

PLAYBILL

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE



William Shakespeare's

MUCH ADO



ABOUT



NOTHING



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

[illegible]

William Shakespeare's

Written by **William Shakespeare**

Original Music Composed and Performed by **Josh Hontz**

Song Lyrics by William Shakespeare

Director: **Kenny Grossman**

Stage Manager: **María Cruz**

Costume Designer: **Samantha Utpadel**

Hair and Make-up Designer: **Angel DeMichael**

Set Designer: **Rob Adams**

Choreographer: **Katie Czajkowski**

Lighting and Sound Designer: **Anthony Rozzen**

Properties Designers: **Kenny & Vicki Grossman**

Dance Captain: **Emily Andersen**

Technicians: **LillyBelle Lange, Lorna Maynard, & Vanessa Yazdani**

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

Much Ado About Nothing contains smoking, drinking, mild cursing (William wrote it), attempted suicide, singing, dancing, and Shakespearan dialogue.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

The Cast of *Much Ado About Nothing*

Beatrice , niece to Leonato & Antonia.....	Jay Schwab
Benedick , Navy officer.....	Chris Gamble
Claudio , young Navy officer	William Richardson
Hero , daughter of Leonato & Antonia	Maya McElhaney
Don Pedro , the Captain of the Battleship Arragon.....	Devin Baheshone
Leonato , owner of the Hotel Messina	Jack Monson
Antonia , owner of the Hotel Messina & wife to Leonato.....	Emily Andersen
D.J. the Bastard , Don Pedro's sister & Navy officer	Olivia Martinez
Margaret , Hotel Staff, friend and Hero's waiting-gentlewoman.....	Sophia Mengel
Ursula , Hotel Staff & Hero's waiting-gentlewoman	Eva Axman
Borachio , Hotel Staff, one of D.J.'S followers.....	Hunter Schneider
Conrad , Ensign & D.J.'S more intimate follower	Joey Garcia
Friar Francis	Joshua Hengst

Girl Scout Troop 30819 Of Messina, Georgia

Dogberry , Girl Scout Ambassador	Addison Dwyer
Verges , Girl Scout Senior.....	Cora Welch
Seacole , Girl Scout Cadette.....	Justis Schneider
Otecake , Girl Scout Cadette	Beckett Gambrel
Sexton , Girl Scout Troop Leader & Distributor of Cookies / Hotel Guest.....	Lucy Carrier
Messenger / Hotel Guest / Hotel Staff	John Vaillancourt
Hotel Staff	Brandon Post
Hotel Staff	Valerie Winch

Setting: Four days in 1985 at the Hotel Messina in Messina, Georgia.

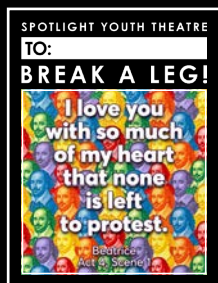
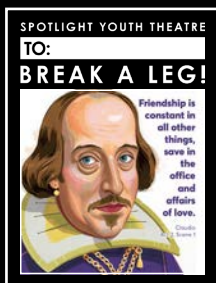
Summary: Our story takes place in the mid-1980's at the Hotel Messina in Georgia.

Don Pedro and his officers return after a victory and are invited to stay at the hotel by his friends and hotel owners, Leonato and his wife Antonia. Benedick, an officer, resumes a verbal duel with Beatrice, the niece of Leonato and Antonia. Claudio, a young officer is smitten by Leonato and Antonia's daughter, Hero. After Don Pedro woos her in disguise for Claudio, the two young lovers plan to marry in a week. To fill in the time until the wedding, Don Pedro and the others set about tricking Benedick and Beatrice into falling in love with each other. Meanwhile, Don Pedro's disgruntled half-sister, D.J., and her followers, plot to ruin Hero and halt her wedding. Claudio believes D.J.'s deception and is convinced Hero has a lover. At the wedding, Claudio brutally rejects her.

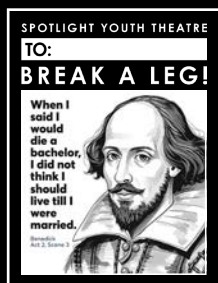
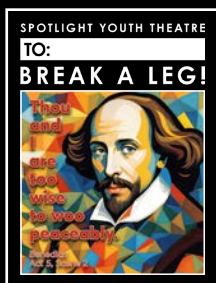
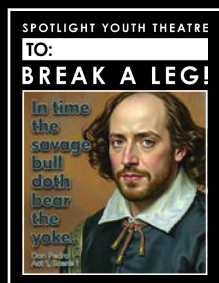
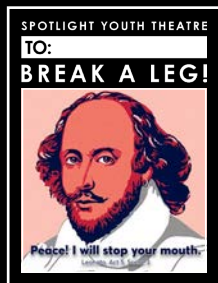
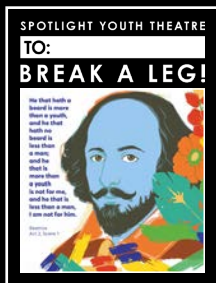
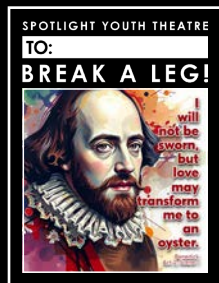
With Hero in hiding and falsely reported dead, Beatrice persuades Benedick to fight Claudio. Tragedy is averted when the bumbling Neighborhood Watch of the Girl Scout Troop 30819 discover D.J.'s treachery, arrive at the hotel and clear Hero's name.

With Claudio forgiven, both couples are ready to get married.

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!

Spotlight Youth Theatre Administrative Team

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	Jack Taylor
Promotional Photos	Audra Little
Production Photos	Ainsley Wawro
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator	Tammy Waller
Fundraising Committee	Sara Bader, Shelly Boucher, Karen Dolyniuk, Julie Donnicks, Elisa Herndon, Audra Little, Amanda Newton, Jen Parker, Lisa Poormon, Kelly Swope, Tammy Waller, & Barbara Winch

Special thanks to **Doug Novotny, Clancy DeGroot, Chris Tepe,**
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 *Much Ado About Nothing*

Much of this play revolves around writing secret messages, spying, and eavesdropping. People are constantly pretending to be others or being mistaken for other people, and are constantly tricked in one way or another. Intriguingly, much of the play's action hinges upon the word. In Shakespeare's time, "noting" (meaning gossip, rumor, and overhearing) was pronounced very similarly to "nothing", and "noting" is what tricks the two main characters, Benedick and Beatrice, to confess their love for each other.

Shakespeare was a master of words — there's a reason why he's considered the best English writer of all time. The level of depth and the different layers of meaning he gives to an apparently simple title just goes to show how amazing he was at this craft, and why he still fascinates us to this very day, more than four centuries after his plays were written. It also suggests that he liked dirty jokes, but that's another story.

One of the actors said the other day, "It doesn't feel like we're doing Shakespeare, it's so whacky." I love that. I feel that all young actors should perform Shakespeare.

I loved when I made the suggestion to have an actual stream on the stage with real running water, without missing a beat, Rob said, "Sure, where do you want it?" Then of course when I mentioned I wanted to put real fish in it, my wife, Maria and everyone else yelled at me... "NO!"

A giant thank you to Maria, the cast, crew, and designers for working hard and loving, doing Shakespeare. We had a fun time creating this version of the show.

More than ever, the world needs theatre too. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

Kenny Grossman, Director



Presented by Final Act Theatre

In Association with Spotlight Youth Theatre

Music by Tom Kitt

Book & Lyrics by Brian Yorkey

Directed by Paul Yount

Music Direction by Nickole Custodio

Performances

April 5, 11, 12 @ 7:30PM

April 6, 12, 13 @ 2:00PM

Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



MAY 16–JUNE 1, 2025

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

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Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*

Emily Andersen

Antonia

Emily Andersen is extremely excited to make her Spotlight Youth Theatre acting debut! Select credits: Belle / Alice in *A Christmas Carol* (TheaterWorks), Dance Captain / Brooklyn Newsie in *Newsies* (TheaterWorks), Dance Captain / Ensemble in *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (TheaterWorks), and Dance Captain/Acrobat in *Matilda* (TheaterWorks). "Much love and many thanks to my wonderful fiancé, beautiful friends, and family!"



Eva Axman

Ursula

Eva is so excited to be making her SYT debut with this incredible cast in one of her favorite plays. Eva first fell in love with theatre nine years ago when she joined Arizona Homeschool Theatre Group's production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Some of her favorite previous roles include the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Celia in *As You Like It*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Lily in *Annie JR.* Currently, she is also working as an assistant director for AZHT's production of *Seussical JR.* this spring. When she's not doing theatre, Eva is studying hard as a music major at Glendale Community College. She would like to thank Kenny for this amazing opportunity and give a big thanks to the production team and the parents and helpers who made this production possible.



Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*

Devin Baheshone

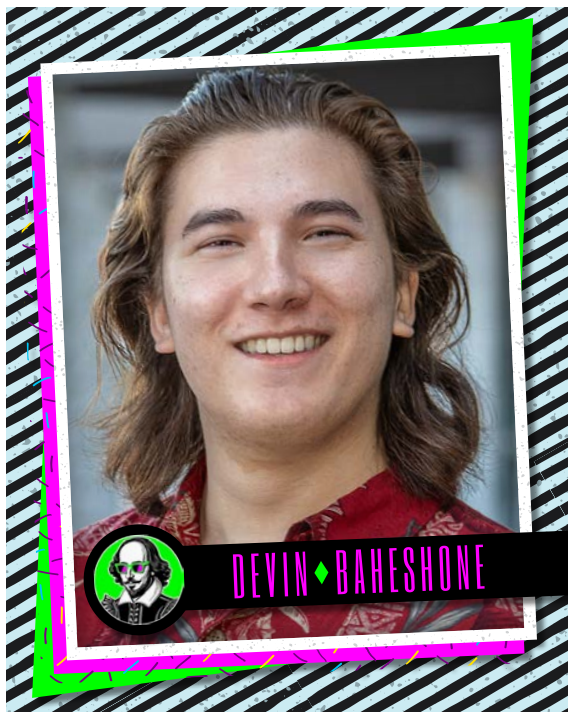
Don Pedro

Devin Baheshone is very excited to perform *Much Ado About Nothing* as Devin holds a fond love of Shakespeare.

He can't wait to "Don Pedro it up" on stage.

He would like to thank Kenny and Maria for having him.

He hopes everyone has a blast!



Lucy Currier

Sexton / Hotel Guest

Lucy is 17 and is thrilled to be a part of this cast! She loves to perform as well as work behind the scenes. When she isn't working in theater, she can be found playing guitar, reading, and discovering new music. Lucy is extremely grateful to the entire production team and especially to her family for this incredible opportunity.



Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*

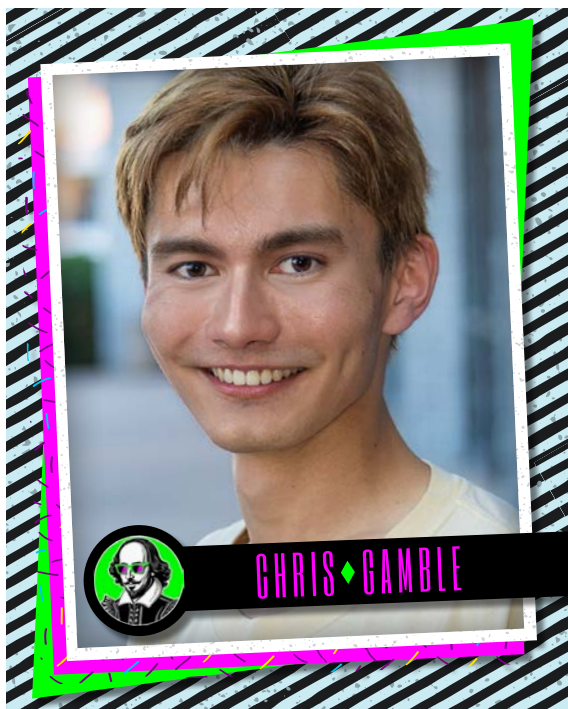
Addison Dwyer Dogberry

Addison Dwyer is a 9th-grade student at AAEC. This is Addison's 1st production at Spotlight Youth Theatre. Addison has had experiences at other theatres, performing in *Grim Impossible*, *Willy Wonka Jr*, *Sleeping Beauty Jr*, *Little Red Hen*, *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and *Alice in Wonderland Jr*. She loves playing the drums, skateboarding, and tumbling. Addison would like to thank her great directors and cast. Addison looks forward to performing in this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

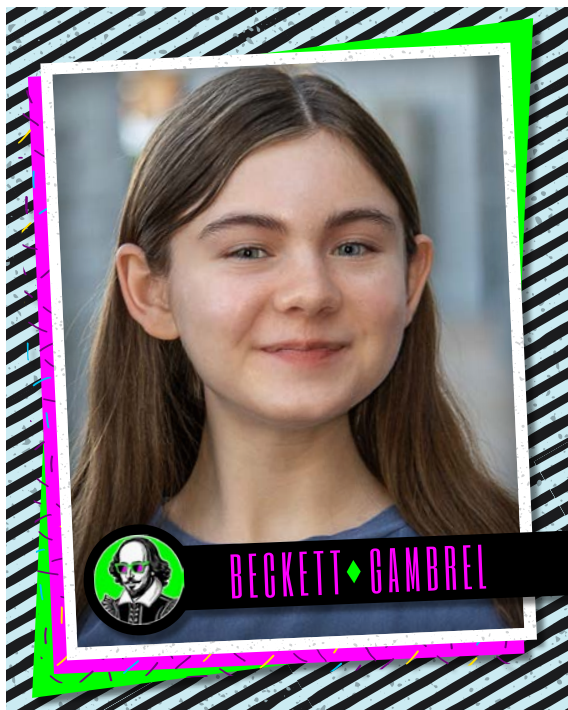


Chris Gamble Benedick

Christopher Gamble began acting last year at Glendale Community College for the fall semester. In that time, he's been in three productions, one of which earned him a nomination to participate in the Irene Ryan's acting scholarship competition at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Arts Festival. He is excited to debut his first community theatre role at Spotlight Youth Theatre as Benedick.



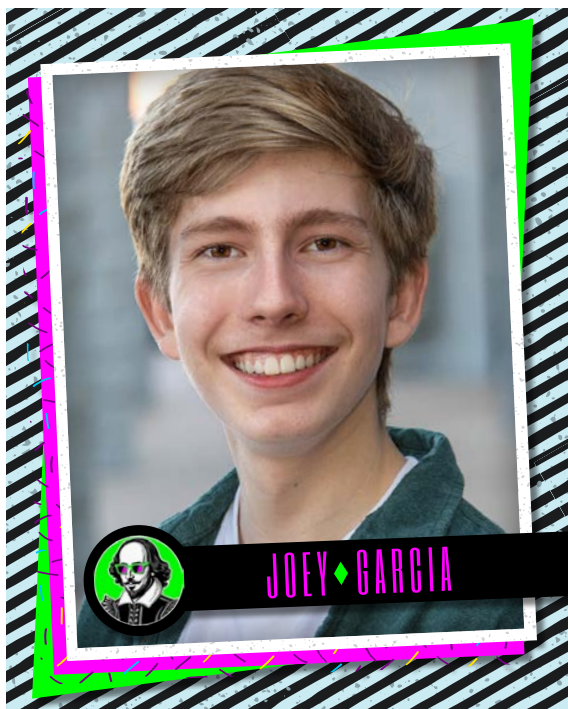
Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*



Beckett Gambrel

Otecake

Beckett is thrilled to be back at SYT! She enjoys balancing her passion for both film and stage. Her favorite film roles include Angela in *Better from Within* and the Little Girl in *The Soul Taker*. On stage, Beckett has recently appeared as Tessie in *ANNIE* (Almost Famous Theatre Company), Peach in *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Desert Stages Theatre Company), and she had a wonderful time appearing in SYT's production of *Freckleface Strawberry*. When she's not performing, Beckett enjoys baking delicious treats, diving into a good book, and spending quality time with her friends. She is deeply grateful for the support of her family and friends, who inspire her every step of the way.

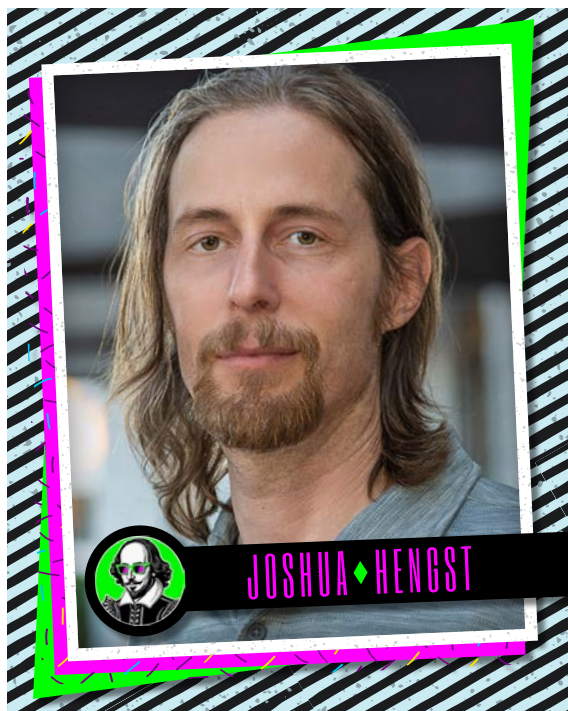


Joey Garcia

Conrad

Joey is thrilled to be returning to the Spotlight stage for this production of *Much Ado About Nothing*! He is 15 years old and is a freshman at Ironwood High School. Recent favorite roles include Harold Pudding in *Alice By Heart* (SYT), Mr. D / Grover understudy in *The Lightning Thief* (SCT), and part of the Worker Chorus in *Hadestown: Teen Edition* (SYT)! In addition to performing on the theater stage, he also trains in piano and voice. He would like to express his utmost gratitude to Kenny Grossman (who he wishes was his cousin) for granting him this wonderful opportunity! He would also like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him! He couldn't do it without you! See you on the stage!

Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*



Joshua Hengst

Friar Francis

Josh is ecstatic to be making his Spotlight Youth Theatre acting debut in this show! This is also his first time tackling Shakespeare (unless you count reading plays in high school English class). Josh recently played Mr. Hawkins in *The Prom* and Colonel Arbuthnot in *Murder on the Orient Express*, both at Starlight Community Theater. He co-directed *Elf Jr.* at Spotlight this past December. He hopes you enjoy this modern production of Shakespeare. Josh would like to thank his family, especially Christina, Noel, and Kenzie, for their support and all the friends who came to support this theater adventure.



Olivia Martinez

D.J.

Olivia is very excited to check Shakespeare off the bucket list finally! She has previously been seen on the stage as Mary Flynn in *Merrily We Roll Along* (ACAA), Gargoyles in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (VYT), Lumiere in *Beauty and The Beast* (AriZoni Win, DST), and *Runaways* (AriZoni and NYA Win, SYT). She would love to thank Kenny (who I wish was my dad), Maria, Sam, Angel, Rob, Josh, Katie, and Anthony for making this production as incredible as it is. She'd also love to thank Maya, Andrei, Mario, Nana, Grandpa, T.J., and Maxx. She dedicates this performance to her phenomenal Mom, who she promised she'd do a Shakespeare play before she graduated. "Look Mom, I did it with one month to spare!" Enjoy the show!

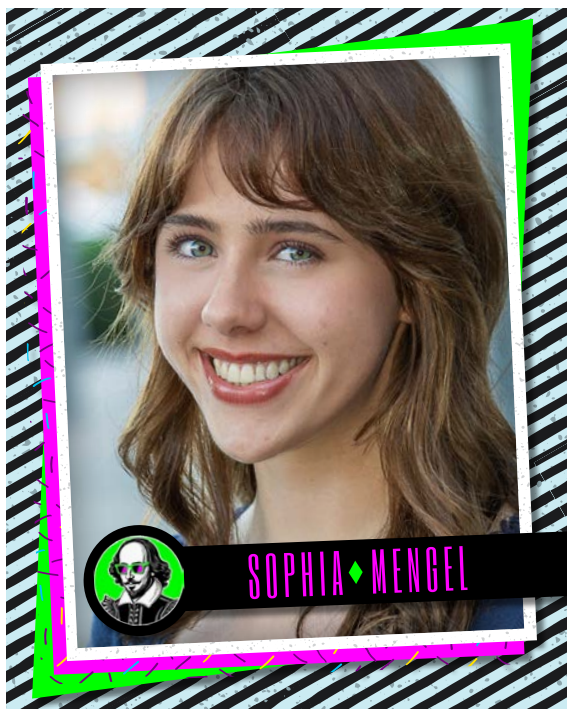
Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*



Maya McElhaney

Hero

Maya is thrilled to be in both her first Spotlight and Shakespeare show! Maya is a junior at ACAA where she was recently seen as KT in their production of *Merrily We Roll Along*. Other credits include Karen (*Mean Girls*, ACAA), Leanne (*Puffs*, SCT), and Arpad (*She Loves Me*, SCT). Maya would like to thank Kenny for believing in her, the production team for making this possible, her family for their love, Andrei for always supporting her, and her best friend Olivia, who inspires her every day. Playing this role has been a dream come true, and she hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does.



Sophia Mengel

Margaret

Sophia is delighted to be back on the Spotlight stage for her first Shakespeare play! Some of her favorite roles include Ensemble in *Runaways* and *Hadestown*, and Clarissa / Queen of Diamonds / Mock Mock Mock Turtle in *Alice by Heart*. Sophia would like to express her immense gratitude for the amazing cast and crew that was unconditionally kind and welcoming to her. She would also like to thank Kenny, her family, and her friends for their constant love, support, and belief in her.

Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*

Jack Monson

Leonato

Jack is so excited to be making his debut on the Spotlight stage! He would like to thank his friends and family for their constant love and support and a special thanks to his beautiful fiancé Emily. Previous credits include Gaston in *Beauty and The Beast*, Vince Fontaine in *Grease*, and The Escapologist in *Matilda*. Please enjoy the show!



Brandon Post

Hotel Staff

Brandon Post is excited to be in his first production here at Spotlight Youth Theatre. Brandon loves being on stage and making people laugh. His favorite past roles include Duke of Weselton (*Frozen Jr.*), the Wizard (*Wizard of Oz*), Lumiere (*Beauty and the Beast*), Templeton (*Charlotte's Web*), and being a member of the Children's Choir in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Brandon hopes you all enjoy the show and would like to thank his parents, grandparents, sister, brothers, and Mr. Shonn for all their help and support. Brandon would also like to thank everyone at Spotlight for this experience.

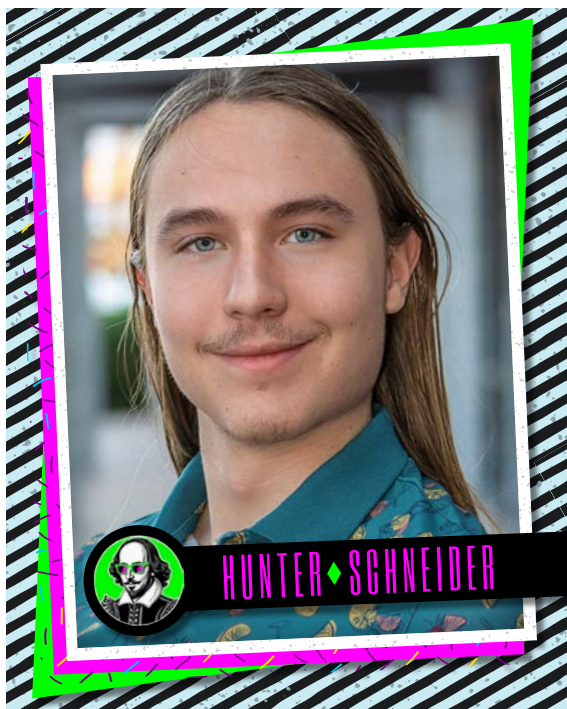


Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*



William Richardson Claudio

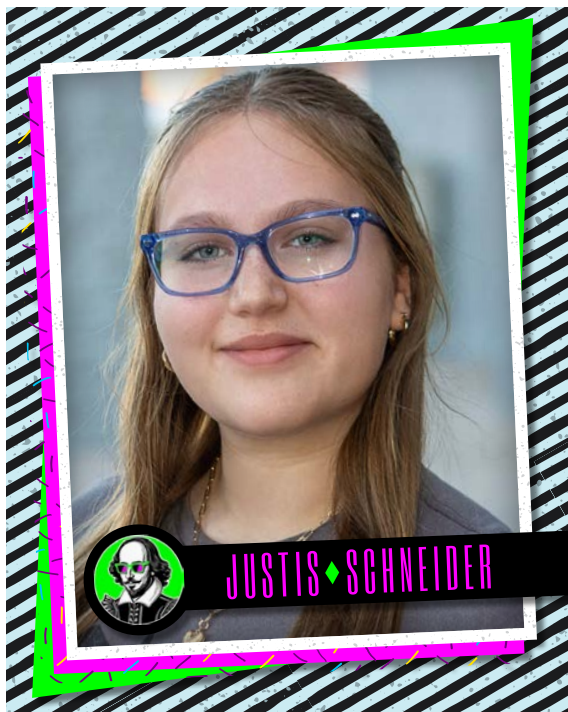
It has been a privilege to work with Kenny & Maria on *Much Ado About Nothing*. After many musicals, this is Will's first play and opportunity to play a Shakespearean role. Thanks to the cast & crew for a great learning experience, & commitment to creating a show to be proud of. Will graduates EMCC in May with 2 associate's degrees, and HS, AAEC, the day after his 16th birthday. At Barrett, he hopes to add a MT/vocal minor to a science double major. Thanks to everyone's support over the years, & to Renne & Shonn. "This is Mum's favorite Bard play; hope she & you all enjoy it".



Hunter Schneider Borachio

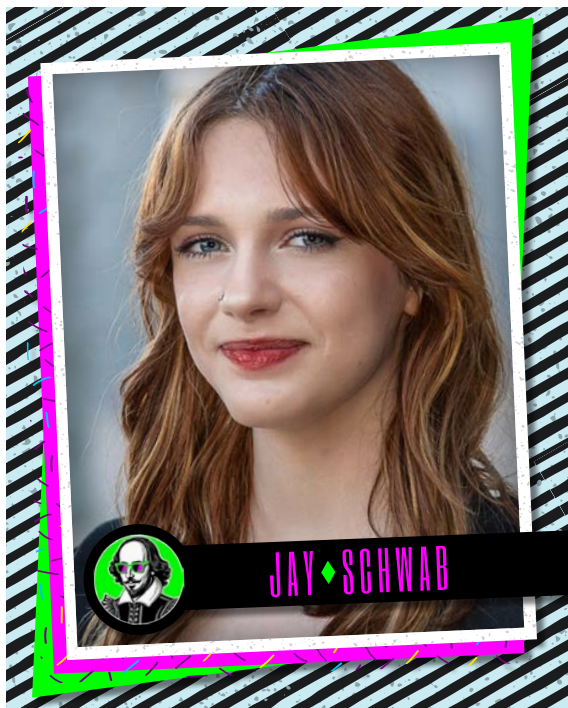
Hunter is excited to be doing Shakespeare once again on the Spotlight Stage! He was recently in *Playfest* and *Elf Jr* here at Spotlight. Hunter is a junior at Thunderbird where he recently was in *Freaky Friday*. Hunter's favorite musical right now is *Beetlejuice*. Hunter would like to thank Kenny, the cast and everyone else that is involved in this production. Enjoy the show!

Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*



Justis Schneider Seacole

Justis is so excited to be back on the Spotlight stage in this production! She most recently did *Playfest* here at Spotlight. Justis loves singing, playing the piano, performing with HyRev at ABT, and attending musicals and plays. Her favorite musical right now is *Beauty and The Beast*. She would like to thank Kenny for the opportunity, the amazing cast, and everyone else involved in this show! Enjoy the show!



Jay Schwab Beatrice

Jay is so happy to be back for another production with the Spotlight community. Favorite performances at SYT include *Alice By Heart*, *Runaways*, *Playfest*, and *The Prom*. Jay is a current Music Theatre major at ASU and can usually be found writing songs and playing guitar at midnight. Jay would like to thank Kenny, who she wishes was her uncle, for all the support and guidance over the years and her family for always supporting her passions.

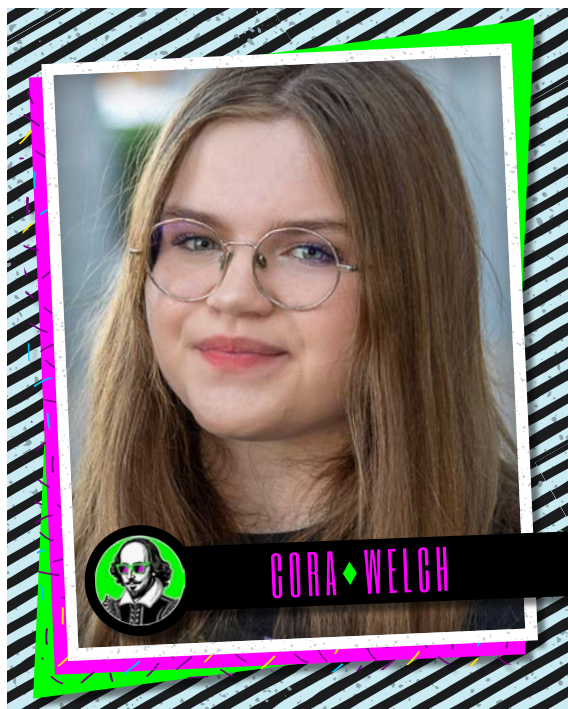
Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*



John Vaillancourt

**Messenger / Hotel Guest /
Hotel Staff**

This is John Vaillancourt's first show here at Spotlight and he hopes to return for later shows each season. He wants to thank everyone who came out to see *Much Ado* and everyone who supported him, including his animals, except for his imaginary hamster. He and his hamster are going through a rough patch.



Cora Welch

Verges

Cora Welch is so very excited and honored to be in *Much Ado About Nothing*! She is a 13-year-old, 8th-grade student at Imagine Buckeye. Cora was most recently in *Finding Nemo Jr.* (SYT) and *Playfest 2025* (SYT). Some of her other notable roles are Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web* and Bagheera in *The Jungle Book* (WVS). Cora loves acting and enjoys writing & playing guitar. She is extremely grateful for this opportunity and would like to say thank you to Kenny, Maria, the cast, her family & friends for all of their support. Cora hopes you enjoy the show!

Who's Who in Much Ado About Nothing



Valerie Winch

Hotel Staff

Valerie is very excited to be returning to SYT's stage under the direction of Kenny Grossman. Valerie is a 9th grader at Apollo High School and was last seen at Spotlight Youth Theatre in the Ensemble of *Les Mis*. Some of her favorite roles have been Tomika in *School of Rock* at DST, Catherine of Aragon in *SIX The Musical: Teen Edition* and Ericka Boaf in *School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play* (Zoni Winner). Valerie is also in Arizona Broadway Theatre's performance troupe, HyRev. This experience was wonderful, and she wants to thank Kenny, Maria, and the entire cast for making Spotlight a second home for her. Additionally, Valerie would like to thank her mother and Stephen for their guidance, love, and encouragement.

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>



SCAN ME

Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*

Rob Adams (Set Designer)

Rob is thrilled to be designing his second Shakespeare production with Spotlight! With three years of set design experience at Spotlight, he brings a deep passion for creating immersive stage environments. Growing up in an artistic household with a father who was a professional artist and painter, Rob developed a strong foundation in the arts. He spent years working in galleries, building frames, and setting up exhibitions before earning his degree in Arts Management from NAU. Beyond the stage, Rob enjoys building and refurbishing furniture, blending creativity with craftsmanship. His background also includes serving as a summer camp director, where he designed program sets and brought themed experiences to life—most notably crafting the Carnival and themed Snack Bar. Enjoy the scenery, and thank you for supporting youth theater!

María Guadalupe Cruz (Stage Manager)

María (She/Her/Ella) is thrilled to be the Stage Manager for *Much Ado About Nothing* this season. María has several stage management credits at theaters across the Arizona valley for the past seven years, and she is proud to step into the production manager role this season with Spotlight. She has her Master's in Legal Studies from Arizona State University and a BA in Organizational Leadership - Project Management, also from Arizona State University. She currently works at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts as their Programming Administrative Specialist. Maria believes Spotlight is a truly special place that does important work that genuinely supports and expands the community. She wants to thank Kenny, Josh, Katie, Sam, Angel, Rob, and the whole production team, cast, and crew for allowing her to work with them on this show. Por último, ella quiere agradecerle a su mamá, papá y hermanas por el apoyo que recibe. "Disfruten la obra!"

Katie Czajkowski (Choreographer)

Katie Czajkowski is an Arizona native who began performing in the valley back in 2012. Some performance credits include *Footloose*, *A Chorus Line*, *42nd Street*, and *Bring It On*. She also has choreographed Spotlight productions, including *Ramona Quimby*, *Honk Jr.*, *101 Dalmatians Kids*, *Aristocats Kids*, *Shrek Jr.*, *Lizzie the Musical*, *Once* (ariZoni nom and NYA award winner), *The Prom*, and *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Jr.* She also made her co-director debut this season for *Les Misérables* at Spotlight Youth Theater. She graduated with a degree in Musical Theater and a minor in dance from Millikin University. She wants to thank Kenny, Maria, and the whole cast and crew for their time and hard work on this production. She would especially like to thank her wife, Marielle, for all her love and support. She would also like to thank her Mutter and Grandma for always supporting her.

Angel DeMichael (Hair & Makeup Designer)

Angel has designed Hair and Makeup for more than 30 shows at Spotlight. Her favorites include *Once on this Island* (Zoni), *Sweeney Todd*, *Spring Awakening* (Zoni), *Romeo and Juliet* (Zoni), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Hair* (Zoni nom), *Lizzie*, *Alice By Heart*, and *Hadestown Teen Edition*. Working on *Much Ado About Nothing* brought a sense of nostalgia and will be added to the list! Thanks to the cast for enduring all the hairspray and backcombing. Thanks to the parents for digging out their crimpers. Thanks to Sam, Maria, Kenny, and the rest of the production team; "To business that we love we rise betimes, and go to't with delight."

Who's Who in *Much Ado About Nothing*

Kenny & Vicki Grossman (Director / Properties Designers)

Kenny and Vicki have been with Spotlight Youth Theatre from the very beginning and are excited to be a part of this amazing production. They are looking forward to all the productions in this incredible season. Kenny still loves eggs. To Jamie and Carly, "We love you and miss you." Thank you to the cast, crew, directors, designers, families, volunteers, and board members.

Josh Hontz (Composer)

Josh Hontz has worked throughout the Valley theater community since 2014. He graduated from the ASU School of Music and has received twenty-six ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence for his work. Josh's past projects at Spotlight include lighting and sound design for *Alice By Heart* and music direction for *The Prom*. This season, he did sound design for *Cats* at TheatreWorks, lighting design for *Wink* at Estrella Mountain Community College. He was the Keyboard 2 player for Arizona Broadway Theatre's productions of *Hello, Dolly!* and *Phantom*. Outside of show biz, Josh works as a systems administrator at Estrella Mountain Community College. Thank you for supporting local theater!

Anthony Rozzen (Lighting & Sound Designer)

This guy, Anthony Rozzen, was asked to do this show and happily obliged. He was so excited to do another show at Spotlight. You might remember some of his works from previous years, as this is his seventh year working at Spotlight. From actor to camera operator to video director, to where we are today! When given the opportunity to do this show, he couldn't say no. *Much Ado About Nothing* is his favorite Shakespearian play. Only so many of those dream shows, and this is definitely one of them!

Sam Utpadel (Costume Designer)

Samantha Essary Utpadel has been costuming shows around the Valley for over 10 years. Her most recent show with STY was Hometown Teen Edition. 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. Extra thanks to Angel for being an awesome collaborator. Much love to my family, especially Aurora and Charlie.



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS



PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Saturday, May 3, 2025
6 to 9 p.m.

OLD TOWN WEDDING VENUE

An Evening of Glamour, Games, and Giving

To order tickets, please visit sytaaz.org
or call (602) 843-8318

COME CELEBRATE SPOTLIGHT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

SPOTLIGHT "CAR" BARET



Featuring electrifying performances by
**PAST & PRESENT
PERFORMERS**

from Spotlight Youth Theatre's incredible
20-year legacy!

Thursday, May 1
6–9 PM

Location: SYT Parking Lot

• MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS • FRIENDS • FUN •

Admission: \$10 per carload!

Performance Fee: \$50 per performer;
FREE for SYT Alumni

Spotlight Youth Theatre

10620 N 43rd Ave • Glendale • (602) 843-8318 • sy taz.org

20 YEARS OF SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

FAMILY PICNIC



Sunday, May 4
1 – 5 PM

Rio Vista Park

8866 W Thunderbird Rd • Peoria, AZ

Bring your own picnic food.
Spotlight will provide desserts and drinks!

Spotlight Youth Theatre

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

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

2025 SUMMER CAMPS!

Session 1 • June 2–6



A MADRIGAL MUSICAL ADVENTURE

Step into the magical
world of Encanto!

Session 2 • June 16–20



SING, DANCE, ACT, ROAR!

This jungle-themed
musical camp brings the
animal kingdom to life!

Session 3 • July 7–11



BLUEY'S BIG PLAY

Join Bluey, Bingo, and the
whole Heeler family for
a week of imagination,
music, and laughter!

Session 4 • July 21–25



ONCE UPON A FAIRYTALE

This fairytale-themed camp
brings classic and modern
fairytales to life through
music and 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.

Tuition for each one-week class is \$175. For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit sytaz.org.



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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

2025 SUMMER CAMPS!

Session 1 • June 2–7



A MADRIGAL MUSICAL ADVENTURE

Step into the magical world of *Encanto*!

Join us for a week of singing, dancing, and acting as we bring the Madrigal family's story to life.

Explore the music, magic, and heartwarming lessons of Casita while learning performance skills and having fun!

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

2025 SUMMER CAMPS!

Session 2 • June 16–20



SING, ACT, DANCE, ROAR!

Get ready for a wild adventure!

This jungle-themed musical camp brings the animal kingdom to life with songs from *The Lion King*, *The Jungle Book*, *Tarzan*, and more.

Whether you pounce like a lion, swing like a monkey, or march like an elephant, you'll love this high-energy week of singing, dancing, and acting!

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

2025 SUMMER CAMPS!

Session 3 • July 7–11



BLUEY'S BIG PLAY

Join Bluey, Bingo, and the whole Heeler family for a week of imagination, music, and laughter!

Inspired by the beloved show *Bluey*, this camp will have young actors exploring creativity through fun games, storytelling, and performances based on Bluey's world.

It's time for a big adventure on stage!

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE'S **LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY**

2025 SUMMER CAMPS!

Session 4 • JULY 21–25



ONCE UPON A FAIRYTALE

Step into a world of magic and wonder!

This fairytale-themed camp brings classic and modern fairytales to life through music and theater.

Whether you dream of being a princess, a hero, or a mischievous sidekick, you'll explore stories, songs, and scenes from your favorite fairytale musicals!

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EAT, SLEEP, THEATRE CAMP, REPEAT!

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE • 2025 SUMMER THEATRE CAMP

JUNE 2-13



BEATLE-JUICE, BEATLE-JUICE, BEATLE-JUICE Lydia hates her dad's new girlfriend and the new house they moved into. She escapes to the attic to be alone but instead is visited by four ghosts: John, Paul, George, and Ringo. Together with the Fab 4 and special ghost friends, Lydia tries everything she can to scare her dad into selling the house and dumping his girlfriend.

JULY 7-18



INSIDE OUT-siders the MUSICAL Emotions run amok as the East Valley Theatre Troupe battles the West Valley Theatre Troupe to see who will take over VYP (Valley Youth Playhouse). Join us as Ponyboy, Sodapop, Irving, Riley, Joy, Sadness, Fear, Anger, Disgust, Singing, Dancing and of course, Ping Pong face off to the final encore.

During each session of Spotlight Youth Theatre's 2025 Summer Theatre Camp, actors will learn the shows and then perform for families and friends!



Tuition is \$500 per two-week session; \$450 if registered on or before May 1, 2025.
M-F 9AM-3PM • Ages 7-17 • Sibling and multiple-session discount available
Registration fee includes a camp t-shirt • Before-and-after care available

To register, please visit sytaaz.org/summer2025

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

10620 N. 43RD AVE • GLENDALE, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • SYTAZ.ORG

JUNE 16-27



SIX WIVES THE MUSICAL "Don't Lose UR Head" over this camp. The "Megasix" wives of six U.S. presidents are joined by the Presidents, their Cabinets and an array of special guests to tell their fantastic stories.

JULY 22-AUGUST 1



SHIZ SUMMER SCHOOL Singing, Dancing and Magic. Test your skills in the magical arts. All witches and wizards are welcome. Join us at "Dear ol' Shiz" for the greatest summer school ever. In "Oz" we trust.

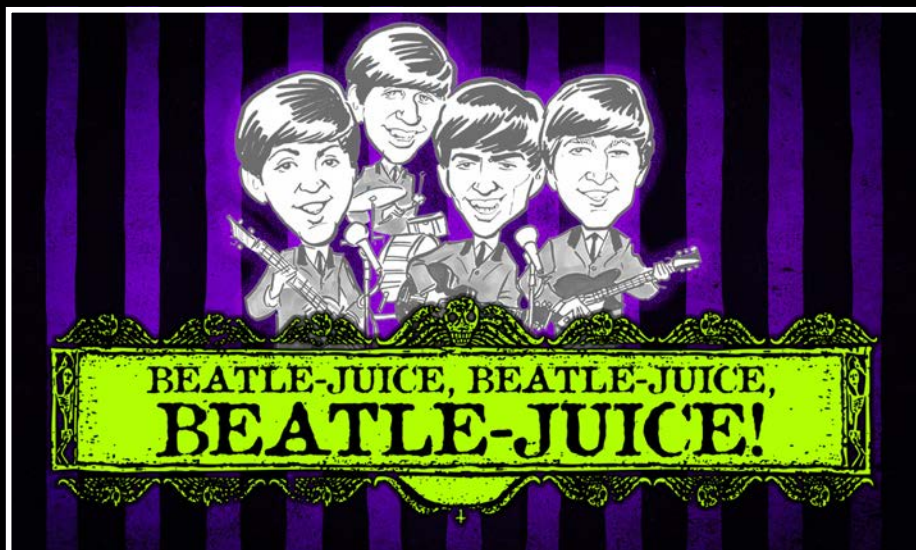


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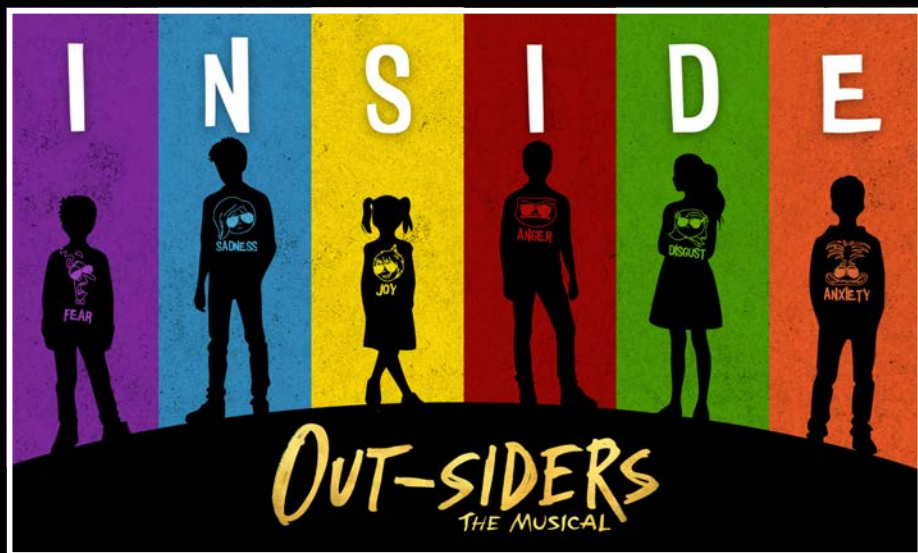


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SESSION 3: July 7–18, 2025



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SESSION 4: July 21–Aug 1, 2025



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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



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Spotlight Youth Theatre's Board of Directors

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Kenny Grossman—Artistic Director
Kevin Parker—Treasurer
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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:

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 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:



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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.



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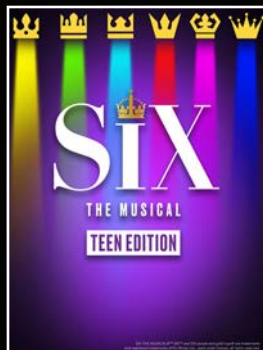


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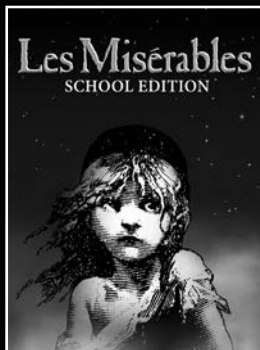
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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

2024-2025 SEASON



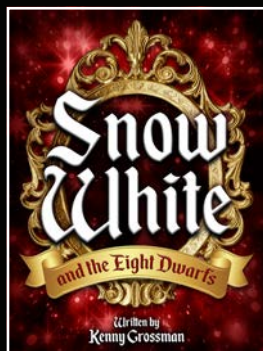
SIX THE MUSICAL
SEPTEMBER 6 – 15



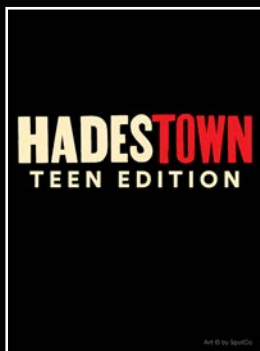
LES MISÉRABLES SCHOOL EDITION
OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 10



ELF JR.
DECEMBER 6 – 22



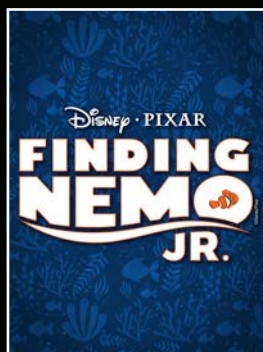
SNOW WHITE & THE EIGHT DWARFS
DECEMBER 23 – JANUARY 3



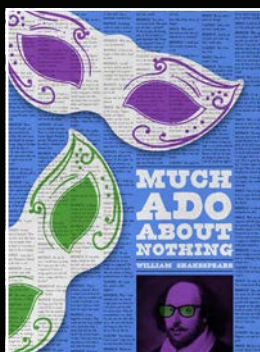
HADESTOWN TEEN EDITION
JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 2



SPOTLIGHT PLAYFEST 2025
FEBRUARY 7 – 16



FINDING NEMO JR
FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 16



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
APRIL 11 – 20



13 THE MUSICAL
MAY 16 – JUNE 1

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