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New Spaces for Milwaukee’s Expanding Arts Scene

By Stephanie Harte

Three local performing arts groups will be getting new homes over the next two years. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Theatre, Quasimondo Physical Theatre and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra are all going the extra mile to offer outstanding amenities to patrons through these new venues.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Mainstage Theatre
Reopening March 2018

March 7 will not only mark the opening of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s production of 12 Ophelias, but the reopening of the Mainstage Theatre after a fire destroyed the space last April. The fire was accidental and started in the scene shop, later spreading to the theater’s curtains and lighting equipment.

UWM hired Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling to rebuild the space. Company representatives showed up the night of the fire to begin determining which materials could be cleaned and what would need to be replaced.

LeRoy Stoner, UWM’s theatre department chair, explains that in addition to redoing the floors, walls, and ventilation, changes were made to make the 50-year-old space more modern.

“One of the things that the reconstruction of the space allowed us to do was to provide better resources for handicap accessibility,” Stoner says. “The rules that were enforced at the time the theater was built are not the same rules that are enforced today. We were able to find ways to make some improvements, particularly with additional wheelchair seating and hand railings.”

Stoner says that the new theater has a similar design to Milwaukee Repertory Theater’s Quadracci Powerhouse, the largest of the Rep’s three theaters. The Rep allowed UWM to perform its production of Arcadia last May in the Stiemke Studio, while set construction took place at Shorewood High School.

“We are very excited to get back into a new clean space with equipment that has been replaced and brought up to current technology,” Stoner says. “With the updated technology we can now teach new techniques to our students.”

UWM’s Mainstage Theatre took less than a year to rebuild.
Photo Courtesy of UWM.
North Milwaukee Arthaus
Opening October 2018

Quasimondo Physical Theatre, not to be confused with Quasimodo from the *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, will be turning the former North Milwaukee Fire Station and Village Hall into its new home.

The new performance space will be called the North Milwaukee Arthaus, inspired by the area’s rich German roots. The two-story red brick building, with a 56-foot tower, was built in 1901 and is located on 5151 N. 35th St. Quasimondo plans to create a black box performance space, offices, and rehearsal hall on the second floor, with a scene shop, costume shop, café and gallery on the first floor.

“We want it (the Arthaus) to be a destination and promote arts and education on the Northside,” says Brian Rott, founder and producing artistic director of Quasimondo. “We found the building and we fell in love with it.”

Since 2012, Quasimondo has dedicated itself to making theatre that communicates in a shared physical language. The name derives from the word “quasi,” which means “sort of” and “mondo,” which means “world” in Italian. Rott says these two words together are meant to represent putting depictions of the world on stage.

As far as people constantly confusing “Quasimondo” with “Quasimodo,” Rott says the association never bothers him.

“Quasimodo is this kind of grotesque underdog of sorts,” Rott says. “He’s a wonderful character in the book, despite being hideous and having a tortured upbringing. He kind of shows humanity at its most beautiful and most vicious. Since the book ends with him on a bell tower pouring hot oil onto the rioting crowd, when I saw that bell on this building I thought this might be the place.”

Rott explains that Quasimondo’s new home will help the troupe lay firm roots in Milwaukee and expand its programming and outreach.

“Space is really essential to making theatre and dance,” says Jenni Reinke, a founding member of Quasimondo who is leading the Arthaus project with Rott. “To have found this beautiful space that fits our needs is really a tremendous opportunity for companies like us.”
The idea to convert Warner Grand Theatre into Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra’s new concert hall has been in talks since the 1990s, according to Mark Niehaus, MSO’s president and executive director.

“It’s beautiful and has all the charm of the theater from the 1930s,” Niehaus says.

MSO completed its acquisition of the theater on W. Wisconsin Ave. last December and anticipates a fall 2020 opening. Since MSO's current concert space, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, is in high demand by its resident groups along with national touring Broadway productions, this new space will allow MSO to control when they perform and secure guest performers farther in advance. MSO reports that having control over its own venue, along with new revenue streams from facility rental fees, catering and concessions, will drive increases in annual earned revenue by as much as 60 percent.

“Patron experience is going to be first class,” Niehaus explains. “You are going to have all of the comforts and amenities of the 21st century, along with the aesthetic. The lobby is Art Deco and the theater itself is just sort of a hopscotch of styles from the 1930s. It’s really the best of both worlds.”

Along with salvaging the old movie palace that hasn’t been used since 1995, MSO plans to add a number of community, education and collaboration spaces, ample lit and accessible parking options, along with easy curb-side drop off/pick up.

Niehaus adds that obtaining Warner Grand Theatre has two key benefits that go beyond the personal success of the symphony. These advantages are reinvigorating W. Wisconsin Ave. and saving a historic building.

“Like many Midwest cities, we saw that in the 70s, 80s, and 90s, people went out to the suburbs, and many downtown areas sort of failed in a way,” Niehaus says. “This stretch between 2nd and 5th St. on W. Wisconsin Ave. still could use a shot in the arm for economic redevelopment. Our project does that unbelievably well when you figure you will have 6,000 to 10,000 people a week going to concerts. That changes the complete depth of the neighborhood.”
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Second Annual Footlights People’s Choice Awards

Last year, we decided to dive in headfirst and launch Milwaukee’s first-ever performing arts award ceremony. Professional and non-professional companies alike came out in red carpet fashion to celebrate the end of another successful season, and mix-and-mingle with local arts supporters.

We are thrilled to announce that local actor John McGivern will once again be hosting the event at Milwaukee Repertory Theater’s state-of-the-art Quadracci Powerhouse. This year’s ceremony on Monday, June 25 will be referred to as the Footlights People’s Choice Awards, in order to better reflect our nomination and voting process, which is open to the public and available on our website, footlights.com.

Look to Footlights.com for regular updates on this exciting sequel!

Celebrating Women Composers

Both the Wisconsin Philharmonic and Waukesha Choral Union will be hosting concerts featuring music from female composers this spring.

A women’s networking event will precede Wisconsin Philharmonic’s Inspirational Women – Inspirational Music concert on April 10. Libby Larsen, an internationally known composer whose work is being showcased at the concert, will present about her life journey and experiences during the networking event. Larsen will also visit local schools during her stay in Southeast Wisconsin.

Girls’ Night Out! on May 5 will close the Choral Union’s 2017-18 season and feature music by Waukesha’s very own Paula Foley Tillen. Tillen has worked as a professional musician in the Milwaukee area for the past 30 years and is the director of music for the Southminster Presbyterian Church in Waukesha.

Libby Larsen. Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Philharmonic.
Third Annual Statera Conference to be held in Milwaukee

For the Statera Foundation, partnering with Milwaukee’s very-own Renaissance Theaterworks seemed like the obvious choice for its third National Conference for Gender Balance.

“Our goal is to bring people who identify as women into full and equal participation in the American Theatre,” says Sarah Greenman, Statera’s creative director. “Renaissance’s founders of course recognized gender imbalance within their own profession when they were founded back in 1993. We just thought they were the perfect fit for us.”

The conference will be held October 4-7 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus. Formed in 2014, the Statera Foundation is a nonprofit organization that strives to expand employment options, improve salary, and remove barriers for women+ identifying theatre professionals. The name Statera derives from the Latin word for balance.

The conference is open to anyone, from working theatre professionals to students and enthusiasts, regardless of gender or age. Keynote speakers, workshop leaders and breakout session facilitators will be announced in the coming months.

“One of the ways to affect change is to be in person and get inspired and network with people one on one,” Greenman says. “All of these women identified artists are meeting to bring their A-game.”

Sarah Greenman. Photo courtesy of the Statera Foundation.

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UPAF Gears Up For 2018 Ride For The Arts

Hit the Summerfest grounds a little early this year at the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF)'s Ride For The Arts fundraiser Sunday, June 3. The annual ride raises money for the nonprofit’s 15 member groups, which includes Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Skylight Music Theater and First Stage. Over $9 million has been raised through the event since its inception in 1981.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Brewers Community Foundation, kids aged 12 and under will ride for free when accompanied by an adult. The Ride will start and finish at the Summerfest South Gate at the intersection of Polk St. and Harbor Dr. Riders can choose between five different routes, ranging in length from five to 70 miles. Don't sprint off too far after crossing the finish line, UPAF will be sponsoring an after party at the fest grounds equipped with free food, drinks, and performances from UPAF member groups.

Not in the mood for a bike ride? UPAF is also in need of volunteers to help with set-up, t-shirt distribution, and a wide variety of tasks to ensure the ride runs smoothly. For more information on the event, visit upaf.org.
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- Barron’s Top 100 Financial Advisor in the U.S. for 11 consecutive years (2007 – 2017)

† As of 11/01/2017.

** Barron’s Top 1,000 (2009 – 2012) and Top 1,200 (2013 – 2017) state-by-state ranking.

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Ray Jivoff
Artistic Director

Jack R. Lemmon
Executive Director

PRESENTS

THE TALES OF HOFFMANN

In association with MILWAUKEE OPERA THEATRE

Composed by JACQUES OFFENBACH
Translation and Adaptation by DANIEL J. BRYLOW

Original Libretto by MICHEL CARRÉ and JULES BARBIER
Orchestration by KERRY BIENEMAN

March 16-29, 2018
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MUSIC DIRECTOR Kerry Bieneman
CHOREOGRAPHER James Zager ***
SCENIC DESIGNER Lisa Anne Schlenker
LIGHTING DESIGNER Jason Fassl **
COSTUME DESIGNER Sonya Berlovitz **
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Daniel J. Hanson

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“It is nearly always the most improbable things that really come to pass.” - E.T.A. Hoffmann

Welcome to our adaptation based upon an opera, based upon a play, based upon a collection of short stories by the early surrealist author E.T.A. Hoffmann. Don’t worry, we’ll lead you through this. The real E.T.A. Hoffmann was a wildly talented individual, successful at nearly every endeavor, including painting, graphic arts, writing, composing, and practicing law. He was, however, completely miserable at love, with an inconvenient habit of falling for his music students (and being consequently run out of town). The first collection of truly “Hoffmanesque” tales appeared in 1816, and hasn’t been out of print since, charting a course toward what we now consider the fantasy genre and serving as a forerunner for authors like Edgar Allen Poe, and even Stephen King.

His fantastic stories of double lives, wanton indiscretion and the presence of the supernatural, captivated readers and inspired Jules Barbier and Michel Carré's 1851 play, “Les Contes Fantastiques D’Hoffmann,” in which Hoffmann himself serves as the central character in three of his stories.

It’s this play that Jacques Offenbach selected for his final work, a grand opera that would ensure his place in the pantheon of great composers. Unfortunately, Offenbach died while Hoffmann was still in rehearsal, leaving the piece unfinished. He did, however, leave us reams of ravishing music, and it’s this material from which we crafted the adaptation you are about to see. Working closely with translator Danny Brylow, orchestrator Kerry Bieneman, and percussionist Michael (Ding) Lorenz, we began to create an intimate, English production that is both old and new at once, featuring a nimble onstage band of two pianos, harp, and percussion, and a cast of thirteen adventurous artists, bringing E.T.A.’s tales to life, more than 200 years after they were first penned.

Thank you for being here,
We made this just for you,
Jill Anna Ponasik

PS: I’d like to extend extra special thanks to the UWM opera class for spending fall semester studying this piece with us. What a gift it was to work with you! Austin Bare, Emanuel Camacho, Danielle Giedemr, Jennifer Grokowski, Katie Gruell, Colin Han, Gabrielle Hass, Kaisa Herrmann, Isabel Kania, Daniel Koplitz, Joseph Krohlow, Emily Marckesano, Jason Martin, Meghan McCarthy, Melissa Piggott, Liliana Re, April Sorenson, David Starry, Tabatha Steege, Jihye Yoon, and pianists Janna Ernst and Leticia Broetto.
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SKYLIGHT LEADERSHIP

Ray Jivoff (Artistic Director) has been working at Skylight since 1990, when he appeared in *Girl Crazy* back at the “old space” on Jefferson Street. In 1999, he joined Skylight staff as Education Director and started Enlighten, Skylight’s education program, which includes the Partner School Program, which offers music theatre education to students in 8 MPS schools; two touring shows—*The Standard Songbook* and *Kids Writes* and The High School Musical Celebration. As an actor, shows at Skylight include *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Animal Crackers*, *Adding Machine*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Mikado*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *HMS Pinafore* and *The Producers*. He directed *Hair*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* and *Sing Me a Story* at Skylight; *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged, Revised* and *The Sum of Us* at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; *West Side Story* at UW Milwaukee and *Anything Goes*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Into the Woods* at Marquette University.

Jack R. Lemmon (Executive Director) joined Skylight two seasons ago having worked in the performing arts for over 30 years. He has served as Executive Director of the Joffrey Ballet, Louisville Ballet and Colorado Ballet to name a few. He also worked at the National Endowment for the Arts. He has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Arts and Cultural Affairs. He served on the board and executive committee of Dance/USA and was a board member of the Partnership for Creative Economies (KY). He also chaired the board of the Arts and Cultural Attractions Council in Louisville, KY, and the Chicago Dance Alliance. Lemmon currently is president of the board of the Historic Third Ward Association. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids (Iowa) and an M.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Assistant Director .................................................................Daniel J. Brylow
Assistant Music Director ..................................................Josh Robinson
Assistant Stage Manager ..................................................Rivka Kelly
Stage Management Apprentice ...........................................Nicholas Bader
Assistant Scenic Designer ..................................................Ryan Bennett
Properties Lead, Run Crew .................................................Rachel Zembrowski
Properties Artists ...............................................................Meghan Savagian, Tayler Varney, Madelyn Yee
Scenic Artists ..................................................................................Chrissy Piontek
Scenic Carpenters .................................................................Joe Janswig, Calissa Houtler-McCoy
Wig Designer ..................................................................................Dana Rochester
Wardrobe ....................................................................................Molly Mason, Jason Orlenko
Stitchers .......................................................................................Carie Bronson, Katlin Kobernick, Susanne Maroske, Lisa Quinn, Jeanna Schrank
Costume Associate .....................................................................Stephanie Henderson
Costume Crafts .............................................................................Lisa Quinn
Electricians .................................................................................Colin Gawronski, Ashley Devos, Steve Tonar, Anna Janicek, Maya Lorenz
Light Board Operator .............................................................Steve Tonar
Followspot Operators ............................................................Teresa McCarthy, Anna Janicek
Sound Tech ...................................................................................Justin Ryan
Promo Photos ..............................................................................Mark Frohna
CAST OF THE TALES OF HOFFMANN

Hoffmann, a poet ................................................................................................................. John Kaneklides
Nicklausse, the muse of poetry................................................................................................ Diane Lane
Curtain Speech Singer........................................................................................................... Jean Broekhuizen

THE TALE OF OLYMPIA
Olympia, a wind-up doll ..................................................................................................... Cecilia Davis
Coppélius, a maker of eyes ................................................................................................. Ariana Douglas
Spalanzani, an inventor ..................................................................................................... Nathan Wesselowski
Cochenille, Spalanzani’s servant ......................................................................................... Brett Sweeney

THE TALE OF ANTONIA
Antonia, Crespel’s daughter ............................................................................................... Susan Wiedmeyer
Dr Miracle, a “physician” ..................................................................................................... Cecilia Davis
Crespel, a violin maker ....................................................................................................... Edward Lupella
Frantz, his servant ................................................................................................................ Brett Sweeney
A Ghost, the voice of Antonia’s mother .............................................................................. Carol Greif

THE TALE OF GIULIETTA
Giulietta, a courtesan ........................................................................................................... Ariana Douglas
Dapertutto, a sorcerer .......................................................................................................... Susan Wiedmeyer
Schlémil, Giulietta’s current lover ....................................................................................... Doug Clemons
Pitichinaccio, a servant ....................................................................................................... Brett Sweeney

Hoffmann cover .................................................................................................................... Tim Rebers

Chorus ..................................................................................................................................... Jean Broekhuizen, Melissa Kelly Cardamone,
                                                                                          Doug Clemons, Carol Greif,
                                                                                          Edward Lupella, Brett Sweeney,
                                                                                          Nathan Wesselowski, Jackie Willis

Band

Harp ....................................................................................................................................... Rebecca Royce
Percussion ............................................................................................................................. Michael “Ding” Lorenz

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to J. Ruben Piirainen, Matt Gramling, Sandra J. Strawn,
Kris Klein, Michael Cronin, Phil Jones, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Costume Shop,
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THANK YOU!

Skylight Music Theatre thanks the sponsors of *The Tales of Hoffmann* Jan Serr & John Shannon.

Additional funding for *The Tales of Hoffmann* is provided by the New Opera Fund established in memory of Mary Ann Gerlach.
Famed poet E.T.A. Hoffmann has been besieged by writer’s block. Despite his best efforts, the memories of his three ill-fated loves still haunt him. The Muse of Poetry assumes the form of Hoffmann’s friend Nicklausse to guide him out of his melancholy, and convinces him to tell her the tales of the three women who broke his heart.

The first tale takes place at the home of the eccentric inventor, Spalanzani, where Hoffmann has been invited for the grand debut of Spalanzani’s daughter, Olympia. Hoffmann sees Olympia and is instantly enamored by her beauty. Meanwhile, the eye-maker Coppélius arrives and demands a share in the profits from Spalanzani’s latest invention. Spalanzani begrudgingly writes him a check, and Coppélius leaves to cash it. Guests arrive and Olympia is introduced, singing a beautiful but macabre song to the delight of everyone. The guests move to the salon, leaving Hoffmann alone with Olympia. He declares his love for her, but Olympia is oddly unresponsive. A seething Coppélius returns from the bank, furious that Spalanzani’s check was worthless. Exacting his revenge, he maniacally tears Olympia apart, revealing that she is a mechanical doll. Hoffmann’s shock and dismay is surpassed only by his grief at losing Olympia.

Hoffmann finds comfort in the arms of Antonia, a frail girl who is forbidden from singing but desires to be a great performer like her mother. After a brief courtship, Antonia’s father Crespel forbids the two from seeing each other and abruptly moves the family. Hoffmann searches for, and finally discovers Antonia’s whereabouts. The reunited couple sings a joyous song of love, but Antonia becomes fatigued by the singing. Crespel returns from an errand, and Hoffmann hides. To his horror, he watches as Crespel is visited by the sinister Dr. Miracle who claims that Antonia is sick and needs treatment. After examining Antonia despite her father’s objections, Miracle insists she must not sing or she will perish from the exertion. Hoffmann begs Antonia never to sing again, and she reluctantly agrees. The lovers arrange to elope. Left alone, Antonia is visited by Dr. Miracle, who now encourages her to sing. At first, she refuses, but when Miracle invokes the spirit of her beloved mother, she can no longer resist. After an impassioned outburst of song, she collapses. Hoffmann and Crespel rush in, but are too late: Antonia has died.

After losing Antonia, Hoffmann disavows romantic love and pledges to seek only hedonistic pleasure, which he finds at an opulent party thrown by the courtesan Giulietta. After a tense exchange with her former lover, Schlémil, Giulietta invites the partygoers to the gambling tables. The wicked sorcerer Dappertutto entices Giulietta with a spellbinding diamond. He offers her a deal: she may have the gemstone in exchange for Hoffmann’s reflection. Unable to resist the diamond’s sparkle, Giulietta seduces Hoffmann and he falls madly in love with her. The jealous Schlémil bursts in to confront Hoffmann and Dappertutto holds a mirror before Hoffmann’s eyes: his reflection is gone! Now in possession of her precious jewel, Giulietta bids her lovers to fight over the key to her room. Hoffmann defeats Schlémil and rushes to Giulietta’s room, just in time to see her floating away on a gondola, cackling at his devastation. Completely destroyed by this final rejection, Hoffmann breaks down in tears.

Having listened patiently to the three tales, Nicklausse now reveals herself as Hoffmann’s Muse, and tells him that from the wreckage of his grief, new poetic life will emerge. Inspired by the Muse’s words, Hoffmann begins to channel his suffering into the creation of a towering work of art.
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Jean Broekhuizen (Chorus) is thrilled to return to Skylight, where she was a Resident Artist during the 2002-2003 season. A Milwaukee area native, Jean embarked on a career in Germany between 2007 and 2017, where she was a house soloist at the Oper Leipzig and the Theater Augsburg, as well as a guest soloist at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Schwerin, and the Staatstheater Wiesbaden, among other theaters. Important roles performed in Leipzig included: Oktavian in Der Rosenkavalier, Rosina in Il barbiere di Siviglia, Dorabella in Così fan tutte, Fenena in Nabucco, Hänsel in Hänsel und Gretel, Fox in The Cunning Little Vixen, Sièbel in Faust, Orlofsky in Die Fledermaus, and Farzana in Wagner’s Die Feen, and many others. Jean is a three-time winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions (WI district) (2003-2005) and was a National Semifinalist in the same competition in 2005.

Melissa Kelly Cardamone (Chorus) earned vocal performance degrees from The Eastman School of Music and Lawrence University. A lover of opera and musical theatre, some of her favorite roles include Mimì in La Bohème, Marianne in The New Moon, Laurie in The Tender Land, Sarah Brown in Guys & Dolls, Johanna in Sweeney Todd, Susanna in Marriage of Figaro, and Shelby in The Spitfire Grill. She played Elizabeth in the premiere of Fortuna the Timebender vs. the Schoolgirls of Doom with Milwaukee Opera Theatre. Melissa has worked with Sunset Playhouse, Belle Ensemble, Music by the Lake, Festival Arts of Antioch, Opera for the Young, Lakeside Players, and PM&L Theatre. Melissa has also sung in the Florentine Opera Chorus, and she made her debut with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre in Masterclass. She is a coach/accompanist at Carthage College. This is Melissa’s debut with Skylight Music Theatre. Love to Joe(s) and Lil!

Doug Clemons (Schlémil/Chorus) Ecstatic to be back at Skylight, Doug has been seen in Annie (Bert Healy), I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, Wizard of Oz (Tin Man) and Hair (Claude). Doug’s also regularly seen on local stages including Fireside Theatre, Milwaukee Opera Theater, First Stage, and Third Avenue Playhouse. Regional and concert credits include the New York Musical Theater Festival, Chicago Musical Theater Festival, Utah Light Opera, Florentine Opera, Racine Symphony Orchestra, Door County Opera Festival, and backup for Michael Bublé. Upcoming engagements include the debuts of Boxcar and Dairy Heirs at Door County’s Northern Sky Theater. Love and thanks to Matt. www.DougClemons.com

Cecilia Davis (Olympia/Dr. Miracle) is thrilled to return to Skylight Music Theatre! Cecilia previously appeared in Skylight’s productions of Porgy and Bess as Clara, and as a member of the ensemble in Les Miserables. Cecilia has also performed roles in Milwaukee Opera Theatre’s productions of Handel’s Bestiary, Victory for Victoria, Ernest in Love and Fairy Queen Fantasy. She has also appeared in recital and as a soloist with a variety of local choral and chamber ensembles, and is a long-time voice student of Diane Lane. Off stage, Cecilia is equally passionate about arts education and youth development and has held community engagement, education and development positions with several of
Milwaukee’s youth arts organizations. None of this is possible without love from mom and dad, hugs and encouragement from sons Owen and Milo and extraordinary support from husband Jon.

**Ariana Douglas** *(Coppélius /Giulietta)* is a recent graduate of the Florentine Opera Studio Artist program. Ms. Douglas performed the roles of Cugina in *Madama Butterfly*, Sally in *Die Fledermaus*, Mrs. Vance in *Sister Carrie*, and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with the Florentine Opera. Ms. Douglas was seen as the soprano soloist for Bruckner’s *Te Deum* with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and soprano soloist in Handel’s *Messiah* with UW-Parkside Chorale. Ms. Douglas was a member of the 2016 and 2017 Glimmerglass Festival Young Artist program covering the roles of Mary Warren and Ann Putnam in *The Crucible* and Clara in *Porgy and Bess*. Upcoming engagements include singing First Lady in *The Magic Flute* with Florentine Opera. Ms. Douglas holds degrees in vocal performance from University of Wisconsin-Madison and Louisiana State University.

**Carol Greif (Ghost/ Chorus)** is always happy to return to the Skylight stage where she was last seen as Marie Dindon in *La Cage Aux Folles*. Favorite roles at Skylight include Rose in *I Hear America Singing*; Mrs. Pavlenko in *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine*; Mrs. Nordstrom in *A Little Night Music*; Sr. Sophia in *The Sound of Music*; Maude Dunlop in *The Music Man*; Lady Ella in *Patience*; Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw*; Despina in *Cosi Fan Tutte*. Carol has appeared locally with the Milwaukee Opera Theatre, In Tandem Theatre, TheaterRED, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, as well as on the Skylight Cabaret stage. Carol is thrilled to be a part of the 2018 New Mercury Collective, named after Orson Welles’ Mercury Theatre and formed by Artistic Director Daron Hagen to develop his new opera, *Orson Rehearsed* in collaboration with the Chicago College of Performing Arts.

**John Kaneklides** *(Hoffmann)* Hailed by *Opera News* as “the very picture of youthful optimism and potential,” Kaneklides is quickly establishing himself as a celebrated tenor of his time. Recent and upcoming roles: Alfredo in *La Traviata* at St. Petersburg Opera; Narciso Borgia in *Borgia Infami* at Winter Opera St. Louis (world premiere); Hoffmann in *Les contes d’Hoffmann* at St. Petersburg Opera; Ralph Rackstraw in *H.M.S. Pinafore* at Young Victorian Theatre Company; tenor soloist in *Carmina Burana* with the Florida Orchestra; tenor soloist in *Grand Opera Concert* at Gulfshore Opera; Villiers, Duke of Buckingham in Floyd’s *The Prince of Players* at Little Opera Theatre of New York (NY Premier); Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at Arts Festival Boca & Mid-Ohio Opera. Kaneklides is also making a name for himself in classic musical theatre roles such as Henrik in *A Little Night Music*, Lt. Cable in *South Pacific*, and Tony in *West Side Story*. www.johnkaneklides.com

**Diane Lane (Nicklausse)** last appeared on Skylight’s stage as Grace Farrell in *Annie*. Favorite roles with Skylight include Isabella in *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, Prince Orloffsky in *Die Fledermaus*, Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*, The Fox in *The Little Prince* and Mrs. Malaprop in *The Rivals*. Diane has also performed with Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera, Chautauqua Opera,
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST CONT.

Opera Omaha, Orlando Opera, Toledo Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Stadttheater Biel in Switzerland.

Michael “Ding” Lorenz (Percussion) currently serves as Staff Percussionist and Orchestra Contractor for the Skylight Music Theatre. His involvement with the theatre goes back to 1972 and he has performed in over 130 productions. His percussion/comedy show "Things that go Ding!" was a smash hit (pun intended) and played to sold-out audiences in the Studio Theatre. The Christmas version, “Things that go Ding (Dong, Merrily on High)!" packed the Skylight Cabaret for six weekends. These days, when not haunting the Skylight orchestra pit, you can find Ding playing in several of the area's orchestras, touring Broadway shows, recording shows for the Fireside Theatre, collaborating with the Milwaukee Opera Theatre on such terrific productions as *The Mikado* and 1776, as well as playing the occasional bar mitzvah.

Edward Lupella (Crespel/Chorus) is thrilled to be making his debut with Skylight Music Theatre. When he’s not on stage, you can find him roller skating with Wisconsin Men’s Roller Derby under the pseudonym Rufhouse Wainwright. Past roles include Father/Other Father in *Coraline the Musical* with Bad Example Productions, Eddie in *The Wild Party* with All In Productions and Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show* with PM&L Theatre.

Tim Rebers (Hoffmann Cover) is elated to return to Skylight, having performed in *Pirates Of Penzance*, *Tosca*, *The Skylight Ring*, *La Cenerentola*, *Les Misérables*, and *HMS Pinafore*. He has performed with Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Light Opera Works, Acacia Theatre and TheaterRED, among others. He’ll be in Skylight’s next show, *Urinetown*, playing Officer Barrel.

Rebecca Royce (Harp) Hailed by The Observer (UK) as playing “with refreshing delicacy,” Rebecca Royce has performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Chamber Strings, the International Contemporary Ensemble, and the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra. She is a substitute player for the Houston Symphony and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Rebecca has played at the Royal Opera House for HRH Prince Charles’s Sixtieth Birthday celebrations and on a TV broadcast with orchestra for Sky1 HD in the UK. She holds a Master of Music from the Royal Academy of Music in London and a Bachelor of Music with multiple honors from the Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Brett Sweeney (Cochenille/Franz/Pitichinaccio/Chorus) is thrilled to be back at Skylight Music Theatre. He was most recently seen in last season’s production of *Sweeney Todd*, and previously performed in *La Cage aux Folles*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Tosca*. A long-time Milwaukee resident, Brett received his BFA
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in Vocal Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and recently completed his certification in the Alexander Technique. In addition, Brett is a member of the early music ensemble Aperi Animam, and a voice teacher with Maestro Makers.

Nathan Wesselowski (Spalanzani/Chorus) is thrilled to return to Skylight Music Theatre and Milwaukee Opera Theatre for Tales of Hoffmann. Nathan was last seen as Samuel in Pirates of Penzance at Skylight. Most recently Nathan performed the role of Goran in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at First Stage. His favorite roles include Dr. Frank-N-Furter in Rocky Horror Live at The Alchemist, Papageno in Zie Magic Flute at Milwaukee Opera Theatre, The Evil Headmaster in Fortuna The Time Bender vs The Schoolgirls of Doom at Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Cratchit/Tiny Tim in A Twisted Carol at In Tandem Theatre, Flora in La Traviata at Skylight, El Payador in Maria de Buenos Aires at Milwaukee Opera Theatre/Danceworks and Wizard in Transformations at Lyric Opera Cleveland. He has also performed with New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Cleveland Opera, Florentine Opera, The National Opera Company, Ash Lawn Highland Summer Festival and Mill Mountain Theatre.

Susan Wiedmeyer (Antonia/Dapertutto) is delighted to return to Skylight Music Theatre! Previously at Skylight, she has been seen as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, Cosette in Les Misérables and Maria (understudy) in The Sound of Music. Other Skylight credits include The Pirates of Penzance, Sunday in the Park with George, The Rivals, H.M.S. Pinafore, and The Marriage of Figaro. Other highlights include Carnival with In Tandem Theatre, The Mikado and Candide with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Brigadoon with Music By the Lake. Next up, Susan will return to In Tandem Theatre to perform the role of Luisa in The Fantasticks. Susan is an Encouragement Award Winner from the Wisconsin District Metropolitan Opera Auditions and holds music degrees from St. Olaf College and UW-Milwaukee respectively.

Jackie Willis (Chorus) is happy to make her debut at Skylight! Favorite roles include appearances as Stag/Turtledove in Handel's Bestiary with Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Third Lady in Zie Magic Flute with Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Suzuki in Madama Butterfly with La Musica Lirica, First Witch/Enchantress in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with UWM Opera Theatre and Ravel's L'enfant et les sortilèges, with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and UWM Opera Theatre. She also choreographed UWM Opera Theatre's Dido and Aeneas and Amahl and the Night Visitors at Bayshore Lutheran and directed for UWM Opera Theatre's Recit-A-What?! in 2016. Jackie is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance in December of 2016 and is actively seeking a graduate program. Enjoy the show!
Jill Anna Ponasik (Stage Director) gets a little verklempt when she thinks about what an epic adventure Tales of Hoffmann has been, and how much it means to be stage directing it in collaboration between Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Skylight Music Theatre. As Artistic Director of MOT, Jill Anna works throughout each season to connect audiences and artists in unconventional ways. The 2017-18 season alone includes, a concept reading of A Chorus Line, the original adaptation of Tales of Hoffmann, Svdaba a six woman, a cappella opera, and the reading of a new Jason Powell musical, Doc Danger and the Danger Squad! Jill Anna is also spending the 2017-18 season teaching the opera students at UWM, and working with the wonderful staff at Skylight Music Theatre as Artistic Associate. Since moving to Milwaukee, Jill Anna has had the pleasure of working with Skylight Music Theatre, First Stage Children's Theater, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theatreworks, In Tandem Theatre, Present Music, Danceworks Performance Company, Wild Space Dance Company, Quasimondo Milwaukee Physical Theatre, Sunset Playhouse, and The Alchemist. She holds degrees from The University of Minnesota and Rice University.

www.milwaukeeoperatheatre.org

James Zager (Choreographer) is an Associate Artist with Milwaukee Opera Theatre partnering with Artistic Director Jill Anna Ponasik to realize over a dozen productions including choreographing La Cenerentola here at Skylight. MOT: The Mikado, Fairy Queen, Fortuna The Time Bender vs. The Schoolgirls of Doom, Iolanthe, Amahl and The Night Visitors. Chamber Theatre: Master Class. Milwaukee Rep: Man of La Mancha, I Love A Piano, Devil's Music. In Tandem: Ernest In Love, Scrooge In Rouge. Zager has been choreographing, directing and acting in professional theaters throughout the United States for the past 25 years winning numerous awards for his work. Milwaukee acting credits include: Lord Henry Wotton in Dorian Gray at Milwaukee Ballet, Ambrogio in The Barber of Seville at Florentine Opera, Charles Thomson in 1776 at MOT and Mark in A Chorus Line at MOT/TheatreRED. You can view the full pantheon of his professional work at: www.jameszager.com

Ryan Bennett (Assistant Scenic Designer) having graduated from UW Milwaukee, has chosen to stay in town to leave his mark on the Milwaukee theatre scene. His work has been seen on stage as last season’s Props Intern and this season’s Props Apprentice with Skylight, as well as Scenic Designer for Three Crows Theatre’s The Beauty Queen of Leenane in Chicago, and as Assistant Scenic Designer for Cat in the Hat at First Stage. LLAP.

Sonya Berlovitz (Costume Designer) designed costumes for over 50 productions at Theatre de la Jeune Lune between 1980-2008 including Carmen, Magic Flute, Don Juan Giovanni, Cosi Fan Tutti and Maria de
Buenos Aires. Productions elsewhere have included The Moving Company, South Coast Repertory, Playmakers Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Ten Thousand Things Theater Company, Theatre Latte Da, and Minnesota Dance Theatre. Ms. Berlovitz has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards including The Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Best Costume Design award (*The Green Bird* 2000), Bay Area Theatre Award (*Tartuffe* 2016) Minnesota State Arts Board Initiative Grant (2005 and 2013) and a McKnight Theatre Artists Fellowship (1999 and 2016). In 2015 she was selected for participation in *Costume at the Turn of the Century 1990 – 2015* Bakrushin Museum (Moscow, Russia).

Daniel J. Brylow (Translator/Adaptor/Assistant Director) has contributed to the burgeoning field of contemporary opera and new music-theater as a stage director, performer, translator and arts administrator. He has participated in several world premiere operas, including *Judgment of Midas* (Ince), *Kocho* (Fisher), *Rio De Sangre* (Davis), *Border Towns* (Brooke), *Time and Motion Study* (Brooke), and a new English adaptation of *Don Giovanni* which he co-wrote. His original chamber adaptation of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* for four performers and a piano condensed the gargantuan cycle to a mere two-hours, providing “a clearheaded distillation of arguably the most complex, convoluted story in all of opera.” (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) Last season, Danny wrote a new translation of *The Magic Flute* for Milwaukee Opera Theatre, where he is the Company Manager. Danny is a graduate of Bennington College with a degree in Music and Drama, and the Wesley Balk Opera/Music-Theater Institute with an emphasis in Stage Direction.

Daniel J. Hanson (Production Stage Manager) previous Skylight credits include *Zombies from The Beyond, Annie, Hot Mikado, Sweeney Todd, Beauty and the Beast, I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, La Cage Aux Folles, Violet*, and *Tosca*. Recent stage management credits include: *Spamilton: An American Parody* (Royal George Theatre, Chicago, IL); *Guys on Ice* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Milwaukee, WI); *The Snow* (First Stage, Milwaukee WI); *The Producers, The Addams Family, Avenue Q* and *The Color Purple* (Mercury Theatre Chicago); *Big Fish, All Shook Up* (Theatre at the Center, Munster, IN). Some favorite stage management credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad, The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins* (Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis, MN), *To Kill a Mockingbird, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Park Square Theatre, St. Paul, MN); *Queens of Burlesque* (The History Theatre, St. Paul, MN); and *Menopause the Musical* (The Lab Theatre, Minneapolis, MN). Dan received his MFA in stage management from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association.

Jason Fassl (Lighting Designer) This production marks Jason’s 15th Skylight production including *Sunday in the Park With George, The Adding Mach1n3, Jacques Brel, RENT* and most recently *Sweeney Todd*. Over the last decade, Mr. Fassl has consumed mass quantities of electricity at Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, First Stage Children’s Theatre, American Players Theatre, Peninsula Players, Door Shakespeare, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Next Act Theatre, American Folklore Theatre, Forward Theatre Company, Children’s Theatre of Madison, The Pearl Theatre Company and many others. Jason is a member of United Scenic Artists Local #829, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local #18 and proud to be an artist in this rich theatrical community.

Josh Robinson (Assistant Music Director) is thrilled to be making his Skylight Music Theatre debut! Josh's Milwaukee area music directing credits include In Tandem Theatre (*Carnival, Scrooge in Rouge, Twisted Carol*) and Marquette University (*Working, Fancy Nancy*).
As an accomplished pianist, Josh gigs with area jazz groups, and accompanies vocal students and ballet classes at local colleges and organizations including University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Milwaukee Ballet. He also vocal coaches and teaches the next generation at First Stage. A graduate of University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Josh holds a bachelor’s degree in Classical Piano Performance and Jazz Studies, and he is currently pursuing his master’s degree in Music Therapy through Augsburg University. Upcoming: This spring, Josh returns to In Tandem Theatre to music direct The Fantasticks.

Lisa Anne Schlenker (Scenic Designer) is delighted to return to the Cabot in the role of Scenic Designer, after serving on the creative teams of Tosca, Cenerentola, Hair, El Cimmaron, The Rivals, Avenue Q and Rent, among other Skylight design projects. Lisa is in her 27th season managing the Properties Department for Skylight. She is also an active member of the national professional organizations The Society for Properties Artisans & Managers, and Puppeteers of America, and is a graduate of the MFA program at UW – Madison. Projects of particular joy include scenic designs with Theatre X (Singing in a Strange Land), Milwaukee Shakespeare, (Macbeth) Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (The Train Driver; Great Expectations), First Stage (Just A Little Critter Musical; Cat in the Hat), Florentine Opera (L’Elisir de Amor) and Northern Sky Theater (Windjammers; Strings Attached; Doctor Doctor; No Bones About it; Naked Radio). Upcoming design projects include works for In Tandem, Northern Sky Theatre and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Lisa’s book with co-author Sandra Strawn The Properties Director’s Tool Kit is expected in Summer 2018.

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**SMOKIN’ HOT & CRAZY COOL**

**SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 28**

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The ultimate show-biz musical with a score full of Broadway hits including “We’re In The Money,” “Lullaby of Broadway,” and “Shuffle Off To Buffalo.”

**DALLAS BRASS**
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Founded in Dallas, Texas, Dallas Brass has become one of America’s foremost musical ensembles.

**DON’T DRESS FOR DINNER**
Sunset Playhouse
Bernard is planning a romantic weekend with his chic Parisian mistress and has invited his best friend Robert to provide the alibi.

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Our dishes are midwest inspired, classically rooted, with a focus on sharing and community.

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**Dinner & A Show**
TARTUFFE
Cardinal Stritch University
The opulent dress and stifling mannerisms of Louis XIV era France come to life in an intimate production.

April 20 – 29
Stritch Studio Theatre
(414) 410-4171

IN MEMORIAM
Philomusica String Quartet
Join us for the Philomusica String Quartet’s April concert featuring Pärt, Debussy, and Tchaikovsky.

April 23
Schwan Concert Hall
(414) 443-8802

OUR TOWN
Concordia University Theatre
Experience the small town of Grover’s Corners through the everyday lives of its citizens.

April 26 – 29
Todd Wehr Auditorium
cuw.edu

LES MISERABLES
Pius XI Performing Arts
This iconic musical tells the story of Jean Valjean, a former convict who spends a lifetime seeking redemption.

April 26 – 29
Wendy Joy Lindsey Theater
(414) 290-0204
SPRINGDANCES
UWM Dance
Joy, heritage, and memory will be embodied in Springdances.

April 26 – 29
UWM Theater
(414) 229-4308

THE FANTASTICKS
In Tandem Theatre
A whimsical musical about a boy, a girl, a wall, and two fathers whose plans to bring their children together is by keeping them apart!

April 26 – May 20
Tenth Street Theatre
(414) 271-1371

INTO THE WOODS
Carthage College
Stephen Sondheim’s Into the Woods reinvents beloved fairy tales to tell a new and captivating story.

April 27 – May 5
Wartburg Theatre
(262) 551-6661

ANYTHING GOES
Falls Patio Players
Music, dance, laughs, and the age-old tale of boy meets girl…Anything Goes is a hilarious shipboard romp.

April 27 – May 6
North Middle School
(262) 255-8372

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Music, dance, laughs, and the age-old tale of boy meets girl…Anything Goes is a hilarious shipboard romp.

April 27 – May 6
North Middle School
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FANFARE AND FINALE CONCERT
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
The Brass Choir, Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, and Senior Symphony are showcased in the ensembles’ final performances of the season.

9 TO 5
UWM Theatre
Three female office workers become friends then plot revenge against their boss, who is a “sexist-egotistical-lying-hypocritical-bigot.”

THE COMPANY MEN
Cedarburg Performing Arts Center
Unlike any other four-man vocal group touring today, The Company Men uniquely interweave today’s Top 40 hits with re-imagined classics.

WAIT UNTIL DARK
Waukesha Civic Theatre
A sinister con man and his two ex-convict partners are on the hunt for a mysterious, valuable doll.

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GIRLS’ NIGHT OUT
Waukesha Choral Union
The WCU singers celebrate female composers including Waukesha’s own Paula Foley Tillen!
May 5
Humphrey Memorial Chapel & Arts Center
(414) 297-9310

SPRING CHORAL CONCERT
Pius XI Performing Arts
Celebrate another great year of making music with our Choral ensembles in their not-to-be-missed spring concert!
May 12
Wendy Joy Lindsey Theater
(414) 290-0204

LEGENDS AND MASTERS
Festival City Symphony
The concert will feature captivating music that shares tales of beauty and emotion.
May 13
Pabst Theater
(414) 286-3205

STRINGS ATTACHED
Frankly Music
Our final concert features a string extravaganza, with the rarely heard Grande Sestetto of Mozart.
May 14
Schwan Concert Hall
(414) 443-8802

DANCE INTO SPRING
Pius XI Performing Arts
Our amazing dance students have been working all year long to bring you this spectacular spring showcase!
May 18 - 19
Wendy Joy Lindsey Theater
(414) 290-0204

URINETOWN
Skylight Music Theatre
In a Gotham-like city, a drought leads to a ban on private toilets, regulated by a malevolent company.
May 18 – June 10
Cabot Theatre
(414) 291-7800

SPRING SERENADE CONCERT
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
The all-string ensembles Prelude Orchestra, String Orchestras South/West and String Orchestras North/ Central will be featured.
May 19
Shattuck Music Center
(414) 267-2950

METAMORPHOSIS CONCERT
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
The Sinfonia Philharmonic and Wind Ensemble will be featured.
May 19
Shattuck Music Center
(414) 267-2950
SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION CONCERT
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
This performance will feature the Percussion Ensemble, Philharmonia, and Chamber Orchestra.

PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY SPRING CONCERT
Pius XI Catholic Performing Arts
Join us for a night of emerging talent and beautiful music!

PARTY IN THE PARK
SummerStage of Delafield
Funhouse returns, back by popular demand playing danceable covers of 80s hits at this fundraising concert.

TARTUFFE
SummerStage of Delafield
When the imposter Tartuffe worms his way into a wealthy family, it’s up to his family to expose the con man before they all end up homeless!

SHATTERED – ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE BAND
SummerStage of Delafield
Shattered will play the Rolling Stones songs that have become part of rock legend.

THE LOWER 5TH
SummerStage of Delafield
The Lower 5th incorporates folk, rock, R&B, reggae, country and bluegrass to produce a unique blend of Midwestern Soul.

WHEELHOUSE BLUEGRASS
SummerStage Delafield
Hailing from Madison, WI, this unique, award winning bluegrass band brings energy and attitude wherever they perform.

THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL
SummerStage Delafield
This simple, but profound story follows the journey of Carrie Watts, an elderly woman who wants to visit her childhood home one more time before she dies.
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