

THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE  
PRESENTS

Disney's

The  
Little  
Mermaid

An underwater scene with a bright blue light source at the top. In the center, a silhouette of a castle with spires is visible. To the left, a green eel-like creature is swimming. To the right, a red crab is perched on a rock. The background is dark blue with silhouettes of coral and seaweed.

Sept 28 - Oct 8, 2023



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Sept 28 - Oct 8, 2023

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Presents

## **Disney's The Little Mermaid**

Directors

**Oliver Mayes & Patrick Simonsen**

Stage Manager  
**Kevin Wintering**

Choreographer  
**Leigh Spencer**

Sound Designer  
**Malia Lukomski**

Scenic Designer  
**Jill Clark**

Lighting Designer  
**Nicholas Zoia**

Costume, Hair & Makeup Designer  
**Brittney Lewis**

Music Director  
**Matthew Walicke**

### **RIGHTS**

Music by  
**Alan Menken**

Lyrics by  
**Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater**

Book by  
**Doug Wright**

**Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & directed by John Musker & Ron Clements.**

Originally Produced by  
Disney Theatrical Productions

Orchestrations by Danny Troob  
Incidental Music & Vocal Arrangements by Michael Kosarin  
Dance Arrangements by David Chase

### **WARNINGS**

Please be aware that this production contains the use of fog/haze and flashing lights.

### **DIGITAL COPY OF PROGRAM**





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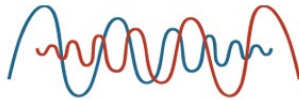
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Heather Allmindinger, Liz Bergstrom, Gail Blocker, Donna Bofenkamp, Julie Clark, William Daugherty, Marsha Englert, Sheryl Faber, Brian Griebel, Christy Green, Karen Groeneveld, Carole Hamerin, Sarah Johansen, Kathleen Kersey, Valerie Loudenback, Maddie Lukomski, Christiane Maroun Sulaiman, Maggie Mayes, Sharon Meile, June Mikkelson, Sean Mueller, Chris Nelson, Matt Nesmith, Terry Nielsen, Alexandria Nissen, Terry & Susan Prendergast, Mike Richards, James Roberts, Teresa Schulte, Kjerstin Smith, Rachel Smith, Todd & Shari Sumner, Daniel Vine, Tanya Wenzel

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**The**

**Little**

**Mermaid**



# Managing Artistic Director's Note



Welcome to The Premiere Playhouse's 21st mainstage season opener, *The Little Mermaid!* We are thrilled to bring Sioux Falls a splash of Disney magic in our own, creative way, and I thank you for supporting us in this exciting endeavor. With a talented cast and crew on board, I assure you that you are in for a boat load of fun!

Not only is this family-friendly story appropriate to our goal of offering intergenerational theatre experiences for onstage and offstage artists to collaborate within, but it also sends a message to audiences that we believe wholeheartedly here at TPP. As we watch Ariel's journey in this musical she learns about the possibility, and in turn the value of, found community. Sometimes where we are meant to be at any given time isn't where we are originally from and sometimes a place or group of people that feel like home to us aren't a place or group we've always known. This is a concept that many theatre folks find solace in, and a notion familiar to our very own cast and crew throughout this production's process, as they built a creative community that has begun to feel much like home.

"It takes a village" is very applicable to producing a large-scale musical. Through our preparations, I have witnessed an incredible level of collaboration and teamwork among a large theatre community to bring this iconic tale to Sioux Falls audiences. Many, many people make this production possible – some of which you are about to watch shine on stage, others are at the front of house and backstage making it all happen, some fundraised for it, some funded it, and the rest designed or created the world it is all living in. A collaboration as large and diverse as this is extraordinary and full of enrichment for each individual involved, including those witnessing the presentation of this collaborative labor of love – the reason I am glad you are here with us today!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you and express extreme gratitude to our sponsors for this production: SDN Communications at the Producer level, CNA Surety at the Sponsor level, and our Season Sponsor, First Premier Bank for their generous support and belief in our mission. Without the philanthropy of corporations such as First Premier, CNA, SDN, and our other dedicated partners, we would not be able to successfully bring community-based theatre and education to Sioux Falls.

If you are positively impacted by your experience with us and want to help our non-profit organization continue to bring your community quality, thought provoking entertainment and education, I encourage you to tell a friend or family member about us, come volunteer in whatever capacity you can, make a tax-deductible donation, and/or subscribe to our 21st season full of exciting, ground-breaking theatrical history landmarks!

Your patronage of our organization is greatly appreciated. Enjoy the show!

Thank you for supporting local theatre,

**Oliver Mayes**  
*Managing Artistic Director*



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# Director's Note



Welcome to our enchanting underwater world as we dive into Disney's *The Little Mermaid* at The Premiere Playhouse. It is with great joy and anticipation that we present this beloved tale to you tonight. *The Little Mermaid* is a story of courage, curiosity, and the enduring power of love. As you watch our talented cast bring these iconic characters to life, we invite you to relive the magic of this timeless classic.

Our production is a labor of love, a collaboration of countless hours of dedication, creativity, and passion. We've worked tirelessly to transport you to a world beneath the waves, where mermaids sing, fish play, and dreams take flight on the shimmering tides. We hope that this production not only entertains you but also touches your heart. Through the journey of Ariel, a young mermaid with an indomitable spirit, we explore themes of self-discovery, sacrifice, and the importance of staying true to oneself. We invite you to reflect on the profound lessons hidden beneath the surface of this fantastical tale.

Our talented cast, crew, and creative team have poured their hearts into this production, and we are excited to share it with you. Your laughter, applause, and shared moments of wonder are the truest rewards for our efforts. So sit back, let your imagination run wild, and allow the magic of *The Little Mermaid* to wash over you. Join us in celebrating the enduring power of storytelling and the enchantment of live theatre.

Thank you for joining us on this aquatic adventure. We hope you enjoy the show and carry its melodies and messages with you long after the final curtain falls.

With deep gratitude and fins full of love,

**Patrick Simonsen**  
*Staging Director*



# About The Show

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

15 Minute Intermission

### Act 1

*"The World Above"*

Ariel

*"Fathoms Below"*

Pilot, Sailors, Prince Eric, Grimsby

*"Daughters of Triton"*

Mersisters: Aquata, Atina, Adella, Arista, Allana, Andrina

*"If Only (Triton's Lament)"*

King Triton

*"Daddy's Little Angel"*

Ursula, Flotsam, Jetsam

*"Part of Your World"*

Ariel

*"The Storm"*

Pilot, Sailors, Prince Eric, Grimsby, Ariel, Scuttle, Flounder, Mersisters

*"Part of Your World (Reprise)"*

Ariel

*"She's in Love"*

Mersisters, Flounder

*"Her Voice"*

Prince Eric

*"Under the Sea"*

Sebastian, Sea Creatures/Elements, School of Fish, Mersisters

*"If Only (Ariel's Lament)"*

Ariel

*"Sweet Child"*

Flotsam, Jetsam, Ariel

*"Poor Unfortunate Souls"*

Ursula, Ariel, Flotsam, Jetsam

*"Act One Finale"*

Ursula, Ariel Flotsam, Jetsam, Sea Elements

### Act 2

*"Positootivity"*

Scuttle, Gulls

*"Beyond My Wildest Dreams"*

Ariel, Maids, Grimsby

*"Les Poissons"*

Chef Louis

*"Le Poissons (Reprise)"*

Chef Louis, Chefs

*"One Step Closer"*

Eric, Ariel

*"Daddy's Little Angel (Reprise)"*

Eric, Ariel

*"Kiss the Girl"*

Sebastian, Scuttle, Flounder, Prince Eric, Ariel, Animals, Sea Elements

*"If Only (Quartet)"*

Ariel, Prince Eric, Sebastian, King Triton

*"The Contest"*

Grimsby, Princesses

*"Poor Unfortunate Souls (Reprise)"*

Ursula, King Triton

*"Finale Ultimo"*

Full Company

## SYNOPSIS

In a magical kingdom beneath the sea, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above.



# TPP Education Lineup

THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

EDUCATION



Register Here!



Camp: Oct 23 - Nov 16, M-Th, 4:30 - 6:30pm

Performance: Nov 17 @ 6:00pm & Nov 18 @ 1:00pm



[www.thepremiereplayhouse.com/education](http://www.thepremiereplayhouse.com/education)

## Acting Classes

(Youth & Adult Sessions)

### Actors' Studio

9/12/23 - 10/17/23 (Tuesdays)

### Auditioning In Musical Theatre

November 4, 2023

### Tips For Beginning Taps

January 13, 2024

### Improving Our Improv

3/4/24 - 4/15/24

### Moving Through Dance

April 6, 2024

### Playing With Playwriting

June 1, 2024

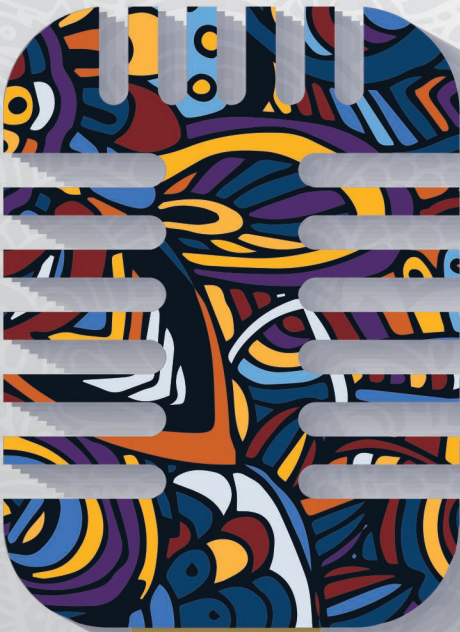
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# Cast

<b>Windward</b>	Abby Kustak
<b>Pilot</b>	Adrian Johnson
<b>Aquata, Princess 2</b>	Alex Van Voorhis
<b>Atina, Princess 1</b>	Allegra Sekely
<b>Adella, Princess 3</b>	Anna Warntjes
<b>Flounder</b>	Ava Breems
<b>Chef Louis</b>	Barry Longden
<b>Grimsby</b>	Casey Kustak
<b>King Triton</b>	Clinton Store
<b>Prince Eric</b>	Connor Klimek
<b>Arista, Princess 5</b>	Elaina Henderson
<b>Sebastian</b>	Etta McKinley
<b>Jetsam</b>	Grace Kjelden
<b>Leeward</b>	Hope Humphrey
<b>Ursula</b>	Jessica Johannsen
<b>Allana, Princess 4</b>	Kate Stahl
<b>Andrina, Princess 6</b>	Kjersti Olson
<b>Ariel</b>	Madison Gerhart
<b>Scuttle</b>	Mike Richards
<b>Flotsam</b>	Samantha Davis



# Cast



## ***Dance Ensemble***

(Gulls, Sea Creatures, Maids)

Abby Schwedhelm, Ceil Stoll,  
Shannon Dancler, Tiffany Koppes

## ***Ensemble***

(Sailors, Sea Creatures/Elements, Chefs, Animals)

Abby Kustak, Adrian Johnson, Barry Longden, Christian  
Heiberger, Hope Humphrey, Jamie Bowden, Jimmy  
McLain, Joshua Allen, Lyn Mock, Ryan G. Harrison,  
Torrance Serck

## ***Youth Ensemble***

(School of Fish)

Beckett Kustak, Hanalei Barrett, Penelope  
Kustak, Simon Cole, Sophia Fette

## ***Understudies***

**King Triton:** Adrian Johnson **Sebastian:** Allegra Sekely

**Flotsam:** Anna Warntjes **Ursula:** Audrey Simmons **Mersister:**

Ceil Stoll **Scuttle:** Grace Kjelden **Prince Eric:** Jimmy McLain

**Chef Louis:** Joshua Allen **Ariel:** Kate Stahl **Grimsbey:** Ryan

G. Harrison **Flounder:** Sophia Fette **Jetsam:** Tiffany Koppes

**Dance Ensemble:** Hope Humphrey



# Production Team

<b>Production Manager</b>	Alex Newcomb Weiland
<b>Assistant Scenic Designer, Charge Scenic Artist</b>	Alexondrea Thong Vanh
<b>Costume, Hair, &amp; Makeup Designer, Costume Shop Manager</b>	Brittney Lewis
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Elizabeth Wintering
<b>Properties Artisan</b>	Jake Cox
<b>Scenic Designer</b>	Jill Clark
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Kevin Wintering
<b>Choreographer</b>	Leigh Spencer
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Magen Richael
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Malia Lukomski
<b>Music Director</b>	Matthew Walicke
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Nicholas Zoia
<b>Casting &amp; Design Director, Producer</b>	Oliver Mayes
<b>Staging Director</b>	Patrick Simonsen
<b>Technical Director</b>	Pierce Humke
<b>Assistant Choreographer</b>	Tiffany Koppes

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17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30  
October 1, 5, 6, 7, 8



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November 30 December 1, 2,  
3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 28,  
29, 30, 31 January 4, 5, 6, 7



## DEATHTRAP

February 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24,  
25, 29 March 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10,  
14, 15, 16, 17



## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

May 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16,  
17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26,  
30, 31 June 1, 2



## 2023-2024 SEASON

Thursday & Friday 6:30 - Saturday & Sunday 5:30  
tickets@oldetownetheatre.org (605) 372 - 4653  
P.O. Box 214, 121 S. Main St. Worthing, SD 57077



# Crew

**Deck Captain** Lauren Boesch

**Backstage Crew** Jackson Heiberger, Inda Johnson  
Alli Goeller, Lainey Libengood,  
Rex Williams

**Audio Engineer** Jacob Moeller

**Dance & Lift Captain** Shannon Dancler

**Dance Captain** Alex Van Voorhis

**Build Crew** Adam Carpenter  
Alli Goeller  
O'Gorman High School Department  
Cast

**Deck Crew** Valerie Arens



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# Meet The Cast



## **Abby Kustak** / *Windward, Ensemble*

---

Abby (she/her) is excited to share the stage with her husband (Casey) and two kids (Beckett/Penny). She has recently performed as (Madame) in TPP's *Cinderella*. Abby enjoys teaching and working behind the scenes. Recent productions: *Suessical Jr.*, *Shrek Jr.*, *Annie Jr.*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Young Frankenstein*. Abby is Education Coordinating Assistant at TPP and would be happy to assist you in your future involvement at TPP!



## **Abby Schwedhelm** / *Dance Ensemble*

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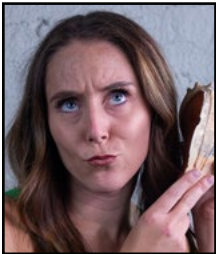
Abby is back on the Orpheum stage for TPP's season 21 magical opener. You have previously seen Abby direct *Shrek Jr.* with TPP's education program; she's performed on stage in *Grease*, *The Premiere Premieres*, and *A Christmas Carol*. When Abby isn't on stage she loves to read and dance. She is delighted to show you her tippydy tappidy moves as a dancer in this underwater adventure!



## **Adrian Johnson** / *Pilot, Ensemble, King Triton U/S*

---

Adrian is honored to be back on stage again with TPP for his 3rd musical. He previously performed in *Young Frankenstein* (Ensemble, u/s Victor), and more recently, *Cinderella* (Lord Pinkleton). Like the other shows, he is thankful to be performing with talented people on stage, directing, and behind the scenes. He is very appreciative for his daughter India encouraging me to give TPP a try about a year ago! Adrian works from home for a freight broker company, and is continually thankful for the support of his family and friends!



## **Alex Van Voorhis** / *Aquata, Princess 2, Dance Captain*

---

Alex (she/her) fell in love with performing at age two and never turned back. Alex has performed at TPP as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* and Urleen in *Footloose*, worked as a character performer at Walt Disney World, and performed in the Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps Color Guard. Alex has also been an active member of LiRa Dance Company and Simply Ever After Entertainment since 2018. Alex recently completed a master's degree in Social Work and works as a Grants Program Manager at the SD Network Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault. Alex spends free time traveling, hiking, and spending time with her husband (Matt) and golden retriever (Nala).



## **Allegra Sekely** / *Atina, Princess 1, Sebastian U/S*

---

Allegra (she/her) is overjoyed to be back with TPP for her 5th production at the Orpheum. Her last appearance in *Cinderella* (2023) brought the passion to continue on with her acting. She began acting in 2019 with TPP's *Mama Mia*. She is usually working as Nurse for Sanford Hospice Cottages. But her true Love of music and acting could not be overtaken. Allegra would like to thank her Family and Loving husband Andrew for always supporting her passions.

# Meet The Cast



## **Anna Warntjes** / *Adella, Princess 3, Flotsam U/S*

---

Anna (she/her) is excited to be making her TPP debut! Anna grew up in Rock Rapids, Iowa, where she graduated from Central Lyon Senior High School this May. Anna has performed in over 20+ musicals/plays in her life starting from when she was 6. Her most recent roles have been Medda Larkin in *Newsies* and Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Anna will be moving to New York City this October where she is planning to study musical theatre at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and finally spread her wings. Fun fact - Anna's dream role is Ursula!



## **Audrey Simmons** / *Ursula U/S*

---

Audrey is shrimply ecstatic to oh-fish-ally be a part of *The Little Mermaid* as the offstage understudy for Ursula! This is Audrey's second opportunity to be involved in a TPP production with the first being the season 20 finale *Grease*. When not at the theater, Audrey's hobbies include fishing, eating sushi, and selling seashells by the seashore. Audrey hopes you all have a whale of a time and enjoy the show!!



## **Ava Breems** / *Flounder*

---

Ava (she/her) is so happy to be back onstage at TPP. Her latest endeavors were as AD and offstage swing for *Cinderella*, run crew for *A Christmas Carol*, and ensemble in *Young Frankenstein*. When not thespian-ing, she works at Coffea (with co-workers who have been so supportive of her, thank-you to them). With the free time she has, she spends it drawing and painting, songwriting, or just planning her outfits. She thanks her younger self, from whom she draws inspiration in this role, as well as TPP for the opportunity to continue doing what she loves.



## **Barry Longden** / *Chef Louis, Ensemble*

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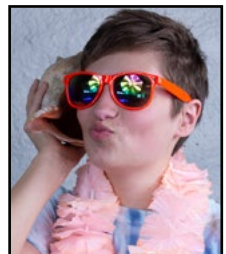
Barry is excited to be in TPP's production of *The Little Mermaid*. Barry works as a math teacher at the Harrisburg Freshman Academy. You last saw Barry in TPP's production of *Grease*. Barry has also been involved with other TPP productions including *MAMMA MIA!*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Young Frankenstein*. If Barry had a nickel for every time he played a French speaking character in a TPP Disney production, he would have two nickels. Which isn't a lot, but it's funny that it's happened twice.



## **Beckett Kustak** / *Youth Ensemble*

---

Beckett returns for the 3rd time to TPP's MainStage after performing in last season's *A Christmas Carol* and *Cinderella*. They have also spent the last 2 years as a mentor in The Penguin Project's *Annie Jr.* and *Seussical Jr.* Beckett was also last seen as Peter Pan in TPP's Summer Camp performance of *Shrek Jr.* You wouldn't know it, but they have spent countless hours helping backstage with many of the other productions! Now, they are excited to share the stage with their entire family. No longer a guppy, Beckett's ready for the Big Time!





# Meet The Cast



## **Casey Kustak / Grimsby**

---

You may remember Casey from such classics: *Throw Momma From the Rail Car*, Tyler Perry's *My Big Fat Family Reunion 3: The Smith's Gender Reveal Destroys a National Park*, *Thirteen Ghosts but 12 of them are just Casper in Different Wigs*, and most recently *Fast X* opposite Vin Diesel. When he's not making up Bio's you aren't reading, he is enjoying his time with TPP. Casey's excited to share the stage with his wife (Abby) and Children (Beckett and Penelope), considering the last time they shared a stage they made the Blue Man Group, The Green with Envy Man Group. Enjoy the show, unless you are Steve. Steve can eat rocks.



## **Ceil Stoll / Dance Ensemble, Mersister U/S**

---

Ceil (they/them) is THRILLED to be making their TPP and community theatre debut in *The Little Mermaid!* Their most recent acting credits include Hercule Poirot in Augustana University's *Murder on The Orient Express* and receiving the honor of playing "The Guardian" in their friend Kate Brown's senior thesis play, *The Womb*. Ceil is currently a senior psychology student at Augustana University, and will be graduating in December. Ceil would like to thank their sisters and their parents, biological and bonus, and their life partner, Ian, for absolutely everything.



## **Christian Heiberger / Ensemble**

---

Christian Heiberger (ensemble) is back on stage for his 14th show since joining the theatre community in 2019 (13th with Premiere Playhouse). When not performing, he works at the Glory House. Outside of his love for performing, he enjoys D&D with friends, free running/climbing at Falls Park, baking for friends and co-workers, and appearing as various characters for Simply Ever After Entertainment. Special thanks to his brother Jackson who went with to those first auditions in 2019 and has always been there for support along the way. Hope you enjoyed your break. Now get back on stage, you bum. =]



## **Clinton Store / King Triton**

---

Clinton is back as ruler of the Seas in this all-star cast of *The Little Mermaid*. His most recent credits include: *Grease* (Kenickie), *Cinderella* (Sebastian), and *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Present). He has performed with the Premiere Playhouse, The GoodNight Theatre Collective, The Mighty Corson Art Players, Monstrous Little Theatre, Broad Cast Theatre, The Sioux Falls Dinner Detective, Simply Ever After Entertainment, appeared in commercials and independent films, and hosted local events. When not on stage or in front of a camera, he works as a Cybersecurity professional and recently retired from the military as a Chief Warrant Officer (IT Specialist). "Thank you to this community for welcoming me into the Arts and to all my family and friends."



## **Connor Klimek / Prince Eric**

---

Connor (He/Him) is honored to return to TPP's stage as Prince Eric. This is Connor's second appearance on the Orpheum stage; you may remember him as Doody in season 20's *Grease*. Hopefully you don't get sick of him, because he plans to return for many more shows! Connor can't wait to deliver a wonderful show alongside his fantastic cast mates and crew! Windward ho!



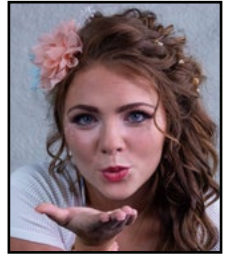
# Meet The Cast



## **Elaina Henderson** / *Arista, Princess 5*

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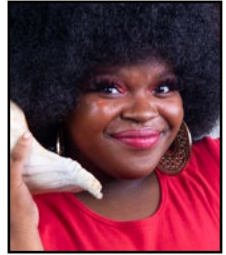
Elaina Henderson lives in Sioux Falls with her husband, Carter. She has a degree in Deaf studies and is working to complete the ASL interpreting program at Augustana University this fall. Elaina is originally from Minnesota where she participated in theatre for ten years. Some of her favorite roles include: *Laurey, Oklahoma!*, *Viola, Twelfth Night*, *Puck, A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Snoopy, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Oliver, Oliver Twist*. Aside from singing and playing the guitar, Elaina enjoys water skiing, mountain biking, and sharing outdoor adventures with her husband and family.



## **Etta McKinley** / *Sebastian*

---

Etta (she/her) is a singer, songwriter, musical theatre performer, and activist based in Sioux Falls. She attended the American Musical Dramatics academy in NYC in 2021. Over this past year she was involved with the Levitt Sioux Falls and she started her own band that performed at this years Juneteenth. She was also in The Goodnight Theatre Collectives productions of *A Haunted Cabaret* and *Reefer Madness* and is now making her Premiere Playhouse debut!



## **Grace Kjelden** / *Jetsam, Scuttle U/S*

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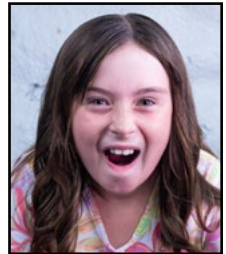
Grace (she/her) is excited to be back on TPP's stage as Jetsam! Some recent roles of hers include Assistant Choreographer for *Seussical Jr.* and Becca in *The Theatre at Night at The Premiere Premieres*, and Gloria in *At Long Last Leo* at the Mighty Corson Art Players. She works as an Education Assistant at Whittier Middle School, and in her free time she likes to read, listen to records, and crochet. She would like to thank her parents and community theatre families for all the love and support they have shown. She hopes you enjoy the show!



## **Hanalei Barrett** / *Youth Ensemble*

---

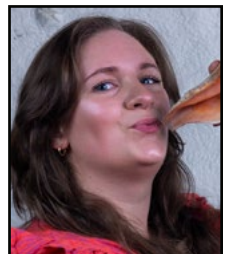
Hanalei Barrett (age 10) is excited to join her friends in the youth ensemble to create a school of fish. This role fits her swimmingly since she enjoys the water off stage as well as on. She can often be found at the public pool. Her favorite people to jump and flip off the diving board with are her younger siblings Ardiana, Hosea and Selah. She would like to thank TPP for this opportunity as *The Little Mermaid* is her 5th production with them.



## **Hope Humphrey** / *Leeward, Ensemble*

---

Hope (she/her) is excited to be back on stage in her TPP debut! She grew up performing in her hometown of Jefferson, TX but hasn't been on stage since 2018. Since then, she graduated from Baylor University, moved to Sioux Falls to pursue her Master's in Genetic Counseling at Augustana University, and now works at the Blarney Stone Pub. Hope wants to thank her loved ones in South Dakota and Texas for encouraging her to listen to her creative side. This has been a lovely experience, and she is excited to share this beautiful production with her newfound community.





SIoux FALLS

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**STARRING DAVID SHANNON | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023**

Often referred to as Ireland's Greatest Showman, David Shannon has been singing professionally for more than 25 years and is renowned for his engaging performance style and charming personality. Along with David's powerful vocals, he also incorporates the violin, Irish bodhran and multi-media into his concerts. His repertoire is an exciting mix of classic Irish songs and selections from his starring roles on Broadway and London's West End.



### **THE SUITS**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023**

Suits are comprised of four dynamic gentlemen performing four genres of hit music across four decades. The group fuses smooth choreography and tight harmonies with exciting showmanship and fun audience interaction, and takes audiences on a journey from the 50s through the 80s. Their repertoire features recognizable hits like "Oh What A Night," "My Girl," Signed, Sealed, Delivered," and more!



### **THE STARLETS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024**

The Starlets take you on a musical journey through the 50s & 60s. This powerhouse female vocal trio performs the sounds of pop, doo wop, R&B, and Motown, and dazzles audiences with their fabulous costumes, sizzling choreography, and audience engagement. Their repertoire includes familiar hits like "My Boyfriend's Back," "These Boots Are Made For Walking," and "Stop! In The Name Of Love."



### **SOUNDS OF SILENCE TRIBUTE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024**

The Sounds of Silence Tribute journeys back in time to the 1970s Greenwich Folk Village Scene, to a timeless era of music when lyrics and melody meant something more. Award winning musicians Steven Delopoulos and Johnny Phillips are known for their unique sound, energetic live shows, and introspective lyrics underscored by their remarkable musicianship. Their concert features the music of Simon & Garfunkel, Bob Dylan, John Denver, Cat Stevens, Don McLean, and more.



### **BENNIE & THE JETS**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024**

Bennie & the Jets is the premier Elton John tribute. Led by Greg Ransom on piano and vocals, this group has performed around the world for a variety of audiences. In honor of his 2022 farewell tour, this concert offers audiences the opportunity to relive Elton John's iconic catalog of music, including "Candle in the Wind," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," and "Rocket Man."



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# Meet The Cast



## **Jamie Bowden** / *Ensemble*

---

Jamie's theater involvement began with TPP's 20th season finale production of *Grease* as a production assistant/off-stage swing. Jamie is now thrilled to be making his stage debut in TPP's 21st season opener, *The Little Mermaid*, as part of the ensemble (sailor/chef/sea element)! With an interest in theater/film, in his free time, Jamie enjoys screenwriting and developing new stage/screen ideas. He is honored to be part of this amazing cast/crew and hopes to continue his theater journey in many of TPP's future productions!



## **Jess Johannsen** / *Ursula*

---

Jess (she/her) returns to the Playhouse stage in *The Little Mermaid* for the first time since 2021's *The Odd Couple*. An active performer and vocalist in the Sioux Falls area, Jess has appeared in several productions over the past decade, notably serving as a collective member with The Good Night Theater Collective for the past 4 years. Recent roles have included Mae in *Reefer Madness*, and The Witch in *Into the Woods*. Jess is a self-described "Disney Renaissance Nerd", who is thrilled to be playing her favorite character, Ursula. Unlike her character, Jess adores and thanks her family for their continued support and love, with special thanks to her cats Stanley Tucci and Ethel Merman for allowing her to loudly sing and cackle at them in preparation for this show.



## **Jim McLain** / *Ensemble, Prince Eric U/S*

---

Jim (he/him) is honored to be a first time performer for TPP! He has done plays and musicals since childhood in Pierre, SD, and moved to Sioux Falls this summer. His last role was Dr. Carrasco / The Duke in *Man of La Mancha* for Pierre Players in July 2021. He has lived in Minneapolis, Boston, Ecuador, and Cincinnati in the last 10 years, mostly teaching and coaching swimming. He just started as a 7th grade Social Studies Teacher at Patrick Henry Middle School. He would like to thank his parents, siblings, niece and nephew, the Pierre Players community, and the overwhelmingly welcoming TPP crew for the support and the laughs.



## **Joshua Allen** / *Ensemble, Chef Louis U/S*

---

Josh is thrilled to be back where it all began with community theatre, singing and dancing in a wonderful ensemble with TPP! Since 2021 *The Little Mermaid* is Josh's 6th show with TPP and 10th show in the local community! Josh is thankful for the lessons and experience each show brings and is so excited for the magic that will be opening this season with TPP! They warned the front row about the splash zone right?



## **Kate Stahl** / *Allana, Princess 4, Ariel U/S*

---

Kate (she/her) is making her TPP debut with this production of *The Little Mermaid*! She grew up performing as a dancer and entered the theatre world at age 13. Currently, she is a student at Augustana University and an instructor at BritZa Performing Arts. Kate is ecstatic to be performing for the first time since graduating high school and is looking forward to being involved in shows with TPP in years to come. She would like to thank her parents for supporting and encouraging her to do what she loves.

# Meet The Cast



## **Kjersti Olson** / *Andrina, Princess 6*

---

Kjersti (she/her) graduated from Augustana University in 2022 with degrees in Music and Theatre, and had numerous stage credits during her college career, with her favorite being Marmee/Hag in *Little Women*. After joining the Premiere Playhouse in the spring for *Cinderella*, she is delighted to return to help bring another classic fairytale to life on the Orpheum stage!



## **Lyn Mock** / *Ensemble*

---

Lyn had her debut in theater back in 2019 when she was cast as Mrs. Bedwin in *Oliver*. She was instantly bitten by the bug and has done several shows since then with this show being her lucky number 7. Lyn is a Branch Office Administrator for Edward Jones by day and enjoys gardening in her spare time. She enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her husband, two sons & daughter in law, granddog & 2 cats. She is often teased for singing all the time and is partial to songs from the *The Little Mermaid* (what a coincidence). She also can be seen singing at her church, Peace Lutheran in "Spirit of Peace". Special thanks to her husband, Jason, who has supported her, fed her before practices and endured weeks of her singing & dancing around the house. She hopes you enjoy this magical story and secretly wishes the songs will get stuck in your head.



## **Madison Gerhart** / *Ariel*

---

Mads (she/her) is thrilled to return to TPP for her 5th show! After the amazing production of *Grease* playing Sandra Dee, she "swims" into her dream role of Ariel. Madi started performing in the theatre world a year and a half ago. She would like to thank her amazing directors for pushing her to be her best, and everyone that supported along the way! She will never forget the amazing friendships this community has created! She would also like to thank her mom for being her biggest supporter of all, and starting her love for singing at a young age.



## **Mike Richards** / *Scuttle*

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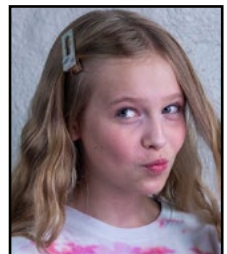
Having successfully convinced the casting team that his legs were indeed the birdiest, Mike (he/him) is thrilled to be back at the Orpheum. He has performed in numerous productions on this stage as well as Olde Towne Dinner Theatre (where they suckered him into being on the board) and Mighty Corson Art Players. His credits include *Rent*, *Rock of Ages*, *Godspell*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*. He loves to sing, play games, and watch movies in his 30-40 seconds of free time. He would love to thank his family, friends, and especially Melissa for all of their support.



## **Penelope Kustak** / *Youth Ensemble*

---

Penelope makes her return to TPP MainStage as part of the Youth Ensemble. This marks her 3rd MainStage production after *A Christmas Carol* and last season's *Cinderella*. She has also performed as a Mentor for The Penguin Project's *Annie Jr.* and *Suessical Jr.* She has also performed in TPP's Summer Camp *Shrek Jr.* as the Stunning Duckling and DAPA's *The Week After XMas*. Now it's her first show she shares the stage with her entire family. There is no need to hold your breath, they are not really under water. Penny learned that the hard way.





# Meet The Cast



## **Ryan G. Harrison** / *Ensemble, Grimsby U/S*

---

Ryan G. Harrison (he/him) is happy to be back with TPP from his debut in *The Odd Couple* in 2021. Since his last TPP appearance Ryan has been on stage in Worthing as Josh in *2 Across* and stage managed for The Corson Art Players. Ryan is often found begging his friends to play board games or preparing for the next audition. Ryan wants to thank his family for their absolute support and love for him in his pursuit of theatre.



## **Samantha Davis** / *Flotsam*

---

Samantha (she/her) is excited to be performing in her very first TPP production! She is originally from the Twin Cities and is a Concordia College alumni. Samantha lives in Pipestone, MN where she is the Elementary Music Teacher as well as a member of the AI Opland Singers, the Calumet Players Community Theater, is a board member of the Arts and Mentoring Project, and teaches piano and voice lessons on the side. She would like to thank her family for being her biggest fans and her boyfriend, Connor, for being her best cheerleader and an amazing cat stepdad.



## **Shannon Dancler** / *Dance Ensemble, Dance Captain, Lift Captain*

---

Shannon (she/her) is thrilled to return to the Sioux Falls Stage with TPP. Her most recent works include, *Beauty and the Beast* at the Ordway in St. Paul and playing Mimi in *RENT* with Inver Grove Heights Community Theater. This spring, Shannon completed Broadway Dance Center's Professional Semester, in NYC, where she trained with current Broadway actors and performed at Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater. She's excited to be back home to share what she has learned and her continued passion for performance. She would love to thank her friends, family, and partner for continually supporting her dreams.  
*IG @shan\_dann.*



## **Simon Cole** / *Youth Ensemble*

---

Simon Cole (he/him) is excited to be back with The Premiere Playhouse for the 5th time. Previously you might have seen him in *Shrek Jr.* (Shrek), *Beauty and the Beast* (youth ensemble), *Marry Poppins Jr.* (Bert), *Snow White* (mirror) and many more. In Simon's free time he likes traveling, knitting, tapping, playing the piano and shopping. Simon would like to thank his parents and family for supporting him in his journey. He hopes you enjoy this majestic performance!!



## **Sophia Fette** / *Youth Ensemble, Flounder U/S*

---

Sophia Fette is excited to join the amazing cast of *The Little Mermaid* for her fourth show with TPP. Sophia has been performing on the stage since she was six years old. When she isn't performing, you can find her helping out backstage. Sophia takes voice and dance lessons, plays in the school orchestra, sings in the school choir, and plays middle school volleyball. Her favorite place in the world is New York City, where she hopes to one day study musical theater. She thanks her parents for always supporting her in her many activities.

# Meet The Cast



## **Tiffany Koppes** / *Dance Ensemble, Jetsam U/S,* *Assistant Choreographer*

Tiffany is excited to be back on stage with TPP. Getting to do both of her loves, performing and choreographing, for this show has been a dream! Past stage credits include *Grease*, *Rock of Ages*, and *Mary Poppins*, while she has choreographed for such shows as *Cinderella*, *Newsies*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oliver*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Tiffany would like to thank her husband and kids for their love and support!



## **Torrance Serck** / *Ensemble*

Torry is excited for his TTP debut in the choral ensemble for *The Little Mermaid*. He is a sophomore in Alcester-Hudson Highschool, and is active in the school choir and an All-state chorus member two years running. He has a passion for acting and singing. His past roles include a jock in *Highschool Musical Jr.* through the DAPA program, multiple sub characters in *The "Wo"man That Came to Dinner* in his high school play, Scar in *The Lion King Jr.* through Olde Town Dinner Theatre kids camp, Snowy the Goose in *Honk Jr.* through DAPA, Skuttle in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* in his highschool musical, and most recently Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* through Old Town Dinner Theatre kids camp.



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Support Our Stage 2023-2024

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**On Golden Pond**  
October 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15 - 2023

**Coney Island Christmas**  
December 8, 9, 10 & 15, 16, 17 - 2023

**Unnecessary Farce**  
March 1, 2, 3 & 8, 9, 10 - 2024

**Gilligan's Island (The Musical)**  
May 10, 11, 12 & 17, 18, 19 - 2024

\*EXTRAS at A.C.T. might include Johnny Cash Tribute, Branson Ozark Jubilee & Tonic Sol Fa's Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience  
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# Production Team



## **Alex Newcomb Weiland** / *Production Manager*

---

Alex (She/Her) works as the Production Specialist & Education Coordinator at The Premiere Playhouse. She graduated from The University of South Dakota with a BFA in Musical Theatre/Dance Minor. Alex has worked with companies such as Bare Bodkins, Good Night Theatre Collective and The Black Hills Playhouse. She directed *Footloose* in Season 18 & *Cinderella* in Season 20 at The Premiere Playhouse as well as *Stop Kiss* with Monstrous Little Theatre Company. She wants to thank her partner, Nathan, her friends, family, TPP staff, production team & cast for their continued love & support. This is truly a community of giving! Enjoy the show!

## **Alexondrea Thong Vanh** / *Charge Scenic Artist, Assistant Scenic Designer*

---

Alexondrea is thrilled to dive into the magic of this show! Alex graduated from American Musical Dramatic Academy New York and University of South Dakota (Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre/Acting). She is a local theatre/commercial actor, singer, and scenic artist for both The Premiere Playhouse and Good Night Theatre Collective. In any free time, she enjoys baking and laughing with her husband and two boys.  
[www.alexondreadi.com](http://www.alexondreadi.com) @alexondreadi

## **Brittney Lewis** / *Costume, Hair, & Makeup Designer, Costume Shop Manager*

---

Brittney graduated from the University of South Dakota in May 2022 with a degree in Costume Design and Construction. Her most recent credits are directing the world premiere of *The Theater at Night* and costume designing *Grease* and The Penguin Project's *Seussical Jr.* For the Premiere Playhouse, she recently costume designed *Cinderella*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Annie Jr.* Exploring and creating the world under the sea has been such a fun and collaborative process! Sit back and watch the ocean come to life.

## **Elizabeth Wintering** / *Assistant Stage Manager*

---

Elizabeth is excited to return to the [back]stage for The Little Mermaid! This is her fifth show with TPP, and her third as ASM. She has loved watching this cast put in so much hard work, as well as working with the creative team orchestrating it all! She hopes you enjoy the magic on stage, as much as we enjoy it off stage. She would like to thank her husband, Kevin-life is ze bubbles with you.

## **Jake Cox** / *Properties Artisan*

---

Jacob "Jake" Cox returns for a new playhouse season as the mysterious Properties Artisan, lurking backstage and muttering, "Is that your prop?" at unwary passersby. If you're getting married or renewing your vows, visit Jake online at [SiouxFallsWeddingOfficiant.com](http://SiouxFallsWeddingOfficiant.com) Jake wrote a novel! Buy Mr. Smith Isn't Afraid of the Dark for Kindle at [tinyurl.com/MrSmithNovel](http://tinyurl.com/MrSmithNovel)

## **Kevin Wintering** / *Stage Manager*

---

Kevin Wintering is back for season 21. After taking a short break from Stage Managing to be on stage as Sonny in last season's *Grease*, Kevin is excited to be back in the booth for *The Little Mermaid*. Last season you saw him SMing for *Cinderella*, *The Premiere Premieres*, and ASMing for *A Christmas Carol*. Coming up on his first full year in Sioux Falls just after TLM closes, you will be seeing a lot more of Kevin this season! Kevin is ecstatic to work with such a talented Directorial team as well as a phenomenal cast of actors.



# Production Team

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## **Leigh Spencer** / *Choreographer*

---

Leigh has enjoyed choreographing her first show for TPP! She has performed in 5 previous TPP shows, as Mickey in *The Odd Couple* and dancing in the ensemble and moving furniture for *Young Frankenstein*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Mary Poppins*. Leigh is the Director of Education for the Great Plains Zoo and Butterfly House & Aquarium, and she spends her free time writing, birding, and hiking. She would like to thank her parents, her friends, and everyone at work for listening to her ramble about theater for the last 8 weeks.

---

## **Magen Richeal** / *Assistant Director*

---

Magen is honored to make her assistant directing debut with this dynamically creative production team! Magen has danced her entire life as a student, teacher, choreographer, and studio owner. She has choreographed countless dance and competitive cheer routines, as well as, for musical theatre. A few of her most recent musical theatre credits include *Grease*, *Cabaret*, and *Blood Brothers*, for The Premiere Playhouse. She would like to thank the entire *Little Mermaid* cast and production team for their shared love of music and theatre!

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## **Matthew Walicke** / *Music Director*

---

Matthew Walicke is thrilled to be the music director for this production of *The Little Mermaid*. He is an active conductor, composer, singer, voice teacher, and organist / pianist, in his 14th year as Director of Music and Worship Arts at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. An active music director, producer, arranger, composer, and actor in the local theatre scene, Matthew has been providing musical leadership for local theaters since 2011. His credits with TPP include *Grease*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Shrek Jr.*, *Annie Jr.*, *Les Miserables*, and *A Christmas Carol*, to name a few. Matthew enjoys cooking, hiking, and traveling with his wife Tasondra, their kids, Paul, Evan and Abi, and their two dogs, Arya and Rocko. He and Tasondra are also eagerly awaiting the birth of another son, due this December!

---

## **Oliver Mayes** / *Producer, Casting/Design Director*

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Oliver is a theatre & media artist whose work has been showcased in several states throughout the U.S. including Arkansas, California, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Dakota, and Virginia. With a background in acting, directing, producing, movement choreography, writing, and teaching, his credits span various mediums and genres. He is the recipient of several honors, including the Kennedy Center's 2020 Stage Directors & Choreographers Society Fellowship. Oliver is a scholarship alumnus of the Kennedy Center Directing Intensive and an associate member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, the national union for professional stage directors and choreographers. He holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from University of South Dakota and a BFA in Music Theatre from AMDA College of the Performing Arts.

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## **Patrick Simonsen** / *Staging Director*

---

Patrick (he/him) is honored to make his directorial debut with the Premiere Playhouse's production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*! You may have seen him previously on stage in TPP's *Grease* (Eugene/Teen Angel), Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Prince Topher), and *Cabaret* (Emcee)! Enjoy the show!

---

## **Pierce Humke** / *Technical Director*

---

Pierce is pumped for round two (second season) with TPP and is super excited to be building both theatrical sets community relationships. Most of his time is spent behind the curtains of a production to ensure a spectacular delivery. "There is truly something for everyone in this organization, and I will love to help you realize that. I encourage you to get involved, even just to observe or ask questions. You're invited!"



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# SEASON 21



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Disney's

## The Little Mermaid

Sept 28 - Oct 8, 2023

The Premiere Playhouse Presents

## A Christmas Carol

by CRISPIN WHITTELL

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The Premiere Playhouse Presents

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# Crew (Additional)

**Fly Rail Operators** Adam Carpenter, Corey Rush

**Tech Swing** Valerie Arens

**Build Crew** Audrey Simmons, Jordan Hagel

**Workshop Build Crew** Hunter Reimer, Laurie Bullerman,  
Bob Nelson, Mike Richards,  
Melissa Prostrollo, Karl Sharkey

**Wardrobe Crew** Alli Goeller, Rex Williams

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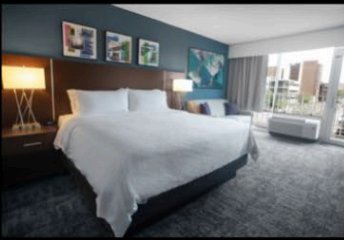


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