



## **2018-2019 ADJUDICATORS**

### **Janet Albanese**

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 Ambroson**

Described as “one of Denver’s finest leading men” by the Rocky Mountain News, David Ambroson is an award-winning musical theater actor who has performed in more than 75 productions throughout Colo. 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**

Brian Anstedt is the production manager at Hancher Auditorium – a 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 in Des Moines.

### **Bri Atwood**

Bri Atwood is an Iowa City-based sound designer and audio engineer. She has worked in the Iowa City area since 2012. She graduated with a theatre degree from the University of Iowa in 2015 and is excited to be back in Des Moines helping cultivate new artists. Some of her favorite theater credits include *Fun Home*, *American Idiot* and *Next to Normal*.

### **Janice Baker**

Janice Baker is an assistant professor in dance at Iowa State University, holding a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Utah and a Master of Science from Kansas State University. As director of New Visions Dance Project (NVDP), she enables dancers of all abilities to embrace the art of dance. NVDP performs annually at the Iowa State Fair. Under Janice’s direction, The Dance Place—a private dance studio in Des Moines—teaches all technical styles and creative movement for children and adults. As production coordinator for Iowa Dance Theatre, Janice and her team have mounted youth theater and dance productions for 20 years. In the summers of 2016, 2017, and 2018, Janice was on the ASAP artist team that facilitated art and dance enrichment to the Des Moines Public Schools. Her work has been seen annually at the American College Dance Conference, as well as the National Dance Educators Annual Conference in Washington D.C.; San Antonio, Texas; and San Diego, Calif. Janice was also the coordinator for the North-Central American College Dance Regional Conference 2015 at Iowa State University.



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### **Cary Beatty**

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 Bennet**

Tracy Bennet studied theater and music extensively in high school 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 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 theaters. She now produces one to two shows annually at The Sioux City Orpheum Theatre. 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 done 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**

Scott Bertelsen taught at Forest City High School for 35 years and is now retired from this role. While teaching, he co-directed 35 musicals and 30 plays. He is currently the head of the high school speech team for both large group and individual events. During his time as co-director of the high school musical, the Forest City community abundantly supported him with sold-out shows. He and Michele Jacobsen, vocal instructor at the time, were highlighted as high school musical directors on an IPTV special in 2015. Scott will be inducted into the IHSSA Hall of Fame this fall.

### **Shelly Bottorff**

Shelly Bottorff is the executive director of the Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association. She also recently joined the Iowa Central Community College team as community coordinator for the arts and is also an accompanist for the performing arts department. She holds a degree in Music Education from the University of South Dakota; she also completed graduate work towards her Master's degree and holds a certificate of Coach Accompanying from the University of Minnesota. Shelly continues to travel with the Broadway Dreams Foundation—an international touring theater company—as an accompanist and music director. She has traveled with Broadway Dreams to such places as Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. She has performed on stage in several musical productions and operas, as well as performed as the lead singer in several bands. She has studied piano for 36 years and has been behind the piano for several productions, including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Addam's Family* and *Mary Poppins*, to name a few. Shelly is currently a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education (MENC), and is currently collaborating with Art of the Rural, Placebase Productions and the Iowa Arts Council.



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### **Linda Brant**

Linda Brant has a Bachelor of Arts in English, theater, and secondary education from Morningside College, and a Master of Arts in English with a drama emphasis from Iowa State University. After a career devoted to high school drama and IHSSA speech, she applied to adjudicate for the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards. Linda followed the program through her former student, Tim Mitchell, who is the music director at Union High School in LaPorte City. She is passionate about sharing her experience to encourage young people acting on high school stages. Linda's favorite shows to direct and costume are period plays, and her favorite sets to design are realistic interiors.

### **Brenton Brown**

Brenton Brown is an actor, singer, composer and playwright whose work has been featured across the Midwest. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from Drake University. Since that time, he has taught high school vocal music, served as a master class technician for Iowa high schools and universities, and has taught voice and piano lessons to dozens of students. Brenton currently serves as the music director for the Des Moines Community Playhouse where he has directed over 45 musicals; he has also directed musicals for Stage West, Epic Stage Productions, Noce, and The Ingersoll Dinner Theater. Brenton received two Cloris Award nominations for Best Musical Direction in the 2017-2018 season for *Disney's The Little Mermaid* and *Ragtime*.

### **Scott Buchanan**

Scott Buchanan is an attorney from Algona who has held an interest in the performing arts since first treading the boards as "Johnny" in *Johnny Goes to the Circus* in fifth grade where he learned the first lesson in live theater: button your own costume. Since then, Scott has performed nearly every task required to present musical theater, from set building, lighting, pit band, performer, and director. He participated in theater throughout high school and then as an adult in Countryside Community Theater, presenting at least one musical, and one or more other plays, every year for six years before returning to the University of Iowa to attend law school. Afterward, Scott directed nearly twenty festival cantatas for an excellent church choir while singing principal bass in a community chamber choir. He can be seen occasionally on guitar and singing in an acoustic trio known as Just Cause.

### **Randal A. Buikema**

Dr. 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. 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 in Vocal and Instrumental Music from Augustana College; a Master of Arts in Vocal and Instrumental Music Education from Western Illinois University; and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Iowa.



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### **John Busbee**

John Busbee is a creative project developer, with a diverse career. He has trained in both theater design and arts management and has reviewed theater for almost 20 years. Career highlights include co-owner/performer of a national theater company which toured from Las Vegas to Chicago to New York, plus a Caribbean USO Tour. With more than 150 professional and local stage credits, his roles include Tevye, John Adams, Cowardly Lion and Nathan Detroit. He created lead roles in *Caucus the Musical* (2008, 2012). John spent several years coaching for IHSSA in musical theater, achieving All-State status for eight different ensembles. He adjudicated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and has reviewed Central Iowa stage productions for more than 15 years. He is also a co-founder and judge for the Greater Des Moines Cloris Leachman Excellence in Theatre Awards, serves as an adjudicator for the Cloris Awards in Central Iowa, and has adjudicated for the IHSMTA for several years. Since 2007, John has produced an arts and culture radio program—The Culture Buzz—promoting more cultural consumerism in Iowa. His work in the arts was recognized with the 2014 Iowa Governor Award for Collaboration & Partnership in the Arts.

### **Mary Campbell**

Mary Campbell received her Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Theater: Certification in Secondary Education from Fontbonne College in St. Louis, Mo. 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.

### **Dan Chase**

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 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**

Jeff Chelesvig is President and CEO of Des Moines Performing Arts. Under his leadership, Des Moines Performing Arts presents six 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**

Terry Coleman is a graduate of Fort Dodge Senior High and spent 39 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 in the Des Moines area he received his Master's degree from Drake



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*(Terry Coleman, continued)*

University in 1995. Terry has served as a board member and president of Hawkeye Community Theatre 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 was 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.

### **Anna Cramer**

Anna Cramer is the development manager at Des Moines Performing Arts. Prior to 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, Minn. 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.

### **Elise Crone**

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 for Nolte Academy as the director of operations, a position that combines her love for the arts, students, and business.

### **Emily Davis**

Emily 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 Theatre Teaching Intern with Taproot Theatre Company in Seattle, Wash. Favorite Des Moines roles include Kristine in *A Chorus Line*, Monica in *Hillary: A Modern Greek Tragedy*, Nina in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and Alice in *You Can't Take It With You*. Emily has also served as choreographer and clarinetist for *Reefer Madness* and director for *The Vagina Monologues* (Kata Klysmic Productions), and choreographer for *High School Acapella Zombie Musical* (Des Moines Onstage). She spent the summer as the drama teacher and props master at Camp Walden in Denmark, Maine. Currently she is the production manager for Kata Klysmic Productions and acts, directs, and choreographs for multiple theater companies in the Des Moines area. She is very excited to start her third year adjudicating for the IHSMTA!

### **Peter Dean**

Peter Dean is a local actor, director, IHSSA Large Group speech coach and serves as vice president on the board of directors for the Urbandale Community Theatre. He has performed with StageWest, Urbandale Community Theatre and with the Des Moines Playhouse on both the main stage as well as in the Kate Goldman Children's Theater. Peter is also part of the educational staff





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*(Peter Dean, continued)*

at the Des Moines 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 co-director for the Iowa Premier of *The Wolves* for Roosevelt Repertory Theatre and is currently assistant director for *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the Des Moines Playhouse.

### **Adam Dingeman**

Adam Dingeman is an actor in the Des Moines area and has been an actor in both Los Angeles and New York City. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater, and after graduating he had the pleasure of performing onstage and behind the screen. His credits include the feature film *The Crazies*, the Disney Channel show *Lab Rats*, and the television series' *Glee* and *The Amazing Race*. Adam has also performed in west coast premieres and regional productions for several musicals.

### **Mary Fasse-Shaw**

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**

David Felton has been involved in theatre 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.

### **Bob Filippone**

Bob Filippone is a theater director and radiologist in Cedar Falls and Waterloo. He founded the Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT) in 2007. Bob and his family also opened 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 has been seen onstage at Cedar Falls Community Theatre as Big Jule in *Guys and Dolls* and Max Jacobs in *20th Century*. Bob recently produced and directed *Little Women* at Cedar Falls Woman's Club; he was thrilled to work with his daughters and the Gasts on this fabulous production and has fully enjoyed all of the young talent and energy of the cast and crew.



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### **Joanne Fox**

Joanne Fox has participated in more than 60 productions over almost five decades in the Sioux City area. She has directed, acted, danced, sang and assisted behind the scenes at the Sioux City Community Theatre, Lamb Arts Regional Theatre, Shot in the Dark Productions, Play It Forward, Morningside College, Briar Cliff University, Siouxland Movement Arts, and Western Iowa Tech Community College, where she also taught acting. Joanne has served as a judge for competitions, as well as Woodbury County Fair presentations that sent participants to the Iowa State Fair. During her employment at The Sioux City Journal, she reviewed symphony and other theatrical presentations for the newspaper. Joanne believes that competitions enable individuals to hone their craft and participation in the performing arts enhances the lives of both the performers and the audience.

### **Lynnea Frederickson-Smith**

Lynnea Fredrickson is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts and History, and Bowling Green State University with a Master of Theatre Arts. In her years between undergraduate and graduate study, Lynnea worked as a recruiter and admissions counselor for the fine arts departments of Waldorf University and served as a board member and director with the Mason City Community Theatre. In the summer of 2015, she prompted the re-establishment of Brickstreet Theatre in her hometown of Forest City, where she directed their inaugural summer musical: *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel*. In her graduate study in Bowling Green, Ohio, Lynnea focused her energies on costume design and construction. Having returned to Iowa, she works as the costumer for Stebens Children's Theatre in Mason City and does freelance design, construction, and alterations work.

### **Anne Frett**

Anne Frett has worked in the Des Moines theater community as an actor, educator and director. She has acted in more than 30 shows in the Des Moines area at theaters including the Des Moines Playhouse, StageWest, Urbandale Community Theater, Ingersoll Dinner Theater and Tallgrass Theater. Anne's love of bringing a story to life has changed her focus from acting to directing in recent years as she worked for Epic Stage Productions, directing *Utopia: The Iowa Musical Review*; and the Des Moines Playhouse, directing six shows in the last six years. Anne works as a language arts and drama teacher at Dallas Center-Grimes, where she is also the head speech coach.

### **Peggy George**

Peggy George, mezzo-soprano, holds a degree in Voice and Music Education from Simpson College and has graduate credits in Theater and Education at the University of Northern Iowa. 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, operas, and plays. These include roles in *Annie*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *Coastal Disturbances*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Evita*, *42nd Street*, *Give My Regards to Broadway*, *The Little Chimney Sweep*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Music Man*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Quilters*, *The Sound of Music*, *West Side Story*, and more. She has performed at The Des Moines Playhouse, Old Creamery Theater, Dorian Opera Theater, and Michigan's Thunder Bay Theater. She has also served on costume, light, props, and makeup crews. Peggy currently teaches voice, piano, guitar, and stage dialects through her Des Moines Fine Arts Studio. She also recently taught a class and did some one-on-one coaching, both in stage dialects, at the Ankeny Community Theater.



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### **John Gibson**

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.

### **Nicholas Halder**

Nick Halder is currently an assistant professor of drama and musical theatre at Clarke University in Dubuque. In addition to his teaching and directing responsibilities at Clarke, he is also the founding producing artistic director of Rising Star Theatre Company. Nick has had the good fortune of being involved with many great productions both on and off stage working throughout his career. His recent directing credits include *Spring Awakening*, *Disney's Tarzan*, *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 & Directing and Arts Administration from Texas Tech University.

### **Elizabeth Hansen**

Elizabeth Hansen received her Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Theater: Certification in Secondary Education from Iowa State University and a Master of Arts in Education from Viterbo University. In June 2017, Liz retired from teaching English and speech at Grinnell High School after 31 years that included directing plays, musicals, and speech events. Her directing credits include the 2009 Iowa Thespian All-State show and The Laramie Project. During her career, she served on multiple committees for the Iowa High School Speech Association including twelve years on the executive committee as the coach-at-large. She was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association's Hall of Fame in fall 2016, the Iowa Thespian Hall of Fame in 2004, and the Educational Theatre Association's national Hall of Fame in 2010. Liz received the Marcella E. Oberle Award for Outstanding K-12 Teaching from the National Communication Association in November 2010. Currently, Liz is on staff at Grinnell College as the program assistant for the Grinnell AmeriCorps Partnership.

### **Megan Helmers**

Megan Helmers is a director, choreographer and performer whose work has been featured across Central Iowa stages including the Des Moines Playhouse, 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 2018 for her work in *Bring it On* (DMYAT) and was nominated for three others (Best Direction: *Bring it On*, Best Choreography: *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, and Best Choreography: *A Chorus Line*). She received two Cloris Award nominations for Best Choreography in the 2016-2017 season for *The Wizard of Oz* (Kata Klysmic Productions) and *School of Rock* (DMYAT). 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 as an IHSSA Large





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*(Megan Helmers, continued)*

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.

### **Laura Hinspeter**

Presently, 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 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 of the 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 & Iowa All-State Jazz Choir, and is an active choral clinician for 6-12 grade music programs and festivals throughout the state of Iowa. Laura is married to Brian Hinspeter and is the mother of three children: Brenden, Brody, and Jenna.

### **Sarah Hinzman**

Sarah Hinzman holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Theatre and a Minor in Dance from Viterbo University, as well as a Master of Science from Drake University. She recently completed a Shakespeare performance summer short course at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Sarah has over ten years of professional theater performance experience at companies including StageWest Theatre Company, Timber Lake Playhouse, Allenberry Playhouse, The Old Creamery Theatre Company, Iowa Theatre Artists Company, and more. In addition to performance, Sarah has served as a local director, music director, dramaturg, and choreographer. She previously served as a theatre instructor at Drake University, Theatre Cedar Rapids, and the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy. She also appears occasionally in area commercials and industrial projects and is represented by The Peak Agency.

### **Jeanne Hopson**

Jeanne Hopson has directed and/or performed in more than 40 musicals in her long theater career. She founded the La Cross Family Playhouse and School in La Crosse, Wisconsin and served as the artistic/administrative director for ten years. The La Cross Family Playhouse and School were recognized by the American Association of Theatre and Education as "The Most Outstanding New Children's Theatre" in the United States and Canada in the 1997/98 season. She has additional experience working with the Des Moines Community Playhouse, The Drama Workshop of Des Moines, and The Children's Theatre of Western Springs. Jeanne is the first woman to be named a Legend for the Des Moines Playhouse. For more than 20 years, Hopson has chaired a theater panel discussion at the American Alliance for Theatre and Education conference that focuses on resolving common problems for directors.

### **Erin Horst**

Erin Horst is a native of Vinton, Iowa, and a professor of theater 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 in Dubuque, Iowa. Before starting at Drake, she worked as an actor, director and choreographer for various



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*(Erin Horst, continued)*

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 in Washington D.C., and Carnegie Hall in New York City. 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.

### **Wayne Kischer**

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**

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.

### **Andy Lesieur**

Andy 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 dancing 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 theatre camps through his own lesson studio.

### **Carl Lindberg**

Carl Lindberg is an educator, actor, and director originally from Northern California. He is the program chair for Des Moines Area Community College Ankeny Theatre 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



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*(Carl Lindberg, continued)*

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 Company, 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.

### **Alan Malone**

Alan Malone has been a director, actor, and fight coordinator for over 20 years. He recently directed *King Lear* at the Waterloo Arboretum with the Waterloo Playhouse. He was the drama director for four years at Hawkeye Community College. Alan choreographed fights for *The Hobbit*, *Treasure Island* and *Romeo and Juliet* for Black Hawk Children's Theatre. He has worked with Next Theatre, The Hypocrites, Stage Left in Chicago, New Day Rep in New York, The McCarter Theatre in New Jersey, was an acting apprentice in the 2001 Company at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and toured nationally with Poetry Alive! for five years.

### **Heidi Mason**

Heidi Mason is a native of northwest Iowa and holds a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts from Iowa State University. Upon graduation in 2008, she toured with Missoula Children's Theatre out of Missoula, MT, eventually landing in Chicago where she worked in arts education and administration with American Theater Company, Old Town School of Folk Music, and Steppenwolf Theatre Company. She has also taught locally with Story Theater Company out of Ames. Heidi is a resident artist at Iowa Stage Theatre Company. Recent credits include *Company* and *Romeo and Juliet* at Iowa Stage Theatre Company.

### **Andy McGuire**

Andy has been teaching theatre for the past 10 years around the Midwest, including companies based in Des Moines, Chicago, and Minnesota's Twin Cities. Currently, he is the education director at the George Daily Auditorium in Oskaloosa, where he manages a year-round theater education and outreach program that brings arts access to around 1,000 children in Mahaska County. Andy also works as an adjunct instructor of theater at William Penn University and serves on the board for Oskaloosa Community Theatre and the Oskaloosa Area Chamber and Development Group.

### **Juan Carlos Mendoza**

Juan Carlos Mendoza, tenor, is a native of Muscatine. With experience in both opera and musical theater, his roles have included Freddy in *My Fair Lady*, Japheth in *Children of Eden*, Bill in *A Hand of Bridge*, and Tigranes in *La Doriclea*. He has also produced and conducted a concert production of *Don Giovanni*, as well as organized and participated in opera scenes and musical theater cabarets in his hometown of Muscatine. Juan has served on the voice faculties of Augustana College, Kirkwood Community College, Drake University, Knox College, and Monmouth College. He received his Bachelor of Music from The Juilliard School, and Master of Arts from The University of Iowa.



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### **Amy Osatinski**

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 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: [amysosatinski.com](http://amysosatinski.com).

### **Peter Pashler**

Peter Pashler's interest in theater has spanned five decades and has involved every aspect of theater production. Peter's involvement in drama began in high school and continued throughout college, where he acted in numerous productions at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. Following his graduation from college, Peter continued his interest in theater as a high school speech and drama teacher in Rochester, N.H., producing and directing student shows and teaching theater classes. He built a strong program and his students were recognized in statewide theater competitions. During his tenure as drama coach, Peter also served as a theater critic writing reviews of summer stock productions in the N.H. and Maine seacoast region. In a related area, Peter has judged Lincoln-Douglas high school debate tournaments throughout the country.

### **Michael Peitz**

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**

Michael Petkewec has over 27 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 a variety of classes including creative arts and drama. Michael is also the marketing coordinator and works on special events at UI REACH. He also has his own consulting business called The Arts and Design Nexus and has helped individual and organizational clients around the country.



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### **Anita Ross**

Anita is the artistic director at Black Hawk Children's Theatre and an adjunct professor for the theatre department at the University of Northern Iowa. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in theatre from Purdue University. Anita has worked with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and toured the country with Poetry Alive! As a returning adjudicator, Anita has enjoyed watching the IHSMTA program grow, leading both young artists and their mentors, supporters, parents, and schools to more complete levels of success and awareness.

### **Donna Scarfe**

Donna Scarfe got her start in performing arts with a role in the film *The Miracle Worker* at the age of seven. 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 Playhouse, she had roles in *Rosa Parks* and *The Miracle Worker*. At StageWest, her credits include *Miss Witherspoon*, *Outside Mullingar*, and costumes for *Angels in America*. A founding member of the Repertory Theatre of Iowa (2008), Donna's credits include roles 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*, and *King Lear* (Goneril). She teaches yearly in CA at Costume College. Donna has a Master of Arts in Theatre and Deaf Studies, and is a professional ASL interpreter and a milliner creating period and contemporary hats.

### **Jackie Schmillen**

Jackie Schmillen graduated from Idyllwild Arts Academy in Calif. before receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre from "The U", University of Miami, in Miami, Fla. 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 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.

### **Cary Shapiro**

Cary Shapiro has been a theatre educator for 28 years, with 25 years as the drama director at Ankeny High School. Cary received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts and his Master of Arts in Theatre Directing, and has taken numerous classes and workshops over the years. He was named a national finalist for the American High School Theatre Festival in 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2013; as such, he was able to take performing arts students to Edinburgh, Scotland to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He has former students performing in various venues across the U.S. and internationally and was named the 2012-2013 Iowa Speech/Theatre/Debate Teacher of the Year by the National Federation of High Schools, and the 2012 Ankeny Teacher of the Year (presented by the Ankeny Masonic Lodge). He has been a judge for the Iowa High School Speech Association since 1975, and in 2015, Cary was inducted into the Iowa High School Speech Association Hall of Fame.





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### **Marnie Strate**

Marnie Strate works as a film and video producer in West Des Moines, working frequently with local and regional acting professionals. Previously, she has coached high school theater for mainstage productions, IHSSA, and Thespian Festival, earning several All-State IHSSA nominations in ensemble acting, choral reading, and readers' theater. In 2010 Marnie produced and directed the Des Moines Social Club's first All-Metro High School Play, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. She continues to act locally in theater and film. Marnie holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Drake University.

### **Laura Sweet**

Laura Sweet is the VP/COO for Des Moines Performing Arts. Prior to joining DMPA, she was VP for the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in Saint Paul, Minn., and was the associate executive director of the University of Nebraska's Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, Neb. Laura currently serves on the local Red Cross Board of Directors; she is also in senior leadership with the Nexus Executive Women's Alliance. She serves as co-chair of the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) Performing Arts Managers Committee and recently graduated from their Senior Executive Symposium. 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 for both orchestras and bands since childhood as well serving in various positions with the Lincoln Community Playhouse and Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

### **Jesse Upah**

Jesse Upah 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).

### **Jessica Wade**

Jessica Wade is an Iowa native and was a prolific participant on her high school theater and speech team. She graduated from the University of Iowa Theatre Arts program in 2017 with emphases in acting, directing, and playwriting. She has served as an adjudicator the past three years for the Iowa High School Speech Association and for the Iowa Thespian Festival. She currently works for Des Moines Performing Arts, is an actor with a traveling mime troupe, and has been featured in several regional commercials through her work with The Peak Agency.

### **Libby Waterbury**

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



## 2018-2019 ADJUDICATORS

*(Libby Waterbury, continued)*

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. Libby is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

### **Julia Weisshaar-Mullin**

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. Her experience includes technical and acting experience in professional repertory companies and community theatres in Kansas and Iowa. Over the past 30 years of teaching and directing musicians and actors of all ages and ability levels, she has accumulated a deep and varied level of practical and professional experience in theatre. She adjudicates for the IHSMA; teaches private voice, piano, and instrumental music; composes/arranges; and is currently pursuing her Master of Music in Choral Conducting at Simpson College.

### **Abbie Wells**

Abbie Wells is currently serving as the special assistant to the Waldorf University theatre department where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre: Performance and Playwriting. In her recent past, Abbie has performed in over 20 productions, worked in areas of design, directed numerous shows, and produced her own work: *Not There*. Her favorite pieces that she has had the pleasure of working on have been *The Last Five Years* (director), *Footloose* (Ariel Moore), and *Legally Blond: The Musical* (Elle Woods/graphic design).

### **David Wendt**

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**

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 *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Godspell*.

### **Susan Wolverton**

A college theatre professor for over 30 years, Susan Wolverton 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



## 2018-2019 ADJUDICATORS

*(Susan Wolverton, continued)*

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 a tenth-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**

Adam Yankowy is a theater professor at Drake University in Des Moines. 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 theater 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* (NY City Center); other New York Credits include *Swinging Christmas* (Carnegie Hall), *Assassins* (5th 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 a 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 *Oklahoma!* (Iowa State University), *Runaways* (Drake University) *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).

### **Grant Yoder**

Grant Yoder started his interest in theater in high school, performing in multiple plays throughout all four years. He also competed in state competitions in one-act plays and puppetry. He graduated from Greenville College with a Bachelor of Science in Digital Media Art Emphasis. He collaborated with theater students in producing and directing several short films and photography exhibitions. Grant recently rediscovered his love for acting, performing in several Shakespeare plays including *Much Ado About Nothing* and *King Lear*. He also recently starred as 'John' in *John Loves Mary*.

### **Tyler Youngers**

Tyler Youngers is currently an instructional technology consultant with Northwest AEA. Prior to that, he worked at Heartland AEA and 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



## **2018-2019 ADJUDICATORS**

*(Tyler Youngers, continued)*

productions throughout high school, college, and in any community productions he can find. Tyler has a Bachelor's degree in vocal performance from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and he currently adjudicates for the Iowa High School Speech Association.

### **Ian Zahren**

Ian Zahren is an Iowa native who originally got his start as a child actor at The Old Creamery Theatre Company. Ian attended Point Park University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theater from their rigorous and esteemed performing arts conservatory. Although an educator at heart, Ian has worked with international touring companies (Theatrino) and has worked regionally at Mixed Blood Theatre, Old Log Theatre, and The Old Creamery Theatre. Ian's composition work—The Musical Human Project—has been premiered Off Off Broadway at Carnegie Mellon's Playground Festival, Nautilus Music Theatre, and The Children's Theatre of Minneapolis. Ian is currently the artistic director of The Iowa Youth Performing Arts Company and is an educator at The Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, The Children's Theatre of Minneapolis, and The Youth Performance Company.