

About the Opera House Players

For over 55 years the OHP has been bringing entertainment to the stage in Elkader! In the fall, with the support of many people from all over northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin, the Opera House Players have presented such blockbusters as *Singin' In The Rain*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Disney's Mary Poppins*, *Oliver!*, *Matilda*, *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *The Producers*.

In the spring, the productions usually involve a somewhat smaller cast and crew, but are never short on entertainment! The Opera House Players also provides a summer theater camp each year at a low cost to give our local children a taste of theater and schedules a special holiday musical or play every other season, alternating that with *A Classic Christmas Fantasy*, a showcase of area talent.

The improvements to this marvelous structure continue by financial donations from the OHP, other businesses and supporters, but also by the numerous OHP volunteers that spend countless hours making it happen.

The Opera House Players installed a hearing loop for the Main Floor Seating, helped create new dressing rooms, built a removable pit cover, added new stage curtains, updated to a new lighting system with several new fixtures and capabilities added yearly, and are upgrading the backstage area as well as technical aspects of theater, sound, and rigging to make the building even more valuable to the community.

All of this would not be possible without the support of the City of Elkader who maintains this wonderful facility and who worked hand in hand with the volunteers to make it happen. Our grateful thanks also goes to you, our patrons, members, and audience members for supporting theater in this area.

Volunteers are the cornerstone of any community theater group and the Opera House Players are lucky to have some of the best. Whether you have a theater background or not, this is a place for you to get involved. People from all walks of life participate, forming new friendships, learning new skills, and gaining self-confidence. What kinds of opportunities are available? Acting, directing, set construction, orchestra, publicity, props, costumes, make-up, ushering... and much more!

Be sure to look for announcements on our future productions as well as other events occurring in the Opera House. If you would like more information about our group or theater, visit our website at www.operahouseplayers.com.

OPERA HOUSE PLAYERS
present

THE BEST CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT
EVER THE MUSICAL

Dec 6, 7, 13, 14 at 7 PM
Dec 8, 15 at 2 PM

Elkader Opera House
207 N. Main St. Elkader, IA 52043

UPCOMING SHOWS



Christmas with
INTERNATIONAL STEINWAY ARTIST
Jim McDonough
the solo piano experience

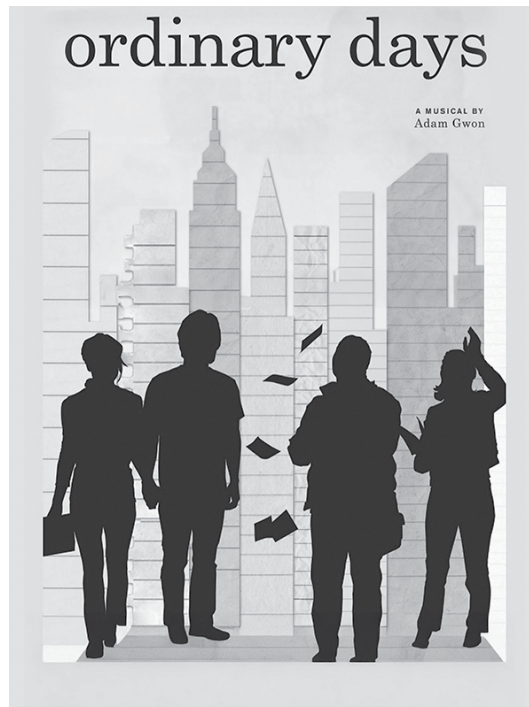
ELKADER OPERA HOUSE
SAT, DEC. 21st • 2:00

ON SALE NOW! Tickets: \$35 in advance / \$40 at the door.
Available online at ElkaderOperaHouse.com,
by phone at (563) 873-2378, in person at
Elkader Floral, or email: Tickets@icsbbs.com.

PianoFavorites.com

TO BE ANNOUNCED

CHILDREN'S
Theater
CAMP
SUMMER 2025



April 5, 11 & 12 at 7 PM
April 6 & 13 at 2 PM
Starring Maria Stavroplus, Perry Leffler,
Jonathon Moser, and Andrew Lange

2024–2025 PATRONS

Actor's Circle \$25–\$49

Bodley Equipment & Repair (Postville)
Everett's Service (Elkader)

Playwright's Circle \$50–99

Casino Queen Marquette (Marquette)
Elkader Tax and Bookkeeping (Elkader)
Mink Creek Lodge (Wadena)
Rivals, Inc. Custom Gear (Strawberry Point)

Choreographer's Circle \$100–\$249

Adverse Weather Insurance, LLC - Jim & Jill
Fuhrman (Volga)
Barn on the Bluff B & B - Rick & Julie
Dengler (Elkader)
Franzen Ridge LLC - Dean & Joann
Franzen (Elkader)
Garms Financial Services (Elkader)
North Gate Healing Center - Marge Banse
(Elkader, Manchester, Strawberry Point)
Sincerely Yours Interiors - Kay Vorwald (Monona)
The Brim Coffeehouse (Elkader)
Umbrella Arts (Guttenberg)
Volga City Veterinary (Volga)

Designer's Circle \$250–\$499

Elkader Floral (Elkader)
Fennellys' Irish Pub (Elkader)
Grau Logs & Lumber - Chris & Julie Grau,
Pat & Staci Grau (Elkader)
Grumpsters Cabins (McGregor)
Johnson Industrial Park (Elkader)
R.D. Witter Farm Corp (McGregor)
Ready for Realty - Scott & Becci
Rentschler (Volga)
Strutt Chiropractic - Dr. Craig Strutt &
Dr. Jonathon Moser (McGregor)

Director's Circle \$500–\$749



ELKADER - MARQUETTE

Swales Precast
Precast Concrete Products & Crane Service

STRAWBERRY POINT

Angel's Circle \$1000 and above



Choreographer's Circle \$100–\$249

Martha & Stephen
Bartenhagen
Mary Beck
Gail Moorman Behrens
Janet Brown
Barbara & Jeffrey Collins
Lois Cordes
Bona Dean Feller
Janet & Ted Finn
Diane & Tim Fisk
Paul & Cindy Francis
Guy & Emily Ghan
David & Ann Gibney
Don & Lee Gordon
Carol Grady
Steven Gress
Mark & Laura Harreld
Don & Mary Harstad
Nancy K. Henriksen
Kay Hoffman
Bonnie & Ed James

Jerry Janssen
Jim & Jane Johnson
Don & Marilyn Kamaus
Thelma Keehner
Jim & Laurie Klosterboer
Lanny & Linda Kuehl
Chuck & Mary Lammers
Bruce Landis
Fred & Lynn Lange
Bill & Sue Leonhart
Sweeney Margo
Julianne Mason
Steve & Ann McCorkindale
Linda Miller
Bob Moran
Doris & John P. Moyna
Erika Moyna
Steve & Kathy Mueller
Dr. Jim & Sue Osterhaus
Linda & Joseph Paris
Val & Dan Paris

Brian & Lorna Power
Robert & Bonnie Pruett
Bill Reimer
Mark & Pam Reinig
Bruce & Penny Remz
Linda Lou Roberts
Paul & Kristie Roeder
Connie Ruhser
Ken & Carolyn Sand
Fred Schaffer
Lynn Schreck
Margaret Schultz
Marilyn Seedorff
Dr. Andy & M.J. Smith
Larry & Margaret Stone
Sue Stott
Roger & Rosemary Thomas
Sandy Thompson
Rod & Dawn Voss
Rev's Margaret &
Mark Yackel-Juleen

Designer's Circle \$250–\$499

Herb Collins
Dr. John & Dawn Cunningham
John & Susan Gnagy
Janette K. Hansel
Robert & Theresa Hauber
Pat Hunsberger

Art & Jackie Johnson
Anne E.H. & Jerry Kruse
Randy & Lisa Lenth
Brad & Deb Orvis
Joan Wangen & Romuald
Piorkowski

Pam Vaske
Linda Witter
Ken & Fran Zichal

Director's Circle \$500–\$749

Joan E. Barton
Nancy McClure
Karen Schroeder
Craig & LeAnn Watson

Angel's Circle \$1000 and above

John & Med Bickel
Dr. Scot & Jane Christiansen
Dr. Michele & Steve Dikkers
Keith & Kathy Garms



Director/
Choreographer
Cheri Moser

Producer
Kay Moser

Stage Manager
Rhys Evans

Book and Lyrics by
**Jahnna Beecham &
Malcolm Hillgartner**

Based on the play by
Barbara Robinson

Orchestrations and Vocal
Arrangements by Deborah Wicks
LaPuma World Premiere,
The Children's Theatre of Charlotte,
NC, 2016

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever:
The Musical is presented by special
arrangement with Broadway Licensing
Global. (www.broadwaylicensing.com)

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
Photography and any recording strictly prohibited.



The Elkader Opera House has an induction loop system, thanks to an upgrade of the sound equipment by the Opera House Players. With the activation of the T-coil by your audiologist and instruction on its use, you can receive the maximum benefit from your hearing aid. The internal tonal correction of your hearing aid will bring the sounds you hear directly to you without the use of an additional receiver or headset. Two portable units are also available for your use. Please request the use of a unit when you place your ticket order. This loop system is available for main floor seating only, so if you want to maximize your hearing experience, please request main floor seating when purchasing your tickets.

THE CAST



Perry Leffler



Cameron Berges



Gretel Moser



Julia Grau



Taryn Moser



Jocelyn Berges



Trace Moser



Izabelle Roach



Gavin Dettbarn



Emma Berges



Andrew Lange



Hannah Evans



Brooke Mitchell



Macy McGeough



Maria Stavropus



Mariah Moser



Ariana Espinosa



Ryan Lange



Ciera Gray



Emery Ambrosion



Erin Camp



Jaren Evans



Kira Evans



Aspyn Konichek



Kinsley Young

2024–2025 SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Actor's Circle \$25–\$49

Jerry & Linda Anderson
Bernard Bergan
Jaydeane Berns
Anita Blaker
Jim Boeding
Stewart & Marlys Boysen
Celia Brown
Mike & Joanne Carroll
Sandy Caya & Daryl Bruxvoort
Bruce & Ellen Collins
Marvin & Annette Dahling
Mary Damm
Kenneth & Gwen Dettbarn
Marvin & Julie Duff
Barb Duwe-Peterson
Doug Farley
John & Betty Fischer
Marilyn Frye
Linda Gardner & Anne Shelton
Bob & Hila Garms
Julita Goedken

Carol Goettler
Joan Good
Layton & Barb Hansel
Gerald & Linda Henkes
Chris & Christina Hopp
Larry & Marlis Huinker
Mary Jensen
Trudy Johnson
David & Mary Kahrs
Ron & Georgi Kaiser
Patsy Kerndt
John Kohlstedt
Gerry & Sandy Kramer
Diane M. Kraus
Maxine Kuehl
Shirley Marmann
Teri & Ryan Marting
Donna McLane
In Memory of
Eunice McMillin
Ginger Medberry

Lorraine Miller
Carl & Laura Moser
Rita & Roger Mullis
Larry & Jennifer Reed
Gerald & Arlene Reimer
Ken & Alice Reimer
Wendy & Barry Shea
Kenneth & Linda Staff
Jim & Barb Stone
David & Marci Strutt
Cherryl (Dyrland) Thomason
Geraldyn Torkelson
Patricia Vaske
Karla Vogel & Bob Myers
Jennifer Wachuta
Morris & Sandy Weller
Cheryl & Jim Whalen
Tom & Jen Wilwert

Playwright's Circle \$50–99

Victoria Breitbach
Jerry & Kelly Carpenter
Marguerite Clinton
Frances Degroote
Jason & Kris Eulberg
Rhys & Hannah Evans
Merle & Barbara Frommelt
Tim Gilkes
Larry & Karen Glass
Nicole & Steve Gray
Jeff & Betty Heins
Suzy Hilgerson
Winnie Holmes
Cary & Jonelle Kann
Joshua & Heather Klingman

Jennifer Lancaster
Connie Leete
Ethel Lenth
William McHugh
David & Melanie Mergen
Mary Milewsky
Stan & Sharlene Milewsky
David & Maylo Moser
Cici Mueller
Tom & Sheila Neuhaus
David & Julie Olson
Bill & Dorothy Peterson
David & Joy Roslien
Curtis & Kathy Ruhser
Ellen Rule

Ken & Sharon Seney
Lucea Sharp
Lowell & Joyce Siegele
Steve & Sally Stendel
Darci Strutt
Joyce Thurn
Betty Troendle
Ed & Dianne Uriell
Twyla & Ken Walz
Randy & Kathy Waterman
John & Mary Winter
Janice Worsham

THE CREWS

Set Construction, Design, and Props

Jonathon Moser	Hannah Evans	Gretel Moser
Del Reimer	Jaren Evans	Bella Roach
Tom Chandler	Kira Evans	Ariana Espinosa
Dave Beck	Cheri Moser	Cameron Berges
Rob Roach	Mariah Moser	Wendy Shea
Kay Moser	Taryn Moser	Jon Banse
Rhys Evans	Trace Moser	Cameron Carpenter

Lighting and Sound

Jonathon Moser	Bob Hankey	Del Reimer
Lisa Pool	Jay Moser	

Costumes, Hair, and Makeup

Mary Beth Specht
Barb Chandler

Tickets

Terri Strutt
Elkader Floral Shop

Programs and Publicity

Joel Lustre
Cheri Moser

Orchestra

Dave Beck - Piano
Tom Chandler - Reeds
Craig Strutt - Bass Guitar

MEET THE CAST

Perry Leffler (Grace Bradley) – This is Perry’s 4th performance with OHP since her debut as Peter Pan in *Peter Pan* (2023). Her other OHP performances include *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2024) as Elaine and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2024) as Florence/Sandra. Perry is the choral director and music teacher at Wauzeka-Steuben School, and also serves as the music director for Wauzeka’s fall musical. Perry graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, where she is from. She earned her bachelor’s degree in music performance, concentrating in voice, with two minors in education and psychology. Perry made her theater debut at Millsaps College in the musical *Violet* (2022) playing the title role as Violet. She has also played Zerkina in *Don Giovanni* and Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* in the Millsaps Opera Scenes. In 2020, Perry was selected as one of 20 students from around the country for the James Madison University German Opera Experience. She has performed across the United States and Europe. In her spare time, Perry enjoys playing with her dog, Mercury, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Cameron Berges (Bob Bradley) – This is Cameron’s 8th OHP production. Past performances include Max/Cecil in *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2024), Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* (2023), The Old Man (Ralphie’s father) in *A Christmas Story* (2022), and Bert in *Mary Poppins* (2018) – a portrayal that landed him a ‘Best Actor in a Musical’ award from the Iowa Community Theatre Association. He lives in Waukon with his wife Sara, daughters Emma (Ollie) & Jocelyn (Gladys), and son Gavin. Cameron is an IT Administrator at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar.

Gretel Moser (Charlie Bradley) – This is Gretel’s 4th OHP full-length show (and 2nd time playing a boy!) She was first seen on stage as a 2-year-old, dancing with her family in the OHP 50th Anniversary Showcase (2016). She was most recently Michael in *Peter Pan* (2024) and was in the ensemble of *A Christmas Story* (2022). She has also performed in four youth theatre productions, *BOTS!*, *The Grunch*, *The Claw* and *Imagine a Dragon*. She was also in the ensemble of MFL MarMac High School’s *Seussical* (2021). Gretel is in her 6th year of dance and is currently taking Hip Hop and Contemporary. She also loves to sing and was recently selected to perform in Iowa’s Opus Honor Choir. Gretel is a 5th grader at MFL MarMac and lives in McGregor with her parents and three older siblings.

Julia Grau (Beth Bradley) – Julia is 16 years old and a 10th grader at MFL MarMac. Julia’s first experience on stage was when she was 6 years old and participated in the OHP Children’s Theater Production of *Black Beard’s Pirate* (2014), which she truly enjoyed. She was then a munchkin in MFL MarMac’s musical *The Wizard of Oz* in 2015. After seeing her big sister, Rose, perform in *The Producers* (2019), she knew she wanted to perform on the OHP’s stage! Julia’s first big OHP production was *Matilda* in 2021. She was in *A Christmas Story* (2022) and then *Peter Pan* (2023) and loved everything about it! Since then she has performed in the high school musicals, *Seussical the Musical*, *Little Mermaid*, *Freaky Friday*, and the middle school musicals *The Cinderella Story*, *Substitute Fairy Godmother*, and *The Wizard Of Oz*. Julia’s other interests and activities include: painting nails, styling hair for family and friends, playing piano, chorus, Soda, Dance team, Show choir, Student council, XC manager, Speech, Golf, and babysitting. Julia lives outside Monona with her parents, Josh and Annette, and 5 siblings, Rose, Joe, Clare, Emma, and Leo.

Taryn Moser (Imogene Herdman) – Taryn is very excited to be performing in her 8th OHP musical. This is her 2nd time performing in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as she played the role of Gladys on the Opera House stage in 2017. You may have also seen Taryn as a child in *Christmas on Broadway* (2015), Michael in *Mary Poppins* (2017), Little Skeeter in *Fruitcakes* (2019), Matilda in *Matilda* (2021), Grover Dill in *A Christmas Story* (2022) and Slightly in *Peter Pan* (2023). Taryn has taken part in ten youth theatre productions, four musical productions at MFL MarMac High School and two plays at MFL MarMac Middle School. Taryn is a 9th grader where she is a class officer and is involved in student council, cross country, track, dance team, speech, SODA, drumline, band, choir and show choir. Taryn recently performed in Iowa’s Opus Honor Choir, her 3rd year in a row. She also leads music each week at St. Mary in McGregor. She enjoys volunteering at the Rivers and Bluffs animal shelter, time with friends/family and loves all things music. Taryn lives in McGregor with her parents and three siblings.

Jocelyn Berges (Gladys Herdman) – Jocelyn is VERY excited to be playing Gladys, but don’t worry, she doesn’t usually bite in real life. This is Jocelyn’s 1st OHP full-length show. She has been in three youth productions. She has also been in the ensemble of Waukon High School’s *Wizard of Oz* (2022), *Little Shop of Horrors* (2023), and *Mary Poppins* (2024). She has sung in the Bill Riley Talent search, making it to the state fair in 2022-2024. Jocelyn is 9 years old and in 4th grade. She lives in Waukon with her parents and 2 siblings, Emma and Gavin.

time watching this show come to life from the audience side of things and she is thrilled to welcome the new performers to the OHP family! She hopes you enjoy the show!!

Cheri Moser (Director/Choreographer) – Cheri has directed, choreographed, or acted in 42 OHP shows. She was named ‘Best Director’ by the Iowa Community Theatre Association for her direction of *The Producers* (2019) and recently won ICTA awards for her choreography and sound design in OHP’s *Peter Pan* (2023), which she also directed. Her favorite OHP shows include *The Last Five Years* (2012), Millie in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2014), Fiona in *Shrek the Musical* (2015), *Mary Poppins* (2018), *Matilda* (2021), *A Christmas Story* (2022) and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2024). Cheri holds several day-jobs including marketing for the MFL MarMac School District, an Administrative Assistant at Trinity Cluster and she runs a short term rental business, Grumpsters Cabins, with her husband, Jonathon. She is also an Iowa Community Theatre Association board member and the head speech coach at MFL MarMac. Cheri lives in McGregor with Jonathon and their four children.

DIRECTOR’S NOTES



Some shows are all about spectacle—huge sets, special effects, big dance numbers, and dramatic music. And while those productions can be amazing, and we have so much fun producing them here at the Elkader Opera House, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical* is not that kind of show.

This production is “big” in a different way. This one is about people—on stage and in the audience—connecting through a story that’s simple, funny, and full of heart. At its core, this is a story about differences—about learning to look beyond first impressions, to understand someone else’s story before passing judgment, and to see the kindness that can emerge when we do. It’s a story that asks us to open our hearts, to recognize that, while we’re all different, we share so much—our breath, our humanity, our capacity to learn from one another.

This cast has poured their hearts into bringing this beautiful story to life, focusing not on flash but on connection. For me, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* has been the perfect way to step into the holiday season with a fresh perspective. I hope it brings the same joy and meaning to you and reminds us all of what makes this time of year so special.

Thank you for being here, and enjoy the show!

Oliver! (2012), *Shrek the Musical* (2015) and many more productions with the OHP. In Spring 2024 he made his directorial debut at the Opera House by guiding a superb cast of eight players in the classic comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Tom Chandler (Reeds) – Tom is retired after being a longtime Band Director in Elkader. It was a career that brought him much enjoyment and satisfaction. He keeps busy in retirement with a wide variety of community activities, travel with his family and friends and many personal interests. The Elkader Opera House and the many productions that go on there have been a major interest and hobby for Tom. Old cars also consume much of his time with restorations, driving, and attending events. The Opera House Players are like an extended family that are a source of great pride for Tom.

Craig Strutt (Bass Guitar) – Craig, has acted in, worked backstage or directed 63 OHP productions since returning to the OHP stage in *Annie* (1992) where he played the role of Oliver Warbucks. He directed such OHP productions as *The Wizard of Oz* (2004), *Music Man* (2009) and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever The Musical* (2017). He was last seen on stage in *It Runs In The Family* (2019), although you may have heard his voice during *4 Weddings and an Elvis* (2021). Craig is spending more and more time working with the technical end of these theater productions in lighting and sound. Craig lives in McGregor with his wife, Terri, the “Ticket Queen”. Craig is a chiropractor in McGregor.

Rhys Evans (Stage Manager) – Rhys has performed in three shows on the Opera House stage including *The Secret Garden* (2000), Starkey the pirate in *Peter Pan* (2023) and most recently Trevor in *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2024). Rhys is a chiropractor in Strawberry Point, where he lives with his wife, Hannah (Helen Armstrong), two children, Jaren & Kira (both church kids), and two dogs. In his free time, Rhys enjoys reading, traveling and writing. He completed his first book, *Please Do Not Feed the Human*, in March 2022.

Kay Moser (Producer) – Kay has been involved with the OHP since 1973. She has appeared on stage a few times, but her favorite place is where she is most often found producing, stage managing and helping the cast and crews in any way she can! She enjoys traveling, reading and taking lots of walks!! She lives in Elkader with her husband (light guy) Jay. Her life is made complete when she can spend time with her son Benjamin, wife, Jenna and their sons, Kallum and Ronan along with son Jonathon, wife, Cheri and their children Mariah, Taryn, Trace, and Gretel. It has been fun spending

Trace Moser (Ralph Herdman) – This is Trace’s 4th OHP show, but he has performed on this stage several times. Previous shows include Sammy in the OHP holiday play, *Fruitcakes* (2019), the ensemble of *A Christmas Story* (2022) and a twin in *Peter Pan* (2023). He has also been in the cast of eight youth theater productions, *Suessical* at MFL MarMac high school and *Charlotte’s Web* at MFL MarMac middle school. Trace is an 8th grader at MFL MarMac where he is involved in Stu Crew, plays percussion in the band, is a member of the high school drumline, plays basketball and runs cross country & track. He was recently chosen to perform in Iowa’s Opus Honor Choir in November. He is also excited to be playing synthesizer in the MFL MarMac Legacy Show Choir Band this year. He lives in McGregor with his parents and three sisters.

Izabelle Roach (Leroy Herdman) – Izabelle is excited to perform in her first full musical for OHP. She got a taste for theater when she participated in the OHP Youth Theatre production of *The Grunch* (2022) and most recently, *Imagine A Dragon* (2024). Izabelle also performed in Starmont’s middle school play *Clue* where she played, The Cook. At Starmont, Izabelle is a 7th grader. She enjoys spending time riding her horse around her Strawberry Point farm. Izabelle also stays busy riding her bike, hanging with friends and listening to music. Izabelle lives near Strawberry Point with her parents, Rob and Amy and her two brothers.

Gavin Dettbarn (Claude Herdman) – This is Gavin’s first OHP performance and he is loving every minute of it. He is very excited to continue to expand his knowledge and experience in his theatre adventure. He is a 7th grader at Clayton Ridge where he participates in school plays, choir, band, and cross country. Gavin was recently selected to participate in honor choir and was also given the opportunity to attend a week-long theatre camp at George Daily Auditorium. He enjoys theatre, art, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. Gavin lives in Guttenberg with his parents and two younger siblings.

Emma Berges (Ollie Herdman) – This is Emma’s 1st OHP full-length production. She is 11 years old and in 6th grade at Waukon Middle School. She has been in three of the OHP youth theater productions. Emma has been in the ensemble of Waukon High School’s *Wizard of Oz* (2022), *Little Shop of Horrors* (2023), and *Mary Poppins* (2024). Emma is involved in band, hand bells, basketball, softball, piano, and dance. She lives with her parents and siblings, Jocelyn and Gavin. She adores her corgi-heeler dog, Baby Ruth, and elderly cat, Tess.

Andrew Lange (Reverend Hopkins) – Andrew is taking part in his 5th OHP production having previously appeared in *Matilda* (2021), *A Christmas Story* (2022), *Peter Pan* (2023) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2024). Andrew attended the University of Northern Iowa where he was involved in several choirs and currently sings with the chamber choir group, “Sacra”, at the Basilica in Dyersville. Andrew is excited to share the stage for the first time with his middle child, Ryan. Andrew lives in Edgewood where he manages the local grocery store and lives with his wife, Jennifer, and two other children, Christopher and Haley, and the family dog, Kate. Andrew loves being a part of the OHP family and wants to thank his wife, Jennifer, for her support and encouragement to be involved year after year.

Hannah Evans (Helen Armstrong) – Hannah is making her debut on the OHP stage and has loved every minute of it! She is excited to share the stage with her children and see her husband backstage! Hannah lives in Strawberry Point with her husband, Rhys, two children, Jaren and Kira, and their two dogs. Hannah is the owner of Thank Heavens for Hannah, where she enjoys the creative outlet of crafting beautiful cakes and cupcakes. She enjoys traveling, tending to her ever-growing collection of plants, and spending time with her family and friends in her free time.

Brooke Mitchell (Connie) – Brooke is excited about her debut OHP show! She is a senior at Wauzeka-Stauben High School in Wauzeka, Wisconsin. Brooke has been cast in the Hornet House Productions as Maria in *The Sound of Music* (2024), Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* (2024), Ms. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast* (2023), Mrs. Buckets in *Willy Wonka* (2022), Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz* (2021), and Nala in *The Lion King* (2019). Brooke is the current President of her high school’s Senior Class, Student Council, and Book Club. She is also active in 4-H, FFA, FBLA, Teen Court, Math Team, Science Club, Choir, Band, Ski Club, Forensics, volleyball team, and NHS. Outside of school, Brooke enjoys playing ukulele and guitar, riding horses, reading, and showing cattle.

Macy McGeough (Luanne) – Macy is 15 years old and a 9th grader at MFL MarMac. Macy is super excited to be in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* because after seeing it on the Opera House stage in 2017 she knew she wanted to be a part of it. This will be Macy’s fourth OHP production. She was Meredith in *Fruitcakes* (2019), Lavender in *Matilda* (2021), Schwartz in *A Christmas Story* (2022), and Jane/Brave Girl in *Peter Pan* (2023). She has also been a part of six Children’s Theater Productions. Macy has performed in five shows at her school, where she is active in volleyball,

Jaren Evans (Billy) – Jaren is excited to be back on stage for another great show! Jaren is a 9th grader at Starmont, where he is involved in band, baseball, and looking forward to trying speech and golf in the spring. He has previously been involved in the OHP Children’s Theater productions of *The Grunch* and *The Claw* and OHP productions of *A Christmas Story* (2022) as Flick and *Peter Pan* (2023) as a Lost Boy twin. In his free time, Jaren enjoys traveling with his family, spending time with friends and playing more baseball. Jaren lives in Strawberry Point with his parents, Rhys and Hannah, sister, Kira, and two dogs.

Kira Evans (Lauren) – Kira is so excited to be making her OHP “big show” debut! She was previously involved in the OHP Children’s Theater productions of *The Grunch*, *The Claw*, and *Imagine A Dragon*. She is sharing the stage with her brother, Jaren, a fellow church kid, and her mom, Hannah, who is playing Helen. Her dad, Rhys, is the stage manager. Kira is a 6th grader at Starmont where she is involved in band, choir, volleyball and softball. She lives with her family, including two dogs, Benny and Juno, in Strawberry Point.

Aspyn Konichek (Audrey) – This is Aspyn’s first OHP performance. She was so excited to be Chef Clove in the summer children’s theatre camp this summer! Her first stage performance was as Teen Fiona in *Shrek Jr. the Musical* through PdC summer school. Aspyn is a 5th grader at Prairie du Chien Schools. In her spare time, Aspyn enjoys practicing her violin, playing with her cat ginger, making things, doing crafts and gymnastics.

Kinsley Young (Ruby) – Kinsley is excited to be making her OHP musical debut. Previously, she took part in the OHP children’s productions of *The Claw* (2023) and *Imagine a Dragon* (2024). Kinsley was also part of the MFL MarMac middle school production of *Charlotte’s Web*. Kinsley is in 8th grade and is active in band, choir, and basketball. In her spare she enjoys drawing, skateboarding, and spending time with her friends and family.

David Beck (Piano) – David has been involved with the Opera House Players since the musical revue *Stardust* in 2002 in which he accompanied at the piano. The piano has been a passion in his life for over 47 years, accompanying for weddings and funerals, at school functions and social events and being active in the music of his church. David has been active on stage as well, appearing in *The Producers* (2019),

Ryan Lange (Elmer Hopkins) – Ryan is beyond excited to be in his first major OHP production! Ryan has been involved in the annual children’s theatre camp for several years. Ryan is also involved in choir, plays, and musicals at Edgewood-Colesburg where he is attending 8th grade. At Ed-Co, Ryan has also been in the cast for the performances of *Baby Yaga and the Black Sunflower* (Fall 2023), *Just Another Audition* (Spring 2024), and *Horror High* (Fall 2024) at his school. Ryan is also involved in large group and individual speech at school, and runs his own dog-sitting business. Ryan thinks he may have been type cast to play the Reverend’s son, Elmer, because he is the real-life son of Andrew Lange (Reverend Hopkins). Ryan lives in Edgewood with his family and their dog, Kate.

Ciera Gray (Teddy Shoemaker) – Ciera is very excited to be performing in her 1st OHP musical. This is her second time on stage where she has previously performed in the youth theatre production *The Grunch* (2002) and has been excited to be on stage since. In her free time, she enjoys participating in volleyball, softball, swim team and basketball. Ciera is also involved in chorus and band where she is learning to play the clarinet. Ciera is a 5th grader at Central and lives outside Saint Olaf with her parents Nicole and Steve, and siblings Jackson and Bodie.

Emery Ambroson (Ellie) – This is Emery’s debut performance and she is so excited that it is on the OHP stage! She really caught the acting bug when she was able to attend the Story Theater Company camp in Ames, IA this past summer. Emery is currently a third grader at West Union Elementary. Outside of school, she enjoys participating in soccer, basketball, dance, piano and swimming with the WU swim team. In her spare time, Emery enjoys hanging out with her friends, listening to music and getting into mischief with her brother and sister. Emery currently lives in West Union with her parents, brother, sister, cat and dog.

Erin Camp (Sally) – Erin is excited to be back onstage! She played Randy in *A Christmas Story* (2022) and performed in the last three OHP children’s productions of *BOTS!* (2021), *The Grunch* (2022), and *The Claw* (2023). When she is not performing, Erin enjoys drawing, reading, camping, taking dance classes, and playing in the backyard. Erin is 10 years old and lives with her parents and three younger siblings in Elkader.

dance team, Legacy Show Choir, choir, student council, SODA, speech, and is a class officer. In her free time she enjoys playing pickleball, spending time with family and friends, playing piano, and is a part of Iowa Vortex Volleyball. Macy is the youngest of four siblings, RoseMary, Gabe, and Quinn, and is the daughter of Chip and Jackie McGeough. She lives in Marquette with her family and two dogs.

Maria Stavroplus (Betty) – Maria, a senior at MFL MarMac High School, is excited to take on a different role for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* after previously performing it in 2017 as a church kid/angel. Maria’s debut at the Elkader Opera House was *Christmas on Air* (2013) followed by twelve other performances. Her most notable, and favorite role at the Opera House was in this past year’s showing of *Peter Pan* (2023) where she took on the character Wendy Darling. She is actively involved in band, choir, Speech, SODA, student council, and much more. Outside of school activities, Maria enjoys hiking, songwriting, being part of the Waterhawks Swim Team, and working with the youth of her community.

Mariah Moser (Alice Wendleken) – This is Mariah’s 12th OHP production. This is her second time being in the cast of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as she played Claude in the 2017 OHP production. Some of her favorite roles include Annie in *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2024), Nigel in *Matilda* (2021) and Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan* (2023). Mariah has also been on stage or behind the scenes in ten youth theatre productions and eight productions at MFL MarMac. Mariah is in 11th grade. She is involved in cross country, golf, dance team, show choir, speech, band, choir, NHS, SODA and is vice president of the student council. In her spare time (ha!), Mariah enjoys reading, water skiing, and hanging out with friends. Mariah lives in McGregor with her dad, mom, and three younger siblings.

Ariana Espinosa (Ivy Reed) – Ariana is excited to join OHP for the first time! This show will be her third musical, including *Legally Blonde* as Enid Hoops and *Mean Girls* as Gretchen Weiners with the Wolfpack Theater. Her passion for theater began last year in 7th grade at Starmont. She played Mrs. Peacock in the school play, *Clue*. Even out of theatre, she is familiar with the stage as she participates in honor choir. She is also involved in club volleyball. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, drawing, singing, and helping her parents with the family business at The Franklin Hotel in Strawberry Point. Ariana lives with her supporting parents, older brother, her 2 dogs, and cat. Ariana wishes you a Merry Christmas; enjoy the show!

THE SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene 1: Church, Street

Our Perfect Little Town..... Church Ladies
The Horrible Herdmans Ivy, Elmer, Beth, Teddy, Alice, Charlie, Kids,
Reverend Hopkins, Helen, Church Ladies, The Herdmans

Scene 2: The Bradley Home

Scene 2a: The Bradley Home / Hospital Room

Countin' On You Helen, Church Ladies, Grace, Beth, Charlie, Bob

Scene 3: School Lunch Room

Take My Lunch Charlie, Beth, Elmer, Alice, Teddy, The Herdmans

Scene 4: Helen's Hospital Room

Scene 5: Church - Audition Day

Scene 5a: Church

Hey Mrs. Bradley! The Herdmans, Kids, Grace, Teddy, Ivy, Elmer, Alice

Scene 6: Hospital /The Bradley Home

Problem Helen, Church Ladies, Grace

Scene 7: Church

Baskets For The NeedyReverend Hopkins, Church Ladies

Scene 7a: Helen's Hospital Room

Scene 7b: Church

Baskets For The Needy cont'd Church Ladies

Scene 8: Church

My Mother Said..... Ivy, Beth, Alice, Kids

Scene 9: Hospital Room / The Bradley Home

Problem Reprise.....Helen, Grace
Maybe.....Bob, Grace

Scene 10: Church

Die, Herod, Die!.....The Herdmans, Kids

ACT TWO

Scene 11: Street

Baskets For The Needy RepriseChurch Ladies, Reverend Hopkins, Kids

Scene 12: Herdman Garage

The Best Gift Of All The Herdmans

Scene 13: Street

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever The Bradleys

Scene 13A: Church

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Grace, Charlie, Beth, Reverend Hopkins,
Helen, Church Ladies

Scene 13B: Church

Scene 14: Church

The Pageant Grace, Kids, Bob, Leroy, Claude, Ollie
On A Night Like This..... Imogene, Ralph, The Herdmans, Kids
Let There Be Joy Full cast