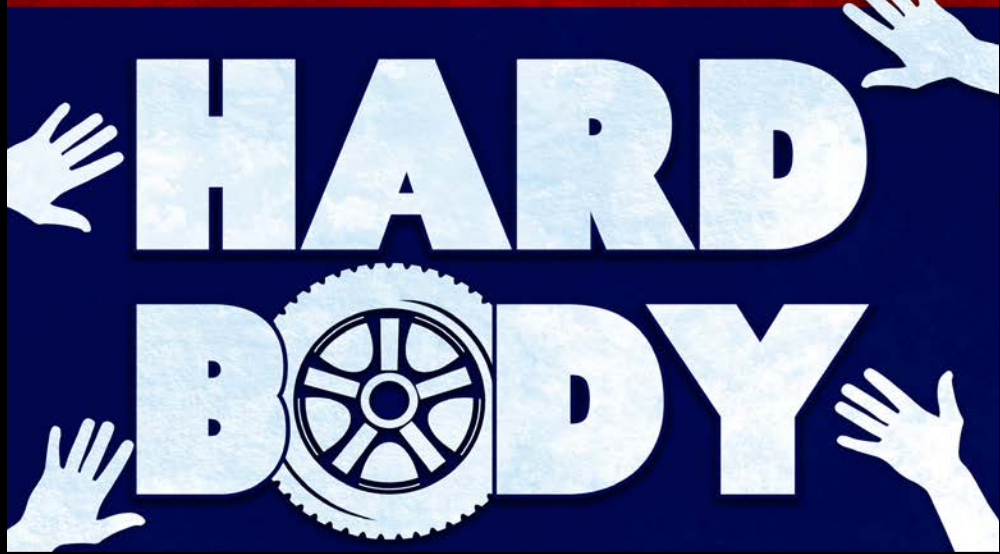


SPOTLIGHT



YOUTH THEATRE



Spotlight Youth Theatre Proudly Presents



Book by

Doug Wright

Lyrics by

Amanda Green

Music by

Trey Anastasio & Amanda Green

Director: **Renee Koher**

Music Director: **Elise Kurbat**

Choreographer: **Stephen Hohendorf**

Stage Manager: **Maria Cruz**

Scenic Design: **Amber Suding**

Costume Design: **Heather Riddle**

Lighting Design: **Ellie Little**

Sound Design: **Nevaeh Monk**

Technical Coordinator: **Josh Hontz**

Hair & Makeup Design: **Renee Koher**

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

Sound & Spotlight Operator: **Owen Morris**

Light Operator: **Elsie Donsker**

Deck Manager: **Zeke Brothers**

Microphone Operator: **Amber Suding**

Tech Swing: **Olivia Martinez**

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny, Steven Abusch of The Playgroup Theatre,**
the **Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors,**
and the **friends & family members**
who volunteered to make this show so successful.

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

HANDS ON A HARDBODY is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

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Note From the Director

Hands on a WHAT???

That is exactly what I thought when I first heard the title of this show! In all honesty, it was not my favorite, nor did I have any intention of ever directing it. When Kenny originally approached me about directing a show this season, *HOAHB* was the show I didn't want to direct—Any one but that one! Well, karma smacked me in the face, and it was the only one I was available for. At that moment I vowed to fall in love with this show, and fall in love I did.

HOAHB is so much more than I ever expected it to be. It is not about a stupid contest in Texas, it is so much more. It is about humanity, grief, love, and the trials and tribulations of real people who chose to go through a grueling contest to help better their lives and the lives of their families. The perfect plot for a musical.

HOAHB is based off of a 1997 documentary of the same name by S. R. Bindler, (and for curious minds can still be found on YouTube) that follows a real life contest in Longview, Texas, where people would keep their hands on a truck for as long as they could. The last person standing wins the truck. They would face heat, rain, sleep deprivation, and hours upon hours of standing. It was not necessarily a test of the physically fit, but who had the mental stamina to come out on top. *HOAHB* came to the stage in 2012, debuting at La Jolla Playhouse. With a book by Doug Wright and Music and Lyrics by Amanda Green and Trey Anastasio, it enjoyed a short run on Broadway in 2013, and has continued to be presented regionally.

As a director, this show has been one of my biggest challenges. How do you create engaging scene work and choreography, when the cast has to keep their hand on a truck the whole time?! We explored the idea of conscious verses subconscious, and artful ways to use the truck in movement to help tell the story. The truck is indeed its own character.

I could not be more proud of this incredible cast. They are a force of talent and each of them brings honor to the real-life humans they are portraying. They leave nothing but truth, understanding and love on the stage. We have had a wonderful time bringing this story to life and we hope you enjoy *Hands On A Hard Body*.

Renee Koher, Director

The Cast of *Hands on a Hardbody*

J.D. Drew	Calvin Corey
Kelli Mangrum	Mia Hurley
Benny Perkins	Owen Donsker
Greg Wilhote	Declan Massey
Chris Alvaro	TJ Brumbaugh
Ronnie McCowan	Anyiah Smith
Heather Stovall	Zoey Waller
Virginia Drew	Wardeh Rose Hanna
Mike Ferris	Ian Gray
Cindy Barnes	Malena Martinez
Jesus Peña	Juliana Duran Sanchez
Norma Valverde	Lauren Youngstedt
Janis Curtis	Lyda Armistead
Frank Nugent	Braiden Lee
Don Curtis	Adam Kurbat
Ensemble	Drea Metzger
Ensemble / Frank Cover	Zoie Moller
Ensemble / Cindy Cover	Emmy Lange
Ensemble / Dr. Stokes	Vi Garza

***The Hands on a Hardbody* Band**

Conductor / Keyboards	Elise Kurbat
Violin	Michael Coy
Guitar.....	Miles Naffah
Guitar.....	Gage Diehl-Gonzalez
Bass	Emma Jean Elder
Drums.....	Nicolas Viquesney

Hands on a Hardbody **Musical Numbers**

SETTING: The Floyd King Nissan Dealership, Longview, Texas

ACT ONE

- “Human Drama Kind of Thing” **Benny Perkins, Mike Ferris, J.D. Drew, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Chris Alvaro, Ronnie McCowan, Heather Stovall, Virginia Drew, Cindy Barnes, Jesus Peña, Norma Valverde, Janis Curtis, Don Curtis, Frank Nugent, Ensemble**
- “If I Had This Truck” **J.D. Drew, Benny Perkins, Ronnie McCowan, Greg Wilhote, Jesus Peña, Heather Stovall, Kelli Mangrum, Norma Valverde, Janis Curtis, Chris Alvaro, Don Curtis, Ensemble**
- “If She Don’t Sleep” **Janis Curtis, Don Curtis**
- “My Problem Right There” **Ronnie McCowan, Kelli Mangrum, Heather Stovall, Norma Valverde, Benny Perkins, Female Ensemble**
- “Alone With Me” **Virginia Drew, J.D. Drew**
- “Burn That Bridge” **Heather Stovall, Mike Ferris, Chris Alvaro, Janis Curtis, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Norma Valverde, J.D. Drew, Jesus Peña, Don Curtis, Benny Perkins, Ensemble**
- “I’m Gone” **Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote**
- “Joy of the Lord” **Norma Valverde, J.D. Drew, Janis Curtis, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Jesus Peña, Benny Perkins, Heather Stovall, Don Curtis, Ensemble**
- “Stronger” **Chris Alvaro, J.D. Drew, Janis Curtis, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Jesus Peña, Benny Perkins, Heather Stovall, Don Curtis, Norma Valverde, Ensemble**
- “Hunt With the Big Dogs” **Benny Perkins, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Janis Curtis, Jesus Peña, Chris Alvaro, J.D. Drew, Heather Stovall, Norma Valverde, Don Curtis, Ensemble**

THERE WILL A 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

- “Hands on a Hardbody” **Frank Nugent, Mike Ferris**
- “Born in Laredo” **Jesus Peña, J.D. Drew, Kelli Mangrum, Benny Perkins, Greg Wilhote, Chris Alvaro, Ronnie McCowan, Heather Stovall, Norma Valverde, Don Curtis, Ensemble**
- “Alone With Me” (Reprise) **J.D. Drew**
- “It’s a Fix” **Janis Curtis, Don Curtis**
- “Used to Be” **J.D. Drew, Benny Perkins, Norma Valverde, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Jesus Peña, Heather Stovall**
- “It’s a Fix” (Reprise) **Heather Stovall**
- “God Answered My Prayers” **Benny Perkins, J.D. Drew, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Chris Alvaro, Ronnie McCowan, Heather Stovall, Virginia Drew, Jesus Peña, Norma Valverde, Janis Curtis, Don Curtis, Ensemble**
- “Joy of the Lord” (Reprise) **Ronnie McCowan, Norma Valverde, Chris Alvaro**
- “Keep Your Hands on it” **J.D. Drew, Virginia Drew, Chris Alvaro, Jesus Peña, Ronnie McCowan, Janis Curtis, Don Curtis, Frank Nugent, Kelli Mangrum, Greg Wilhote, Norma Valverde, Cindy Barnes, Mike Ferris, Benny Perkins, Heather Stovall, Ensemble**

AUDITIONS



FOR SYT'S SPRING '23 PERFORMANCE TROUPES

SPARKLES

SPARKLES

Beginners
Ages 5 to 8

CONFETTI

CONFETTI

Mid-Level
Ages 9 to 16

CELEBRATION

CELEBRATION

Upper-Level
Ages 9 to 16

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

Auditions by appointment • 9AM-Noon

All auditioners should prepare 32 bars (approximately one minute) of a Broadway or pop style song. Pick something you are comfortable singing and that shows off your best voice. You may bring music on a phone, iPod, or MP3.

You will sing only in your selected time slot. We will be holding a separate dance call for all auditioners (except Sparkles) at 11AM. Please plan your travel arrangements accordingly. You may stay at the theater in between, or you may leave after your song and return at time of dance call.

BE DRESSED TO DANCE. No flip flops or sandals; please wear dance or tennis shoes. You will learn a dance combination so please dress appropriately. No denim or skirts. Leggings and joggers are acceptable.

It is recommended you arrive ten minutes before your time slot to fill out paperwork.

For more information or to schedule your audition appointment, please visit the Spotlight Youth Theatre webpage (sytaaz.org/performance-troupes) or email troupes@sytaaz.org.

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

10620 N. 43rd Avenue • (602) 843-8318 • sytaaz.org

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • SPRING '23

AUDITIONS



Spotlight EVOLUTION

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023

Auditions by appointment • 6–8PM

All auditioners should prepare 32 bars (approximately one minute) of a Broadway or pop style song. Pick something you are comfortable singing and that shows off your best voice. You may bring music on a phone, iPod, or MP3.

You will sing only in your selected time slot. We will be holding a separate dance call at 8PM all auditioners. Please plan your travel arrangements accordingly. You may stay at the theater in between, or you may leave after your song and return at 7PM.

BE DRESSED TO DANCE. No flip flops or sandals; please wear dance or tennis shoes. You will learn a dance combination so please dress appropriately. No denim or skirts. Leggings and joggers are acceptable.

It is recommended you arrive ten minutes before your time slot to fill out paperwork.

For more information or to schedule your audition appointment, please visit the Spotlight Youth Theatre webpage (sytaz.org/performance-troupes) or email troupes@sytaz.org.

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE
10620 N. 43rd Avenue • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Who's Who in *Hands on a Hard Body*



Lyda
Armistead



TJ
Brumbaugh



Calvin
Corey



Owen
Donsker



Juliana
Duran Sanchez



Vi
Garza



Ian
Gray



Wardeh Rose
Hanna



Mia
Hurley



Adam
Kurbat

Who's Who in *Hands on a Hard Body*



Emmy
Lange



Braiden
Lee



Malena
Martinez



Declan
Massey



Drea
Metzger



Zoie
Moller



Anyiah
Smith



Zoey
Waller



Lauren
Youngstedt

Who's Who in Hands on a Hard Body

Lyda Armistead (Janis Curtis) 19

Lyda is so ecstatic to be in this wonderful show. After six years at Spotlight, *Hands on a Hardbody* will be her last performance with Spotlight Youth Theatre. Some previous SYT credits include *Macbeth* (Banquo), *Playfest* (director/SM), *The Soul of Frankenstein* (Victoria Frankenstein), and much more. She wants to thank everyone for making SYT a second home for her. Thanks to Renee, Stephen, Maria, Elise, Kenny, Vicki, Deb, Josh, and more. Lyda will be attending UoFA in the fall and is planning on double majoring in psychology and theatre with a minor in either public health or business.

TJ Brumbaugh (Chris Alvaro) 19

TJ is honored to be back on stage for the last time in *Hands on a Hardbody*! He has been in theatre for over eight years and has always loved the stage. Recently he was in *The Lightning Thief*, *Playfest 2021-2022*, and *Frozen Jr.* He was also a techie for *Desperate Housewives of Shakespeare* and *Wanted: Santa Claus*. After the show he will be pursuing a career in the medical field. He would like to thank his parents and friends for being super supportive and loving throughout his journey. Enjoy the show!!!

Calvin Corey (J.D. Drew) 15

Calvin plays JD Drew in *Hands on a Hardbody*. This will be his 21st show overall. In Calvin's most recent show he played Buttons in Mountain Ridge High School's production of the *Newsies*. Prior to that, he was Shrek in SYT's production of *Shrek Jr.* He is in the 9th grade and attends Mountain Ridge High School. He would like to thank his family for all their support. Calvin has been enjoying the show and hopes you will too! Let's get this contest started!

Owen Donsker (Benny Perkins) 18

Owen is excited close out his high school performances with this show at Spotlight Youth Theatre! He most recently had the privilege of directing *I Never Would Have Guessed* at Spotlight's Playfest. Other Spotlight credits include Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief*, Private Fector in *Dogfight*, Evan in *13*, and Schroeder in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. He's been seen regularly at Desert Stages, Valley Youth Theatre, and Childsplay/YETI. He will continue to perform in the valley, attending college at ASU in the Bachelor of Music: Music Theatre Performance program in the fall! A big Thank You to Kenny and the team at Spotlight for welcoming him so warmly and being such a huge part of his development as a performer over the years.

Juliana Duran Sanchez (Jesus Peña) 20

Juliana is excited to join us for her first Spotlight youth theater show! She's performed improv shows with Valley Youth Theatre and showcase performances with Arizona School for the Performing Arts. She hopes to join more musical productions as she finishes her degree at ASU. She hopes to one day create her own children's cartoon series with the experiences she's learned as an actor and as an illustrator. If you'd like to check out her art, feel free to follow her on social media at @ArtDrop_Jewels. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her and her mom for always pushing her and believing in her throughout these years.

Vi Garza (Ensemble/Dance Captain) 17

Vi is so excited to be participating in *Hands on a Hardbody*. This show is her first at Spotlight and she wants to thank everyone involved for being so kind and welcoming. She is active in the NVAA theatre and dance programs at Shadow Mountain High School and recently performed as Wendy Jo in *Footloose* as well as danced in the D.O.B. dance concert. She wants to thank her friends, boyfriend, mom, and stepdad for being so supportive of her passions.

Ian Gray (Mike Ferris) 17

Ian is 17 and an 11th grader at Arizona School for the Arts, where he participates in theatre and piano. Favorite roles include Spotlight Youth Theatre's *School of Rock* (Billy), Desert Stages' *Carrie* (Stokes) and *Matilda Jr.* (Agatha Trunchbull), Greasepaint's *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Juror 10), Phoenix Theater's *Fun Home* (Christian), and Valley Youth Theatre's *Edward Tulane* (Bryce). Ian is grateful to be part of this amazing cast and production.

Who's Who in *Hands on a Hard Body*

Wardeh Rose Hanna (Virginia Drew) 19

Wardeh is so excited to be doing another show at SYT!!! She is so thrilled to be performing this surprisingly moving, hilarious musical!!! Some favorite past roles of hers include Joanne (*Company*), Sybil (*Cover of Life*), Marmee (*Little Women*), and most recently Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*) As always, a massive thank you to Mrs. Lallatin, Amber, Jordan, and the rest of her amazing friends and family! This is also her third show in a row with María Cruz as the amazing stage manager. You're awesome, María!

Mia Hurley (Kelli Mangrum) 15

Mia is a freshman at ACAA secondary and is very excited to be a part of this show! She's very grateful to have this opportunity to work with her amazing cast mates and directors! They've done many shows at spotlight before, and they're really excited to be working with new directors!

Adam Kurbat (Don Curtis) 16

This is Adam's third production at Spotlight Youth Theatre, and he couldn't be more excited (*Addams Family* and *Oklahoma*)! Adam is currently a Junior at Arizona School for the Arts. His college plans include majoring in musical theatre and chemistry. Adam would like to thank the entire *Hands on a Hardbody* production team and his fellow castmates for a wonderful experience! Thank you to Dr. Kosnik, Mrs. Elder, and his mother for teaching him all things musical theatre.

Emmy Lange (Ensemble/Cindy Cover) 16

Emmy is a sophomore at Sunrise Mountain High School. She is excited to be a part of this amazing show! Emmy was last seen in *SpongeBob the Musical* at her school and in *Oklahoma* here at Spotlight. She would like to thank Renee, Stephen, Elise, Maria, her family, and the whole cast and crew. Enjoy the show!

Braiden Lee (Frank Nugent) 18

Braiden is so stoked to be in *Hands on a Hardbody*! Their favorite roles include Woolf in *Hair* at SYT (Zoni), Clyde in *Bonnie and Clyde* at AYT, and Cladwell in *Urinetown* at ABT. They are currently a senior at ACAA where they recently played Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*. Their free time consists of singing, guitar, pianoing, hanging out with friends, and loving life, they would like to thank Renee, their mom, Maléna, Mischa, and as always Oakley Rinehart. You can follow them on Instagram @braidenll

Malena Martinez (Cindy Barnes) 18

Malena is ecstatic to be in *Hands on a Hardbody*! She is a current senior at ACAA where she played Percy in *The Spitfire Grill*, Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, and Marta in *Company*. In her free time Malena plays the piano, guitar, and writes her own music. She would like to thank her family and Braiden Lee for the constant support, and of course Renee, Stephen, Elise, and Maria for their everlasting commitment and care. Enjoy the show!

Declan Massey (Greg Wilhote) 18

Declan is excited to be making his Spotlight Youth Theater debut in the cast of *Hands on a Hardbody*. He is a senior at Arizona School for the Arts (ASA) and is graduating June 2, 2023. He has been in 13 shows around Arizona, including *Something Rotten* at Desert Stages (Minstrel/Tom Snout), *Elf*, *The Musical* at Starlight Community Theater (Buddy), *Addams Family* at ASA (Gomez), and *Freaky Friday* at Limelight (Adam). You can follow his Instagram @declan.massey.561 to keep up with his endeavors. He would like to thank everyone who was involved in the creative process of *Hands on a Hardbody* for making this show amazing.

Drea Metzger (Ensemble) 17

Drea is thrilled to be a part of this talented cast. Drea is a sophomore. Drea's activities include Horizon HS Spiritline JV Cheer (Co-Captain), Horizon HS Show Divas Show Choir (Vice President). This is Drea's 7th production at Spotlight! All such great memories. Drea sends a big hug and thanks to Renee Koher for this opportunity and her continued love & support. Special thanks to Stephen Hohendorf-Parnell, Elise Kurbat, Maria Cruz and Kenny Grossman for their dedication to the show's success!! Drea sends much love to Mom, Dad, Joey and Sprinkles!

Who's Who in *Hands on a Hard Body*

Zoie Moller (Ensemble / Frank Cover) 17

Zoie has found her home on the Spotlight stage for eight years and is so excited to perform in *Hands on a Hardbody*. Recently seen as Lady Macduff in *Macbeth* her favorite roles at SYT include Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*, Patrice in *13 (NYA, 'Zoni nom)* and Annabeth in *The Lightning Thief* ('Zoni nom). Zoie wants to thank Renee, Stephen, and Elise for this opportunity, and Maria for being the best stage manager to ever live. Lastly, to Lauren, no one compares to you.

Anyiah Smith (Ronnie McCowan) 16

Anyiah is so excited to be in this production! *Hands on a Hardbody* is her first show at Spotlight Youth Theatre! Her favorite characters she's played are Hathi in the *Jungle Book* and Mrs. Fleming in *Heathers*. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her in her endeavors.

Zoey Waller (Heather Stovall) 18

Zoey is incredibly excited to finish out her senior year in Spotlight's production of *Hands on a Hardbody*. Previous credits at Spotlight Youth Theater include Girl in *Once*, Clarrise in *The Lightning Thief*, and Crissy in *Hair*. Zoey is extremely lucky to have worked with Renee and Stephen previously as Little Sally in Arizona Broadway Theater's production of *Urinetown* and could not have asked for a better team. Thank you Renee, Stephen, Elise, Kenny, Maria, Christy Welty, and everyone who made this production possible. If you love something, keep your hands on it.

Lauren Youngstedt (Norma Valverde) 18

Lauren is thrilled to be a part of her second show at Spotlight! She is 18 years old and a senior at Red Mountain High School. Lauren has been doing theatre since she was 11, some of her favorite roles being: Sally in *The Lightning Thief* (Zoni nom), Rona in *Spelling Bee*, Carrie in *Carrie*. Lauren wants to extend a huge thank you to Renee, Elise, Stephen, Maria, and the entire cast and crew of *Hands on a Hardbody* for giving this show their all in this past month. Love to friends and family always.

María Guadalupe Cruz (She/Her, Él/Ella) (Stage Manager)

María is excited to be Stage Managing another show at Spotlight Youth Theater! Her past Stage Management credits include, *Macbeth* (SYT) *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Theatreworks), *Charlotte's Web*, (SYT), *Los Últimos Cinco Años* (UCAT), *Dogfight*, *Gypsy*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Beat Bugs a Musical Adventure* (SYT) & *Eurydice* (GCC.) When Maria isn't Stage Managing in the evenings, during the day she is working as the Programming Coordinator at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. María is very grateful to be surrounded by art and artists 24/7. Por último, ella quiere agradecerle a su mamá, papá y hermanas por el apoyo que recibe, ya sea a través de la comida, las risas, o encendiendo el aire acondicionado en la rara ocasión en que ella podría estar en casa. "Disfruten la obra!"

Kenny & Vicki Grossman (Properties Design)

Kenny and Vicki have been with Spotlight Youth Theatre from the very beginning and are excited to be a part of this amazing production. They are looking forward to 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.

Steven Hohendorf (Choreographer)

Stephen is a local actor, director, choreographer, and private acting teacher. He has performed locally with Arizona Broadway Theatre, Southwest Shakespeare, and The Phoenix Theatre Company's New Works Festival. Stephen is the former Artistic Director of Actor's Youth Theatre where he has directed and choreographed a handful of shows including *Big Fish*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, and *Tarzan* as well as directed *Freaky Friday* and *Shrek*. Other local credits include directing *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Scottsdale Desert Stages and choreographing *Urinetown the Musical* at Arizona Broadway Theatre. Stephen is the current Education Director at Arizona Broadway Theatre.

Who's Who in *Hands on a Hard Body*

Josh Hontz (Technical Coordinator)

Josh Hontz 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 Arizona 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 Koher (Director / Hair & Makeup)

Renee is thrilled to be making her Spotlight Youth Theater directorial debut with **Hands On a Hardbody!** Renee is originally from Chicago, IL and has her BFA in Musical Theater from The Hartt School in Connecticut. She has performed all over the world, on Cruise Ships, Regional Theaters and The Walt Disney Company. Renee has taught voice and acting through her studio, RKK voice and Acting Studio for over 15 years. Other Directing credits include: *Godspell* and *Urinetown* both at Arizona Broadway Theatre. Renee is so excited to be working with this incredible cast, crew, and production team on this heartfelt show! Thank you to Kenny for this opportunity! www.reneekathleenkoher.com

Ellie Little (Lighting Design)

Ellis has been involved in several shows at Spotlight Youth Theater both backstage and onstage since 2020. Ellie is proud to be given the chance to lighting design her final Spotlight show before graduating and making her way to ASU to pursue lighting design for a career. Some of Ellie's favorite shows she's participated in are *Annie*, *Hair*, and *Once* as each show in Spotlight has helped her make new friends and new memories. Ellie thanks not only the cast but also the crew for all their hard work and dedication to bringing a bright and exciting production to the stage. Hope you enjoy the show!

Nevaeh Monk (Sound Design)

Nevaeh is fifteen years old, and you'll often find her teching here at Spotlight Youth Theatre and doing the occasional play. She is very honored to have this opportunity, this happens to be her first time sound designing for a production. She would like to thank everyone for the love and support during this process. This is an amazing and monumental show, in which the cast exceeds expectations. Hope you enjoy the show!

Amber Suding (Set Design)

Amber is so excited to be on the production team for *Hands on a Hardbody!* They had a blast designing the set for this show. They previously designed the set for *Shrek Jr*, and helped with the set for *Once* and *Moana Jr* all at Spotlight! They were also seen as Reza in *Once* and Lennox in *Macbeth*. They'd like to thank Kenny for all the opportunities he has given them and they'd also like to thank Rose, as always, for getting them into this. Stay silly.

Elisa W Kurbat (Band—Conductor, Keyboard I)

Elisa is thrilled to be back at Spotlight Youth Theatre! Elisa grew up in Cleveland, Ohio where she went to Kent State University for Criminology and then Baldwin Wallace Conservatory for piano and voice. While in Ohio, Elisa played piano professionally for Mansfield Orchestra, while maintaining a full piano and vocal studio. Elisa currently works full time at Arizona School for the Arts in the Theatre Arts Department where she teaches voice, and continues to maintain her private vocal studio. Elisa's love for musical theatre was realized when she first music directed *Cinderella* in Ohio. Since then, her favorites include *Oklahoma*, *Xanadu*, *Into the Woods*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Cabaret*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Footloose*, *Spring Awakening*, *Addams Family* and *The Lightning Thief*. Many thanks goes to Renee, Stephen, Maria, as well as a big thanks to our superb *Hands on a Hardbody* band and cast who willingly give their time and skills. And a huge thank you to Elisa's amazing family who tolerates her crazy schedule. Your support is a gift. Much love to all.

Who's Who in *Hands on a Hard Body*

Emma Jean Elder (Band—Keyboard II)

Emma Jean is an 8th grader who attends ASA where she studies french horn, choir, and piano. She is passionate about the arts, and has enjoyed being on stage in the past. Emma Jean has been in *Mary Poppins*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *Into the Woods* and *Addams Family*. In addition, earlier this year, she played in the pit for SYT's production of *Oklahoma!* She thanks Mrs. Kurbat for another opportunity to play in an SYT production.

Casey Hendin (Band—Keyboard II)

Casey is a current senior at Arizona School for the Arts (ASA), where he studies piano, violin, and choir. Prior to his involvement in *Hands on a Hardbody*, Casey also played in the pit of ASA's production of *Into the Woods* and *The Addams Family*. Casey also regularly competes in local and state piano competition, and participates in master classes, both in and outside of school. When he isn't practicing or performing on the piano, Casey enjoys writing and reading poetry, keeping up with current events in the news, and watching soccer. Thank you to Mrs. Kurbat for this opportunity!

Michael Coy (Band—Violin)

Michael is excited to be back at Spotlight Youth Theatre for the second time! Michael is a senior at ASA where he plays percussion and violin. This is his second time playing in the pit (*Oklahoma*, percussion) and he is eager to experience what it's like playing violin in the pit. He looks forward to seeing how this experience can further his skills as a musician. Thank you to Mrs. Kurbat for this awesome opportunity!

Gage Diehl-Gonzales (Band—Guitar)

Gage is happy to be back at Spotlight for the third time (*The Lightning Thief* and *Oklahoma!*) Gage is currently a senior at Arizona School for the Arts. He has been attending ASA since freshman year where he studies double bass and classical guitar. Gage spends his weekends and after-school time rehearsing with his bands. He first joined a personal band in 2020, and since has released albums, played paid shows, and went on tour with multiple bands. These ensembles range from Jazz to hardcore to industrial. After his first year at ASA, Gage saved up and bought an electric guitar. Using what he learned through ASA's classical guitar program, he picked it up and added it to his list of instruments. Thank you to Mrs. Kurbat for this wonderful opportunity!

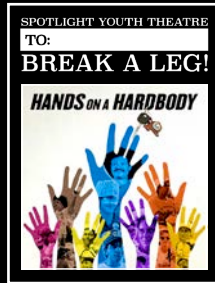
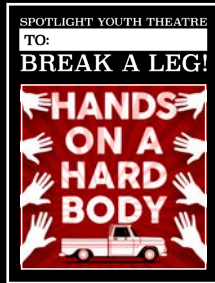
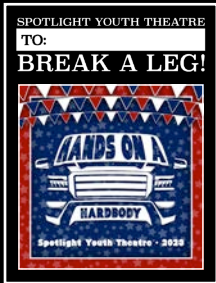
Miles Naffah (Band—Guitar)

Miles is thrilled to be back at Spotlight Youth Theatre! Miles first played guitar in the show *The Lightning Thief*. Miles is currently a sophomore at Arizona School for the Arts. His studies include classical guitar and miscellaneous percussion instruments. Furthermore, he spends most of his free time studying electric guitar. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs. Kurbat for this awesome opportunity, as he is very excited to participate in *Hands on a Hardbody!*

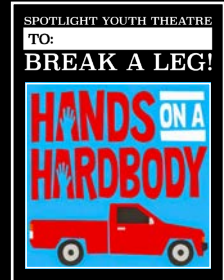
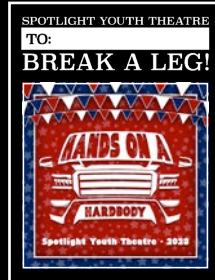
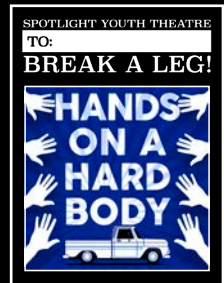
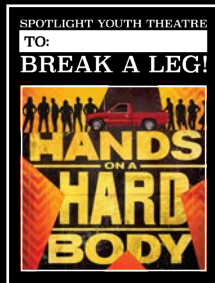
Nico Viquesney (Band—Percussion)

Nico is thrilled to be back at Spotlight Youth Theatre! This will be their third performance at Spotlight as a pit musician (*The Lightning Thief* and *Runaways*). In addition, you may have also seen Nico perform at Spotlight in the show *Once* where he played Andrej. Nico currently goes to school at Arizona School for the Arts (sophomore), where they study percussion and choir. Nico's love for musical theatre was realized when they saw *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Before this, they performed in the *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, and *Napoli* (all at School for Ballet Arizona). Many thanks to Mrs. Kurbat for this wonderful opportunity. A heartfelt thanks goes to Ms. G for teaching them percussion!

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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.



**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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SESSION 2: June 19–30, 2023



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.



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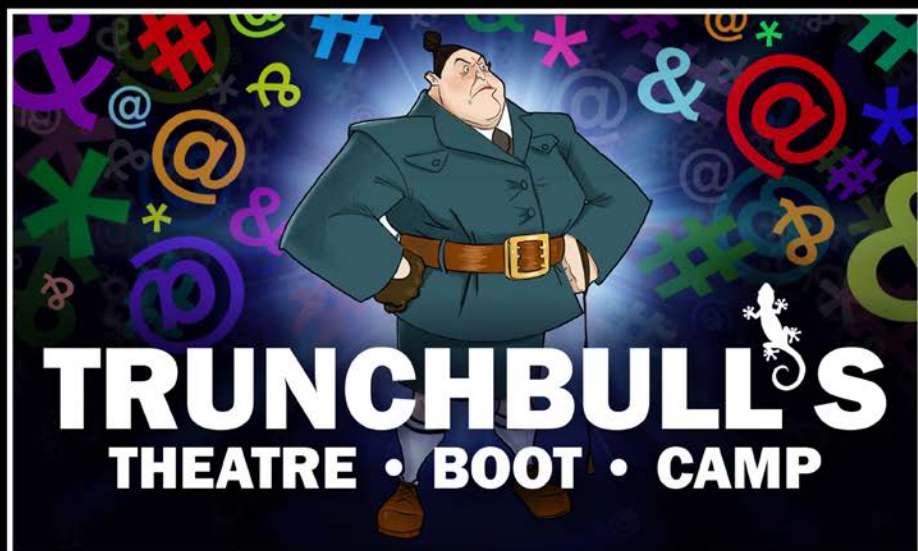


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SESSION 3: July 10–21, 2023



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SESSION 4: July 24–August 4, 2023



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.



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 sytaz.org/summer2023

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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.



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.

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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!