

MTV  
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*Classics Series*

# Our Town

BY THORNTON WILDER  
Produced in special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

MAY 5-7, 2023

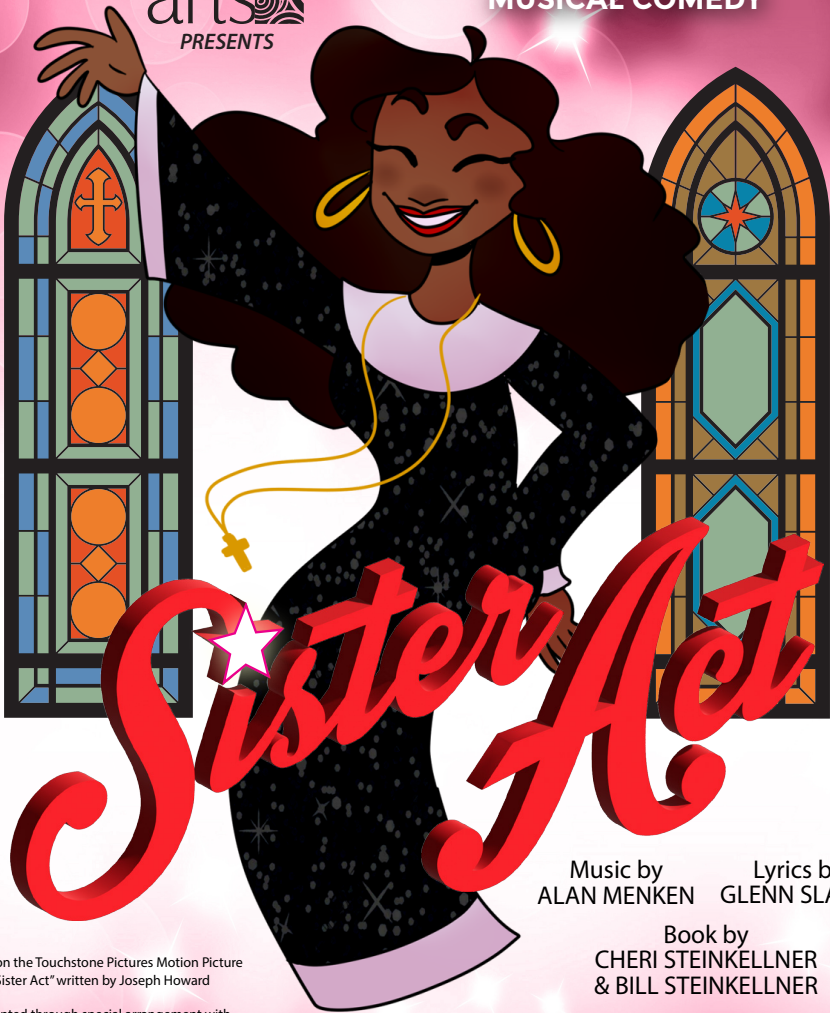
KNOX MEMORIAL

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PRESENTS

A DIVINE  
MUSICAL COMEDY



Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture  
"Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard

Presented through special arrangement with  
Musical Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials  
supplied by MTI. mtishows.com

Music by ALAN MENKEN      Lyrics by GLENN SLATER

Book by  
CHERI STEINKELLNER  
& BILL STEINKELLNER

Additional Book Material DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

**JULY 8-16**

**Tickets: [MTVarts.com](http://MTVarts.com)**



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**arts**  
Classics Series presents

Our Town



**BY THORNTON WILDER**

**DIRECTED BY BRUCE JACKLIN**

**OUR TOWN IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS.  
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## Director's Note



*Our Town* tells the story of a community: in their growing up and their marrying and their living and their dying. Widely regarded as the finest American play ever written, this Thornton Wilder masterpiece lifts up the beauty of ordinary human life and reminds us of how extraordinary each moment can be.

Our production goes beyond the actors. Every designer, technician, stage hand and production staff who collaborated on this play has been intentional, artful, and full of grace. Everyone made space for everyone. And that is what we all want for our town.

We are honored that you've chosen to be with us today. Perhaps you will discover something new. This is what we want- to welcome you to *Our Town*.

- Bruce Jacklin,  
Director

**BRUCE JACKLIN** has been a certified adjudicator for the OCTA (Ohio Community Theater Association) and AACT (American Association of Community Theater) for over 20 years. Mr. Jacklin has directed and acted in more than 170 productions in the last 35 years. This includes professional, summer stock, collegian and community theater productions. He has received numerous awards in acting and directing at both regional and state festivals from OCTA, AACTfest, Columbus Theater Roundtable and OTA festivals. Bruce was also in the film "Nietzsche Ate Here". The film premiered in Washington, D.C. and was featured in the 2013 Montreal International Film Festival. He won Best Supporting Actor at the San Francisco Actor's Film Festival and in 2014 he received the Red Cross Education Hero Award. Bruce is a member of AFTRA/SAG (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Screen Actors Guild). For his film and television work he is represented by PCG Talent in Columbus, Ohio and Docherty in Pittsburgh, Penn. Bruce is the artistic director for both MTVarts and The Alcove Theater productions.

Bruce is directing the musical *Sister Act* for MTVarts this summer at the Woodward Opera House. You can catch him on stage at the Alcove Dinner Theater this fall reprising his role as Paul Sheldon in the stage version of Stephen Kings' classic *Misery*.

# Important messages from The Knox Memorial



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*A few reminders...*

Your cooperation will make a pleasant experience for all patrons.

***Thank you for supporting the performance and the audience!***

- No food or drinks in the theater.
- Video and audio recordings of any kind are prohibited.
- All aisles **MUST** remain free and unobstructed.
- Silence all devices - no texting or talking on phones.



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# Setting

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The entire play takes place in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire

## Cast of Characters

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<b>STAGE MANAGER</b>	Stephen Stone
<b>GEORGE GIBBS</b>	Christopher J. Hartman
<b>EMILY WEBB</b>	Mackenzie Leland
<b>DR. GIBBS</b>	Thor Collard
<b>MRS. GIBBS</b>	Maureen Browning
<b>MR. WEBB</b>	Jeffrey Scott
<b>MRS. WEBB</b>	Stephanie Scott
<b>MRS. SOAMES</b>	Jacqueline Sanders-Allen
<b>SIMON STIMSON</b>	John Humphrey
<b>REBECCA GIBBS</b>	Izzy Cook
<b>WALLY WEBB</b>	Briggs Swallow
<b>HOWIE NEWSOME</b>	Mason James Mickley
<b>JOE CROWELL, JR.</b>	Zach Cramer
<b>SI CROWELL</b>	Andrew Petersen
<b>PROFESSOR WILLARD</b>	Glenn Hissong
<b>CONSTABLE WARREN</b>	Chuck Rogers
<b>JOE STODDARD</b>	John Yoder
<b>SAM CRAIG</b>	Alex Diehl
<b>LADY IN A BOX</b>	Catherine Haws
<b>WOMAN IN THE BALCONY</b>	Norita Hissong
<b>TOWNSPEOPLE</b>	Kate Ernsberger Anneliese Scott Ashlynn Scott Auralie Yoder
<b>BALLPLAYERS</b>	Owen Cook Antonio Rojas Billy Woodring

# Production Team

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**DIRECTOR**  
**PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGER**  
**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Bruce Jacklin  
Mary Harris  
Tessa Corrigan

**SET DESIGNER**  
**MASTER CARPENTERS**

Bruce Jacklin  
Mike Sears  
Bill Szucs

**COSTUME DESIGNER**  
**COSTUME ASSISTANTS**

Susan SB Brown  
Deborah Riedmiller  
Janet Stutzman  
Norita Hissong  
Dori McCoy  
Ruth Frady  
Kerri Mahan

**WIG & HAIR DESIGN**  
**WIG & HAIR ASSISTANT**  
**WIG & HAIR CONSULTANT**  
**MAKE UP DESIGN**

**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
**LIGHTING OPERATOR**  
**SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS**

Ian Fraser Ernsberger  
Gabby Fuller  
Joslin Frazer  
Charlotte Smith  
Alex Thompson, Joy Audio  
Visual

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# Cast Members



## **JACQUELINE SANDERS-ALLEN**

(Mrs. Soames) Having enjoyed the big city pace of New York and Los Angeles, CA, Jacqueline settled into small-town living in Fredericktown, OH. There she raised the last of her 3 children

and taught Language and Performing Arts at Fredericktown High School. Since retiring after 33 years, Jacqueline maintains a presence at the school as a substitute and Director of Theater. Highlights of her directing career include INTO THE WOODS; BEVERLY HILLBILLIES, THE MUSICAL; ALICE IN WONDERLAND, THE MUSICAL; and ALL SHOOK UP (closed due to COVID). When not preparing FHS/FMS Drama Club and Musical Theater annual productions, she acts and directs at various theaters—THE ODD COUPLE (Female Version), The Mount Vernon Players; GILLIGAN'S ISLAND, THE MUSICAL (Lovely Howell), SMELL OF THE KILL, and BLITHE SPIRIT, Mansfield Playhouse; THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENAN, NICKEL AND DIMED, and BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, OSU-M; and TWILIGHT GARDENS, Mansfield Renaissance among more than 50 others. Personal time includes enjoying a little horse farm in Lucas and visiting children and grandchildren in Milwaukee, WI.



**MAUREEN BROWNING** (Mrs. Gibbs) lives in Mansfield and has been involved in the theater scene for over 20 years. She divides her time between the Mansfield Playhouse, MTVarts, and The Alcove Dinner Theater.

When she's not on stage, she is busy running Swept Away Cleaning, a business she and her husband started back in 2009. She's looking forward to reprising her role in MISERY at the Alcove Dinner Theater in the fall.



**THOR COLLARD** (Dr. Gibbs) has been acting in theatre productions all around Central Ohio for the past 10 years, including fun roles at MTVarts like The Cowardly Lion (THE WIZARD OF OZ,) Cogsworth

(BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,) and Uncle Max (THE SOUND OF MUSIC.) OUR TOWN is a classic thought-provoking show, and Thor wishes for all who see it to maybe find a little bit more appreciation of this wonderful world. Peace and

Love, my friends. Enjoy the show.



**IZZY COOK** (Rebecca Gibbs) is so excited to be part of the OUR TOWN cast. This is her fifth experience performing with MTVarts. She has also performed in FROZEN KIDS, OLIVER, SHREK JR., and

SEUSSICAL JR. As always, she is grateful for the direction and guidance of all the MTVarts leaders and volunteers. She cherishes the time spent and memories made with her fellow cast members at her home away from home.



**OWEN COOK** (Ballplayer) OUR TOWN is Owen's second performance with MTVarts. He hopes you take the time to reflect on this emotionally resonant production and what it might mean in today's

society. In addition to theatre, Owen participates in cross country and track for MVMS, swims with High Performance Aquatics at Kenyon College, and enjoys reading and watching movies. He has enjoyed working with the cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show!



**ZACH CRAMER** (Joe Crowell, Jr.) is a 6th grader at Mount Vernon Middle School. Outside of acting, Zach enjoys sports, and making music. Zach has most recently appeared as a Wickersham Brother in

SEUSSICAL JR. Zach hopes you have a great day, and enjoy the show.



**ALEX DIEHL** (Sam Craig) has been in multiple productions with MTVarts in the past, including THE MUSIC MAN, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, BYE BYE BIRDIE, THE ADDAMS FAMILY, and THE WIZARD

OF OZ. Alongside his theatrical pursuits, Alex graduated from Ohio Northern University with a CS degree and now works as a full-time software engineer. Alex is passionate about music, singing in the church choir, and taking lessons on the organ. His hobbies include (but are not limited to) reading, drawing, getting eight hours of sleep on the weekends, running, and listening to/ making a variety of music.



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# Our Town

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# Cast Members



**KATE ERNSBERGER** (Townsperson) is pleased to join MTVarts once again for a Classics Series. Some favorite roles include Alice in *THE ADDAMS FAMILY*, Jane in *WALLY'S CAFE*, Meg in *LEADING*

*LADIES*, and Frenchy in *GREASE*. If she's not onstage or working backstage, she's having a blast working with adults with developmental disabilities and hanging out with her daughter, Anastasia. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support, especially Ian, who puts up with her. Enjoy the show!



**CHRISTOPHER J. HARTMAN** (George Gibbs) received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ohio Northern University with a major in Musical Theatre. His training includes Chekhov technique, voice and dance.

He was most recently seen onstage in MTVarts' production of Lionel Bart's *OLIVER!* He has also performed as Howard Bevans in William Inge's *PICNIC*, Kapila/Devadatta in *HAYAVADANA* by Girish Karnad, Romeo in Shakespeare's *ROMEO AND JULIET*, Etches in *TITANIC THE MUSICAL* by Maury Yeston and Peter Stone, and he originated the role of Joe Rupp in Yianni Papadimos and Ben Chavez's musical, *ELYSIUM: AN AMERICAN FABLE*. Christopher also directed *SUBTRACTION* and *BOY MEETS GIRL: A YOUNG LOVE STORY* at warehouse14 as a part of A Night of One-Acts. Enjoy the show!



**CATHERINE HAWS** (Lady in a Box) loves telling stories through acting, writing, and film. Some of her favorite roles include Lady Bracknell in *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*, Mary Bailey in *IT'S*

*A WONDERFUL LIFE*, and Templeton the Rat in *CHARLOTTE'S WEB*. Catherine is currently working on a film project with Orange Barrel and a series of picture books with her brother and sister-in-law. Catherine hopes you enjoy the show and remember that we've got a lot of pleasures of a kind here like the sun coming up in the morning.

**GLENN HISSONG** (Professor Willard) has been waiting for another chance to tread the boards



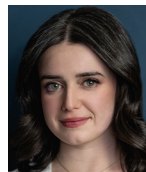
at the Memorial Theater, after playing past roles for MTVarts, The Alcove Dinner Theater, and The Mount Vernon Players. He's always quite the character. He hopes you'll enjoy it. Hopefully, like him, you'll laugh, cry and come out stronger. Thank you for coming.



**NORITA HISSONG** (Woman in the Balcony; Wig and Hair Design) has contributed on stage and backstage to Mount Vernon's thriving theater community for the past ten years. Her passions are theater, art, paint, shoes, and glitter. You may not recognize her, but you've seen her work, she loves making others look good. Enjoy the show!



**JOHN HUMPHREY** (Simon Stimson) is a current senior at Mount Vernon High School. John's most recent characters have been Guy in *CHECK PLEASE* and the King in *CINDERELLA*. Outside of theatre, he enjoys singing in the high school choir and playing the french horn in the band.



**MACKENZIE LELAND** (Emily Webb) was last seen at MTVarts as Liesl in *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* and is happy to be back with MTVarts in the beautiful Memorial Theater. She is grateful for the opportunity to revisit such a meaningful piece and to get the chance to introduce a new generation to the story of *OUR TOWN*. Her favorite credits include: Bonnie in *BONNIE & CLYDE*, Mary Poppins in *MARY POPPINS*, Ariel in *THE LITTLE MERMAID*, Polly in *CRAZY FOR YOU*, and Cecily in *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*. She thanks Bruce for the opportunity, and her family and Matthew for their love and support.

**MASON JAMES MICKLEY** (Howie Newsome) is excited to return to the world of MTVarts' Classic Series with a truly timeless show that is sure to stir nostalgia, make you think, and remind many viewers of their own small-town youth. When he's not onstage delving into the world of another's life, he's selling insurance

# Cast Members



alongside his teammate mother, playing video games with his partner and their three fluffy children (also known as, "cats"), and consuming inhumane amounts of caffeinated milkshakes he firmly

believes is coffee. Mason is excited for you to see this magnificent show with a magnificent cast about two souls coming together for a timed life with timeless love. He'd like to thank his family, his partner, and his friends for their endless love and support. Be Excellent to Each Other, and Party on Dudes!



**ANDREW PETERSEN** (Si Crowell) is excited to be in his third show with MTVarts. Most recently, he played Randy Parker in A CHRISTMAS STORY. Andrew is a third grader at Wiggin Street Elementary

School. Offstage, he enjoys reading, Minecraft, and playing piano. He wants to thank Bruce for helping him become an actor, Christopher for being a great friend, and you for coming to the show!



**CHUCK ROGERS** (Constable Warren) has been involved with MTVarts for the last 3 years. He has acted in several shows including WELCOME HOME, THE ODD COUPLE, as well another Classics production

of ALL MY SONS. He also worked behind the scenes building sets for several shows. He appreciates the amount of live theater Knox County has to offer and enjoys being part of it. It also gives him a reprieve from all his wife's animals.



**ANTONIO ROJAS** (Ballplayer) is very excited to be a part of MTVarts' production of OUR TOWN. He has been seen in numerous other MTVarts shows including playing Kaa in JUNGLE BOOK KIDS, Hans in FROZEN

JR., Captain of the Guard in SHREK JR., and Sam in BOY MEETS GIRL. He is a theatrical and professional actor, represented by PCG Talent, who has been acting and training since the age of 7. He has loved getting to know and connect with this talented cast. He thanks everyone for the support and hopes you enjoy the show!

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**JEFFREY SCOTT** (Mr. Webb) has enjoyed being a small part of a few MTVarts productions in recent years, especially as he has gotten to share them with his family. Most recently, Jeff appeared in THE SOUND OF MUSIC, albeit as a Nazi. After college, Jeff was a resident actor at the A.D. Players in Houston, Texas, which he found thrilling, exhausting, and poorly compensated. Nearly three decades later, he is pleased to find himself sharing the stage with his lovely and talented wife, Stephanie, with whom he shares a home, three children, and a wonderful life in Mount Vernon.



**STEPHANIE SCOTT** (Mrs. Webb) is pleased to be on stage again in her third MTVarts production. Stephanie has previously appeared in THE SOUND OF MUSIC and as Old Sally in OLIVER! She is thankful that her family shares her love for theatre and has encouraged her to join them onstage.

**ANNELIESE SCOTT** (Townsperson) is a homeschooled 7th grader and is super excited



to be in another MTVarts production. Previously she has been in numerous artsIQ productions as well as OLIVER! last summer. In her free time, she enjoys listening to audio books and playing with her sister. Anneliese is happy to be in OUR TOWN with her family and hopes you enjoy the show.



**ASHLYNN SCOTT** (Townsperson) is a homeschooled junior that has enjoyed being a part of the MTVarts program for many years. She has performed in many of the Jr. shows, including playing Elsa in FROZEN JR. and Pinocchio in SHREK THE MUSICAL JR., and has also been in the productions THE SOUND OF MUSIC and OLIVER! as a member of the ensemble. She was most recently cast as Mary Poppins in a production of the musical at Weathervane Playhouse. She is very grateful for all the opportunities she has been given through MTVarts and all the amazing people she has met through the productions.



Our Town

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# Cast Members



**STEPHEN STONE** (Stage Manager) Stephen says "It is a privilege to work with such a fine cast and crew, on this, my 4th Classic Series production." Previous Classics productions include THE DIARY OF ANNE

FRANK, DEATH OF A SALESMEN, and THE CRUCIBLE.



**BRIGGS SWALLOW** (Wally Webb) is a 6th grader at Mount Vernon Middle School. This is his 8th production with MTVarts, having previously played a chorus member in WILLY WONKA KIDS, Kurt

VonTrapp in THE SOUND OF MUSIC, Burt in ALL MY SONS, a member of the Gang of Thieves in OLIVER!, Pig 2 in SHREK JR., Ralphie in A CHRISTMAS STORY, and a Wickersham Brother in SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL JR. Briggs enjoys reading, drawing, designing models for his 3D printer, and playing with his dog Shadow. He would like to thank Mr. Bruce and MTVarts for providing the opportunity to do theatre in Mount Vernon.



**BILLY WOODRING** (Ballplayer) is a senior at Fredericktown Highschool. He has appeared in A CHRISTMAS STORY and as Noah Claypool in OLIVER! as well as numerous roles through Fredericktown High School. Billy

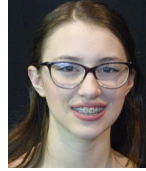
is incredibly grateful for all the opportunities he's been given through MTVarts and all the wonderful people he's met. He hopes you all enjoy the show.



**JOHN YODER** (Joe Stoddard) is delighted to be back on stage with MTVarts. He enjoys running, snowboarding and spending time with his kids, Auralie, Judah, Ethan, and Luna. John wants to thank

his daughter Auralie for helping to inspire and encourage his love of theatre. He's honored to share the stage with her and the rest of this talented cast. John is a REALTOR with Key Realty - John Yoder Team. Enjoy the show!

**AURALIE YODER** (Townsperson) is a current



senior at Mount Vernon High School. Since she fell in love with performing at age eight, Auralie has been in her school choir and numerous school productions. Her most recent school roles have been Phyllis

in PLAY ON! and the title role in Rodgers & Hammerstein's CINDERELLA. She's also been a part of ten previous MTVarts shows, a showcase at the alcove (directed by Courtney Decosky), and has sang in the Music & Arts Festival. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she's enjoyed being a part of it!



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# Production Team



**SUSAN SB BROWN** (Costume Design) has been designing and building costumes for 60 years. She has been affiliated with MTVarts since 2009 and has designed or worked on seven of their summer musicals

as well as designing or working on five of the Classics shows such as OUR TOWN. In real life, she taught at Ashland University for 15 years and lives in Fredericktown where she grows vegetables and keeps bees.



**TESSA CORRIGAN** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore at Mount Vernon High School. She enjoys diving, and is captain of her team, as well as reading, crocheting, and playing with her ducks. She

hopes you enjoy the show.



**IAN FRASER ERNSBERGER** (Lighting Designer) is excited to be working again this year with the Classics Series after directing last year's ALL MY SONS. Ian is no stranger to the Classics, having directed 12

ANGRY MEN (2011 & 2017) and DEATH OF A SALESMAN, as well as designing lights and sound for DIARY OF ANNE FRANK (2010 & 2018) and THE MIRACLE WORKER. He portrayed Carlson in OF MICE AND MEN (2007) and Reverend Parris in THE CRUCIBLE. Ian is the Production and Operations Manager for the Mount Vernon Arts Consortium and the Managing Producer for The Alcove Dinner Theater. He can't wait for the audiences to see the finished product of so many artists' hard work and dedication.



**MARY HARRIS** (Production/Stage Manager) graduated from The Ohio State University with a BA in Arts Management. There, she directed and performed in shows with Off the Lake Productions,

assistant stage manager with the OSU Theatre Department, and stage managed shows for community theatre groups such as MadLab and Little Theatre Off Broadway. Most recently, she directed a show for MTVarts' Night of One-Acts and costumed the artsIQ production of

SEUSSICAL JR. When she's not doing theatre, Mary enjoys crafting and rock climbing.



**KERRI MAHAN** (Makeup) is delighted to once again be doing makeup for an MTVarts show. She also performs with MTVarts, her recent shows including THE ADDAMS FAMILY, BYE BYE BIRDIE,

HOW I BECAME A PIRATE, ROOTED: STORIES OF KNOX COUNTY, and her dinner theater debut as the mischievous Sister Robert Anne in NUNSENSE. When not on stage, Kerri enjoys teaching math to 5th graders at Pleasant Street Elementary School. She is grateful to her family for their love and support.



**MIKE SEARS** (Master Carpenter) After his daughter Avery was in her first artsIQ production with MTVarts, Mike began helping behind the scenes with the stage crew, building set pieces, and creating

props for the productions of WILLY WONKA KIDS/JR, FROZEN KIDS/JR, OLIVER!, SHREK JR, and MISERY. His wife Christian became involved as well and is now one of the leaders for artsIQ. Local community theater has turned into a family affair that they all enjoy together.



**BILL SZUCS** (Master Carpenter) has been helping build theater sets for about two and a half years now. He enjoys the experience of working behind the scenes with such a talented group of people to help bring

shows to life. Along with carpentry, Bill enjoys fishing and spending time with his loving wife and daughter.



**ALEX THOMPSON** (Sound Engineer) is a full time audio engineer and audio visual systems designer/installer with over 15 years work experience. He has mixed virtually every style of performance for

audiences ranging from 10 or less up to many thousands of people. A majority of his work, and Alex's specialty in audio production, is theater and in the past 10 years has provided audio support for 54 plays and musicals.

# Acknowledgements

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