

LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER • 240 WARREN AVE KANKAKEE IL 60901

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2023

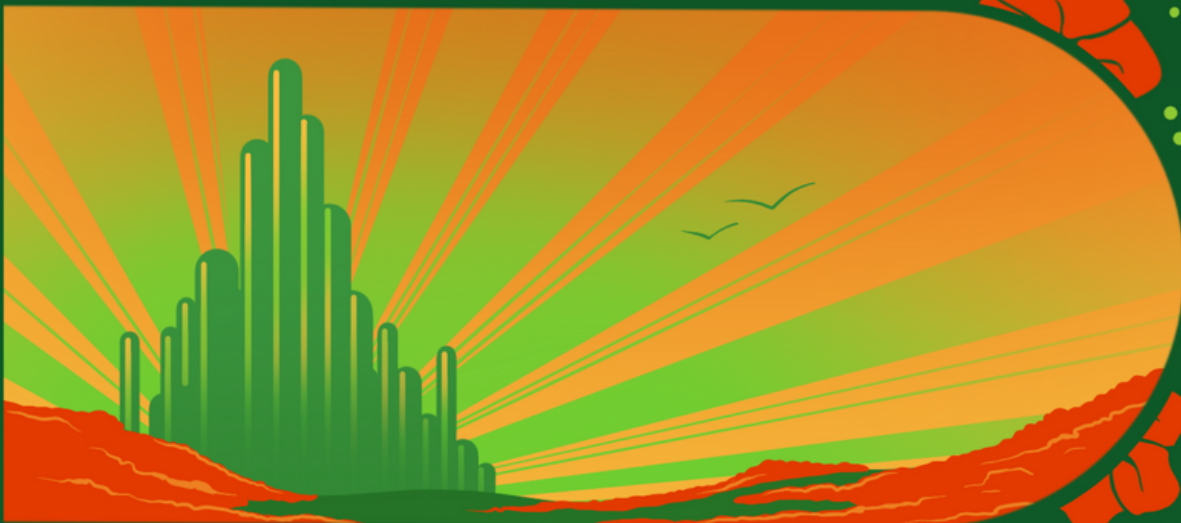


THE WIZARD OF

Z

YOUTH EDITION

BASED UPON THE CLASSIC MOTION PICTURE OWNED BY TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. AND DISTRIBUTED IN ALL MEDIA BY WARNER BROS.



DIRECTED BY: RENEE BRAMMER



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KVTA

BOOK by L. FRANK BAUM WITH MUSIC AND LYRICS by HAROLD ARLEN AND E. Y. HARBURG
BACKGROUND MUSIC by HERBERT STOTHART
DANCE AND VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS by PETER HOWARD ORCHESTRATION by LARRY WILCOX ADAPTED by JOHN KANE FOR THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

THE WIZARD OF OZ: YOUTH EDITION is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com
Adaptation and support materials developed by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald.

A Note from the Director . . .

It is difficult to put into words how much *The Wizard of Oz* means to me. I fell in love with the movie as a very young girl. I remember sitting in my living room absolutely mesmerized as Dorothy sang “Over the Rainbow”. As time went by, I had a Wizard of Oz themed bedroom, a Wizard of Oz birthday party, an Oz collection, and eventually created an Oz unit that has been a signature part of my classroom for 32 years. In 2001, I lived my dream of playing the role of Dorothy in KVTa’s Auction Theatre production of *The Wizard of Oz*, and once again traveled to Oz in the ensemble of KVTa’s 2010 production. Now, I am blessed to be directing the show, something that has always been on my bucket list and seems to truly bring my love of Oz full circle.

The “brains, heart, and courage” poured into this show by the cast, staff, crew, and parents has been nothing short of amazing. The 47 young people you see on the stage are not only talented, but role models for everyone around them in how they live their lives. I am forever thankful for the level of dedication they showed throughout this entire production. To my core staff, Courtney B., Ami, Amy, Sami, Gwen, Sharla, Dave, Chelsea, Kim, Rozy, and Courtney S., I will never be able to thank you enough for your help and support throughout this production. Your efforts made my vision of the movie coming alive on the stage a reality. To the parents, thank you for making so many sacrifices and volunteering countless hours as your children followed the “Yellow Brick Road” to Oz.

Finally, I think the real reason I have always loved this show is because of the timeless message it sends of never losing sight of the most important things in life, your relationships with those you love. I was blessed to grow up in a home where family always came first. I am forever thankful to my parents for their love and guidance and the life lessons they instilled in me. To my husband Steve, when I wrote my wedding vows, I called you my “Over the Rainbow”, those words have proven to be true over and over throughout our journey together. I am so thankful for your constant support and willingness to jump in whenever and wherever needed to make all of this possible. Finally, to my daughter, Hope, when KVTa announced the upcoming season last spring, we were both so excited about the possibility of doing this show together. After auditions, we started down the road together and then life took a very unexpected turn when you needed to have a splenectomy midway through rehearsals. The “courage” you displayed and the determination you showed to jump right back into the show left a lasting impact on everyone. When I see you smiling on the stage, I am so proud to be your mom, and I will always cherish our time together in Oz.

Now, I invite our audience to sit back and soak in all the magic of Oz. As the holidays approach, I hope you will enjoy time with those you love and always remember “There’s No Place Like Home”.

Renee Brammer

2023-2024 KVTA Board of Directors

President Courtney Stephens
Vice President Joel Knapper
Secretary Kayla James
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Christine Case, Jordyn Clark, Kimberly Hall,
Rozy Labriola, Andy Purcell, Sharla Ronchetto,
Amy Shinabarger, Beth Sutter, Pat Ward

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

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Scene 1: Outside on the Gale Farm

“Over the Rainbow”Dorothy

Scene 2: The Roadside Encampment of Professor Marvel

Scene 3: Outside the Gale Farm/Cyclone

Scene 4: Munchkinland

“Munchkinland Musical Sequence” (Part 1).....Dorothy, Glinda, Munchkins

“Munchkinland Musical Sequence” (Part 2).....Munchkins

“Yellow Brick Road”Munchkins

Scene 5: A Fork in the Road

“If I Only Had a Brain”.....Scarecrow, Dorothy

“We’re Off to See the Wizard Duet”Dorothy, Scarecrow, Crows

Scene 6: The Apple Orchard

“If I Only Had a Heart”.....Tin Man, Dorothy

“We’re Off to See the Wizard Trio”.....Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man

Scene 7: Dark and Creepy Forest

“If I Only Had the Nerve”Lion, Tin Man, Scarecrow, Dorothy

“Jitterbug”Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Jitterbugs

“Optimistic Voices”Company

Scene 8: The Gates of the Emerald City

“The Merry Old Land of Oz”Company

“If I Were King of the Forest”.....Lion, Dorothy, Tin Man, Scarecrow

Scene 9: The Wizard’s Chamber

Scene 10: The Haunted Forest

Scene 11: Inside the Witch’s Castle

Scene 12: The Haunted Forest

“Winkies March”Winkies

Scene 13: Inside the Witch’s Castle

“Over the Rainbow” (Reprise).....Dorothy and Aunt Em

“Winkies March” (Reprise).....Winkies, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion

“Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead!”Winged Monkeys, Winkies, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion

Scene 14: The Wizard’s Chamber/Oz

Scene 15: Dorothy’s Bedroom

Cast

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

Dorothy.....Colby Ogibovic
Dorothy Understudy.....Olivia Zwirkoski
Hickory/Tin Man.....Kaitlin Brown*
Hickory/Tin Man Understudy.....Ella Kraemer
Hunk/Scarecrow.....Abby Purcell
Hunk/Scarecrow Understudy.....Melaina Hall
Zeke/Lion.....Hunter Lockhart
Zeke/Lion Understudy.....Paul Bishir
Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch.....Chloe Kearney
Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch Understudy.....Audrey McPhail
Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz.....Matthew Case
Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz Understudy.....Victoria Eisenach
Uncle Henry.....Kane Rushing
Aunt Em.....Addison Haag*
Toto.....Maisy Rader*
Glinda.....Hannah Mantooth

Oz Ensemble Roles

Doorman: Kaliph Whitlow

Oz Woman: Alayna Valdivia*

Guard: Andrew Bush

Nikko: Kylee Kothe

Cyclone Dancers: Lauryn Balk, Hope Brammer, Simone Copiskey*, Olivia Douglas*,
Geselle Fuentes, Lindsey Hudgins, Adrianna Udstuen

Munchkin Tiny Tots: Teagan Kidd*, Alana Pommier*, Aliza Zwirkoski*

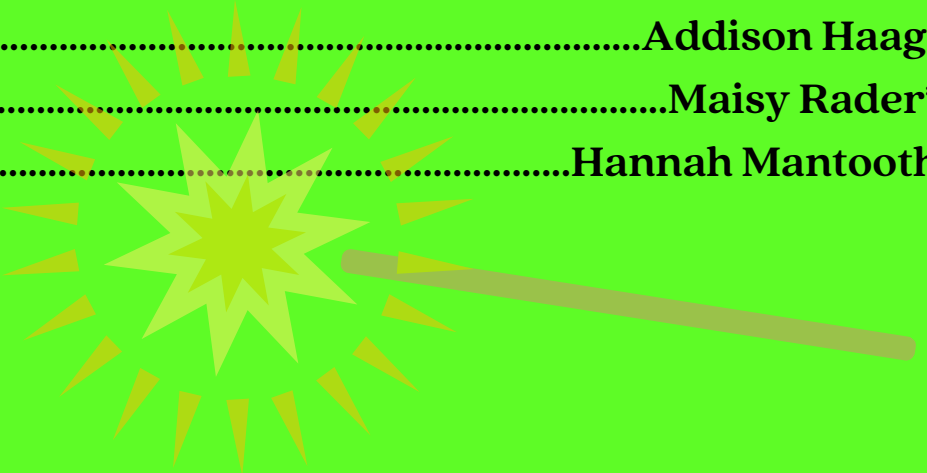
Tough Guys: Carter Budimir*, Zoey Christensen, Crosby Whittington*

Munchkin #1: Elliana Zwirkoski*

Munchkin #2: Sevin Casey

Mayor: Kinley Collins

Barrister: Kylee Kothe



Coroner: Chloe Shinabarger

City Father #1: Brooklynn McGill*

City Father #2: June Rader*

Additional Munchkins: Emmersyn Barclay*, Hadley Kirkland, Vivian Regas*, Alayna Valdivia*

Crows: Lauryn Balk, Lindsey Hudgins, Ella Nitschke, Adrianna Udstuen

Trees : Hope Brammer, Olivia Douglas*, Sophie Powell

Jitterbugs: Lauryn Balk, Emmersyn Barclay*, Hope Brammer, Kinley Collins, Simone Copiskey*, Olivia Douglas*, Geselle Fuentes, Melaina Hall, Lindsey Hudgins, Hadley Kirkland, Audrey McPhail, Vivian Regas*, Adrianna Udstuen, Olivia Zwirkoski

Flying Monkeys: Carter Budimir*, William Keller*, Kylee Kothe, Kaliph Whitlow, Elliana Zwirkoski*, Sevin Casey

Winkies: Andrew Bush, Simone Copiskey*, Geselle Fuentes, Noah Gonzalez*, Savannah Whittington

Optimistic Voices: Company

Ozians: Company

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Production Staff

Director.....	Renee Brammer
Co-Assistant Directors.....	Courtney Bradley & Ami Crane
Vocal Director.....	Amy Shinabarger
Choreographer.....	Sami Burton
Production Coordinator	Rozy Labriola
Costumer	Sharla Ronchetto Allison Bush, Christine Case, Sara Christensen, Addison Haag, Rachel Haag, Kayla James, Betsy Keller, Kelly Kidd, Sarah Kirkland, Michelle Lockhart, Debra McCurry, Rebecca Nitschke, Brittany Pommier, Kristy Rader, Agnes Rivard, Greg Ronchetto, Rebeccah Rushing, April Whittington
Set Builder	Dave Atkinson Shawn Allen, Rob Bishir, Bryce Budimir, Brandon Cantrell, Jerod Collins, Jason Haag, Dan Hall, Ben Keller, Paul Kothe, Marshall Mullins, Rebecca Nitschke, Brittany Pommier, Becky Powell, Zach Powell
Set Decorator	Chelsea Heikes Courtney Bradley, Ami Crane
Rehearsal Pianist.....	Gwen Fox
Properties	Kim McPhail Teresa Fuentes, Chris McPhail, Carol Snyder
Stage Managers.....	Chrissy Jordan & Pat Ward Dave Atkinson, Charlie Barclay, Rob Bishir, Anthony Garcia, Kim Hall, Zach Kirkland, Michelle Lockhart, Brittany Pommier, Becky Powell, Katie Udstuen
Hair/Makeup.....	Jordyn Clark Courtney Bradley, Ruby Christensen, Rozy Labriola, Angel Mirkov, Aisa Rogers
Box Office	Tricia Kohan
House	Christine Case
Split-the-Pot	Jim Kravat Courtney Bradley, Jerod Collins
Kid Patrol.....	Cyndee Mantooth
Subscriber Treats.....	Courtney Bradley
Programs	Kimberly Hall Kayla James, Courtney Stephens, Pat Ward, Renee Brammer
Publicity	Sharla Ronchetto Stephen Menard, Courtney Stephens, Andrew McBurnie
Lights	Brad Mietzner Diana Atkinson, Steve Brammer, Cole Pilbeam
Sound	Main Street Music Production Stacy Kothe, Amy Shinabarger

Meet the Cast

Lauryn Balk (Jitterbug/Ensemble) The daughter of Doug and Amanda Balk of Bourbonnais, Lauryn is a 5th grader at St. George Elementary. This is Lauryn's 6th show with KVTA! She adds, "I would like to thank my friends and family who push me to be the best I can be. I am so happy to be in this show and so is my dad because he loves the movie!"

Emmersyn Barclay (Jitterbug/Ensemble) Emmersyn is a 5th grader at Liberty Intermediate School and lives in Bourbonnais with her parents Charlie and Angel. This is Emmersyn's first show! She says, "Thanks to my mom and dad, sister (Madison), brother (Caleb), and all my friends for supporting me."

Paul Bishir (Zeke/Lion Understudy, Ensemble) Paul lives in Momence with his parents Rob and Kirsten Bishir. He is in the 11th grade at Momence High School. One of his favorite roles was portraying Gaston in the 2021 KVTA production of *Beauty and the Beast JR*. Paul states, "Thank you to KVTA and the directors for the opportunity to perform and to my parents for their support."

Hope Brammer (Jitterbug/Ensemble) A Freshman at BBCHS, Hope lives in Bourbonnais with her parents Steve and Renee. Hope has appeared on the KVTA stage numerous times with one of her favorite roles being Grace in KVTA's 2018 production of *Junie B. Jones JR*. Hope shares, "I'd like to thank my parents and my Oz Family for their support. I will cherish the special memories I made with my mom and friends along The Yellow Brick Road."

Kaitlin Brown (Hickory/Tin Man) The daughter of Heather Winn and Kevin Brown, Kaitlin is a high school senior from Papineau, IL. She attends Saint Anne Community High School and she is also an early college student attending Kankakee Community College. In 2023, Kaitlin played the part of Annie in *Annie, The Musical* with the SACHS Theater Club. Kaitlin adds, "Thank you to my parents, Mrs. Baer, and Mr. Lesch for supporting me throughout the years and to this cast and staff for creating such a wonderful experience!"

Carter Budimir (Ensemble) Carter lives in Manteno with his parents Bryce and Brittanny where he attends Manteno Middle School. Previously, he participated in KVTA's 2023 Youth Summer Theatre Camp production of *Pure Imagination*. This is Carter's first Young Peoples Theatre production, and we are so excited to have him as a part of our production!

Meet the Cast

Andrew Bush (Ensemble) The son of Allison and Greg Bush of Bourbonnais, Andrew is a 7th grader at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. One of Andrew's favorite roles was in 2023 as he portrayed Maui in KVTa's *Moana JR*. Andrew exclaims, "I am so excited to be part of another fun KVTa production!"

Matthew Case (Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz) A sophomore at Kankakee High School, Matthew lives with his parents Christine and Stephen Case. He has been in numerous shows, including KVTa, KJHS, and KHS productions. Matthew gives special thanks to his friends for being so cool!

Sevin Casey (Ensemble) Sevin is the daughter of Brandon and Lindy Casey of Bourbonnais and is in the 5th grade at Liberty Intermediate School. This will be Sevin's fifth performance with KVTa! Sevin adds "I am very thankful for Mrs. Brammer, all the directors, staff and volunteers for making theater so fun!"

Zoey Christensen (Ensemble) Zoey is in the 3rd grade at Kennedy Middle School and is the daughter of Scott and Sara of Kankakee. Most recently, Zoey played the part of Hei-Hei in KVTa's *Moana JR* in 2023. Zoey shares, "Thanks to my family for always helping me."

Kinley Collins (Jitterbug/Ensemble) A 5th grader at Liberty Intermediate School, Kinley is the daughter of Jerod and Kristin Collins of Bourbonnais. This summer, Kinley portrayed Olaf in KVTa's 2023 Youth Summer Theatre Camp production of *Pure Imagination*. Kinley says, "Thank you to my family and all the *Wizard of Oz* staff for helping me. I have loved being part of the cast of *The Wizard of Oz*!"

Simone Copiskey (Jitterbug/Ensemble) The daughter of Amber Copiskey, Simone lives in Kankakee and is a 9th grader at Herscher High School. This is Simone's first production with KVTa!

Olivia Douglas (Jitterbug/Ensemble) Olivia is a 9th grader at BBCHS and the daughter of Dan and Jennifer Douglas of Bourbonnais. This is Olivia's first production with KVTa! Olivia adds, "Thank you to the directors for the opportunity to be part of this show. Thank you to my parents for bringing me to and from practices. I've had a great time!"

Meet the Cast

Victoria Eisenach (Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz Understudy, Ensemble) From Braceville, Victoria is homeschooled and is the daughter of Dana and Nicholas Eisenach. In 2019, Victoria played the role of Middle Anna in *Frozen JR* with KVTa. Victoria shares, "I'd like to thank my parents for always doing everything they could for me to be able to do this, and the directors for making this an unforgettable experience!"

Geselle Fuentes (Jitterbug/Ensemble) The daughter of Teresa and Gabriel Fuentes of Kankakee, Geselle is in the 7th grade at Kankakee Jr. High School. Geselle previously performed in the 2023 *Moana JR* production with KVTa. Geselle says, "I want to thank my family for supporting me in theater as well as vocal and dance coaches that helped me with my craft to give viewers the best experience."

Noah Gonzalez (Ensemble) Noah lives with his family in Manteno, Anthony and Marissa Pasqualetti, and he attends Manteno Middle School. He enjoys performing with the Manteno Grand Paws Show Choir. Noah adds, "Thank you to Marissa and Anthony for driving me to every practice. Thank you to all the adults who worked so hard so we could have this experience!"

Addison Haag (Aunt Em) Addison is a homeschooled 12th grader and the daughter of Rachel and Jason Haag of Herscher. She took part in KVTa's 2023 Youth Summer Theatre Camp production of *Pure Imagination*. Addison says, "Thank you to my family and my arts teachers and supporters: Sheila Burnett, Kim Scerine, Angela Bartholomew, Cindy Maier, and Miss Paula."

Melaina Hall (Hunk/Scarecrow Understudy, Jitterbug/Ensemble) The daughter of Kimberly and Dan Hall of Kankakee, Melaina is a 7th grader at the Kankakee Junior High School. One of Melaina's favorite roles was playing Young Elsa in KVTa's production of *Frozen JR*. Melaina states, "Thank you to Miss Renee and the *Wizard of Oz* staff and thank you to KVTa for these great opportunities!"

Lindsey Hudgins (Jitterbug/Ensemble) Lindsey lives in Bourbonnais with her parents Laura and Anthony Hudgins and she attends Liberty Intermediate School. Lindsey was previously seen on the KVTa stage with the most recent show being *Mary Poppins JR*. Lindsey says, "Thank you mom and dad for supporting me in this production."

Meet the Cast

Chloe Kearney (Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch) Chloe is in the 11th grade at Kankakee High School and also participates in the Early College Program at KCC. She lives in St. Anne with her parents Amy and Kevin Kearney. One of Chloe's favorite roles was that of Belle in the 2021 KVTa production of *Beauty and the Beast JR*. Chloe adds, "I want to thank my parents for supporting me in theatre and always being my #1 supporters. Thank you to the directors for trusting me to bring wickedness to the stage."

William Keller (Ensemble) The son of Betsy and Ben Keller of Bourbonnais, William is a 6th grader at Liberty Intermediate School. Previously, William was a member of the Ensemble for *Finding Nemo JR* with BBTEP in 2023. William thanks the directors for this opportunity and his parents for their dedication to KVTa. He values KVTa's culture of respect, community, and art.

Teagan Kidd (Ensemble) A 2nd grader at St. George Elementary School, Teagan lives in Bourbonnais with her parents Nicholas and Kelly Kidd. She was previously part of the Sea Chorus in BBTEP's 2023 production of *Finding Nemo JR*. Teagan would like to thank her loving family for sharing in her joy of theatre. Special thanks to KVTa for this incredible opportunity!

Hadley Kirkland (Jitterbug/Ensemble) Hadley lives in Kankakee with her parents Zach and Sarah Kirkland and attends St. Anne Grade School. Hadley was previously seen on the KVTa stage as an Elephant in the 2022 production of *The Jungle Book*. Hadley shares, "I would like to thank my mom, dad, my siblings, and the rest of my friends and family for always supporting me. I have loved being a part of *The Wizard of Oz*!"

Kylee Kothe (Nikko/Ensemble) The daughter of Stacy and Paul Kothe of Bourbonnais, Kylee is in the 5th grade at Liberty Intermediate School. One of Kylee's favorite roles was the Hathi calf, Zola in KVTa's *The Jungle Book* in 2022. Kylee adds, "First, I would like to thank Mrs. Brammer for giving me my roles in this play, it means a lot. I would also like to thank my family for their love and support."

Ella Kraemer (Hickory/Tin Man Understudy, Ensemble) Ella is a Junior at BBCHS and the daughter of Scot and Crystal Kraemer of Bourbonnais. Previously, Ella was seen on the KVTa stage as a member of the Ensemble in the 2019 *Frozen JR* production. Ella states, "I'd like to thank my parents for all their love and support. Thank you to KVTa for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this musical!"

Meet the Cast

Hunter Lockhart (Zeke/Lion) Hunter is the son of Michelle and Scott Lockhart of Braidwood and is in the 8th grade. He most recently played King Tui in the KVTa production of *Moana JR* in 2023. Hunter thanks all of his KVTa friends for being so much fun! He would also like to thank everyone that worked so hard to put this production together.”

Hannah Mantooth (Glinda) A homeschooled Sophomore, Hannah is the daughter of Ron and Cyndee Mantooth of Kankakee. One of Hannah’s favorite roles was portraying Grandma Tala in *Moana JR* with KVTa in 2023. Hannah says, “Thank you to the directors who gave me the opportunity to be in the show. Thank you to my family for supporting me always.”

Brooklynn McGill (Ensemble) Brooklyn is the daughter of Christina Jordan of Kankakee and is a student at Lincoln Cultural Center. Brooklynn adds, “I want to thank Ms. Sami and Amy for being very supportive and encouraging.”

Audrey McPhail (Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch Understudy, Jitterbug/Ensemble) Audrey is in the 8th grade at Kankakee Junior High School and is the daughter of Chris and Kim McPhail of Kankakee. Most recently, Audrey was a part of the Ocean Ensemble in the 2023 KVTa production of *Moana JR*. Audrey says, “I would like to thank everyone working on this production, all my family, and all of my friends for supporting me through my acting journey.”

Ella Nitschke (Ensemble) Ella is homeschooled and lives with her mother, Rebecca Nitschke, in Kankakee. Most recently, Ella was seen on the KVTa stage in the 2023 production of *Moana JR*. Ella shares, “Thank you to my mother for her constant support and to the amazing cast of the *Wizard of Oz*.”

Colby Ogibovic (Dorothy) Colby is the daughter of Melissa Collett Doody and Rich Ogibovic of Momence. She is a junior at Momence High School. In 2022, Colby portrayed the role of Mary Poppins in KVTAs production of *Mary Poppins JR*. Colby adds, “I would like to thank my family for always supporting me and all the wonderful directors and staff with KVTa who have helped me on my theatre journey.”

Alana Pommier (Ensemble) Alana is in the 2nd grade at St. George Elementary School. She is the daughter of Brandon and Brittany Pommier of Bourbonnais. Alana was previously a part of the Sea Chorus in the 2023 BBTEP *Finding Nemo JR* production. This is Alana’s first show with KVTa!

Meet the Cast

Sophie Powell (Ensemble) The daughter of Zach and Becky Powell of Kankakee, Sophie is in the 8th grade at Bishop McNamara. She has been in various shows throughout the years and most recently was seen in Acting Out Theatre Co's production of *Cinderella*. Sophie would like to thank her parents, grandparents, family, friends, and her wonderful theater family for all of their support.

Abby Purcell (Hunk/Scarecrow) Abby lives in Manteno with her parents Andy and Meredith Purcell and is a high school Junior. Abby portrayed the role of Moana in KVTa's 2023 production of *Moana JR*. Abby says, "I would like to thank my family for always being supportive, the directing staff for this opportunity, and my fellow cast-mates who make these shows so fun."

June Rader (Ensemble) June is the daughter of Kristy and Trenton Rader from Ashkum and is in the 4th Grade. This is June's first appearance as a KVTa actress!

Maisy Rader (Toto) A 1st grader, Maisy is the daughter of Kristy and Trenton Rader of Ashkum. We are excited to welcome Maisy for her KVTa debut!

Vivian Regas (Jitterbug/Ensemble) Vivian lives in Bourbonnais and attends Bishop McNamara Catholic School. Vivian was a part of KVTa's 2023 Youth Summer Theatre Camp production of *Pure Imagination*. Vivian adds, "Thank you to the directors, staff, and Ms. Sami for teaching me to dance! We are blessed with the best!"

Kane Rushing (Uncle Henry) Kane is a 14 year old and attends Limestone Middle School. He was last seen on the KVTa stage portraying a Chief Ancestor in the 2023 *Moana JR* production. Kane says, "A special thank you to my Parents, Step parents, and Grandparents for supporting my love for theater."

Chloe Shinabarger (Ensemble) The daughter of Amy and Jonathan Shinabarger of Bradley, Chloe is a 4th grader at Bradley West. Chloe played the part of Pua in KVTa's *Moana JR* in 2023.

Adrianna Udstuen (Jitterbug/Ensemble) Adrianna is an 8th grader at Peotone Jr. High School and lives with her parents Katie and Mike in Monee. In 2023, Adrianna was a part of the cast for KVTa's *Moana JR*. Adrianna states, "I would like to thank my family for always believing in me and my mom for driving me to rehearsal. I want to thank my voice teacher and choir teacher."

Meet the Cast

Alayna Valdivia (Ensemble) The daughter of Stephanie and Shawn Allen and Jason Valdivia, Alayna is a student at Liberty Intermediate School. Alayna played the role of a Turtle in the BBTEP 2023 musical *Nemo JR*. We are excited this is Alayna's first show with KVTa!

Kaliph Whitlow (Ensemble) Kaliph is an 8th grader at the Kankakee Junior High and lives with his mother Christina Jordan in Kankakee. Kaliph was seen in KVTa's 2023 production of *Moana JR*. Kaliph shares, "I want to give a big thanks to Mrs. Paula and Beth for getting me started in KVTa and giving me motivation."

Savannah Whittington (Ensemble) Savannah lives in Bradley with her parents April and Rodney Whittington and is in the 9th Grade at BBCHS. She was seen as a Chief Ancestor in *Moana JR* in 2023 with KVTa. Savannah adds, "Thank you to my mom for driving me to and from rehearsal."

Crosby Whittington (Ensemble) The son of April and Rodney Whittington of Bradley, Crosby is a Kindergartener at Shabbona Elementary School. This is Crosby's first show with KVTa!

Elliana Zwirkoski (Ensemble) A 4th grader at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Elliana is the daughter of Adam and Kristin Zwirkoski of Manteno. Elliana was a part of the cast of St. Paul's production of *The Jungle Book* in the spring of 2023 . Elliana says, "I am very excited to be in this show! I am thankful for this opportunity. I'd like to thank the director and staff and my family for all their help and support!"

Aliza Zwirkoski (Ensemble) The daughter of Adam and Kristin Zwirkoski of Manteno, Aliza is a 2nd grader at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Aliza shares, "This is my first show! I am really excited to be in this show! I'd like to thank the director and staff and my family for all your help. I really enjoyed this opportunity!"

Olivia Zwirkoski (Dorothy Understudy, Jitterbug/Ensemble) Olivia is a Freshman at Manteno High School and is the daughter of Adam and Kristin Zwirkoski. One of Olivia's favorite roles was playing Mrs. Corry in *Mary Poppins JR* with KVTa in 2022. Olivia adds, "I am so thankful for this amazing opportunity to be in this show! Big thanks to my parents for supporting me so much and driving me everywhere! I'm so blessed!"

Meet the Production Staff

Renee Brammer (Director) Renee lives in Bourbonnais with her husband Steve and daughter Hope. Employed with the Bourbonnais Elementary School District #53, she is a fourth grade teacher at Liberty Intermediate School. Renee shares, "I first appeared on the KVTa stage in 1997, with my favorite role being Dorothy in KVTa's 2001 Auction Theatre Production of *The Wizard of Oz*. I want to thank my husband, Steve, my daughter, Hope, and the Oz Family for their unwavering support as we traveled "Over the Rainbow" to the Land of Oz."

Courtney Bradley (Co-Assistant Director) A resident of Kankakee, Courtney works as an Operating Room Nurse at Riverside Medical Center. Courtney has been involved with KVTa in many different roles for 33 years! Courtney adds, "Thanks to the kids in this show for their amazing talent, energy, and making our job so easy!"

Ami Crane (Co-Assistant Director) Ami lives in Herscher and has a daughter, Abigail. She is employed by the State of Illinois. Ami previously worked behind the scenes for many shows and is a former KVTa board member. Ami says, "Special thanks to Renee for asking me to take this journey down the Yellow Brick Road with such a wonderful Ozian family!"

Amy Shinabarger (Vocal Director) Amy, her husband Jonathan, and daughter Chloe live in Bradley. She is the Band Director for Bishop McNamara. In 2018, Amy played the part of Specs in KVTa's production of *Newsies* and she was the vocal director for KVTa's *Moana JR* in 2023.

Sami Burton (Choreographer) Sami and her husband Ray live in Bourbonnais with their children Lyla and Luca. She is a teacher at Dance in the Light. In 2016, Sami was the Choreographer for KVTa's *Aladdin JR*. Sami exclaims, "Thank you to an awesome cast and staff! Love seeing all the hard work come to life on stage! It's been a fun show to choreograph!"

Rozy Labriola (Production Coordinator) A resident of Bourbonnais, Rozy is a Local Author and Support Technician. Rozy has been involved in many KVTa productions in a variety of roles and is a current KVTa Board Member.

Dave Atkinson (Set Builder) Dave and his wife Diana Mullins-Atkinson live in Bradley, IL. He is the Associate Director of Quality for CSL Behring. This is Dave's 45th KVTa production! Dave says, "One of my favorites was my third production, which was *Wizard of Oz*, where I played a Winkie and an Emerald City resident. Great fun! Thanks to Ms. Renee and Ms. Chelsea for their great ideas and support for the sets!"

Meet the Production Staff

Chelsea Heikes (Set Decorator) A resident of Bradley, Chelsea is an Art Teacher at Liberty Intermediate School. This is Chelsea's first production with KVTa and we are so glad she is sharing her amazing talents and creativity!

Chrissy Jordan (Co-Stage Manager) Chrissy lives in Kankakee and is a Licensed Social Worker at Shapiro Developmental Center. She was previously on Stage Crew for KVTa's *Moana JR* in 2023. Chrissy says, "To KJ and Brookie, continue to dream big and go after them. I am so proud to be your mommy and will always support you! To the KVTa family, thank you!"

Pat Ward (Co-Stage Manager) Pat lives in Ashkum and she loves everything to do with theater! Pat is a member of both the KVTa and CTW Boards of Directors and has been involved in hundreds of shows locally. Pat thanks Renee, Courtney, and Ami for asking her to be a part of this wonderful production.

Sharla Ronchetto (Costumer) Sharla and her husband Greg live in Bourbonnais. She has been a part of many productions, both on and off stage. Sharla adds, "Sincere thanks to Greg for all his support and help with all of the projects I undertake and to my Lord and Savior, Jesus, for His unconditional love."

Kim McPhail (Properties) Kim and her husband Chris have two children, Audrey and Alan. They reside in Kankakee where she is in Asset Protection at Walmart. Previously, Kim assisted with the set for KVTa's 2023 production of *Moana JR*. Kim states, "I'd like to thank my daughter, Audrey, for getting us involved in KVTa, all the wonderful people of KVTa, and of course, my husband Chris for all his help!"

Jordyn Clark (Hair/Makeup) Jordyn lives in Ashkum with her husband Sam and she is employed at the Ashkum Preschool. Most recently, Jordyn directed KVTa's *Little Shop of Horrors* in September of 2023. Jordyn adds, "I would like to thank my husband for always being the most supportive of me in all my theater adventures."

Gwen Fox (Rehearsal Pianist) Gwen and her husband Mike have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. They live in Bonfield and she is a retired Kindergarten teacher. Gwen was the Rehearsal Pianist for KVTa's production of *Moana JR* in 2022. Gwen shares, "I love working with all of these very talented young people!"



TICKETS:

6 for \$5

Arm's Length for \$10

The winning split-the-pot ticket will be announced at the conclusion of today's performance.

UPCOMING AUDITIONS AT KVTA

**FINDING NEMO JR ~
JANUARY 5, 6 & 7**

**SEUSSICAL ~
JANUARY 26 & 27**



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Andrew McBurnie Videography ~ Ron and Diane ~ Still I Rise ~

Bourbonnais Elementary School District #53 ~ Jennifer Douglas ~

Liberty Intermediate Fourth Grade Team ~ Dance in the Light ~

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School ~ Chicago Dough Company ~

Bethel Baptist Church ~ Steve and Hope Brammer ~ The Oz Family

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

Thank You to  **Taylor**
for your support this season!



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.



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