

Foellinger
Outdoor Theatre

1776

The Musical

September 12-20
all-female cast

CIVIC

theatre

2020-2021
SEASON

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PARKVIEW



1776

America's Prize Winning Musical

Music and Lyrics by SHERMAN EDWARDS
Book by PETER STONE

Based on a concept by SHERMAN EDWARDS

Original Production Directed by PETER HUNT
Originally Produced on the Broadway Stage by STUART OSTROW

1776 is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also
supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

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

Director & Choreographer
LESLIE BEAUCHAMP

Music Director
EUNICE WADEWITZ

Costume Designer
ANGELA SAHLI

Scenic Designer
ADAM FLETCHER

Lighting Designer
Technical Director
COREY LEE

Assistant Music Director
BRANDON PORTER

Assistant Director
BEN WEDLER

Stage Manager
JENNIFER BEINEKE

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**Matt said it
would!**

abc 21 YOUR
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THANK YOU

to Fort Wayne Parks
and Recreation and
the production staff at
Foellinger Outdoor Theatre
for their assistance in
bringing *1776*
to the stage!

*Special thanks to
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and Lone Auer Foundation
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collaboration with
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Parkview Health **Mike Packnett, President and CEO**

Parkview recognizes that health and well-being incorporate mind, body, spirit and community. The arts inspire both well-being and healing. Through our Healing Arts program, our care teams often incorporate literary, performing and visual arts into the care of our patients and their families. As a proud supporter of our community, the arts and the Civic Theatre, we at Parkview believe everyone should experience the joy of live theater.

Markey's Rental & Staging **Erik Shipley, Regional Director, Northern Indiana and Ohio**

As a corporate theater company, many at Markey's Rental & Staging began their careers both on and off the stage. It is through theater that we hope to engage our communities, nourish their creativity, and show the world through a different lens in the hopes that we connect with our audiences and leave lasting memories. We are honored to be among this year's Civic Theatre sponsors.



We would also like to acknowledge a donation from an Anonymous Donor for their sponsorship of the 2020-2021 Season!

2020-2021 SHOW SPONSORS - PRODUCERS



ADM - Asphalt Drum Mixers **Wayne and Linda Boyd, Owners**

As the owners of Asphalt Drum Mixers, we are very excited that our employees, friends and family have the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful shows that the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre puts on each year. We love the diversity in the productions and really enjoy supporting all the Arts in the Fort Wayne area.

AWS Foundation **Patti Hays, Chief Executive Officer**

AWS Foundation applauds Civic Theatre's "Project Lights Up!" sensory friendly performances. Creating a performing arts experience that is welcoming to individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities and their families means everyone can enjoy the theatre experience. We are delighted to support the Civic Theatre as they answer the need for inclusion of people of all abilities.





Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Guild **Margaret Ankenbruck, Guild President**

The Guild is so happy to be able to sponsor and support the Civic Theatre. We are grateful to the audience members who purchase products from us at all the performances and attend the Guild-sponsored opening night cast parties at the Civic Theatre. If you love theatre and want to support the Civic, then please contact me about becoming a Guild member. Sit back and enjoy another great Civic show!



Fort Wayne Metals **Scott Glaze, Chairman and CEO**

In these current times of uncertainty, the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre continues to uphold its long-standing commitment to our community to provide an incomparable theatre experience for all ages. Fort Wayne Metals applauds you! Thank you for providing us with first-class arts and entertainment in downtown Fort Wayne.



Steel Dynamics, Inc. **Mark Millett, President and CEO**

Steel Dynamics is proud to support the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its cultural endeavor here in our community. We look forward to another season of outstanding performances.



Chuck and Lisa Surack and Sweetwater **Chuck Surack, Founder and President**

Sweetwater is delighted to sponsor the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its mission to enrich northeast Indiana through music and drama. The Civic Theatre's ability to encourage, cultivate, and showcase local talent is remarkable. Sweetwater, and its more than 2,000 employees, looks forward to another great season of music, laughter, and entertainment.



Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® **David Belew, Executive Officer**

The Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® is privileged to support the Civic Theatre. As REALTORS®, we recognize the importance of building strong communities. The Civic Theatre, with its outstanding theatrical productions, is a unique gem that contributes to the vitality of Northeastern Indiana by celebrating the cultural arts and building community pride. We applaud the dedicated cast members, staff, and volunteers at the Civic who help make Northeastern Indiana a great place to live, work and play. We look forward to more stellar performances this season.





2020-2021 SHOW SPONSORS - CO-PRODUCERS



Ambassador Enterprises **Arlan Friesen, President**

"We're proud to sponsor the Civic Theatre and the wonderful team that makes each performance memorable. The experiences they provide leave a positive impact on our community and help create a better tomorrow."

Apollo Design Technology, Inc, Avid Labs, Blue Pony - Joel Nichols, Owner

We are honored to sponsor the staff, actors and volunteers of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. My family, friends and employees have enjoyed countless outstanding performances by very talented individuals. We look forward to another year of first-class community theater. Let the show begin!



OmniSource Corporation **Russ Rinn, President & Chief Operating Officer**

OmniSource is proud to sponsor Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the production of *Annie*. We believe that the arts are vital to any community. We applaud Civic Theatre's outstanding performances that involve so many talented volunteers from the community both on and off stage.

PHP (Physicians Health Plan) **Gary D. Shearer, President and CEO**

PHP appreciates the inspiring performances Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's talented and artistic troupe brings to our community. We are proud to once again be a corporate sponsor of an organization that influences and motivates through the performing arts, bringing creativity and collaboration to our city. Thank you Fort Wayne Civic Theatre!



Join the Guild!



**A love for the Civic Theatre
is all that is needed!**

**The Guild meets the 1st Monday of
the month for a dinner meeting at
a restaurant in Fort Wayne.**

**Annual dues
are just \$25**

**Call Cappy at 260-744-3724
or Margaret at 260-424-4217**

*The purpose of the Guild for the past 59 years has been
to assist the Theatre in all areas including financial support.*




Haller & Colvin

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Choreographer **\$15,000 and beyond**

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Designer **\$7,500 to \$14,999**

Wayne & Linda Boyd
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Upstate Alliance of Realtors

Stage Manager **\$5,000 to \$7,499**

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PHP (Physicians Health Plan)

Technician **\$2,500 to \$4,999**

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Lead Role **\$350 to \$599**

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Supporting Role **\$200 to \$349**

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Ensemble Role **\$100 to \$199**

Craig & Diana Bartscht
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\$100 to \$199 *continued*

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**Donations of \$100 or more are recognized.
Donations are recognized within the season they are donated,
not by calendar year. Any recent donations of \$100 or more
will be included in the next Stagebill.**



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Leading our industry. Supporting our community.

A family-owned company, Fort Wayne Metals contributes to worthy organizations that make our region a great place to call home. Additionally, our employees generously give their time and energy to causes and projects that make a difference. Whether it's championing efforts that lift up our community or providing the world with precision wire used in medical devices, we're all about making lives better.

Learn more about our mission: fwmetals.com



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INDIANA VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

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Welcome to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre!

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre is extremely honored to be collaborating with the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department in bringing the all-female cast musical *1776* to the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre. During this period of the coronavirus we were forced to think out-of-the-box in how to move forward, how to proceed in the safest way possible for all. The Foellinger Outdoor Theatre has given us this path to create and engage our audiences once again after having to cancel the last two shows of the 2019-2020 Season: *A Cole Porter Celebration Concert* and *Noises Off*. We are so thankful for the talent and perseverance of the *Legally Blonde* cast, crew, production team and staff for leading the way during this time of the coronavirus! They paved the way for us to bring *1776* to you!



Phillip H. Colglazier

The open-air venue of Foellinger Outdoor Theatre provides fresh air and plenty of space to accommodate social distancing seating. The capacity of the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre is normally 2,571, but with social distancing seating only 419. Whereas the Civic Theatre's home stage at the Arts United Center's capacity is 630, but with social distancing seating only 160.

In addition, we are delighted to offer the panel discussion "The Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment in Honor of Suffragettes" after the Sunday, September 13th matinee. Guest Panelists:

Sharon Tucker – City Councilwoman

Lana Keesling – City Clerk

Nancy McCammon-Hansen,
past president of the League of Women Voters of Fort Wayne

Leslie Beauchamp, Director & Choreographer, *1776*

We are mission driven as a 501c3 non-profit arts organization. Since 1927, we have a proud history of our vision, mission and values that drives our organization. Our Mission - Fort Wayne Civic Theatre entertains, educates, inspires, and enriches the community through exceptional live theatre experiences.

We are being proactive in resetting the venues and dates so that we will still provide you all the shows in our 2020-2021 Season. The dates and venues may change. You will be kept in the loop as soon as we know!

2020-2021 Civic Theatre Season

Annie: November 4-8, 2020 at the Historic Embassy Theatre

Sunset Boulevard-the Musical: February 2021

The Mousetrap: March 2021

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum: May 2021

We know that due to social distancing seating our box office income, which is 30% of our operating budget, will take a 50% to 70% loss. Now more than ever we hope you will consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's general operating funds.

On behalf of the Civic Theatre staff and board of directors, we are so thrilled to be showcasing the incredible talents of the all-female cast and crew in the empowering musical *1776*. We are honored to have Leslie Beauchamp return to direct and choreograph this production! Thank you, Leslie! Enjoy!



We believe in
supporting the arts.
Every step of the way.



lakecitybank.com

The Encore Society *Civic* theatre

Set the stage for those who follow with a planned gift to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre that will continue to perform after you are gone. Join *The Encore Society* by naming the Civic Theatre as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan. This is one of the best ways to ensure the organization you've always loved and supported continues to thrive.

To be listed in our print materials as a member of *The Encore Society*, please let us know when you have added Civic Theatre to your estate beneficiaries.

For more information on planned giving contact:

Civic Theatre's
Development Director
Kathy Whiteman
at (260) 422.8641 x230

or your attorney and make sure
your will includes a gift
to Civic Theatre.

100% Club

Donors who have completed
the total (\$1,480 or more) contribution to the
100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.



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**In just 7 years we will celebrate our
100th Anniversary!**

You can be a part of securing the future of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for years to come with your gift to Civic Theatre's 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

If you would like to be a part of this important campaign we ask you to pledge to contribute a total of \$1,500 or more to be paid by June 2028 (over and above your traditional annual giving). You can determine a payment schedule at the time you submit your pledge form. Or, if you prefer, simply make a one-time 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund donation of \$1,500 or more.

Your donation to the 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund will be appropriately recognized in each Civic Stagebill program through our 100th Anniversary Season. Your generous gift will be part of a strong financial foundation that will ensure the Civic Theatre's place in our community for decades to come, nurturing generations of actors and technical stage volunteers.

**Call the Civic Theatre's Development Director
to request your pledge form or to make your
100th Anniversary Endowment donation today!
Kathy Whiteman - (260) 422-8641 x 230**

**Thank you to these donors who are making an on-going commitment
to support the 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.**

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Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Staff



Phillip H. Colglazier, Executive/Artistic Director

Phillip has served as the Civic Theatre's Executive/Artistic Director since 2000 after serving as Managing Director of Edyvean Repertory Theatre (E.R.T.) in Indianapolis. Before E.R.T. he worked for Fort Wayne Civic Theatre 6 years as Interim Executive Director, Development/Education Director, and Guest Director/Choreographer. He was honored as the 2008 Arts Administrator by the Indiana Coalition for the Arts. Phillip performed 12 years professionally as an Actors Equity Member in musical theatre and television in Seoul, Korea, Vienna, Rome and throughout the U.S. He obtained his Bachelors in Speech Communication and Theatre from Ball State.



Eunice Wadewitz, Music/Education Director

Eunice has spent her whole career in one form of music or another. She began teaching piano, playing organ for church, and playing piano 5 hours a day for tea time at the L'Orangerie Lounge in the Downtown Hilton. She then moved on to become choir and handbell choir director as well as organist for several churches before moving into the realm of theater. Once she tried theater, there was no going back, and the Civic Theatre has happily been her home for the last 20+ years.



Mahlon Houlihan, Business Manager

Mahlon joined the Civic staff in October of 2006 after serving as Business Manager for the Embassy Theatre Foundation for five years. He formerly worked as an independent computer consultant specializing in custom software development and system design with a concentration in business and financial applications. He brings a strong background and a degree in Computer Technology to the position along with previous finance experience in the non-profit sector. Mahlon owns and fosters retired Greyhounds and is proud "dad" to five at the moment.



Elise Ramel, Marketing Director

Elise has worked in marketing and public relations for over 30 years. She began her career at The Asher Agency, a full-service advertising and PR firm in Fort Wayne. She has worked on staff and as a consultant for many area non-profit organizations and private sector companies. Elise received a Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University. Her hobby is seeing as many Broadway and off-Broadway shows as possible with her daughter each year. She loves living in Fort Wayne and being a part of this amazing theatre community.



Kathy Whiteman, Development Director

If Kathy looks familiar you may have seen her on our stage, most recently appearing in *Beauty and the Beast*, *White Christmas* and *Mamma Mia!* A native of Fort Wayne, Kathy is the proud mom of three children and is heavily involved in the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana (DSANI) where she serves as the MOMS Chair. Kathy owns a top ranked face painting business and can often be found creating art at the annual 3 Rivers Festival Chalk Walk. Kathy joined the Civic staff in September of 2019 and is thrilled that her Development career began with an organization she is so passionate about.





Corey Lee, Technical Director/Lighting Designer

Corey is proud to be starting his fifth season at the Civic. He is a graduate of IPFW, where he received a degree in both Theatre and Secondary Education. Corey started working backstage in middle school. While working on *Jekyll and Hyde* at Northrop High School in 2005, he fell in love with the show and theatre. Corey has designed and worked with IPFW, Mikautadze Dance Theatre, Youtheatre, University of St Francis, Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre, and First Presbyterian Theatre. Corey would like to thank his family for all of their support. www.coreylee.com



Adam Fletcher, Scenic Designer

A native of nearby North Manchester, Adam first became involved in theatre as local crew for the Honeywell Center in Wabash, and as a carpenter for the Muncie Civic Theatre. After earning a BA in Theatre from IPFW in 2013, he has since served the area's theatre community as master carpenter for the Fort Wayne Civic, where he began interning in 2011, and as scenic designer for Fort Wayne Youtheatre, Canterbury Schools, and Wabash Area Community Theatre. This is Adam's fifth season as Scenic Designer for Civic.



Angela Sahli, Costume Designer

Angela has been a part of live theatre since she was young, experiencing collaboration both on-stage and behind the scenes. After finishing her BA in Musical Theatre from Northern State University, she pursued her interest in costume design. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in costume design at Minnesota State University, Mankato - developing her passion and skills in the craft. Locally, Angela has designed set and costumes for Arena Dinner Theatre and worked as a Guest Artist at Weisser Park Elementary. She was honored to be recognized as the 2020 Arts United Emerging Artist. She is enjoying parenthood with her husband Adam. www.AngelaSahliCostumes.com



Rachel Lachelt, Scenic Artist/Volunteer Coordinator

Rachel is a scenic artist who hails from Fort Collins, Colorado who recently moved to join the Civic team. She is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado where she received her BA in Scenic Painting and grew her love for theatre. Past credits include Scenic Charge Artist for Indiana University's Summer Theatre 2019, Scenic Charge Artist for *Major Barbara* (2017), *The Boyfriend* (2017), and scenic artist for *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Addam's Family Musical*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Rosemary Hampton, Assistant Costume Designer

A native-born Minnesotan, Rosemary moved to Fort Wayne to become a part of the Civic family. Before moving, she graduated from Minnesota State University-Mankato with a Bachelor of Arts in Art History. During her time at MSU, she worked in the costume shop both during the academic year and Highland Summer Theatre as a stitcher and student designer. Rosemary is excited to get the chance to work in the Fort Wayne community.



**President**

John Hancock.....Minelli Manoukian

New Hampshire

Dr. Josiah Bartlett.....Paige Smith

Massachusetts

John Adams.....Amy Ross

Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins.....Becky Niccum

Connecticut

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New Jersey

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Benjamin Franklin.....Pam Karkosky

John Dickinson.....Leah Wedler

James Wilson.....Mandie Kolkman

Delaware

Caesar Rodney.....Kelsey Kreger

Col. Thomas McKean.....DeAnna Quick

George Read.....Kristen Holt

Maryland

Samuel Chase.....Tala Munsterman

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Richard Henry Lee.....Bobbi Jo Carroll

Thomas Jefferson.....Tia Hackbush

North Carolina

Joseph Hewes.....Doris Hawley

South Carolina

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Andrew McNair.....Heather Brackeen

Abigail Adams.....Audra Rittenhouse

Martha Jefferson.....Diana Marie Rose

Painter, Leather Apron.....Olivia Rousel

Courier.....Ren Moore



THE PLACE

A single setting representing the Chamber and an Anteroom of the continental congress, a Mall, High Street, and Thomas Jefferson's Room, in Philadelphia; and certain reaches of John Adams' mind.

THE TIME

May, June and July, 1776

ACT ONE

Scene 1 - The Chamber of the Continental Congress

"For God's Sake, John, Sit Down"Adams & The Congress

"Piddle, Twiddle"Adams

"Till Then"Adams & Abigail

Scene 2 - The Mall

"The Lees of Old Virginia"Lee, Franklin & Adams

Scene 3 - The Chamber

But, Mr. Adams"Adams, Franklin
Jefferson, Sherman & Livingston

Scene 4 - Thomas Jefferson's Room & High Street

"Yours, Yours, Yours"Adams & Abigail

"He Plays The Violin"Martha, Franklin & Adams

Scene 5 - The Chamber

"Cool, Cool Considerate Men"Dickinson & The Conservatives

Intermission

ACT TWO

Scene 5, continued - The Chamber

"Momma Look Sharp"Courier, McNair, Leather Apron

Scene 6 - A Congressional Anteroom

"The Egg"Franklin, Adams, Jefferson

Scene 7 - The Chamber

"Molasses to Rum"Rutledge

"Compliments"Abigail

"Is Anybody There?"Adams & Thomson

Voices of the Suffragettes

Evelyn Wedler, Alivia Wheeler, Cassie Smith
Olivia Rang, Regan Kreigh, Rosie Ridenour

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"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Arguably the most famous part of the Declaration of Independence, the section that Lincoln referenced in the first sentence of his Gettysburg Address, that Elizabeth Cady Stanton added "and women" to in her Seneca Falls Declaration, and that the Schuyler Sisters belt out in Broadway's *Hamilton*, it is a lens through which

we define human rights - rights we can recognize weren't evenly or fairly considered at the outset, but which we have battled for and continue to fight to claim.

For the past several weeks I have had the privilege of working closely with twenty-six supremely talented and inspiring actresses, researching the lives and circumstances of these truly courageous men who tasked themselves with taking this first step toward forming The United States of America, and the women whose own strength and bravery in that process is too often overshadowed and overlooked. I have most often been asked to comment on what unique obstacles we have encountered during rehearsals for our all female production. With complete honesty and candor I answer, "None." This cast has, conversely, studied these roles and how people lived during that time with an exhaustive scope and intensity. Just as theatre was commonly cast with all male actors dating back to the Ancient Greeks, we approached these traditionally male characters as we would any acting assignment. It has allowed us to focus on the incredible people and story that we present in *1776*.

1776 is the classic, Tony Award-winning musical that showcases the determination, the principles, and the pride that shaped and influenced the birth of our nation. Based on letters and memoirs of America's founding fathers and their wives, it has been a delight to watch some of our city's most skilled actresses bring the impassioned debates of Philadelphia's Second Continental Congress to life. We have marveled at the bravery of the boys and men that General George Washington sends updates about from the military front, confronted the hypocrisy of the slavery debate, appreciated the strength and stubbornness required to persuade the thirteen colonies to separate from British rule, and been completely fascinated by the importance of and the process required to produce saltpeter!

While we took a traditional approach in all aspects of rehearsing and presenting *1776*, the fact that none of the women portraying these characters or producing this show would have been afforded any of the rights their characters demanded must be acknowledged. We all too often take the world we live in and the way of life we enjoy for granted. To think that the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was only ratified 100 years ago, 144 years after the signing of the Declaration, seems somehow surreal. More incredulous yet, it wasn't until the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a mere 55 years ago, that Jim Crow laws, amended state constitutions imposing voting restrictions, and other legal forms of disenfranchisement, were struck down.

As we recognize the astonishing feat, as imperfect as it was – the formation of a new nation - that our renowned founding fathers completed against seemingly insurmountable odds, so too must we appreciate the countless men and women who have since then taken up their baton and continue to work tirelessly - through generations - to form a more perfect union, to secure every citizen of these United States "certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Vote.



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From Suffragettes to Women in Politics Today!

FREE PANEL DISCUSSION

Sunday, Sept 13 following matinee of 1776

City Clerk Lana Keesling is now serving her second term as City Clerk of Fort Wayne. Prior to being elected in 2015, she was the CFO and IT Director of a warehousing and transportation company for eighteen years. Prior to that, she was a small business owner for ten years running an art gallery and frame shop. Keesling holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, graduating with Honors, and an MBA. Keesling is a Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Alumni, and was named Volunteer of the year for the Girl Scouts Northern Indiana Michiana in 2009. She serves on the Metro Human Relations Commission as the Chair, PTC/Citilink Board serving on the Legislative and Finance boards, League for the Blind where she is the Chair, and the Fort Wayne Government Access Board. She is the Past President of the Allen County Purdue University Extension Advisory Board where she still remains on the Advocacy Committee. Keesling has volunteered her time each week for the last 5 years to the Study Connection which tutors students, and she also sits on her neighborhood association board. In addition, she is the President of the Allen County Republican Women's Group, and a member of the Downtown GOP Club. Keesling grew up in Indianapolis, but has called Fort Wayne home since 1989. In her free time, she spends time with her husband, Dr. Robert Ketcham, at the lake with their seven children and ten grandchildren.

Leslie Beauchamp, Director & Choreographer for 1776 is an adjunct professor for the University of St. Francis, Leslie is a familiar face and voice to area audiences, having been involved in our Arts and Show Choir communities for over 35 years. Leslie most recently served at Civic as the Director/Choreographer for *Sweeney Todd*. Leslie's recent production credits also include Choreographer for Civic Theatre's *Mamma Mia!*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cabaret*, Director/Choreographer for Civic Theatre's *Memphis*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and *Newsies*, and Director/Choreographer for USF's *Seussical*, *Sister Act*, and *The Will Rogers Follies*. Last seen onstage as Desiree Armfeldt in Arena's production of *A Little Night Music*, Leslie is an avid theatre director/choreographer/performer working with all area theatres, as well as Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Ford Theatre at the Honeywell Center, and with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. In addition to theatrical productions, Leslie has choreographed award winning show choirs throughout Indiana, serves as an adjudicator and motivational clinician, and works as a voice over talent for local, regional, and national companies. Favorite performances include Margaret Johnson in *Light in the Piazza*, Guinevere in *Camelot*, the Witch in *Into the Woods*, Anita in *West Side Story*, Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Cassie and Sheila in *A Chorus Line*, and Gypsy Rose Lee in *Gypsy*. Choreographic works include *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hairspray*, *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Godspell*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Dames at Sea*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *All Shook Up*, and *Legally Blonde*.

Councilwoman Sharon Tucker has been serving the insurance community for more than 25 years. A graduate of Indiana Tech, she holds two Bachelors of Science degrees in Management and Human Resources. Sharon's community engagement is extensive. She's a proud member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Anthony Wayne Rotary, the AAUW, and the NAACP. Sharon also volunteers on the Board of Directors for the Allen County Public Library and helped launch the Community Housing Development Organization, 'Joshua's Hand,' in 2015, subsequently serving on its Board of Directors. Sharon's civic engagement is extensive having served as the Treasurer for the Allen County Democratic Party for five years and as Vice Chair in 2016. Sharon was elected as 1st District Councilwoman on the Allen County Council in 2014 and was re-elected to a second term in 2018. While on County Council, she was the only female, African American, and Democrat serving at the time. Sharon then ran for the 6th District City Council seat in 2019 and won wherein she continues to make her mark in local politics as the first African American woman to hold this seat. Sharon has long held a desire to help other women achieve their political goals. In 2012, she formed the 'Women in Politics Forum,' an annual forum focusing on empowering, engaging, and educating women on the importance of being involved in the political process. She's also mentored several local female political candidates and especially enjoys public speaking as it relates to women in politics. Finally, Councilwoman Tucker makes time for running a successful e-Commerce business and YouTube Channel - 'Classy Shay Design's' – where she offers affordable craft supplies for do-it-yourself projects as well as custom gifts. Sharon also relishes time with her family and friends.

Nancy McCammon-Hansen, immediate past president of the League of Women Voters of Fort Wayne - was one of the persons who helped bring the League of Women Voters back into existence in Fort Wayne in 2008. Since moving to the city 14 years ago, Nancy has worked for three local not-for-profits and is now retired. She volunteers with AARP, Bread for the World and the Lincoln Collection as well as her church. Nancy holds a degree in journalism-history-English from the University of Nebraska Kearney. She and her husband, Tom, a semi-retired Episcopal priest, have one son who lives in NYC. In addition to politics, Nancy enjoys reading and genealogy work.



Lana R. Keesling



Sharon Tucker



Leslie Beauchamp



Nancy McCammon-Hansen

A non-partisan voter registration information booth will be hosted at every performance by





AMY ROSS (John Adams) has been teaching Vocal Music and Dance with FWCS for 28 years. Amy received her Bachelor's degree from Ball State and her Master's degree from Michigan State University. Theatrical roles include Nancy in *Oliver*, Sister Robert Ann in *Nunsense*, and Aldonza/Dulcinea in *Man of La Mancha*. She received an Anthony Award for her portrayal of Mrs. Lovett in the Civic Theatre's production of *Sweeney Todd* last fall. To the cast of 1776, Real Queens fix each other's crowns!" Now, GET OUT AND VOTE!

PAM KARKOSKY (Benjamin Franklin) is returning to Fort Wayne Civic Theatre after a 28-year hiatus. Some favorite roles from the past include Andy in *Steppin' Out*, City Her in *Gifts of the Magi*, Ensemble in *The Dining Room*, Widow Corney in *Oliver*, Mrs. Frank in IPFW's *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Rosemary Sydney in *Picnic* and Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, both at BSU. More recently she was seen in First Presbyterian's *Present Laughter* as Miss Erickson and in USF's *Sister Act: The Musical* as Sister Mary Lazarus. "Thank you Richard, Chris, and Brian for being the wind beneath my wings!"



TIA HACKBUSH (Thomas Jefferson) has been a part of the University of Saint Francis theatre in shows such as *The Wizard of Oz* as Dance Captain/Ozian/Jitterbug, *Sister Act* as a featured nun, *Suessical the Musical* as Mayzie La Bird, and *The Sound of Music* as the Baroness. This is her first show with the Civic Theatre but is she is so excited to be a part of 1776! She looks forward to many more shows with the Civic! She thanks her family and friends for all their continued support of her passion.

AUDRA RITTENHOUSE (Abigail Adams) earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from Huntington University. She has been involved in multiple productions at Civic including playing Doris Walker in last season's *Miracle on 34th Street*. She has also appeared at Civic in *Mary Poppins*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Christmas Carol*, *White Christmas*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!* Audra thanks her family for supporting her passion to perform, and the Civic for providing opportunities for everyone in the community with passion for the performing arts.



DIANA MARIE ROSE (Martha Jefferson) is a Freshman at Molloy College Cap21 (Long Island and NYC) studying BFA in Musical Theatre. This is Diana's second production with Fort Wayne Civic Theatre since playing Maid/Ensemble in *The Little Mermaid* back in 2017. She recently played Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (Coldwater High School), Ali in *Mamma Mia* (Jay County Civic), and George in *The Wedding Singer* (Coldwater High School). Diana would like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support in helping her pursue her dreams.



BOBBI JO CARROLL (Richard Henry Lee) is eternal-LEE thankful for this incredib-LEE talented cast, its directors and creative team! She loves her jobs as Music Teacher at Shambaugh Elementary & Musical Theatre Instructor at Triple Threat Performing Arts Academy. Selected FW Civic credits: Baroness Bomburst in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Fairy Godmother in *Shrek*, Joy in *Cinderella*, and *Rent*. Three Rivers Music Theatre credits: Ensemble in *The Light in the Piazza*, several Cabarets, & production team for *The Wild Party*, *Fun Home*, *Dogfight*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Next to Normal*.



"A salute and endless love to God, Mom & family, Andy, 5000TextsintheWind, Sarah & Henry, Annie & Michele and friends."



RENEE GONZALES (Edward Rutledge) has most recently been seen in Civic productions of *Sweeney Todd* as Quintet Soloist, *Beauty and the Beast* as The Wardrobe, *The Marvelous Wonderettes* as Missy, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* as Christine Colgate. Other local credits: Oscar in *The Wild Party*-Three Rivers Music Theatre, Feste in *Twelfth Night*-First Presbyterian Theater, Mrs. Nordstrom in *A Little Night Music* (Featured Actress Award)-Arena Dinner Theatre. Renee is a music educator with a Bachelor's in Musical Theatre from Ball

State University. Thanks to family, friends, Leslie, and this incredible cast and creative team!

LEAH WEDLER (John Dickinson) is excited to be back on the Civic stage. Previous Civic productions include *Sweeney Todd* as Wigmaker/Quintet, *Mary Poppins* as a Chimney Sweep, *The Glass Menagerie* as Laura and *Once Upon a Mattress* as Lady Beatrice (Anthony Award). Among her credits, Leah lists favorites *South Pacific* as Nellie Forbush (Arena Award), *A Little Night Music* as Mrs. Anderssen, and *Sister Act* as Sister Mary Martin of Tourres. Leah would like to thank Leslie for this amazing opportunity.



Performing for you completes the artistic process for us! We would like your opinion of the Civic Theatre, the show and your experience with us.

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If you attended Project Lights Up and would like to take a survey about your experience at our sensory-friendly production, email eramel@fwcivic.org



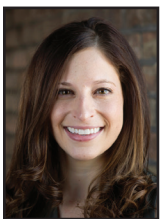
JILLIAN COOK BIXLER (Roger Sherman) is very happy to be back on the Civic Stage. Jill appeared in the ensemble of last season's *Sweeney Todd*. Her other credits include *Always A Bridesmaid*, at Arena, *Beauty and the Beast* at Civic, Grandma in the FW Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, 3 years for Crown Cruise Line and an apprenticeship in her younger days at Burt Reynolds Dinner Theatre in Jupiter Florida. Jill serves on the board of Arena Dinner Theatre, teaches ESL for SACS and private voice/piano lessons. Big Thanks to Leslie & Love to K, D & D.

HEATHER BRACKEEN (Andrew McNair) is happy to return to the Civic stage with her daughter, Ren. Together, their family sings, dances, tell jokes and chases their four cats. Heather does not enjoy custodial work. FUN FACT: 1776 seems to be a family tradition – husband, Jeff Moore, played John Adams in the previous Civic production, when daughter Zoe was born. That same daughter just moved to John Adams' home state of Massachusetts, to attend Boston University.



DORIS HAWLEY (Joseph Hewes) is excited to be making her Civic debut, especially in such a historic production. She has previously been in shows in Northwest Ohio with CCBanks Productions and the Fort Defiance Players, her most recent role being Mayor Matilda Hyde in *All Shook Up* (2017). Doris works part-time as a veterinary assistant, and enjoys volunteering in the Civic's scenic and costume shops and helping with costumes for Antwerp High School productions. She would like to thank Leslie for giving her this opportunity, and her family for their support and encouragement.

KRISTEN HOLT (George Read) is excited to be a part of this special production of 1776. She was most recently seen on the Civic stage as a Macy's Clerk in *Miracle on 34th Street*. Other favorite credits include Goran in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and Will's Sister in *Will Rogers Follies*. When she is not on stage, Kristen works as a legal assistant for a law firm in Fort Wayne and is happily married to husband Jesse and has two lovely children, Austin and Faye. As always, this show is dedicated to her special angel, Matthew Cygan.



MANDIE KOLKMAN (James Wilson, Dance Captain) is delighted to work with the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, once again, after setting the choreography for their production of *Matilda* earlier this year. Mandie has choreographed for many productions, including performances at the Fort Wayne Dance Collective where she serves as the Artistic Director. Locally, Mandie performed in the Three Rivers Music Theatre's production of *Cabaret* as Helga, Fort Wayne Civic's production of *Elf the Musical*, and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Holiday Pops (dancer). In 2021, Mandie will set the choreography for the Civic's production of *Sunset Boulevard*.



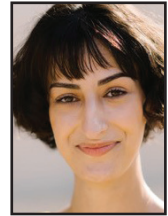
KELSEY KREGER (Caesar Rodney) is thrilled to be making her first appearance on the Civic stage! She recently played Lady Monica Wickenham in *While The Lights Were Out*, as well as having been in the ensemble of *The Sound of Music* and *Seussical the Musical* at USF. Kelsey is a singer/songwriter, a cat mom of 2, and a belly dancer! She is grateful for this opportunity and would like to say thank you to her family and friends who have encouraged and supported her journey back to the arts!



BETH KRINER (Robert Livingston) is excited to make history with this all-women cast! She is returning to the Civic Stage after performing in *Mamma Mia!* last May. She also performed in USF's *The Sound of Music* last November. Additionally, Beth currently performs improv murder mysteries with Fort Wayne's "The Dinner Detective." Beth would like to thank "her sexy husband, Steve, for supporting her dreams and attending every one of her shows." She also thanks Leslie for this fun opportunity! Most importantly, she gives all

glory to her Savior, Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 10:31

MINELLI MANOUKIAN (John Hancock) is excited to work on another production with the Fort Wayne Civic and Foellinger Theatres. She has had the pleasure of taking part in a variety of shows in the Fort Wayne community, most recently including Kate in *Legally Blonde*. Other productions in town include: *A Little Night Music* as Mrs. Segstrom, *Sea Creature/Gull/Princess* in *The Little Mermaid*, *Bystander* in *Assassins*, *Phantom* in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Ensemble in *The Light in the Piazza*, and *Coriolanus* in *Coriolanus*. Minelli would like to thank her family, and her friends for their support and encouragement.



DOTTY MILLER (Rev. Jonathan Witherspoon) is a fixture in the Fort Wayne theatre scene on-stage and behind the scenes and last year performed in two comedies with the Williams County Community Theatre in Bryan, Ohio. In addition to theater performances, she can be heard singing at various churches and narrating/emcee-ing events in the area. She also is a volunteer with the Miss America Organization/Miss Indiana Scholarship Program as a coach, emcee and judge. Doty's full time job is Director of Human Resources for DeKalb County Government (Auburn, IN).

REN MOORE (Courier) is a sophomore at Homestead High School. She is a second year Elite show choir member and is happy to play the role in *1776* that her director, Curtis Shaw, played 20 years ago. Just like the Courier, Ren likes to deliver messages "mostly on protest signs."





TALA MUNSTERMAN (Samuel Chase) When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for Tala Munsterman to be entering her fifth season at the Civic and assume among her the powers of the earth, it requires that she work nearly every show in the past four seasons, among these acted are *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, and the pursuit of happiness from her beloved dog Digerie. We, the Representatives of the United Talas of America, publicly declare that we are all absolved from all allegiance to the strange year that is 2020!

BECKY NICCUM (Stephen Hopkins) is no stranger to the theatre, and she is very excited to be working under the direction of the extremely talented Leslie Beauchamp in 1776. It has been a while since Becky has been onstage here at the Civic but she has been active at the Civic as a guest director. Directing such shows as: *Avenue Q*, *Quilt, A Musical Celebration*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *West Side Story*, *Big River*, etc. Recent appearances on stage have been at Arena Dinner Theatre in *Four Old Broads* and *Calendar Girls*.



DEANNA QUICK (Col. Thomas McKean) is thrilled to be back after a long hiatus from the stage. Recently moving to Fort Wayne, this is her first appearance with Civic. She would like to give special thanks to her children for their support, everyone involved in 1776 for making her feel "at home" and to her friend, Emily Pike, for encouraging her return to the stage. Favorite credits include: *Grease*, *Camelot*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, and *Evita*. DeAnna is blessed to have the opportunity to travel the country as the

general manager of In10sity Dance.

OLIVIA ROUSSEL (Painter, Leather Apron) After dancing to "Me Ole Bamboo" in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* last summer, Olivia is thrilled to return to the Civic for 1776. A senior at Canterbury School, Olivia plans to pursue musical theater in college. Many thanks to the Civic cast and crew for the camaraderie and to family, friends, and Beth Patterson for her unending guidance and support.



EMILY SCHWARTZ KEIRNS (Charles Thomson) is honored to be promoted to Secretary of Congress after playing (and being fired as) secretary to a crazy psychologist in last year's *Miracle on 34th Street*. She has also appeared in the Civic Theatre musicals *Rock of Ages*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *A Christmas Story*. Offstage, Emily is the English Language Learners Manager for Fort Wayne Community Schools. Emily thanks her husband, Ryan, and sons, Foster and Duncan, for their tolerance of her rehearsal and performance schedule!

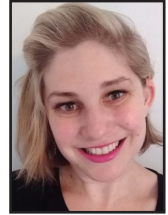


ANYA SMEAD (Lewis Morris) is so excited to be joining this awesome cast of women! Past favorites include *Sweeney Todd*, *Rock of Ages*, *Newsies*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Anya would like to thank her husband, Eric, for always supporting her no matter how crazy her schedule gets. Anya would also like to thank Leslie Beauchamp and the civic staff for supporting the arts during this unprecedented time. Enjoy the show!



PAIGE SMITH (Dr. Josiah Bartlett) is excited to make her first appearance on the Civic Stage. She loves music and singing. She recently joined a local choir and discovered how much fun it is to practice and perform with other singers. Paige is grateful for the support of her friends and family.

JENNIFER WENZEL (Dr. Lyman Hall) holds a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Millikin University and a Master of Music from Bowling Green State University. Jennifer was involved in opera at both universities, where she played Lady of the Evening in *L'elisir d'amore*, Mother in *Little Red Riding Hood*, Imeneo in Handel's *Imeneo*, and Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*. She has also played musical theater roles such as Linda in *Blood Brothers*, Polynesian Girl in *South Pacific*, and Angie O'Plasty in *The Gang's All Here*. At Civic Jennifer has appeared in *Hairspray* and *Dreamgirls*.



NEW DATES - ONE WEEK ONLY

Wednesday
November 4 - 7:30 pm

Friday
November 6 - 7:30 pm

Saturday
November 7 - 2:00 pm

Saturday
November 7 - 7:30 pm

Sunday
November 8 - 2:00 pm

Sunday
November 8 - 7:30 pm



LESLIE BEAUCHAMP (Director & Choreographer) An adjunct professor for the University of St. Francis, Leslie is a familiar face and voice to area audiences, having been involved in our Arts and Show Choir communities for over 35 years. Leslie most recently served at Civic as the Director/Choreographer for *Sweeney Todd*. Leslie's recent production credits also include Choreographer for Civic Theatre's *Mamma Mia!*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cabaret*, Director/Choreographer for Civic Theatre's *Memphis*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and *Newsies*, and Director/Choreographer for USF's *Seussical*, *Sister Act*, and *The Will Rogers Follies*. Last seen onstage as Desiree Armfeldt in Arena's production of *A Little Night Music*, Leslie is an avid theatre director/choreographer/performer working with all area theatres, as well as Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Ford Theatre at the Honeywell Center, and with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. In addition to theatrical productions, Leslie has choreographed award winning show choirs throughout Indiana, serves as an adjudicator and motivational clinician, and works as a voice over talent for local, regional, and national companies. Favorite performances include Margaret Johnson in *Light in the Piazza*, Guinevere in *Camelot*, the Witch in *Into the Woods*, Anita in *West Side Story*, Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Cassie and Sheila in *A Chorus Line*, and Gypsy Rose Lee in *Gypsy*. Choreographic works include *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hairspray*, *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Godspell*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Dames at Sea*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *All Shook Up*, and *Legally Blonde*.

BEN WEDLER (Assistant Director) is happy to be back at the Civic after music directing *Sweeney Todd* last season. He has music directed many shows at USF including *Sister Act* and *Seussical*. He has also music directed many musicals at Arena Dinner Theatre over the past 15 years. Some of his favorites are *And the World Goes Round*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Company*, *Assassins*, *She Loves Me*, and *A Little Night Music*. Ben has been seen on stage at the Civic in *Into the Woods*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Shadowlands*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Christmas Story* and in his Anthony Award winning role as Horton the Elephant in *Seussical*. In 2009 he music directed and performed with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in a production of *Camelot*. He is on the board of directors at Arena Dinner Theatre. By day he is the music and liturgy director for St. Elizabeth Catholic Church. Ben would like to thank his wife Leah and children Evelyn and Henry.



BRANDON PORTER (Assistant Music Director) is a highly sought after music director, educator, arranger, conductor, vocal coach, and pianist. He did his studies in Choral Music Education and Music Direction for Musical Theatre at Indiana University. Brandon is the Director of Bands at the University of Saint Francis, as well as the drama teacher at Weisser Park Arts Magnet School. Brandon has previously held positions as Resident Music Director, Music Supervisor, and Director of Music at various regional theaters. Music Direction credit

highlights include - *Fun Home*, *Dogfight*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Songs For A New World*, and *The Last Five Years*. Brandon is the owner of BP Music Productions, LLC.



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Acting for the stage is an all-encompassing process that involves a great deal of collaboration from many different people. The art, process and effects of live performance are incredibly important in the current world of social media, digital technology and screens. Being fully present with a group of tangible, living, breathing people is important to the art of acting and for the human spirit.



Eunice Wadewitz
Music/Education
Director

1) Theatre helps us to see a different perspective from our own. We're shown humanity, psychology, motivation, conflict and resolution. Theatre encourages us to give power to truth, to take risks, and to advocate for new and diverse voices.

2) Theatre reminds us that we are not alone. Not only are we sharing space and an experience with the artists who are performing, we are sharing the experience with fellow audience members. Movies and television don't have the same intimacy or sense of participation. Sharing an experience with live actors and live audience members is not only valuable, it's necessary for human connection.

3) Theatre is immediate, evolving and always different. Although the script may be the same every night, the performance is unique each and every time it happens. No two performances are ever the same. In this way, everyone involved has a distinct and unique experience that can never be replicated.

4) Live theatre helps to promote social discourse, dialogue, and potential social change. Theatre is a cultural phenomenon that demands that society examines itself in the mirror. We can study societal problems and attempt to find solutions. Coming together as a community to listen to opposing points of view is necessary.

5) Theatre promotes education and literacy. Studies have shown that students who participate in theatre do better in school.

Contact: 260.422.8641x226 or ewadewitz@fwcivic.org

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JENNIFER BEINEKE (Stage Manager) This is Jennifer's seventh season with the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. She has been part of the stage management team in the past seasons at Civic for *33 Variations*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*; and part of crew for *Mary Poppins and Jekyll & Hyde*. She has also worked with Fort Wayne Youtheatre on *Remembering Anne*, *James & the Giant Peach*, and *Young Harriet Tubman*. Jennifer would like to thank her husband Lee Beineke, family, and friends for their love and support.

DEEANNA BRIGGS (Assistant Stage Manager) DeeAnna's love of theatre began at age 6 when she was cast as a lamb in the Missoula Children's Theatre production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Since then, Dee has performed in, directed, stage managed, or stage crewed over 30 productions in theatres around the US, UK, and on tour. Favorites include *Cabaret*, *Xanadu*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *NINE*, *Gypsy*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Dee is in her second season with Fort Wayne Civic Theatre as a Master Technician and is excited to be a part of this amazing show!



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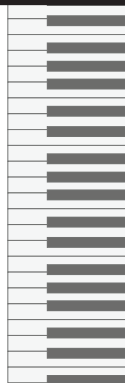


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and to Ben Wedler for serving as Music Director for the first two weeks of rehearsal

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