

LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER  
240 WARREN AVE. KANKAKEE, IL 60901

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
[WWW.KVTA.ORG](http://WWW.KVTA.ORG)



**MY  
SON**

**PINOCCHIO**

**JR**

**November 22-23, 2025**

**Directed By:**

**Pat Ward**

**Music and Lyrics By:**

**Stephen Schwartz**

**Book:**

**David Stern**

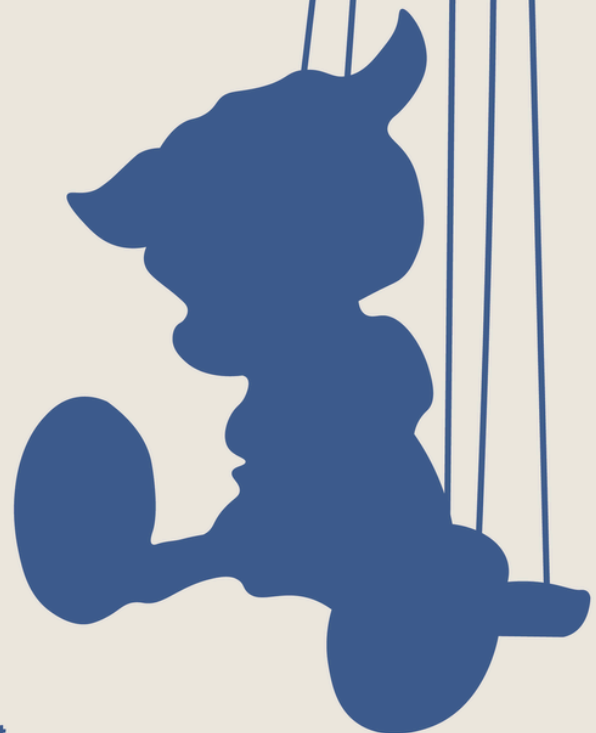
**"When You Wish Upon a Star" and "I've Got  
No Strings" Music by Leigh Harline**

**Lyrics by Ned Washington from the Walt  
Disney Motion Picture Pinocchio**

Illinois  
**ARTS**  
Council

DISNEY'S MY SON PINOCCHIO JR is presented through special arrangement with  
Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are  
also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

**KVTA**



# A Note from the Director . . .

In the beginning of television (yes I was around then!), we would all gather around in the living room on Sunday evening to watch the Wonderful World of Disney. At that time, for most of us it was our only walk into the life of Disney characters. The show began with the theme song “When You Wish Upon a Star” with the beautiful stars cascading across our black and white TV screen. But we wished upon it, as though it was as bright as any star in the sky. That song always brought us into an hour of the most wonderful adventures.

My favorite of those adventures was that of the little wooden boy named Pinocchio and his father Geppetto, who only wanted a real boy to love. We know the story of the little boy made of wood who became a real boy. What we don't know is the story of how a wonderful toymaker turned into a real father. There are always two sides to every story!

Geppetto thought he got a bad deal in his wish with the beautiful Blue Fairy, that “Just Because It's Magic” he could send Pinocchio back because he wasn't what was ordered! The Blue Fairy sends us back in time to see what really happened with Geppetto's wish. You know the rest of the story: the wooden boy meets Stromboli and becomes a part of his band of Marionettes as they perform “I've Got No Strings”, then runs away getting lost in “Pleasure Island” where the band of roustabouts and delinquents run amuck and turn into donkeys! But as Geppetto is hunting for Pinocchio, he realizes that “Since I Gave My Heart Away”, he really loves Pinocchio, faults and all!

When You Wish Upon a Star..... Makes no difference who you are....I hope that all your wishes come true! Thank you to the KVTB Board of Directors for allowing me the pleasure of directing this wonderful show. Thank you my Assistant Director Kayla James, Vocal Director Jeanne Benson, Choreographer Jordyn Clark and her assistant Stacy Kothe, along with my costumers, Becky Powell and Rebecca Nitschke, for being by my side! It's great to be back!

*Pat Ward*

# 2025-2026 KVTA Board of Directors

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## KVTA BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.kvta.org](http://www.kvta.org).

For information, please call 815-935-8510.

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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](http://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
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# Scene Synopsis and Musical Numbers

## Scene One: The Theater

When You Wish Upon A Star..... Rosa, Viola, Arancia, Sue, The Blue Fairy  
When You Wish Upon A Star (Part 2)..... Rosa, Viola, Arancia, Sue, The Blue Fairy

## Scene Two: The Toy Shop

Toys.....Dante, Agata, Fiorello, Francesca, Adriana, Geppetto,  
Signora Lisi, Signora Fucito, Signora Mancini, Signori Alcamo, Signora Somella,  
Signora Giovanni, Town Children and Town Parents  
Empty Heart..... Geppetto  
Rise and Shine (Part 1)..... Rosa, Viola, Arancia, Sue  
Geppetto and Son (Part 1) ..... Geppetto, Pinocchio  
Geppetto and Son (Part 2) .....Geppetto  
Rise and Shine (Part 2)..... Rosa, Viola, Arancia, Sue  
Geppetto and Son (Part 3) .....Geppetto  
Rise and Shine (Part 3)..... Rosa, Viola, Arancia, Sue  
Geppetto and Son (Part 4) .....Geppetto  
When You Wish Upon A Star (Reprise)..... Pinocchio  
Geppetto's Music Box.....Geppetto

## Scene Three: The Puppet Show

I've Got No Strings.....Pinocchio, Raggedy Ann, Raggedy Andy, Natalia, Valencia,  
Luciana, Flavia  
Bravo Stromboli.....Stromboli, Raggedy Ann, Raggedy Andy, Natalia, Valencia,  
Luciana, Flavia

## Scene Four: The Road

Just Because It's Magic.....The Blue Fairy, Rosa, Viola, Arancia, Sue

## Scene Five: Idyllia

Satisfaction Guaranteed (Part 1).....Talia, Professore Buonragazzo  
Satisfaction Guaranteed (Part 2).....Fiorello  
Satisfaction Guaranteed (Part 3).....Dante, Fiorello, Adriana, Francesca,  
Professore Buonragazzo, Junior, Company

## Scene Six: The Road

Bravo Stromboli (Reprise).....Stromboli, Raggedy Ann, Raggedy Andy

## Scene Seven: Pleasure Island

Pleasure Island (Part 1).....Ringleader, Roustabouts  
Pleasure Island (Part 2).....Ringleader

## Scene Eight: Inside the Whale

Geppetto and Son (Whale Reprise)..... Geppetto, Pinocchio

## Scene Nine: The Toy Shop

Since I Gave My Heart Away (Part 1).....Geppetto, Rosa, Viola, Arancia, Sue  
Since I Gave My Heart Away (Part 2).....Geppetto, The Blue Fairy, Company  
Bows.....Company

# Cast of *My Son Pinocchio JR*

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

Geppetto.....	Finley Schmidt
Pinocchio.....	Ashton Lamont
The Blue Fairy.....	Ella Nitschke
Rosa.....	Kylee Kothe
Viola.....	Hadley Kirkland
Arancia.....	Sevin Casey
Sue.....	Anneliese Troendle
Stromboli.....	Aidan Troendle
Professore Buonragazzo.....	Kinley Collins
Talia.....	Abigail James
Junior/Sporco.....	Hal Kietzman*
Dante/Malvolio.....	Braden Gowler*
Agata.....	Madelyn Mulvenna
Fiorello/Brutto.....	Owen Stevenson
Francesca.....	Sophie Munson*
Adriana.....	Eden Johnson
Signori Lisi/Mother Fox.....	Sophie Powell
Signora Mancini/Signora Rosati.....	Kolbee Shoufler
Signora Sommella/Mother Maria.....	Hayden Schmidt
Signora Contrastana/Signora Giovanni/Horse.....	Simone Copiskey
Signor Fucito.....	Alayna Valdivia
Signor Alcamo/Father Bernard.....	Aaron DuMontelle*
Signor Marino/Pig.....	Fulton Kirkpatrick*
Signor Pronto/Ringleader.....	Austin Lyle
Raggedy Ann the Marionette.....	Chloe Shinabarger
Raggedy Andy the Marionette.....	June Rader
Natalia the Marionette.....	Evasue Gregoire
Valencia the Marionette.....	Hannah Fish
Luciana the Marionette.....	Zoey Christensen
Flavia the Marionette.....	Kirby Veit
Ensemble.....	Ainsley Armstrong, Yazeni Calderon, Madaline Cote*, Nora Hennessy*, LE Hill*, Amelia Johnson*, Odelia Kirkpatrick, Skye Laird*, Faith Maciejewski*, Brooklyn McGill, Charlee Mosher, Addison Petersen*, Emaline Prentkowski*, Lincoln Sleg, Kerrigan Springer*, Teagan Tomblin*

# Production Staff

Director.....	Pat Ward
Assistant Director.....	Kayla James
Vocal Director.....	Jeanne Benson
Choreographer.....	Jordyn Clark Stacy Kothe
Production Coordinators.....	Joel Knapper and Nick Troendle
Costumers.....	Rebecca Nitschke and Becky Powell Parents of Cast Members
Set Builder.....	Paul Kothe Jerod Collins, Danielle Hanus, Luke Johnson, Matt Petersen, Willie Schmidt
Set Decorator.....	Robin Haug Alysia Armstrong, Ann Gates, Danielle Hanus, Becky Kirkpatrick, Paul Kothe, Donna Worth
Properties.....	Gena and Matt Gregoire Sue Glenzinski
Stage Manager.....	April Whittington Maria Calderon, Scott Christensen, Sarah Gowler, Danielle Hanus, Luke Johnson, Becky Kirkpatrick, Georgia Laird
Makeup.....	Amber Copiskey Kimberly Hall, Melaina Hall, Joellen Vasquez
Hair.....	Parents of Cast Members Ruby Christensen, Sarah Kirkland, Quinlin Kirkland, Meghan Schmidt, Kylie Veit
Box Office .....	Tricia Kohan
School Reservations.....	Kimberly Hall and Paula Sutter
House.....	Andy Purcell
Split-the-Pot.....	Jim Kravat
Program.....	Christine Case and Kimberly Hall Pat Ward and Courtney Stephens
Publicity.....	Jordyn Clark and Jackie Pletsch Andrew McBurnie, Pathfinder, Pat Ward
Lights.....	BAM Lighting, Brad Mietzner Cole Pilbeam, Kaliph Whitlow
Sound.....	Main Street Music Production Karen Shoufler, Kayla James



# Meet the Cast



**Ainsley Armstrong (Child/Roustabout)** Ainsley is from Clifton and is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Chebanse Elementary School. She is the daughter of Garrett and Alysia Armstrong and has been involved in KVTa's summer camps in 2024 and 2025.

**Yazeni Calderon (Perfect Child/Delinquent)** Yazeni is the daughter of Maria and Antonio Calderon and is from Kankakee. She is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Montessori magnet at Lincoln Cultural Center. Previously Yazeni has appeared on stage in KVTa's *Finding Nemo Jr.* and *Elf Jr.*, as well as in *Frozen Jr.* at KHS. Yazeni says, "Thank you for choosing me to be part of this production of *My Son Pinocchio*. I am glad to be part of such awesome crew and to meet new friends."

**Sevin Casey (Arancia)** Sevin is the daughter of Lindy and Brandon Casey in Bourbonnais. She attends Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Sevin was last seen on stage as Amanda Thripp in KVTa's *Matilda* in 2025. Sevin states, "Thank you to the directors, staff, cast and all the volunteers who helped make this production."

**Zoey Christensen (Marionette/Parent Ensemble/Roustabout)** Zoey is the daughter of Scott and Sara Christensen of Kankakee, IL and attends 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Grace Christian Academy. Zoey has been involved in KVTa productions, camps and community events for several years. Her favorite role so far is Hei-Hei in KVTa's *Moana Jr.* She says, "Special thanks to my family for encouraging me, thanks Ms. Pat for giving me this opportunity and to all my KVTa friends and family who always cheer me on."

**Kinley Collins (Professore Buonragazzo)** Kinley is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center and is the daughter of Jerod and Kristin Collins of Bourbonnais. Kinley was recently on stage as Nemo in KVTa's *Finding Nemo Jr.* Kinley says, "I would like to thank my family for their support and all the staff for all their dedication and for including me in another KVTa show!"



# Meet the Cast



**Simone Copiskey (Signora Constrastana/Signora Giovanni/Horse)** Simone is the daughter of Amber and Travis Copiskey of Kankakee and attends Herscher High School as a junior. She was recently on stage in KVTa's 2025 production of *Shrek Jr.* Simone states, "Thanks to this wonderful cast for being great friends!"

**Madaline Cote (Ensemble)** Madaline is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at St. George School and is the daughter of Aaron and Colleen Cote of Bourbonnais. This is her first show with KVTa. She says, "I would like to thank my family, friends and parents for encouraging me and all of the cast, staff and Ms. Pat!"

**Aaron DuMontelle (Signor Alcamo/Father Bernard)** Aaron is the son of Jennifer and Aaron DuMontelle of Bourbonnais and attends St. Paul's Lutheran School as a 6th grader. Previously he has appeared on stage in St. Paul's production of *Aladdin* as Iago, and this is his first KVTa show. Aaron says, "Thank you to my mom for giving me the confidence that I can do anything I want. Thank you to Mrs. Stirnaman for helping me prepare for this audition."

**Hannah Fish (Marionette/Child/Roustabout)** Hannah is a homeschooled 6<sup>th</sup> grader who is the daughter of Jordan and Rachel Fish of Bourbonnais. Hannah loved being Baby Bear in KVTa's *Shrek Jr.* and Charlotte Denton in KVTa's *Elf Jr.* Hannah exclaims, "Thank you to the directors for putting on this show, and thank you to my family for always supporting me!"

**Braden Gowler (Malvolio/Dante/Salvatore/Boy 2)** Braden is the son of Nelson and Sarah Gowler of Bourbonnais and is in the 4th grade at Liberty Intermediate School. This is his first time on stage with KVTa.





# Meet the Cast



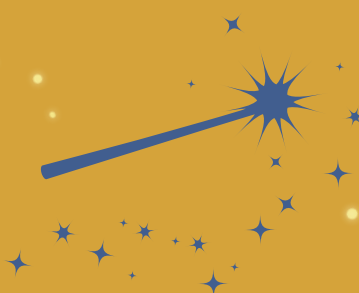
**Evasue Gregoire (Marionette)** Evasue attends the Montessori magnet at Lincoln Cultural Center as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and is the daughter of Matthew and Gena Gregoire of Kankakee. She has previously performed for KVTa in *Shrek Jr.* Evasue says, “Big thanks to the directors for allowing me to be in *Pinocchio* and to Mrs. Benson and Ms. Jordan for teaching me. Thanks to my supporters for coming to the show.”

**Nora Hennessy (Parent Ensemble/Roustabout)** Nora is the daughter of Kyle Hennessy and Heidi Unger; she is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This is her first time on stage with KVTa. Nora says, “Thank you to mom, for letting me use your screens all the time to practice. And thanks to the rest of my family for listening to the songs, also all the time.”

**LE Hill (Ensemble)** LE is the daughter of Kevin and Brenna Hill of Bourbonnais. She attends St. George Elementary as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. This is her first show with KVTa.

**Abigail James (Talia)** Abigail is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Lincoln Cultural Center and is the daughter of Dana and Kayla James of Kankakee. She was previously seen on stage in KVTa's *Elf Jr* in the role of Santa's Elf. Abigail states, “Thank you to all staff for always helping us to put on a good show.”

**Eden Johnson (Adriana)** Eden is the daughter of Heather and Luke Johnson of St. Anne. She is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Bishop McNamara Catholic School. She was previously seen on stage in KVTa's *Elf Jr*. Eden says, “Thank you to Ms. Paula who helped me in my first KVTa production and Mrs. Prendergast who helped me become a stronger singer.”



# Meet the Cast



**Amelia Johnson (Ensemble)** Amelia is the daughter of Heather and Luke Johnson of St. Anne and attends Bishop McNamara Catholic School as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. She was in Bishop McNamara's production of *Cinderella* as a Mouse, and this is her first appearance with KVTa. Amelia states, "I'd like to thank Ms. Jordyn for helping me learn the choreography for Toys!"

**Hal Kietzman (Junior/Sporco/Ensemble)** Hal attends 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Alan B. Shepard Elementary and is the son of Ben and Parry Kietzman of Bourbonnais. This is Hal's first time on stage with KVTa. He would like to thank the KVTa for this amazing opportunity!

**Hadley Kirkland (Viola the Fairy)** Hadley is the daughter of Zach and Sarah Kirkland of Kankakee, and she attends St. Anne Grade School. This is her 6th KVTa show. Hadley says, "I want to thank my mom and dad for being supportive and always believing in me and telling me to not give up!"

**Odelia Kirkpatrick (Parent/Roustabout)** Odelia is a homeschooled 8<sup>th</sup> grader who lives in Clifton with her parents Brian and Rebecca Kirkpatrick. She was in KVTa's production of *Elf Jr.* Odelia states, "I'm very grateful to be in this production. Many thanks my parents and all the staff for their support. I'm happy to have met many amazing people!"

**Fulton Kirkpatrick (Town Father/Pig/Delinquent)** Fulton is the son of Brian and Rebecca Kirkpatrick of Clifton. He is homeschooled and in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Fulton says, "I'm enjoying all the different roles that I have in this musical. The directors are great, and I'm having lots of fun!"



# Meet the Cast



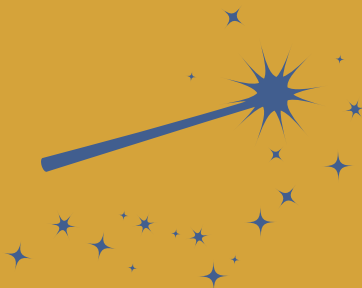
**Kylee Kothe (Rosa/Fairy)** Kylee is the daughter of Stacy and Paul Kothe of Bourbonnais, and she attends BUCG as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. This is her 15th show, the latest being KVTA's *Matilda* as a part of the teen ensemble. Kylee says, "I'm excited to see where theater takes me. I want like to thank mom and dad for making sure I get to do what I love. Thank you to the staff for believing in me."

**Skye Laird (Delinquent/Parent Ensemble)** Skye attends Kennedy Middle School as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and is the daughter of Bryan and Leanne Laird of Kankakee. Previously she performed in KHS's production of *Frozen Jr.* as a member of the ensemble. This is Skye's first time on stage with KVTA.

**Ashton Lamont (Pinocchio)** Ashton is the son of Katie and Rob Lamont of Bourbonnais. He is in 5th grade at St. George Elementary. This is Ashton's 5th KVTA production. Ashton exclaims, "I am so excited to be playing the role of Pinocchio. A big thank you to my parents for supporting me and all the KVTA staff that makes this all possible."

**Austin Lyle (Ringleader)** Austin attends 8<sup>th</sup> grade at BUGC and is the son of Tracy and Jeremy Lyle of Bourbonnais. He was recently seen in KVTA's production of *Elf Jr.* Austin says, "I would like all of the people in my carpool group that get me to and from practice on time."

**Faith Maciejewski (Parent/Child/Delinquent)** Faith is the daughter of Kevin and Marissa Maciejewski of Bourbonnais. She attends LeVasseur Elementary School as a 2nd grader. This is her first time on stage with KVTA.



# Meet the Cast



**Brooklynn McGill (Ensemble)** Brooklynn is the daughter of Chrissy Jordan and Marcus McGill of Kankakee. She is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Previously Brooklynn was in KVTa's production of *Elf Jr.*

**Charlee Mosher (Parent)** Charlee is the daughter of Danielle Hanus and Jacob Gilbert of Limestone. She attends Limestone Middle School as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. Charlee performed in KVTa's production of *Shrek Jr.*

**Madelyn Mulvenna (Agata)** Madelyn attends Manteno Middle School as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader. She is the daughter of Mike and Holly Mulvenna of Manteno. Madelyn has been in two productions with KVTa as well as in summer camps. She says, "I love theater and am so excited to get to be apart of *My Son Pinocchio Jr.*"

**Sophie Munson (Francesca/Roustabout)** Sophie is the daughter of Taryn Skeen and Nick Nesler. She lives in Kankakee and is in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade gifted program at Kennedy Middle School. This is her first production with KVTa, though she's been dancing with local studios for years. Sophie states, "Thank you to KVTa for the chance to be in the show and to Miss Jordan for teaching us the dances!"

**Ella Nitschke (The Blue Fairy)** Ella is the daughter of Rebecca Nitschke of Kankakee, and she attends KCC as a freshman. Recently she played Soupy Sue in KVTa's production of *Urinetown*. Ella says, "Thank you to my amazing friends and family both in this show and out, especially those who were with me when the cast list came out and screamed as loud as I did."



# Meet the Cast



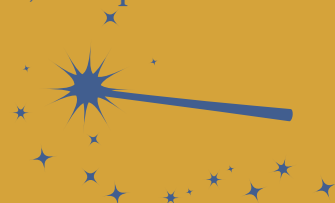
**Addison Petersen (Ensemble/Little Fox/Delinquent/Towns Child)** The daughter of Matt and Erica Petersen of Manteno, Addison is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Manteno Elementary School. Addison has previously performed with the Dance Alive! Dance Studio experience, but this is her first KVTa show! Addison states, "I want to thank my parents and brother for all of their love and support and Ms. Stephanie from Dance Alive! for always supporting me throughout my dance career."

**Sophie Powell (Signori Lisi/Town Parent/Mother Fox)** Sophie is the daughter of Zach and Becky Powell of Kankakee and is a Sophomore at Bishop McNamara. Sophie's most recent KVTa production was *Shrek JR*. Sophie adds, "Special thanks to my parents, Yaya, family, friends, cast, and the directors for their endless support, love, and guidance throughout this production!"

**Emaline Prentkowski (Child/Roustabout)** A 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Liberty Intermediate School, Emaline is the daughter of Andrew and Jessica Prentkowski of Bourbonnais. She took part in the KVTa Summer Camp in 2024 and 2025, but this is her first KVTa production! Emaline exclaims, "I am happy to be on the stage for the first time! I want to thank my mom and dad. Enjoy the show!"

**June Rader (Marionette)** June is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and is the daughter of Kristy and Trenton Rader of Ashkum. She was previously in the 2024 KVTa production of *Elf JR*. June says, "Thank you to the directors for casting me and my parents for supporting me and driving me to practices. I am so grateful to be a part of KVTa!"

**Finn Schmidt (Gepetto)** Finn is a Sophomore at Peotone High School and the child of Meghan and Willie Schmidt of Monee. Previously, Finn played the role of Flotsam in *The Little Mermaid* with Peotone High School in 2025. Finn states, "Thank you to all of the amazing staff, people, actors, and parents that made the whole production come together!"



# Meet the Cast



**Hayden Schmidt (Maria/Signora Sommella/Roustabout)** The daughter of Meghan and William Schmidt of Monee, Hayden is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Peotone Jr. High School. In 2024, she played the role of Fern in *Charlotte's Web* with Peotone Jr High School. Hayden says, "I would love to thank all of the parents, all the new friends I made, friends I have had that believed in me, and mostly my family."

**Chloe Shinabarger (Marionette)** Chloe is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Bradley Central and the daughter of Amy and Jon Shinabarger of Bradley. She previously played the role of the Ugly Duckling in *Shrek the Musical JR* with KVTa in 2025.

**Kolbee Shoufler (Signora Mancini/Signora Rosati)** Kolbee is the daughter of Adam and Karen Shoufler of Watseka and is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Watseka Junior High. She has been in numerous junior productions with KVTa, but her favorite role has been Lavender in *Matilda* in 2025. Kolbee adds, "Special thanks to my *Pinocchio* friends, my parents, and my vocal coach, Laura."

**Lincoln Sleg** (**Child/Roustabout**) The son of Nick and Courtney Sleg of Bourbonnais, Lincoln is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Bradley West. He was previously in the 2025 production of *Shrek JR* with KVTa. Lincoln says, "Thank you to the directors for choosing me to be a part of the show and thanks to parents for driving me to rehearsals."

**Kerrigan Springer (Towns Parent/Roustabout)** Kerrigan is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Kennedy Middle Grade School and the daughter of Vicki Taylor and Marquis Springer of Kankakee. She previously played the role of Queen of the High C's in the 2025 Kennedy Middle School production of *Pirates*. Kerrigan states, "Big shout out to my mom Vicki and my entire family and friends that continue to support me. But most importantly God who has continued to bless me."





# Meet the Cast



**Owen Stevenson (Fiorello/Brutto)** Owen is the son of Brian and Ashley Stevenson of Kankakee and is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Limestone Middle School. He was a Security Guard in the 2024 KVTA production of *Elf JR*. Owen adds, “I am thankful to my parents, family, and friends for always believing in me—and to KVTA for continuing to help me grow in something I love.”

**Teagan Tomblin (Perfect Child/Roustabout/Towns Child)** A 5<sup>th</sup> grader at St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Teagan is the child of Brandon and Elizabeth Tomblin of Kankakee. In 2025, Teagan was in *Aladdin Kids* at St. Paul’s Lutheran School. Teagan shares, “I want to thank my parents for helping me get to and from practice so I could be in this production.”

**Anneliese Troendle (Sue)** The daughter of Nick and Stephanie Troendle of Saint Anne, Anneliese is a Homeschooled 6th grader. She was most recently a part of the cast for the 2025 KVTA production of *Matilda*. Anneliese says, “I have really enjoyed making new friends during this play.”

**Aidan Troendle (Stromboli)** Aidan is a Homeschooled 8<sup>th</sup> grader and the son of Nick and Stephanie Troendle of Saint Anne. He was last seen on the KVTA stage in the 2025 production of *Matilda*. Aidan adds, “I would like to thank Ms. Jeanne who has really helped me to grow as a performer during this play.”

**Alayna Valdivia (Signora Fucito/Roustabout)** Alayna is the daughter of Jason Valdivia and Stephanie and Shawn Allen of Bourbonnais. She is a student at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. *My Son Pinocchio JR* is the 7th production for Alayna, with 2 shows by BBCHS and 5 with KVTA. Alayna states, “I would like to thank my mom and stepdad for driving me to and from rehearsal. I also thank them, as well as my dad, for supporting me through productions.”

**Kirby Veit (Marionette/Delinquent/Parent)** A 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Liberty Intermediate School, Kirby is the daughter of Kristian and Beth Veit of Bourbonnais. Kirby was a part of the 2025 *Shrek JR* cast with KVTA. Kirby adds, “I want to thank my carpool for driving me to rehearsals. Also, thank you to the directors for casting me!”

# Meet the Production Staff



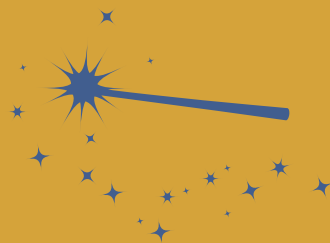
**Pat Ward (Director)** A resident of Ashkum, Pat is retired from the River Valley Special Recreation Association. Pat shares, "Let's just say, I have been around for quite a while! I just looked over my list of shows and this is the 40th show that I have directed. Thank you to the Board of Directors for allowing me to direct this wonderful classic show! It has been great working with this wonderful cast and staff!"

**Kayla James (Assistant Director)** Kayla and her husband Dana live in Kankakee where she is employed by the Regional Office of Education. Kayla has been a part of the production staff for many shows, costuming or working backstage. Kayla says, "Thank you to the staff for putting on a great production. Thank you to my husband and girls for being crowd control at home while I'm away."

**Jeanne Benson (Vocal Director)** Jeanne is a resident of Kankakee and has one daughter, Jennifer. She is a retired music teacher. Jeanne was recently the Vocal Director for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* with KVTa. Jeanne exclaims, "I love working with kids, and the staff has been wonderful!"

**Jordyn Clark (Choreographer)** Jordyn and her husband Sam live in Ashkum and she is employed by the Regional Office of Education. Most recently, Jordyn was the Choreographer for KVTa's production of *Urinetown*. Jordyn states, "As always, thank you to my husband Sam for being my biggest supporter."

**Stacy Kothe (Choreographer Assistant)** Stacy is married to Paul and has two daughters, Kylee and Bree. Stacy is a resident of Bourbonnais and is employed with the Bradley West Cafeteria. Most recently, Stacy was a member of the cast with KVTa's *Matilda* in 2025. Stacy shares, "I just want to thank everyone within KVTa for embracing me and giving me the opportunity to try different roles within the theater. I enjoy every bit of it."



# Meet the Production Staff



**Joel Knapper (Production Coordinator)** Joel is a resident of Bourbonnais and has been involved in many KVTa productions. Joel says, "Thanks to the staff and cast for putting on a great production!"

**Nick Troendle (Production Coordinator)** Nick and his wife Stephanie are residents of Saint Anne and he is employed as a Professor at Olivet Nazarene University. One of Nick's favorite roles was playing Piraguero in the KVTa production of *In the Heights*. Nick adds, "Special thanks to my family."

**Paul Kothe (Set Builder)** Paul and his wife Stacy live in Bourbonnais and they have two daughters, Kylee and Bree. Paul is employed as a Union Carpenter Foreman. He recently assisted in the set building for KVTa's *Matilda* in 2025. Paul shares, "Thank you to KVTa staff for helping me get into building the sets and allowing me to spend more time with my family when they are doing a show."

**Robin Haug (Set Design)** A resident of Bourbonnais, Robin has been on stage in many KVTa shows. She was recently the Assistant Director of *Steel Magnolias* with KVTa. Robin says, "A new experience for me, I couldn't have done it without my dear friend Donna Worth, my husband Tim, and all who lent a hand."

**Rebecca Nitschke (Costumer)** Rebecca and her daughter Ella live in Kankakee. She is employed by Matt Waite State Farm Agency as a customer service manager. In 2025, she assisted with costumes in the KVTa production of *Shrek JR*. Rebecca states, "Thank you to Pat for believing in Becky and me, Becky for all the organization skills she possesses, and Ella for following her dreams on stage!"



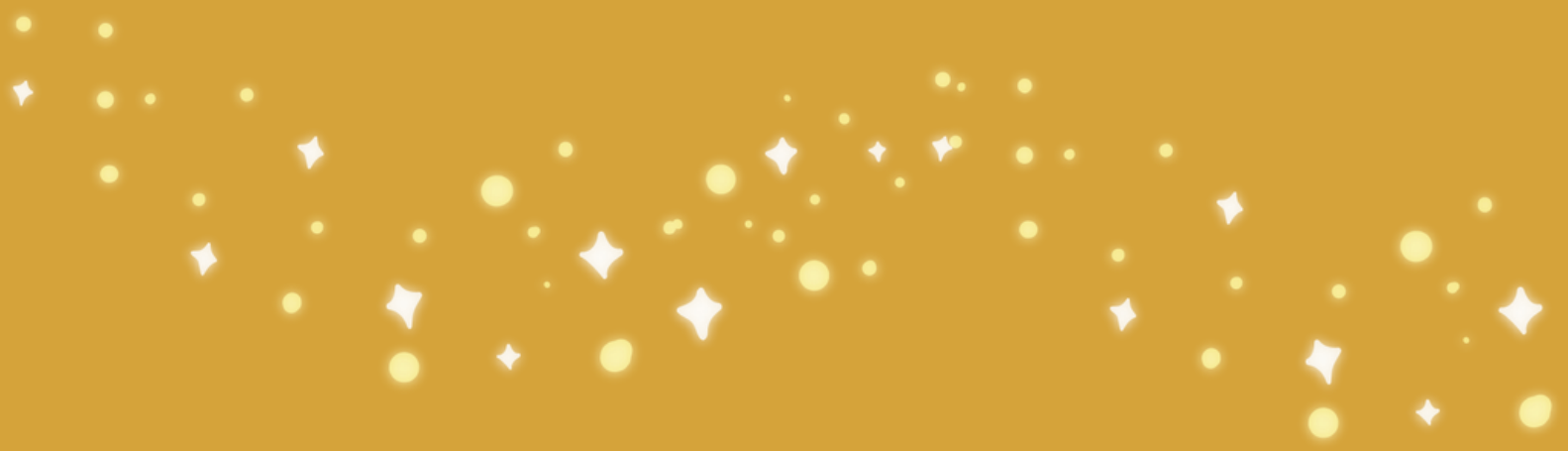
# Meet the Production Staff



**Becky Powell (Costumer)** Becky lives in Kankakee with her husband Zach and daughter Sophie. She is employed by the Kankakee County Sheriff's Office. In the last few years, Becky has worked on numerous KVTa productions with set, props, and stage crew. Becky adds, "Special thanks to my husband and daughter, Yaya for her help, the directors for their support, and my sidekick Rebecca. I couldn't have done it without you!"

**Gena Gregoire (Properties)** Gena and her husband Matthew live in Kankakee where she is a Teacher at Lincoln Cultural Center. Gena shares, "Thank you to the KVTa staff for continuously providing live theatre opportunities to the children in our community."

**April Whittington (Stage Manager)** A resident of Bradley, April and her husband Rodney have 3 children: Owen, Savannah, and Crosby. She is a La Leche League Leader. She was recently the Stage Manager for *Shrek JR* with KVTa in 2025. April says, "Thanks to my family for being supportive when I yearn so strongly to work backstage on a production."



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# Acknowledgements



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*Special thanks to those who made donations or volunteered after the program was completed.*





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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency  
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# 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.

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