

The Griffith Theatre Co. Proudly Presents



Music By:
Alan Menken

Lyrics By:
Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

April 19th-21st, 2024
Griffith Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

Disney's Beauty & The Beast is produced by special arrangement with
Music Theatre International. www.mtishows.com

Griffith Public Schools Administration

Mrs. Leah Dumezich, Superintendent
Ms. Terri Chance, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Linda Zaborowski, Deputy Treasurer

Griffith Jr./Sr. High School Administration

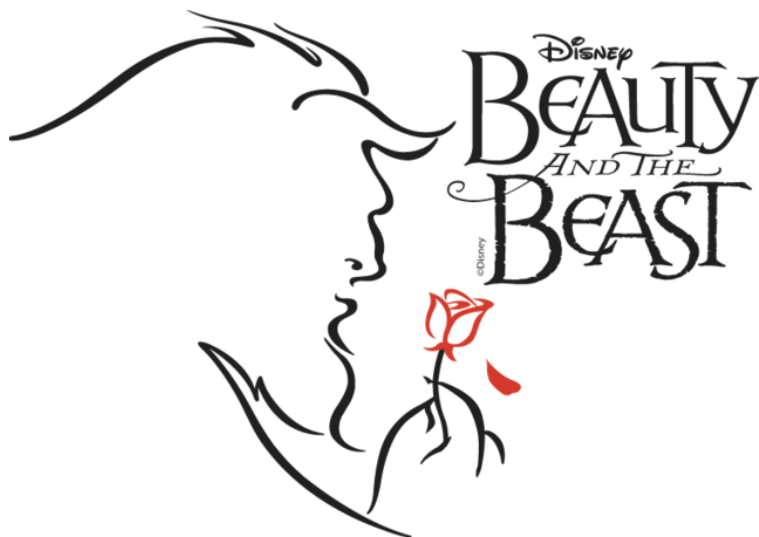
Mr. Jon Chance, High School Principal
Mrs. Alana Anderson, Middle School Principal
Ms. Timberly Kinnie, Assistant High School Principal
Mr. Brian Jennings, Assistant Middle School Principal
Mr. Mike Worosz, Student Support Advisor



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*The Griffith High School Drama Department is a proud member of
The International Thespian Society, Troupe #6558*



Music By:

ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics By:

HOWARD ASHMAN & TIM RICE

Book By:

LINDA WOOLVERTON

Producer-Director

JENNA PARKER

Assistant Director

JOE RAMOS

Set & Technical Director

JIM GRAFF

Music Director

VINCENT DORE

Choreography Director

SARA JONGSMA

Pit Orchestra Director

VIRGINIA HERNANDEZ

Costume Director

SHANNON SCHEIDEL BRAND

Hair & Makeup Director

LAUREN JANUSKA

Just Another Reason To Love Our Show!



We will be selling concessions by Tri Kappa and t-shirts before, after, and during intermission! Please look for us the lobby!

Due to our brand new seats and flooring, concessions will only be eaten in the lobby. Thank you for keeping our new space clean!



Light up roses and crowns will be sold throughout our show in the lobby. Just \$5 each.

A balloon arch in the lobby is also available for photos!



50/50 raffle will be drawn at intermission.

Photo opportunities with cast members on stage will be available at the end of the show.

To Our Cast, Crew, & Pit:



We are so proud of the work you've done for us this season! It has been our pleasure to watch you perform, create, and expand your talents.

Congratulations on a great show!

Love,

Parker, Ramos, Graff, Novak,
Scheidel, Dore, Hernandez, & Januska

The Cast, Crew, & Pit of
Beauty & The Beast would
like to thank:



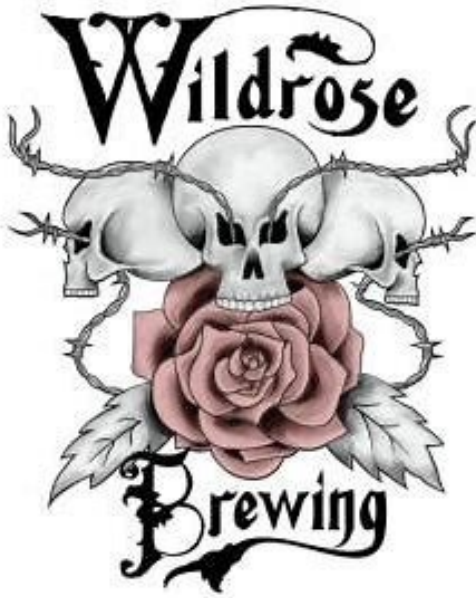
For donating some of the prop & set pieces
used in tonight's performance

5417 Oakley Ave

Hammond, IN 46320

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The Cast, Crew, & Pit of
Beauty & The Beast would
like to thank:



For donating some of the prop & set pieces
used in tonight's performance

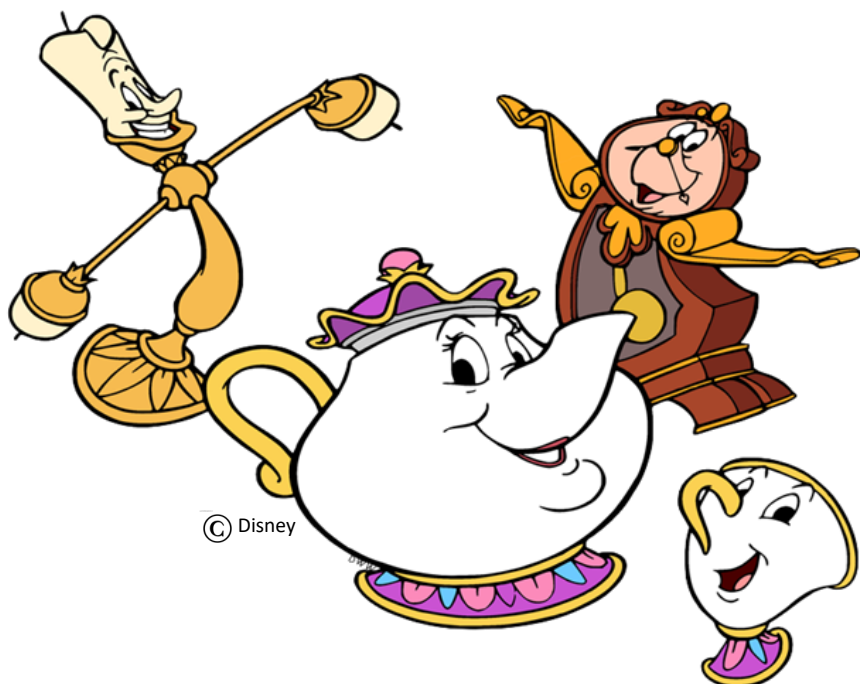
1104 E. Main St

Griffith, IN 46319

www.wildrosebrewing.com



SOFIA ADDUCI



We're your guests to the best show in town! Congratulations!

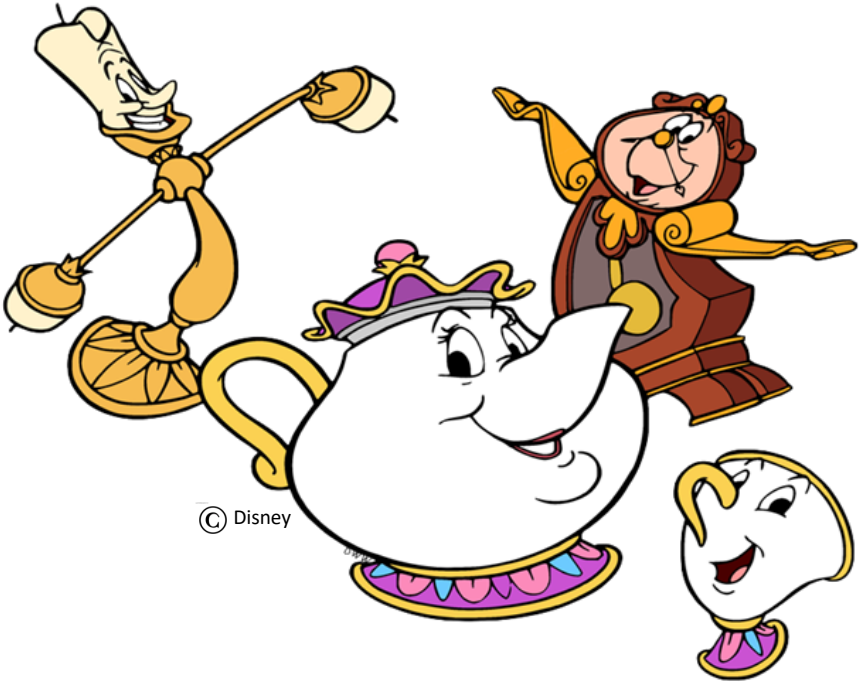
Great job!

Love, Mom, Dad, Abigail, & Luciano

Bonjour! You make us proud everyday with your witty and ambitious spirit! #theatrelife

"Think of the one place that you've always wanted to see. Now find it in your mind's eye and feel it in your heart."

ELLIE AMEZCUA

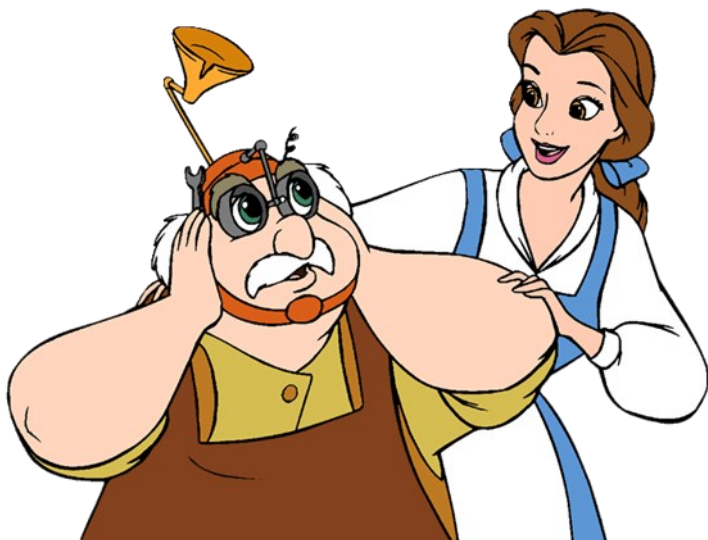


We're your guests to the best show in town! Congratulations!

Great job!

Love, Mom, Dad, & Simon

ELLIE AMEZCUA



© Disney

“No matter what they say, I’m on your side.”

Amazing job!

Love your tios—Beto, Dennis, Jay,
Manuel, & Willie

ELLIE AMEZCUA



Great job!

Love, Mami, Mina, Papa, & Mama

KAYLA BELL



“Tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme” – what a fantastic show!

Amazing job!

Love, Mom, Dad, & Kylie

The Cast, Crew, & Pit

Congratulations on a great show!




KNIGHTS OF GRIFFITH

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE
WHILE PLAYING THE GAME OF CHESS.

The Cast, Crew, & Pit



BALLOONS BY KALLY
CUSTOM ARCHES



Instagram *Facebook*



Congratulations on a great show!
Thanks for letting us be a part of
the magic! Our custom arch is
available for photos throughout
the weekend!

The Cast, Crew, & Pit



© Disney

Amazing job!

From Edward Jones—Daniel A. Perez

The Cast, Crew, & Pit



Congratulations on a great show!

From: The Athletic Department

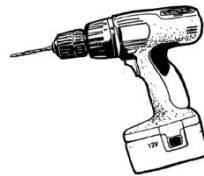
The Cast, Crew, & Pit



Amazing job!

From your friends in the rest of the
music department!

The Cast, Crew, Pit, & Directors



ABSOLUTELY AMAZING JOB!

From: The Certa & Churitch families

The Cast, Crew, & Pit

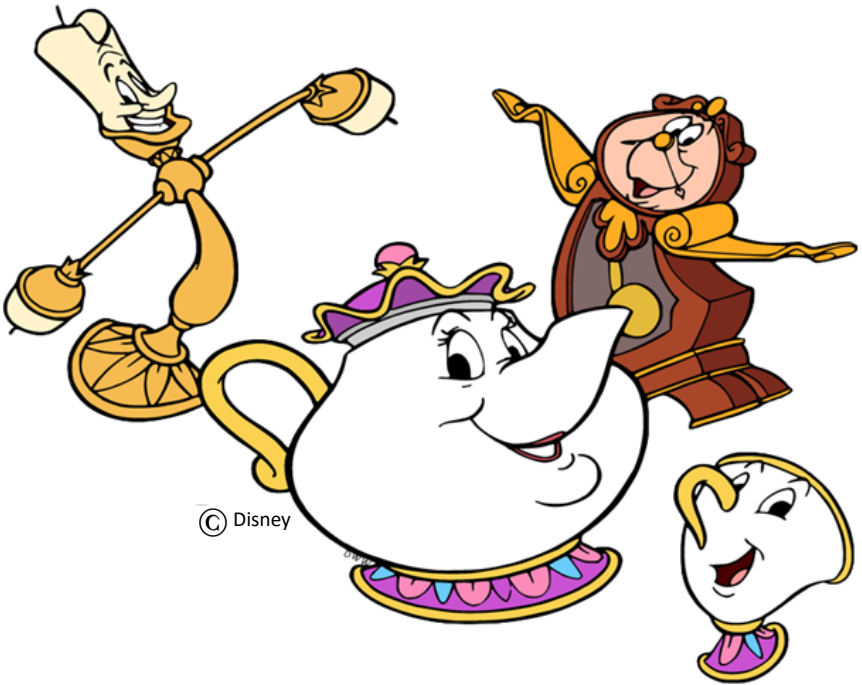


© Disney

AMAZING JOB!

From: Members Source Credit Union

The Cast, Crew, & Pit



We're your guests to the best show in town! Congratulations!

Great job!

From, SerenDIPity Ice Cream Parlor

The Cast, Crew, & Pit

2024 GHS Yearbook

**CREATE A
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TO CREATE ONE
ONLINE**

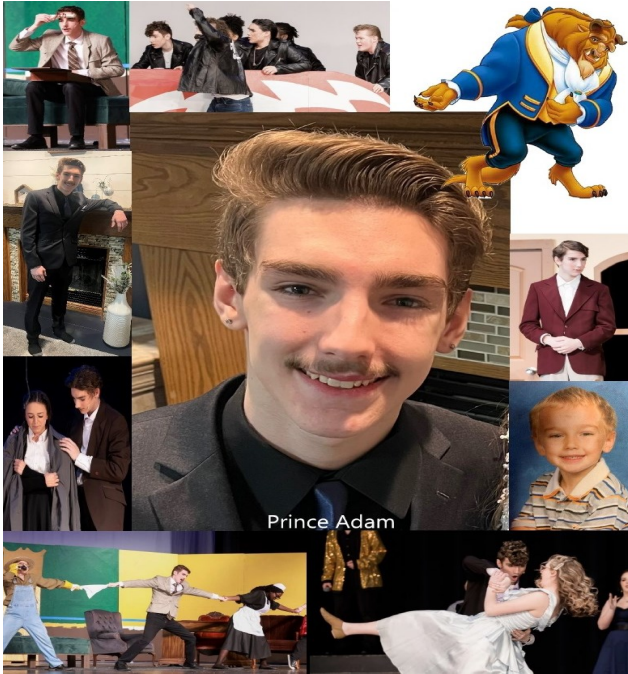


**GHS Yearbook Staff
congratulates Griffith
Theatre Company on
another fantastic
production:
"Beauty and the Beast"**

**PLACE A SENIOR
AD BY APRIL 30TH**



BRADEN CERTA



“Tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme” – what a fantastic show!



© Disney

Amazing job!

Love, Mom, Bubba & Deda,
Aunt Ashley, & Paisley

PEYTON CONNER



Great job!

Love, Dad, Mom, Owen, Lucy, & Desi

JEREMIAH FUENTES



Gaston is the best, and the rest is all sets!

Great job!

Love; Your family and biggest supporters

Lefou is the best!

NICHOLAS GRAHOVAC

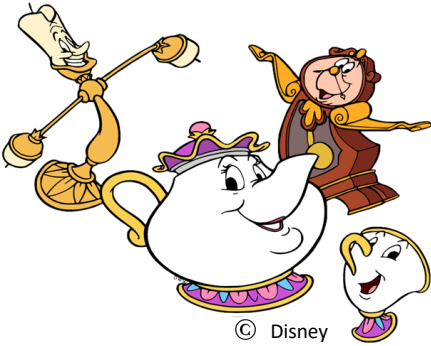


“Tale as old as time, song as old as rhyme” – what a fantastic show!

Great job!!!

Love, Mom & Steven

PAIGE HALE



We're your guests to the best show in town! Congratulations!

Love; Grampy & Grammy

You are talented and able to accomplish anything you set your mind to. We are your biggest fans and deeply love you!

MEGAN LAND



GREAT JOB!

Love Mom

AURORA LUJEN

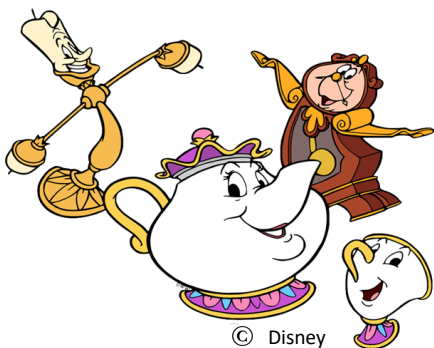


AMAZING JOB!

Love Mom

Stage Managers—the unsung heroes who ensure every curtain rises smoothly and every scene flows seamlessly—so proud of you.

MYA MUNSIE

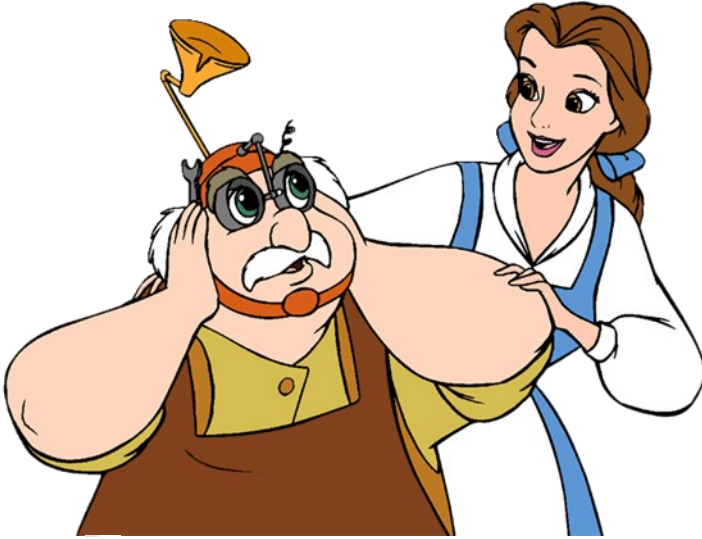


We're your guests to the best show in town! Congratulations!

Love Mom

“Have you seen Duran, Duran?”
The Play That Goes Wrong

AIDEN NIEVES



© Disney

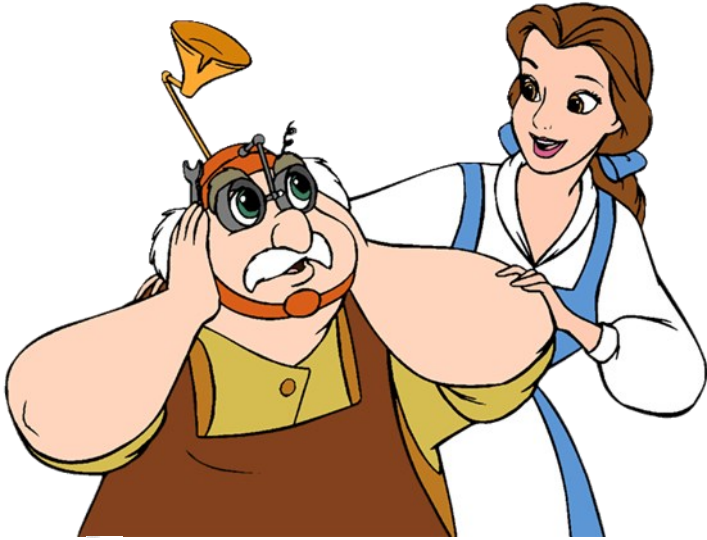
“No matter what they say, I’m on your side.”

Amazing job!

Love, The Nieves Clan

Stand proud, you’re strong.

SARA OPRISKO



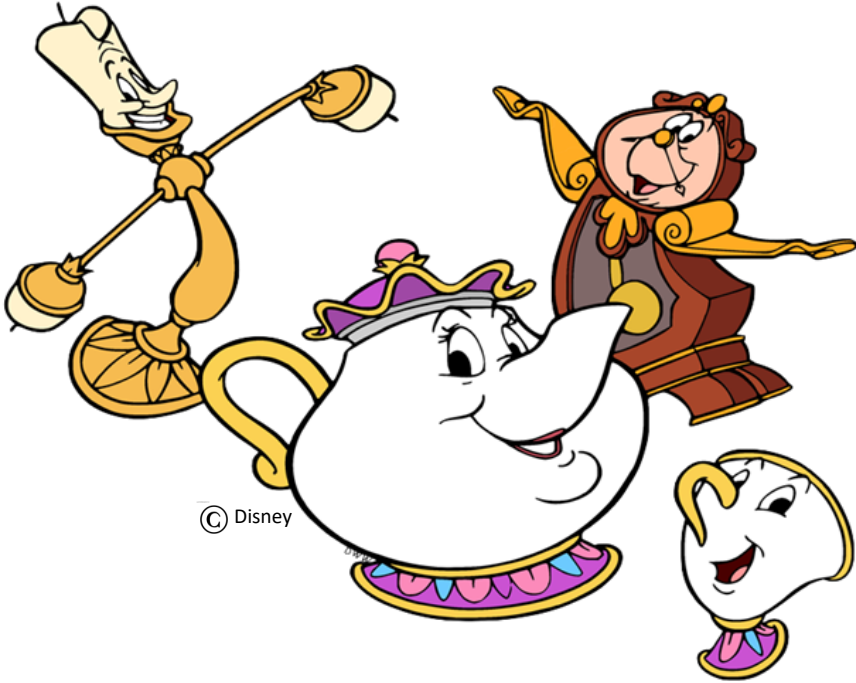
© Disney

“No matter what they say, I’m on your side.”

Amazing job!

Love, Mom, Dad, Janice, Danyelle,
Jason, Payton, T.J., Grandma Stewart,
& Grandma & Grandpa Jelenck

KENNEDY REITZ



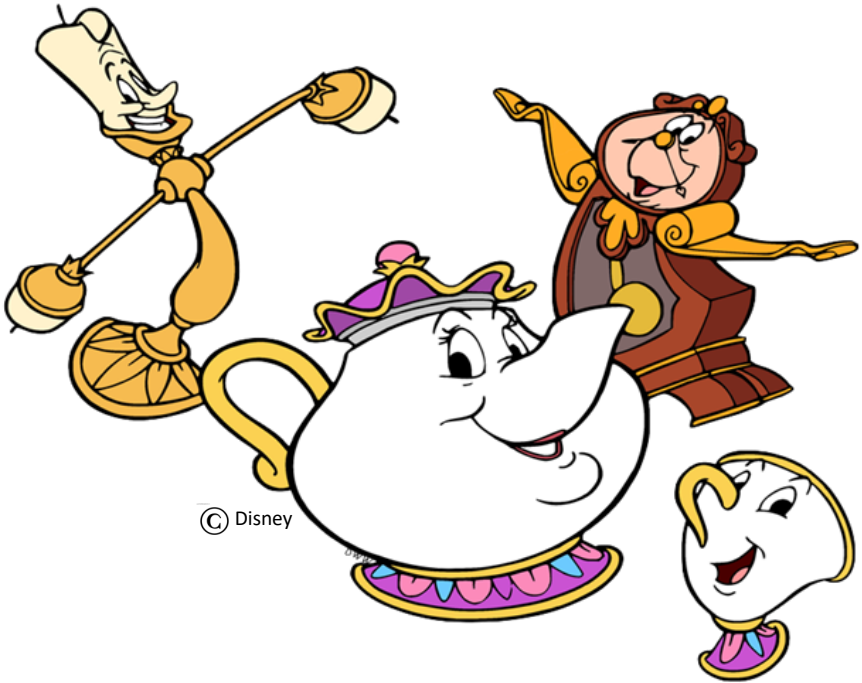
We're your guests to the best show in town! Congratulations!

Great job!

Love, Mom & Dad

We are so proud of you!

ARIEL & ZOE SCIESKA



We're your guests to the best show in town! Congratulations!

Great job!

Love, Mom & Dad

So proud of you both. Have fun!

The Cast, Crew, & Pit of

Beauty & The Beast

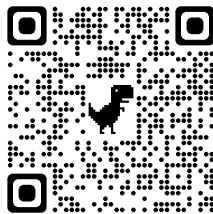
would like to thank:

Indiana Northwest School of the Arts

&

Max Mclean

For the costume pieces used in
tonight's performance.



RUTH ARCHER

TEACHER
PERFORMER
CHAMBER MUSIC COACH



Cello • Bass • Chamber Music



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rfarcher1@gmail.com



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A dark brown rectangular graphic with a light beige center. The center features a violin silhouette with the text 'KRAUPNER & B: LOW STRINGS' and 'STUDIO' overlaid. Below the graphic are two circular icons: an envelope for email and a phone for a phone number.

THE CAST, CREW, & PIT OF

BEAUTY & THE BEAST

WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

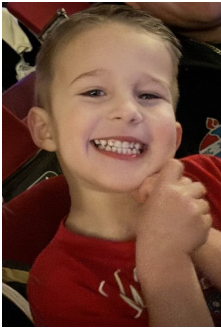


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To The Cast, Crew, & Pit:



We love the magic you have enchanted us
with on stage! Great job!

Love, the little teacups

James & Jon, Merin & Lily, & Addi

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Set in 1700s French village

ACT I

Scene 1: The Castle

Overture
Prologue

Scene 2: The Village

Belle.....Belle, The Villagers
Maurice Travels.....Maurice

Scene 3: The Forest & Castle

Scene 4: Cottage

Me.....Gaston, Belle
Belle Reprise.....Belle

Scene 5: The Castle

Home.....Belle
Home Reprise.....Mrs. Potts, Madame

Scene 6: The Tavern

Gaston.....Gaston, Lefou, Villagers
Gaston Reprise.....Gaston, Lefou

Scene 7: The Castle

How Long Must This Go On?.....Beast
Be Our Guest.....Lumiere, Chip, Mrs. Potts, Castle Staff
If I Can't Love Her.....Beast

— Fifteen Minute Intermission —

Concessions, show shirts, roses, crowns, and 50/50 raffle will be sold in the lobby. Please enjoy our senior tables and banners, along with our balloon arch for pictures in the surrounding lobby areas.

50/50 Raffle will be drawn at the end of intermission.

Scenes & Musical Numbers Continued

ACT II

Scene 1: The Forest & Castle

Something There.....Belle, Beast, Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts
Human Again.....Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts, Chip, Babette,
& Castle Staff
Beauty and the Beast.....Mrs. Potts
If I Can't Love Here Reprise.....Beast

Scene 2: Cottage

A Change in Me.....Belle
The Mob Song.....Gaston, D'Argue, The Company

Scene 3: The Castle

Home Reprise.....Belle
Transformation / Finale.....Belle, Prince, The Company

Photos with our cast members on stage will be available after the show.

We would like to remind you that during all performances the use of flash photography, photography equipment, or recording devices is strictly prohibited. Loud sound effects, including fake gun shots are used throughout our production, along with low lying fog machines. Cast members will be utilizing aiseways throughout this performance.

Thank you.

The Cast

The Beast / Prince Adam.....	Braden Certa*
Belle.....	Navada Smothermon
Gaston.....	Nolan Davenport
Lumiere.....	Vincent Bedoy*
Mrs. Potts.....	Paige Hale
Cogsworth.....	Hansen Davis
Maurice.....	Aiden Nieves
Lefou.....	Jeremiah Fuentes
Chip.....	Mya Munsie
Madame de la Grande Bouche.....	Emoni Neal
Babette.....	Abby Cotney*
Monsieur D'Arque.....	Nicholas Grahovac
Silly Girl #1.....	Kenlei Glotzbach
Silly Girl #2.....	Janae Nolan
Silly Girl #3.....	Zoe Scieska
Narrator.....	Paige Hale
Beggar Woman / Enchantress.....	Ariel Scieska

* Denotes Senior

The Cast Continued

Featured Ensemble

Ailani Baez

Jack Gaham

Cecilia Mendoza

Sara Oprisko*

Kennedy Reitz

Ensemble

Aubrianna Duch

Katherine McCarthy*

Audrie Meyer*

Aubrey Miller-Ramirez

Middle School Ensemble

Sofia Adduci

Jaela Arras

Layla Letasky

Featured Dancers

Aubrianna Duch

Kenlei Glotzbach

Ariel Scieska

Zoe Scieska

* Denotes Senior

The Production Staff

Producer/Director.....	Jenna Parker
Assistant Director.....	Joe Ramos
Music Director.....	Vincent Dore
Pit Orchestra Director.....	Virginia Hernandez
Choreographer.....	Sara Jongsma
Assistant Choreographer.....	Laura Reid
Set & Technical Director.....	Jim Graff
Costume Directors.....	Shannon Scheidel Brand Sara Jongsma
Hair & Makeup Director.....	Lauren Januska
Production Assistants.....	Aubrianna Duch (dance) Ethan Horsley* (pit) Audrie Meyer* (vocal) Sara Oprisko* (blocking) Dani Quintana (assistant pit) Ariel Scieska (dance)
Sound Manager	Alicia Martinez*
Light Manager.....	Ellie Amezcua*
Stage Managers.....	Megan Land* Aurora Lujen*
Costume Managers.....	Catherine Cavazos* Bella Zielke
Hair & Makeup Managers.....	Sarah Issa* Brianna Lopez*
Video Technician.....	Max Archambault
Video Manager.....	Gabriel Archambault
Properties Manager.....	Cyan Quinones
Program & Tickets.....	Jenna Parker
Social Media Manager.....	Sarah Issa*
Publicity.....	Don Bowman

* - Denotes Senior

The Production Staff Continued

Set & Stage Crew

Ayden Chavez
Janae Clark
Nolan Davenport
Luke Durall*
Ny'onna Elliot
Sabrina James
Megan Land*
Aurora Lujen*
Alicia Martinez*
Katherine McCarthy*
Aiden Nieves
Randy Orne*
Emilie Rangel
Rachel Sheline

GLS

Ellie Amezcua*
Alicia Martinez*
Lily Mowers
Jeanne Presler

Costumes

Ines Batista*
Kayla Bell
Catherine Cavazos*
Diana Groben
Emilia Groben
Kailey McCarron
Panna Stancsics*
Bella Zielke

Hair & Makeup

Becca Albarran*
Peyton Conner
Cadee Eriks
Briana Esquivel
Sarah Issa*
Abby Jaime
Stephanie Kaczmarzewski
Brianna Lopez*
Alexandria Wagman

* - Denotes Senior

The Pit Orchestra

Ruth Archer.....	Cello
Linnea Bessette.....	French Horn
Peter Bessette.....	Trombone
Pamela Buckley.....	Flute
Daniel Cummins.....	Trumpet
Nick DeJarlais.....	Trumpet
Madeline Edwards.....	Violin
Ari Estrada*	Clarinet
Haily Funk.....	Bass Clarinet
Thomas Gilman.....	Drums
Kathy Hayden.....	Piano
Ethan Horsley*.....	Trombone
Kristen Hughes.....	Violin
Amanda Kraupner.....	Bass
Ava Lee.....	Flute
Dani Quintana.....	Clarinet
Nilo Sanchez.....	French Horn
Max Schroader.....	Percussion
Della Wisinski.....	French Horn

* - Denotes Senior



Director's Notes

Be our guest! Welcome to tonight's production of *Disney's Beauty & The Beast*! Who doesn't love this tale as old as time? Whether you grew up with the movie, seen the live-action, or have kids or grandkids that now stream it on Disney+, we know you will be singing along in the audience to some of the most iconic music of the Disney Renaissance.

The beast and has been, well...a beast to produce, but in the most magical ways. I know I always thank my directing staff each show, but now they deserve a seven course meal, with the grey stuff (oh its delicious)! Hands down this is the biggest set Mr. Graff has put together. We are excited for audience members to see it up close after each show for photos with the cast. Trailing right behind are Mrs. Brand, Mrs. Jongsma, & Mrs. Januska—our costumes are radiant and tailored to each cast member perfectly. All the costume pieces are hand-made with the help of Mr. Mclean, including our lovely clock and wardrobe. *Beauty and the Beast* has such an iconic and specific look that you have to get just right—our costume and hair & makeup team have done just that. And then some.

Mr. Dore & Mrs. Hernandez bring in yet another crucial element,; their musical knowledge and passion into teaching each vocal part, musical bar, and the nuances that are necessary to perform. With four-part harmonies, and a 20 piece orchestra, I get chills every time we get to a musical number. Finally, Miss Laura and Mrs. Jongsma strung up the ballet shoes, fitted the jazz shoes, and got our cast moving and grooving as plates, napkins, forks, knives, and all the other "utensils" on stage.

We thank you for coming out to support your local theatre companies this evening. The magic isn't just the process, but for the joy we hope to bring from the stage.

To my seniors—it seems like just yesterday when you were in seventh grade and I had just had Merin. Where did that time go? Like our rose, it feels like each year is a petal until this moment when you take your last performances on stage. I am excited to see your transformation into the next magical world you step into. Congratulations on a fantastic show and six-year run.

To all the cast, crew, and pit—we made it! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication these last three months.. The true magic is you.

Off to the cupboard with you now Chip,

Parker

About the Story

Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version includes all of the wonderful songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice.



The original Broadway production ran for over thirteen years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can

learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.



About the Authors



ALAN MENKEN, Music: Legendary composer Alan Menken has created some of the most beloved songs and musical scores of our time. His unique voice, as a composer, a lyricist and a musical theater dramatist has captured the imaginations of audiences for over 35 years. Alan's stage musicals include, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act*, *Leap of Faith*, and *Newsies*. His film musicals include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the*

Beast, *Newsies*, *Aladdin* (1992 and the 2019 live-action remake), *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, *Home on the Range*, *Enchanted*, and *Tangled*. His songwriting collaborators have included Howard Ashman, Tim Rice, Stephen Schwartz, David Zippel, Jack Feldman, David Spencer, Lynn Ahrens, Dean Pitchford, Glenn Slater, Chad Beguelin, and most recently Benj Pasek and Justin Paul for the 2019 live-action film remake of *Aladdin*. Alan won the 2012 Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his score to *Newsies*. He currently has more Academy Awards than any other living individual, including four for Best Score (*The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and *Pocahontas*) and 4 for Best Song ("Under the Sea", "Beauty and the Beast", "A Whole New World" and "Colors of the Wind"). He has earned 11 Grammy Awards (including Song of the Year for "A Whole New World"), 7 Golden Globes, London's Evening Standard Award, the Olivier Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, and the Drama Desk Award.

About the Authors Continued

HOWARD ASHMAN, (1950-1991) *Lyrics*: Best known as a pivotal creative mind behind the renaissance of Disney animation and his work on *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin* and *Beauty and The Beast* (which is dedicated to, "Our friend, Howard Ashman, who gave a Mermaid her voice and a Beast his soul...") Ashman's first love was theatre. Ashman was a founder of off off Broadway's renowned WPA Theater, where he conceived, wrote and directed *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, as well as the classic musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* (both music by Alan Menken). In 1986, he wrote and directed the Broadway musical *Smile* (music by Marvin Hamlisch). Lamented as a lost treasure of the 1980's theater scene, *Smile* remains popular on High School and College campuses throughout the country. Howard Ashman died in 1991 from complications of AIDS.



TIM RICE, *Lyrics*: Tim Rice has worked in music, theatre, and film since 1965, when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim's ambitions to write rock or pop songs, they turned their attention to Andrew's obsession - musical theatre. Their first collaboration, *The Likes Of Us* (lyrics by Tim, music by Andrew), was an unsuccessful show based on the life of Dr. Barnardo, the Victorian philanthropist. Their next three works together were much more successful: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Evita*.

Tim has also worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (*The Lion King*, *Aida*), Alan Menken (*Aladdin*, *King David*, *Beauty and the Beast*), and Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (*Chess*). He formed his own cricket team in 1973 and was president of the MCC in 2002. In 2013, he wrote and presented a 52-part series for BBC Radio 2, *American Pie*, a trawl through the music and musicians of every American State. He has won several awards, mainly for the wrong thing or for simply turning up.



LINDA WOOLVERTON, *Book*: Linda Woolverton's writing credits include the screenplay for the animated feature film *Beauty and the Beast* (Golden Globe winner and Academy Award Best Picture nominee); the screenplay (shared) for *Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey*; screenplay (shared) for the animated feature film *The Lion King*; the book for the Broadway musical *Beauty and the Beast* (Tony Award nomination for Best Book of a Musical, winner 1998 Olivier Award Best New Musical); and book (shared) for Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway musical *Aida*. Also she has written two young-adult novels, *Star-Wind* and *Running Before the Wind*. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from California State University Long Beach and a Master's degree in Theatre from California State University Fullerton. Linda is currently involved in writing and producing film projects for Miramax and Revolution studios. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband Lee Flicker and daughter Keaton.



About the Directors



VINCENT DORE, *Music Director*: Vincent Dore is a well-established musician, performer, and educator within the Chicagoland performing arts community. Known for his versatility and diligence, Mr. Dore has served the North-Western Indiana area in a variety of positions for nearly a decade. In 2017, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, in recognition of his years of distinguished service in education. In addition to his work as a music educator and vocal coach, Mr. Dore has an extensive performing career as an operatic lyric baritone. He has professionally toured across Europe since 2012, performing in England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Italy, and many major cities across the US. He has performed as a guest soloist with a variety of Chicago choirs and has been a featured soloist with The Chicago Theater and The Rosemont Arena. Mr. Dore has dedicated much of his career to working with high-school-aged vocalists, helping them prepare for college auditions, amateur and professional roles, voice contests, and scholarship opportunities.



JIM GRAFF, *Set & Technical Director*: Mr. Graff has been an art teacher at GHS for 30 years. He graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Visual Arts Education. He currently teaches ceramics, 3D Art, and photography. Mr. Graff has been involved with GHS Drama for 22 years as the set director. For the last 12 years he has also taken on the technical director position. Some of Mr. Graff's favorite past productions have been *Pirates of Penzance*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and *The Music Man*. Fun fact: Mr. Graff is also a graduate of Griffith High School.



VIRGINA HERNANDEZ, *Pit Orchestra Director*: Mrs. Hernandez is thrilled to be a part of the Griffith Theatre Company as the Pit Orchestra Director. She has been involved in musical orchestra pits for over 20 years, including productions of *The Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Into the Woods*, and more. With a BM in Music Education from Bowling Green State University, and a MM in trumpet performance from DePaul University, most of her experience has been as a player, usually playing first trumpet. She also has experience in both conducting and hiring a pit orchestra. With 15 years of experience teaching vocal music, and 20+ years of experience in the band world, she can't wait to direct her third pit as a part of the Griffith Theatre Company.



LAUREN JANUSKA, *Hair & Makeup Director*: Mrs. Januska has had a love for the performing arts her entire life. She started at age three, with dance classes and performing in dance recitals. She continued to dance and eventually became a member of the Gavit High School Woodmar Singers Show Choir, merging her passions of dance and singing. She ultimately found her love for theatre and was the lead role in *Cinderella* and *Scrooge*, inspiring her to take acting courses at Indiana University. During her four years at IU, she was affiliated with the Marching Hundred as a member of the Redsteppers Dance Team. Mrs. Januska also had the incredible opportunity to perform a lead role in the long lived traditional musical-drama competition, *IU Sing*. She is beyond excited to be a part of The Griffith Theatre Company. Working with such talent students and creative directors, she cannot wait to see what the years to come have in store. The future looks very bright!

SARA JONGSMA, Choreographer & Costume Director: This is Mrs. Jongsma's sixth season with The Griffith Theatre Company. She would like to thank the production staff and students for being so warm and welcoming! Mrs. Jongsma has performed and choreographed in numerous musicals in the Chicagoland area with some of her favorite roles being Sad Girl in *Bye Bye Birdie* (BHUC), Carbuckety in *Cats* (OLPD) and Purity in *Anything Goes* (OLPD). This is Mrs. Jongsma's ninth year teaching at GHS after graduating from Ball State with a degree in Family Consumer Science Education and a minor in Musical Theatre Dance. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support; especially her husband Michael, and daughter Addi.



JENNA PARKER, Director: Mrs. Parker started her work in the theatre early with her first performance in *Tales of Wonder*. A graduate of Munster High School, she both acted and worked on several productions such as *The Sound of Music*, *Turn Back the Clock*, *Play it Again Sam*, *Cinderella*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. After graduating from Ball State, she directed such shows as *Alice in Wonderland JR.* and *Honk! JR.* She has been teaching at Griffith for 13 years and this is her 10th year as director for The Griffith Theatre Company, directing *A Funny Thing Happened on The Way To The Forum*, *The Addams Family*, *And Then There Were None*, *Cinderella*, *30 Reasons*, *The Music Man*, *The Lion*, *The Witch & The Wardrobe*, *Honk!*, *I Remember Mama*, *Radium Girls*, *The Mousetrap*, *Grease*, *Annie*, *The Play that Goes WrOnG*, & *Don't Fear the Reaper*. for The GTC. When not in the theater, Mrs. Parker spends her time running around with her daughters, Merin & Lily, and spending time with her husband.



JOSEPH RAMOS, Assistant Director: Mr. Ramos was the assistant director for the high school drama production of *Anne Frank*. Before working in the district, he was a Griffith alumni. He has worked in this district for four years now. He primarily teaches sixth grade Social Studies. He is also in charge of or an assistant to many clubs and extra-curricular activities. In no specific order, Mr. Ramos sponsors The Knights of Griffith, and also serves as the middle school drama director. It was a great opportunity to work with the cast and crew of this play. He is so excited to see what other productions... we do in the future.



LAURA REID, Assistant Choreographer: This is Laura's eleventh production with the Griffith Theatre Company, and third production as a director. She would like to give special thanks to head choreographer Sara Jongsma for giving her the opportunity to come back and assist. Laura graduated from GHS in 2018 and received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Dance from Valparaiso University in 2022. Laura's favorite roles with GTC included student directing *And Then There Was One: A Spoof*, Ariel Moore in *Footloose*, and Cinderella in *Cinderella*. In addition to GTC, Laura has always been a passionate arts advocate and currently serves as a board member with Rockopelli, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides music scholarships to students in need in NWI.



SHANNON SCHEIDEL, Costume Director: This is her eleventh year as Costumer and she has loved working on all the shows, including *Grease*, *Cinderella*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *The Addams Family*, *Footloose*, and *The Music Man*. This is her 16th year at GHS as a Family and Consumer Science teacher. After graduating from GHS in 2003, she graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelors in Family and Consumer Science Education and Master's in Education from Indiana Wesleyan. She also is head coach of Cross Country. She wants to thanks to Sara Jongsma for helping take on Costumer with her, aka CoCo's! Thanks to all the directors, cast, and crew for making these experiences so memorable!



Cast Profiles



SOFIA ADDUCI, Ensemble: Sofia Adduci is a sixth-grade student who joined the Griffith Theatre Company this past winter as a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*. This will be her second appearance in *Beauty and the Beast* as a villager. When she's not backstage, she participates in GMS choir, GMS volleyball, and Griffith Girls Softball. Sofia is thrilled to see this musical come to life and for you to be our guest!



JAELA ARRAS, Ensemble: Jaela is a sixth grader, and this is her first year in drama. This is her first show ever and does not have any acting experience. She is part of the middle school chorus in *Beauty and the Beast*! When not on stage, Jaela participates in concert band and track and field. She hopes that her first show will be an amazing experience and plans to come back next year!



AILANI BAEZ, Ensemble: Ailani is a junior and has been in the theatre for the past four years. You may have seen her as Sally South in *Whodunnit?*, *Radium Girls*, *Grease*, and Duffy in *Annie*. She also works backstage on the actors' makeup. This time she'll be onstage as different characters, including the plate. When she's not in theatre, she's spending time with her family or hanging out with friends. She hopes everyone enjoys the show. Cast and crew break a leg!



VINCENT BEDOY, Lumiere: Vincent Bedoy is a senior playing the role of Lumiere. He is very excited for this show and has appeared in past shows as Drake in *Annie*, along with being a featured dancer in *Grease*. He hopes you enjoy the show!



BRADEN CERTA, Prince Adam / The Beast: Braden is a senior this year and has been with the drama department for the last six years. This is his tenth show with the Griffith Theatre Company and third musical following *Grease* and *Annie*. Previous productions he has been in include *The Mousetrap*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Grease*, *Annie*, etc. As this is his last and final performance with the GTC, he wants to thank everyone who has come to support him in this incredible journey. He wants to thank his friends and family for pushing him to become what he is today. And finally, to all of you in the audience, he gives a very special thank you for coming and supporting the show. It means the world to him and everyone on stage tonight and we hope you enjoy this enchanted story we've worked so hard on. Thank you and enjoy the show!

ABBY COTNEY, *Babette*: Abby is a senior and has been active in the GTC since seventh grade, her first show was The 3rd Annual Middle School Drama Night. She was also a part of 4th Annual Middle School Drama Night, Grease, The Diary of Anne Frank, The Play That Goes Wrong, Don't Fear the Reaper, and The Wizard of Oz. She is so excited to finish her last show and last year on a high note with one of her favorite Disney shows. She will always hold these memories close to her heart and she will miss some of her favorite people and biggest mentors. When not on stage, Abby is a gymnastics instructor at Pattis all American in Dyer. She hopes everyone has an amazing show. Thank you for everything.



NOLAN DAVENPORT, *Gaston*: Nolan Davenport is a junior and has been involved in the drama department since eighth grade. His first casted high school show was *Radium Girls* in the spring of 2021. Since then, he has taken part in several shows including: *The Mousetrap*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Annie*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and is now playing the role of Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*. He's wishing the audience enjoys the show and all the hard work the company has put into it.



HANSEN DAVIS *Cogsworth*: Hansen is freshmen at GPS and has been in the theatre company for two years now. He has performed in *Charlotte's Web* and *Don't Fear the Reaper*. Hansen served in a crew capacity for *The Play That Goes Wrong*. He sings in the choral program as well as running on the cross country and track and field teams.



AUBRIANNA DUCH, *Ensemble / Featured Dancer / Dance Production Assistant*: Aubrianna is a sophomore and just started participating in the drama department. This show will be Aubrianna's first show ever. She is very excited to get on the stage and perform as an ensemble member and a featured dancer. She is also a dance P.A. for the show. When not on the stage, Aubrianna participates in Pantherettes and booster club. Aubrianna would like to wish the cast and crew a great show and to have fun!



JEREMIAH FUENTES, *Lefou*: Jeremiah Fuentes is a sophomore at GHS and is excited to participate in his eighth show with the Griffith Theatre Company and 13th show all together. His first ever show was a production of *Annie* with the Regional Performing Arts Company. His most recent performance was in *Don't Fear the Reaper*, where he played Jack. Jeremiah's favorite role he's played is when he performed as Max in *The Play that Goes Wrong*. He also recently participated in hair & makeup for the middle school production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Outside of drama, Jeremiah participates in student council, class council, choir, dance, FCCLA, book club, and Academic Super Bowl. This weekend, you'll catch him playing the amazing character of Lefou and hopes you enjoy his performance! He is excited to continue with Griffith Theatre Company for the rest of his high school years!





JACK GAHAM, Ensemble: Jack is a ninth grade student. This was his first year being part of drama. He has so far been in plays like *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Don't Fear the Reaper*, and now *Beauty and the Beast*. Even though he wasn't a big role in two of these, he still enjoyed performing and entertaining others, and hopes to do so next year.



KENLEI GLOTZBACH, Silly Girl #1 / Featured Dancer: Kenlei made her stage debut at eight years old in *Beauty and the Beast* with Ross Music Theatre. She's excited to get to do it again. She's also had the pleasure of performing in *Scrooge* with Ross Music Theater. With GMS she had enjoyed being an orphan in *Annie*, Ms. Tyler for *The Brunch Club*, and many others. Kenlei has also worked backstage as properties manager in *Charlotte's Web* and *The Play That Goes Wrong*. When not in theatre she enjoys volleyball, choir, and cheerleading.



NICHOLAS GRAHOVAC Monsieur D'Arque: Nicholas Grahovac is a sophomore and has been participating in the arts since fourth grade. In his first show with the GTC, Nicholas was casted as Malcom in the middle school production of *Whodunnit?* & *The Wolf and its Shadows*. After a great first year, Nicholas acted in the high school production of *Radium Girls*. Other shows he has acted in includes *The Brunch Club*, *Grease*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Annie*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and this year's *Beauty and the Beast*. He is thankful for all the friends and mentors he met along the way that encouraged his love for theatre. Ready to take the stage, Nicholas hopes you enjoy the show as much as he does!



PAIGE HALE, Mrs. Potts: Paige Hale is a junior at Griffith High School and this is her eleventh show with this company! You might've seen her in previous shows, such as Miss Hannigan in *Annie* and Taylor in *The Play That Goes Wrong*. When she's not on stage, she participates in the high school chorale! She is so excited for this show, and really hopes everyone enjoys it!



LAYLA LETASKY, Ensemble: Layla Letasky is in sixth grade and loving it! She has been in a few plays in her earlier years but was Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz* most recently. Layla is enjoying drama so much - she is learning and having fun while doing it! In her free time, Layla loves concerts, collecting vinyls, and friends!

KATHERINE MCCARTHY, *Ensemble / Sets*: Katherine is a Senior, this is her seventh show with the GTC. She's done track since she was in elementary school, so she thought she should try something new. She is very excited to work again with Mr. Graff in set and stage crew, as well as the directors for the cast and is hoping everything goes smoothly. She cannot be more thankful to be given this opportunity to work with the GTC. She wants to wish all cast and crew good luck and thank everyone for coming out to see Griffith's production of *Beauty & the Beast!*



CECILIA MENDOZA, *Ensemble*: Cecilia Mendoza is in her junior year, and is part of the featured ensemble. She feels very excited for this show. Not only all the planning and creativity going into the show, but also for the fun moments that come along with it and can't wait to see the final product. She has also been in crew for *The Diary of Anne Frank*, orphan chorus/ ensemble for *Annie*, Cornley Drama stage crew for *The Play that Goes Wrong*, and P.A. for the competition play *Don't Fear the Reaper*. Outside the drama department, she is part of the soccer girls' team and volleyball.



AUDRIE MEYER, *Ensemble / Vocal Production Assistant*: Audrie is a senior and it's her last show in the Griffith Theatre Company. It's her first and last time being the vocal production assistant for Mr. Dore. She's currently in chorale and Paranormal Society. She was a part of the ensemble in *Annie*. Audrie was also a part of costume crew for both *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Audrie will miss everyone in this company that she calls her second family. She will always cherish the memories she has made in the GTC. She wishes everyone good luck and to break a leg.



AUBREY MILLER-RAMIREZ, *Ensemble*: Aubrey is a junior here and this will be her first show at Griffith. Outside of drama, Aubrey does wrestling, paranormal society, and is in the Griffith chorale. Her freshman year, she did choreography and dance for the Latin Dance Crew at TF South High school. This year, Aubrey qualified for the semi state championships in Indiana for wrestling. Aubrey loves her family very much and she is very inspired by her mother, father, and her little sister Brooklyn. She is very excited to be a part of this year's musical. Good luck to all the cast and crew of *Beauty and The Beast!*



MYA MUNSIE, *Chip*: Mya Munsie is a freshman in high school who has done many shows since eighth grade. Her first show was *Charlotte's Web* as Wilbur the pig. She has also acted or done crew for *Annie*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Don't Fear the Reaper* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Outside of the stage, Mya does color guard and paranormal society. Mya is incredibly happy to have this opportunity to be in something she loves, and she wishes her cast mates and crew good luck!

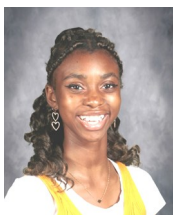




EMONI NEAL, Madame de la Grande Bouche: Emoni Neal is a sophomore at GHS and has been a part of GTC since the eighth grade. You may have seen her in the musical *Grease*, *Annie*, and most recently in *The Play that Goes Wrong*, as Denise. When she's not working with the GTC, she's in choir and runs track. She wants you to know everyone has worked super hard on this musical and hope you enjoy *The Beast and the Beauty!* .



AIDEN NIEVES, Maurice: Aiden Nieves is acting as Maurice in the show. This is his fifth show with the GTC, but 6th show in total, he has mostly done set and stage crew for the shows but has done pit band for Highland's *School of Rock* and has acted as Jeremy in *Don't Fear the Reaper*. When he is not acting, he's usually playing guitar, skating, or goofing off with friends. He's a part of, marching band, concert band, pep band, Knights of Griffith, track, cross country, paranormal society, and is the president of the band student council. He is very excited for the show and wishes luck to his fellow actors and crew members.



JANAE NOLAN, Silly Girl #2: Janae is a sophomore at Griffith High School, and this will be her eleventh production with the GTC both acting on stage and behind the scenes as properties manager but has done shows since she was in fourth grade. She has been in *Wolf and Its Shadows*, *Whodunnit?*, *Don't Fear The Reaper*, *Annie*, *Grease*, and *The Play That Goes Wrong* to name a few of the shows she's done with the GTC. She participates in numerous extracurriculars outside of theatre with some being volleyball, track, class council, archery, and Panther Press as a freelance journalist/photographer. She hopes that the audience will love the show as much as she does and appreciates the hard work and dedication everyone has put into the amazing production. She gives a special thanks to all the seniors she's been able to meet while her time at Griffith. Break a leg!



SARA OPRISKO, Ensemble / Production Assistant: Sara Oprisko is a senior in the GTC. She has been a part of the theatre company since seventh grade. Sara has participated in both cast and crew in many performances including; cast in both the 3rd and 4th Middle School Drama Nights, cast/understudy in *The Mousetrap*, hair and makeup in *The Brunch Club*, production assistant in *Grease*, video crew in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, assistant student director for *Charlotte's Web*, cast and production assistant for *The Play that Goes Wrong*, student director for *The Wizard of Oz*, and now she is in cast and is a production assistant for this weekend's performance of *Beauty and the Beast*. Sara has also participated in soccer, track and field, and international club in her high school years. Sara hopes you all enjoy our production of *Beauty and the Beast* as it was a joy to put together!



KENNEDY REITZ, Ensemble: Kennedy is a freshman in high school, and this is her fifth show in theatre. She was casted in the middle school show last year as Templeton in *Charlotte's Web*. Kennedy then went to go on to be Cornley Drama Stage Crew in *The Play That Goes Wrong* and Stevie in *Don't Fear the Reaper*. In this musical, she is in the featured ensemble. Enjoy the show!

ARIEL SCIESKA, Ensemble / Featured Dancer / Dance Production Assistant:

Ariel is a junior and very excited to participate in this year's musical. Ariel joined the GTC freshman year making this her ninth show with us. She usually spends her time on hair and makeup for most shows. Although for this show she is one of our choreography production assistants and is part of the cast as the Enchantress and a featured dancer. Before joining the GTC Ariel was a set and stage crew member and assistant/stage director for productions for a church. When she is not part of the GTC she is captain of the color guard, playing her clarinet, bari saxophone, or the quads. As well as being a part of NHS, NTHS, dance, and helping with a dance class. Ariel is very excited about tonight's show and would like to wish all cast and crew the best of luck!



ZOE SCIESKA, Silly Girl # 3 / Featured Dancer:

Zoe is a freshman and has been active in the Griffith Theatre Company for the past three years. She has done multiple crews including hair & makeup, costumes, and set & stage. She has also acted in *Charlotte's Web* as the mother Goose, and *Annie* as orphan ensemble. In this performance of *Beauty and the Beast* she acts as a Silly Girl, a featured dancer, and a few other side roles. Zoe is also involved in chorale, class council, and color guard. She loves this department and can't wait to share this experience with others.



NAVADA SMOTHERMON, Belle:

Navada is a sophomore and has been a part of Griffith Theatre Company for three years. Her first show was as a feature dancer in the musical *Grease!* She has also participated in other shows such as *Annie*, *The Play that Goes Wrong*, and GTC's regional show *Don't Fear the Reaper*. Outside of acting, she runs track and sings in Griffith chorale. This is Navada's first time acting as a lead role and she's very excited. She has a passion for singing and dancing and she hopes that translates well into her acting. She wants to wish the cast, crew, and audience a great show!



Production Bios



BECCA ALBARRAN, Hair & Makeup: Becca is a senior and has been a member of the GTC's hair and makeup crew since middle school. She is excited for you to see this amazing production everyone has worked so hard on. Becca is truly so thankful to have been a part of such a dynamic community. Drama has given her the funniest memories and the best of friends, so thank you all for making this possible. And for the last time, enjoy the show!



ELLIE AMEZCUA, Light Manager: Eleanor Amezcua is a senior this year, and *Beauty and the Beast* is her last show. She's done nearly every show she could do since the seventh grade, and boy howdy it's been a heck of a ride. She's ready for a great last show at the helm of the lights! When not in theatre she can be found contemplating FISCAL POLICY WOOOOO and/or gaming.



GABRIEL ARCHAMBAULT, Video Manager: Gabriel is a sophomore and has been in the drama department for a year now. He has recorded for two shows which are: *The Diary of Ann Frank*, and *The Play ThAt GoEs WrOnG*. Gabriel is recording tonight's show. Outside of theatre you may find him playing baseball or weightlifting. Gabriel wishes everyone good luck, and hopes the audience loves the show. 🍀



MAX ARCHAMBAULT, Video Technician: Maxwell Archambault is a 2023 alumni and has been involved in drama for the last three years. He has been involved in many shows but to name a few: *The Mousetrap*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Charlotte's Web*, & *Annie*. Tonight, he working behind the camera in Griffith's production of *Beauty & The Beast*. He hopes you enjoy tonight's production!



RUTH ARCHER, Pit Orchestra: Ruth Archer is a professional cellist and bassist. Her graduate degree came from Northwestern, with additional work at Chicago Musical College. She teaches cello and bass to students ranging from three years old to graduate school and beyond, and coaches chamber music. She has performed with many chamber groups in the Chicago area, as well as playing in symphonies in the quad state area. Her students go on to playing in amateur orchestras, professional orchestras, and composing for pop groups.

INES BATISTA, Costumes: Ines is a junior and this is her second show in the drama department. In the past she did *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Ines also does cheerleading, swimming, unified bowling, unified track, Best Buddies and paranormal society.



KAYLA BELL, Costumes: Kayla is a sophomore, on costume crew and is very excited to see how this show comes together. She is a part of many things outside of drama such as Pantherettes, studio dance, Best Buddies, unified track, unified bowling, class council, FCCLA, and international club. Kayla is also very involved at her church, Griffith First Christian. Kayla is wishing everyone the best of luck and hopes everyone enjoys the show!



LINNEA BESSETTE, Pit Orchestra: Linnea Bessette is a private saxophone instructor in the Crown Point, Merrillville, Lake Central, and Munster school systems. She received her bachelor's degree in music (saxophone performance with additional emphasis on oboe) from Saint Joseph's College. Linnea was a member of the American Federation of Musicians Concert Band and the South Suburban College Concert Band. She has played with the Northwest Indiana Symphony and the Northwest Indiana Saxophone Quartet. Currently, she plays in the South Shore Orchestra and also performs with many musical theatre groups in the area.



PETER BESSETTE, Pit Orchestra: Peter Bessette is a graduate of Purdue University, where he was the principal trombone in the wind ensemble and lead trombone in the Purdue Jazz Band. He was also a member of the Indiana Army National Guard 38th Division Band. More recently, Peter has played with the Tom Milo Big Band, the Midwest Big Band, the South Shore Orchestra and the South Shore Brass Band. He has also played various musicals with local theatre organizations.



PAM BUCKLEY, Pit Orchestra: Ms. Pam Buckley has been the choir director at Scott Middle School in Hammond for the past 35 years. She is a graduate of Indiana State University and Valparaiso University, both with music education degrees. She is a member of the Lyrical Flutes, a small ensemble that performs at various occasions. Pam is also a member of her church Handbell choir and choir. She is a proud mom of two adult daughters, is an avid book reader and in the summer, she loves to work in her flower garden.





CATHERINE CAVAZOS, *Costume Manager*: Catherine is a senior and this is her sixth show being involved in costumes. Outside of drama, Catherine participates in booster club, class council, student council, FCCLA, and recently just completed her last season of Pantherettes. She is very excited to spend her last show with amazing people and wishes everyone the best of luck!



AYDEN CHAVEZ, *Set & Stage*: Ayden Chavez is a tenth grader who is working on crew for *Beauty and the Beast*. He is very excited for this opportunity and for hopefully many more in the future to come with The Griffith Theatre Company.



JANAE CLARK, *Set & Stage*: Janae is a freshman at Griffith Jr. Sr. High school. This is her fourth show with the company having done crew since she was in middle school. This company has been such a welcoming environment and has introduced her to many lifelong friends. Janae has done *Charlotte's Web*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *Don't Fear the Reaper*. This is her most anticipated show yet.



PEYTON CONNER, *Hair & Makeup*: Peyton, is a freshman this is the first time she's been a part of a show. She is very excited to be a part of the hair and makeup crew, and to be a part of this community. She is also on the GHS yearbook staff and is the lead photographer.



DAN CUMMINS, *Pit Orchestra*: Dan Cummins is a graduate of Indiana State University where he completed a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, Master's Degree in School Leadership, and is currently completing his Educational Specialist Degree. He is a dedicated music education advocate as an area band and orchestra teacher, elementary through college. Dan continues to teach privately, both in-person and online. An active trumpeter from Northwest Indiana, Dan is equally at home performing in classical, jazz, and commercial arenas. He has performed in, or conducted, over sixty musical theatre productions throughout the Chicagoland area and performs regularly with multiple churches. He has performed with symphony orchestras including the Columbus Philharmonic, the Portage Festival Orchestra, and the South Shore Chamber Orchestra. Appearances with prominent artists include Tim Coffman, Mark Colby, Charley Davis, Dave Stryker, and the great Bobby Vinton. In addition to his US performances, in 2013 Dan toured China as a performer in the premier musical, "Rhapsody in Swing" and returned in the summer of 2017 to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

NICK DEJARLAIS, *Pit Orchestra*: Nick DeJarlais is in his fifth year teaching at Kankakee Valley High School and Middle School. Nick is a Graduate of Indiana State University with a Bachelors in Music Education and the University of Louisville with a Masters in Music Performance. He was a winner of the 2010 ISU Paul Hagan Concerto Competition and a 4-time semifinalist at the National Trumpet Competition. He is also an alumnus of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and taught for six years on the Scout's brass staff. When he's not at school, Nick enjoys spending time with his wife, Heather, and his two sons, Aiden and Isaiah.



LUKE DURALL, *Set & Stage*: Luke is a graduating senior ready to make the most of this year, so he joined drama for building sets, which he finds quite enjoyable. He does other stuff to.



MADDIE EDWARDS *Pit Orchestra*: Maddie Edwards is in her second year as the Orchestra Director at Clifford Pierce Middle School in Merrillville, Indiana. She is primarily a violinist and performs locally in the South Shore orchestra, Chicagoland Educator's Orchestra, and Laporte Symphony.



NY'YONNA ELLIOT, *Set & Stage*: Ny'onna is a freshman, and this is her second show. She is really excited to be helping build the sets for tonight's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She loves working with the other crew members as they put together an amazing set that was the vision of the set director. she can't wait to work with the Griffith Theatre Company for the rest of her high school years.



CADEE ERIKS, *Hair & Makeup*: Cadee Eriks is a tenth grade student at Griffith High School. This is her first show with the Griffith Theatre Company. Cadee is incredibly excited to work in the hair and makeup department. Outside of the school day she participates in other activities such as GHS color guard, GHS band and competitive cheer as an extracurricular.





BRIANA ESQUIVEL, *Hair & Makeup*: Briana is a junior and this is her fifth show. She will be found backstage doing hair and makeup. When she's not backstage you will see her at basketball, class council, booster club, and paranormal society. She can't wait to see how the show goes!



ARI ESTRADA, *Pit Orchestra*: Ari is a senior and has been in the pit for three musicals. She has been in *Grease*, *Annie*, and now *Beauty & the Beast*. Outside of pit orchestra she is also in concert band and Academic Super Bowl. She wishes everyone good luck!



GIOVANNA FERRANTE, *Pit Orchestra*: Giovanna Ferrante is a junior at Munster High School and has been playing double bass since she was nine. She is currently part of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra. This is her second production as part of the Griffith Theatre Company.



HAILY FUNK, *Pit Orchestra*: Haily is a freshman at Griffith Jr./Sr. High school and has been a part of the drama department for about a year and a half. Her first show was *Charlotte's Web* where she had acted as an ensemble character. In *Beauty and the Beast*, she is in the pit orchestra. When not being a part of the theatre company, she partakes in the art club and band. She wishes everyone good luck on their performances, on stage or not.



TOM GILMAN, *Pit Orchestra*: Tom Gilman has been teaching percussion and performing throughout Chicagoland since 2007. Most recently he worked with Alan B. Shepard High School, Highland High School, and Griffith High School percussion ensemble and marching percussion. He serves as a member of Faith Church's worship team and teaches General Music at Fierke Education Center in Oak Forest, IL. Mr. Gilman also teaches private lessons upon request.

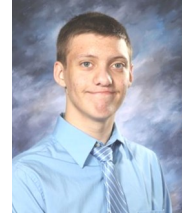
DIANA GROBEN, Costumes: Diana is a freshman and holy cow she is excited to be working this musical. This show will be her fourth one this year, seventh show overall. She has done costumes this year. This year Diana has been really into costumes and for the middle school show, she was assistant PA, costumes, and doggy handler. In her spare time, she does dance, color guard, and hangs out with her friends. Diana also loves going out. She hopes you enjoy the show!



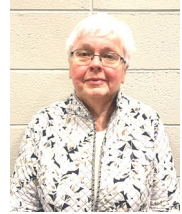
EMILIA GROBEN, Costumes Emilia is in seventh grade and has been with the drama department since sixth grade. Her first show in costume crew was *Charlotte's Web*. Her second show was *The Wizard of Oz* which she was also in costume crew. She also had done *Crazy Camp Capers* as Andi an ensemble character in fifth grade and church plays where she also acted when she was younger. Along with her being backstage helping out, she has been inspired to want to try and be in the spotlight in future shows for the GHS drama department. Beyond the costumes she does sports and activities for GHS. She does softball, NJHS, and middle school choir. Outside of helping costumes and school, she does Griffith Girls Softball, hanging out with her friends, and playing volleyball for fun. She can't wait for you to see all the hard work the cast and crew has done to do this show. She wishes the cast the best of luck and break a leg.



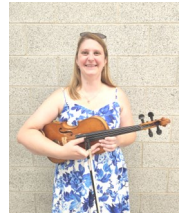
ETHAN HORSLEY, Pit Orchestra/Pit Production Assistant : Ethan is a senior who has been a part of the pit band for the last two years. They have been in the 2023 musical of *Annie* and are now currently performing in the pit for *Beauty and the Beast*. Apart from his acts in theatre, Ethan is also the founder of the GHS Dungeons and Dragons Club, and a four year runner for the cross country team. Ethan hopes the best for all cast and crew during their performances of our shows.



KATHY HAYDN, Piano: Kathy has attended several concerts and drama productions at Griffith, so she is very happy to be involved in this production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Her education background is a BS degree in Music Education from Geneva College (PA), a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree from Valparaiso University, and post-master's certification in Counseling from Purdue Northwest. Several years ago, her and her husband, Jeff, retired from the School City of Hammond, where she served as a music teacher and counselor. This June, they will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary! Currently, she serves as the Worship Director at South Side Christian Church in Munster. Retirement is absolutely wonderful, but she is thrilled to be able to work with young people again for this show.



KRISTEN HUGHES, Pit Orchestra: Kristen Hughes has been playing violin since the age of three with the Betty Haag Suzuki Academy. Through playing the violin & viola, she has had many opportunities to travel around the United States and Canada, Japan, German and Austria with various ensembles and famous musicians. She is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and received her Masters from VanderCook College of Music. Before teaching at Taft Middle School, she taught orchestras and bands in Des Plaines, Northbrook, Hammond, and Merrillville. She is also an active freelance musician in the Chicagoland area performing at weddings, events, musicals, etc. She enjoys her Croatian heritage, cooking, traveling, spending time with her family as well as playing with her two dogs and two cats.





SARAH ISSA, Hair & Makeup Manager: Sarah Issa is a senior and has been in the hair and makeup crew for just about 13 shows. She is the hair and makeup manager alongside her best friend Brianna Lopez. Outside of drama she is NHS president and Senior Class President. As she finishes up her last show Sarah would like to thank everyone who made theatre such a memorable high school experience and hopes you all appreciate the show as much as she does!



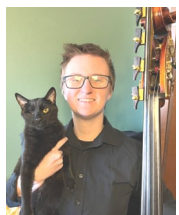
SABRINA JAMES, Set & Stage: Sabrina James is a junior who has been a part of drama since her freshman year. She has been thrilled building the set and has been having a very enjoyable time seeing how everything has been put together. Sabrina believes that the audience will be impressed with everyone and their talents and that seeing this show will not be a waste. Her first show was *Grease* but also participated in *Annie* and other plays. Sabrina is absolutely astonished by the hard work everyone has put in and wishes good luck to all.



ABBY JAIME, Hair & Makeup: Abby is a sophomore, and this is her sixth show she has worked on the hair and makeup crew for. She has done makeup for *Annie*, *The Play that Goes Wrong*, *Beauty and the beast*, and three middle school shows. When Abby is not helping with makeup she is in tennis, color-guard, and choir. Abby is very excited to be working on *Beauty and the Beast* and wants to wish everyone a great show!



STEPHANIE KACZMARZEWSKI, Hair & Makeup: Stephanie is a junior and it's her first time participating in a high school performance. She works in hair and makeup and is super excited to help in this year's musical. Stephanie also plays on the GHS volleyball team and plays travel volleyball. She cannot wait to help out in next year's shows as well!



AMANDA KRAUPNER, Pit Orchestra: Since graduating in 2016 with degrees in Music Performance and Biology, Amanda has maintained a thriving low string studio spanning from Crown Point to LaPorte. Professionally, they have played for theaters such as the Towle Theater in Hammond and the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso. Amanda also plays with wind ensembles and symphony orchestras such as Windiana, Michigan City Municipal band, and the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. When they aren't on stage with the ensemble, they are often found under the stage, helping students with their school's musical performances in the pit. When Amanda isn't performing or teaching, they work at a veterinary clinic as an office administrator, expanding their knowledge of feline behavior, or at home playing video games with their cats.

MEGAN LAND, Stage Manager: Megan is a senior and has been doing set and stage crew for five years now. She's worked on multiple shows including *Grease*, *Radium Girls*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Annie*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Brunch Club*, & The 4th & 5th Middle School Drama Nights. Outside of drama Megan participates in track & field, soccer, the paranormal society, NHS, class and student council, and international club. She wants to wish everyone good luck and thank you for coming out to support the GTC!



AVA LEE, Pit Orchestra: Ava Lee is a sophomore at Griffith High School, returning to the Griffith Theatre Company for her fourth show. Her previous shows were *Annie*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *The Wizard of Oz*, where she worked with hair and makeup. She is excited to be doing pit orchestra for the first time in our production of *Beauty and the Beast*. In her free time, Ava is a member of color guard, symphonic band, student and sophomore class council, and crochet club. She wishes our cast and crew a wonderful show!



BRIANNA LOPEZ, Hair & Makeup Manager: Bri is in her senior year! This is sadly her last ever show that she will be partaking in. She is excited to be a part of the production of this show. She is a hair manager and has been a part of the hair and makeup crew since seventh grade! Outside of drama she tries to stay active by participating in soccer, class council, student council, and booster club. She is thankful for all of the memories and friends that she has made along the way. Thank you to everyone who's made these last couple years amazing.



AURORA LUJEN, Stage Manager: Thank you all for coming out to see the final GTC production that Aurora will be a part of! If you didn't know, she is a senior and is graduating this June. She has been a part of the Griffith Theatre Company since her sophomore year and since then she has become the stage manager for the past six out of the ten shows she has been in. Including Griffith's first regional competition play in over ten years, *Don't Fear the Reaper*. Joining the GTC is the best decision she has ever made as it has helped to make new friends, learn new things, and open up her love for musical theatre. She is very happy she got to experience working with some amazing people and is sad to go but never mind the sappy stuff, the show must go on!



ALICIA MARTINEZ, Sound Manager/Sets: Alicia is a senior and this is her second year and seventh show with the Griffith Theatre Company. This is also her third show as acting sound manager at Griffith. When not participating in drama, she is involved in varsity softball and bowling, and is a member of National Honor Society, International Club, Paranormal Society, and student and class council. She wants to wish everyone involved in the production good luck and hopes you enjoy the show!





KAILEY MCCARRON, Costumes: Kailey McCarron is a sophomore at Griffith High School and is doing her first show. She is very excited to be doing costumes for *Beauty and the Beast*. In her free time, Kailey is in FCCLA and Paranormal Society. Kailey wishes the cast a great show!



LILY MOWERS, Lights: Lillian is a sophomore at Griffith High School. Behind the production of *Beauty and the Beast*, she is part of the GLS crew (lights and sound crew). This is her second year being part of the GTC, in the past she worked on: *Annie* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* as a set and stage crew member. She was in light crew for *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *The Wizard of Oz!* Outside of drama she participates in color guard, crochet club, sophomore class council, art club, Paranormal Society, and girls' tennis! She is extremely grateful to be part of this amazing show and for everyone to enjoy! Great job to everyone's deduction and hard work for this to be possible! She hopes you like the sound & light effects :)



RANDY ORNE, Set & Stage: Randy is a senior who has been active in set crew for the 2023/ 2024 year, his first show was also as a member of crew for *The Wizard of Oz*. In this current production of *Beauty and the Beast*, he is also in crew building the set.



JEANNE PRESLER, Sound: Jeanne is a freshman and has been with the GTC for three years. She has helped with other shows this year like *The Play that Goes Wrong* and *Don't Fear the Reaper*. Jeanne is also in a variety of clubs and sports. She is in academic super bowl, paranormal society, freshman class council, student council, booster club, concert choir, and she listens to Taylor Swift. She also plays softball for the school's varsity team. Jeanne is excited for this show because this will be her first musical. She hopes everyone enjoys the show! Break a leg!



CYAN QUINONES, Properties Manager: Cyan Quinones is a ninth grader who is just starting out in theatre. She's excited to be a part of *Beauty and the Beast*. Cyan has always loved theatre and wanted to help out with it. She was the props manager in the regional show *Don't Fear the Reaper* as well. She hopes you will all love the show as much as she does.

DANI QUINTANA, Pit Orchestra, Assistant Pit Production Assistant: Dani is a sophomore. She has been active in the drama department since her freshman year. This is her fifth show; her prior shows including *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Annie*, *Don't Fear the Reaper*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. During tonight's performance she will be playing her clarinet in the pit orchestra. Outside of drama, Dani is involved in band, sophomore class council, and crochet club. She is wishing the cast and crew a great show weekend!



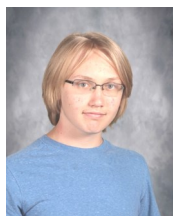
EMILIE RANGEL, Set & Stage: Emilie Rangel is a junior at Griffith High School. Her first show was *The Mousetrap*, in which she participated in set and stage crew. Emilie was also in *Grease* for set and stage as well. When she's not building behind the scenes, Emilie attends the ACC for construction and plans to follow this pathway. At school she's involved in the Paranormal Society. Emilie is super excited to build the scenes for this year's musical, *Beauty and the Beast*!



NILO SANCHEZ, Pit Orchestra: Nilo Sanchez is finishing his degree in music education from Valparaiso University. He is currently student teaching with Band and Pit Director, Virginia Hernandez. Nilo plays bassoon, horn, flute, trombone, and clarinet. While at VU he played in the top bands, orchestras, and chamber ensembles. He has also played in the pit for productions such as *My Fair Lady* and *Elf the Musical*. This year, he's joining Griffith Theatre Company as a horn player in the pit. He is super excited to play this year!



MAX SCHROADER, Pit Orchestra: Maxwell Schroader is a freshman in pit orchestra. He is the general percussionist for *Beauty and the Beast*, and this is the first theatrical production he has done with The Griffith Theatre Company.



RACHEL SHELINE, Set & Stage: Rachel is a sophomore and has been working in the department for three years and has done *The Brunch Club*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Annie*, and *The Play that Goes Wrong*. When she is not working for set crew, she is a member of the color guard and is a wrestler.





PANNA STANCSICS, Costumes: Panna is a junior and this is her first year in drama. Her first play was *The Play That Goes Wrong*. She's in Best Buddies, Paranormal Society, volleyball, swim and unified sports.



ALEXANDRIA WAGMAN, Hair & Makeup: Alex Wagman is a freshman, and this is her first time doing theatre. She is excited to be a part of hair and makeup for this show. When she is not at theatre, she is doing color guard, choir, and she does competitive cheerleading outside of school. She wishes the cast and crew the best of luck!



DELLA WISINSKI, Pit Orchestra: Della has been playing the French horn since fifth grade. This is her first time participating in pit orchestra. She is excited for the opportunity. Della is also on the tennis team and enjoys making art. Her favorite free time activity is hanging out with her cat, Abel.



BELLA ZIELKE, Costume Manager: Isabella Zielke is a junior at GHS and has been in the drama department involved in costumes for the past two years. Her first show that she was a part of was *Annie*, and she has loved being a part of the Griffith Theatre program ever since! When not in drama, Isabella participates in Best Buddies, unified sports, student council, junior class council, NHS, Fine Arts Academic Bowl, English Academic Bowl, International Club, Paranormal Society, FCCLA, and booster club. She wishes the cast and crew an amazing show!

Thank you for joining us for this production!

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*Mrs. Jenna Parker, Director
219-924-4281 ext. 5173 jparker@griffith.k12.in.us*

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A farewell to our seniors...



Becca Albarran



Ellie Amezcua



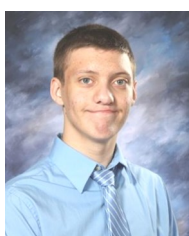
Ines Batista



Vincent Bedoy



Ari Estrada



Ethan Horsley



Sarah Issa



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It is a joy to watch our students perform and excel in the theatre world year after year. Did you know the cost to produce our shows and purchase the rights to them can exceed \$1,000? This is before any sets, costumes, props, or other supplies are used for a production.

The Griffith High School Drama Department would like to invite you to share in the success of our upcoming season of shows. By becoming a patron now, you will provide funds for our students to bring their very best to our stage.

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and their families.

Maintenance and custodial staff for all they
do for us and our facilities.

The Griffith community and our patrons for
celebrating our students and their abilities
through our programs.

Many thanks to all our faculty, staff,
administration, and school board for their
ongoing encouragement of our wonderful
programs.

And to anyone who painted a flat, lifted a set,
sewed a costume, or lent a hand this season
we say a

BIG THANK YOU!



Upcoming Events

NJHS/NHS Induction Ceremony— Wednesday, May 8th, NJHS—5:30PM, NHS—7PM

Choral & Theatre Awards Night—Thursday, May 9th, @6PM

Band Pops Concert—Grades 6-12—Wednesday, May 15th, @6:30PM

Choir Pops Concert—Grades 6-12, Wednesday, May 22nd, @6:30PM

Recognition Night— Thursday, May 23rd, @6PM

GTC's Fall Play— November 2024



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