

Rock Valley College
Starlight
THEATRE

— PROUDLY PRESENTS —

Starbright[★]

Disney's

BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST

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Starbright*

Disney's

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Music
by

ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics
by

HOWARD ASHMAN

Book
by

LINDA WOOLVERTON

& TIM RICE

In the Bengt Sjostrom Theatre
August 7-10 & August 10, 2024
8 PM 2 PM

Producing Artistic Director.....Christopher D. Brady
 DirectorJennifer Thompson
 Choreographer Ashley Carlson
 Vocal Director..... Jodi Beach
 Music DirectorJim McDowell
 Stage Manager..... Christine Garner
 Scenic DesignerBrandon Mechler
 Technical DirectorBrandon Mechler
 Costume DesignerDaniel'e Taylor Apperson
 Lighting Designer..... Gabrielle Tiff
 Sound Engineer..... Gabriel Inniss
 Intimacy Designer..... Spencer Clark
 Assistant Director Erin Brady
 Assistant ChoreographerBrooke Harp
 Assistant Stage ManagerKatie Garner
 Assistant Stage Manager Ethan Loax
 Assistant Stage Manager Becca Jensen

*BEAUTY AND THE BEAST IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL.
VIDEOTAPING OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.*

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Starlight's inaugural StarBright production featuring some of Starlight's best and brightest upcoming stars. The young people that you will see tonight are incredible, and they have been pouring their hearts into this production since April. To say that we are proud of them would be an understatement.

When my pal, Chris Brady, asked me to direct this, I thought he might be going mad to assign me to a project with 60+ children. I was truly afraid I would be in over my head. However, I must say that after directing dozens of productions, this has been the surprise of my career. These creative, curious, crazy, and often cacophonous kids of Starlight have won me over and I am sold!

The challenge with mounting a show like Disney's Beauty and the Beast is that comes with expectations of what the show should or should not look like. This does not always give a creative team artistic leeway to make new and bold choices. With that said, this is an incredible creative team who found ways to make this production our own. The collaboration between the creative team and the cast has been inspiring. To the team specifically, it has been a tremendous journey, and I am so grateful to have your wisdom, experience, and expertise at the table. From day one, this team has focused on creating a safe environment where every child was free to bring their full, authentic self to the production. In the Mob Song, the villagers proclaim, "We don't like what we don't understand... in fact, it scares us." This production of Beauty and the Beast focuses on kindness and trying to better understand those around us; not judging or excluding others for their visible or perceived differences.

This theme hits home for a lot of us at Starlight because it embodies the ground we are trying to cultivate here. And if these kids are an indicator of what is to come at Starlight, I think our theatre, our college, and our community will be a better place because of them.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thompson
Director



The banner features the Discovery Center Museum logo on the left, which includes a stylized molecular or cluster icon above the text "discovery center museum". Below the logo is a circular inset image of a young girl sitting at a table. To the right of the logo is a large QR code. Below the QR code is a circular inset image of a young boy looking up at a display. Further right is another circular inset image of a young girl holding a paintbrush. The background of the banner is dark with a white curved shape on the left containing the logo. The text "play, explore, create!" is written in a white, curved font across the bottom of the banner. Below the QR code, a white triangle points upwards towards the code, and the text "Check our website for special events and classes throughout the year!" is written in white.

play, explore, create!

Check our website for special events and classes throughout the year!

A LETTER FROM THE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the very first Starbright show here at Starlight Theatre. We are so excited that you have chosen to join us here, and, if I'm being honest, I know for a fact that this won't disappoint!

In all honesty, we created this show because we wanted to show off. For years now, we've had a cohort of Starlighters who've filled out our ensembles and participated in our holiday shows that are simply fantastic artists. Truly, they deserve roles on the Starlight stage - their only fault...they're a touch young. So, we thought we'd show the community what they could do!

In addition, we created this show as an outlet for young theatre practitioners to experience what Starlight is. To feel what it creates. The joy, the nostalgia, and yes, even the work that it takes to create in this space - to make life-changing memories! To begin a journey under our roof that could last a lifetime; one that centers around excellence, diversity, acceptance, safety, and family. We wanted to host a playground for exploring minds - a creative arena where they can hone their abilities, work on their socialization skills in a culture-driven environment, and... yeah...show off.

If you are here, you seem like you want to join us in the same! Welcome...welcome and even more welcome! We are honored to have you share in our Starbright series. What you're about to witness is our young community operating at its best! Multiple and diverse artists coming together as one to give their same community - their very parents, relatives, and neighbors - an epic and quality adventure that culminates upon the stage, but more importantly etches itself into our minds and is coveted in our hearts.

For those of us who've been here before, whether we've trod the boards or have simply witnessed the magic of other Starlight shows from these rigid blue seats, we can measure our lives by the singular nights that we've spent out here. We remember that our first child was born during the season of *Ragtime & Geppetto & Son*; we remember who we nestled with when the rain was blowing sideways that one show; we remember our favorite actors when we see them again onstage - and we'll hopefully say, "we saw them grow up through the Starbright shows first!" We remember the times we shared with our loved ones and the memories we made; and, most of all, we remember how our hearts are filled with joy every time we come into this space. There's nothing like it in the world. Our community. Our youth. Our Theatre.

So, dear friends, let us unfurl our hearts like the blossoms of our roof, for tonight we share in a journey of laughter, love, and boundless creativity. Together, let us breathe life into the dreams that dwell within this sacred place. Welcome, for the first time, to the experience that is Starbright. Thank you for being a part of it.

Sincerely,



Christopher D. Brady
Producing Artistic Director - Starlight Theatre

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Narrator	Abby Rabon
Enchantress	Hanna Holmes
Beast	Benjamin Garner
Belle	Sanaai Brown
Baker	Brock Simmons
Bookseller.....	DeRyah Maxey
LeFou.....	Pearson Miller
Gaston.....	Carter Denton
Cronies	Ace Cox, Ti Kelly
Maurice	Noah Ciseros
Les Filles	Ophelia Brady, Adriana LeBeau, Tatiana Ramirez
Lumiere	Zachary Garner
Cogsworth	Joshua Austin
Mrs. Potts	Sofia Guevara
Chip.....	Oliver Ballard
Babette	Imogen Brady
Madame	Olivia Simpson

Principal Dancers Chloe Beaver, Isaiah Campbell, Amelia Escamilla, Olivia Giron, Olivia Hamilton, Hanna Holmes, Amelia Picchi, Kaylene Sullivan, Annabella Torres (wolf), Grace Tropp

Ensemble..... Addie Carter, Addie Fagan, Harlow Grasse, Logan Gustafson, May Hning, Nora Jakymiw, Lou Kelly, DeRyah Maxey, Gillian Nothnagel, Molly Oakes, Ana Picci, Eleanor Powell, Abby Rabon, Abigail Reyes, Emberleigh Schoensiegel, Mahalia Seward, Brock Simmons, Henry Simpson, Michael (MJ) Spurlock, Isaiah Stauffer, Annabella Torres, Sierra Van Laeke, Haylee West

Children’s Ensemble Alice Beard, Alice Carlson, Gabriel Coliz, Svea Denton, Olive Fletcher, Lily Jaworski, Connor Jensen, Ian Jensen, Amelia Jensen, Abel Jones, Alan Patterson, Jr., Josephine Powell, Eliza Simms, Hazel Simms, Iris Turner

UNDERSTUDIES

- Olivia Simpson – *Belle, Mrs. Potts*
- Henry Simpson – *Cogsworth*
- Ace Cox – *LeFou*
- Pearson Miller – *Gaston*
- Connor Jensen – *Chip*
- Sierra Van Laeke – *Babette*
- Gillian Nothnagel – *Madame*

Starlight Theatre acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.



MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

Overture
Prologue..... Narrator, Principal Dancers, Beast
Belle Belle, Gaston, LeFou, Ensemble, Children’s Ensemble
No Matter What Maurice & Belle
Me..... Gaston
Belle (Reprise) Belle
Home..... Belle
Gaston LeFou, Gaston, Ensemble
Gaston (Reprise).....Gaston, LeFou
How Long Must This Go On? Beast
Be Our Guest Company
If I Can’t Love Her Beast

ACT TWO

Entr’acte.....
Something There..... Mrs. Potts, Belle, Beast
Human Again Company
Beauty and the Beast Mrs. Potts
If I Can’t Love Her (Reprise) Beast
A Change in Me Belle
The Mob Song Gaston, D’Arque, Ensemble, Children’s Ensemble
Home (Reprise) Belle
Tranformation/Finale Ultimo Company

**BACKSTAGE/
RUNNING CREW**

Nailah Brooks	Ethan Loax
Ethan Ecker	Tez Lockhart
Evan Ecker	Craig Miller
Zander Eisele	Jazlyn Oberg
Katie Garner	Addyson Powell
Grace Hahn-Varona	Gabriel Serrano Letona
Guillermo Hernandez	Norah Sloatman
Gabe Innis	Jess Sorg-Spencer
Dan Jensen	Lamarion Taylor
Rebecca Jensen	Doug Ward
Linnea Landerdahl	

CAST & TEAM BIOS



JOSHUA AUSTIN
(Cogsworth) [He/Him] is excited to be a part of the wonderful community that is this production of *Beauty and the Beast*.



OLIVER BALLARD
(Chip) [He/Him] is so very excited to be a part of the very first Starbright production at Starlight Theater! He was seen last summer in *Oliver!* and will be going into the third grade this year. When he's not on stage, Oliver loves to spend his time making YouTube videos, playing Roblox, playing outside, and accompanying his parents on their many trips to Universal and Disney. Oliver would like to thank his parents, brothers and sister, and his grandparents for always supporting him!



ALICE BEARD
(Childrens Ensemble) [She/Her] is so excited to be back out at Starlight for her second season. She will be a third grader next year, and she likes to do tumbling, read, and make stories for her YouTube channel @aliceingamerland. She hope you'll enjoy the show!



CHLOE BEAVER
(Principal Dancer) [She/Her] is a freshman at Auburn High School in the CAPA program. She has been dancing since age two, and started getting involved with theater in middle school. She is very grateful and excited to be in her first shows at Starlight this summer.



IMOGEN BRADY (Babette) [She/Her] is very excited for this season at Starlight! She is going into her freshman year at Harlem High School, and this is her sixth season here on stage! Imogen is a member of Kantorei of Rockford and very much enjoys singing. Enjoy the show!



OPHELIA BRADY
(Le Filles/Silly Girl) [She/Her] is very ecstatic to be in her seventh season here at Starlight theatre. She performed in *Newsies* as a

workhouse kid and you'll see her tonight in *Beauty and the Beast* as a silly girl. "Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground. You can do this." -Theodore Roosevelt.



SANAAI BROWN
(Belle) [He/Him] is so thankful to be a part of *Beauty and The Beast* this season. This is Sanaai's third season at Starlight and she's beyond grateful to be back. Sanaai was previously Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* (AHS), along with Dance Ensemble in *In the Heights* and *Rodger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Starlight). You may have also seen her as Squeak in *The Color Purple* previously this season. Sanaai would like to thank her family and friends for constantly providing her love and support throughout this time. She hopes you love and enjoy the show.



ISAIAH CAMPBELL
(Principal Dancer) [He/Him] is starring in his second Starlight Theatre production and would like to thank the directors for the experience and opportunity! He would also like to thank his family and friends for the support.



ALICE CARLSON
(Ensemble) [She/Her] is excited to be back for her third season with Starlight. Alice loves to sing, dance and perform on stage. She'd like to thank her friends and family for all of their support. Enjoy the show!



ADDIE CARTER
(Ensemble) [She/They] is a first year Starlight performer. Before, she has worked on *The Addams Family* production at Auburn High School where she studied as a Gifted and CAPA student. She is very excited to be preforming in ensemble for this year's *Beauty and the Beast* production!



NOAH CENISEROS
(Maurice) [He/Him] is very excited to be a part of this Starlight season, this being his first. He, although, has been in

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED

theatre for a few years now and wouldn't rather be anywhere else. He hopes you enjoy the show!



GABRIEL COLIZ

(Children's Ensemble)
[He/Him] is excited to be joining Starlight for his first season! He is a kind person looking forward to making friends during the show. He is the second youngest out of six children and can't wait to be in the spotlight!



ACE COX

(Gaston's Crony) [He/Him] is more than thrilled to be back at Starlight for his fourth show. He has most recently been seen

as Ryan in *High School Musical*. Ace is currently a sophomore in high school, hoping to minor in musical theater. He is glad to be back on stage and hopes you enjoy the show!



CARTER DENTON

(Gaston) [He/him] has been in theater since his fifth grade year. This is Carter's first summer season at Starlight and is overjoyed to be a part of it. He was

a part of Starlight's, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, as Leroy Herdman and ever since then has been dying to get back on that Starlight stage. Some of his favorite roles in the past were Orin (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Antipholus of Syracuse (*Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors*), and Shrek (*Shrek Jr*). He would like to thank his parents for always supporting him in all of his endeavors, and for all the miles they had to drive. He would like to thank you all for coming and hopes you enjoys the show.



SVEA DENTON

(Children's Ensemble)
[She/Her] is very excited to be in her first Starlight production along with her big brother. Svea has been performing in theater

for the last five years and has been a part of eight productions with five different theater companies throughout the area. Her favorite roles have been young Elsa in *Frozen Jr.* and dancing in the *Nutcracker Ballet*. When not on stage, Svea also studies dance and loves to express herself through art, fashion, and makeup. She would like to thank her brother,

Carter, for helping her through long rehearsals and showing her how fun theater can be. She hopes you enjoy this magical show!



AMELIA ESCAMILLA

(Principal Dancer) [She/Her] is thrilled to be on stage once again for her third season at Starlight. In the past summers, she was in *In the*

Heights and *The Little Mermaid*. She also just finished *Newsies* at Starlight. In the fall, she will be a freshman at Hononegah High School. Amelia has a very big place for dance in her heart and will keep on with that path. She would just like to say a big thank you to her friend Lydia for being her biggest supporter. Amelia hopes you enjoy the show as much as she loves performing it.



ADDIE FAGAN

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is so excited to be in her eighth Starlight show. She would love to thank the directing team, cast, and crew for

making this show just as magical as all of the rest. She'd also love to thank her grandma who's been watching her from the stars for the past seven years. So sit back, relax, and enjoy a stunning musical under the stars!



OLIVE FLETCHER

(Children's Ensemble)
[She/Her] is very excited to be returning to Starlight this year! She has most recently performed at

the Nordlof Theater in *Junie B. Jones* (Junie B. Jones), *Finding Nemo* (Gurgle), at the Belvidere Theater company in the *Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch of the West) and as a Food Child in *Oliver!*, here at Starlight.



BENJAMIN GARNER

(Beast) [He/Him] is excited for his sixth season at Starlight and the opportunity to spend the summer with his Starlight friends.

This season, he is the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* and Henry in *Newsies*. His favorite Starlight role has been Ben/Lisa in *Disaster!*. He was a freshman in CAPA at Auburn and played Gomez in Auburn's fall 2023 production of *The Addam's Family*.

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED



ZACHARY GARNER
(Lumière) [He/Him] is excited to return for his seventh season at Starlight, and hopes you enjoy the show!



OLIVIA GIRON
(Principal Dancer) [She/They] is in her second season at Starlight and sixth show in her theater journey. She is super

excited to be participating in Starlight shows again, and hopes to continue in the future. She can't wait for you to see the show and experience the true magic here under the stars.



AUBREY "HARLOW" GRASSE
(Laundry Lady/Ensemble) [She/Her] is so excited to be joining Starlight for her first time

ever in *Beauty and the Beast*! She is currently an early college student at RVC and plans to move to Chicago or New York this fall to pursue a Bachelor degree in Musical Theatre. Aubrey is thrilled she gets to participate in Starlight before she moves, since she has always admired the company. Enjoy the show!



SOFIA GUEVARA
(Mrs. Potts) [She/Her] is so very excited to be in her first Starlight season! She graduated this spring from Auburn's Gifted

and CAPA programs, and earned her Associate of Arts degree from Rock Valley College as a Running Start student. She would like to thank the directing team and all of the friends she made this summer. Thank you, and enjoy the show!



LOGAN GUSTAFSON
(Hat Seller; Ensemble) [He/Him] finished his junior year at Christian Life High School and his freshman year at Rock

Valley College last Spring through their dual-credit program. *Beauty and the Beast* is Logan's third show at Starlight Theatre, following *Newsies* earlier this season and *Oliver!* during the 2023 season. Outside of theater, Logan enjoys playing in the Bergstrom Stasteline Quiz Bowl, streaming on Twitch, and listening to his CD collection, with his favorite being *City of Evil* by Avenged Sevenfold.



OLIVIA HAMILTON
(Principal Dancer) [She/Her] is stoked for her first Starlight production this summer! She has been in many other productions

outside of the Starlight stage. She will be in seventh grade and attends the CAPA program at West Middle School. She has been dancing since she was two years old and now competitively dances at Evolve. Olivia would like to thank her family, friends, Evolve dance, and CAPA arts teachers for their support and endless opportunities to do what she loves. She looks forward to more theater experiences in the future!



MAY HNING
(Ensemble) [She/Her] is in her first season here at Starlight! She's a Junior at Auburn High School, enrolled in the CAPA program. Some of you might

recognize May from her role as Alice from Auburn High School's Fall musical, *The Addams Family*! She's thrilled to be part of a beautifully executed performance alongside her friends!



HANNA HOLMES
(Principle Dancer) [She/Her] is so excited to be back on stage in her fifth season at Starlight! She just graduated from the Gifted and CAPA programs

at Auburn High School. Hanna would like to thank the directing team for this amazing opportunity and she is so thankful to be working alongside this talented cast. She hopes you enjoy the show!



NORA JAKYMIW
(Ensemble) [She/Her] is very excited for her first show at Starlight! She's done lots of other shows in the past with The Studio and her school. She

also enjoys dance and playing the ukulele. She absolutely loves Star Wars and hopes you enjoy the show!



LILY JAWORSKI
(Children's Ensemble) [She/Her] is currently a third grader at Stone Creek Elementary. Lily has always had a love for anything related

to art including performing arts. This will be her fourth production since she started acting two years ago, but first time with Starbright. In addition to acting, Lily loves the backside of production and has assisted in prior productions with prop work. Lily is excited to continue growing her skills as she gets more involved in theater.

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED



CONNER JENSEN

(Ensemble) [He/Him] is thrilled to be back on the Starlight stage for his fourth season! You may have seen him last year in *Oliver!* or earlier this season in *Newsies*. Connor loves theatre and calls Starlight his second home! He hopes you'll be our guest and enjoy the show!



IAN JENSEN

(Ensemble) [He/Him] is happy to be back sharing the stage with friends and family for his fourth season: he's been in *Joseph*, *Little Mermaid* and *Oliver!*, and is super excited to be joining the first Starbright show with so many talented kids! He hopes you sit back, relax, and have fun!



MIA JENSEN

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is beyond excited to be back onstage for her sixth season at Starlight! She's extra excited to be sharing the stage with so many friends in this show—as well as her brothers! Mia loves art, drawing, and just creating in general. She is starting middle school this fall and hopes you enjoy the show!



ABEL QUINN JONES

(Children's Ensemble) [He/Him] is performing in his first play! He dreams of becoming an actor and has been practicing on YouTube since birth. *Beauty and the Beast* is his favorite Disney movie to watch with his sister. I hope you all enjoy the show!



LOU KELLY

(Ensemble) [She/They] is in her second year at Starlight and is excited to be in this production with her peers and share the wonderful experience with the audience!



TI KELLY

(Crony #2) [He/Him] is back for his Starlight sequel. Starlight has been an enchanting experience for him and he's happy to share it all with you.



ADRIANA LEBEAU

(Les Filles 3) [She/Her] is excited to join her first show at Starlight, especially with such an amazing cast and crew. She is about to enter her junior year at Auburn High School. Adriana would like to thank all her friends at Starlight who encouraged her to come and be a part of such an amazing community.



DERYAH MAXEY

(Bookseller/Ensemble) [She/Her] is so excited to be a part of *Beauty and Beast* this season. This is her first year at Starlight and she's loving it. DeRyah was previously in *The Addams Family* as a featured dancer. She is also playing Sofia in *The Color Purple* this season. DeRyah would like to thank her family and friends for pushing her to be better than she ever thought she could be. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!



PEARSON MILLER

(LeFou) [He/Him] has been at Starlight Theater since 2019 when he portrayed Grover Dill in *A Christmas Story the Musical*. This is now his third official season at Starlight Theater and is very excited to be in *Beauty and the Beast*. You may have seen him as Mush in *Newsies*. Pearson would like to thank his family, friends, and doggy for being awesome. Enjoy the show!



GILLIAN NOTHNAGEL

(Sausage Curl Lady, Ensemble)[She/Her] is so excited to be on the Starlight stage for the very first time! She has been doing shows since she was seven, and has always dreamed of performing here. In her free time, Gillian loves reading, writing, baking, and obviously theatre. Her favorite roles she has played include *Willy Wonka* and Mayor Matilda in *All Shook Up!* She is performing especially for her late grandmother, Inara, who always purchased Starlight season passes and bought her ice cream at intermission. She hopes you enjoy the show!

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED



MOLLY OAKES

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is excited to be in her first production at Starlight. Molly was previously Mrs. Lark in *Mary Poppins* during Camp Supernova in 2023. She is currently in seventh grade at Maria Montessori School. She is excited to put on *Beauty and the Beast* and hopes you enjoy the show!



ALAN PATTERSON JR.

(Children's Ensemble) [He/Him] is dynamic, fun-loving, and high energy with a passion for making people laugh. Alan loves

quality time with family, snakes, and Sonic The Hedgehog. *Beauty and the Beast* is Alan's debut stage performance. However, he is an award-winning public speaker that has spent a large part of his childhood backstage, since both his parents are performers. Alan enjoys the process and community that's built when participating in a production, which is why he is truly a "Theatre Kid".



AMELIA PICCHI

(Principal Dancer) [She/Her] is excited to perform her very first show at Starlight. Amelia's previous credits include *Frozen Jr.*, *High School*

Musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Music Man*, and *Beauty and the Beast* - all at The Studio Rockford. She would like to thank her mom for convincing her to audition this year. She would also like to thank her family for supporting her. She is thrilled to perform this year and she hopes you enjoy the show!



ANA PICCHI

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is currently a student at Guilford High School. Her previous credits include Pit Band (Flute) in 25th

Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, CM-3 in *Left to Our Own Devices*, and Scarecrow/Uncle Henry in *Wizard of Oz* at Guilford High School. She has also appeared in *Elf*, *Frozen*, *Girls of Summer*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Music Man* at The Studio Rockford. Lots of love to her friends and family who supported her throughout auditions and shows.



ELEANOR POWELL

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is ecstatic to be back at Starlight for her sixth season! When not having the time of her life on stage,

she enjoys basketball and being a platinum level competitive gymnast, as well as playing the french horn. Eleanor is going to be a freshman in the CAPA & Gifted Academies at Auburn High School this coming year. She requests that you 'Be Our Guest' and enjoy the show!



JOSIE POWELL

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is pumped to be returning to the stage for her second season under the stars. Josie is also a competitive

dancer. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, hanging with friends, and playing on her tablet. She is 10 years old and will be in fifth grade at Marshall Middle School! She hopes you have the best time watching *Beauty and the Beast*!



ABBY RABON

(Milkmaid, Ensemble) [She/Her] is a freshman at Guilford High School. She's previously enjoyed roles in *Shrek! The Musical* and *Joseph and The Amazing*

Technicolor Dream Coat at Starlight. You may have also seen Abby on stage at *Usual Suspects*, *CTP/YTP*, *Court Street*, *CAPA*, and *Guilford*. She's also excited to be a part of this production of *Beauty and the Beast* this summer. Abby would like to thank all of you for coming out and her family for all of the support along the way.



TATIANA RAMIREZ

(Les Fille) [She/Her] is excited to be back at Starlight Theatre for her second season. She is ecstatic to be back and would like to thank her

friends and family for supporting her, with a special thanks to her Aunt Marilyn. An extra thank you to the team at Starlight for being so kind.



ABIGAIL REYES

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is in her second season at Starlight and seventh theatrical show altogether. When she's not at the theater, she's

usually playing her instruments (baritone & tuba) and has recently begun training as a drum major. She hopes to continue doing the things she loves by

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED

one day becoming a musical theatre actress or a symphony orchestra musician. She hopes you enjoy the show!



EMBERLEIGH SCHOENSIEGEL

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is extremely excited to be performing in her first show

with Starlight! She is an eighth grader at Marshall Middle and enjoys volleyball, track, choir, and of course theater.



BROCK SIMMONS

(Baker, Ensemble) [He/Him] is super excited to perform in his first Starlight season, after having previously done multiple musicals

(mainly for Belvidere North High School)! He's looking forward to playing the baker and singing in the ensemble, wish him luck!



ELIZA SIMMS

(Children's Ensemble) [He/Him] is excited for her second year at Starlight. She's starting third grade at Marshall

Elementary School, and loves being in a play with her friends and family. Eliza enjoys crafting, reading, and spending time with her family in her spare time. She hopes you enjoy the show!



HAZEL SIMMS

(Children's Ensemble) [She/Her] is very happy to be in her second show here at Starlight, and will be starting sixth grade at Marshall Middle School. She

is also excited to be in a show with her Uncle Ben, Uncle Zachary, and her younger sister, Eliza. She is grateful for the support of all her family and friends! Please enjoy the show.



HENRY SIMPSON

(Shepherd/Ensemble) [He/Him] is so excited for his second season of Starlight. He loves the community and family

that's built here. Henry's passionate about playing the piano and playing percussion in band. He is fairly new to theatre, as he was in his first show ever in March of 2023. He was instantly hooked! He wants to thank his directors and everyone involved in the show.



OLIVIA SIMPSON

(Madame) [She/Her] is so excited to be back at Starlight for her fifth season, performing as Madame! This role is one of her

dream roles. She has always loved theatre and wishes to pursue it in the future. Starlight has helped her grow her passion and enthusiasm for theatre. She has previously been in *The Addams Family* at Hononegah Community High School as Morticia Addams, as well as Miss Andrew's in *Mary Poppins*, Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and last year in *Oliver!* here at Starlight as Ensemble and a Milkmaid! She is so happy to be back here with her community and family. She would like to give a shoutout to all of the crew, directors, costumes, volunteers, and everyone here at Starlight that has made this entire season possible.



MICHAEL "MJ" SPURLOCK

(Ensemble) [He/Him] prefers to go by MJ, and is very excited to have this opportunity to perform

at Starlight. MJ is a student at Auburn High School and does not have much experience in the theater department. Therefore, he's doing this for experience and is very grateful to be here!



ISAIAH STAUFFER

(Candlemaker, Ensemble) [He/Him] is very excited to be back at Starlight! He played The Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* last summer and is

looking forward to selling candles in *Beauty and the Beast* this summer! When he's not at Starlight, you can see Isaiah performing with CYT. He hopes you enjoy the show!



KAYLENE SULLIVAN

(Principal Dancer) always loved dance and theater and is so excited to be here for her first show at Starlight! Some of her other musical

activities include viola (Vivaldi Orchestra), violin, and piano. She is a blessed, soon to be sophomore at Veritas Christi Hybrid Academy, where she does other performances, as well as dance.



MAHALIA SEWARD

(Ensemble) [She/Her] is so happy to be in her third Starlight show and is very grateful for all the people she has met along the way.

Mahalia is just genuinely grateful for this experience.

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED



ANNABELLA TORRES
(Marie/Ensemble) [She/Her] is thrilled to be a part of Starlight's production of *Beauty and the Beast!* She just finished her freshman year

at North Boone High School. This is Annabella's third season, sixth show at Starlight, and 20th show overall. You may have caught her earlier this summer in the latest production, *Newsies*. Some of her highlights include playing Flounder in Starlight Theatre's production of *The Little Mermaid*, Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family*, and Sandy in *Grease* at North Boone High School. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoyed being in it!



GRACE TROPP
(Principal Dancer) [She/Her] is excited to be performing her third season at Starlight! She is a senior in Auburn

High School's CAPA program and loves dancing, singing, and playing piano.



IRIS TURNER
(Ensemble) [She/Her] is happy to return to one of her favorite places for another season! She previously performed in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor*

Dreamcoat as part of the Children's Ensemble, Gladys Herdman in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, and as part of the thieves' gang in *Oliver!*. She completed seventh grade at Marshall Elementary and loves to draw, rollerblade, spend time with friends, and play with her favorite dog, Judy. She would like to thank her family (including Judy) for their love and support. She hopes you have a wonderful time!



SIERRA VAN LAEKE
(Ensemble) [She/Her] is in her first season at Starlight Theatre. Sierra has had two years of theater performances at Harlem Middle School and High School.

She has been the lead role in two musicals, *Captain Louie Jr.*, and *All Shook up* in her Freshman year. She also has been in three other plays. Sierra loves to sing and perform and is excited to be a part of Starlight Theatre.



HAYLEE WEST
(Flower Seller/Ensemble) [She/Her] is excited to be involved in her first starlight season. She is currently a Junior at Christian Life High School, and has

done theater for the past 9 years there. She is so glad to be apart of *Beauty and the Beast* this summer, and hopes others will love seeing the shows just as much as she loves being apart of them.



DANIEL'E TAYLOR APPERSON
(Costume Designer) [She/Her] feels that it has been a true honor and a privilege to

work with such talented people. Daniel'e has a B.A. in theatre (from Kansas State University) and an M.F.A. in design and technology (from NIU). She also had the opportunity to study costume design at the prestigious Moscow Art Theatre. Mrs. Apperson's career has spanned the last 20 years appearing on stage and film.



JODI LYNN BEACH
(Vocal Director) [She/Her] is a 10-time RAMI and Best of Rockford Award winning recording artist and jazz musician who

performs throughout the country with her Trio and in inspirational settings. She was recently awarded the 2023 RAMI for Female Vocalist in Jazz. She's a member of the Illinois Arts Council Artstour Roster and Artists' Ensemble Theatre where she was last seen as Margaret Leavitt in *Silent Sky*. Jodi is a guest soloist with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra and other regional concert bands. She has been Vocal Directing, Music Directing, tickling the ivories, and performing on the Starlight stage since she was 16 years old. She last appeared as Mrs. Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly*. Other favorite roles include *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Truly Scrumptious), *The King & I* (Anna), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Disney's Gepetto & Son* (The Blue Fairy) at Starlight, *Radio Gals* (Renabelle), and *The Spitfire Grill* (Shelby) at Artists' Ensemble. Jodi is excited to be working with the talented team of friends, both old and new, and so many of her favorite people in this wonderful cast and crew! She is always delighted to make music with her husband and personal Enchanted Prince - Jim McDowell. "Every love song is for you, Jim." (Psalm 104:33) www.jodibeach.com.

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED



CHRISTOPHER D. BRADY

(Producing Artistic Director)
[He/Him] is a deeply-rooted member of the Starlight Theatre

community, devoted father, loving husband, and perpetual dreamer of the #Pruslife. Christopher's journey as the Producing Artistic Director at Starlight is a testament to his deep-rooted connection to this theater, his beloved home away from home. With performances here spanning over a hundred productions, Christopher fondly reminisces about his debut performances in *Cinderella* as the Coachman and *Western Star* as part of the Ensemble. Despite venturing to study at the American Musical and Dramatics Academy in NYC and performing regionally, Christopher finds himself grounded back where his heart has always resided - at Starlight. As the Producing Artistic Director, Christopher is driven by a commitment to infuse every production with palpable excitement and unwavering honesty, paying homage to both the community and the art form that have been intrinsic to his life's journey. He takes immense pride in the accomplishments of the Starlight staff and volunteers under his stewardship, yet his spirit is truly ignited by the limitless adventures that lie ahead. Christopher extends heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated RVC board, leadership & staff, Starlight staff, volunteers, and the vibrant community of artists who breathe life into the theater every summer. To his former students, lifelong friends, and fleeting visitors who grace Starlight's stage, he expresses profound appreciation for their collective influence on his growth and journey. And to you, the cherished audience, Christopher offers sincere thanks for embarking on these whimsical adventures of expression with Starlight. His love knows no bounds for his beautiful family - Erin, Ophelia, and Imogen - whom he considers his greatest treasures, relishing the privilege of sharing his summers with them amidst the enchanting ambiance of Starlight.



ERIN BRADY

(Assistant Director)
[She/Her] has spent more summers than not under the stars at Starlight, mostly on the stage and three

times assistant directing. She is beyond excited to be working with the incomparable JT, who she shared her very first theatre experience with as an orphan in *Annie* at East High School! Some favorite roles include Joe March in *Little Woman*, Sally Brown in *Your a Good Man*

Charlie Brown, and *Babette* in *Beauty and the Beast* - the first time it was ever performed at Starlight. She is super excited to be able to watch her daughter take on the same role in this production. She sends all her love to the other half of her heart, her CDB, her babies, and her amazing parents for all of their love and support in everything.



SPENCER CLARK

(Intimacy Designer)
[He/Him] is a Chicago based Theatre Artist born and raised in Rockford! He is thrilled to

be back at Starlight to assist with the intimacy this season. Spencer has performed, directed, and choreographed for many theatres in the Chicagoland area. Currently, he directs for the Footlight Youth Theatre program through the community park district of La Grange Park. He is so thankful for Chris, and all of this seasons actors and directors, for their willingness to bring ethical-based trauma informed theatrical intimacy practices to the community.



CHRISTINE GARNER

(Stage Manager)
[She/Her] has been participating with her kids at Starlight and RVC's Studio Theatre since 2003. This

season, she was Stage Manager for *Legally Blonde* and is ecstatic to manage the stage for *Beauty and the Beast*. Her five youngest kids and two oldest grandchildren were last seen in *Legally Blonde*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Newsies*. You can expect to see them in tonight's performance as well, while the rest support them behind the scenes. Christine is very grateful for all of her kids and grandkids and sends her love!



KATIE GARNER

(Assistant Stage Manager)
[She/Her] is ecstatic to be back at Starlight Theatre. Katie grew up doing Starlight, and

first performed in *Evita* in 2009. Most recently, she performed in both *Children of Eden* and *Phantom of the Opera* in 2016. She is currently studying Psychology with a Minor in Sociology at BYU-Idaho with a plan to pursue a career in social work. She would like to thank her family, the directing team, and her friends for their support. Enjoy the show!

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED



BROOKE HARP
(Assistant Choreographer)
[She/Her] is so excited to be assisting with the choreography for this show. Typically seen

teaching dance at Evolve Dance Company and reading at Holy Family School, Brooke enjoys teaching many ages and in many capacities. Brooke would like to thank God, her family, her friends, and her students for everything! It has been a pleasure working with everyone to bring this classic tale to life!



ASHLEY HOGAN
(Choreographer) [She/Her] is thrilled to return to Starlight this summer after spending last summer as the Assistant

Choreographer for *Cinderella!* Ashley grew up in the Rockford area, where she danced competitively and had the opportunity to perform and choreograph for various shows. She received her bachelor's degree in dance performance from Oklahoma City University, and then went on to perform aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Currently, she works as a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines and teaches dance at Evolve Dance Company. She gives a huge thank you to Brooke, her lovely assistant. Lastly, of course lots of love and thanks to Tom, AJ, and her parents for being so supportive through the entire rehearsal process.



GABRIEL INNISS
(Sound Engineer) [He/Him] is thrilled to return for his second season at Starlight. This marks his eighth show here, and his debut

as a Sound Engineer for Starlight! This fall, he will be studying Sound Design and Technology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Gabe is truly honored to be part of this production and hopes you enjoy the show!



BECCA JENSEN
(Assistant Stage Manager)
[She/Her] is so excited to be back at Starlight - this year in a new role as ASM! Starlight has

been a special part of Becca's life since 1999 - as an audience member, box office employee, crew member, actor, assistant director, and director. She

loves sharing Starlight with her whole family and hopes you enjoy your time here!



ETHAN LOAX
(Assistant Stage Manager)
[They/He] is thrilled to be back for their second season at Starlight. Ethan worked as general

crew last season on four out of the five shows! They are now pursuing an Associate degree in Computer Science at Rock Valley College. You may have caught him in the background of the other shows since they are working in every show THIS season! He's more than excited to be working with this cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show.



JIM MCDOWELL
(Music Director) [He/Him] is always excited to begin a new season at Starlight. Since his first conducting show, *Disney's*

Geppetto And Son, Jim has been involved with more shows than he can count acting as Music Director, Orchestra Sequencer, Light Designer, set build, and running crew. Some of Jim's favorite moments have been conducting *West Side Story* (bucket list-check) lighting *Sweeney Todd* (bucket list-check), and playing guitar in *Footloose*. Having the opportunity to work with the premier Starbright production of *Beauty and the Beast* is a special treat. Jim believes that the future of live theatre lies with our youth, and there's no better place for them to grow than at Starlight. This is Jim's third time working this show with his lovely wife, and personal Belle, Vocal Director, Jodi Beach. Jim thanks all of the staff and volunteers at Starlight, and especially you, the audience, for keeping live theatre alive! The production team bringing you this show is top notch so sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!



BRANDON MECHLER
(Technical Director, Scenic Designer) [He/Him] is happy to be a part of another season! He has been a part of

Starlight Theatre since 2007 as a volunteer for stage crew. He is very excited to have had the opportunity to work with so many talented people this season. He would like to give a shout-out to his beautiful wife for being so supportive of him in this position!

CAST & TEAM BIOS CONTINUED



JENNIFER THOMPSON

(Director) [She/Her] is thrilled to be a part of the inaugural Starbright production

highlighting the talented next generation of Starlight performers. She holds degrees in theatre from Monmouth College (BA) and NIU (MA), and is an adjunct professor of theatre here at RVC. In addition, she serves as the college's Executive Director of College Communications. JT, as she is known around here, has been involved with Starlight off and on since 1989. She made her Starlight directorial debut last year with *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. JT has performed and directed in the stateline area for more than three decades, and is proud to call Starlight home. She is grateful for the support of her husband, Scott, and their kiddos, Maya and Miles.



GABRIELLE TIFFITT

(Lighting Designer)

[She/Her] is so excited to be back at Starlight. She attended Carthage College for a Technical-

Direction Theatre major with two minors in Costume Design and Dance. Gabrielle is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the National Dance Education Organization. You may have seen some of her light design work here on the Starlight stage in *Cinderella After the Ball* (2018), *Madagascar* (2019), and *A Christmas Story* (2019). She would like to thank her friends and family for all their support, as well as, Chris Brady and Brandon Mechler for this opportunity.



Explore new stuff!



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PRODUCTION STAFF

College President

Dr. Howard J. Spearman

Executive Producer

Rick Jenks

Producing Artistic Director

Christopher D. Brady

Technical Director

Brandon Mechler

Scenic Designers

Andrea Bechert

Legally Blonde

Carmen Turner

Guys and Dolls

The Color Purple

Cameron Strandin

Newsies

Brandon Mechler

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Master Carpenter

Carmen Turner

Costume Shop Manager

Vicki Benson

Box Office Managers

Catherine I. Martin

Jennifer Simms

Season Directors

Clarissa Dahlhauser

Legally Blonde

Mychall Miller-Cornejo

Guys and Dolls

Marcus Tobias

The Color Purple

Christopher D. Brady

Newsies

Jennifer Thompson

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Choreographers

Jenny Vause

Legally Blonde

Elle Laesch

Guys and Dolls

Brooke Johnson

The Color Purple

Mychall Miller-Cornejo

Newsies

Ashley Hogan

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Music Directors

Cassandra Johnson-McGirk

Legally Blonde

Steve Wolfgram

Guys and Dolls

Christopher Joyner

The Color Purple

Mark Miller-Cornejo

Newsies

Jodi Beach & Jim McDowell

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Stage Managers

Christine Garner

Legally Blonde & StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Zachary Marquardt

Guys and Dolls

Jenna Christ

The Color Purple

Mary Peterson

Newsies

Costume Designers

Bethany Nelson

Legally Blonde & Newsies

Vicki Benson

Guys & Dolls & The Color Purple

Daniel'e Taylor Apperson

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Costume Shop Patternner

Bethany Nelson

Costume Shop Technicians

Dori Marsh

Jonathan Lane

Helaina Nimmo

Taylor-Jade Laig-Duran

Blake Atterbury

Season Charge Artist

Hannah Sleger

**Set & Prop Construction
Student Workers**

Jehona Bexheti

Isabella Brosnan

Younes El Hilali

Guillermo Hernandez

Kenneth Kaung Htut Linn

Miles Lang

Ethan Loax

Bahle Made

Calvin Kaung Myat Sint

Quinn McCoy

Lee Scharr

Lamarion Taylor

Sinclair Casarotto

Season Show Artwork

Aaron Johnson (Aaron Branding)

**In-house Graphic Designer
& Social Media Manager**

Emma Garner

Box Office Assistants

Rachel Campbell

Emma Garner

Charlie Horner

Eleanor Waldorf

Kaitlyn Tesdorff

Prop Master

Ethan Loax

PRODUCTION STAFF CONTINUED

Sound Engineers

Annabelle Gawaran

Legally Blonde

Angely Bautista

Guys and Dolls

Aaron Hill

The Color Purple

Grace Hahn-Varona

Newsies

Gabriel Inniss

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Lighting Designers

Bryan Rivera

Dylan Freund & Riley Freeman

- Assistant Lighting Design

Legally Blonde & Guys & Dolls

Cameron Strandin

The Color Purple & Newsies

Gabrielle Tiftt

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

VOLUNTEERS

**Assistant to the
Producing Artistic Director
& Co-Box Office Manager**

Catherine I. Martin

Assistant Directors

Imogen Brady - Shadow Assistant

Legally Blonde

Sophia Fanara

Guys & Dolls

Marilyn Ramirez-Mendoza

Newsies

Erin Brady

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Assistant Choreographers

Bethany Nelson

Legally Blonde

Nailah Brooks

Guys & Dolls

Marisa Bonzi

Newsies

Brooke Harp

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Assistant Stage Managers

Dalia Gonzalez; Jazlyn Oberg; Sabine Shen

Legally Blonde

Grace Hahn-Varona; Jess Sorg-Spencer

Guys & Dolls

Madie Barnas; Chloe Konieczki; Kaitlyn Tesdorff

The Color Purple

Jenna Christ; Dalia Gonzalez; Sabrina Olson

Newsies

Katie Garner; Ethan Loax; Becca Jensen

StarBright's Beauty and the Beast

Set & Prop Construction

Timothy Martin

Bernie Sehr

Lenijah Smith

Matt White

Mattsen Heller

Lamarion Taylor

Ryan Pickerill

Arthur Vinke

Costume Shop Construction

Barb Coffman

Connie Kramer

Stacey Nelson

Annika Wyant

Becky Wyant

Box Office

Kim Dickinson

Volunteer Coordinator

Catherine I. Martin

If you are interested in volunteering,
please visit our Facebook page and sign up via the link

OR

call the box office at (815) 921-2160 and
have them add you to the list.

DAY CREW & STAFF BIOS

BLAKE ATTERBURY

(Costume Shop Construction)
[She/Her] is in her first year at Starlight Theater working in the costume shop. She has an Associate in Science from Rock Valley College and a B.A. in Psychology from Northern Illinois University. She is currently taking film classes at Rock Valley College in order to learn more about filmmaking. She aspires to direct and write for both film and theater.

VICTORIA BENSON

(Costume Shop Supervisor)
[She/Her] has been costuming for Starlight for 10 years. This year, she has been honored to take on the role of designer for Color Purple and Guys and Dolls. This new role helps her create through different eyes since she must see through the designer lens, as well as, the construction stage. Over the years, we could not have accomplished what we have without our loyal and talented student workers, staff, and countless hours of community volunteers. She would like to salute all of them for their dedication and talent to make sure each show is costumed at the highest level.

JEHONA BEXHETI (Paint Crew)

[She/Her] is so happy to be back painting with her favorite team after graduating last season, and leaving for a few months. She missed everyone so much and couldn't stay away from the chaos, stinky paint, and shenanigans that make being a part of Starlight's daycrew the best job ever. She wants to give a special shoutout to her painter in crime, Maddi, who couldn't join her this season, but will always be her favorite bestie to work with. She hopes you all enjoy the shows as well as the sets!

CHRISTOPHER D. BRADY

(Producing Artistic Director)
[He/Him] emphatically embraces his roles as both family man and Producing Artistic Director. With fond memories of his early performances in "Cinderella" and "Western Star," he's grateful to this special place for the special memories it brings to this community. His theatrical heart belongs here. Chris aims to bring life and excitement to the stage for every show, and he aims to do that with like-minded people from

the community that reflect the community. He extends heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteers, and artists who make Starlight possible, and to the audience communing with us this season! Christopher's deepest gratitude goes to his beloved family—Erin, Ophelia, and Imogen—for sharing in the magic of Starlight with him.

BELLA BROSNAN (Day Crew)

[She/Her] is very excited to be part of day crew for her second season at Starlight! She is very happy to be painting and learning more about theatre! She hopes you have a great season!

BARB COFFMAN

(Costume Shop Construction)
[She/Her] is happy to be back for her seventh season, bringing needle and thread to costumes in all their glory. She loves working in her garden and other volunteer activities. She'd like to thank her daughter for her support.

KIM DICKINSON

(Box-Office Volunteer) [She/Her] enjoys volunteering in the Box Office, as well as doing any additional jobs that come up. Her husband, Dale, thanks Chris and Cathy for keeping her busy.

TAYLOR-JADE LAIG-DURAN

(Student Worker-Costume Shop)
[She/Her] is in her second year at RVC and her first year in the Costume Shop. She enjoys working with everyone here and likes helping to make all the costumes for the Theatre Department. The environment is nice and welcoming, and she has used many of the skills she has learned at Starlight in her personal life. She highly suggests for people to get involved here and thanks everyone!

EMMA GARNER

(Box Office Assistant/ Graphic Designer)
[She/Her] is extremely grateful she is able to hone her skills as a graphic designer while being able to work for the theatre she loves. She hopes you enjoy the season and like her social media posts as much as she liked making them!

GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ

(Day Crew) [He/They] is excited to be back in the shop after a break last summer.

DAY CREW & STAFF BIOS CONTINUED

YOUNES EL HILALI

(Day Crew) [He/Him] is an international student from Morocco. He is so happy to join the Starlight Theatre crew. He loves working with all the crew members. He is currently working to receive his Associate of Science at Rock Valley College, and planning to transfer to Northern Illinois University to get a Bachelor degree in Computer Science. He is ecstatic to contribute to the season and hopes you enjoy the show!

CHARLIE HORNER

(Box-Office Assistant) [They/Them] is excited to be working at the box office this season! Aside from this being their first season on stage, this is also their first season behind the scenes. Currently, Charlie is a student at Rock Valley College, pursuing forensic science. They hope you enjoy the show!!

JONATHAN LANE

(Costume Shop Assistant) [They/Them] is in their seventh season at Starlight. They love and appreciate being able to work in such a creative environment and are excited to showcase all of the costume pieces they've been working on. They send big thanks to Vicki Benson, for being such a positive role model and amazing friend!

MILES LANG (Day Crew) [He/Him]

is in his second year at Starlight Theatre. Since starting to now, he has learned a lot of new things building the sets; anything from how the lights system, sound system, to rigging on walls that fly in or out of the shows. Miles is super excited for this season and hopes you enjoy it to the fullest!

KENNETH KAUNG HTUT LINN

(Set Construction) [He/Him] is in his second season at starlight working as a Day Crew member. He finds it very exciting to see the sceneries comes alive and more so, to be able to participate in set preparation for new shows. He's glad to be part of the team for another season.

ETHAN LOAX

(Prop Master/Day Crew) [They/He] is a theatre loving technician that's been working with the arts ever since sixth grade. His love for theatre hasn't dwindled in all these years, and it shows as they're now assisting as running crew in every show this season! His experience has been wonderful thus far and he hopes that you have a wonderful time living through this insane season!

BAHLE MADE (Day Crew) [He/Him] is a second-year, international RVC student, and also a member of the RVC men's soccer team. He is ecstatic to be putting on a show again and hopes you enjoy the show!

DORI MARSH (Seamstress) [She/Her]

has been working with Starlight for seven years, in both theatrical makeup and costumes. She is incredibly grateful for all the memories she has made, and can't wait to start her new chapter. Dori is moving this summer to attend UWRF to get her degree in Ceramics. She will miss the Starlight family and wishes everyone the best! <3

CATHERENE I. MARTIN

(Co-Box Office Manager, Volunteer Coordinator) has been working in the box office since 2017. First appearing on stage in 1993, Catherine has spent most summers "playing" at Starlight. They send mad hugs and kisses to #Myfavoritehusband, Tim, who has been wielding a hammer and nails in the set department for many years.

TIM MARTIN

(Set and Prop Construction) has been measuring, cutting, sawing, and nailing at Starlight for the past eight years. As a retired electrical engineer, he enjoys traveling with his beautiful wife, Catherine (Who, by the way, wrote his bio!), and reading all of the US presidential biographies in order.

DAY CREW & STAFF BIOS CONTINUED

QUINN MCCOY (Day Crew)

[He/Him] is excited to be in his first show at Starlight. Quinn joined the crew in September of 2023, and has helped construct the sets you see before your eyes. He is currently taking Video and Audio Production classes and is pursuing the Media Production Specialist Certificate through the Mass Communication Department at RVC. He hopes you enjoy the show!!

BRANDON MECHLER

(Technical Director) [He/Him] is happy to be a part of another season! He has been a part of Starlight Theatre since 2007 as a volunteer for stage crew. He is very excited to have had the opportunity to work with so many talented people this season. He would like to give a shout-out to his beautiful wife for being so supportive of him in this position! Enjoy the show!

BETHANY NELSON

(Costume Shop Patternmaker) [She/Her] is excited to be here for her 7th summer in the costume shop! Bethany's work was most recently seen in *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Cinderella* at Starlight Theatre. She loves working in the costume shop among so many wonderful workers, volunteers and hard working people. She wouldn't have been able to work and design this summer without the support of Chris, Vicki, family, friends and her boyfriend, Parker. She hopes you love all the costumes on stage this summer and all of her hard work behind the scenes.

HELAINA NIMMO

(Costume Shop Construction) [She/Her] is in her third summer working at starlight. Currently, she's working towards a Costume Design Degree at Rockford University. She had so much fun working on all the shows this summer and hopes you enjoy them!

BERNIE SEHR

(Set Construction Volunteer) [He/Him] is upset that he hasn't been able to help as much this year, from circumstances beyond his control. However, he has enjoyed working with Brandon, Carmen, and the crew. Next year, he hopes he will have a little more time available; so to all the shows, "Break a Leg".

JENNIFER SIMMS

(Co-Box Office Manager) [She/Her] is delighted to be a part of Starlight from a different side of the theatre this year. Last year, she was in *Oliver!*, and this year, she is helping sell tickets! She is so grateful to Cathy, her co-partner in crime, and to her family (Andrew, Hazel, Eliza, Christopher, Avery, and GARNERS et al.) for all of their love and support through this next chapter. Please enjoy the show!

CALVIN KAUNG MYAT SINT

(Day Crew) [He/Him] is so excited to be seeing new shows during the summer again, and can't wait to see the performance of all the hardworking cast members.

LEE SCHARR

(Student Worker-Day Crew) [Any] (real name Levi) loves to sweep the stage and clean the workshop, which is why he always comes in the afternoons before they shut down. He loves to sweep even more than building and painting. Sweeping is actually so awesome. He appreciates working here for other reasons, as well, including the friendly atmosphere and creative and communal workspace.

HANNAH SLEGER

(Charge Scenic Artist) [She/Her] is in her eighth (full) season as Starlight's Charge Scenic Artist. Outside of Starlight, she has painted sets for a large variety of places, including Artists' Ensemble and the former Usual Suspects. Some of her other visual, artistic endeavors include doing the chalkboard art at Baker Street Burgers, recently showing her personal works for the Wages of Sin art exhibition at 317 Art Collaborative, for 2023 Fall Art Scene at Future Memory Media, and for the art show with Moon Dog's Theatre, RED last summer. Hannah wants to thank Brandon and Carmen for their wonderful hardwork and vision, as well as Jehona, Bella, Lee, and everyone else whose amazing hands have helped her paint sets this season. Most importantly, she sends love to her dad, Jonathon Sleger, for putting a paint brush in her hand as a child, starting her on her path as a scenic artist.

DAY CREW & STAFF BIOS CONTINUED

CARMEN TURNER

(Master Carpenter/Scenic Designer) [She/Her] is thrilled to return as a Scenic Designer for her fourth Starlight season. She loves the opportunity for creative expression and uses her experience as a visual artist to shape settings and transform common materials. She would like to thank her husband and children for their unwavering support and all of the hard working individuals who put their time and energy into making this season the success that it is.

ANNIKA WYANT

(Costume Shop Volunteer) [She/Her] is glad to be part of the costume shop family for her third year. She thanks Vickie and everyone involved; there is never a dull moment in this beehive of creativity. She attends Bradley University in the fall!

BECKY WYANT

(Costume Shop) [She/Her] is in her third season of sewing in Vickie Benson's magic kingdom. She likes using skills that her mother taught her in the 1950s. She is thoroughly dazzled by how patiently the young designers and student workers teach her new things. They are the BEST!!



ABOUT LEOLA ARNOLD

Leola Arnold, long-time music teacher and cultural sponsor in our community, died in 1968 leaving her estate to Rock Valley College under the supervision of the Trust Officers of the Illinois National Bank. In her will she stipulated that the college shall continue to offer to the community musical activities involving as large a segment of the community as possible.

The Leola Arnold Memorial School of Music was established to offer classes and private instruction to students of all ages in the arts. Dance, music, and art classes are offered for students from the age of four years through adulthood. In addition, activities are presented that involved the community. The "Starlight Musicals" are an example of this type of activity.

FRIENDS OF STARLIGHT DONATIONS

Donations received between June 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024

ZENITH (\$5,000+)

Lyn Becknell in memory of Roger Becknell

CONSTELLATION (\$1,000+)

Gene and Maggie Berkheimer-Anderson

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Call (815) 921-2160 to arrange a donation.

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**JULIUS
CAESAR**



SEPT 26-28 & OCT 3-5

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ON STARLIGHT GROUNDS ON THE RAY CASTLE STAGE.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

Can be checked out from the box office for use during performances. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and are available one hour prior to the show.

REFRESHMENTS

Are available in the concession stands on both sides of the upper seating section and on the west side of the theatre on the lower level. Concessions can be purchased before the performance and during intermission.

RESTROOMS

Can be found on both sides of the upper seating section - women's on the west side, men's on the east side - and on the west side of the lower level (both).

WHEELCHAIR SEATING

Exists in several seating areas of the theatre. Please notify the Box Office in advance of the performance so we may better serve you.

RECORDING AND TAKING PHOTOS

Are NOT permitted during the production. Use of such devices is a violation of copyright law. Patrons found to be recording will be asked to delete their captures or be escorted from the theatre.

SMOKING

Is not permitted on the Rock Valley College campus, except in your own vehicle.

BOX OFFICE INFO

HOURS 10am-4pm – Tuesday-Friday and one hour before each performance.

CONTACT

For reservations, call (815) 921-2160

Write: Box Office, Rock Valley College,
3301 N. Mulford Road,
Rockford, IL 61114

Fax to: (815) 921-2169

Online: RVCSStarlight.com

EXCHANGES

Tickets may be exchanged for a different time of the same performance. Tickets must be physically returned to the Box Office a minimum of 24 hours before the original performance time.

TICKETS

All seats are reserved.

Individual ticket prices are:

Adults – \$28

Seniors/Teachers/Military/

RVC Employees – \$26

Students – \$17

Children – \$12

GROUP RATES

Groups of 20 or more can receive a discount.

Contact the Box Office for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our success at Starlight Theatre depends heavily on the time our volunteers are willing to commit to the support of our program. We understand how the power of a performance goes beyond the storytelling on stage, and is made greater by the experience you have while you are here. Are you greeted like part of the family? Is the theatre clean and beautiful? Are concessions available with at reasonable prices? We rely on our volunteers, our family, to perform many of these tasks, and they do a tremendous job! Their only reward is a chance to see part of the play, an occasional cup of coffee, an infrequent pat on the back, and the intrinsic reward of being part of a family that has enriched the lives of others. If an opportunity to be a part of our family of volunteers interest you, here are some of the positions and what is involved therein.

HOUSE MANAGERS are responsible for directing the crew of ushers (during Starlight season, they recruit the crew of 12 ushers for the show). They count the ticket stubs and report the count for each performance. They oversee and participate in the post-show cleanup They report any problems to our staff. House Managers arrive an hour before the show, and are usually free to go about twenty minutes after the show ends..

USHERS are responsible for taking tickets from the patrons, distributing programs, helping patrons find their seats, and helping pick up after the performance. Ushers arrive about an hour before the show, and are free to go about twenty minutes after the show.

CONCESSIONAIRES are responsible for preparing the concession stands and food items before the show, selling the food before the show and during intermission, and cleaning the stands after intermission. Concessionaires arrive one or two hours before the show, and are free to leave about twenty minutes after intermission.

BACKSTAGE CREW are responsible for moving set pieces on and off the stage, operating spotlights, and/or flying set pieces in and out

CARPENTERS assist the set construction process during daytime hours and work closely with the Scenic Designer and Technical Director.

BOX OFFICE PERSONNEL are responsible for selling tickets during daytime hours or hours of show. Box office personnel will be trained throughout the year

If you are interested in volunteering,
please visit our Facebook page and sign up via the link
OR
call the box office at (815) 921-2160 and
have them add you to the list.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RVC President Dr. Howard Spearman

Rick Jenks

RVC Board of Trustees

Every Starlight Theatre family member supporting us throughout the summer

The Amazingly Hard-Working staff here at Starlight Theatre

The Amazingly Hard-Working volunteers out here at Starlight Theatre

The diligently hard-working staff here at RVC

RVC Foundation

Jennifer, Chelsea, George and everyone in the RVC Marketing Department for making this program & our season happen

Karen Kerr & RVC Purchasing

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Andrew Blevins State Farm Agent

Karla Dorgan

All of our volunteers here at the show around us all!

Janet Kjellstrom

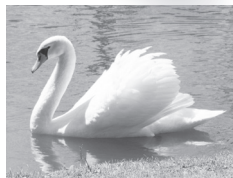
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Darin Monroe & the Athletics Department for allowing us to rehearse in the PEC & Dance Studio



PLEASE HELP KEEP
starlight
THEATRE
BRIGHT!



We pride ourselves on offering an affordable theatre experience in a clean environment. In addition, Starlight Theatre is home to many different woodland creatures and garbage can be very harmful to their health. In order to ensure that the theatre is a clean environment, please make sure to dispose of your trash in the proper receptacles throughout the theatre.

*Thank you for your continued
patronage and support!*

Dear Patrons of Starlight Theatre,

On behalf of Savant Wealth Management, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the show. We are thrilled to be the premier sponsor of Starlight Theatre and to support the arts in our community.

At Savant, our goal is to help empower individuals, families, and institutions to pursue their life and financial goals by serving as their most trusted advisor – and helping them work toward clarity, confidence, simplicity, and peace of mind. In much the same way, the performing arts have the power to inspire, uplift, and enrich our lives.

We are honored to be associated with Starlight Theatre, which has been a cultural cornerstone of our community for over six decades. From classic musicals to contemporary plays, the theatre has provided countless hours of entertainment and enlightenment to generations of audiences.

As you enjoy tonight's performance, we hope that you will be transported to another world, inspired by the talent and creativity of the actors, musicians, and production crew. We also invite you to learn more about Savant and our commitment to helping individuals, families, non-profits, and companies preserve their hard-earned wealth and pursue steady, wise growth. That's wise counsel, by your side.

Thank you for choosing to spend your evening with us at Starlight Theatre. We hope you have a wonderful experience and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Sincerely,

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Savant Wealth Management ("Savant") is an SEC registered investment adviser headquartered in Rockford, Illinois. A copy of our current written disclosure Brochure discussing our advisory services and fees is available upon request or at www.savantwealth.com. The scope of the services to be provided depends upon the needs of the client and the terms of the engagement.



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Savant Wealth Management is a nationally recognized fee-only wealth management firm that offers integrative investment management and financial planning solutions to individuals, families, foundations, trust funds, retirement plans and non-profit organizations.

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