



THE COMPANY

Natalie Grimm (Oliver - 2/18, 2/19 mat, 2/26 eve, 2/27, 3/2, 3/4, 3/5 mat)

Natalie is in the 5th grade at Lemay Academy where she especially enjoys writing and math. Her love for the musical *Oliver!* began when she was introduced to the songs at Arts Express summer camp. Prior to *Oliver!*, she appeared in school plays and talent shows. She loves her mom, dad and brother for being so supportive during the rehearsal process.



Calvin Wright (Oliver - 2/19 eve, 2/20, 2/25, 2/26 mat, 3/5 eve, 3/6)

Calvin is 12 years old and is in 7th grade. This is his first show with Arts Express! He has loved performing since he was 4 years old. His favorite roles include Bruce Bogtrotter in *Matilda the Musical*, Fletcher in *Freaky Friday*, and Randy in *A Christmas Story*, all through CYT Tucson. He will also be seen in CYT Tucson's upcoming production of *Newsies*. When not performing, he loves roller skating, reading, and listening to records. He is thankful to his parents for this opportunity and his three amazing little brothers for their craziness.



Isabel Shea (Artful Dodger/Dance Captain) Isabel Shea is a Tucson-born actor, writer, and recent graduate from the BA Honors Acting (BFA equivalent) program at Sir Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts in the United Kingdom. Before hopping across the pond, she studied Musical Theatre at the Professional Performing Arts School and Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City. Looking towards the future, Isabel intends on getting her MA in Psychology to become a counselor in Drama Therapy. She's an advocate for mental health and her ultimate mission is to celebrate and empower others through art. She is beyond excited and grateful to be performing again with Arts Express Theatre, having previously performed in *A Chorus Line*. Isabel would like to take a moment to thank her family and friends for their continual love and support on this wild, transcontinental journey! If you would like to know more about Isabel, please visit www.isabelshea.com.



Benjamin Wexler (Artful Dodger (US)/Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)

Ben Wexler has lived in Tucson his whole life, and he is excited to be joining the Arts Express cast for *Oliver!* On September 9, 2021, he was featured on Arizona Spotlight for reading a section of *I am Cheese*. He has been involved in many acting camps around Tucson such as the Gaslight Theatre, Literacy Connects, and the Live Theatre Workshop. Currently, he is attending Doolen Middle School, and is involved in the drama program at his school. Outside of acting, Ben is interested in playing his viola, and he is a part of his school volleyball team.



Gene Abravaya (Fagin)

Gene Abravaya has worked in the Entertainment Industry since 1974, a journey that began with the soap opera "As The World Turns" and led to sit-coms like "The Facts of Life," "One Day at a Time," "Diff'rent Strokes," "Charles In Charge," countless television pilots, community theater productions, and finally, for nearly 10 years before retiring in 2017, the Artistic Director position for the prestigious Spreckels Theatre Company in Northern California. There, he directed over 30 musicals, earning him a back-to-back Excellence in Theatre Awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critics Circle for Best Direction of a Musical (2015 & 2016). He has written three full length plays: *The Book of Matthew (Leibowitz)*, *The Final Scene*, and *The Trial of John Brown*, which was performed as a dramatic reading in 2020 by the Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre Company. This marks his second show as an actor for Arts Express. Following this, he will be directing the upcoming production of *Titanic, The Musical*.



Andrew J. Gray (Bill Sikes)

Australian-American bass baritone Andrew Gray made his Arts Express Theatre debut starring as Billy Bigelow in April 2020. He has since joined the Education program teaching stage combat and is excited to help inspire the next generation of artists with Arts Express. Mr. Gray has been turning heads singing opera and performing traditional theater for the last 20 years as a house favorite at multiple venues such as Michigan Opera Theatre, Arizona Opera, Orlando Symphony, Phoenix Opera, Pacific Symphony, and the Bar Harbor Music Festival. Film credits include "Guide to Gunfighters of the Wild West," "The Woman who Robbed the Stagecoach," "New World Order: The Dark Prince" and "Gunfight at Silver Creek". You may also know him as Santa Claus on 94.9 KFMA on the Cyndi and Chris show, or heard him as the voice of "Nightfall!" for Old Tucson studios.



Aurora Hunter (Nancy)

Aurora is a Tucson native and recent graduate of Colorado Christian University, where she earned her BA in directing and minored in education. Favorite former roles include Mae in *Tuck Everlasting* (CCU), Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Ovation West), Carbucketty in *Cats* (Arts Express Theater), and Dragon in *Shrek the Musical* (Arts Express Theater). When not performing, Aurora enjoys teaching and directing for Arts Express's educational programs. She is thrilled to be in a show with so many former students! She would like to thank the production team and fellow cast members for their dedication in bringing this show to life.

**Nathan Taylor (Mr. Bumble)**

Nathan Taylor, 3rd grade teacher by day, actor by night, has been working with Arts Express Theatre since 2017. Some of his favorite roles include The Girl's Father from *The Fantasticks*, Beadle Bamford from *Sweeney Todd* and Lieutenant Fredrick from *Hunchback of Norte Dame*. He studied theater in Virginia and moved to Tucson in 2016. He enjoys reading, teaching, acting, singing, spending time with his enchanting wife and three-year-old daughter, and all things nerd.

**David Zinke (Mr. Sowerberry/Adult Ensemble)**

David Zinke ("Zink") is pleased to return to the Arts Express Theatre stage, having made his AET debut as Maurice in *Disney's Descendants*. A returning student in 2007, (PIMA Community College) Zink received his BA in Performing Arts from UA at the age of 62. Since then Zink has appeared in over 30 plays and musicals on numerous Tucson theater stages. He thanks Nancy Booth for casting him in this, their second collaboration. Nancy directed Zink as Otto Frank in *The Dairy of Anne Frank* 10 years ago.

**Alli Rowe (Mrs. Sowerberry/Adult Ensemble)**

Alli Rowe is a junior at The University of Arizona majoring in Theatre and is so excited to be a part of her second Arts Express Theatre show, *Oliver!* Past credits include Crystal/Audrey 2 Understudy in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Zelda Zanders in *Singin' in the Rain* (both at Pima Community College), and Hucks Understudy in *The Fantastiks* with Arts Express. Alli wants to thank her mom and dad and best friends for the constant love and support. Thank you all for coming and enjoy the show!"

**Keegen O'Meara (Noah Claypole/Adult Ensemble)**

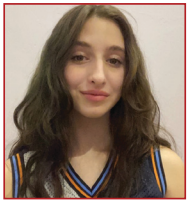
Keegen O'Meara is a full-time high school student and a part-time actor. He's a freshman in high school and has been doing theatre since 6th grade. *Oliver!* is his 2nd show with Arts Express Theatre and his first supporting role show with them. The rest of his shows include middle school club shows, workshops, and theatre camps with both the Gaslight Theatre and the Trubadour Theatre. He would like to thank his friends, his mom, and his cat for being his biggest supporters.

**Michael Sultzbach (Mr. Brownlow)**

Mike has been involved in theater for over 30 years: acting, directing and stage managing. Favorite directing credits include *Biloxi Blues* and *True West*. Favorite acting roles were Flan in *Six Degrees of Separation*, Arnold Wiggins in *The Boys Next Door*, and Woodruff Gately in *Private Wars*. This is Mike's first production with Arts Express Theatre as an actor. He will be appearing in the AET production of *Titanic the Musical* later this season.



Susan Thibodeaux (Mrs. Bedwin) After 30 years in the defense industry, Susan retired from Raytheon as a Director of Finance. She has a BS from Stanford and an MBA from UCLA. In high school and college, she performed in *Guys and Dolls*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Dames at Sea*, *Sweet Charity*, *Godspell*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Ruddigore*, and with the Stanford Chorale. Returning to her roots on the stage, she has performed in Arts Express Theatre productions of *The Secret Garden* (Mrs Winthrop), *Carousel* (Starkeeper and Dr Seldon) and *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs Smythe), and has sung with Arizona Repertory Singers, Tucson Symphony Orchestra Chorus, St Philips in the Hills Canterbury Choir and The King's Carolers.

**Jacqueline Foley (Mrs. Bedwin (US)/Adult Ensemble)**

Hi! I'm Jacqueline Foley. I love to sing and act. I take voice lessons and have played piano for seven years. I've also done shows with Gaslight Youth Theatre. I'm looking forward to next year, going into high school at Catalina Foothills. I also go to Crossfit quite frequently. I'm so excited to be a part of Arts Express Theatre and the cast of *Oliver!*

**Kay Ewy (Widow Corney)**

Kay Ewy makes her debut with Arts Express Theatre in another appearance of *Oliver!* since doing the show in Junior High. She currently performs as a fake patient for the U of Arizona School of Medicine students for realistic practice. If you have a medical condition, she's probably portrayed it! Kay is proud of her days at Old Tucson Studios gun fighting, singing, dancing the cancan and playing Madam Bullwhip Dolly in her own wild west performing company. Kay speaks four languages and has fun doing foreign accents. Kay started music as a classically trained pianist. She enjoys writing song lyrics for singing telegrams. Kay composed a rock song promoting healthy eating entitled "I Eat a Rainbow" that was featured at a Sunnyside District choral festival. Hear the song on Youtube. In her spare time, she fosters needy animals for Pima Animal Care Center.

**Destiny Roman (Charlotte/Adult Ensemble)**

Destiny Roman is an alto and a freshman in high school. She has been doing theatre for 5 years and has performed in *Disney's Descendants* (her first show with Arts Express Theatre), *Pompom Zombies*, and AET's *White Christmas*. She is very excited to be a part of *Oliver!* She would like to thank her teacher, Nancy Anaya, for introducing her to Arts Express, her mom and grandma for their love and support and, lastly, everyone who made this show possible.

**Anna Howe**

Bet My name is Anna Howe, and I'm 15 years old. I am currently a freshman at Salpointe Catholic High School. A few years ago I made my Arts Express Theatre debut as Mary in *The Secret Garden*. Since then I have been in the AET productions of *Carousel* and *A Christmas Carol*. Outside of Arts Express Theatre, I am a professional actor for film and television. I also attend Stagedoor Manor in New York during the summer. It has been lovely working on this beautiful production of *Oliver!* I am so grateful to work and learn from this incredibly talented cast, and am blessed to be able to work with our wonderful director Nancy! I want to thank my vocal coach Micheal Chaffin. And finally, thanks to my parents and family for supporting me always!

**Lucy Cable (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boy)**

Lucy Cable is proud to be performing in her first Arts Express Theatre production. Lucy has been singing and dancing at Kids Unlimited since the age of 3, where she has performed in two large scale musical theater revues per year, as well as many, many community-wide shows. Lucy would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support. Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Oliver!*

**Gavin MacMurdo**

Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys Gavin can hardly believe he is part of this production of *Oliver!* He is an 8-year-old "Lego master" who found his love for the stage at age 3 as a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*. Gavin has since participated in several theater camps and workshops, magic lessons and a variety of dance classes throughout the Tucson community. Aside from the fine arts, Gavin enjoys playing games, making crafts, math and science, rugby and spending time with his friends. He would like to thank his parents, grandparents, and his sister, Charly, for all their support "to infinity and beyond!"

**Jadyn Gillette**

Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys Jadyn is excited for the opportunity to be performing in this production of *Oliver!* She is 12 years old and her love for musical theatre has grown after performing in Arts Express Theatre productions of *White Christmas* (Susan Waverly), *Disney's Frozen Jr.* (Young Elsa), *Disney's Moana Jr.* (Tamatoa), as well as the two years of *A Christmas Carol* (Ensemble, Grace Smythe). She is currently Student Body Secretary and a member of the National Junior Honor Society at her middle school. She enjoys singing, playing the piano, cheerleading, and spending time with her family.

**Julian Gutierrez-Ahumada (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)**

This is Julian's first mainstage performance with Arts Express Theatre and he is thrilled. Julian started his performing journey with Kids Unlimited (KU) at age 4 where he discovered his love for the performing arts. Now at the age of 11, Julian continues to take voice and dance classes at KU as well as piano classes at Allegro School of Music. He has a passion for musical theater, enjoys being on stage under the lights, and always puts forth his best effort.

**Lilienne Lavo (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)**

Lilienne Lavo took her first steps on stage at the ripe age of 5 and hasn't missed an opportunity to perform since. She currently dances ballet, lyrical, contemporary and hip hop with Danswest Company. She participated in her first Triple Threat workshop at the fabulous Arts Express Theatre in the summer of 2021. She dances, sings, acts (like a nut at home), plays the violin with abandon and is honored to be part of the cast of *Oliver!*

**Ava Marenfeld (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)**

Now in her second Arts Express Theatre production, Ava Marenfeld is thrilled to be a part of the ensemble in *Oliver!* Most recently, she was cast as Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. Ava is active in the theater program at her school, Dodge Traditional Middle School. Outside of the theater, Ava swims competitively and is active in her Girl Scout troop. She loves all things Disney and popular musicals such as *Hamilton*. Ava is appreciative of the Arts Express Theatre professionals who have assisted her throughout her journey and would like to thank her parents for their support and chauffeuring. She looks forward to participating in another AET production in the future.

**Sophia Suski (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)**

Sophia is very excited to be a part of Arts Express Theatre. This is her first time performing in a live musical production. This past summer, she attended a Triple Threat camp at Arts Express Theatre, and she plans on furthering her training and experience when she starts high school next year.

**Kellen Tanner (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)**

Kellen Tanner is excited to perform in his second show with Arts Express Theatre after a successful run with *White Christmas*. He previously played Roger in *101 Dalmatians* and the Reluctant Dragon in the *Reluctant Dragon* at Basis North Grade School. In his spare time he is a Youth Ambassador for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) where he is focused on Type One Diabetes advocacy and finding a cure. He would like to thank his voice coach, Eric Schweitzer, for his direction and enthusiastic encouragement.

**Olive Telles (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)**

Olive is thrilled to be a part of Art's Express Theatre's production of *Oliver!* Olive is 12 years old and has performed in the Art's Express Summer programs including in *Little Mermaid Jr.* and Triple Threat Camp. She is a 6th grader at Esperero Canyon Middle School. When she's not in school, Olive loves working out and playing guitar with her brother. However, much of her favorite time is spent at Kids Unlimited performance studio singing and dancing.

**Charlotte Wright (Fagin's Gang/Workhouse Boys)**

Charlotte Wright is thrilled to be doing her first production with Arts Express Theatre. She has been involved in school plays at Tucson Country Day School and Basis Tucson Primary. Charlotte is now a 7th grader at Mansfeld Magnet Middle School, and enjoys spending her free time drawing, singing, and listening to music. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Oliver!* for providing her with a great experience and opportunity.



Mike Saxon (Dr. Grimwig/Adult Ensemble) Mike Saxon is a native Tucsonan who majored in Theatre Education at the University of Arizona. By day, Mike teaches Computers and Theatre at the Academy of Tucson High School; by evening, Mike can be seen onstage and backstage at Live Theatre Workshop and Unscrewed Theater. As always, he wishes to thank his family for their unconditional love and support.

**Ian Bramhill (Adult Ensemble)**

Ian has performed in choir concerts and talent shows from a very young age, but only recently made his acting debut in the Pima Community College and Arts Express Theatre co-production of *The Fantasticks* (understudying the role of Henry). Since then, he has also appeared in Pima's production of *Romeo and Juliet in About 30 Minutes* (playing THREE different characters!) and the original show *Elf Elegies: The Essential Workers of the North Pole* (which he co-wrote with several of his fellow Pima students). Ian is beyond ecstatic to now be appearing in this classic musical tale and would like to thank the entire cast and crew as well as his family and friends! He also hopes you enjoy the show!

**Abigail Dunscomb (Nancy (US)/Adult Ensemble)**

With degrees from Pima Community College and the University of Arizona, Abigail has enjoyed working in Tucson area theatres for the past several years while continuing her education in acting and singing independently with the Bennet Theatre Lab, private tutoring with the indomitable Molly Lyons, and her wonderful voice teacher Betty Allen. Past productions include Winding Road Theatre Ensemble's all female *Julius Caesar* (Portia) and their online production of *Consolation* (First Lady Louisa Adams); Roadrunner Theatre Company's *Blithe Spirit*, and multiple shows with Tucson's Shakespeare in the Park. Abigail is very excited to be getting back to in-person theatre with this wonderful cast of *Oliver!*, her first production with Arts Express.

**Emily Gant (Adult Ensemble)**

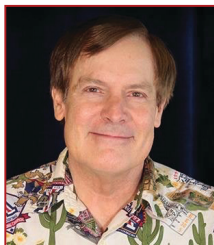
Emily Gant is excited to be performing again with Arts Express Theatre. She studied Musical Theatre Performance at Auburn University where she recently completed her BFA. Previous credits include Betty Haynes in *White Christmas*, Prof. Cecilia Wellbourne in the Gaslight Theatre's *Arizona Smith*, Mrs. Claus/Madge in the Gaslight Theatre's *Elf'd*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Manicure Monologue in *Theory of Relativity*. She would like to thank her incredible boyfriend and family for their unwavering support. Enjoy the show!



Stacey Posey (Adult Ensemble) Stacey Posey is a native Tucsonan. She started acting her sophomore year at Marana High School (2014-2017). Since then her love for the theatre arts has grown. She is currently pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts (BA) at The University of Arizona. In 2020 she received her Associate's Degree in Visual Arts-Theatre at Pima Community College. At Pima Community College she performed in *Tartuffe* and *Singin' In The Rain*. This is Ms. Posey's first acting gig with Arts Express Theatre. You may have seen some of her visual work as the AET Properties Master in many productions.

**Wendy Waltrip (Adult Ensemble)**

Wendy Waltrip has performed in over 50 theatrical productions in the last 20 years, including *Oliver!* when she was only 4 years old. Some of her favorite theatrical credits consist of playing Anne Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Beth March in *Little Women the Musical*, Mitchie Torres in *Camp Rock the Musical*, and Ensemble in *Tuck Everlasting* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Wendy has a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona with minors in Theatre and History. After the conclusion of *Oliver!*, she will be moving to Orlando, Florida to work at Walt Disney World with the Disney College Program. When not onstage or backstage, Wendy is a published author who writes young adult novels and enjoys traveling the world.

**Randy Waltrip (Adult Ensemble)**

A former Park Ranger in Arizona and Alaska, Randy Waltrip has been a long-time performer in theater with the Flagstaff Light Opera Company, Playhouse In The Park in Murray, Kentucky, and Arts Express Theatre. Some of his favorite roles include Albert in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, Max in *The Sound of Music*, John P. Wintergreen in *Of Thee I Sing*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, the Police Sergeant in *Pirates of Penzance*, Bert Healy in *Annie*, Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. He was last seen as an ensemble player in Arts Express Theatre's *Carousel*. He is delighted to be a part of this production, and to share the stage with his daughter, Wendy.