MAGICAL THEATRE COMPANY

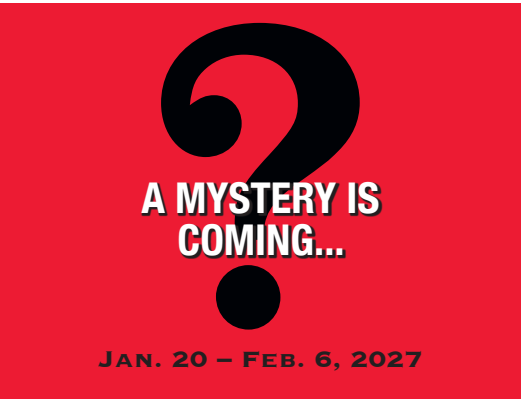
2026-2027

Professional Theatre for Young Audiences & Families

Producing Directors Holly Barkdoll & Dennis O'Connell















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Magical Theatre Company

2026-2027 Resident Season

The Hardy Boys in the Mystery of the Haunted House

Oct. 9 – 18, 2026

By Jon Klein

Based on the Hardy Boys novel The House on the Cliff by Franklin W. Dixon

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Elf–The Musical TYA

Dec. 4 – 20, 2026

Book by Thomas Meehan, Bob Martin • Music by Matthew Sklar • Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based on the New Line Cinema film by David Berenbaum

A Mystery is Coming...

Jan. 20 – Feb. 6, 2027

Trivia Night

April 6, 2027

Junie B. Jones: Toothless Wonder

April 30 – May 8, 2027

By Allison Gregory

Based on the book by Barbara Park

MAGICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Staff

Holly Barkdoll
Co-Producing Director

Dennis O'Connell
Co-Producing Director

Tyler Jensen
Operations Manager

Cathy Nahacky, *Office Manager*

Tammie Sneed, *Bookkeeper*

Board

Cathy Bulgrin, *President*
Jayne Miller, *Vice President*
Donald Baker,
Secretary/Treasurer
Tim Papp, *Past President*
Christine D. Finan
Amy Heffernan
Henna Schafer

FOR TICKETS, CURTAIN TIMES & GROUP RATE INFORMATION

www.magicaltheatre.org • Call 330-848-3708 • Fax 330-848-5768

Season may be subject to change.

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 Rudyard Kipling

DIRECTED & ADPATED BY DENNIS O'CONNELL

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

How did the Camel get his hump? The Elephant his trunk? The Rhinoceros his wrinkly skin? Discover the wonderfully imaginative answers in Just So Stories! Featuring beautiful puppetry, playful humor, and inventive storytelling, this lively production brings Rudyard Kipling's classic animal tales to life and celebrates curiosity, creativity, and the joy of a great story.

Most enjoyed by students grades K – 5



Written by your very own students

DIRECTED BY HOLLY BARKDOLL

KidScripts is an innovative program in which students write their own stories and MTC adapts them for the stage. Students see their words and ideas morph into a world premiere, performed right before their very eyes – and the entire school!

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



By Jon Klein
Based on the Hardy Boys novel The House on the Cliff by Franklin W. Dixon

Scenic/Projection Design: Ben Needham
Costume Design: Inda Blatch-Geib
Lighting Design: Adam Ditzel
Sound Design: Jeremiah Isley
Technical Director: Justin Herman
Fight Choreography: Kate Clay
Scenic Painter: Cait Jones
Scenic Carpenters: Ray Beach, Jack Colando, Wane Goss, James Gremba, Robert Leeper, Dan Telford, Don Wood
Sound Board Operator: Jeremiah Isley & Aaron Traugh
Electricians: Logan Chapman, Ben Pollizi
Light Board Operator: Christine Grisez Gault

Directed by Dennis O'Connell

Produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences

GAR Foundation • Ohio Arts Council • ArtsNow • Barberton Community Foundation
Peg's Foundation • Willard E. Smucker Foundation • ACME Fresh Market • MG O'Neil Foundation
Akron Community Foundation • The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation



The Cast

In order of appearance

Jones	**Adam Hoffman**
Snackley	**Steve Boardman**
Frank Hardy	**Maxton Oktela**
Joe Hardy	**Caleb Gordon**
Callie Shaw	**Mallory Dannemiller**
Mrs. Shaw	**Deb Lemire**
Fenton Hardy	**Dennis O'Connell**
Malloy	**Gio Palermo**
Margaret	**Kate Clay**
Chief Collig	**Adam Hoffman**





Guest Artists

Steve Boardman

(Snackley) is happy to be returning to Magical Theatre Company and to be a part of this talented, hard-working cast. He recently appeared on the Magical stage in *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *12 Angry Jurors* and *Junie B. Jones' Jingle Bells, Batman Smells*. His earlier work at the theatre was back in 1995 in *Pinocchio* and *The Snow Queen*, while touring the school production of *Witches, Britches, Rings N Things*. Acting in Ohio, N. Carolina, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Steve never knows where his passion will take him as long as he is doing what he truly loves.

Mallory Dannemiller

(Callie Shaw) is a senior at Hoban High School and is so excited to return to Magical Theatre Company. She was most recently seen on stage last season in *The Third Wave*; and previously as Fern in *Charlotte's Web* and Harriet in *Harriet the Spy*. She participated in K.I.D. Camp for 11 years, just finishing her final summer. She is grateful to her friends, family, and everyone who has supported her throughout the years, especially everyone at Magical Theatre Company!

Caleb Gordon

(Joe Hardy) is a senior at Barberton High School. He is so excited to be back at the Magical Theatre Company! Caleb has previously performed in *Judy Moody and Stink* in the *Mad Mad Mad Mad Treasure Hunt*. Along with that, he has done theater camps with Magical and has done musicals at Barberton High School, including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and played the title role in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He was most recently seen in *Newsies* at North Canton Playhouse. In addition to acting, Caleb enjoys watching movies and is the captain of the academic challenge team. He wants to thank everyone who came to see the show.

Maxton Oktela

(Frank Hardy) is a senior at Barberton High School, where he is a member of the Show Choir and Wind Ensemble. His previous credits include his school's productions of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Maxton is excited to make his Magical Theatre Company debut. He thanks the staff for their guidance throughout the production, with special thanks to Dennis O'Connell for his support. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Gio Palermo

(Malloy) is thrilled to return to the stage for the first time in six years in *The Hardy Boys in the Mystery of the Haunted House*! Gio is excited to be back at Magical Theatre Company, where he previously appeared in productions of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. After several years away from performing, he couldn't be happier to return to a place that holds so many great memories. Gio would like to thank his friends, family, and everyone at Magical Theatre Company for their support and for making his return to the stage such a special one.



JOHN DENVER

Tribute Concert

Join us for an unforgettable performance.

Ted Vigil, the country's number one John Denver tribute artist, embodies the late great music icon in look as well as voice.

ONE NIGHT ONLY

OCT. 11, 2026
7PM

ONLY AT MAGICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Most enjoyed by families ages 12 and up

$25 PER SEAT

Next Onstage



The Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan, Bob Martin | *Music by Matthew Sklar* | *Lyrics by Chad Beguelin*

Based on the New Line Cinema film by David Berenbaum

Directed by Holly Barkdoll

Based on the beloved holiday film, Elf The Musical TYA follows Buddy, a human raised as an elf at the North Pole, as he journeys to New York City to find his family and discover where he truly belongs. Filled with laughter, heart, and plenty of Christmas cheer, this modern holiday classic is a joyful celebration for the whole family.

Dec. 4 – 20, 2026

Only at Magical Theatre Company

Most enjoyed by families ages 6 and up

$23 and $25 per seat

ELF-THE MUSICAL TYA 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, Spain, 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 Momentive.

Kate Clay *(Actor & Great Baker)* is delighted to return to Magical Theatre for another season! You may have spotted her in past productions like *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* (Mercy), *Annie* (Lily St. Regis), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Greta Ohlsson), *Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne), *The Westing Game* (Turtle), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck). Kate would like to thank the Magical crew and cast for their artistry and friendship, and sends love to her family, without whose support she would have never discovered her love of theatre. Isaiah 41:10

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!

Dimitri Georgiadis *(Actor)* In addition to Magical Theatre Company, Dimitri has performed with local theaters in the area including Ohio Shakespeare Festival, Get Away with Murder, and Blank Canvas Theatre. Memorable roles include: Gary/Roger *(Noises Off)*, Sir Andrew Aguecheek *(Twelfth Night)*, Renfield *(Dracula)*, Michael Stamford *(Miss Holmes)*, Philip Lombard *(And Then There Were None)*, Hamlet *(Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead)*, and James Keller *(The Miracle Worker)*.

Adam Hoffman *(Actor/Playwright/Funny Man)* is pleased to return to the Magical Theatre Company stage. A graduate of Baldwin Wallace (BA Theatre) and Kent State University (MFA Acting), Adam works as an actor, director, playwright, and theatre artist. Favorite shows at Magical include *Murder On The Orient Express*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Wrinkle In Time*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tall Tales*, *Cinderella*, *Tuesdays With Morrie*, and many, many years with Kidscripts. He has been seen with Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Dobama, Cain Park, Porthouse Theatre, and the Ohio Shakespeare Festival. He has written over a dozen produced plays and wrote the book for the new musical, *Poe Is Dead*. Adam has also worked for Stagecrafters youth theatre for over twenty years. He sends his love to the cast, crew, and friends and especially to his wonderful wife Wendy and magnificent son Maxwell.

Deb Lemire *(Actor & Queen B)* 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*,

The Company of Creatives

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.

Zoe McConaha *(Actor)* has loved the stage since fifth grade and has been performing ever since! A Kent State University graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance, Zoe's Magical Theatre Company credits include the determined Francine Poulet in *Mercy Watson to the Rescue!* and The Girl in *Witness for the Prosecution*. You may also have seen her in last season's *The Third Wave* or *Annie*. Her family remains her most loyal audience, cheering her on and never missing a show!

Ben Needham *(Sultan of Scenery)* is excited to be returning for his 18th 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 NEOhio 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, Karamu 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)* grew up with a fertile imagination pretending to be all manner of characters — some real, such as Daniel Boone and Willie Mays; some created by others such as Huckleberry Finn and Snaggelpuss and others he created and which resembled pirates, gorillas, cowboys, explorers, cheetahs and even elephants. These characters and others came to life in his backyard, his bedroom and at Hardesty Park, where he roamed with his sister, brothers and neighborhood cronies. Together they played games and invented their own. All that playing led to places where he became more immersed in playing – plays at school, plays at local theatres and plays in college. Eventually, his path led him to plays on the road that actually paid him to perform and finally, to Magical Theatre Company, where he has played the last 34 years. Here he has all sorts of wonderful playmates — some kids, some adults — and of course, the best one of all, his wife, Holly.

TRIVIA Night

FUNdraiser!

April 6, 2027

6:00pm Zwisler Hall, West Akron

The most casual fundraiser ever: pizza, beer, wine, and trivia. You'll have a blast!

$500 Grand Prize

$250 Second Prize

TICKETS 330-848-3708

ADVANCE SALE ONLY All proceeds benefit Magical Theatre Company



Previous Season at Magical Theatre Company







