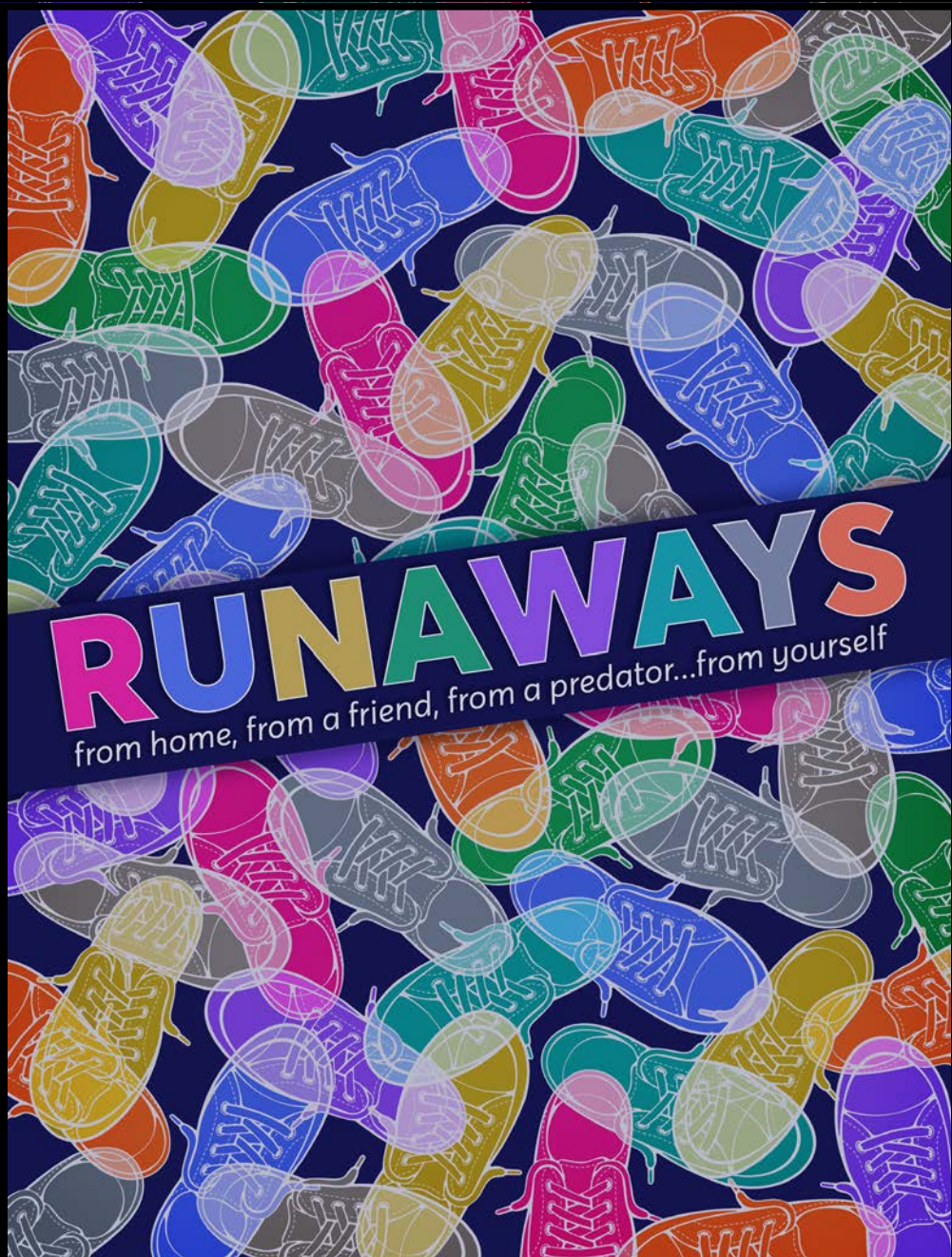


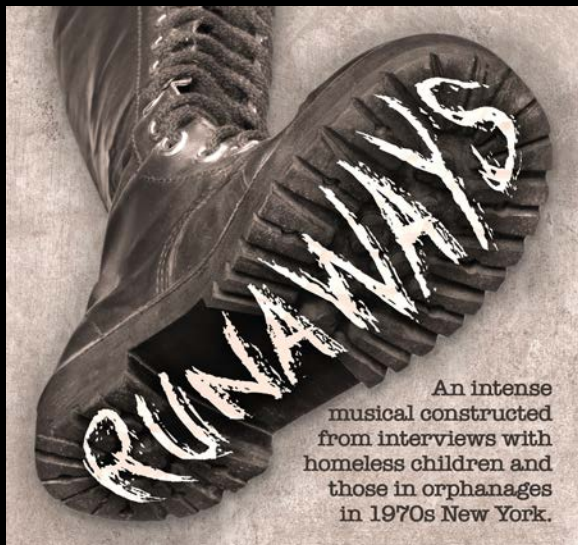
SPOTLIGHT STUDIO

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S BLACK BOX PERFORMANCE SPACE



10820 N. 43rd Avenue • Glendale, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Spotlight Youth Theatre Proudly Presents



An intense
musical constructed
from interviews with
homeless children and
those in orphanages
in 1970s New York.

Book, Lyrics, and Music by: **Elizabeth Swados**

Director: **Kenny Grossman**

Music Director: **Josh Hontz**

Choreographer: **Emily Anderson**

Costume Design: **Samantha Utpadel**

Assistant Director: **Renee Jantz**

Scenic Design: **Company**

Sound Design: **Josh Hontz**

Lighting Design: **Logan Swope**

Show Interpreters: **Erin Worden, Kim Livingston**

Properties Artisans: **Vicki Grossman & Kenny Grossman**

Technician: **Dorry Bailes**

The video taping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

RUNAWAYS is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Spotlight Youth Theatre Administrative Team

Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Kenny Grossman
Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Deb Czajkowski
Graphic Designer & Headshot Photographer	Robert Waller
Social Media Specialists	Katie Czajkowski & Falin Taylor
Webmaster	Bobby Sample
Volunteer Manager	Vicki Grossman
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator	Tammy Waller
Fundraising Committee	Sara Bader, Shelly Boucher, Karen Dolyniuk, Julie Donnack, Elisa Herndon, Sabrina Hurley, Audra Little, Amanda Newton, Jen Parker, Lisa Poormon, Kelly Swope, Tammy Waller, & Barbara Winch

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny, Helen Young** (rehearsal interpreter),
the **Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors**,
and the **friends & family members**
who volunteered to make this show so successful.

Note From the Director

Runaways was nominated for five Tony awards (1978) and paved the way for ground-breaking musicals such as *Rent*. Lin-Manuel Miranda credits Elizabeth Swados (the author) and *Runaways* for directly influencing him and his work on *In the Heights* and *Hamilton*.

Runaways is a unique piece of theater in that it's a collection of songs, dances, and spoken word pieces, performed with no plot or story line and no dialogue. The show was created from interviews with real runaway children and even featured runaways in the Broadway production.

This cast is proud to give a voice, energy, courage, and honesty to the invisible. Elizabeth Swados believed that the spoken word in music is gorgeous. We believe this show is gorgeous. This is not a show about blame; it's a show about listening and understanding. There's a poem at the end of the show where Olivia tells us, "Make laws against regret, otherwise you'd have to start with Adam and Eve." Let's hope one day we can stop creating a world of runaways.

Thank you to Erin Worden, and a special thank you to Renee Jantz from The Phoenix Day School For the Deaf for being one of the most selfless, giving, and caring people I have ever worked with.

Kenny Grossman, Director

The Cast of Runaways

RIVER
ABRAMS-GAY

ADDI
LAUDER

DUCATI
CAMACHO

OLIVIA
MARTINEZ

NOVA
FARRELL

SOPHIA
MENGEL

ANDREI
IGDANES

OWEN
MORRIS

MICHAEL
JARAMILLO

JAY
SCHWAB

ALIX
KNIGHT

SHANE
SEDIYI



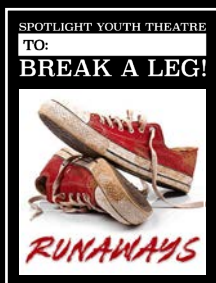
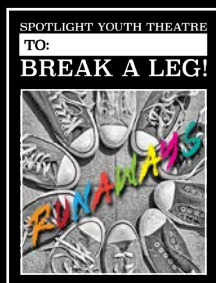
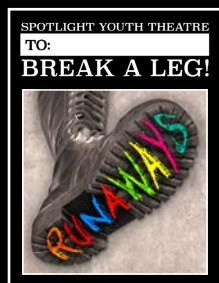
The Runaways Band

Josh Hontz..... Keyboard / Conductor

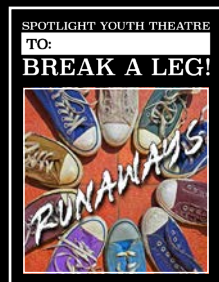
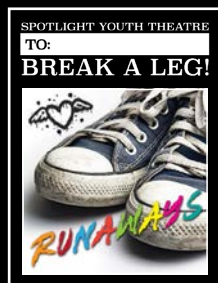
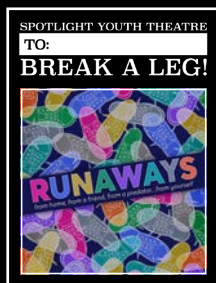
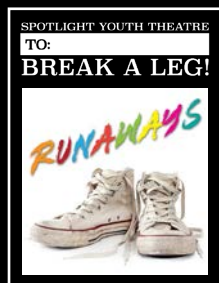
Autumn McClintockBass

Nicolas Viquesney..... Drums

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You can also purchase your
"Break-a-Legs" online
by visiting sytaz.org!

The Cast of *Runaways*



River
Abrams-Gay



Ducati
Camacho



Nova
Farrell



Andrei
Igdanes



Michael
Jaramillo



Alix
Knight

The Cast of *Runaways*



Addi
Lauder



Olivia
Martinez



Sophia
Mengel



Owen
Morris



Jay
Schwab



Shane
Sedivy

Runaways

Spoken Words & Songs

Setting: Everywhere • **Time:** Always

“You Don’t Understand”	River, Addi
“I Had to Go”	Shane, Andrei, Jay
“Faster, Faster, Help”	Andrei, Jay, Sophia, Owen, Olivia, Addi
“This is Very Serious”	Alix
“Where Do People Go?”	Shane, Company
“Footsteps”	Sophia, Addi
“Argument”	Olivia, Michael
“Current Events”	Owen
“Every Now and Then”	Sophia, Nova, Company
“Out on the Street”	Nova, Ducati, River, Company
“Song of a Child Prostitute”	Jay, Andrei
“Asi Quieres Ser Una Puta”	Olivia, Michael
“Fight”	Company
“Heroes”	Michael
“Find Me a Hero”	Olivia, Jay, Addi, Company
“The Undiscovered Son”	Shane, Addi, Andrei, Company
“I Went Back Home”	Jay
“This Is What I Do When I’m Angry”	Alix, Sophia
“The Basketball Song”	Owen, Company
“No Lullabies for Luis”	Owen, Olivia, Company
“Goodnight Mommy / We Are Not Strangers”	Ducati, Addi, Olivia, Company

There Will Be a Fifteen Minute Intermission

“In the Line”	Company
“Lullaby From Baby to Baby”	Addi, Alix, Sophia, Company
“Ready Aim Fire”	Andrei, Shane
“Revenge Song”	Nova, Shane, Alix, Company
“Enterprise”	Olivia, Jay, Andrei, Company
“Sometimes”	Andrei, Owen, Company
“Clothes”	Sophia
“We Are Not Strangers” (Reprise)	Michael, Shane, Sophia, Company
“Graffiti”	Ducati, River, Shane, Addi
“Where Are Those People Who Did Hair”	Owen, Jay, Company
“We Have to Die?”	Addi
“Appendectomy II”	Alix
“Let Me Be a Kid”	Alix, Sophia, Company
“To the Dead of Family Wars”	Olivia
“Lonesome of the Road / Kid” (Reprise & Finale)	Company

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR 2022-2023

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6:00 PM

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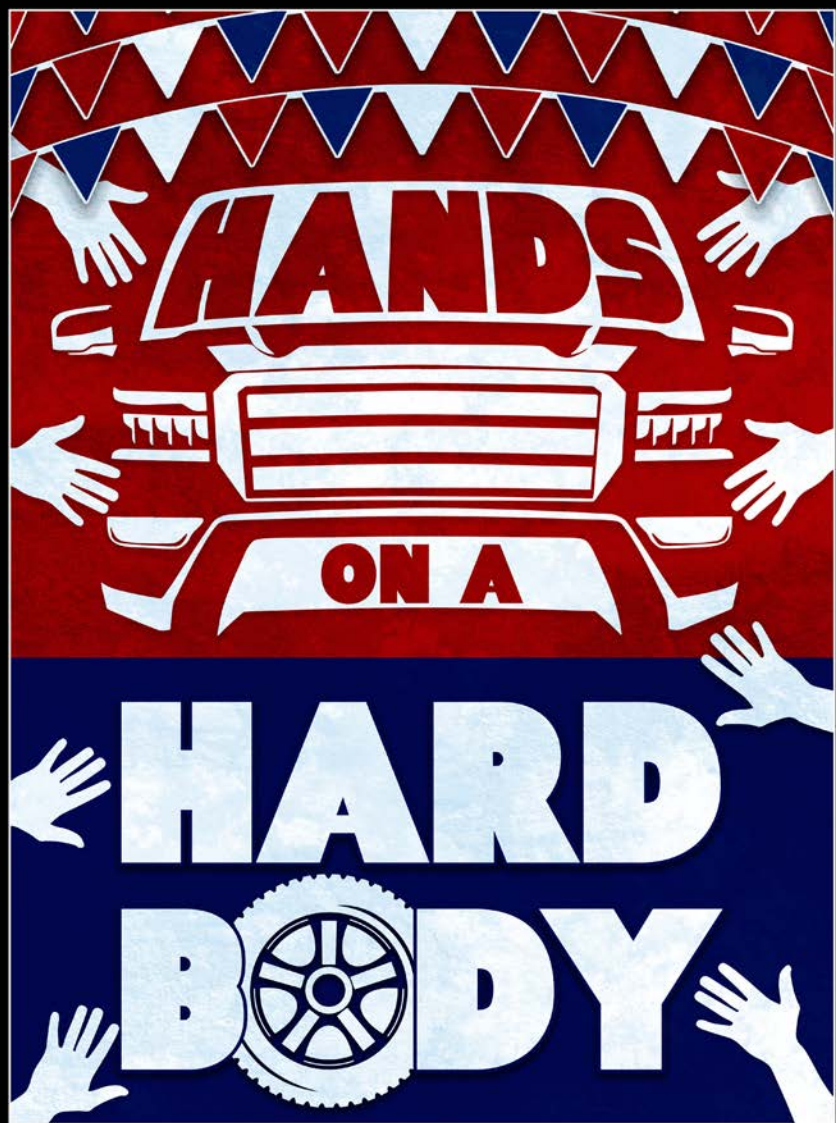


PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BY VISITING:
SYTAZ.ORG/GOBIES

Join us in HONORING the actors, technicians, directors, parents, and volunteers who helped make Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2022-2023 season such a huge success! Every show and actor who performed on the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage is nominated for a coveted "GOBIE" award!

SYT props, posters, and memorabilia will be raffled off! Come celebrate with us!

Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



MAY 19–JUNE 4, 2023

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 2PM
additional 2PM matinees on May 20 & 27

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For more information about fundraising, visit <https://modpizza.com/fundraisers/>

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Who's Who in *Runaways*

River Abrams-Gay (she / they)

River is a junior in Phoenix Day School for the Deaf and is 16 years old. They love animals and loves to bake. They also love acting. The role she got is important to her because she can rise from that experience. She is very grateful to have this role and is very glad to have this opportunity to work with new people and work with the greatest director – Kenny Grossman. She wants to say thank you to Spotlight Youth Theatre and Renee Jantz for helping with all this. Most importantly, she wants to thank her parents for supporting her and taking her to rehearsals. She and Ducati have enjoyed this learning experience with all of you!

Ducati Camacho (he / him)

Ducati is a deaf high schooler, aged 17. He is very glad to have this opportunity to perform on the stage again since 2019. He has loved to be in the spotlight ever since he was little, literally a little kid, because his first show was in 3rd grade as Charlie in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He would like to thank very much Renee Jantz who works hard all days and night to support deaf actors including he and River. He would also like to thank the one and only, Kenny Grossman, for giving he and River an opportunity to feel the warmth of the Spotlight on the stage.

Nova Farrell (they / them)

Nova is delighted to make their SYT debut as a member of this important production! They would like to thank Kenny Grossman for his trust and the opportunity to be a part of it. Nova began acting at age nine, playing roles including Uncle Henry in *The Wizard of Oz*, Betty in *Murder, Actually*, Egeon in *Comedy of Errors (AZHT)*, and Sheldon Potts in *Junie B. Jones Jr.* (TheaterWorks). In between acting roles, they have performed with the Phoenix Children's Choir at events like *Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker* and played piano for a concert hosted by the city of Phoenix. They are grateful to be working with such a wonderful cast and director, who made their first experience here feel like coming home.

Andrei Igdanes (he / him)

Andrei is flabbergasted to be in *Runaways*. He is a freshman in ACAA where he recently played Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*. His favorite past roles include Chiron/Ares in *The Lightning Thief* (SYT), Mike in *Oklahoma!* (SYT), and Paul in *Company* (ACAA). He would like to thank Kenny and the rest of the team for making this show the best it could be. Special thanks to Braiden, Gabriel, and Maléna for being the hottest friends. He thanks his family for amazing support. Enjoy the show!

Michael Jaramillo (he / him)

Michael is 14 and in 8th grade at St. Francis Xavier School in Phoenix, Arizona where he participates in choir, music ministry, and drama. This is Michael's second show at SYT with his first being *The Addams Family*. Recent credits include Kurt in *The Sound of Music* (DST), Nigel in *Matilda the Musical* (VYT – NYA Nominee), and *The Cowardly Lion* (SFX School). He would like to thank Kenny, Josh, and Emily for all their hard work to put this beautiful show together. He would also like to thank his friends and family for all their ongoing love and support to help him achieve his goals. From this show, he hopes you take away that everyone has a story to tell. Enjoy the show!

Who's Who in *Runaways*

Alix Knight (she / her)

Alix is 16 years old, a Sophomore at Cactus High School, and a new actor in Spotlight Youth Theater. She has only participated in school plays, and this is her first time in Spotlight. She likes to draw and talk about the weirdest topics. Big thank you's to her family for being there and for Kenny, Josh, and Emily for putting up with her and teaching her how to be a better actor. By the way, apologies for all the annoying questions, Kenny.

Addi Lauder (she / they)

Addi is a 16-year-old who goes to Thunderbird High School. Some of her favorite roles have been Sophie in *Mamma Mia* at THS, Thalia in *The Lightning Thief* at SYT, and Candy in *Zombie Prom* at THS. Addi would like to thank Kenny, Josh, and Emily for the amazing opportunity to be in runaways. Addi would also like to thank Rachel for reading lines with her, Dorry and Owen for being awesome, and Olivia for getting her into theatre.

Olivia Martinez (she / her)

Olivia is honored to be able to bring this show to life. Recent credits: Eamon/Emcee in *Once* and Emma Borden/Bridget Sullivan in *Lizzie* at Spotlight Studio. Olivia has been stepping into the tech world by light designing *Last Chance Angels* and sound designing *Playfest* both at Spotlight. She'd like to thank Kenny, Josh, and Emily for this opportunity, as well as Sam, Logan, and Vicki. She'd love to thank her biggest supporters: her mom; her dogs, T.J, Maxx, and Bandit; Addi, Andrei, Jay, and Owen. She hopes you leave this show with the compassion to help change the world for our future generations. The world cannot thrive without children. And these kids in this show deserve and demand your attention. Por favor disfruta el espectáculo!

Sophia Mengel (she / they)

Sophia is 15 and is a student at Ironwood High School. She is thrilled to be a part of such an important, unique experience and to work with this amazing group of talented performers. Sophia would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support as well as the show's directors, designers, and other creatives for their efforts and for allowing everyone to contribute something unique to the production. Thank you and enjoy the show!!

Owen Morris (he / him)

Owen is super excited to be in this production. You may have seen him recently as Hud in *Hair* or as Duncan in *Macbeth* at SYT. He would love to thank Kenny and Josh for making this possible. Special thanks to his parents who dealt with the craziness of constant rehearsals and supported him through everything. Enjoy *Runaways*!

Jay Schwab (they / them)

Jay is a 16-year-old Junior at Desert Edge High School and is a member of the Varsity Women's Choir, Thespian Honors Society, and Spotlight's Evolution Performance Troupe. They love all things theater and are thrilled to be back for another production with their Spotlight family! Some of their favorite performances at Spotlight include *Hair*, *Shrek Jr.*, and *Playfest '23*. Jay is grateful to their family for always supporting their passions. They would like to extend a huge thank you to Kenny for giving them this amazing opportunity to perform in this unique and important show.

Who's Who in *Runaways*

Shane Sedivy (he / him)

Shane is new to theater, starring in *Guys and Dolls* as Angie the Ox (ACAA) and now in *Runaways*; but he has also been performing in the Grammy Award-winning Phoenix Boys Choir for almost a decade. He would like to thank his parents, his choir director, Herbert Washington, Kenny Grossman, his friends, his family, and Andrei Igdanes for encouraging him to perform in this show.

Emily Andersen (Choreographer)

Emily is very excited for her Spotlight Youth debut! She has been dancing for 25 years. Here in the Valley, she spent her time at the Southwest Youth Ballet Theater doing shows like the *Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, and the *Sleeping Beauty*. She wants to thank her insane support system!

Kenny & 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 all the productions in this incredible season. Kenny still loves eggs. To Jamie and Carly, "We love you and miss you." Thank you to the cast, crew, directors, designers, families, volunteers, and board members.

Josh Hontz (Music Director)

Josh is the Vice President of Spotlight's Board of Directors and has worked as a sound and lighting designer in the Valley since 2014. He has received twenty-two ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence for his sound, lighting, and media designs. He is also a pianist and plays musical theater and random gigs around town. Outside of show biz, Josh works as a network and systems administrator at Estrella Mountain Community College. Thank you for supporting local theater!

Renee Jantz (Assistant Director)

Renee is a teacher at the Phoenix Day School for the Deaf and has partnered with Spotlight Youth Theatre to support two up and coming young Deaf actors. She has directed/co-directed several Middle School performances at PDSD, however this is her first time working with both Deaf and hearing actors. She wishes to thank Spotlight Youth Theatre for providing this opportunity for Deaf actors.

Logan Swope (Lighting Design)

Logan is very excited to be working on this amazing show. He has been involved in Spotlight productions for over a decade, as an actor, set designer, tech and now lighting designer. He wants to thank Kenny and Josh for always being a support and cheerleader. Enjoy the show!

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), *Once*, *Guys and Dolls* ('Zoni nom), *Miracle on 34th Street* ('Zoni), *The Lightning Thief*, *Cabaret* ('Zoni nom), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and *Gypsy*. Much love to my family including the Princess Aurora!



EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2023 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

JUNE 5-16



In this hilarious parody, a child dreams of becoming the leader of the Super Singing Troupe "The Vicious 10." Assisted by the little yellow Minionz they hired to be their backup singers, they rehearse for the big auditions. The outcome of the auditions can only be decided by the camp actors and the audience, so don't miss it.

JULY 10-21



Back by popular demand! Sing and dance your way through the toughest, most fun, and revolting theatre camp ever! This hilarious parody is guaranteed to be a little bit naughty!

During each session of Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023 Summer Theatre Camp, actors will learn the shows and then perform for families and friends!



Tuition is \$400 per two-week session; \$350 if registered on or before April 30, 2023
M-F 9AM-3PM • Ages 7-18 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available
Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt • Before- and after-care available

To register, please visit sytaaz.org/summer2023

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JUNE 19-30



Join Nevermore Academy's newest student along with a gaggle of monstrous outcasts for the scariest, zaniest, and funnest parody-filled semester of music theatre summer school.

JULY 24-AUGUST 4



The famous singing family, the Sullys, are "Von Trapped" and must exile themselves from the threat of the RDA. Join them in this hilarious parody as they embark on a great adventure across Pandora with fantastic characters, singing, and dancing.



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To register, please visit sytaz.org/summer2023

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Spotlight Youth Theatre's Board of Directors

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Kenny Grossman—Artistic Director
Kevin Parker—Treasurer
Chanel Bragg—Member
Vicki Grossman—Member
Sabrina Hurley—Member
Amanda Newton—Member

Josh Hontz—Vice President
Deb Czajkowski—Managing Director
Karen Dolyniuk—Secretary
Kelly Swope—Member
Heather Walker—Member
Robert Waller—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.



Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2022–2023 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.

Partial funding for Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2022–2023 season provided by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.



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

2022-2023 SEASON



OKLAHOMA!
SEPTEMBER 9 – 25



SHREK JR
OCTOBER 21 – NOVEMBER 6



LAST CHANCE ANGELS
DECEMBER 9–18



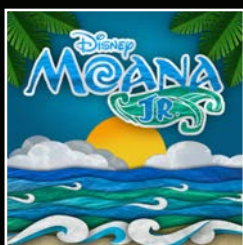
JUNGLE BOOK KIDS
DECEMBER 26–JANUARY 6



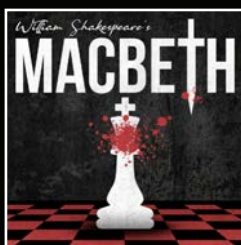
(602) 843-8318
SYTAZ.ORG



ONCE
JANUARY 20–FEBRUARY 5



MOANA JR
MARCH 3–19



MACBETH
APRIL 14–23



HANDS ON A HARD BODY
MAY 19–JUNE 4

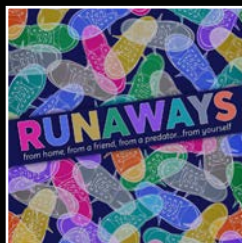
SPOTLIGHT STUDIO PRODUCTIONS:



LIZZIE
OCTOBER 8–23



PLAYFEST '22-'23
FEBRUARY 10–19



RUNAWAYS
APRIL 28–MAY 7

10620 N. 43RD AVENUE • GLENDALE, AZ 85304