

— 25TH —
ANNIVERSARY

METROPOLIS



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS

November 24 to December 23, 2024



BEN BROWN
Young Scrooge | Want



MADDIE BRUNNER
Caroler | Present u/s



SAMANTHA BUCKLEY
Past | Poor Old Woman



ELSIE CHRISTIANSEN-FISHER
Ensemble | Youth Swing



STEVE CONNELL
Ebenezer Scrooge



JACK DOHERTY
Fred | Dick | Poor Young Man



AJ FINNEGAN
Ensemble | Youth Swing



GABRIEL FRIES
Bob Cratchit | Scrooge u/s



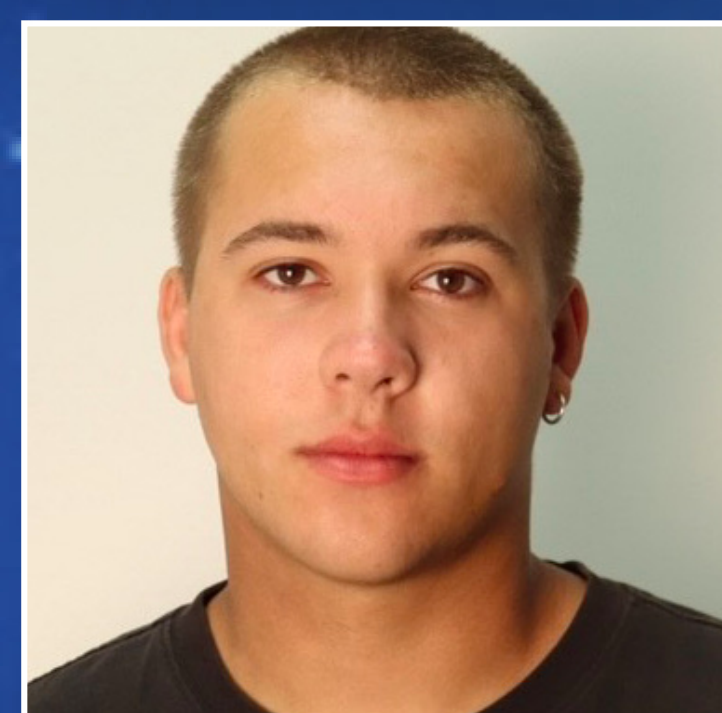
PETER BRICEÑO GERTAS
Caroler | Marley u/s



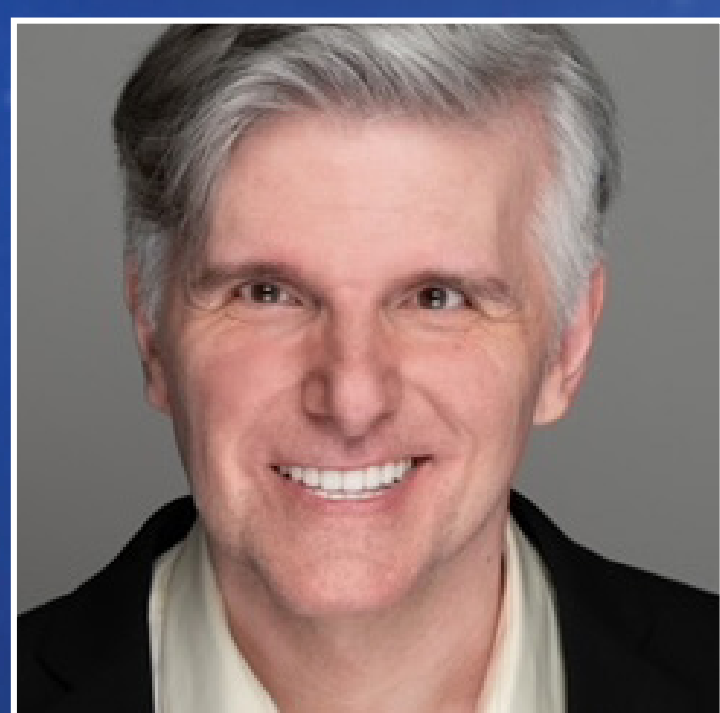
RHEA SOLEIL
Ensemble



MOLLY HAMADA
Wilkins' Daughter | Ignorance



JONAH HARDER
Caroler | Apprentice Scrooge



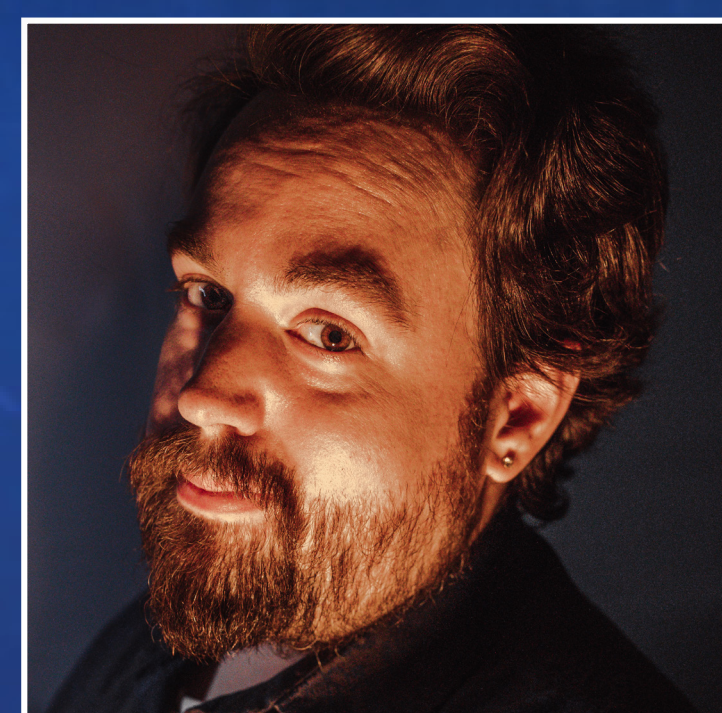
KENT JOSEPH
Jacob Marley | Future



MADDY KELLY
Belle | Fred's Wife's Friend



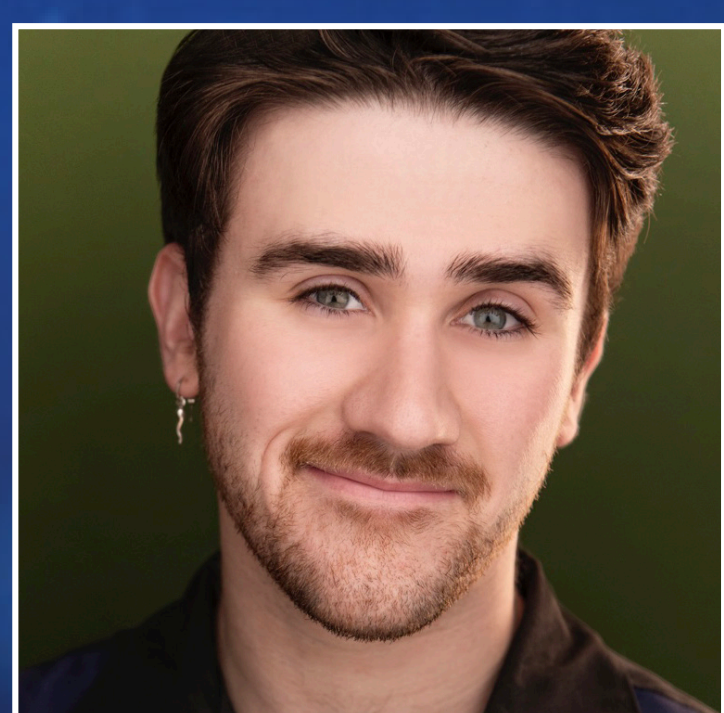
LARRAH LAMBO
Belinda Cratchit



JIM LAPIETRA
Present | Portly Gent #2



CHRISTIAN LUCAS
Tiny Tim



MITCHELL MAGUIRE
Swing



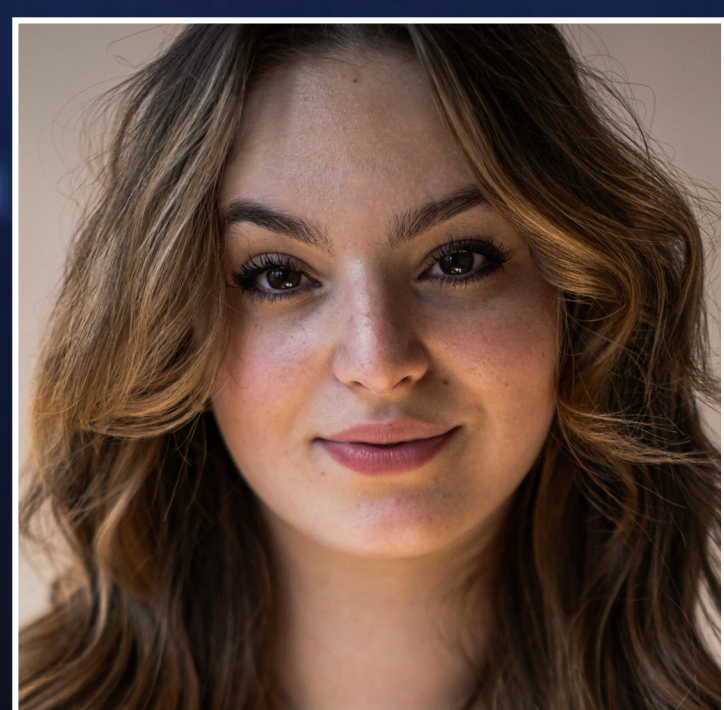
AARON MANN
Mr. Fezziwig | Portly Gent #1



EMILY MCCORMICK
Caroler | Mrs. Fezziwig u/s



SAMARA MCDERMID
Caroler | Post Carrier | Fred's Wife



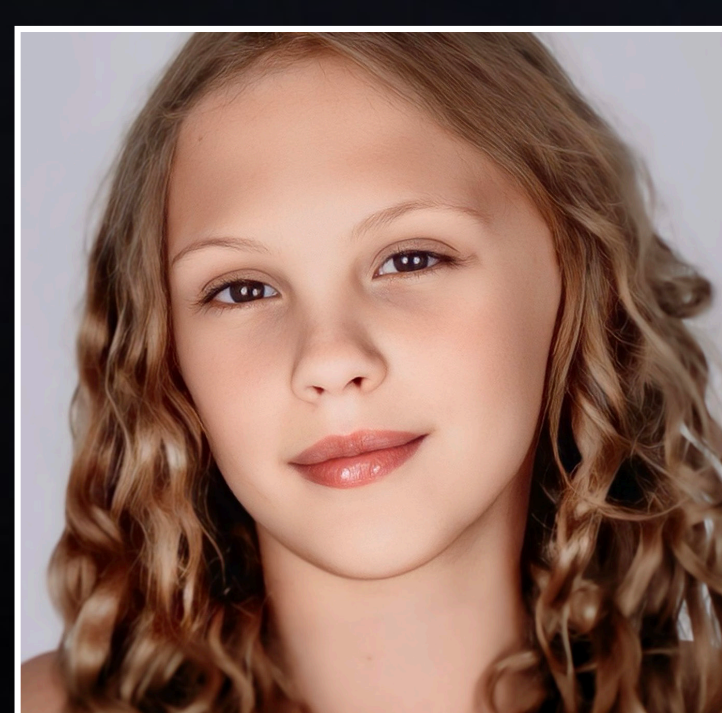
KYLIE MILLER
Swing



JESI MULLINS
Mrs. Cratchit



HANNAH MARY SIMPSON
Mrs. Fezziwig | Rich Old Woman



HADLEY MAE STROM
Ensemble



SOPHIE TUCKER
Martha Cratchit



MILES WENDT
Peter Cratchit | Turkey Boy



BEST OF THE BEST

BEST LIVE THEATRE

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Title Sponsors

SCHWABE
GROUP

COMPASS

Costume Sponsor

Total Clarity
Wealth Management, Inc.
Dave Hogaboom • Brendan Krahl

Scenic Sponsor

**Tom and MaryAnn
Deming**

Season Costume
Storage Sponsor

SUBURBAN ACCENTS
INC.
Vehicle Graphics, Lettering, Wraps, Signage & More...

Season Paint
Sponsor

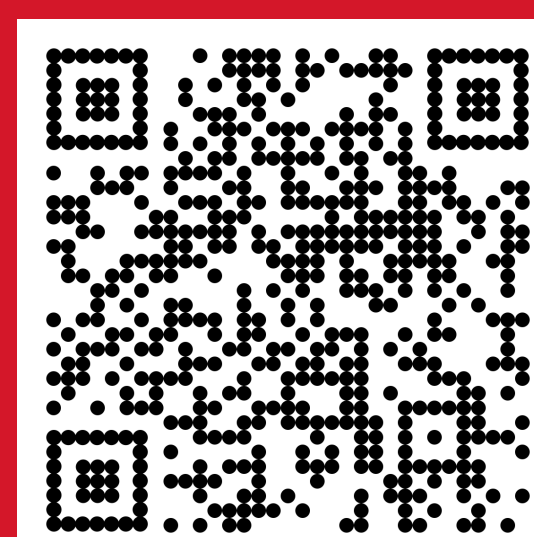
State Farm[®]
Jennifer Burnidge, CLU, ChFC, RICP (847)253-5678

Marc Poulos
PAINTING AND DECORATING

This program is partially supported
by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

Illinois
ARTS
Council

To view a full program, including cast and crew bios, head to the show page on our website, or scan the QR code.





Total Clarity
Wealth Management, Inc.

You don't need to be a Scrooge to manage your wealth wisely! Count on us, your neighbors, here in Arlington Heights to guide you.

Once again this holiday season, it is our gift to you to sponsor *A Christmas Carol* at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre. Let's make this a season of generosity and kindness throughout our community.

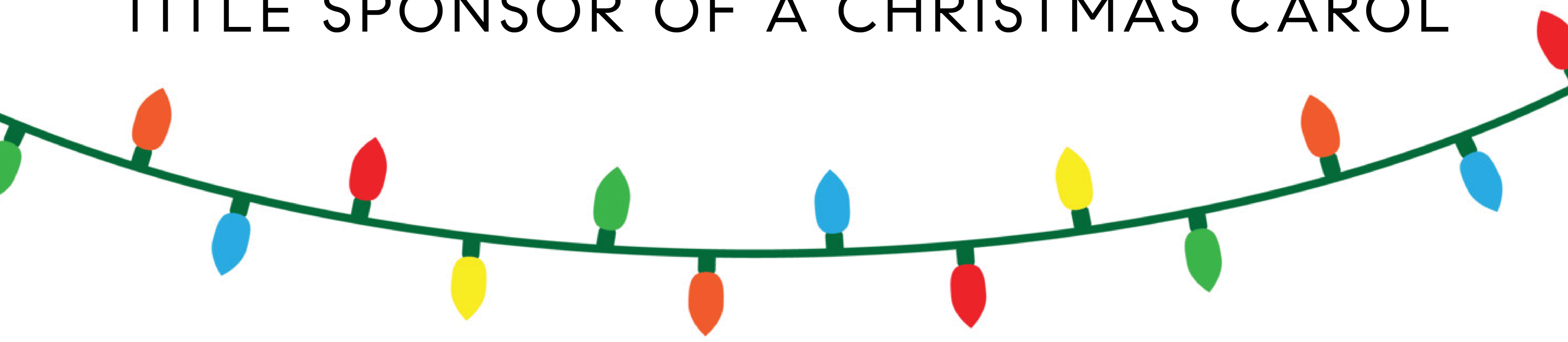
Happy Holidays,
Dave and Brendan

Total Clarity Wealth Management

171 W. Wing St. Suite 204B
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

847-585-3303

TITLE SPONSOR OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL



There's no place like *home* for the holidays.

If your holiday wish list includes a new home, let us make your dream a reality.

Contact the Schwabe Group for all your real estate needs.

DAVID SCHWABE

Licensed Real Estate Broker
& Team Lead

847.636.6747
david@schwabegroup.com
Schwabegroup.com

11 S Evergreen Ave,
Arlington Heights, IL 60005



COMPASS



Executive Director/Interim Artistic Director **DAVID VICTOR**,
Associate Artistic Director **TIFFANY GATES**,
and **METROPOLIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE** present

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens

Written by **Charles Dickens**

Adapted by **Jacqueline Goldfinger**

CREATIVE TEAM

Director
LORENZO RUSH, JR.

Assistant Director
BRENDA DIDIER

Music Director
KEN M^CMULLEN

Choreographer
KAITY PASCHETTO

Casting Director
ROBIN HUGHES

Dramaturg
LINDA SCHEUFLER

Stage Manager
LILI BJORKLUND

Asst. Stage Manager
GALEN HUGHES

Asst. Stage Mgr. Swing
KAITLYN TESDORFF

Scenic Designer
MARA ZINKY

Additional Scenic Design
JONATHAN BERG-EINHORN

Lighting Designer
LEVI J. WILKINS

Sound Designer
STEFANIE SENIOR

Costume Designer
GRACE M. WEIR

Wardrobe Supervisor
JESSICA HEGEL

Props Designer
REILEY DUFFY

Dialect Coach
SAREN NOFS SNYDER

Dance Captain
MADISON BRUNNER

Dance Captain
JONAH HARDER

Vocal Captain
SAMARA M^CDERMID

Youth Coordinator
MOLLIE PEERY

PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Director **VICTOR GUTIERREZ**
Head of Lighting & Electrics ... **DAN FRANK**
Spotlight Operator **BROOKE MENZIES**
Run Crew **FRANCES WUTZ**
Scenic Carpenter **TREVOR TURNER**
Scenic Carpenter **EVAN SHACKLETTE**
Scenic Charge **ELIZABETH BRACHMAN**

Production Director **BILL FRANZ**
Head of Sound **SEAN SLABER**
Spotlight Operator **ANDREW XU**
A2/A1 Swing **TREVOR TURNER**
Scenic Carpenter **LUCAS BANKS**
Scenic Carpenter **ELIZABETH BRACHMAN**
Crew Swing **AMY COLE**

METROPOLIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
JILL GEIMER

Director
MARIA ZELLER BRAUER

Director
STACEY ENNES

Director
SUE THOMPSON

Vice President
RYAN CUTLIP

Director
ANTHONY CALZARETTA

Director
DAVE KUNICKI

Director
JEFF HYSLOP

METROPOLIS STAFF

Executive Director David Victor
Finance Director Jay Nelson
Education Director Tiffany Gates
Audience Services Dir. Bryan Wlas
Audience Services Sup. Maggie Dix
Lead Artistic Associate Robin Hughes
Head of Sound Sean Slaber
Group Sales Coordinator Jana Kramer
Education Mktg. Asst. Nathan Brown
Development Associate Kate Morris
Development Director Randal Klaproth
Marketing Director Travis Hoying
Artistic Ops. Mgr. Alexandra Raffini
Production Director Bill Franz
Tehncial Director Victor Gutierrez
Head of Lighting and Electrics Dan Frank
Associate Education Dir. Zoe Schmidt
Social Media Coordinator Leah Brock
Development Assoc. Mary Seitz-Pagano
Front of House Sophia Braun, Patt Carmody, Debbie Cortesi, John Delaney, Kelley Greenan, Tina Kalomiris, Kate Morris, Carla McAleer, Maggie McAlpine, Mary Kate McAlpine, Mary Rodighiero, Catherine Schulewitz, Sara Schuring, Matthew Sheble, Monica Stark, Natalie Stahl



**CAMPS FILL QUICKLY!
REGISTER NOW TO
SECURE YOUR SPOT!**



WINTER BREAK | JANUARY 2 – 4



SPRING BREAK | MARCH 24 – 28



Dramaturg's Notes for *A Christmas Carol* 2024

By Linda Scheufler

Charles Dickens (1812–1870) brings us into the bustling heart of London during the Industrial Revolution, where the city is growing in every direction. New technologies, railways, and migrants from England and Ireland are transforming London into a crowded metropolis. African people, newly arrived, are part of this changing scene. By 1800, London's Black population was estimated at around 20,000, many working in households as footmen, coachmen, and cooks, supporting the city's wealthy families. Yet London, for all its hustle and bustle, struggles under a cloud of coal smog, poor sanitation, and disease—challenges faced by rich and poor alike.

A Christmas Carol is one of Dickens's most famous social commentaries, shaped by his dedication to helping those in need. Dickens's own family hardships and his father's time in debtors' prison left him with a lifelong mission to shed light on the struggles of the working poor. People in London, desperate to survive, took any job they could find—even one paying a mere 15 shillings a week. With bread costing 7.5 pence per loaf, a week's wages could barely stretch to feed a family. A skilled tradesman might earn 20 shillings, but without social services, a single illness or job loss could spell disaster, and even prison wasn't far off. Dickens understood this deeply, having been sent to work in

a boot polish factory when his father was imprisoned.

In *A Christmas Carol*, we meet Bob Cratchit, a poor but hardworking clerk at “Marley and Scrooge Counting House”—a firm lending and borrowing money for London’s bustling shipping industry. Ebenezer Scrooge’s clients range from the wealthy to the struggling, and his restless drive for profit leads to high interest rates and little sympathy. Christmas Eve arrives, and Cratchit asks for a rare day off. Scrooge, always focused on success, reluctantly agrees—but this night marks the anniversary of his late partner, Jacob Marley’s, death.

That night, Marley’s ghost appears in Scrooge’s dark bedchamber, bound in chains of his own making, and warns of three coming visitors: the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Marley, bearing the weight of his own regrets, hopes to spare Scrooge from the same fate of torment and isolation, where profit eclipsed compassion.

Through each spirit, Scrooge sees his life’s decisions laid bare—a lonely childhood, a hopeful apprenticeship, a lost love, and finally, the bleak future of a lonely death. The ghosts’ revelations speak to us, too, reminding us of the power our choices hold.

As Christmas approaches, Dickens’s message of kindness and reflection remains timeless. May the story of Scrooge inspire you and your family to share warmth, kindness, and perhaps even a bit of holiday magic this season. Merry Christmas!

— CAST —

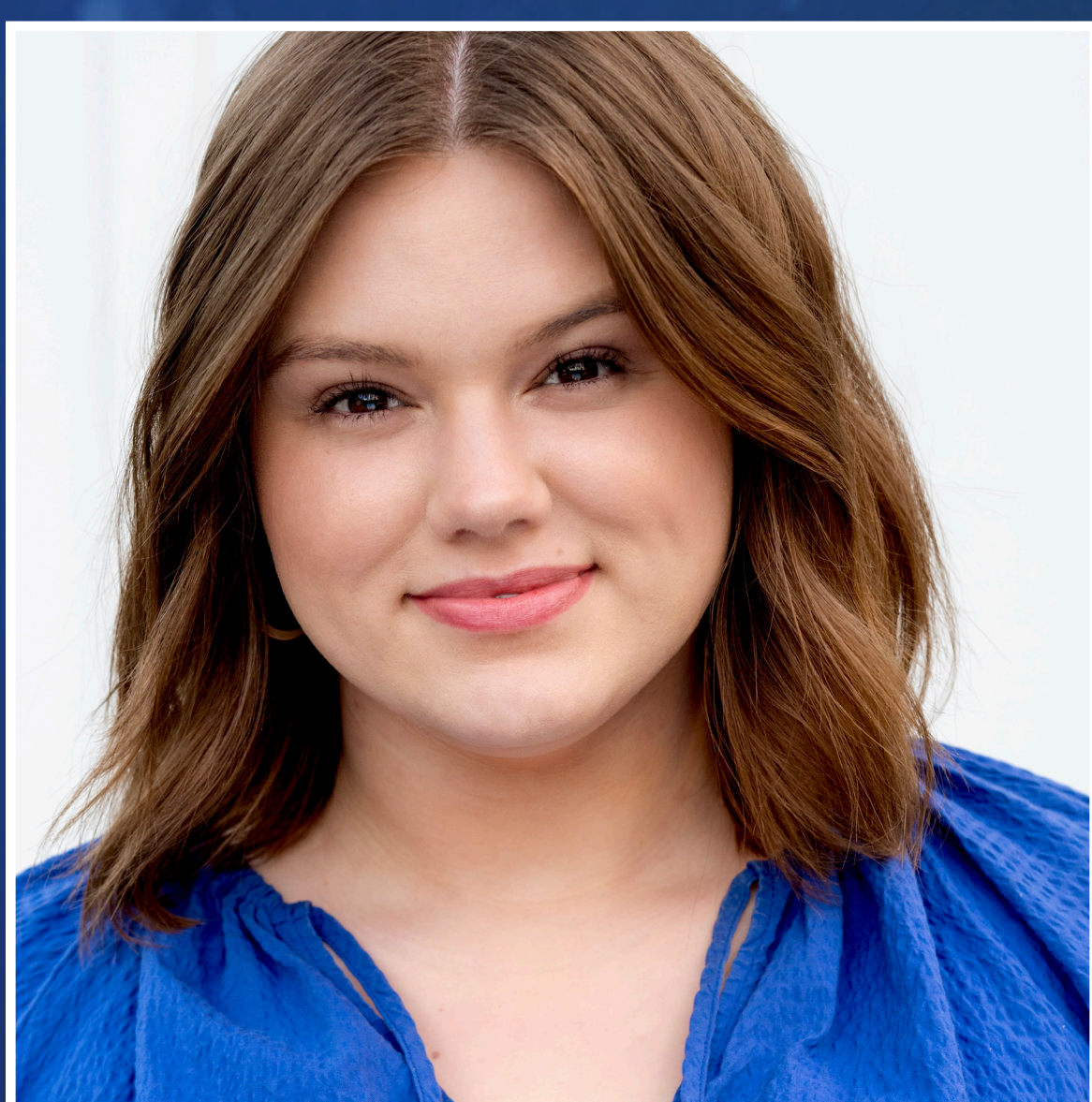


BEN BROWN

*Young Scrooge
Want*

Ben is a 6th Grader and is excited to be back at Metropolis for his second run of *A Christmas Carol*. His recent credits include last year's performance as Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*, *SpongeBob: The Musical*, Melman in *Madagascar:*

The Musical, Gil in *Finding Nemo*, Galahad in *Spamalot*, Professor Ian in *How Not to be a Wizard*, Sven in *Frozen Jr.*, and Piglet in *Winnie the Pooh*, all with the Metropolis School of Performing Arts. When not performing, he enjoys winding down with Minecraft and duos in Fortnite - Superboy3001. He is also an avid reader and collector of D&D figures. Ben would like to thank his family for their support, encouragement, and post-rehearsal snacks.



MADISON BRUNNER (she/her) *Caroler*

u/s Christmas Present

Madison Brunner is thrilled to be back at Metropolis this Holiday Season! Previous Chicago credits include *Beehive: The 60's Musical* (Metropolis), *New Faces Sing Broadway Now 2024* (Porchlight Music Theatre), "The Witch" in *Big Fish*

(Harper Ensemble), *Bullets Over Broadway* (NightBlue), *Songbook of 1964* (Moraine Valley), *Promises, Promises* (CCPA), and more. Madison holds a BFA in Musical Theatre with a Dance Emphasis from The Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) at Roosevelt University. A special thanks to Lorenzo, Brenda, Kaity, Ken, and the whole team; and to my friends and family for all your support!

@maddie_brunner 



SAMANTHA BUCKLEY

*Ghost of Christmas Past
Poor Old Woman*

Samantha Buckley is excited to be making her Metropolis Performing Arts debut! Originally from Minnesota- her recent credits include: *An American Tail the Musical* (Children's Theatre Company), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Lyric Arts Theater), *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*

(Highland Summer Theater), and her directing/producing debut with *BREWED* (Phoenix Theater). She sends her thanks to her family and Felipe for their love and support.

@samwich3000 



STEVE CONNELL

Ebenezer Scrooge

Steve is thrilled to be rejoining MPAC once again after playing Scrooge here many other times over the past 20+ years! He has also played the role at the Steel Beam Theatre in St. Charles and at the Woodstock Opera House. Also here at Metropolis, Steve once appeared as

Henry in *The Fantasticks* and Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He has also worked with Invictus Theatre in Chicago and Janus Theatre in Elgin. Other roles have included Cyrano in *Cyrano DeBergerac*, Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* and Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*. Steve, a retired physics teacher, lives in Crystal Lake with his lovely and supportive wife, Amy. Together, in 2015 they created and managed the Right-Center-Left Production Company (RCLPC Theater), where they produced summer dinner-theatre to raise funds for various charities: "Eat, Play, Give!"



ELSIE CHRISTIANSEN (she/her)

Youth Ensemble

Youth understudy

Elsie is a 6th grader and is enjoying her first show with MPAC. Recent show credits include: Cowgirl Fish in *SpongeBob: The Musical* (SOPA), *Glee: Walkin' On Sunshine* (SOPA), Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical The Musical* (Expressions

Performing Arts Academy), *Frozen Jr.* (Expressions Performing Arts Academy), Mal in *Disney's Descendants: The Musical* (Expressions Performing Arts Academy), Elf #2 in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (Expressions Performing Arts Academy). Outside of theater, she enjoys playing the piano, studying dance, reading, and spending time with friends and family, especially her two dogs. Elsie would like to thank Mom and Jan for inspiring (and driving) her.



JACK DOHERTY (he/him)

Nephew Fred

Jack is a Chicago native, and has been based there since 2023. Recent Credits: *Richard III* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Coriolanus*, *Timon of Athens* (Utah Shakespeare Festival); *White Christmas*, *The Mousetrap* (The Round Barn Theatre). Upcoming Credit:

Berlin (Court Theatre). Jack is proud to be represented by Talent X Alexander! Jack is blessed to be surrounded by friends and family that have certainly never found him annoying. Should anyone feel the need to contradict that, they are lying. Margaux, to share life with you is the greatest gift of all.

@jack_doh_





AJ FINNEGAN (he/him)

Youth Ensemble

Youth Swing

AJ was born in Chicago, but followed his parents to Arlington Heights, where he has been based for the past 10 years. He is ecstatic to be in *A Christmas Carol* for the first time, and has been in several local children productions. He would like to thank the production team in *A Christmas Carol* for this amazing opportunity, his parents and family for their constant love and support (and car rides), and his teachers for letting him make up missed homework.



GABRIEL FRIES (he/him)

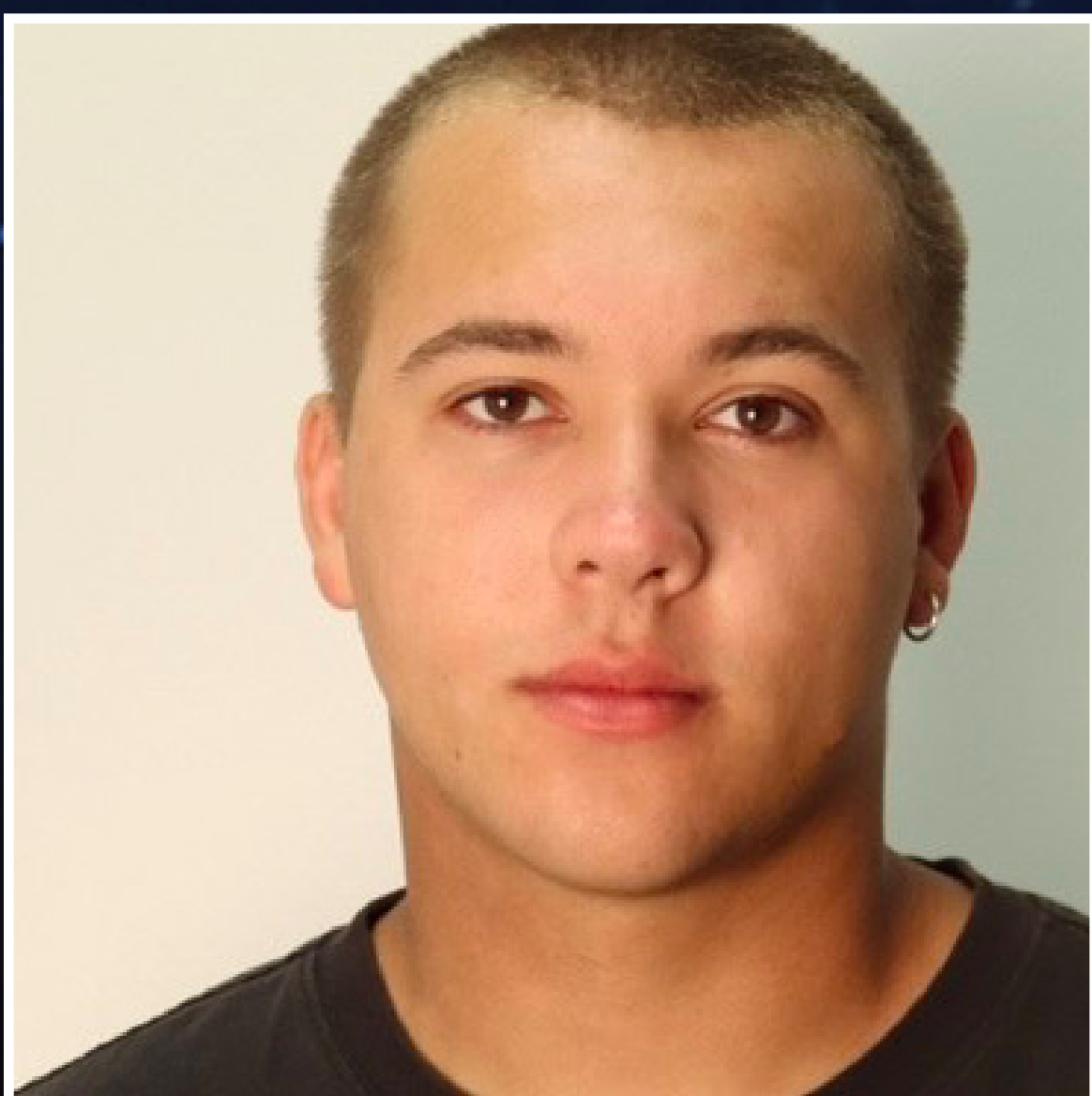
Bob Cratchit

u/s Ebenezer Scrooge

Gabe is delighted to return to MPAC, where he previously appeared in *A Christmas Carol* (2023), *The Buddy Holly Story* and *Baskerville*. Gabriel is originally from southern Illinois and has called Chicago home for 10 years. Other recent credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Paramount Theatre), *Native Son* (Lifeline Theatre), *Big River* (Mercury Theater Chicago), and *The Mama and the Papa Goose* (Inkwell Arts). Gabriel is at work on an album of original music, and you can catch him in *The Merry Beggars' On the Night Train* and *The Saints* podcasts! He is a proud graduate of Wesleyan University and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Love and thanks to Mom and Dad!

gabriefries.net 

[@gabefrieslifestyle](https://www.instagram.com/gabefrieslifestyle) 



JONAH HARDER

Apprentice Scrooge

Caroler

Fred's Friend

Jonah is a 20 year old actor who has resided in the suburbs of Chicago since childhood. He is extremely excited and grateful to be in *Christmas Carol* at metropolis for the second year in a row! Besides acting Jonah also makes music and releases music on all platforms under his name! He would not be where he is without his support from his family, Kayla, friends, and God.

[@jonah.harder](https://www.instagram.com/jonah.harder) 



MOLLY HAMADA (she/her)

Wilkins' Daughter
Ignorance

Molly is a 6th grader at South MS in Arlington Heights. She is honored to be back for this wonderful holiday tradition! Molly loves performing, studying voice and dance, and taking classes

at Metropolis School of Performing Arts. Her favorite credits include *South Pacific* (Skokie Theatre), *Music Man in Concert* (MPAC), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Big Noise Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (MPAC, 2022), and a Walgreens Halloween commercial. Molly is grateful for her supportive family, friends, coaches, and agents at DDO Artists Agency. Thanks to Metropolis and the *A Christmas Carol* team for this unforgettable experience.

@mollyhamada



KENT JOSEPH

Jacob Marley
Ghost of Christmas Future

Kent is honored to perform with MPAC for the 6th time, having recently played Lurch in *The Addams Family*. Other recent roles include Abraham Lincoln, in the world premiere of *A House Divided* (Johnny Carson Theatre/Lied Center);

Nick Bottom, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Nebraska Repertory Theatre); and Big Daddy, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (MadKap Productions). Other favorite roles include Dom Claude Frollo, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Music Theater Works); Charlemagne, *Pippin* (Regional Theatre of the Palouse); Fagin, *Oliver* (various venues); and numerous productions of *A Christmas Carol* including one in Klingon! Kent can also be seen in the feature film *The Girls of Summer*, the podcast sci/fi drama *Immunities*, and in the short film *Typical Crimson Christmas*.

kentjoseph.weebly.com



@kentcjoseph



MADDY KELLY (she/her)

Belle
Fred's Wife's Friend

Maddy is excited to return to Metropolis for *A Christmas Carol*. Favorite credits include *Spring Awakening* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

(MPAC), *Freaky Friday* (Williams Street Repertory), *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Edge of the Wood Theatre), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Steel Beam Theatre). She is a Northwestern University grad and is represented by Actors Talent Group. Love to her family.

@maddykelly1313





LARRAH LAMBO (she/her)

Belinda Cratchit

Larrah, currently in fifth grade, first started theatre at the Round Lake Park District (RLPD) in *The Addams Family Jr.*, and *The Wizard of Oz* as Toto! Most recently was played Star-To-Be in *Annie Jr.* at her school. Outside of theatre, Larrah has also been in commercials and short films. In her free time, she likes to sing karaoke, draw and animate, and learn new languages like Japanese and Korean! Larrah is currently represented by Talent X Alexander and sends a huge thank you to them and the entire production team of *A Christmas Carol* for this amazing opportunity.

@larrahbopz 

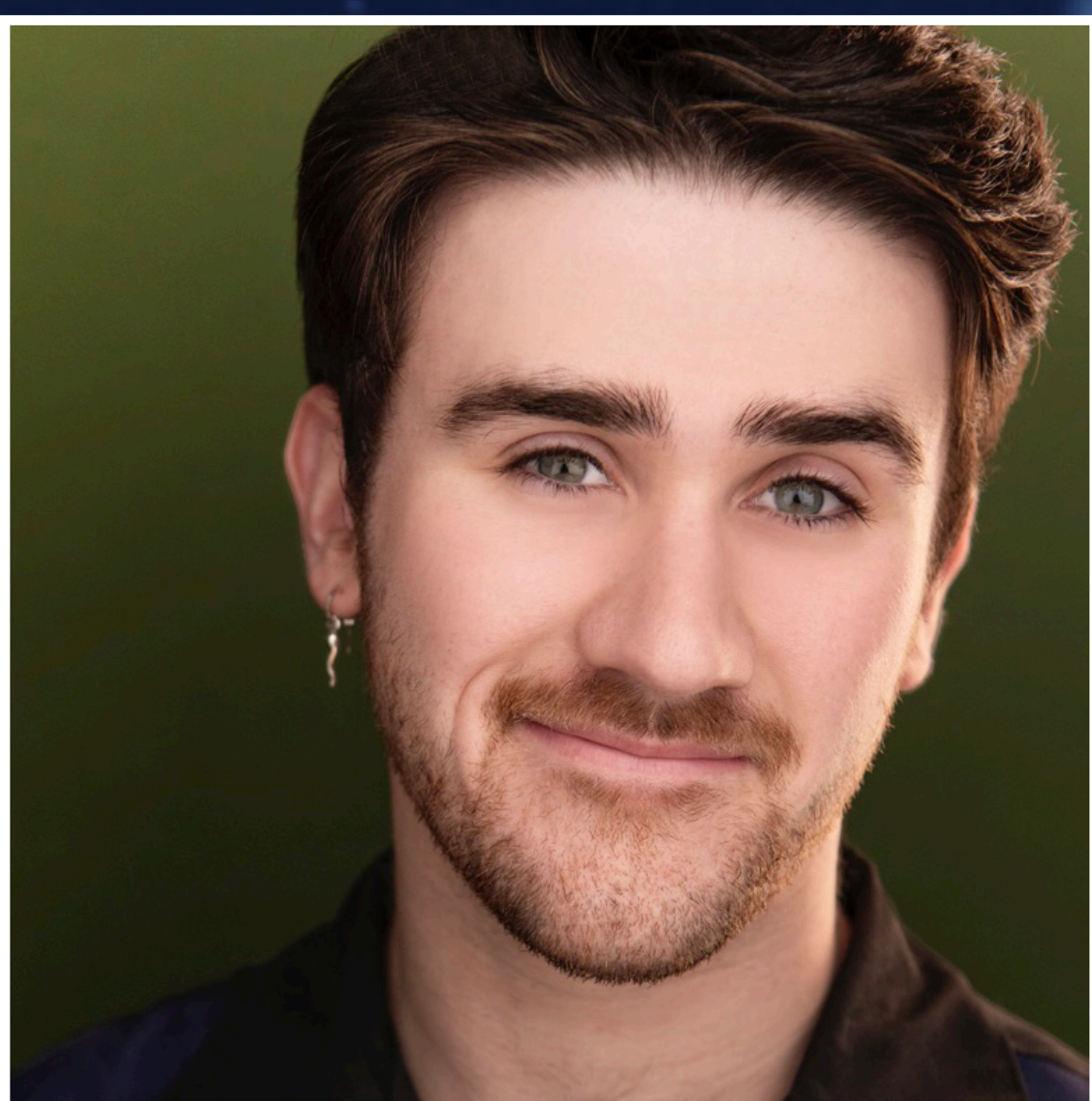


JIM L'APIETRA (he/him)

Ghost of Christmas Present Portly Gentleman #2 u/s Mr. Fezziwig

Jim is thrilled to return to Metropolis, reprising the role Ghost of Christmas Present. Notable acting credits include Rev. Hale, *The Crucible* (2019 AACTfest); Cuddy Banks, *Witch*; *Altercation in the Underworld* (Madkap Short Play Festival); Pirelli, *Sweeney Todd*; Benjamin, *Edward Albee's Finding the Sun*; and Jake, *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Directorial credits include *The Mousetrap* (Theatre of Western Springs), *Pippin* (Towle Theatre), *Harvey* (Jedlicka Performing Arts Center), *Clue: On Stage* (Drama Group), and *The Addams Family* (Rising Stars Theatre Co.). Thank you for supporting the arts. Enjoy the show!

@jimmyla89 



MITCHELL MAGUIRE (he/him)

Swing

Mitchell is excited to be making his MPAC Debut! Past roles include: Ensemble/Bottle Dancer - *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Sergei/Ensemble - *Matilda* (Virginia Stage Company); Tartaglia - *The Green Bird*, Ensemble/Dance Captain - *Urinetown*, Billy - *Honk*, Swing - *Legally Blonde*; Actor/Dancer/Combatant, *Unto These Hills* (Coastal Carolina University). Mitchell would like to thank the entire creative team for allowing him to be part of this special production and would like to thank his family and girlfriend, Max, for their constant support and cheerleading!

mitchellmaguire.com 

@mitchlmauire 



AARON MANN (he/him)

Mr. Fezziwig

Portly Gentleman #1

Poor Old Man

Aaron has taken the stage as Sipos in the NE Jeff Award-nominated production of *She Loves Me*, Joe Josephson in *Merrily We Roll Along*, and as Durdles in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He's also

contributed to the national recordings of popular musicals like *Sweeney Todd*, *The Sound of Plaid*, and *Miss Saigon* for Music Theatre International. Other roles include Thenardier, *Les Misérables* (Uptown Music Theatre); Mr. Boss, *Slide* (Chicago Music Theater Festival); Sir Robin, *Spamalot* (WTC); and Mr. Mushnik, *Little Shop of Horrors* (WTC). He has also written and produced a popular Dungeons & Dragons podcast called "That Big D&D Energy". He has a BFA in Theatre Studies from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

castingcall.club/mannly



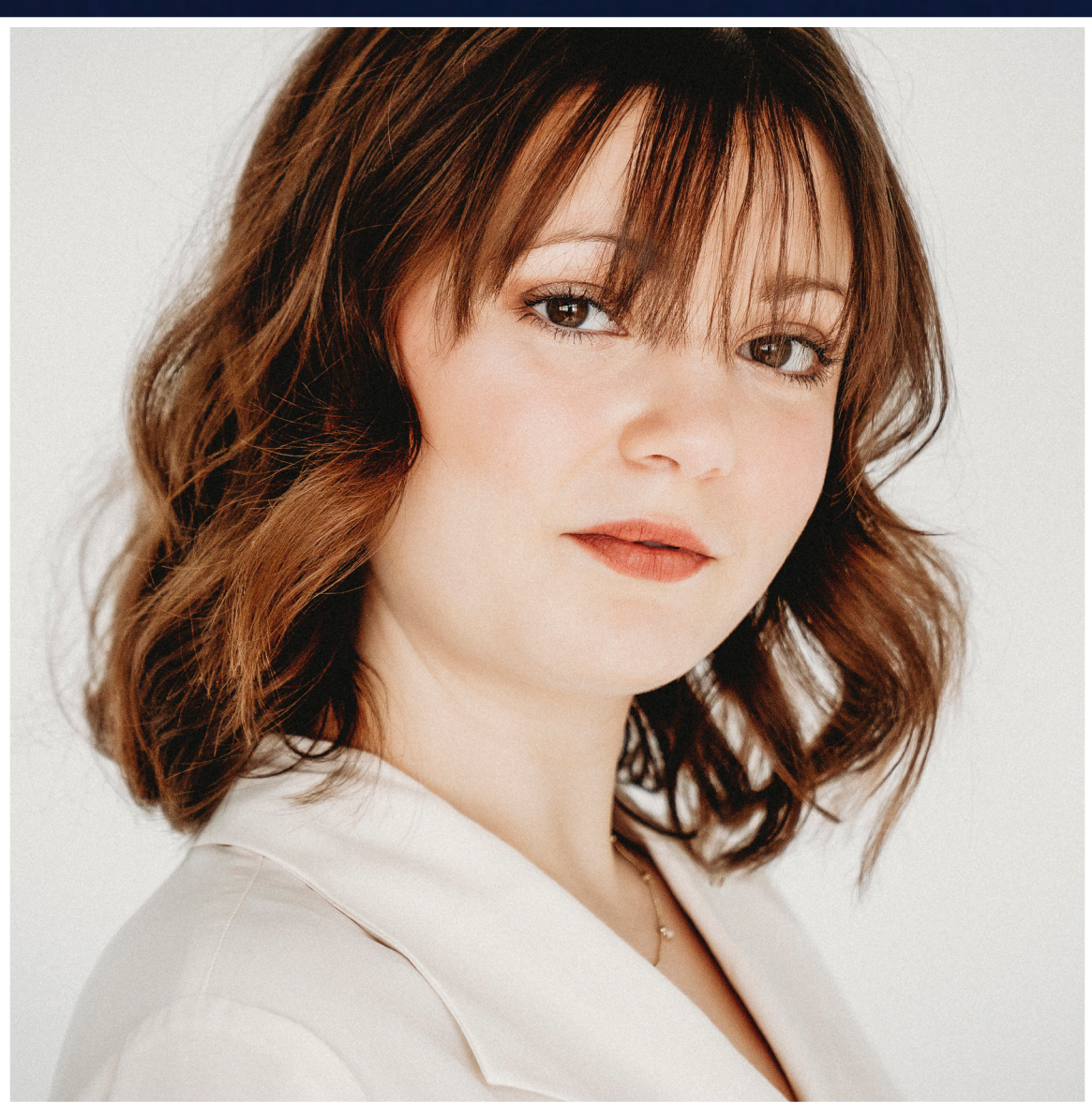
EMILY M^CCORMICK (she/her)

Caroler

u/s Mrs. Fezziwig

Emily is thrilled to be making her MPAC debut! New to Chicago and originally from Tennessee, Emily holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Memphis. Select credits include: *The Sound of Music* (Studio

Tenn), *Romeo and Juliet* (Tennessee Shakespeare Company), *Pericles*, *Prince of Tyre* (TSC), *The Pajama Game* (Ohio Light Opera), *Candide* (OLO), and various shows at Six Flags Over Texas, Valleyfair, and The Rev on Tour. She hopes our show will get you in the holiday spirit!



SAMARA M^CDERMID (she/her)

Caroler

Fred's Wife

Post Carrier

Samara is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota with a degree in Vocal Performance. Recent show credits include: *The Last 5 Years*, *The Hello Girls*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Legally Blonde*, *Into the Woods*, and *Songs for a New World*.

Aside from performing she is a private voice and class instructor, and a Music Director with Metropolis School of the Performing Arts. She is very excited for everyone to see the show!

[@samaramcd](https://www.instagram.com/samaramcd)





KYLIE MILLER (she/her)

Swing

Kylie is incredibly excited to be making her Chicago professional theatre debut! She is a current junior at Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, getting her BFA in Musical Theatre Dance. She is incredibly grateful for her amazing family, who has supported her endlessly.

[@kyliemomiller](#) 



JESI MULLINS (she/her)

Mrs. Cratchit

Jesi is thrilled to be making her Metropolis debut. Theatre credits include: *Fairview* (Definition Theatre), *Marys Seacole* (Griffin Theatre), *The Secretaries* (First Floor Theater), *Bachelor - The Unauthorized Parody Musical*, *Love Actually? The Unauthorized Musical Parody* (Apollo Theater), *Macbeth* (Spectrum Shakespeare), *Exit the King*, *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (The Theatre School at DePaul); *Elephant Man* (Gallery Players). TV: *Chicago Med* (NBC). MFA, The Theatre School at DePaul University. Jesi is a certified actor combatant and dialect coach. She is represented by Gray Talent Group. Love to my personal Bob Cratchit - Michael.

jesimullins.com 



HANNAH MARY SIMPSON (she/her)

Mrs. Fezziwig

Old Rich Woman

Christmas Day Woman

Hannah is so excited to be part of this wonderful team! Some recent Chicago theatre credits include *Les Miserables* (Uptown Music Theater), *A Year With Frog & Toad* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *Camelot* (Music Theater Works), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Midsommer Flight), and *The Healing* (Black Ensemble Theater). She holds degrees in Theatre and English Literature and a minor in Women's & Gender Studies from Ohio Wesleyan University. Hannah is also a Shakespeare Coach and Teaching Artist. Reps - Firestarter Entertainment (Theatre), Dream Team Talent (On Camera). Much love to Max and the cats.

hannahmarysimpson.com 

[@hannahmary32](#) 



RHEA SOLEIL

Youth Ensemble

Rhea is so excited to be returning to the Metropolis stage for her third production! Recent credits include *Little Girl, Ragtime* (MPAC); *Fan/Elizabeth Cratchit/Want, A Christmas Carol 2022* (MPAC); Jr. Narrator, *Winnie the Pooh: The Musical* (Highland Park Players). When not

performing, Rhea sings on the youth worship team at her church, spends time with friends, and plays dog big sis to Winnie, her yellow lab! Rhea thanks her family, friends and the amazing team at Metropolis!



HADLEY MAE STROM (she/her)

Youth Ensemble

Hadley is thrilled to be making her MPAC debut. Recent theatre credits include *Annie, Annie*; *Dorothy, Wizard of Oz*; *Jane Banks, Mary Poppins*; *Jojo, Seussical*; *Flounder, The Little Mermaid*; and *Audrey, Descendants*. Off the stage, Hadley is a 5th grader

who loves school, playing travel soccer with TCSA, playing piano, singing, and her family. She would like to thank her past directors Lexi and Tavian (Steel Beam), Colin (Marquee), Mrs. Mojica (CWCA) and Kim (Hello Broadway) for her acting training and Diya, her vocal coach. Big thanks to the directors at MPAC for this amazing opportunity and to my wonderful talent agent, Talent X Alexander, for believing in me. Much love to my Mom and Dad for their endless support in pursuing my dreams and my 4 younger siblings for always cheering me on.

YouTube Channel



@all_about_hadley_mae



SOPHIE TUCKER (she/her)

Martha Cratchit

Sophie is so excited to be back at Metropolis for the Holiday Season! Some recent credits include *Mean Girls - High School Version, Music Man - in Concert* (Metropolis); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Grey Gardens* (Big Noise Theater); *Spelling*

Bee (Prospect High School). Sophie has had so much fun working on this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

@sophie_tucker





MILES WENDT (he/him)

Peter Cratchit

Turkey Boy

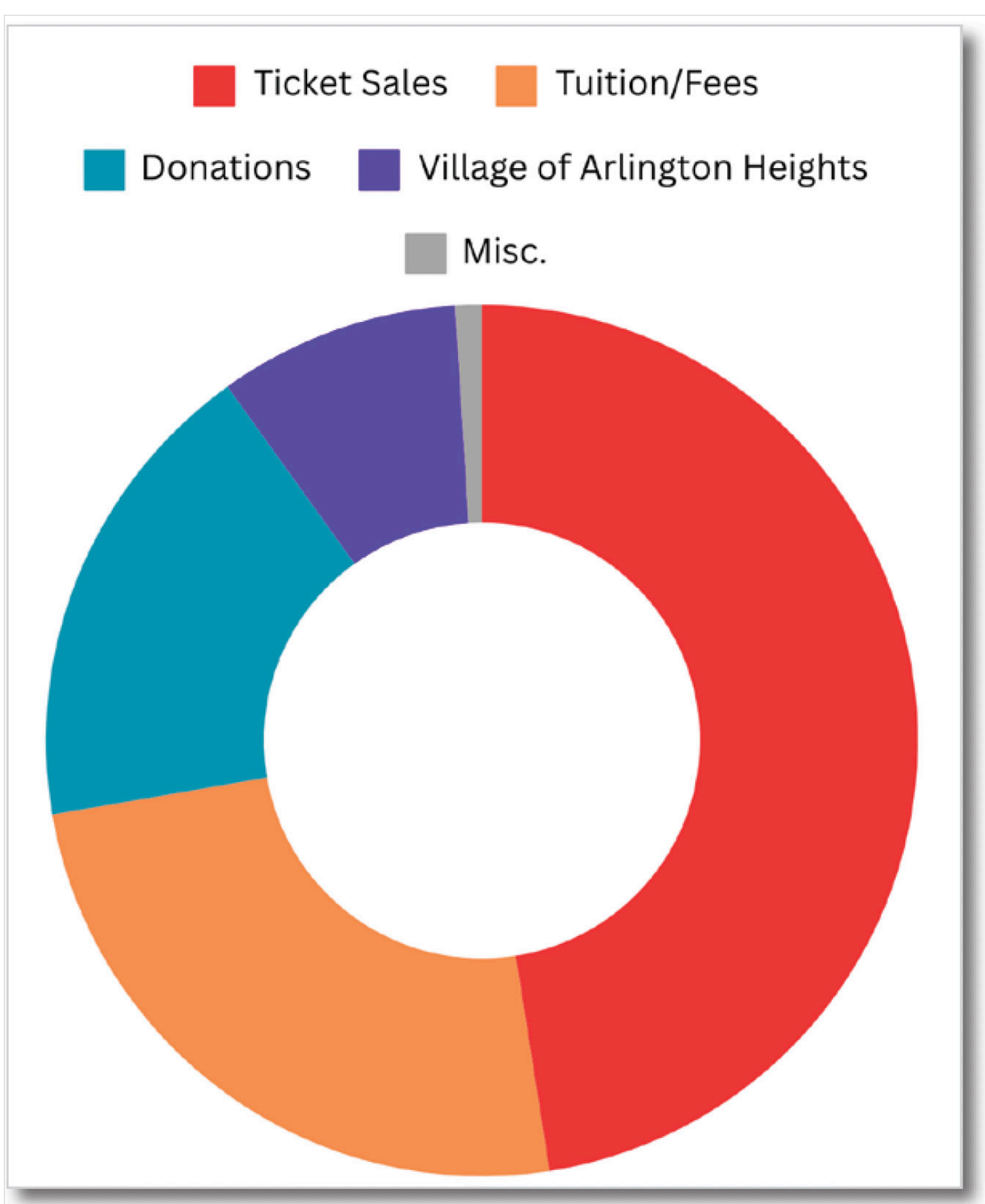
Miles is thrilled to return to the MPAC stage this year for *A Christmas Carol*. Recent show credits include: *The Music Man - in Concert* (MPAC), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Big Noise Theater), and *A Christmas*

Carol (MPAC 2022). He is also a proud SOPA student and has performed in many SOPA productions including *SpongeBob the Musical • Youth Edition*, *How Not to be a Wizard*, *Finding Nemo, Jr.*, *Little Red Robin Hood* and *Stuart Little*. In addition to SOPA, he trains at Actors Training Center and Dance & All that Jazz. He would like to thank all of his teachers, coaches and wonderful agents at Talent X Alexander.

@milesoliverwendt



DID YOU KNOW?



Our ticket sales and education tuition fees cover only a portion of operating expenses, so we count on our ***friends like you*** to donate annually, allowing us to keep the performing arts vibrant in Arlington Heights and beyond.

Your annual contributions truly help make the arts a part of the everyday experience, impacting the lives of thousands of artists and students of all ages and abilities.

Because Metropolis Performing Arts Centre is a **501(c)3 not-for-profit organization**, your donation may be **fully tax-deductible**.

Become a Member Today

— CREATIVE TEAM —

LORENZO RUSH JR.

Director

Lorenzo is a Chicago native who has spent the last 15 years working on some of Chicagoland's most notable stages, including Goodman Theater, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Court Theater, Marriott Theater, Porchlight Music Theater and more. He is a Joseph Jefferson and Black Theater Alliance Award winner. Rush Jr. is an accomplished voiceover actor, and can be heard voicing for Chicago Cubs, American Express and Sony. He can also be seen working on Chicago PD, Empire, Siren, Chicago Fire, and Fargo. Special thanks to the Metropolis Producers for this opportunity. Thank you to Brenda for being my rock and thank you to this incomparable cast and crew for without you, this show is nothing. Thank you to Phoebe for being my motivation. Proverbs 18:16. Never forget the true meaning for the Christmas season. Actors Equity, SDC, SAG-AFTRA

BRENDA DIDIER

Assistant Director

Ms. Didier is a freelance director/choreographer. Credits include The Kenny Rogers Christmas Tour, Second City, Six Flags, Busch Gardens, T-Mobile's national commercial *Home for the Holidays*, Leo Burnett's *Leo on Ice* (Chicago Theatre) and *Cirque Shanghai* (Navy Pier's Skyline Stage - addt'l engagements in Atlantic City, Las Vegas and off-Broadway), productions with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The Goodman, Paramount, Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre, Mercury Theater, Porchlight Music Theatre and many others. She is the owner/artistic director of the Lincolnshire Academy of Dance (27th Season). Ms. Didier is the recipient of: multiple Jeff Awards in both direction and choreography, After Dark Awards, the National Youth Choreography Award and the 2018 Guy Adkins Award for the advancement of Music Theatre in Chicago. Much gratitude to Lorenzo and the wonderful cast & creative team for the collaboration! Love to Mike and Mom! This is for Judy. Merry Christmas!

lincolnshireacademyofdance.com



[@brendance714](https://www.instagram.com/brendance714)



LILI BJÖRKLUND (they/them)

Stage Manager

Past works with Metropolis include *Nine to Five*, *A Christmas Carol* (2023), *Xanadu*, *Ragtime*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* and *Shout! The Mod Musical*. Other works include 7 productions with Death & Pretzels as Resident Stage Manager, *Corduroy* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Mothers* (The Gift Theatre), *How Blood Go* (Congo Square Theatre), *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Steep Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre 2021), *The Abuelas*, *Hope: Part II* (Teatro Vista), *Poison* (The Plagiarists), *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* (Strawdog Theatre 2018) and *Fun Harmless Warmachine* (The New Coordinates). Lili holds a degree in Theatre for Social Change from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA.

REILEY DUFFY (she/her)

Props Designer

Reiley is thrilled to be making her Metropolis debut with *A Christmas Carol*. Previous credits include *Avenue Q* (Raue Center for the Arts); *A Bright Room Called Day* (Blank Theatre Company); *Six* (Norwegian Cruise Line); *Choir of Man* (Norwegian Cruise Line); *Mean Girls* (Stagedoor Manor); *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Stagedoor Manor); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Playhouse on the Square) and many more. Reiley would like to thank her amazing girlfriend Abby, her best friend Siubhan, Nino, and Benny for all their support and love.

JESSICA HEGEL (she/her)

Wardrobe Supervisor

Jessica is a wardrobe specialist and stage manager who is excited to be back at Metropolis for her second production. Previous credits include *Cinderella* (Metropolis) along with 7 UW-Milwaukee productions that include *State Fair* (Stage Manager), *The Rivals* (Asst Stage Manager), *The Sparrow* (Wardrobe), *Piggsville* (Wardrobe), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Wardrobe Supervisor), *Prince of Denmark* (Stage Manager), and the American College Dance Association NC Regional Conference (Asst. Stage Manager). She holds a BFA in Theatre Production from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts. Thanks to Mom and Dad for always supporting me. Merry Christmas!

@yeaimjess



ROBIN M. HUGHES

Casting Director

Lead Artistic Associate

Director, producer, and actor, Robin began professionally at The Guthrie with Garland Wright (*Christmas Carol*), acting in Joanne Akalaitis' world premiere of *The Rover*, and working on Akalaitis' *The Screens* and *Pravda* with Goodman's Robert Falls. Awarded Steppenwolf's Acting Fellowship, Robin was in *The Ballad of Little Joe* (world premiere) directed by Tina Landau and worked with Anna Shapiro (*Side Man*), David Cromer (*Orson's Shadow*), Jessica Thebus (*Whispering City*), John Malkovich (*Hysteria*), and Terry Kinney (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*). Regional: Victory Gardens, Little Theatre On the Square, Williams Street Rep, Paramount, Griffin, Circle, Light Opera Works, New Millenium, Bailiwick, Mary-Arrchie, Circa 21, G&S Light Opera, and Phipps Center. Robin has worked at Metropolis as Artistic Director, Producer, and Director of Production and has directed/acted in many Metropolis productions. She is an ISU MFA and Steppenwolf School grad, and proud member of SDC.

KAITY PASCHETTO (she/her)

Choreographer

Kaity is a Chicago-based choreographer, dancer, and musical theatre performer. She earned her BFA in Musical Theatre Performance from the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Her recent credits include *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Parker Arts Academy), *Mean Girls* (Metropolis SOPA), and last year's production of *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis). She is thrilled to be a part of telling this wonderful story again this Christmas Season! Outside of the studio and stage, Kaity enjoys spending her free time in the park or at the garden with her husband Ethan and their dog, Sesame. GO BLUE!

kaitypaschetto.com



[@kaitypaschetto](https://www.instagram.com/kaitypaschetto)



MOLLIE PEERY (she/her)

Youth Coordinator

Mollie is an actor, choreographer, youth coordinator and filmmaker based in Chicago, IL. She has worked on multiple production in the Chicago-land area both onstage and off. She is an alumni member of the LA Film School Center and a proud member of the Olde School Shakespeare Collective.

[@molliepeery](https://www.instagram.com/molliepeery)



LINDA SCHEUFLER (she/her)

Dramaturg

Linda is excited to be returning as Dramaturg for Metropolis' production of *A Christmas Carol*. Welcome to the world of Charles Dickens'. In London, the mid 1840s were hard times but love still could be found in this timeless family tradition. A ghost story, new family connections and well-loved Christmas Carols, too – all in one performance. Previous dramaturg works include: *Cabaret*, *SHOUT!*, *Noises Off*, *Anything Goes*, *Buddy Holly*, and more. Linda is a seven-year member of Literary Managers & Dramatists Association (LMDA) and a Reader for the annual Bay Area Playwrights' Festival (BAPF), fourth year. Thanks to Lorenzo and Brenda, MPAC and family for their support and curiosity. Merry Christmas!

SAREN NOFS SNYDER

Dialect Coach

Saren is an actor, director, and dialect coach who splits her time between Chicago and Portland, Oregon. As an actor, some favorite Chicago roles are Regina Giddings, *The Little Foxes* (Citadel); Lady Croom in *Arcadia* (New Leaf); and Masha in *Three Sisters* at (Piven). She has worked coast to coast from Artists' Repertory Theatre in Portland, to American Stage in St. Petersburg, Florida. Saren is the resident dialect coach for On The Spot Theatre, and *A Christmas Carol* marks her fifteenth collaboration with Metropolis. Saren holds an MFA in Acting and Directing from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of stage actors and stage managers.

GRACE M. WEIR

Costume Designer

Grace is a Costume Designer based in the Great Lakes Region. She received her BA in Theatre Arts with minors in Studio Art and History from Marquette University. Some previous Costume Design credits include: *Cinderella – Premier Adaptation* (Hope Summer Repertory Theatre), *The Theory of Relativity* (Marquette University), *The Revolutionists* (Marquette University), *Emma* (Door Shakespeare), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Door Shakespeare). Grace is thrilled to be working on this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

graceweircostumes.com 

LEVI J. WILKINS (he/him)

Lighting Designer

CHICAGO: *Exit Strategy* (Northwestern); *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* (Congo Square & Lookingglass); *Brother Sister Cyborg Space* (Raven); *Who's Araid of Virginia Woolf* (Invictus); *Is God Is* (Red Orchid); *Once on this Island* (Pulse); *Stew, London Road & Jump* (Shattered Globe) *The Secret Garden* (Theo Ubique). REGIONAL: Resident Lighting Designer, Arkansas Repertory; *The Mountaintop* (Constellation Stage & Screen); *Into The Side of A Hill* (Flint Rep); *A Raisin in The Sun* (Indiana University NW). Born and raised on the southwest side of Chicago, Levi is the lighting director at the Faith Community of St. Sabina, a 3-time Jeff Award nominee & the recipient of the 2024 3Arts Award for Theater.

fresherlight.com 

[@leviwilkins_lighting](https://www.instagram.com/leviwilkins_lighting) 

– PRODUCTION TEAM –

BILL FRANZ (he/him)

Director of Production

Bill is thrilled to be working on a Christmas Carol again at metropolis. Even after all of these years, it helps put him in the holiday spirit. He couldn't get there without the help of the designers, crew and cast members involved in this great production. Thanks for all of your hard work getting this show up. Bill would also like to thank BB and JB for all of their love and support. Happy holidays everyone.

[@soundtrunk](https://www.instagram.com/soundtrunk) 

ANDREW XU (he/him)

Spotlight Operator

Andrew has been involved with the previous 2 shows at Metropolis (9 to 5 and Cinderella) and is excited to be a part of Christmas Carol. Andrew first became involved in theater in 2010 when he joined tech crew at Fremd High, and even though engineering is his full time job now, theater is still a very big part of his life and is thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful production. Happy holidays!

— 25TH —
ANNIVERSARY

METROPOLIS



Brick in the Spotlight

THE BRICKS ARE BACK!

They have relocated to the theatre wall behind section 3, above the ramp. Thank you for your patience during the reinstallation process following theatre renovations.

By purchasing a nameplate for a brick in our theatre through this 100% tax-deductible gift, you will leave a lasting legacy here at Metropolis, not only through your brick in the spotlight but also in support of Metropolis' theatrical and arts education programs that enrich the community.

Each nameplate is fully customizable. This is a great opportunity to support your local nonprofit theater while honoring a loved one, donating in memory of someone special, or commemorating a memory, experience at Metropolis, or one of your favorite productions. Gold Level nameplates receive: 3 lines of text (up to 30 characters per line) Silver and Bronze Level nameplates receive 2 lines of text (up to 25 characters per line). Nameplates will be secured randomly within the specific level on the theatre ramp wall behind section 3.

GOLD \$500 • SILVER \$350 • BRONZE \$150

For more information
or to purchase a brick, please go to
MetropolisArts.com/brick, or scan:



- DONORS -

Metropolis would like to thank each of the following individuals and families for their support. All members recognized as annual contributors as of October 2024.

Please visit our Donor Wall in the Lobby which recognizes contributors as "Lifetime of Giving."



MARQUEE GRAND PATRON \$10,000+

Beihoffer Family
Tom & Mary Ann Deming
George & Beth Drost

MARQUEE GUARANTOR \$5,000-\$9,999

A.D. Johnson Foundation/Keith Johnson
Dan & Linda Falotico
Ellen & Rene Pecson
TAP Foundation

MARQUEE VISIONARY \$2,500-\$4,999

Carol & Steve Fromm
Maria Bradley & Marty Pfister
Donald Klein & Janice Kolbaska
Murray & Tracy Snow
June Wulfert

Marquee

MEMBERSHIP

MARQUEE BENEFACTOR \$1,000-\$2,499

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Anonymous | Valerie Kinney & Mark Bever |
| Tom & Diane Adam | Klaproth Family |
| Stephen Beeler & Mika Kondo | Gary & Robin LaBedz |
| Dori Bonder | George Lyall |
| Chip and Patricia Brooks | Shauna Martin & Bob Ritter |
| Tony & Jenny Calzaretta | Rebecca & Darnell McClaney |
| CodaBears, Inc. | Gary & Haven McClung |
| Calvin & Fred | Don & Marian Meinheit |
| Carol Cohen | Harold & Julia Meyer |
| Ken and Sue Cospers | Dr. Richard C. Murray |
| Joe Crimmins | Joyce Paschall & Hector Carabez |
| Ryan & Erika Cutlip | John L. Pope & Mary Fran Callahan |
| Steve & Eileen Daday | Kathy Reszel & Scott Riddell |
| Wendy Davis & Dave Zuehlke | Carina & Darrick Santa Maria |
| Vera DeGiorgio | Neil & Linda Scheufler |
| Mr. & Mrs. Peery Duderstadt | Tim Shevlin & Maureen Finton |
| Terry & Stacey Ennes | Ric & Donna Sisi |
| William & Lydia Falk | John & Bea Sonderegger |
| Don & Joyce Fett | Tom & Janet Southall |
| Greg & Dale Ford | Lynn & Doug Steffen |
| Michael & Nancie Freeborn | Jack & Pat Sturgeon |
| Tom Gotlund & Terry Anderson | Tove Sullivan |
| Howie & Kathy Grossman | Jake Tabel |
| Dottie Hardy | Barb White, in Memory of Bob White |
| Lauree Harp | The Christopher & Julie Wood Charitable Fund |
| Trey & Barb Higgins | Andrew Xu |
| Jeff & Ilona House | |
| David & Maura Howley | |
| Jeff Hyslop | |
| John & Carol Johnsen | |

Friends OF METROPOLIS



PRODUCER LEVEL \$500-\$999

Nancy & Robert
Cardella
Laura Janus
Teresa Leach
Dr. George & Kathy
Motto
Richard & Genny
Powers
Carl & Judith Royal
Robert & Maureen Sell
Dennis & Amy
Wadhams
Carolyn White

DIRECTOR LEVEL \$250-\$499

Carl & Charlane
Anderson
Scott & Carol-Lynn
Bernholdt
Roxanne L. Calibraro
Kurt & Marcia Carlisle
Catherine Day
Catherine Gaddis
Norm & Kathy Hillner
Jill Horan
Kathleen & Patrick
Kennedy
Chris & Lilly Kephart
Mark & Iris Manhart
Theodore R. Maynard
Mike & Georgia
McGuire
Renee & Ted Moeller
The Nowell-Philipp
Family
Kathy Ponce
Barbara Quinn
Elmer & Nancy
Richardson

Carolyn Roberts
Barb Sloothaak
Salvatore Storniolo
Joan Tobin
Mary K. Walsh
Kristine Ward
Phil & Carole
Whittemore
Linda & Jim Wyatt
William & Sheila Zerwer

PARTNER LEVEL \$100-\$249

Anonymous
Lois Agran
Thomas & Patricia
Aichele
Mary & Robert Alfini
Jeffrey & Pamela
Altman
Floyd & Bobbie Babbitt
Michael Banyas
Bill & Marcia Barnes
Doug Beardsley
Marcia Becker
Mr. & Mrs. David W.
Berkow
Laura & Phil Bertram
Mark Bestvina & Denise
Dawson
Carter Black
Jane M. Born
Fred & Marilyn Broviak
David Burrage
Teddie Campanella
Karen Cappello
Donna & Stan Catlett
Janet & Scott Catlett
Jim Caughey
Albert & Sharon
Chavoan
Jo Christian

Thomas & Bev Dalton
Lynnae & Mark Derry
Jim & Corinne Drew
James & Diane Dubinski
Delight Eilering
Diane Falk
Donald Felch
Jacqueline & James P.
Frett
Thomas & Carole Gallo
Mike Garber
Gary & Mary Gehm
Mary Anne Giorango
Jim & Cathy Gregory
Jim Hallett
Doug & Mary Hamilton
Robert & Suzanne
Hartman
Pam Haschke
Mary Jo & James
Henegan
Kathy & Norm Hillner
Ronald Hilton
Peter & Mary Jane
Hoag
Norman & Barbara
Horler
Joyce Janu
Patricia A. Johnston
Randy Kaempen
Joe & Rose Ann Karmik
Gilda Karu
Susan A. Kazlo
Donald & Ala Kendal
Jack & Mary Ann
Kenesev
Adele & Phil Krueger
Kulm Family
Danielle & Jason
Lambert
Peter Landwehr
Teala LeBlanc & Dennis
White

Friends OF METROPOLIS



Noel Levasseur
 Chuck & Lani Lee
 Rebecca Lichter
 Robert & Leslie Lupo
 William & Kathleen Lynch
 Mary MacLennan
 Karen Magnifico
 Megan Mahon
 Daniel & Rebecca Manella
 Mark & Vicki Martin
 Jeff & Carol Martini
 Stephanie Matthias
 Tom & Carol Mazzuca
 Carol & Christopher Melby
 Nancy Moroney
 Alan & Bridget Murdoch
 Tom & Judy Myers
 Kathy & Raymond Neihengen
 M.C. Nelson
 Mark Nelson
 Mary T. Olson
 Esther Perica
 Dave Petricca
 Marianne & Philip Pick
 Bob & Diana Placko
 Eugene & Meredith Pontillo
 Karen Ptak
 Tim Rachke
 Richard & Patricia Ragone
 Michele Ramsey
 David Roberts
 Thomas Rodell
 Bob & Debby Ross
 Bernard Rossbach
 John & Nancy Rutter
 Christopher & Ann

Marie Saturnus
 Sherie C. Shapiro
 Julie Siegel
 Susan & Ray Stengren
 Walt & Mary Sterrenberg
 Dean & Cookie Stewart
 Mike & Clara Stone
 Mrs. Rhonda Taormina
 Guy Todnem
 Bill & Laura Totzke
 Renee Vaughn
 Jeanette M. Walls
 Timothy & Constance Wayman
 Mike & Judy Zawacke

**FRIEND LEVEL
 \$50-\$99**

Anonymous
 Patricia Arce
 Jan Ashley
 Nathalie Banfield Giving Fund
 Mary Barone
 Rita Barth
 D. & K. Bartsch
 Bill & Jill Bergner
 Deanne Born
 Lynn Callahan
 Joseph Carroll
 Ann Caster
 Connors Family
 Carole Gallo
 Edwin & Karen Garst
 Linda & Bruce Gordon
 Michael Hankey
 Patricia Hogan
 Diana & Steven Holland
 Virginia Langtim
 Marie Lanza

Gregory & Kristine Larsen
 Heather Lepold
 Diane & Bob Lippold
 Carmella Lowth
 Julie & Gary Marx
 Marilyn Mathieu
 Maureen McGrath
 Thomas Mier
 Eric & Ruth Mueller
 William Murray
 Bruce & Nancy Parker
 Paul Pfeffer
 Jim & Cindy Rheingruber
 Michael Roth
 Stuart & Sheila Schwalb
 Clifford Shapiro
 Gerald & Janet Souter
 Gary Swiontek
 Harry & Lorie Trumfio
 Cristine & Jessica Williams

**MEMBER LEVEL
 \$35-\$49**

Lynn M. Beckman
 Jeff Fritz
 Celeste Magers
 Harry & Kathy Malone
 Boguslaw Matus
 Dave & Rebecca Rice
 Dianne Rogal
 Julie Sass
 Jean Threadgill
 Jerry J. Trousdale