



Weathervane

— PLAYHOUSE —

87th Season

2021 – 2022

Annual Report

(Compiled and edited by Nancy J. Humes, Administrative Assistant) 8/23/22



Weathervane's mission is to enrich quality of life and engage the community through theatre and education.

Our Vision

Weathervane shall be one of the foremost community-based playhouses in the country that serves a region through theater as evidenced by:

Consistent excellence in high caliber, diverse, challenging theater productions that compel our community to attend, participate in, and discuss the ideas and human conditions that are presented on our stages.

The enthusiastic commitment of hundreds of volunteers who devote their time, talent and treasure in a uniquely rewarding environment.

Exceptional educational programming for both children and adults that provides essential life skills through stage skills.

Financial stability that reflects both our market value and intrinsic civic worth through maximization of earned income and diversified, robust contributed income.

Its place as a community treasure that has a profound effect on peoples' lives.

Core Values

☪ **Excellence**

☪ **Volunteerism**

☪ **Respect**

☪ **Openness**

☪ **Accountability**

☪ **Diversity**

☪ **Collaboration**

☪ **Fun!**



87th Season

IMPACT

92 PERFORMANCES

6 PRODUCTIONS

17,196 PATRONS SERVED

256 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

29,144 VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,396 STUDENTS ENROLLED

104 SCHOLARSHIPS

\$394,532 DONATED

A note from the Chief Executive & Artistic Director



I invite you to review a year of remarkable achievement at Weathervane Playhouse. Weathervane's 87th Season was a time to reorganize while determining how we could keep our patrons, volunteers, and staff safe. It was a season of unique challenges, but we are proud to share that we were able to offer 92 mainstage performances and 692 classes and workshops.

We opened the season with the return of the long-awaited production of *Kinky Boots*. After a nearly sold-out run, we brought *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* back for its 18th Season. In January, we brought the 8x10 TheatreFest, originally planned for 2020, back to the stage. In addition, we announced the new name of the festival, titled in honor of long-time volunteer, director, and founder of the festival, Eileen Moushey. *8x10: The Eileen Moushey TheatreFest* was followed by *The Color Purple*, *CLUE* and *Newsies*. Our season exceeded our goal for attendance by 24% with over 17,000 patrons attending. It is exciting to be back together at full capacity!

Thank you all for your support of Weathervane Playhouse and our mission. Thank you for being a part of who and what we are. Your time, your talent, and your donations create a home for our Weathervane family and make the dream of our mission a beautiful reality.

Looking forward to our next show together,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanie YC Pepe, Chief Executive & Artistic Director

An update from the Director of Finance

While this may be a familiar refrain, it bears repeating that Weathervane Playhouse's fiscal year ended July 31, 2022 was unprecedented in the organization's history. Weathervane's first season following 18-months without a live audience in the building carried a great deal of uncertainty.

Though some of that uncertainty was relieved by governmental funds to assist in the establishment of health and safety measures, ensuring that the Playhouse could responsibly welcome audiences back to the Founder's Theater, some questions remained. Would audiences be willing to return to live theatre? Would our donors and funders be willing to continue supporting the operations of an institution reestablishing its footing on unknown terrain? Would Weathervane need to provide refunds to cancelled performances in the best interest of health and safety?

The answer to each of these questions, for the good and the bad, was yes. Through it all – the variant waves, adjusted rehearsal processes, and safety requirements – Weathervane's patrons, donors, and partners showed that together we can weather any storm that comes our way. Historically high levels of individual donor support and foundational funding bolstered strong ticket sales on the way to a banner financial year.

Because of the support of the Akron arts community and our patrons, Weathervane Playhouse enters its 88th season with no long-term debt, healthy investments, a strong cash position, and a newly renovated infrastructure. This will allow the organization to continually apply more and more funding to its core product, ensuring its productions and educational offerings remain second to none.

Thank you for your support,



Joshua T. Larkin, Director of Finance

Weathervane's 87th Season



KINKY BOOTS

MUSICAL

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 24, 2021

Based on the Miramax motion picture Kinky Boots

Music & Lyrics by Cyndi Lauper

Written by Geoff Deane and Tim Firth

Director: Melanie YC Pepe

Choreographer: Kevin Lambes

Stage Manager: Jeannie Clarkson

Musical Director: John Ebner

Scenic Designer/Technical Director:

Richard Morris Jr.

Sound Designer: Christopher Pepe

Properties Designers:

Pamela Parks Costa & Scott K. Davis

Associate Costume Designer: Sterling Perry

Wardrobe Supervisor: Lainey Bodenbug

Vocal Coach/Rehearsal Pianist: Ron Hazelett

House Sound Technician: John Coyne

Costume Designer: Jasen J. Smith

Lighting & Video Designer/Master Electrician:

Jack-Anthony Ina

Assistant Choreographer: Jessica Hartley

Assistant Stage Manager: Aiden Brueck

Make-Up Artist: Samantha Echo

Dialect Coach: Chuck Richie

Assistant Technical Director: Kathy Kohl

Assistant Technical Director/

Master Carpenter: Charlie Morton

JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

MUSICAL

NOVEMBER 18 – DECEMBER 19, 2021

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

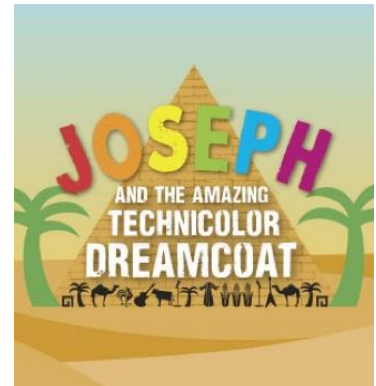
Lyrics by Tim Rice

Director/Choreographer: Marissa Leenaarts

Stage Manager: Tiffany Bird

Musical Director: Steven A. Miller

Children's Choir Director: Ron Hazelett



Scenic Designer/Technical Director:

Richard Morris Jr.

Sound Designer/House Sound Technician:

John Coyne

Properties Co-designer: Tiffany Crabtree

Assistant Lighting Designer: Jessie Pollak

Assistant Technical Director: Kathy Kohl

Costume Designer: Jasen J. Smith

Lighting Designer/Master Electrician:

Jack-Anthony Ina

Assistant Stage Manager/Properties Designer:

Kelli Perk

Assistant Technical Director/Master Carpenter:

Charlie Morton



THE 8x10: THE EILEEN MOUSHEY THEATREFEST

OUR CONTEST FOR SCRIPT WRITERS

JANUARY 13 – JANUARY 23, 2022

Producer: Scott K.Davis

Stage Manager: Kelli Perk

Scenic Designer: Alan Costa

Lighting Designer: Wittman Sullivan

Sound Designer: Casey Ha

Properties Designer: Tiffany Crabtree

Costume Designers: Lainey Bodenbug, Megan Nelson, & Jasen J. Smith

This year's finalists were:

First Place Winner

THE LIZARD by Scott Mullen of Burbank, CA

Directed by Brian Westerley

Second Place Winner

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS by Lindsey Brown of Auckland, New Zealand

Directed by April Deming

Third Place Winner

FINDING HELP by Marj O'Neill-Butler of Miami Beach, FL

Directed by Tabitha Rox

BEST-LAID PLANS by Rinn Packard of Evanston, IL

Directed by Sandy Eaglen

THE HANDLE by Scott Sullivan of South Hamilton, MA

Directed by Jack-Anthony Ina

NICE AND KIND by Stephen Taft of Cedar Falls, IA

Directed by Fred Gloor

OUTSIDE THE BOX by Barry Wood of Navenby, Lincolnshire, UK

Directed by Melanie YC Pepe

WAITING by Jennifer O'Grady of Pelham, NY

Directed by Joshua Larkin

THE AUDIENCE CHOICE FOR THE 2023 THEATREFEST PROP

Each year, the audience gets to vote on the singular prop that will appear in all of next year's plays.

This year, the audience members voted for a take-out container.

The Winning Prop for the 2023 8x10 TheatreFest is

AN UMBRELLA





THE COLOR PURPLE

MUSICAL

FEBRUARY 17 – MARCH 13, 2022

Book by Marsha Norman

Based upon the novel written by Alice Walker &

The Warner Bros./Amblin Entertainment Motion Picture

Music & Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, and Stephen Bray

Director: Richard Morris Jr.

Choreographer: Kevin Marr II

Stage Manager: Ayron Lord

Musical Director: Ed Ridley Jr.

Scenic Designer/Technical Director:

Richard Morris Jr.

Sound Designer: Christopher Pepe

Properties Designer: Pamela Parks Costa

Assistant Stage Managers:

Aiden Brueck & Melanie Scott

Costume Designer: Jasen J. Smith

Lighting Designer/Master Electrician:

Jack-Anthony Ina

Assistant Director: Geraldine Harris

Assistant Technical Director: Kathy Kohl

House Sound Technician: John Coyne

CLUE

DRAMA/MYSTERY

APRIL 7 – MAY 1, 2022

Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynch

Written by Sandy Rustin

Additional Material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price

Original music by Michael Holland

Based on the Paramount Motion Picture based on the Hasbro board game Clue

Director: Fred Gloor

Stage Manager: Kelly AJ Andrews

Scenic Designer/Technical Director:

Richard Morris Jr.

Lighting Designer: Ayron Lord

Properties Designers: Laura Niehaus
& Kelli Perk

Assistant Director: Joshua Larkin

Assistant Technical Director: Kathy Kohl

Costume Co-designers:

Megan Nelson & Jasen J. Smith

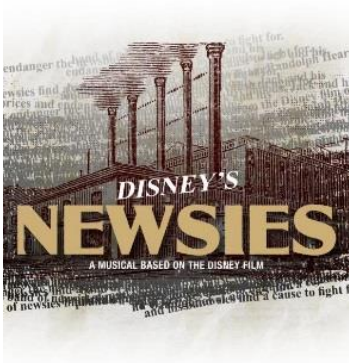
Sound Designer/House Sound Technician:

John Coyne

Vocal Coach: Chuck Richie

Master Electrician: Jack-Anthony Ina





DISNEY'S NEWSIES

MUSICAL

JUNE 2 – JUNE 26, 2022

Book by: Harvey Fierstein

Music by: Alan Menken

Lyrics by: Jack Feldman

Director/Choreographer: Marissa Leenaarts

Stage Manager: Tiffany Bird

Musical Director: Ron Hazelett

Scenic Designer/Technical Director: Richard Morris

Jr.

Sound Designer: Katie Rowland

Properties Designer: Tiffany Crabtree

Conductor/Collaborative Pianist: John Ebner

Associate Lighting Designer: Sage Katusin

House Sound Technician: John Coyne

Costume Designer: Jasen J. Smith

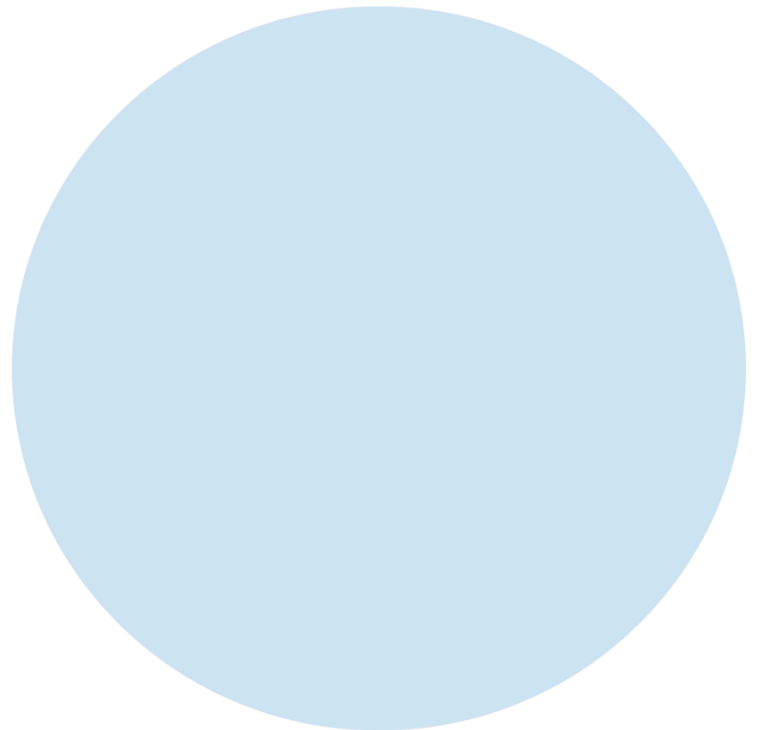
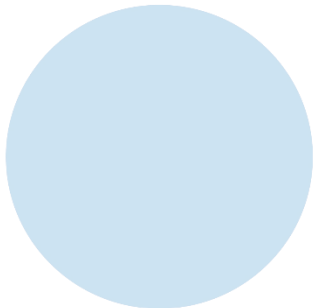
Lighting Designer/Master Electrician:

Jack-Anthony Ina

Assistant Stage Managers:

Jenna Baker & Makenna Bird

Assistant Technical Director: Kathy Kohl



Education

IMPACT

104 FALL THEATRE ACADEMY

51 HOLIDAY EXPRESS

90 WINTER WORKSHOPS

140 SPRING THEATRE ACADEMY

600 SUMMER THEATRE ACADEMY

65 SCOUTS

PARTNERSHIPS

Akron After School, Akron Public Schools, Akron Public Schools College & Career Academies Program, Arrowhead Primary Elementary, ArtSparks, Alien Arts, Firestone High School, Fort Island Primary, Gum-Dip Theatre, Herbrich Elementary School, Huntington Bank: Neighborhood Playhouse, King CLC, Litchfield CLC, Miller South for the Visual & Performing Arts, Ohio Urban Arts Initiative, Old Trail School, Shaw JCC, West Side Vocal Academy



Welcome Assistant Education Director, Elijah Chase

Elijah joined Weathervane in 2021. He is a native of Houston, Texas and a graduate of Kent State University where he received his B.A. in Theatrical Studies with a concentration in Directing.

He is no stranger to the stage and performed in Weathervane's spring production of *The Color Purple* and Kent State's production of *Parade*. He assistant directed the Porthouse 2021 production of *BKLYN the Musical* and Kent State's production of *The Hunchback of Seville*. He also worked as a scenic artist for many Kent State's productions.

Fall Theatre Academy 2021

- 11 classes, 8 weeks
- 12 scholarships
- New *Techie 101* class, Weathervane's Black Box Series



Winter Workshops 2022

- 8 workshops, 4 weeks



Spring Theatre Academy 2022

- 10 classes, 8 weeks
- 20 scholarships





Summer Theatre Academy 2022

- 14 on-site camps
- 23 off-site programs
- Neighborhood Playhouse sponsored by Huntington Bank with partners ArtSparks and Gum-Dip Theatre
- New *Hip Hop Bootcamp* with partners Alien Arts and Ohio Urban Arts Initiative

Adult Classes 2021-2022

- Acting for Adults, Improv, and Eurhythmics, 31 students.

New Mainstage Master Class Series

- Drag Makeup Master Class, Samantha Echo: Makeup Consultant, *Kinky Boots*
- Dance Master Class, Director/Choreographer: Marissa Leenaarts, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- Whodunit Workshop, Assistant Education Director: Elijah Chase, *Clue*.
- Dance Master Class, Director/Choreographer: Marissa Leenaarts, *Disney's Newsies*.

Weathervane Wizards Academies

- 3rd annual Holiday Express in December

Scouts

- Annual Scout Day, December 11, 2021
- Scouts on Demand programs: Girl Scouts of the USA, Boy Scouts of America
- 65 Scouts attended

Off-Site Programs

- Herbrich Elementary School, Fractured Fairytales (4 weeks)
- Litchfield Middle School, Middle School Explorer (4 weeks)
- Robinson CLC, leadership retreat
- Akron Public School's College and Career Academies program, Virtual Career expo and student programs
- Akron After-School Summer Session, Performers Toolbox (10 schools, 6 weeks)
- Litchfield CLC, performance workshop
- Continued a partnership with Akron Public School's College and Career Academies program, participating in their Virtual Career expo and programs

Scholarships

The 104 scholarships provided represent almost 10% of our students. Thank you to The Millennium Fund for Children of Akron Community Foundation, Acme Fresh Market Albrecht Foundation, Tom & Shelley Koutnik, and the Weathervane Volunteer Guild.

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Ayron Lord
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Director of Development
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(beginning July 2022)



Brooke Lytton
Interim Coordinator of Volunteers



Lauren Mathis
Education Director



Jasen J. Smith
Resident Costume Designer,
Costume Shop Manager



Richard Morris, Jr.
Resident Scenic Designer,
Technical Director



Scott K. Davis
Coordinator of Volunteers
(through April 2022)



Kim Shores
Bookkeeper

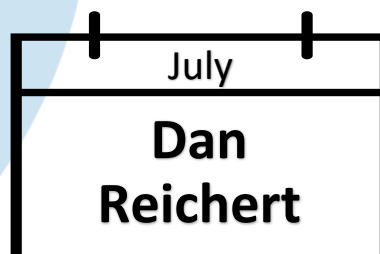
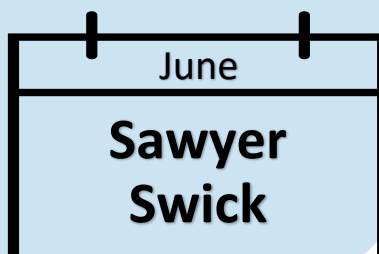
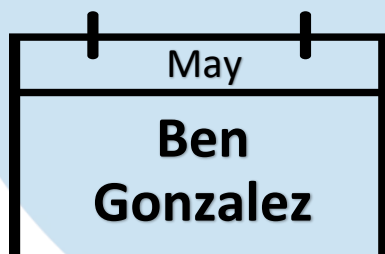
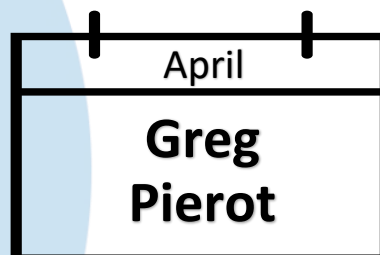
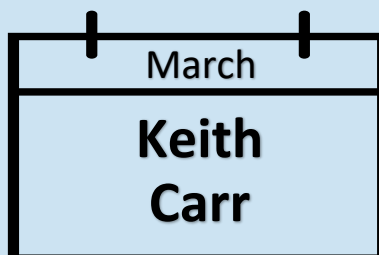
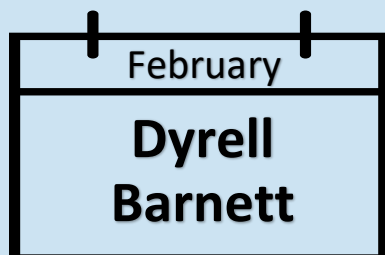
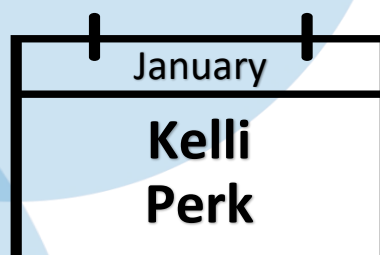
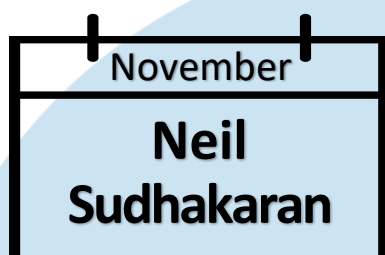
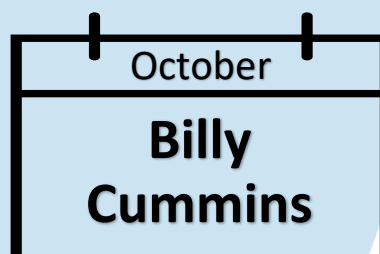
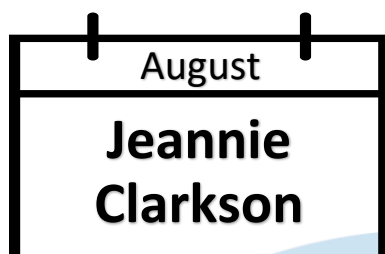


Justyn Jaymes
Director of Development
(through August 2022)

VOLUNTEERS

256 volunteers / 29,144 hours

Volunteer of the Month



VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED EVERY SHOW

Chris Capron

Jeannie Clarkson

Scott Davis

Dale Gilbert

Melanie Hauer

Katherine Huntley

Al Klesh

Joanna Mack

John O'Neill

Laura Niehaus

Marci Paolucci

Melanie Scott

Jack T. Steele

Maggie Vollman

Sean Vollman

Sarah Vollman

ALL SEASON VOLUNTEERS

Christian Achkar
 Adam Alderson
 Patti Alderson
 Matthew Allport
 Wendy Allport
 Rachael Armbruster
 Lisa Armstrong
 Kathleen Bachtel
 Grace Bailey
 Jenna Baker
 Samantha Balaj
 Quentin Ball
 Joseph Banister
 Jenny Banker
 Mary Lu Barbour
 Dyrell Barnett
 Meghan Barylak
 Noah Bastock
 A'myah Beard
 Gerald Beard
 Jerald Lynn Beard
 Phyllis Bernel
 Alexa Bird
 David Bird
 Jackson Bird
 Makenna Bird
 Mary Bird
 Rich Bird
 Tiffany Bird
 Isaiah Blue
 Lainey Bodenburg
 Jay Boughner
 Joie Boughner
 Jordan Boughner
 James Boyd Jr.
 Caitlin Bradley
 Bob Brauning
 Amy Brooks
 Steve Brown
 Aiden Brueck
 Loren Bruns
 Dane Burkhardt

Karen Burrige
 Clayton Camargo
 Eleanor Campbell
 Chris Capron
 Shelby Carlisle
 Wes Carney
 Kaith Carr
 Moriah Cary
 Ozzie Casino
 Logan Chapman
 Mike Chapman
 Elijah Chase
 Greg Cinko
 Lukas Cinko
 Ryan Ciriaco
 Jeremy Clark
 Jeannie Clarkson
 Anna Clawson
 Todd Cooper
 Rick Cordaro
 Pam Parks Costa
 Fiona Coughlin
 Tiffany Crabtree
 Cathy Csanyi
 George Csanyi
 Heather Culotta
 Billy Cummins
 Brandon Davies
 Gary Davis
 Scott K. Davis
 April Deming
 Dave Deming
 Beth Denberg
 Patrick Dukeman
 Nicole Dulaney
 Lindsay Dunphy
 Tonya Duus
 Jay Farrell
 Tyler Ferreebee
 Adam Fisher
 Elizabeth Flood
 Myles Fortner

Eris Foutz
 Antonette Fuher
 Charles Garrett
 Joe Geiger
 Dale Gilbert
 Adrian Go
 Reva Golden
 Ben Gonzalez
 Bryce Goodin
 Cary Goodin
 Emma Goubeaux
 Jocelyn Grant
 Grayson Griffith
 Pamela Groom
 Danielle Gruhler
 Tonya Gulley
 Casey Ha
 Ken Hardman
 Allison Harris
 Nicholas Hassan
 Mckenna Hassel
 Melanie Hauer
 Linda Heath
 Danielle Hier
 Noah Hier
 Brian Hirsch
 Chimere Hodoh
 Nyla Hodoh
 Jeffrey Holman
 James Holzapfel
 Gia Hulse
 Katherine Huntley
 Jack-Anthony Ina
 Ava Inglett
 Brooke Jai
 Bonita Jenkins
 Christina Johnson
 Jill Judge
 Christian Katsaras
 Sage Katusin
 Allen Kelly
 Laura Kelly

Sally Kelly
Dave Keplinger
Millie Keyser
Evie Kidder
Al Klesh
Cheryl Klingler
Elena Klingler
Paul Klingler
Sarah Klingler
Peter Kolodziej
Ava Lee
Maurin Leighton
Deb Lemire
Pamela Lightner
Joyce Linzy
Donna Longfellow
Arunie Lopez
Ayron Lord
Chris Macchione
Joanna Mack
Tom Marquardt
Gina Marafiote
Nathan Maslyk
Connor Mast
Jennifer Matas
Lauren Mathis
Alexis Maxine
Sean McConaha
Kyle McFalls
Laura McFalls
Jonathan Merechant
Kenyah Merritt
Logan Miavez
David Mocedor
Spencer Morgan
Rob Morris
Julia Mullin
Lois Murray
Ben Neiberlein
Megan Nelson
Lauren Nicole
Laura Niehaus
Stanley Niekamp
William Noussias
Chase Oberhaus

Kristen Oberhaus
Tim O'Connor
Brittany Olive
John O'Neill
Annabelle Otto
Marci Paolucci
Charity Pelletier
Christopher Pepe
Jude Pepe
Kelli Perk
Ralph Perk
Laura Perrin
Rob Phillips-Brown
John Pickering
Greg Pierot
Jada Pledger
Jessie Pollak
Jordan Potter
Janice Price
Bess Raines
Andy Rambler
Najee Rawls
Kaelyn Rayl
Dan Reichert
Mia Renard
Sara Renard
Kandi Robbins
Eden Rodeman
Isabella Rodeman
Lori Rodeman
Olive Rodeman
Katie Rowland
Tabitha Rox
Robbie Rush
Susan Rusinoff
Audrie Ryan
Jacob Schafer
Melanie Scott
Linda Shaw
Gretta Shearer
Paige Sheeks
Amy Shoaff
Mason Shuman
Jay Sigler
Kaylee Simonetti

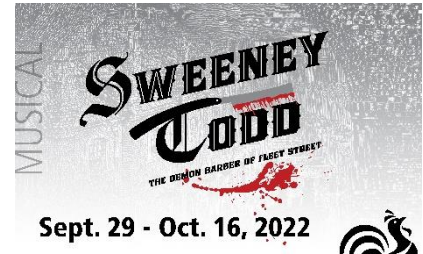
Adrienne Smedley
Jasen Smith
Sue Smith
Jae Snow
Nick Sobotka
Eric Steckel
Jack Steele
Mark Stoffer
Susan Stout-Davis
Anthony Strong
Lauren Strudivant
Neil Sudhakaran
Emily Sullivan
Wittman Sullivan
Sawyer Swick
Esther Thomas
Jocelyn Trimmer
Barbie Trotter
David Turner
Mia Tucker
Robin Ungerleider
Verna Vander Koi
Brielle Varney
Kaylee Vaught
Amanda Vigneault
Aria Vigneault
Maggie Vollman
Sara Vollman
Sean Vollman
Jarrod Vullo
Ava Wadley
Oscar Waters
Rachel Watson
Emily Weiss
Max Werner
Abby Whitney
Scott Whitney
Phyllis Willich
Max Winer
Anthony Woods-Mitchell
Van Wornkey
Tong Xu
Adam Young
Michael Younkin

Weathervane's 88th Season



The hilarious play where anything that can go wrong eventually will,

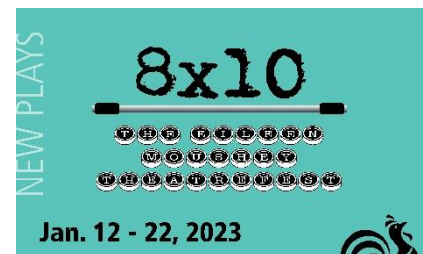
followed by the infamous musical tale of a barber and his pies,



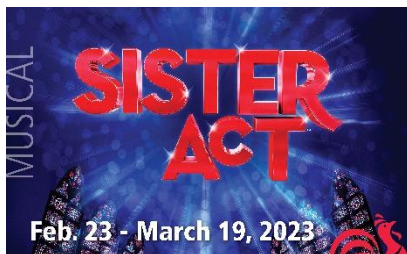
and a story about discovering who we truly are,



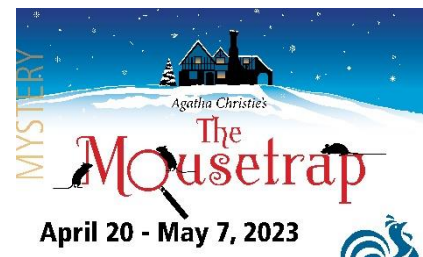
Followed by the Eileen Moushey 8x10 Theatrefest – now with 100% more umbrellas,



and a musical that brings the audience to its feet with joy,



and finally, a good mystery to keep us all on the edge of our seats,



Until we close our season with a story of the wealth, poverty, freedom, justice, hope and despair... of our America.



We look forward to seeing you here!

New Weathervane Staff



Elijah Chase, Assistant Education Director

Elijah joined Weathervane in 2021. He is a native of Houston, Texas and a graduate of Kent State University where he received his B.A. in Theatrical Studies with a concentration in Directing.



Kevin Lambes, Director of Development & Special Events

Choosing to continue and expand his involvement here, Kevin joined Weathervane's staff in July. His many roles at the playhouse include: acting, directing, choreographing, board trustee, class instructor and volunteer.



Ayrton Lord, Director of Business Technologies

In addition to his work at Weathervane, Ayrton works as technology services technician at Koinonia Homes, a Non-Profit dedicated to supporting the lives of individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Practically raised in the theater, he is no stranger to all sides of the stage and has performed, designed and stage managed at the playhouse.



Brooke Lytton, Interim Coordinator of Volunteers

Brooke is an actress, singer, and familiar with Weathervane as a volunteer for the past 13 years. At Weathervane, she has performed in many productions, most recently: *Alias Grace* (Nancy Montgomery), *Mamma Mia*, (Ali), and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Esmerelda).



The 69th Chanticleer Awards will be held on Saturday, September 10th. An addendum will be added to recognize the award winners and top 25 volunteers.