

KANKAKEE VALLEY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

PROUDLY PRESENTS:

LINCOLN
CULTURAL CENTER

240 WARREN AVE. KANKAKEE, IL 60901

TICKETS:
www.kvta.org

IN THE HEIGHTS

DIRECTED by: SHARLA RONCHETTO

MUSIC AND LYRICS by:

LIN MANUEL MIRANDA

BOOK by:

QUIARA ALEGRIA HUDES

CONCEIVED by:

LIN MANUEL MIRANDA

This production is sponsored by The Daily Journal, Riverside Healthcare, Taylor Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM, and Taylor Ford of Manteno. This program is partially funded by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and the National Endowment for the Arts.

APRIL 29TH & 30TH
MAY 6TH & 7TH, 2023

This production of IN THE HEIGHTS is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals visit www.concordtheatricals.com for more information.



KVTA

A Note from the Director . . .

Directing *In The Heights* has been a true joy and blessing for me. The talent contained on this stage is jaw-dropping. My grateful thanks go out to the cast for sharing their immense talent with all of us.

I would also like to thank the creative team that helped direct this production. Thanks to Jordyn for all of her assistance throughout this production — what an amazing Assistant Director!

Thanks to Jeanne for taking on such a huge musical challenge — you are appreciated; and I am grateful for your abilities and your dedication. Thanks to Trinity for the eye-popping hip-hop choreography — a beautiful dancer and inspiring choreographer.

Thanks go out as well to the production staff: Joel, Scott, Carol, Mellody, Julie, Matt, and Kayla. I am truly thankful for all your help in bringing the vibrant color of this production to life on the stage.

Lastly, I would like to thank the audience for attending our production. Theatre is a communal art form, and it is not complete until it is shared with an audience. Thank you for completing our show! *Paciencia y fe,*

Sharla Ronchetto

KVTA Thanks



for their support
this season!



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KVTA BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Tickets can be purchased online at www.kvta.org.

For information, please call 815-935-8510.

Kankakee Valley Theatre Association is a not-for-profit organization. Ticket prices cover only a fraction of the cost of each performance. We welcome volunteers and appreciate donations of any size. We invite you to become a member of KVTA. Contact any Board Member for information or visit www.kvta.org.

KVTA is a Proud Member of:

- Community Arts Council - Kankakee, IL
- Illinois Arts Council
- American Association of Community Theatre
- Illinois Theatre Association - Chicago, IL
- Kankakee Chamber of Commerce
- Manteno Chamber of Commerce

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act I

Scene 1: Washington Heights – Sunrise, July 3, 2008

In the Heights Usnavi, Company

Scene 2: On the Street

Respira (Breathe) Nina, Company

Scene 3: Rosario's Car Service

Benny's Dispatch Benny, Nina

Scene 4: The Street

It Won't Be Long Now Vanessa, Usnavi, Sonny

Scene 5: The Dispatch Booth; The Street

Inútil (Useless) Kevin

Scene 6: The Salon

No Me Diga Daniela, Carla, Vanessa, Nina

Scene 7: Inside the Bodega; The Street

96,000 Usnavi, Benny, Sonny, Vanessa, Daniela, Carla, Company

Scene 8: The Street

Paciencia y Fe (Patience and Faith) Abuela Claudia, Company

Scene 9: The Street – Early Evening

When You're Home Nina, Benny, Company

Scene 10: The Street – Dusk

Piragua Piragua Guy

Scene 11: The Rosario Household

Scene 12: The Club; The Street

The Club Company

Blackout Company

15 Minute intermission

No food or drink is allowed in the Lincoln Cultural Center Auditorium.

No smoking is allowed on school property.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation with these

Kankakee District 111 Policies.

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act II

Scene 1: Benny's Fire Escape – Morning, July 4, 2008

Sunrise Nina, Benny, Ensemble

Scene 2: Outside the Bodega; The Rosario Fire Escape

Scene 3: Interior of Usnavi and Abuela's Apartment

Hundreds Of Stories Abuela Claudia, Usnavi

Scene 4: Outside the Dispatch Booth

Enough Camila

Scene 5: The Street

Carnaval del Barrio Daniela, Company

Scene 6: The Dispatch Booth

Atención Kevin

Scene 7: The Street

Alabanza Usnavi, Nina, Company

Scene 8: The Street – Later That Afternoon

Everything I Know Nina

Scene 9: Outside the Salon

No Me Diga (Reprise) Daniela, Carla, Vanessa

Scene 10: The Street

Piragua (Reprise) Piragua Guy

Scene 11: The Bodega

Champagne Vanessa, Usnavi

Scene 12: The Street

When The Sun Goes Down Nina, Benny

Scene 13: A Shady Alleyway – Late at Night

Scene 14: The Street – Sunrise, July 5, 2008

Finale Usnavi, Company

Cast

*(*Denotes first time in a Kankakee Valley Theatre Association production)*

Usnavi de la Vega Kevin Soto*
Nina Rosario Anna Maria D'Ortenzio
Benny Ivy Anderson*
Vanessa Aisa Rogers
Abuela Claudia Robin Tober-Betourne
Kevin Rosario Romero Lewis
Camila Rosario Deisy Anderson*
Sonny Lai Jen Lozano
Daniela Nicole Klimzak
Carla Lilliana Zavala*
Graffiti Pete Michael Heusing*
Piragua Guy Nick Troendle*

Ensemble

Bonnie Brewer, Maurice Cage*, Tori Harle, Cathy Hess,
Bryar Homan*, Dana James, Taji Lacy*, Riley Lingo*,
Arlene Martin, Maria Mendez*, Scarlett Mullikin*,
Jacob Robinson*, Ezra Soper, Evelin Torres, Arianna Travis*

Production Staff

Director	Sharla Ronchetto
Assistant Director	Jordyn Ward
Vocal Director	Jeanne Benson
Choreographer	Trinity Dunn
Production Coordinator	Joel Knapper
Costumer	Mellody M. McDonald
	Rhonda Stenzinger, Bonnie Brewer, Tori Harle, Kayla James, Scarlett Mullikin, Sharla Ronchetto, Beth Sutter, Cast of In The Heights
Set Builder	Scott Christensen
	Miles Klimzak, Art Meyer, Greg Ronchetto, Jacob Ryan, Mark Sutter, Erin Thomas
Set Decorator	Matt Hedding-Hess
	Miles Klimzak, April Whittington
Latin Dance Consultant	Deisy Anderson
Fight Choreographer	Kyle Cassady
Orchestra Conductor	Julie Tomisek
Properties	Carol Snyder
	Mike Snyder
Stage Manager	Kayla James
	Jacob Ryan, Paul Snyder
Box Office	Tricia Kohan
House	Heather Crooks
Split-the-Pot	Jim Kravat
Stage Door Lounge	Rozy Labriola
Programs	Kimberly Hall
	Heather Crooks, Kayla James, Courtney Stephens, Sharla Ronchetto
Publicity	Sharla Ronchetto
	Stephen Menard, Courtney Stephens, Robin Tober-Betourne, Andrew McBurnie
Lights	Brad Mietzner, BAM Lighting
	Jennifer Jackson
Sound	Main Street Music Production
	Jordyn Ward

Orchestra

Lori Buckman	Reeds
Karol Domalik	Trumpet
Justin Gund	Trombone
Katrina Cessna	Keyboard
Jeanne Benson	Keyboard
Dave Leppert	Guitars
Jonathan Shinabarger	Bass
Sarah McDaniel	Drums
Amy Shinabarger	Percussion

Meet the Cast

Deisy Anderson (Camila Rosario) Deisy and her husband David J. Anderson Jr. live in Bourbonnais with their daughter, Mia Rose Anderson. Deisy is employed as a professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Kankakee Community College. Deisy first began theater while at BBCHS where she was in many productions. Deisy adds, “For all my loves: David, Mia, Pentecostal Community Church, KCC, my friends and Colombian family, thank you for making this place our beloved home.”

Ivy Anderson (Benny) A resident of Bradley, Ivy is employed at Starbucks and also attends Arizona State University. Ivy’s previous onstage experience was as a student at Kankakee High School. Ivy states, “Thank you to my family and friends for all of your support and to Starbucks for being so flexible with my rehearsal schedule.”

Bonnie Brewer (Ensemble) Bonnie and her husband Don live in Kankakee and they have 3 grown children, Barbi Watson, Jay Brewer, and Joe Brewer. Bonnie is a retired teacher and one of her favorite roles was playing Mrs. Paroo in KVTa’s 2021 production of *The Music Man*. Bonnie says, “Thank you to the cast for letting me be part of the barrio.”

Maurice Cage (Ensemble) Maurice lives in Manteno and is employed at Texas Roadhouse. KVTa is thrilled that this is his first production, and we hope to see him in many more!

Anna Maria D’Ortenzio (Nina Rosario) Anna Maria lives in Chicago where she is a Junior at DePaul University. She is studying theatre arts with an emphasis on directing and a minor in classical voice performance. Anna Maria recently portrayed Lady Macbeth in DePaul University’s 2023 production of *Macbeth*. Anna Maria would like to thank her directors and her amazing fellow castmates for making this experience so memorable!

Tori Harle (Ensemble) A resident of Kankakee, Tori is employed as a universal banker. In 2022, Tori portrayed the part of Martha in KVTa’s *Guys and Dolls*. Tori shares, “I would like to thank my family and friends for always supporting me. I dedicate this show to my Grandma Harle, Grandma Bass, and Rocky’s Nonnie. Paciencia Y Fe! <3”

Cathy Hess (Ensemble) Cathy and her husband Jason live in New Lenox. Their children are Christopher, Amanda, Margie, and Timmy. Cathy is a 5th grade teacher and she was recently part of the Ensemble in a 2022 production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Cathy states, “ I would like to thank my husband, Jason, for all his love and support. I would also like to thank my wonderful children and friends for believing in me.”

Meet the Cast

Michael Heusing (Graffiti Pete) Michael lives in Chebanse and is employed as a delivery driver. In 2020, he portrayed Donkey in Central High School's production of *Shrek The Musical*. Michael says, "I want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of something, and thank you to everyone who helped me and supported me during rehearsals."

Bryar Homan (Ensemble) A resident of Bradley, Bryar is a shift lead at Starbucks. Bryar was recently seen onstage in Olivet Nazarene University's *You Can't Take It With You*. We are so excited this is Bryar's first production with KVTa!

Dana James (Ensemble) Dana and his wife Kayla live in Kankakee with their daughters Kristina, Madison, Lily, and Abigail. He is employed as a Sanitarian with the Kankakee County Health Department. Dana was most recently seen as Simon Zealotes in KVTa's 2023 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Dana adds, "Thank you to the staff and cast for being so welcoming and supportive for the last several months and to my family for their incredible patience!"

Nicole Klimzak (Daniela) Nicole lives in Kankakee and has a son, Miles. She is an accounts manager with LN Engineering. Most recently, Nicole played the part of the apostle, Thaddeus, in KVTa's *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 2023. Nicole shares, "I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to play my dream role! Big thanks to my family (especially Miles) and friends for all their love and support."

Taji Lacy (Ensemble) A resident of Bourbonnais, Taji is a cheerleading official and a senior at SNHU. This is Taji's first production! Taji states, "Thanks to my fiancé, Kelton Smith, for keeping me sane with my busy schedule & my coworkers for not complaining as I practice my harmonies at work (Like they have a choice ♥)."

Romero Lewis (Kevin Rosario) Romero lives in Aroma Park and is employed at CSL Behring. He was a KVTa board member from 2020-2022 and has been in many productions since 2016. Romero says, "Thanks to the organization for supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion as a cornerstone of service to the community."

Riley Lingo (Ensemble) Riley lives in Manteno and attends Kankakee Community College. We are so excited this is Riley's first production!

Meet the Cast

Lai Jen Lozano (Sonny) A resident of Kankakee, Lai Jen is employed as a Medical Assistant at Zaheer Pediatrics. In 2019, Lai Jen portrayed Penny Pingelton in Kankakee High School's production of *Hairspray*. Lai Jen adds, "Thank you to my family for the encouragement to audition. Thank you to the staff and cast for being so kind to me. You are all so talented."

Arlene Martin (Ensemble) Arlene and her husband Lawrence live in Bourbonnais where she is a Physical Therapist with Ascension Home Care. She has 3 children, Julie Lawrence, Janine Rojo, and John Benjamin Rojo. Arlene has been in multiple productions with various theater groups. Most recently she played the role of Christmas Eve in *Avenue Q* with Limelight Theatre Works. Arlene shares, "I would like to thank my very supportive husband and children. Thank you Larry Martin for being understanding of my late night practice. Theatron, a place of seeing."

Maria Mendez (Ensemble) The daughter of Amanda Brown and Roberto Mendez, Maria lives in St. Anne and attends St. Anne Community High School. KVTA is excited as this is Maria's first production! Maria says, "Thanks to my family for support and I would like to dedicate these shows to my grandmother. I love you Willa."

Scarlett Mullikin (Ensemble) Scarlett and her husband Jebus live in Limestone and have 3 children, Jeremy, Mandi, and Dakota, and 7 grandchildren. She is the owner and Wedding Officiant of Natural Element Ceremonies. This is Scarlett's first time onstage, but she has previous experience in TV and film productions. Scarlett states, "Thank you to my husband, partner, kids, and folks for supporting me in my varied performances and career."

Jacob Robinson (Ensemble) Jacob is a resident of Manteno and is employed at Texas Roadhouse. We are so excited this is Jacob's first production and hope to see him in many more!

Aisa Rogers (Vanessa) Aisa lives in Bourbonnais and is a Starbucks Barista. She has been in many different performances from 2016-2023 with credits onstage, on camera, and with voice work. Aisa shares, "Thanks to my family, friends, and boyfriend who have supported me unconditionally and pushed me further than I thought I could go."

Meet the Cast

Ezra Soper (Ensemble) Ezra is in the 9th grade and lives in Bourbonnais with his parents Erin and Michael Thomas. Ezra has been involved in a number of KVTA youth productions. Ezra adds, "Thanks to my parents for always encouraging my passion in music."

Kevin Soto (Usnavi de la Vega) Kevin lives in Champaign, IL where he is a School Social Worker for the Champaign Unit 4 School District. Most recently, Kevin portrayed Kenickie in Small Town Theatrics 2022 production of *Grease*. Kevin says, "Special thank you to the KVTA family and the directing team for this chance, and a shout out to Ben, Amanda, and Blake for keeping me afloat during the process!"

Robin Tober-Betourne (Abuela Claudia) Robin and her husband Steve Betourne live in Bourbonnais. She has had many roles within the KVTA organization: director, choreographer, actor, board member/president, and the list goes on. Robin shares, "Life has been good in Washington Heights! I'm so thankful to my vocal coaches, directors, and family for their encouragement, expertise, *paciencia y fe!*"

Evelin Torres (Ensemble) Evelin lives in Manteno where she is a Sophomore at Manteno High School. She previously played the role of Colonel Hathi in KVTA's 2022 production of *The Jungle Book*. Evelin adds, "Thanks to my mom for helping me get to practices every day."

Arianna Travis (Ensemble) A resident of St. Anne, Arianna is a senior at St. Anne High School. Arianna states, "This production was a lot of fun putting together and I would like to thank all of the cast and staff members for making it one to remember. I love you all!"

Nick Troendle (Piragua Guy) Nick and his wife Stephanie live in St. Anne with their children Balian, Aidan, and Anneliese. He is a Biology Professor at Olivet Nazarene University. Nick adds, "I did some plays and lots of music ensembles in high school, but never a musical before this. Thanks to my family for supporting me and sacrificing time so I could do this. Thanks to my parents and grandparents for my love of music and my culture."

Lilliana Zavala (Carla) The daughter of Monica and Roman, Lilliana is a Sophomore at Wilmington High School. She recently portrayed Annie in Wilmington High School's production of *Annie*. Lilliana says, "Thank you for making my first non-school theatre experience worthwhile!"

Meet the Production Staff

Sharla Ronchetto (Director) Sharla and her husband Greg live in Bourbonnais. She is a retired Spanish teacher and school theatre director. Sharla has been onstage and backstage in many KVTa productions. We are thrilled that *In the Heights* is her KVTa directorial debut. Sharla adds, "A HUGE thank you to Jordyn, Jeanne, and Trinity in bringing *The Heights* to life! Thanks to Greg for his continual support!"

Jordyn Ward (Assistant Director) A resident of Ashkum, Jordyn is engaged to Sam Clark. She is a student at Paul Mitchell. She recently portrayed the role of Mary in KVTa's 2023 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Jordyn shares, "I would love to thank Sharla for allowing me to be a part of this production, and to the amazing cast as this show wouldn't be possible without all of you!"

Jeanne Benson (Vocal Director) Jeanne and her husband Wayne have one adult daughter, Jennifer. Jeanne lives in Kankakee and is a retired teacher. She was last seen onstage as Sister Mary Lazarus in KVTa's production of *Sister Act*. Jeanne says, "Thanks to a really fine cast and crew."

Trinity Dunn (Choreographer) Trinity lives in Bourbonnais and is a dance teacher at Dance Alive! Dance Studio. She has been dancing competitively for twelve years and was also a part of the BBTEP program her senior year of high school. Trinity states, "Thank you to everyone involved in this show for working so hard and being so welcoming to me. I am so proud of us all!"

Joel Knapper (Production Coordinator) Joel and his wife Dawn live in Bourbonnais. He is a Support Director for Applied Systems. Joel has been involved in many shows with KVTa and he says, "Thank you to the staff and cast for working hard to present this amazing show!"

Scott Christensen (Set Builder) Scott and his wife Sara live in Kankakee with their children Zoey and Ruby. He is employed as the Adult Protective Services Supervisor with Catholic Charities. Scott most recently was a part of the stage crew for KVTa's 2023 production of *Moana JR*. Scott adds, "Thank you to Sharla for trusting me on this project. Thank you to my family for giving me the time to get this one done!"

Matt Hedding-Hess (Set Decorator) Matt, his husband Josh, and their son RJ live in Kankakee. He is a therapist with Hedding-Hess Counseling. Matt has been involved with several shows, both onstage and backstage since joining the KVTa family in 2010!

Meet the Production Staff

Kayla James (Stage Manager) Kayla lives in Kankakee with her husband Dana, and daughters Kristina, Madison, Lily, and Abigail. She has been a part of many KVTa shows, and most recently shared her costuming skills with the 2023 KVTa production of *Moana JR*. Kayla shares, “Thank you to my husband and girls for supporting another KVTa show!”

Mellody M. McDonald (Costumer) Mellody is a Registered Nurse with Riverside Medical Group and lives in Kankakee. She has had a part in several shows with Acting Out Theatre Company, most recently being the costumer for *A Chorus Line* in 2022. Mellody says, “I would like to thank KVTa for asking me to be a part of *In the Heights*!! I am blessed to have many people wanting to help.”

Carol Snyder (Properties) Carol and her husband Michael live in Bourbonnais. She is a retired ICU RN. Carol states, “I’ve worked backstage since my children started doing performances about 30 years ago. Thank you to Sharla for bringing me onboard this special production.”

Julie Tomisek (Orchestra Conductor) A resident of Bourbonnais, Julie is a retired orchestra teacher who taught in Kankakee School District #111 for 36 years. She has been a violinist in the pit for numerous productions and previously conducted the orchestra for KVTa’s production of *The Music Man* in 2021. Julie adds, “Thank you to the fantastic musicians who make my job so enjoyable. Thanks to Jeanne and Sharla for this opportunity.”

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Acknowledgements

I-KAN Regional Office of Education ~ Frank Petkunas, Superintendent

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after the program was completed.*



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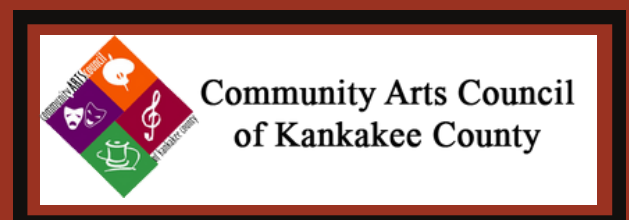
The winning split-the-pot ticket
will be drawn at intermission.

Why Support KVTA?

The vitality of a community is determined by its cultural resources. KVTA strives for excellence. Like all other organizations, KVTA depends on support from the community to achieve this excellence. KVTA is a volunteer, community-driven organization. It takes many volunteers and many, many, man hours to produce one show. In our production season, we stage five regular season shows and more often than not, a summer production or a theatre camp for the local youth.

How can YOU make a difference?

- **Cash gifts** - every dollar makes a difference, so please give what you can.
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- **Planned giving** - consider remembering KVTA in your will or leave a legacy for the future by including KVTA in an estate plan.



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