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## APRIL 21 - 25 & 28 - 30 MAY 1 - 2

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The Sioux Empire Community Theatre would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to De and Dave Knudson for sponsoring our production of Disney's Beauty and The Beast. De and Dave have been supporters of the arts including community theatre for many years. We can't thank your both enough for bringing this wonderful community production to the historic Orpheum Theater and the Sioux Empire region.

"Tale as old as time, tune as old as song, bittersweet and strange, finding you can change, learning you were wrong."

-Mrs. Potts



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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

It's a year later than we originally planned but after two postponements, we can finally bring *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* to the Orpheum stage. Thank you for supporting us with your attendance as we continue to put safety first and continue to present live theatre in a responsible way that is respectful of the concerns within our community.

It is not easy to double cast a show of this scale and rehearse each cast separately in order to keep everyone safe, and make sure that we have cover for all characters should anyone become ill or come into contact with anyone who has tested positive. The whole production team as well as the cast have worked so hard to make this possible, and I offer them my congratulations in doing such a splendid job.

The next show in our season, *Footloose*, will also be the final show of Season 18 and we strongly encourage you to buy your tickets early as we will be maintaining our reduced capacity seating protocol. This is really going to be a fun show with wonderful foot tapping music so be sure to get the best available seats on the nights that you want to come before they sell out.

I hope that you have a wonderful evening or afternoon with us and that our production of Beauty and the Beast provides you and your loved ones with another happy memory to share.

Please consider joining our **120 Club** by going to our website and signing up to pledge a small monthly donation to help us make even more happy memories for yours and other families in this amazing community.

#### Robin Byrne

Sioux Empire Community Theatre's Executive Director

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you for choosing to make theatre in the community a priority as we continue together through these turbulent times. This cast took the plunge and embraced the return to live shows when they auditioned almost two months ago, and I've been blown away by the results.

To say that COVID presented many unique challenges would be the cliche understatement of the year. Aside from the obvious precautions (face masks, social distancing, you know the drill), we had a few extra concerns to address. The biggest hurdle to overcome was double casting every single role in the show. This was done to ensure that we would always have someone to fill-in if there were any unforeseen complications. It also allowed us to give more opportunities to our eager actors after a year away from the spotlight. However, this meant that every scene had to be blocked twice, and we needed double the time to practice afterwards. An unprecedented situation, but 100% worth it to get this show up and running.

A main goal with the show was to bring large scale entertainment back to Sioux Falls in a big way. This production of *Beauty and the Beast* is filled to the brim with comedic bits, fast paced dance breaks, and vibrant sets/costumes. We've tried some fresh additions that you might not see in other versions - this ensures that this "tale as old as time" still has a few surprises in store. To their credit, the actors rolled along with every crazy idea of mine, and they did it with gusto. There's an energy radiating from the cast that is irresistible, and I can't wait for you to start smiling and tapping your toes after the year we've just collectively shared (not that I'll actually be able to SEE you smiling, but hey, it's the thought that counts).

So please, sit back, relax, and "be our guest" - enjoy the show!

**Tyler Raehsler** Sioux Empire Community Theatre Director



Special thanks to the team at 3M Brookings for their contributions to SECT's COVID-19 Safety Plan.

3M is a proud supporter of the arts.



### CAST

**The Beast** Shad Christman Blake Lyon

**Belle** Alex Van Voorhis Amy Lyon

Maurice Sean Mueller Cory Buttemeier

**Gaston** Clinton Store Clay Ackerman

**Lefou** Casey Kustak

**Cogsworth** Christian Heiberger Jon Buchanan

> Lumiere Mike Richards Barry Longden

**Babette** Ruthie Pottratz Shannon Dancler

**Mrs. Potts** Amy Gage Sarah Jennings

**Chip** Morgan Lindemann Joselyn Williams

Madame De La Grande Bouche Tina Gonzalez Vega Jessica Ashton Narrator/Ensemble Lyn Mock Chloe Hauge

Young Man/The Prince Clay Ackerman Clinton Store

> Enchantress Amanda McMillan Ashley Laird-Blau

Silly Girls Amand McMillian Jaya Wilson Madi Lawrence Ashley Laird-Blau Rebekah Espland Summer Van Veen

**Ensemble** Camryn Mages

Lindsay Lindaman Lisa Glatt Macie Olson Magen Richeal Simon Cole Sophia Fette Wyatt Cooper Allegra Saint-Amand Bekki Kniep Delaney Van Veen Elliot Janssen Hanalei Barrett Makea Buchanan Malia Buchanan Marlena Espland **Riley Galer** 



CREW	
Director	Tyler Raeshler
Stage Manager	Jazlynne Williams
Assistant Stage Manager	Luke Salerno
<b>Costume Director</b>	Kendra Dexter
Asst. Costume Director	Janet Liesinger
Prop Master	Luke Salerno
Master Carpenter	Tristan Love
Paint Charge	Sam Lopez
Hair Design	Kendra Dexter
Set Designer	Jill Clark
Sound Designer	Adam Rye
Lighting Designer	Larry Dooley
Photographer	Brian Cooper
Assistant Carpenter	Anthony Hunke
Choreographer	Magen Richeal
Music Director	Clay Ackerman
Accompanist	Clay Ackerman

#### SHAD CHRISTMAN / Beast

Shad is ecstatic to be back performing with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre! He previously appeared in the 2014 production of *Les Miserables* (Ensemble), and the 2018 production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Brother). Shad and his wife Rebecca reside in Sioux Falls, and are expecting their first child, a girl, on June 28th! Shad is an attorney practicing civil litigation and criminal defense at the firm of Heidepriem, Purtell, Siegel & Hinrichs. In his free time, he likes to sing, play guitar, write, go camping, spend time with friends, and hang out with his Bernese Mountain Dog, Guthrie.



#### BLAKE LYON / Beast

Blake is excited to be making his Sioux Empire Community Theatre debut alongside this amazing cast and more importantly, performing alongside his talented wife, Amy Lyon (Belle). His stage accolades include performances in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince), *Lost in Vegas* (Tyler Dey), *The Nerd* (Rick Steadman), *Now and Then* (Jamie) as well as other various ensemble and director roles. Blake is the Middle School Director of Bands at Rock Valley CSD where he gets to share his passion for music with kids every day. He also enjoys sharing the blessing of music as a part of the praise band at his church. He would like to thank his amazing wife, Amy, who even after twelve years away from the stage, believed that he had the talent to get back on stage, and these past two years has joined me for the ride. She is his greatest blessing from God and the true Beauty in this Beast's life. Thank you to the Sioux Falls area for all your support of our show!



#### ALEX VAN VOORHIS / Belle

Alex discovered her passion for performing at a very young age. Some of her favorite performance experiences throughout the years include her roles as (Audrey) *Little Shop of Horrors* and (Anne Frank) *The Diary of Anne Frank*, along with working as a Character Performer at Walt Disney World, and performing in the 2014 and 2015 Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps Color Guard. Alex graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in Music and Strategic Communications, and currently works as a Media Specialist at Lawrence & Schiller. She will be pursuing a master's degree in Social Work starting in the fall at the University of South Dakota to continue her passion for giving back to the community and creating social change. Alex is thrilled to be a part of this Sioux Empire Community Theatre production and is honored to be playing her dream role of Belle. She would like to thank you all for your continued support of the arts in the Sioux Falls community. Enjoy the show!





#### AMY LYON / Belle

Amy is delighted to make her debut with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. She is also extremely excited to be performing alongside her talented husband, Blake Lyon (Beast), and having the honor of finally playing her dream role! She has been in a variety of plays and musicals, and some of her favorites include *Kiss Me, Kate* (Kate), *Now and Then* (Abby), *Curtains* (Georgia Henricks), *Big Fish* (Witch), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts). Amy is the Spanish teacher at George-Little Rock High School and her main passions in life are faith, family, friends, and music. She thanks her family and friends for all their support, especially Blake, with whom she cannot wait to share many more adventures!



#### SEAN MUELLER / Maurice

Joining a remarkably talented cast of performers, Sean returns to the stage as Maurice, Belle's eccentric inventor father. Sean's works include several children's productions, including *The Phantom Tollbooth* and *Under the Sycamore Tree*. In addition to children's theater, Sean has also delighted dining theater audiences in *Finnegan's Farewell* and *The 80s Prom*. This will be Sean's first of hopefully many performances with Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Sean would like to thank his supporting family and friends, his fellow cast members, the directors team, and of course all the members of the greater Sioux Falls community for supporting local theater! Welcome, we hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we enjoyed bringing it to life.



#### CORY BUTTEMEIER / Maurice

Cory Buttemeier is making his triumphant return to the Sioux Empire Community Theatre stage after 20+ years. Cory Graduated from Washington High (Sioux Falls) Class of 91. Cory is a veteran of the U. S. Marine Corps where he started a short lived boy band named BW4. He's credits include: *Annie* (Thief), *Scrooge* (Butcher), Voice of Dad in the children's production of *How I Became A Pirate*. His inspiration for returning to the stage is his Stepson Braeden. May his passion for music inspire Cory further. Cory is thankful for the love and support of his fiance Sandy. Also thank you to the supporters of this production and its cast.

#### CLINTON STORE / Gaston, Young Man / The Prince

Clinton is excited to take the stage once again with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre and honored to join this outstanding cast of *Beauty and The Beast*. His recent credits include: *It's A Wonderful Life Radio Play* (Harry Jazzbo Jenkins) and *The Odd Couple Female Version* (Je'sus). He's performed with The Good Night Theatre Collective, The Dinner Detective Sioux Falls, voiced multiple characters for Sioux Empire Community Theatre Radio Plays, and appeared in independent films such as *Pale Dawn* (Professor Les Field) and several regional commercials. Clinton has a Master's degree from Dakota State University and is also a member of the National Guard. When not working, performing or spending time with his family and friends, you'll probably find him at the gym or walking the dog downtown. "Connect, Set the stage, and Live out loud."



#### CLAY ACKERMAN / Gaston, Young Man / The Prince

Clay is so thrilled to be performing in another Sioux Empire Community Theatre musical. He is excited to be playing the role of Gaston and for the opportunity to be an arrogant jerk without being called on it. Most recently Clay performed with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre in *Mamma Mia!* (Ensemble). Before that, Clay hadn't done a show since *Grease* (Kenickie) at Morningside College. Clay is a choir director at the Rock Valley Schools, and in his spare time explores his other musical passions such as live theatre, singing lead in his barbershop quartet, and singing and shredding lead guitar in his rock band. Clay's favorite part of theatre is the relationships he can build with other cast members. He is proud of and humbled by the talent, humor, and kindness of this cast. Clay would also like to thank his incredible family for their support in everything he does.



#### CASEY KUSTAK / Lefou

This is Casey's first performance with Sioux Empire Community Theatre and what a better introduction to these productions than playing the part of a Disney Villian's Sidekick! Casey is a Stand Up Comedian and has performed all over the greater Midwest and parts of the eastern and western side of the states. Though you may recognize him from other roles in, *Now That's What I Call Pancakes: Volume 8, Are You Going To Eat That?: A Love Story, Casey Does Dishes,* finally as Himself in You Drive Me Crazy: This and Other *Fun Things My Wife Has Said To Me.* He dedicates his performance as LeFou to his amazing, beautiful and lovely wife, Abby and two daughters, Beckett and Penelope. Thank you for reading and helping me memorize my part. Enjoy the show everyone, except you, Steve.





#### CHRISTIAN HEIBERGER / Cogsworth

Christian Heiberger is thrilled to return to the Sioux Empire Community Theatre stage once again as Cogsworth. He made his debut on the main stage in the fall of 2019 as an ensemble member of Mamma Mia! and continued performing straight into the spring of 2020 as Frank the Bellhop in Lend Me a Tenor. Prior to performing with Sioux Empire Community Theatre, Christian also performed in high school as Principal Humleker in Miss Nelson is Missing! in 2010 and as the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland in 2012. When not performing, Christian works full time at the Glory House. He occasionally makes appearances with Simply Ever After Entertainment, LLC at their events and parties as a particular hero who dresses like a giant bat or a space bounty hunter who carries a tiny green critter around. He also recently started playing weekly games of D&D with his friends. Christian absolutely loves to perform and be characters and doesn't plan to stop doing so any time soon. While not doing so or working, he can be found climbing at Falls Park, perusing books and puzzles at Barnes and Noble, or baking cookies and brownies for his friends and coworkers



#### JON BUCHANAN / Cogsworth

Jon is making his first appearance with Sioux Empire Community Theatre. This is his second time on the stage. Previously he played Elvis on Lights Up Production of *Lost in Vegas* in September 2020. After reading Harry Potter to his children and coming up with different voices for each character, his kids told him "Dad. You're good with voices! Maybe you should try acting!" Now, here he is, eager to be a part of this incredibly talented cast. In his spare time, he works for Avera Orthopedics, runs barefoot, rides his bike to work year round, and loves acting, singing and otherwise spending time with his wife Sarah and his four children.



#### MIKE RICHARDS / Lumiere

The world has changed a lot since Mike last took to the Sioux Empire Community Theatre stage as Tito in last year's *Lend Me a Tenor.* In this difficult Covid environment, Mike was grateful when he recently had the opportunity to perform as Brad in Olde Towne Dinner Theatre's production of *Everybody Loves Opal.* This is Mike's 10th show with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre with some of his notable roles including Collins in *Rent,* Lonny in *Rock of Ages,* and Arthur in *Spamalot.* In his free time, Mike likes to sing karaoke, play all sorts of games and dream of how he will spend his future lottery winnings. He would like to thank his amazing friends, wonderful family, and super cute dog Larry for their love and support. And now, he would like to invite you to "Be Our Guest" and enjoy the show!

#### BARRY LONGDEN / Lumiere

Barry Longden teaches freshman math at Harrisburg High School. Barry was last seen in the Sioux Empire Community Theatre's production of *Mamma Mia*! (Ensemble). He is also involved in murder mysteries with The Dinner Detective. Barry wishes he was from a provincial town, reading books, and talking to sentient silverware.



Ruthie is excited to be a part of her 18th show with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. She has recently been performing on the stage in Worthing, SD at the Olde Towne Dinner Theatre as Nikki in *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and Gloria in *Everyone Loves Opal*. Babette has been an extremely fun role to play with and she can't wait to do something similar in the future. Ruthie would like to thank her friends for always being there for her; for nerdy high fives, laughter filled with bubbles, and fun karaoke nights. She would also like to dedicate this show to her daughter AJ, who's the spunkiest princess she knows and can handle any beast she encounters! Love you Baby-Cakes!



#### SHANNON DANCLER / Babette

This is Shannon's debut performance with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. She participated in many plays and musicals in high school, including the original musical *Puberty* (Harper), *Xanadu* (Calliope), *Our Town* (Mrs. Webb) and many more. She also participated in excerpts from The Marriage of Figaro opera while at Augustana University. Shannon has aspirations of becoming a professional dancer and entertainer, and she is currently pursuing her master's degree in Electrical Engineering. She would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supports her wild and frivolous endeavors including her parents, siblings, boyfriend, and friends (especially Chloe).







#### AMY GAGE / Mrs. Potts

Amy is thrilled to be returning to the Sioux Empire Community Theatre stage as the lovable Mrs. Potts. Amy first fell in love with performing in High School where she participated in numerous shows on the WHS stage (Go Warriors). After a 20 year hiatus from the spotlight, Amy returned last year in Lights Up's production of *Lost In Vegas* (Ensemble). After that, she was hooked (again). Other recent credits include Sioux Empire Community Theatre's production: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Sally Applewhite). Amy is so excited to share the stage with this talented group of performers (now friends)! Also deserving of a standing ovation is her husband, Matt and their 5 children (Ally, Ashleigh, Ayden, Anderson, and Archer). A special thank you to her mom (Georgia), dad (Chuck), sister (Amanda -and family), aunt (Julie), MIL (Karen), and FIL (Fred). Without their love and support - none of this would be possible. Now sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!



#### SARAH JENNINGS / Mrs. Potts

Sarah Jennings is excited to be back on the Orpheum stage with such a fun cast and crew sharing such an iconic story. Her recent theatre credits include: *Odd Couple* (Sylvie), *Sister Act* (Mother Superior), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Golde), *Avenue Q* (Mrs. T), and *Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch). Sarah is a regional VP for AARP, a soccer mom, loves all things downtown Sioux Falls and is mostly happy her family joined the pandemic puppy craze with the addition of a frenchie, MIIo, to their family.



#### MORGAN LINDEMANN / Chip

Morgan is delighted to be returning to the stage with Sioux Empire Community Theatre! She previously appeared in *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim) and Dakota Academy of Performing Art's *Frozen Jr.* (Ensemble). Morgan is a 4th grader at St. Mary Elementary School. In addition to singing and acting, she enjoys waterskiing, hiking, and riding her bike. Morgan is thankful to everyone involved in the Sioux Empire Community Theatre for working hard to keep community theatre going. Her music teacher, Kevin Humke, deserves a special thanks for inspiring and supporting her theatrical endeavors.

#### JOSELYN WILLIAMS / Chip

Joselyn is super excited to perform in another Sioux Empire Community Theatre musical. She is thrilled to be playing the role of chip. Joselyn fell in love with theater during her first performance at Sioux Empire Community Theatre in *Oliver* as an orphan. Since falling in love with theater, Joselyn has been involved in a couple school plays, *The Show Must Go Online* and *Zombie Apocalypse*. Joselyn enjoys being outdoors and spending time with her family and friends. She loves to read, listen to music, and sing. She is a Degree 1, Level 3 Black Belt in Taekwondo at Tiger Rock. Joselyn is thankful to have the support of her Parents and Aunt. She would love to thank all of you for your continued support of the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Enjoy this amazing musical performance!

#### TINA GONZALEZ VEGA / Madame De La Grande Bouche

Tina Gonzalez Vega is delighted to be making her debut with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Tina is coming from Dallas Texas where she was involved with theatre companies such as Cara Mia, and El Centro college theatre organization. Tina is a union representative and workers rights advocate in Sioux Falls, she is also a Latin dance instructor, and mother of one. In her spare time Tina enjoys reading, hiking, and playing board games with her family.



#### JESSICA ASHTON / Madame De La Grande Bouche

Jessica is thrilled to be making her Sioux Empire Community Theatre debut in the truly alter ego role of Madame de la Grande Bouche (a.k.a the Wardrobe). Her love of musical theater spans decades. Originally from Freeman, SD, she was given the opportunity to perform in many Schmeckfest musicals with leading roles as Cinderella in *Cinderella*, Annabel Glick in *Lucky Stiff*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Narrator in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and Babe Williams in Pajama Game, just to name a few. She also enjoys performing in interactive theater with past roles in *Murder at the Prom, Finnegan's Farewell, Tony n Tina's Wedding* and Dinner Detective. Jessica is a Human Resource Consultant with Alternative HRD in Sioux Falls. When not acting or working, she enjoys going on adventures with her husband, Matt, and their two children, Annabelle and Gabriel. Jessica sends much thanks to her supportive family and everyone who brought this show to life!





#### LYN MOCK / Narrator / Ensemble

Lyn is so excited to be joining this cast as the Narrator. Lyn is returning to the stage in her 2nd production with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. She was bitten by the theatre bug in her debut on the stage in *Oliver* (Mrs. Bedwin) in 2019. She was also in *Lost in Vegas* (Ensemble) last fall. She is following through on the advice of her choir director that told her to "Always keep challenging yourself vocally". Lyn is a Branch Office Administrator by day and enjoys gardening in her spare time. She enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her husband, two sons & soon to be daughter in law. She is often teased for singing all the time and is partial to songs from the Little Mermaid. She also can be seen singing at her church, Peace Lutheran in "Spirit of Peace" or in her car while driving around Sioux Falls. Special thanks to her husband, Jason, who has supported her, fed her before practices and endured weeks of her singing around the house.



#### CHLOE HAUGE / Narrator / Ensemble

Beauty and The Beast is Chloe's debut performance with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Although she is not new to the stage, Chloe performed in many 1 Act plays, Fall plays, and Spring Musicals during her time at Brandon Valley High School. Some included Alice *in Wonderland* (Ensemble), 42nd Street (Dance Ensemble), Grease (School Girl & Dancer), and Damn Yankees (Dancer). Chloe is a senior in college pursuing her Bachelors in Arts in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City, as well as double minoring in Law & Ethics and Business. She plans to teach young dancers looking for a pre-professional route in Ballet and one day teach Ballet at the collegiate level. Chloe would like to thank everyone who has ever helped, supported, and encouraged her in her pursuit of the arts, especially Shannon Dancler who suggested that they do this musical together.



#### AMANDA MCMILLAN / Enchantress, Silly Girl

Amanda is delighted to make her debut with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre and honored to work with a great cast. Previously she has performed in *Bye Bye Birdie* in high school, as well as various other theater productions. She currently works as a preschool teacher, and in her spare time enjoys running, skiing, paddle boarding, and reading.

#### JAYA WILSON / Silly Girl

Jaya Wilson is thrilled to be back on stage with Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Along with *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie's Chorus), her recent credits include *Puberty* (Joe), *Once on This Island* (Ti Moune), *Leader of the Pack* (Darlene Love), and was set to perform *Aida* (Aida) before Covid. Jaya is currently a senior at Tea Area High School and sings with her school's concert choir and vocal jazz group. In her free time, Jaya enjoys painting, jamming out to music, and being with friends. She would like to thank the community for supporting local theatre throughout this time. Enjoy the show!



#### MADI LAWRENCE / Silly Girl

Madi is excited to be back on stage with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. You may have seen her previously in Oliver! (Ensemble) or Mamma Mia! (Ensemble). She was also in The Little Mermaid (Land Princess), A Christmas Carol (Ensemble), and The Sound of Music (Nun) at Brandon Valley High School. Madi is currently studying psychology at the University of South Dakota. When she is not on stage you'll find her jamming to her discovery weekly, running back to her car because she forgot her mask, or having a movie night with her roommate, Alexandra, and kitten, Ozzy. Madi is hopeful that the world will soon be back to normal, but for right now she wants to thank the Sioux Empire Community Theatre for creating a safe environment in order to continue showcasing local talent, and to you, in the audience, because you make this all possible! Enjoy the show!



#### ASHLEY LAIRD-BLAU / Enchantress, Silly Girl

Ashley Laird-Blau is delighted to be making her debut with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Growing up in a musical and creative family, Ashley has always had a flair for the dramatic. She has enjoyed participating in many plays and musicals growing up and throughout college. More recently, though, being Mom and step-mom to seven of her favorite humans on the planet has provided plenty of drama! When she isn't playing Thanos in an epic battle scene against at least three of her kids, googling how to get slime out of hair, judging a sibling dance competition, or unclogging a toilet (again), you will find her playing Lego with her kids, baking, reading, spending time with husband Nicholas and friends, or just soaking up the sunshine with a good cigar. Enjoy the show!





#### SUMMER VAN VEEN / Silly Girl

Summer is so excited to be back on the stage with Sioux Empire Community Theatre, and even more excited to be sharing the stage with her daughter, Delaney. Summer's most recent Sioux Empire Community Theatre performance was in *Mamma Mia*! (Ensemble) where she made many new friends and re established her love of theatre. Previously she was in the ensemble for Spamalot with Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Summer enjoys singing karaoke on the weekends and spending time with her children. She is proud of this talented and hilarious cast and hopes you all enjoy the show!



#### SIMON COLE / Ensemble

Simon Cole is a fourth-grader at Sonia Sotomayor Elementary. He has been with the Dance Gallery of Sioux Falls since he was 3 and has been in several ballet productions, including *The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker*, and most recently *Peter and the Wolf.* He also plays piano, loves to sing, and enjoys spending time with his cat, Huckleberry.



#### REBEKAH ESPLAND / Silly Girl

Rebekah Espland is grateful for the opportunity to take part in her second show with Sioux Empire Community Theatre. This specific show has always held a special place in her heart and she's excited that she gets a chance to portray the beauty of the message that lies within the show. Rebekah works at a daycare full time and shares her love for music with all the little ones who attend. Rebekah helps lead worship at her church, and loves to write her own music. Rebekah also loves the outdoors and being in nature in her free time. Rebekah wants to thank all her friends and family who have always supported her.



#### WYATT COOPER / Ensemble

Wyatt Cooper is excited to make his return to the Orpheum stage for the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Previously Wyatt played Charlie Bates in *Oliver*. Wyatt is a 5th grader at Rosa Parks Elementary in Sioux Falls. In addition to acting, he enjoys golf, soccer, riding his bike, and playing with friends. Wyatt is grateful to everyone involved in the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. He would also like to thank his mom (Leslie), dad (Brian), and sister (Ainsley) for their support.

#### SOPHIA FETTE / Ensemble

Sophia Fette is delighted to be making her debut with Sioux Empire Community Theatre. She has taken the stage numerous times in various children's theatre productions, but is excited to act alongside some of Sioux Falls' most talented actors. She is a 4th grader at JFK Elementary. She is also involved in gymnastics and takes piano and voice lessons. She enjoys spending time with her family and watching 80s movies.

#### DELANEY VAN VEEN / Ensemble

Delaney is thrilled to be making her theatrical debut with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. She has been loving choir this year and is happy to have another opportunity to sing and perform. She has enjoyed learning from the more experienced cast members and making new friends. She would like to thank her parents for always encouraging her! Have fun and enjoy the show!

#### HANALEI BARRETT / **Ensemble**

Hanalei is honored to be making her debut in the Sioux Empire Community Theatre and taking the stage alongside many brilliant actors! She loves making music, especially with her Cello. She enjoys playing with her siblings and friends. But, most likely Hanalei can be found with her nose stuck in a book, just like Belle.

#### RILEY GALER / Ensemble

Riley Galer is an 8th grader at Edison Middle School and has been acting since the age of 5 and has loved every minute of it. Since then he has done shows at school like *The Little Mermaid* (Grimsby), and many for the Dakota Academy of Performing Arts such as, *A Christmas Story The Musical* (Schwartz), and *The Lion King Jr.* (Pumbaa), and was in *Peter Pan Jr.* (Nibbs) through the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. When Riley grows up he hopes to be a professional actor or a theatre teacher.













#### MACIE OLSON / Ensemble

This is Macie Olson's debut performance with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre and she couldn't be more excited to be a part of the ensemble. She is no stranger to drama with three sisters at home and she has previously had roles in *Treasure Island*, *Aladdin*, *Pinocchio*, and *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* with the Children's Missoula Theater. When not acting she enjoys reading, writing, camping, swimming, and practicing her second language or the trumpet. Macie hopes you enjoy the show!



#### MARLENA ESPLAND / Ensemble

Marlena is delighted to be in *Beauty in the Beast* with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Her recent theatre credit has been Cassius in *Julius Caesar*. Marlena is a Freshman in high school hoping to pursue her dreams of becoming an actor and a comic artist. In her free time she loves drawing and watching movies with her family.



#### CAMRYN MAGES / Ensemble

Camryn Mages is a 6th grader at St. Mary's elementary, who enjoys spending time with friends, watching movies and TV shows, and baking.



#### MAGEN RICHEAL / Choreographer / Ensemble

Magen is making her Sioux Empire Community Theatre and overall musical theatre debut! Magen is a graduate of USD, a dance instructor and studio owner, as well as a competitive cheerleading coach. Her love of dance and music inspired this newest adventure. She would like to thank all of those involved in *Beauty and the Beast* for their talent, humor, and shared love of music and performance!

#### LISA GLATT / Ensemble

Lisa Glatt is grateful to be making another appearance at the Sioux Empire Community Theater. Her previous theater credits include Sally Sells Sea Shells (Quinn, Cheerleader) at DAPA theatre, Lion King (Ensemble) Sioux Empire Community Theatre, Madagascar (Ensemble) Sioux Empire Community Theatre, and Show Choir (Ensemble) O'Gorman High School Camp. Lisa is 12 years old and attends elementary school at St. Mary Catholic School. In her free time Lisa enjoys playing the tuba in her school band along with playing string bass for the orchestra at St. Mary Elementary.

#### ELLIOT JANSSEN / Ensemble

Elliot Janssen is thrilled to be making her debut with Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Her credits include *Annie Jr, Sleeping Beauty Jr* and *Go Fish!* along with numerous radio commercials. When not on stage she can be found competing in Ninja Warrior competitions for 605 Ninja.

#### BEKKI KNIEP / Ensemble

Bekki Kniep is so thrilled to get back to live performance in *Beauty* and the Beast! Aside from appearing as a member of Sophie's Chorus in the Sioux Empire Community Theatre's *Mamma Mia* in fall of 2019, Bekki has been in multiple shows, including *The Wedding Singer* (Holly), *At the Vanishing Point* (Nora Holtz), and *Fame* (Ensemble). Bekki is a full time Cosmetologist and Day Maker at a busy spa. She enjoys visiting with friends and family, and does a lot of reading in her free time.

#### LINDSAY LINDAMAN / Ensemble

Lindsay Lindaman is a 7 - 12th grade art teacher in the West Lyon School District. This is her 2nd appearance in a Sioux Empire Community Theater, after initially being in 2019's *Mamma Mia* cast. *Beauty and the Beast* has always had a special place in her heart, as it was the first movie she was ever brought too. She hopes you enjoy the show!











#### ALLEGRA SAINT-AMAND / Ensemble

Beauty and the Beast is Allegra's Second performance with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. She is ecstatic to be cast with such wonderful talents! Her voice was that of beauty in Mama Mia! (Donna's Chorus) and she has been performing as a singer since she was three. She is currently in the last leg of Southeast Technical College's LPN program. She is always striving to "Let her voice be heard" as her Grandmother and Mother always encouraged her to do. She is a Bride to be and is elated to be able to continue to perform. Special thanks to her Fiance Andrew and Mother Dominique for all the love and constant support in her endeavors!



#### MAKEA BUCHANAN / Ensemble

Makea is thrilled to be in her second Sioux Empire Community Theatre production! In 2019, she took to the stage for the first time as Bet in *Oliver*! with Sioux Empire Community Theatre, and her love for performing continues to grow. Since then, she has participated in six productions—three with DAPA, two at Lincoln High School, which she attends as a sophomore, and one with Lights Up! Productions. Despite the challenges from the recent pandemic, Makea has been working to expand her abilities, whether it be through technical theatre, marching band, or choir. She wishes to thank her incredible parents, Jon and Sarah, for their patience as she explores different hobbies; her vocal coach, Anne Lenaers, for teaching her to develop her own style; and her siblings, friends and mentors for being amazingly supportive. Enjoy the show!



#### MALIA BUCHANAN / Ensemble

Malia is making her second appearance with Sioux Empire Community Theater by being a part of this fantastic ensemble. Previously, she played an orphan in DAPA's *Annie Jr* and an orphan in the Sioux Empire Community Theatre's production of *Oliver*. Her parents are a little worried that she might develop a complex from being an orphan so many times! She also helped with tech and props in Lights Up Productions of *Lost In Vegas* last September. She is delighted to be singing and acting with her sister and father.



#### TYLER RAEHSLER / Director

Tyler is thrilled to be making his directorial debut with SECT! Prior to *Beauty* and the Beast, Tyler directed six shows at the high school and college level (his favorite being *Little Shop of Horrors* - after all, how often do you get to direct puppets??). After growing up in central Minnesota, Tyler moved to Sioux Falls and graduated from Augustana with majors in English/Secondary Education, as well as minors in Journalism/Communications. He has performed in almost 50 shows since elementary school, and was last seen playing Max in SECT's February 2020 production of *Lend Me a Tenor*. Tyler enjoys movie marathons, getting outside to run, reading up on pop culture, trying new restaurants in town, and being a couch potato with Dewey (his 11 year-old rescue pup). His biggest accomplishment in the time of COVID was becoming more open to at-home experiences he'd previously ignored (such as documentaries, online dating, and Call of Duty.)

#### JESSE JENSEN / Production Manager

Jesse Jensen serves as the Sioux Empire Community Theatre's Production Manager. He made his Sioux Empire Community Theatre acting debut in our 2018 production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Black Stache) after previously directing *Beauty & the Beast Jr., God of Carnage*, and *Of Mice and Men.* Jesse brings years of experience in both professional theatre and children's productions having worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Raven Theatre Company, and Piven Theatre Workshop in Chicago, IL; and City Circle in Iowa City. His wife, Melissa, is a physician at Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls and the two have three children - Prentice, Maddux, and Camden. Jesse graduated with a BFA in Acting from the University of South Dakota.

#### JAZLYNNE WILLIAMS / Stage Manager

This is Jazlynne's debut with Sioux Empire Community Theatre and she is super excited for you to see the amazing work the cast, crew, and production team have done! Jazlynne proudly holds a BFA in Stage Management from the University of Central Florida. After graduating in May of 2020 her plans were to jump onto a ship with Royal Caribbean and stage manage the ocean, but with COVID changing more than just these plans, she had to adapt and keep on going. She is extremely excited to be a part of theatre again and to be doing it safely! Jazlynne would like to thank her fantastic family and her amazing boyfriend, Luke, for their constant support. She would also like to thank the community for coming to see the production and for supporting one of the most important things in her life during an unprecedented time! Enjoy the show! To find out past production credits, visit her website: www.JazlynneWilliams.com

#### LUKE SALERNO / Asst. Stage Manager / Props Master

Luke Salerno is a recent Bachelor of Arts graduate from the University of Central Florida and is thrilled to be making his SECT debut! Luke's previous credits include various backstage roles on *A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder, Titanic, And the World Goes 'Round*, and, *Oklahoma!*; all seen on stages across Orlando. Luke is very appreciative of all the support from his parents, adopted family, and girlfriend, Jazlynne! Thanks for being our guest!

#### KENDRA DEXTER / Costume Director

Kendra Dexter owner of Designs By Dexter, Kendra has made everything from wedding gowns to irish dance costumes. Her recent achievements include work on a short film project and an American College Theater Festival Award for her design work on *Much Ado About Nothing* (Fall 2016) at the University of Sioux Falls. Kendra runs her business and is the Costume Director for the University of Sioux Falls and O'Gorman High School. Kendra has costumed more than 75 shows in South Dakota, several of which were right here at your Sioux Empire Community Theater.

#### JANET LIESINGER / Asst. Costumer Director

Janet Liesinger is keeping her retirement busy with her love for theater. While she will tell you she is not creative, she sure has a knack for creative costumes. When not backstage working as a super talented seamstress she spends most of her time with her 5 grandchildren who all live close by.

#### CLAY ACKERMAN / Accompanist, Music Director

Clay is so thrilled to be performing in another Sioux Empire Community Theatre musical. He is excited to be playing the role of Gaston and for the opportunity to be an arrogant jerk without being called on it. Most recently Clay performed with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre in *Mamma Mia!* (Ensemble). Before that, Clay hadn't done a show since *Grease* (Kenickie) at Morningside College. Clay is a choir director at the Rock Valley Schools, and in his spare time explores his other musical passions such as live theatre, singing lead in his barbershop quartet, and singing and shredding lead guitar in his rock band. Clay's favorite part of theatre is the relationships he can build with other cast members. He is proud of and humbled by the talent, humor, and kindness of this cast. Clay would also like to thank his incredible family for their support in everything he does.

#### SAM LOPEZ / Paint Charge

After a childhood of putting on skits for the family, Sam Lopez has been involved in theatre since the 80's starting in high school. He attended Augustana College for 3 years as a Theatre and Fine Arts double major and volunteered countless hours in local community-based theatre in Sioux Falls, Yankton, Los Angeles, and Germany. He founded PerformUSGuerilla Street Theatre here in Sioux Falls in the late 90's, and is now working to bring a mix of art, technology and experimental theatre to Sioux Falls.

#### ADAM RYE / Sound Designer

Adam Rye is thrilled to be making his second appearance with the Sioux Empire Community Theater! Previously, he assisted as the Light Board Operator for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. He has recently designed lights for the Dakota Academy of Performing Arts' productions of Aristcocats, Elephant and Piggie's We are in a Play, and Wright! Celebrate the Beginning of Flight. Adam attended Northern State University for vocal performance and participated, on stage, in numerous choirs and musicals including The Hunchback of Notre Dame, White Christmas, and Les Miserables. He currently works as the Assistant Sound Technician with the Washington Pavilion and has used the pandemic as an opportunity to learn lighting as well. In his free time, he enjoys playing chess, listening to music, playing Red Dead Redemption 2, watching movies and experiencing all of the great arts the Sioux Falls area has to offer.

#### JILL CLARK / Scenic Designer

Jill Clark is very excited to be working with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre for the eighth time; her most notable productions being *Mary Poppins, Rock of Ages* (Props), *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, and *Steel Magnolias* (Scenic Design). She is a graduate of Iowa Lakes Community College and University of South Dakota where she designed *Cinderella and The Goat*, or *Who is Sylvia*, respectively. While at USD Jill worked as a Scenic Painter for The Black Hills Playhouse during their 2013 season. She frequently works as a Scenic/Props Designer for The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival having designed shows such as *MacBeth, Comedy of Errors, Richard 3* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Jill grew up in Estherville, IA and currently resides in Vermillion, SD where she works as a freelance artist and bartender at The Varsity Pub.In her free time Jill Ioves to work on sewing projects, playing Trivial Pursuit, and volunteering at the Vermillion Food Pantry.

#### TRISTAN LOVE / Master Carpenter

Tristan Love began building sets 8 years ago while attending Stevens High School in Rapid City, built throughout his career at Augustana University, and is now bringing his carpentry skills to the Sioux Empire Community Theatre. Constructing these sets can sometimes be challenging, but Tristan's passion for the arts drives him to put his blood, sweat, and tears into anything and everything he builds. Tristan is thrilled to be constructing for Sioux Empire Community Theatre and he is looking forward to growing into his community, learning more from his trade, and building alongside the great minds at work in Sioux Falls. Enjoy the show!

#### ANTHONY HUNKE / Asst. Master Carpenter

Anthony Hunke returns for his second performance with the Sioux Empire Community Theater. After debuting at Sioux Empire Community Theater as the King of Hearts in the *Alice In Wonderland radio show*, Anthony is excited to get back on stage and do what he loves best. Previously, Anthony has made an appearance in the feature film *Valentine Crush* as well as on stage with shows such as *Musical Comedy of Murders* (Eddie), *Wife Begins at 40* (Leonard), and *Sorry, Wrong Chimney* (David Tuttle). In addition to the performing arts, Anthony enjoys DIY projects and crafting.

#### LARRY DOOLEY / Lighting Design

Larry Dooley is excited to work with SECT for his first time. Immediately following high school Larry started working in the concert industry instead of joining the United States Air Force due to medical issues. Starting Dooley Designs LLC shortly after leaving highschool he has designed numerous productions both in the live music and theatre performance worlds. When not working he enjoys camping, fishing, and anything outdoors. To see more production designs by Larry please visit www.dooley-designs.com

VOLUNTEER CREW	
Dressers	Heidi Galer Kerry Larson
Child Wranglers	Sal Chau Amy Williams Nicole Fette
Light Board Operator	Andrew Steinhouse
Run Crew	Mo Hurley, Joe Fette
Fly Rail Operator	Otis Priester
Spotlight Operators	Ken Lindemann Matt Steinhouse Tina Gonzalez Vega Jessica Ashton
Build Crew	John Harris Todd Nelson Corey Rush
Technical Advisor	John Harris



#### Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Music by ALEN MENKEN Lyrics by HOWARD ASHMAN & TIM RICE Book by LINDA WOOLVERTON Originally Directed by ROBERT JESS ROTH Originally Produced by DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS Orchestrations by DANNY TROOB Vocal Arrangements by DAVID FRIEDMAN Incidental Music by MICHAEL KOSARIN Dance Arrangements by GLEN KELLY

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com

## INFORMATION FROM THE THEATRE

Our COVID-19 policy is, above all, to keep everyone safe. Please wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay socially-distanced at all times.

Thank you and enjoy the show!



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The Sioux Empire Community Theatre is excited to announce our new community ourtreach program, **The 120 Club**!

Your gift of just \$10 per month will help us provide theatre tickets to people in our community that likely would otherwise not be able to experience the joy of live theatre without your help.

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#### **Courtesy Policy**

- Audio/Video taping and photography of this production is strictly forbidden.
- Please turn off or silence all electronic devices.
- Food and drink sold at the concession stand are allowed in the Orpheum Theatre.
- Please make sure that when you parked your car, you paid attention to all posted warnings. If you do not adhere to the posted warnings, your car may be towed at your own expense.
- Enjoy the show and please help spread the news about this production. Share with others on Facebook and Twitter. Please include #HEYSECT in your tweet.



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