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691st PRODUCTION

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre
World Debut of

The Wedding Gift

Book, Music & Lyrics by Nancy Carlson Dodd

Music & Lyrics by Dori Erwin Collins

Orchestrations* by Ryan Shirar

*Orchestrations sponsored by The Chapman Fund

The Wedding Gift

is presented by special arrangement with Nancy Carlson Dodd and Dori Erwin Collins.

The Wedding Gift logo designed by Katie Clementz, Visual Designer

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

Director

PHILLIP H. COLGLAZIER

Music Director
EUNICE WADEWITZ

Choreographer OLIVIA RANG

Scenic Designer

ADAM FLETCHER

Costume Designer

ANGELA SAHLI

Lighting Designer & Technical Director COREY LEE Stage Manager
CLARENCE F. TENNIS, III

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Executive/Artistic Director: Phillip H. Colglazier
Business Manager: Mahlon Houlihan
Marketing Director: Elise Ramel
Music & Education Director: Eunice Wadewitz
Lighting Designer & Technical Director: Corey Lee
Scenic Designer & Master Carpenter: Adam Fletcher
Costume Designer: Angela Sahli
Costume Assistant & Rental Manager: Rosemary Hampton

Scenic Artist & Volunteer Coordinator: Victoria Gardner



Join the Guild!

A love for the Civic Theatre is all that is needed! The Guild meets the 1st Monday of the month for a dinner meeting at a restaurant in Fort Wayne.

Annual dues are just \$25.

Call Cappy at 260-744-3724 or Lisa at 260-637-1854 for more information.

The purpose of the Guild for the past 58 years has been to assist the Theatre in all areas including financial support.

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^{*}Leadership Fort Wayne Intern

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Parkview Health Mike Packnett, President and CEO

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.

2018-2019 SHOW SPONSORS

ADM - Asphalt Drum Mixers 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.

2018-2019 SHOW SPONSORS

Steel Dynamics, Inc. 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

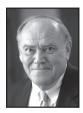
As a corporate theater company, many at Markey's Rental & Staging began their careers both on and off the stage. It is through theater we hope to engage our communities, nourish their creativity, and show the world through a different lens in the hopes that we connect with our audiences and leave lasting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

2018-2019 SHOW SPONSORS

OmniSource Corporation 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.



GROWTH INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN Lifetime Contributors

Composer \$25,000 - \$49,999

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2018-2019 BENEFACTORS

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre gratefully acknowledges the special contributions of the following individuals and businesses.

Choreographer \$15,000 and beyond

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Ensemble Role \$100 to \$199, cont.

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Donations of \$100 or more are recognized.

Donations are recognized within the season they are donated, not by calendar year.

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

Proud to partner



with the Fort Wayne Civic and local arts organizations, which enhance our community and our way of life.



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The Encore Society



Set the stage for those who follow with a planned gift to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre that will continue to perform after you are gone. Join The Encore Society by naming the Civic Theatre as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan. This is one of the best ways to ensure the organization you've always loved and supported continues to thrive.

To be listed in our print materials as a member of The Encore Society, please let us know when you have added Civic Theatre to your estate beneficiaries.

> For more information on planned giving contact: Civic Theatre's Executive/Artistic Director Phillip H. Colglazier at (260) 422.8641 x225

> > or your attorney and make sure vour will includes a gift to Civic Theatre.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the World Debut of *The Wedding Gift*!

On behalf of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre entire staff and board of directors, we are so thrilled to be showcasing the incredible talents of Nancy Carlson Dodd, Dori Erwin Collins and Ryan Shirar, the collaborative creators of *The Wedding Gift!* It is a delightful romantic comedy I hope you will encourage all of your friends and loved ones to come see!



Phillip H. Colglazier

Since 1927, the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre has been 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

Please plan to join us for the hilarious comedy *Vanya* and *Sonia* and *Masha* and *Spike* to be directed by Dr. John Tolley and in April/May we will present the ABBA musical *Mamma Mia*!

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre is proud to announce the 2019-2020 Season!

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang - July 27-August 11, 2019

Sweeney Todd - September 13-22, 2019

Miracle on 34th Street-the musical - November 9-24, 2019

Roald Dahl's Matilda - February 15-March 1, 2020

A Cole Porter Celebration Concert - March 28 & 29, 2020

In Collaboration with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic at the Embassy Theatre

Noises Off - May 1-10, 2020

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

100% Club

Donors who have completed the total (\$1,480 or more) contribution to the 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.



Lead Gift - Wayne & Linda Boyd

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In just 9 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.

Call the Civic Theatre's Business Office to request your pledge form or to make your 100th Anniversary Endowment donation today! (260) 422-8641 x222

Thank you to these donors who have made an on-going commitment in support of the 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

Craig & Diana Bartscht Cheri & Mark Becker Dr. Tom Blake Rena Burden & Patrick Shawn Jeff & Rebecca Cameron David & Susan Chipps Kelly & Beth Clevenger Phillip H. Colglazier Cynthia Elick Merry E. Ewing Sharon & John Fallon Audrey Frison Robinson Melanie & Bob Hall Patti Havs Cindy S. Henry Edward & Mary Lou Hutter Dennis & Deb Jones Janet & Sam Kamdar Jennifer Keltsch

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES - PHILLIP H. COLGLAZIER



Most of us in the theatre community, and throughout our city, know of Nancy Carlson Dodd. If you've met Nancy through her longtime connection with Fort Wayne Theatre (as an award winning actress, playwright) or as a teacher/mentor, newspaper writer, mortgage closer, or through church, then you have experienced the Nancy Carlson Dodd wit and humor. It's this distinguishing quality she has instilled into her original

musical *The Wedding Gift*. I am honored to showcase the incredible talents of Nancy, Dori Erwin Collins, and Ryan Shirar who are the collaborative creators of this new musical. It's a delightful and lovely comedy that I hope you will encourage all your friends and loved ones to come see.

Nancy and I go back several years, having met through mutual friends and her being my first home mortgage closer. She was the first winner of Civic's playwriting contest in 2010 with her play *The Ladies in Cabin 10* and again in 2013 with *The Wedding Gift*. Originally conceived as a musical, she took the music out of *The Wedding Gift* so that she could enter the play in our competition. The Civic Theatre and I fell in love with the story and encouraged her to continue with her passion of playwriting.

Fast forward six years, Nancy put all the music back into the script and collaborated with her niece in Chicago, Dori Erwin Collins, on the music and lyrics. She and Dori invited me to attend their professional showcase of *The Wedding Gift* in Chicago where I heard the melodies and lyrics for the first time and was amazed at their artistic quality. I then presented the concept of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre producing this original musical to our Artistic Committee who makes our show selections. The Committee embraced the idea and was thrilled to bring this new work to our community again, but now as a fully produced musical with orchestra, props, scenery, costumes, lights, and choreography.

Dori and Nancy worked tirelessly to finalize the script with the music. Then, to put the final touches on their "baby," the Civic Theatre helped them to secure underwriting from The Chapman Fund for the creation of the orchestration by New York composer Ryan Shirar. We added the show to our 2018-2019 season, promoted the auditions, cast the show in December, and began rehearsals after the first of the year.

The Civic Theatre's production team, along with our choreographer Olivia Rang, music director Eunice Wadewitz, and I, held lengthy meetings to design a show that met Nancy and Dori's vision. All the pieces of this artistic puzzle came together and the picture became clear; it is now a living and breathing work of art, growing each day into something we are now proud to present and eager to share with everyone. It has been truly exciting to be included in the development of Nancy's original vision. With the support of Fort Wayne talent, each performance is a salute to Nancy, Dori, and Ryan's accomplishments.

For Nancy and Dori, thank you for trusting the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre with your treasured gift *The Wedding Gift*.

PHILLIP H. COLGLAZIER

PHILLIP H. COLGLAZIER (Executive/Artistic Director Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Director of *The Wedding Gift*) has worked for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for more than twenty-five years. He has directed and choreographed over 66 productions for the Civic Theatre since 1993. He was honored at the Indiana Arts Leadership Awards as the 2008 Arts Administrator by the Indiana Coalition for the Arts. Phillip has served as the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's Executive/Artistic Director since 2000 after serving one year as the Managing Director of Edyvean Repertory Theatre (E.R.T.) in Indianapolis. Prior to ERT he worked at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre as Interim Executive Director, Development/Education Director, Guest Director and Choreographer.

Phillip performed professionally as an Actors Equity Member for twelve years in musical theatre and television. He appeared in a Broadway Revue in Seoul, Korea under the direction of Baayork Lee (the original Connie Wong in *A Chorus Line*). While in Europe he performed under the direction of Gillian Lynne in the Vienna, Austria's company of *CATS* and with RAI UNO's television program *FANTASTICO 5* in Rome, Italy. Phillip earned his membership into the Actor's Equity Association by performing the roles of Paul in *A Chorus Line* and Chino in *West Side Story* at Beef-N-Boards Dinner theatre in Indianapolis.

As a playwright, Phillip has written *Best Intentions, The Marquee Quest* and ...before I wake... He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication and Theatre from Ball State University. Phillip is native of Fort Wayne and got his start on stage at the Civic Theatre at the age of 15.



fwmetals.com/careers



THE WEDDING ON T	0/101
Flossie Marvel	Rebecca Nelson
Cynthia Marvel	Aimee Lackey
Arthur Marvel	John P. Gardner
Grant Livingston	Aaron Mann
Austin Austin	Timothy Miles
Daphne Austin	Janet K. Piercy
William Austin	Simon May
Randolph	Matt Faley
Wanda	Jensen Davis
Melody Rutherford	Cathy Christoff
Thomas Rutherford	Joe Crouch
Raymond, Ensemble	lsaac Lengacher
Meter Man, Ensemble	Jesse Browning
Messenger, Ensemble	Courtney Prichard
Fiona, Ensemble	Sarah Stevenson
Tennis Friend, Ensemble	Jenny Westropp
Ensemble	Olivia Bermes
Ensemble	Jeanne Hanford

THE WEDDING GIFT

THE WEDDING GIFT

ORCHESTRA

CAST

Conductor/Piano – Eunice Wadewitz
Violin – Paul Demaree
Cello – Martyna Bleke
Flute – Nancy Martin
Woodwinds – Farrell Vernon
Bass – Patrick Gillan
Percussion – John Renz

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture	Orchestra
"A Big Texas Wedding"	Grant, Flossie
"The Unexpected Things"	Arthur, Cynthia, Flossie
"God Save the Queen"	Randolph, Wanda
"The Sport of Sports"	Cynthia, Arthur, Daphne, William, Judge, Ensemble
"The Sport of Sports" Party	Randolph, Wanda, Ensemble
"Single Children"	Arthur, Cynthia, Daphne, William
"Single Children" Reprise	William, Daphne
"Love-Nothing"	Austin, Flossie
"In My Warm Embrace"	Austin
"Love-Nothing" Reprise	Flossie, Austin
"The Unexpected Things" Reprise	Arthur, Cynthia
"Best Wishes"	Telegram Lady, Meter Man, Raymond, Fiona, Randolph, Wanda & Company

15 Minute Intermission

ACT TWO

"Entr'acte"	Orchestra
"What a Surprise"	Austin, Flossie
"Nobody Likes a Loser"	Austin, Daphne, Grant, Wanda Randolph, Raymond, William
"Ev'ry Summer With You"	Flossie
"If I Only Had a Brother"	Austin, Grant
"Best Wishes" Finale	Company
Curtain Call	Company

THE WEDDING GIFT



NANCY KIERSPE CARLSON DODD (Book, Music and Lyrics) is a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington. While at the university, Nancy majored in Speech and Theatre, was elected to the national theatre honorary society, and won an all-school script contest when she was a senior. As a result, her musical *The Beautiful Witch* was produced by the theatre department.

Throughout the years while she raised her family, Nancy was very active in community theatre, participating in both musicals and straight plays, taking leading roles in over 37 productions, garnering acting awards in several. Those productions ranged from playhouses in Santa Monica, California, to Denver, Colorado, to Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Nancy served as Director of Drama for 7 years at Trinity English Lutheran church in Fort Wayne, both writing and directing plays for members of the congregation, and conducting and teaching classes for students kindergarten through high school seniors.

Although she stepped back into the work force as a grade school teacher and then Director of Drama, she retired from the work force after 12 years as a Senior Loan Officer with Ruoff Mortgage in Fort Wayne.

During the years since college graduation, Nancy has continued to write. She has written three musicals for children's theatre, all of which have been produced around the United States. Her children's musical, *The Magic Pebble* was published in 1996 by Samuel French, New York, and was named the Best Children's Theatre play in Denver, CO, in 1984. Her musical *Mountain Molly* was named first runner up in a national playwriting contest sponsored by the American Theatre Association. Nancy also co-authored, with Dori Erwin Collins, the Christian musical *5,000 For Supper* which enjoys production throughout the year at various churches. In 2010, First Presbyterian Theatre, Fort Wayne, premiered *The Christmas Spirit*.

Her writing career also includes the self-publishing of the Christmas gift book, *And The Wisemen Wore Tennis Shoes*, which has sold over 5,000 copies. In 2010, Nancy's play *The Ladies in Cabin 10* won the first ever Northeast Indiana Playwright contest. In 2013, her play, *The Wedding Gift* won that contest, and she has now completed that play as a musical.

During her retirement, Nancy remains active in her church. She continues to contribute a humorous guest column to the Fort Wayne News Sentinel which she has done for over 25 years, and is a monthly contributor to the Springfield State Journal Register, for which she regularly writes a humorous column. She is also a major writer for the newspaper Senior News & Times for Illinois, contributing a book column and various other assignments.

THE WEDDING GIFT



DORI ERWIN COLLINS (Music and Lyrics) is a Chicago actor, composer, and writer. Chicago acting credits include Copenhagen (Margrethe) with Etopia, Netta at Ninety (Louise) with Women's Theatre Alliance, One Flea Spare (Darcy) with Ghost Light Productions, Both Your Houses (u/s Miss McMurtry) with Remy Bumppo, Far From Heaven (u/s Mrs. Leacock/Mona) with Porchlight Music Theatre, and Cabaret (u/s Fr. Schneider) with Theatre at the Center.

Dori is an on-air host of the Annual AID Telethon, and has appeared as the headline vocalist in Chicago area benefit concerts. Other work includes industrial film, and the recently released award-winning short feature film, *Unorthodox*. As well, Dori has written a catalogue of work including over 40 published and recorded songs, and a slate of articles published in academic journals of theology. Dori is ever so grateful for the delightful partnerships with Nancy Carlson Dodd and Ryan Shirar that led to this production, and for the behind-the-scenes contributions of play whisperer Jane Brody, and transcriber-occasional arrangers, Andrew Blendermann and Nikko Benson, whose input was always golden. Dori also wishes to thank Phillip, Eunice, Elise, and the entire cast and crew at the Fort Wayne Civic for so beautifully bringing *The Wedding Gift* to life with such sparkle, enthusiasm and heart.

RYAN SHIRAR (Orchestrations) is a New York City-based pianist and musician, whose range of talents include conducting, music directing, arranging, composing and teaching. His repertoire ranges from classical to pop to Broadway. Shirar has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Aspen Music Festival, New York's Town Hall, and Feinstein's/54 Below and with orchestras including Austin Symphony, Harrisburg Symphony, Columbus Symphony, and



Cleveland Pops. Shirar made his Broadway debut in 2015 as pianist for *The Visit* and is currently the music director and orchestrator for the international performing group, The Four Phantoms. He also performs with SpotOn Entertainment and Manhattan Concert Productions.

As orchestrator, Shirar has collaborated with Stephen Schwartz, Sheena Easton, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Mickey Thomas, MercyMe, Tri: The New Irish Tenors, The Broadway Boys, Lincoln Center Gala, Virginia Opera, and The American Pops Orchestra.

Shirar serves as music director for singer Maxine Linehan. He co-produced, arranged, and performed on her album, "Beautiful Songs" and made his international orchestral conducting debut at the Theatre du Chatelet with Linehan's show, *What Would Petula Do?*



REBECCA NELSON (Flossie Marvel) is currently in need of a nap and Thai food. From her job as a genetic counselor, to her side gigs as world's greatest trivia host and below average team sports participant, Rebecca still finds time to dance, sing, and steal your heart away (hello, Oxford comma, she's a fan). Recent roles include Anne in *A Little Night Music*, Fritzie in *Cabaret*, and Ariel in Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Rebecca is grateful to the Civic Theater for this opportunity and to her cat, Sicily, for being her greatest inspiration. -written by her BFF Monica.

AIMEE LACKEY (Cynthia Marvel) thanks Phillip, Eunice, Olivia and Nancy for the opportunity to be involved in this musical debut! Last seen on the Civic stage as the mother in *A Christmas Story*, other favorite roles include Mama Morton in *Chicago*, Vicki in *Full Monty*, and Violet in 9 to 5. She is frequently seen at Arena Dinner Theatre and has won awards for her work in theatre. She works as a dental hygienist for Clinkenbeard Dentistry, and is mother to three amazing kids! Always thanks her family, friends, and DLJ for their support of her passion.

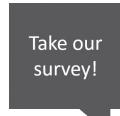


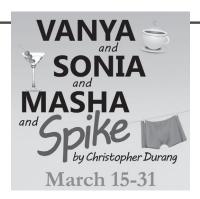


JOHN P. GARDNER (Arthur) was last involved with the Civic Theatre in 2007 portraying Marc in *Art*. His acting credits stretch well over four decades and include dozens of shows on stages in Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, Michigan and Indiana. Yet other than *The Wedding Gift*, his only other musical was *Brigadoon* in 1998, produced by the Huron Summer Playhouse (OH). He is grateful to work with cast and crew in this witty tale of two lonely hearts being lassoed by love.

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Take the survey by March 6 & you could win 2 free tickets to Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike **AARON MANN (Grant Livingston)** Civic shows: *Avenue Q* (Princeton), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Lawrence Jameson), *Mary Poppins* (George Banks), *Young Frankenstein* (Inspector Kemp/Blind Hermit) and *Spamalot* (Patsy). Most recently, Mann scenic designed and played Caliban in an immersive Shakespeare project. Before *Tempest*, he was in *COMPANY* (Bobby), *Curious George* (Chef Pisghetti), and LaDAHLord the narrator in Pasek and Paul's *James and the Giant Peach*.



Performing in venues from Virginia to Nebraska, favorites include: Last Days of Judas Iscariot (El Fayoumy), MacBeth (MacBeth), Little Shop of Horrors (Seymour), HAIR (Berger), and South Pacific (Emile De Becque).



TIMOTHY MILES (Austin Austin) found his love of acting in high school speech class. Tim has participated in many Shakespearean plays including *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and in operas such as *Sampson Et Delilah* and *Faust*. Since moving to Fort Wayne in 2012 he has appeared at the Civic as the Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol* and as a featured soloist in last season's collaboration concert with the Philharmonic. He most recently

appeared as Smudge in Summit City Music Theatre's Inaugural show, Forever Plaid.

JANET K. PIERCY (Daphne Austin) is excited to return to the Civic for this world debut musical as Daphne Austin. An award winning actress, Janet has been active in nearly every theatre in town and was last seen at Civic in A Christmas Carol. From operettas like The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado, to standards, State Fair, The Music Man, Beauty and the Beast, to comedies, A Christmas Story, A Funny Little Thing Called Love, The Man Who Came To Dinner or The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Janet loves being on stage.





SIMON MAY (William Austin) Fresh off multiple featured ensemble rolls in *Elf: The Musical* and his first community theater performance as Mercedes in *La Cage aux Folles*, Simon is excited to return to the stage in the Civic Theatre's world debut production of *The Wedding Gift*. 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 fiancé Richard Cochran for supporting his extracurricular activities.

IN THE WINGS ARTS-IN-EDUCATION



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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MATT FALEY (Randolph) returns to the Civic stage having appeared as Mr. Greenway in *Elf,* Joe Pulitzer in Disney's *Newsies* and Chairman Tinsdale in 9 to 5. With All For One productions Matt has appeared as Herschel in *Bentley,* as Parsons in 1984 and as Donald in *You Can't Take It With You.* 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 with Fort Wayne Dance Collective. Matt has 3 children, Matthew, Rachel and Sarah.





JENSEN DAVIS (Wanda) is thrilled to be back on the Civic stage! She was last seen in the Civic Theatre's production of *The Little Mermaid* as Aquata. Most recently she's performed in Shakespearemachine's *Macbeth* as Banquo and as Heidi in Three Rivers Music Theatres [title of show]. Other notable credits include Dromeo of Ephesus in *The Comedy of Errors* Sicinius in *Coriolanus*, Phoebe/Adam in *As You Like It* and Tribe Member in *Hair*. She would like to thank her family,

friends (but only kind of Billy Dawson), Instagram, and Netflix for all the love, support, and validation that she needs.

CATHY CHRISTOFF (Melody Rutherford) last appeared at Civic as Wanda in the play version of *The Wedding Gift.* Her first Civic appearance was in high school in the chorus of *Brigadoon.* She has played many roles in productions with Civic, Arena Dinner Theatre, USF and CC Banks Productions (OH). Anthony Award for Annie in Civic's *Life With Father.* Arena Award for Aunt Gert in *Lost In Yonkers.* Cathy thanks Phillip, Eunice and the entire production team for their hard work and for giving her this opportunity. Congratulations to Nancy Carlson Dodd.







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JOE CROUCH (Thomas Rutherford) is excited to be returning to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre after last appearing as Gangster #2 in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. While obtaining his degree in Honors Mathematics at the University of Notre Dame, Joseph pursued theatre passionately; taking acting/directing courses, performing in both student-led and department productions, and also directing the magnificent, satirical musical *Urinetown*. Joseph teaches at Bishop Luers



where he serves as Assistant Director on the theatrical production. He would like to thank his friends, family, and fellow cast for their support.



ISAAC LENGACHER (Raymond, Ensemble) is excited to be back on the Civic stage after three years in the world premiere of *The Wedding Gift*. He was last seen at the Civic in *A Christmas Story: The Musical* in 2015. His most recent role was as Captain Robert Falcon Scott in Arena Dinner Theatre's production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* in 2017. He is currently, all be it slowly, pursuing a degree in Elementary Education at Ivy Tech. Isaac currently works as a

Head Lifeguard and Swim instructor at the Parkview Family YMCA and as the Aquatics Director for a Cub Scout summer camp. He would like to thank his fiancé, Tristan Robinson, for his continued love and support.

JESSE BROWNING (Meter Man, Ensemble) studied at Fort Wayne Youtheatre as an Advanced Drama student under the direction of Broadway veteran Harvey Cocks and is excited to be a part of the debut of Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's *The Wedding Gift.* He has had the honor to portray roles in; *Snow White, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Pinocchio, Remembering Anne*, and most recently Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's *Elf.* Jesse would like to thank everyone who has mentored him throughout his theatre experience.





COURTNEY PRICHARD (Messenger, Ensemble) is very excited to be a part of the debut of *The Wedding Gift*, along with many other amazing people. She would like to thank her friends and family for always being so supportive of all of her choices while continuing to move forward doing shows. Previously she has done multiple shows at Northrop, and most recently has been in *Elf - the musical* here at the Civic. She would like to invite all of you to enjoy the story of *The Wedding Gift* and all the laughs it may bring to you. Enjoy!



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SARAH STEVENSON (Fiona, Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her Civic debut! A sophomore at Canterbury High School, Sarah has appeared in numerous productions there including playing the role of Zazu in *The Lion King.* With Youtheatre she appeared as the Green Fairy in *Sleeping Beauty.* She has performed operatic solos including participating in Julliard's Summer Camp and hopes to pursue a career in opera. "Thanks to my mom and my grandparents for driving me to rehearsals. Thanks to Phillip, Eunice and Olivia for getting me out of my comfort zone on this show!"





JENNY WESTROPP (Tennis Friend, Ensemble) made her Civic debut in November as Matthews in *Elf The Musical*. Prior off-stage roles for this "fifty is nifty" initiate include Sergeant Mother, Skipper, and Santa's helper; Widow, Warden, Prayer Warrior and Party-Planner; Cheerleader, Chauffeur, and Chief Custodian. She would like to thank her four *Elf* directors and the current *Wedding Gift* team for giving her the confidence to keep "going for it" through this Civic season.

OLIVIA BERMES (Ensemble) has been training with Fort Wayne Ballet under Karen Gibbons-Brown for eleven years, performing in productions including *Swan Lake, The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet.* Her favorite dancing roles have been *Birthday Variations* by Gerald Arpino and Jane Lanier's *Journey Home.* She was recently in Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's productions of *White Christmas* and *La Cage aux Folles* (recipient of two Anthony Award Nominations and winning Outstanding Ensemble Performance in a Musical) and Arena Dinner Theatre's production of *She Loves Me.* She is very excited to be apart of this original work.





JEANNE HANFORD (Ensemble) can be seen performing on stage and backstage. You may have seen her in the Civic productions of 9 to 5, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Shrek, and A Christmas Story, or on the Arena Dinner Theater stage in The Dixie Swim Club, Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got the Will?, A Funny Little Thing Called Love and the USF's The Wizard of Oz. She is a member of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Guild and is thankful for all the friendships she has made since returning to life in the theatre.



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

THE WEDDING GIFT CHOREOGRAPHER

OLIVIA RANG (Choreographer) is thrilled to be a part of *The Wedding Gift*. Credits include: Fort Wayne Civic Theatre - *Young Frankenstein* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Arena Dinner Theatre - *A Little Night Music* and *Assassins*, Three Rivers Music Theatre - *Cabaret*, and University of Saint Francis - *Catch Me If You Can*. Her choreography has been seen in Civic Theatre's production of *The Little Mermaid*, Three Rivers Music Theatre's *HAIR*, Arena Dinner Theatre's *Assassins* and *A Little Night Music*, and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Holiday POPS. Sending all the love to Austen and my wonderful family and friends.



THE WEDDING GIFT STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

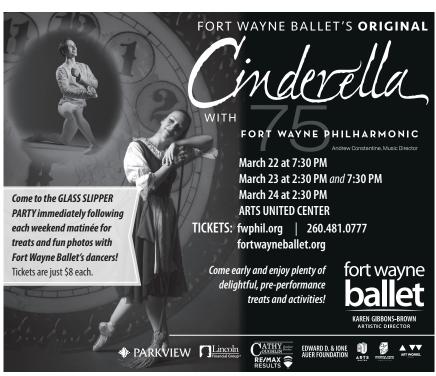


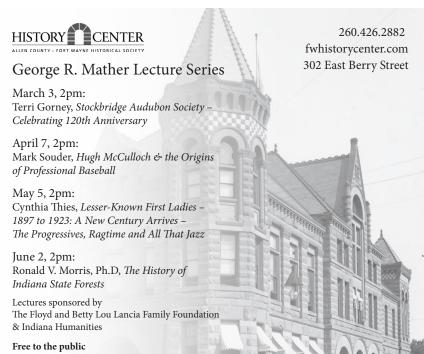
CLARENCE F. TENNIS, III (Stage Manager) is pleased to be a part of the world debut production of *The Wedding Gift* and its cast and crew! Clarence has been working backstage and on-stage since 1996, mostly with the Civic Theatre. His stage managing position was with Arena Dinner Theatre's production *Getting Sara Married.* He is currently a board member with Arena Dinner Theatre, and still finds time to volunteer at Civic Theatre.

JENNIFER GARRETT (Assistant Stage Manager) This is Jennifer's fifth season with the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. She has been part of the stage management team in the past seasons at Civic for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, 33 Variations, The Marvelous Wonderettes, Young Frankenstein, Avenue Q, The Rocky Horror Show, One Foot in the Gravy, and Disney's Beauty and the Beast; and part of crew for Mary Poppins and Jekyll & Hyde the musical. She has also worked with Fort Wayne Youtheatre on Remembering Anne, James & the Giant Peach, and Young Harriet Tubman.











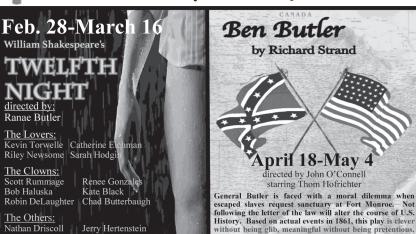
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Mike Adams

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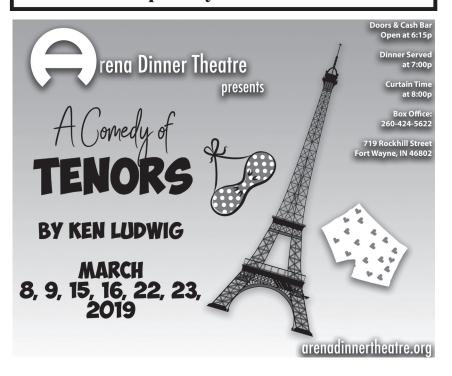
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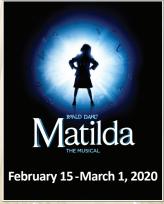
BEHIND THE SCENES

	atorVictoria Gardner
	Rosemary Hampton
9	Jennifer Garrett
	Corey Lee
	Ashley Brassell, Kai Doh Htoo
	Baylie Escamilla
•	Baylie Escamilla, Sarah Maloney
Build & Paint Crew	Sloan Amburgey-Thomas, Ashley Brassell,
	Ruth Birch, Barry Collinsworth, Hannah Dreher
	Jim Espich, JoAnn Espich, Jared Evans,
	Sharon Fallon, John Gardner, Jean Graber,
	Kai Doh Htoo, Greg Johnson, Jeff Kachmar,
	Alyse Kesler, Jocelyn Kratzer, Sharon Smith, Bruce Stahl, Marsha Wallace, Loren Woody
Floor Crow	Beth Fisher, Richard Hargis,
Floor Crew	Martha Magofna, Tala Munsterman
Crew Sub	
	rJeremy Bugge
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Aaron Robertson
•	Tori Reed
	Tristan Burris
	Jim Hulbert
	Monica Sweigert, Amanda Deardorf,
1 1000 / 10010101100	Greg Stieber
Props Runners	Edward Gonzales, Patrick Swartz
	Karicia Hobson, Jocelyn Kratzer,
P	Linnea Mazock, Marilyn Petersen,
	Geena Roth
Wardrobe Crew	Jennifer Buinowski, Hannah Dreher,
	Ayla McLinn
Marketing Volunteer	Marie Britton
Special Thanks To	Howard & Betsy Chapman
	Nancy Carlson Dodd & George Dodd
	Dori Erwin Collins
	Ryan Shirar
	Scott & Melissa Glaze
	Dar Richardson & Don Wood
	Corey McMaken
	Julia Meek
	Brad & Leslie Beauchamp

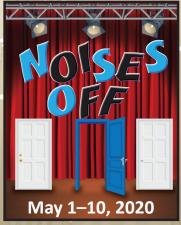














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