

The Encore

MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

IRVING BERLIN'S
WHITE
CHRISTMAS

NOV. 30-DEC. 17, 2023



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The Encore

MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

Irving Berlin's
WHITE CHRISTMAS

Based Upon the Paramount Pictures Film
Written For the Screen by Norman Krasna, Norman Panama and Melvin Frank

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY IRVING BERLIN
BOOK BY DAVID IVES and PAUL BLAKE

Directed and Choreographed by
ANNA DRESLINSKI

Music Direction by
FRANK E. PITTS

With

ALLISON BELL EMERSEN DAVIS WILLIAM SCOTT DAVISON
MICHAEL DE SOUZA CODY DENT JOSH ENGLAND MITCHELL J. HARDY
CAROLINE HUBBARD MARLENE INMAN LEX HUMMELL KAILYN LEILANI
JELEESA LEVY JUJU PALMER DANNY MAGUIRE
BRADY PHILLIPS JEREMIAH PORTER LUCY THOMAS
JACK RANDEL TRINITY WOLFF JAKE ZABLOCKI

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Original stage production directed by WALTER BOBBIE

Orchestrations
LARRY BLANK
Vocal and Dance Arrangements
BRUCE POMAHAČ

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The Encore

MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

The Encore Musical Theatre Company is southeast Michigan's premiere professional non-profit musical theatre, committed to producing high-quality musicals that entertain, inspire, and bring communities together. The Encore is dedicated to fostering the next generation of musical theatre artists, audiences and productions.

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

| | |
|---|---|
| Happy Holidays / White Christmas (Pre-Reprise)..... | Bob, Phil, Ralph Sheldrake and Ensemble |
| Happy Holidays / Let Yourself Go..... | Bob, Phil and Ensemble |
| Love and the Weather..... | Bob and Betty Haynes |
| Sisters..... | Betty and Judy Haynes |
| The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing..... | Phil, Judy and Ensemble |
| Snow..... | Bob, Phil, Betty, Judy, and Ensemble |
| What Can You Do with a General? | Martha Watson, Bob and Phil |
| Let Me Sing and I'm Happy..... | Martha and Ensemble |
| Count Your Blessings..... | Bob and Betty |
| Blue Skies..... | Bob and Ensemble |

ACT TWO

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| I Love a Piano..... | Phil, Judy and Ensemble |
| Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun..... | Martha, Betty and Judy |
| Sisters (Reprise)..... | Bob and Phil |
| Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me..... | Betty |
| How Deep Is the Ocean..... | Bob |
| We'll Follow the Old Man (Pre-Reprise)..... | Bob and Male Ensemble |
| Let Me Sing and I'm Happy (Reprise)..... | Susan Waverly |
| How Deep Is the Ocean (Reprise)..... | Bob and Betty |
| We'll Follow the Old Man..... | Bob, Phil, Ralph and Male Ensemble |
| White Christmas..... | Bob and Company |
| I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm..... | Full Company |

BAND

| | |
|--|---|
| Piano/Conductor FRANK PITTS | Trumpet SCOTT BROWN RYAN DOLAN |
| Keys 2 R. MACKENZIE LEWIS | Bass BEN POWELL |
| Reeds HARRY MCCOMB MARK TARABUSI | Percussion BILLY HARRINGTON MIKE MORRISON |
| Trombone TERRY KIMURA | |

PRODUCTION TEAM

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Director/Choreographer ANNA DRESLINKSI | Lighting Designer JUSTIN GIBSON | Production Stage Manager ARIEL SHEETS | Backstage Crew NOLAN DAVID EMMA HUTCHINSON |
| Music Director/Conductor FRANK PITTS | Sound Designer CHRIS GOOSMAN | Assistant Stage Managers JADA MCCARTHY VICTORIA KEETON | Wardrobe Care CATHY EBERT |
| Assistant Music Director JACOB KERZNER | Sound Engineer JESSICA GLYNN | Scenic Painter KATE VANHORN | Production Volunteers MARY BETH EAGLE DAN EGELER |
| Set Designer SARAH TANNER | Props Designer ANNE DONEVAN | Wardrobe Supervisor LARREA YOUNG | SALLY HOEFT TRISH MACHAMER |
| Costume Designer MARILEE DECHART | Assoc. Choreographer JOSH ENGLAND | Spot Operators LION MORSE MOLLY OMAR | SHARON LARKEY URICK KANDEE WAGGONER GLORIA WILSON |
| Costume Design Asst. MARLI HENDERSON | Dance Captains JOSH ENGLAND LEX HUMMELL | | |

THE ARTISTS



ALLISON BELL



EMERSEN DAVIS



WILLIAM SCOTT DAVISON



MICHAEL DE SOUZA*



CODY DENT



JOSH ENGLAND



MITCHELL J. HARDY



CAROLINE HUBBARD



LEX HUMMEL



MARLENE INMAN



KAILYN LEILANI



JELEESA LEVY

*Member of Actors Equity Association

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MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

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THE ARTISTS



DANNY MAGUIRE



JUJU PALMER



BRADY PHILLIPS



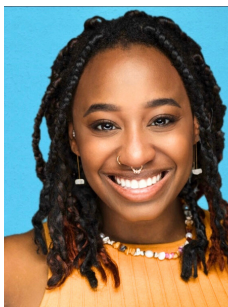
JEREMIAH PORTER



JACK RANDEL



LUCY THOMAS



TRINITY WOLFF



JAKE ZABLOCKI



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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ALLISON BELL (Judy Haynes) is grateful to be returning to The Encore after making her debut this summer as Peggy Sawyer in 42ND STREET! Theatre: CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (Virginia Musical Theatre), ANYTHING GOES (Rubber City Theatre), ILLUSION (Emerging Artists Theatre NYC), FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (Kimmel Center). TV/Film: Today (NBC), Commercial: NYCB GAME ON. BFA Musical Theatre, University of Michigan. Thanks to her family, mentors, and The Price Group. AllisonBellofficial.com | @allison_g_bell

EMERSEN DAVIS (Susan Waverly) is thrilled to be making her Encore debut in WHITE CHRISTMAS. Emerson loves to perform and has been seen in local youth and community theatre, most notably in ANNIE JR (Annie) and WILLY WONKA (Veruca Salt). Outside of theater, Emerson is involved in soccer, swimming, dance and volleyball. She wishes to thank The Encore for this amazing opportunity to learn and grow as a performer, and her family and friends for believing in her big dreams!

WILLIAM SCOTT DAVISON (General Henry Waverly) returns to The Encore stage after performing the Voice of Audrey II in the season 15 opener, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. He is an actor/singer-songwriter from Detroit, MI, a performing arts alumnus of Cass Technical High School, and studied theater at North Carolina School of The Arts. William has performed in several Off-Broadway and regional theater productions including RUNAWAYS, THE ODYSSEY & RAGE OF ACHILLES, SWEET BILLY AND THE ZULU'S, DAMN YANKEES, and THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. As a singer-songwriter, William was a top 24 contestant on American Idol Season 7. He has written for Universal Records recording artists and has also written music for film. He is super excited to be back at The Encore!

CODY DENT (Ralph Sheldrake, Ensemble) is from Toledo, Ohio and attended the University of Central Oklahoma for Music Theatre. Cody has most recently been seen in TRIBUTE: FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS, 42ND STREET and a reading of a new musical, ELIXIR at The Encore Theatre. Some of his favorite roles include working on the World Premier productions of A THOUSAND FACES: THE STORY OF LON CHANEY (Sam), KAY STARR: A LIFE IN SONG (Tennessee Ernie Ford), the regional tour of FLIPSIDE: THE PATTI PAGE STORY (Jack Rael), as well as A CHORUS LINE (Greg), NO NO NANETTE (Billy Early), MY FAIR LADY (Freddy), and INTO THE WOODS (Baker). Cody would like to thank his family for their support.

MICHAEL DE SOUZA* (Bob Wallace) A native Michigander, Michael is happy to return to The Mitten State to join The Encore Theatre for WHITE CHRISTMAS. Highlights include world premieres of Angelique Kidjo's YEMANDJA at The Kennedy Center, CAMELOT at Westport Country Playhouse, and A LITTLE PRINCESS at Sacramento Theater Company. In NYC, Michael was also a part of the zany Off-Broadway revival of ONCE UPON A MATTRESS with Transport Group. Throughout his time in The City, he has been featured in various workshops and readings through The Musical Theater Factory, Latine Musical Lab, The Public Theater, and 52nd Street Project. Michael is a proud graduate of The University of Michigan. Beijos!
Instagram: @daswizle

JOSH ENGLAND (Ensemble, Assoc. Choreographer, Dance Captain) is from Ann Arbor, MI and is so excited to be returning to The Encore after appearing in this summer's 42ND STREET. Prior Encore shows include WEST SIDE STORY, HELLO DOLLY!, and CRAZY FOR YOU. Regional: DAMN YANKEES at The Wick Theatre, A CHORUS LINE, WHITE CHRISTMAS at The Broadway Palm, SWEET CHARITY, FAME at Woodstock Playhouse. TV/Film: The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Gossip Girl. BFA, Oakland University. Love to Mom, Dad and all of his friends and family!
Instagram: @josh_england_

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MITCHELL HARDY (Ezekiel Foster, Snoring Man) is excited to return to The Encore Musical Theatre Company after his performance in last season's CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL. He has been seen regionally in California, Kansas, Florida, and Michigan. Some favorite past roles include Enoch Snow in CAROUSEL, William Barfee in SPELLING BEE, Fester in ADDAMS FAMILY, Warren in ORDINARY DAYS, and Roger in GREASE. Thanks to his parents, his fiancé Nadia, and dog Zoey for the endless support.

CAROLINE HUBBARD (U/S Susan Waverly and certain performances) loves dancing, modeling, acting, and singing. She attends 4th grade at South Meadows Elementary School in Chelsea. "CiCi" has been dancing since she was three and a half years old and has danced many roles in the annual production of The Nutcracker at Ballet Chelsea. She is part of the Downriver Detroit Student Film Consortium and enjoys making short films with this fantastic group of students. CiCi was also part of the First National Broadway Tour of WAITRESS as Lulu. She is signed with Unique Models & Talent and Productions Plus and has done modeling and commercial work for Bissell, Whirlpool, Ford, and Graco. CiCi is thrilled to join the cast of WHITE CHRISTMAS! "Thank you to Anna, the cast, crew, Encore staff, my mom, dad, and Wesley for all of their support."

LEX HUMMELL (Rhoda, Ensemble, Dance Captain, Betty Haynes U/S) is thrilled to be stepping into the role of Rhoda and making her Encore Theatre debut! Some favorite credits include Ariel in FOOTLOOSE, Helene in SWEET CHARITY, and Lulu/dance captain in CABARET. Lex would like to thank all her teachers, friends, and family for their continuous support. To the Encore community, "I am so lucky to be doing this production with all of you. Here's to a great show! Happy Holidays!"

MARLENE INMAN (Martha Watson) is delighted to return this holiday season to The Encore stage. She was last seen in the role of Dolly Levi in The Encore's production of HELLO DOLLY in 2019. A versatile crossover artist, Marlene has also performed regionally with The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, Arbor Opera Theater, and Detroit Opera. Notable past performances include LITTLE WOMEN (Marmee); CAROUSEL (Nettie); LES MISERABLES (Mdm. Thenardier) and THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA (Signora Naccarelli) for which she received a Rogue Award for Best Supporting Actress. Additionally, Marlene received a Wilde Award for Best Actress in a Musical in 2017 for her role as Francesca in THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY as well as Best Actress in a Play in 2022 for her role as Judy in THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG in the Nighttime. Marlene holds advanced degrees in voice performance from The University of South Carolina and The University of Michigan. A passionate music educator, Marlene founded the Academy of Vocal and Dramatic Arts where she has been teaching singing to both young artists and professionals alike for more than 24 years. On a personal level, Marlene shares her life and love of performing with her equally talented husband, Keith Kalinowski whom she met right here at The Encore in 2016 when they were both in the cast of MY FAIR LADY. Marlene would like to dedicate her performance to her beloved students.

KAILYN LEILANI (Betty Haynes) is thrilled to join The Encore family in WHITE CHRISTMAS! Most recent theatre credits include CINDERELLA (5-Star), SHANGHAI'S WORLD EMPORIUM (Xiu-Ling, The Huntington), LEND ME A TENOR (Diana, ICT), and FROZEN-LIVE AT THE HYPERION (Elsa, Ensemble, Disneyland). For the majority of 2022, she sang with Princess Cruise Lines, traveling to Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and the Pacific Northwest. She is a proud graduate of UCLA's Ray Bolger Musical Theatre program and Brandman University's MBA program. Much love to the cast, crew, production team, FSE Talent, and her family and friends for their endless support. @kailyn_leilani

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

JELEESA LEVY (Rita, Ensemble, Judy Haynes U/S) is so thrilled to make her Encore Theatre stage debut this holiday season! Some recent credits — National Tour: Nina/Bingo in COCOMELON LIVE! (Sn2Bn) Regional: Arista in THE LITTLE MERMAID (Broadway Palm) Wanda in ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE (Arizona Broadway Theatre) Teresita in WEST SIDE STORY (City Springs Theatre Company). TV/Film: The Slumber Party (Disney Plus). Jeleesa graduated summa cum laude from Kennesaw State University with a B.A. in Dance. Thanks to everyone who made this production possible and have a Merry Christmas! Psalms 119:105 Follow her journey at jeleesalevy.com | IG: @jelbel6

DANNY MAGUIRE (Ensemble, Phil Davis U/S) is a New York based performer who is thrilled to be making his debut at The Encore Musical Theatre Company! Danny got his education at the University of Northern Colorado, with a degree in musical theatre and a minor in dance. This is his second time being a part of IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS and he is excited to continue bringing this iconic story to the stage. Other notable credits include Don Lockwood (SINGIN' IN THE RAIN), Danny Zuko (GREASE), Frankie (FOREVER PLAID), Al DeLuca (A CHORUS LINE), and Emcee (CABARET). Danny would like to thank his family, friends, and girlfriend for their constant love and support. More about Danny at danny-maguire.com

JUJU PALMER (Ensemble) is a recent graduate of Oakland University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. She is excited and so grateful to be returning to The Encore for WHITE CHRISTMAS! Recent performance credits include: A CHORUS LINE at Nicely Theatre (Lois, Kristine U/S) 42ND STREET (Ensemble) at The Encore Theatre, and THE TROJAN WOMEN performed in Hydra, Greece (Hecuba) Many thanks to her family and friends for all the love and support! @ju_palms

BRADY RYAN PHILLIPS (Ensemble, Bob Wallace U/S) is beyond thrilled to be making his debut at The Encore! Born and raised on the West Coast he is excited to be exploring Michigan. Notable previous credits include: ALL SHOOK UP, HELLO DOLLY!, CAROUSEL, and SCROOGE NO MORE! He would like to thank his family and friends for all their endless love and support. @bradyryanphillips

JEREMIAH PORTER (Phil Davis) is a recent graduate of Texas State's Musical Theater BFA program. In addition to theater, he is pursuing a career in audio engineering & film acting. Jeremiah was last seen at The Encore in ONCE ON THIS ISLAND. Regional credits: SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (The Munny), THE PRODUCERS (Casa Mañana), and EVITA (American Repertory Theater & Shakespeare Theater Company) "We are limitless."

JACK RANDEL (Ensemble, On-Stage Swing) is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan with a BFA in Dance. He's from Farmington Hills, MI and has been training in competition dance styles since the age of eight. In his four years at Michigan he's performed works by Shannon Gillen, Jessica Fogel, Jillian Hopper, Nicole Reehorst, Leah O'Donnell, and J'Sun Howard. He's also performed and choreographed with local dance groups RhythM and Dance 2XS Michigan, tap and hip hop teams respectively. Jack returns to The Encore Stage after performing in both summer hits 42ND STREET and MAMMA MIA!. Other recent roles include Mike in Nicely Theatre's production of A CHORUS LINE. Recently, Jack's choreography was selected to be showcased at the National festival for the American College Dance Association in Long Beach, CA. His passion for dance encompasses theatrical and experimental dance (ex. Martha Clarke's Garden of Earthly Delights) and he loves playing the marimba.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

LUCY THOMAS (Ensemble, On-Stage Swing) is thrilled to be performing in one of her all-time favorite musicals. Previous credits at The Encore include 42ND STREET, MAMMA MIA!, and CRAZY FOR YOU. She has danced professionally with Greater Lansing Ballet Company and recently returned from New York City where she continued her dance training. Lucy is a character actor with The Enchanted Princess Party as well as a dance teacher for multiple studios in the area. In addition to performing, Lucy enjoys Pilates, watching cooking shows, and playing with her puppy. She sends her love to her sweet family and friends and thanks the production team for this incredible opportunity! Philippians 4:6. Instagram: @lucymaryrosethomas

TRINITY WOLFF (Ensemble) is thrilled to be returning to The Encore after appearing as Chiffon in the recent hit LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. As a Dayton, Ohio native and recent alum at Wright State University, their recent credits include: ON THE TOWN (Hildy), SWEET CHARITY (Daddy Brubeck), and CHILDREN OF EDEN (Eve/ Mama). She is extremely excited to be a part of this WONDERFUL cast and could not be more delighted about being in the beautiful state of Michigan. They would like to thank her friends, family, and cats for every little bit of love and support! "It wouldn't be possible without them!"

JAKE ZABLOCKI (Mike, Ed Sullivan Announcer) is excited to be making his professional stage debut at The Encore! Based in Detroit, he has trained at The Actors Loft in Royal Oak, Release Dance Studio in Ferndale, and vocal coaching with Susan Calloway. He is also a proud Michigan State graduate (go green!). Recently, he performed as a dancer in Catfight for the Crown, a charity drag pageant benefiting the Ruth Ellis Center for LGBTQ+ youth. He would like to thank his friends and family for all their love and support!



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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ANNE DONEVAN (Props Designer). From staging a crumbling resort on a Greek Isle to a storm-tossed island in the Caribbean; from a 1940s kitchen to a 50s skid row flower shop, Anne has been "propping up" The Encore for the past 14 seasons. She has scoured the country for unusual and often seemingly impossible items like an early Hollywood makeup kit, an antique dental chair, classic signage and vintage luggage, bagpipes to beer barrels and more. If she can't find it, you will often find her in the shop building it herself! Anne has provided props for more than 60 Encore shows and counting. She says the Rockette/Vienna Choir Boy prop from PLAID TIDINGS still holds the record for the most hours spent on a prop that was needed on stage for mere seconds. "As always, a pleasure to work with such a talented creative team and cast."

MARILEE DECHART (Costume Designer) most recently served as costume designer for The Encore's LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, 42nd STREET, ONCE ON THIS ISLAND and A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL. She was recognized as a Wilde Award recipient for Costume Design for 42nd Street. This honor she shared with her dear friend, Sharon Urick. Marilee is also Encore's costume shop manager and is grateful for the team of volunteers who have been assisting her during this transition to our beautiful new space. In addition to her work at The Encore, Marilee has been designing costumes since 2001. In 2016 she became the founder/director of Beyond Belief Senior Theatre, as an avenue for providing "well-seasoned" singers, actors, and dancers an opportunity to perform in Novi and the surrounding communities. In 2020, she became a member of Relief Crafters of America, a group of volunteers who create handmade items for animals and people in need. Marilee is forever grateful for her husband, John, and the countless hours he has spent volunteering and supporting her role here at The Encore.

ANNA DRESLINSKI (Director/Choreographer). Regional credits include AINADAMAR with Detroit Opera, CINDERELLA with 5StarTheatricals and THE MUSIC MAN with Goodman Theatre; she recently co-directed DIE FLEDERMAUS with Opera SLO. For The Encore Anna co-directed and choreographed the recent production of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, served as associate director on SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE and performed in MAMMA MIA! (Tanya) and WEST SIDE STORY. Anna was a U.S. National Junior Olympian in Rhythmic Gymnastics and trained with Cirque du Soleil in contortionism. She studied with Sergey Rayevskiy at Ballet Detroit for many years and at RELEASE in Detroit. @adreslinski

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DAVE EARLY (Projections) arrived in Michigan almost 19 years ago, serving as technical director for the Performance Network, and then as theatre manager for Greenhills School. A short break from his craft eventually led back into stints with Mosaic Youth Theatre, Michigan Shakespeare, and The Berman in West Bloomfield. After a cycle of prolific design and production work, Mr. Early transitioned into the world of live events and corporate audio/visual during the past six years. He hopes you all enjoy his contribution to tonight, this latest foray into video design. Many thanks to Will for the opportunity, to Dayle Ann and Sarah for the trust, and to the rest of Dave's personal crew for the love and support he's been sustained by these past two decades.

JUSTIN GIBSON (Lighting Designer) is a Raleigh, NC native and a second-year graduate student at Wayne State University, having earned his BFA from East Carolina University in 2017. Justin worked as the resident lighting designer and head electrician at Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, TN for five years prior to moving up north. He would like to thank all his friends and family for their support!

JESSICA GLYNN (Sound Engineer) is a Michigan-based sound engineer and The Encore's sound and house tech. Previous Encore credits include LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, 42nd STREET, ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, the JEREMY JORDAN, JOHN MCDANIEL/JESSICA GROVÉ and JOHN MCDANIEL/HUGH PANARO cabaret events, and the Tribute Concerts FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS; DIVAS: WOMEN IN SONG, JAMES TAYLOR, and STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN: A TRIBUTE TO CLASSIC ROCK. Turn around and give her a wave!

CHRIS GOOSMAN (Sound Designer), a veteran of audio for thirty-some years, fell in love with musical theatre thanks to his daughter, Olivia. He runs an audio mastering studio, holds an audio-video engineering position at University of Michigan, and does theatre sound design whenever and wherever he can! A huge thanks to the amazing staff, crew, artists, and donors to The Encore for supporting us and helping to create a beautiful new home for musical theatre in Dexter.

MARLI HENDERSON (Costume Design Assistant) is delighted to be working on her first show with The Encore. An actuary by day, Marli enjoys sewing costumes and formalwear in her free time. She is returning to the theater after several years, with previous prop, sound, and pit orchestra credits, including playing the flute in her high school's productions of The Drowsy Chaperone and Beauty and the Beast. Marli would like to thank her husband, Jamie, for dealing with piles of fabric scraps and loose threads around the house, and her two cats, Jiji & Luna, for their thorough inspections of everything she works on.

VICTORIA KEETON (Assistant Stage Manager) is currently attending Eastern Michigan University where she is pursuing a degree in Arts and Entertainment Management. She has run a spot at The Encore for several shows, including the recent LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, 42ND STREET, and JEREMY JORDAN IN CONCERT, and is excited to join this production as an assistant stage manager!



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

JADA McCARTHY (Assistant Stage Manager) has worked as both stage manager and assistant stage manager at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti Youth Theater, and Michigan Shakespeare Festival 2022, and as stagehand for Buffy LIVE! at the Redford Theatre. Some of her most recent work has been as a light board operator (DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS) and spotlight operator (THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC, An ABBA Tribute Concert) for The Croswell Opera House. She has served as assistant stage manager for The Encore on the recent LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, 42ND STREET, ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL and AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'. She is happy to be doing another show with The Encore!

FRANK E. PITTS (Music Director) keeps a busy schedule as a music director, working with theatres across the southeast Michigan area, as well as with Oakland University and area schools. He began working in musical theater in college and has directed over 125 productions. Frank is also an operatic singer known for his distinctive, booming voice and consummate musicianship. Equally successful in both opera and musical theater, Mr. Pitts has performed roles ranging from Don Bartolo in THE BARBER OF SEVILLE and Pooh-Bah in THE MIKADO to Pulitzer in NEWSIES and Edna Turnblad in HAIRSPRAY. He returns to The Encore after serving as Music Director for ONCE ON THIS ISLAND and the recent TRIBUTE: FRANKIE VALLI AND THE FOUR SEASONS. Frank resides in Flint, Michigan where he enjoys cooking, travel and spending time with family and friends, including three sons and four beautiful grandchildren.

ARIEL SHEETS (Production Stage Manager) graduated from Siena Heights University in 2019 and double majored in Theatre/Speech Communications and Art. She focused on stage management, but also explored set design and lighting design while in school. Ariel has gotten the chance to work at The Croswell Opera House, Williamston Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Tibbits Opera House, and Meadow Brook Theatre. Some of Ariel's favorite shows that she worked on are STEEL MAGNOLIAS, GODSPELL and LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. She is very excited and honored to be part of The Encore Musical Theatre Company. Some of her hobbies include photography, antique shopping, and baking. Ariel would like to thank her friends and family, especially her mom and grandma, for their undying support and encouragement.

SARAH TANNER (Technical Director, Set Designer) is a scenic, prop, exhibit and puppet designer and artist. Among her many designs and projects are the recent LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, 42nd STREET, ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, MAMMA MIA!, ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE, SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ, FUN HOME, CRAZY FOR YOU, WEST SIDE STORY, CAMELOT, 9 TO 5, INTO THE WOODS and ASSASSINS, as well as various concerts and special events. Other favorite credits include Realm of the Dead, Complex Rhythms and Sun and Shadows at the University of Michigan, and the traveling exhibit "Diabetes: A Deeper Look" for the Detroit Science Center, a 2500-square-foot traveling exhibit housed in a giant blood vessel.

KATE VANHORN (Scenic Painter) is a local scenic artist and eclectic entrepreneur. She has been enjoying painting at the Encore since 2020. She attended the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance to study Scenic and Costume Design and recently was elected to the board of the Guild of Scenic Artists where she supports a network of aspiring and professional Scenics. She loves bringing the joys of live performance and fine arts to children and has been involved in making arts and crafts with children of all ages throughout her career. She especially enjoys working with teenagers and has been involved in Pioneer Theatre Guild at Pioneer High School since 2010. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her teenaged children, her dogs and cat, visiting museums, attempting to be an urban sketcher, and voraciously reading non-fiction books.

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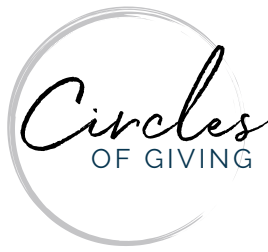
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