

THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS



Disney
**HIGH
SCHOOL
MUSICAL**
JR

Book by
David Simpatico

Songs by
Matthew Gerrard and Robbie Nevil; Ray Cham, Greg Cham
and Andrew Seeley; Randy Peterson and Kevin Quinn; Andy
Dodd and Adam Watts; Bryan Louiselle; David N. Lawrence
and Faye Greenberg; Jamie Houston

Music Adapted, Arranged and Produced by
Bryan Louiselle

Based on a Disney Channel Original Movie Written by Peter Barsocchini


O R P H E U M
T H E A T E R C E N T E R

August 15, 16, 17, 2025
www.thepremiereplayhouse.com

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A Note From The Executive Artistic Director



Welcome to The Premiere Playhouse's 4th annual Penguin Project production – *High School Musical JR*! This joyful tradition celebrates the creativity, talent, and resilience of artists with physical and neurological disabilities, and the peer mentors who share the stage with them. At its heart, this program exists to ensure that the arts are accessible to all – because everyone deserves the chance to shine in the spotlight and have their voices heard.

This production would not be possible without the remarkable dedication of our staff, volunteers, and families, who pour their time, love, and energy into every rehearsal, costume project, and set piece. We are equally grateful to our program sponsors, whose generosity helps us keep this opportunity alive.

I invite you to visit the silent auction in the lobby or simply make a tax-deductible donation to our non-profit organization—all proceeds benefit our all-abilities musical theatre program. If tonight's performance resonates with you (and I believe it will), please consider joining us in building a new era of community theatre in Sioux Falls, one centered on collaboration, education, and access. Whether you participate as a student, volunteer, subscriber, or donor, you are a vital part of this vision.

Thank you for being here, for supporting these extraordinary artists, and for believing – as we do – that theatre is for everyone!

Oliver Mayes

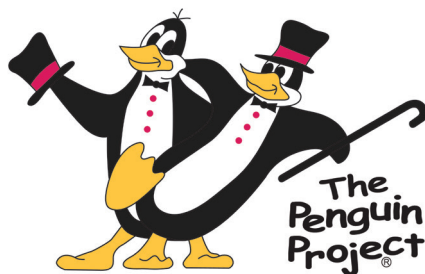
Executive Artistic Director

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR

is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited



is sponsored by

The Wanda Covington Endowment

The Wanda Covington Endowment benefits children and adults with disabilities with special emphasis on programs that provide enjoyment and recreation and organizations and programs which provide assistance to distressed or abused animals.

This production is also made possible through the generous donations of several community partners, including: First Bank & Trust, Davenport Evans Law Firm, First Interstate Bank, and the Washington Pavilion of Arts & Sciences.





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Meet The Artists



Alex Meemken / *Zeke Baylor*

This is Alex's second season with TPP. Last season he appeared as Uncle Henry in *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition*, has had roles in *A Christmas Carol* and *James and The Giant Peach JR*, as well as worked crew/counselor with other productions. When not working with TPP, Alex loves performing on stage or with choir at his high school. He hopes you have a great experience at the theater and continue to support The Premiere Playhouse.



Anna Ryerson / *Ms. Tenny*

This is Anna's first year with the Penguin Project. She is playing the role of Ms. Tenny, and she is a cheerleader. Anna enjoys singing and performing concerts in her basement. She loves baking and making desserts. Her favorite thing to make is chocolate pudding. She is very excited to be on stage!



Anthony Weiss / *Kratnoff*

Anthony is excited to join his 4th year with the Penguin Project. He is a Brainiac thus continuing a family tradition for another generation. In his free time, Anthony enjoys drawing, bird and weather watching, caring for monarch butterflies and playing with his pet rats.



Brennen Schrank / *Jock*

This is Brennen's third year being in Penguin Project musicals, and the first time he is not playing a monkey! He enjoys Legos and Jurassic Park movies. Brennen is a Boy Scout and loves all things outdoors. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Chrissy Mailloux / *Coach Bolton*

This is Chrissy's 3rd year with The Penguin Project. She has performed in many theater projects including LifeScape and Camp Bravo productions, BVHS programs, and most recently in Augustana's spring musical, *Disaster*. She attends Augustana's Augie Access program where she lives in the dorm with her cat Houdini. Outside of theater, she enjoys playing on Augie's Special Olympics basketball team, and working at Buddies & Co in Brandon.

Meet The Artists



Colton Byrnes / *Jack Scott*

Colton returns for his second year with The Penguin Project after debuting as Toto in *The Wizard of Oz – Youth Edition*. You may have also seen him in *A Christmas Carol*. This time, he's Jack Scott—the Velvet Fog with your daily announcements—in High School Musical Jr. Offstage, Colton drums with Groove and competes in softball, basketball, and bowling with his Special Olympics team. He thanks his family for their endless love and support. Jack Scott, over and out!



Emily Groeneveld / *Susan*

Emily is in her 4th year of the Penguin Project. Emily plays Susan a cheerleader in this year's production. Along with the Penguin Project she enjoys participating in Special Olympics. She does bowling, softball, basketball, track and swimming in Special Olympics. If anyone knows Emily, she loves to give the best hugs.



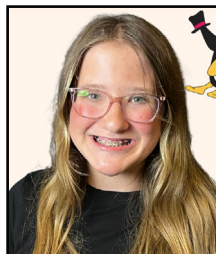
Emmalynn Schrank / *Ms. Darbus*

Hi im Emma(Lynn), I'm 17 years old and I'm a crazy cat lady. This is my 4th year doing Penguin Project and I couldn't be happier to see all the faces this year. I enjoy puzzles, taking care of my cacti, as they are currently going through mealybug treatment, and petting my cats Oscar and Tabitha(Tabby). I can't wait to present our production to you!



Halle Bauman / *Kelsi Neilsen*

This is Halle's 4th year being on stage with the Penguin Project. She played Annie in *Annie JR*, Jojo in *Suessical JR* and a flying monkey/apple tree in *Wizard of Oz Youth Edition*. She loves to act, sing, swim and ride horses. She is playing the role of Kelsi this year. Enjoy the show!



Jaiden Parmenter / *Drum Major*

Meet Jaiden! Jaiden is making his stage debut with The Penguin Project in *High School Musical JR*, portraying the Drum Major and a Thespian. Known for his contagious energy, he brings enthusiasm and dedication to every rehearsal. Offstage, Jaiden enjoys creating art, attending live music events, cheering at hockey games, camping, swimming, and traveling. He is excited to share this experience and thanks everyone for supporting inclusive theater!





2025-2026 SEASON



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GENERATION LEAHY**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025



**THE WADDINGTON
BROTHERS**
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025



**HOLIDAY
FOR FIDDLERS**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025



GQ
(GENTLEMAN'S QUARTET)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026



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APRIL 25-27, 2025
MAY 1-3, 2025

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

OCTOBER 3-5, 2025
OCTOBER 9-11, 2025

PRODUCTION Q&A : OCTOBER 6 AT 7PM

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THE THANKS- GIVING PLAY



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DECEMBER 5-7, 2025
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PRODUCTION Q&A : DECEMBER 8 AT 7PM

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Meet The Artists



Jaxon Duke / *Cyndra*

I'm a 7th grader that loves singing, dancing & music of all kinds. *High School Musical JR* is my 3rd musical with the Penguin Project - playing Cyndra. I played multiple characters in *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition* & in *Seussical JR* I played Young Kangaroo. I was also in my elementary school's musicals *Aladdin Jr.* and *Beauty & the Beast*. I like to create a specific voice for my characters to bring them to life. My favorite TV shows are the original Knight Rider and *The Dukes of Hazzard*. Playing video games & running RC cars with my dad are some of my favorite hobbies.



Kainan Sheppard / *Moderator*

Kainan is loving his second year on stage with the Penguin Project. This year he is playing a Jock, Brainiac and Moderator. Off stage he enjoys creating voice/lip syncing videos with his favorite Disney and Pixar characters. He will start school next week at his new school: Lifescape Pathways. If you want to get him laughing ask him where his hair brush is! :)



Laura Sheppard / *Taylor McKessie*

Laura Sheppard is so excited to be back for her third year with the Penguin Project! Her previous roles with the Penguins have been the Sour Kangaroo in *Suessical JR* and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition*. This year she is playing Taylor McKessie, a spunky brainiac that learns the value of working with others even if they are different from you. She hopes to truly bring the role to life for you all!



Leo Ristau / *James*

This is Leo's first production with the Penguin Project and they are so excited!



Nate Sheppard / *Troy Bolton*

Nate is playing the part of the "Bonehead Jock" Troy Bolton. This is Nate's 3rd year with The Penguin Project and he already feels at home. Nate's activities include drawing, animating, baseball, hanging out with friends, and singing and dancing with all his penguin friends. He can't wait for you to sit back and dance in your chair during the show.

Meet The Artists



Nathan Mallard / *Ryan Evans*

Nathan has been in the Penguin Project for 4 years and did *A Christmas Carol* last year's Christmas season. He is wise, responsible, trusted, kind, sensitive and very special. But he wanted to share good things for everyone in the city of Sioux Falls and make his family proud. He lives with no perfection at all.



Rachel Rees / *Cathy*

This is Rachel's second year with The Penguin Project and she's thrilled to perform as Cathy, a thespian, as well as a cheerleader. The friendships she's made have been the best part of this production. Outside of the stage, Rachel enjoys singing in choir at school, walking her dog and playing basketball on the Lynx Special Olympics team. Thanks for coming and enjoy the show!



Rigley Bowar / *Chad Danforth*

Hi, I am Rigley, a.k.a. Chad. This is my first production with The Penguin Project. I have enjoyed being part of the BVSD theater- *Aladdin* and *Peter Pan*. I love being with my friends, listening to music and dancing, or making slideshows about WWE wrestlers. I also enjoy swimming and basketball with my Special Olympic teams. I work at Culvers- east side- so please say hi if you see me! So excited to be a part of this musical!



Sara Newitt / *Gabriella Montez*

Sara is a third-year Penguin performer who greatly enjoys the inclusive community and creative energy the Penguin Project provides. Outside of acting, Sara enjoys studying various forms of social science, conducting historical research (and writing related papers), performing in show choir, and spending time with her adorable cat! Lastly, Sara thanks all of her penguin friends for being such caring, enthusiastic, and talented young actors. Go penguins!



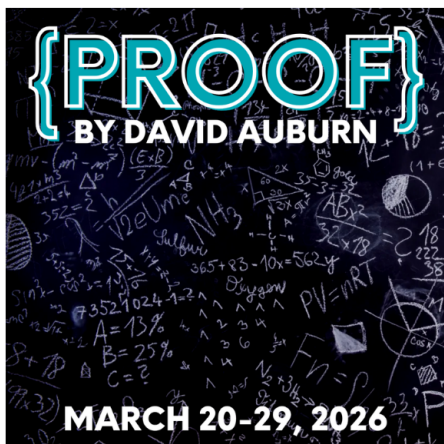
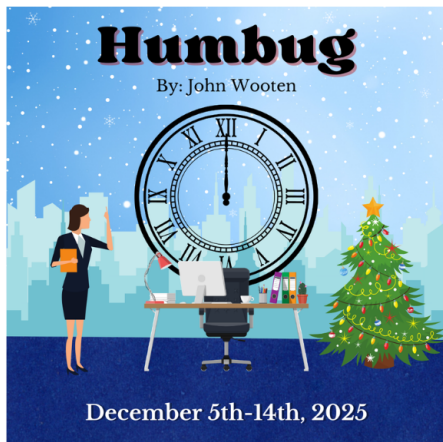
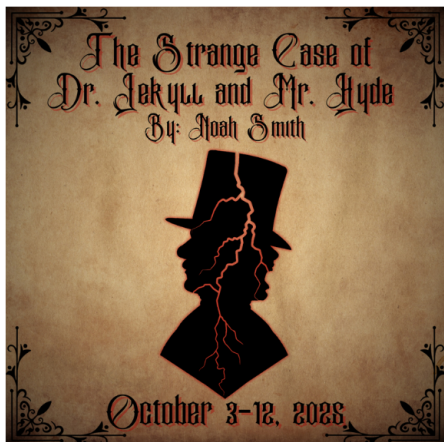
Shianna Tiemann / *Sharpay Evans*

My name is Shianna Tiemann. I am 23 years old. I have 2 dogs. Their names are Duke and Pepper. I love to act and I type my own plays too. I have been in a middle school play called *The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter*. A high school play called *Cinderella*. I was in *Annie JR*, *Seussical JR*, and *Wizard of OZ Youth Edition* for the Penguin project. I like to act with tv shows. I love to sing too. I live with my mom, my Grandpa and my dogs. My favorite food is cheese. My favorite singer is Taylor Swift and my favorite tv shows are Steven Universe, The Owl House, Amphibia, Once Upon a Time and Gravity Falls



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Meet The Artists



Taylor Putnam / *Martha Cox*

Taylor is playing Martha Cox. She has been doing the Penguin Project for 4 years. Taylor enjoys music, bowling, participating in SD Miss Amazing, making keychains, and working at Lavas.



Tristian Kjergaard / *Jock*

Tristian has been part special olympics for years. Some friends told about Penguin Project. When signed up he was asked if he wanted to stay, he said loves this program. He plays a jock and he has a lot respect for his mentor Layne. He loves doing *High School Musical JR*. He already wants to sign up for next year. Thank you everybody!

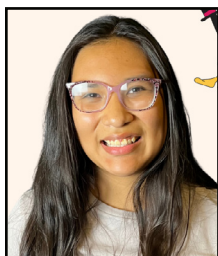


Meet The East High Wildcats



Aislynn Arens / *Thespian, Mentor to Halle*

This is Aislynn's third production with the Penguin Project and they are so excited!



Allie Carrillo / *Thespian, Mentor to Jaiden*

This is Allie's first year with the Penguin Project and the Premiere Playhouse. She is mentor to Jaiden and a thespian. She is having so much fun and looks forward to practice. She loves all things girly and is the best big sister to her three siblings. She is helpful, caring, and very sympathetic. Prior to being in the play, she did gymnastics for many years and the last couple of years did cheer through Dakota spirit.

Meet The East High Wildcats



Beckett Kustak / *Jock, Mentor to Chrissy*

Beckett has been doing Penguin Project for the last four years. Beckett loves to sing and act with the other penguins. You might of seen them in *Something Rotten JR* as Nick Bottom, it was one of their favorite shows in the TPP. Beckett hopes you love dribbling, doing science, singing in a show, and of course have fun seeing the show.



Charlie Wheeler / *Thespian, Mentor to Jaxon*

My name is Charlie! This is my third year with the Penguin Project! I am a RISE EA at Jefferson High School and I provide companion and respite care to students during the holidays including summer. I enjoy dyeing my hair fun colors all year round. I have a dog named Dobby who is very sassy and we love hiking together on weekends. We are easily spotted together especially since I've started dyeing Dobby's fur to match my hair!



Delaney Van Veen / *Brainiac, Mentor to Sara*

Delaney is thrilled to be doing her first year as a mentor for the Penguin Project!! She has really enjoyed working with the cast and crew and making new friends. Delaney will be a senior at Rock Valley High School. In her free time, she likes to perform in musical theater, sing and play video games. She hopes you enjoy the show!!



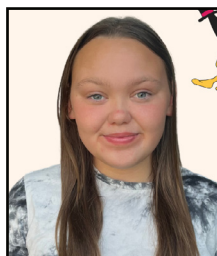
Eliza Dahl / *Mentor to Jaiden*

This is Eliza's first year with the Penguin project and she loves being one of Jaiden's mentors. She's been doing musical theater for over three years and loves it! The most recent show she was in was *Something Rotten JR* and she played the role of Portia, which was definitely one of her favorite shows to perform in! Outside of theater, she does choir, show choir, and golf. She also enjoys coaching gymnastics. Thank you so much for coming to the show, enjoy!



Emerson Newcomb Weiland / *Brainiac, Mentor to Laura*

This is Emerson's first production with the Penguin Project and they are so excited!





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Meet The East High Wildcats



Harper Griffith / *Brainiac, Mentor to Taylor*

Harper is enjoying her first year as a Mentor with the Penguin Project. She is a brainiac alongside Taylor Putnam, who plays Martha Cox. Harper started acting 4 years ago, and has been involved in 11 musicals/plays. Her most recent musical, *Madagascar Jr.*, is her favorite! Harper also loves to sing. She hopes that you enjoy the show, saying "everyone here worked so hard and are incredible people and actors!"



Josie Lawrence / *Thespian, Mentor to Emily*

This is Josie's first production with the Penguin Project and they are so excited!



Karl Sharkey / *Brainiac, Mentor to Kainan*

This is my first year with Penguin Project and The Premiere Playhouse. He is a mentor and plays as Branik and a Jock. I'm going to college for Theatre and Business. In my free time I write poetry, plays, and films. I love to sing and dance. I believe theatre is the best form of art expression! Enjoy the show!



Layne McIntyne / *Jock, Mentor to Tristian*

This is my first year in Penguin Project and I hope it's not my last! I play a jock in this show which if you ask my family and peers, they'd say I was joking. Most of my hobbies outside of penguin are related to theatre in some way. I'll be going to SDSU this fall to major in Theatre! Happy to be here and I had such a good time!



Lily Smith / *Thespian, Mentor to Rachel*

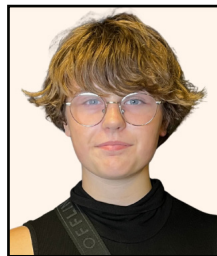
Lily is excited to be back for her 2nd Penguin Project production as part of the thespian ensemble. She loves hanging with her Penguin Pals, especially her bestie, Rachel. Lily has been in 12 other productions and has been dancing since the age of 3. She also loves to read and paint. She is looking forward to the next time she gets to be on stage!

Meet The East High Wildcats



Maria Ristau / *Thespian, Mentor to Leo*

This is Maria's first production with the Penguin Project and they are so excited!



Melissa Prostrollo / *Thespian, Mentor to Nathan & Shianna*

This is Melissa's first year with the Penguin Project and she is proud to mentor with Sharpay (Shianna) and Ryan (Nathan)! She works in digital marketing at Click Rain and serves on the boards of Mighty Corson Art Players and SuFuDu. She has appeared in productions recently at The Premiere Playhouse, Olde Towne Dinner Theatre and Mighty Corson Art Players. Enjoy the show!



Penny Kustak / *Brainiac, Mentor to Anna*

Penelope is so thrilled to be back into penguin project! You might have seen her in *Something Rotten JR* as Shylock, Penelope is so excited to to see the penguins back in front of an audience. As a mentor for four years Penelope loves to see each penguin grow as a performer, and as a person! Penelope loves to hang out with friends and act! She hopes to see you laughing and dancing in the audience!



Perrin Boraas-Getman / *Jock, Mentor to Brennan*

This is Perrin's first year as a part of the Penguin Project. He mentors Brennan, who plays a jock in this production. Although this is Perrin's first year as part of the Penguin Project, he has been in many other productions, the most recent of which was *Something Rotten JR*. He has had an amazing time mentoring Brennan and hopes everyone in the audience enjoys what hard work we have all put into this production.



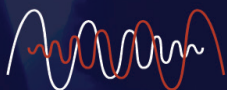
Sonja Seivert / *Mentor to Anthony*

I am a third year mentor this year with the Penguin Project. Outside of the Penguin Project, I like learning new things, playing games with friends, and crafting. I have enjoyed my summers here with the penguin project!





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Meet The East High Wildcats



Sully Bear Mayes / *Ms. Darbus' Dog*

Sully is ecstatic to be back on stage with the Penguins for his favorite performance of the year, working directly with the comedic genius, Emma Schrank. He serves as TPP's Manager of Morale while studying acting & voice privately under his papa & dad. Previous stage credits include *Grease* and *The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition*. Sully's favorite line of the show is: "We're not the same, we're different in a good way. Together's where we belong!"



Taetym Eslinger / *Jock, Mentor to Rigley*

Hi, I'm Taetym! I'm the mentor for Rigley. This is my 3rd production with The Penguin Project. I love to write and draw in my free time. I also enjoy knitting, sewing, and taking nature photography. I consider The Penguin Project a 2nd family with how much I know and love everyone! Enjoy the show!



Torry Serck / *Brainiac, Mentor to Colton*

Torry Serck is exited for his first year as a mentor in the Penguin Project. His first ever show was *High School Musical JR* and he's happy to relive it with others. This time he playing Jack Scott's quirky side-kick.



Trevon Kleinschmidt / *Jock, Mentor to Nate S.*

This is Trevon's first production with the Penguin Project and they are so excited!



Valerie Tieszen / *Thespian, Mentor to Emmalynn*

Hi I'm Val. I'm a mentor. This is my first year in the Penguin Project. In my spare time (when I'm not doing after school activities or school) I'm reading, drawing, playing video games, or going on walks. I'm so happy I got to mentor Emma and I'm so happy to be in the Penguin Project.

TPP Team



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Oliver Mayes

Artistic Development Manager

Alex Newcomb
Weiland

Facilities & Scene Shop Foreman

Pierce Humke

Finance & Membership Manager

Amber Sumner

Artistic Services Coordinator

Abby Kustak

Design & Marketing Manager

Brittney Lewis

Scenic & Technical Supervisor

Jill Clark

Web & Playbill Developer

Chris Berke

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Production Team & Crew



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Vocal/Acting Coach**

Oliver Mayes

**Co-Director & Program
Coordinator**

Alex Newcomb Weiland

**Co-Director & Program
Coordinator**

Abby Kustak

Costume Designer

Brittney Lewis

Stage Manager

Carlie Terrall

Assistant Stage Manager

Hope Dunkle

Music Director

Ben Van Moer

**Co-Choreographer & Assistant
Music Director**

Emily Smith

**Co-Choreographer & Assistant
Mentor Coordinator**

Grace Kjelden

Mentor Coordinator

MacKenzie Braak

Lighting Designer

Chelsea Chapman

Sound Designer & Engineer

Mal Lukomski

Sound Assistant

Frances DeArmond

Hair & Wig Stylist

Anna Crawford

Wardrobe Assistant & Deck Crew

Morgan Moritz

Wardrobe & Deck Crew

India Allar

Deck Crew

Elizabeth Wintering

Flyrail Operators

Jackson Heiberger
India Johnson

Crew

Casey Kustak

Scenic Assistant

Dominic Doty

This program is supported by grant funding from South Dakota Arts Council, Gilchrist Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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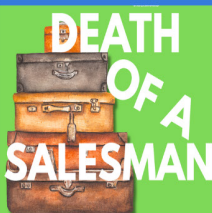


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