SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE ARIZONA

SPOTLIGHT PLAYFEST 2020-'21

"GO THE DISTANCE"

ONE SHOW WITH THREE WINNING, NEW SHORT PLAYS

BY REBECCA BAIN

BY EMILY BENOIT-SMITH

BY KATIE KLOBERDANZ

10620 N. 43rd Avenue • Glendale, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Spotlight Youth Theatre
Proudly Presents

Most Dead Summer Ever
Written by **Rebecca Bain**
Directed by **Callista Walker**

Behind the Curtain
Written by **Katie Kloberdanz**
Directed by **Christian Bader**

The Stains
Written by **Emily Benoit-Smith**
Directed by **Charlie Rabago**

Video Production: **Josh Hontz**

Video Direction: **Anthony Rozzen**

Scenic Design: **Bobby Sample**

Lighting & Sound Design: **Josh Hontz**

Costume and Hair & Makeup Design: **Charlie Rabago**

Properties Design: **Kenny & Vicki Grossman**

Sound Operator: **Jaden Schwab**

Lighting Operator: **Emmy Lange**

Camera Operators: **Sabina Dart & Enrique Lopezlira**

Most Dead Summer Ever, Behind the Curtain and ***The Stains***
are presented through special arrangement with
Rebecca Bain, Katie Kloberdanz, and Emily Benoit-Smith.

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Spotlight Youth Theatre Administrative Team

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Special thanks to **Savoy Antoinette** and to the **friends & family members** who helped bring ***SYT Playfest 2020-2021—"Go the Distance"*** to the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage.

A Word from SYT's Artistic Director

We are super excited to present this production with the three fantastic winning plays of our first "SYT Playfest" competition.

To me, this is youth theatre at its best. It helps build character in young artists and will certainly contribute to the future of theatre.

We are going to continue to produce the "SYT Playfest" contest every year and encourage young actors, directors, and playwrights to create.

Enjoy!

Kenny Grossman
Artistic Director, Spotlight Youth Theatre

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Cast

Most Dead Summer Ever by **Rebecca Bain**

Alexandra ..... **Hope Estle**
Elizabeth ..... **Zoie Moller**
Katherine ..... **Emma Woolstenhulme**
Samantha ..... **Addisyn Lauder**
Mom ..... **Ellie Klapp**
Owen ..... **AJ King**

Setting: It's summer time and Alexa is stuck at home.

Behind The Curtain by **Katie Kloberdanz**

Henry ..... **AJ King**
Allyson ..... **Zoey Waller**
Harper ..... **Zoie Moller**
Elizabeth ..... **Olivia Martinez**
Mrs. Tyler ..... **Ellie Klapp**
Sylvia ..... **Emma Woolstenhulme**
Brandon ..... **Alec Pursell**
Ms. Krause ..... **Allison Wright**

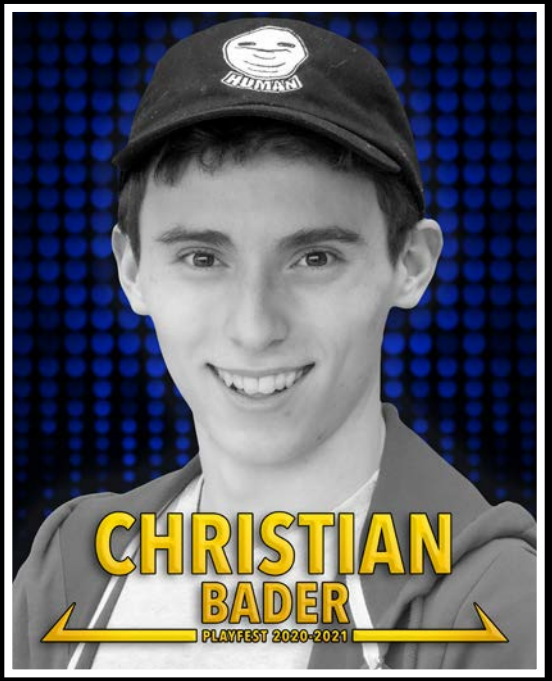
Setting: Backstage area of a high school auditorium during a talent show.

The Stains by **Emily Benoit-Smith**

Penelope ..... **Allison Wright**
Soul ..... **Hope Estle**
Mr. Perkins ..... **Alec Pursell**
Maid ..... **Olivia Martinez**
The Shadows ..... **AJ King**
Ellie Klapp
Addisyn Lauder
Zoie Moller
Emma Woolstenhulme
Zoey Waller

Setting: Somewhere in a Gothic southwestern American town. Small town, small church, small people—just before the turn of the 20th century.

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies



Christian Bader

(Director of *Behind the Curtain)*

Christian is thrilled to have been given this opportunity to direct a show at the theater he grew up in! Having spent most of his life on the Spotlight stage, he's excited to try working *Behind the Curtain* to put on this original show! He would like to thank his parents, his friends and family, and his girlfriend for their support throughout. He would also like to thank the author, Katie, and the cast and crew for being patient with him through all of his shenanigans!

Enjoy the shows!

Rebecca Bain

(Playwright – *Most Dead Summer Ever)*

Rebecca, playwright of *Most Dead Summer Ever*, is so excited to see her play be performed on stage for the first time! This is the second play Rebecca has written, but the first one to be performed at a real theatre.

Rebecca has been in a few shows at other theatres, she loves to act, sing, and write. She also loves to read books.

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies

Emily Benoit-Smith

(Playwright – The Stains)

Emily is a first - year masters candidate at Arizona State University for opera performance. An Arizona native, she has been seen on the stages of Spotlight Youth Theater, TheaterWorks, and Arizona State University. She is so thankful to Spotlight for giving her the opportunity to premier her play *The Stains*.

She lives in Tempe with her husband, Parker, and cat, Eowyn.

Hope Estle

(Alexandra / Soul)

Hope is 16 years old and has a passion for all things acting, singing, and performing. Having performed all her life, she has been in many shows. Her most cherished experience so far has been bringing the character of Snoopy to life in her favorite show *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at Centennial High School. Having performed at Spotlight before in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as Church Lady Luanne, she has found the Spotlight environment to be too irresistible not to return! She is extremely excited and honored to be in Spotlight Youth Theatre's first ever Playfest!

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies

AJ King

(Owen / The Shadows / Henry)

AJ is so honored to be a part of "Spotlight 2020- '21 Playfest: Go the Distance"! He is a sophomore at Canyon View High School and is an official thespian for the International Thespian Society. He recently scored an Excellent on his Solo Musical for Arizona Thespian Regionals 2021. Some of his previous credits include, Josh, *Whatever, Just Wash Your Hands (A Potty Party),* William, the Royal Advisor, *Cinderella: A Rock and Roll Fairytale Jr.* and Jazz, *Emmett's Art Project*. AJ is in his 4th semester in the Celebration Performance Troupe and finishing up his first semester with The Future and VYTeens. AJ would like to thank Christian, Callista, Charlie, Kenny, his family, the cast, crew and playwrights of this production!

Ellie Klapp

(Mom / The Shadows / Mrs. Tyler)

Ellie is delighted to be a part of this show and back on stage again after the worst of Covid. She is 18 years old and a senior at Sunrise Mountain High School. She was last seen in *Sister Act* (Mary Lazarus) at her school.

She would like to thank all of the directors, as well as her parents. She hopes you enjoy the show!

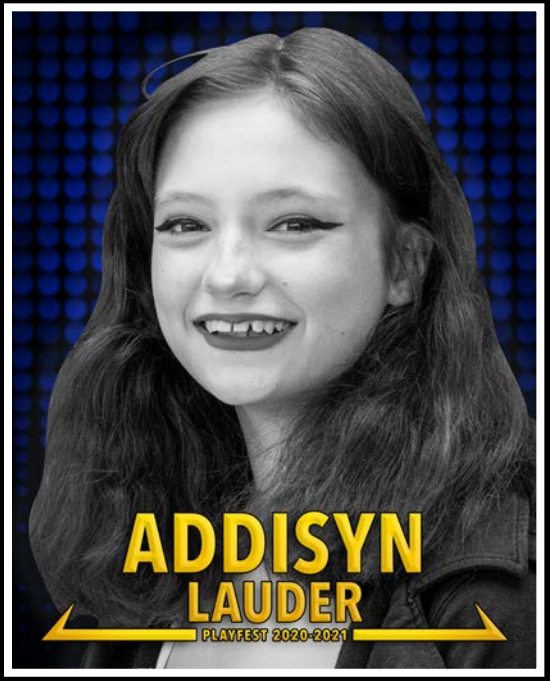
SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies

Katie Kloberdanz

(Playwright – *Behind the Curtain)*

Katie, 16, is an IB student at Ironwood High School. *Behind the Curtain* is the first play she's written, and she is thrilled that it was selected to be a part of Spotlight's Playfest. In addition to writing, she also likes to perform. She was most recently seen in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (IHS) and will be appearing in her school's Broadway Revue next month.

She is so excited to see *Behind the Curtain* performed onstage and hopes you enjoy the show!



Addisyn Lauder

(Samantha / The Shadows)

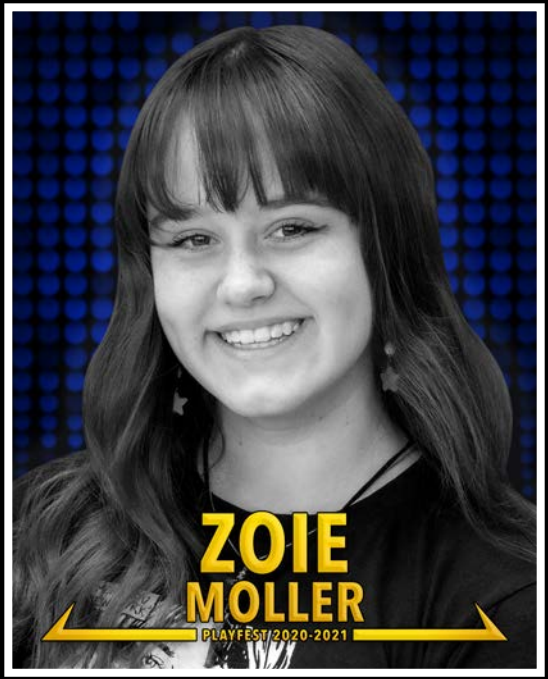
Addi is thrilled to be in *Spotlight 2021 Playfest: Go the Distance* as this is the first time she will be on the Spotlight stage. They have been in the SYT celebration group for a little and are glad to be able to share the stage with some amazing actors. They would like to thank the directors, Callista, Christian, and Charlie, as well as the playwrights and Kenny for making this all possible. And they would like to give a special shout-out to L for helping with line memorizing.

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies

Olivia Martinez

(Maid / Elizabeth)

Olivia is 13 and is thrilled to return for these original Spotlight productions! Her previous roles with SYT include: Miner Bird #3 in *Beat Bugs: A Musical Adventure*, Thomas O'Malley in *Aristocats Jr.*, Pepper in *Annie*, and Jamie/Fairy Godparent in *Cinderella: A Rock and Roll Fairytale*. She was also a techie in *Frozen Jr.* here at SYT and encourages all theater kids to give tech a go! She is also in the SYT Celebration Performance Troupe. Olivia would like to thank her family and friends for their support as well as Charlie, Callista, Christian, and Kenny, as well as the playwrights. She'd finally like to thank her dog, T.J., for being the only one in the house to not complain when she sings too loud.



Zoie Moller

(Elizabeth / The Shadows /Harper)

Zoie is a 14 year old freshman at Sandra Day O'Conner. She is so glad to be back onstage and excited to be part of such a unique experience. Most recently she was seen in SYT's original *Potty Party* as Dillon, and Anna in *Frozen Jr* (SYT). Other shows include Patrice in *13* (SYT) Star to Be in *Annie* (SYT). She is very excited to be back with her Spotlight family, and loves working with the amazing actors and creative team. Zoie would like to thank Callista, Christian, and Charlie for a great new experience, and the writers for their super fun shows! Now sit back, and enjoy the 1st Annual Playfest!

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies

Alec Pursell

(Mr. Perkins / Brandon)

Alec is an 18 year old senior who attends Arizona School for the Arts where his major is theatre. This is his sixth show at Spotlight the first being Angie in *Gypsy,* then Lucas (NYA Nom) in *Bare*, Oliver Warbucks in *Annie* (NYA Nom). Most notably, he recently won a Zoni award for his performance in *Dogfight*. Some of his past roles include Barfee in *Spelling Bee* at ASA (NYA award) and Herr Schultz in *Cabaret* at ASA (NYA Nom). Alec would to thank his family for their endless support! He would also like to thank the directors, writers and Kenny for this amazingly unique and special opportunity!

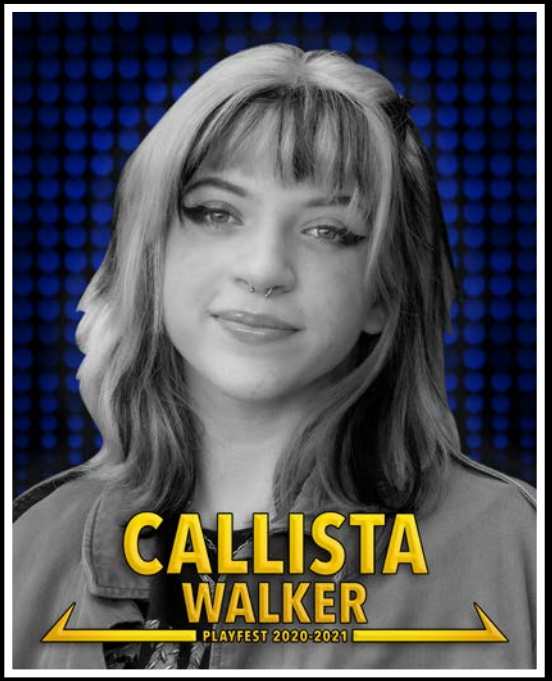
Charlie Rabago

(Director of *The Stains* / Costume Design / Hair Design / Makeup Design)

Charlie is excited to be directing his first show at Spotlight along with doing hair and makeup and costumes!

Many thanks to the cast and crew for their patience and trust throughout this process.

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies



Callista Walker

(Director of *Most Dead Summer Ever)*

Callista got her start acting at Spotlight, and is so excited to be debuting as a director here ten years later! She would like to thank Kenny for giving her this opportunity.

Callista would also like to thank her friends and family for supporting her.

Zoey Waller

(The Shadows / Allyson)

Zoey is incredibly excited to be back on the Spotlight stage after appearing in the ariZoni-award-winning production of *Dogfight*. She is incredibly excited to be a part of Spotlight's first-ever Playfest. She would like to thank her amazing parents and wonderful sister, Maggie, for supporting her in everything she does. She would also like to thank Kenny, Christian, Callista, Charlie, Josh, and all those involved for giving her the opportunity to take part in this wonderful production.

She hopes you enjoy the show!

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies

Emma Woolstenhulme

(Katherine / The Shadows / Sylvia)

Emma is a high school freshman, currently learning from home and taking classes at Glendale Community College. She is a talented singer who loves to write music and play piano, ukulele, and guitar. The next instrument she would like to try is the bagpipes. Although Emma has been in several productions, this is her first at SYT, and she is grateful for the opportunity to work with such wonderful people. Emma's favorite past performance was playing Colin in *The Secret Garden* at ACAA. After high school, Emma would love to open her own meat pie shop.

Allison Wright

(Penelope / Ms. Krause)

Allison is thrilled to return to the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage to be a part of the *Go the Distance Playfest*! The last SYT production she has been a part of was *Mulan Jr.* and since then, she has acted in *Sister Act* and *Once Upon a Mattress* at Sunrise Mountain High School. She has also stage managed *A Doll's House* and *High School Musical* at her high school as well. She would like to thank the directors of *The Stains* and *Behind the Curtain* for giving her this opportunity to come back to the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage one last time before leaving for college as well as her parents for always allowing her to follow her passions!

SYT Playfest 2020–2021
Go the Distance — Biographies

Kenny Grossman & Vicki Grossman (Properties Design)

Kenny and Vicki have been with Spotlight Youth Theatre from the very beginning and are excited to be a part of this amazing production. They are looking forward to a great new season. Kenny still loves eggs. To Jamie and Carly, "We love you and miss you." Thank you to cast, crew, directors, designers, families, volunteers, and board members.

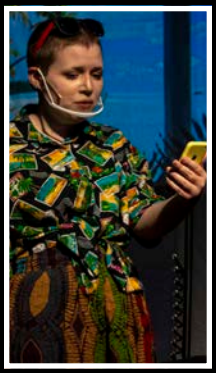
Josh Hontz (Video Production / Lighting & Sound Design)

Josh is the Theatre Technology Coordinator at the Mesa Community College (MCC) Theatre and has worked as a sound and lighting designer in the Valley since 2014. This is his sixth season designing at Spotlight. Most recently, he designed sound for MCC's production of *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter*. He has received fifteen ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence for his sound, lighting, and media designs. Outside of the theatre, Josh enjoys exploring the outdoors with his friends, his lovely wife Katie, and his sweet dog, Jelly.

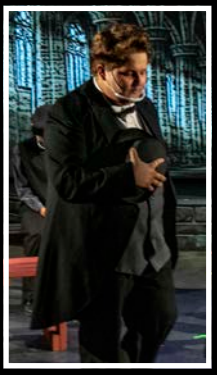
Bobby Sample (Scenic Design / Projection Design)

Bobby marks this Playfest as the 67th production he's worked on at Spotlight. His recent work includes writing, designing and co-directing *The Soul of Frankenstein* at SYT; contributing projection FX for the *Curiouser & Curiouser* shows at Theater Works; and designing sets and video for the other productions in the SYT season. He thanks everyone in the community for keeping the arts alive even in a year like the last one, especially Kenny and all the Spotlight family. Congratulations to the new playwrights and new directors who have made this show happen!

SPOTLIGHT
PLAYFEST 2020-2021
"GO THE DISTANCE"



QUEEN



MOST DEAD SUMMER EVER

EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2021 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

JUNE 1–11

Sing and dance your way through the toughest, most fun and most revolting theatre camp ever.

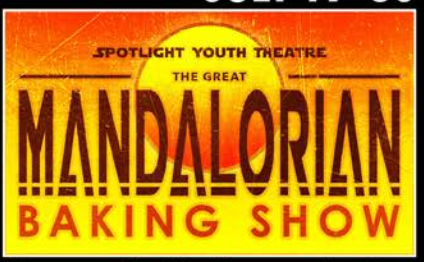
JUNE 14–25

Riddles, rhymes, raps, riotous singing and dancing. Old Mother Hubbard and her band of characters rap Mother Goose rhymes better than anyone. Until one day a funny looking cat and her crew shows up and challenges Mother Goose to a Rap Battle.

JULY 5–16

The Little Mermaid comes to the aid of her cousin Hercules in the trial of the century. Yep, they are related. With singing and dancing we confirm that blood is thicker than water.

JULY 19–30



To become a great Mandalorian baker you must sing and dance your way through three challenges: "Signature Challenge," "Technical Challenge," and of course, the "Showstopper Challenge." Ready, set, dance!

During each session of Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2021 Summer Theatre Camp, actors will learn the shows and then perform for families and friends!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE ARIZONA

Tuition is $325 per two–week session plus a one-time $25 registration fee
Ages 8-18 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available
Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt • Before– and after–care available

To register, please visit sytaz.org/summer2021

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

GOODWILL

Collection Fundraiser

Goodwill Industries will donate ten cents back to Spotlight for every pound of items the theatre collects for donation through Saturday, May 14, 2021.

We gladly accept: small appliances, books, clothing, computers, cooking accessories, electronics, glass & housewares, handbags, jewelry, knick-knacks, linens, musical instruments, pictures, shoes, small furniture, tools, and toys.

Unfortunately we cannot accept: auto parts, building materials, disassembled exercise equipment, hazardous materials, tires, cleaning products, flammable products, mattresses, pesticides/lawn & garden products,paint / painting supplies, pool tables, sofa beds, televisions older than five years, treadmills, large furniture, and large appliances.

The theatre is open during events, rehearsals, and production work. Please call us or email goodwill@sytaz.org to check for available times or to make special arrangements. to drop off goods. (At this time, the theatre does not have a pick-up service.)

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE ARIZONA

NOW THROUGH MAY 14, 2021

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100 FROM 100

Help Keep Our Kids in the Spotlight!

A Word from Our Artistic Director…

What you don't see (but might have been involved with in some way) is the incredible journey that the actors and their families take while getting onto the stage. The wonderful experiences are too long to list, and are always in progress.

That is what makes Spotlight unique: the sense of community and love off of the stage. Everything we do is for the families and kids that participate.

We have no adult theatre to follow, and no city or big corporation to support us. The reality of the business of theatre is that the odds are against us to survive, and we are continually struggling with finances. We have volunteers and board members working endlessly to keep the theatre solvent and open. Sometimes we need more help.

We are asking for 100 people to donate $100 (the price of one night out at Cheesecake Factory) to help us get through a very rough time. Whether your kids are grown up and moved on or you have future thespians, we hope that you can help and also spread the word.

If you need to talk with me please, do not hesitate to call, email or text me.

Thank you,

Kenny Grossman
Artistic Director
Spotlight Youth Theatre
(623) 521-8093
kenny@sytaz.org

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE ARIZONA

EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2021 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

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Spotlight Youth Theatre would like to thank the following kind and generous benefactors for taking part in this season's "Helping Hand" campaign.
Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children!

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Eileen & Dennis Delamater • Karen Dolyniuk • J. Wayne Holden
Brandon & Sabrina Hurley • The Kiepke Family
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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE
Helping Hand Campaign

2020–2021

For more information about this season's "Helping Hand" campaign or to receive a Donation Packet, please inquire at the SYT Box Office or email Deb Czajkowski at admin@sytaz.org.

Thank You

to Spotlight's Generous and Dedicated Donors!

Ticket sales and production fees cover only a fraction of Spotlight Youth Theatre's overall operating costs. The Board of Directors of Spotlight Youth Theatre is grateful for the generosity of our dedicated donors, whose support ensures our ongoing ability to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged.

Platinum-Level Support ($5000 or more)

Clancy & Lisa DeGroodt

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Richard Desmarteau
Karen Dolyniuk
Kohl's Cares
Tina Nunziato & Dr. Liz Cruz
Marvin & Gayle Simkin
Marie Thearle
Jim & Judy Wolfe
The Wingardium Project
Steve & Debbie Zell

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Dai Jinn
Bobby Sample
The Torosian Foundation

Ruby-Level Support ($500-$749)

American Express
Robert Bassham
Scot & Wendy Claus
T. Wayne Cole
Adam & Stacey Feldman
Craig Frooninckx
Jason Kovac
Eric Labas
Montessori Kingdom of Learning
Joyce Lopez-Powell
Lillian Moskowitz
Amanda Newton
Karen Pugliese
Suzanne Treviño

Sapphire-Level Support ($300-$499)

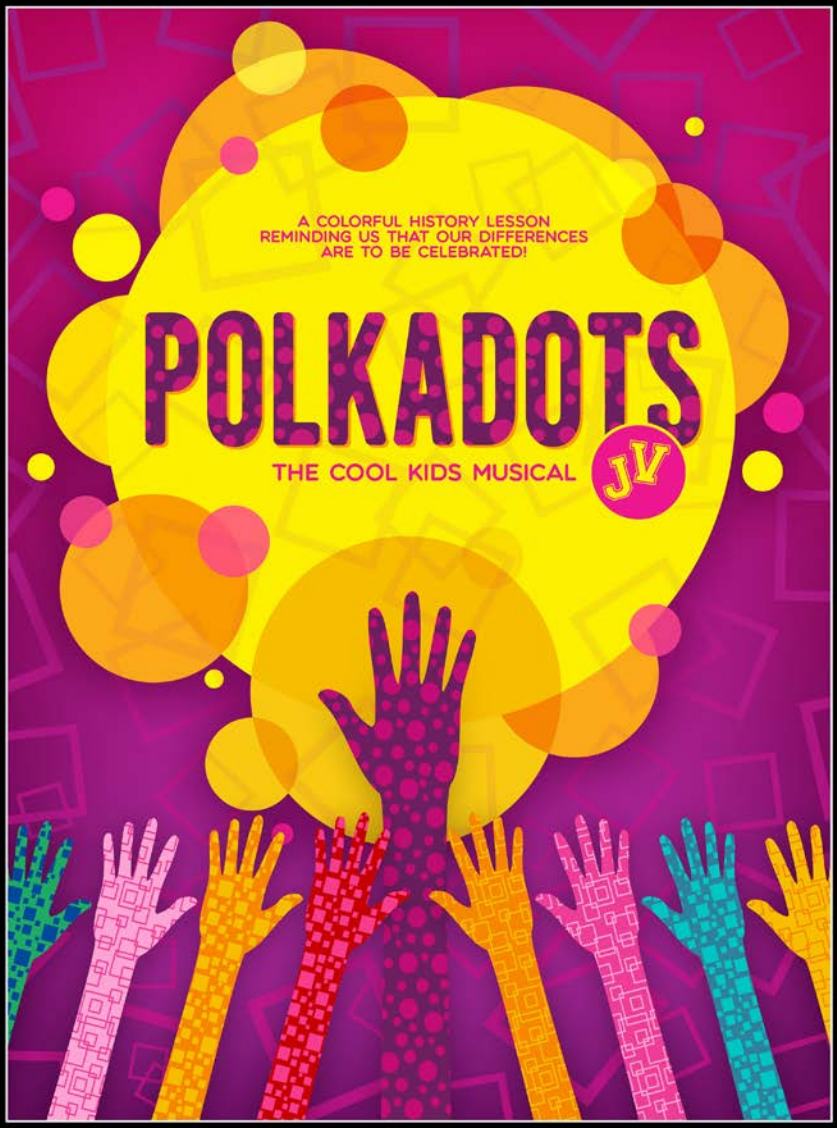
Tom & Caprice Amerine
Luke & Sara Bader
Jacinda Dawson
Eileen Delamater
Fuddrucker's
Angela Gass
J. Wayne Holden
Honeywell
Sharon Kiepke
Tom Nebrich
Helen Novotny
Lenea Sadler
Gwen Schulz
Lee & Sandy Shedroff
Stephanie Yampolsky

Amethyst-Level Support ($100-$299)

Mark Armistead
Michael & Leah Armstrong
Sara Bloom
Ed Briggs
Angie Brumbaugh
Nancy Christiansen
Lisbeth Clingan
Gretchen & Jake Corey
Rachelle Crouch
Jackie DeAngelis
Robin De La O
Judy Dejong
Kelli Demski
Jennifer Dobbs
Jill Dotter
Sandra Elkins
Trinity Feist
FRY's
Connie Giordano
Eleanor Grossman
Kenny & Vicki Grossman
Christopher Hamby
Rachel Harris
Suzanne Hegarty
Gwendolyn Hoisek
Alyse Joswiak
Matt Kieffer
Steve Kimmel
Christine Lawritson
Judy Lebrun
David Lelsz
Karen McCollester
Matthew & Jennifer McFall
Melinda McGuire
Amie Moller
Joann O'Dell
Eileen Ossipinsky
Susan Pansing
Maribeth Reeves
Lori Reger
Melissa Rex
Marcus Schmidt
Rhonda Snyder
Michael & Heather Walker
Robert & Tammy Waller
David Watson
Jan Wiley
Lindsay Williams
Kristin Wurr

For information on how you can contribute to the ongoing success of Spotlight Youth Theatre, please contact Deb Czajkowski, SYT Managing Director, at admin@sytaz.org or (623) 332-7201.

Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



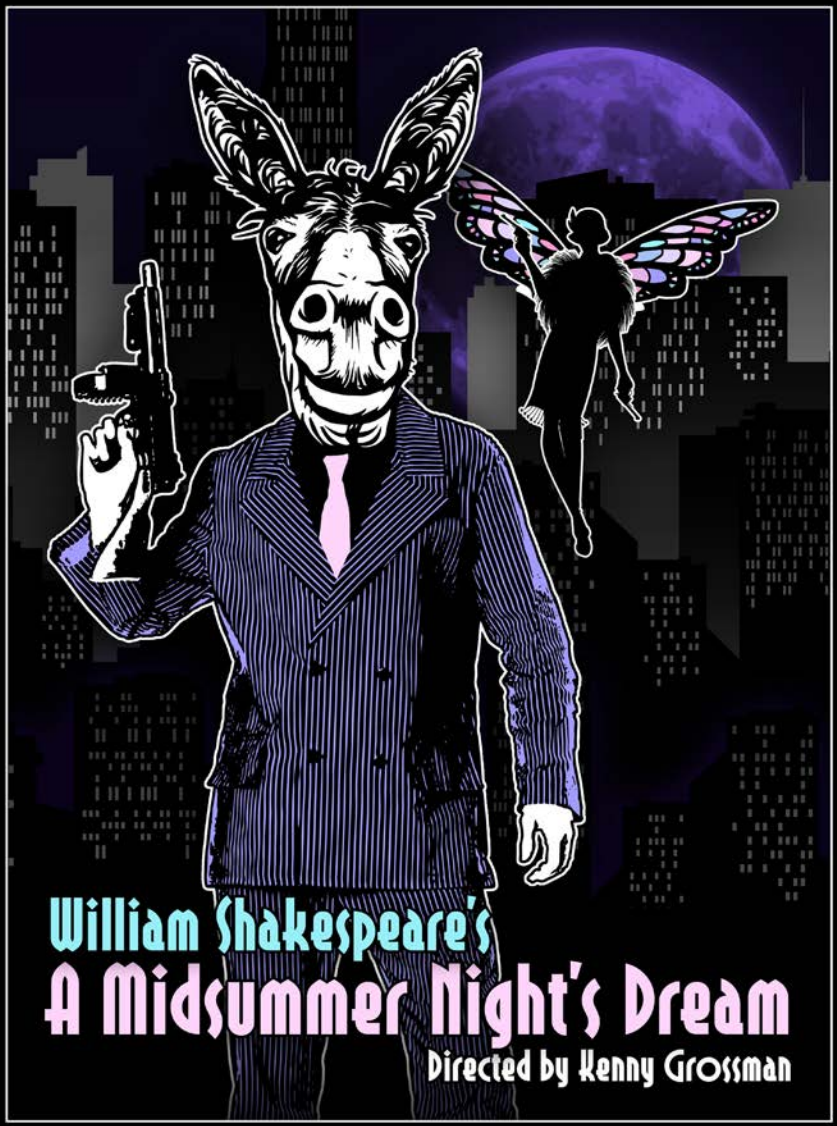
SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE:
Safe & Onstage!

Friday, June 18 – 7PM
Saturday, June 19 – 7PM
Sunday, June 20 – 2PM

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE ARIZONA

10620 N. 43rd Ave. • Glendale,AZ • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE:
Safe & Onstage!

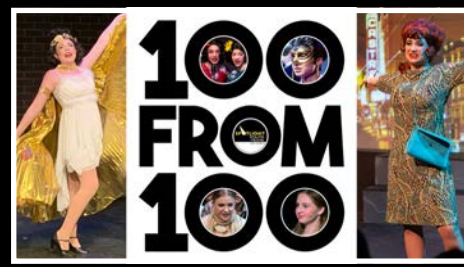
Friday, May 21 – 7PM
Saturday, May 22 – 7PM
Sunday, May 23 – 2PM

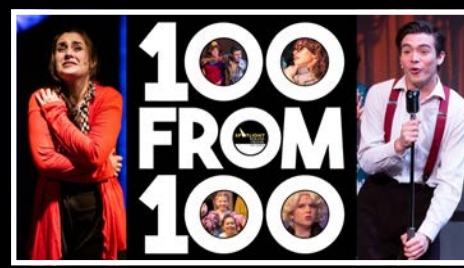
SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE ARIZONA

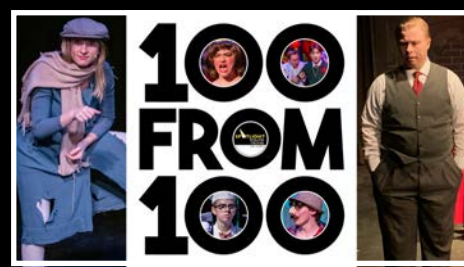
10620 N. 43rd Ave. • Glendale,AZ • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Help Keep Our Kids in the Spotlight!

sytaz.org/100-from-100







Spotlight Youth Theatre's Board of Directors

Clancy DeGroodt—President
Steve Zell—Vice President
Judy Wolfe—Treasurer
Vicki Grossman—Member
Robert Waller—Member
Kenny Grossman—Artistic Director
Deb Czajkowski—Managing Director
Karen Dolyniuk—Secretary
Sabrina Hurley—Member
Bobby Sample—Member

Spotlight Youth Theatre's mission is to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's vision:

1. A program grounded in the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine, a place that is safe and free from negativity, and an environment where fun and hard work combine into amazing experiences, both on and off stage.
2. A theater program that is as diverse as the community we serve and where all members of the family can join in the endeavor to produce high quality theater productions that amaze and entertain.
3. A community theater where the impossible becomes possible through the combined efforts of our families, our sponsors, and most of all, the children who shine onstage.
4. A place where a child can be their authentic self, exploring the creative arts without fear, and be embraced and encouraged to grow and flourish.

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2020–2021 season is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, which receives support from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2020–2021 season is supported in part by a grant from the City of Phoenix, in coordination with the Phoenix IDA, who offered grants up to $10,000 to local small businesses and nonprofits experiencing economic distress and loss of revenue due to the pandemic.

City of Phoenix
PHOENIXIDA

Spotlight Youth Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non–profit Community Youth Theatre

Spotlight Youth Theatre would very much like to thank our community partners and benefactors. Please support the kind and generous people who support SYT by patronizing our sponsors. To learn more about sponsoring or donating to Spotlight Youth Theatre and making a difference in the lives of today's youth, please call (602) 843–8318.

SPOTLIGHT
YOUTH
THEATRE
ARIZONA

Spotlight Youth Theatre

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