

April 24-26, 2026

LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER
240 WARREN AVE. KANKAKEE, IL 60901
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.KVTA.ORG

BIG FISH



Directed By:
Sharla Ronchetto

Book By:
John August

Music & Lyrics By:
Andrew Lippa

Based on the novel Big Fish
by Daniel Wallace and the
Columbia Pictures film
screenplay written by
John August



Illinois
ARTS
Council

Originally produced on Broadway by Dan Jinks, Bruce Cohen and Stage Entertainment with Roy Furman, Broadway Across America/Rich Entertainment Group, John Domo, The Nederlander Organization and Edward Walson in association with CJ E&M, Dancing Elephant Productions, Parrothead Productions, Carole L. Haber, Peter May/Jim Fantaci, Ted Liebowitz/Joe Piacentile and Columbia Pictures. Big Fish is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

KVTA

A Note from the Director . . .

What a perfect tale *Big Fish* is! I would like to dedicate this production to all fathers, sons, and the women who love them, and especially to my husband, my son, and my grandson. I thought of the three of you throughout every rehearsal, and I pray that you always inspire one another to Fight the Dragons and Be the Hero.

My sincere thanks go out to our immensely talented cast who stormed the castles, faced each stepping stone, and conquered every challenge. Thank you for your hard work, the long hours, and your tireless dedication to bringing this show to life. This is How It Ends!

I would also like to thank the creative team that helped direct this production. Thanks to Christine for managing all the details and offering creative advice whenever asked. Thanks to Jamie for your enthusiasm and the endless hours it took to give me the sound I asked for - you did it! Thanks to Jordyn for taking all my dance idea snippets and putting them together into fluid choreography and movement. I do look forward to *What's Next* for all of you!

Thanks to the production staff: Kayla, Ben, Donna, Sarah, Jackie, Courtney, Andy, Dan, and Brad. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to the performing arts in the Kankakee River Valley while we've been Out There on the Road creating this fantastic show!

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. Allow Time to Stop while you're here so that Strangers we will be no more!

Sharla Ronchetto

2025-2026 KVTA Board of Directors

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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 of Kankakee
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- American Association of Community Theatre
- Illinois Theatre Association
- Kankakee Chamber of Commerce
- Manteno Chamber of Commerce

Scene Synopsis and Musical Numbers

ACT I

Scene 1.....	The River's Edge
Scene 2.....	Will's Bedroom
• Be The Hero	Edward & Company
Scene 3.....	The Swamp
• I Know What You Want & Reprise	The Witch & Witches
Scene 4.....	The River's Edge
Scene 5.....	The River's Edge
Scene 6.....	Two Different Doctors' Offices
• Just Take Another Look	Josephine
• Stranger	Will
Scene 7.....	New York City Central Park
• Stranger (continued)	Will
Scene 8.....	The River's Edge / Ashton High School
• Two Men in My Life	Sandra
• Ashton's Favorite Son	Jenny & Townsfolk
Scene 9.....	Ashton Town Square
Scene 10.....	The Forest
Scene 11.....	The Cave / Ashton Town Square
• Out There on the Road	Edward, Karl, Jenny & Townsfolk
Scene 12.....	Calloway Circus
• Little Lamb from Alabama	Sandra & the Alabama Lambs
• Time Stops	Edward & Sandra
• Closer to Her	Edward, Amos & Circus Folk
Scene 13.....	Auburn University
• Daffodils	Edward & Sandra

Intermission-There will be a brief 15 minute intermission

Act 2

Scene 1.....	Campout / The War
• Red, White, and True	Sandra, Edward, Patriotic Dancers & Soldiers
Scene 2.....	Will's Bedroom
• Fight the Dragons	Edward & Young Will
• Stranger - Reprise	Will
Scene 3.....	Edward's Bedroom / A Western Town
• Showdown	Edward, Will & Townsfolk
• I Don't Need a Roof	Sandra
Scene 4.....	A Tidy House
Scene 5.....	Ashton Town Square
• Start Over	Edward, Don, Amos, Karl & Townsfolk
• Start Over - Reprise	Edward
Scene 6.....	Hospital Room / The River's Edge
• What's Next	Will, Edward & Company
• How It Ends	Edward
Scene 7.....	The River's Edge
• The Procession	Company
• Be The Hero - Reprise	Will

Cast of *Big Fish*

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

Edward Bloom.....	Nick Orth*
Will Bloom.....	Ryan Runner
Sandra Bloom.....	Adelaide Rhys
Josephine Bloom.....	Emma Russell*
Amos Calloway.....	Jarrid Norden
Karl the Giant.....	Ben Keller
Young Will.....	Ashton Lamont
Don Price.....	Dana James
Zacky Price.....	Pine Kimery
The Witch.....	Alyssa Lesch
Jenny Hill.....	Jaylen Rick
Alabama Lambs.....	Quinlin Kirkland & Morgan George
Fisherman / Red Fang.....	Brady Perzee
Dr. Bennett.....	Robert Bishir
General Patterson.....	Andrew Stephens
Mayor.....	Max Gooding*
Will's Son / Over-excited Scout.....	Abigail James

Ensemble:

Ariana Baginski*+, Robert Bishir, Sevin Casey, Amanda Cuzzo, Hannah Fish, Caitlin Fletcher, Morgan George+°, Max Gooding, Evasue Gregoire, Addy Hanson+, Nora Hennessy, Abigail James, Dana James+, William Keller, Pine Kimery+, Quinlin Kirkland+, Sarah Kirkland*, Avery Lamont, Alyssa Lesch+, Dustin Mann, Sara Marion, Angel Noelle, Brady Perzee+°, Michaela Richey, Jaylen Rick+, Amy Shinabarger, Chloe Shinabarger, Jonathan Shinabarger*, Andrew Stephens, Rachel Tobey-Barrows+, Alayna Valdivia

+featured dancer, ° dance captain



Production Staff

Director	Sharla Ronchetto
Assistant Director	Christine Case
Vocal Director	Jamie Howard Breeden
Choreographer	Jordyn Clark
Production Coordinator	Andy Purcell
Costumer	Kayla James Jeanne Brown, Sharla Ronchetto, Family of <i>Big Fish</i> Cast
Set Builder	Ben Keller
Set Decorator	Donna Worth and Sarah Stephens Abigail Hanson, Amber Hanson, Leslee Schafer
Properties	Jackie Pletsch Courtney Bradley, Andy Breeden, Beth Sutter & <i>Big Fish</i> Cast
Stage Manager	Courtney Stephens Paul Bishir, Ruby Christensen, Kimberly Hall, Brant Kimery, Anna Poole, Paul Snyder
Projections	Greg Ronchetto and Zac Stephens
Hair/Makeup	Amber Copiskey Betty Casteel, Ruby Christensen, Simone Copiskey, Kaylen Gregoire, Lily James
Rehearsal Pianist	Gwen Fox
Kid Patrol	Gena Gregoire
Stage Door Lounge	Rozy Labriola
Box Office	Tricia Kohan, Gina O'Connor
House	Andy Purcell
Concessions	Katie Udstuen
Program	Christine Case, Kimberly Hall Sharla Ronchetto, Courtney Stephens
Split-the-Pot	Jim Kravat
Publicity	Jordyn Clark, Jackie Pletsch Andrew McBurnie, Sharla Ronchetto
Lights	BAM Lighting, Brad Mietzner Alec Guttendorf, Andy Purcell, Kaliph Whitlow
Sound	Main Street Music Production Tracy Toepfer, Nick Troendle

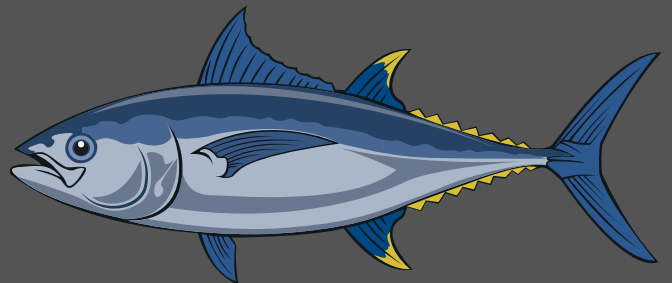
Meet the Cast

Ariana Baginski (Ensemble) Ariana currently lives in Orland Park and works as a Metrology Engineer for CSL Behring. She previously worked as the Sound Tech for KVTA's *Clue*, but this is her first production on stage! She would like to thank the cast for being so wonderful and the crew for giving her the opportunity to dance again!

Robert Bishir (Dr Bennett/Ensemble) Rob is a life-long resident of Momence where he lives with his wife Kirsten. Both she and son Paul are KVTA veterans. Rob is a Master Data Management Specialist with Johnsonville and works from home. Rob first appeared on a KVTA stage in 2015 as the Reverend John Hale in *The Crucible* and has appeared more than a dozen times since. As always, he would like to thank his wife for giving him the support needed to do theatre and to all the directors that found a spot for him in this performance.

Sevin Casey (Ensemble) is the daughter of Lindy and Brandon Casey and is a 7th grader at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. This will be Sevin's ninth production with KVTA over the past five years. Her most memorable role was playing Amanda Thrupp in KVTA's *Matilda* in 2025. Sevin would like to thank her family for their support with every performance and the KVTA staff for the ongoing opportunity to grow in the theater community.

Amanda Cuzzo (Ensemble) Amanda lives in Bourbonnais with her two dogs, Walter and Georgie. By day, she is a Sr. Payroll Specialist for Advanced Group. Amanda was previously in the Ensemble for *A Christmas Story* with The Drama Group in Chicago Heights. This is Amanda's second show at KVTA, and she would like to thank the talented staff and cast for being so amazing.



Meet the Cast

Hannah Fish (Ensemble) Hannah is a sixth grade homeschooled student who lives in Bourbonnais with her parents, Jordan and Rachel, and her brother, Josiah. She is grateful for the opportunity to have participated in several productions with KVTA, with her most memorable role being Charlotte Denton in *Elf Jr.* Hannah would like to thank the KVTA staff for this wonderful opportunity, as well as her family for their continued love and support.

Caitlin Fletcher (Ensemble) Caitlin and her wife, Paige and (cat) son, Grayson, are from Bourbonnais. Caitlin works in Aging and Disability Services at Catholic Charities in Kankakee. This is her third regular season show with KVTA, the most recent being *The Christmas Schooner*. Caitlin thanks the KVTA staff for giving her the opportunity to be part of this whimsical show and outstanding cast, as well as Paige for her support.

Morgan George (Alabama Lamb/ Ensemble) Morgan resides in Bradley, IL. She is a student studying radiography at KCC, as well as a part-time worker at Riverside and Sweet Street. Morgan has been a part of many musicals but her most memorable role is Miss Honey in KVTA's *Matilda*. Morgan would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her and always encouraging her to do what she loves. She would also like to thank the staff and cast for making this show such a memorable and fun experience to bring to life.

Max Gooding (Mayor/Ensemble) Max currently lives in Watseka, IL. He is currently the General Music Teacher at Taft Elementary School. Max has been in two previous productions at Country Theatre Workshop where he played Bert Healy in *Annie* and Joe in *9 to 5*. This is Max's first show at KVTA. Max would like to take a moment to thank his family: "There are no words that I can use to describe how unbelievably thankful I am to have the support I have in my corner. I'm thankful for you coming to watch me today. I wish mom, Grandma Effie, Papa, Grandma G were here to watch me, but I know they're with you guys in spirit."

Meet the Cast

Evasue Gregoire (Ensemble) Evasue is a 3rd grader at LCC. She lives with her parents, Matt and Gena Gregoire, along with her sister, Kaylen, in Kankakee. Evasue has been in multiple KVTA shows, most recently *My Son Pinocchio, Jr.* Evasue would like to thank her family for supporting her in her theatre journey. She also wants to thank the staff for giving her the opportunity to perform in this show.

Addisyn Hanson (Ensemble) Addy lives in Ashkum and is a sophomore at CHS. She is the daughter of Amber and Josh Hanson and has a twin sister, Abby. This is Addy's eighth show, and she was most recently seen on stage in *Newsies* at CHS. Addy loves all of the dancing and being on stage, but most importantly all of the memories she gets to make with everyone. She would like to thank her parents and sister for being encouraging, the directors for all of the hard work they do, and the cast for making the show as fun as it is.

Nora Hennessy (Ensemble) Nora is a 5th grader from St. George. She is the daughter of Kyle Hennessy and Heidi Unger and the oldest of three. This is her second show, with the first being *My Son Pinocchio, Jr.* Nora has loved getting to make memories with the wonderful cast and crew of both shows. She would like to thank her parents for letting her try out, and her friends for helping her get ready. She wouldn't be here without them.

Abigail James (Will's Son/Ensemble) Abigail lives in Kankakee with her four other sisters, mom Kayla (the costumer) and dad Dana. She attends LCC as a 3rd grader. This is her eighth show; previously she has been in KVTA's *Elf Jr.* Abigail will like to thank all the staff and cast for helping with this production so she could be in another great show.

Meet the Cast

Dana James (Don Price/Ensemble) Dana lives in Kankakee with most of his five daughters and his amazing costumer...I mean WIFE, Kayla. He is a sanitarian at the Kankakee County Health Department. You've seen Dana most recently in KVTA's *Clue: On Stage* as Professor Plum. Dana wants to thank his family for all of their support (and babysitting!) and Sharla and team for the opportunity to perform in a great production!

Ben Keller (Karl the Giant) Ben lives in Bourbonnais township with his wife Betsy and children Leah and William. He grows Christmas trees, and he was most recently in KVTA's *Urinetown*. Ben would like to thank William for sharing this experience.

William Keller (Ensemble) William is an 8th grader from Bourbonnais. His sister is Leah, and parents are Betsy and Ben, with whom he enjoys playing games. William's favorite show he's been part of is *Seussical*. William would like to thank his dad for doing theater with him.

Pine Kimery (Zacky Price/Ensemble) Pine lives in Bradley and is a senior at BBCHS (planning to attend UIUC in the fall!). He is the son of Meghan Peterson and Brant Kimery. Pine has been in multiple KVTA productions in the past few years, and played Officer Barrel in KVTA's *Urinetown*. Pine would like to thank his directors and cast mates for making this show such an enjoyable experience.

Quinlin Kirkland (Alabama Lamb/Ensemble) Quinlin lives in Kankakee with her mom and dad, Sarah and Zach, and her three younger siblings, Tatum, Zander, and Hadley. Quinlin was a part of many KVTA productions in middle school, including *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* where she played the Enchantress. She began acting again in high school when her mom pushed her to pursue her interest in auditioning for this show. Quinlin would like to thank her family, her friends, and especially her sister Hadley for displaying true talent in all of her shows. Whether it's singing or dancing, Hadley's unrelenting confidence is inspiring.

Meet the Cast

Sarah Kirkland (Ensemble) Sarah lives in Kankakee with her husband Zach and their four children. Sarah teaches 3rd grade Math/Science at St. Anne Grade School. This is Sarah's first KVTA production! She is excited to have this memorable experience with her daughter, Quinlin. She would like to thank the staff for giving her this opportunity and Zach for holding down the fort and juggling their kids' busy schedules so she could be a part of *Big Fish*.

Ashton Lamont (Young Will) Ashton is the Son of Robert and Katie Lamont. He lives in Bourbonnais with his parents and two sisters and is in the 5th grade at St. George School. He has been in many KVTA productions, but his most recent and memorable role was playing Pinocchio in KVTA's *My Son Pinocchio Jr.* Ashton enjoys soccer, video games, and loves to perform. He would like to thank his family for all their support, as well as the staff for allowing him the opportunity to do what he loves!

Avery Lamont (Teen Ensemble) Avery is the daughter of Robert and Katie Lamont. She lives in Bourbonnais with her parents, sister, and brother and is in the 7th grade at St. George School. Avery has been in several KVTA productions and loves the new friendships that theater creates. She enjoys cheerleading and has a love for dill pickles. Avery would like to thank her family for all of their support and the staff for giving her this opportunity.

Alyssa Lesch (The Witch) Alyssa is a resident of Martinton with her husband Daniel Lesch. She is a private vocal instructor and stay-at-home mom to her son Jonah. Alyssa is thrilled to return to the stage; her last KVTA role was Medda Larkin in *Newsies* (2018). She would like to thank her husband and mother Deborah Norden for their support enabling her theatrical return.

Meet the Cast

Dustin Mann (Ensemble) Dustin is resident of Kankakee and husband to Ron. He works as a Senior Pharmacy Technician at Walgreens. He is a veteran of theater with many performances with KVTA, AOTC and CTW. He lists one of his favorite roles as The King in AOTC *Cinderella* and L.T. J.G. Sam Weinberg in KVTA's *A Few Good Men*. He would like to thank his husband, family, and friends for their continued support. He would also like to thank the staff for the opportunity to be in this production and for believing in him.

Sara Marion (Ensemble) Sara is a 20-year resident of Bourbonnais and wife to Steve. She's mother to Daniel, step-mother to Nick, Jenna, and Sam, and mother-in-law to Mark. She has now been in five KVTA productions and played the role of Mrs. Mayor in *Seussical* in 2024. Sara wants to thank the staff for casting her in this fun show, and Steve and Daniel for picking up the slack at home so she can find fulfilment in the arts.

Angel Noelle (Ensemble) Angel is a proud mother to her cat, Ceasar Crouton Salad. She is a resident of Bradley who works as a Paraprofessional at a middle school during the day. Angel has been a part of many shows at KVTA and at other theatre companies around the area, most recently seen as Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical* at Spotlight Arts Collective. She would like to thank her mom for being her number one supporter, as well as her family, friends, and roommates for supporting her and putting up with her every day. She'd like to dedicate her performance in this show to her grandpa who was her Big Fish and told her so many stories throughout her childhood.

Jarrid Norden (Amos Callaway) Jarrid is a resident of Kankakee and is employed with Monical's Pizza Corporation. Jarrid has been in many KVTA shows, but his most recent have been in *Clue: On Stage* as Mr. Body/Chief of Police, *Sleepy Hollow* as Ichabod Crane, and *Seussical* as the Cat in the Hat. He's very excited to be a part of this incredibly talented cast. He would love to thank the cast, staff, and crew for giving their all for this amazing production!

Meet the Cast

Nick Orth (Edward Bloom) Nick lives in Bourbonnais with his partner, Jaylen. He works at Olivet Nazarene University as an Enrollment Operations Technology Coordinator. This is his first show with KVTA! Nick has been involved in both opera and musical theatre here in Illinois, as well as in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Nick would like to thank his family for supporting him.

Brady Perzee (Fisherman/Red Fang/Ensemble) Brady is a senior at Clifton Central High School who lives in Ashkum with his parents, Shannon and Brad. Brady has been in multiple KVTA productions, but his most recent was *Footloose: Youth Edition* as many ensemble characters and an understudy for the three lead male roles. Brady would like to thank his family for all of their support. Brady would like to give a huge thank you to the staff for giving him this opportunity and working with his crazy schedule to allow him to be in this amazing show!!

Adelaide Rhys (Sandra Bloom) Adelaide is over the moon to be returning to the KVTA stage after a 5 year hiatus. She is working currently as a barista, and she is a recent graduate of Viterbo University, where she obtained her BFA in Musical Theatre Performance with a minor in dance. She's been seen most recently with KVTA as Anna in *Frozen Jr.* in 2019. Adelaide would above all else like to thank her mom for being her biggest supporter and best friend, and her dad for his palpable, unwavering love that continues to carry her through.

Michaela Richey (Ensemble) Michaela is a resident of Kankakee and a pastry school student at Joliet Junior College. Michaela has been in numerous shows with KVTA. Her most recent role has been in the ensemble in *Seussical* in 2024. She has also been involved with *Sleepy Hollow* where she played Katrina. Theatre has been a big part of her life, and she would love to thank her family for being her biggest supporters! She would also love to thank the staff for giving her this opportunity!

Meet the Cast

Jaylen Rick (Jenny Hill/Ensemble) Jaylen lives in Bourbonnais with her partner, Nick. She works as a Senior Customer Care Specialist at Essential Utilities. She was most recently seen on stage in KVTA's *Urinetown* as Little Becky Two-Shoes (the pregnant one). Jaylen is having a blast with the staff and cast of *Big Fish*. She would like to thank Nick for auditioning with her and give a special shoutout to her brother, Westin, who loves this musical.

Ryan Runner (Will Bloom) Ryan lives in Kankakee. Ryan's most recent theatre credits include a disciple in *Godspell* with Acting Out Theatre, Rudolpho/Escapologist in *Matilda* with KVTA and Escapologist with Drama Group in Chicago Heights, as well as ensemble in productions of *Producers* with KVTA and *Legally Blonde* with Acting Out Theatre. Ryan is beyond grateful for his amazing family and friends that support him, as well as grateful to the production staff of *Big Fish* for providing him the opportunity to play such an amazing role.

Emma Russell (Josephine Bloom) Emma lives in Bourbonnais and works as a paraprofessional at Manteno Elementary School, while also serving as the Director of Operations at Urban Prairie Community Church. As she is new to theatre, *Big Fish* marks only her second production and her first with KVTA. She previously appeared as a disciple in *Godspell* with Acting Out Theatre Co. in the summer of 2025. Emma is thankful for her family, friends, and the directors of *Big Fish* and for their encouragement and belief in her as she continues this new journey in theatre.

Chloe Shinabarger (Ensemble) Chloe is in 6th grade at Bradley Central Middle School. Chloe is the daughter of Amy and Jonathan Shinabarger, and *Big Fish* is her sixth KVTA show. Chloe is so excited to get to be a part of another adult show. She believes that having a lot of friends in the show has made it a lot easier.

Meet the Cast

Jonathan Shinabarger (Ensemble) Jonathan works for Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, and lives in Bradley with spouse Amy and daughter Chloe. He has played in the pit band for KVTA productions including *In The Heights*, but this is his first time onstage with KVTA. He is happy he gets to create a little theater magic alongside Amy and Chloe, and is grateful to the whole staff and cast for being friendly and welcoming.

Amy Shinabarger (Ensemble) Amy lives in Bradley with her husband, Jonathan, and daughter, Chloe. Amy is the band director at Clifton Central High School and Nash Middle School. Amy has performed onstage, in the pit, and as vocal director for various KVTA productions. Most recently, she was in the ensemble for KVTA's *The Christmas Schooner*. Amy would like to thank the cast for always being helpful, welcoming, and always a little silly.

Andrew Stephens (General Patterson/Ensemble) Andy lives in Bourbonnais with his wife Sarah. He credits his many KVTA appearances to his daughters who talked him into auditioning for *Mary Poppins* many years ago. His favorite roles were in the KVTA productions of *Spamalot* and *The Producers*.

Rachel Tobey-Barrows (Ensemble) Rachel lives in Kankakee with her husband and two black cats. She works as the Professional Development Coordinator at I-KAN ROE. This is her sixth KVTA production, with her most recent role being the Singing Telegram Girl in *Clue: On Stage*. Rachel would like to dedicate this performance to Sean Curbow: "He definitely would have fallen asleep during Act Two, but still would have told us how much he loved the show afterward."

Alayna Valdivia (Ensemble) Alayna is an 8th grader at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. She lives in Bourbonnais with her mom Stephanie, and her stepdad Shawn. Alayna has been in many musicals, her favorite being in the ensemble in KVTA's *Suessical*. Alayna would like to thank her family and friends for driving her to and from rehearsals and making it possible for her to be there!

Meet the Production Staff

Sharla Ronchetto (Director) Sharla lives in Bourbonnais with her husband Greg. She is retired and spends her time helping at KVTA and enjoying her grandkids. Sharla most recently directed *The Christmas Schooner* for KVTA this past December. Sharla would like to thank the KVTA Board for entrusting her with this fantastic show and her husband for his continual support in her love for theatre.

Christine Case (Assistant Director) Christine lives in Kankakee with her husband Stephen and their four kids. She is employed as a Library Media Specialist at Hillcrest High School. Christine was most recently seen on stage in KVTA's *Clue: On Stage* as Miss Scarlet. Christine says, "Thank you to Sharla for giving me the opportunity to learn from one of the best, and thank you to the cast and staff for being so hard-working and FUN. Thanks also to my family for your patience and support. I'll make a real dinner one of these days."

Jamie Howard Breeden (Vocal Director) Jamie lives in Kankakee with his husband Andy and furbabies Mocha and Chai. He was previously seen on stage on KVTA's *Urinetown* and *Matilda*. Jamie is a fifth grade Math/Science teacher and the STEAM/Robotics coach at St. George School. Jamie says, "Thank you to the *Big Fish* cast for your talent, kindness, and work ethic. I am so proud! Sharla, thank you for giving me this opportunity to try a different role. It's been joy to learn and collaborate with you. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!"

Jordyn Clark (Choreographer) Jordyn and her husband Sam live in Ashkum, and she is employed by the I-Kan Regional Office of Education. She played the role of Miss Trunchbull in KVTA's *Matilda* in 2025. Jordyn states, "Huge thanks to Sam for always being the most supportive theatre husband a girl could ask for."

Meet the Production Staff

Andy Purcell (Production Coordinator) Andy has been a member KVTA's Board of Directors since 2023 and has served as a production coordinator for the KVTA productions *Elf Jr.* and *Matilda*. Andy lives in Manteno with his wife Meredith; they have two daughters in college and their son is junior in high school. Andy wishes the talented staff, cast, and crew of *Big Fish* the best as they bring this amazing and emotional production to life!

Ben Keller (Set Builder) See Cast Bio - Ben would also like to thank Sharla for letting him build a human cannon and walk on stilts.

Donna Worth (Co-Set Decorator) Donna resides in St. Anne with her best friend and husband, Steve. Her favorite role was, is, and always will be, Mom to John, Charlie, Ellen, Pete, and Sally. She is also proud of the wonderful people they have brought into her family: Michael, Korie, and Rachel, and her five delightful grandchildren. Donna is so happy her kids got her involved years ago in KVTA. "Our community is so lucky to have this awesome organization in our area. Thank you to all who work so hard to keep it going."

Sarah Stephens (Co-Set Decorator) Sarah resides in Bourbonnais with her husband, Andy, and her four-legged shadow, Otis. For nearly 20 years, she has worked behind the scenes supporting productions featuring her daughters, Ellen and Anna. She is incredibly grateful to be part of a community that deeply appreciates the arts and provides such wonderful opportunities for all.

Kayla James (Costumer) Kayla lives in Kankakee with her husband Dana and four of their five daughters. She is employed at the Regional Office of Education in Kankakee. Kayla has costumed multiple shows, including *Elf Jr.* and *Clue: On Stage*. Kayla says, "Thank you to Sharla for the opportunity to costume this fun show. Thank you to my family for helping out as always."

Jackie Pletsch (Props) Jackie lives in Bourbonnais. She has been employed as a business manager for 20 years at Encore EPC., JAS in Mokena. Jackie has worked with sound, costumes, and makeup for previous KVTA shows. This is her first time working with props, and she is excited to be a part of this show.

Meet the Production Staff

Courtney Stephens (Stage Manager) Courtney resides in Bourbonnais with her husband Zac. She is currently serving as the President of KVTA. She will also be the Director for *Newsies JR* in KVTA's 2026-2027 Season. Courtney stated, "Thank you to the wonderful team of volunteers, actors, and staff members that created this production. What a beautiful tale! Thank you to the top-notch stage crew that also came out to make things move so flawlessly. We had a blast!"

Amber Copiskey (Hair and Makeup) Amber lives in Limestone with her husband Travis and two children, Simone (a fellow KVTA actress), and son Shane. She is a registered dental hygienist in Kankakee. Amber has helped out with several shows, most recently heading up the makeup for KVTA's *My Son Pinnochio JR*. She says, "I am very happy to be a small part of such a talented group of people."

Gwen Fox (Rehearsal Pianist) Gwen lives in Bonfield with her husband, Michael J. Fox. She is a retired Kindergarten teacher and enjoys playing piano for KVTA and Acting Out Theatre. She was rehearsal pianist and played in the pit for KVTA's *The Christmas Schooner*, and is presently rehearsal pianist for Acting Out Theatre's production of *Annie*, in which she will also be playing in the pit. She has three grown children, Casey (Meyer), Ryan, and Rachel (Fecht), and six grandchildren.

Greg Ronchetto (Projection Design) Greg lives in Bourbonnais with his wife Sharla. He is retired and spends his time with his hobbies, volunteering, and playing with his grandkids. Greg works behind the scenes on numerous productions.

Zac Stephens (Projection Director) Zac lives in Bourbonnais with his wife Courtney. He is a Software Engineer for Applied Systems. He spends his free time volunteering for KVTA and SOS Outreach. He was most recently onstage in KVTA's *Urinetown*. Zac enjoyed working with Sharla and Greg on this great musical. He's glad to be a part of the team.

Meet the Production Staff

Tracy Toepfer (Music Tech) Tracy has been a public school music educator for 23 years. She currently teaches junior high band in the Kankakee School District. She has also served as a church musician and choir director for several local congregations over the course of her career. She is an active participant and founding member of the River Valley Choral Ensemble and has been active in community theatre in the Kankakee area for 25 years.

Nick Troendle (Sound Tech) Nick is a Professor of Biology at Olivet Nazarene University. He lives in Saint Anne with his wife, Stephanie, and their three kids.

Alec Guttendorf (Spotlight) Alec lives in Kankakee and is going to Kankakee High School. Alec is involved in the KHS theater program and wants to become more involved with the community and KVTA after this show.

Kaliph Whitlow (Spotlight) Kaliph lives in Kankakee, IL. He is currently still in school. Kaliph has been involved in KVTA for about 4 years now, and he plans to continue to be involved. Kaliph would like to thank everyone who is a part of KVTA for creating a safe space for him to thrive and be around.



Thank you to our KVT A Season Subscribers.

We are beyond grateful for your support!

VIP

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Acknowledgements

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Superior Embroidery ~ Karl Meyer, Karl's Kreative Fotos ~ Andrew McBurnie
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Special thanks to those who made donations or volunteered after the program was completed.





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COMEDY

Night

TICKETS @
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Special Performance:

PAT TOMASULO

MAY 16, 2026

SHOW STARTS @ 7 PM
DOORS OPEN @ 6:30 PM
LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER
240 WARREN AVE
KANKAKEE IL 60901

Contains Adult Humor. Audience Discretion Advised.

Thank You to 
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TICKETS:

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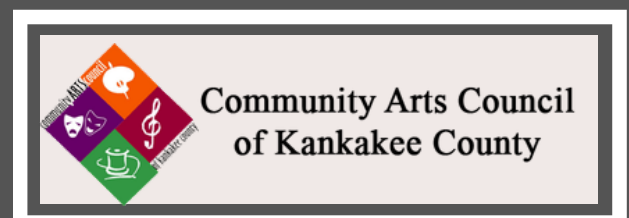

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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.
- **Matching gifts** - double or triple the value of your gift! Please contact your human resources or corporate giving department to learn about your employer's matching gift policy.
- **Stock gifts** - we gladly accept gifts of appreciated stock, an option that gives you a tax write-off while saving you capital gains tax.
- **Planned giving** - consider remembering KVTA in your will or leave a legacy for the future by including KVTA in an estate plan.



KANKAKEE VALLEY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

AUDITIONS

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF SR

AUDITION DATES:
Wednesday, April 29
Thursday, April 30

CALLBACKS DATE:
Saturday, May 2

LOCATION FOR AUDITIONS & CALLBACKS:
KVTA Studios ~ 1 Stuart Dr ~ Kankakee, IL 60901

All auditioners must be 55 years of age and older.

Complete audition details can be found on our website
beginning April 1.

Questions? Email: fiddler@kvta.org

KANKAKEE VALLEY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

AUDITIONS

DREAMGIRLS

AUDITION DATES:
Friday, June 5
Saturday, June 6

CALLBACKS DATE:
Sunday, June 7

LOCATION FOR AUDITIONS & CALLBACKS:
KVTA Studios ~ 1 Stuart Dr ~ Kankakee, IL 60901

All auditioners must be 16 years of age and older.

Complete audition details can be found on our website
beginning May 1.

Questions? Email: dreamgirls@kvta.org

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would like to thank our 2025-2026 Season

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