

MAGIC  
CIRCLE

# Curious George

and the  
Golden Meatball



MAY 2-5

CIRCLE  
THEATRE

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## BOX OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 12PM - 5PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY PERFORMANCE DAYS | 12PM - CURTAIN

SATURDAY | 5PM - CURTAIN

SUNDAY | 1PM - CURTAIN

## LATE ARRIVALS

Patrons arriving late will be seated at the House Manager's discretion.

## NO STANDING

No standing is permitted in the back of the theatre. If you become uncomfortable and/or have to move out of your seat for any reason, you may stretch your legs in the upper or lower lobby.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please turn off all electronic devices that light up or make noise. Please, no texting. The taking of pictures and/or recordings (audio or video) is prohibited; the device may be taken from you and held until after the show.

## EMERGENCY CALLS

If you anticipate the need to be reached in the event of an emergency, you may leave your name and seat number with the House Manager. A House Manager will also be available in the House during the run of the show. Our emergency contact number is **616 632 2996**. In the event that someone is not available at this number, Aquinas College Campus Safety's number is **616 632 2462**; a dispatcher is available 24/7.

## YOUNG AUDIENCE

Most Main Stage productions are geared toward mature audiences and may not be appropriate for younger audiences. Our Magic Circle productions provide wonderful family entertainment and an introduction to the live theatre experience. Please call the box office at **616 456 6656** for information on age appropriateness of any of our shows. Children below school age may not attend our Main Stage productions. Please, no babes in arms or toddlers. At no time can a child enter the auditorium without a ticket.

## SPECIAL PATRON SERVICES

An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T." Handicapped and wheelchair seating is available and easily accessible. When reserving tickets, please notify the box office personnel of any special needs or seating requirements.

## SMOKING

Aquinas College is a smoke-free campus.




CIRCLETHEATRE.ORG | 616 456 6656  
BOX OFFICE | 1703 ROBINSON RD SE

# WELCOME TO OUR CIRCLE

Greetings!

Welcome to our 2024 family show, *Curious George and The Golden Meatball!* We are thrilled to be continuing our Magic Circle Productions, providing families a chance to create memories together while introducing the younger generation to the beauty of live theatre. I always look forward to our Magic Circle shows because it provides me with the opportunity to interact with our youngest patrons. I hope you enjoy the show.



Lynn Atkins-Rykert  
President of the Board of Directors

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# STAFF & CREATIVE

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**Mary Jo Denolf**

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**Sam Verburg**

Master Electrician/Assistant Technical Director

**Jordan Ivezaj**

Marketing & Outreach Intern,

**Hunter Denkema, Grace Giroux, Kikka Go,  
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Hannah Morey, Michaela Faith, Fiona Walsh,**

**Jordan Malone**

Box Office Associates

**Ashlee Lambart Photography**

Official Photographer

**Everything Under the Sun**

Official Headshot Photographer

**SJK Video Productions**

Production & Archival Videographer

**Caroline Cahoon**

Production Graphics

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We collectively acknowledge that Grand Rapids Circle Theatre occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The Grand Rapids Circle Theatre is built on native land of The Three Fires People, as they are indigenous to this land. We understand that we are guests on this native land, and in doing so we would like to acknowledge the histories and traditions of the The Three Fires People. It is important to us that we are continuously advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in our community.

# FINALE PARTNER LEVEL

## CIRCLE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

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### OFFICIAL HEADSHOTS

Everything Under the Sun | Artwork & Photography

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SJK Productions

### OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Ashlee Lambart Photography

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PRODUCTIONS

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WEDDINGS



EVENTS



COMMERCIAL

# CAST



Beatrice "Bea"  
Strutz



Carter Strobel



Charlie Saulino



Brandon  
Compton



Emelia Shaw



Salma Lefrid



Nubia Gomez



Kaeleb Cogswell



Autumn Knapp



Joshua Kortz



Jack Morgan



Laura  
Sterenberg

George.....	Beatrice "Bea" Strutz
Man With the Yellow Hat.....	Carter Strobel
Chef Pisghetti .....	Charlie Saulino
Phinneas/Painter .....	Brandon Compton
Netti.....	Emelia Shaw
Doorman/Cook .....	Salma Lefrid
Ensemble.....	Nubia Gomez
Ensemble/Swing.....	Kaeleb Cogswell
Ensemble/Dance Captain.....	Autumn Knapp
Ensemble.....	Joshua Kortz
Ensemble/US George .....	Jack Morgan
Ensemble/Swing .....	Laura Sterenberg



# PRODUCTION STAFF



Josie  
Gonzalez



Annmarie  
Puzio



Antonio  
Aguilar



Jordan Malone



Joi Thomas



Kelsey  
Edwards



Sam Verburg



Sam  
Johnson-Begay



Meaghan  
Gietzen



Emily "EmC"  
Cipriano

Director/Choreographer.....	Josie Gonzalez
Stage Manager .....	Annmarie Puzio
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Antonio Aguilar
Music Director.....	Jordan Malone
Choreographer.....	Joi Thomas
Scene Designer/Technical Director.....	Kelsey Edwards
Properties Designer .....	Meaghan Gietzen
Lighting Designer.....	Sam Verburg
Light Board Operator .....	EllyGene DeGraaf
Sound Designer.....	Sam Johnson-Begay
Sound Technician .....	Amber Kolp
Costume Designer .....	Emily "EmC" Cipriano
Stage Crew & Dressers.....	Elizabeth Barry, Gabby Aguilar, Casey Tett

# WHO'S WHO | CAST

**Beatrice "Bea" Strutz She/They (George)** past credits include *Shrek Jr (Gingy)* and *The Cheshire Cat (Cheshire Cat)* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Bea is a 5th grader at GR Montessori and taking voice classes at DeBoer Voice Studio. She is also a student in the Civic School of Theatre Arts. "Thank you to my best friends, Ramona, Everly, there's just too many to count! Thank you to my teacher, parents, and Hannah DeBoer for cheering me on!"

**Carter Strobel He/Him (Man With the Yellow Hat)** past credits include *Matilda (Trunchbull)*, *Shrek (Donkey)*, *Footloose (Willard)*. Carter is a 2020 high school graduate at Forest Hills Northern, and is currently studying at Calvin College. After a long hiatus on stage, he is so excited to be back in the wonderful and joyful show that is *Curious George and The Golden Meatball*.

**Charlie Saulino He/Him (Chef Pisghetti)** last seen on stage for Circle Theatre's 2023 Magic Circle production as *Cardinal Richelieu* in *The Three Musketeers*. Not only is he no stranger to the Circle stage, but he has many credits for Thornapple Players and Kalamazoo Civic Theatre as well! Every year, he and his wife love to prepare for Circle auditions and we are so happy to have them! "Special thanks to my grandson Everett, the biggest Curious George fan I know."

**Brandon Compton He/Him (Phinneas/ Painter)** past credits include *Anything Goes (Moonface Martin)* and *Honk! (Ugly)* at Big Rapids High School. Brandon graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2023 and is currently working in the Genomics Core at the Van Andel Institute. He's a brand new face to Circle and we couldn't be happier to have him!

He has always been impressed by and enjoyed the talent and production value that goes into a Circle Theatre production and very much wanted to be a part of that. In his free time, he enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, and hiking.

**Emelia Shaw She/Her (Netti)** past credits include *Beauty and the Beast (Silly Girl)* Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Little Women (Amy)* Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Mamma Mia! (Tanya)* FHPS Summerstock, and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Olive)* Forest Hills Northern HS. You will see her on stage this summer both in *Curious George and The Golden Meatball* AND Circle's June production, *You Can't Take it With You*. Emelia is a student at Aquinas College studying English Writing and Music. "Thank you to my supportive friends and family, especially Evan Tietema who answers every phone call."

**Salma Lefrid She/Her (Doorman/Cook)** past credits include *Beauty and the Beast (Fille De La Ville)* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Narrator)* at Jenison High School, and *Elephant and Piggie (Squirrelle)* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Salma is a soon-to-be graduate of Jenison High School and plans to major in Musical Theatre throughout college! "I would love to thank my family, friends and mentors for all of their love and support."

**Nubia Gomez She/Her (Ensemble)** is no stranger to the Circle stage! You will see her on stage again this season in our concluding musical, *Urinetown*, and one of our concerts, *Dance Sensations*. She is a lover of the arts, local director, music director, choreographer, designer, and performer. Nubia has many theatre credits all over West MI! "Love to my

# WHO'S WHO | CAST

*babies, Munkee, Penguin, Michael, and my Bacon! Love to my family for their unconditional support. NARM."*

**Kaeleb Cogswell** *He/Him (Ensemble/Swing)* past Circle Theatre roles include: Vocalist in *The British Invasion* concert, *Rent (Ensemble)*, *Hair (Margaret Mead)*, and *Snow White (Magic Mirror)*. Other credits include *Freddy/Billy U/S* in *Carrie* with Betka-Poke Productions, *Kenickie* in *Grease: In Concert* with Shadblow Theatre, and *Luciana* in *Comedy of Errors* with The Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company. Kaeleb is a 2022 Graduate of Aquinas College, where he studied Theatre for Social Change. When not on stage, he loves playing video games that take way too long to complete, thrift shopping, and baking sweets to share with my boyfriend and family.

**Autumn Knapp** *She/Her (Ensemble/Dance Captain)* past credits *Chicago* and *The Wedding Singer* with Betka-Pope Productions, and *The Nutcracker* and *Snow Queen* with C Glass Dance Company. Autumn has only recently gotten into theatre and we are thrilled to welcome her to the stage! In her spare time, she likes to tending to her living space, creating costumes, indulging in nerdy content like reading comics, watching cartoons, and playing DnD!

**Joshua Kortz** *He/Him (Ensemble)* was last seen on the Circle stage as a part of the ensemble in our 2022 production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Josh is a Wyoming High School graduate currently attending GRCC for their Marketing program. He plans on using my degree toward the local clothing business he owns: Vantage Point GR. *"I would like to personally thank G.M. Bud Thompson for not only being my*

*theatrical mentor over the past years but also my dear friend."*

**Jack Morgan** *He/Him (Ensemble/US George)* past credits include *Disney's Descendants (Ensemble)*, and *School of Rock (Mason)* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Past Circle Theatre credits include *Pippin (Theo)* and *The Three Musketeers (King Louis)*. Jack is currently an 8th grader at City High Middle School. He is very interested in music and plays violin, saxophone, and piano!

**Laura Sterenberg** *She/Her (Ensemble/Swing)* is back on stage after a 13 year hiatus and we couldn't be happier to have her! Laura will be back on stage with us this season in our July musical, *Spamalot*. Laurangraduated from Calvin College in 2015 with a degree in Strategic Communications and currently works in the customer service sector. *"Huge thank you to my family and friends for their excitement and support around these shows. Especially my mom, Elyse, who has always been my biggest fan, and my partner, Layne, who has encouraged (and put up with) my theatrics and kitchen dance rehearsals. I love you all!"*

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# WHO'S WHO | PRODUCTION STAFF

**Josie Gonzalez** *She/Her* (**Director/Choreographer**) is no stranger to the Circle stage and we're so happy to have her back to direct our Magic Circle production for the second year in a row! Not only that, but she is also the Assistant Director for our July musical, *Spamalot*. Josie has many credits from the surrounding theatres of West MI. When she's not directing, Josie is a Young 5's Teacher at Walker Charter Academy. She is also a graduate from Aquinas College in Spring of 2022! *"Special thanks for my theatre loving family who has supported me throughout my theatre journey."*

**Annmarie Puzio** *She/Her* (**Stage Manager**) is a newcomer to Circle Theatre and was last involved as the Stage Manager for our 2023 Holiday Concert: *A Holiday Soul Celebration!* She is currently studying Child Life at Aquinas College and has stage managed many productions for them as well. Annmarie would like to give a special thank you and dedication to the late Doré Furstenberg who helped foster her deep love for theatre. *"Some of my favorite people"* ~ Doré Furstenberg 2019

**Antonio Aguilar** *He/They/She* (**Assistant Stage Manager**) past credits include *Beauty and The Beast (Cogsworth)* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Rent* (Light Board Operator) Circle Theatre, and *Witch* (Assistant Sound Designer) at Actors' Theatre. You will also see them on stage a part of the ensemble in our September musical, *Urinetown*. They are currently studying Vocal Performance at GRCC. *"Special thanks to my parents, siblings, grandparents, and all who support me in all my bonkers theater adventures."*

**Jordan Malone** *He/Him* (**Music Director**) has been an avid performer in the

Aquinas Colleg Theatre program and was last seen on the Circle stage as a part of the ensemble in our 2023 production of *Sweeney Todd*. Jordan is a graduate of Aquinas College with a BM in Liturgical music. He has studied organ, piano, composition, conducting, and voice. He currently serves as the Director of Sacred Music at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church & School. He is also a member of the Grand Rapids Choir of men and boys and serves as the Rehearsal Assistant.

**Joi Thomas** *She/Her* (**Choreographer**) is a familiar face to the West MI theatre scene! Not only is she a performer herself, but she has many choreography credits at a variety of local high schools and Civic Theatre. She will be back this season to assistant choreograph our July musical, *Spamalot!* Joi is a 2020 graduate from Aquinas College where she majored in Communication with a Theatre emphasis. *"Special thanks to My new husband Mike for supporting me!"*

**Kelsey Edwards** *She/Her* (**Technical Director/Scenic Designer**) is Circle Theatre's and Aquinas College's resident Technical Director that makes all of the shows come to life on stage! She graduated from Adrian College in 2021 and is excited for this upcoming season! In her free time, she enjoys reading, knitting, crocheting, and spending time with her dog, Maggie. *"I would like to thank all my loved ones for all 10 their love and support!"*

**SAM VERBURG** *They/He* (**Assistant Technical Director/Lighting Designer**) is our newest addition to the Circle Theatre team as our Assistant Technical Director! Sam has numerous credits as a lighting designer for many theatrical productions.

# WHO'S WHO | PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting design credits include *Kill Move Paradise* and *MacBitches* (GRCC Players), *Ada and the Engine* (Aquinas College), and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Circle Theatre). *"I would like to sincerely thank Catie Marlett-Dreher for teaching me everything I know about lighting, having the trust in my abilities, and supporting me throughout my journey in theater and in life. Thank you for everything!"*

**Sam Johnson-Begay** *He/Him* (**Sound Designer**) has designed 250+ productions all over West MI and has been Civic Theatre's resident sound designer since 2016. Select favorites include *Ragtime* at Grand Valley Opera, *Carrie*, and *Freaky Friday* at Circle Theatre, *Sister Act*, *Shrek*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Newsies*, and *Matilda* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and *If/Then* at Actors' Theatre. Sam is a freelance audio technician for multiple companies, manages a production company, Epik Productions, offering sound design, sound rentals, recordings, DJ and facepainting. *"For Dez and Ean, all my love, always."*

**Meaghan Gietzen** *She/Her* (**Properties Designer**) past credits include *Into The Woods* (Little Red), *The Wolves* (#13), and *Xanadu* (Sonny Malone). Meaghan graduated from Kendall College of Art & Design in 2019 with a BFA in Medical Illustration, she is currently working as a freelance artist and illustrator working on all different kinds of projects from teaching backstage classes to working in the anatomy lab at MSU's College of Human Medicine. *"I would like to thank my amazing moms, my sister, and my Aunt Debbi for always supporting my theatrical journey whether it be onstage, backstage, or anywhere in between."*

**Emily "EmC" Cipriano** *They/She* (**Costume Designer**) has many credits in the art of costuming, but we are so happy to welcome them to the Circle family as a first-time designer with us! EmC graduated from Aquinas College in 2020 with a degree in Theatre for Social Change and is currently working as a Scheduling Coordinator for All Weather Seal West Michigan. In their free time, they love to be outside, try every new restaurant possible, and spend quality time with the people they love. *"Special shoutout to my fabulous friends and family, who ground me in the most turbulent of times. Biggest shoutout to my sweet fur baby, Mona Rae."*

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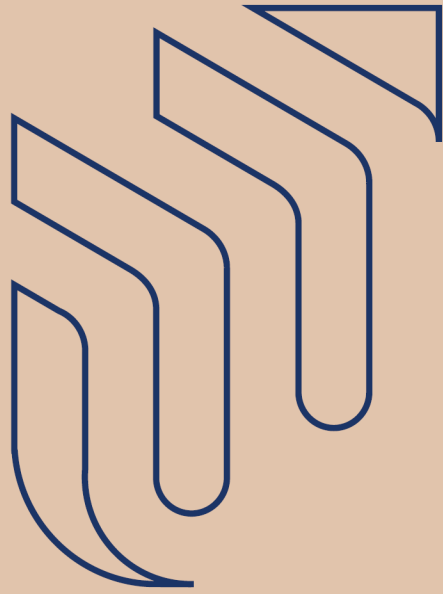


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## THANK YOU

Your generous donations have enabled Circle Theatre to continue to bring high quality plays, musicals, and children's theatre to West Michigan. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support of local performing arts.

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29- JUNE 1

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