



# Over THE River & Through THE Woods

COMEDY

PRODUCTION NUMBER 237

2022  
SEASON

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# HALE CENTER THEATER OREM

◆ PROUDLY PRESENTS ◆

## Over <sup>THE</sup> RIVER & Through <sup>THE</sup> Woods

BY  
Joe DiPietro

◆-----◆  
**STARRING**

Tanner Frederiksen • Will Ingram

Karen Baird • Jim Dale • Larson Holyoak • Jayne Luke • Mark Pulham  
Mary Jane Smith • David Weekes • Melany Wilkins

**SUPPORTING**

Meg Flinders • Kelly Cook

◆-----◆  
**DIRECTOR**

Rodger Sorensen

**HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN**

Janna Larsen

**COSTUME DIRECTOR**

Anne Swenson

**PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

Meagan M. Downey

**LIGHTING DESIGN**

Ryan Fallis

**COSTUME SHOP MANAGER**

Dvorah Governale

**DIALECT COACH**

Dianna Graham

**SOUND DESIGN**

Cole McClure

**HAIR & MAKEUP DIRECTOR**

Melinda Wilks

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Joseph Governale

**PROPERTIES**

Linda Hale

**ASSISTANT PROPERTIES**

Cody Hale

**SET DESIGN & MASTER CARPENTER**

Bobby Swenson

**TECHNICIANS**

Cole McClure

Ryan Fallis

Richie Trimble

**COSTUME DESIGN**

Dennis Wright

◆-----◆  
*Originally produced on the New York stage by Jonathan Pollard,  
Bernie Kukoff, Tony Converse and James Hammerstein.*

*Produced by The American Stage Company  
(James N. Vagias, Executive Producer) on January 10, 1996.*

*Presented at The Berkshire Theatre Festival (Arthur Storch,  
Artistic Director; Kate Maguire, Managing Director) on August  
12, 1997.*

*Developed at the 1994 National Playwrights Conference/  
Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center (Lloyd Richards, Artistic Director).  
First produced at The Belmont Italian American Playhouse  
(Dante Albertie, Artistic Director; Marco Greco, Executive  
Director) in April 1994.*

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS  
*is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.*

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

◆-----◆ *Over the River and Through the Woods* ◆-----◆





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# ◇ CAST OF CHARACTERS ◇

NICK CRISTANO..... Will Ingram (*MWF*) • Tanner Frederiksen (*TTtS*)

FRANK GIANELLI..... Mark Pulham (*MWF*) • David Weekes (*TTtS*)

AIDA GIANELLI..... Karen Baird (*MWF*) • Jayne Luke (*TTtS*)

NUNZIO CRISTANO..... Larson Holyoak (*MWF*) • Jim Dale (*TTtS*)

EMMA CRISTANO..... Melany Wilkins (*MWF*) • Mary Jane Smith (*TTtS*)

CAITLIN O'HARE..... Kelly Cook (*MWF*) • Meg Flinders (*TTtS*)



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# ◇ SCENE SYNOPSIS ◇

**TIME:** Several years ago.

**PLACE:** The Gianelli home in Hoboken, New Jersey

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## ACT I

**SCENE 1:** A Thursday Evening

**SCENE 2:** The Following Sunday

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## INTERMISSION

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## ACT II

**SCENE 1:** Two Days Later

**SCENE 2:** Later in the Week

**SCENE 3:** Almost a Month Later

**SCENE 4:** A Few Years Later

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*All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

# ◇ WHO'S WHO ◇

## KAREN BAIRD

*Aida Gianelli (MWF)*

Karen is delighted to return to HCTO in one of her favorite roles, that of Aida, in this charming play. She has been honored to bring to life varied characters and diverse women in film and onstage including *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Beau Jest*, *The Curious Savage*, *The Foreigner*, *Enchanted April*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Secret Garden*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *The Children's Hour*, and *The Glass Menagerie* to name a few. Whether on stage or film Karen agrees with Ethel from *Moon Over Buffalo* who wisely said: THEATER IS THE LIFELINE OF HUMANITY. True this. Theater has provided Karen with bounteous friends, dear

theater family, opportunities to create and become. Many thanks to those who have provided her with this privilege including the dearly loved HCTO family, her four children and 19 grandchildren who know their Mom/Grandma has been bitten by the Theater Bug. May you all find a bit of Aida in your hearts this night. Tenga Famiglia.

## KELLY COOK

*Caitlin O'Hare (MWF)*

Kelly is so humbled to work with such a phenomenal cast and crew! Previous HCTO shows include *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Ensemble), *Emma* (Emma Woodhouse), *Annie* (Annette/Boylan Sister), and *A Christmas Carol* (Fred's Wife). She studied



Karen Baird



Kelly Cook

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**Jim Dale**



**Meg Flinders**

Applied Theatre at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London and teaches theatre at Mapleton Junior High. Lots of love and gratitude to her wonderful famiglia!

### **JIM DALE**

*Nunzio Cristiano (TTHS)*

After playing Mr. Weston in last years production of *Emma, the Musical*, Jim is thrilled to be back in *Over the River and Through the Woods!* Jim has performed at many theaters along the Wasatch front from Provo to Logan and many in between! Some of his favorite roles include Henry Higgins, Don Quixote, Sweeney Todd, Captain Von Trapp, King Arthur, Emile de Beque, Captain Hook, and El Gallo! Also, Charles in *Blithe Spirit*, Cromwell in *A Man For All Seasons*, Jack in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and Baptiststa in *A Taming Of The Shrew!*

### **MEG FLINDERS**

*Caitlin O'Hare (TTHS)*

Meg is so excited to be a part of her third show at HCTO! She has most recently been seen as an eccentric artist in *The Prince's New Pet* and a Russian man (beard and all) in *The Jester*—both newer works. Her last performance at HCTO was as Mrs. Elton/ Mrs. Bates/Elizabeth Martin in *Emma*. She dedicates this performance to her son, Evander, and to her parents and grandparents for always being so supportive. She also apologizes (sort of) for how hungry you'll be after watching this show!



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Tanner Frederiksen

## TANNER FREDERIKSEN

*Nick Cristiano (TThS)*

Tanner was last seen on the HCTO stage as Max Detweiler in *The Sound of Music*. Some other theater credits include *The Cat in the Hat (Seussical the Musical)*, *Nathan Detroit (Guys and Dolls)*, and *The Magician* in BYU's adaptation of the children's book *The King and the Magician*. He's also performed as a player at Improv Broadway in Provo and has done a variety of film and voiceover work in Utah. Tanner loves working on comedic projects and has most recently had fun creating a parody mommy blog inspired by the Disney+ show *The Mandalorian*, which can be found on Instagram: @dindaddymando.



Larson Holyoak

## LARSON HOLYOAK

*Nunzio Cristiano (MWF)*

After a hiatus of 5 years Larson is back on stage. Having performed on the HCTO stage for over 25 years he is glad to be back. Over the years Larson has played many different characters in productions such as *A Christmas Carol*, *Annie*, *Fiddler On the Roof*, *Man With the Pointed Toes*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *A Spring to Remember*, and *Over the River and Through the Woods* just to name a few. Now retired after 39 years in the field of Clinical Engineering at a local hospital he enjoys being with his wife, grandchildren, and extended family. Larson wants to thank his beautiful wife who has put up with him over the years of HCTO Productions. Now once again she is glad to get him out from under her feet and back doing something besides putting together puzzles at home.



Will Ingram

## WILL INGRAM

*Nick Cristano (MWF)*

He's happy to be back, just taking any part he gets; In *Pointed Toes*, then *Sense and Emma*, and *The 39 Steps*. He finally got his undergrad last May from UVU, and now he's got an agent (TMG) for film stuff too. By day, he is a carpenter in UVU's scene shop. By night, he hangs out with his dogs and wife (who's super hot).

## JAYNE LUKE

*Aida Gianelli (TTuS)*

Jayne has played Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Grandma in *The Addams Family*, Abby in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and her very favorite, Abuela Claudia in *In the Heights* at HCTO. She loves this little old theater and the people who work here and the ones who come to see the shows. She has lived and acted in Salt Lake City for 40 years but feels performing at HCTO is like coming home. She has been a theatre professional for over 50 years working at Pioneer Theatre Company, Sundance Summer Theatre, HCT Sandy, The Grand and Plan B Theatre Company.



Jayne Luke

## MARK PULHAM

*Frank Gianelli (MWF)*

"Over the River and Through the Woods"... to HCTO we go! Always a delight to be among great actors and audiences and share the joy of theater. A familiar face, Mark has been doing plays here since its beginnings. If you've been around long enough, you might have seen him act with Ruth and Nathan Hale in *Thank You, Papa* or even playing Bob Cratchit to Nathan Hale's Scrooge. As Mark gets older, so do the parts he plays. He's hit the jackpot with this one...An 80 yr old Italian who lives in New Jersey. As you'll hear

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**Mark Pulham**



**Mary Jane Smith**

throughout the play... ‘Tengo Familia’... and here we consider all our patrons family. May the New Year bring us all closer to the ones that mean the most...families.

### **MARY JANE SMITH**

*Emma Cristano (TTHS)*

Mary Jane Smith is so thrilled to be back on the HCTO boards! Last seen as Mother Dear in *Betty Blue Eyes*, she is now having a ball as a New Jersey grandma. Her 50 year career includes many tours, Off Broadway, Off Off Broadway, ten weeks of one week summer stock, dinner theatre, and regional theatre, film, commercials, industrial films, and “Mormon Minutes”. After teaching and directing theatre in Connecticut for 25 years, she and her husband, Michael moved to Utah in 2015 to be near their children who live here. A grandma in real life, she has nine real and adorable grandchildren. Tengo Familia!

### **RODGER SORENSEN**

*Director*

From Provo, Utah, Rodger is a Professor Emeriti of Theatre and Media Arts at Brigham Young University. He taught in colleges and universities for 44 years. Throughout his career he has directed many theatre productions in academic and professional venues around the nation. His most recent directing projects include *Newsies* with the Triumverate Theatre at the University of Anchorage MatSu campus in Wasilla, Alaska, *Freaky Friday* at HCT Sandy, *Emma*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Charley’s Aunt* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at HCTO. *Over the River and Through the Woods* is one of his favorite scripts, and working with people his own age a simple joy. Rodger has been married to Claudia Lunceford for 52 years, and they are blessed with three children and eight grandchildren.



Rodger Sorensen



David Weekes

**DAVID WEEKES**

*Frank Gianelli (TTHS)*

David is happy to be doing his first show at HCTO and to be sharing the stage with this talented cast. He is especially grateful to be directed for the first time in over 35 years by his wonderful college instructor, Rodger Sorensen. Some of David's favorite roles include: Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden*, Chauvelin in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Huck Finn in *Big River*, Jinx in *Forever Plaid*, North and South Captains in *The Civil War* and Che in *Evita*. "A special thanks, love and kisses to my wife and children for their amazing love, patience and support."



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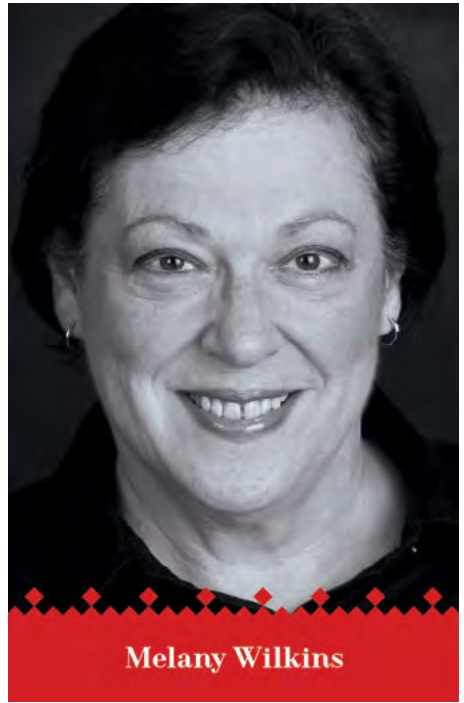
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## MELANY WILKINS

*Emma Cristano (MWF)*

This is the third time Melany has been able to perform as Emma in this little gem about “famiglia.” She was last seen at HCTO as Nana in *Tuck Everlasting*. Other favorite roles include Meg (*Damn Yankees*); Mrs. Fairfax (*Jane Eyre*); Clairee (*Steel Magnolias*); Golde and Yente (*Fiddler on the Roof*); Aunt Martha (*Arsenic and Old Lace*); Miss. Hannigan (*Annie*); Betty Meeks (*The Foreigner*); Mrs. Patty (*The Curious Savage*); Mrs. Sowerberry/ Mrs. Bedwin (*Oliver*); Ruth (*The Pirates of Penzance*); Antonia and Housekeeper (*Man of La Mancha*); Ida and Miss Skillon (*See How They Run*); and various female roles (*A Christmas Carol*). Melany has directed—with her husband, Richard—such shows as *Guys and Dolls*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; *My Fair Lady*; and *A Christmas Carol*. She and Richard also adapted the script currently used for *A Christmas Carol* at HCT in Sandy, Utah.



Melany Wilkins



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When Tony Award winner Joe DiPietro opened his play *Over the River and Through the Woods* in 1998, his close relationship with his grandparents was not just for display onstage. His 86-year-old grandmother Ida DiPietro (seen in the play as Aida Gianelli) baked the anisette cookies for the opening-night party: “Joe loved everything homemade from scratch. I never bought no jar food. Of course, he never came often enough, but he enjoyed every minute of the day with us.”

Continued improvements in medical care and life expectancy means that more and more grandparents are experiencing longer and longer relationships with their grandchildren. While the power of strong relationships between grandparents and their grandchildren seem self-evident, new research is proving beyond a doubt what many already know: a close relationship benefits both sides.

*New York Times* writer Bruce Feiler comes to some powerful, research-based conclusions in his book *The Secrets of Happy Families* about the strength of grandparents and an intergenerational identity. He points out that child psychologists studying the aftereffects

of September 11 on children found that children who know their family’s stories and history are more resilient and better able to handle stress. Knowing the stories of their grandparents’ struggles puts their current challenges in perspective, and provides an example of people they know and love coming through difficult situations.

A recent Oxford University research study corroborated the tremendous impact grandparents can have when they are a regular part of their grandchildren’s lives: Dr. Eirini Flouri wrote that “We found that close relationships between grandparents and grandchildren buffered the effects of adverse life events, such as parental separation, because it calmed the children down.”

A 2016 study published in *The Gerontologist* dug further into the grandparent-grandchild relationship, finding that emotional closeness and shared interests between the two relieved symptoms of depression for both. It also found that mutual support (or “functional exchange”) between the generations did the same: if the two could help each other—be it through care, financial support, or an exchange of advice and information—depression symptoms lifted.

Almost 80 percent of grandparents surveyed in a Humana study reported that their adult grandchildren motivate them to stay physically healthy, and nearly 90% reported to AARP that their relationship with their grandchildren is good for their mental well-being.

As in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, these relationships can continue into adulthood and sometimes over great distance. A 2018 AARP study found half of grandparents have at least one grandchild who lives more than 200 miles away, and about a third live more than 50 miles from their closest grandchild.

In the 24 years since DiPietro wrote *Over the River and Through the Woods*, new technologies have meant that distance can be bridged more easily with grandparents increasingly using technology like Facebook and texting to keep in touch. Over 40% of grandparents considered themselves “tech savvy” with 67% saying they enjoy online video chats with grandkids, and over 40% reporting enjoying social media as a way to keep up.

In a *New York Times* interview, playwright DiPietro’s 86-year-old anisette-cookie-baking grandmother summed up their relationship: “I wanted him to stay in New Jersey, and we felt very bad when he moved to New York. But he said: ‘It’s not so far. Don’t worry.’ I know I’m the worrier type, but as long as I hear from him, I won’t worry. He knows what he’s doing. But listen, this is still an attached family. And on that stage, that’s my dining room. It’s identical.”

—HCTO Guest Dramaturg Mark Fossen, MFA

HALE CENTER THEATER OREM  
2022 SEASON



Over THE RIVER & THROUGH THE Woods

COMEDY | Jan. 07 -THROUGH- Feb. 12



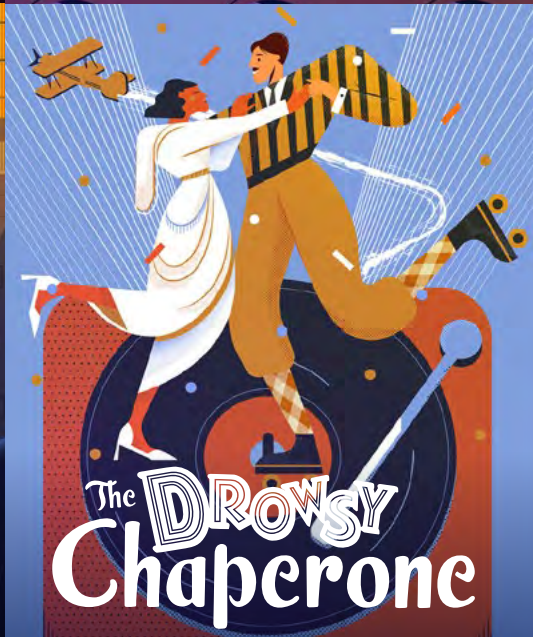
BRIGHT STAR

MUSICAL | Feb. 25 -THROUGH- Apr. 09



Camelot

MUSICAL | Apr. 22 -THROUGH- Jun. 04



The Drowsy Chaperone

MUSICAL | Jun. 17 -THROUGH- Aug. 06

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PLAY | Aug. 19 -THROUGH- Sep. 24



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# Sister Act

MUSICAL | Oct. 07 -THROUGH- Nov. 19

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## SPRING CLASSES

### MINI- MUSICAL WORKSHOP

**WHAT:** So you want to be in a musical?! Well, now's your chance! In this camp, students will be given lines to memorize, dances and music to practice and perfect, and a chance to perform in a mini-musical at the end of the month!

**WHO:** Ages 7 – 14

**WHEN: SESSION I:** January 3<sup>rd</sup> – January 28<sup>th</sup>; Mondays & Fridays from 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**\*THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH.**

**CLASS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 18TH THIS WEEK\***

**SESSION II:** February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>; Mondays & Fridays from 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**WHERE:** Hale Studios (537 North 1200 West in Orem);

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**WHO:** Ages 7 – 14

**WHEN:** April 26<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**WHERE:** Hale Center Theater Orem (225 West 400 North in Orem)

**COST:** \$160

### HOMESCHOOL THEATRE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**WHAT:** Audition, rehearse, and perform a show.

**WHO:** Grades 2 – 6

**WHEN:** January 3<sup>rd</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>; Mondays from 12:00pm – 1:30pm

**WHERE:** Hale Studios (537 North 1200 West in Orem)

**COST:** \$175

**INSTRUCTOR:** Benjamin J. Henderson

### HOMESCHOOL THEATRE ARTS JUNIOR/HIGH SCHOOL

**WHAT:** Audition, rehearse, and perform a show.

**WHO:** Grades 7 – 12

**WHEN:** January 5<sup>th</sup> – March 23<sup>rd</sup>; Wednesdays from 12:00pm – 1:30pm

**WHERE:** Hale Studios (537 North 1200 West in Orem)

**COST:** \$175

**INSTRUCTOR:** Benjamin J. Henderson

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## YEAR-ROUND CLASSES

### PRIVATE LESSONS

**WHAT:** This includes three 30-minute private voice, acting, or guitar lessons and one master class each month.

**WHO:** All ages

**WHEN:** Determined by instructor

**WHERE:** Hale Studios (537 North 1200 West in Orem)

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**VOICE INSTRUCTORS:** *Amanda Crabb, Marcie Jacobson, Rob Moffat, Amelia Rose Moore, Rachel Ryan Nichols, David Smith, Brandalee Bluth Streeter, Kelsey Mariner Thompson, & Marcie Yackman*

**ACTING INSTRUCTORS:** *Kelly Coombs, Benjamin J. Henderson & Cleveland McKay Nicoll*

**GUITAR INSTRUCTOR:** *Benjamin D. Hale*

*Private lessons are offered continually year-round. Sign up by calling the Box Office at 801-226-8600 or by emailing Linda Hale at [linda@haletheater.org](mailto:linda@haletheater.org)*

*For more information and to register for classes, go to:*

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*Sessions are limited to 20 students, and masks are recommended. More details for time, place, and safety procedures are available at the link.*

◇ COMING NEXT ◇



# BRIGHT STAR

MUSICAL | Feb. 25 —THROUGH— Apr. 09

◇ COMING SOON ◇



# Camelot

MUSICAL | Apr. 22 —THROUGH— Jun. 04

## TICKETING & THEATER POLICIES

- ◆ Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance, all seats are reserved, and you must be in your seat prior to the performance
- ◆ Late-comers will be seated at the house management's discretion (*Hale Center Theater Orem accepts no responsibility for inconvenience to late-comers*)
- ◆ No children under the age of 4 or babes-in-arms
- ◆ No cell phones, pagers with alarms or other electronic devices
- ◆ Video and audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited
- ◆ No outside food or drink
- ◆ Free parking in our lot or on the street (*Exxon will tow your car*)
- ◆ Restrooms are located at the rear of the theater and downstairs
- ◆ Exits are located in the front and rear of the theater
- ◆ Season Ticket holders must make reservations early for each show. *HCTO is not responsible for missed plays.*

## ADVERTISING & INFORMATION

- ◆ For advertising and promotional opportunities, contact Joseph Branca at 801.835.1380
- ◆ For audition schedules, acting and music class schedules and additional theater information visit our website at [hcto.org](http://hcto.org)
- ◆ For fundraising information for your organization contact Brooke Wilkins at 801.226.8600
- ◆ For general information and ticket reservations please call the Box Office at 801.226.8600

## HCTO Staff

MANAGING DIRECTORS—Cody Hale, Linda Hale,  
Anne Swenson, Cody Swenson

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—  
David Paul Smith

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT—Meagan M. Downey

HUMAN RESOURCES—David Paul Smith

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION—Linda Hale

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION—David Paul Smith

ACTING SCHOOL DIRECTOR—Kelly Coombs

VOCAL SCHOOL DIRECTOR—Amanda Crabb

ACTING INSTRUCTORS—Kelly Coombs,  
Benjamin J. Henderson

VOCAL INSTRUCTORS—Amanda Crabb, Marcie Jacobson,  
Rob Moffat, Rachel Ryan Nicholes, David Paul Smith,  
Brandalee Bluth Streeter, Marcie Yacktmann,  
Amelia Rose Moore, Kelsey Thompson  
YOUTH THEATER DIRECTOR—David Paul Smith

YOUTH THEATER COSTUME DESIGN—Dvorah Governale,  
Jayna Fry, Tami Crandall, Erin Jones

YOUTH THEATER HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN—Laura Bikman

YOUTH PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER—Kelly Coombs

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ACCOMPANIST—Andrew Walsh

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER—Meagan M. Downey

BOOKKEEPER—Rose Swenson

COSTUME DIRECTOR—Anne Swenson

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER—Dvorah Governale

CUTTER DRAPER—Jessica Barksdale

COSTUME SHOP STAFF—Erin Jones, Maria Solesbee,  
Sarina Johnson

ARCHIVE COSTUME SHOP MANAGER—Katherine Chesne

ASSISTANT COSTUME SHOP MANAGER—Olivia Kline,  
Lexi Rogers

ARCHIVE COSTUME SHOP ASSOCIATES—Sarina Johnson,  
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