



## 2020-2021 ADJUDICATORS

**Janet Albanese** is a strong supporter of Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards and a native of Des Moines. Janet has worked professionally as a production manager and stage manager on both coasts. She has taught stage management to students in undergraduate programs and mentored young stage managers at a variety of professional theaters and academic programs. Janet brings over 20 years of experience working on productions from concept to realized design. She is passionate about communicating this collaborative experience to liberal arts students so they can grow in whatever capacity they are interested—as actors, designers, directors, or stage managers. Janet is the director of production and building services at Des Moines Performing Arts. Previously she has stage managed Iowa's longest running show, *Triple Espresso*, as well as shows around the country, including in Los Angeles and New York.

**Brian Anstedt** is the production manager at Hancher Auditorium – an 1,800-seat performing arts center on the campus of the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Brian has worked at Hancher for 20 years in two different stints. While he was away from Hancher he designed and taught technical theatre at several colleges and spent nine years as the production director at Des Moines Performing Arts.

**Bri Atwood** is an Iowa City-based sound designer and audio engineer. She is also the Artistic Director of Combined Efforts. Bri believes that participating in theatre is one of the most important things you can do. There is so much to learn and so many connections to make. Some of Bri's favorite credits include *Fun Home*, *Next to Normal*, and *Newsies*.

**Cary Beatty** holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Iowa and taught literature, German and theater for 34 years. He has directed more than 50 shows, performed in approximately 100, and has been an acting teacher for 22 years. At Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, he produced the very first full high school production of *Cats*, and brought the first productions of *Laramie Project* and *High School Musical* to that metro area. Additionally, Cary attended the Music Theater International workshops in New York City and had the chance to work with Broadway performers in such productions as *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Hairspray* and Craig Birko's rendition of *The Music Man*. Cary received an award from Governor Vilsack for creating an interactive drama event for elementary students as drug prevention.

**Tracy Bennett** retired this past year after 45 years of the Dance Studio business. She is now the new Assistant Director of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and produces over 75 shows yearly as director of programming. Tracy studied theater and music extensively in high school and college and was involved in musical theater at her community theater in Sioux City, where her family was responsible for most of the choreography from 1970 to 1990. She studied at the National Academy of Dance for two years (a high school for the performing arts) and was involved in multiple productions. Tracy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Speech and Drama. She has produced, directed and choreographed over 100 shows in local theatres. She also sees performances wherever she travels and has been to over 50 countries, including London, Paris and Beijing; she's also gone to Broadway, Off Broadway and Off-Off Broadway. She has worked lights, sound, sets, props and costumes (she's ironed too many tutus to mention). Tracy often works all aspects of backstage as a casual to the union stage hands when touring musicals come to The Orpheum.



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**Scott Bertelsen** taught at Forest City High School for 39 years and is now retired from this role. While teaching, he co-directed 35 musicals and 30 plays. During his time as co-director of the high school musical, the Forest City community abundantly supported him with sold-out shows. In 2015, Scott and Michele Jacobsen, vocal instructor at the time, were highlighted as high school musical directors on an IPTV special. In 2018, Scott was the recipient of the IHSMTA Impact Award and was inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame.

**Randal A. Buikema** lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota where he is a faculty member at Anoka Ramsey Community College, director of choral arts and orchestra at First Universalist Church, music director for Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company, as well as Shoot the Glass Theatre. In addition, he is a teaching artist at the Children's Theatre Company, and a high school musical evaluator for Hennepin Theatre Trust. In 2016, he prepared choirs for the Guthrie Theatre's production of *The Events*—a play about a survivor of a mass gun shooting. Prior to joining the faculty at Anoka Ramsey Community College, Dr. Buikema taught at Mahidol University College of Music in Bangkok, Thailand, where he conducted performances for the king's birthday celebration and the Association of South East Asian Nations Summit. He also taught at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Drake University and Grinnell College. In 1993, Dr. Buikema founded and served as the artistic director of the Westminster Fine Arts Series until 2009. Recognized for its quality and innovative programming in the areas of music, theater, visual arts and dance, the series was awarded major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Iowa Arts Council and the Iowa Humanities Board. Dr. Buikema's education credits include a Bachelor of Music Education degree in Vocal and Instrumental Music from Augustana College; a Master of Arts degree in Vocal and Instrumental Music Education from Western Illinois University; and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Iowa.

**John Busbee** is a creative project developer and founder of The Culture Buzz, an independent arts and culture resource for Iowa. He has trained in both theater design and arts management and has reviewed theater for almost 20 years. Performing arts career highlights include co-owner/performer of Music/Theatre Artists, which toured nationally from Las Vegas to Chicago to New York, plus a Caribbean USO Tour. With more than 150 professional and local stage credits, key musical theater roles include "Teveye," "John Adams," "Cowardly Lion" and "Nathan Detroit." He created lead roles in *Caucus the Musical* (2008, 2012). John coached teams for several years for IHSSA in musical theater, including multiple All-State invitations. He adjudicated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He serves as a co-founder and judge for the Greater Des Moines Cloris Leachman Excellence in Theatre Awards and has adjudicated for the IHSMTA since 2015. Since 2007, John has produced an arts and culture radio program on KFMG 98.9 FM—TheCultureBuzz.com—which focuses on promoting Central Iowa's cultural scene. His work in the arts was recognized with the 2014 Iowa Governor Award for Collaboration & Partnership in the Arts.

**Erin Bustin's** parents returned from London when she was five years old with recordings: *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Chess*, and more. She was swept away by the music, the stories, and especially by the power of the human voice. From that moment on, she found every possible opportunity to sing. Erin holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Prince Edward Island and a Master of Arts in Musicology from the University of Toronto. She is passionate about choral music, is a proud alumna of the National Youth Choir of Canada, and was a regular member of semi-professional choirs including the International Bach Festival Singers (Doreen Rao) and Toronto Choral Artists (Mark Vuorinen). For many years she was soprano lead at College Street United Church in Toronto and was frequently invited to perform with



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(Erin Bustin, continued)

numerous other ensembles. Before moving to Iowa in 2014, Erin worked in non-profit arts management, including positions at prestigious national organizations Soundstreams and Choral Canada. Throughout her career, Erin has remained active as a recitalist. In Grinnell, Erin co-founded the Grinnell Children's Choir and Vox Feminae, a women's chamber ensemble. She founded and teaches voice lessons at Studio E Grinnell and enjoys performing whenever she can. Erin is a passionate advocate for music education and accessibility. She believes singing develops invaluable life and leadership skills and creates happier, healthier communities.

**Mary Campbell** received her Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Theater; Certification in Secondary Education from Fontbonne College in St. Louis, Missouri and her Master of Science in Education with Principal's Licensure: Secondary from Drake University. Currently, she is an adjunct professor for Kirkwood Community College in the social sciences department and substitute teaches in the Prairie High School and Center Point-Urbana School Districts. Mary is also an Iowa High School Speech Association judge and was inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame in 2012.

**Susan Cantine-Maxson** directed high school musical theatre and variety shows at Decorah High School for 30+ years before her retirement in 2005. She was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame in 2005. In addition to high school theatre, Cantine-Maxson worked for several years with Luther College's Dorian Opera theatre in the summer as an assistant to the director. Summers also brought an opportunity to work with Decorah's community theatre on musical theatre productions in a variety of roles both onstage and offstage.

**Jeff Chelesvig** is President and CEO of Des Moines Performing Arts. Under his leadership, Des Moines Performing Arts presents seven performance series and serves over 300,000 people annually. Chelesvig plays an integral role in the Broadway theater community, serving on The Broadway League's Board of Governors and Executive Committee. He is Iowa's only voter for Broadway's highest honor, the Tony Awards.

**Keegan Christopher** is an Artistic Administrator hailing from Jefferson City, Missouri. Growing up in the state capitol, he quickly found a passion for theatre and politics, and how the two worlds intersected. He earned his BA in Theatre and a Minor in Dance from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. For the last seven years, he has worked for the Old Creamery Theatre where he most recently served as Interim Artistic Director with his beautiful wife, Katie. A member of Actors' Equity, Keegan is proud to have had the opportunity to serve as a Director, Choreographer, Actor, Producer, and Fundraiser throughout his career. When not working, he loves to go on adventures with Katie, read, pet their adorable cats Penny and LuLu, and cheer on the St. Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Chiefs.

**Katie Colletta** is originally from Rockton, Illinois. She earned her BFA in Musical Theatre and graduated with honors from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. She has made her home at Old Creamery Theatre for the last eight years, most recently serving as Interim Artistic Director alongside her husband, Keegan. In her time at Old Creamery she has directed, choreographed, stage managed, taught, and performed, and is a proud member of Actor's Equity. Favorite roles onstage include Sophie in *Mamma Mia!*, Fern in *Charlotte's Web*, Mimi in *A Comedy of Tenors*, and Ariel in *Footloose*. In the spring of 2020, she was honored to serve as Artist in Residence for the Iowa City School District through the Kennedy Center's Any Given Child program. She is currently pursuing a Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University, and continues to focus on cultivating community and inclusion in the arts for all.



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**Anna Cramer** is the development manager at Des Moines Performing Arts (DMPA). Prior to her role at DMPA, Anna worked for the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., where she served over 500 arts and culture organizations in capacity building efforts. She has also worked for the Overture Center in Madison, WI, Wisconsin Public Radio, and the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul, MN. Anna worked as a stage and production manager in Minneapolis and spent nine summers working for Theater e3, a 5-week summer theater intensive for kids ages 7-14. Anna holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theater and Business from Elmhurst College in Illinois.

**Emily Davis** is a local actor, director and choreographer. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Theatre from Northwestern College in Orange City. Currently she is the production manager for Kata Klysmic Productions, and acts, directs and teaches for multiple theater companies in the Des Moines area. Favorite Des Moines roles include “Kristine” in *A Chorus Line*, “Alice” in *Closer*, “Christine” in *A Doll’s House*, “Nina” in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and “Alice” in *You Can’t Take It With You*. She is very excited to start her fifth year adjudicating for the IHSMTA.

**Peter Dean** is a local actor, director, IHSSA Large Group Speech judge and IHSSA Speech coach. He has performed numerous roles with the Des Moines Community Playhouse on both the main stage and the Kate Goldman Children’s Theatre, as well as performed with other local theater companies. Peter is also part of the educational staff and a member of the Playhouse Partners at the Des Moines Community Playhouse. Some of Peter’s favorite roles to date have been “Sharktooth” in *How I Became a Pirate* (Dionysus Award winner), “Cowardly Lion” in *The Wizard of Oz*, “Gaston” in *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* and “Sheriff Tom” in *Girls’ Weekend*. Most recently, he was assistant director for *A Christmas Story: The Musical* at the Des Moines Community Playhouse and a director for *Almost, Maine* at Des Moines Roosevelt High School.

**David Felton** has been involved in theater since his middle school production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Throughout high school he stayed onstage, and once he got to college he started exploring the backstage world of theater. It was during college that he found his love of directing. Since graduating, he has become a board member for Carousel Theatre of Indianola, where he has served

(David Felton, continued)

for nine years. During this time, he has helped to ensure that there has been at least one opportunity each year for a family-friendly show in which kids of all ages can be involved. While with Carousel, he has directed eight shows, including four musicals. He is also a judge and coach for the Iowa High School Speech Association and Des Moines contributing editor for BroadwayWorld.

**Bob Filippone** is a theatre director and radiologist in Cedar Falls and Waterloo. He founded Des Moines Young Artists’ Theatre (DMYAT) in 2007. Bob also co-founded Des Moines Onstage (DMO) in 2012 and Noce Jazz/Cabaret in 2015. He has produced and directed many shows for DMYAT, DMO and Noce over the years. He is also a coach/judge for Iowa High School Speech Association. Bob most recently produced and directed *Little Women* and *Godspell* at Cedar Falls Woman’s Club as well as directed *School of Rock* and *13 the Musical* at Cedar Falls Community Theatre.

**River Fisher** received her Master of Music Education in Choral Pedagogy from Illinois State University in 2017. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Augustana College in 2010. While there, she studied piano with Dennis Loftin, voice with Sangeetha Rayapati, organ



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(River Fisher, continued)

with Larry Petersen, and opera with John Pfautz. Over the past ten years, River has been a K-12 music educator in Illinois and Nebraska, focusing primarily on vocal music. She currently teaches musical theater and voice in the Omaha area. In addition to her teaching experience, River is a thriving vocalist and pianist. Opera roles include “Laurie” in *The Tenderland* and “Jenny” in *Down in the Valley* with Opera@Augustana. Musical theater roles include “Emma” in *Jekyll & Hyde*, “Inga” in *Young Frankenstein*, and “Lily” in *The Secret Garden*.

**Anne Frett** is a theater educator, currently working at Dallas Center-Grimes, where she teaches drama and language arts and coaches the large group speech team. Anne has acted in more than 25 shows in the Des Moines area, including *You Can't Take it With You* at The Des Moines Community Playhouse and *Superior Donuts* at Stage West. In recent years, Anne has been behind the scenes directing shows such as *Fancy Nancy* and *Charlotte's Web* at The Des Moines Community Playhouse and *Utopia: The Iowa Musical Revue* for Epic Stage Productions.

**Peggy George**, mezzo-soprano, holds a degree in Voice and Music Education from Simpson College. She also has graduate credits in Theater and Education from the University of Northern Iowa, where she performed the role of “Frau Schneider” in *Cabaret*, among others. An Iowa-licensed teacher, she has taught vocal/general music and theater skills in schools, theaters and community education programs. Peggy has credits in musical theater, choral music, opera and plays, including *Almost, Maine*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Annie*, *Brigadoon*, *Carmen*, *Carousel*, *Chicago*, *Coastal Disturbances*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Evita*, *Expiring Minds Want to Know*, *42nd Street*, *Give My Regards to Broadway*, *Guys and Dolls*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Little Chimney Sweep*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Mother Earth*, *The Music Man*, *My Fair Lady*, *Peer Gynt*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Quilters*, *The Apple Tree*, *The Crucible*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Pretty Trap*, *The Sound of Music*, *Two by Two*, *West Side Story*, *Zorba* and others. She has performed at the Ankeny Community Theater, Cedar Falls Oster Regent Theater, Des Moines Playhouse, Drake University, Old Creamery Theater, the former Charlie's Showplace, Ingersoll Dinner Theater, and Dorian Opera Theaters, and Michigan's Thunder Bay Summer Stock Theater. Peggy has also served on costume, light, makeup and props crews. She currently teaches voice, piano, guitar and stage dialects through her DSM Fine Arts Studio and for local theaters and organizations.

**Mia Fryvecind Gimenez** has performed with conductors and directors from all over the globe including Juilliard, Paris National Opera, New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. She has performed with great American companies including the Lyric Opera of Chicago (*Die Meistersinger*), Tony® Award winning TheatreWorks in Silicon Valley (*Sweeney Todd* (Begger Woman), Ray of Light Theatre (*Andrea*, *Jerry Springer the Opera*), and Bay Area Theatre Circle Critics® award-winning Broadway By the Bay (*Fantine*, *Les Misérables*). Mia has been recognized by the Metropolitan Opera National Council as a Regional Finalist for the Upper Midwest Region. Mia is currently pursuing the Performing Arts Industry Essentials credential from NYU. She is Theatre Arts faculty at Iowa Conservatory for Performing Arts and at Nolte Academy. Mia has directed, and music directed multiple youth and adult musicals within the Nolte organization. Mia is the founder and principal teacher at Fryvecind Voice Studio, and is an Officer with the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

**Chelsea Haaland** is an educator, director, and performer in the Des Moines region. For the past 15 years, she has served on the education staff for programs around Iowa including the Des Moines Community Playhouse, Ankeny Community Theatre, Sturgis Youth Theatre in Cedar Falls, and ArtsLIVE in Okoboji; she also led high school speech and theater programs for Des Moines Public



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(Chelsea Haaland, continued)

and Waukee Community Schools. Favorite directing credits include *The Wiz*, *Les Misérables*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. She has been active with the Iowa High School Speech Association as an officer, coach, judge, and clinician. Chelsea was previously named the Iowa Communication Association's Outstanding Teacher of the Year as well as UNI's Yager Exemplary Teaching Award winner, and was one of eleven educators selected internationally to participate in the inaugural BroadwayEvolved program in New York City. Chelsea is now the Related Arts Curriculum Facilitator for the Waukee Community School District.

**Nick Halder** is the founding producing artistic director of Rising Star Theatre Company in Dubuque. In addition, he currently works in the Drama and Musical Theatre program at Clarke University. Nick has had the good fortune of being involved with many great productions both on and offstage working throughout his career. His recent directing credits include *Disney's Newsies*, *Spring Awakening*, *Into the Woods*, *Hairspray*, *Ordinary Days* and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, among many others. Nick holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance and Design from the University of Northern Iowa. He is currently finishing his dissertation to complete a Doctorate in Theatre Arts with tracks in Acting and Directing and Arts Administration from Texas Tech University.

**Keith Hale** is the Theatre Director at Iowa Western Community College. He received his MFA in Acting from Indiana University at Bloomington and his BA in Theatre from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He has been a respondent for the American College Theatre Festival as well as a Nebraska School Activities Association judge for both Speech and One-Acts.

**Laura A. Hinspeter** is the owner of and instructor at L.A.H. Music Studio in Waukee, where she teaches private voice and piano lessons year-round. She is an active music educator as a clinician, adjudicator, substitute and studio instructor. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from Wartburg College in 1999 and holds a current teaching license for K-12 Music. Laura taught 6-12 grade vocal music for the St. Ansgar Community School District from 1999-2001. Laura's students nominated her and she was the recipient of the Golden Apple Award as the Teacher of the Year – Finalist in the spring of 2000 from KIMT-TV in Mason City. Her career continued in the West Des Moines Community School District where she taught 7-8 grade vocal music at Stilwell Junior High School from 2001-2005. A highlight while at Stilwell was when her students sang on the east staircase at the Des Moines Civic Center before attending opening night of *Les Misérables*. Laura is an active member of the Iowa Choral Directors Association, an adjudicator with the Iowa High School Music Association and Iowa All-State Jazz Choir, and is an active choral clinician for 6-12 grade music programs and festivals throughout the state of Iowa.

**Sarah Hinzman** holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre and a Minor in Dance from Viterbo University, a Master of Science from Drake University's School of Education, and a certificate in Shakespeare Performance from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. A native Iowan, Sarah has worked as a professional actor every year since 2005. A few of her professional credits include roles at Timber Lake Playhouse, Riverside Theatre, and Blue Gate Musicals. In addition to performing, Sarah has served as a director, music director, dramaturg and choreographer. She has worked as a theatre instructor at Drake University, Theatre Cedar Rapids, Nolte Academy, Kids on Course, and the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy.



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**Erin Horst** is the director of the Musical Theatre BFA program at Drake University. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and Bachelor's degrees in both Vocal Performance and Media Studies from Loras College. Before starting at Drake, she worked as an actor, director and choreographer for various professional companies around the Midwest. Some of her onstage achievements have been recognized with two Kennedy Center Irene Ryan Acting nominations for her roles as the title character in *Mary Poppins* and "Mother" in *A Christmas Story: The Musical*. Erin has performed at venues around the country, including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. She teaches acting, voice and movement techniques primarily based in Kristin Linklater, Richard Schechner's Rasaboxes, and Anne Bogart's viewpoints, as well as musical theatre singing, dance and choreography. She stays active in the Des Moines fine arts community, choreographing and directing for the Des Moines Community Playhouse and performing in local productions. Her recent portrayal of "Helen" in Iowa Stage Theatre Company's *Fun Home* earned her a Cloris Award for Best Actress in a Featured Role in a Musical.

**Marcia Hughes** has performed extensively as a singer and actor for more than four decades, and studied vocal performance at Northwest Missouri State University. Currently living in Cedar Rapids, her Eastern Iowa credits include appearances with Theatre Cedar Rapids, Riverside Theatre, Old Creamery Theatre, Mirrorbox Theatre, City Circle Theatre Company, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, and the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra. Notable performances include "Patsy Cline" in *Always Patsy Cline*, "Mama Rose" in *Gypsy*, "Ursula" in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, "Sara Jane Moore" in *Assassins*, and "Queen Elizabeth I" in *Shakespeare in Love*. In September 2020, Marcia originated the role of "J" in Adam Szymkowicz' play, *The Parking Lot*, written during the pandemic. The production was staged outdoors by Mirrorbox Theatre, with audiences watching from inside their vehicles as audio was broadcast via radio. A dedicated arts advocate, Marcia is past president of the Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance and served multiple terms on the Iowa Commission for Volunteer Service.

**Wayne Kischer** holds a Bachelor of Arts in Management, Design & Performance in the Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance with emphasis in Directing and Design. His post-graduate studies work include the Oregon Shakespeare Institute and the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, England. Wayne has served as technical director, scenic designer, lighting designer, costume designer, sound designer, props designer and director for well over 250 shows. As a performer, he had several comprimario roles in Honolulu Opera Theatre and many lead and supporting roles in musicals and plays largely in Hawaii. He has over 30 years of involvement in theater education, most recently with Waukee Schools where he served 10 years as the high school director of Waukee Theatre Arts and directed 24 shows. Wayne is a member of the Screen Actors Guild-AFTRA and Actors' Equity Association.

**Janelle Lauer** has been in the music scene in Iowa for over two decades, after studying Vocal Performance at the University of Iowa, and Music Business at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She has been the music director of nearly 60 shows in the corridor—at The Old Creamery Theatre Company, Theatre Cedar Rapids, Cornell College, University of Iowa, RHCR, and City Circle Acting Company. Janelle is a private voice coach and a founding member of SPT Theatre Company, performing regularly and serving as a producer for *Tales From the Writer's Room* series. She has toured the country extensively, performing solo as well as with Divapalooza and SPT. Janelle has three solo albums and has been included on a compilation album, *Female Tribute to Tom Waits, Volume Two*, where she shares credit with Sarah McLachlan, Norah Jones and Diana Krall.



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**Andy Lesieur** began his directing/choreographing career in 2005 with Kirkwood Community College's *The Mikado*. He went on to study music and theatre at Simpson College where he assistant directed/stage managed two operas. He also served as assistant company coordinator for the Des Moines Metro Opera company. Andy left Simpson College to become the drama director at Assembly of God Church in Cedar Rapids in 2008. In 2012, Andy revived his teaching and performance career at Theatre Cedar Rapids (TCR). He has taught classes to children of all ages, as well as adults, and was able to work extensively with TCR's autism spectrum program. Andy has performed lead, ensemble and dance roles in many Cedar Rapids area and touring productions. Andy recently sat as the education committee chair for the Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre in Cedar Rapids. He currently teaches private lessons and leads theater camps through his own lesson studio.

**Carl Lindberg** is an educator, actor, and director originally from northern California. He is the chair for Des Moines Area Community College's Ankeny Theatre Program—a flagship department within The Simon Estes School of Fine Arts—and produces student plays, Summer Short Shakespeare and the improv team. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Acting from California State University, Stanislaus, and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from Western Illinois University. He has trained with Steppenwolf, The Second City, Shakespeare & Co., and has worked professionally as an actor, director, educator, designer and administrator throughout the country. Most recently, Carl lived and worked in Chicago where he performed on stage with professional equity companies such as Lookingglass, Remy Bumppo, About Face Theatre, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Oak Park Festival Theatre, and many others. He also taught at the College of DuPage and the Chicago Academy for the Arts, and filmed a handful of commercials and short films.

**Amy Osatinski** holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction (Education), and a Ph.D in Theatre. She is currently an assistant professor of theatre in directing at the University of Northern Iowa, a professional performer and director, and proud associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a theatrical labor union. She ran the theater program at Heritage High School in Littleton, Colorado from 2008-2013. She was also the education program director for Inspire Creative—a non-profit, community-based arts organization in Parker, Colorado—where she built a brand new performing arts program for students ages five to adult. Amy's *Book on Disney Theatrical Productions* is available from Routledge. She also has her own professional website: [amyosatinski.com](http://amyosatinski.com).

**Michael Petkewec** has more than 29 years of experience in the theater and arts from being an actor, director and designer to an arts administrator. He has been an Iowa High School Speech Association judge since he moved to Iowa in 2010. Michael's other Iowa experiences have included being a director at Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theater in Mt. Vernon; an arts administrator, costume designer and director at Iowa Theatre Artists Company in Amana; an arts administrator, actor, and costume designer with City Circle Acting Company in Coralville; and he has served on the Iowa Arts Council's Large Grant Panel. Currently, Michael works full time at the UI REACH Program at the University of Iowa where he teaches, acts as marketing and recruitment coordinator and serves on the Career & Transition Team. Michael also has his own consulting business called The Arts and Design Nexus and has helped individual and organizational clients around the country.

**Gabrielle Sarcone** graduated from Drake University in 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance and in 2015 with a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts. While in Chicago, she performed the title role in the Chicago Premiere of Respighi's





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(Gabrielle Sarcone, continued)

*La bella dormente nel bosco* and several other roles with professional theater and opera companies. She now lives in Des Moines and teaches voice lessons at the Drake University Community School of Music and sings with Umeri Vocal Ensemble.

**Donna Scarfe** started at the age of seven with a role in the film *The Miracle Worker*. She had a Fulbright Fellowship for ballet in Bucharest, Romania, then later choreographed and performed with the Epiphany Dancers in London. Her interest in sign language led to acting with the National Theatre of the Deaf (CT, Los Angeles), Deaf West Theatre's *A Streetcar Named Desire* and interpreting theatre for deaf audiences. At the Des Moines Community Playhouse, she had roles in *Rosa Parks*, *The Exonerated* and *The Miracle Worker*. At StageWest, her credits include *Miss Witherspoon*, *Outside Mullingar*, and costumes for *Angels in America*. A founding member of Repertory Theatre of Iowa (2008), Donna performed in *A Christmas Carol* ("Christmas Past"), *The Woman in Black*, *God of Carnage*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *The Crucible*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear* ("Goneril") and *Romeo and Juliet*. Donna has a Master of Arts in Theatre and Deaf Studies, and is a professional ASL interpreter.

**Sarah Schaefer** is a veteran speech and theater teacher who is currently creating theater magic at Waukee Middle School. She co-directs an annual seventh grade musical and sixth grade play and coaches Large Group Speech at Dallas Center Grimes High School. Sarah became involved in theater at an early age and essentially grew up on the stage at Loras College where she also earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education/Communications. She studied ballet at the Academy of Ballet in Dubuque and has a background in piano. After teaching and directing at Ventura, Iowa for six years, she completed her Master's in Theater at the University of Northern Iowa. In addition to teaching in the classroom, she has conducted classes and camps in a variety of programs. She is involved with the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education and is a member of the Iowa Fine Arts Leadership Team.

**Jackie Schmillen** has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from "The U", University of Miami, in Miami, Florida. She began her musical theater career touring the country in various productions, including *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Gypsy*. She eventually made her way back home to northwest Iowa, and entered the world of television journalism. Before making the move to Iowa LIVE in Des Moines, Jackie was the face of KPTH Fox 44 in Sioux City and the traffic reporter for KCCI 'This Morning' on TV-8. Jackie continues to pursue her passion for the theater by participating in various theater projects around Des Moines with the Des Moines Community Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of Iowa, Pyramid Theatre, Open Door Rep and Iowa Stage. She is also actively involved with the Iowa High School Speech Association and is an IHSSA Large Group Speech coach for musical theater at Roosevelt High School (Banner Winner 2018). Jackie is also an inductee in the Iowa Rock n Roll Hall of Fame with the group ROCKESTRA.

**Marnie Strate** is an actor and director who has worked locally with a variety of theater companies since graduating from Drake University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. In 2010 she founded the Des Moines Social Club's All-Metro High School Play program with *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, bringing together students from around the metro to collaborate on a challenging production. Most recently she directed *Closer* for Open Door Rep. In addition to her work on stage, Marnie is actively involved in film and video production as a producer, actor and writer. Marnie is thrilled to contribute to the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards and celebrate the success of youth from around the state.



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**Laura Sweet** is the VP/COO for Des Moines Performing Arts. Laura currently serves on the local Red Cross board of directors and is the president of the Nexus Executive Women's Alliance. She serves as chair of the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) Performing Arts Managers Committee and as co-chair for new colleagues with the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP). Laura has a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Kansas, respectively. She has played the flute and piccolo since childhood as well as serving in various positions with the Lincoln Community Playhouse and Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

**Larry Untiet** has been involved in theater education for the past 48 years and directed two plays and/or musicals for each of those 48 years. He has also directed productions at the community theater level. During his involvement with the Iowa High School Speech Association, he qualified groups for the Large Group Speech All-State Speech Festival for 44 consecutive years. In 2007, he was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame. He has also won numerous national awards for his set designs, and in 2019 he was a recipient of the Impact Award for the Iowa High School Musical Theatre Awards program.

**Jesse Upham** has been seen in a variety of performing arenas, both at home and abroad over the last decade. Before his departure from Nashville's award-winning a cappella group Breath of Soul, he had the opportunity to perform for groups such as Journey, Rascal Flatts, Lady Antebellum, and most recently as the opening act for Jay Leno. Jesse has written a number of award-winning arrangements, and has collaborated in the studio with a variety of producers, such as Steve Dorff (writer/producer for Streisand, Dion, Houston). He has taken part in various festivals such as Harmony Sweepstakes, ACappellaFest, Singstrong, and Clear Harmonies, and has toured extensively throughout the U.S. and Asia. Jesse has also taken part in a variety of theatrical roles as well, such as the "Aimable Castagnet" in *The Baker's Wife*, "Stewpot" in *South Pacific*, and "Figaro" in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Le Nozze di Figaro).

**Libby Waterbury** is a writer, actor, director, choreographer, and arts educator. She graduated from the University of Iowa—where she performed for two years as the university mascot "Herky the Hawk"—with degrees in theater and speech education, and from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York City with an emphasis in musical theater. After AMDA, she joined the touring cast of *Four Score and Seven Years Ago*, an educational musical about the Civil War. Over the years Libby has performed in, directed and choreographed touring, regional, community and school productions, but she has a particular affinity for helping young artists grow in their craft. Her most recent project was co-directing and choreographing *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre with fellow AMDA grad and IHSMTA adjudicator Adam Yankowy. Libby is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

**Julia Weisshaar-Mullin** is a veteran music educator from southwest Iowa, now serving as the Program Coordinator for The Wallace Centers of Iowa. She received her degree in music education and musical theatre from the University of Kansas, where she was also active in vocal jazz performance. Her experience includes performances and technical work in professional repertory companies and community theatres in Kansas and Iowa. Over the past 35 years of performing and teaching and directing musicians and actors of all ages and ability levels she has accumulated extensive and varied practical experience in musical theatre. Julia adjudicates for the IHSMA and IHSSA, teaches private voice and piano, composes/arranges, and is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Choral Conducting at Simpson College.



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**David Wendt** has over 40 years of experience as a school drama director, high school speech coach, collegiate forensics competitor, collegiate forensics coach and community theatre director. He provides positive critiques and gives constructive criticism for each production. He has been fortunate to coach and direct some successful, amazing productions and some that were not so successful. David believes that positivity can be found in all student work. His current position as the Director of the Communication Center at Iowa Wesleyan University allows him the opportunity to work with international students, athletes and other student groups. He considers it a privilege to see the final project after many hours of hard work and revision of essays.

**Valerie Williams** started working in musical theater at age 12 and hasn't stopped since. Performing as a featured dancer in shows produced by both professional and amateur theaters, she toured throughout the Midwest, dancing, singing and acting in shows such as *Godspell* and *Company*. She became a choreographer and has since made dances for over 80 shows for professional theater, opera, community theater and high schools. Making the move to modern dance, she co-founded Co'Motion Dance Theater in 1978 as a professional modern dance company, and with that company and the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company she has toured throughout North America, Europe and New Zealand. She loves being part of the spirit of live performance.

**Susan Wolverton**, is the Professor of Theatre Arts, chairs Coe's Theatre Arts department and has been teaching in the department for 35 years. Ms. Wolverton received her MFA in theatrical design from the University of Iowa. In addition to teaching courses in beginning design, costume and scene design, the history of dress, dress and gender, and stage makeup, she designs scenery and costumes for Coe's main stage productions. She has also taught on two off-campus programs, the Associated Colleges of the Midwest Chicago Arts Program and the Newberry Library Program in the Humanities. Other professional credits include costume design for the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Riverside Theatre, Grinnell College, and Cornell College; scenic artist for the Des Moines Metro Opera; and head milliner for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Her research interests include fashion theory and eighteenth-century English milliners.

**Adam Yankowy** is a native of Louisville, Kentucky and is currently a theatre professor at Drake University. Adam graduated with his Master of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from Minnesota State University, Mankato (MNSU) and holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Louisville, and a Musical Theatre Performance Certificate from AMDA, NYC. Over the past two years, Adam taught in the theatre departments at Iowa State, Grand View and Drake Universities. Before moving to the Midwest, Adam performed all over the country and in Asia. Off Broadway credits include *Broadway's Rising Stars* (Town Hall), *Babes in Toyland* (Lincoln Center), *Ruddigore*, *The Mikado*, and *The Pirates of Penzance* (NYC Center); other New York Credits include *Swinging Christmas* (Carnegie Hall), *Assassins* (5<sup>th</sup> Floor), and Rockefeller Tree-Lighting backup to Neil Diamond. Other favorite credits include Paul/Zoltar in *Big: The Musical* (Stage One Louisville), "Jud" in *Oklahoma!* (Ocean City), *Curious George Live!* (National Tour) and *Streetmosphere* at the Venetian Resort in Macau, China. His Des Moines stage credits include "The Monster" in *Young Frankenstein* at the Des Moines Community Playhouse where he was awarded a Cloris Award for Best Supporting Actor in Musical and as "Paul/Bobby" understudy in *Company* with Iowa Stage. MNSU stage credits include "Javert" in *Les Misérables*, "The Beast" in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, "Leon Czolgosz" in *Assassins*, "George Banks" in *Mary Poppins* and "Frederick Barrett" in *Titanic: The Musical*. His credits in music direction include *13* (DMYAT), *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Drake), *Fun Home* (Iowa Stage) for which he receive a Cloris Award for Music Direction, *Oklahoma!* (Iowa State), *Runaways* (Drake), *A Christmas Story: The Musical*



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(Adam Yankowy, continued)

(MNSU), *Disney's Mary Poppins* (SACT), *A Chorus Line* (KCACTF), *Olympian Bob* (Plymouth Playshop), and *We Are Monsters* and *Press Start* (DMPA).

**Tyler Youngers** is currently an education consultant with Northwest AEA. Prior to NW AEA, Tyler taught at Grinnell High School and Cherokee Community Schools. During his teaching career, he directed fall and spring play productions and served as an assistant speech coach. Tyler's background in musical theater started as a young man in community theater productions in his hometown of Sheldon, and he has gone on to perform in productions throughout high school, college and in any community productions he can find. Tyler's most recent role was portraying "Colonel Arbuthnot" in *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. Tyler has a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. In addition to IHSMTA, Tyler adjudicates for the Iowa High School Speech Association.

**Ian Zahren** is a Midwest-based arts educator, actor, musician, composer and director. His work has been featured at The Broadway Music Institute, Children's Theatre of Minneapolis, Old Log Theatre Company and various productions around the Midwest. Ian has performed regionally with The Old Creamery Theatre, Children's Theatre of Minneapolis, Mixed Blood Theatre and Old Log Theatre. In addition to his performance work, Ian has served as co-chair of the musical theatre department at The Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists and serves as the Executive Director for The Iowa Youth Performing Arts Company, a 501 (c)(3) aimed at bringing arts and arts enrichment experiences to youth across Iowa.