

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 our 71st season! As we start off with The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, you are in for a treat with this great show and cast. We are excited to see you back in the theatre for another season of great plays, musicals and concerts. Every year we work hard to bring the very best entertainment to our stage.

I am happy to share that this season we have 52 performers that will be making their debut on the Circle stage. As always, I like to share my deep gratitude for your continued support of Circle Theatre.

'You need three things in the theatre
-the play, the actors and the audience,
and each must give something.'
Kenneth Haigh

I look forward to seeing you this season!



Lynn Atkins-Rykert
President of the Board of Directors

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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

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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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The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music and lyrics by
William Finn

Book by
Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by
Rebecca Feldman

Additional Material by
Jay Reiss

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Originally produced on Broadway by

David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington
Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre

Co-Director
Chris Grooms

Co-Director
Jenna Grooms

Music Director
Scott Patrick Bell

Choreographer
Mary Lohman

Stage Manager
Kendra Jones

Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by The Farm
The Barrington Stage Company workshop of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY
SPELLING BEE was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special
arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supported by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

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

SPECIAL THANKS

Todd Avery
Kyle Cain
Marcus Chapman
Perry Dixon
Jack Doctor
Elinor Edlund
Meaghan Gietzen
Christina Gonzalez
Mary Harwood
Emma Hill
Shelley Irwin
Jhaiell Kilgore
Noah King-Bates
Katie Leppert
Rebekah Levine
Wendy Loehr

Hallie MacKay
Kriss Macomber
Jason Marlett
Allyson Paris
Emilie Perret
Kallie Piette
Kels Rezmer
Selene Rezmer
Marty Smith
Bud Thompson
Kristin Tomlin
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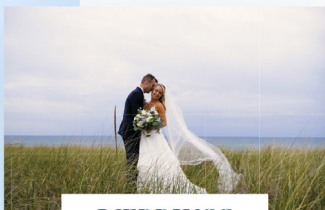
CAST

LEAF	Zachary Avery
BARFEE	Braden Bacon
RONA	Amy Cain
MITCH	TJ Clark
OLIVE	Phoebe Dawson
MARCY	Hann Elliott
LOGAINNE	Hannah Jarvis
PANCH	Nate Reynolds
CHIP	Lucas Story



PRODUCTIONS

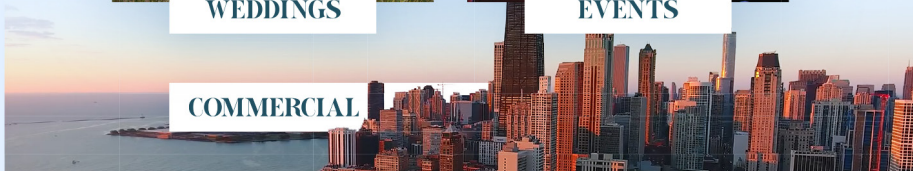
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WEDDINGS



EVENTS



COMMERCIAL

CAST



Zachary
Avery



Braden
Bacon



Amy
Cain



TJ
Clark



Phoebe
Dawson



Hann
Elliott



Hannah
Jarvis



Nate
Reynolds



Lucas
Story

PRODUCTION STAFF

CO-DIRECTOR.....	Chris Grooms
CO-DIRECTOR.....	Jenna Grooms
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	Scott Patrick Bell
CHOREOGRAPHER	Mary Lohman
STAGE MANAGER.....	Kendra Jones
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/SCENIC DESIGNER.....	Kelsey Edwards
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Catherine Marlett Dreher
LIGHT BOARD TECHNICIAN.....	Antonio Aguilar
SOUND DESIGNER.....	Sam Johnson
SOUND TECHNICIAN	Kyle Aspinall
AUDIO ASSISTANT.....	Keira Lehan
COSTUME DESIGNER	Jess Luiz
PROPERTIES DESIGNER.....	Elizabeth Merriman
STAGE CREW	Antonio Aguilar, Devin Callahan, Aynsley Douglas, Lindsey Huizenga, Rhonda Lehan

MUSICIANS

MUSIC DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD	Scott Patrick Bell
REEDS	Alain Sullivan
PERCUSSION	Duc Vuong
CELLO	McCormack Wyn

PRODUCTION STAFF



Chris
Grooms



Jenna
Grooms



Scott Patrick
Bell



Mary
Lohman



Kendra
Jones



Kelsey
Edwards



Catherine
Marlett Dreher



Sam
Johnson



Kyle
Aspinall



Jess
Luiz



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

ZACHARY AVERY *He/Him (Leaf)* is a 2022 graduate from Aquinas College. He was last seen on the Circle stage as Tim in *Noises off*. Other Circle credits include *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Dan) and *A Chorus Line* (Ensemble). He was in *Head Over Heels* (Musidorus) at AQ Theatre. Currently Zach is the digital editor for Spirituality + Health Magazine, as well as a contributing writer for the West MI arts and entertainment magazine, *Revue*. Outside of Circle Theatre, you might find him trying his best at skateboarding downtown, playing trivia at House Rules Game Lounge, or walking his cat outdoors with a special backpack. *"I'd like to thank the whole Circle Theatre team for always being kind to their volunteers and community actors, and to Ashley for always encouraging me to take chances and find what makes me happy."*

BRADEN BACON *He/Him (Barfee)* has appeared in *Les Miserables* (Ensemble) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre and *Evita* (Ensemble) at Circle Theatre. He has also done hair and makeup at Circle for many different shows. Some of his interests outside of theatre include plants, specifically Orchids and Aroids, hiking and being outdoors, and being with his Great Dane, Maple. *"Thanks to friends and family for support, and circle theatre and its patrons for keeping the arts alive in GR."*

AMY CAIN *She/Her (Rona)* is a familiar face to the Circle stage. Some of her past Circle shows include *Company* (Amy), *Freaky Friday* (Torrey) and *Hands on a Hardbody* (Cindy). Other favorite credits include *Chess*

(Svetlana), and *At the Table* (Chris) at Actors' Theatre, and *Assassins* (Proprietor) at Heritage Theatre. Amy works at Crossroads Prison Ministries as a copy editor. Participating in the show is a fun opportunity to combine her love of theatre and her love of spelling! *"Special thanks to Kyle, Kristin, Paul and Shawn for their encouragement"*

TJ CLARK *He/They (Mitch)* has appeared in *Matilda* (Miss Trunchbull) and *Elf* (Buddy) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Hundred Days* (Shawn) at Actors' Theatre, and *Hands on a Hardbody* (Benny) at Circle Theatre. Currently, TJ is working on his Masters in Secondary Math Education. *"I would like to thank you, the audience, for supporting your local theatre community."*

PHOEBE DAWSON *She/Her (Olive)* appeared previously in *Freaky Friday* (Ellie Blake) and *HAIR* (Sheila) at Circle. Other area credits include *School of Rock* (Rosalie Mullins), *Kinky Boots* (Ensemble/Lauren Understudy) and *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Corry/Ensemble/Mary Poppins Understudy) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. Phoebe is a Studio Manager, Instructor and Theatre Director at Over The Top Academy of Dance. She has also choreographed and stage managed at Northview High School from 2019-2022 and was a choreographer for Byron Center High School in 2020. *"Special thanks to all my friends and family, OTT family, Jen, Ajamu, Olivia, Bekah, Hannah and Jake, and my mom for supporting me! And thank you, this community, for supporting live theatre and the arts!"*

WHO'S WHO | CAST

HANN ELLIOTT *She/Her (Marcy)*

is a graduate from GRCC. She has appeared in *Cats* (Etcetera) and *The Addams Family* (Ancestor). She is a state licensed pharmacy technician and works for a long term care pharmacy. Hann enjoys reading and spending time with her cat, Tillie.

"Special thanks to my parents and my brothers for always supporting me and believing in me!"

HANNAH JARVIS *She/Her (Logainne)*

is making her Circle Theatre debut! His favorite credits include *The Addams Family* (Morticia Addams) and *Godspell* (Gilmer) at Hudsonville High School, *Willy Wonka* (Veruca Salt) at Central Park Players and *Annie* (Lily St. Regis) at Scottsdale Desert Stage. Hannah graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2022, and is a Development Scientist for Empirical Bioscience. *"I would like to thank my family, friends, coworkers and boyfriend for being supportive of me getting back into theatre after a 4 year hiatus."*

NATE REYNOLDS *He/Him (Panch)*

has previously appeared on the Circle stage in *HAIR* (Claude), *A Few Good Men* (Ross) and *Perfect Wedding* (Bill). Other area credits include *Petty Crimes* (Bill) and *At the Table* (Stuart) at Actors' Theatre, *Shakespeare in Love* (Marlowe) and *James and the Giant Peach* (Ladahlord) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and *Constellations* (Roland) at Freshwater. In 2010 he graduated with a B.A. in theatre, and currently works in the field of Data & Analytics. Nate would like to thank his friends and family, his girlfriend Kendra, and you, the

audience, for being wonderful people and supporting live theatre here in Grand Rapids. We could not do this without your love and support.

LUCAS STORY *He/Him (Chip)* is a familiar face to Circle audiences from his appearances in our Summer Concert Series and Main Stage shows. Some of his favorite credits include *Rent* (Roger), *It should have been you* (Marty Kaufman) and *Hands on a Hard Body* (Greg Willhoat) at Circle Theatre, and *American Idiot* (Johnny) at Actors' theatre. Lucas currently is an event coordinator for Pux Cider, and is in a band call Fire, Said the Albatross. *"Special thanks go out to my friends, family and wonderful partner for their continued support."*

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WHO'S WHO | PRODUCTION STAFF

KYLE ASPINALL *He/Him (Sound Technician)* Circle credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* as the sound technician, and has been the sound designer/technician for Circle's Summer Concert Series since 2017. Other sound designer/technician roles include *Indecent* and *Creation of the World and Other Business* at Jewish Theatre. He attended Central Michigan University and is employed by Karona by Jeld-Wen.

SCOTT PATRICK BELL *(Music Director)* Circle Theatre credits include *Hands on a Hardbody, Fun Home, Rock of Ages, The Wedding Singer, Honk!, Little Shop Of Horrors, Altar Boyz, Smokey Joe's Café, Love, Perfect, Change, Pippin,* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Circle concert credits include *Nobody Does It Better: The Music of James Bond, Under Pressure: The Music of Queen and David Bowie, Freebird, Let It Be, Jesus Christ Superstar In Concert, Men Of Motown, The Music Of Queen, Woodstock, Divas Of Soul,* and *The Music of Webber & Rice*. Actors Theatre credits include *American Idiot, Next To Normal, Spring Awakening* and *Reefer Madness*. Scott has also produced works for Heritage Theatre, GVSU, Aquinas College, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, and West Michigan Jazz Society. Additional credits include, *Ring of Fire, Chicago, Rent, Hello Muddah* and *Esther The Musical*.

KELSEY EDWARDS *She/Her (Technical Director/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.

CHRIS GROOMS *He/Him (Co-Director)* has previously directed *Altar Boyz, Little Shop of Horrors (2010), Honk! And Music Man* at Circle theatre. Other area directing credits include *Reefer Madness* at Actors' Theatre and *Agnes of God* at Heritage Theatre. Chris is a graduate of GRCC and Aquinas College, with a degree in theatre and communication. He works in the Human Resources department at Grand Valley State University. *"Special thanks to Mary, Scott, and Jenna for doing this production. It's wonderful to work together again! And thank you to Violet and Rose for being the most amazing kids!"*

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WHO'S WHO | PRODUCTION STAFF

JENNA GROOMS *She/Her (Co-Director)* has been part of many shows at Circle, including co-directing *Music Man*, assistant directing *Freaky Friday*, and stage managing *Little Shop of Horrors* (2010) and *Altar Boyz*. Other credits include stage managing *Reefer Madness* at Actors' Theatre and *Agnes of God* at Heritage Theatre. Along with being a mom of two, Jenna is also a holistic life and breath coach where she helps people manage their stress and mental wellbeing, and live extraordinary lives. "Special thanks to my husband and partner in life, Chris, my inner circle of cheerleaders, and all who helped us with childcare during this production."

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."

KENDRA JONES *She/Her (Stage Manager)* has been involved with Circle as the stage manager in *Noises Off*, assistant stage manager in *Carrie the Musical* and the assistant director in *Boeing-Boeing* and *See How They Run*. She has appeared in *Perfect Wedding* (Rachel) and *Becky's New*

Car (Kenni) also at Circle. Locally she has worked with Mixed Roots, Actors' Theatre, GRCC Players, Jewish Theatre, and GVSU Student Films. Currently, Kendra is the operations and marketing manager at Pack Elephant. "Love to Nate, the greatest partner in love and life."

MARY LOHMAN *She/Her (Choreographer)* has a long history with Circle; she danced in her first show at Circle in 1995 and has also choreographed many times! Some of her favorite projects include performing in the premier of *Dracula* (Lucy) at Grand Rapids Ballet, *A Chorus Line* (Cassie) at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and choreographing *Spamalot* at Circle Theatre. Mary is a retired professional ballet dancer, and currently teaches yoga and dance in the Aquinas College Kinesiology Department. She has an interest in dog rescuing, especially for the Australian Cattle dog breed, and has a two year old Blue Heeler named Bella.

JESS LUIZ *She/Her (Costume Designer)* Circle credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *RENT* and the Magic Circle Production *Dogs Love Cupcakes*. Favorite costume design credits include co-designing *Once on This Island* at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, *Kill, Move, Paradise* and *Eurydice* at GRCC, and *Sweat* at Actors' Theatre. Jess studied Theatre and Northern Michigan University. In addition to costume design, she also performs and teaches theatre through West Michigan.

WHO'S WHO | PRODUCTION STAFF

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.

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!"

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Robert Peabody
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Evelyn Searl
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Selene Van Vleck
Jeffrey Vanwinkle
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Johanna Wilberding
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Alexander Winn
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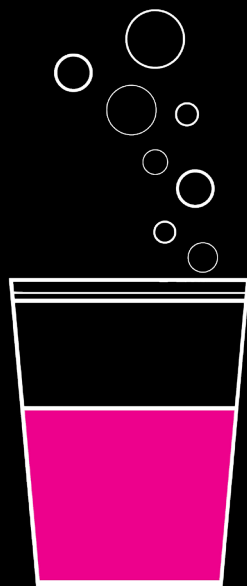


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| AUGUST 14 | | HITS OF THE '90S |
| AUGUST 21 | SONGS IN THE KEY OF STEVIE WONDER | |
| SEPTEMBER 8 | | SWEENEY TODD |
| SEPTEMBER 11 | | THE BRITISH INVASION |
| SEPTEMBER 18 | | BLUE COLLAR ROCK |

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