

VAcT  
Verona Area children's Theater  
presents



November 13, 14, 15, 2020

30th Season  
137th, 138th, 139th, 140th,  
141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th Show

*This show is sponsored by:*

*Fund  
for  
Children*

★ American Girl™

## notes from the producer

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Art is flexible, and in the face of COVID-19, theater has illustrated that flexibility by going virtual. Never would I have imagined VACT's youth theater program to take to Zoom, 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 and provide an outlet for our young actors.

In late summer, while in the midst of mourning the cancellation of our full fall season, including our youth productions, due to the pandemic, the American Girl Fund for Children announced that it would continue its fantastic financial support of youth theater in whatever format theaters could envision something to offer kids. VACT responded with gusto, putting together the idea for all virtual productions, where young actors would audition, rehearse, and perform in a fully virtual format. Being written and released almost every day was an ever growing slate of kids' shows written to be performed in an all virtual Zoom-like video format. Also available - great enthusiasm for the project from our past youth show directors and others from the VACT community who were willing to jump in and direct in this new environment. We didn't know exactly how it would work, but we knew the energy and excitement was there, and we were so honored when we received funding from the American Girl Fund for Children for our project!

Each director and their cast met twice a week for rehearsals, learning what it meant to do theater virtually. We learned about virtual theater warmups, learned how to move in and out of the Zoom screen, tackled technology issues - adapting to whatever was needed and definitely having a lot of laughs along the way!

As the great actress Meryl Streep once said, "We need art as much as we need good works. You need it like food. You need it for inspiration, to keep going on the days that you're low. We need each other in that way." And it is these needs that are at the center of our virtual youth theater productions. This project has taught us all what it means to be flexible, and creative, and resilient and I hope it was time every week that our youth casts felt supported and happy to be performing again.

Enjoy the shows!

Sara Ward-Cassady  
Virtual Youth Shows Producer and Director

## the program staff

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Producer . . . . .	Sara Ward-Cassady
Technical Director . . . . .	Garrett Coombs
Costume Directors . . . . .	Claire Johnson, Allison Heil
Production Assistants . . . . .	Sarah Lederer, Alyssa Dvorak
Program . . . . .	Alyssa Dvorak
Tickets . . . . .	Lynn Vilker

## about the grant

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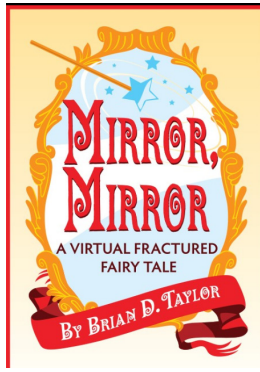
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American Girl’s Fund for Children is a catalyst for connecting cultural arts and environmental resources with our area children.

Since 1988, the Fund has awarded more than \$11 million in grants to numerous Dane County organizations.

Funding is made possible through the Madison Children’s Museum Annual American Girl Benefit Sale of overstock and returned American Girl merchandise. To date, the children’s museum has received more than \$13 million in sale proceeds, with the remaining portion returned to the Fund and then re-distributed back into the community to area nonprofits that provide arts, culture, and environmental programs for youth.





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## synopsis

Characters don't need modern day technology in this virtual fractured fairy tale — they have magic mirrors! The Evil Queen wishes to be fairest of them all, but when her Magic Mirror informs her that it is Snow White who is most fair, the queen is livid! The Evil Queen summons great magic so that she can look through all mirrors in the kingdom in hopes of finding Snow White. But there's a catch - the magic also allows everyone else's mirrors to show them what they most wish to see, as a series of familiar fairy tale characters find help in the most unlikely places!

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## the production staff

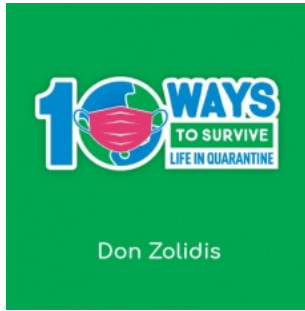
Written by **Brian D. Taylor**  
Produced by special arrangement with **Pioneer Drama Service, Denver CO**  
Directed by **Sara Ward-Cassady**

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## the cast

Rapunzel & Speedy . . . . .	Chase Kleber
Prince Dashing & Bouncy . . . . .	Ty Herb
Mirror . . . . .	Evie Vesperman
Evil Queen . . . . .	Erin Cassady
Cinderella & Sluggy . . . . .	Christine Piller
Fairy Godmother & Glammy . . . . .	Payton Sarbacher
Prince Charming & Stoaia . . . . .	Ellie Liebold
Snow White & Butterscotch & Stinky . . . . .	Lily Cuevas
Blingy & Weasetta & Witch's Voice . . . . .	Lucy Lawler
Prince Impeccable & Ermine . . . . .	Emma Eckmayer



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## synopsis

If you're spending a long time at home, it can be a challenge to keep yourself occupied. Luckily, *10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine* is full of handy solutions, from putting on a musical with your dog, to becoming an announcer for a made-up sport, to falling in love with an inanimate object. Hey, we promised handy solutions - we never said they wouldn't be strange. Whether or not you're inspired to take up origami and squirrel observation, this play is sure to bring a laugh to anyone who finds themselves unexpectedly indoors.

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## the production staff

Written by **Don Zolidis**  
Produced by special arrangement with **Playscripts, Inc.**  
Directed by **Shannon Seip**

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## the cast

Hosts . . . . .	Maizy Auger, Avery Haworth
Inanimate Object/Spalding . . . . .	Nathan Heil
Musical/Cats . . . . .	Sydney Ray
Birdhouse . . . . .	Mireya Caulkins
Solitaire . . . . .	Lizzie Owens
Basketball Moves . . . . .	Kirsten Lonski
Shakesbear . . . . .	Kate Wilkinson
Math Tutor . . . . .	Maddi Moll
Netflix . . . . .	Chris Woller
Squirrels Kim & Kanye . . . . .	Morty Arnol
Marshmallow Workout . . . . .	Vivian Neher
Spooky Toilet Paper . . . . .	Hannah True
Birthday Party . . . . .	Molly McArdle




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## synopsis

Preston Sterling is hosting a Zoom meeting with his children, third wife and closest staff to celebrate his birthday. The bitter old billionaire is bullying everyone once again and threatening to change his will when—ZZZZZT! Sterling is electrocuted through his phone. Enter Sloan, Rockford Sloan, homicide detective. Through a series of Zoom conferences, Sloan questions the usual suspects, all of whom had a motive. When every suspect has motive and opportunity, it's up to our brave detective AND the audience to find the killer.

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## the production staff

Written by Flip Kobler

Produced by special arrangement with **The Dramatic Publishing Company, Inc.**, Woodstock, IL

Directed by Quinn Huibregtse

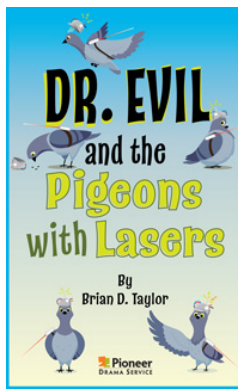
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## the cast

Sterling .....	Karter Erlandson
Florina .....	Addy Zimmerman
Juniper .....	Aria Johnson
Eugene .....	Calvin Patton
Bullion .....	Lucas Gonzalez
Macy .....	Sophia Hopp
Haley .....	Haley Strother
Barry .....	Alex Kiefert
Detective Sloan .....	Maddi Moll



## synopsis

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That despicable “mastermind,” Dr. Evil, is once again up to no good! At the monthly on-line meeting of the Council of Evil, the bumbling ne’er-do-well reveals his newest plans for world domination: trained pigeons... with lasers! Having heard his hair-brained schemes before, Gothma, Warhammer, Arsenica, and Vladi practically laugh him out of the Zoom room! Undeterred, Dr. Evil unleashes his army of pigeons upon Seattle and New Jersey, only to have his plans thwarted by unexpected events. About to lose hope, the doc’s assistant and BFF, Shirley, encourages him to keep on trying. But when the doctor sends his battalions to Oklahoma, he may finally have met his match in Josephine Esoteric and her army of tigers with jetpacks!

## the production staff

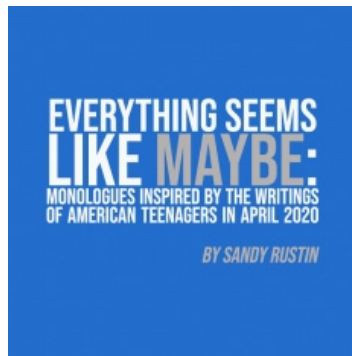
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Written by **Brian D. Taylor**  
 Produced by special arrangement with **Pioneer Drama Service, Denver CO**  
 Directed by **Lindsay Platt**

## the cast

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Countess Gothma .....	Brie Kiefert
Lord Warhammer .....	Gabe Wilson
Prince Vladi / Weather Reporter .....	Carsten Tereba
Archduchess Arsenica .....	Abby Murawski
Dr. Evil .....	Helen Milhans
Mayor Burke .....	Adri Leuschen
Governor Hart .....	Eleanor Steger
Shirley .....	Jenna Heil
Sheriff Myron .....	Sofia Ruder
Josephine Esoteric .....	Molly Horowitz



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## **synopsis**

The voices of teenagers take the spotlight in this series of timely monologues about the experience of sheltering in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the written work of real high school students and written especially for performance on video-conference platforms Everything Seems Like Maybe celebrates and validates the thoughts of young people during a surreal and unprecedented time; whether they're missing a crush, critiquing the society in which they live, or trying to imagine what could be next.

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## **the production staff**

Curated, Adapted, and Edited by **Sandy Rustin**  
Produced by special arrangement with **Playscripts, Inc.**  
Directed by **Lydia Benz**

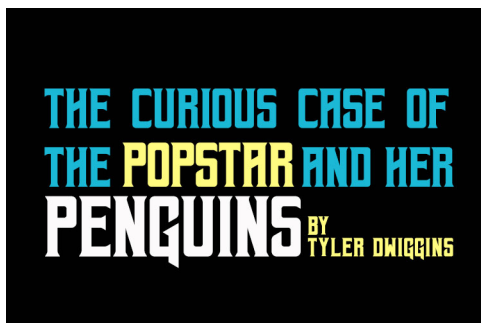
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## **the cast**

Student 1	JR Caulkins
Student 2	Paige Waller
Student 3	Henry Gabrielski
Student 4	Alexander Betzle
Student 5	Grace Traynor-Croft
Student 6	Grace Freiberg
Student 7	Eva Perez
Student 8	Nadia Veit
Student 9	Maja Tate
Student 10	Daniel Christian
Student 11	Abby Elson





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## synopsis

Pop superstar Jessica Jenee is on top of the world, with legions of fans awaiting her upcoming international tour - until scandal strikes. After she's caught stealing several penguins from the zoo, the tour is cancelled. Now Jessica's unfortunate manager can't go home for his son's birthday party until he breaks the bad news to everyone involved, from the intern to the astrologer. But what if there was a chance for Jessica to make things right? Could the ruthless talk show hosts and obsessed fans ever be satisfied?

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## the production staff

Written by Tyler Dwiggins  
Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc  
Directed by Dusty Smith

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## the cast

Jessica Jenee	Mireya Caulkins
Tom	Morty Arnol
Bruce	Kate Wilkinson
Liz	Thea Leuschen
Zoe/Georgette's Husband (Voice Only)	Payton Bystol
Georgette/Calliope	Lanee Joe
Kath/Aimee	Maizy Auger
Wanda Wilson/Bo	Chris Woller
Tempest/Dr. Bauble-Butte	Molly McArdle
Darla	Graciella Caulkins
Police Officer (Voice Only)	JR Caulkins
Dylan (Voice Only)	Tammy Holtan-Arnol



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## synopsis

Your favorite complaint department has now gone virtual! The virtual complaint department takes on some hysterical grievances — everything from Oreo icing to kleptomania and from songs stuck in the head to the price of cheese and on and on and on. Each character not only airs their own grievances, but must also focus on someone else's problem and assist them with their complaint. It seems people will whine about anything! Could there be a glimmer of hope for anyone in charge of a complaint department?

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## the production staff

Written by **Kamron Klitgaard**  
Produced by special arrangement with **Pioneer Drama Service, Denver CO**  
Directed by **Joanne Rash** with Assistant Director **Henry Gabrielski**

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## the cast

One, Ten .....	Ellie McKillips
Two .....	Caroline Soukup
Three, Fifteen .....	Lorelei Lawry
Four, Nine .....	Caleb Wegner
Five, Twelve .....	Elliot Gabrielski
Six, Fourteen .....	Addison Haydock
Eight .....	Reese Krebsbach
Seven, Thirteen .....	Nevyn Emmanuelli
Eleven .....	Lucy Gardener



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## synopsis

This magical collection of short fairy tale scenes bursts with familiar fairy tale characters, from Big Bad Wolf and Little Red to Goldilocks and Baby Bear and Prince Charming and all the classic princesses, but with a twist – they are all communicating via their phones or other devices. These original scenes are as fresh as they are funny!

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## the production staff

Written by **Flip Kobler** and **Cindy Marcus**  
Produced by special arrangement with **Pioneer Drama Service, Denver CO**  
Directed by **Natalie** and **Garrett Coombs**

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## the cast

Onstar, Maleficent, Girl (Belle) . . . . . Amelia Frey  
Magic Mirror, Operator, Cinderella . . . . . Callie Lederer  
Queen, Baby Bear, Snow White . . . . . Danica Sorenson  
Prince, Androcles, Charming . . . . . Ethan Scheeler  
Little Red, Puss, Goldilocks, Rapunzel . . . . . Maddy Rucker  
King, Philip, Man (Maurice) . . . . . Nolan McDermid  
Granny, Adora, Specialist . . . . . Rowan Broadbridge  
Big Bad Wolf, iPhone, Brand Manager, Aurora . . . . . Stella Tinchler

VACT  
VERONA AREA  
COMMUNITY THEATER  
presents



December 4th - 6th, 2020

For more information, visit:  
[www.vact.org](http://www.vact.org)