

SOMETHING ROTTEN! A VERY NEW MUSICAL

Feb 19 - 28, 2021 • Two Weekends!
Arts Express Theatre: Park Place Mall Suite 214



A.E. INFO & UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS:
www.arts-express.org • (520)319-0400

SOMETHING ROTTEN! Book By Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell. Music and Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick. Conceived by Karey Kirkpatrick and Wayne Kirkpatrick. Arrangements Glen Kelly, Orchestrations Larry Hochman. Produced by Kevin McCollum, Broadway Global Ventures CMC Mastro/Goodman Jerry & Ronald Frankel, Morris Berchard Kyodo Tokyo, Inc. Wendy Federman Barbara Freitag LAMS Productions Winkler/DeSimone Timothy Laczynski Dan Markley Harris/Karmazin Jam Theatricals Robert Greenblatt and Jujamcyn Theaters. Developed in association with the 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle, WA, David Armstrong, Executive Producer and Artistic Director, Bernadine Griffin, Managing Director and Bill Berry, Producing Artistic Director Something Rotten is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

WELCOME TO THE ARTS EXPRESS PRODUCTION OF SOMETHING ROTTEN

We all have dreams that we balance against our responsibilities and obligations. In this difficult time, many of us have had to face stark realities regarding the conflicts of these two often competing truths. This Arts Express production of *Something Rotten* explores the convergence point of where our ambitions and happiness come together.

Our protagonist, Nick Bottom, is burdened by the responsibilities of being husband, head of household, and caregiver to his wife and orphaned brother. He also dreams of success as an Elizabethan-Era writer and stage actor. He then convinces himself that there is only one path in which both of these ends are accomplished and sets out to do whatever it takes to get to the only conclusion he can, or wants, to see.

While it seems like Nick strives throughout the production to achieve something specific, his “I want;” we see that what he gets in the end is the “what he always needed” from the start. When we’re faced with these same crossroads in our own lives, it’s hard to realize everything we already have. This lesson has become all the more relevant this past year. Through the comedy and lighthearted jabs at our beloved musical theatre industry, we hope that our production gives a moment of pause from the stressors we’ve struggled with lately and an opportunity to remember the elements of light and happiness we still have the chance to enjoy.

At its core, live theatre strives to connect both cast, crew, and audience and reveal our shared humanity through the art of storytelling. The talent both on and off stage in this show are nothing short of remarkable, and we couldn’t even begin to express how blessed we feel to be a part of bringing this work to life! Your support makes it all possible. Purchasing your ticket today and those who have chosen to commit to sponsoring and making contributions is what makes it all possible. Because of the love and support from our community we’re able to give back through these remarkable experiences. Thank you!

Dr. Jonathon Scott Crider
Production Director
Director of Advancement

Karen F. Wiese
Production Producer
Executive Director

2021 SEASON SPONSOR

Shirley Chann

SOMETHING ROTTEN PERFORMANCE SPONSOR

Marsha and Gary Tankenoff

SOMETHING ROTTEN

Book By Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell
Music and Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick
Conceived by Karey Kirkpatrick and Wayne Kirkpatrick

ACT 1

SCENE 1: A SOUTH LONDON STREET

“Welcome to the Renaissance” (Minstrel and Company)

SCENE 2: THE THEATRE

“God, I Hate Shakespeare” (Nick, Nigel, The Troupe)

SCENE 3: A SOUTH LONDON STREET/OUTSIDE NICK AND BEA'S HOUSE

SCENE 4: NICK AND BEA'S HOUSE

“Right Hand Man” (Bea, Nick)

“God, I Hate Shakespeare Reprise” (Nick)

SCENE 5: SOOTHSAYER ALLEY

“A Musical” (Nostradamus, Nick, Ensemble)

SCENE 6: A SOUTH LONDON STREET/OUTSIDE THE THEATRE

SCENE 7: THE THEATRE

“The Black Death” (The Troupe)

SCENE 8: A SOUTH LONDON STREET

“I Love the Way” (Portia, Nigel)

SCENE 9: THE PARK

“Will Power” (Shakespeare, Ensemble)

SCENE 10: AFTER-SHOW PARTY TENT

SCENE 11: SOOTHSAYER ALLEY

“Bottom's Gonna Be on Top” (Nick and Company)

ACT 2

SCENE 1: LONDON

“Welcome to the Renaissance Reprise” (Minstrel)

“Hard to Be the Bard” (Shakespeare and Ensemble)

SCENE 2: THE THEATRE

“It's Eggs!” (Nick, The Troupe)

SCENE 3: UNDER LONDON BRIDGE

“We See the Light” (Portia, Nigel, Brother Jeremiah, Nick, Ensemble)

SCENE 4: THE THEATRE

“To Thine Own Self” (Nigel, Nick, Shakespeare, The Troupe)

SCENE 5: A SOUTH LONDON STREET

“Right Hand Man Reprise” (Bea)

SCENE 6: ON STAGE AT THE THEATRE

“Something Rotten!” (The Troupe)

“Make an Omelette” (Nick and Company)

SCENE 7: COURTROOM

“To Thine Own Self Reprise” (Nick)

SCENE 8: NEW AMERICAN COLONY

“Welcome to America!” (The Company)

THE CAST

Matt Milne	Shakespeare
Jeremy Meeker-Hackett	Nick Bottom
Preston Hatch	Nigel Bottom
Morgan Smith	Bea, Principal Dancer
Allyson Gishi	Portia
Carlos "Charlie" Lee Hall	Nostradamus
Cedric Hay	Brother Jeremiah
Sean Hazen.....	Lord Clapham, Ensemble, Brother Jeremiah (Understudy)
Tristan Acevedo	Shylock, Principal Dancer, Bard Boy
Damian Garcia	Minstrel, Bard Boy, Ensemble
Samantha Beemer.....	Ensemble, Puritan, Portia (Understudy)
Benjamin Durand.....	Tom Snout, Ensemble, Puritan
Noah Embry	Ensemble, Bottom Troupe
Luke Gaff	Principal Dancer, Bard Boy, Ensemble Nigel (Understudy)
Wesley Geary.....	Frances Flout, Ensemble, Minstrel (Understudy)
Alexis George.....	Principal Dancer, Ensemble
Daniel Gilmore.....	Principal Dancer, Minister of Justice, Ensemble Bard Boy, Nostradamus (Understudy)
Austin Kilian	Robin, Ensemble
Emma Parkinson	Ensemble, Puritan Bea (Understudy)
David Quinones	Principal Dancer, Ensemble, Puritan, Shylock (Understudy)
Lena Stoltzfus	Ensemble, Puritan
Taylor Swingle	Peter Q, Ensemble, Lord Clapham (Understudy)
Colin Wilkes	Bottom Troupe, Ensemble, Nick (Understudy)
Lydia Zadareky.....	Principal Dancer, Ensemble

PLEASE NOTE:

**THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS FLASHING LIGHTS
AND STROBE LIGHTS.**

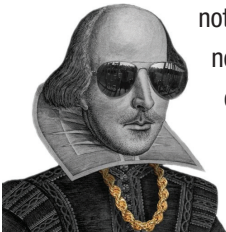
FEATURED IN THE LOBBY...**THE SHAKESPEARE VILLAGE!**

Merchandise sales from our Shakespeare Village benefit arts education scholarships for qualifying Southern Arizona students. Please note, because Arts Express is a 501c3, you do not pay sales tax on your purchase! In addition to our thematic gifts and novelty items, we are committed to working with local artists to offer opportunities for sales of their work on consignment.

Check out the amazing leatherwork in our lobby by:

RiddlemeTrue Leathercraft

Watchdog Leather Goods



For information on sales opportunities, artists should contact Arts Express at info@arts-express.org.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer – Karen Wiese
Assistant Producer – Ben Wiese
Director – Dr. Jonathon Scott Crider
Music Director – Jennifer Campman
Choreographer – Simone Jolivet Manuel
Assistant Choreographer/Dance Captain –
Tristan Acevedo
Stage Manager – Mary Davis
Assistant Stage Manager – Frank Acosta
Assistant Stage Manager & Audio Assistant -
David Asher
Technical Director & Set Design – Michael Dunn
Lighting Designer & Engineer – Michael Sorensen
Spot Operator & Production Assistant –
Nathan Saiffer
Sound Designer & Engineer – Tyler Berg
Costume Designer – Megan Wiese
First Hand – Nancy Shaffer
Stitcher – Doreen Dietrich
Costume Painter – Emma Parkinson
Wardrobe Crew Head – Natalie Trujillo
Prop Master – Stacey Posey
Production Assistant – Justin Freeman
Volunteer Coordinator – Wendy Waltrip

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Director - Karen Wiese
Director of Communications – Ben Wiese
Director of Advancement – Jonathon Scott Crider
Public Relations Consultant – Mary Davis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Susan Thibodeaux
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Sue DeBenedette, Mario DiVetta,
Warren Hatcher, Tina Paz-Chavez,
Karen Wiese

SPECIAL THANKS

American Advertising Federation Tucson
iHeart Radio
Dark Horse Media
and ALL our volunteers for the countless
hours they spent in making this production
possible!

Here's a win-win way to support Arts Express:

Participate in our Wine Pull Raffle!

Each raffle ticket is \$20 and enables you pick a surprise bottle of wine.

You can choose either red or white, whichever is your favorite.

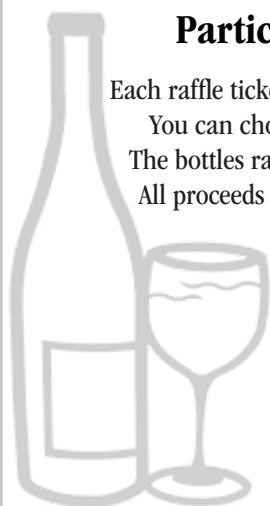
The bottles range in value from \$15 all the way up to nearly \$400.

All proceeds benefit our COVID-responsible education programs.

Must be 21 or older to play.

A HUGE THANKYOU to the wineries that are supporting
the arts in our community through their
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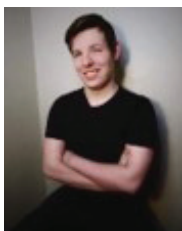
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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Tristan Acevedo - Shylock, Principal Dancer, Bard Boy
Tristan has been performing shows for the past 11 years, playing roles including Lumiere and Lefou (*Beauty and the Beast*), as well as Conrad Birdie (*Bye,*

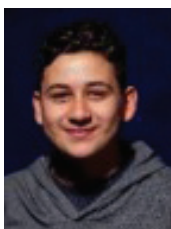
Bye Birdie), and most recently Don Lockwood (*Singin' in the Rain*).



Samantha Beemer - Ensemble, Puritan, Portia (Understudy)

Samantha Beemer is a senior at Rio Rico High School and is extremely excited to be in her first show with Arts Express.

Since discovering her love for musical theatre in 2014, she has performed in many shows including *James and the Giant Peach* (Aunt Sponge), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey), and *She Kills Monsters* (Vera). She has spent the last few years vocal training with Elizabeth Wells and recently began dancing on the Hawx Dance Team. She plans to begin her college experience at Pima and transfer after two years to study film, business, and marketing. She would like to thank her parents and family for continuously supporting her and would also like to say, "I'm very grateful for this experience and for the opportunity to work with so many talented cast members and for such a great team. I hope to perform with Arts Express again soon!"



Benjamin Durand - Tom Snout, Ensemble, Puritan
Ben Durand has been singing in choirs for both his school and church since he was in fifth grade. He is currently in the top choir at Flowing Wells High School,

Choralaires. He is also on the dance team Pulse. He was in the Arizona South Central Regional Choir in 2019 and 2020. He performed in the FWHS production of *Newsies* in 2019,

and is in their current show, *Spinning Tales*. He would like to thank his parents for always supporting him. He would also like to thank his teachers Jennifer Campman, Christy Smith, and Arianna Brown. He is very appreciative to Arts Express and the *Something Rotten!* team for helping him grow as a performer while having a fun experience.



Noah Embry - Ensemble, Bottom Troupe

Noah Embry is a senior at Palo Verde High Magnet School and plans on attending The Fred Fox School of Music for Music Education in the fall. Noah plays

trumpet in his high school band and is a drum major in his school's marching band. Noah also sings in two of his high school's choirs. He loves music and making friends that share his passion for music!



Luke Gaff - Principal Dancer, Bard Boy, Nigel (Understudy)
Luke is excited to be a part of the company of *Something Rotten*. Their past credits with Arts Express include *Big Fish*, *Cats*, and *A Christmas Carol*.



Damian Garcia - Minstrel, Bard Boy, Ensemble

Damian Garcia is making his Arts Express debut. A native Tucsonan, he received his Associate's in Fine Arts degree from Pima Community College in 2010. While

at Pima, he was involved in 13 productions, among them *The Mandrake* (Ligurio), *Spamalot* (Ensemble), *The Laramie Project* (Jedidiah Schultz/Ensemble) and *Curtains!* (Randy Dexter). In recent years, Damian has been making his rounds in the Tucson theatre scene performing with Invisible Theatre, Winding Road Theatre Ensemble, Something Something Theatre Company, Roadrunner Theatre Company and The Community Players. He has also actively been

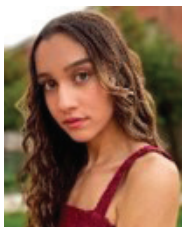
involved in staged readings and workshops. In 2020, he received the Mac Award for Best Actor (Comedy) for his role as Ever Montgomery in *Dancing Lessons*.



Wesley Geary - Frances Flout, Ensemble, Minstrel (Understudy)

Wesley Geary, a 13-year-old 8th grader at Orange Grove Middle School, loves to sing and act and play the violin.

He began performing on-stage at age 9, including performances with the Arizona Opera Company, the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, True Concord Voices, as a soloist with the Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra and at Mr Bing's Supper Club with Khris Dodge Entertainment. He sang the National Anthem at the El Tour de Tucson Fun Ride, and will be singing in the upcoming St. Philips Friends of Music Lenten Series Recital. One day Wesley hopes to perform on Broadway. Past performances with Arts Express include *A Christmas Carol*, (Jonathan, Scrooge at 12) and *Carousel* (Children's ensemble). Wesley would like to thank his family for their continued support.



Alexis George - Principal Dancer, Puritan

Alexis George is egg-static to be back on the stage performing again. It has been a life-long dream of hers to perform as the world's tallest tap-dancing egg.

Alexis is a Tucson native and lifelong dancer. She graduated from the University of Arizona with degrees in Theatre Arts and Psychology and is currently working on her MA in Arts Politics at New York University. When she's not in a Zoom class she is usually cuddling her cat, Sokka, and watching the *Mamma Mia* movies on repeat. She would like to thank her two best friends for encouraging her to get back on stage. She would also like to thank Arts Express for putting on this phenomenal show and allowing her to be a part of it.



Daniel Gilmore - Principal Dancer, Bard Boy, Master of Justice, Ensemble, Nostradamus (Understudy) Daniel Gilmore is a Tucson native and graduate of the University of Arizona School of Dance with a BFA in dance

performance. He has performed in Mexico, New York City and with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. He has taught ballet and jazz, and has been involved in numerous choirs, operas and musicals. After four years off, he is excited to return to the stage.



Allyson Gishi - Portia

Allyson Gishi is new to the Tucson area and is extremely grateful and excited to be performing in her first show with Arts Express. Allyson began performing at the age of five in the San Francisco

Bay Area. She followed her love of theater to Los Angeles where she received her BFA in Musical Theater from AMDA College of the Performing Arts. She has performed in multiple shows at AMDA, spent a summer performing with the College Light Opera Company, and had the opportunity to perform at the Hollywood Bowl in the choir for Kristen Chenoweth. Some of her favorite credits include Babe (*The Pajama Game*), Maria (*The Sound of Music*), Faith (*Brooklyn*), and Guadalupe (*La Perichole*). In her spare time Allyson enjoys cuddling up with her bulldog Mochi and drinking coffee. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support. Proverbs 31:25



Carlos "Charlie" Lee Hall - Nostradamus

Tucson born entertainer, Carlos Lee Hall, has been a season regular for over 14 years with The Gaslight Theatre. He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the

University of Arizona and a Minor in Film/TV. He dedicates the majority of his time to producing creative collaborations across the arts via his company, Magdalena Productions, with an

emphasis in music and film. Carlos holds great pride and love for his Mexican Heritage and is always striving for better connections across cultural and artistic borders. “Luz y Fuerza!”



Preston Hatch - Nigel Bottom

Preston Hatch is so excited to play his first lead in a professional show! This cast is so talented and he is truly honored to have such a wonderful role. He is the

2020 Monte Award winner, which means he won Best Actor in the Southern Arizona chapter of the National High School Musical Theatre Awards. Some of his favorite roles are Seymour (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Jaffar (*Aladdin*), Baker (*Into the Woods*), and many, many more. He hopes you all enjoy the show!



Cedric Hay - Brother Jeremiah

As a long-time fan of community theater, Cedric Hay was a Resident company member of the former Southern Arizona Light

Opera Company, performing in such shows as, *42nd Street*, *EVITA*, *Destry Rides Again*, and *Brigadoon*. After spending the last nine years as an assistant director for Spotlight Youth Productions, he is glad to be on stage again and thanks the staff at Arts Express and his fellow cast members for being so welcoming and supportive as he once again dusts off his character shoes.



Sean Hazen - Lord Clapham, Ensemble, Brother Jeremiah (Under-study)

Sean Hazen is an actor happy to be living back in the blazing heat of Tucson. Sean started studying

theater in high school, and into Pima Community College, earning musical theater and play credits. In 2018 he took his studies to New York City and in 2019 he graduated from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Out of school, Sean was extremely lucky to continue to work in

New York City and was able to grow his acting resume joining The Complete Theater Company and adding other theater, film, and television credits. At the end of 2019, Sean participated in The Strawberry One Act Festival as a playwright. His one act play, *The Stockyard*, was voted as a finalist. Sean is so excited to be with Arts Express and would like to thank the production team for making this show possible. He would also like to thank his fellow hard-working castmates, and his parents for their support.



Austin Kilian - Robin, Ensemble

Austin is so proud to be performing in his fourth show with Arts Express. In 2019 he was honored with The Best Actor award at the Southern Arizona Monte

Awards, which qualified him to participate in the Jimmy Awards in New York where he performed on a Broadway stage. He is thrilled to be performing a role unlike one he has ever played onstage before.



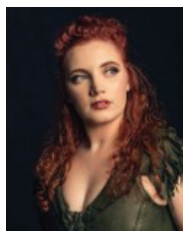
Jeremy Meeker-Hackett - Nick Bottom

Jeremy Meeker-Hackett is a recent graduate of the University of Arizona where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and was selected as the Outstanding

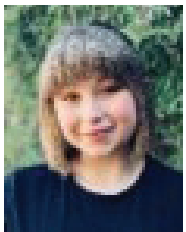
Senior of The Fred Fox School of Music. He has a strong passion for music and strives to always feed that passion whether it be through choir, band, or musical theater. He is currently in the process of writing and composing a musical, which he hopes will be produced one day soon. He is also currently music directing *Matilda* at Ironwood Ridge High School which he is very excited to be a part of. He has starred in *South Pacific*, *Cats*, *Oklahoma!*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Captain Phoebus). He would like to thank his friends and family for all their support along the way and to the directing staff for their endless guidance. Jeremy is honored and excited to be a part of this wonderfully hilarious production, his 5th show with Arts Express. He hopes you enjoy *Something Rotten!*



Matt Milne - Shakespeare
 Matt Milne is a recent University of Arizona Theatre Arts graduate. He has played multiple roles with Arts Express, including the Ghost of Christmas Past (*A Christmas Carol*), Macavity (*Cats*), and Will Bloom (*Big Fish*). He dreams of moving to New York soon and starting his career as an actor. He is delighted to be in this production of *Something Rotten!* and hopes you enjoy the show.

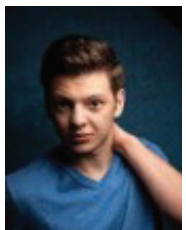


Morgan Smith - Bea, Principal Dancer
 Morgan is excited to be back on stage getting a crack at one of their dream roles, as well as sharing the stage with some wonderful people, and even their best friends. The best place to find Morgan was out at Old Tucson, dancing the can-can and fighting cowboys, they even got the opportunity to proudly hold the title of Female Entertainment Lead, up until Old Tucson's official close in 2020 due to Covid-19. This opportunity to perform again has been met with so much gratitude. Bea has truly been a bright light for them. Morgan's favorite credits include Inga in *Young Frankenstein*, Polly Baker in *Crazy for You*, and John Adams in *1776* (unfortunately canceled due to Covid-19). For my Marmie and dear friend Cory, I miss you, how I wish you were here to see this.



Emma Parkinson - Ensemble, Puritan, Bea (Understudy)
 Emma Parkinson is currently a junior at Flowing Wells High School, where she has performed for the past three years. Previous

shows include *Newsies* and *Spinning Tales*, and is thrilled to be working with Arts Express in *Something Rotten!* Emma is grateful for the many opportunities she's been given when it comes to her musical theater career. She wants to thank her friends and family for supporting her always and giving her an outlet to be as creative as possible when it comes to indulging in the arts.



David Quinones - Principal Dancer, Ensemble, Puritan, Shylock (Understudy)
 David Quinones is excited to be in this production of *Something Rotten!* and is grateful to work with Arts Express once more. He has

worked with them previously in their production of *Carousel* as a dancer, and has performed with Pima Community College in their 2019 dance showcase. When not performing, David can be found practicing ballet, doing graphic design, or studying to become a lawyer. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Lena Stoltzfus - Ensemble, Puritan
 Lena Stoltzfus is excited to make her Arts Express debut as a member of the Ensemble of *Something Rotten!* Lena is a sophomore at Flowing Wells High

School where she is a member of the advanced drama class and sings soprano in FWHS's top choir, Choralaies. Previously, she performed the role of Jasmine (*Aladdin Jr.*) and will be performing the lead role of the Miller's Daughter in FWHS's original school musical, *Spinning Tales* this spring. In her eight years of experience playing guitar, she has performed many recitals with Allegro School of Music. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous support!



Taylor Swingle - Peter Q, Ensemble, Lord Clapham (Understudy),

This is Taylor Swingle's first Arts Express show, and he is so happy that it is this one. *Something Rotten!* is one of his favorite musicals,

and he is always looking forward to attending

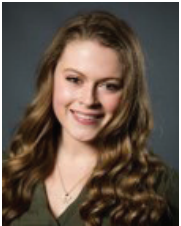
rehearsals. He is even more excited to be at performance time! He is currently attending the University of Arizona for Theatre Arts. He would like to thank his fellow cast members for making this such a fun experience and his friends and family for their love and support. He hopes you enjoy the show.



Colin Wilkes - Bottom Troupe, Ensemble, Nick (Understudy)

This is Colin's first time working with Arts Express, and he couldn't be more happy and satisfied with the new experiences and

friends made in the process of bringing this wonderful production to life. Colin is a junior at Cienega High School; he sings in the school choirs and plays basketball and volleyball. He wants to thank his family and friends for the support given and a special thanks to his mother who pushed him to eventually fall in love with music and performing.



Lydia Zadareky - Principal Dancer, Ensemble

Lydia Zadareky is a Tucson native and a recent University of Arizona graduate. She has been performing for audiences since the age

of 3 and has extensive dance training in ballet, jazz, tap, and lyrical, as well as contemporary, hip hop, modern, and acrobatics. Lydia has worked both on and off the stage with multiple theatres around the community, including Gaslight Theatre, Arts Express, and Arizona Onstage Productions. She also choreographs for local public school shows and various events. Favorite roles include Mungojerrie (*Cats*), Jojo (*Seussical*), and Anna (*The King and I*). In addition to theatre and the performing arts, her passions include political science and all things Disney. Lydia sends a shout-out to her parents, siblings, and grandparents for their endless love and support.

About Understudies...

In the world of theatre, the *modus operandi* is "the show must go on." But what happens when a leading actor falls ill or has some other calamity? Enter the understudy!

The understudy role might be aptly described as the Clark Kent of theatre: an unobtrusive figure who, with a lightning-fast change, jumps in to save the day!

Understudies learn all the lines, music, dancing and stage movement for a lead role knowing that they may never actually get to perform for an audience. But, when that emergency occurs, they swoop in to save the show!

It takes an abundance of talent and discipline to understudy a leading role, and we were blown away by the fine work and humility these unsung heroes brought to our production. Who took on these challenging roles? See the cast page!



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WHO'S WHO: ARTISTIC TEAM



Dr. Jonathon Scott Crider,
Director and Director of
Advancement

Dr. Jonathon Scott Crider is a two-time graduate of the University of Arizona with a BA in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management and an MA in

Theatre Studies with an emphasis in Directing. A long time Southern Arizona resident, he has a passion for the performing arts and the positive impact that it can have on our community. He currently lives in Oro Valley with his wife and young son and works hard to support a number of organizations around town. He serves as the Executive Director of the Tucson Pops Orchestra and the Director of Special Projects for the FOX Tucson Theatre. As a member of the Emerging Leaders Council through the Tucson Metro Chamber, he's developed a deep-rooted love and connection with our region. With Arts Express, he looks forward to continuing to strengthen the organization's commitment to education and the performing arts for everyone in our community.



Jenny Campman
Music Director

Jennifer Campman (Master of Music, Music Education; Bachelor of Music, Vocal Performance and Choral Music Education) is a Tucson native and two-time

graduate of the University of Arizona. She was the 2014 recipient of the UA School of Music Creative Achievement Award and was named the 2017 UA School of Music Distinguished Master's Candidate. She was also chosen as Arizona Choral Educators' Outstanding New Choral Educator in 2019. In her four years of teaching choir at Flowing Wells High School, her choirs have received Superior ratings at the NAU Jazz Madrigal Festival. She also won the 2019 Monte Award (Southern Arizona High School Musical Theatre) for Best Music Direction for her work as the vocal director of FWHS's production of *Newsies*. Her performance experience includes roles in four U of A operas and a variety of local com-

munity and professional musical theatre credits, including Emily in Arts Express's 2016 and 2017 productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Jenny lives in northwest Tucson with her husband Tyler and their dog Lacey.



Simone Jolivet-Manuel
Choreographer

Simone Jolivet-Manuel, a member of that rare breed of Tucsonans actually born in Tucson. She received her BA from Northern Arizona University and her M.Ed in Elementary

Education. Simone began dancing at the age of 7, she continued training over the years with workshops and conventions across the country with high-end choreographers - Savion Glover, Mandy Moore, Paula Abdul, JT Hornstein, Denise Leitner and many others. Currently Simone is in her 13th year at

Salpointe Catholic High School and 5th year choreographing for Arts Express. Simone's professional achievements include work with Salpointe Pomline, Dance Force-1 Productions, Gaslight Theater and Danswest Productions and the 2001, 2005 and 2009 Link Cotillions. She thanks her husband Scot, children Lincoln and Maxine, and her mother for their support and love.



Mary Davis
Stage Manager

With over 25 years in the theater, acting, directing and stage managing both community and equity productions, Mary is grateful to have found a place

to live her dream in stage management. After wandering from theater to theater in Delaware and Tucson, she is blessed to join Arts Express, where passion, talent, and a respect for theater thrive. When not managing, she is a freelance writer with her own company, The Write Attitude.



Michael Dunn
 Technical Director
 Resident Tech Director for
 Arts Express since 2018,
 Mike Dunn has provided
 tech support for Arts Express
 productions going back to
 2005. Working as the Stage
 Crew Manager at Sahuaro

High School from 2005 to 2016, many of his students have worked in collaboration with Arts Express on their arts education programs and performances over those years. Coming from an audio production background, Mike has also run a recording studio here in Tucson since 1995, when he relocated from New York. Those production services have included on location recordings for groups such as Barrage and the Tucson Pops Orchestra, in local venues such as the Fox Theatre and the Tucson Convention Center. While the tech services provided may range from set design/staging to audio/video production, they are always a collaborative effort to communicate an artist's story to the audience.



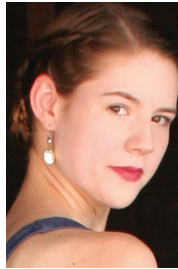
Tyler Berg
 Sound Designer & Engineer
 Tyler Berg is a freelance
 sound designer, composer,
 and music producer. He is
 currently living in Tucson,
 Arizona, working as a free-
 lance sound designer and
 engineer for some of the

city's top professional entertainment companies, as well as others around the U.S., including Arts Express, Scoundrel & Scamp Theatre Company, Arizona Repertory Theatre, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, and others. He currently holds a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree from the University of Arizona, specializing in Theatre Production and Design, emphasizing Sound Design. He has worked in several different environments and roles, ranging from musician and composer, to sound designer and engineer. He has designed the sound for both plays and musicals, composing music for several productions, implementing and engineering sound systems for shows, and more.



Michael Sorenson
 Lighting Designer and
 Engineer
 Michael Sorenson has been
 working in theatre, music,
 and corporate shows for
 over 30 years. He is cur-
 rently the resident lighting
 designer for Arts Express.

His lighting designs have been seen for the Arts Express productions of *Tuck Everlasting*, *A Christmas Carol*, *She Loves Me*, *Carousel*, and *Sweeney Todd*. He is also the resident lighting designer for Ballet Rincon and Desert Christian High School. He lives in Tucson with his wife, 2 children, and 4 cats.



Megan Wiese
 Costume Designer
 Since learning the art of
 sewing as a child, Megan
 has used her incredible
 talent costume designing
 over 25 productions around
 Southern Arizona. With an
 eye for detail, Megan takes
 great pride in researching

historically accurate clothing and then incorporating her artistic flare. She has won numerous awards through her blossoming career – including the annual Arizona State & National Make it With Wool Competitions, with which she has won six titles. She won the National Needlework Award two years and placed second two others! She also enjoys scholarship and academia and has been a winner and two time finalist of the University of Arizona School of Theatre's Undergraduate Research Symposium. She graduated from the University of Arizona, in December 2020, with a B.F.A. in Theatrical Design with an emphasis in Costume Design.





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Museum Page



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