

SPOTLIGHT



STUDIO

Spotlight Youth Theatre's Black Box Performance Space

SPOTLIGHT PLAYFEST 2023-'24



10820 N. 43rd Ave., Suite 9 • Glendale, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Spotlight Youth Theatre Proudly Presents

Playfest 2023-'24

Nico's Plushies

Written and Directed by **Max Mendoza**

The Knights of Modern Day

Written by **Spencer Wareing** • Directed by **Maria Cruz**

The Making of Boys Town the Musical

Written by **Katerina Anderson** • Directed by **Olivia Martinez**

Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression

Written by **Tejas Sahni** • Directed by **Wardeh Rose Wardeh**

Lighting Designer—*Nico's Plushies*: **Elsie Donsker**

Sound Designer—*Nico's Plushies*: **Sienna Nading**

Lighting Designer—*The Knights of Modern Day*: **Sienna Nading**

Sound Designer—*The Knights of Modern Day*: **Sarah Ray**

Lighting Designer—*The Making of Boys Town the Musical*: **Dorry Bailes**

Sound Designer—*The Making of Boys Town the Musical*: **Elsie Donsker**

Lighting Designer—*Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression*: **Sarah Ray**

Sound Designer—*Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression*: **Sienna Nading**

Costume Designer: **Zoey Waller**

Technical Operators: **Elsie Donsker & Sienna Nading**

Technical Coordinator: **Josh Hontz**

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny**, the **Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors**,
and the **friends & family members**

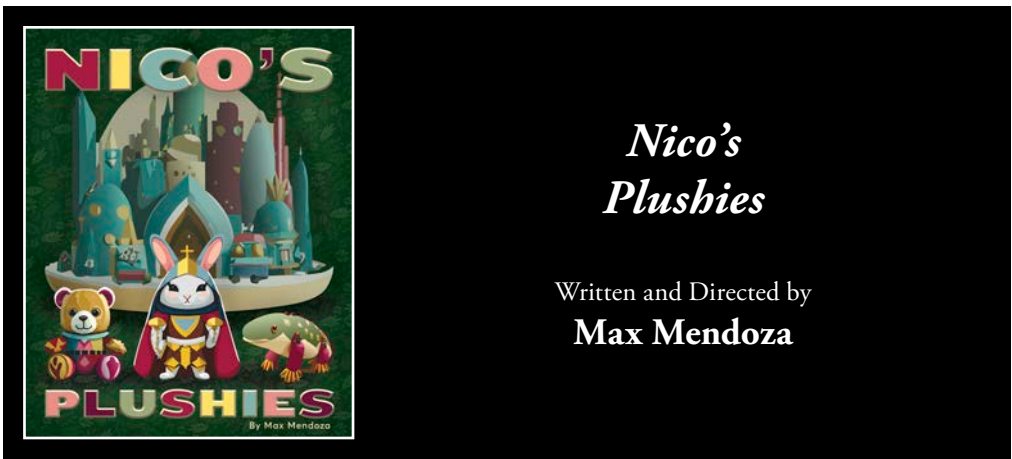
who volunteered to make this show so successful.

Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre **Kenny Grossman**
Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre **Deb Czajkowski**
General Manager for Spotlight Youth Theatre **Jack Taylor**
Graphic Designer, Headshot Photographer, & Webmaster **Robert Waller**
Social Media Specialist **Katie Czajkowski**
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator **Tammy Waller**
Promotional, Production, & Cast Photos **Tiffany Elyse Artistry, LLC**
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

Nico's Plushies, The Knights of Modern Day,

The Making of Boys Town the Musical, and Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression

are presented through special arrangement with Mendoza, Wareing, Anderson, and Sahni. All rights reserved.



Nico Alex Dwyer
 Missy Mae / Sam Jay Schwab
 The Villain / Eren Ella Ellis
 Sir Bonbon / Jason Hunter Schneider
 Kevin Millie Haber

Note From the Director

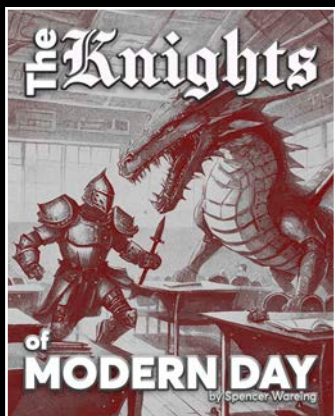
Nico's Plushies is a show I happily wrestled with for a little while and I learned plenty throughout the four iterations it took to get here. While its paint job is all-new, its hearts and bones remain the same: Nico going on a whirlwind adventure through their imagination in order to, in their mind, save their bestest friend for forever, Sam.

While I am no stranger to the pen and quill, this is my first time directing a show and I am thoroughly thankful, deeply humbled, and uniquely understanding of what it's like to be on the other side of the table; it really instills a deeper appreciation on what it takes to be at the helm. I am grateful to have had the assistance and guidance of my fellow directors, the design team, and Kenny Grossman.

I would also like to thank the incredible cast for putting in the work they did to perform these four wonderful and unique shows. We, quite literally, would not have our shows without them. And, as Rose says, "Dear God."

Max Mendoza, Playwright and Director

There will be a 10-minute intermission following this performance.



The Knights of Modern Day

Written by

Spencer Wareing

Directed by

María Guadalupe Cruz

Liz..... **Kinley Stratton**
Parent..... **Jay Schwab**
Ms. Egyud..... **Alex Dwyer**
Jack..... **Beckett Buelna**
Rain..... **Whitney Kleinheinz**
The Dragon..... **Liam Davenport**

Note From the Director

I am so thankful to be given the opportunity to direct such an impactful piece written by a phenomenal playwright. These are important stories. The present horrors of our youth's realities need to be shared. When we took this play to the reading at Phoenix Theater, one of the patrons in the audience remarked how, this is a today's problem and something they had not experienced when they were in school over 20 years ago.

When I was in elementary school, I would be so scared for the first week of school. And I loved being at school! I was terrified because I knew the first week of school was always the week we would go over our lockdown protocols, and I would have nightmares for days leading up to it about what I would do in that kind of scenario and I would have nightmares for days afterward. I didn't want to even think about enduring the protocols, let alone going through them. Today's kids have protocols at least once a month. I cannot imagine the anxiety I would have had if I were in elementary school today and enduring even the thought of preparing for these real-world disasters. This play is a love story for teachers everywhere, they are the real knights of modern day. Thank you to all educators everywhere.

In 2023, there were over 604 mass shootings, of those, over 340 were school shootings. This is a today problem and a growing problem. We need to take action now to prevent this from growing. Please look into your state's gun laws, vote and make your voice heard to enact legislation that will place safer restrictions on gun control.

María Guadalupe Cruz, Director

There will be a 10-minute intermission following this performance.



The Making of Boys Town the Musical

Written by
Katerina Anderson

Directed by
Olivia Martinez

Jackson Durante**Markus Rosendahl**
 Documentary Director.....**Liam Davenport**
 Pierre Dubois..... **Ghost Bravo**
 Denise Trenton **Alex Dwyer**
 Nathan Boyle / Emily Simmons**Ella Ellis**
 Stephanie Ridell / David Sellers.....**Jay Schwab**
 Jason Streeter / Molly Cooper..... **Valerie Winch**
 Camera Operator **Justis Schneider**

Note From the Director

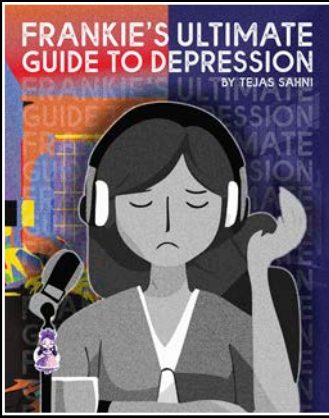
As a first-time director, I had yet to learn how to approach the daunting task of directing this hilarious original comedy. Luckily for me, I didn't have to do it alone. This show couldn't have come together without the collaboration of my fellow directors, my wonderful cast, and the great crew working behind the scenes. I owe everything to them and they have all my gratitude for supporting and uplifting me when I was doubting myself and my abilities to do my show justice.

Speaking of the show, this show is so funny and while it is silly, it's very true. Being a female in the theater world is not easy. It's very frustrating and can make you want to tear your hair out. (Trust me I know!) However, it's also gratifying. It can end up resulting in some of the best memories of your life and lifelong friends and colleagues. Sometimes, you even make enough right decisions to be asked to direct a show written by one of your best friends.

So I guess what I'm trying to say is this: Keep going. No matter how many rejections you receive or if doors are closed in your face, please keep trying. I promise that your moment will come eventually. Just don't give up. As my favorite musical of all time, *Falsettos* says, "We laugh, we fumble, we take it day by day." And really, what more can I say? Enjoy the shows!

Olivia Martinez, Director

There will be a 10-minute intermission following this performance.



Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression

Written by
Tejas Sahni

Directed by
Wardeh Rose Hanna

Frankie	Alex Dwyer
Elise	Jay Schwab
Lisa	Valerie Winch
Claire	Ella Ellis
Tim	Liam Davenport
Janine	Millie Haber
Childhood Character	Justis Schneider
McRaw	Hunter Schneider

Note From the Director

Tackling a show like *Frankie's* for my directorial debut stressed me out more than I can say.

The script is a monster, filled with dark moments, love, and grief. I couldn't be more proud of what it's become. Workshoping it, playing with scenes, character moments, working with my amazingly talented actors dealing with my nitpicking. It's been a pleasure. My fellow directors, along with the guidance of Kenny Grossman, have seen me freak out about this show at least once. Nonetheless, I hope you all enjoy the debut of *Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression*.

As always, a huge thank you to my friends, family, Amber and Jordan. And remember Max, "Skibidi Toilet."

Wardeh Rose Hanna, Director

Who's Who in Playfest 2023-'24



Katerina Anderson

(Playwright: *The Making of Boys Town the Musical*)

Katerina Anderson is 15 years old and a sophomore in high school. She has been performing in shows across the valley for many years. *The Making of Boys Town the Musical* is the first play she has written and she is so excited to see it come to life. Katerina would like to thank Kenny Grossman and Spotlight for its support of young playwrights and continued commitment to Playfest.



Ghost Bravo (Pierre Dubois)

Ghost is so excited to be making his Spotlight debut during Playfest! He is currently a sophomore at Shadow Mountain High School! Some of his recent roles include Carlos in *Legally Blonde* (NVAA Theater), Ladislav Sipos in *She Loves Me* (Starlight Community Theater), and Richie in *I3: The Musical* (Starlight Community Theater)! In Ghost's free time he enjoys spending time with friends and playing guitar! Ghost would like to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes of every show for giving him this wonderful opportunity! He would also like to thank his parents for all the support they've given him.



Beckett Buelna (Jack)

Beckett Buelna, 9, is a 4th grader at Desert Willow Elementary in Cave Creek, Arizona. He began his theater career in 2022 and has since starred in nine productions. Some of his favorite roles include *Hei Hei* (*Moana Jr*), Fletcher (*Freaky Friday*) and Walter Hobbs (*Elf Jr*) at Desert Stages Theatre, as well as Pumbaa (*The Lion King Kids*) at Spotlight Youth Theatre. He is honored to play Jack in *The Knights of Modern Day* at SYTs Playfest 2024. Beckett is a student at BKA in New York City, and can be found on Instagram at @beckettbuelna.



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

(Director: *The Knights of Modern Day*)

María is excited to be making her directorial debut in the same place she had her first stage management community theatre debut! Maria has been stage managing at theaters across the valley for the past 6 years. She has her Master's in Legal Studies from ASU and a BA in Organizational Leadership - Project Management. Spotlight is a special place and she is so thankful for this opportunity. She wants to thank Kenny, Josh, the lighting and sound team, and most importantly Spencer, for entrusting her with their beautiful script. She also wants to give a huge shoutout to her cast for going on this journey with her and taking on a show that is so impactful and real today. Por último, ella quiere agradecerle a su mamá, papá y hermanas por el apoyo que recibe. "Disfruten la obra!"

Who's Who in Playfest 2023-'24



Liam Davenport

(Tim | The Dragon | Documentary Director)

Liam is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Western Sky Middle School. He has performed in *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at West Valley Stages and in *The Lion King Kids* (Scar) at Spotlight. Along with acting Liam enjoys spending time with his dog Cooper, playing video games and going to the theater. Liam would like to thank his family for their support and he hopes you enjoy the show.



Alex Dwyer (Frankie | Nico | Ms. Egyud | Denise Trenton)

Alexandra Dwyer is a 12th-grade student at AAEC. This is Alexandra's second production at Spotlight Youth Theater. Alexandra also has experience at other theaters including *The Prom*, *Beetlejuice*, *Hamilton*, *Mean Girls*, *Willy Wonka Jr*, *Sleeping Beauty Jr*, *Little Red Hen*, *Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Alice in Wonderland Jr*. She loves music, and marine biology. Alexandra would like to thank her great directors and cast. Alexandra looks forward to performing in this production and hopes you enjoy the show!



Ella Ellis

(Claire | The Villain/Eren | Nathan Boyle/Emily Simmons)

Ella is so excited to be in Playfest 2024! She has been in multiple productions at Spotlight Youth Theatre including Freckleface *Strawberry*, Playfest 2022-'23, and *Last Chance Angels*.



Millie Haber (Kevin)

Millie is thrilled to be part of Playfest, her first show at Spotlight Youth Theatre. Millie is 12 and in the 7th grade and has been active in theater for more than five years. She most recently performed as Tweedledum in *Through the Looking Glass* at Cocopah Middle School. When not rehearsing or on-stage, Millie spends time with her five pets and is learning French. Millie would like to thank the team at Spotlight for the opportunity, her sister Izzie, and her parents for their support.

Who's Who in Playfest 2023-'24



Wardeh Rose Hanna

(Director: *Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression*)

Wardeh Rose Hanna (she/her) is so excited to make her directorial debut (*Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression*) at one of her favorite theaters! She is so unbelievably grateful for the opportunity, and cannot wait to step into a new part of theater. Some of her favorite roles are Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), Joanne, (*Company*), and Esmeralda (*Hunchback*.) She hopes you enjoy this amazing play!!



Whitney Kleinheinz (Rain)

Whitney is thrilled to be cast in her first ever Playfest! Whitney is a 3rd grader that loves all things theater! She's participated in a variety of summer & winter theater camps in addition to a few productions; including her role as Penny in *101 Dalmatians Jr.* (DFT), a member of the ensemble in *Alice in Wonderland* (Starlight), Pearl in *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Theater Works) & currently Marty in *Madagascar Jr.* (school production). She is so thankful for this amazing group of talented youth playwrights & directors and another opportunity to perform.



Olivia Martinez

(Director: *The Making of Boys Town The Musical*)

Olivia Martinez is 16 and is honored beyond words to be able to direct Playfest 2023-'24. Playfest holds an exceptional place in her heart, as she was in the very first one ever, four years ago, and was able to sound design for it last year. She loves seeing all the young talent from across the valley come together to create something unique and entirely new. She would love to thank Rose, Maria, and Max for being the most wonderful co-directors she could've ever dreamed of and Kat for being an amazing friend and for creating her beautiful show. She'd also love to thank Kenny, Josh, Deb, her family and friends, TJ, Maxx, Bandit, the other playwrights, and her wonderful cast and crew. Olivia would like to dedicate this show to her mom, Diana. "Mom, you have constantly inspired me to go after my dreams and to always pursue my goals, and without you, I wouldn't have anything to dream about. Thank you and I love you." Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy the shows!



Max Mendoza

(Playwright/Director: *Nico's Plushies*)

Max Mendoza is humbled to be able to write and direct for Playfest this year (*Nico's Plushies*)! Writer of *7AM Bus* from last year, he was last onstage at Spotlight in 2021 as Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other credits include: Linus in *Charlie Brown Christmas (ABT)* and Finch in *Newsies (TW)*. He currently studies at ASU with a Major in Urban Planning and a Minor in Musical Theatre. Thanks to Kenny and the rest of the team for their endless support and guidance! @maxmendoza.us

Who's Who in Playfest 2023-'24



Markus Rosendahl (Jackson Durante)

Markus is delighted to make his Spotlight Youth Theater debut as a part of Playfest. Markus attends the North Valley Arts Academy at Shadow Mountain High School. Some of his favorite roles include Sky (*Mamma Mia*), Walter Steed (*Loving Lives* – ‘Zoni nomination), and Emmett Forrest (*Legally Blonde*). He has been involved in theatre around the valley for two years now and has been performing since he was 11 years old. Markus would like to thank his parents for their unwavering support, his friends for always being there, and his teachers Joe Flowers and Keith Hall for helping him grow as a performer.



Tejas Sahni

(Playwright: *Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression*)

Tejas Sahni is a Junior at Mountain Ridge High School. He does numerous extracurricular activities there including being heavily involved in his theatre department. He is a crew head there and assistant director for their current musical. He wants to be a writer when he graduates and continue to further his skills through playwriting and other genres like spoken word poetry. He is very grateful for this opportunity.



Hunter Schneider (McRaw | Sheriff/Jason)

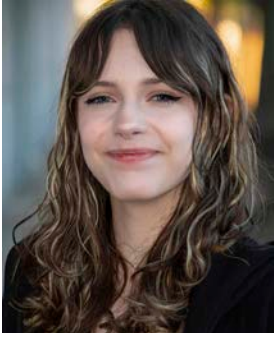
This is Hunter's second time in Playfest; Last year he played "One-Armed" Charlie in *I Never Would've Guessed*. Hunter has done theater across several community theaters with his last role being Mr. Maraczek in *She Loves Me* at Starlight Community Theater. He loves rock & roll and is learning more all the time on his electric guitar. Hunter would like to thank the directors and writers for allowing him to bring his character to life for you. Enjoy the show.



Justis Schneider (Childhood Character | Camera Operator)

This is Justis' first time doing Playfest and she is super excited to bring her character to life for you in these great plays, written by youth and for youth. Her last couple shows on the Spotlight Mainstage were *Moana Jr* and *Shrek Jr*. Justis loves singing, playing the piano, performing in her performance troupe, and attending musicals and plays. She adores animals, especially Chester and Cheeto - our two cats. She would like to thank all the directors and writers for allowing her to be a part of this show!

Who's Who in Playfest 2023-'24



Jay Schwab

(Elise | Missy/Mae | Parent | Stephanie Ridell/David Sellers)

Jay is a 17-year-old senior at DEHS and is a member of the Thespian Honors Society and ABT's HyRev Performance Troupe. Some of their favorite performances at Spotlight include *Hair*, *Runaways*, and *The Prom*. Playfest will always hold a special place in their heart, because there is nothing like being able to workshop a new play, develop the characters, and bring them to life. It is amazing to come together and create art that will live on. Jay would like to thank the Playfest production team for the opportunity to be a part of the incredible and rare community that is Spotlight, where everyone feels safe, included, and supported. They are so grateful to have found this community, and to Kenny whose vision of youth theater holds it all together.



Kinley Stratton (Liz)

Kinley Stratton (Liz) is thrilled to return to Spotlight Youth Theatre in Playfest! Kinley's previous credits include *White Christmas* (Susan Waverly) and *Wizard of Oz* (Lollipop Guild) both at Arizona Broadway Theatre. Additional credits include *Lion King, Jr.* (Shenzi) and *Matilda the Musical* (Amanda Thripp) at Theater Works. Disney credits include *Moana Jr.* (Moana) and *Frozen Jr.* (Young Elsa) at her school. She loves being part of the cast and spending time with friends old and new, who share her love of theater. Kinley would like to thank the entire casting team, especially Kenny, Spencer, and Maria for this amazing opportunity. Enjoy!



Spencer Wareing (Playwright: *The Knights of Modern Day*)

Spencer Wareing has fallen in love with all aspects of theatre; a rising student at Jeanine Larson Dobbins Conservatory for Theatre and Dance, and having performed across the Arizona valley, notably: *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *She Kills Monsters: YA Edition*, *Clue: On Stage*, *The Laramie Project*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream!* Outside of the spotlight and serving as the B3 Youth Playwright in Residence, Spencer rejoices in each opportunity to see their scripts come to life, having produced at Saguaro High School and beyond. Spencer's one-act performed last year at the Phoenix Theatre New American Play Festival, has won an International Thespian Festival Thesis, as well as been produced at B3 Theater and Spotlight Youth Theatre. Spencer treasures all opportunities to perform in Arizona (and Missouri) theater and prefers "Break a Leg" to "Good Luck" any day!



Valerie Winch (Lisa | Jason Streeter/Molly Cooper)

Valerie Winch is very excited to be performing at Spotlight Youth Theatre again in these amazing original pieces. She was last seen at Starlight Community Theater in *13 The Musical* and at Arizona Broadway Theatre in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Valerie is also in ABT's performing troupe, HyRev. She'd like to thank Kenny, the directors, cast, crew, Stephen, and her mother for their support!

Who's Who in Playfest 2023-'24

Dorry Bailes

(Sound Design: *Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression* / Light Design: *The Making of Boys Town the Musical*)

Dorry Bailes is so grateful for the wonderful opportunity to learn light and sound design while working on Playfest. She is 16 years old and plans to study technical theatre in college. Dorry has been on the stage for years but has just recently discovered her passion for tech. She has had such an amazing time being able to learn and better her craft through these wonderful plays and hopes to be able to continue working on what she has learned. She would like to thank Josh for being an amazing teacher as well as everyone who has continued to support her on her theatre journey.

Elsie Donsker

(Light Design: *Nico's Plushies* / Sound Design: *The Making of Boys Town The Musical*)

Elsie Donsker is thrilled to be a part of the 2024 Playfest production!!! She is thrilled that her work and the rest of the directing and design teams work will be on display in such amazing shows. She would like to thank Josh Hontz for introducing her to the art of lighting/sound design, all of the directors and actors for putting on tireless effort to make the shows the best they can be, her family for constantly supporting her, and you for coming to see Playfest 2024!!!

Sienna Nading

(Sound Design: *Nico's Plushies* / Light Design: *The Knights of Modern Day*)

Sienna is so beyond happy to have helped with Playfest 2024!! She is currently a senior at Barry Goldwater where she is the head lighting technician for her school's drama club. Fun fact: her favorite production she's teched for is the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!* After high school she plans on continuing her education in technical theater and eventually design lights for even more productions. Lastly, she thanks Josh, her new friends from tech class AND you :) Thank you for coming to support the arts and all of the hard work put into these shows!

Sarah Ray

(Light Design: *Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression* / Sound Design: *The Knights of Modern Day*)

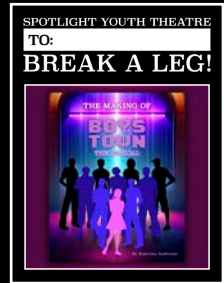
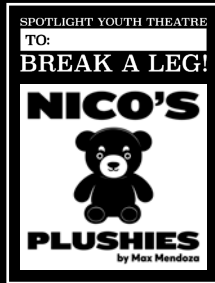
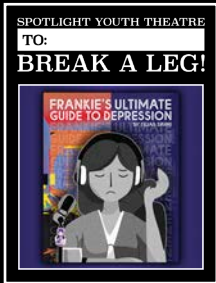
Sarah Ray is the lighting designer for *Frankie's Ultimate Guide to Depression* and the sound designer for *The Knights of Modern Day*. Although this is her first time designing, she thinks that the shows turned out wonderfully and that everyone put in so much hard work into every aspect of the process.

Zoey Waller

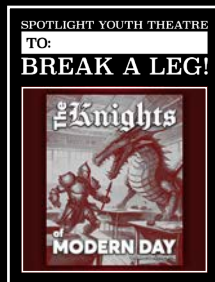
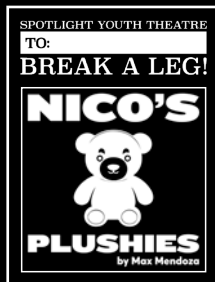
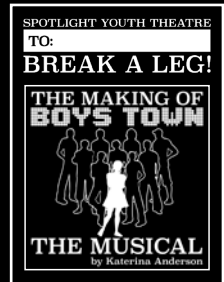
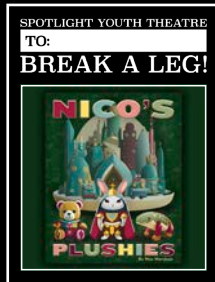
(Costume Designer)

Zoey Waller is incredibly excited to be involved in her fourth annual Playfest. As an actor in the 2021 Playfest, playwright in the 2022 Playfest (*Lost n' Sound*), and costumer in the 2023 Playfest, Zoey has a deep connection and love for the opportunities this event brings to young actors, playwrights, and designers. She hopes you enjoy these four magnificent plays and that you continue to support youth theatre everywhere.

Buy 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 theater lobby to brighten someone's day!

Thank You

to Spotlight's Generous and Dedicated Donors!

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

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For information on how you can contribute to the ongoing success of Spotlight Youth Theatre, please contact
Deb Czajkowski, SYT Managing Director,
at deb@sytaz.org or (602) 843-8318

spotlight youth theatre

YOUNG ACTORS THESPIAN COMPANY

a theatrical adventure for aspiring young performers



March 23–May 25, 2024
Saturdays from 10AM–Noon

Ages 5 to 9

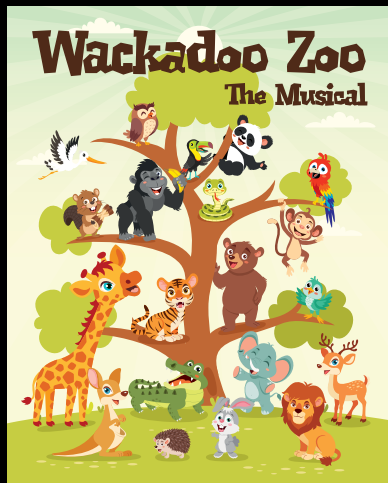
All kids and experience levels are welcome!

Cost: \$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.



Wackadoo Zoo–The Musical

This musical features happy but mixed-up animals who make the wrong sounds: cows that say "Meow," lions that crow, and monkeys that bray!

A Linguistics Professor tries to straighten them out, with hilarious results.

In the end, they learn a valuable lesson about the importance of being unique and special.

Rehearsals will be held every Saturday in the Spotlight Studio from 10AM–Noon.

Final performances on:

- Saturday, May 25 at 1PM
- Sunday, May 26 at 1PM

For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit our website.

Spotlight Studio • 10820 N 43rd Ave • Glendale, AZ • (602) 843–8318 • sytaz.org

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS
SPRING BREAK WORKSHOPS 2024

SPOTLIGHT ON Disney A MUSICAL REVUE

Sing • Dance • Act • Explore • Dream!

Workshop 1

March 11–15

Monday–Friday
9AM–4PM

Show Finale:
Friday, March 15, at 5PM

Workshop 2

March 18–22

Monday–Friday
9AM–4PM

Show Finale:
Friday, March 22, at 5PM

Tuition: \$200 • Ages 8 to 19

Early drop-off and late pick-up available

Spotlight Youth Theatre

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CALLING ALL LITTLE ACTORS!



JOIN OUR SENSATIONAL THEATER CAMP PROGRAM WITH SYT'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

LET YOUR LITTLE ONES SHINE ON STAGE & EXPLORE THE MAGICAL WORLD OF YOUTH THEATER!

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3-7, SYT's Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

Little Actors Academy classes are one-week in length, Monday through Friday, 9AM - Noon. Directed by Becky Funk and Kira Kadel, Little Actors Academy classes will be held in the Spotlight Studio to coincide with SYT mainstage workshops and camps. Tuition for each one-week class is \$175.

DATES:

- March 11-15
- March 18-22
- June 3-7
- June 17-21
- July 8-12
- July 22-26

**For more information or to register,
please call the SYT Box Office
or visit sytaz.org**



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Coming Soon to
Spotlight Youth Theatre

SCHOOL GIRLS;

Or, the African
Mean Girls Play

APRIL 12–21, 2024

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM

Saturdays and Sundays at 2PM

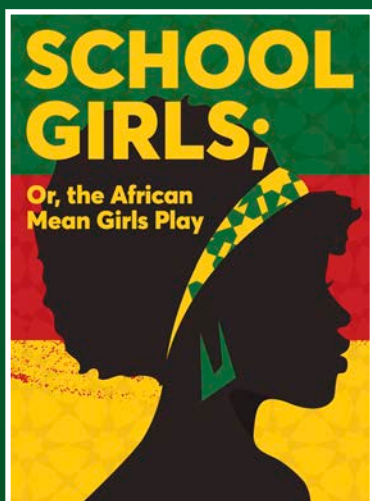
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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

AUDITION

NOTICE



Spotlight Youth Theatre's Production of

School Girls; *Or, the African Mean Girls Play*

Written by Jocelyn Bioh, this buoyant and biting young adult comedy explores the universal similarities (and glaring differences) facing teenage girls across the globe.

Directed by Chanel Bragg

Seeking eight African/black and mixed race female identifying actresses.

Production Dates:
April 12 – 21, 2024

Ages: 13–19

Audition dates: Sunday, March 3 & Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6PM

Callbacks: Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 6PM

Audition requirements:

- Complete the online audition form.
- Come prepared with a one-and-a-half minute contemporary monologue of your choice.
- Not knowing how to perform a West African accent should not prohibit you from auditioning. Dialect coaching will be provided.

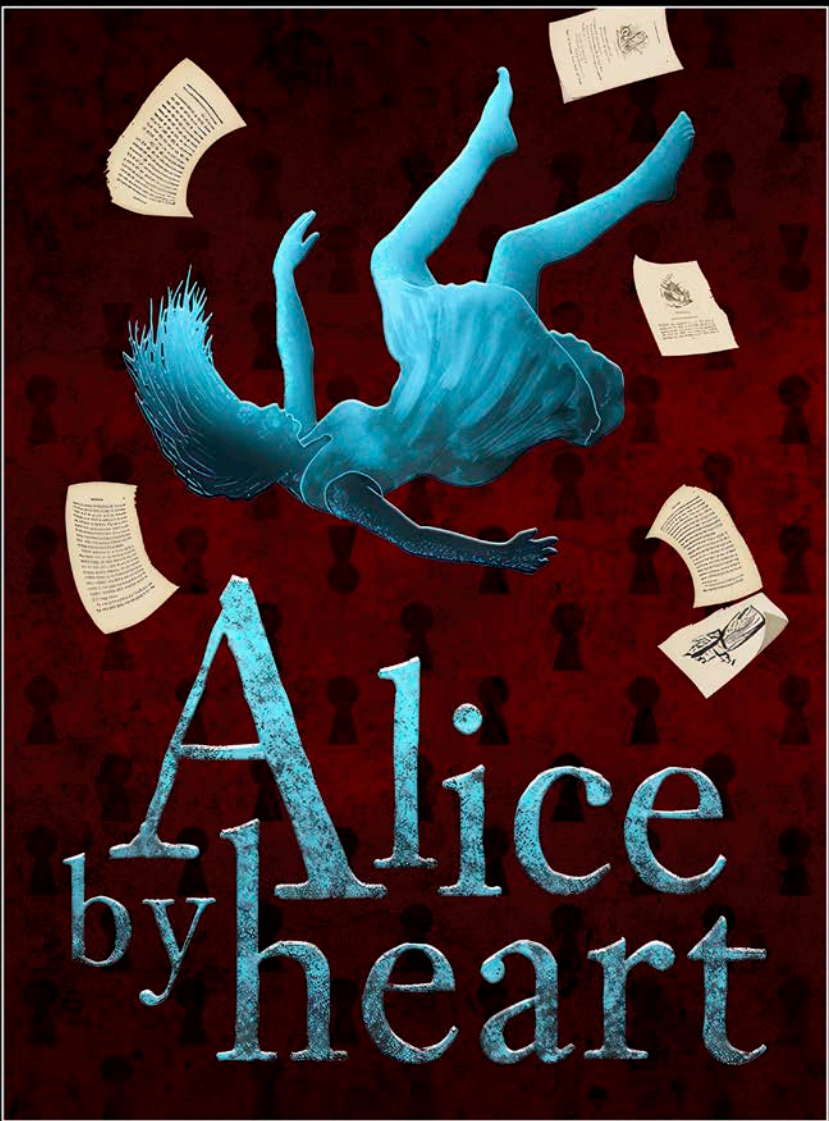
Video submissions also accepted:

- Complete the online audition form.
- Email kenny@sytaz.org by **9PM on Sunday, March 3, 2024**.
- Include your name with the audition video linked or attached to the email.

Character breakdowns and audition registration form:
sytaz.org/school-girls

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Coming Soon to
Spotlight Youth Theatre



MAY 17–JUNE 2, 2024

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 2PM
additional 2PM matinees on May 25 & June 1

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PICK A SEASON IS COMING!

SAVE THE DATE!
March 14, 2024

Help us select which shows to feature in SYT's
2024-2025 SEASON!

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

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Jamie Dillon Grossman

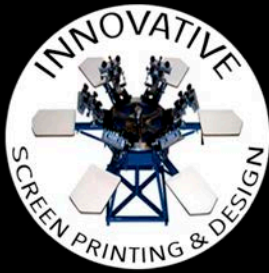
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Step 2: Register for the Fry's Community Rewards Program

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Tiffany Elyse

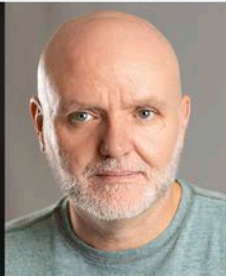
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Theatre

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PROVIDING EMPOWERING SOCIAL & SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMS FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH AGES 11-24

YOUTH CENTER

1101 N Central Avenue, Suite 104
Phoenix AZ 85004

Monday-Friday
3-7pm / Programs 5pm

Youth 14-24
select programs for 11-13

RECURRING YOUTH CENTER PROGRAMS



MedVan Night
2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4-7pm



The Zone for Young Men of Color 14-24
1st & 3rd Thursdays, 5-6:30pm



2gether N Color for Youth of Color 14-24
1st & 3rd Thursdays, 4-5pm



Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Group
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5-6pm

text @yconenten to 81010 for updates



PARENTS' GROUP

1st Thursday &
3rd Tuesday
6-7pm

DIGITAL PROGRAMS

Discord  Ages 13-24

Twitch  Ages 11-24

Minecraft  Ages 11-24

Zoom  Ages 11-24
unless otherwise noted

text @dponenten to 81010
for updates

WEST VALLEY SATELLITE PROGRAMS

Litchfield Park

Mondays 7-8:30pm
text @lponenten to 81010

Surprise

Mondays 6-7:30pm
text @sronenten to 81010

Peoria

Tuesdays 6-7:30pm
text @peonenten to 81010

Yuma

Tuesdays 5-6:30pm
text @yuonenten to 81010

Glendale

Wednesdays 6-7:30pm
text @gdonenten to 81010

Satellite programs are
for youth ages 14-24

Youth ages 11-13 may
attend some Satellites
with parent permission



onenten.org

Spotlight Youth Theatre's Board of Directors

Robert Waller—President
Kenny Grossman—Artistic Director
Kevin Parker—Treasurer
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Chanel Bragg—Member
Vicki Grossman—Member
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Amanda Newton—Member
Heather Walker—Member
Steve Zell—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 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 2023–2024 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 2023–2024 season provided by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.



Partial funding provided by The Kellenberger + Tollefson Foundation for LGBTQ Philanthropy at the Arizona Community Foundation.

Partial funding for Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2023–2024 season provided by the City of Phoenix Flash Grants Program.



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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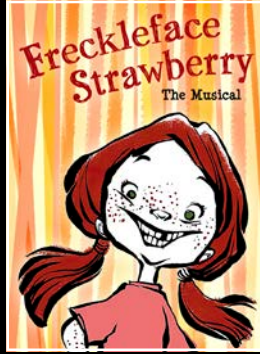
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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

2023-2024 SEASON



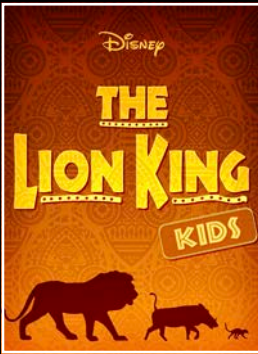
THE PROM
SEPTEMBER 8 – 24



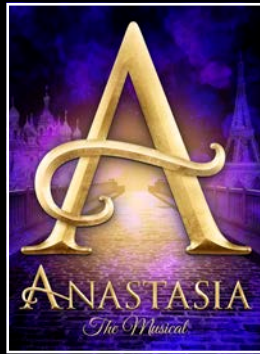
FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY
OCTOBER 20 – NOVEMBER 5



RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSE REINDEER
DECEMBER 1 – 17



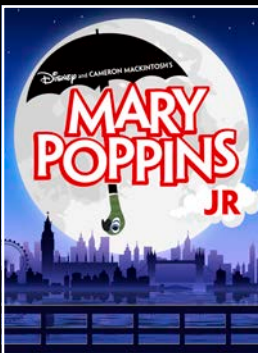
THE LION KING KIDS
DECEMBER 26 – JANUARY 5



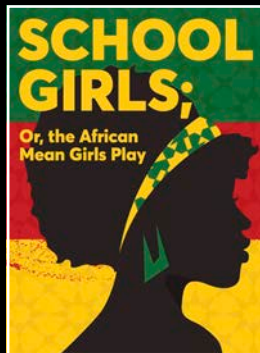
ANASTASIA
JANUARY 19 – FEBRUARY 4



SPOTLIGHT PLAYFEST
FEBRUARY 9 – 18



MARY POPPINS JR
MARCH 1 – 17



SCHOOL GIRLS
APRIL 12 – 21



ALICE BY HEART
MAY 17 – JUNE 2

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