In 1944, young and upcoming director Vincente Minnelli was chosen to direct MGM’s *Meet Me in St. Louis*, which would star Judy Garland (Esther) and Margaret O’Brien (Tootie), and was based on a series of short stories written by Sally Benson about her family at the turn of the century. This feature film, which chronicled the life of a family from 1903 into 1904’s World’s Fair, held in St. Louis, became the second highest-grossing film of that year, and was later deemed “culturally significant” by the Library of Congress in 1994 and was preserved in the United States National Film Registry. Originally, Ms. Garland, a young star of only 21 at the start of filming, was anxious to move past playing “girl roles” where she was a teenager pining over a boy next door. She had protested against playing the role with MGM boss Louis B. Mayer, the production staff, and with the film’s director, Vincente Minnelli. Minnelli, who at the time was relatively unknown but would go on to become an Academy Award-winning director for future projects, convinced the vivacious star that she was right for the part, and that there was more depth to the story than what she initially thought. Garland ended up taking Minnelli’s advice and, upon seeing the dailies played back to her, realized she was working with a cinematic genius who would change her career and who would bridge her to more mature roles. His trust was won, and so was her heart- the two went on to marry shortly after the film was released, and their union brought future star Liza Minnelli (*Cabaret*, *Arthur*, *New York, New York*) into the world.

There is something about *Meet Me in St. Louis* that has a special place in the hearts of many people, and especially those from St. Louis. As a native St. Louisan, I can honestly say that this musical was a mainstay in our home for as long as I can remember. There is a pride attached to St. Louis being the host of the Louisiana Purchase Expedition (commonly known as the World’s Fair) that has existed through the generations. The nostalgia of this seemingly idyllic era in American history, where technology and industry was on the rise and introducing new and exciting inventions, and where the family unit consisted of multiple generations in one household contributes to the musical surviving the ages and in different mediums. The film came first in 1944 and, because of the popularity of the film, it was adapted into a television musical in 1959 starring Jane Powell and Jeanne Crain. A non-musical version based off the short stories was created in 1966 for television starring Celeste Holm, and in 1989, the story was adapted into a Broadway musical featuring songs from the film and introducing original songs. In 2012, a revival of the 1989 stage musical was produced.

At the heart of this play is the Smith family, a family that loves one another deeply and yet has its conflicts like any family, and has to face a major, life-changing decision together. For our CUW production, we worked on immersing the cast into the world of turn-of-the century St. Louis- its customs, its mannerisms, its intrigues- to allow our 21st century actors to know what is was like at a time where the World’s Fair would’ve been the biggest thing on Earth, and “new” items like cotton candy, hamburgers, and electric lights were all the rage. Additionally, we focused on the importance of family, and honoring family traditions, culture, and values. We hope this show transports you to a time of innocence, newness, and world-class music (this movie musical launched the hits, “The Boy Next Door”, “The Trolley Song”, and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”)! Enjoy the show!

– Prof. Lori Woodall, Director

*This production is dedicated in loving memory to my mother, Jeanne Woodall, whose love for this musical could not be matched by any person on this planet, and for introducing Judy Garland into our home and into our hearts.*
CAST OF MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

Esther Smith .............................................................. Cecelia Milner
Rose Smith ................................................................. Giovanna Greco
Lon Smith ................................................................. Ethan Karschnik
Agnes Smith ............................................................... Abigail Schaufler
Tootie Smith ............................................................ Vivian Kagamba
Mr. Alonso Smith .................................................... Ryan Murray
Mrs. Anna Smith ....................................................... Marlia King
Grandpa Prophater ................................................ Brady Wisniewski
Katie ........................................................................ Cassidy Mertzig
John Truitt .................................................................... Aidan O’Donnell
Warren Sheffield .................................................... Andrew Sear
Lucille Ballard ........................................................ Ardis White
Eve/Ensemble .......................................................... Saylor Alberts
Postman/Sidney Purvis/Ensemble .............................. John Robertson
Motorman/Ensemble ............................................... Wyatt Jensen
Clinton Badger/Ensemble ......................................... Asher Puls
Pee Wee Drummond/Ensemble ................................. Sabrina Staskal

Ensemble:
Emma Fritz, Susan Habegger, Vytoria Smith, Adrianna Covert, Olivia Crooks,
Margaret Fox, Iesha Golden, Olivia Zimmermann, Jonah McGinnis, Carly Stanek,
Eden Nass, Anna Thomack

MUSICIANS

Violin ........................................................................... Andrea Buchta, Bradley Hartney, Liesl Hartney,
Abigail Kelly, Kirsten Nus*, Anna Rasmussen
Cello ............................................................................... Martha Kriefall, Monique Ross
String Bass ........................................................................ Kevin Eberle
Flute ................................................................................ Susan Stachelski
Oboe/English Horn ..................................................... Johanna Anderson**
Clarinet ............................................................................ Mary Jirovec
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet ............................................... Jason Chay
French Horn ...................................................................... Adam Nelson
Trumpet ........................................................................... Michael Betz**, Al Johnson
Trombone ......................................................................... Chris Canapa**
Percussion ........................................................................ Robert Kriefall, Elizabeth Bredman*
Harp .................................................................................. Mary Keppeler
Banjo/Guitar ..................................................................... Jay Kummer
Piano/Keyboard ............................................................. John Hefter
Music Director/Conductor ........................................... Helene Pickett

*CUW student
**CUW Applied Music Faculty
SPECIAL THANKS

Lisa Stenulson, Bob MacPherson, Terrance Ronsman, Jim Guy, Kelsey Flath, Dr. John Horgan, CUW Maintenance, CUW Duplication Center, Christopher Halper, Carolina Bacelis, Janet Peterson, Ben Parmon, Judy Bowen, and anyone else we’ve missed due to deadline!
GIOVANNA GRECO
(Rose)
Giovanna is excited to be in her fourth CUW show in this production of Meet Me in St. Louis. She hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is a Sophomore majoring in Music with a Theatre minor. Her past favorite shows have been Little Women (Josephine) and Guys and Dolls (Agatha). Firstly, she would like to thank God for the many blessings in her life, and for this wonderful opportunity. She would also like to thank the cast, crew, director, and production team for all of their hard work, and her mom and dad for all of their support. Lastly, she would like to thank her friend, Marlia, for continuing drama with her at CUW, as well as her high school drama director, Andrés Garuz, for his leadership, support and inspiration.

ETHAN KARSCHNIK
(Lon Smith)
Ethan is confused at how quickly college has flown by, but grateful for Theatre for pulling him through it all. He is from Mountain Lake, Minnesota, and is a senior studying Mass Communication and Theatre. Meet Me in St. Louis marks Ethan’s 9th show at Concordia. Past favorite shows include Guys and Dolls and Long Day’s Journey into Night. He’d like to thank his parents, cast, production team, and God for all of the help and support he’s received over the years.

ARDIS WHITE
(Lucille)
Ardis is excited to be onstage for the fourth time here at CUW. Last year she was seen strolling through Sherwood Forrest in Robin Hood and dancing around Runyonland in Guys and Dolls. Ardis is a junior from Waterloo, Iowa, majoring in Exercise Physiology and minoring in Theatre. She would like to thank God for giving her this opportunity, her parents and friends for being so supportive, and the cast and production team for making St. Louis come to life. Psalm 34:9

CECELIA MILNER
(Esther Smith)
Cecelia Milner, from Green Bay, is a senior with a major in Mass Communications and a minor in Christian Servant Learning and Leadership. While sad to be in her 5th and final show with CUW Theatre, she couldn’t be more overjoyed to be ending it with her all-time favorite musical! She would like to especially thank her mama, for encouraging a love of classic musicals, her director Prof. Lori Woodall for her encouragement and leadership, her inspiration Judy Garland for being one of the icons of her childhood, and her Heavenly Father for being her Peace in times of trouble and an Almighty Provider. Psalms 90:12

EDEN NASS
(Esther Smith’s Understudy/Ensemble)
Eden Nass is ecstatic for her first performance at Concordia University. She is from Waukesha, Wisconsin and currently is pursuing a Nursing Major with a Minor in Music. Her past shows include, The Sound of Music as “The Mother Abbess” and The Giver as “Mother” at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support in this process. For this amazing opportunity, Eden would like to thank God for the talents that he has blessed her with. Habakkuk 3:19.

IESHA GOLDEN
(Ensemble)
Iesha is excited to be a part of the CUW Theatre program. She is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this is her senior year, and she has an individual major in Theatre and minor in Psychology. She would like to thank her family and friends whom supported her acting journey.

GIOVANNA GRECO
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ETHAN KARSCHNIK
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BRADY WISNIEWSKI
(Grandpa)
Brady is a junior from Thorp, Wisconsin, studying Elementary Education with a minor in Mathematics. He is extremely excited to be making his debut performance at CUW and would like to thank his family for their wonderful love and support as well as his fellow cast members for their fantastic personalities and God for the incredible blessings He provides. 1 Thessalonians 5:16.

CASSIDY MERTZIG
(Katie)
Cassidy is delighted to be in her fifth show at CUW! Cassidy is from Sheboygan, Wisconsin. She is majoring in Music Therapy and minoring in Theatre. She would like to thank her parents for all the support throughout the years, as well as her theatre family for helping make the Todditorium her second home. Mostly, she would like to thank God for all the opportunities He’s given to her. Romans 8:18

MARLIA KING
(Mrs. Anna Smith)
Marlia is thrilled and grateful to be allowed on the CUW stage for the fourth time as a loving wife and mother to the Smith household. She is now a sophomore majoring in Liberal arts, and has been to the Wisconsin State fair for as long as she has lived in Milwaukee, WI. Past favorite roles include Marmee in Little Women, and Mitzi in Agatha Christie’s A Murder is Announced at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. Marlia also enjoys having movie nights with friends on campus and hanging out with cast members after practice. She’d like to thank the director for giving her the opportunity to showcase her talents once again, the cast and crew for becoming her new drama family, and her family for their constant encouragement. A special thanks to God for giving her the opportunity to share her talents and live her dream.

1 Corinthians 10:31

ABIGAIL SCHAUFLER
(Agnes Smith)
Abigail, known as Abby, is in fifth grade at Our Redeemer Lutheran School. This is her second time on the CUW stage, her debut was at 7 years old as a Fairy in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. From there, she went on to audition for First Stage and ended up playing the part of Smart Girl in Judy Moody and Stink in the Porcupine Cast. Abby is an avid slime enthusiast who also takes ballet, swim, piano and praise dance lessons, and is a very proud Girl Scout (hurray for Troop 1509!). She would like to thank her mama/Prof. Woodall-Schaufler for this opportunity to be involved in this production where she can be part of a family away from home, though still having to take orders from mom (hee hee). She also would like to thank dad for acting coaching, brother for being silly, and her dogs and frogs for their loyalty always. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13). Glory be to God!

ANDREW SEAR
(Warren Sheffield)
Andrew is elated to be a part of his second show here at CUW. He is from Asbury, IA and is a sophomore majoring in Psychology, and a Minor in Theatre. Some of Andrew’s past favorite shows have been “The Crucible “Thomas Danforth”, at Hempstead High School and Guys and Dolls “Harry the Horse”. Andrew would like to thank his family, friends, and supporters for always being there and encouraging him to pursue his dreams and passions! Also, the amazing cast and crew of Meet Me in St. Louis for producing an incredible show and becoming his theater family! Judges 15:15-16
CAST BIOGRAPHIES cont.

AIDAN O’DONNELL (John Truitt)
Aidan is a sophomore at Concordia this year from Oconomowoc, WI and is studying Lutheran Elementary Education with minors in Broad Field Social Studies and Theater. Some of Aidan’s recent shows are Guys and Dolls (Liver Lips Louie), Into the Woods (Cinderella’s Prince), Beauty and the Beast (Gaston), and The Anatomy of Gray (Dr. Galen P. Gray). Aidan is very excited to be in his second show here at Concordia and would like to thank his family, fellow cast members, and his friend Sam for continuing to support him. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

SUSAN HABEGGER (Ensemble)
Susan is so happy to participate in her first show at CUW! She is from Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is a Secondary Ed - English major and Theatre minor. Her past favorite show was Newsies in high school. She would like to thank her family for supporting her always, and God for never failing her. Proverbs 3:5

ASHER PULS (Clinton Badger/Ensemble/Mr. Smith Understudy)
Asher Puls returns to play the role of Clinton Badger in his 5th production at Concordia University Wisconsin. Asher’s previous roles include Mr. Beaver in The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, Rusty Charlie in Guys and Dolls, Friar Tuck in Robin Hood, and Sergeant Trotter in The Mousetrap. Asher is thankful to God and his family and friends and the wonderful production crew and stage managers. Isaiah 53:5

SAYLOR ALBERTS (EVE/Tootie Understudy)
Saylor is excited to be a part of her first CUW show. This is her 15th musical overall. She is from Fremont, WI and is a Nursing Major with a Minor in Theatre. She would like to thank her family, friends, Professors, and God for making this opportunity possible for her. She hopes you enjoy the performance! Joshua 1:9.

EMMA FRITZ (Katie Understudy/Ensemble)
This is Emma’s first show at CUW, and she can’t wait to take the stage with her new cast mates. She is a freshman from St. Paul Minnesota, studying entrepreneurship with a theatre minor. Favorite past shows include Into the Woods (“Little Red”) and Hairspray (“Penny Pingleton”). Emma would like to thank her family for not getting annoyed with theatre talk, and her past and present directors for getting her here in the first place. Soli deo gloria!

SABRINA STASKAL (PeeWee Drummond/General Ensemble)
Sabrina is a second year Bethesda Student at CUW from Hartford, WI. Sabrina has participated as a mission band member in Guys and Dolls and did backstage crew for Steel Magnolias. Sabrina would like to thank the cast and crew of Meet Me in St. Louis, parents, and friends for supporting her through her Theatre experiences here at CUW.

ANNA THOMACK (Ensemble)
Anna is a Senior studying Secondary Education Broad Field Science major with a minor in Theology from Litchfield, IL. She
has been a part of few shows since being at Concordia. Her favorites are playing Shelby in Steel Magnolia, and being a hot box dancer/crapshooter in Guys and Dolls. Anna would like to thank her family for having her involved with music and theater from a young age and thank the friends she has made through this wonderful theater program. Psalm 95:1 “Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!”

ADRIANNA COVERT (Ensemble)
Adrianna is elated to be performing in her first production at Concordia, as well as her first production ever. She is from West Bend, WI and is a double major in History and Secondary Education with and English minor and is a published author. She would like to thank her family, friends and professors for the support and all of the opportunities they have provided. Jeremiah 29:11.

OLIVIA CROOKS (Ensemble)
Olivia is thrilled to be in her second show here at CUW. She is from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is studying communication sciences and disorders. Olivia would like to wholeheartedly thank her two loving parents Lori and Hank Crooks for all they have done to support and uplift her.

MAGGIE FOX (Rose Understudy/Ensemble)
Maggie is ecstatic to be in her first show here at CUW! She is from Mequon, Wisconsin, and is an Elementary Education Science Major with a Minor in Theatre. Past favorite shows include Oklahoma (Ado Annie), and Camelot (Queen Guinevere) at Living Word Lutheran High School. She would like to thank her family, friends and teachers for all their support through the years and everyone involved in the show for making it such a welcoming and fun experience. She would also like to thank God who has blessed her with this extraordinary opportunity to use her God-given talents toward his glory. 1 Peter 3:4

OLIVIA ZIMMERMANN (Mrs. Smith Understudy/General Ensemble)
Olivia is a sophomore and is excited to be a part of her 4th production here at CUW! She is from St Charles, Illinois, and is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Theatre. Some of her favorite past shows include Beauty and the Beast (Belle), Mary Poppins (Mrs. Banks), Fools (Lenya Zubritsky), and The Mousetrap (Mollie Ralston). When not on the stage, you can find Olivia playing her violin, singing in Kammerchor, or planning her next vacation with her family. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being the wonderful humans that they are, and is incredibly proud of their accomplishments! She thanks you for coming, and hopes you enjoy the show! Psalm 28:7

CARLY STANEK (Ensemble)
Carly is thrilled to be in her second CUW show. She is from Spring Green, Wisconsin, and is a second-year nursing major. Past favorite shows include Guys and Dolls at CUW, and Sweet Charity at River Valley High School. She would like to thank her family, friends and teachers for all their support along the way and the production team and cast for making this a memorable experience!

JONAH MCGINNIS (Ensemble)
Jonah is a 5th year senior, participating in his 4th show at CUW. He is very grateful to all those who have enabled him to pursue
CAST BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Ryan Murray (Mr. Alonso Smith) Major/Minor: English/Theatre. Ryan is currently a freshman at CUW, originally from the Milwaukee area, and he is thrilled to have been cast in this show. He has appeared in a number of plays at Martin Luther, his old high school. Some of his favorite past roles include “Jonathan Brewster” from Arsenic and Old Lace and “Dr. Zubritsky” from Fools. Ryan finds college theatre to be an almost entirely different animal from high school theatre, but he is willing to take on the challenges and perform to the glory of God. Ryan would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him and shaping him to be the person who he is today. Psalm 23:4

John Robertson (Postman, General Ensemble) John is so excited to be in his first show here at CUW. He is from Random Lake, Wisconsin, and is a K-12 Music Education Major with a Minor in Theatre. He would like to thank his family and friends for all their support through the years and the production team for making this a wonderful and memorable experience! Matthew 11:28-30

Vivian Kagamba (Tootie) Vivian S. Kagamba who plays the role of Tootie, is thrilled to be a part of Concordia Players Theater. Vivian lives in Grafton with her family and attends Woodview Elementary School. She is in second grade and her favorite subjects are math and social studies. She also enjoys playing with Legos and playing Dress Up games on the computer. Her favorite part of the show is the scene where John Truitt declares his love for Esther. Vivian is profoundly grateful for Director Woodall’s faith in her.

To sponsor a Theatre student or make a donation to the CUW Theatre Department, please contact Professor Lori Woodall-Schaufler at lori.woodall@cuw.edu.

CUW Theatre is a proud participant in KCACTF Region 3.
PROF. LORI WOODALL-SCHAUFLER
(Director/Producer)
Prof. Woodall is an Associate Professor of Theatre at CUW, and has led the Drama Program in the last 6 years. Since 2006, she has directed over 25 productions at CUW, some of her favorites being *Guys and Dolls*, *Steel Magnolias*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Women of Lockerbie*, *Hairspray*, *Godspell*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *A Long Day’s Journey into Night*. She has had over 30 years professional experience as a Theatre artist as an actor onstage and onscreen, voice over artist, writer, producer, singer/dancer and choreographer, and is actively involved in Drama Ministry endeavors with her husband, Ryan. She would like to thank God for given her the opportunity to work with the wonderful students of CUW, and her family for their love and support, enduring the long hours but enjoying the ride with her. Special thanks to her mom, Jeanne, for introducing this musical into her life from birth, and for inspiring and nurturing her love for the arts. To God be the glory, always! Philippians 4:4-8

HELENE PICKETT
(Music Director/Pit Conductor)
Helene Pickett is happy to return to CUW for “Meet Me in St. Louis”. She has previously worked with CUW for *Guys & Dolls*, *Music Man*, *Hairspray*, *Raisin in the Sun* and *Godspell*. She also has numerous conducting and operatic performing credits through Ovation Management, including Chicago Opera Theatre, DaCorneto Opera, Chicago Light Opera Works, Charlotte Symphony, Chautauqua Music Festival, and touring the mid-west as Apprentice Artist and Artist-in-Residence with the Florentine Opera and Skylight Opera; as well as conducting for many worship events including the Gospel Awards at the Pabst Theater and Zelazo Center, Raise the Praise, The Majestic’s Anniversary Concerts, Eastbrook Worship Orchestra and The Milwaukee Praise Orchestra. Psalm 150!

DEAN DREWS
(Choreographer)
Dean Drews holds a BS in Education and an MFA in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He completed his dance teacher certification program through Alverno College. He has studied with members of the Milwaukee Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Bill T Jones/Arnie Zane, Alvin Ailey, Jose Limon, Joseph Holmes Dance Theatre, Milwaukee Dance Theater, and Bauer Contemporary Ballet. His professional dance and theatre performance experiences include the Fireside Dinner Theatre, Bauer Contemporary Ballet, Dancecircus, Six Flags Great Adventure, Music Under the Stars, the Florentine Opera, and the Milwaukee Opera. He has been a staff member at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts for the past thirty years and has been on the teaching staff of Danceworks, First Stage and Waukesha Civic Theater. Dean has choreographed and directed numerous musicals in the Milwaukee community, has taught as an adjunct faculty member in the UW-Milwaukee Dance Department and enjoys choreographing at Concordia University.

BRADLEY DUNIGAN
(Sound Designer)
Bradley Dunigan is excited to be back working with the Concordia Players for yet another show. Bradley has been working in the Milwaukee area as a Audio Visual Professional for 5 years. This is his 9th season with the Concordia players as he spent 4 with them as an actor while getting his degree at Concordia. While giving thanks to Professor Woodall-Schaufler for this opportunity, his wife for putting
up with the long days away, and God for his never-ending love. He would like to congratulate the Cast and Crew on a great show.

JESS LEOBEUF
(Scenic Design and Construction)
Jess is a 2018 graduate of UW-Milwaukee in architecture and technical theater. She is the set designer for Stage Right Design LLC production company. When not designing shows around the Milwaukee area she is found at Next Act Theater as a master electrician and board op. She enjoys designing a world in which audiences can lose themselves in.

MIKE VAN DRESER
(Lighting Design)
Mike is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2004. He was the Lighting Designer for both MOUSE TRAP and STEEL MAGNOLIAS last season at Concordia. Mike also started in the spring of 2019 his production company called Stage Right Designs. His company mission statement is to bring professional level technical support to all levels of theatre from elementary schools up thru professional theatre. In 2018 Mike was nominated for a Jerry award for Lighting design for BYE BYE BIRDIE and a FootLights Award for Lighting design on NEXT TO NORMAL, and in 2019 was again nominated for a Jerry for LITTLE SHOPPE and two Footlights awards for MILLIE and HEDWIG. Mike wants to thank his wife Julie for being his number one supporter of his company. When Mike is not in the theatre he enjoys relaxing and spending time with his wife and two beautiful kids. Mike looks forward to working at Concordia in the future.

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