



## 2019-2020 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.

**David Ambrosion** is described as “one of Denver’s finest leading men” by the Rocky Mountain News and is an award-winning musical theater actor who has performed in more than 75 productions throughout Colorado. His work has been recognized by the Denver Post, Backstage West magazine, Westword, the Colorado Theatre Guild and the Denver Drama Critics Circle. He has played all of the classical leading men, some multiple times, in the popular works of Rodgers and Hammerstein, and Lerner and Lowe. His 20 years on stage there culminated in his celebrated portrayal of “Jean Valjean” in a three-month run of *Les Misérables*, for which he received the 2013 True West Award as Best Actor in a Musical. David has been a national IBM Singer, as well as a guest artist with the Little Theatre of the Rockies and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. He is an Iowa native, and a graduate of Iowa State University.

**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 more than 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 in Des Moines.

**Bri Atwood** is an Iowa City-based sound designer and audio engineer. She graduated with a Theatre degree from the University of Iowa in 2015. She has been working in the Iowa City musical theater community since her college days at the University of Iowa. Some of her favorite theater credits include *Fun Home*, *American Idiot* and *Next to Normal*.

**Cary Beatty** holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Iowa and taught literature, German and theater for 34 years. He has performed in or directed more than 200 shows. 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 in the dance studio business. She is now the new assistant director of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and produces over 75 shows per year 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 1980. She studied at the National Academy of Dance—a high school for the performing arts—for two years and was involved in multiple productions. Tracy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Speech and Drama. She has



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(Tracy Bennett, continued)

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.

**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.

**Linda Brant** retired from teaching at Charles City, having taught and directed speech and plays at several high schools and colleges in Iowa. She was named to the Iowa High School Speech Association's Hall of Fame in 2007. She has directed hundreds of students to IHSSA All-State, directed plays for high schools and community theaters, and has been a frequent presenter at speech conventions. Other awards include the Wartburg College High School Teacher of the Year, KIMT's Golden Apple Award, Rotarian Vocational Achievement Award, Excellence in Education Hall of Fame, and Charles City Woman of the Year.

**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



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(John Busbee, continued)

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 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** received her Bachelor of Arts from Wartburg College with a triple major in English, Speech and Theatre, and received her Master of Arts from University of Northern Iowa in Communications/Theatre. She is a 2005 IHSSA Hall of Fame member, and directed high school musicals, theatre, variety shows and speech contest for almost 30 years at Decorah High School (DHS). As most high school directors, she actively participated in all technical aspects of the show. She worked closely with choreographer Valerie Williams from Ames when Williams worked as an Artist-in Residence for twelve DHS musicals. In addition to her high school experience, she was assistant to the director for Luther College’s Dorian Opera Theatre for seven summers. She also assisted backstage and performed onstage for several community theater musical productions. After her retirement from teaching, she became the executive director of the Brown Grand Theatre—a 100-year-old restored opera house in Kansas—for eight years. She served five times as an All-State critic for the IHSSA speech festivals in both large group and individual events.

**Dan Chase** has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from Iowa Wesleyan College with graduate studies in Music Education and Musical Theater from the University of Northern Iowa, VanderCook College of Music and Drake University. Dan was a music educator for 27 years, teaching choral music and voice around the state. He continues to shape high school musicians as an adjudicator for IHSMA and the IHSMTA. In addition, Dan directed the Cardinal KeyNotes vocal



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(Dan Chase, continued)

jazz ensemble at Iowa State University and has guest directed musicals at area high schools. Dan has also performed in more than 30 dramas, comedies and musicals. Favorite acting roles include “Rote” in *Wait Until Dark*, “Carmichael” in *A Behanding In Spokane* and “John Wilkes Booth” in *Assassins*. Along with his wife, Carol Palmer, Dan acts professionally with Jest Murder Mysteries performing interactive murder mystery dinner theater across the Midwest.

**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.

**Terry Coleman** is a graduate of Fort Dodge Senior High and spent 35 years in the teaching profession. He credits his high school drama director, Gail Niceswanger, for inspiring his career in theatre and teaching. Terry majored in speech and theatre at the University of Northern Iowa and was inducted as a life-time member of Theta Alpha Phi—the National Dramatic Honor Fraternity. While teaching Speech and Drama at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines he received his Master’s Degree from Drake University in 1995. Terry has served as a board member and three-time president of Hawkeye Community Theatre in Fort Dodge and was a member of their board of trustees. He served twice as district president of the Iowa High School Speech Association and as the district representative of the All-State Festival Committee. He has been recognized in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers” in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006. In 2011, Terry received The National Federation of High School Speech, Debate, and Theatre Educator Award for the State of Iowa. For many years, he assisted with the high school spring musical and taught public speaking for Buena Vista University and Iowa Central Community College Public Speaking for the Early Bird Program in Fort Dodge.

**Cindy Cone** discovered the joy of performing while involved in speech, drama and thespians at Maquoketa High School. She attended University of Northern Iowa (UNI), participating in Interpreters Theatre, Theatre UNI, University Choir and UNI Children’s Theatre, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Speech/English Secondary Education with a Theatre emphasis. Since then she has also completed her Master’s in Teaching and has a PK-12 administrative endorsement. While at UNI, Cindy met the man of her dreams on a blind date; they married then moved to his hometown of Storm Lake. Cindy spent 26 years teaching required public speaking and dual credit communications, directing all categories of large group and individual IHSSA events, serving on various IHSSA committees and as a speech contest judge. More recently, Cindy shares her love of theater and enthusiasm for education while directing/performing in area community theater productions and as the student teacher coordinator with UNI, ISU and Iowa student teachers throughout western Iowa and Omaha.

**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.



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

**Glee Crippin**, a native of northwest Iowa, believes in the value of arts education for all students. To this end, she has been involved in providing educational performance opportunities for students of all ages through directing middle school and high school productions, coaching and adjudicating through the Iowa High School Speech Association, and everything involved in community theater. A long-time member of National Association of Teachers of Singing and a vocal coach for over 25 years, Glee has helped prepare many students for auditions, solo/ensemble and musical theater contests and productions. Glee did her undergraduate work at Bethel University and Buena Vista University, and completed her Master of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of South Dakota. She taught at the collegiate level and currently has a private voice studio. Some of Glee's favorite stage roles include "Mrs. Banks" in *Mary Poppins*, "Lily" in *The Secret Garden*, and "Narrator" in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

**Elise Crone** grew up performing in high school theater in the Quad Cities before ultimately focusing on stage and production management in college at the University of Iowa. Following graduation, she worked as an Equity stage manager in New England and the Midwest before returning to Iowa City to work for the Division of Performing Arts at the University of Iowa. Elise later served as the production manager for City Circle Acting Company and Nolte Academy before going back to school to earn her Master of Business Administration at the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Elise currently works at the University of Iowa and is in her fourth year as an adjudicator for IHSMTA.

**Kathie Danielson** taught theatre, speech and English for Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) for 20 years. In addition, she directed musicals and plays at Hoover High School and choreographed musicals at East High School in Des Moines. During her years as a DMPS principal and director of high schools, she supported and attended numerous high school theater productions. Kathie and her husband Ron have made numerous trips to their favorite city, New York, to view musicals and plays. In addition, they are Willis Broadway Series season ticket holders at Des Moines Performing Arts. Kathie believes there are a multitude of benefits to academic and social-emotional growth high school students receive from their involvement in musical theater.

**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. Before her move to Des Moines in 2015, she was the musical theater teaching intern with Taproot Theatre Company in Seattle, Washington. Favorite Des Moines roles include "Kristine" in *A Chorus Line*, "Alice" in *Closer*, "Nina" in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and "Alice" in *You Can't Take It With You*. Currently she is the production manager for Kata Klysmic Productions and acts, directs and teaches for multiple theater companies in the Des Moines area. She is very excited to start her fourth 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.



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

**Mary Fasse-Shaw** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech-Theatre from the University of Northern Iowa. Mary retired from teaching from the South Tama County Community School district after 34 years of teaching and directing. In her retirement, she has continued to help the local school district with coaching opportunities and consults for other area schools. Mary was inducted into the 1998 Iowa Thespian Hall of Fame as well as being inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association's (IHSSA) Hall of Fame in 2014. Seventy IHSSA Large Group All State Festivals were achieved through Mary's leadership. In addition to directing numerous individual events and one acts for the Iowa Thespian Festival, Mary also directed two Iowa Thespian Main Stage productions. In 2002, her production of *All My Sons* was adjudicated and performed at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln. In her retirement, Mary is an IHSSA judge and adjudicates I.E.'s at the Iowa Thespian Festivals. Locally, Mary is the live event coordinator for the newly renovated 1912 Wieting Theatre Opera House in Toledo, Iowa as well as co-director of the Wieting's Fine Arts Series.

**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 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*.

**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 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*.

**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.

**David Fog** taught high school choral music in Iowa for 41 years—34 years at Emmetsburg High School (EHS) where he directed six choral groups, and recently at North Union and Bishop Garrigan High Schools. The vocal music program at Emmetsburg was named one of 50 Outstanding Small School Music Programs in the United States by the Standards and Repertoire Committee of the American Choral Directors Association. In addition to numerous IHSMA state contest honors, the EHS choral groups have earned overall championships at regional and national festivals in Orlando, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington D.C. and Denver during their performance tours. The EHS varsity show choir, *High Voltage*, has earned many class championships and performed in overall championships many times. He also directed all aspects of 23 musicals at EHS, North Union and Bishop Garrigan. David has been a football coach at Emmetsburg since joining the school, and was



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(David Fog, continued)

named the Class 1A Assistant Coach of the Year in 2010. He continues to be an active Iowa Choral Directors Association mentor, clinician and adjudicator for show choir festivals and the IHSMA sponsored state contests.

**Alan Fredericksen** has had the pleasure of performing in many plays and musicals over the years, including *South Pacific*, *Godspell*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Carnage*, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, *An Evening with Shel Silverstein*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Almost Maine*, *Cruise into Murder*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and more. Additionally, he has had the pleasure of wearing many hats in a production of *It's A Wonderful Life* including assistant director, actor and tech. He is also a current member of the River City Mixed Chorus in Omaha. Academically, Alan received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa, Master of Arts in Professional Communication from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of Nebraska Omaha. Alan currently works as a professor of public speaking at Iowa Western Community College and has also served as a graduate instructor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and adjunct instructor at Western Iowa Technical Community College.

**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 show 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 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.

**John Gibson** has taught for 43 years in theater arts in Indiana, Iowa and Nebraska, where he also directed, designed sets and lighting, and choreographed numerous high school and community theatre productions. John is currently involved with the Iowa High School Speech Association, Iowa Thespians, and the Bluff Arts Council, where he previously served as president. He was awarded a theatre fellowship at Northwestern University to do studies in children's theater, and has also received several Theatre Arts Guild awards for Best Cameo Performance, Best Ensemble Direction, Best Musical, Camelot/director award, and Best Choreographer Award. He also performed on Broadway in the early 1960s for over a year.



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

**Chelsea Haaland** is proud to be a product of Iowa high school theater. For the past 15 years, she has taught for programs around the state including the Des Moines Community Playhouse, Ankeny Community Theatre, Sturgis Youth Theatre in Cedar Falls, and ArtsLIVE in Okoboji, as well as leading high school speech and theater programs in Des Moines and Waukee. Favorite directing credits include *The Wiz*, *Les Misérables*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and the state's first production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. She has been active with the Iowa High School Speech Association, and also serves on the board of directors of Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre. Chelsea has been named the Iowa Communication Association's Outstanding Teacher of the Year as well as the University of Northern Iowa's Yager Exemplary Teaching Award winner, and was one of eleven educators selected nationally to participate in the inaugural BroadwayEvolved program in New York City.

**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.

**Megan Helmers** is a director, choreographer and performer whose work has been featured at the Des Moines Playhouse, Theatre Cedar Rapids, Revival Theatre Company, Iowa Stage Theatre Company, Noce, Open Door Rep, Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, Repertory Theatre of Iowa and more. She won the Cloris Leachman Excellence in Theatre Award for Best Choreography in 2019 for *Newsies* (Des Moines Playhouse), in 2018 for *Bring it On* (DMYAT), and has received many additional nominations in both choreography and directing categories. Megan studied acting/directing and dance at Iowa State University, where she performed in and choreographed several musicals. Megan has a passion for working with young artists, and in addition to choreographing countless high school productions over the years, she serves on the Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre board of directors and is an IHSSA Large Group Speech coach for musical theater at Valley High School. Megan is the director of marketing and public relations at the Des Moines Symphony and teaches at the School of Classical Ballet and Dance.

**Kate Henreckson** is the arts director for the City of Sioux Center, where she organizes theater classes, produces community theater productions and books touring artists. She has lived and breathed musical theater since childhood, where she was part of her local community theater for many years. After graduating with a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts, Kate began directing and choreographing high school musicals at schools in Moscow, Idaho and in Princeton, New Jersey. When not acting or directing, she can often be found working in costume design, set building, marketing, or just hanging out in the theater. She recently played "Belle" in the Orange City Tulip Festival's production of the *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Last year, she directed the City of Sioux Center's first-ever Broadway musical: *Into the Woods*.

**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



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(Laura Hinspeter, continued)

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 Misérable*. 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, 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 Timber Lake Playhouse, The Old Creamery Theatre Company, Riverside Theatre, and (upcoming) 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, and the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy.

**Jeff Hiser** spent 28 years in public education and administration and holds advanced degrees from the University of Northern Iowa. While in high school, he was an Iowa All-State vocalist and performed in both drama and speech as well as musicals. Since high school, he has been involved in community theater as a board member, assistant director, director and actor of many productions, both musicals and non-musicals. Jeff also served as an assistant high school music director for five years while teaching. He is interested in using his talents and knowledge to help younger performers grow individually in the area of performing arts.

**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 appeared extensively with theater companies and performance ensembles throughout eastern Iowa, including Riverside Theatre in Iowa City, Mirrorbox Theatre in Cedar Rapids, Theatre Cedar Rapids, Old Creamery Theatre in Amana, and Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre. Notable performances include "Patsy Cline" in *Always Patsy Cline*, "Mama Rose" in *Gypsy*, "Mame Dennis" in *Mame*, "Miss Mona" in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, "Ursula" in *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, "Sarah Moore" in *Assassins*, "Jeannette" in *The Full Monty*, "Miss Hannigan" in



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(Marcia Hughes, continued)

*Annie*, “Pam” in *Exit Strategy*, and “Queen Elizabeth I” in *Shakespeare in Love*. Marcia also shares her talents on behalf of numerous human service agencies. She is past president of the Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance and a former commissioner with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. A native of Boone, Marcia makes her home in Cedar Rapids.

**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.

**Ron Lambert** is the co-founder and former artistic director of StageWest Theatre Company and currently serves on the board of directors for Gateway Dance Theatre. Ron has directed three plays that have won the Iowa Theater Festival competition and placed in the top three at the Midwest Festival. His production of the Tom Lehrer musical revue *Tomfoolery* won awards at the state and regional levels, and he received invitations to represent the U.S. at festivals in India and Canada. He has appeared in approximately 40-50 shows and produced about 100, including numerous musicals. He is a past president of Des Moines' Drama Workshop and the Iowa Association of Community Theater.

**Bethany Larson** is an actor, director and playwright. Developing new work for the stage is a passion for Bethany. She has worked as an actor at the Mt. Sequoyah New Play Retreat and was able to perform in the premier of *Sister Calling My Name* at Playwright's Theatre of New Jersey in a role that she helped develop at Mt. Sequoyah. From 2017-18, Bethany co-authored a new play, *Woman Wonder*, with five colleagues at Buena Vista University. The play was performed at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines at the Region V American College Theatre Festival in 2018. Bethany earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Texas Tech University in 1986, a Master of Arts in Drama from the University of Arkansas in 1988, and a Ph.D. in Theatre and Film from the University of Kansas in 1999. She is a professor of theatre at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.

**Janelle Lauer** has been a staple 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. A private voice coach by day, Janelle is a founding member of SPT Theatre Company, performing regularly and serving as a producer for their well-followed *Tales From the Writer's Room* series. SPT is a small non-profit professional theater company based in Cedar Rapids that believes that artists should be paid to create art and SPT strives to create those opportunities for actors, musicians, tech people and writers. She has toured the country extensively, performing solo as well as with Divapalooza and SPT. A Samuel French recording artist, 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.



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

**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.

**Cynthia Marten** is a retired elementary music teacher and a recently retired music education lecturer at Iowa State University (ISU). Her course at ISU stressed the importance of performing arts experiences for elementary students, particularly storytelling and drama. While at Fellows Elementary School in Ames, she provided experiences with Gilbert and Sullivan adaptations for her fourth and fifth grade students, sometimes casting up to 80 or more. She has also been actively involved as a music director for 30 years at ACTORS—Ames Community Theater. Most recently she has been the vocal director for Broadway Junior productions for Story Theater Company where students age 9-18 audition to participate. These productions have frequently been nominated for awards through Iowa Community Theater Association.

**Heidi L. Mason** has spent her career as an attorney and banking executive, and has had a life-long passion for the theater—musical theater in particular. She is an avid Patron Circle supporter of Des Moines Performing Arts and a regular attendee at DMPA and Broadway musical theater performances. She also is a classically trained pianist, can still hold her own with a clarinet, and historically has been involved in numerous choral groups. In her college years, Heidi was a member of the Iowa State Singers—the university's highest level chorus. Although she has not personally performed in theater since her youth when she played a lead role in several high school productions, that experience is why to this day she is passionate about the support of high school theater, particularly in underserved areas. Although her career has not involved the performing arts, Heidi has substantial experience in leading large teams, mentoring and coaching young professionals, and evaluating their performances using fair and objective standards, all while doing so in ways that both encourages and inspires future performance.



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

**Andy McGuire** is the education director at the George Daily Community Auditorium in Oskaloosa. He has been working as an arts administrator for the past seven years, and he's been teaching theater around the Midwest for the past 11 years. Andy has a passion for community development through access to the arts and believes that theater is the best way to learn essential life skills like collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, self-confidence and citizenship. This is his fourth year adjudicating with the Iowa High School Music Theatre Awards.

**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: [amysatinski.com](http://amysatinski.com).

**Michael Peitz** retired in 2011 as the executive director of the Educational Theatre Association. Before retiring, he taught speech, English, and theater in Iowa where his students achieved top honors in speech competition and performed at the Iowa and International Thespian Festivals. He has been a guest adjudicator for state thespian festivals across the country, the International Thespian Festival, the South Eastern Theatre Conference High School One-Act Play Festival, and both IHSSA All-State Festivals. He was named an Outstanding Alumnus by the Iowa Communication Association and the University of Northern Iowa Theatre department and has been recognized for his service by the Iowa and Texas Thespians and the Texas University Interscholastic League. Michael has been inducted into the Hall of Fame by Arkansas Thespians, Iowa Thespians, Mississippi Thespians, the Iowa High School Speech Association, the Ohio Educational Theatre Association, and the national Educational Theatre Association.

**Michael Petkewec** has more than 28 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.

**Derek Phelps** is a seasoned actor, aspiring director and musician. Derek revived his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance and Directing from Chadron State College in the spring of 2016. He's worked as a professional actor in roles such as "Cogsworth" in *Beauty and the Beast*, "Lucas" in *The Addams Family* and "The Historian" (and various parts) in *Spamalot*. In his free time, Derek is an active volunteer and performer at the Des Moines Community Playhouse, and is the music director for Kata Klysmic productions.



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

**Mark Potvin** serves on the faculty at Luther College in Decorah. His responsibilities include direction of two choirs: Norskkor and Cathedral Choir, teaching introductory conducting and high school choral methods, and handling music direction for the Visual and Performing Arts musical theater productions. Mark worked as the artistic director for the fall musical, madrigal dinner, K-8 drama camp, one act and spring play director and middle school musical artistic director during his 16-year tenure at Princeton High School in Princeton, Minnesota. He is an active performer in community theater, having most recently played “Pharaoh” in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (PMEA: Princeton, MN), “Max Bialystok” in *The Producers* (Play Inc.: Cambridge, MN), and “Aldolpho” in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (New Minowa Players: Decorah, IA). In addition to his work at Luther College, Mark currently facilitates the K-8 drama workshop for Decorah Parks and Recreation.

**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 *La bella dormiente 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.

**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. She owns Fyne Hats By Felicity, creating period and contemporary hats.

**Sarah Schaefer** is a veteran middle school speech and theater teacher at Waukee Middle School. She co-directs an annual seventh grade musical and sixth grade play. 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. After teaching and directing at Ventura, Iowa for six years, she completed her Master's in Theater at the University of Northern Iowa. She is involved with the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education and is a member of the Iowa Fine Arts Leadership Team. She has also conducted classes and camps at a variety of locations.

**Jackie Schmillen** graduated from Idyllwild Arts Academy in California before receiving her 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 CW 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, including *Mary Poppins*, *Spamalot* (Dionysus Nomination), and Mel Brook's *Young Frankenstein* (Dionysus Nomination) at the Des Moines Community Playhouse. She has also



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(Jackie Schmillen, continued)

been in productions with Repertory Theatre of Iowa, Pyramid Theatre, Open Door Rep and Iowa Stage. She is also actively involved with the Iowa High School Speech Association.

**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.

**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 Castagnetz" 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*,



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(Libby Waterbury, continued)

*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, teaching PK-12 general, instrumental and vocal music. She received her degree in Music Education and Musical Theatre from the University of Kansas, where she was also active in vocal jazz performance. Over the past 40 years she has accumulated varied and extensive experience directing musicians and actors of all ages and ability levels, working tech, designing, choreographing and acting in professional repertory and community theater productions in Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. She adjudicates for IHSMA and IHSSA; teaches private voice, piano and instrumental music; composes/arranges; and in summer of 2020 will complete her Master's degree in Choral Conducting at Simpson College.

**David Wendt** has been a performance specialist for over 30 years as a speech coach, drama director, competitive dance judge, beauty pageant judge consultant, and sports enthusiast. He has coached national champions and state champions in speech/forensic competitions and has directed numerous drama productions for high school theater, children's theater and community theater. Some of his favorite shows include: *Tony and Tina's Wedding*, *South Pacific*, *Godspell* and *Gypsy*. David received a Marcella Oberle Award in 2000 from the National Communication Association as the Outstanding K-12 Speech Educator in the United States, and in 2012 he received the Sectional Award in Speech/Theater and Debate from the National Federation of High Schools.

**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 amateur and professional 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. This season Valerie is choreographing dances for her company, and also for *Cendrillon*, *The Addams Family* and *9-5*.

**Susan Wolverton** has been a college theatre professor for over 30 years and practices and teaches the art of visual storytelling in her role as costume and scene designer at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. With an eye for detail and an ear for music, Susan has worked collaboratively with production teams on over 90 productions. She has enjoyed taking students to London to experience a broad variety of plays and musicals. Her own travels have taken her to all parts of Europe, Hong Kong, India, Costa Rica, and most of the U.S. to further expand her visual vocabulary as a theater artist. Susan holds a Master of Fine Arts in theatrical design from the University of Iowa and has designed professionally for Riverside Theatre, the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Cornell College, and Grinnell College. As the mother of an eleventh-grade son who loves performing in musicals, Susan is a natural fan of all that musical theater can do to instill confidence in young performers and to provide a welcoming family for all involved.

**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



## 2019-2020 ADJUDICATORS

(Adam Yankowy, continued)

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* (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 actor, educator and composer. A graduate of Point Park University, Ian has performed regionally with Mixed Blood Theatre, The Old Log Theatre and The Children's Theatre of Minnesota. His compositional works have been workshopped and performed at The Broadway Music Institute, Nautilus Music Theatre, Children's Theatre and locally at The Old Creamery Theatre. Ian is an adjunct faculty member at The Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists as well as an original founding member of The Iowa Youth Performing Arts Company—a nonprofit theater based out of the Eastern Iowa Corridor that aims to empower youth through the arts while simultaneously offering a training path for students wishing to pursue the arts.