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FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2, 2025



KNOX MEMORIAL
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Celebrating 100 Years
1925 • 2025

Presented through special arrangement with MusicTheatre International

A stage with teal curtains pulled back, revealing a dark blue background. Three spotlights shine down from the top, creating a bright path of light. The text is centered in the middle of the stage.

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A wooden floor with perspective lines leading towards the center, creating a sense of depth. The text is overlaid on this floor.

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Disney's
**BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST**
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MUSIC BY
ALAN
MENKEN

LYRICS BY
HOWARD ASHMAN
AND TIM RICE

BOOK BY
LINDA
WOOLVERTON

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY
ROB ROTH

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

*Disney's Beauty And The Beast JR.
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com*

DIRECTOR: Bruce Jacklin

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Christopher Hartman

PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGER: Mary Harris

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Laura Ackert

CHOREOGRAPHY: Anthony Ingham



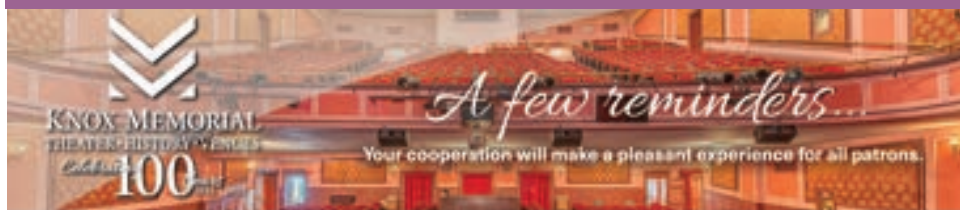
Please be aware that theatrical smoke and fog, strobe lighting, and moving light effects will be used during this performance.



For those with sight disabilities, we have a PDF version of this program on our website at www.mtvarts.com/BATBJR.pdf

The videotaping, photographing, or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

An important message from The Knox Memorial



Thank you for supporting the performance and the audience!

- No outside 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.



knoxmemorial.org

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Day of Prayer and Praise
6am - 6pm

Thursday 3/27

Lifeline Choice Challenge
4pm - 6pm

Friday 3/28

Matching Challenge Day
6am - 6pm

Monday 3/31

Lifeline Wrap Up
6am - 6pm

OUR GOAL: \$75,000



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Bringing the magical world of “Belle” and the “Beast” to life on the Memorial stage is no small feat. The challenge of fitting this enchanting world onto our stage was immense, but thanks to the creativity and dedication of our amazing production team and hardworking technicians, we made it happen. *This show simply wouldn't exist without you.* You all deserve a standing ovation! (Audience members, if you spot someone dressed in all black behind the scenes, give them a big “thank you!”)

We'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to our sponsors. Your generous support was vital in bringing this vision to life, covering production costs and providing essential resources. To the many families who donated time and money to support our theater, we are deeply grateful. Your contributions reflect the true spirit of community and make it possible to foster creativity and talent within our cast and crew.

To our remarkable cast and crew: We are so proud of you! Your passion, hard work, and dedication have brought this story to life in a way that will be remembered by all who see it. We hope this experience has been as joyful and empowering for you as it has been inspiring for us.

Finally, to our incredible audience: Thank you for being here and supporting the arts. Your presence and applause mean the world to us and inspire everyone involved to reach even greater heights. By attending, you are helping to strengthen and celebrate the arts in our community.

Thank you for making this production such a success!

Bruce Jacklin
Artistic Director

BRUCE JACKLIN has been a certified adjudicator for the OCTA (Ohio Community Theater Association) and AACT (American Association of Community Theater) for nearly 25 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 Round Table and OTA festivals. Bruce is also a film and television actor. For his film and television work he is represented by PCG Talent in Columbus, OH and Docherty in Pittsburgh, PA. Bruce is the artistic director for both MTVarts and The Alcove Dinner Theater productions. Bruce wishes to thank his wife, Marylou, for her patience, support and love that she has given him over the decades so he and his colleagues can create, collaborate and give the art of theater to our community.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

BELLE.....Belle, Gaston, LeFou, Le Filles, Villagers
BELLE (REPRISE).....Le Filles, Belle
HOME.....Belle
HOME (TAG).....Mrs. Potts, Madame de la Grande Bouch
GASTON.....Lefou, Le Filles, Gaston, Villagers
GASTON (REPRISE).....Gaston, Lefou
BE OUR GUEST.....Lumiere, Chip, Mrs. Potts, Enchanted Objects

~ INTERMISSION ~

ACT TWO

SOMETHING THERE.....Belle, Beast, Lumiere, Cogsworth,
Mrs. Potts, Madame, Babette
HUMAN AGAIN.....Lumiere, Mrs. Potts, Chip, Babette,
Madame, Cogsworth, Enchanted Objects
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.....Mrs. Potts
THE MOB SONG.....Villagers, Gaston, M. D'Arque, Lefou
HOME (REPRISE).....Belle
FINALE.....Company



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATORS Ady DeCosky

Amari McQuigg

BELLE Madison Sichina

MAURICE Charlee Foley

BEAST Devyn Hall

GASTON Karma Carpenter

LEFOU Briggs Swallow

LE FILLE DE LA VILLE Kiersten Clinedinst

LE FILLE DE LA VILLE Ellie Salvucci

LE FILLE DE LA VILLE Avery Sears

LUMIERE Peyton Hauenstein-Cline

COGSWORTH Will Pletcher

MRS. POTTS Kiarah Smith

BABETTE Lanah Andrews

MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCH Isabella Oster

CHIP Adeline Fontaine

OLD BEGGAR WOMAN/

ENCHANTRESS Kyla Keller

MONSIEUR D'ARQUE Simon Ryals

NAPKIN DANCERS Reese Ferenbaugh, Clara Hauenstein, Kyla Keller,
Kate Marhefka, Naomi McFarlane, Rosie Stemen

ENSEMBLE Adrian Andrews, Evelyn Brandenberg, Charlee Clinedinst,
Sarah Clymer, Izzy Cook, Reese Ferenbaugh, Eden Figurski,
Kate Gottke, Clara Hauenstein, Imogen Jacklin, Braelyn
Jones, Jenna Jurkowitz, Tavin Lindsey, Zayden Luckmeier,
Kate Marhefka, Naomi McFarlane, Mutsuki Okubo, Cameron
Powell, Evelyn Risner, Annaliese Scott, Grace Shank, Lizzie
Shull, Jillian Snow, Annie Stemen, Rosie Stemen, Ainsley
Sweeney, Lark Wright



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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Bruce Jacklin
 Music Directors..... Laura Ackert
 Choreographer.....Anthony Ingham
 Assistant Director.....Christopher J. Hartman
 Producer.....Janis Stone
 Stage Manager.....Mary Harris
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Christan Sears
 Stage Manager Apprentice...Kyleigh Woods

Set Designer.....Bruce Jacklin
 Master Carpenter.....Michael Sears
 Scenic Painter.....Bruce Jacklin
 Build and Paint Volunteers.....Thor Collard,
 Megan Evans, Greg Hudson, Kara Jenkins,
 Jeckly Mucua, Johney Payne, Stephanie
 Scott, Allison Smith, Amy Steman, Bill
 Szucs, Emily Wise
 Props Apprentice.....Maura Lauth

Lead Costume and Wig Designers.....
 Mary Harris, Leah Miller
 Costume Assistant.....Sadie Ryals

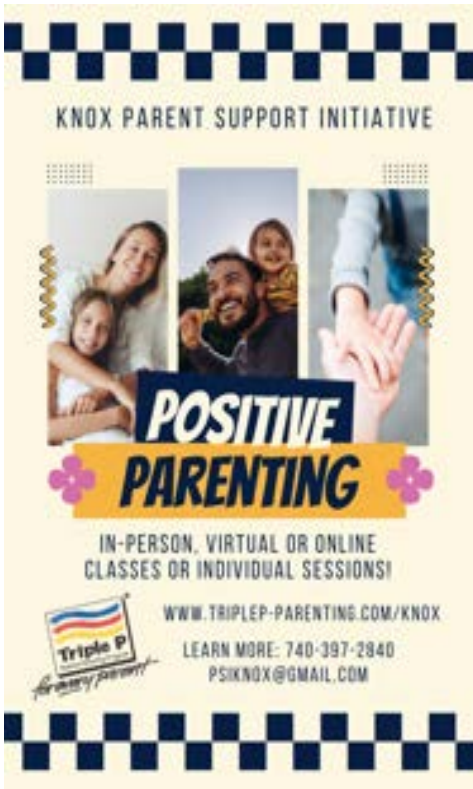
Wigs and Hair Assistants.....Ruth Frady,
 Ainsley Sweeney
 Make Up Lead.....Kerri Mahan

Lighting Designers.....Ian Fraser
 Ernsberger, Scott Swingle, and MVAC
 Light Board Operator.....Gabrielle Fuller
 Spotlight Operators.....Molly Emig,
 Julia Matkovic

Sound Engineering.....Alex Thompson
 Technical Assistants.....Joslin Frazer,
 Charlotte Smith

Fly Crew.....John Nixon
 Stage Crew.....Michael Sears,
 Dawn Hall, Beth Marhefkka, Caroline
 Pletcher, Megan Snow, Amy Stemen

Ticketing.....Scott Swingle and MVAC
 Media Design.....Carrie Haver, Mark't
 Playbill.....Megan Evans and MVAC
 House Manager.....Kirstin Fuller
 Ushers.....Friends of MTVarts



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CAST MEMBERS



ADRIAN ANDREWS (Ensemble)
This is Adrian's second performance. He is a kindergartner at Twin Oak and enjoys performing with his big siblings. He also enjoys meal time, snacking, and having a bite to eat. He loves baseball, dinosaurs, and running around as well. He hopes you will enjoy the performance.



LANAH ANDREWS (Babette)
This is Lanah's 11th production, and she is so excited to play the part of Babette. Lanah previously played Thing 2 in SEUSSICAL JR., Snowy in HONK JR., a Seahorse in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR., and Marie in LOCKDOWN. Her all time favorite role so far has been Marta Back in AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD. Lanah loves theater with a passion but most of all loves taking acting lessons with Christopher Hartman as well as learning the costume ways with her mom and Mary Harris. She would like to thank her family for encouraging her to step outside of her comfort zone in her acting pursuits, her vocal teacher Kylie Stadler-Hoam, and also thanks you, audience member, for coming to see this amazing production! Profitez du spectacle!



EVELYNN BRANDENBERG (Ensemble) is a freshman at MVHS. This is her tenth show and you may recognize her as Mayzie La Bird from MTVarts' SEUSSICAL JR. or Monsieur Bouc from the MVHS production of MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS. Outside of theater she can be seen marching in the band at MVHS. Evelynn adores this show, and she hopes you have heaps of fun with the cast and crew of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.



KARMA CARPENTER (Gaston)
This is Karma's second show with MTVarts. She has been in numerous other shows with MVHS including CINDERELLA, FREAKY FRIDAY and most recently in MTVarts' THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. playing as Ursula. Along with theater Karma also participates in the Forum show at Mount Vernon High School and plays softball for the Mount Vernon Girls Softball League. She would like to thank everyone for coming to enjoy the show and hopes you all enjoy it as much as she loves doing it.

KIERSTEN CLINEDINST (Les Filles) is ecstatic to be playing a Silly Girl! She is 14 years old and an



8th grader at Saint Vincent de Paul School, where she played Anna in FROZEN JR. and Wendy in PETER PAN JR. This is her 10th show with MTVarts, and she is so happy to be a part of the family! Her favorite roles with MTVarts include Matilda in MATILDA JR. and a mersister in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. She would like to thank her fellow silly girls, Ellie and Avery, for being so loving and supportive throughout the whole journey!



CHARLEE CLINEDINST (Ensemble) is 11 years old and attends Saint Vincent de Paul School. This is Charlee's 6th show! Her favorite role was Little Kangaroo in SEUSSICAL JR. Outside of the theater, Charlee enjoys soccer, volleyball and drawing. She hopes you enjoy the show!



SARAH CLYMER (Ensemble)
This is Sarah's third show with MTVarts. She has previously played ensemble in MATILDA JR., and Mother Swan in HONK JR.. Along with singing, acting, and dancing, Sarah is part of the MVHS band, and enjoys watching movies in her free time. She's so excited to be in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR. with her friends and hopes everyone in the audience is just as excited to see it!



IZZY COOK (Ensemble) is in 7th grade at MVMS and is so excited to be in her 10th MTVarts production! Some of her favorite performances include AACSL, OLIVER, MATILDA JR., LITTLE MERMAID JR., and OUR TOWN. Outside of performing and working backstage, she also enjoys playing violin, skiing, swimming and time with friends and family. She hopes you enjoy the show!



ADY DECOSKY (Narrator) is thrilled to be taking on the role of a narrator in this year's production of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.. When not concentrating on performing, Ady can be found skiing, baking, shopping or spending time with family and friends. She is currently an 8th grade student looking forward to highschool next year! Ady is excited for you all to enjoy the show!

REESE FERENBAUGH (Ensemble; Napkin Dancer)

CAST MEMBERS



is thrilled to be in this production of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.! She is especially excited to bring the magic of this timeless story to life and share the stage with such a talented cast. She invites you to be our guest as you sit back and watch the napkins dance and the objects sing. Enjoy the show!



EDEN FIGURSKI (Ensemble) is a total musical fanatic, just like her awesome big sister, McKinley. She's been a part of some super fun shows like CINDERELLA at MVHS, MATILDA JR., HONK JR., and THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. with MTVarts. Eden kicked off her singing journey at the age of 2 with Tavaci and has been singing ever since! When she's not performing, she loves drawing, listening to music, playing her cello, and hanging out with friends. Eden is beyond grateful for everyone at MTVarts and for all the amazing friends and memories she's made along the way. She hopes you'll Be Our Guest! Enjoy the show!



CHARLEE FOLEY (Maurice) This is Charlee's 7th show with MTVarts. He loves acting in shows, even participating in shows outside of MTVarts productions. He is also in chorale at MVHS and recently scored a one (best score possible) in a TB ensemble he was in. He plays many instruments like clarinet for marching band, oboe for concerts, and soon sax for jazz band. He spends his free time hanging with his best pal, Braelyn Jones. He hopes you enjoy this shows as much as he loved being in it!



ADELINE FONTAINE (Chip) This is Adeline's first JR. show with MTVarts and is so excited to bring Chip to life. Adeline is a homeschooled 4th grader who loves math and art. She has attended The Spotlight Dance Studio for 7 years taking ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary and tumbling. In her free time she loves to play soccer, tennis and play with her two dogs at home.



KATE GOTTKE (Ensemble) This is Kate's 5th show with MTVarts. She made her debut as Young Fiona in SHREK JR. Since then she has been a part of LITTLE MERMAID JR., SEUSSICAL JR., and HONK JR. Kate is a

5th grader at East Elementary. She enjoys reading, gymnastics, crafts, and taking care of her bunny. She fell in love with theater at a young age and hopes someone out there watching catches the bug, too. Enjoy the show!



DEVYNN HALL (Beast) This is Devyn's 11th show with MTVarts! Some of his favorite roles have been Dragon Puppeteer in SHREK JR., the Elephant Bird in SEUSSICAL JR., the Escapologist in MATILDA JR., King Triton in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR., and Mark in LOCKDOWN. He is a 9th grade homeschool student. When he is not acting he plays board and video games, along with baseball. He thanks his family and friends for their love and support. He would also like to thank his acting teacher and friend Christopher for everything he's done to help him improve his acting skills. He hopes you enjoy the show!



CLARA HAUENSTEIN (Ensemble; Napkin Dancer) This is Clara's 7th show with artsIQ. She is excited to help put on BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.! Clara recently played the Carp in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. She is an 8th grader at Mount Vernon Middle School. Besides from singing and acting she loves to ski and hang out with Rosie Stemen! She hopes you enjoy the show!



PEYTON HAUENSTEIN-CLINE (Lumiere) This is Peyton's twelfth show with MTVarts. He is super excited to be closing his senior year with BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR. Through the years he has been seen as Young Simba, Willy Wonka, Oaken, Garvin, and Prince Eric. Alongside acting, he can be seen in the MVHS chorale and symphonic orchestra. He would like to thank Karma for running lines with him, and he would love to thank the company of MTVarts for making a second home for him and giving him so much love and joy. Now please sit back and "Be our Guest!"



IMOGEN JACKLIN (Ensemble) is a kindergarten student at Wiggin Street Elementary. She enjoys school, piano lessons, soccer and hanging out at her Mimi and Pop's house. This is her second stage performance. This fall she was the gingerbread man in the Wiggin Street production of THE GINGERBREAD MAN.

CAST MEMBERS



BRAELYN JONES (Ensemble) This is Braelyn's second show with MTVarts. Her previous show was THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. where she had an amazing time. Other than musicals, Braelyn also plays the violin at Mount Vernon High School and the Newark Granville Chamber strings. She is thankful for the loving support of her friends and family. She hopes you have a great time at the show!



JENNA JURKOWITZ (Ensemble) is a freshman at MVHS and is beyond thrilled to be back on stage for her 10th show with MTVarts. She's had the acting bug since she was 8, and her favorite roles include Greta Kantorova in AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD, Jojo in SEUSSICAL JR., and Olaf in FROZEN KIDS. When she's not busy with rehearsals, Jenna enjoys playing soccer, club volleyball, and running indoor and outdoor track. Besides sports, she enjoys playing her violin, singing, volunteering with Key Club, and skiing with her friends. She wants to thank everyone who has come to the show to support her, so be our guest and enjoy the show!



KYLA KELLER (Old Beggar Woman; Enchantress; Napkin Dancer) is a senior at Mount Vernon High School. This is her first MTVarts Jr. show! She has been in several shows at MVHS including CINDERELLA and

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS. Outside of theater, Kyla is Class Representative and Varsity Soccer Captain. She enjoys dancing, shopping, and singing Taylor Swift. This fall, Kyla plans on attending college to pursue a career in film acting. She invites you to try the grey stuff. It's delicious!



TAVIN LINDSEY (Ensemble) This is Tavin's first show ever with MTVarts. Tavin is an honors student at the MVHS. She plays the viola in the MVHS orchestra. She enjoys voice acting, creating and animating, also does some coding in her spare time. She would like to invite you all to enjoy the show!



ZAYDEN LUCKMEIER (Ensemble) This is Zayden's third production and he is so excited to be a part of the BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR. cast! He recently performed in the ensemble for the show THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. He is

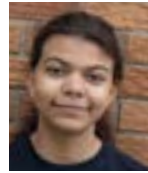
currently a sixth grader at Fredericktown Middle School. Besides acting, Zayden enjoys reading, art, playing video games, and hanging out with his friends. He is so excited to be a part of this production and would like to thank everyone involved for such a great experience! He would also like to thank his mom and dad, his family, and his friends for all their support. He hopes you enjoy the show and "please be our guest!"



KATE MARHEFKA (Ensemble; Napkin Dancer) This is Kate's seventh show with MTVarts and she is beyond thrilled to be back on stage for another production. Her favorite roles include Teen Fiona in SHREK JR., Cat in the Hat in SEUSSICAL JR., and Elsa in FROZEN JR. at Saint Vincent de Paul where she is currently in eighth grade. When not on stage she enjoys playing basketball, volleyball, and hanging out with friends. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making it another amazing show and hopes you enjoy the show!



NAOMI MCFARLANE (Ensemble; Napkin Dancer) This is Naomi's third show with MTVarts. She performed THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. and HONK JR. She played Edith in RACHEL at the King Arts Complex. Naomi studies voice with Mrs. Diane Dingler and plays cello in the Mount Vernon Middle School Orchestra. Outside of her musical pursuits, she enjoys skiing, embarking on road trips to visit family, and training her puppy, Kia. She is looking forward to being on stage again, and thanks her family and friends for their support.



AMARI MCQUIGG (Narrator) This is Amari's fifth show with artsIQ. She's glad to be a part of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR. She was previously chorus for FROZEN KIDS, MATILDA JR., PETER PAN JR., and THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. She was also Oaken at her school's production of FROZEN JR. and Bewick in HONK JR. Along with acting and singing, she enjoys reading, writing, and playing video games. She hopes you enjoy the show!



MUTSUKI OKUBO (Ensemble) is a foreign exchange student from Japan and a junior at MVHS. She is a member of MVHS choir and Key Club and enjoys taking hip hop dance lessons from Spotlight. She has taken piano

CAST MEMBERS

lessons for fourteen years and loves music and math. She is very excited to have the opportunity to be a part of MTVarts this year. She would like to thank everyone for their support!



ISABELLA OSTER (Madame de la Grande Bouch) is a junior cosmetology student at the Knox County Career Center and this is her 13th show with MTVarts. Her favorite roles that she has played include Wendy Jo in FOOTLOOSE, Bruce in MATILDA Jr., and Gertrude in SEUSSICAL Jr. Besides theater, Isabella's provincial life includes finding the beauty in nail artistry, painting, tap dancing, and her four beast pups. She learns so much in every production and is grateful for this magnifique cast and the bon amies she has made. C'est bon!



WILL PLETCHER (Cogsworth) This is Will's sixth show with artsIQ and his eleventh show overall. Will has previously played Grimsby in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. and Kristoff in FROZEN KIDS. When he is not performing on stage, Will likes to relax at home playing video games. He also enjoys bowling with his school, Fredericktown High School. Will would like to thank you for coming to the show and hopes you have a great time!



CAMERON POWELL (Ensemble) This is Cameron's first time on stage with MTVarts. His first experience in theater came in 2022 when he played Michael Darling in St. Vincent's production of PETER PAN JR. He also got to experience what it was like behind the scenes working on the stage crew for HONK JR. Cameron is in 8th grade at St Vincent de Paul school in Mt. Vernon and plans to attend MVHS this fall. He's very creative and enjoys building things with Legos or on his 3D printer. He also loves to play games on his VR Headset and gaming consoles with his friends. He really hopes you enjoy this production!



EVELYN RISNER (Ensemble) was in Footlights' summer presentation of FINLEY FINDS HIS VOICE at the Woodward. This is her first Junior production, but Evelyn enjoys putting on family performances with her brother and cousins. She has boundless creativity, loves school, reading, writing stories, and singing

in the Twin Oak choir. Evelyn hopes everyone enjoys the show!



SIMON RYALS (Monsieur D'Arque) This is Simon's 7th show, 4th with artsIQ. He is excited to be back on stage again, previous favorite roles being Farkus in A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Knox Memorial), and Pavel Hoffman in AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD (MTVarts). You can find him out and about playing electric guitar, drumset, and eating cheezits. He would like to thank you for coming to support live theater. Now sit back, and be our guest!



ELLIE SALVUCCI (Les Filles) will be a senior in the fall at Mount Vernon High School. This is her eleventh production and, of those, this is her eighth MTVarts production. Some of her favorite roles have been the Gang of Thieves in OLIVER!, and Brigitta von Trapp in THE SOUND OF MUSIC. She wants to thank the audience for coming out and supporting MTVarts! Enjoy the show!



ANNALIESE SCOTT (Ensemble) is a 15-year-old homeschooling 9th grader who has appeared in several MTVarts productions including WILLY WONKA JR., ANNIE JR., SHREK JR., and THE LITTLE MERMAID JR., as well as OLIVER! and OUR TOWN. She is excited to be joining so many old and new friends on stage once again for another magical show.



AVERY SEARS (Les Filles) is a freshman at MVHS and has been in 8 shows with MTVarts. Some of her favorite roles from past shows include Dot in HONK JR., a Storyteller in FROZEN JR., an ensemble member in OLIVER!, and a parent and big kid in MATILDA JR. Avery has also performed several shows with MCT in Loudonville and sings with the MHVS Chorale. When she is not on stage you might see her creating a dance or handshake with her friends or reading a book while she's cozied up with her dog, Soffee! Avery would like to thank her family and her friends for their never-ending support. She wants you to enjoy this "tale as old as time."

GRACE SHANK (Ensemble) This is Grace's 4th show working with MTVarts and her 7th show

CAST MEMBERS



overall. Grace is a sophomore at East Knox and also participates in the East Knox Drama Club. Her favorite role she has played so far was Mina Westfeldt in DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS. Outside of acting, Grace enjoys playing guitar, drums, video games, and hanging out with her dogs. She hopes you enjoy the show!



LIZZIE SHULL (Ensemble) is a sophomore that has been in at least 10 MTVarts productions since BEAUTY AND THE BEAST in 2016. She is a member of the drama club, key club, chorale, and indoor and outdoor track and field teams for MVHS. She also plays volleyball and soccer for all out sports, and is a member of the elites class at the Tavaci School of Performing Arts, and has been in several choirs since first grade! She hopes you all really enjoy the show and thanks all of her castmates, but most especially her best friend McKinley.



MADISON SICHINA (Belle) They say that home is where the heart is, and for Madison, MTVarts is just that! Madison Sichina is 17 years old and a senior at Utica High School. Some of her favorite shows to be in at UHS and with MTVarts have been Ariel in THE LITTLE MERMAID, Mrs. Phelps in MATILDA JR. Joyce in ASCENSION DAY, FOOTLOOSE, Scuttie in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. , and Sophie in MAMMA MIA. She would like to thank her won-

derful friends and family for their endless love and support! She invites you to pull up a chair and enjoy this tale as old as time.



KIARAH SMITH (Mrs. Potts) is 16 years old and is a Junior at Licking Valley High School. She is very excited to be a part of this show. She has been in many shows throughout her community and has done previous shows with MTVarts artsIQ including SHREK JR., MATILDA JR., and recently played Ariel in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. She has a joy and love for theatre and wants to continue when she is older. She is hoping to get a degree in Musical Theatre and wants to thank MTVarts for the opportunities they have given her. She hopes you enjoy the show!



JILLIAN SNOW (Ensemble) began performing in artsIQ's production of ANNIE KIDS. Since then, she has appeared in many artsIQ and MTVarts shows as well as shows in theatres across Central Ohio. She most recently performed as the Ghost of Christmas Past in A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Knox Memorial) and as Amy March in LITTLE WOMEN (Columbus Recreation and Parks). Other favorite roles include Oliver Twist in OLIVER! (MTVarts) and Annie in ANNIE (Weathervane Theatre). Jillian is part of the girls soccer team, indoor and outdoor track, Key Club, and orchestra at Mount Vernon High School, where she is a 9th grader. Jillian thanks her family and friends for supporting her and thanks the community for supporting the arts.

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CAST MEMBERS



ANNIE STEMEN (Ensemble) is excited to be in her fourth show with MTVarts! Her favorite past performance was SHREK JR., especially because it was with all three of her older siblings! Her hobbies are crochet and playing with her dog and cats. Enjoy the show!



ROSIE STEMEN (Ensemble; Napkin Dancer) is a freshman in high school this year. This will be her 11th show with MTVarts. Her favorite shows have been FROZEN KIDS, where she played Anna, and MATILDA JR. Other than doing theater she enjoys playing volleyball and babysitting. Her dream roles are Nala from LION KING JR. and Little Red from INTO THE WOODS. She hopes that you will be our guest and enjoy the show!



BRIGGS SWALLOW (LeFou) Thrilled to join MTVarts for his 14th show, Briggs was recently seen in as Young Ebenezer and Shoe-Shine Boy in A CHRISTMAS CAROL, a sailor and chef in THE LITTLE MERMAID JR., and Martin in AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD. During the short periods of time when he isn't in a show, Briggs enjoys engineering and building barely legal contraption in his garage, playing various instruments from cello to ukulele (and

everything in between), writing music, and reading. Despite his many hobbies, he claims he's "not as cool as Gaston." Briggs thanks Christopher Hartman and Mary Harris for their support and invites you to enjoy the show as he takes on a role some say he was born to play.



AINSLEY SWEENEY (Ensemble) is in 9 grade at the MVHS. Ainsley's first show was with Mount Vernon Players in THE HOBBIT. She has worked with MTVarts since third grade and has been part of shows with the Mohican Community Theater and Mount Vernon Players. Some of her favorite shows have been Dracula and wig mistress in DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS, a big kid in MATILDA JR., Thing 1 in SEUSSICAL JR., JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, and Pamela Cratchit in THE CHRISTMAS CAROL. In her free time, Ainsley loves to bake, sew and read. She hopes everyone loves the show.



LARK WRIGHT (Ensemble) has really enjoyed being involved in the MTVarts program. She has learned so much from her directors and choreographers. Previously, she has participated in SEUSSICAL JR., MATILDA JR., and THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. Outside of MTVarts, she enjoys her family, friends, Irish dance, horses, Cavs, baking, and making slime.

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LAURA ACKERT (Music Director) is a music educator with over 25 years of experience. She currently teaches General Music to Kindergarten through 5th Grade in the Mount Vernon City School District. Her love of theater began at the age of five

when her dad would have her sit and watch high school play practice. *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.* is the ninth show she had music directed for artsIQ. She loves working with the wonderful young actors and amazing production team and is grateful to live and work in a community that is so supportive of the arts and arts education. She would like to thank her husband Brian for his love and support.



MARY HARRIS (Co-Costumer; Stage Manager) is a graduate of The Ohio State University where she earned her degree in arts management. There she directed and performed in shows with Off the Lake Productions, assistant stage managed with the OSU

Theatre Department, and stage managed shows for community theatre groups in Columbus. Recently for MTVarts, she directed a show in the 2025 Night of One Act, co-costumed the artsIQ productions of *THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.* and *HONK JR.*, stage managed the production of *AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD*, and performed onstage in *FOOTLOOSE*. When she's not doing theatre, Mary enjoys crafting, playing games, and spending time at home with her fiancé Christopher.



CHRISTOPHER J. HARTMAN (Assistant Director) received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ohio Northern University with a major in Musical Theatre. Christopher is studying with the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium and recently received his actor/

teacher certification in the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique. He was most recently seen onstage as Mark in MTVarts' production of *A Night of One-Acts*. He has also performed as Chris Keller in MTVarts' production of *ALL MY SONS* by Arthur Miller, George Gibbs in *OUR TOWN* by Thornton Wilder, 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 would like to thank his fiancée, Mary Harris for support and artistry! Enjoy the show!

ANTHONY INGHAM (Choreographer) This is



Tony's 10th time choreographing in Mount Vernon. He previously choreographed *PUMP BOYS AND DINNETTES* and *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* for the Alcove Dinner Theater, and *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*, *OLIVER!*, *MATILDA JR.*, *SISTER ACT*, *HONK JR.*, *FOOTLOOSE*, and *THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.* for MTVarts. Tony has been dancing since he was 8 and attended various schools for training from Phil Black's Dance Studio in NYC to Carnegie Hall. He performed all over the country in the telethon circuit to various commercials and infomercials and was on tour for Rent for 6 months. Born in New York City and raised in New Jersey, Tony has been choreographing for 30 years.



LEAH MILLER (Co-Costumer) has been with MTVarts since the beginning and has volunteered as production manager, actor, director and costumer. She loves costuming with her partner in crime, Mary Harris, and loves seeing her daughter Lanah and all

her friends create and perform. She is the Director of Human Resources at Kenyon College and loves reading, drinking wine with her husband, and hanging with her Frenchie bulldog, Peter Venkman.



CHRISTAN SEARS (artsIQ Workshop Director; Assistant Stage Manager) is a 5th grade teacher at Danville Local Schools. Christan has been an involved parent volunteer, working behind the scenes in many past artsIQ

shows with both the production crew and student actors. She is extremely excited to be helping with this production and working with all the children in the cast, especially her daughter Avery. She loves being a part of the theater family here at MTVarts and believes that arts education is essential for our younger actors/actresses to thrive. She hopes you enjoy the show and become a supporter in arts education for children here in Knox county.



MICHAEL SEARS (Master Carpenter) After his daughter Avery (one of the Silly Girls) was in her first artsIQ production with MTVarts, Mike and his wife Christan began helping behind the scenes. Local

community theater has turned into something that they can all enjoy together. All three of the Sears are somewhere in this production, hopefully Avery is the only one you see.



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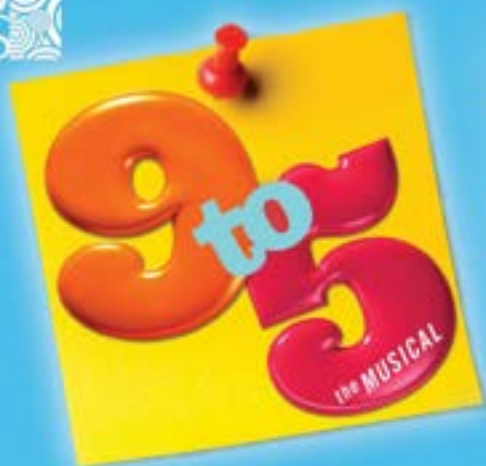
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