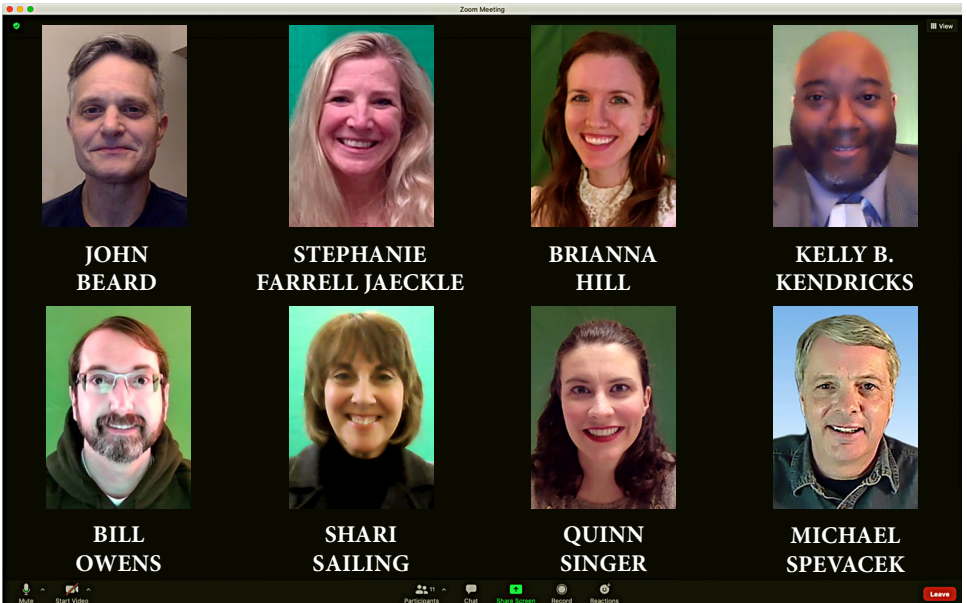
~Tom Arnol

the scenes

The play is performed in three acts with a 10 minute intermission after the first act.

the cast

John Worthing	Bill Owens
Algernon Moncrief.....	Kelly B. Kendricks
Gwendolyn Fairfax.....	Quinn Singer
Cecily Cardew.....	Brianna Hill
Lady Bracknell	Shari Sailing
Miss Prism.....	Stephanie Farrell Jaeckle
Rev. Canon Chasuble	Michael Spevacek
Lane	John Beard



who's who in the cast

JOHN BEARD (*Lane*) This is John's 9th show with VACT. Previous roles include Leo Bloom in *The Producers*, Don Lockwood in *Singing in the Rain*, The Old Man in *A Christmas Story the Musical* and Bryce Cannon in last year's *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. John is married with two kids, and counts among his favorite VACT memories performing with both children in *It's a Wonderful Life the Musical*. John is dedicating this show to all his theater friends feeling the frustration of a lack of performing opportunities this past year.

STEPHANIE FARRELL JAECKLE (*Miss Prism*) is happy to be in her second VACT performance. Her rendition of "Santa Baby" in *A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday* was her debut at VACT. She enjoyed theater in high school and college with favorite roles including Helen Keller in *Miracle Worker*, Elaine in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Ernestina in *Hello Dolly* and Mazeppa in *Gypsy*. She thanks her daughters, Stella & Izzi, for quizzing her on her lines, and her husband, Torrey, for supporting her interests.

BRIANNA HILL (*Cecily Cardew*) is perfectly delighted to be in her second VACT performance. Her previous shows include VACT's *Young Frankenstein* ensemble and St. Bernard Players' *Big Fish* ensemble. She thanks her fiancée, Meghan, for her unwavering support.

KELLY B. KENDRICKS (*Algernon*) is thrilled to be cast in his fifth venture at VACT. His previous shows include Curtis in *Sister Act*, Higsbee's Santa in *A Christmas Story*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday*. He is thankful to have some sort of theatre release during these pandemic times and is anxiously awaiting the time when he can set foot on an actual stage again with his fellow thespians!

BILL OWENS (*Jack Worthing*) is excited to be back in theater, "even of any kind." Some favorite past roles include Inspector Kemp in *Young Frankenstein*, Lord Scrumptious / The Toymaker in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and Grimsby in *The Little Mermaid*. As always, Bill thanks his family for their support and particularly his daughters, Lizzie and Claire, for putting up with Dad's takeover of the downstairs play area.

SHARI SAILING (*Lady Bracknell*) is delighted to work with the extremely talented Earnest cast in her second VACT production. A 25 year veteran of community theater, her first appearance after moving back home to southern Wisconsin, was as an inventor in VACT's *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* in 2019. While she isn't as fond of cucumber sandwiches as Lady Bracknell, she does appreciate a good cup of tea. Shari promises her pets, Sage and Isabeau, lots of post-show TLC for banishing them from the computer room on rehearsal nights. Shari also sends her love to Chuck who is watching the show from the best seat in the house.

QUINN SINGER (*Gwendolen Fairfax*) is honored to be cast in her 9th VACT show! Some of her favorite past roles include Shirley the Bank Teller in *It's a Wonderful Life: The Musical*, Woman 1 & 4 in *Young Frankenstein*, and Hooker #2 in *Sister Act*. She also enjoys directing youth VACT shows, and even got to play in the pit orchestra once! She would like to thank her brand-new husband Dan for never complaining when she monopolizes the entire kitchen for every virtual play rehearsal.

MICHAEL SPEVACEK (*Rev. Canon Chasuble*) Michael is excited to be dialed in to this innovative production! His previous VACT stage appearances include Jean Shepard in *A Christmas Story*, Msgr O'Hara in *Sister Act*, and Virgil Blessing in *Bus Stop*. He wants to thank his supportive wife Teresa for allowing him to use all of the bandwidth, and his daughter Bethany for her acting coaching.

recent VACT Productions

- 2010 Barefoot in the Park; The Music Man, Jr.; Race to the Finish; FAME; Children of Eden; White Christmas
- 2011 Guys and Dolls; Stone Soup; Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.; Footloose; The Wizard of Oz; Undertow: The Musical
- 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; VAcT Virtual Theater Fall 2020; A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday

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
Secretary: Elizabeth Kraemer
Treasurer: Brian Johnson

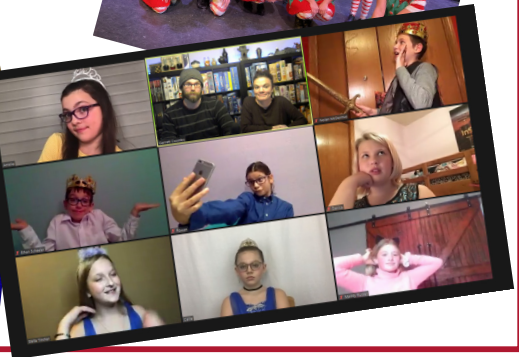
Additional Members

Tom Arnol, Dee Baldock, Terry Dvorak,
Kendra Johnson, Marie Kyle, Matthew Pulda,
Lynn Vilker, Sara Ward-Cassady



We officially opened our new facility in September 2017, but the fundraising work did not stop there. Our new goal is to raise enough money to pay off our mortgage and establish a growth fund to improve and expand performance and education opportunities for the friends of VACT.

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



Stay connected!



@VeronaAreaCommunityTheater



Did you enjoy the show? Tell your friends!

**Share your photos and experience with the official hashtag:
#VACTBeingEarnest**

UPCOMING SCHEDULE



Fri, Apr 9, 2021 5:30, 6:45, & 8:00 pm

Sat, Apr 10, 2021 11:00 am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 6:00, & 7:15 pm

Sun, April 11, 2021 10:00 am, 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15, & 8:30 pm

SUMMER CAMPS



Watch www.vact.org for more information.