

MAGICAL THEATRE COMPANY

2025-2026

Professional Theatre for Young Audiences & Families

Producing Directors Holly Barkdoll & Dennis O'Connell



OCT. 10 – 19, 2025

Ghosts of the Magic City

GHOST WALK

OCT. 24 – 30, 2025



DEC. 5 – 21, 2025

Agatha Christie's



JAN. 29 – FEB. 6, 2026



MAY 1 – 9, 2026

ON TOUR



Squirrellock Holmes

Nuts About Solving Mysteries

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Magical Theatre Company

2025-2026 RESIDENT SEASON

The Third Wave

OCT. 10 – 19, 2025

By Joseph Robinette & Ron Jones

Ghosts of the Magic City

OCT. 24 – 30, 2025

By Holly Barkdoll

Inspired by the book by Steve Kelleher and Jessica King

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

ARTSNOW

Annie

DEC. 5 – 21, 2025

Book by Thomas Meehan • Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Martin Charnin • Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin

Based on "Little Orphan Annie" © By Permission of Tribune Content Agency

SPONSORED BY



Agatha Christie's

Murder on the Orient Express

JAN. 29 – FEB. 6, 2026

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Dragons Love Tacos

MAY 1 – 9, 2026

Written by Ernie Nolan

Based on the book by Adam Rubin & Illustrated by Daniel Salmieri



STAFF

Holly Barkdoll
Co-Producing Director

Dennis O'Connell
Co-Producing Director

Tyler Jensen
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Cathy Nahacky, *Office Manager*

Tammie Sneed, *Bookkeeper*

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FOR TICKETS, CURTAIN TIMES & GROUP RATE INFORMATION

WWW.MAGICALTHEATRE.ORG • CALL 330-848-3708 • FAX 330-848-5768

Season may be subject to change.

Partners in Production

FOUNDATION GIVING

Our deep thanks to these charitable foundations who are committed to helping kids through professional theatre at Magical Theatre Company. They are helping grow imaginations. Below are those foundations & organizations who have helped in the previous year.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

ArtsNow
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Our deep thanks to these businesses and service clubs who see the big picture and make good things happen for kids, families, and schools at Magical Theatre Company. You're helping grow imaginations. Below are those businesses who have helped this past year.

Acme Fresh Market
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Akron Civic Theatre
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Akron Symphony Orchestra
Akron Zoo
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Schell's Automotive
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Silva-Hostetler Funeral Home
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The Sub Station
Thurber's Jewelers
The Tea Lady
The Troll Hole
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Magical Theatre on Tour

TRAVELING SHOWS

Bring the expertise of professional, adult actors right into your own school, church, club or civic organization. We travel throughout Ohio and are adaptable to many spaces. Study Guides are provided to teachers. School residencies and workshops can be arranged for your students. Have our trained actors come into your school to conduct workshops, give performances and interact one-on-one with your classes. Learn more about writing, creative dramatics, acting, improvisation and more!



By Craig Holland

DIRECTED BY DENNIS O'CONNELL

A great audience participation show for your school, library or organization!

Oh, no! The sunflower seeds are missing! But the world's most absent-minded squirrel detective is on the case! With the help of the audience and three quirky suspects (a tortoise, a crow, and a mole) this merry mystery just might get solved. So fun!

Most enjoyed by families ages 6 and up



Written by your very own students

DIRECTED BY HOLLY BARKDOLL

Students write their own stories and MTC adapts them for the stage.



Stretch, sing & swing with the animals!

The little ones learn original songs, try out animal yoga moves, and jam, jam, jam! All while helping Melody the Monkey and her many animal friends reach their goal. Great way to introduce music and movement!

Most enjoyed by kiddos PreK - K



Adapted to the stage by Adam Hoffman

DIRECTED BY DENNIS O'CONNELL

She can fly to your school, library, church, club, just about anywhere!

Created by MTC for the littlest audience. This interactive performance will tickle your kids as they learn classic rhymes and songs from Mother Goose herself.

Most enjoyed by children ages 3-5

CALL EARLY TO RESERVE TRAVELING SHOW DATES: 330-848-3708



MAGICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Professional Theatre for Young Audiences & Families
Producing Directors Holly Barkdoll & Dennis O'Connell

proudly presents



THE THIRD WAVE

By Joseph Robinette & Ron Jones

SCENIC DESIGN: Ben Needham • **COSTUME DESIGN:** Inda Blatch-Geib

LIGHTING DESIGN: Adam Ditzel

SOUND DESIGN: Jeremiah Isley

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Owen Connor Stout

SCENIC ARTIST: Dale Seeds

SCENIC CARPENTER: Jerry Stout

VIDEO: Ben Needham

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR: Jeremiah Isley

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Christine Grisez Gault

DIRECTED BY HOLLY BARKDOLL

Produced by special arrangement with DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, Woodstock, IL

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Peg's Foundation • Willard E. Smucker Foundation • ACME Fresh Market • MG O'Neil Foundation
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THE CAST

Mr. Jones	Gabriel Reed
A Man.....	Adam Hoffman
Principal Morris	Amanda Kidd
Deanna Jones.....	Kate Clay
Reverend Halstead	Dimitri Georgiadis
A Father	Mark Ross
Alene	Mallory Dannemiller
Eve	Evelyn Shaw
Alicia.....	Rose Morrison
DeShay.....	Ellison Smith
Wendy.....	Riley Spencer
Maria	Gabrielle Silverstein
GG.....	Bailey Best
Brenda	Zoe McConaha
Toni	Hannah Jackson
Jean	Mary Grace Sir Louis
Bomber	Noah Casino
Doug.....	Andrew Papadakis
Norman.....	Nate Allen
Steve.....	Dorian Draper
Robert	Grayson Griffith
Terry.....	Layne Schaefer



GUEST ARTISTS

NATE ALLEN (*Norman*) is a junior who is excited for his first play with Magical Theatre Company. Along with nine years of *K.I.D. Camp* experience he has also participated in his school's productions of *Three Musketeers*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Mamma Mia*. He is absolutely ecstatic to be a part of *The Third Wave*!

BAILEY BEST (*GG*) is beyond excited to return to Magical Theatre Company. She is a graduate of St. Vincent St. Mary High School and was previously seen in *The Neverending Story*, many years of *K.I.D. Camp* productions, as well as a *K.I.D. Camp* intern.

MALLORY DANNEMILLER (*Alene*) is a junior at Archbishop Hoban High School. She has previously been seen on stage at Magical Theatre Company as Fern in *Charlotte's Web*, Harriet in *Harriet the Spy*, and in 10 years of *K.I.D. Camp*! Outside of theater, Mallory enjoys hanging out with her friends, watching *Grey's Anatomy*, and listening to music. She would like to thank her family, along with Dennis and Holly, for welcoming her back for another show!

DORIAN DRAPER (*Steve*) is a senior at Hoover High School. Their past performances include *Anything Goes* (Spit), *Frozen* (Olaf), *Hadestown*, and *Mamma Mia*! with the North Canton Playhouse, and they were also featured in *Treasure Island* (Dr. Livesey) with the Hoover Theatre Program. They are an avid reader, writer, and pianist; enjoy writing plays, and hope to major in Anthropology next Fall. They are grateful for the opportunity to share this story.

DIMITRI GEORGIADIS (*Reverend Halstead*) is excited to return to Magical Theatre Company! In addition to Magical Theatre productions including James Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, Dimitri has performed with local theaters in the area including Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Blank Canvas Theatre, and Get Away with Murder. Memorable roles include: Gary/Roger (*Noises Off*), Sir Andrew Aguecheek (*Twelfth Night*), Renfield (*Dracula*), Michael Stamford (*Miss Holmes*), and Philip Lombard (*And Then There Were None*).

GRAYSON GRIFFITH (*Robert*) is excited to be performing with Magical Theatre Company! He is a senior in the Stow-Munroe Falls School District and is also a member of the Weathervane musical theater company. He has performed in the All-City musical at Akron Civic in *Newsies* and *The Little Mermaid*. Grayson would like to thank his mother and grandmother for their support.

HANNAH JACKSON (*Toni*) is excited to be making her Magical Theatre Company debut in *The Third Wave*. She is a skateboarder, a youth production assistant for Grace Church and enjoys playing with reptiles. Hannah is looking forward to her foray into acting. As Alexander Hamilton would say, "There's a million things I haven't done, but just you wait!"

ZOE MCCONAHA (*Brenda*) is thrilled to be back on the Magical Theatre stage! Her previous credits here include *Mercy Watson to the Rescue!* (Francine Poulet) and *Witness for the Prosecution* (The Girl). Zoe is a graduate of Kent State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance. She would like to thank her family for their endless support since she started theatre in the fifth grade, and for never missing a show! <3

ROSE MORRISON (*Alicia*) studied theatre at The University of Mount Union where she appeared in productions, along with *Shakespeare at the Castle*. She is the local business owner of Snowball Books and More (across the street from Magical Theatre!) and loves to be in the neighborhood, being a graduate of Norton High School. Rose is excited for her first show on the Magical Theatre Company stage, participating in telling such an important story.

ANDREW PAPADAKIS (*Doug*) is excited to join Magical Theatre Company! Acting professionally since 2019, Andrew has appeared in commercials for the NFL, Stater Brothers in Los Angeles, and Visit Indiana. He's been a background actor in the films *Cherry* (and met Tom Holland!), *Secret Headquarters*,

White Noise, *Shooting Stars*, and *Cha Cha Real Smooth*, a TV pilot *Peoria*, a New York Film Academy movie short, as well as photo shoots for Big Ideas Textbook and the Columbus bus system. Going back a little further, he played Kristoff in the middle school play!

LAYNE SCHÄEFER (*Terry*) is 14 years old and is a self-described overly talkative person. They have appeared in several shows at Barberton Middle School, including *Moana*. Additionally, they have aspirations in poetry and songwriting and are happy to be involved in *The Third Wave*.

EVELYN SHAW (*Eve*) is 14 years old and a ninth grade theatre ASA student at Firestone CLC. Evelyn has been in various productions at Miller South VPA, Rubber City Theatre's *The Music Man*, and was previously seen in Magical Theatre Company's production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Evelyn is a seasoned technical crew worker and production journalist. A few of her many hobbies include reading, poetry, photography, music, fashion, and more. She hopes you enjoy the show!

GABRIELLE SILVERSTEIN (*Maria*) is a 10th grader at Barberton High School and is delighted to be making her Magical Theatre Company debut. She has performed in *SpongeBob*, *How To Get Away with a Murder Mystery*, *Sally Cotter* and *the Prisoner of Alcatraz*, *The Great Disaster*, *Power Line: The Story of me Mario and Your Mom*, *Food!* and *Musical Menagerie*. When not on stage she is either drawing or listening to her new top favorite song.

MARY GRACE SIR LOUIS (*Jean*), a 15-year-old homeschooled sophomore, loves reading, dancing, hanging out with friends, and – most of all – acting. She was recently spotted as Jackie Scott in Medina County Show Biz's *High School Musical*. She also performed at Rubber City Theatre, Western Reserve Playhouse, and Hudson Players. Mary Grace thanks her mom for being the world's best Uber driver and Magical Theatre for allowing her to be part of such a special and relevant show.

ELLISON SMITH (*DeShay*) is 14 and a student at Firestone High School. She is thrilled to be part of *The Third Wave* and to continue exploring her love for theatre and performance. Ellison has been dancing for 12 years, bringing that energy and discipline into every role. She has been in *The Wiz*, *The Lion King*, and *Shrek the Musical*. She also has experience on the other side of the lights, having stage managed *The Giver* and *Peter & the Starcatcher*.

RILEY SPENCER (*Wendy*) is a junior at Malvern High School and Buckeye Career Center studying pharmacy. She is a member of marching band and her school's drama department. Riley has performed in a variety of stage musicals and plays such as *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *Willy Wonka*, *Clue* and *Band Geeks* at Malvern High School. She is an eight-year participant of Magical Theatre's summer *K.I.D. Camp* and this is her first production with Magical Theatre Company.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

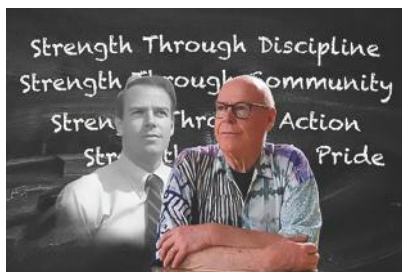
RON JONES (born 1941) is an American writer, pedagogist, and former teacher in Palo Alto, California. He is best known for his classroom exercise called “The Third Wave” and the book he wrote about the event, which inspired the made-for-TV movie *The Wave* and other works, including a theatrical film in 2008. The original TV movie won the Emmy and Peabody Awards. His books *The Acorn People* and *B-Ball* have also been made into TV dramas.

Ron Jones lives in San Francisco. He and his wife Deanna share their Haight Ashbury home with grandchildren, lots of books and a peaceful garden. When not writing or performing on stage, Ron enjoys teaching poetry with the mentally disabled and coaching his granddaughters CYO basketball team. Ron is retired after working 30 years as a teacher at the San Francisco Recreation Center for the Handicapped (now the Janet Pomeroy Center).

Fired from teaching at Cubberley High School and subsequent jobs directing alternative schools at Stanford University and Mt. Zion Psychiatric Hospital, Ron found an accepting home at the Janet Pomeroy Center. Teaching the physically and mentally disabled in theater and sports, his programs empowered the disabled to speak for themselves. He provided the disabled with a celebrated place in the community from which they were previously excluded. This work became the subject of books, film and television presentations that taught us all – ‘there are more ways to win than coming in first.’

Recently Ron has taken the stage as a spoken word artist to talk about his life. A life that is unpredictable. Trusting confusion. A life based on a belief in oneself and others. A life that refuses to accept control and an order driven by fear and hatred of others. The life of a playful artist that happens to be a father, teacher, and now a grandparent. A life of quiet adventure.

Ron performs regularly in local bars, studios, and theaters. He is often accompanied by disabled dancers and jazz musicians. Working with guitarist Kenny Martha, Grammy winning David Denny and videographer Damon Molloy, Ron has recorded his stage work into a series of storytelling videos.



With the support of
ARTSNOW

Ghosts of the Magic City

GHOST WALK

By Holly Barkdoll

Inspired by the book by Steve Kelleher and Jessica King

DIRECTED BY HOLLY BARKDOLL

A ghost walk through downtown Barberton!

Guests will experience a guided tour of haunted locations as they walk the streets of historic Alexander Square. Led by Magical Theatre Company's professional actors, it's a night of history, mystery and drama!

OCT. 24 – 30, 2025

Friday, October 24	7:00pm, 7:30pm, 8:00pm
Tuesday, October 28	7:00pm, 7:30pm, 8:00pm
Wednesday, October 29	7:00pm, 7:30pm, 8:00pm
Thursday, October 30	7:00pm, 7:30pm, 8:00pm

Most enjoyed by families ages 12 and up

\$25 PER PERSON

**Each time slot accommodates up to 20 people.
Reservations required.**

**Back by Popular
Demand!**

Next
Onstage



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Book by
Thomas Meehan

Music by
Charles Strouse

Lyrics by
Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin

Based on "Little Orphan Annie" ©

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DIRECTED BY DENNIS O'CONNELL

*The world's most beloved family musical onstage
at Magical Theatre for the first time ever!*

*Little Orphan Annie has reminded generations
of families that sunshine - and tomorrow -
are just around the corner.*

DEC. 5 – 21, 2025

ONLY AT MAGICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Most enjoyed by families ages 6 and up

\$23 AND \$25 PER SEAT

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

The Company of Creatives

HOLLY BARKDOLL (*The Keeper of All Things Magical*) is extremely proud to be entering into her 34th year at Magical Theatre Company! She has worked as an actress and/or director in 22 of our 50 states, and has loved every minute of it. Holly has enjoyed acting in, or directing, such shows as *Brigadoon*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Camelot*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *The Music Man*, and *The Elephant Man*, and many others. When lucky enough to travel out of the country, she and her husband, Dennis, make it a point to visit other theatres devoted to Theatre for Young Audiences. They have enjoyed performances in England, Scotland, Germany, Italy and Bulgaria. When not onstage or in the director's chair, Holly's guilty pleasure is watching *Hallmark* Christmas movies. All year long.

INDA BLATCH-GEIB (*Queen of Clothes*) Inda Blatch-Geib's work as a costume and production designer for over 600 theatrical, commercial, and film releases has spanned 30 years and crossed 4 continents including work off-Broadway and for The Colombian National Opera. Current commercial projects include Costume Design for The Cleveland Cavaliers' Jumbotron and four national spots for the team. Upcoming production design credits include a soon to be released Showtime Original film. Her print design has included set styling for Harper's Bazaar UK Scarlett Johansson cover and spread, as well as catalogue set styling for Foundations and Kilgore Trout. Inda's designs have been highlighted at The National Inventor's Hall of Fame/Smithsonian Institute 'Exercising Ingenuity' exhibit as well as in national commercials for Microsoft, McDonald's, Under Armour, TroyBuilt, The Original Mattress Factory, and Mumentive.

WALTER BOSWELL (*Scenic Artist*) is a Cleveland-based theatre artist. His scenic designs have been seen at Beck Center for the Arts, Ensemble Theatre, Baldwin Wallace College, Dobama Theatre, Karamu House, Lorain County Community College, Playwrights Local, and Theatre in the Circle. Walter also spent 18 years as the scenic and lighting designer for Middlebury College's summer program. He received the Cleveland Critics Circle Award for Scenic Design for *The Adding Machine* at Lorain County Community College in 1984 and for *The Hairy Ape* at Ensemble Theatre in 2017.

NOAH CASINO (*Actor*) graduated from Kent State University with a BIS in Music and Theatre. While at Kent, he founded and Music Directed Kent's premiere all-male a cappella group, Momentum. He is thrilled to work with Magical Theatre again, after last season playing roles in *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, and *Tuck Everlasting*. Previously at Magical Theatre, Noah appeared as Atreu in *The Neverending Story*, and Johnny in *The Outsiders*. Other recent credits include *Paddington Saves Christmas*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *A*

Christmas Story, and *Island of the Blue Dolphins* here at Magical Theatre. Noah also was in *Hairspray* and *Footloose* at Porthouse Theatre.

KATE CLAY (*Actor*) is delighted to be back at Magical Theatre Company after a childhood spent scurrying around its boards. You may have seen her in previous productions such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Westing Game*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*, *KidScripts*, and *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*! She studied theatre at Pace University in New York City and was lucky enough to perform at the Paper Kraine Theater, The Producer's Club, as well as Hudson Classical Shakespeare Company. In Northeast Ohio she performed with Great Lakes Theatre Company, Dobama Theater, and was a founding member of Shakespeare by the Falls in Chagrin Falls.

ADAM DITZEL (*The Illuminator*) is returning to the world of performing arts after working full-time with a corporate audio visual company for the past few years; and is happy to be working with Magical Theatre again. Past design credits at Magical include *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, *The Amazing Lemonade Girl*, *Charlotte's Web* and *A Christmas Carol*. This fall and winter, Adam's work can be seen at Near West Theatre, Verb Ballets, and The University of Akron School of Dance. Adam holds a degree in Lighting Design & Technology from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). He is currently based in Cleveland where he just bought a house with his loving new bride, Corrine.

CHRISTINE GRISEZ GAULT (*Lighting Gal*) is thrilled to be back in the light booth at Magical Theatre! She started running lights for Magical with *Charlotte's Web*. Some of her other tech credits include *The Neverending Story*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Harriet the Spy*, and stage managing *Driving Miss Daisy* for our very own Dennis O'Connell. Her journey through theater did not begin with running the lights however; most of her theater experience has been performing under them. Some of her onstage credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Rules of the Playground*, *A My Name is Alice*, *Oliver*, and *Nunsense*, in which she played Sister Robert Anne, a role she can play for the rest of her life without ever being bored. Much thanks to Holly and Dennis for making me a part of the Magical family!

ADAM HOFFMAN (*Actor/Playwright*) is delighted to return to the Magical stage. He's been seen here since 2004 with favorite shows including *1984*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Neverending Story*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, and many, many seasons of *Kidscripts*. Adam has appeared with many NE Ohio companies including Ohio Shakespeare, Porthouse, GLTF, Dobama, among others.

The Company of Creatives

He also works as a director/educator for Stagecrafters and as a playwright his works have been performed here at MTC and other theatres, schools and colleges. He is the writer of the podcast "Cryptic." Perhaps his favorite role is that of husband to the wonderful Wendy and daddy to the marvelous Maxwell. "I would like to dedicate this season to my mother, Joetta Hoffman. Your love and encouragement meant the world to me. I love you."

JEREMIAH ISLEY (*Master of All Things Aural*) is a long time audio engineer, sound designer, stagehand, performer, podcaster, and musician – among other things. As a freelance audio engineer Jeremiah has worked with a myriad of local and national acts including: The Afters, Richard Marx, BB King, and Yo Yo Ma. Jeremiah has found his way to the stage in Ballet Theatre of Ohio's production of *The Nutcracker* as the Mouse King, with 2025 marking his 33rd season in the role! Jeremiah lives in Tallmadge with his wife and children, and enjoys board gaming, blogging and podcasting. He is the producer and director of the new hit audio drama podcast *Cryptic*. Jeremiah returned to Magical Theatre Company in 2015 after a lengthy hiatus and has been a part of numerous productions with the company throughout his career. You can find him on Twitter: @JeremiahIsley

MARK C. JENKS (*Creature Maker*) has worked on special events for The Cleveland Museum of Art, and as a featured artist in Parade the Circle and Festival of Lights for the last twenty years. He co-designed and directed the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum's opening day parade, as well as productions of *Peter and the Wolf* and *Pictures at an Exhibition* with the Cleveland Orchestra. Mark has made many creatures for Magical Theatre Company including *Flora & Ulysses* and *Prancer*; as well as *The BFG*, *Beowulf*, *The Odyssey*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and all those spot-on props in *The Cat in the Hat*.

AMANDA KIDD (*Actor*) is honored to be a company member with Magical Theatre and greatly enjoys touring as Mother Goose to preschools. Some of her favorite roles at Magical include the White Witch (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*), the Mad Hatter (*Alice in Wonderland*), the Goose (*Charlotte's Web*) and the Chicken (*Click, Clack Moo*) to name a few. She has a BFA in Acting from Wright State University and did many productions in Chicago. She is also a stained-glass mosaic artist whose work has been shown in juried art shows in Ohio and Chicago. She has a lovely time making polymer clay jewelry with her mother with Morninghouse Studio. Much thanks to her family for all their support!

DEB LEMIRE (*Actor*) has worked professionally for over 40 years and as part of the Magical family for the past 20! It's hard to narrow down, but some of her favorite roles at Magical include Sponge/Ladybug in *James and the Giant Peach*, Mrs. Whatsit in *A Wrinkle*

in Time, Miss Maudie Atkinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* and Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web*. Deb has her BFA in Musical Theatre from Kent State University and master's work done at West Virginia University. Through her own company queenbeeproductions.com, Deb expands her artistic endeavors with producing and directing, visual arts, creative marketing and working with students as they prepare auditions for school programs. Deb lives in Cuyahoga Falls with daughter Rocky, husband Russell, and three crazy cats.

BEN NEEDHAM (*Sultan of Scenery*) is excited to be returning for his 17th season with Magical Theatre Company. Ben is the Owner and Principal Designer of Digital Squirrel Studio (www.digitalsquirrel.net) a full-service animation, design and architectural illustration studio. Film and television projects include set designer for Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*, *Kill the Irishman*, *Killing Lincoln*, *Killing Kennedy*, *Killing Reagan*, ABC's *The Kingmakers*, Meg Ryan's *Ithaca*, Amazon's Original Series *Point of Honor*, PBS's *Mercy Street* and of AMC's *TURN – Washington's Spies*. Ben was most recently a set designer on the films *The Outpost* and *Son of the South*. He also is the co-owner of SHADOW OF THE RUN, a NEOhip based immersive theatre company. In addition to his editing and television work, he has designed over 850 Theatre productions including locally for Beck Center for the Arts, Dobama, the Fine Arts Association, Signstage on Tour, Karamou Theatre and many others. Ben would like to thank his wife and children for all their support.

DENNIS O'CONNELL (*The Other Keeper of All Things Magical*) began his career in the Theatre as a professional actor while still in elementary school. Before graduating from the University of Akron, he became the Director of Drama at Walsh Jesuit HS. He then spent six years as a free-lance stage actor and director, working in 16 states. Dennis began directing professionally in 1989, as well as working in arts administration. He has had the pleasure of directing or acting with Connie Britton, Jami Gertz, Melina Kanakaredes, Doug McKeon, and the late Kelly Preston, as well as internationally known playwrights Fred Carmichael and Aurand Harris. Professional affiliations include: Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, Creative Ohio, Association of Fundraising Professionals, and SAG-AFTRA. He is Past President of the erstwhile Akron Area Arts Alliance, as well as being in Leadership Akron's Barberton Community Leadership Institute. He was named Co-Producing Director of Magical Theatre Company in 1992- making him (and his wonderful wife, Holly) one of the longest-tenured arts leaders in Summit County.

GABRIEL REED (*Actor*) is beyond ecstatic to be returning to Magical Theatre Company! Gabe graduated from Point Park University in 2018 with a BFA in musical theatre. Recent credits include the Old Man in *The*

The Company of Creatives

Old Man and The Old Moon at Dobama, Bert Barry in *42 Street*, Paul in *Kiss Me Kate*, Loker in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Jack Carter in *The Sea* all at the historic Pittsburgh Playhouse. In addition to being an actor, Gabe is an award-winning singer/songwriter under the alias M.O.O.K.Y. For music updates and new releases, follow him on Instagram and Spotify @m.o.o.k.y. Gabe would like to thank his family and friends.

MARK ROSS (Actor) is excited to return to the Magical stage. Favorite experiences with MTC include *A Christmas Carol*, *Prancer, 1984*, *The Neverending Story*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *KidScripts*. He has also worked with the Cleveland Playhouse, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, CATCo, Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland Signstage and Ensemble Theatre. In the DC area he has performed at The Shakespeare Theatre Co, Imagination Stage, Theatre of the First Amendment, Taffety Punk and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, as well as regionally with Theatre L'Homme Dieu (MN), Renaissance Repertory Co (TN), Cumberland Theatre Co (MD) and Prop Theatre (Chicago). A proud member of SAG-AFTRA, his work has also included film, television, radio, trade and industrial videos, and live interactive performances. Mark earned

his MFA from the Academy for Classical Acting at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in coordination with George Washington University.

DALE SEEDS (Scenic Painter) returns to Magical Theatre Company after having painted *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* and assisting on *Witness for the Prosecution* last season. Dale is a professor of Theatre and Dance emeritus at The College of Wooster. In addition to his painting skills, Dale spent much time in Alaska studying the Chenega Tribe and wrote a play based on the book of their experiences, *The Day That Cries Forever*.

OWEN CONNOR STOUT (Technical Director) has been slaloming between set building and acting in Northeast Ohio for the past four years. Connor received his Master's in Opera Performance from the University of Illinois in 2021 under the tutelage of Dawn Harris and Nathan Gunn. He has been seen recently in *Amadeus* at Cleveland Playhouse, Cain Park's *Fun Home* and *Sondheim on Sondheim*, and DOBAMA's *The Land of Oz*. He was the Technical Director for DOBAMA's *Make Believe* and *Little Women*, as well as all the shows at Magical Theatre last season. Enjoy the show!

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Please consider a donation to Magical Theatre Company's endowment fund at Barberton Community Foundation to further support local professional theatre for young audiences and families.

