PLAYBILL



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS OMETHING September 5-21, 2025 • sytaz.org

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

Spotlight Youth Theatre Proudly Presents

Something Rotten

Book by **Karey Kirkpatrick** & **John O'Farrell**Music & Lyrics by **Wayne Kirkpatrick** & **Karey Kirkpatrick**

Conceived by Karey Kirkpatrick and Wayne Kirkpatrick

Arrangements by Glen Kelly • Orchestration by Larry Hochman

Originally produced on Broadway by **Kevin McCollum**Broadway Global Ventures, CMC Mastro/Goodman, Jerry & Ronald Frankel, Morris Berchard Kyodo Tokyo, Inc. Wendy Federman, Barbara Freitag, LAMS Productions, Winkler/DeSimone, Timothy Kaczynski, Dan Markley Harris/Karmazin, Jam Theatricals ,Robert Greenblatt, and Jujamcyn Theaters

Developed in association with the 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle, WA, David Armstrong, Executive Producer and Artistic Director, Bernadine Griffin, Managing Director, and Bill Berry, Producing Artistic Director

Director: Van Rockwell

Musical Director: Kendra Goodenberger

Choreographer: Bella Swope

Stage Manager: Nicole Blanco

Costume Designer: Samantha Utpadel

Set Designers: Brianna Funk & Becky Funk

Hair & Makeup Designer: Ixy Utpadel

Properties Designer: Kelly Swope

Lighting & Sound Designer: Sarah Ray

Assistant Lighting Designer: Jessi Nessi

Assistant Stage Manager: Lexi McComb

Dance Captain: LillyBelle Lange

Deck Manager: Finley Wilbur

Sound Board Operator: Claire McComb

Light Board Operator: Lucas Stevens

Sound and Spotlight Operator: Griffin Wilbur

Photography, video, or audio recording of this show is strictly prohibited.

The Cast of Something Rotten

Meredith Arends	Portia
David Castro II	Peter Quince, Shylock, Ensemble
Calvin Corey	Nick Bottom
Liam Davenport	Ensemble
Dominic DeMark	
Joash Esmas	Snug, Ensemble
Kendall Fugatt	Ensemble
Lucy Glow	
Emanuel Hana	Minstrel, Ensemble
Eli Hernandez	Francis Flute, Ensemble
Markus JacksonL	ord Clapham, Astrologer, Ensemble
Mayer KillpackEy	e-Patch Man, Messenger, Ensemble
LillyBelle Lange	Ensemble
Reagan Little	Miranda, Ensemble
Angela Lunde	Ensemble
Brooklyn Martin	Nostradamus
Lorna Maynard	Ensemble
Theodore McComb	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Taylor Nunziato-Cruz	aster of the Justice, Valet, Ensemble
Ava Petri	Ensemble
Amaya Read	Helena, Ensemble
Hunter Schneider	Brother Jeremiah
Justis Schneider	
Sydney Stoneberg	Ensemble
Darcy Sylvester	Bea
Harper Thompson	Robin, Ensemble

Spotlight Youth Theatre Administrative Team

Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Kenny Grossman	
Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre		
General Manager for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Jack Taylor	
Graphic Designer, Headshot Photographer, & Webmaster	Robert Waller	
Social Media Specialist	Jack Taylor	
Promotional & Production Photos	Audra Little	
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator	Tammy Waller	
Fundraising CommitteeSara Bader, Shelly Boucher, Karen Dolyniuk, Audra Little,		
Kelly Swor	oe, & Tammy Waller	

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny**, **Cody Goulder**, egg chef **Heather Riddle** for allowing us to borrow her eggs and omelettes, the **Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors**, and the **friends & family members** who volunteered to make this show so successful.

Note from the Director of Something Rotten

Often in community (and professional) theatre, we're pitted against each other; competing for roles, directing gigs, designer seats, and the like. Naturally, Nick's beef with Shakespeare in *Something Rotten* rings true for anyone in the arts. In my angst-filled younger years, I often muttered the same things Nick does: "Why them?" "They're not that great." "Must be nice to be friends with the director." "Phst, I can bribe them with Starbucks too." After a while, though, that kind of bitterness gets old. Then you find your people; a theatre family, and suddenly the process and the building of the art feels more worth it.

So when I first heard of *Something Rotten*, I knew one day I had to direct it. Everyone said, "It's so your humor, Van. You like random stuff, right?" (I guess that's my brand now: chaos with jazz hands?) I mean, how do you say no to a full-blown tap number with dancing eggs and omelets? Or a Puritan character who somehow delivers the most innuendo of anyone on stage? Or a soothsayer who is both hilariously off-base and impossible to ignore? (Kind of like skipping your therapist's advice for the 'deep wisdom' of a teenage tarot reader at a coffee shop. Don't judge. This happened to a friend of mine).

I just knew in my heart of hearts this show is ridiculous and I had to be a part of it. So allow me to formally say, "Welcome to the Renaissance!" (And no, I can't belt it out like these kids can. My vocal range falls between Mr. Moviefone and a kazoo).

But in between omelet tap breaks, there's also a surprising little truth bomb tucked in: Shakespeare's line from *Hamlet*, "to thine own self be true." In a world where reality feels more virtual than real, and where everyone's chasing influencer clout instead of actual connection, that line hits harder than we expect. And I don't know about you, *Something Rotten* sneakily reminds us the importance of simply being ourselves. (Who knew?)

That said, let's not get too philosophical. At its heart, *Something Rotten* is a hilariously unhinged love letter to musicals, theatre, and theatrical cliches; stuffed with Easter eggs and parody for anyone who likes to laugh. If you love musicals, our show is for you. If you hate musicals, our show is for you. If you adore Shakespeare, our show is for you. If you can't stand Shakespeare and STILL have 'war flashbacks' from high-school or college English class... our show is ESPECIALLY for you.

For Shakespeare fans, *Something Rotten* is also a wacky 'spot the Bard' reference game. But let's be real here. If you came here looking for serious Shakespeare, you're about to be sorely disappointed. (But possibly very happy!) But if you're in the mood for a hilarious escape into musical comedy with equal parts sitcom, slapstick, and parody (with a pinch of sarcastic spice), you've come to the right place.

This cast? Unbelievably talented. The design team? Brilliant. The crew? Tireless. Me? Just the guy who put 'director' on his resume with a head-sketch and somehow convinced all these people to follow along. Thank you, all, from the "bottom" (see what I did there!?) of my heart. Enjoy the show.

Van Rockwell, Director

Give Your Favorite Actor, Crew Member, or Director a Break-a-Leg!









For only \$5.00 you can send a personalized Break-a-Leg to your favorite actor or crew member!

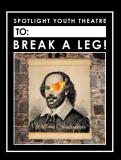
















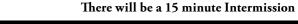
The actors, crew members, and directors love it, and all proceeds are channeled directly back into the theatre to support amazing programs such as this one. Stop by the "Break-a-Leg" table in the theatre lobby to brighten someone's day!

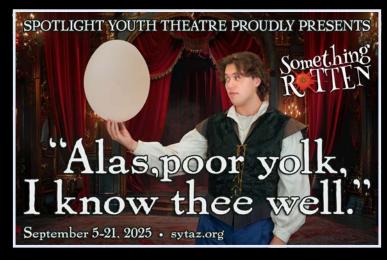
Something Rotten Musical Numbers

ACT I

"OVERTURE"

"Welcome to the Renaissance"	Minstrel and Company
SCENE 2: The Theatre "God, I Hate Shakespeare"	Nick, Nigel, The Troupe
SCENE 3: Outside Nick and Bea's House	
SCENE 4: Nick and Bea's House "Right Hand Man"	
SCENE 5: Soothsayer Alley "A Musical"	. Nostradamus, Nick, Ensemble
SCENE 6: Outside the Theatre	
SCENE 7: The Theatre "The Black Death"	The Troupe
SCENE 8: A South London Street "I Love the Way"	Portia, Nigel
SCENE 9: The Park "Will Power"Shake	speare, Nigel, Portia, Ensemble
SCENE 10: After-Show Party Tent	
SCENE 11: Soothsayer Alley "Bottom's Gonna Be on Top"Nick, Nigel, Bea, Port	tia, Shakespeare, and Company





Something Rotten Musical Numbers

ACT II

"ENTR'ACTE"

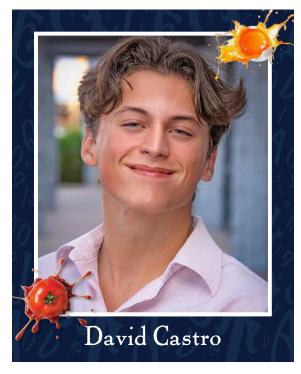
**Welcome to the Renaissance" (Reprise)
SCENE 2: The Theatre "It's Eggs!"
SCENE 3: Under London Bridge "We See the Light"
SCENE 4: The Theatre "To Thine Own Self"
SCENE 5: A South London Street "Right Hand Man" (Reprise)
SCENE 6: On Stage at the Theatre "Something Rotten"
SCENE 7: Courtroom "To Thine Own Self" (Reprise)
SCENE 8: New American Colony "Welcome to America"





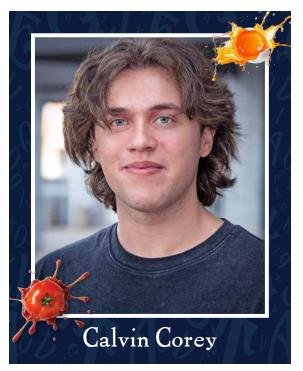
Meredith Arends

Meredith is so excited to be back on the Spotlight Stage playing one of her dream roles! She was last seen at Spotlight as Milky White (Into the Woods Ir.). Recent roles include Amelia (The Clockmaker's Daughter - PVCC), Clarisse (The Lightning Thief - Starlight Community Theater), and Katherine Blake (Freaky Friday - Thunderbird HS). This year, Meredith is a Senior at Thunderbird HS. At school, she is involved in both Theatre Club (Social Chair) and Choir Club (Secretary). Meredith would like to thank Van, Nicole, Kendra, Bella, and all other members of cast and crew for making this production possible! She would also like to give a special shoutout to her family and her best friend of 12 years, Kiki, for always supporting her!



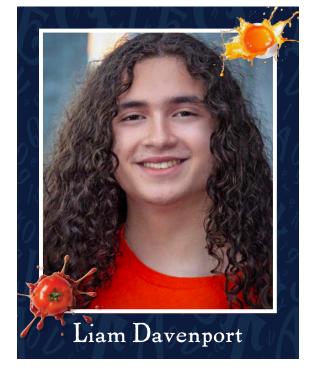
David Castro II Peter Quince, Shylock, Ensemble

David Castro II is an actor attending Mountain Ridge High School and an officer of Thespian Troupe 5511. This is his first time at Spotlight Youth Theatre, and he can only speak highly of their creative process. He has his family to thank for their continued support throughout his theatrical journey and is incredibly proud of the work he and his fellow artists have done on Something Rotten! He would like to thank Van Rockwell for giving him the opportunity to participate in this production, along with Nicole Blanco, Bella Swope, Kendra Goodenburger, Kelly Swope, Kenny Grossman, and the entire creative team who worked on this production for their kind hearts (and patience). David is also known for roles such as Albus Potter in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, as well as King Sextimus in Once Upon a Mattress. If you find any shillings, let him know ASAP. Huzzah!



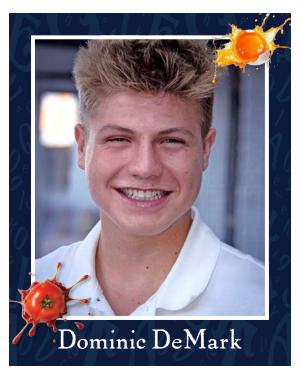
Calvin Corey Nick Bottom

Calvin is ecstatic to play Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten*. It's been a bit since he's done anything at Spotlight so he's glad he got to be in this wonderful show. He is currently in his senior year and attends Mountain Ridge High School Theatre, where he gets to participate in the vocal directing for the school shows. He'd like to thank his friends and family, and he hopes you enjoy the show as much as he does. You might even see him break.



Liam Davenport Ensemble

Liam is a freshman at Millennium High School and is thrilled to return to the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage for another unforgettable production! His passion for performing has led him to favorite roles such as Zeke Matthews in Goosebumps: The Phantom of the Auditorium (SCT), Courfeyrac in Les Misérables (SYT), Bruce in Finding Nemo Jr. (SYT), Santa in Elf Jr. (SYT), Oliver Rivers in Puffs (SCT), and Robertson Ay in Mary Poppins Jr. (SYT). Offstage, Liam enjoys spending time with friends and playing with his lovable Frenchie, Cooper. He's immensely grateful for the unwavering support and love of his family, who inspire him every day. Sit back, relax, laugh, and enjoy the show!



Dominic DeMark Shakespeare

Dominic is thrilled to be returning to Spotlight Youth Theatre. Some of Dominic's favorite roles include Enjolras in *Les Mis* (Spotlight Youth Theater), Mr. McAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* (Do Re Mi School of the Arts), and Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Do Re Mi School of the Arts). Dominic has had a blast working with the AWESOME and HILARIOUS cast!! He would like to personally thank his directors, vocal coach, friends, and family for all their support and sacrifices, especially his mom and pops!! God Bless and enjoy the show!!



Joash Esmas Snug, Ensemble

Joash Esmas plays Snug in Nick Bottom's theatre troupe and is a member of the ensemble. This is his debut show at Spotlight Youth Theatre, and he is incredibly happy to be part of the amazing and talented cast. Outside of theatre, Joash is a violinist, composer, church keyboardist, and game developer. He thanks his family for putting up with his schedule and his friends for convincing him to audition. Enjoy the show!



Kendall Fugatt Ensemble

Kendall Fugatt is very excited to be in Spotlight Youth Theatre's production of *Something Rotten*. Kendall is 17 years old and has been in theater for more than eight years. Kendall has been in two shows at Spotlight, her past roles being Ensemble in *Anastasia* and Ugly Duckling/Knight 1 in *Shrek Jr.*. Kendall has been in *Finding Nemo Jr*, as Dory at Theater Works, as well as numerous other roles. She is so grateful to have been given the chance to work with all these great actors.



Lucy Glow Rosalind, Ensemble

Lucy Glow is a 15-year-old sophomore at Sunnyslope High School in Phoenix and is thrilled to be in her second show with Spotlight! Past credits include Mrs. Gloop in Willy Wonka (Valley Youth Theatre), Winnie the Pooh in A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail (Valley Youth Theatre), Apple seller and Ensemble Annie (Valley Youth Theatre), Sharpay Evans in High School Musical (Sunnyslope High School), and Buster in Groundhog Day (Greasepaint). Lucy enjoys being on the Sunnyslope Cheer and Pom teams, taking voice, acting, piano, and dance lessons, participating in choir, and working out. She is so grateful for the opportunity to be in this incredible show and would like to thank the entire creative team for making it such a rewarding and fun process!



Emanuel Hana Minstrel, Ensemble

Emanuel Hana, a Senior at Mountain Ridge High School, is excited to make his Spotlight debut in *Something Rotten!* Some of his previous roles include Scorpius in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* at MRHS and Chief Tui in *Moana Jr.* at Theater Works! He would like to thank his friends and family for being his biggest supporters (Love you, Mom), along with the cast and crew for being so welcoming! Enjoy the show!!



Eli Hernandez

Francis Flute, Ensemble

Eli Hernandez has been doing theatre all his life. This is his first production with Spotlight Youth Theatre, and he is very excited to be a part of such a fun show as Francis Flute and Featured Ensemble!



Markus Jackson Lord Clapham, Astronomer, Ensemble

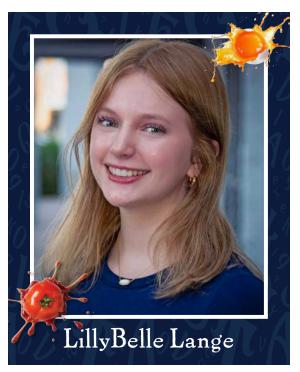
Markus Jackson is thrilled to be a part of Spotlight's first show of the season, *Something Rotten*! This is Markus's 3rd MainStage show at Spotlight. He has performed all over the valley for years; you may have seen him last summer in 13: The Musical (Archie) and recently in The Producers (Rolf/Ensemble). He was also the busboy in Starlight Community Theatre's She Loves Me. Markus would like to give special thanks to his family and the whole production team for their unwavering support and this super exciting opportunity!

@markusjrosendahl



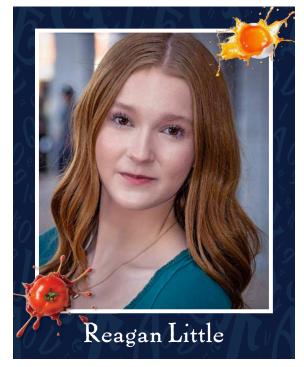
Mayer Killpack Eye-Patch Man, Messenger, Ensemble

Mayer Killpack is very excited to be performing for you tonight. Many long and dedicated nights have been worked diligently by all parties to make the performance you're about to watch. Previous shows he's been in include most productions at Barry Goldwater High School over the past three years. Mayer would like to thank his castmates for being encouraging, supportive, and understanding, and generally very fun people to be around. He'd also like to thank Van, the director, Bella, the choreographer, Nicole, the production manager, and Kendra, the music director, and anyone else who assisted with the show, for their time, effort, and most importantly, patience, throughout the process. And his family and friends, for being there to help him through late nights and commutes. And of course, he'd like to thank you for coming to see the show.



LillyBelle Lange Ensemble

LillyBelle is so excited to be back on the Spotlight stage! She's a junior at Sunrise Mountain. She loves to sing and dance. Recent credits include *Finding Nemo* (Dory), *Lightning Thief* (Ares), 13 & Mary Poppins! She's a member of SoRev at ABT as well. LB would like to thank Van, Bella, Kendra, and Kenny for this opportunity & thanks to this awesomesauce cast and crew! Shoutout to my wonderful coaches, my family & friends too! Thank you for coming to the show, and please support local theater!



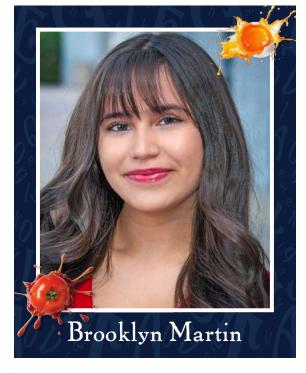
Reagan Little Miranda, Ensemble

Reagan Little, 15, is a sophomore at Mountain Ridge High School and thrilled to be back on the Spotlight stage. Some of her recent credits around the valley include *Hadestown* (Fate 1), Six (Jane Seymour), Mary Poppins Jr. (Bert), 13 (Lucy), Freaky Friday (Ellie), and Shrek Jr. (Pinocchio) — a role that earned her both an NYA Award and an AriZoni nomination. She's also a proud member of AZBT's "Hy-Rev" troupe. Reagan is grateful to Van, Kendra, Bella, Nicole, and the entire creative team for their guidance, and to her family and friends for their constant support. Enjoy the show!



Angela Lunde Ensemble

Angela Lunde is a 16-year-old junior at Sandra Day O'Connor High School and is thrilled to be in her first production at Spotlight! Some of her past shows include *Legally Blonde* (Brooke), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), and *The SpongeBob Musical* (Sandy). She has also been a member of Arizona Broadway Theatre's HyRev for just over a year. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and going out with friends. She would like to thank the entire creative team for this wonderful opportunity, as well as all the friends she's made within the cast. Enjoy the show!



Brooklyn Martin

Nostradamus

Brooklyn Martin is so happy to be back at SYT, performing in a role that's a little wild, a little weird, and a whole lot of fun. Playing a female version of Nostradamus has been an unexpected joy, and Brooklyn is grateful for every opportunity to grow, create, and laugh onstage with this incredible cast. She's been performing since age seven and feels lucky to have played roles like Katherine Howard (Six - SYT), Louise (Carousel - AZ Music Fest), Kathy/Jen (Scrooge! - AZ Theatre Co), and Moana (Moana Jr. - SYT), along with many others across the Valley. Brooklyn dreams of one day performing on Broadway-but for now, she's soaking up every moment of learning, training, and stage time she can get! She sends endless love to her amazing grandparents, who have supported her every step of the way.

Follow her journey @brooklynthetheatregurl.



Lorna Maynard Ensemble

Lorna is so excited to be back up on stage and performing in her third musical at Spotlight. Her previous credits include *The Prom* (Ensemble) and *Anastasia* (Featured Dancer) both at Spotlight. She was also in *Overtones* (Hetty) at Arizona School for the Arts. She would like to thank Van, Bella, Kendra, and Nicole for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing show. She would also like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her in theater.



Theodore McComb Nigel Bottom

Theodore McComb is absolutely thrilled to be back on the Spotlight stage! This is his third show here at Spotlight. He has been in *Elf Jr.* (Fake Santa/Matthews), and *Playfest 2025* (Dad/Helfartë/Ensemble). His favorite roles he's played are Prince Herbert (*Spamalot*) and Marlin (*Finding Nemo Jr.*) He would like to thank his theatre teacher, Mr. Gonzalez, for helping him grow as an actor, and his mom for helping him grow as a person. Enjoy the show!



Taylor Nunziato-Cruz Master of the Justice, Valet, Ensemble

Taylor is a junior attending Sandra Day O'Connor High School and is planning to participate in more theatre this year. Taylor is so excited to be back on stage at Spotlight. It's been seven years since he was on stage in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever and Willy Wonka Jr. This show has been so much fun, and he's had a blast working with everyone. He is looking forward to more shows in the future. He would like to thank his parents for all the support and opportunities they gave him, his friends for helping him feel comfortable getting back into theatre, and all the crew working on and helping create a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and for giving him the opportunity to help create "Something Rotten."



Ava Petri

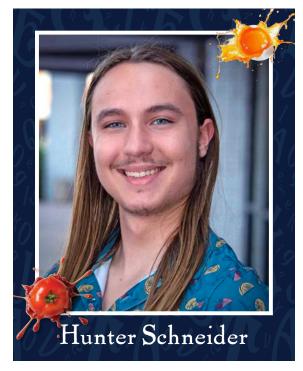
Ensemble

Ava is a senior at Arizona School for the Arts, focused on musical theatre and dance. She's the social media manager for ASA's International Thespian Society. This summer was filled with a Disney Trip with ABT's HyRev teen performance troupe and a Broadway Intensive in NYC with Open Jar. Another highlight was choreographing for the Spotlight Shiz Summer Camp. Ava most recently performed in Oliver! (circus performer ensemble) TheaterWorks, at choreographed the musical Gypsy at ASA, and performed in SYT's productions of The Prom, Anastasia & Les Misérables. Thank you to the SYT staff, cast, and creatives for putting together such a great production. Enjoy the show, and thank you for your support!



Amaya Read Helena, Ensemble

Amaya is happy to be with Spotlight again for *Something Rotten* and can't wait to share this amazing show with you! Big thanks to her cast mates, her family, her friends, and the directing team for their support. Cheers!



Humter Schneider Brother Jeremiah

Hunter is thrilled to be back on the Spotlight stage as Brother Jeremiah! He was most recently in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* right here at Spotlight. He is super excited to be nominated for a Zoni award this year for his role as Borachio. Hunter is a senior this year and is looking at college choices, he plans to major in engineering. Hunter wants to thank Van, the crew and the entire cast for such a wonderful run of this show. Hunter would like to dedicate this show to his late Grandpa; always a supporter and always Hunter's biggest fan.



Justis Schneider Tom Snout, Ensemble

Justis is very excited to be back on the Spotlight stage as Tom Snout and part of the ensemble. She most recently was in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. Justis loves singing, playing the piano, performing with HyRev at ABT, and attending musicals and plays. Justis is a freshman and looking forward to school shows and choir concerts. Justis would like to thank Van for the opportunity, the cast for being amazing, and the crew for keeping it all together for us. Justis is dedicating this show to her Grandpa, who recently passed. He was always here for her and was always the loudest cheerer in the crowd. Please enjoy the



Sydney Stoneberg Ensemble

Sydney is excited to be performing in her second show at Spotlight Youth Theatre. She is 14 years old and in 8th grade at Mountain Trail Middle School. Sydney's most recent roles have been Tina (Goosebumps, Starlight), Emily Hobbs (Elf Jr, SYT), Ursula (The Little Mermaid, DST), Gabriella (High School Musical, Art & Sol), and Madame de la Grande Bouche (Beauty & the Beast, Art & Sol). She would like to thank the creative team and production team who have worked to create an amazing show, and her family for being supportive along the way!



Darcy Sylvester

Darcy Sylvester is thrilled to be playing Bea in this wonderful production of *Something Rotten*! She has been performing and singing for as long as she can remember, with past roles including Fantine (Les Misérables), Rosie (Bye Bye Birdie), and Gertrude (Seussical). She is deeply grateful for the endless support of her family, friends, teachers, and everyone at Spotlight Youth Theatre. "To thine own self be true"... and enjoy the show!



Harper Thompson Robin, Ensemble

Harper is so excited to be bringing this "Rotten" show to the Spotlight Stage this Fall! Favorite Credits Include: Oompah Loompah in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Starlight Community Theatre), Marlin in *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Spotlight Youth Theatre), and Eddie in *13! The Musical* (Starlight Community Theatre). Thank you to Van, Kendra, Bella, Nicole, and Kenny for this amazing opportunity to bring Robin to life! Special Thanks to Mom, Dad, Eli, Aidan, Maddie, Mamaw, Papaw, Nana, Shonn, and Renee for all of their love and support. Welcome to the Renaissance!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE DEMON HUNTERS

A MUSICAL DANCE PARTY FOR ALL AGES

FRIDAY, OCT. 3, 2025 6-9 PM

TICKETS: \$20 • There will be plenty of food, drinks, and swag available (not included in ticket price.)



Come sing and dance to the wickedest K-Pop, Beetlejuice, Little Shop, and Rocky Horror songs – and many more.

Dress up as your favorite Demon, Ghost, K-pop star or anybody else.

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

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

Van Rockwell (Director)

Van Rockwell is delighted, and beyond grateful, to be making his Spotlight directing debut with such a stellar group of performers and designers.

Prior directing credits include Done To Death (AriZoni nominee), God's Favorite, Exit Laughing, Drinking Habits, and Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act for Don Bluth Front Row Theatre; First Date: The Musical, Some Girl(s), The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged & Revised), and The Importance of Being Earnest for Scottsdale Desert Stages Theatre; Arsenic & Old Lace, She Loves Me, Much Ado About Nothing, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, Four Weddings and an Elvis, A Murder Is Announced, and You Can't Take It With You for Starlight Community Theatre; Made In America and Dracula in Tombstone for Ronin Theatre Company, Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!) for Fountain Hills Theatre; Mean Girls: The Musical for Actor's Youth Theatre; Bring It On: The Musical, Bonnie & Clyde, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (AriZoni nominee), and Miss Nelson is Missing (AriZoni Winner) for Limelight Performing Arts; The Curious Savage and The Unexpected Guest for Sun City Grand Drama Club; She Kills Monsters, Boys Gets Girl, and Jesus Hopped The A-Train for Mesa Encore Theatre; and Blacklisters for Brelby Theatre Company.

When not on stage or directing, Van is a SHRM Certified HR Professional who works in higher education. And when he's not working, Van is listening to too much music and looking for the next best dad joke he can use in casual conversation.

Thank you, Kenny and Vicki, for the opportunity; as well as Nicole, Kendra, Bella, Samantha, Ixy, Kelly, Brianna, Becky, Sarah for being the best Creative Team a guy like me could ask for; my mom and pop (RIP) for raising me to enjoy, and encouraging me to participate in, any capacity of the theatre and stage; my pet kids Murphy, Darcy, and Carmen Sandiego; and the cast of delightful and clever human beings who made it all possible.

Nicole Blanco (Stage Manager)

Nicole Blanco is excited to make her debut at Spotlight! Nicole has been a stage manager, director, designer and actor in the valley for over 15 years. Nicole's credits include *Goosebumps The Musical, 101 Dalmatians Kids, Loving Lives* (Zoni Nominated) all directing at Spotlight Community Theatre, *Finding Nemo Jr* and *Seussical Jr*, directing at Desert Stages Theatre Company, along with many more. She was last on stage at Starlight Community Theatre as Grandma Josephine in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and Desert Foothills Theatre Company in *Freaky Friday* as Professor Bluman and Hannah's Mom. Nicole would like to thank Kenny and Van for this opportunity. Kelly for helping out A LOT. Along with her daughter Marlene, husband Armando and her fur babies Argos, Oakley and Loki.

Becky Funk (Co-Set Designer)

This is Becky's sixth set design project with Spotlight Youth Theatre. She previously designed *Finding Nemo Jr, Elf Jr, Anastasia*, and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr*. She is the Assistant Director for Imagine Theater Company and has been the scenic painter for many shows. She has loved working with Spotlight again on this production. She wants to thank her family for all their love and support.

Brianna Funk (Co-Set Designer)

Brianna is excited to be working with Spotlight again on *Something Rotten*. She previously was the set designer for *Finding Nemo Jr The Musical, Elf Jr the Musical, Shrek*, and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr*, to name a few. A special thanks to Kenny and Spotlight Youth Theatre for always making theater accessible to all. Love to her family, especially her husband, Travis, who gets roped into her crazy theater hijinks! Just keep swimming and enjoy the show!

Kendra Goodenberger (Music Director)

Kendra Goodenberger is thrilled to have gotten to music direct *Something Rotten!* Kendra has music directed multiple camp shows at Spotlight Youth Theatre, but this is her first music directing gig that's part of the season, and she's so excited! She has been involved in musical theatre since she was five years old, and is deeply passionate about music. Currently, she is working on her Associate's degree in Music Education at Glendale Community College (the only accredited music program at a community college in Arizona!)

Kendra is very proud of the cast of Something Rotten! and all of the hard work they put in towards this show. She'd like to thank her father, Ken Goodenberger, who has inspired her and encouraged her to pursue Music Directing as a career. Gosh it smells like eggs in here...

Lexi McComb (Assistant Stage Manager)

Lexi is so excited to be a part of her first Spotlight production. In the past, she's worked as the Assistant Stage Manager and various tech roles at her school. She also serves on the theater council as the Historian. At TheaterWorks, she had the privilege of working on the deck crew and doing sound/media on various shows. She hopes to do more Spotlight productions in the future.

Sarah Ray (Lighting & Sound Designer)

Sarah is the Lighting and Sound Designer for *Something Rotten*. He has helped other shows like *Playfest* and *Elf JR*., and hopes that you enjoy the show! :)

Kelly Swope (Properties Designer)

Kelly is excited to be a part of this fun production. She is a regular here at SYT, serving on the fundraising committee and the board, as well as participating in shows in a variety of ways, so you have probably seen her around. She has had a blast with this show and the amazing cast and crew! Enjoy the Show!

Bella Swope (Choreographer)

Bella Swope is a 21-year-old Phoenix-based choreographer who grew up doing theater around the valley. She is beyond thrilled to be making her way back to Spotlight to choreograph this production. Some of her past credits include 13 The Musical, Finding Nemo Jr. (Spotlight Youth Theatre), and The Lightning Thief Musical (Starlight Community Theater). She would like to thank Kenny Grossman for giving her this opportunity, as well as Van Rockwell, Kendra Goodenberger, and Nicole Blanco for their help and encouragement through this process. She would also like to thank the cast and crew for their devotion to Spotlight as well as this show.

Ixy Utpadel (Hair & Makeup Designer)

Ixy Utpadel is excited to be a small part of this production! She is a local theatre designer, actress, and professional cookie baking enthusiast. Her previous design credits include *Newsies* (2024 ariZoni winner), *Anastasia* (dir. Don Bluth), *Leading Ladies, Theater Works' A Christmas Carol*, and *Into the Woods*. Ixy will always be grateful to Kenny Grossman and SYT for opening their doors to her in 2008. She is even more grateful to her mother for giving her the theatre bug in the first place.

Samantha Utpadel (Costume Designer)

Samantha Essary Utpadel has been costuming shows around the Valley for over 15 years. Recent work with SYT: Hadestown Teen Edition, Much Ado About Nothing and 13 The Musical. Favorite credits include: Green Day's American Idiot ('Zoni), Once, Guys and Dolls, Miracle on 34th Street ('Zoni), Cabaret, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, and Gypsy. Thanks to the SYT team for creating a supportive, welcoming, and fun environment to explore the arts. Very excited to officially design a show alongside my amazing and multi-talented daughter Ixy. Much love to all my family, especially Aurora and Charlie.

How Are We Doing?

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

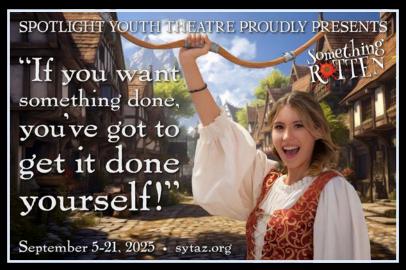
Please take a moment to complete our online survey. Your responses are greatly appreciated.

Please scan the code or type the link into any internet browser.

https://bit.ly/SYTSurvey



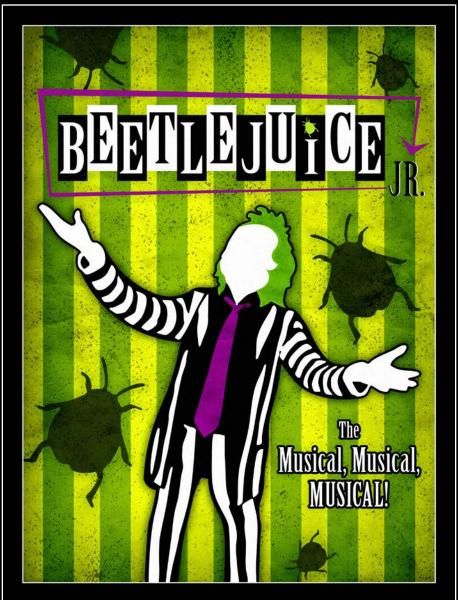








Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



OCTOBER 17-NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 2PM additional 2PM matinees on October 25 & November 1

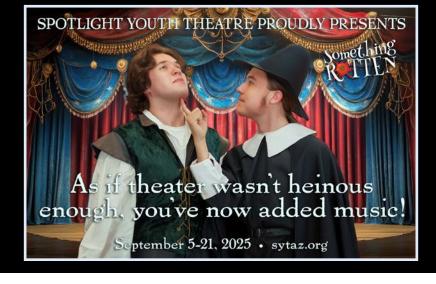
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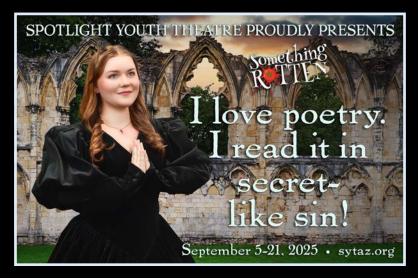












Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



DECEMBER 5–21, 2025

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 2PM additional 2PM matinees on December 13 & 20

SP TLIGH YOUT THEAT

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

AUDITION



THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER: THE MUSICAL

The story of the unruly Herdman children, known as the "worst kids in the history of the world," who unexpectedly disrupt the church's annual Christmas pageant. As they prepare for their roles, they discover the true meaning of Christmas and, in turn, help the community see the Nativity story through new eyes.

Directed by Nicole Blanco

Musical Direction by **Heather Walker**

Choreography by Ada Poormon

Production Dates:

December 5—21, 2025

Ages: 8-19

We welcome performers of all ethnicities, gender identities, and body types.

Audition dates: Sunday, October 19, & Monday, October 20, at 6:00PM

Callbacks: Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 5:30PM

Mandatory Parent Meeting: Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 12:30PM

Requirements:

- Complete the online audition form.
- Please come prepared to sing 32 bars (about 90 seconds) of a fun holiday song that shows off your singing talent (please, no a cappella or sheet music, tracks only.)
- Please come prepared with a one minute character-driven monologue of your choice.
- Headshot and resume required.

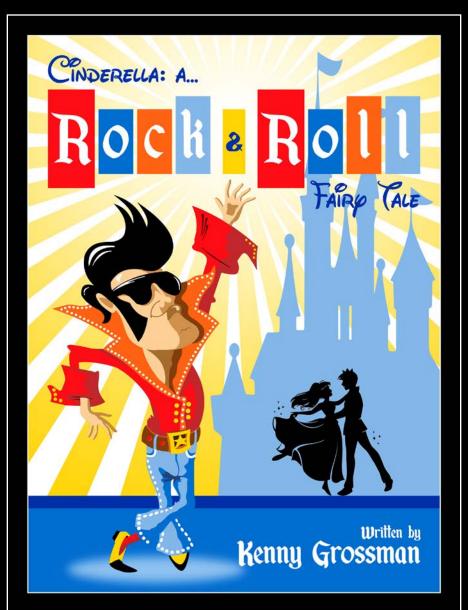
Video auditions:

- Complete the online audition form.
- Email kenny@sytaz.org by 9:00PM on Sunday, October 19.
- Include your name and audition video (linked or attached to email.)
- In-person callbacks are mandatory.

See complete audition requirements and link to register at

sytaz.org/best-christmas-pageant-ever-musical-2025

Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



SPOTLIGHT HOLIDAY CAMP

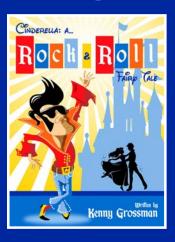
DECEMBER 22, 2025 – JANUARY 2, 2026 Performances: January 2 & 3, 2026

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

AUDITION



CINDERELLA: A ROCK-N-ROLL FAIRY TALE

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP SHOW

Join us as Cinderella, the Prince (formerly known as Prince), the King, Queen, and a host of other rock-n-roll stars take us on a magical and hysterical rock-n-roll re-telling of the classic tale.

Holiday Workshop Dates & Times:

December 22, 2025—January 2, 2026 Monday—Friday, 9:00AM—4:00PM (off Christmas Day) Show performances:

- Friday, January 2, at 5:00PM
- Saturday January 3, 2026, at 11:00AM

This is a no-cut program—Every kid is welcome and gets a part in the show!

Ages: 8-18 • Tuition: \$250

Mandatory Parent Meeting: Monday, December 22, 9:00—9:30 AM

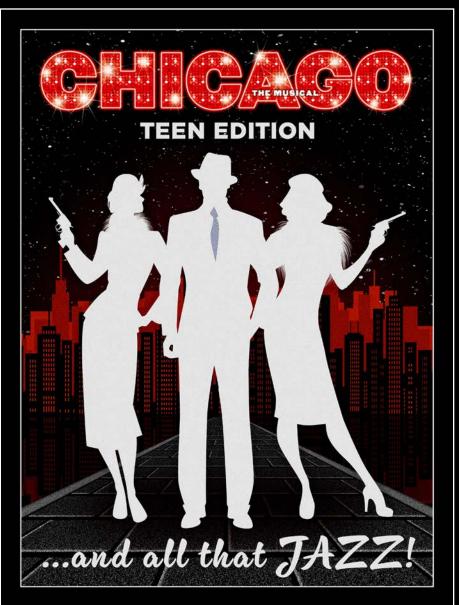
There will be callbacks held on the first day.

For the callbacks, please learn the song, "Saying Goodbye (Reprise)" available on the Spotlight Youth Theatre website:

sytaz.org/cinderellaa-rock-and-roll-fairy-tale-2025

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Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



JANUARY 16-FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 2PM additional 2PM matinees on Jan. 24 & Jan. 31

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

AUDIT



CHICAGO: TEEN EDITION

In "Roaring Twenties" Chicago, Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap... until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the "American Dream": fame, fortune, and acquittal.

Directed by **Christina Clodt & Joshua Hengst**Musical Direction by **Ken Goodenberger**Choreography by **Katie Czajkowski**

Production Dates:

January 16—February 1, 2026

Ages: 13-19

We welcome performers of all ethnicities, gender identities, and body types.

Audition dates: Sunday, November 9, & Monday, November 10, at 6:00PM

Callbacks: Tuesday, November 11, at 5:30PM

Mandatory parent meeting and first rehearsal: **Saturday, Nov 15, at 12:30PM** Requirements:

- Complete the online audition form.
- Please come prepared to sing 32 bars (about 90 seconds) of an appropriate style, character-driven song of your choice. (Absolutely no a cappella, please. Sheet music or backing tracks only.)
- Headshot and resume required.

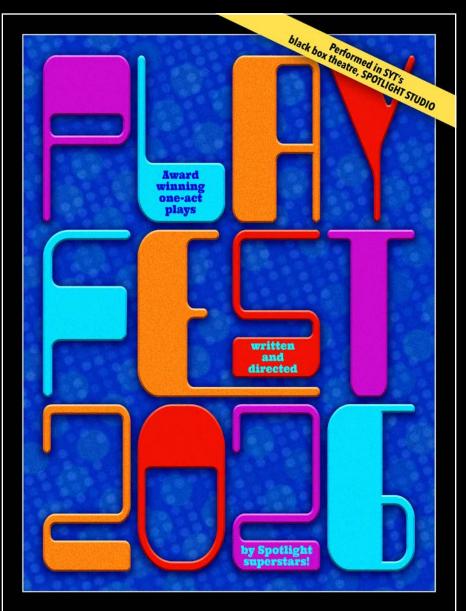
Video auditions:

- Complete the online audition form.
- Email kenny@sytaz.org by 9:00PM on Sunday, November 9.
- Include your name and audition video (linked or attached to email.)
- In-person callbacks are mandatory.

See complete audition requirements and link to register at

sytaz.org/chicago-teen-edition

Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



APRIL 17-APRIL 26, 2026

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM Saturdays & Sundays at 2PM



Spotlight Studio • 10820 N 43rd Ave, Suite 9 • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Calling young playwrights!

SPOTLIGHT PLAYFEST 2025-'26 YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS' COMPETITION



Here's your chance to create a short, original youth theatre play for actors ages 8-19, with the ultimate goal of seeing it brought to life on the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage.

All participating playwrights – not just the winners – will have the opportunity to receive feedback, tips, and guidance from Spotlight's award-winning dramatists.

Winners of the **PLAYFEST** competition will receive a \$100 prize and will have their play fully produced on the Spotlight stage!

- The entry period is September 8, through October 10, 2025
 - Winners will be announced on October 27, 2025

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS:

- · Playwrights must between the ages of 13-to-24.
- · Playwrights must reside in the Phoenix metropolitan area.
- There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$5 per script. All entrants will receive
 a response from us with a review of your work.
- Playwrights may work as teams, but only a single \$100 prize will be awarded for each winning play.
- The running time of the play must be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 25 minutes.
- The play must NOT be based on any licensed or copyrighted works.
- The play must take place in one location OR allow the use of a single set to creatively show changes of setting without having to move large set pieces.

SP TLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE A R I Z O N A

For complete details and to submit your script, please visit the SYT webpage:

sytaz.org/playfest-competition

YOUNG ACTORS THESPIAN COMPANY

a theatrical adventure for aspiring young performers



SEP 13 - NOV 15, 2025

Saturdays from 10AM-Noon

Ages 5 to 9

All kids and experience levels are welcome!

Tuition: \$250

It is never too early to start musical theatre!

This program will teach kids the core elements of Musical Theatre including singing, dancing and acting.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's YOUNG ACTORS THESPIAN COMPANY will encourage kids to explore their creativity and imagination in an ensemble–based setting, and will give them an appreciation and understanding of the theatre stage.



Two for the Show: The Little Red Hen & Three Billy Goats Gruff

Performers will shine as adorable farm animals, fluffy forest creatures, or the territorial "mean and nasty" troll as they present two classical tales: The Little Red Hen and Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Rehearsals will be held every Saturday in the Spotlight Studio from 10AM—Noon. Final performances on Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, 2025, at 1PM.

For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit our website. Spotlight Studio • 10820 N 43rd Ave • (602) 843–8318 • sytaz.org

YOUNG ACTORS THESPIAN COMPANY

a theatrical adventure for aspiring young performers



MAR 7 – MAY 9, 2026

Saturdays from 10AM-Noon

Ages 5 to 9

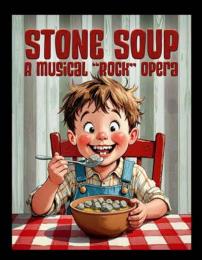
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It is never too early to start musical theatre!

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Spotlight Youth Theatre's YOUNG ACTORS THESPIAN COMPANY will encourage kids to explore their creativity and imagination in an ensemble–based setting, and will give them an appreciation and understanding of the theatre stage.



Stone Soup: A Musical "Rock" Opera

Based on the classic folktale, this musical "Rock" opera is sure to be a tasty journey.

This wonderful story about community, sharing, and working together is just the recipe for singing, dancing, acting and fun.

Rehearsals will be held every Saturday in the Spotlight Studio from 10AM—Noon. Final performances on Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10, 2026, at 1PM.

For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit our website. Spotlight Studio • 10820 N 43rd Ave • (602) 843–8318 • sytaz.org

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE



SINGING AND DANCING TROUPE • 2025-2026 SEASON

THREE EXCITING 10-WEEK SESSIONS

SIGN UP FOR 1, 2, OR ALL 3 SESSIONS!

EACH SESSION INCLUDES TROUPE T-SHIRT AND PERFORMANCE FINALE!

SYT COMPANY

Director: Heather Walker • Choreographers: Falin Taylor, Ada Poormon, & Katie Czajkowski
Ages 9 to 19 • \$250 per session • \$600 for all three sessions

SPARKLES

Director: Haley Kennedy

Ages 5 to 8 • \$175 per session • \$420 for all three sessions

SESSION 1: "SPOTLIGHT ACROSS AMERICA"

Broadway songs from New York to Oklahoma to California!

August 11 to October 20, 2025

SYT Company: Mondays 5:30–8:30 PM. (Off on 9/1) Sparkles: Wednesdays 4:30–5:30 PM. (Off on 9/3)

SESSION 2: "THE OZ TRILOGY"

Featuring songs from The Wizard of Oz, The Wiz, and Wicked!

November 3, 2025 to February 2, 2026

SYT Company: Mondays 5:30–8:30 PM. (Off on 11/24, 12/22, 12/29, 1/19) **Sparkles:** Wednesdays 4:30–5:30 PM. (Off on 11/26, 12/24, 12/31, 1/21)

SESSION 3: "BROADWAY VILLIANS REVUE"

It's fun to sing Broadway heroes, but even more fun to sing and dance Broadway villians!

February 23 to May 14, 2026

SYT Company: Mondays 5:30–8:30 PM. (Off on 3/16) **Sparkles**: Wednesdays 4:30–5:30 PM. (Off on 3/18)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP FOR SYT COMPANY, PLEASE VISIT SYTAZ.ORG.

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

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The only theatre and arts website that features:

- detailed listings for over 30 theatre companies in the Valley
 - a daily performance calendar
 - news, reviews, and photos
 - ticket offers, cast notices. audition listings, and more!



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Scan here to visit Spotlight Youth Theatre's Fundraising Page



Iamie Dillon Grossman

VOICE TEACHER

VOCAL LESSONS TAUGHT OVER ZOOM IN
THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

Email: jamiedillon1993@gmail.com

Website: jamiedillongrossman.com







Please sign up your Fry's VIP Card with Spotlight Youth Theatre!

Go to http://www.fryscommunityrewards.com

Step 1: Create an Online Fry's Account

Step 2: Register for the Fry's Community Rewards Program Enter **KL095** for Spotlight Youth Theatre

You will know you registered correctly if you see **Spotlight Youth Theatre** listed under "Community Rewards" on your Account Summary page!



LEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSOR

Spotlight Youth Theatre's Board of Directors

Kelly Swope—President
Kenny Grossman—Artistic Director
Kevin Parker—Treasurer
Chanel Bragg—Member
Vicki Grossman—Member
Robert Waller—Member

Shelly Boucher—Vice President
Deb Czajkowski—Managing Director
Jack Taylor—Theatre Manager
Karen Dolyniuk—Secretary
Heather Walker—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:

- 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 theatre 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 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 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.

Partial Funding of Spotlight Youth Theatre's Programs Provided by:



















Spotlight Youth Theatre would like to thank these funders for their generous support. They play an essential role in helping us create a safe, welcoming space where youth can learn and grow.



Break a Leg, Not the Bank

SUPPORTING THE ARTS AND YOUR FINANCIAL JOURNEY.

Without you, our story would be a short one.

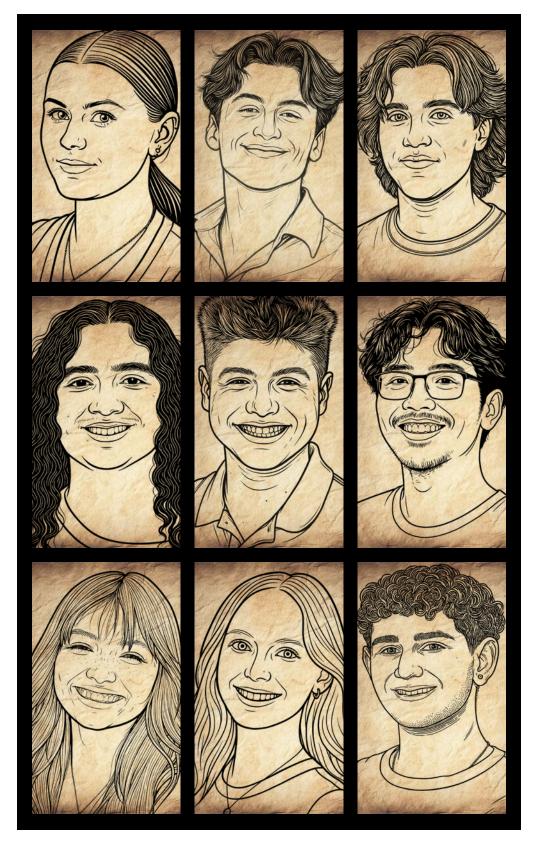
Desert Financial members enable us to donate to arts organizations around Arizona and spotlight countless Random Acts of Kindness along the way.

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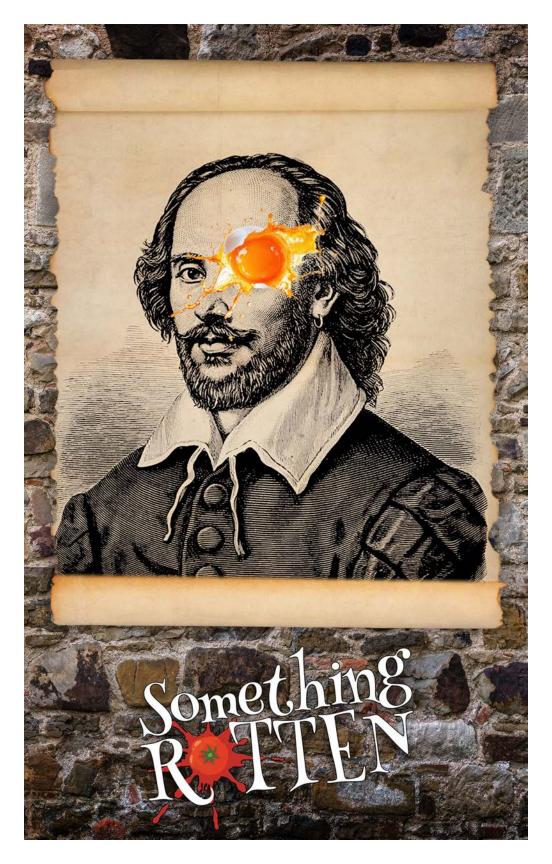


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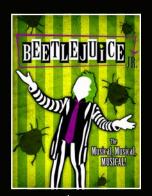


SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

2025-2026 SEASON



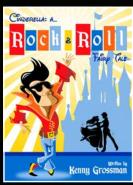
Something Rotten
SEPTEMBER 5— 21



Beetlejuice Jr.
OCTOBER 17 — NOVEMBER 2



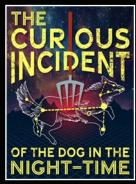
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever DECEMBER 5 - 21



Cinderella: A Rock & Roll Fairy Tale DECEMBER 22 — JANUARY 2



Chicago: Teen Edition
JANUARY 16 — FEBRUARY 1



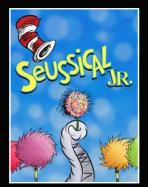
Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time FEBRUARY 7 — 16



Ride the Cyclone: The Musical March 27 — April 12



Playfest 2026 APRIL 17 — 26



Seussical Jr.
MAY 22 — JUNE 7