

CIRCLE THEATRE



2023 SEASON

GENERAL INFORMATION

BOX OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 12PM - 5PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY PERFORMANCE DAYS | 12PM - CURTAIN

SATURDAY | 2PM - CURTAIN

SUNDAY | 12PM - 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 the second production of our 2023 season! We are so happy to have you with us for this amazing production of Blithe Spirit. Summer is finally here and we hope to have you join us at the theatre often this season. Our presentation of Blithe Spirit can be best described as a romantic ghost story with some great humor thrown in for good measure. Sit back and relax, laugh, and most importantly, enjoy the show!



Lynn Atkins-Rykert
President of the Board of Directors

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ACT 2 PARTNER LEVEL

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Ashlee Lambart Photography

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BLITHE SPIRIT

Overhead Door

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION INTENTIONAL PROGRAMING SPONSOR

Steelcase

IN-KIND PARTNERS

TECH MEAL PROVIDER

KJ Catering

This season is made possible with the support from the Wege Foundation, as well as the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner Agency of The National Endowment for the Arts.



STAFF & CREATIVE

Lynne Brown Tepper

Executive and Artistic Director

Olivia Bentley

Marketing & Outreach Specialist

Mary Jo Denolf

Interim Experience Manager

Lisa Mathias

Financial Accounts Coordinator

Kelsey Edwards

Resident Scenic Designer
& Technical Director

Reese Verlinde

Marketing & Outreach Intern,

Shannon Heldt

Experience Intern

**Hunter Denkema, Kikka Go, Grace Giroux,
Hannah Morey, Meridian Pearson, Nina
Smith, Annah Stang, Fiona Walsh**

Experience Associates

Ashlee Lambart Photography

Official 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.



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community



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Blithe Spirit

by

Noël Coward

Blithe Spirit

is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Director

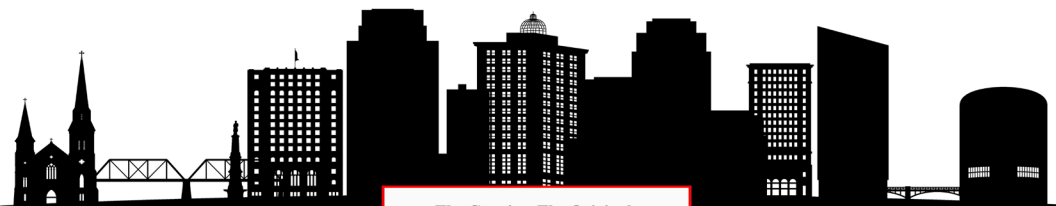
Emily Diener

Stage Manager

Sarah Carey-Stoddard

THE VIDEOTAPING OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING
OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

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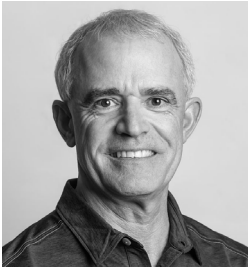


Steelcase
Social Innovation

CAST

DR. BRADMAN Mark Baker
ELVIRA Jessie Congleton
CHARLES Michael Coon
EDITH Annie Egan
MADAME ARCATI Sandy Kirchinger
RUTH Chelsea Pummill
MRS. BRADMAN Lorna Torres

CAST



Mark
Baker



Jessie
Congleton



Michael
Coon



Annie
Egan

**CIRCLE
THEATRE**

Sandy
Kirchinger



Chelsea
Pummill



Lorna
Torres

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR	Emily Diener
STAGE MANAGER.....	Sarah Carey-Stoddard
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Emma Hill
SCENIC DESIGNER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	Kelsey Edwards
MASTER CARPENTER/MASTER ELECTRICIAN	Sam Verburg
CARPENTER	Tiersza Phipps
CARPENTER	Dominic Lannon
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....	Catherine Marlett Dreher
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Sarah Carey-Stoddard
SOUND DESIGNER.....	Sam Johnson
SOUND TECHNICIAN	Torrie Gray
COSTUME DESIGNER	Kelly Lucas
COSTUME CREW	Katy Kenyon
HAIR AND MAKE UP DESIGNER.....	Brandon Shafer
PROPERTIES DESIGNER.....	Elizabeth Merriman
CREW	Asher Deyoung, Shelley Tobar-Taylor

PRODUCTION STAFF



Emily
Diener



Sarah
Carey-Stoddard



Emma
Hill



Kelsey
Edwards



Catherine
Marlett Dreher



Sam
Johnson



Kelly
Lucas



Brandon
Shafer



Elizabeth
Merriman

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IS WORTH
1,000 WORDS,
ARE YOUR
STAFF
PORTRAITS
SAYING THE
RIGHT WORDS
ABOUT YOUR
COMPANY?**



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WHO'S WHO | CAST

MARK BAKER *He/ him (Dr. George Bradman)* is making his theatre debut on the Circle Theatre stage. Mark is a Michigan native and attended the University of Michigan (Go Blue!) and spent some good years in Southern California where he graduated from Pepperdine University in Malibu. He relocated to Grand Rapids 35 years ago and loves it here. Mark is a Commercial Realtor with his own firm, Michigan Commercial Properties and a commercial property landlord as well. In his work, he enjoys helping West Michigan businesses and investors grow and prosper whether selling, buying or leasing. I have always loved theatre and music and done a little over the years until now I am much more involved. Mark presently sings with the HarkUP! choir and ensemble as well as attends plays and concerts on a regular basis. He plays pickleball multiple times each week and enjoys all types of sports and outdoor activities whenever possible. Between performances, he enjoys traveling, including his first trip to New York where he will enjoy two new Broadway plays - *New York, New York* and *Bob Fosse's Dancin'*.

JESSIE CONGLETON *She/Her (Elvira)* past credits include *Steel Magnolias* (Turvy), *Holes* (Miss Collingwood/ Ensemble), and *Leading Ladies* (Audrey) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Kate) and *Snow White The Queen's Fair Daughter* (Queen) at Circle Theatre, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (Bobbi) and *For this Moment Alone* (Bertha) at Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, *God of Carnage* (Annette) at The University Wits, and *9 to 5* (Missy Hart/Ensemble) at Flat River Community Players. Jessie owns a small marketing agency where she

helps good businesses get the words right for their websites, advertising, and other branded materials. She loves being in and around any body of water, hiking, camping and traveling with her family, cooking, gathering with friends over sips and snacks, and lounging outside with a good book (i.e. napping outdoors).

MICHAEL COON *He/Him (Charles)* past credits include *The Music Man* (Jacey Squires) at Circle Theatre, *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* (Beethoven) at Actors' Theatre, *Hey Girl Friday* (Ernie) at Cornerstone University, *Pippin* (Ensemble) at Circle Theatre, *The Apple Tree* (Ensemble) at Circle Theatre, *Pirates of Penzance* (Samuel) at Cornerstone University, and *The Tempest* (Stephano) at Cornerstone University. Michael received his Masters in Education from Grand Valley State University in 2018 and he is a Senior Director at Instruction Partners. Michael's interests include, Magic: the Gathering, Piano and Documentaries.

ANNIE EGAN *She/Her (Edith)* past credits include *Rapunzel* (Rapunzel) at Circle Theatre, *Frozen Jr.* (Ensemble), *Ten For All* (Slice of Justice & The Awakening) at The Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and *Peter and the Wolf* (Cat) at The Grand Rapids Symphony. Annie graduated from Kenowa Hills in 2021 and currently attends Western Michigan University where she studies Film and Media. She is also a teaching artist at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. One of her interests is watching and talking about movies. *"Thanks to my parents, grandparents, Mia and Frances for their endless support."*

WHO'S WHO | CAST

CHELSEA PUMMELL *She/Her* (**Ruth Condomine**) past credits include *A Few Good Men* (Lt. Joanne Galloway) and *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Rachel Crabbe) at Circle Theatre, *Angels in America: Part 1* (Angel/Emily) and *This is Our Youth* (Jessica) at Dog Story Theatre, and many other productions at area theaters and Aquinas College. Chelsea graduated from Aquinas College in 2013 and spent time studying at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. She has since pursued careers in acting, rehabilitation treatment, and psychosynthesis coaching. She is currently working as a family relations manager for a global au pair program. When not performing, Chelsea likes going on long hikes with her dog Cowboy or wandering around farmers markets and coffee shops. "Special thanks to Lisa for always keeping my spirits up and to Jordan for his endless care and support."

LORNA TORRES *She/Her* (**Mrs. Bradman**) past credits include *Dogs Love Cupcakes* (Penelope) and *Rapunzel* (Queen) at Circle Theatre, *Holes* (Madame Zeroni) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Busman's Honeymoon* (Harriet Vane) at MAT, and *You Can't Take It With You* (Alice) at MATI. Lorna graduated from Wyoming Park High and then went on to receive an associates degree from GRCC and a Masters Degree from the University of Michigan. She is an artistic coordinator at MAT and can speak four different languages including Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and English.



PRODUCTIONS

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WEDDINGS



EVENTS

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset or sunrise, with a body of water in the foreground. The buildings are silhouetted against the sky.

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WHO'S WHO | PRODUCTION STAFF

EMILY DIENER *She/Her* (**Director**) past credits include *Mary Poppins* (Mary Poppins) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *On Golden Pond* (Chelsea) at Circle Theatre, *Magic Circle: Dogs Love Cupcakes* (Director) at Circle Theatre, *Freaky Friday* (Katherine) at Circle Theatre, *The Little Mermaid* (Ursula) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak) at Actors theatre. By day, Emily works for Dematic in administration. "*Special thanks to Jon and Julie, thanks for making the drive.... again.*"

KELSEY EDWARDS *She/Her* (**Scenic Designer**) is the Technical Director and Resident Scenic Designer at Circle Theatre. A few of her favorite productions include *Lysistrata*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-Moon Marigolds* and *Nightblooming* at Adrian College, and *Ada and the Engine* at Aquinas College. In 2021 she graduated from Adrian College with a B.A. in theatre. Kelsey enjoys knitting, reading many books, and loves spending time with her loved ones. She would like to thank her amazing team that helped her bring this show to you! She also hopes that you all enjoy the show and the amazing work everyone has done.

SAM JOHNSON *He/Him* (**Sound Designer/Engineer**) has designed 250+ productions. Select favorites include *Ragtime* at Grand Valley Opera, *Carrie the Musical* and *Freaky Friday* at Circle, *Sister Act*, *Shrek*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Newsies*, *Matilda* and *Once* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and *If/Then* at Actors' Theatre. He has been involved in Grand Rapids theatre since 2001 and is currently the resident Sound Designer and Engineer for Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. He started

at Circle in the Park in 2002 and has designed all of the shows for Circle Theatre since 2017. "*For Dez and Ean, all my love, always.*"

KELLY LUCAS (**Costume Designer**) past credits include costume designing for *Hair*, *Joseph* and *The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Spamalot* at Circle Theatre, and *Fat Pig* and *Grey Gardens* at Actors Theatre. Kelly Currently is the operations Supervisor at JCPenney.

CATHERINE MARLETT DREHER *She/Her* (**Lighting Designer/Engineer**) has designed over 200 shows and concerts. Some of her favorite lighting designs include *Altar Boyz*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Fun Home* at Circle Theatre, *Ragtime*, *Once* and *Matilda* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and *Next to Normal*, *Sideshow* and *The Light in the Piazza* at Actors' Theatre. Catherine is the Production Manager and Resident Lighting Designer at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. She also works as a freelance designer in the West Michigan area for many organizations and venues.

The '23/'24 Civic Season

THE NICKELODEON
SPONGEBOB
MUSICAL

September 15 -
October 8
RATED PG

 MUSICAL

DISNEY'S
Beauty AND THE BEAST
THE MUSICAL

November 17 -
December 17
RATED PG

 MUSICAL

CLYDE'S

January 19 - 28
RATED R

 PLAY

DISNEY'S
DESCENDANTS
THE MUSICAL

March 1 - 17
RATED G

 MUSICAL

agatha christie's
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
a ken ludwig adaptation

April 19 - May 5
RATED PG-13

 PLAY

TEN FOR ALL
4th Annual Playwriting Festival

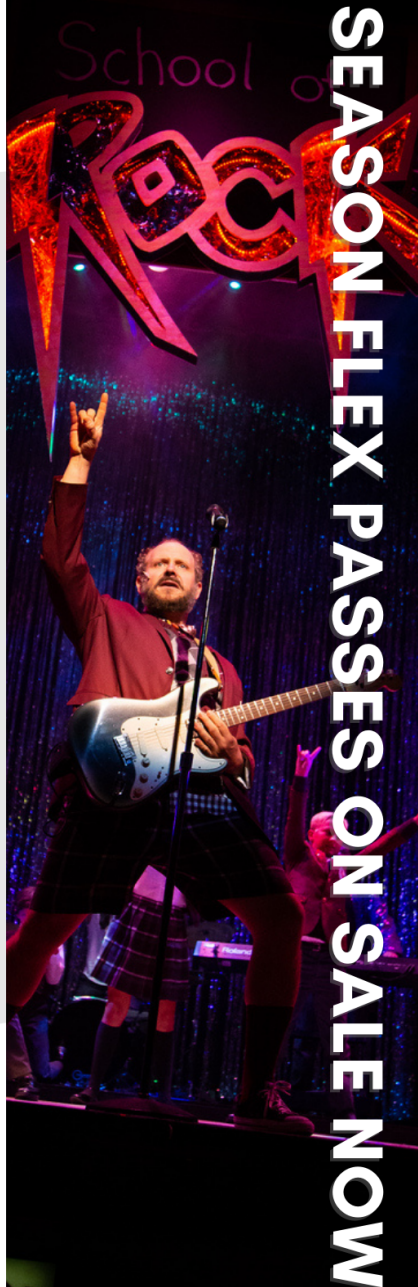
May 17 - 18
RATING PENDING

 SPECIAL EVENT

Beautiful
The Carole King Musical

June 7 - 30
RATED PG-13

 MUSICAL



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WHO'S WHO | PRODUCTION STAFF

ELIZABETH MERRIMAN *She/Her (Properties Designer)* has previously designed props for Circle's productions of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *On Golden Pond*, *HAIR*, *Freaky Friday*, *Fun Home*, *Hands on a Hardbody* and *Unnecessary Farce*. Favorite prop design credits include *Indecent* at Jewish Theatre, *Stop Kiss* and *Good Kids* at GRCC, *Petty Crimes*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Flick*, *The Curious Case of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *The Burnt Part Boys*, and *If/Then*, and prop designing/costuming for *The Wolves* at Actors' Theatre. Elizabeth is the Manager of Programming and Education for Mosaic Film Experience. *"Special thanks of my husband Scott, who never fails to support me in all of my theatre endeavors!"*

BRANDON SHAFER *He/Him (Hair & Makeup Designer)* past credits include wig design for *Kinky Boots* and *Mary Poppins* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and wig design for *Music Man*, *Cabaret*, *Freaky Friday*, and *the Play that Goes Wrong* at Circle Theatre. Brandon has been a Drag Artist for the past 20 years, and is currently working for Midragbrunch.com here in Grand Rapids. *"Would like to give thanks to my husband, Ethan, for his love, support and patience."*

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Norma's Circle (\$5,000+)

Pamela & John Burch
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Opening Night (\$2,500-4,999)

Anonymous

Circle In The PAC (\$500 - \$2,499)

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Marilyn Dooge
Patricia Dutkiewicz
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Lou Vanderhave
In Memory of Bob Goudzwaard
Gary Walker
Christopher & Sara Witmer
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Anonymous

Circle In The Park (\$350 - \$499)

Catherine Marlett-Dreher
Douglas Parker
Judith Subar

Circle In The Pantlind (\$200 - \$349)

Bob Maxam & Jim Rekucki
Jim & Mary Atkinson
Maureen Fahey Dreher
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Susan A. Stoddard

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Bob & Marilyn Varty

Circle In The Rowe (\$100 - \$199)

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Matt Goldman
Tim & Darcy Hartley
Maurie Houseman
Troy and Mike
Bill and Jan Lewis
Marcia McEvoy
Lori Jacobs and Gary Moore
Sean Patterson
Robert Peabody
Frederick Rundquist
Evelyn Searl
Mary Thorrington
Patti Trepkowski
Selene Van Vleck
Jeffrey Vanwinkle
Sandra Vesbit
David Weinandy
Johanna Wilberding
Joan Wilson
Alexander Winn
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Dress Rehearsal (\$25 - \$99)

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Kimerlee Billings
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Linda Morin
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Francine Paolini
Janet Peterson
Ed Reed
Robert Read
Thomas & Karen Roth
Gerri Riemenschneider
Mary Ann Sheline
Stephen Shoemaker

Gretchen Sills
Dud & Marty Smith
Sharon Van Dam
Lou Vanderhabe
In Memory of Sharyl Brown
Sue Vandyke
Sharonetta Wells
Donna White
Keith & Kathy Wolverton
Roger Zinnecker

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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from the Seraglio

W.A. Mozart

2023
2024
SEASON

**CONTEM
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OPERA**

February 9 & 10, 2024

The Tibetan Book
of the Dead

Ricky Ian Gordon

**GRAND
OPERA**

April 19 & 20, 2024

La Bohème

Giacomo Puccini

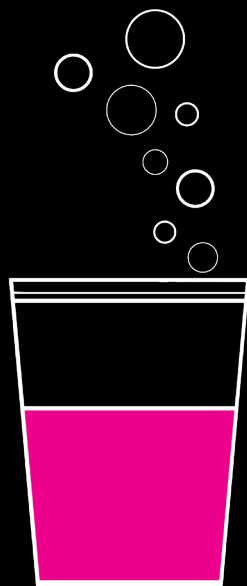


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JULY 24	BLUE COLLAR ROCK CONCERT
AUGUST 11	MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM
AUGUST 14	HITS OF THE '90S
AUGUST 21	SONGS IN THE KEY OF STEVIE WONDER
SEPTEMBER 8	SWEENEY TODD
SEPTEMBER 11	THE BRITISH INVASION
SEPTEMBER 18	BLUE COLLAR ROCK

Bar opens 30 minutes before show-time.