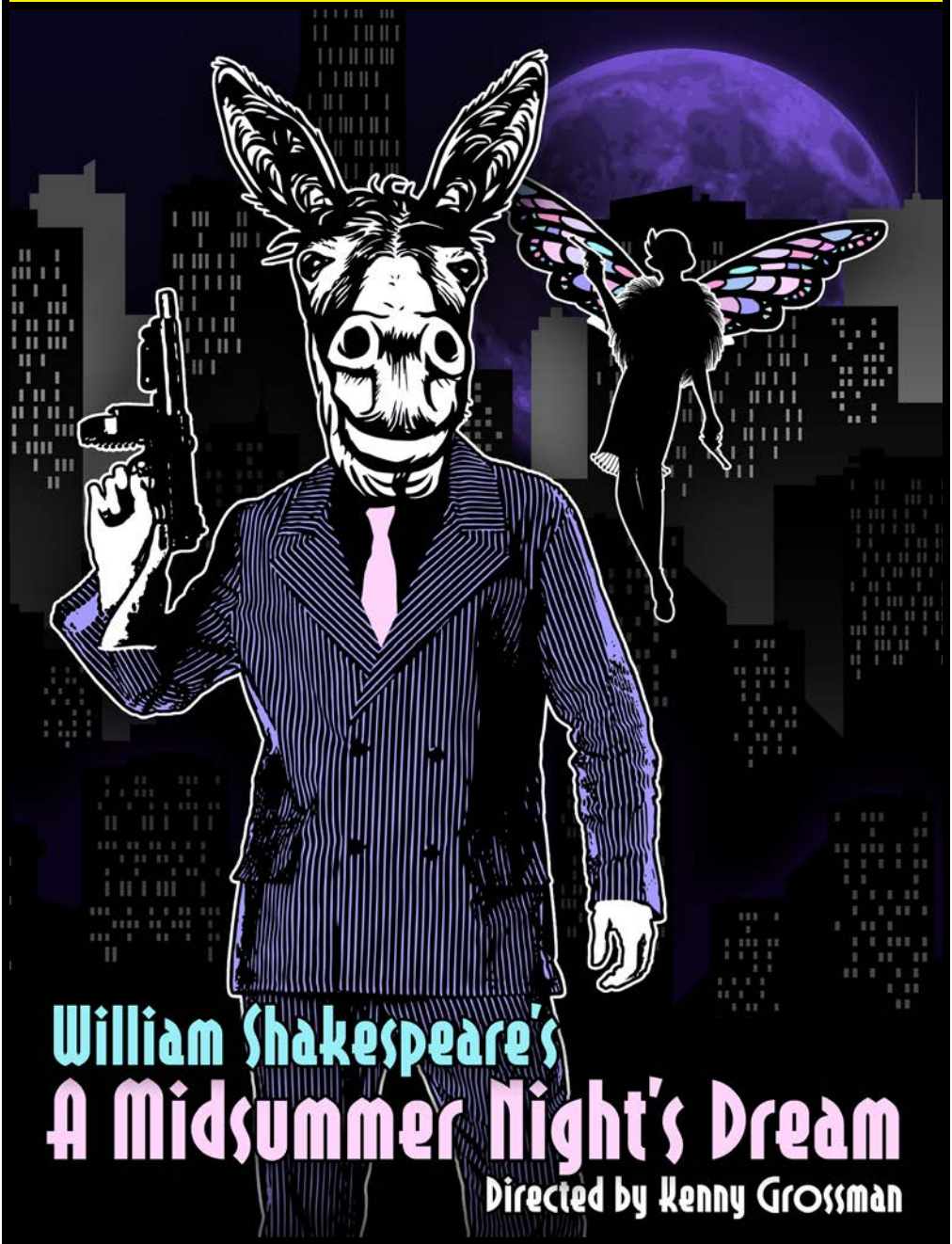
SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE



William Shakespeare's
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Directed by Kenny Grossman

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

Spotlight Youth Theatre
Proudly Presents

Written by **William Shakespeare**

Music written and performed by **Josh Hontz**

Lyrics by **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Kenny Grossman**

Assistant Director: **Josie Wright**

Choreographer: **Falin Ossipinsky**

Deck Manager: **Allison Watson**

Video Production & Direction: **Anthony Rozzen**

Scenic Design: **Bobby Sample**

Media Design: **Bobby Sample & Josh Hontz**

Lighting & Sound Design: **Josh Hontz**

Costume Design: **Samantha Essary Utpadel**

Hair & Makeup Design: **Alixandra Giordano**

Properties Design: **Kenny & Vicki Grossman**

Sound Operator: **Ellie Little**

Lighting Operator: **Jaden Schwab**

Camera Operators: **Sabina Dart & Noah Lanouette**

Spotlight Youth Theatre Administrative Team

Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre ..... **Kenny Grossman**

Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre ..... **Deb Czajkowski**

Master Carpenter..... **Clancy DeGroodt**

Graphic Designer..... **Robert Waller**

Social Media Specialist ..... **Amie Moller**

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Volunteer Manager ..... **Vicki Grossman**

Rehearsal Photo Display & Volunteer Coordinator ..... **Kelly Swope**

Fundraising Committee ..... **Sara Bader, Shelly Boucher, Eileen Delamater, Karen Dolyniuk, Elisa Herndon, Sabrina Hurley, Audra Little, Amanda Newton, Lisa Poormon, Kelly Swope, Karen Turner-Domakeczna,** & **Tammy Waller**

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny, Clancy DeGroodt, the Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors,** and to the **friends & family members** who helped bring ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** to the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage.

A Word from the Director

Busby Berkeley, Fred and Ginger, Swing Jazz, flappers, bootlegging, gambling, non-legit enterprises, and gangsters—just some of the things you can find in Sun City West on a Saturday night. It's also the setting for our show—Not Sun City West, but the 1930's.

The late 1920's / early 1930's lends itself very well to the plot line in *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Keep in mind that the time period is really a distant backdrop, and that the main focus is on the characters and the story. Our version takes place in Arizona at the Spotlight Globe (the Globe Theatre was where Shakespeare performed his shows).

There's a lot of story to unpack in this show, and to be able to deliver the dialogue and characters in an easy way for young audiences to understand is the big challenge for all Shakespeare productions—and the actors in this show do it phenomenally (even when I asked Hippolyta to deliver her first two lines in Italian!)

Every young actor should perform and learn Shakespeare. I love this production of the show and the actors and crew. It's been a blast! Now that things are starting to come back in full, I hope you will set aside some restaurant time and continue to support and watch our shows.

Enjoy!

Kenny Grossman
Director

The Cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Oberon / Theseus ..... **Dean Kelldorf**

Titania / Hippolyta ..... **Alexis Archer**

Puck / Egeus ..... **Emma Woolstenhulme**

Bottom ..... **Alec Pursell**

Quince ..... **Zoey Waller**

Flute ..... **Cadence Talley**

Starveling / Philostrate ..... **Evan Culbertson**

Snout ..... **Julia Murphy**

Snug ..... **Amanda McCormick**

Hermia ..... **Callista Walker**

Helena ..... **Rachel Nathan**

Lysander ..... **Zachary Snyders**

Demetrius ..... **Max Mendoza**

Mustardseed ..... **Kinlee Adams**

Peaseblossom ..... **Dagny Knoell**

Cobweb ..... **Zara Sego**

Moth / Little Boy ..... **Augusta Stanley**

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Setting & Scene List

Time—Early 1930's
Place—The Spotlight Globe, Arizona

The show is spoken in Shakespeare's English. Mostly. There's some Italian.

ACT ONE
Scene 1 ..... Spotlight Globe Speakeasy
Scene 2 ..... Spotlight Globe

ACT TWO
Scene 1 ..... Enchanted Arizona Wilderness
"Fairies Song"
Scene 2 ..... Titania's Flower Bed
"Titania's Lullaby"

ACT THREE
Scene 1 ..... Near Titania's Flower Bed
"Bottom's Song"

INTERMISSION

ACT THREE (still)
Scene 2 ..... Enchanted Arizona Wilderness

ACT FOUR
Scene 1 ..... Titania's Flower Bed
Scene 2 ..... Outside the Spotlight Globe

ACT FIVE
Scene 1 ..... The Spotlight Globe
Performance of "Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe," a comedy
Performed by "The Mechanicals"

"Peace, ho!"
As You Like It, Act 5, Scene 4

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Kinlee Adams

Mustardseed

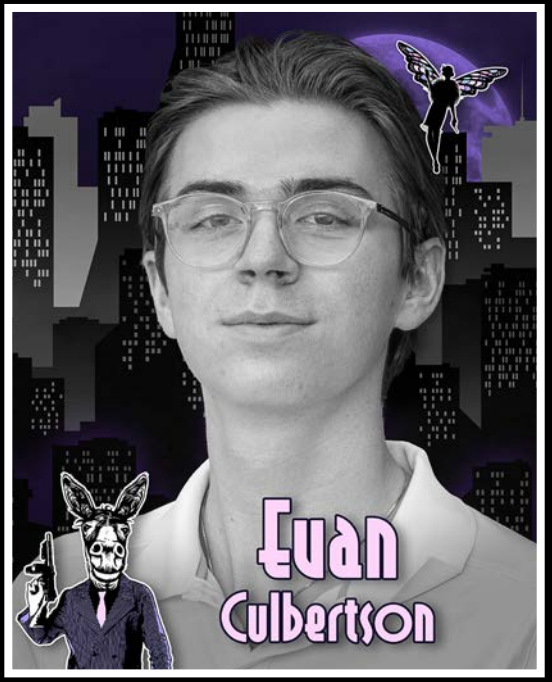
Kinlee is nine years old and is finishing up her 3rd grade year at ACAA. Kinlee loves drawing, crafting, and dancing, and is a member of SYT's Confetti Group. Previous performances include *How to Eat Like a Child* and *Letters to God* at SCT, and *Winnie the Pooh* at TheaterWorks. She is excited to make her Spotlight Youth Theater debut in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*! Thanks Kenny!

Alexis Archer

Titania / Hippolyta

Alexis is thrilled to be back for her fifth Spotlight production! Some favorite past roles of hers include: Lucy in Spotlight's *13* (NYA Award), Savannah in VYT's *Freaky Friday* at the Herberger (NYA Nomination), Mayzie La Bird in *Seussical Jr.* (NYA Award), Mrs. Darling in East Valley Children's Theatre's *Peter Pan* (NYA Nomination), and Brenda Dixon in *Cash on Delivery*. Alexis is involved in Horizon High School's choir and drama programs and is a proud member of Horizon's award-winning comedy improv troupe "The 56th Street Players." She would like to give a big thank you to Kenny, Josie, the cast, and the crew for making this show so special and a huge thanks to her family and friends for their endless love and support!

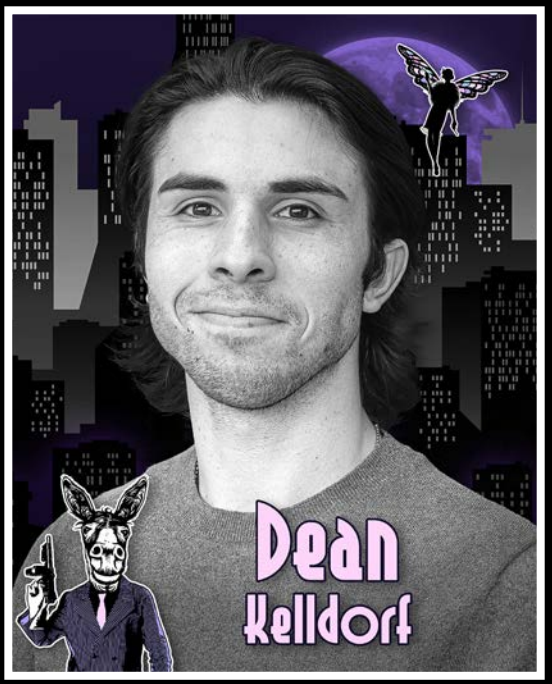
Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



Evan Culbertson

Starveling / Philostrate

Evan is 18 and has spent his last two year of high school at ASA. He is happy to be back in his 13th and final show at Spotlight. Most recently he was in *A Potty Party* at SYT. Other credits: Maurice in *Beauty and the Beast* (TheaterWorks), Alan in *Bare*, Peter in *Romeo and Juliet,* as well as Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka* (SYT), Charlie Bates in *Oliver!* and Skut Farkus in *A Christmas Story* (ABT). In his spare time Evan loves to watch movies, TV, hang out with friends, and to be environmentally conscious. Finally, Evan would like to Kenny and Josie for this opportunity, as well as to thank Spotlight for being such an amazing and safe place to call home. @culby.evan



Dean Kelldorf

Oberon / Theseus

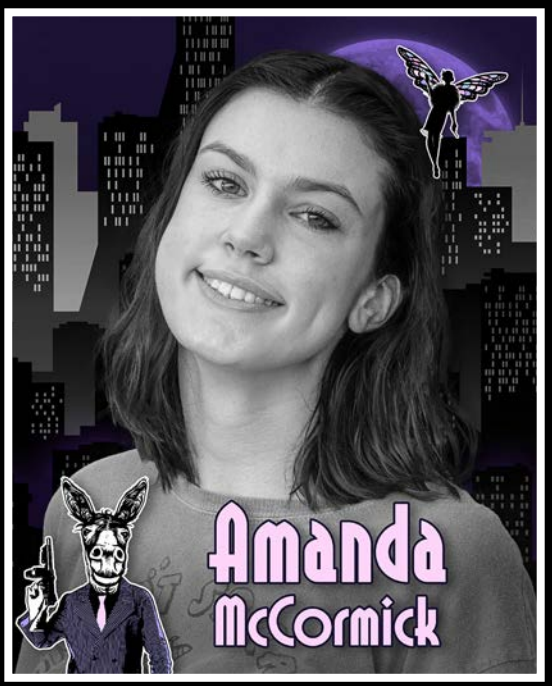
Dean is extremely excited to be back at SYT to be performing in this production of *Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Dean was last on the Spotlight stage as Captain Robert Walton in Bobby Sample's *Soul of Frankenstein*. You may recognize Dean from SYT's production of *Dogfight,* the musical, where he played Eddie Birdlace, Desert Stages Theatre's productions of *Addams Family* where he played Gomez Addams, or *Chicago: High School Edition* where he played Amos Hart. Dean would like to thank Kenny Grossman and Josie Wright for this incredible opportunity and thank his entire family, friends, and girlfriend, Domonique, for their endless pride and support in what he loves to do. Special thanks to James Rothrock for letting a second weekend of shows be possible.

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Dagny Knoell

Peaseblossom

Dagny is nine years old and finishing up 4th grade at Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy in Laveen. She is active with Spotlight's performing troupe Confetti, loves math, and was last seen on stage as Jessie in Starlight Community Theater's pre-pandemic production of *Annie Get Your Gun*.



Amanda McCormick

Snug

This is Mandie's first show at SYT, and they are extremely excited to be joining the Spotlight family! They have loved this amazing opportunity to work with such a wonderful cast and directors. This is the 13th show that Mandie has been in. Most notable appearances include Aunt Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach* and Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*. They would like to thank Kenny and all the amazing people at Spotlight for giving them this opportunity, and their wonderful parents for always supporting them :) Break a leg everyone!

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Max Mendoza

Demetrius

Max is thrilled to be back at Spotlight after four months! Previous roles include Romeo in *Newsies* (VYT), Hot Blades Harry in *Urinetown* (Greasepaint), and Seven in *Curiouser & Curiouser* (TW). He hopes to graduate from ASU with a major in urban planning and a minor in musical theatre. While not onstage, Max enjoys drinking Dr. Pepper (no ice) and listening to the Harry James Orchestra. Many thanks to Kenny, Josie, the designers, and his wonderful family and friends. Especially you, Tawny. @maxmendoza.1

Julia Murphy

Snout

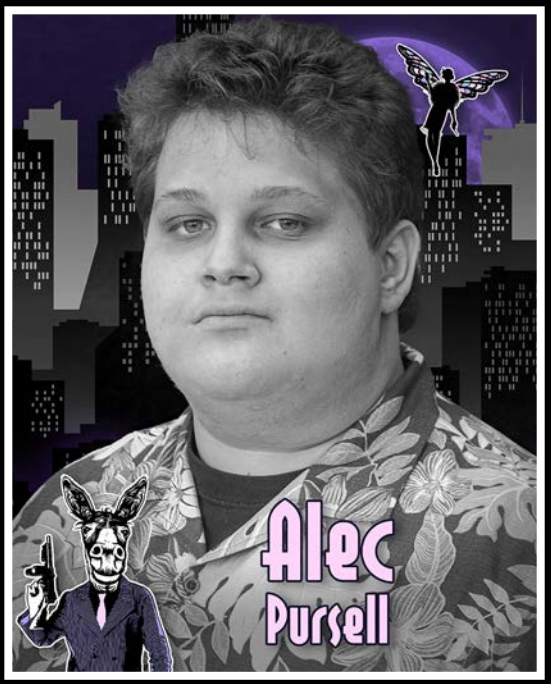
Julia is a 19-year-old Drama major at Kenyon College in Ohio. This is their fourth show at Spotlight. Previous credits include Izzy in *Potty Party* (Spotlight), #46 in *The Wolves* (Spotlight and Stray Cat Theatre), Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker* (Spotlight), and Antigone in *Antigone* (Arizona School for the Arts). They are super excited to be part of such a wonderful cast and hope you enjoy the show!

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Rachel Nathan

Helena

Rachel is a high school senior and is so excited to be performing in her second Spotlight show! She has performed all over the valley. Her most recent credits include Bonnie Parker in *Bonnie & Clyde* (Limelight), The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (AYT), Cosette in *Les Mis* (AYT), and Miss Hannigan in *Annie* (Spotlight). She would like to thank Kenny, Bobby, Josh, Josie, Ali, Falin, and Sam for all of their hard work on this production!



Alec Pursell

Bottom

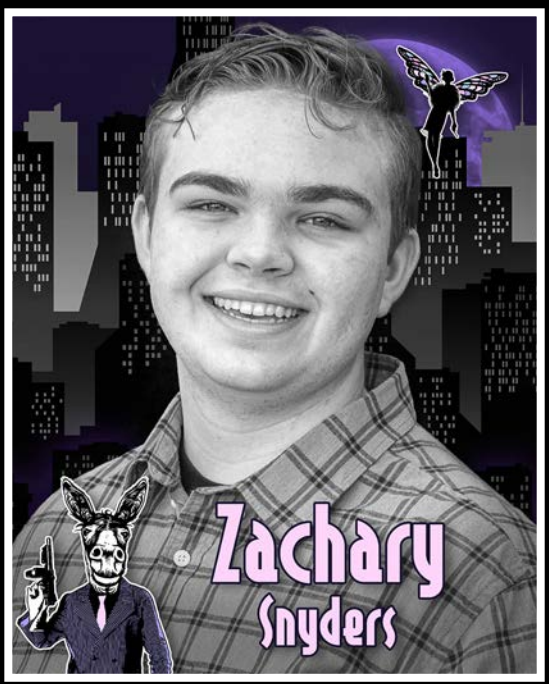
Alec is an 18-year-old senior who attends Arizona School for the Arts where his major is theatre. This is his seventh show at Spotlight – the first being Angie in *Gypsy*, then Lucas (NYA Nom) in *Bare*, Oliver Warbucks in *Annie* (NYA Nom). Most notably, he won a 'Zoni award for his performance in *Dogfight* and was most recently seen in the Play Fest. 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 like to thank his family for their endless support! He would finally like to thank Kenny and Josie and all the designers, Dean, Max, Zach, Callista and Lexi.

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Zara Sego

Cobweb

Zara, who is playing the Fairy named Cobweb, is excited to be joining this year's cast. This is her first experience with Shakespeare, and she is loving it. Zara has spent the last year at Spotlight as a member of the performance troupe, Sparkles. You may have also seen her as Pita the mouse in *Rock 'n Roll Cinderella*. Zara is in the third grade at Acacia Elementary School. She wants to thank everyone at Spotlight for their continuous support this year. Zara wants to give a special thank you to Kenny for asking her to be a fairy in this play.



Zachary Snyders

Lysander

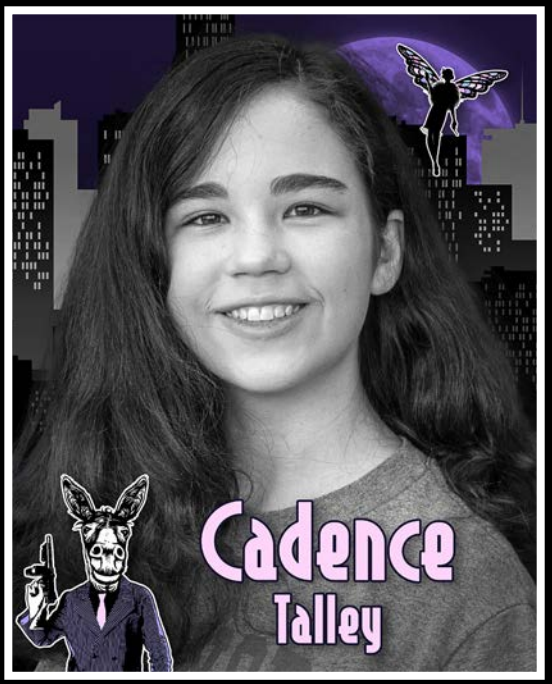
Zachary is 18 and a senior at ASA. This is his second production at SYT where he previously performed in *Bare*. Zach recently played Juror Three in the play *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Greasepaint) and Jim Haller in the musical *All Shook Up* (PCA). This is his tenth performance in the 2020-21 season. Some favorite shows/roles include: George Banks in *Mary Poppins* (ASA), Pugsley in the *Addams Family* (DFT), and the March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland* (VYT). Zachary enjoys improv and singing and will be studying acting at Emerson College in the fall. Zachary would like to thank Kenny and the Spotlight team for the opportunity to perform in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and his coaches, friends, and family for all their love and support.

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Augusta Stanley

Moth

Augusta is overjoyed to be a part of the cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is her debut performance on the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage. She is also a troupe member of SYT's Confetti and loves to sing and dance. Augusta would like to thank Mr. Kenny for this opportunity and thank her family for all their love and support.



Cadence Talley

Flute

15 Reasons Not to be in a Play, performed in 2019, sparked desire in Cadence to act more, but she could not continue with school productions due to the mishap of 2020. After building up energy for a year, she (with the help of her aunt) found Spotlight and started auditioning for shows, which led her to write her bio that may or may not be too serious, who knows?

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Callista Walker

Hermia

Callista is so excited to be Hermia in this production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has loved theatre from a young age, and her passion originated here at Spotlight. Callista wants to first thank her amazing director Kenny, and assistant director Josie. She also wants to thank her family and friends for always supporting her.

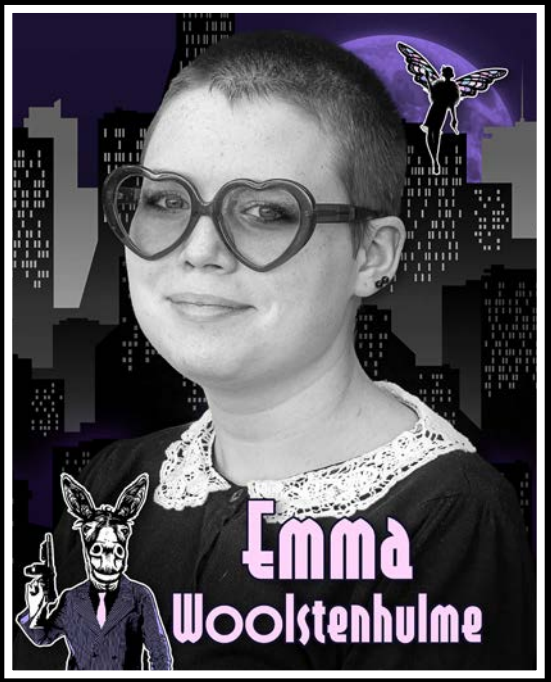
Zoey Waller

Quince

Zoey is incredibly excited to be back on the Spotlight stage after appearing in Spotlight's first-ever Playfest. She has also appeared in many other show's on the Spotlight stage including the ariZoni-award-winning production of *Dogfight*. She would like to thank her amazing family for supporting her in everything she does, as well as her incredible friends who are, in their own way, family. She would also like to thank Kenny, Josie, Josh, and all those involved for giving her the opportunity to take part in this wonderful production.

She hopes you enjoy the show!

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

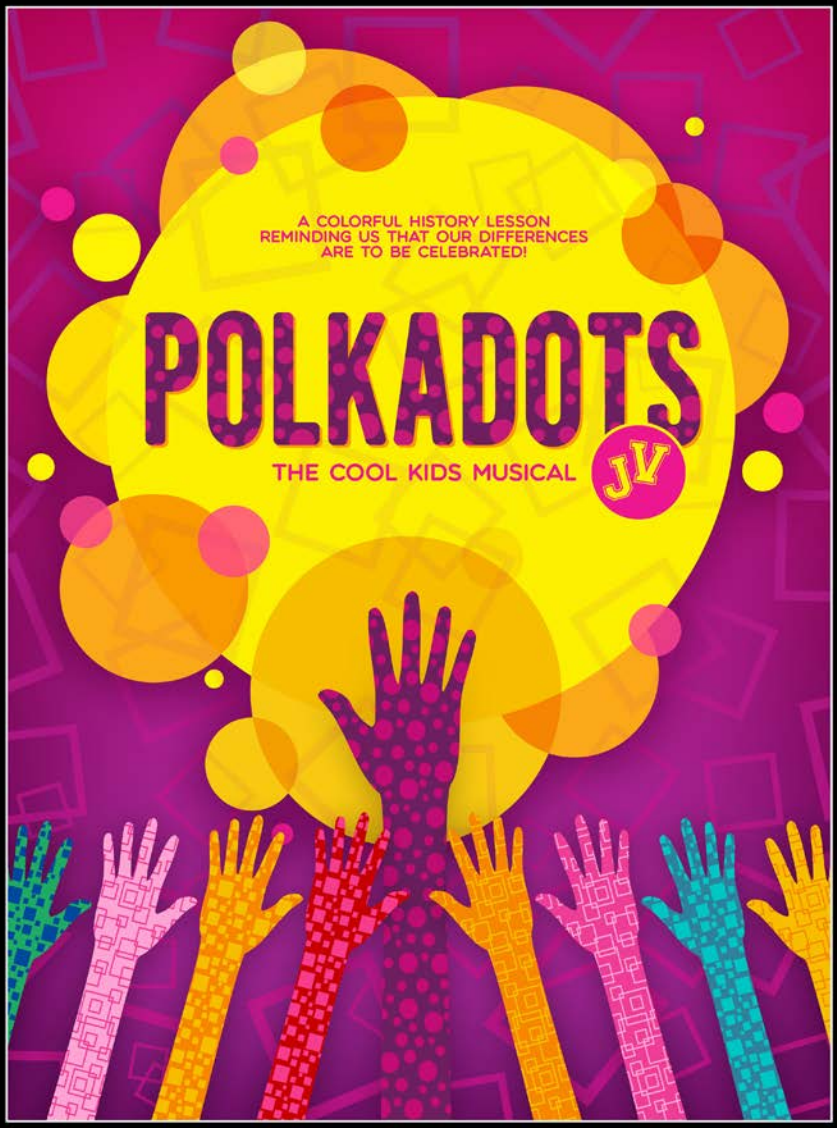


Emma Woolstenhulme

Puck / Egeus

Emma is a high school freshman, currently learning from home, and taking classes at Glendale Community College. She is a singer who loves to write music and play piano, ukulele, and guitar. The next instrument she'd like to try is the bagpipes. This is Emma's second production at SYT, and she's grateful for the opportunity to work with such wonderful people. Emma's favorite past performance was playing Colin in *The Secret Garden* at ACAA. Emma would like to thank her parents for the taxi service to and from the theater.

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

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Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Alixandra Giordano (Hair & Makeup Design)

Ali is thrilled to be returning as Hair & Makeup Designer for Spotlight after doing *Potty Party* earlier this year. She is a student attending Scottsdale Community College studying Graphic Design and Photography. You may have seen Ali on the Spotlight stage many times throughout the years where she appeared in productions *Dog Sees God* (Van's Sister, NYA/'Zoni recipient), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Spring Awakening* and is happy to be working behind the scenes nowadays. She would love to thank Kenny Grossman for the chance to play with Shakespeare, the cast, her family and friends, and Noah for the endless love and support.

Kenny Grossman & Vicki Grossman (Director / 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 / Media Design)

Josh is the Theatre Technology Coordinator at the Mesa Community College Theatre and he has worked as a sound and lighting designer in the Valley since 2014. This is his sixth season designing at Spotlight. He has received fifteen ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence for his sound, lighting, and media designs. You can also find him regularly playing piano for Scottsdale Musical Theater Company. Outside of the theatre, Josh enjoys making music with his friends, his lovely wife Katie, and his sweet dog Jelly (she has a beautiful voice).

Falin Ossipinsky (Choreographer)

Falin is thrilled to be a part of the creative team for this show! Falin started as a performer on the Spotlight stage, then grew into choreography for Spotlight and other theaters around the valley. Some Spotlight choreography credits include *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, Frozen Jr.,* performance troupes Confetti and Celebration, and the upcoming performance group Spotlight Evolution. Many thanks to the Kenny G., Jack, and the cast!

Who's who in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Bobby Sample (Scenic Design / Projection Design)

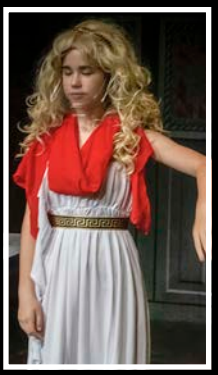
A Midsummer Night's Dream is the 68th production Bobby has worked on at Spotlight. His work this season includes writing, designing and co-directing *The Soul of Frankenstein* at SYT; designing sets and visual media for the following seven shows at SYT, from *Emmett's Art Project* to last month's *Playfest;* and animating the Cheshire Cat and projection effects for the *Curiouser* productions at Theater Works. He thanks everyone in the community for keeping the arts alive even in a year like the last one, especially Kenny, Deb, and all the Spotlight family.

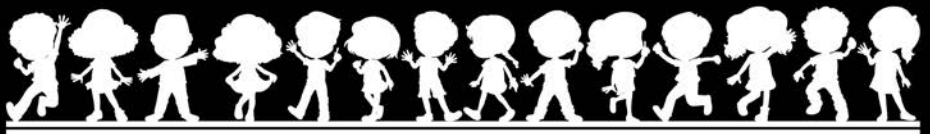
Samantha Essary Utpadel (Costume Design)

Samantha is delighted to be working with the passionate and talented adults and young people at SYT. Favorite credits include: *Green Day's American Idiot* ('Zoni), *Guys and Dolls* ('Zoni nom), *Miracle on 34th Street* ('Zoni), *Macbeth, Bring It On, Mary Poppins, Cabaret* ('Zoni nom), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson,* and *Gypsy.* Much love to my family and to all of you supporting the arts through this unprecedented time.

Josie Wright (Assistant Director)

Josie Wright (19) is thrilled to be back at Spotlight to assistant direct *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* You may have seen her on the Spotlight stage before (most recently as Marcie in *Dogfight),* or on your computer screen with *Cabaret for Change* during quarantine. Outside of SYT, Josie is currently pursuing a BFA in acting at NYU Tisch and is eagerly searching for an extra gig on *Law & Order SVU.* She feels so lucky to have had the opportunity to work with such an incredible cast and production team. Enjoy the show!





EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2021 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

JUNE 1–11 • 9AM–3PM

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

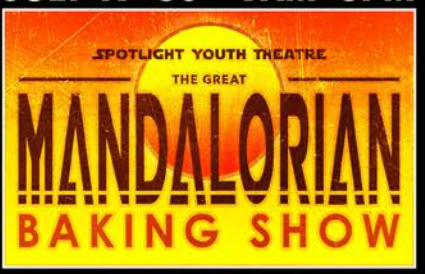
JUNE 14–25 • 9AM–3PM

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 • 9AM–3PM

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 • 9AM–3PM



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

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ANNOUNCING!

Spotlight EVOLUTION

Spotlight Youth Theatre is excited to announce our **NEW** teen performance troupe–**Spotlight Evolution!**

This dynamic group for teens age 13-19 will focus on a variety of music and dance styles while working on intricate harmonies, advanced choreography, and high level performance skills.

Directed by:

Heather Walker, Falin Ossipinsky, & Bella Swope

Meets Mondays, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Monthly Tuition: $55

AUDITIONS

Monday, August 9, 2021

All auditioners should prepare 32 bars (approximately one minute) of a Broadway- or pop-style song that shows off their best voice. Auditioners may bring music on a phone, iPod, or MP3 player. Auditioners will sing during a selected time slot and participate in a separate dance call.

To schedule an audition or for more information, please visit the SYT webpage at **sytaz.org.**

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE ARIZONA

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

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

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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.

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