THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE

PRESENTS



August 12 - 14, 2022 at The Orpheum Theatre

Book by Thomas Meehan

Music by
Charles Strouse

Lyrics by
Martin Charnin

Presented on Broadway by
Mike Nichols

Originally Produced by

irwin Meyer Stenhen R. Friedma

I amia Allam

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Alvin Nederlander Associates, Inc

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Icarus Productions

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"
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www.thepremiereplayhouse.com



Managing Artistic Director's Note

At The Premiere Playhouse our mission is to strive to create exceptional theatre through education, accessibility, inclusivity, and collaboration to enrich our community. Our partnership with The Penguin Project helps us to achieve many of the goals we are working toward within this mission.

Throughout the production process of Annie Jr., I have witnessed many memorable moments attached to education, accessibility, inclusivity, and collaboration. I have watched our creative team educate our artists and mentors on the development of a stage musical. I have seen, and supported, our production staff in making sure the space is accessible for all participants. I have observed our parents and volunteers working tirelessly to ensure our environment feels inclusive to all individuals. Through all of these experiences — in addition to our joyous production meetings, rehearsals, and social events — I have witnessed truly successful collaboration that has enriched my life, and I'm certain the lives of all others involved too. My hope for today is that you will witness this magic through our production and embrace the enrichment that it offers.

I would like to give special thanks to our Production Specialist and Education Coordinator, Alex Newcomb Weiland for leading the charge in this important endeavor. In producing this show, she was not willing to accept anything less than what these artists deserve, a fun and inspiring process. I feel lucky to have joined the TPP family at a time when programming such as this has been initiated, and I look forward to working with the staff to ensure that this program is able to continue and evolve here at The Premiere Playhouse.

Oliver Mayes Managing Artistic Director



Director's Note

More than a story of rags to riches, *Annie Jr.* is about the world opening up for a young girl. Annie's journey from a dark, cramped orphanage to the vibrancy and freedom of life with Warbucks reflects an unfolding of all the possibilities and joy she hoped for but wasn't sure of. Throughout the process of creating this show, artists and mentors have experienced a similar opening up. These performers (many of whom are brand new to theatre) have surprised themselves with their talent, their natural instincts, and their capacity for meeting challenges creatively. For Annie and for our performers, their persistence in pursuing new possibilities is largely thanks to family and friends who sustain them on their gray and lonely days, encourage them to trust their strengths, and share their joy in successes.

I hope this story reminds you that there is a whole world of color, life, love, and belonging just outside your expectations. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our performers and supporting the hard work of this cast and crew. Please enjoy the show!

Mo Hurley Director, Annie Jr.

Upcoming Theatre Camps



Winter 2022

Winnie The Pooh KIDS

Summer 2023

Shrek Jr.

Registration opens this fall. Keep an eye on our website for more information!





Adalyn Nash-Keller / Annette, Mentor, Keasha Browning U/S

My name is Adalyn. I am Keasha's mentor and I also play Annette. I'm going into 7th grade at Memorial Middle School. I love playing sotball and swimming and I have a pet guinea pig named Autumn. I got her in September 2021 and my dog Lily who I got in July 2013. I also love hanging out with friends, watching shows, and my family. I love my mom, dad, and 4 siblings!



Aidan Wescott / Mentor, Anthony Weiss U/S

My name is Aidan and I am 13 years old. I love musical theater and have been performing with the DAPA program for the last 5 years. Some things I like to do for fun are camping with my family, spending time with friends, and going to Starbucks.



Aislynn Arens I Mrs. Pugh, Mentor, Taylor Putnam U/S

Hi, I'm Aislynn, but you can call me Izzy if you want! I love Marvel and I have two cats named Milo and Harley. In the show I'm Lily's understudy and also Mrs. Pugh. I'm in 7th grade and 12. My birthday is May 6th. I have two siblings (a sister and a brother) and a dad.



Alika Groen / Swing Mentor

My name is Alika. I love to spend time with my dog, Bert. I'm 12 years old and will be in the 7th grade. My favorite show on TV is "Stranger Things." I like to watch it with my dad. This will be my fourth time on stage.



Anthony Weiss I Drake, Officer Ward, Bert Healy, Cop

Hi, my name is Anthony. I am 12 years old. I play four characters in this show! They are Drake, Officer Ward, Bert Healy, and Cop. I like to play outside and I have four pet rats! I have a mom and a dad and no brothers or sisters. I have liked being in *Annie Jr.* because my character gives Annie advice. My favorite song is "NYC" because the tempo is fast.

Beckett Kustak / Mentor, Halle Bauman U/S

Beckett here. I'm the mentor for Halle. This is my first time being in The Penguin Project. I was in the crew for *A Christmas Caro*l. I also was in my school play!



Caitlin Norquist / Mentor, Nev Wilson U/S

Hi, I'm Caitlin. I'm a mentor for Nev, who plays Pepper. I hail from the peaks fo Colorado and I live with my 4-year old maltipoo, Sir Finnigan, Esquire, King of the Laundry Heap. I sang opera professionally across the country and internationally before settling in the Midwest and now I teach kids to talk at Lifescape Specialty School. I love how The Penguin Project allows everyone to play their part and to celebrate all kinds of success every day!



Carson Meile / Mr. Bundles, President Roosevelt

Hi, I'm Carson. I play as Mr. Bundles and the President. I'm from Brandon, South Dakota. I love Life 96.5 anad Faith 1270. I love cars and YouTube. I also play the drums and read the Bible and I own a lawn care business.



Dustin Groen / Mentor, Nathan Mallard U/S

My name is Dustin. I am in grade, too many to count. I teach middle school. When I'm not at school, I enjoy watching my kids' activities, reading, hunting and fishing. This is my sixth time being on stage and the second time with my kids.



Emily Groeneveld / Duffy, Kate

Hi, I'm Emily and I am 16 years old. I am going into 10th grade. I enjoy bowling, swimming, and cheerleading. I play Duffy and Kate and the star-to-be in the show. I love dogs and cats and my favorite foods are pizza and chicken (Chick-Fil-A)!





Emmalynn Schrank / Miss Hannigan

Hi I am Emmalynn (call me Emma) and I play Miss Hanigan. I am obsessed with cats at the moment especially my cat Tabby. I'm a cat gal, that's about it. I hope you enjoy the show, I loved making it!



Fletcher Groen / Swing Mentor

My name is Fletcher. I'm turning 8 soon and I will be in the 2nd grade. I love sports, especially hockey. My favorite game that isn't a sport is Minecraft. This week will be my second time in stage.



Grace Kreun / July

Hi, my name is Grace. I am 13 years old. I play on the Lancers Special Olympics team and enjoy bowling, basketball and swimming. My biggest fear is speaking in front of people, being in this play is helping me be brave.



Halle Bauman / Annie

I am 10 years old. This is my first play. My mentor is Beckett. I go to John Harris Elementary and I am going into 5th grade.



Hunter Ross / Rooster, Dog Catcher

My name is Hunter and I am playing Rooster and the Dog Catcher. I am an only kid. I love watching NFL football and NBA basketball and playing basketball. This is my first time in a play. I'm 15 and I'm from Canton, South Dakota.

Isabel Durr / Molly

I dance. I like art. I am 13 years old. I have been in lots of plays. I have a dog named Otter.



Keasha Browning / Tessie

Keasha graduated from Harrisburg high school in 2019. She then attended All American Gymnastics Academy Program Skills for three years and finished Program Skills last May 18, 2022. Now she entered Lifescape and joins bowling league every Tuesday night. Her dream career is at Sanford Children's hospital making beds.



Leah Hill / Mentor, Shianna Tiemann U/S

Hi, my name is Leah. I'm 13 years old and I mentor Shianna. I love acting and I have been performing in musicals since I was 7. In those 6 years I have done 21 shows. I dance, play piano, sing, and do plays with DAPA. I have been dancing for 11 years. I can't wait to see everyone onstage!



Mollie Varcoe / Cecile, Mentor, Emily Groeneveld U/S

My name is Mollie Varcoe. I am 12 years old and I am going into 7th grade at Memorial Middle School. I am Emily's mentor and I also play Cecile. Outside of theatre I love to read, listen to music, hang out with friends, and go to youth group. I enjoy spending time with my family and watching movies. I have 2 brothers and a dog! I'm so grateful I had this opportunity to be in this musical!



Nathan Mallard / Oliver Warbucks

I'm Nathan and I play Mr. Oliver Warbucks. I am a good person who can use my imagination in theatre and my art is from the heart and soul.





Nev Wilson / Pepper

I am 13 and in 7th grade. I like fruit. My favorite fruit is blueberries. I like to do puzzles and



Penny Kustak / Mentor, Isabel Durr U/S

I am 10 years old going into 5th grade. I have been in two(!) plays, making this my third. I like to draw and I LOVE animals. I have two dogs and four guinea pigs! I am so happy I got to work with the one and only Isabel/Molly!



Shea O'Brien / Mentor, Carson Meile U/S, Hunter Ross U/S

My name is Shea. I just moved to Sioux Falls after graduation from SDSU this spring. I grew up in the Twin Cities doing community theatre when I was in middle/high school. In my free time I enjoy going camping, reading, doing yoga, and spending time with my cat, Mr. B! i'm so excited to be involved in theatre again and share this experience with my wonderful artists!



Shianna Tiemann / Grace

I am 20 years old. I have 3 dogs and their names are Maddie, Duke, and Pepper. I love to act and type my own plays too. I like to act with TV shows. I also love to sing. I live with my mom, grandpa, and my dogs. My favorite food is cheese. My favorite singer is Taylor Swift and my favorite TV shows are Steven Universe, Owl House, Amphibia, and Once Upon A Time.



Sophia Creviston / Mentor, Grace Kreun U/S

Hi! I'm Sophia and I love, love, love theatre and singing. I also participate in show choir at my high school! I love my dog Kramer and all dogs in general. Reading and hanging out with my friends are my favorite things to do! I'm so excited to show off all of our hard work on this show!!

Sophia Fette / Mentor, Emmalynn Schrank U/S

Sophia is excited to be a mentor in *Annie Jr.* the musical. She is 11 years old and will be attending Edison Middle School. Sophia is Emmalynn's mentor, who is playing Ms. Hanigan. Sophia's prior theatre experience has been Matilda, A Christmas Carol, and a handful of other shows. Sophia has an older sister, a mom, and a dad. Her favorite part of the show is the Christmas scene when Rooster, Lily, and Ms. Hannigan get arrested. Sophia has had a lot of fun doing this show and she oopes you enjoy it!



Taylor Putnam / Lily, Apple Seller

- 1. I play Lily and Apple Seller.
- 2. My fav TV/movie is TVD & Breakfast Club!
- 3. I do miss amazing SD!
- 4. I have two dogs named Remi and Rocky!
- 5. My mentor is the best friend ever!
- 6. My favorite team is the Green Bay Packers!



Moxie / Sandy

Moxxi is a 2 1/2 year old goldendoodle poodle that was rescued from the humane society in 2020. She loves to play with all her dog friends at Kirby dog park downtown and go paddle boarding with her owner at family park. She is so excited to be starring as Sandy in *Annie Jr.* and loves all her new human friends! Moxxi says she loves to be a star because she gets all the extra pets and treats.



Special Thanks



The Premiere Playhouse would like to give a massive thanks to all of the parents, donors, kiddos, and volunteers who helped make this production of Annie Jr. happen. We couldn't do it without you!





Production Team

Abby Kustak / Assistant Stage Manager

Abby graduated from Stewart's school with her cosmetology degree. Over the years has become a real jack of all trades from cosmetology instructor, childrens' learning center teacher, business owner, CNA, salon manager, and most important being a mom. Abby is beyond excited working with kids again and working backstage with such talented youth brings such joy. Would like the dedicate this show to my cousins Jeremy and Colin.

Alex Newcomb Weiland / Production Manager, Education Coordinator

Alex is humbled to be working with The Penguin Project and everyone involved. This experience has truly been life changing. She graduated from The University of South Dakota with a BFA in Musical Theatre/Dance Minor. She has performed with companies such as Bare Bodkins, Good Night Theatre Collective and The Black Hills Playhouse. She directed *Footloose* in Season 18 at The Premiere Playhouse and *Stop Kiss* with Monstrous Little Theatre Company. She currently works for The Premiere Playhouse as the Production Specialist and Education Coordinator. She can't wait for you to see how incredible these performers are and witness the hard work they have put in over the summer. Enjoy the show!

Alexondrea Thong Vanh / Scenic Charge, Props Artisan

Alexondrea is thrilled to join 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 and commercial actor/singer and scenic painter for The Premiere Playhouse and Good Night Theatre Collective. In any free time, she enjoys laughing with her husband and son.

http://www.alexondreadi.com | @alexondreadi

Ashlee Boltjes / Lighting Designer

Ashlee Boltjes is very grateful for the opportunity to work on such an incredible production! She graduated from Concordia College with a degree in Theatre Arts and is currently working at the Washington Pavilion as a full time stagehand. She has showcased light designs for DAPA as well as for Premier Playhouse's production of *The 39 Steps* prior to *Annie Jr.* Ashlee thanks the team and actors for creating this amazing show and for all they do to bring art to the community!

Brittney Lewis / Costume Designer

Brittney just graduated from USD with a degree in Costume Design and Construction. She is delighted to be joining the Premiere Playhouse for this coming season! She recently costume designed *Mary Poppins Jr.* and hair and makeup designed *Cabaret* for the Orpheum stage. Brittney is very excited to continue her work on children's theatre in the future. Enjoy the show!

Carlie Terrall / Stage Manager

Carlie is a Junior theater major at Augustana University. She is thrilled to be joining her first show at the Premiere Playhouse. She has worked on shows with Augustana University as a Stage Manager and designer. She currently works in the costume shop at Augustana and as a Stagehand for the Washington Pavilion. As someone who is on the spectrum herself, Carlie has enjoyed working with children of all abilities and bringing theater to their lives. She would like to thank her friends and family for their continued support.

Jill Clark / Scenic Designer

Jill is a Scenic Design graduate of the University of South Dakota and lives in Vermillion, SD. She works as a free-lance Scenic Designer/Artist in the area and loves working with and in this fabulous community. Recent and notable work with this company includes *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, *Blood Brothers*, *Lombardi*, and *The 39 Steps* to name a few. She also designs frequently with The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival and recently with Iowa Lakes Community College.

Lily Satterlee / Mentor Coordinator

Hi there! My name is Lily and I have had the honor of serving as the Mentor Coordinator! I enjoyed being able to pair artists and mentors and guide them as they became partners in storytelling AND friendship. I have always loved theatre because of the empathy it builds and the reminder that we can connect with those around us more than we might think! I hope you enjoy watching these amazingly talented and hard-working performers and walk away knowing that when adversity strikes, you can "stick out your chin and grin and say the sun'll come out tomorrow!"

Production Team



Oliver Mayes / Managing Artistic Director

Oliver is a theatre and media artist whose work has been seen in several states throughout the U.S. With a background in acting, directing, producing, movement choreography, writing, and teaching, his credits span various mediums. He holds several honors in directing, including the Kennedy Center's 2020 Stage Directors & Choreographers Society Fellowship. Oliver is a scholarship participant of the Kennedy Center Directing Intensive, and holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from the University of South Dakota and a BFA in Music Theatre from AMDA College of the Performing Arts. Go Penguins!

Maddie Lukomski / Education Assistant

Maddie is so excited to be a part of this project that combines her two favorite things: theatre and education. After attending the University of Michigan for education, she came home to pour her creative efforts into the Premiere Playhouse and the Sioux Falls theatre scene at large. She looks forward to this show and hopes you feel as inspired as she does. Go Penguins!

Magen Richeal / Choreographer

Magen is excited to work with such a fun cast and crew! She has done choreography for several Premiere Playhouse productions, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Blood Brothers*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Cabaret*. Magen is a graduate of USD, a dance instructor and studio owner, as well as a competitive cheerleading coach.

Malia Lukomski / Sound Designer, Engineer

Malia is the Premiere Playhouse's Sound Designer for the 2021 - 2022 season. They made their design debut with Footloose and have worked with the Playhouse ever since. They are a graduate of Augustana University with degrees in Theatre and Media Studies (2020) and a graduate of the SALT Institute for Documentary Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Radio and Podcast Production. Currently, they are working as a field producer for iHeartMedia. For more information on their current and future endeavors, you can go to malialukomski.com.

Matthew Walicke / Music Director

Matthew is thrilled to be the music director for this production of *Annie Jr.* He is an active conductor, composer, singer, voice teacher, and organist/pianist, in his 13th 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, Matt has recently been involved in The Premiere Playhouse's productions of *Young Frankenstein* (music director), *Cabaret* (music director), and *A Christmas Carol* (music director and producer, arranger, and "Ghost of Christmas Present.") He also recently played "The Prince" in the Opera South Dakota Fairytale Opera in the Park production of *The Goose Girl.* Matthew enjoys cooking, hiking, and traveling with his wife Tasondra, his kids Evan and Abi, and their two dogs, Arya and Rocko.

Mo Hurley / Director

Mo is excited to make her directing debut with Annie Jr. Some of her recent performances with The Premiere Playhouse include *The 39 Steps* (Clown #2), *The Odd Couple* (Vera), and *Lend Me a Tenor* (Maggie Saunders). Mo is the writer and producer of Fear Falls Radio Theatre, a collaboration with local performers sharing original monster stories in the style of '40s radio plays.

Sadie Mickelson / Assistant Stage Manager

Sadie is thrilled to be involved in this production of *Annie Jr*. The cast and crew have been working so hard and she is excited to share it with you all! This is her eighth show with The Premiere Playhouse and she is so grateful for the experience. She wants to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.

Samson Mettler / Master Carpenter

Samson built the set. He doesn't like to write bios. Have a great show.

Shawn Shannon II / Technical Coordinator

SEASON 20

Tickets: www.thepremiereplayhouse.com





YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

SEPT 29 - OCT 9

A Christmas Carol By CRISPIN WHITTELL

DEC 17 - 30

Premiere remieres

FEB 16 - 18



Rodgers & Hammerstein's



APRIL 20 - 30



