

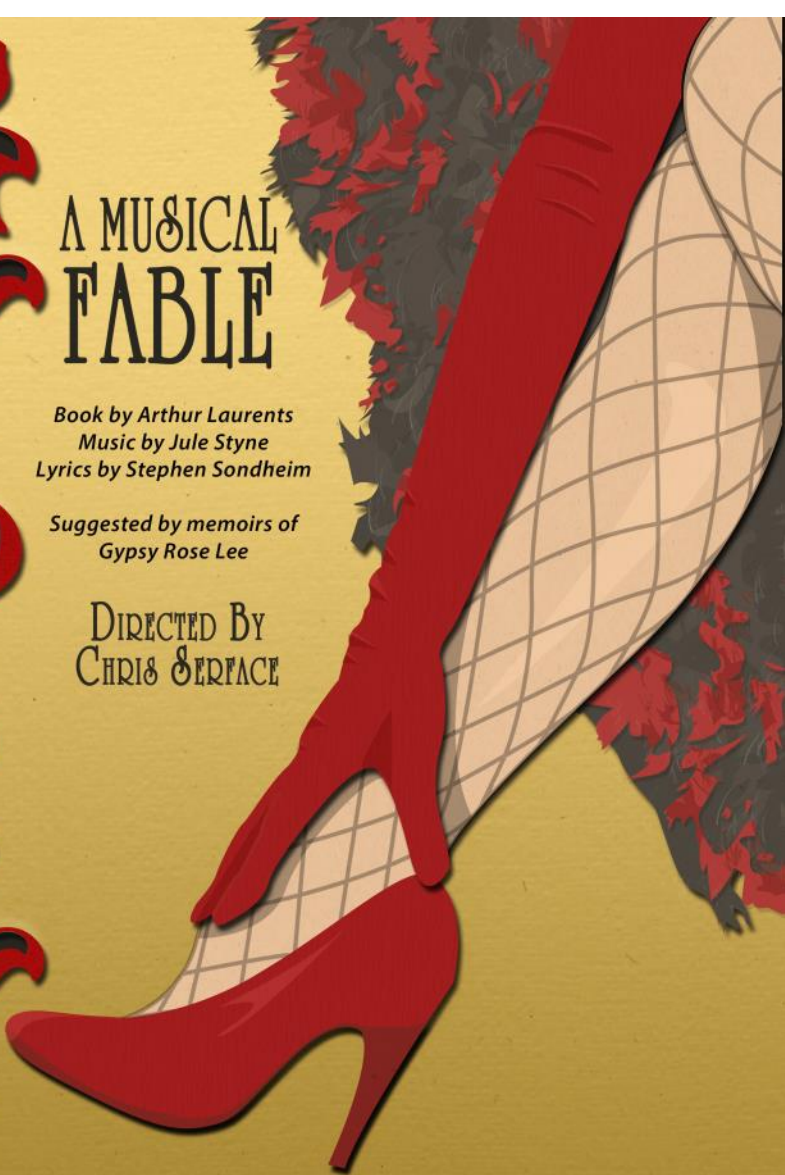
# G Y P S Y

## A MUSICAL FABLE

*Book by Arthur Laurents  
Music by Jule Styne  
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim*

*Suggested by memoirs of  
Gypsy Rose Lee*

DIRECTED BY  
CHRIS SERFACE



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# GYPSY

## A Musical Fable

Book by *Arthur Laurents*

Music by *Jule Styne*      Lyrics by *Stephen Sondheim*

Suggested by memoirs of *Gypsy Rose Lee*

Original production by *David Merrick & Leland Hayward*

Entire production originally directed and choreographed by  
*Jerome Robbins*

Directed *Chris Surface*

*This production is dedicated to the memory of Beverly Abnert*

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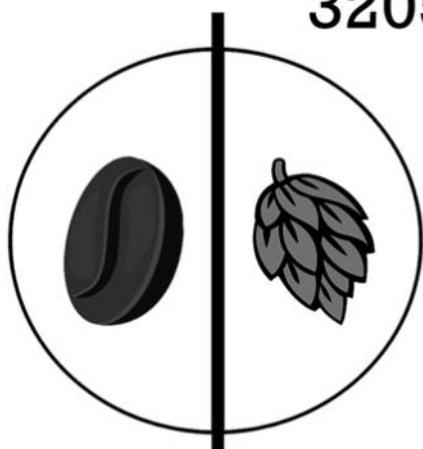
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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I wanted to take the chance tonight to honor a patron of the arts in Tacoma that we lost a few weeks ago. Beverly Ahnert was one of those people who made you want to be a better person. Her unwavering support for the arts in this community was unmatched and we will all miss her terribly. Our thoughts are with her family. We know that there's a new light in the sky looking down on us and enjoying what we do.

Thank you, Beverly, you will be missed.



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Stage Manager..... Nena Curley  
Musical Director..... Debra A. Leach  
Choreographer..... Lexi Barnett  
Assistant Stage Manager..... Alyshia Collins  
Set Design/Master Carpenter..... Blake R. York  
Assistant Carpenter..... Ron Bauer  
Resident Costume Designer..... Michele Graves  
Resident Lighting Designer..... Niclas Olson  
Resident Properties/Hair/Wig Manager..... Jeffery Weaver  
Resident Scenic Artist..... Ana Bury  
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Sariah Brumet, Nieva Langham, Mason Quinn,  
Alyshia Collins, Katelyn Nicole, Emma Deloye,  
Robel Fessehai, Sarah Dohring



**Please remember to silence your  
cell phone and mobile devices.**

**No texting during the performance. —Thank you**

# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

## **Chris Serface (Director)**

Chris is thrilled to be directing this amazing cast in *Gypsy*. Most recently at TLT he directed *Second Samuel* which recently won the Washington State Community Theatre Association festival. He has also directed *Drood* at Lakewood Playhouse, *Shout* at Tacoma Musical Playhouse, and *Bye, Bye, Birdie* here at TLT. During his educational and professional travels, he has found himself involved with theaters from Washington to Utah, working closely with Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Capital Playhouse, Weber State University, Capital High School, Utah Musical Theatre, The Wasatch Playhouse, The Garage Theatre, The Abbey Players, and Lakewood Playhouse as a director, actor, technician, or musician. No stranger to the stage, you may recognize Chris from his role in *Scrooge* as The Ghost of Christmas Present. In addition to his duties at TLT, Chris serves on the boards of the Washington State Community Theatre Association (WSCA) and the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). Chris is also the drama director at Spanaway Lake High School.

## **Debra A. Leach (Musical Director)**

Debra has a BA degree in Theatre and Music from Western Washington University. She currently works as an accompanist, piano, and vocal instructor at Charles Wright Academy and Ted Brown Music. She has always had a love of musical theatre, whether on stage, in the orchestra, or as a musical director. Debra is thankful for such a talented cast, and the opportunity to work with TLT again.

## **Lexi Barnett (Choreographer)**

Lexi is a director, choreographer, performer and teaching artist from Tacoma, WA. Currently, she runs KidCo Productions, a group that tours Pierce County teaching about bully prevention through interactive performances. She holds her B.A. in Theatre Performance from Whitworth University and her Masters of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Directing from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Favorite projects include- *A Year with Frog & Toad* (NCTYP), *Spamalot* (UNCG), The NW regional premiere of *Spring Awakening* (Balagan Theatre), *Godspell* (Tapestry Theatre) and *Cats* (Tacoma Musical Playhouse).

## **Nena Curley (Stage Manager)**

Nena has been very busy already this year! She just appeared in *Miracle on 34th Street* and stage managed *Of Mice and Men* and *Dracula*. Other shows at Tacoma Little Theatre include *A Christmas Story*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, and *Steel Magnolias*. She's also Stage Managed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Rainmaker*, and *Spamalot* at Lakewood Playhouse. Thank you Chris for asking me to be a part of the fun! Thank you Alyshia and the cast who are pulling off all the amazing changes. Thank you to my parents and Dylan for their love and support.



# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

## **Blake R. York (Technical Director/Master Carpenter/Set Design)**

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 13 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and this year as Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Sleuth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing...*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Seussical*, *Pippi Longstocking* (Tacoma Musical Playhouse), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and his friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him.

## **Niclas Olson (Resident Lighting Designer)**

Niclas is pleased to return to TLT as resident lighting designer. Past designs for TLT include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Cabaret*. Other local design credits include: *Oliver!*, *The Woman in Black*, *The Rainmaker* (LPH), *Tea* (Dukesbay), and *Doctor Faustus* (New Muses). He is the managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company. [www.NiclasOlson.com](http://www.NiclasOlson.com)

## **Michele Graves (Resident Costume Designer)**

Michele has been the Resident Costume Designer for the past four seasons. The quality of the shows, casts, and crews make it a pleasure to be a part of this theatre. Whether doing a period production or a contemporary piece, she enjoys costuming the many actors and getting to know the characters they portray. "This has been my favorite season yet! The shows, production teams, casts, and costuming opportunities have been fabulous."

## **Jeffery Weaver (Resident Properties Manager)**

Jeffery is delighted to be the resident props master/hair consultant extraordinaire for another stellar year. He enjoys working with the amazing staff here at Tacoma Little Theatre. He would like to thank his wonderful husband Bruce, and children who continue to support his work both on and off stage. He would like to send love to his BFF and Wifey #1 Ms. Jen. As the wise Tallulah once said, "If you really want to HELP the American Theater don't be an actor daaahling... BE an audience!" Much love to all, "I give my life to the Theatre, because in it I'm building something for myself. And what I build, I am."

## **Ana Bury (Resident Scenic Artist)**

Ana is thrilled to be back at Tacoma Little Theatre to paint for this production! Previously, she has painted for *A Christmas Story* and *Rabbit Hole* at TLT, as well as a multitude of shows at the Lakewood Playhouse over the last 4 years. She would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave so much of their time to help get this show ready, especially Mason, Frank, Erin, and Jen. This show wouldn't be what it is without their hard work and selflessness. Please enjoy the product of our sleepless nights!

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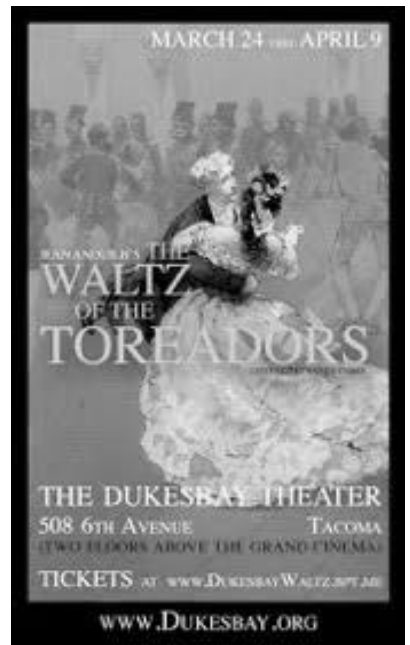
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1. the marketplace or public square of any ancient city, THE CENTER of judicial and
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3. an assembly MEETING PLACE, television program ect., for the discussion of PUBLIC INTEREST
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## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors is delighted to have you in our audience, and we hope that you are enriched by this live theatre experience. Our Board has several goals for the upcoming year; please let us know if you want to be a part of achieving them!

- Provide greater access, on stage and off, to our community. While we have been known to cast broadly, we've taken it a step further, and our casting notices specify that auditions are open to all racial and ethnic backgrounds unless otherwise specified. We encourage auditions from people of all backgrounds.
- Provide clearer opportunities for volunteerism. We've always relied on our wonderful volunteers for ushering, and ticket taking, and event planning along with other work. We are now strengthening our Board committees and looking for people who are interested in volunteering with us on event planning, fundraising, facilities, and governance. If you have any interest in serving with any of those committees, please let Chris Surface ([chris@tacomalittletheatre.com](mailto:chris@tacomalittletheatre.com)) know.
- Prepare for our upcoming 100th anniversary and begin planning for continued upgrades to our facility.

Tacoma Little Theatre is fortunate to have strong leadership in Chris Surface, and we look forward to continued success with his leadership and our connection to you and the rest of our community.

Enjoy the show!

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors



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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

<i>Overture</i> .....	Orchestra
<i>Let Me Entertain You</i> .....	Baby June & Young Louise
<i>Some People</i> .....	Rose
<i>Small World</i> .....	Rose & Herbie
<i>Let Me Entertain You</i> .....	Baby June, Young Louise & Newsboys ( <i>This will serve as the curtain call for our youth performers</i> )
<i>Mr. Goldstone</i> ....	Rose, Herbie, June, Louise, Tulsa, Angie, Yonkers & L.A.
<i>Little Lamb</i> .....	Louise
<i>You'll Never Get Away From Me</i> .....	Rose & Herbie
<i>Broadway</i> .....	June, Louise, Tulsa, Angie, Yonkers & L.A.
<i>If Mama Was Married</i> .....	June & Louise
<i>All I Need Is The Girl</i> .....	Tulsa
<i>Everything's Coming Up Roses</i> .....	Rose

## ACT II

<i>Entr'acte</i> .....	Orchestra
<i>Together Wherever We Go</i> .....	Rose, Herbie & Louise
<i>You Gotta Get A Gimmick</i> .....	Mazeppa, Electra & Tessie-Tura
<i>Small World (reprise)</i> .....	Rose
<i>Let Me Entertain You</i> .....	Louise
<i>Rose's Turn</i> .....	Rose
<i>Exit Music</i> .....	Orchestra

Act I: 85 minutes    Act II: 65 minutes

There will be a 15 minute intermission

Musical recording provided by The MT Pit L.L.C.

[www.thempit.com](http://www.thempit.com)

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

<i>Mr. Weber/Bougeron-Cochon</i> .....	Ron Bauer
<i>Baby June</i> .....	Alexandria Bray
<i>Mother/Miss Cratchitt/Electra</i> .....	Caiti Burke
<i>Newsboy</i> .....	Caleb Corpeno
<i>Louise</i> .....	Cassie Jo Fastabend
<i>Agnes</i> .....	Jill Heinecke (Dance Captain)
<i>Dolores/Renee</i> .....	Abbey Homan
<i>Mother/Waitress/Marjorie May</i> .....	Erika Jacobsen
<i>Mother/Tessie-Tura</i> .....	Kathy Kluska
<i>Uncle Jocko/Rich Man/Kringelein/Cigar</i> .....	Alex Koerger
<i>Newsboy</i> .....	Kepler Koerger
<i>Tulsa</i> .....	Rico Lastrapes
<i>Rose</i> .....	Stephanie Leeper
<i>Clarence/Newsboy</i> .....	Liam Loughridge
<i>Young Louise</i> .....	Summer Mays
<i>Thelma</i> .....	Erin O'Loughlin
<i>Newsboy</i> .....	Gunnar Ray
<i>Mother/Mazepa</i> .....	Emilie Rommel Shimkus
<i>Yonkers/Phil</i> .....	Jeremy Schroeder
<i>Herbie</i> .....	Jed Slaughter
<i>Georgie/L.A.</i> .....	Charlie Stevens
<i>Gail</i> .....	Abigail Webster
<i>Pop/Mr. Goldstone/Pastey</i> .....	Joe Woodland
<i>June</i> .....	Julia Wyman
<i>Angie</i> .....	Kyle Yoder
<i>Balloon Girl</i> .....	Olivia Zamira
<i>Chowsie</i> .....	Allie

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Ron Bauer (Mr. Weber/Bougeron-Cochon)**

Ron is pleased to be on the stage again. At TLT he has performed in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Summerplay*, *Chester in The Great Gatsby*, and *A Christmas Story*. Ron is very active in film and commercial industry. You may have seen him barbecuing for Red Wind Casino in their ad campaign. "Thank you to my cast, who have been family these past two months."



## **Alexandria Bray (Baby June)**

Alexandria June Bray is 11 years old and a 5th grade student at St. Charles Borromeo. Alexandria feels so honored to be a part of this fantastic show and to be working with so many great actors. Some other shows she has been in include; *Erita*, *Oliver*, and *The Wizard of OZ*. Alexandria has been participating in theatre since age 5. She would like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive, and her directors for helping her learn so much in this process.



## **Caiti Burke (Mother/Miss Cratchitt/Electra)**

Gypsy is Caiti's Puget Sound theater debut, and she is happy to be joining the family here at TLT! Caiti is a recent Theatre Arts graduate from EOU, and has lived many lives onstage, some of which include Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, and Lucy Harris in *Jekyll and Hyde*. She is very excited to call Seattle home and dive into theater here in the Northwest.



## **Caleb Corpeno (Newsboy)**

Caleb is a 7 year old first grader at St Charles Borromeo. He was born loving the theater and started his acting career last summer starring in Tacoma Little Theatre's *High School Musical* and then *Dracula* in their youth program. This is his first major production and he is honored to be a part of *Gypsy*.



## **Cassie Jo Fastabend (Louise)**

Cassie has been a part of the theater community in the NW as an actor and teacher for over 6 years. She has trained in Reno, LA, Boston, Seattle, and London. She holds a Dual BA from UPS, and is pursuing her Master's in Acting. Productions include *Macbeth* at the Slate Theater, *Hamlet* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* at UPS, *A Few Good Men* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Lakewood Playhouse, and here at TLT, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Stopkiss*, and *The Underpants*. She would like to thank her grandmother, Honey, for her continuous support and inspiration during this process.



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Jill Heinecke (Agnes/Amanda/Dance Captain)**

Jill is thrilled to be back on the Tacoma Little Theatre stage! You may have seen her in *Second Samuel* (Jimmy Deeanne) or *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* (Sunny Freitag). She has also performed with TMP and Dukesbay. Thanks to Chris, Lexi, cast and crew for this incredible opportunity. And of course her family and Frank for their continued encouragement and support.



## **Abbey Homan (Dolores/Renee)**

Abbey Homan is thrilled to be making her Tacoma Little Theatre debut with *Gypsy*. She recently graduated from EWU with a bachelors in Theatre. Some of her favorite productions are *Disney's: The Little Mermaid*, *Loves Labours Lost: the musical*, and *A Man of No Importance*. She'd like to thank her family for their unending love and faith, the Harter family for their love and support, and Jadd Davis for all his guidance.



## **Erika Jacobsen (Mother/Waitress/Marjorie May)**

Erika feels honored to participate in this production of *Gypsy* and this marks her first show at TLT. Erika danced and was involved in theatre productions growing up in Seattle. She continued performing arts into college where she received a BFA in Dance from Pace University, NYC. Currently, she is co-choreographing *Hairspray* at Stadium HS! Thank you Mom, Dad, Liz, Eric and Leo for your support!



## **Kathy Kluska (Mother/Tessie-Tura)**

Kathy is thrilled to be returning to the TLT stage in one of her favorite musicals! She was last seen as Helga (the Kit Kat girl) in TLT's *Cabaret*. Other TLT roles include Mrs. Fezziwig/Winnifred in *Scrooge* and a member of the ensemble of *Annie* which she also co-choreographed. Kathy has also performed at Tacoma Musical Playhouse and Lakewood Playhouse. She has a BFA in Musical Theater Dance from US International University in San Diego.



## **Alex Koerger (Uncle Jocko/Rich Man/Kringelein/Cigar)**

Alex is pleased to return to TLT where he was on stage in *Scrooge!* (Jollygood). Other roles include: Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Act I), Clarence in *It's A Wonderful Life* (Lakewood Playhouse), Overseer in *Freedom Train*, and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* as Tussaud/Jessup (TMP). He is grateful to the cast, crew and director for the chance to help bring this iconic tale to life and to his son, Kepler, for sacrificing so much time to rehearsals and shows.

# CAST BIOGRAPHTIES



## **Kepler Koerger (Newsboy)**

Kepler is a 3rd grader at Grant Center for the Expressive Arts and is so glad to be on stage once again. His last performance was *It's A Wonderful Life* at Lakewood Playhouse (Tommy Bailey). When not acting Kep enjoys sports and playing with his cats.



## **Rico Lastrapes (Tulsa)**

Rico is excited to be making his TLT debut! He recently moved to the Pacific Northwest from Orlando, FL and was last seen as Ethnic Dude in *Toxic Avenger* (Burien Actors Theatre). Professional credits: *The Last Stop on Market Street* (Book-it Repertory Theatre), *Tecumseh!* (Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheater), *RENT* (Clandestine Arts), *Dreamgirls* (Mad Cow Theatre), *Godspell* (Vine Theater). BFA – University of Central Florida.



## **Stephanie Leeper (Rose)**

Stephanie is thrilled to be part of such an amazing and talented cast and crew! She would like to thank Chris for giving her the role of a lifetime. Previous roles: Masha (*Vanya and Sonia...*), Maxine, *The Night of the Iguana*, Maggie (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*). She has a BFA in Musical Theatre, and has performed extensively in the Puget Sound. Thanks to husband Ryan and children Rachel and Jack. She dedicates her performance to her real life “Mama,” Karen, with much love and gratitude for always encouraging and believing in me.



## **Liam Loughridge (Clarence/Newsboy)**

Liam is in the 8th grade at Visitation Catholic STEM Academy in South Tacoma. He is happy to be back at Tacoma Little Theater. Other roles he has played: Ralphie in *A Christmas Story* (TLT), Oliver in *Oliver!* (TMP), James in *James and the Giant Peach* (TMP Family Theater), & Schwartz in *A Christmas Story, the Musical* (5th Avenue). He wants to thank Chris and the amazing cast for allowing him to be a part of this show.



## **Summer Mays (Young Louise)**

Summer feels incredibly honored to be making her debut performance with TLT. Her most recent roles have been in *Mary Poppins* (Jane Banks), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Jemima Potts), both at TMP, *Bye Bye Birdie* (Sad Girl) at MST and in *A Christmas Story* (Tap Specialist) with ACP. Summer loves playing, learning and growing with all of these wonderfully talented people she calls her theatre family.

# CAST BIOGRAPHERIES



## **Erin O'Loughlin (Thelma)**

Erin is so excited to be back at Tacoma Little Theatre in this wonderful show. Favorite past credits include Ursula in *Bye Bye Birdie* here at TLT, Sissy in *A Piece of My Heart* with Dukesbay Productions, and Millie in *Allegro* with the Academy for New Musical Theatre Hollywood. This one is for Grandma Emily.



## **Gunnar Ray (Newsboy)**

Gunnar is 11 years old and is thrilled to be on stage for the first time at Tacoma Little Theatre. He has been active in local community theaters for several years. Some of his favorite roles include Jeremy Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins* and Grover Dill in *A Christmas Story*. He would like to thank his family, friends and directors for all of the support. Enjoy the show.



## **Emilie Rommel Shimkus (Mother/Mazepa)**

Emilie always loves coming home to TLT, where she's been Patsy Cline, Martha Jefferson (*1776*), and The Girl (*The 7 Year Itch*). Other favorites include Stella Kowalski (Theatre NW), Octavia/Iras in *Antony & Cleopatra*, and the *Stardust* series (all at Harlequin Productions). Follow Emilie's theatre, film, and writing projects: [emilierommelshimkus.com](http://emilierommelshimkus.com). Love always to the handsome, talented Matt Shimkus and the two little birds.



## **Jeremy Schroeder (Yonkers/Phil)**

Jeremy is delighted for his first show at Tacoma Little Theatre! An Ohio native, Jeremy is a transportation engineer and nerd who moonlights as a musician, church organist, choir director, and member of numerous band and choral groups over the years. Jeremy moved west in 2015, after completing graduate school at the University of Virginia. Many thanks for everyone's support!



## **Jed Salugher (Herbie)**

Jed's most recent TLT appearances have been in the roles of Theo in *The Underpants* and Howie in *Rabbit Hole*. Other local credits include *Arcadia* (Bernard), *The Rainmaker* (File), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Crisparkle), and *12 Angry Men*, all at Lakewood Playhouse. He previously spent six years acting and vocal directing with Leavenworth Summer Theater. Many thanks to Chris and the rest of the gang for letting me come play with you all!

# CAST BIOGRAPHTIES



## **Charlie Stevens (Georgie/L.A.)**

Charlie is delighted to be back at TLT after being in *Cabaret!* He is a sophomore at Rogers High School, where he is active in their music programs. Past credits: *Godspell* (Jesus), *Oklahoma* (Ali Hakim), *Death of a Salesman* (Bernard), *13 the Musical* (Archie). He is honored to work with such an incredible team of dedicated artists. Next is Gomez in *The Addams Family* at Rogers HS in May, and with the SRO in Tacoma. Many thanks to Chris and the production team. Enjoy the show!



## **Abigail Webster (Gail)**

Abigail is thrilled to return to TLT, where she was previously seen in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. Most recently, she was seen as Rosalind in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Favorite credits include Gertrude McFuzz (*Sensical*), Crystal (*Little Shop of Horrors*), George Merry (*Treasure Island*), Vincentia (*Taming of the Shrew*), and Lumiere (*Beauty and the Beast*). Enjoy the show!



## **Joe Woodland (Pop/Mr. Goldstone/Pastey)**

This is Joe's first show with TLT in 29 years, and he is delighted to be back. Roles in other venues have included Sir Joseph in *HMS Pinafore*, Herr Schulz in *Cabaret*, Max in *The Sound of Music*, Prince of Wales and Robespierre in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and Doc in *West Side Story*. Many thanks to Chris Serface for inviting me back to TLT.



## **Julia Wyman (June)**

Julia is a 15 year old sophomore at Bellarmine Prep and is thrilled to make her debut on the TLT stage! She most recently played a tapping chimney sweep in *Mary Poppins* at TMP. Favorite roles include Alice (*Alice in Wonderland*), Annie (*Annie*), Lottie (*A Little Princess*) and Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde Jr*). Special honor and thanks to her dear family and friends for their unending support. She couldn't do it without you guys! Thank you and enjoy the show!



## **Kyle Yoder (Angie)**

Kyle is happy to bring to life the character of Angie, one of the four Farmboys. This is Kyle's second community theatre show, his first being *The Wizard of OZ*. He would like to thank you for coming and hope you enjoy the show!

# CAST BIOGRAPHTES



## **Oliva Zamira (Balloon Girl)**

This is Olivia's first production with TLT. Previously, she performed in Sherman Elementary's *Peter Pan* as Nana and *The Lion King, Jr.* as Adult Nala. She's also been in *Snow White* and *A Christmas Carol*. Olivia loves acting, singing (particularly Hamilton) and playing soccer. She's incredibly excited for this first experience in community theater, and she would like to thank everyone at TLT for teaching her and showing her how it's done.



## **Allie (Chowsie)**

Allie is super excited for her first theatre debut with Tacoma Little Theatre as Chowsie. She has always dreamed of being a star! She'd like to thank her momma for allowing her to discover her new found talent of being cute!



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