



OPHS THEATRE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Oak Park Improv Show

Wednesday, April 16th, 7PM, Little Theater
\$1 Students, \$2 Senior Citizens, \$3 Adults

Oak Park Original Play Festival

Wednesday, April 30th 7PM
Thursday, May 1st 7PM
Saturday, May 3rd 2PM, 7PM
All Performances in Little Theater
\$1 Students, \$2 Senior Citizens, \$3 Adults

OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



PICNIC

BY WILLIAM INGE

APR 10, 11, 12 • 7:30 PM | APR 12 • 2:00 PM MATINEE

OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL MAIN AUDITORIUM | \$6 STUDENTS | \$7 SENIOR CITIZENS | \$8 ADULTS

"Picnic" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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WWW.OPHSTHEATRE.ORG



OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT

Here at Oak Park Theatre we strive to create professional theatre at an educational level. We strive to put on quality shows, at a reasonable cost. We encourage all students to get involved in the arts. We are proud to bring you a plethora of talent, and excitement.

WARNING

The photographing, sound, or video recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such recording inside the theatre without written permission of the management is prohibited.

LATECOMERS POLICY

The curtain goes up on time at this theatre. Latecomers will be seated at the first appropriate interval, which may mean intermission. Please make every effort to be in your seat before the show begins.

CHILDREN

To ensure the enjoyment of the performance to all, should any child become disruptive, a member of staff may ask you to step out for a moment.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

For the courtesy of all audience members and performers, cellular phones and pagers must be silence during the show. Please be mindful that inadvertent noise and excessive movement can be disruptive to the theatrical experience.

FOOD & DRINK POLICY

Food and Drink may be purchased in the lobby before, intermission, and after the show. Please be mindful that no food or drinks are allowed in the theatre. All food and drink must be disposed of before entering the theatre.

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Box office opens an hour and half before show time. Online box office is available at www.ophstheatre.org open 24 hours a day, but closes 12 hours before show time.

PHOTOGRAPHY

All show photography may be viewed and downloaded for free courtesy of Katherine Gehrlein.

imagesbykgp.zenfolio.com



THEATRE FOR A CAUSE TURNS 15

This is the 15th production for Oak Park Theatre for a Cause! Help us celebrate 15 years of giving back by making an additional donation after the show. Theatre for a Cause teaches our students to be culturally responsive, and to use their talents for the betterment of the community.

Oak Park High School's Legacy of Giving

2014	<i>Picnic</i>	Synergy Services
2013	<i>Forever Plaid</i>	Make a Wish Foundation
2012	<i>Twelve Angry Jurors</i>	Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children
2011	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Child Abuse Prevention Association
2010	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
2009	<i>The Yellow Boat</i>	Gilda's Club
2008	<i>Kindertransport</i>	Imagine Sudan Foundation
2007	<i>Heaven Can Wait</i>	OPHS Faculty Scholarship Fund
2006	<i>Proof</i>	Synergy House
2005	<i>Tell Me That You Love Me, Junie Moon</i>	Dream Factory in the name of Beth Briley
2004	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i>	Jeremy Meyers Fund—Spina Bifida Association
2003	<i>The Guys</i>	Missouri Firefighters Benevolence Fund
2002	<i>Miss Firecracker Contest</i>	Timothy Michael Bennet Scholarship Fund Solace House
2001	<i>A Piece of My Heart</i>	Project Stand Down
2000	<i>Steel Magnolias</i>	American Diabetes Association



About William Inge Continued...

In 1959, *A LOSS OF ROSES* opened to poor reviews and closed after a three week run. Inge was devastated by the criticism. In 1960 he announced plans to teach at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. These plans and all subsequent plans to return to his native state fall through even though he later purchased property in Lawrence.

In 1960, Inge's first screenplay, *Splendor in the Grass* was filmed in New York. It starred Natalie Wood, Pat Hingle and newcomer Warren Beatty. It also featured the only screen appearance of Inge himself, who played the part of Reverend Whitman. He is shown giving part of a sermon and bidding farewell to his parishioners as they leave the church. *Splendor in the Grass* was a triumph for Inge and won him an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

His next two plays were *NATURAL AFFECTION* in 1963 and *WHERE'S DADDY?* in 1965. Both were unsuccessful. This prompted him to leave New York in 1963 at the age of fifty and move to California. In 1968, he resumed his teaching career at the University of California at Irvine but, becoming increasingly depressed, he quit in 1970.

The products of his remaining years were two novels: *Good Luck, Miss Wyckoff* in 1970 and *My Son Is a Splendid Driver* in 1971, a largely autobiographical account of Inge's boyhood years.

Inge committed suicide on June 10, 1973 at his home in Hollywood, where he lived with his sister, Helene. He was 60 years old. He was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in his hometown of Independence, KS. His headstone reads simply, "Playwright."

THANK YOU

Oak Park Theatre Department would like to take the time to thank everyone that helped to bring this show to life!

Mrs. Maxwell-Herrick
Mr. Timothy Johnson
Kansas City Costume Company
OPHS Custodial Faculty
OPHS Theatre Backers
Bridgepointe Home Association
Katherine Gehrlein Photography
William Inge Center for the Arts

The OPHS Graphic Design Class for their poster design
OPHS administrators, faculty, parents, and students for their contributions and support of our production

The cast and crew for all of their patience, dedication, and professionalism



Oak Park High School Theatre Department

PRESENTS

PICNIC

By William Inge

Stage Manager

Alexandria Forshay

Marketing Director

Abby Sherman

Costume Manager

Brit Von Ryssel

Asst. Stage Managers

Chris Durrant
Abby Sherman

Asst. Marketing Director

Nick Crawford

Properties Masters

Abby Sherman

Lighting Designer

Erin Letherman

Sound Engineers

Abbey Greene
Caleb McKinney

House Managers

Megan Knisley
Bailey Pelland

Master Electrician

Bella Cusumano

Shop Foreman

Caleb McKinney

Directed By

Brian Gehrlein



CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

Helen Potts.....	BETHANY BUCKLAND
Hal Carter.....	CHAUNERY TANGUAY
Millie Owens.....	MARIAH STUDEBAKER
Bomber.....	DEAN FOREMAN
	ZANE WEAVER
Madge Owens.....	MADALINE WALTER-MCCRARY
Flo Owens.....	TAYLOR WELCH
Rosemary Sydney.....	SARAH TAYLOR
Alan Seymour.....	JACOB BOEDING
Irma Kronkite.....	ERIN HILL
Christine Schoenwalder.....	BAILEY WHITE
Howard Bevans.....	DILLON HEGINBOTTOM

Time & Place

1952, small town in Kansas, in a yard shared
by Helen Potts and Flo Owens.

Scenes

ACT ONE

Early morning, on Labor Day.

ACT TWO

Later that same afternoon.

ACT THREE

Scene One; Very early the following morning.

Scene Two; A few hours later

**There Will Be One
Fifteen-Minute Intermission**



Back in Kansas, he endeavored to define a clearer direction for his life. He found physical exhaustion helpful and that summer worked as a laborer on the state highway. After that he went to Wichita where he worked as a news announcer. In 1937-38, Inge taught high school English and Drama in Columbus, Kansas and in 1938 he returned to Peabody to complete his Master of Arts Degree. From 1938-1943, Inge was a member of the faculty at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

In 1943, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked as the drama and music critic for the *St. Louis Times*. It was while he worked as a drama critic that Inge became acquainted with Tennessee Williams. He accompanied Williams to a performance of his play *THE GLASS MENAGERIE* in Chicago. "I was terrifically moved by the play," said Inge. "I thought it was the finest (play) I had seen in many years. I went back to St. Louis and felt, 'Well, I've got to write a play.'" Within three months he had completed *FARTHER OFF FROM HEAVEN*, which was produced by Margo Jones in Dallas. Inge returned to a teaching position at Washington University in St. Louis and began serious work on turning a fragmentary short story into a one act play. This work evolved into a play that earned Inge the title of most promising playwright of the 1950 Broadway season. The play was *COME BACK, LITTLE SHEBA*.

In 1953, *PICNIC* opened at The Music Box Theatre in New York City. The play is set in a small Kansas town on Labor Day. Rosemary, the spinster school teacher fears she will continue to live her life without someone to take care of her. Inge recalled the genesis of this character profile. "When I was a boy in Kansas, my mother had a boarding house. There were three women school teachers living in the house. I was four years old and they were nice to me; I liked them. I saw their attempts and, even as a child, I sensed every woman's failure. I began to sense the sorrow and the emptiness in their lives and it touched me." *PICNIC* won Inge a Pulitzer Prize, The Drama Critic Circle Award, The Outer Circle Award, and The Theatre Club Award.

It was in 1952 that Paramount Pictures released the film version of *COME BACK LITTLE SHEBA* directed by Daniel Mann and starring Shirley Booth and Burt Lancaster. Shortly after, in 1956, Columbia Pictures released the film version of *PICNIC* directed by Joshua Logan and starring William Holden, Kim Novak and Rosalind Russell.

Inge's next success came in 1955 when *BUS STOP* opened at The Music Box Theatre in New York City. Directed by Joshua Logan, the film version of *BUS STOP* was released by Fox in 1956 with Marilyn Monroe, Don Murray and Eileen Heckart in starring roles.

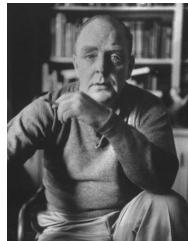
Inge's fame continued to grow as *THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS*, a reworking of his first play *FARTHER OFF FROM HEAVEN* opened on Broadway in 1957. *DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS*, considered to be Inge's finest play, is one in which he draws most directly from his own past. He confessed the play was his "first cautious attempt to look at the past, with an effort to find order and meaning in experiences that were once too close to be seen clearly." It was released as a film starring Dorothy McGuire, Robert Preston, Shirley Knight, Eve Arden, and Angela Lansbury in 1960.

Inge's mother, Maude Sarah Gibson Inge, died in 1958 at the age of 86 in Independence.



ABOUT WILLIAM INGE

A brief biography from The William Inge Center for the Arts



William Inge's Kansas boyhood is reflected in many of his works. Born in Independence on May 3, 1913, he was the second son of Luther Clay Inge and Maude Sarah Gibson-Inge and the youngest of five children. His boyhood home at 514 N. 4th Street in Independence still stands. His siblings were Lucy, Luther Jr., Irene (died at 3 years of age), and Helene. His father was a traveling salesman and Inge had a close relationship with his mother.

Independence, Kansas in the 1920's was a wealthy white-collar town and the home of Alf Landon, Harry Sinclair, and Martin Johnson. Until the depression, Independence was said to have had more millionaires per capita than any other city in the country.

Inge's fascination for the theatre began early. In the 1920's Independence had many cultural events as top artists and shows stopped over for one night stands between performances in Kansas City, Missouri, and Tulsa, Oklahoma. Although Inge was not from a well-to-do family, he did get to see many shows as a member of a local Boy Scout Troop. The troop met in the Civic Center, a ground floor meeting room of Memorial Hall, a large 2,000 seat theater where these shows were held. The scouts were regularly invited to sit in the balcony after their meetings to watch the performances.

The small town of Independence had a profound influence on the young Inge and he would later attribute his understanding of human behavior to growing up in this small town environment. "I've often wondered how people raised in our great cities ever develop any knowledge of humankind. People who grow up in small towns get to know each other so much more closely than they do in cities," said Inge. Inge would later use this knowledge of small town life in many of his plays, most of which revolve around characters who are clearly products of small towns like Independence.

In 1930, Inge graduated from Independence High School and went on to attend Independence Junior College (now Independence Community College). At that time the high school and college were located across the street from each other at 10th and Laurel streets.

In 1935, Inge graduated from the University of Kansas at Lawrence with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech and Drama. He said once that at this stage in his life he had wanted to plunge into Broadway but felt that he lacked the necessary funding. When the George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee, offered him a scholarship to work on a master's degree he accepted. He later dropped out of Peabody. "I sort of based my life on the theatre," said Inge. "Having given up the theatre I had given up the basis that I'd set for my life upon. I was terribly confused. I went home to Kansas and began to flounder."



Theatre For A Cause

This year's TFAC show is giving to:



Synergy Services, Inc. began in 1970 as Synergy House, and has grown successfully. Some of the programs include crisis hotlines, emergency shelter, transitional housing, therapeutic services, advocacy, mentoring, and violence prevention programs throughout Greater Kansas City.

**For more information about Synergy Services visit
www.synergyservices.org**



WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

BETHANY BUCKLAND (*Helen Potts*) Bethany, a senior at Oak Park High School, has been a part of theatre for her entire life. From *Narnia: The Musical*, to *Footloose*, she has always loved taking part on and behind the stage. Her most recent roles include “Bonnie Davenport” in *High Cotton*, Smudge in *Forever Plaid*, and “Enid Hoopes” in *Legally Blonde*. This is her second year participating in Oak Park’s TFAC and she is very excited to be a part of the process. At the moment, she intends to attend Kansas State University in the fall, entering into the Architectural Engineering program. Although her future plans don’t include education in theatre, she knows it will always be a part of her life and she would like to take this opportunity to thank her director, her friends and family, and her Lord and Savior for this incredible opportunity. “Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift.” II Corinthians 9:15.

CHAUNERY TANGUAY (*Hal Carter*) Chaunery Tanguay, a sophomore at Oak Park High, is in Oak Street Show Choir, and Acappella Choir. This is the second year he has been in choir. He thoroughly enjoyed using his voice to serenade his enemies and his parents. Chaunery hopes to continue on the musical/acting journey throughout high school and make the best of this experience.

MARIAH STUDEBAKER (*Millie Owens*) Mariah Studebaker, a senior, has loved being involved in Oak Park’s Choir and Theatre departments all 4 years of high school. She has been a member of the Oak Street Singers for 3 years, Accapella for 3 years, Oak Park 5 Improv Team for 3 years, and member of the all school musical all 4 years. Most recently seen as “Elle Woods” in *Legally Blonde*, “Belle” in *Beauty and the Beast*, “Franky” in *Forever Plaid*, “Hope Hartcourt” in *Anything Goes*, “Juror #4” in *12 Angry Jurors*, and “Brenda” in *Hairspray*. Mariah is excited to be taking on this tomboy. She plans to continue her passion for musical theatre in college and would love to someday perform on professional stages. She wishes to thank her amazing directing staff, beautiful friends, sweet siblings, wonderful parents, and mighty Moose for their constant support. All thanks and glory to God. -Psalm 19.

TAYLOR WELCH (*Flo Owens*) Senior, Taylor Welch, has been highly involved in the Oak Park Fine Arts Department and has been seen in : Oak Street (three years), *Hairspray* (2010), *Triumph of Love* (2011), Featured Soloist *Anything Goes* (2011), “Hoolya” in *Oscar and Felix* (2012), “Juror #7” in *Twelve Angry Jurors* (2012), “Taylor” in *Digging Down Graveyards* (Agnes Rieger production, 2012), “Babette” in *Beauty and the Beast* (2012), Stage Manager for *And Then There Were None* (2013), and “Sparky” in *Forever Plaid* (2013), “Paulette” in *Legally Blonde* (2013). She has been in multiple productions with the Kansas City Renaissance Festival as well as the all season cast for two years. Taylor plans to attend a college or conservatory for Acting and Musical Theatre and hopes to be successful in her craft.



DIRECTOR’S NOTE

My wife Katherine was the first person to point me to *Picnic* as a potential drama for our TFAC and I have to say, I fell instantly in love. Even from my first read, I saw more than a slice of 1950s Americana in three acts. I was struck by how real the characters were and how relevant the story was, even sixty years later. However, I was terrified of directing this production since it is so well known and so highly acclaimed. The cast was terrified as well, but our fear was a healthy one. Approaching a piece of art with a spirit of humility postures the artist to proceed with caution. Beginning the run with this understanding, truly pushed them to discover this story with more creative and academic rigor than I have seen high school actors demonstrate (even though I’m still a baby teacher!) Looking back now at our journey, I am in awe at their artistic integrity and their relentless pursuit of the truth. Permit me now to brag about them. To better understand the world of the play we took a cast field trip to Independence, Kansas for the annual William Inge Festival. This was our collective great awakening. Suddenly the script transformed from distant words on the page to something highly personal they owned—cold words in black and white burst forth with color and meaning they hadn’t seen before (talk about complete text emersion!). We attended workshops, listened to lectures on his life, visited his house, and even assembled around his grave. Words cannot express how different their performances have been since we returned. Many do not know this, but the ending you will see today was actually not William Inge’s original intent. When *Picnic* was first produced on Broadway in 1953, the director Josh Logan hated the ending and ultimately forced Inge to rewrite it. Logan wanted to make the story more palatable for audiences who were hungry for romantic, Hollywood endings where love conquers all, despite impossible, and often hopeless circumstances. After *Picnic*’s run on Broadway and eventual film adaptation (1955) where it received an Academy Award for best screenplay, Inge rewrote the piece and entitled it *Summer Brave*. In this piece he let his original ending prevail. When I discovered this version of the story, the cast was so hooked on the play they begged me to get them copies of this altered version. It was so encouraging to work with such hungry actors that demonstrated not only talent on stage, but also a thirst for the truth behind the playwright’s intent even if this required several hours of additional study. My teenage actors wanted homework! (this is not normal). During rehearsals it was my joy to watch them make thousands of discoveries as we went deeper into the text with some very difficult acting exercises. They know this story and they know the characters. Just ask them, and you will see. Watching the light bulbs come on in new ways each day is why I do what I do. I have been humbled by this production and I have been inspired by these actors. I sincerely hope you enjoy this show and appreciate the careful process taken by this group of young people. I hope you let this story wash over you as they have. Please do them a favor, and suspend your disbelief. You are not sitting in a theater watching a play. You are watching real life. Real love, real pain, real hope. You are watching magic happen. Embrace this magic and it will leave you forever changed as they have been changed. To my cast, I say break a leg. Thanks for the memories. It has been a truly thrilling year. You have taught me so much, and I love you all. To my seniors in the cast, you will be greatly missed, and surely not forgotten. Now go and, like Hal, set the world on fire.

Brian Gehrlein, Director of Theatre



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE STAGE CRAFT CLASS

Students in Stagecraft work with Mr. Gehrlein to create the world of each play.

Max Alexander

Taylor Bode

Bella Cusamano

Kaleb Dudley

Alexandria Forshay

Trevor House

Sarah Klaber

Megan Knisley

Erin Leatherman

Caleb McKinney

Taylor Saunders

Abby Sherman

Britt von Ryssel



SARAH TAYLOR (*Rosemary Sydney*) Sarah is a senior here at Oak Park and is thrilled to be apart of this lovely cast! She is in Theatre 3 and is very excited about trying her hand as a director for her One Act soon! Sarah has been on house crew last year and loves that her last show will be a memorable one.

BAILEY WHITE (*Christine Scheonwalder*) Bailey is a sophomore at Oak Park. She likes to spend her time with her family and friends. She has been in many musicals such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Legally Blonde*. Bailey is excited to continue acting here at Oak Park!

JACOB BOEDING (*Alan Seymour*) Jacob is thrilled to perform in his first straight play. After his experiences as Emmett in *Legally Blonde*, Lefou in *Beauty and the Beast*, and multiple one-acts, the role of Alan has been the toughest yet, and he has appreciated this experience to truly grow as an actor. He also contributes to Oak Park by being a bass/baritone singer for the Oak Street Singers, Producer of the school's student-run broadcast program, "The Axe," leads the marching band as the Head Drum Major, and a plethora of other things. Jacob's future plans include attending the University of Missouri-Columbia and pursuing a double major in Business and Journalism with an emphasis in production. Using this background, he hopes to make it into the film industry by editing and producing movies, potentially future *The Book of Mormon* movie-musical. Also, in his future, he plans on winning the International Quartet Championship of the Barbershop Harmony Society and live happily with his wife and four or five kids in Dallas, Texas. Jacob would like to thank his biggest fans: Mom, Dad, and, Lauren, for all of their support, Bailey Wilkerson for being an incredible blessing in his life, and all the other individuals at Oak Park who have shaped him into the man he is today.

MADALINE WALTER-MCCRARY (*Madge Owens*) Madaline Walter-McCravy is ecstatic that her last show at Oak Park is *Picnic*. Madaline has acted in *Hairspray*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Anything Goes*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Legally Blonde*, and the One Act Festival in her time at Oak Park as well as being a part of the original OP5 Improv Team and participating in many crews, often as Makeup and Costume Manager. She can regularly be seen at The Coterie Theatre performing improv, assisting with classes, or doing master classes each week. Madaline's future plans include taking a gap year to study abroad and finishing up college auditions and then majoring in Musical Theatre and continuing her bilingual life with a minor in French. Madaline would like to thank her family, Shelby, Mariah, Baldwin, Amanda Kibler, and Gehrlein for helping her believe in herself!

ERIN HILL (*Irma Kronkite*) Erin Hill is a freshman at Oak Park. She is absolutely thrilled to be taking part in her second production with Oak Park. Along with being in *Picnic*, she was also in the school musical, *Legally Blonde*, as a Delta Nu. She has also been in three shows with Gladstone Theatre In the Park *Flyer*, *Hello Dolly!* and *The Music Man*. She loves acting and cannot wait to continue in theatre and performing at Oak Park. Revelation 4:11.



DEAN FOREMAN (*Bomber*) Dean is a freshman at Oak Park, and is in Theatre One. He's thrilled to be in his first production and looks forward to more shows. Fun facts about Dean are his favorite food is pizza, favorite movie is Back to the Future, favorite color is green, and he aspires to inspire.

ZANE WEAVER (*Bomber*) Zane is a sophomore, and is amped to be in his first production at Oak Park. He is excited to have been given a spot in the improv troupe OP5. He enjoys Italian food and loves kittens.

DILLON HEGINBOTTOM (*Howard Bevans*) Dillon is a senior at Oak Park High School. He has been apart of soccer for 3 years, tennis for 3 years, choir for 4 years including being in the Oak Street Singers for 2 years, the Axe broadcasting staff, musical and OP5 for 1 year. He has lettered in soccer once, tennis once, choir twice, journalism once, and academics twice. In the musical he played the roles of Mr. Woods and Dewey, along with a couple other minor roles. Dillon's future plans include going to the University of Central Missouri to study criminal justice and political science. After he gets his degree he plans on transferring to the University of Undecided to study Law. He plans on being a lawyer and then later on becoming a judge. He also plans on owning at minimum 75 suits and becoming a Pokémon Master.

LIKE US ON



Oak Park High School Theatre Department



KIMMY CRANE (*Costume Crew/ House Crew*) Kimmy is a sophomore at Oak Park, she has enjoyed being involved in acting performances from church events when she was younger, until now her sophomore year. She has been on costume crew for *Lend Me a Tenor* and really enjoyed it. She plans on being involved in many more over the next two years. "And Jesus looking upon them said, with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible"-Mark 10:27

ABBEY GREENE (*Lighting Crew/Sound Crew*) Abbey is a sophomore this year and adores being involved in theatre. Last year she was on the Lighting Crew for *Beauty and the Beast*, *Forever Plaid*, and *Fertilizer*. Her favorite part of being in theatre is the friends she makes. She has had a wonderful experience with Erin and Bella on the lighting crew so far.

NICK MAJETICH (*House Crew*) Nick is a freshman. He's excited to be able to do more Oak Park productions in the future. He's done house crew for *Lend Me A Tenor*, and he was very fancy. He is doing house crew for Picnic. Go team.

ENGLISH BRYANT (*Stage Crew*) English is a freshman and this is her first year in theatre. It is a wonderful experience. She is in freshman choir and plans on doing more in the area of preforming arts, and going further in theatre and choir. She is currently in OP5, and she says the group is a great way to grow in the area of theatre. She was on *Lend Me A Tenor* crew and likes to acknowledge everyday how hard the crews and cast work in order to put on a show.

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Tweet us your thoughts using our show hashtag!

#*ophspicnic*



NICK CRAWFORD (*Marketing Assistant*) Nicholas, sophomore, is excited to be the Assistant Marketing Director for this show. He was seen as “Frat Boy #2” and a member of the ensemble in *Legally Blonde* and portrayed a villager, wolf, and the cheese grater in *Beauty and the Beast*. For crew he was the Spotlight for *Lend me a Tenor*. Other stage credits include Theatre in the Park productions of *Crazy For You* “Nicholas Fodor”, *Annie Get Your Gun* “Mac” and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* “Gad”. Nick plays tennis and was selected as last year’s Rookie of the Year.

ANNA MERKEL (*Stage Crew*) Anna Merkel is a freshman this year and is in theatre one. She enjoys being on stage crew for *Picnic* and hopes to continue throughout high school.

EVELYN VILINGIA (*Stage Crew*) Evelyn is nice, sweet, cool, creative and cares for her family very much. She is a momma’s girl and is the youngest of 4 children. She’s a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and is from Tonga, an island in the South Pacific Ocean. She’s a sophomore and never planned on doing theatre until she was put in theatre class her freshmen year. Her past experiences she has had in theatre is being in a couple of scenes from plays: *Raisin In the Sun*, *A Midsummer’s Night Dream*, and *Novio Boy*. She looks forward to more experiences in theatre here.

ALEXIS EMMONS (*Stage Crew*) Alexis is currently on stage crew for *Picnic*. She is in OP5 improv group and Theatre I. In the future, she hopes to act in local productions or make it big time, but also enjoys automotive activities. Alexis attended the Missouri State Thespian Conference, and was on Stage Crew for *Lend Me A Tenor*. She tries her best to stay true to her goals.

ERICA DYKES (*House Crew*) Erica is a freshman taking her first theatre class this year. Currently, she participates in Science Olympiad, and plays cello outside of school and has played for five years. She writes for a Marvel fan-comic and her own original work in her spare time. She would really like to get a part in any of the plays that the Theatre department decides to preform in the years she has ahead of her at Oak Park. She plans to continue on to Theatre II next year.

THIRSTY?

Soda and Water are available for \$1 out in the lobby



OPHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Department Heads

Theatre.....BRIAN GEHRLEIN

Production Staff

Producer.....OPHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Technical & Artistic Director.....BRIAN GEHRLEIN

Stage Manager.....ALEXANDRIA FORSHAY

Assistant Stage Managers.....CHRIS DURRANT

ABBY SHERMAN

Marketing Director.....ABBY SHERMAN

Assistant Marketing Director.....NICK CRAWFORD

Sound Engineers.....CALEB MCKINNEY

ABBEY GREENE

Lighting Director.....ERIN LETHERMAN

Master Electrician.....BELLA CUSUMANO

Shop Foreman.....CALEB MCKINNEY

Properties Master.....ABBY SHERMAN

Costume Manager.....BRIT VON RYSSEL

House Managers.....MEGAN KNISLEY

BAILEY PELLAND

Lighting Crew.....CALEB MCKINNEY

ABBEY GREENE

Stage Crew.....LEXI EMMONS

ANNA MERKEL

ENGLISH BRYANT

EVELYN VILINGIA

Costume Crew.....MADALINE WALTER-MCCRARY

KIMMY CRANE

MELINA VORWALD

KIMMY CRANE

ERICA DYKES

NICK MAJETICH

ABBY SHERMAN



THE DIRECTING STAFF

BRIAN GEHRLEIN (*Technical and Artistic Director*) Mr. Brian Gehrlein is thrilled to continue his journey at Oak Park High School for his first year of teaching. What a year! After graduating from William Jewell College in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Education and Secondary Education, Mr. Gehrlein stayed active in theatre by professionally, acting, directing, and teaching for The Coterie Theatre where he played Johnny in *The Outsiders* (2011), in addition to having a few short plays produced around the Kansas City metro. When he is not serving the theatre department, writing, or working on curriculum, you can find him spending time with his beautiful wife, photographer, and fellow theatre teacher, Katherine Gehrlein. Mr. Gehrlein is passionate about theatre and helping his students discover their unique creative potential. He counts himself very blessed to learn from and work with such hungry and talented students and cannot wait to continue his journey along side them. He would like to thank his wife, students, colleagues for their patience and grace in this season of learning. Stay gold, Oak Park!

WHO'S WHO IN THE CREW

ALEXANDRIA FORSHAY (*Stage Manager*) Alex Forshay is a senior and is really excited to stage manage her last show. She has always been involved in theatre here at Oak Park and will miss it. Alex hopes to continue with theatre in the future.

ABBY SHERMAN (*Assistant Stage Manager/House Crew/ Properties Master/Marketing Director*) Abby is a junior here at Oak Park. Abby has been involved in House Crew in every show since *12 Angry Jurors*. She's enjoyed spending all that time with Megan. She acted in a One Act her freshman year and last year she adored acting in *Fertilizer*. This year she has enjoyed branching out into other crews such as Publicity and Properties and is very grateful to have received a part in the cast of OP5 this year. She is glad she met Melina and has found her to be a dear friend.

CHRIS DURRANT (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Chris Durrant is the Assistant Stage Manager. He has been in plays. He is a good actor. Tacos!



BAILEY PELLAND (*House Manager*) Bailey is a sophomore at Oak Park. He has enjoyed working on house crew with Abby and Megan who are fantastic. Bailey also acted as Mr. Rogers in *And Then There Were None* and had a more silent role in the One Act *Milk Shots* last year, which brought the house down. Bailey looks forward to continuing his involvement in theatre.

CALEB MCKINNEY (*Shop Foreman/Sound Engineer/Lighting Crew*) Caleb is a sophomore at Oak Park. He has participated in every show since attending Oak Park. He is currently in Theatre II and Stagecraft. He would like to thank his parents and siblings for supporting him.

ERIN LEATHERMAN (*Lighting Designer*) This is Erin's fourth year being involved with theatre. She has been the Master Electrician for 3 shows and the Lighting Designer for *Fertilizer*, *Legally Blonde* and *Lend Me a Tenor*. She will be heading to Northwest next year to pursue a degree in Elementary Education and hopefully design the lights for a few shows as well. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her through it all.

BELLA CUSUMANO (*Master Electrician*) Bella is a junior at Oak Park. She has participated in numerous Oak Park productions in the past. She has most recently worked as the Stage Manager for *Lend Me a Tenor*. She is excited to be the Master Electrician again and would like to thank Erin and Abby for being great gals to work with.

MEGAN KNISLEY (*House Manager*) Megan is a senior. This is her 4th year involved with the Oak Park Theatre Department. She has been house manager for the past 4 years with a fabulous co manager junior Abby. She has been involved in every show here at Oak Park for the past 4 years. Her future plans involve going to college and graduating with a degree in marketing and business.

BRIT VON RYSSEL (*Costume Manager*) Brit von Ryssel is a senior at Oak Park and an exchange student from Germany. This year she is in Theatre II and Stagecraft. In Germany, she has always been involved in theatre in school and enjoys acting as well as being on crews. In America, she has been the Costume Manager for all the shows this year.

MELINA VORWALD (*Costume Crew*) Melina is a senior at Oak Park and is an exchange student from Germany. She played Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor* and had the pleasure of flipping her "husband" off! In *Picnic* she is on make up and costume crew. Abby and Chris are the most attractive people, inside and out!