



the **PROM**

broadway's hit musical comedy

JUNE 20-29
WOODSTOCK OPERA HOUSE

Theatre 121 Presents



Book & Lyrics by CHAD BEGUELIN

Book by BOB MARTIN

Music by MATTHEW SKLAR

Based on an original concept by JACK VIERTEL

Produced by KELSEY WAUGHON & ROGER ZAWACKI

Technical Directed by BRIAN HEINZELMANN

Stage Managed by HEIDI SOMMERS

Orchestra Directed by JOHN C. GELASI

Choreographed by KAREN SHUMAN

Vocal Directed by ALEX FAYER

Assistant Directed by ETHAN DROVER

Directed by JORGE BERMUDEZ

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The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A Note from the Director

In 2010, Constance McMillen, a senior at Itawamba Agricultural High School, was banned from attending prom with her girlfriend. The school board canceled the prom entirely after McMillen challenged their decision, leading to a lawsuit and a legal battle that ultimately resulted in a settlement. These events are what *The Prom* is based on.

When I was in grad school, everyone knew I was gay, and people were incredibly friendly to me, and I felt kinship with everyone in my cohort. One day in class, I made a few comments in class about a theory I had in terms of gay actors making powerful theatre in the coming generation. Some people nodded, but I remember that (in my opinion) the reception was lukewarm at best. However, when a classmate of mine whom everyone knew was a cis-white heterosexual male added to my comments in support and agreement, I saw everyone else perk up, nod and make non-verbal sounds of agreement. Suddenly, a full class length discussion was being had around my original idea. I truly did not take offense, but in that moment, I realized what had often happened throughout many times of observation yet never struck me so vividly until now - when the subject surrounding the LGBTQ community came up, people often listened more carefully and/or were more inclined to lend support if an ally spoke up.

And this is why I am so incredibly grateful to each, and every individual connected to this production. Everyone worked their tails off to tell this story in the most honest, passionate, and compelling way. Karen, Heidi, Justin, Ethan, Alex, the rest of the team, and this incredibly talented, hardworking and most respectful cast - I will cherish the sense of community, love, and deep respect we gave each other throughout this process. THANK YOU from the bottom of my unruly heart. What a privilege this experience has been.

So much gratitude to: All LGTBQ students and members of this community of this and previous generations for your bravery and courage to help get us to where we are today. As you can see, there's still so much work to do but you are heroes to the rest of us. The creators of *The Prom* for giving us an opportunity to heal and for teaching us that it's in the moments of adversity, we can become the best versions of ourselves. My brother for always having my back and supporting every theatre project I am involved in. And to our audiences, friends, and all theatre lovers and allies - we NEED you. We need your support. We may be speaking up here and now with our show, but all voices need to come together to get advocacy and have the best chance of acceptance. Please sit back, laugh, smile, cry, and most of all - experience our humble production of *The Prom*.

For Constance...THIS IS OUR MOMENT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

In fellowship,
Jorge Bermudez, Director

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Emma Nolan.....	Sienna Hughes
Dee Dee Allen.....	Kate Curtin
Alyssa Greene.....	Morgan Tolentino-Siazon
Barry Glickman.....	Steven Meerdink
Trent Oliver.....	Justin Charles
Angie Dickinson.....	Theresa Voge Kaman
Tom Hawkins.....	Jeff Harding
Mrs. Greene.....	Amy Hopp
Sheldon Saperstein.....	Kyle Fiorelli
Shelby.....	Vienna Logan
Kaylee.....	Meadow Roth
Nick.....	Jamison Shea
Kevin.....	Matt Zurawski
Ensemble.....	Teresa Barker, Brody Donner, Richmond Fredrickson, Amanda Haugk, Madelyn Januskiewicz, Audre Knecht, Evan Mai, Addyson Rebman, Joseph Sacramento, Annabella Torres, & Lauren Wember

SPECIAL THANKS

Woodstock Opera House, Copy Express, DC Cobbs

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Jorge Bermudez
Assistant Director.....	Ethan Drover
Vocal Director.....	Alex Fayer
Choreographer.....	Karen Shuman
Orchestra Director.....	John C. Gelasi
Producers.....	Kelsey Waughon & Roger Zawacki
Technical Director.....	Brian Heinzelmann
Stage Manager.....	Heidi Sommers
Assistant Stage Manager	Kory Williams
Scenic Designer/Master Carpenter/Content Creator.....	Justin Charles
Costume Designer.....	Mary Torkelson
Lighting Designer.....	Nicole Weber
Sound Designer.....	Norgie Montes De Oca-Metzinger
Properties Designer/Set Dresser.....	Natalie Corey
Wig/Hair/Make-Up Designer.....	Tracy Parr
Video Wall Designer.....	Vaughn McMillan
Intimacy Coordinator.....	Taylor Weisz
Scenic Artist.....	Lisa Dawson
Set Builders...Les Boomgarden, Natalie Corey, Lisa Dawson, Anthony Fiorelli, Kyle Fiorelli, Jeff Harding, Bill Harvey, Amanda Haugk, Brian Heinzelmann, Dineen Heinzelmann, Sara Heinzelmann, Amy Hopp, Vienna Logan, Evan Mai, Steven Meerdink, Reede Norlie, Joseph Sacramento, Charlie Sommers, Heidi Sommers, Morgan Tolentino-Siazon, Dave Torkelson, Mary Torkelson, Kelsey Waughon, Nicole Weber, and Nancy Zurawski	
Accompanist.....	Rex Meyer
Production Crew.....	Natalie Corey, Colin Graf, T.J. Nevitt, Kai Roberts, Jay Zurawski, Nancy Zurawski
Light & Sound Board Technicians.....	Woodstock Opera House Staff
Theatre 121 Official Photographer.....	Christy Sturm
Program Designer.....	Mike Frale

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Changing Lives.....Dee Dee, Barry, and Ensemble
Changing Lives (Reprise).....Dee Dee, Barry, Angie, and Trent
Just Breathe.....Emma
It's Not About Me.....Dee, Barry, Angie, Trent, and Ensemble
Dance With You.....Emma and Alyssa
The Acceptance Song.....Trent, Dee Dee, Barry, Angie, and Ensemble
You Happened.....Emma, Alyssa, and Ensemble
We Look to You.....Mr. Hawkins
Tonight Belongs to You.....Barry, Emma, Mrs. Greene, and Ensemble

ACT II

Zazz.....Angie and Emma
The Lady's Improving.....Dee Dee
Love Thy Neighbor.....Trent and Ensemble
Alyssa Greene.....Alyssa
Barry is Going to Prom.....Barry
Unruly Heart.....Emma and Ensemble
It's Time to Dance.....Company

ORCHESTRA

Conductor.....John C. Gelasi
Reeds.....Carolyn Awe and Bailey Schneyr
Trumpet.....Jeff DeLaRosa
Trombone.....Ryan Ringnalda
Keyboards.....Rex Meyer and Irvin Varquez
Bass.....Alex Ryan
Guitar.....Wade Frazier
Drums.....Emerich Parpart

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MEET THE CAST



Teresa Barker (she/her) – Ensemble: Teresa Barker is thrilled to be an ensemble member in *The Prom!* A lifelong lover of the performing arts, Teresa last performed in musicals during her time at Lake Park High School, where she played Rosalia in *West Side Story*. Since 2013, Teresa has been helping young people find their own voices as an elementary music teacher/choir director. She is incredibly honored to be part of this inclusive production. She thanks her husband AJ, family, friends, and colleagues for their love and support!



Justin Charles (he/they) – Trent Oliver: Lou Award-winner Justin Charles (Best Prop Design) is delighted to be back onstage with Theatre 121. Favorite roles include his Lou Award-nominated performance as Max in *The Sound of Music* (Theatre 121), Dennis Galahad in *Spamalot* (PM&L) & Oscar Lindquist in *Sweet Charity* (Riverside Players). He holds the rank of Knight in the French Order of the Academic Palms and founded Round Lake HS's Ghostlight Readers Theatre, which received the Ann Flagg Multicultural Award in 2019. Much love to Grant.



Kate Curtin (she/her) – Dee Dee Allen: Wife, Mom, Friend, Ally. Kate is thrilled to return to the stage in this celebration of love and acceptance. She was last seen as Tanya in *Mamma Mia* with Theatre 121. Favorite roles include Truvy (*Steel Magnolias*), Columbia (*Rocky Horror*), and Nurse Ratched (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*). Thanks to all, especially Ken and CC. This show is for anyone who's felt excluded—you're seen, you're not alone. "Equality should be this country's norm."



Brody Donner (any) – Ensemble: Brody has been acting since 6 years old and has been involved in over 30 musicals and plays, both on and off stage. They are very happy to be rounding out the season with *The Prom*. This show has a message that means a lot to them and can't wait to share the story with others. They hope you enjoy the show!



Kyle Fiorelli (she/they) – Sheldon Saperstein: Kyle is excited to be stepping back onto the stage! She's the Director of the Prairie Crossing Charter School Drama Club and loves creating theatre with her students. During the pandemic, she found her creative outlet through Zooming the Movies, playing some memorable roles such as Bridget Jones and Fleabag. Her favorite stage roles include Georgie in *The Full Monty* and Belinda in *Noises Off*. She wants to thank Anthony and her kids, Lincoln, Jack, and Frankie, for their love and support!

MEET THE CAST (continued)



Richmond Fredrickson (she/her) – Ensemble: Richmond Fredrickson is currently entering her 3rd year as a BFA acting student at NIU. Her previous credits include Clem/Morgan in the world premiere of *Holler River* (NIU), Stenographer/Nurse in *Machinal* (NIU), Charity Barnum in *Barnum* (MCHS), Miss Scarlett in *Clue* (MCHS), and Olive Ostrovsky in *Spelling Bee* (MCHS). This is her debut show for theatre 121 and she is thankful for her cast, directors, and the crew it took to make this happen. She also would like to thank her friends and family.



Jeff Harding – Tom Hawkins: Jeff is thrilled to be a part of this remarkable show and is excited to be returning to the Theatre 121 stage. He was previously seen in *Mamma Mia* and the Lights! Camera! Broadway! Cabaret. Jeff has also enjoyed performing for PM&L Theatre, the Kirk Players, and Summer Place Theatre, to name a few. Hawkins is near and dear to his heart after serving as a teacher for almost 36 years. He is incredibly grateful for the support of his wife as he pursues his theatre dreams.



Amanda Haug (she/her) – Ensemble: Amanda is thrilled to return to the stage after a few years away. She's appeared in many productions and finds true joy in performing. Offstage, she's a kindergarten teacher—which, in its own way, is a daily performance! Amanda hopes this show brings light to dark times and reminds you that you are truly loved.



Amy Hopp (she/her) – Mrs. Greene: Amy Hopp is thrilled to be making her return to the stage in this joyful celebration of love and acceptance. While *The Prom* marks her first major role in recent years, Amy brings a lifelong passion for performance and storytelling to every moment onstage. When she's not belting it out as Mrs. Greene, you can find her singing karaoke, or crafting almost-viral TikToks with her niece. Amy is grateful to the creative team for this opportunity, and to her friends and family for their endless support.



Sienna Hughes (she/her) – Emma Nolan: Sienna, 17, has performed in live theater for over six years and studies at Elgin Community College through Hampshire High School's dual credit program. She's proud to represent LGBTQ+ youth as Emma in *The Prom* and hopes the show inspires others to be themselves—or even begin to accept others. Now cue the drums and hit the floor, 'cause “we're going to prom”!

MEET THE CAST (continued)



Madelyn Januskiewicz (she/her) – Ensemble: Maddy Januskiewicz is so excited to be a part of Theatre 121's *The Prom!* This is her first show with T121, and she could not have asked for a better experience and community within the production. Outside of T121, Maddy is a rising sophomore and a member of the CLC Madrigals, CLC Student Council, and CLCJV Dance Team.



Audre Knecht (she/they) – Ensemble: This is Audre's second show with Theatre 121, her first being *Groundhog Day: The Musical* (Elder). She'd like to thank her mother (Marci), sister (Anna), and cat (Noodle) for their continued support of her rekindled passion for theatre. In lieu of a full bio, she urges you to support LGBTQ+ organizations, such as The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org), PFLAG of Northern Illinois (pflagillinois.org), Human Rights Campaign (www.hrc.org), and Center on Halsted (www.centeronhalsted.org).



Vienna Logan (she/her) – Shelby: Vienna Logan is thrilled to be making her Theatre 121 debut as Shelby in *The Prom!* Previous credits include, *Legally Blonde* (Pilar), *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Brill), *Big Fish* (Ensemble), and *The SpongeBob Musical* (Gary/Ensemble). Vienna is currently studying Business Management at Harper College and plans to pursue culinary school in the near future. Endless thanks to the creative team, her fabulous castmates, and family for their constant love and support. Love is love!



Evan Mai (he/him) – Ensemble: Evan is delighted to be back on the Opera House stage! He has been previously seen on the Theatre 121 Stage as Kurt Von Trapp (*The Sound Of Music*), Peter Cratchit (*A Christmas Carol*), and Thing 2 (*Seussical*). He has been seen with Encore Music Academy as FDR and ensemble (*Annie Jr.*), Joseph Pulitzer (*Newsies Jr.*) and Mr. Bucket (*Willy Wonka Jr.*). He attends McHenry Community High School and will be a sophomore this fall. Evan would like to thank his parents for loving his unruly heart, always.



Steven Meerdink (he/him) – Barry Glickman: Steven moved to Chicagoland in 2018 and has performed at Harper College: *Follies* (Buddy), Wheaton Drama: *Curious Incident...* (Rev Peters), and Stage Coach Players: *The Producers* (Roger) & *Something Rotten* (Nostradamus). He directed *Drowsy Chaperone*, *Bright Star*, *Cabaret* & *Wizard of Oz* at Stage Coach Players. He was Artistic Director of Minneapolis Musical Theatre, Paul Bunyan Playhouse (summer stock) and Totino-Grace High School. May 2026: directing *Something Rotten* at Wheaton Drama.

MEET THE CAST (continued)



Addyson Rebman (she/her) – Ensemble: Addyson is extremely excited to be a part of this amazing production. Addyson is 15 years old and an incoming 10th grader. This is Addyson's 11th theater production and 4th time performing with Theatre121! You may recognize her from her past local productions *Elf: The Musical*, *Sound of Music*, *A Christmas Carol*, or *Little Shop of Horrors*. Addyson would like to thank everyone in this production and her family for believing in her and pushing her to be her best! Break a leg, everyone!



Meadow Roth (she/her) – Kaylee: Meadow has played roles such as Jane Seymour in *SIX Teen Edition*, Moana in *Moana Jr.*, and Rosie Alvarez in *Bye Bye Birdie Jr.* She is so excited to be involved in *The Prom!* She is involved in Madrigals, Jazz Choir, Theater, and Student Council at Woodstock High School. Meadow would like to give a special thanks to everyone that has supported her along the way and hopes you enjoy the show!



Joseph Sacramento (he/him) – Ensemble: Joseph is incredibly excited to return to the opera house stage once again. This is his third show this season. You might have seen him as Billy Boy Bill in *Urinetown* (T121 2022), Chubby Man in *Groundhog Day* (T121 2025), and ensemble in *Three Musketeers* (T121 2025). He would like to thank his Mom, Dad, Ate Jamie, Kuya Jeremy, Ate Becca, and Kuya Eric for supporting him. Enjoy the show!



Jamison Shea (he/him) – Nick: Jamison Shea is a recent graduate of McHenry Community High School who is making his Theatre 121 debut in *The Prom!* If you frequent the McHenry High School theatre, you may have recognized him as William Barfee in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* in 2022, Patrick Star in *The SpongeBob Musical* in 2023, The Big Bad Wolf in *Shrek The Musical* in 2024, and Bernstein in *Little Shop of Horrors* in 2025. He would like to thank everyone for coming to support this amazing show!



Morgan Tolentino-Siazon (she/her) – Alyssa Greene: This is Morgan's first show with T121. Her most recent shows have been *Legally Blonde* at MCC's Blackbox Theatre as Margot & Gretchen in WHS's production of *Mean Girls*. She plans to continue theatre with dreams of being on Broadway one day. Overall, she is extremely excited to portray a character that not only resonates with her own story, but others of the LGBTQ community. She hopes that by being a part of this beautiful show, we can not only spread love, but also open eyes & encourage change.

MEET THE CAST (continued)



Annabella Torres (she/her) – Ensemble: Annabella Torres is thrilled to perform in Theatre 121s production of *The Prom*! She just finished her sophomore year at North Boone High School. This is her 2nd production at Theatre 121 and 26th show overall. Some of her other highlights include playing Flounder in *The Little Mermaid* at Starlight Theatre, Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* at NBHS, Delia in *Beetlejuice jr.* through CTP/YTP, and as a Zebra and Vlad Vladikoff in *Seussical* through Theatre 121. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Theresa Voge Kaman (she/her) – Angie: Theresa is beyond thankful. To Alayna and Amanda for their help preparing for her audition. To Katie for her unending understanding when she bailed on early morning workouts. To Momma for always supporting her interest in music. To Dick and Jill for taking such good care of her family and for feeding them. To her babies for being so excited to see her in the morning after late night rehearsals. To Jonathan for his incredible support and sacrifice and encouragement - he's her best frand.



Lauren Wember (she/her) – Ensemble: This is Lauren's first production with Theater 121, prior to this her only exposure to this theater was through the Theater 121 summer class she did in the year 2022. This is also her first ever community theater show! She came into this production with an open mind not knowing what to expect. But she was overwhelmed by how kind everyone is and how productive every person in the show is with their time.



Matt Zurawski (he/him) – Kevin: Matt Zurawski is thrilled to be a part of his 17th show, this one being at the Woodstock Opera House. You may have seen him elsewhere as Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, or as Danny Zuko in *Grease Jr.* In his free time, he enjoys singing and playing tennis. Matt would like to thank all the amazing people who helped bring this show together. He would also like to thank his friends and family for their endless support throughout all his life. He can't wait for a great show!

MEET THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Jorge Bermudez (he/him) – Director: Jorge is honored to make his Theatre 121 debut with this production of *The Prom!* In 1992, he Co-Founded Up & Coming Theatre Company and was fortunate to direct several productions for them. Most recently, he has directed productions of *All Shook Up* and *Young Frankenstein*. He received an MFA in Theatre Performance Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University and taught acting and directing at the undergraduate level. “Thank you to my friends and family for supporting this show and the arts!”

Justin Charles (he/they) – Scenic Designer/Master Carpenter/Content Creator: See “Meet the Cast” for bio.

John C. Gelasi (he/him) – Orchestra Director: Rockford Symphony Orchestra Music Educator of the Year winner John C. Gelasi is a passionate educator and conductor currently based in Byron, Illinois, but born and raised in Woodstock. The great-grandson of the Opera House's own Helen Wright, John has held a deep appreciation for the arts since childhood. When not orchestra directing for the amazing Theatre 121 company, he is Director of Bands at Stillman Valley High School, as well as Music Director and Conductor of the Byron Civic Band.

Karen Shuman (she/her) – Choreographer: Karen has LOVED working on *The Prom!* This is Karen's first show with Theater 121 and has had a blast with this team and cast! She has directed and choreographed around 40 shows in the Chicagoland area. She teaches at MCC and is the Artistic Director of Shuman Arts Dance & Theater. Thank you to Jorge, Heidi, and Alex, as well as the rest of this incredibly gracious and talented team!! Thank you to the Theater 121 for the opportunity. To my family and friends, thank you for always, always supporting me.

Heidi Sommers (she/her) – Stage Manager: Heidi is thrilled to be going to prom with you! She previously served as the ASM for *White Christmas* (T121, 2023). Onstage credits include *The Music Man* (CAC, 2024), *Beauty and the Beast* (TSP, 2019), *Spamalot* (WMTC, 2018), and *Legally Blonde* (TSP, 2017). She'd like to thank her husband Charlie for all of his love and support and her whole family for helping to take care of her 2-year-old daughter Aurora. Love is Love is Love is Love.

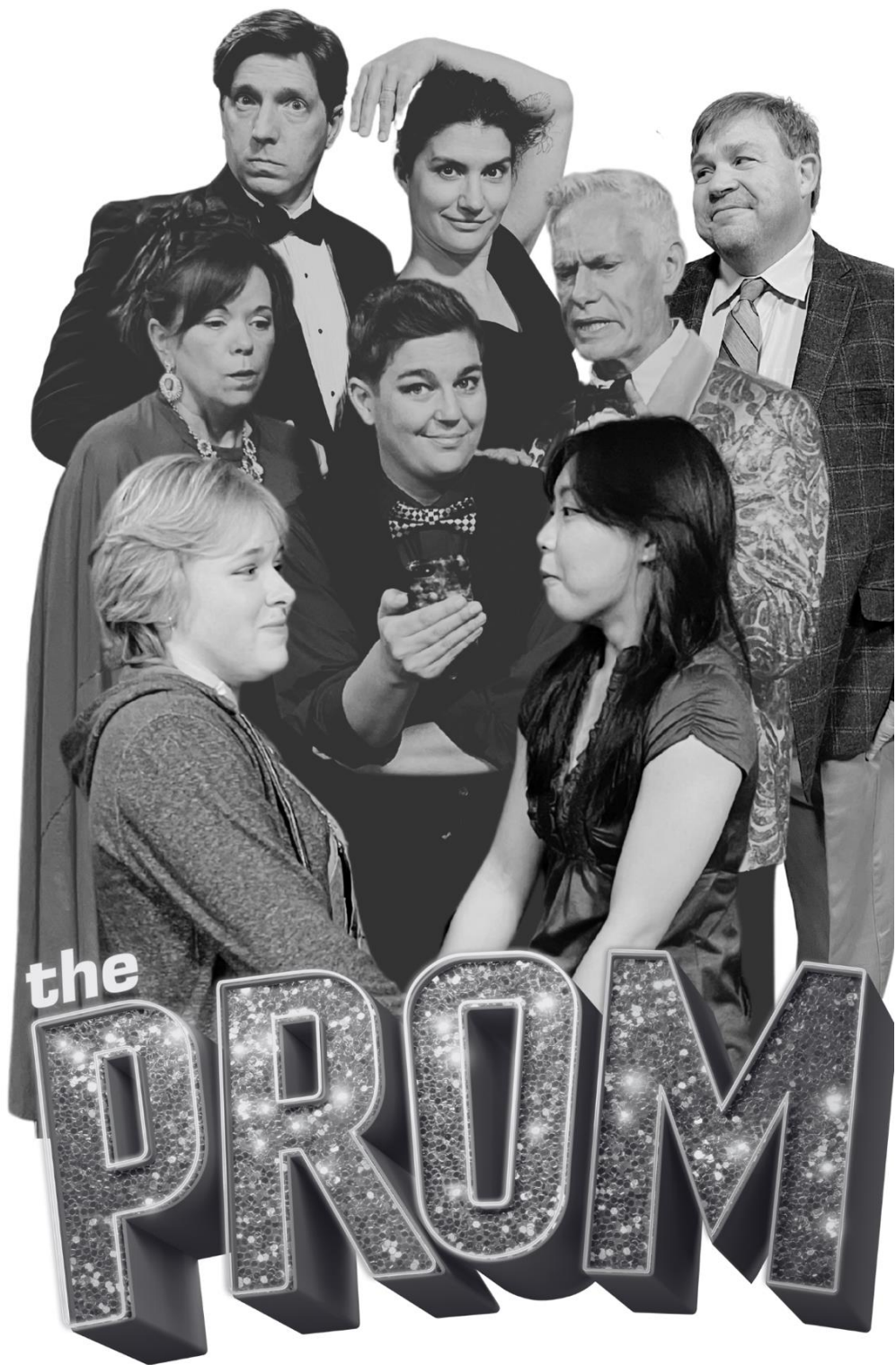
MEET THE PRODUCTION STAFF (continued)

Kelsey Waughon (she/her) – Co-Producer: Kelsey is excited to be a part of the team bringing this uplifting show about love and acceptance to the stage, especially at a moment when the world needs it most. A Woodstock-based performer, producer, and choreographer, Kelsey's recent credits include *Legally Blonde* (ensemble; MCC Blackbox, 2025), *The Music Man* (assistant choreographer; Crystal Lake High School, 2025), and *A Christmas Story* (choreographer, Theatre 121, 2024). She sends love and gratitude to her partners, Ben & Reede.

Nicole Weber (she/her) – Lighting Designer: Over the last few years Nicole has been on the move around McHenry County, lighting shows for several local companies. Recent credits include The Judith Svalander Dance Theater's production of *Sleeping Beauty*, MCC's production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, and Theater 121's own *Puffs* (where she also made a rare on-stage appearance as The Snake). She is thrilled to be able to help bring a classic, timeless, tale to life through this production!

Kory Williams (he/him) – Assistant Stage Manager: Kory is excited to return to Theatre 121. His last show with the company was being the Assistant Stage Manager for *Murder on the Orient Express* in 2023. He has also appeared on the Opera House stage as Ezekiel Foster in *White Christmas* (2015) and Robertson Ay in *Mary Poppins* (2016) and has performed in youth theater productions across the Chicagoland area. He would like to thank his family for their constant support, and Theatre 121 for this opportunity.

Roger Zawacki (he/him) – Co-Producer: Roger is one of the founding members of Theatre 121. He is currently the vice-president on the board of directors. Roger has directed 14 shows at the Woodstock Opera House, the most recent of which was *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*. He is a 1971 graduate of Northwestern University where he produced some small musicals in an off-campus theatre group. Roger lives in Johnsburg with his wife Maria.





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Charlie Sommers
Gianah Tomczak

Theatre 121 is an inclusive theater for the McHenry County area, providing education, connections, and community through excellence in the arts. We strengthen the bonds of our community by drawing visitors to Woodstock and area businesses, developing skills on and off the stage, and providing entertainment and a sense of community for all.

**Inspiring the community one show at a time.
You are Theatre 121.**

Theatre121.org is your gateway to an extraordinary theatrical journey. Discover details about upcoming auditions to fulfill your spotlight dreams, effortlessly secure tickets for our main stage productions, and explore membership and sponsorship options that support our artistic vision. Interested in our wide-ranging involvement, from behind-the-scenes volunteering to community events? It's all just a click away at Theatre121.org!

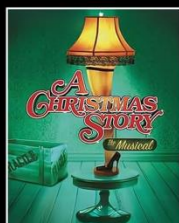
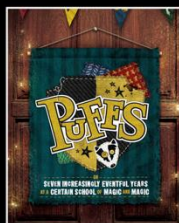
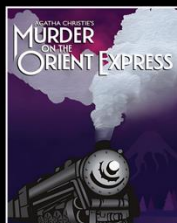
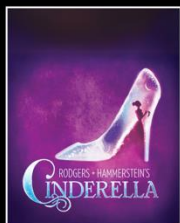
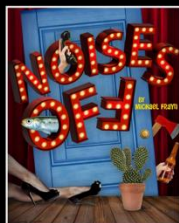
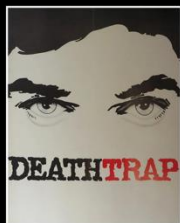
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