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Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by David Bernebaum
Originally produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures
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Music Director
EUNICE WADEWITZ

Choreographer
HEATHER CLOSSON

Scenic Designer
ADAM FLETCHER

Costume Designer
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Parkview recognizes that health and well-being incorporate mind, body, spirit and community. The arts inspire both well-being and healing. Through our Healing Arts program, our care teams often incorporate literary, performing and visual arts into the care of our patients and their families. As a proud supporter of our community, the arts and the Civic Theatre, we at Parkview believe everyone should experience the joy of live theater.

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Wayne and Linda Boyd, Owners



As the owners of Asphalt Drum Mixers we are very excited that our employees, friends and family have the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful shows that the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre puts on each year. We love the diversity in the productions and really enjoy supporting all the Arts in the Fort Wayne area.



AWS Foundation

Patti Hays, Chief Executive Officer

AWS Foundation applauds Civic Theatre's "Project Lights Up!" sensory friendly performances. Creating a performing arts experience that is welcoming to individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities and their families means everyone can enjoy the theatre experience. We are delighted to support the Civic Theatre as they answer the need for inclusion of people of all abilities.

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Guild

Lisa Ramos, Guild President

The Guild is so happy to be able to sponsor and support the Civic Theatre. We are grateful to all the audience members that purchase products from us at all the performances and attend the opening night cast parties at the Civic Theatre. If you love theatre and would like to support the Civic, then please become a member of the Guild! Looking forward to this exciting season!



Lutheran Hospital

Paula Autry, Chief Executive Officer

It is truly wonderful when talented people care enough to make their craft accessible to those who normally might not have the opportunity to enjoy it. That's why we're proud to sponsor the Civic Theatre's "Project Lights Up!"—welcoming children with autism and other disabilities to experience special performances. We have the privilege of caring for these vibrant kids at Lutheran Children's Hospital and love to see them in creative environments.

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Mark Millett, President and CEO

Steel Dynamics is proud to support the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its cultural endeavor here in our community. We look forward to another season of outstanding performances.



Chuck and Lisa Surack and Sweetwater

Chuck Surack, Founder and President

Sweetwater is delighted to sponsor the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its mission to enrich northeast Indiana through music and drama. The Civic Theatre's ability to encourage, cultivate, and showcase local talent is remarkable. Sweetwater, and its more than 1,300 employees, looks forward to another great season of music, laughter, and entertainment.

Upstate Alliance of REALTORS®

Katrina Kay, Executive Officer

The Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® is privileged to support the Civic Theatre. As REALTORS®, we recognize the importance of building strong communities. The Civic Theatre, with its outstanding theatrical productions, is a unique gem that contributes to the vitality of Northeastern Indiana by celebrating the cultural arts and building community pride. We applaud the dedicated cast members, staff, and volunteers at the Civic who help make Northeastern Indiana a great place to live, work and play. We look forward to more stellar performances this season.



Ambassador Enterprises

Arlan Friesen, President

We're proud to sponsor the Civic Theatre because of the impact and experiences they provide our community. Thank you to the wonderful team that makes each performance memorable.

Barrett McNagny LLP

Trisha Paul, Partner

Barrett McNagny LLP is proud to continue its support of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. Barrett firmly believes the Civic and other local arts organizations enhance our community and our way of life. We are fortunate to have a vibrant and active arts community in Fort Wayne, which is rich in talented artists and performers, committed volunteers, and a devoted staff who annually bring the Civic's productions to life on the stage for all to enjoy.



We would like to acknowledge the support of a generous anonymous donor.

2018-2019 SHOW SPONSORS



Apollo Design Technology, Inc, Avid Labs, Blue Pony - Joel Nichols, Owner

We are honored to sponsor the staff, actors and volunteers of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. My family, friends and employees have enjoyed countless outstanding performances by very talented individuals. We look forward to another year of first-class community theater. Let the show begin!

Five Star Residences of Fort Wayne

(formerly known as Covington Commons)

Renee Kreienbrink, Executive Director

Some of our residents may recall when the Civic was founded in 1927. Since then our community has enjoyed countless seasons of first class productions. Five Star Residences of Fort Wayne is honored to be able to be small part of helping to continue this tradition. We would like to thank the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for enriching the lives of our residents and the community. We are truly blessed to have such talent in our city!



Fort Wayne Metals

Scott Glaze, Chairman and CEO

It's hard to believe that the Civic Theatre has been a part of Fort Wayne for over 90 years! During this time, many downtown institutions have come and gone, but you have always been there for us. Thank you for providing our city with arts and entertainment, and for never turning your back on downtown Fort Wayne! Fort Wayne Metals applauds your spirit.

Fort Wayne Newspapers

Mike Christman, President & CEO

Fort Wayne Newspapers is proud to support the Civic Theatre. The Civic Theatre is a long standing tradition in Fort Wayne and an important part of our community dating back to 1927. Fort Wayne Newspapers is also a long standing tradition locally. The Journal Gazette has been around since 1863, and the News-Sentinel is the oldest business in Allen County, dating all the way back to 1833. Thank you Civic Theatre for enhancing the lives of the residents of Northeastern Indiana, and have a great 2018-19 season!



Markey's Rental & Staging

Erik Shipley, Regional Director, Northern Indiana and Ohio

As a corporate theater company, many at Markey's Rental & Staging began their careers both on and off the stage. It is through theater we hope to engage our communities, nourish their creativity, and show the world through a different lens in the hopes that we connect with our audiences and leave lasting memories. We are honored to be amongst this year's Civic Theater sponsors.

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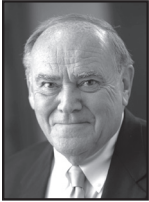
Russ Rinn, President & Chief Operating Officer

OmniSource is proud to sponsor Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the production of *Mamma Mia!* We believe that the arts are vital to any community. We applaud Civic Theatre's outstanding performances that involve so many talented volunteers from the community both on and off stage.



PHP

Don F. Schenkel, PHP Interim CEO



PHP appreciates the inspiring performances Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's talented and artistic troupe brings to our community. We are proud to once again be a corporate sponsor of an organization that influences and motivates through the performing arts, bringing creativity and collaboration to our city. Thank you Fort Wayne Civic Theatre!

Raytheon Company

Torrey Cady, Fort Wayne Site Executive

As a global aerospace and defense company, Raytheon is committed to showing young people how science, technology, engineering and math are part of everything they love to do. The Civic Theater's creative approach to blending STEM and the Arts makes learning both entertaining and relatable. We applaud the Civic Theater and its many volunteers for their efforts and look forward to their continued success here in Fort Wayne.



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Any recent donations of \$100 or more will be included in the next Stagebill.



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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays from the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and thank you for joining us for the Northeast Indiana Premiere of *ELF*!

Thank you to our guest director Leslie Hormann, formerly with the Fort Wayne Youtheatre, and choreographer Heather Closson! We are pleased to be collaborating with the Fort Wayne Youtheatre on this classic holiday musical and we welcome their new Director Todd Espeland to the Theatre community.



Phillip H. Colglazier

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre is one of the longest standing downtown entertainment destinations. We have a proud history of our vision, mission and values that drive our organization.

Our Vision - To be the regional leader in live theatre experiences through artistic excellence and innovation.

Our Mission - Fort Wayne Civic Theatre entertains, educates, inspires, and enriches the community through exceptional live theatre experiences.

Our Values - In pursuit of our vision and mission we:

Strive for excellence	Nurture the creative soul
Steward our resources	Pursue innovation
Promote diversity	Educate our community
Change lives	

Don't miss the world debut of Fort Wayne natives Nancy Carlson Dodd's and Dori Erwin Collins' musical *The Wedding Gift* in February. The script is very clever, humorous with multiple twists set to a fun score with orchestrations by New York composer Ryan Shirar.

After *The Wedding Gift*, join us for the hilarious comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* to be director by Dr. John Tolley and in April/May we present the ABBA musical *Mamma Mia!*

As we look to the future we hope you will consider making a tax-deductible contribution to Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's general operating funds and to our 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign (see page 13). Please help us secure the future of live theatre for generations to come!

On behalf of the Civic Theatre staff and board of directors, we value you, our patrons, volunteers and community partners and we are honored to serve you, the community, in fulfilling our vision and mission!

Phillip H. Colglazier
Executive/Artistic Director

Thank you to
Wayne & Linda Boyd
for their support for Project Lights Up!

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In just 10 years we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary!

You can be a part of securing the future of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for years to come with your gift to Civic Theatre's 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

If you would like to be a part of this important campaign we ask you to pledge to contribute a total of \$1,500 or more to be paid by June 2028 (over and above your traditional annual giving). You can determine a payment schedule at the time you submit your pledge form.

Or, if you prefer, simply make a one-time 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund donation of \$1,500 or more.

Your donation to the 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund will be appropriately recognized in each Civic Stagebill program through our 100th Anniversary Season. Your generous gift will be part of a strong financial foundation that will ensure the Civic Theatre's place in our community for decades to come, nurturing generations of actors and technical stage volunteers.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES - LESLIE HORMANN



Remember Christmas when you were young? The excitement, the anticipation, the belief in magic? It all seems to go downhill as we age. The holidays often find us grownups anxious, overburdened with holiday chores, tapped out financially, exhausted from social commitments and weighted down with holiday indulgences. It's a sad comment that the wide-eyed wonder and unbridled excitement Christmas brings to us as children are lost to us as adults!

Fortunately the Civic Theatre has prescribed a wonderful holiday musical for all that ails you! *Elf the Musical* is just what the doctor ordered! *Elf* is a beautiful metaphor on how you're never too old to re-embrace the magic, happiness and good tidings the holidays can bring.

There is such a wonderful innocence and simple perspective that Buddy brings to a cynical world of chaos and bitterness. He is a great symbol and more importantly, a reminder for all of us to enjoy the world around us with child-like wonderment, joy and hope. There is often so much going on in our lives that it seems impossible to live in the present without stressing about the future.

While working on this huge production, I often harkened back to the pure delight and out loud laughter I shared with my family as we watched the movie. There is a huge responsibility to not only deliver on what audiences expect, but to try and find ways to surprise and freshen up this modern classic, delivering a new experience as if seeing it for the first time. The talented production team of the Civic's *Elf* beautifully achieves this goal!

The colors, beauty and hand-crafted details of Adam Fletcher's set, Corey Lee's magical lighting and Angela Sahli's costumes frame this wonderful story making it a visual holiday wonder! The incredible choreography from Heather Closson brings a fun, fabulous freshness to this story. (I challenge you to try and follow ALL that is going on!)

It certainly feels like the world could use a bit more of Buddy the Elf's perspective to spread some good cheer all year round and belief in the unbelievable. My hope, as you watch the show, is that you can share some laughs and live in the moment with your loved ones, creating new holiday memories as this incredible cast spreads some cheer by singing loud for all to hear. Happy Holidays!



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LESLIE HORMANN is a Fort Wayne native who grew up on the Youtheatre stage, taking classes and appearing in many of their shows during the 70s! A graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington, she has more than 35 years teaching experience with FWCS & SWAC. In 1997 she found a new home on Rock 104 where, as Leslie Stone, she cohosted Stone and Doc; Mornings that Rock with legendary, local DJ Doc West.

Leslie was brought back to Youtheatre in 2010 as their new Executive Director. Under her direction, she created many community outreach initiatives, specifically StoryBook Theatre tour shows, Backstage Insight, and Preschool programming. She is the co-creator of Youtheatre's award winning Young Heroes of Conscience Series and continues to lead workshops on Arts In Education programming. She retired last June.

Leslie remains devoted to performing. She was a mainstay Civic performer in the 80s and 90s and most recently played Lucy in their production of Avenue Q. She has also appeared on Arena and First Presbyterian stages. Out and about in the community, Leslie entertains many a child as a local storyteller, and she has sung with area bands, Copperhead Road and Bob Green & Friends.

Leslie is thrilled and honored to work with such a talented cast and crew. Thanks to Phillip (a fellow Snider Panther) and the Civic for this incredible opportunity!

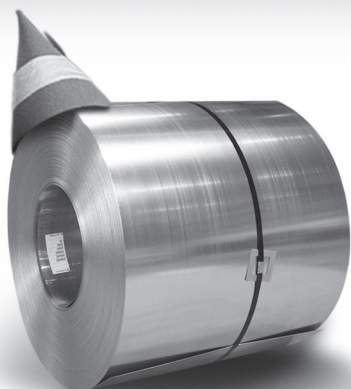


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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST

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Jovie.....	Alyssa Plisco
Walter Hobbs.....	Darren Harrison
Emily Hobbs.....	Jan Venderly
Michael Hobbs.....	Jack Melton
Deb.....	Lisa Ramos
Manager.....	Matt Stephenson
Mr. Greenway.....	Matt Faley
Santa.....	Jeffery Moore
Chadwick.....	Susannah Chadwell
Matthews.....	Jenny Westropp
Mrs. Claus, Sara, Ensemble.....	Heather Brackeen
Security Guard, Fake Santa, Ensemble.....	Nol Beckley
Sam, Fake Santa, Ensemble.....	Jesse Browning
Charlie, Fake Santa, Ensemble.....	Bobby Way
Shawanda, Ensemble.....	Melody Browning
Elf, Fake Santa, Ensemble.....	Jacob Burbrink
Elf, Salvation Army Lady, Ensemble.....	Sarah Hobson
Elf, Fake Santa, Ensemble.....	Simon May
Elf, Ensemble.....	Jordan Fletcher
Elf, Ensemble.....	Courtney Prichard
Elf, Ensemble.....	Cassandra Smith
Vendor, Ensemble.....	Chad Burris
Flyer Guy, Ensemble, Michael u/s.....	Caleb Cox
Store Elf, Ensemble.....	Kimee Gearhart
Store Elf, Ensemble.....	Tessa Springer
Teenager, Ensemble.....	Trent George
Charlotte, Ensemble.....	Kara Hawley
Saleswoman, Waitress, Ensemble.....	Mandie Kolkman
Boy, Ensemble.....	Brenner Newsom
Office Intern, Ensemble.....	Braeya Smith
Ensemble.....	Sarah Faley
Ensemble.....	Ella Moore
Ensemble.....	Ren Moore
Ensemble.....	Savannah Woehner

PIT ENSEMBLE

Eunice Wadewitz – Conductor/Keyboard
 Holly Knott – Keyboard
 Adam Moyer – Keyboard
 Gary Amstutz – Keyboard
 Farrell Vernon – Woodwinds
 Brody Vernon – Bass Guitar
 John Renz - Drums

ACT ONE

Overture.....	Pit Ensemble
"Happy All The Time".....	Santa, Buddy, Elves
"Not Happy All The Time".....	Buddy
"World's Greatest Dad".....	Buddy
"In The Way".....	Deb, Walter, Emily, Michael, Ensemble
"Sparklejollytwinklejingle".....	Buddy, Jovie, Manager
"Sparklejollytwinklejingle" Dance.....	Buddy, Jovie, Manager, Ensemble
"Goodnight Jovie".....	Buddy
"I'll Believe In You".....	Michael, Emily
"In The Way" Reprise.....	Emily, Walter
"Just Like Him".....	Buddy, Deb, Walter, Ensemble
"A Christmas Song".....	Buddy, Jovie, Ensemble
"World's Greatest Dad" Reprise.....	Buddy, Ensemble

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15 Minute Intermission

ACT TWO

"Entre'acte"

"Nobody Cares About Santa".....Buddy, Manager, Santas

"Never Fall in Love (with an Elf)".....Jovie

"There is a Santa Claus".....Michael, Emily

"The Story of Buddy"..... Buddy, Walter, Greenway,
Deb, Michael, Emily,
Matthews, Chadwick, Ensemble

"The Story of Buddy" Playoff.....Walter, Deb, Michael, Emily,
Greenway, Buddy, Ensemble

"Nobody Cares" Santa's Reprise.....Santa

"A Christmas Song" Reprise.....Jovie, Walter, Michael
Emily, Buddy, Ensemble

Finale Part One.....Buddy, Jovie, Walter
Emily, Michael, Santa

Finale Part Two.....Company

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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST



JORDAN GAMEON (Buddy) is delighted to be returning to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for *Elf - The Musical*. He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, as well as a Minor in Music. Additionally, Jordan is excited for Stella, his Xoloitzcuintli “puppy” of 4 years to be making her stage debut as New York City Dog # 1. Special thanks to current and former voice/acting instructors Fernando Tarango, Renee Gonzales, Daniel Rodriguez, Cathy Weil, and Keith Younker.

ALYSSA PLISCO (Jovie) earned her Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance with a Theater Arts minor from Huntington University. Her favorite collegiate roles included Martha in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and Cinderella in *Into the Woods*. Alyssa is a vocal artist with Heartland Sings and teaches Voice for the Stage for Fort Wayne Youtheatre. She also teaches private voice and piano lessons through Plisco Music Studio. Alyssa would like to thank her family and friends for being supportive and cheering her on in sharing her love of teaching and performing.



DARREN HARRISON (Walter Hobbs) was last seen at Civic nine years ago in *The Full Monty* before moving to Chicago where he did improv at Second City and IO. He's a two-time Anthony award recipient as Peter Pan and as Joseph in the first *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He's been busy since moving back; TV & Film Producer with Darren Harrison Films, Marketing Director for Peter Franklin, realtor in training at Keller Williams/Visibility team and a firefighter at the Aboite Township Fire Department. “Thank you Leslie Hormann and staff for sharing your incredible talents.”

JAN VENDERLY (Emily Hobbs) has performed at Civic as Victoria in *Is This Seat Taken?*, Maggie in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Gooch et al. in *Jerry's Girls*, and Mary Jane Wilkes in *Big River*. At First Presbyterian Theater, she's played Aunt Blanche in *Broadway Bound*, Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Eve in *The Diaries of Adam and Eve*. At Arena Dinner Theatre, she was Anabell Fuller in *George Washington Slept Here* and Cecily Pigeon in *The Odd Couple*. In University of Saint Francis/Youtheatre's *Willy Wonka*, she played Mrs. Bucket. Love you, Bunny!



JACK MELTON (Michael Hobbs) began acting with the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre in 2016, performing in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Since then, he has landed roles in both Youtheatre and Civic productions, including a stint as Flounder in *The Little Mermaid*, for which he won an Anthony Award. Currently, he is 12 years old and a seventh-grader at Towles New Tech in Fort Wayne. Jack would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support.

ELF THE MUSICAL CAST

LISA RAMOS (Deb) has been seen recently at Civic as Mrs. Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, in *Beauty and The Beast*, *Mary Poppins*, *Shrek*, *Godspell*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and as The Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Anthony Award). "I am so grateful and happy to be in *Elf - The Musical*! This is such a great and fun cast and crew to work with! Thanks to my family and friends for their support."



MATT STEPHENSON (Manager) is ecstatic to be making his Civic debut. However, he is no stranger to the stage. Matt has been an active player at the Pulse Opera House in Warren, Indiana for many years. His favorite credits include, Edward Bloom in *Big Fish*, Charlie Baker in *The Foreigner* and Garry/Roger in *Noises Off*. During typical daylight hours, his alter ego, Mr. Stephenson, can be found teaching math at Huntington North High School. Matt thanks his wife and daughter for their unending love and support while he has secured secondary employment in Macy's lower management.

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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST



MATT FALEY (Mr. Greenway) Faley returns to the Civic having appeared as Joe Pulitzer in Disney's *Newsies* and Chairman Tinsdale in *9 to 5*. Matt has appeared as Herschel in *Bentley*, as Parsons in *1984* and as Donald in *You Can't Take It With You*, with All For One productions. In Plano, Texas, Matt played the Ghost of Jacob Marley in *Scrooge*, with the Plano Community Theatre. Matt recently broadened his stage experience with numerous ballet performances at the Fort Wayne Dance

Collective concerts and Choreographer's Labs. Matt has 3 children, Matthew, Rachel and Sarah – who appears in the show as well.

JEFFERY MOORE (Santa) lives in Fort Wayne. Recent roles includes Richard Nixon in *Frost/Nixon* at Arena Dinner Theatre, Drosselmeier in Project Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, and Albert Soady in First Presbyterian Theater's *Esanaba in da Moonlight*. A seven-time Anthony Award recipient for roles at the Civic, Jeff is grateful to share this show with his wife Heather and their daughters Ren and Ella. "Love to my other girls, Hannah and Zoel!"



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SUSANNAH CHADWELL (Chadwick) is thoroughly thrilled to return to the Civic stage to entertain you with the endearing escapades of Buddy the Elf. She has sung and danced her way through several Civic shows including *9 to 5*, *Shrek*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Memphis*. Susannah thanks her hunky husband, Larry and delightfully dazzling daughters, Natalie and Amanda for their unending love and support, and the talented trio of Leslie, Eunice, and Heather for this awesome opportunity.



JENNY WESTROPP (Matthews) makes her first on-stage appearance and Civic debut in *Elf The Musical*. Prior off-stage roles for this “fifty is nifty” initiate include Sargeant Mother, Skipper, and Santa’s helper; Widow, Warden, and Prayer Warrior; Cheerleader, Chauffeur, and Champion memory-maker. Supporting her love of the arts, and this chance to explore a new passion, she thanks Joe, Emily, Ben and Abby for the courage they give her. Cheers also to the posse of friends applauding her first ON stage adventure, and hopefully laughing hard.

HEATHER BRACKEEN (Mrs. Claus, Sara, Ensemble) spends her days as teacher and her evenings as chef, chauffeur, and cheerleader to four daughters. After all these years with this “big family”, her hubby, Jeff still makes each day feel like a gift. All my love to our family who lets us have this showtime together. Stage credits: *Ruby Bridges*, *Remembering Anne*, *Harriet Tubman & Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Youtheatre), *Shadowlands*, *Cuckoo’s Nest*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Barnum*, *Guys and Dolls* (Civic) and *Chicago* (Arena.)



NOL BECKLEY (Security Guard, Fake Santa, Ensemble) returns to the Civic Theatre and the Arts United Center where he was last seen playing the Old Man in the play *A Christmas Story* in 2012. Recently, Nol played Lord Capulet in IPFW’s *Romeo and Juliet* and Fighting Prawn in Arena Dinner Theater’s *Peter and the Starcatcher*. He has also been on the First Presbyterian Stage as Tranio in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Martini in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. Nol would like to thank his wife Sue, son Jacob and his dog and cats for their support.

JESSIE BROWNING (Sam, Fake Santa, Ensemble) studied at Fort Wayne Youtheatre as an Advanced Drama student under the direction of Broadway veteran Harvey Cocks and is excited to make his Fort Wayne Civic Theatre debut in *Elf*. He formally had the honor to portray roles in; *Snow White*, *The Lion*, *the Witch*, and *the Wardrobe*, *Pinocchio*, *Remembering Anne*, and also had the privilege to participate in several traveling theatre productions during his years at Fort Wayne Youtheatre. Jesse would like to thank everyone who has mentored him throughout his theatre experience, including director Leslie Hormann.





Eunice Wadewitz
Music/Education
Director

According to the National Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts, “arts learning experiences can alter the attitudes of young people toward themselves and each other. For example, students involved in sustained theater arts (scene study, acting techniques, and dramatic or musical theater production) often show gains not only in reading proficiency, but also in self-control and motivation and in empathy and tolerance for others. Learning in and through the arts can even

help students overcome the obstacles of disadvantaged backgrounds.” Businesses understand that arts education helps youth develop a positive work ethic and pride in a job well done, can help troubled youth by providing an alternative to destructive behavior, and aid youth to develop a sense of craftsmanship, quality task performance and goal-setting.

Children find that the theater can offer an emotional safe haven from family turmoil, that achievement in the art and friendships built during the show process embolden them as they enter new situations of various kinds, that their performances bring the broader community together in pride, that their horizons are expanded through trips to theaters outside of their immediate neighborhoods, and that they get a glimpse of the wide-ranging cultural world. All of this leads to a confident, self-motivated youth, empowered with life skills that create a self-reliant person who is successful in school, work, and life. As adults, these same individuals become assets to their community, having learned and developed many skills which they need in order to live and work in a society, and are highly employable.

In short, the arts are as much a part of a child’s development and success as they are a part of a successful and enlightened society.

Contact: 260.422.8641x226 or ewadewitz@fwcivic.org

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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST

BOBBY WAY (Charlie, Fake Santa, Ensemble) is a homeschooled high school Sophomore working with Ivy Tech. He first started acting when he entered Fort Wayne Youtheatre's summer camp in 2016. After that, Bobby auditioned for other Youtheatre shows and branched out into Triple Threat Performing Arts Academy, First Presbyterian Theater, and now Civic Theatre. Bobby wants to thanks his friends, family, and especially Civic Theatre for helping him on this journey.



MELODY BROWNING (Shawanda, Ensemble) is a homeschooled high school senior and Senior Advanced Drama student of Broadway veteran Harvey Cocks, and is thrilled to be making her Civic Theatre debut. Melody is an intern with the Fort Wayne Youtheatre and assists with drama classes for 3-7 year olds, while also appearing most recently in their productions of *Young Harriet Tubman*, *Pinocchio* and *Treasure Island*, and the University of Saint Francis' productions of *The Wizard of*

Oz, and *Sister Act*. Melody would like to thank her family for always supporting her passion for performing!

JACOB BURBRINK (Elf, Fake Santa, Ensemble) returns to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre stage in *Elf - The Musical*. He was most recently seen onstage in Civic's *Newsies*. Other Civic shows include *Beauty and The Beast* and *Jekyll & Hyde*. When not onstage Jacob manages the digital content for ABC 21 here in Fort Wayne. He would like to thank his wonderful fiancée' Hilari Weldon for supporting his theatrical side.



SARAH HOBSON (Elf, Salvation Army Lady, Ensemble) is excited to be making her Civic debut. Currently a senior at Three Rivers Christian Academy, some of her favorite roles include Cinderella in *Cinderella* and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Fire and Light Academy. She was most recently in the ensemble of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre. She attends Triple Threat Performing Arts Academy and is a member of their Pre-

Professional and Senior Musical Theatre Companies. Sarah is planning to pursue musical theatre in college and hoping to perform professionally.



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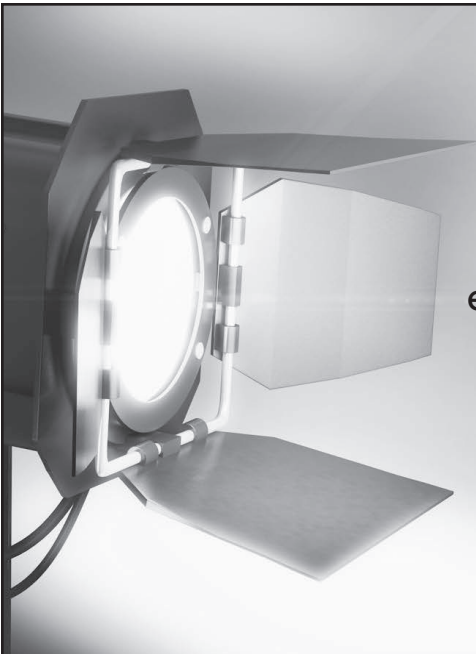
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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST

SIMON MAY (Elf, Fake Santa, Ensemble) most recent appearance in community theater was as Mercedes in the Civic's production of *La Cage aux Folles*. His previous music and theater experience comes from former memberships with the Purdue Varsity Glee Club, the American Boychoir, the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, and Heartland Chamber Choral, among others. Simon is a graduate of Purdue University, working as Communications Manager for Benchmark Human Services. He would like to thank his loving partner Richard Cochran for supporting him and putting up with many weeks of evenings home alone during rehearsals.



JORDAN FLETCHER (Elf, Ensemble, Dance Captain) is very excited to be returning to the Civic Theatre! She has previously been seen on the Civic stage in the ensemble of *White Christmas*, *Jekyll & Hyde* and *A Christmas Carol*. Thanks to Leslie, Eunice, Heather and everyone backstage for helping us create a magical experience. Enjoy the show and have a Merry Christmas!

COURTNEY PRICHARD (Elf, Ensemble) is very excited to be in her first show at the Civic. It has been a very fun experience and great to get back into the show life after taking about two years off from performing. She would like to thank her parents for all of their support and encouragement as she gets back into things. Enjoy the trip to Christmastown and back, and the fun spirit of *Elf*!



CASSANDRA SMITH (Elf, Ensemble) has been on stage since she was eight years old with over fifteen stage shows on her resume. Her recent favorites include Rosa the Fairy in *Pinocchio* with Youththeatre, the Baker in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with Fire & Light, Nun Ensemble in *Sister Act* with USF), and Mary Tilford in *The Children's Hour* at First Presbyterian. Cassandra is an honor roll student in the 8th grade at St. Charles Borromeo. Thanks to Leslie and Heather for the experience, and her guinea pig for putting up with the late nights.

CHAD BURRIS (Vendor, Ensemble) appears in his fourth Christmas production with the Civic, having worked backstage on *A Christmas Story*, and been in the ensemble for *A Christmas Carol* and *White Christmas*. Other Civic shows include *Young Frankenstein* and *La Cage aux Folles*. Chad works at WPTA, and is the host of 80s Spotlight on WELT, 95.7 FM. In his spare time, he enjoys watching movies, spending time with his dog Wesley, and planning his next Halloween costume! Thanks to Leslie, Heather and Eunice for this wonderful opportunity. Hope you enjoy the show!



ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST



CALEB COX (Flyer Guy, Ensemble, Michael understudy) is a 7th grader at Carroll Middle School. He has previously been seen as Tiny Chef/Fish in *The Little Mermaid* (Anthony Award nomination), Scrooge at Age 12 in *A Christmas Carol* at the Civic, an orphan in *Oliver!* with IPFW and the Youtheatre, and as Frank Jr. in *Merrily We Roll Along* at IPFW. In addition to singing and performing, Caleb enjoys designing costumes, playing the French Horn in the school band, and visiting Disney parks with his family. Much love to his family for their love and support!

KIMEE GEARHART (Store Elf, Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Civic Theatre debut! She is a senior at Homestead High School, and also has an internship with the Fort Wayne Youtheatre. She has done shows within the Fort Wayne Youtheatre, most recently playing Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*, and previous credits include *Canterville Ghost* and *Pinocchio* where she was the assistant choreographer. Kimee would like to thank her family and friends who have always supported her, especially her mom who has always supported and put up with her crazy rehearsal schedule!



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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST

TESSA SPRINGER (Store Elf, Ensemble) is thrilled to be returning to the Civic stage in *Elf* after last being seen in *La Cage aux Folles*. As a trained makeup artist, Tessa has worked behind the scenes at Civic as makeup designer/artist and appeared in *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *A Christmas Story*. Tessa is grateful for the opportunity to appear with such a talented and special cast. She would like to make a shout out to her voice coach, Renee Gonzales, and her family and friends for their continued love and support! Happy Holidays!



TRENT GEORGE (Teenager, Ensemble) is making his first appearance on the Civic Stage and loving every minute. He was last seen as Mufasa in Deer Ridge Elementary's performance of *Lion King Jr.* Trent has danced at SheeKriStyle with a competitive hip hop team since a young age. Trent played the role of Leroy Herdman in Fort Wayne Youtheatre's *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. He also performed in *Sleepy Hollow* and *Charlie Brown Christmas*. Trent thanks Sue Caudill, Sheenah Johnson, Leslie Hormann, and his sister, Taya, for their contributions to his growth as a performer.

KARA HAWLEY (Charlotte, Ensemble) is ecstatic to make her debut on the Civic Stage and the world of musical theatre. She has performed and choreographed four performances for "Dancing with the Celebrities" at the Tibbits Opera House. Her love for music and dance has shaped her to be a passion-filled wedding DJ and aerobics instructor. She would love to thank everyone that supported this dream, especially the production staff for believing in her as a performer.



MANDIE KOLKMAN (Saleswoman, Waitress, Ensemble) has studied and performed classical ballet and other styles of dance at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Boston Ballet, New Orleans Ballet Theatre, Houston Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, and Butler Ballet. Mandie choreographs and directs several shows in Fort Wayne and serves as the Artistic Director of the Fort Wayne Dance Collective. Her musical debut was earlier this year with the Three Rivers Music Theatre, playing the role

of Helga in *Cabaret*. She is thrilled to perform with the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for the first time.

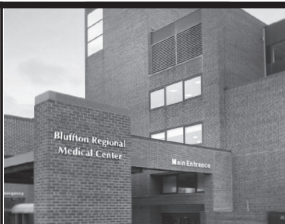
BRENNER NEWSOM (Boy, Ensemble) is excited for his return to the Civic stage since first appearing in the Children's Chorus of *Joseph*. Most recently he could be seen as Ugly in *Honk, Jr.* at the Wells Community Theater, as Artie in *Lost in Yonkers* at the Pulse Opera House, and at TRMT in the 'When I Grow Up' Cabaret. Brenner is currently a 6th grader at Norwell Middle School. He would like to thank his parents and brother for supporting and encouraging him; and all of his dance, acting, and voice teachers for fostering his love of performing.



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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST

BRAEYA SMITH (Office Intern, Ensemble) is a new face on the Civic stage! Braeya was a member of the Children's Chorus for the most recent Civic production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. An 8th grader at Lane Middle School, Braeya gives special thanks to her family and friends. "Especially thankful for the love and effort my grandparents give for me."



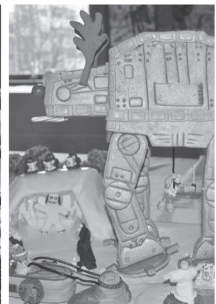
SARAH FALEY (Ensemble) is a freshman at Homestead High School. Sarah has been in one Youtheatre production, appeared in *Scrooge* at the Plano Civic Theatre in Texas, and three of Summit Middle School's spring musicals. In addition to theatre, Sarah enjoys running, softball, and dance!

ELLA MOORE (Ensemble) is a fourth grader at Weisser Park Arts Magnet. She loves honor choir, dance troupe, taiko drums, drama and band. Recent productions include: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Seussical Jr.* at Plymouth Church and *Harriet Tubman* with Youtheatre. She was a member of the Children's Chorus for Civic's most recent *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She also studies at Project Ballet. Ella says, "I'm glad that I chose to do *Elf* with my family."



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ELF - THE MUSICAL CAST

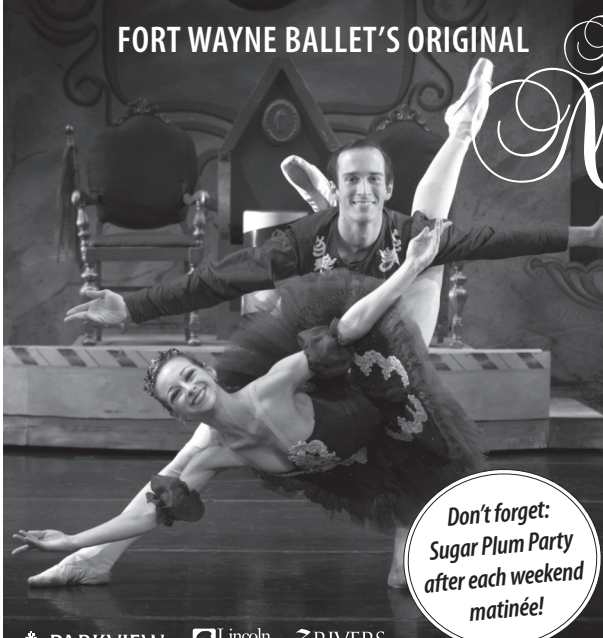


REN MOORE (Ensemble) is an eighth grader at Memorial Park where she plays mallets in band and is proud to be in show choir. Recent productions include: *Into the Woods, Jr* as the Witch, *Hairspray* as Ms. Pinky/Tracy understudy at Memorial Park; *Seussical, Jr.* as JoJo at Plymouth; *Harriet Tubman* and *Ruby Bridges* with Youtheatre; and in the Children's Chorus for Civic's most recent *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Even though Ren is sharing the stage with her family, she says, "I couldn't have done this without my cat, Peach."

SAVANNAH WOEHNKER (Ensemble) is excited to be back on stage for her third Civic show. She has appeared on the Civic stage in *A Christmas Story the Musical* and *A Christmas Carol*. Last year she was in Youtheatre's *Charlie Brown Christmas*. Savannah is an eighth grader at Memorial Park Middle School where she is currently playing The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods Jr.* She is also a member of the 78th Edition Show Choir and the Memorial Park Dance Troupe. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support.



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 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ELF - THE MUSICAL CHOREOGRAPHER

HEATHER CLOSSON (Choreographer) is a choreographer, performer, and dance educator from Northeast Indiana. In addition to receiving her B.S. in Dance Performance from Ball State University, Heather has trained professionally at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the American Dance Festival, and New 42nd Street. Specializing in musical theatre choreography, she has choreographed over thirty productions throughout the state of Indiana and has received several awards recognizing her theatrical choreography. Active in the community, Heather is proud to have performed, worked or volunteered with several Fort Wayne nonprofit organizations centered around the arts and youth education, including: Fort Wayne Youtheatre, Philharmonic, Dance Collective, Project READS, dAnce.Kontemporary, FAME, Middle Waves, and Science Central. Heather holds her M.O.L. in Organizational Leadership (Nonprofit Management) and currently serves as the Grants & Program Manager at Arts United and an instructor at Ratio Dance.



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First Presbyterian Theater

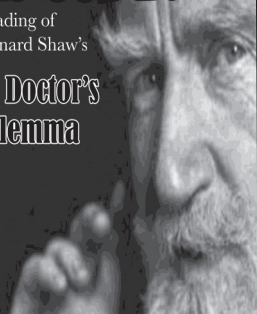
300 W. Wayne Street—presents

October 4-20

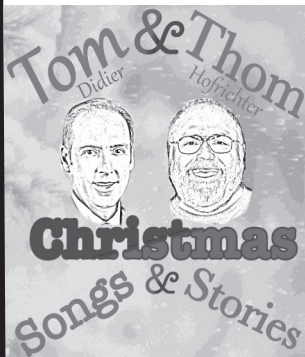


A staged reading of
George Bernard Shaw's

**The Doctor's
Dilemma**



November 29-December 16



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ELF-THE MUSICAL STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

TALA MUNSTERMAN (Stage Manager) Be it wrangling energetic, unruly children at her day job or wrangling equally energetic, unruly actors as a stage manager, Tala Munsterman, much like Santa, keeps a list and checks it twice to see who's naughty and nice. Thankfully, she has found everyone to have been good this year, therefore *Elf* is sure to be a delightful treat! She has recently performed in *Hamlet* and *Jekyll and Hyde* and has been backstage in various technical positions for all but one Fort Wayne Civic production for the past two and a half years.



MARGARET LESLIE (Assistant Stage Manager) comes back to the Civic Theatre for another holiday show! She returned after a hiatus of several years as a part of the production team for last season's *White Christmas*. "We have such incredible talent at the Civic. It is always a joy for me to watch the play come together. Those both on stage and backstage demonstrate a real commitment to each production. I hope you enjoy *Elf*!"



rena Dinner Theatre
presents

SHE LOVES ME

Music by Jerry Bock
Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick
Book by Joe Masteroff

November 23, 24, 30,
December 1, 7, 8, 9*, 14, 15, 2018
(*2:00PM Sunday matinee)

arenadinnertheatre.org

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Dinner Served
at 7:00p

Curtain Time
at 8:00p

Box Office:
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719 Rockhill Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802



BEHIND THE SCENES

Scenic Artist & Volunteer Coordinator	Victoria Gardner
Assistant Costumer.....	Rosemary Hampton
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Margaret Leslie
Dance Captain.....	Jordan Fletcher
Technical Interns.....	Ashley Brassell, Brandon Johnson Sophie Knox, Renaé Rogers
Build & Paint Crew.....	Sloan Amburgey-Thomas, Dawn Anderson, Brian Boone, Ashley Brassell, Jacob Burbrink, Holly Chaille, Jim Espich, Joann Espich, Jared Evans, Sharon Fallon, Kelly Galvan, Lisa Gardner, Jean Graber, Leslie Hormann, Karen Jacobs, Brandon Johnson, Gregory Johnson, Jeff Kachmar, Sophie Knox, Martha Magofna, Madelon Martinez, Kathleen Melei, Caden Miller, Michelle Mueller, Alexandra Nolt, Kelly Paul, Hugo Ramos, Audra Rittenhouse, Renae Rogers, Mary Sitz, Vickie Sitz, Kari S. Smith, Kari Smith, Denise Sordelet, Kyle Spencer, Darrell Stalling, Jimella Stallings, Laura Stalling, Phyllis Sweet, Marsha Wallace, Lori Way, Loren Woody
Floor Crew.....	Cheyenne Barron, Brian Boone Brandon Johnson, Martha Magofna, Renae Rogers
Flying Crew.....	Martha Magnofa
Sound Designer.....	Anthony Krick
Sound Board Operators.....	Jeremy Bugge, Anthony Krick
Light Board Operator.....	Joe Smith
Lighting Crew.....	Brock Eastom, Tori Reed
Fly Rail.....	Tristan Burris, Shawna Roberts
Props Master.....	Jim Hulbert
Props Assistance.....	Family Dollar, Victoria Gardner, Corey Lee, Pembroke Bakery, Gregory Stieber, Patrick Swartz, Monica Sweigert
Props Runners.....	Patrick Swartz
Costume Shop Intern.....	Ayla Mclinn
Costume Shop Volunteers.....	Kara Hawley, Karicia Hobson, Shelby Lewis, Linnea Mazock, Marilyn Petersen, Geena Roth,
Wardrobe Crew.....	Jennifer Buinowski, Marisa Gehrig, Audra Rittenhouse, Kari C. Smith
Marketing Volunteer.....	Marie Britton
Special Thanks To.....	Beverly Lubs & Melanie Morris Kent Hormann & Jeff Bowman, Fort Wayne's NBC Concordia Lutheran High School Koinonia Service Day Dar's Porch & Patio Flying effects created by <i>Flying by Troy</i>

*Operation Science Theatre
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Society of Physics Students

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PETER FRANKLIN



*Congratulations to our
Marketing Director Darren Harrison playing Walter Hobbs.*

We look forward to seeing you at Peter Franklin this holiday season.

Black Friday-Nov. 23rd, Cyber Monday-Nov. 26

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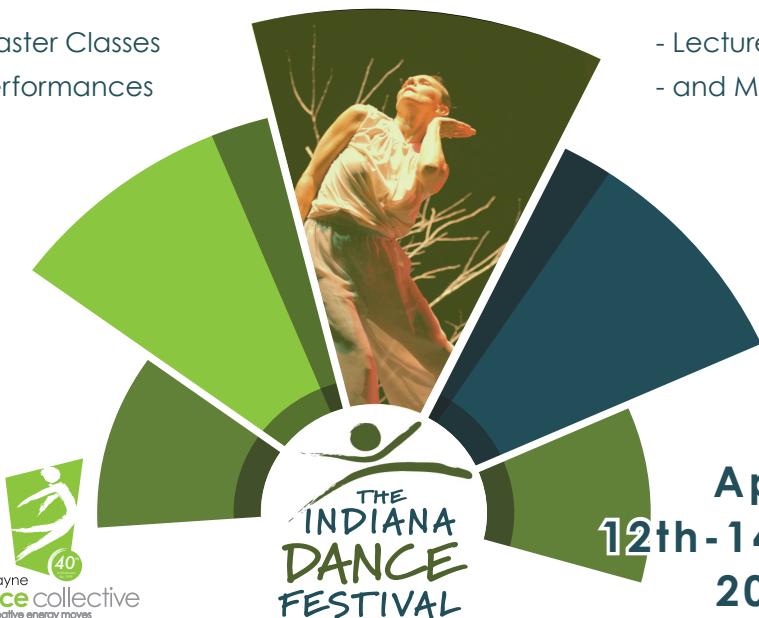
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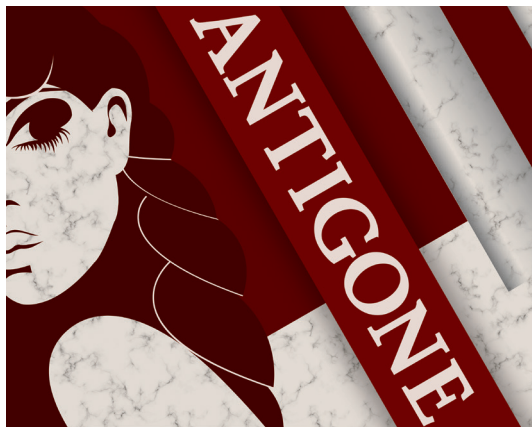
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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE



November 9–17, 2018
Williams Theatre

Adapted from the Greek classic by Sophocles
 Directed by Jeff Casazza

Antigone, determined to bury her brother who has died in a contentious civil war, now has to battle their uncle Creon, the new king. He decrees that her brother's body should be left unburied for the birds to devour. Believing her duty to her brother is greater than her duty to her king, she disobeys this order knowing full well that challenging authority and fighting for justice will bring about her eventual demise. Fearless in the face of moral, religious, and political dilemmas that mirror those of today, Antigone, often seen as theatre's first female hero, is a hero of our time.

Admission

\$5 Purdue FW students
 H.S. students
 Children under 18
 All others \$12-\$16

260-481-6555

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