



Presents the 2026 Concert Series at The Jamie Hurd Amphitheater

Side Show

Book and Lyrics by Bill Russell

Music by Henry Krieger

Additional book material by Bill Condon

Side Show is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Sponsored by the West Des Moines Community Foundation



The 2014 Broadway Revival of SIDE SHOW was originally directed by Bill Condon and produced by Darren Bagert, Martin Massman, Jayne Baron Sherman, Joan Raffe & Jhett Tolentino, Universal Stage Productions, Joined At the Hip Productions, CJ E&M/Mike Coolik, Shadowcatcher Entertainment, Michael M. Kaiser, Jim Kierstead, Marc David Levine, Catherine & Fred Adler, Bredeweg & Carlberg, Clear Channel Spectacolor, Curtis Forsythe, Gloken, Highbrow & Nahem, Nobile Lehner Shea Productions, Pretty Freaks, Weatherby & Fishman Theatrical, Matthew Masten, and Jujamcyn Theaters, in association with The John F. Kennedy Center for The Performing Arts & La Jolla Playhouse.

The 1997 Broadway Production of SIDE SHOW was originally directed and choreographed by Robert Longbottom and produced by Emanuel Azenberg, Joseph Nederlander, Herschel Waxman, Janice McKenna, and Scott Nederlander.

Cast

Daisy Hilton Allison Wergeland
Violet Hilton Ashley Rogers
Terry Connor Alex Lindsley
Buddy Foster Andy McKissick
Jake/Cannibal King Nicholas Root
Sir Dann Kuttler
Tod Browning Micheal Davenport
3-Legged Man/Ensemble Poet Nickel
Geek/Ensemble Adam Fast
Fortune Teller/Ensemble Heather Tragesser
Venus De Milo/Ensemble Nina Norton
Dog Boy/Houdini/Ensemble Brandon Griffis
Female Cossack/Ensemble Amanda Jackson
Male Cossack/Ensemble Travis Mitchell
Half Man/Half Woman/Ensemble Anna Lee
Human Pin Cushion/Judge/Ray/Ensemble.... Derek Schwab
Snake Charmer/Sir's Lawyer/Ensemble Hannah Larsen
Bearded Lady/Auntie/Ensemble Maida Parkinson
Tattoo Girl/Ensemble Greta Paulsen
Roustabout/Ensemble Isaiah Dale
Roustabout/Ensemble Micah Talley

Des Moines Community Orchestra

Conductor: Anna Zaino

Flute 1: Theresa Driscoll

Oboe/English Horn: Maryanna Bryant

Clarinet 1: Carrie Siepel

Clarinet 2: Scott Kruse

Bass Clarinet: Laura Appenzeller

Alto/Soprano Sax, Flute 2: Bob Bees

Tenor Sax: Xavier DeGroot

Horn: Greg Barton

Trumpet: Steve Newman

Trombone: Jamie Deeds

Keyboard 1: Vincent Andrews

Keyboard 2: Naomi Long-Sunde

Guitar: Don Salting

Percussion: Josh Whitver

Drum Set: Tyler Heep

Violin 1: Kris Shay

Violin 1: Kathy Hykes

Violin 2: Laura Valle

Violin 2: Shaunda Murphy*

Viola: Nick Brown*

Viola: Emillie Gregor

Cello: Eric Emmons

Cello: Rachel Hyde

Bass: Zadok Perry

Personnel Manager: Kevin Allemagne*

Assistant Personnel Manager: Scott Kruse

*Indicates a DMCO Board Member

Production Team

Book Director – Bob Baskerville
Music Director – Renée Davenport
Choreographer – Natalie Thomas
Des Moines Community Orchestra Conductor – Anna Zaino
Stage Manager – Lisa Gould
Stage Manager – Kat Lindaman
Costume Designer – Cheryl Clark
Costume Designer – Emily Dokken
Wig Designer – Heidie Swihart
Props Designer – Barb McClintock
Attractions Costume Designer & Puppet Design – Amanda Arthur-Struss
Sound Enhancement – Light This Production
Rehearsal Accompanist - Karen Kalianov
Intimacy Coordinator – Stephanie Schnieder
Production Manager – Kelly Mayhew
Technical Director – Mark Mayhew
Assistant Technical Director – Sarah Yawn
Artistic Director – Thomas D. Perrine
Photography – Dylan Heuer
Graphic Design – Kat Lindaman

Construction Crew – Bob Baskerville, Sarah Yawn, Will Reuss, Kathy Good, Mark Mayhew

Tallgrass Theatre Company Board of Directors

Ty Klobassa, President	Erin Bishop
James Stephenson, Vice President	Jenae Bradley
Josh Klobassa, Treasurer	Jim Kabel
Arlene McAtee, Secretary	Joshua Powles
Bob Baskerville	Gary Scherer

Artistic Trust: Kelly & Mark Mayhew, Thomas D. Perrine, Allison Wergeland

A Note from our Director

This is not a show about freaks.

Quite the opposite. This is a show about love, hope, resilience and the desire to be accepted as one's true self. We all have something about us- an exceptionality- that we believe makes us different. We spend so much time and effort trying to conceal that one aspect of ourselves that we forget one simple truth: There are as many people who find that one aspect appealing as there are who find it distasteful. We carry this duality with us every day of our lives. It plays a central role in how we define ourselves and how we present ourselves.

Now imagine if your exceptionality couldn't be hidden or disguised. Every day, every time someone looks at you, first and foremost, they see your exceptionality. It defines you. But every once in a while, someone looks past that. And they see *you*. They see the true, authentic person and they don't shy away. In fact, they keep looking and want to see more.

This is a show about those moments. This is a show about facing the dualities we all live with. This is a show about the chosen families that accept you for who you are and celebrate your uniqueness. This is a show about letting yourself hope that maybe, this time, the person seeing you will be the one you've been looking for.

The characters in this show are based on real, historical people. (Yes, there has been a certain amount of dramatic license taken. After all, this is musical theatre.) They faced the same challenges we face today. These people learned how to survive- how to flourish in a world that labeled them as Freaks. Nothing more, nothing less. Freaks.

My hope as the director of this production is twofold. First, I want everyone involved on the stage, behind the scenes and in the audience to have an enjoyable experience. This cast, the orchestra and the entire production team have spent countless hours preparing what you'll see and hear tonight. I am very proud of this production. Second, I hope that at least some of the people who shared this experience will walk away with the curiosity and courage to look at the world a bit differently. Instead of spending so much time and energy focusing on the one aspect of a person that makes them different, focus on all the things we have in common. Today, more than ever, we need to be there for each other. Build on our common strengths. Celebrate, not condemn the differences.

This is not a show about Freaks. This is a show about all of us.

Bob Baskerville

Musical Numbers

Act 1

1. Come Look at the Freaks
 - 1a. Freaks Playoff
 - 1b. Behind the Tent
 - 1c. I'm Daisy. I'm Violet.
2. Like Everyone Else
3. Very Well Connected
- 3a. Before Devil You Know
4. Devil You Know
- 4a. Ladies and gentlemen...
5. Typical Girls Next Door
- 5a. Transition to Flashback
6. Flashback, Part 1
- 6a. Flashback, Part 2 (All in the Mind)
 - 6b. Flashback, Part 3
 - 6c. Before the Trial
7. Feelings You've Got to Hide
8. The Courtroom
9. Say Goodbye to the Sideshow
 11. Ready to Play
 - 11a. After the Show
 - 11b. The Interview
 - 11c. Buddy kissed me...
12. Who Will Love Me As I Am

Act II

13. Entr'acte
14. Stuck With You, Part 1
15. Leave Me Alone
- 15a. Stuck with You, Part 2
- 15b. Stuck with You, Playoff
16. New Year's Eve
- 16a. Waltz and Proposal
- 16b. Auld Lang Syne
17. A Private Conversation
18. One Plus One Equals Three
- 18a. Separation Anxiety
19. You Should Be Loved
- 19a. The Texas Centennial
20. Great Wedding Show
21. Attractions Return
22. Buddy's Confession
- 22a. Marry Me, Terry
23. I Will Never Leave You
24. Finale: Wedding/Come Look at the Freaks Reprise
25. Bows and Exit Music

A note from the Artistic Director of Tallgrass

Welcome to Tallgrass Theatre Company's production of *Side Show*. We started these Summer Concert Series productions in 2021 with *Bridges of Madison County* and *An Evening with Sondheim*. We had no idea how they might be received. We wanted to bring theatre to our audiences in a safe way (this was still during the pandemic). We also wanted to give back to our community. A community that continued to support Tallgrass Theatre Company during a global pandemic, a search for a new home, finding a home and building a new theatre space. Now five years and six productions at the Jamie Hurd Amphitheater later, our collaborations have grown.

We once again are partnering with West Des Moines Parks and Recreation, who continue to support these productions. We started working with the Des Moines Community Orchestra in 2024 with our production of *Camelot*. The addition of a full orchestra makes these productions lush with sound. *Side Show* has 21 incredible local performers backed by over 20 local musicians, not to mention the full backstage crew of designers, theatre artists and technicians.

This year Tallgrass is proud to welcome The West Des Moines Community Foundation as sponsors for *Side Show*. This sponsorship allows us to offer this production as a Free Will Donation performance, a Thank You to our community that continues to support local theatre.

Please give a round of applause to The West Des Moines Community Foundation for their continued support of the Arts in West Des Moines.

Enjoy this beautiful story of love, resilience and the desire to be accepted. I hope to see many of you at the theatre for our 2026-2027 Season!

Thomas D. Perrine
Artistic Director

Cast and Crew

Allison Wergeland (Daisy Hilton) You may remember Allison's past appearances at Tallgrass as Olympe de Gouges in *The Revolutionists*, Cass Harris in *Wonder of the World*, Hesther Salomon in *Equus*, and as a member of The A Sisters. Allison made her Tallgrass directorial debut this past winter with her direction of *DISENCHANTED!* Allison most recently appeared as Anastasia/Anya in *Anastasia* (Carousel Theater of Indianola), for which she received a Cloris Award for Outstanding Performance by a Lead Actor in a Musical. She would like to send a special shout-out to her bestie, Ashley Rogers, for going on this special journey together through the Side Show.

Ashley Rogers (Violet Hilton) is active in the Des Moines Metro theatre scene, and was last seen onstage as Polly Baker in *Crazy For You* (Des Moines Playhouse), Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* (Tallgrass Theatre), and Simon Zealotes in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Des Moines Playhouse). Ashley is thrilled to return to the Tallgrass stage this summer to tell the extraordinary story of Daisy and Violet Hilton alongside a stellar cast, crew, and the marvelous Des Moines Community Orchestra! When Ashley isn't in a production, you can find her in the real estate world as a Transaction Coordinator with RealClear Settlement. In her remaining free time, she enjoys all things vintage, live music and traveling. Her next venture will take her to Europe in 2026, and she simply cannot wait!

Alex Lindsley (Terry Conner) returns to Tallgrass after having designed hair and makeup for *Disenchanted* and Directing the A-Sisters at the Velvet Lounge. Some of his favorite past roles include Dmitry in *Anastasia* (Cloris Nom) and Leaf Coneybear in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. When not working as an Events and Communications Coordinator you can find Alex sewing, painting, or crafting.

Andy McKissick (Buddy Foster) is excited to return to Tallgrass after performing back-to-back at Tallgrass as the Little Mermaid in *Disenchanted* and as a friend in the A-Sisters at the Velvet Lounge. A Cloris Award winner for Best Supporting Performer for his role as Ogie in *Waitress*, he dreams of playing Quasimodo in *Hunchback*. A native of Gainesville, Georgia, Andy now works as a woman of the night in Waukee. His education in the School of Life has given him the ability to turn the world on with his smile.

Nicholas Root (Jake) was last seen at Tallgrass with last year's summer show, *Anything Goes* as Lord Evelyn. Favorite roles include his most recent role as Dan in *Next to Normal* with ACTORS in Ames last November and the entire D'Ysquith family (nine roles!) in the Central College production of *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Nick enjoys bourbon hunting, photography, and video games, and his favorite activity is trips to Disney with his wife, Alison, and walks with their dog Winnie.

Dann Kuttler (Sir) makes his Tallgrass debut with this show, but is no stranger to theatre. An account by day from Altoona, he also has a band and wants you to follow them at facebook.com/birdgamesband. One of his favorite roles in the past has been being double cast as Theseus and Oberon in the Union Street Players production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Pella. He sends his love to his wife, Beth.

Micheal Davenport (Tod Browning) returns to Tallgrass after his Cloris Leachman award for Excellence for his supporting role as Moonface Martin in Tallgrass's 2025 production of *Anything Goes*. He is an accomplished actor, with over 35 stage credits in Chicago and Des Moines, including performances with Chicago's Improv-Olympic and The Des Moines Symphony's *Beyond The Score*. His standout roles include Panch in *Spelling Bee* and Richard Nixon in *Judy's Scary Little Xmas* at StageWest, and dual roles as Lee and Austin in *True West* at Tallgrass Theatre's inaugural Dream Project, earning a Cloris Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor as Dr. Treves in *The Elephant Man*. Micheal has a long history with The Des

Moines Playhouse, beginning at age 17 in *Huck Finn*. Since then, he has performed in roles such as Mark Rothko in *Red*, David Sarnoff in *The Farnsworth Invention*, Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins*, and Dad in *Billy Elliot*. He has also assistant directed and dramaturged at the Playhouse. For the past eight years, Micheal has served as Artistic Director of Roosevelt High School's Theatre Arts program, directing musicals like *Annie*, *Disney's High School Musical*, *Spelling Bee*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Lion King JR.*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, as well as plays like *The Crucible*, *The Laramie Project*, and *Death of a Salesman*. His IHSSA Speech students have consistently earned All-State honors and Critic's Choice banners. Micheal's directing credits extend to *On Golden Pond* at Tallgrass Theatre, *The Addams Family* at Knoxville Area Community Theatre, and *Beauty and The Beast* and *Guys and Dolls* at Urbandale Community Theatre, collaborating with his wife Renée as music director. He lives in Des Moines with his wife Renée and their son Forrest.

Poet Nickel (3-Legged Man/Ensemble) is thrilled to be acting in their first show with Tallgrass! Prior to *Side Show*, he's served Tallgrass as backstage crew in *For Peter Pan On her 70th Birthday*, *The A Sisters and Friends at the Velvet Lounge*, and *Blithe Spirit*. In the acting world, their most recent credits include The First Witch from *Macbeth*, Emelia in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and Ricky Potts' Understudy/Dance Captain of *Ride the Cyclone*. He wants to thank everyone who's been a part of this amazing team of cast and crew for making this show truly special. And thank you for seeing the show!

Adam Fast (Geek/Ensemble) is a voice actor, stand-up comic, improvisational comedian, and content creator. This is his third show at Tallgrass; previously portraying King Pellinore in *Camelot* (for which he received his first-ever Cloris Award nomination.) Some of his past roles include being in the ensemble in *Anastasia*, The Amazing Karnak in *Ride the Cyclone*, Rod Rhymer in *Miracle on 34th Street: The Radio Play*, and the villainous King Boo in Luigi's Mansion on YouTube. He is currently studying computer science at DMACC, and his voice has been heard in venues including the Des Moines Playhouse and Hoyt Sherman Place. A frequent collaborator with Vagrant Fear Productions at Narly's Night on

the Radio, he has voiced a plethora of characters in radio serials ranging from doctors and police officers to aliens, vampires, and demons. An expert tabletop gamer, he has competed in and won many local board game tournaments, and thanks his friends, family, mentors, and advisors to always pursue excellence.

Heather Tragesser (Fortune Teller/Ensemble) returns to Tallgrass after appearing in last summer's *Anything Goes*. Heather is a West Des Moines resident and is a Reading Specialist at Ankeny Schools. She has her master's in education, BA: Psychology, Minor: Theatre Arts, Studied Opera/Vocal Music. Her favorite roles are a toss-up between George in *Kinky Boots* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* She says, "I love the message in KB, the nostalgia in SRL, and dancing in both!" Her hobbies include traveling- especially to Disney parks, long walks, decorating for holidays, and performing in musicals/cabarets. She sends her love to her husband Joe, her daughter Ember and stepson Luke.

Nina Norton (Venus De Milo/Ensemble) holds a BBA in Management and a minor in Chinese Language from the University of Iowa. She works as a Culture Sr. Analyst at Athene, where people and community are at the heart of her work. A Linn-Mar High School alum, Nina is thrilled to be back on stage for the first time since her high school days and making her debut at Tallgrass Theatre. When she is not working, she enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her partner and cat. She is deeply grateful to Tallgrass Theatre for welcoming her back to the stage.

Brandon Griffis (Houdini / Dog Boy) is happy to be returning to Tallgrass for the fourth time for this production of *Sideshow*. Brandon most recently was a member of stage crew for Tallgrass's production of *Disenchanted* and has previously graced the Tallgrass stage as an ensemble knight for the production of *Camelot*, and as Cinderella's Father for *Into The Woods*. Additional credits include three shows with Ankeny Community Theatre: Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family Musical*, Jonathan / Charles Haversham in *The One Act Play that Goes Wrong*, and Georg Nowack in *She Loves Me*. He's additionally performed with The

Des Moines Playhouse as Max / Herman for their production of *Cabaret*. When not on the theatre stage, Brandon is also an avid student / performer of circus aerial arts including trapeze, lyra, hammock, silks, and aerial straps with Iowa Circus Arts (ICA), and Dungeon Masters an ongoing Dungeon & Dragons campaign of four years. In his 9-to-5 life, Brandon works as a Senior Cloud IT Security Specialist.

Amanda Jackson (Female Cossack/Ensemble) is so excited to be performing with Tallgrass Theatre again after appearing as Martha Arable in *Charlotte's Web*. However, Amanda's favorite role with Tallgrass is Marie Antoinette in *The Revolutionists*. Another favorite role is William Dunn in *Men On Boats*, which competed in 2025 AACT FEST and went all the way to Nationals. Amanda also won outstanding achievement as an actor for her role. She has 20 years experience in stage combat and was Fight Director for *Anastasia* at Carousel Theatre of Indianola. In her spare time she likes to crochet and hang out with her village.

Travis Mitchell (Male Cossack/Ensemble) hails from Ohey, IA. He holds a BA in Communications from Central College and now lives in Urbandale working in Customer Service with Farm Bureau. This is his first Tallgrass show but he has several favorite past roles like; Chip in *The 25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee*, Jamie in *The Last 5 Years*, and The Witch in *Hansel & Gretel*. When not doing theatre or working, Travis enjoys shooting sports, language learning and writing poetry. Travis would like to thank his partner and well as his family for being so supportive of all his performing endeavors.

Anna Lee (Ensemble/Half-Man Half-Woman) is a teacher from Ames, Iowa. At the time of writing this, she teaches orchestra and drama, directs theatre, and coaches speech. Her recent theatre work includes *Fiddler on the Roof* (pit orchestra/Fiddler), *12 Angry Men* (director), *Next to Normal* (pit orchestra), and *Anastasia* (Ensemble). as well as several school musical pits. When not in

school, she plays in various ensembles including the Central Iowa Symphony and Des Moines Gamer Symphony Orchestra and works at summer camps. In her free time, she enjoys reading and watching mysteries and cheering on LAFC and FC Bayern.

Derek Schwab (Human Pin Cushion/Judge/Ray/Ensemble) returns to Tallgrass after last appearing in *Pippin* here at the amphitheater. He also appeared in the ensemble in *School of Rock* at DMPH. A native of Iowa City, he now resides in Des Moines and his day job as a Massage Therapist keeps him pretty busy, but when he has time for hobbies he is an avid Dungeons & Dragons participant and enjoys mixology, and bookbinding. He sends his love to his partners Bea and Isaiah, and baby boy Caspian.

Hannah Larsen (Snake Charmer/Sir's Lawyer/Ensemble) makes her Tallgrass debut in this show. She is a junior at Simpson College majoring in Theatre Arts and Education Studies. Some of her favorite past theatre experiences are Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief* (Simpson College), Waiter/Ensemble in *Hello, Dolly!* (Urbandale Community Theatre), Mother Superior in *Sister Act Jr.* (DMYAT), and Dramaturg/Assistant Director for *Little Shop of Horrors* (Simpson College). Her hobbies include singing and geeking out over theatre, movies, and everything Disney. She sends her love to her mom, dad, and younger brother.

Maida Parkinson (Bearded Lady/Auntie/Ensemble) is a retired 20-year U.S. Navy veteran and Waukee resident who now serves her community as a Business Office Administrative Assistant with the Waukee Community School District. A lifelong theatre enthusiast, she has previously performed in *Annie Get Your Gun* (Dolly Tate) in Virginia City, Nevada; *You Can't Take It With You* (Alice Sycamore) in Reno, Nevada; and Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* (Female Roles Cover) in Des Moines, Iowa. *Side Show* is her second production in Des Moines and her first with Tallgrass Theatre Company.

Greta Paulsen (Tattooed Girl/Ensemble) is currently a sophomore at Missouri State University with a double major in musical theatre and dance, and she is excited to be making her Tallgrass Theatre debut. Recent credits include being a

featured dancer in Missouri State's *Broadway Giants* and playing Anya in *Anastasia* at Northwest High School. In her free time, Greta enjoys playing tennis and pickleball, hanging out with her pets, and getting Andy's custard with her best friends.

Isiah Dale (Roustabout/Ensemble) returns to Tallgrass after appearing in *The Boxcar Children* as Dr. McAlister. He was born in Colorado but raised in Iowa, primarily Waukee. He is an alumnus of Waukee High School, where he participated in theatre and earned enough credit to become a Thespian. Isaiah has also done a decent amount of public theatre, primarily through DMYAT as an actor and on lighting. One of his favorite roles so far has been Rulon Stacy in *The Laramie Project* (DMYAT). Outside of theatre, Isaiah also participated in Speech Team, making it to All State as a Mimer. His other hobbies include video games and hanging out with his family.

Micah Talley (Roustabout/Ensemble) attends Valley High School and has been a Tallgrass Seedling for several years. He has participated in over 7 shows. One of his favorite previous roles was James in *School of Rock*. He lives in West Des Moines with his large family and loves to read banned books. Micah says he loves that Tallgrass feels like a big family.

Bob Baskerville (Book Director) first came to Tallgrass when he portrayed Peck in *How I Learned to Drive* in 2007. Since then, he has appeared as Gerardo in *Death and the Maiden*, Oscar Madison in *The Odd Couple* and numerous other roles. Most recently, he portrayed Jim/Captain Hook in *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday*. Behind the scenes, he directed *Oleanna*, *Blithe Spirit* and *Equus* (Cloris Award Nominee for Direction, Winner for Set Design and Best Play). Bob also serves on the TTC Board of Directors. Other local credits include Ray in *Blackbird*, Horst in *Bent*, Don in *American Buffalo* and Spear Bearer #3 in *Julius Ceasar*. Away from theatre, Bob is an Adjunct instructor at DMACC and co-owner of Frame Works with his husband, Tom Perrine. Bob and Tom are the proud parents of 1.5 spoiled Standard Poodles and a precocious Macaw.

Renée Davenport (Music Director) is proud to be part of the production team for this summer's show. A native of Cedar Rapids, she's a graduate of Coe College with her Bachelor of Music – Vocal Performance and a graduate of Bowling Green State University in Ohio with her Master of Music - Vocal Performance. She now lives in Des Moines with her husband Micheal, son Forrest and their cat Garry. Renée works as the Director of Development for the Des Moines Symphony & Academy and moonlights as the Varsity Show Choir Director at Dallas Center-Grimes High School. Some of her favorite past roles include: Tallgrass Theatre: Francesca in *The Bridges of Madison County*; The Witch from *Into The Woods*; Des Moines Playhouse: Cinderella's Mother / Granny in *Into The Woods*; Trix in *The Drowsy Chaperone*; Ms. Teavee in *Willy Wonka* StageWest: Ensemble in *Reefer Madness: The Musical*; Bowling Green State University Opera: Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*; Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*; Bowling Green State University Theatre: Woman 1 in *Songs For A New World*; Eve understudy / Ensemble in *Children of Eden*. When Renée isn't singing, her other joys are reading and road trips with her family.

Natalie Thomas (Choreographer) is happy to be back at Tallgrass to kick off her summer! Previous choreography at Tallgrass includes *Disenchanted* and *Pippin*. This summer, she is also working on *Finding Nemo Jr.* at the Des Moines Playhouse and a handful of shows in Minneapolis that keep her and her family bouncing back and forth through the summer. When Natalie isn't dancing, she's practicing her flexibility while parenting a teenager, receiving vigorous line notes from her 5 year old, and remains her 2 year old's favorite prop. Her co-director remains as tired and busy as she is, but together they keep the show running. Her *Side Show* fun fact is that in high school, 5'8" Natalie dreamed of starring in this show alongside her 5'-almost 1" friend.

Anna Zaino (Orchestra Conductor) is excited to conduct the Tallgrass Theatre Pit Orchestra this summer! Originally from the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago, she has resided in the Waukee Area for the last two years. She currently works at Timberline Middle School as the 8th Grade Band Director. Anna has received a

Bachelors in Music Education from Illinois State University (2017) and a Masters in Music with an emphasis on Wind Conducting from the University of Texas El Paso (2025).

Lisa Gould (Stage Manager) returns to Tallgrass after Assistant Stage Managing *Blithe Spirit* last year. She is no stranger to the greater Des Moines Theater community, having served in several roles: producer, techie, stage manager, assistant director and director at Ankeny Community Theatre; *Witness to the Prosecution*, *Dinner by Eight*, *Dead by Nine*, *'Night*, *Mother*, *Geezers* and *Borrowed Beats*). Lisa also recently directed *Frost/Nixon* at Union Street Players Community Theatre in Pella. She has appeared on ACTS's stage in *Almost Maine* and *Mom's Gift*. Lisa likes spending time with family and friends and going to her kid's activities. She and her husband Troy live in Johnston with their two children. Lisa works at Central Bank.

Kat Lindaman (Stage Manager) is excited to step back into the SM shoes again with Tallgrass Theatre! Though it may only be a little over a year since she started volunteering, she has already stepped into many shoes. Some include crewing for *Blithe Spirit*, stage managing *Anything Goes* and *The A Sisters & Friends at the Velvet Lounge* and being a part of the Marketing Committee running Tallgrass' social media pages. Kat finds the most joy being backstage with the run crew, and some of her favorite shows she has been a part of include *Dracula*, *A Comedy of Terrors* and *Beauty and the Beast* at The Des Moines Playhouse. When she isn't at the theatre, you can find her crocheting, shelving books at her local library, or hanging out with her husband Andrew. She is happy to find community and family with Tallgrass and is excited to grow with them.

Emily Dokken (Costume Designer) has been costuming since 2023 with her first show, *Follies*, for Iowa City Community Theater. Since then she has rarely ever not been costuming a show! She's costumed several shows a year for Tallgrass, Ankeny Community Theater, and Carousel Theatre for the past few years. Notable other productions she costumed at Tallgrass include 2024's spring production of *The Good Doctor* and 2025's winter production of *Ripcord*. Her work

on *Ripcord* last year enabled her to earn her first ever Cloris Award nomination! She has been nominated for Iowa Community Theatre Associations best costumes for 2025 for her work on *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Willy Wonka Jr.* She was also nominated previously for her work on *Death of a Salesman* in 2024. This spring/summer she has been hard at work costuming for ACT's *An Enemy of the People*, Tallgrass' *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday*, and CAP's *Alice in Wonderland*. Emily's work on this show is a celebration of her roots in historical musicals such as *Follies* and *Gypsy*!

Amanda Arthur-Struss (Attractions/Puppet Designer) returns as the puppet designer/costume designer for the "freaks." You may recognize her work in Tallgrass' recent production of *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday* and her award-winning horse puppet creations for the Dream Project *Equus* in 2024. She made her debut with TTC as Jeri Neal in 2022 in *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club* and was last seen on stage in the 2025 Seedlings production of *The Boxcar Children* as Mrs. McCallister. She has been behind the scenes as the Prop Designer for Dream Project *God of Carnage* in 2023. She shared her master costuming skills with TTC's performance of *Pippin* in 2023. She has also been a director and actor with the Adventure Clubhouse at the Playhouse. Amanda lives in West Des Moines with her husband Joe Struss. She considers herself to be a farm girl from the outskirts of Randalia, Iowa. Mandi, as she is known by her friends, is also the Artist/Owner of Rainbow Lizard Design, specializing in pet portraits as well as teaching art classes at senior centers and other venues. She expanded this part of her business to offer more classes to those who want to explore and have fun with art; out of her house, think piano lessons, but with art. Mandi also enjoys writing; she is working on several plays as well as a book. Influenced by the love of imagination, she is a Lego, anime, manga, and book enthusiast (fantasy, light novels, mystery, romance, sci-fi). Even though she stays busy, she is looking forward to her husband's retirement in June as they plan to travel.

Cheryl Clark (Costumes) is excited to be part of the costume team for *Side Show!* Recent work includes costume design for *Once Upon a Mattress* at Ankeny Community Theatre and *Disenchanted* at TTC, and direction of *The Laramie Project* at Des Moines Young Artists Theatre (Cloris nomination for Play, Ensemble in a Play, and Direction of a Play). Currently, Cheryl is producer for *Rent* at DMYAT and is cast as Violet Weston in *August Osage County* at ACT. A member of the board of directors for DMYAT, she also serves on the Cloris Awards board of directors, is an ICTA reviewer and an ACCT certified adjudicator. In her spare time, Cheryl enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with family.

Heidie Swihart (Wig Designer) has been a longtime volunteer for Tallgrass and supports this show as the wig designer and stylist. Some of those shows include, *Pippin*, *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, *The Revolutionists*, *The Foreigner*, *Eat Your Heart Out*, *Rumors*, and *Calendar Girls*. A retired stylist from Winterset, she now spends her free time thrifting and running naked through rural ditches. She also raises money for Madison County Conservation where there will be a \$5 million Nature Center built. A mother and grandmother, she lives with her husband John. They love traveling to the mountains of Wyoming and Montana where her “Happy Place” is Cook City, MT.

Stephanie Schneider (Intimacy Director/Coordinator) is based in Des Moines. Intimacy direction credits include: *Salome & American Apollo* at the Des Moines Metro Opera, *Waitress* at the Des Moines Playhouse, *Dracula* at Drake University, *Bridges of Madison County* and *Equus* at Tallgrass Theatre Company, *Heathers: The Musical* at Des Moines Young Artist Theatre, *The Cake* at Iowa Stage Theatre Company, and more. She also is an Intimacy Coordinator for film & TV. When not performing or directing, you can find her reading, nerding-out on Star Wars, and playing Dungeons and Dragons.

Barb McClintock (Props) has spent several years working backstage at Tallgrass Theatre Co, StageWest and for various other Des Moines community theaters. From backstage crew to props designer, she has loved the experience. She is one of the famous “Prop Tarts” and learned from the best in the business. She has designed props for the Kate Goldman Children’s Theater, including *Ramona Quimby*, *The 100 Dresses*, *Charlotte’s Web*, *Sideways Stories*

and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. She has also designed props for the DM Community Playhouse (*Girl's Weekend, Sister Act, Into The Woods, Sound of Music*) and here at Tallgrass (*The Foreigner, Ordinary Days, Wonder of The World, The Revolutionists*). Barb loves the Tallgrass experience and hopes to continue searching or creating those elusive items requested as props.

Kelly Mayhew (Production Manager) has been a part of Tallgrass Theatre Co for nearly every production since 2009 with her Stage-Managing *Einstein and the Polar Bear*. She quickly became part of the organization by joining the Board of Directors and then became the Company Production Manager in 2014 and is part of the Artistic Trust. Kelly graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts from Coe College and now works for the West Des Moines Historical Society as the Administrator & Tour Manager as well as a part-time gig helping Tom at Frame Works. In her free time, she enjoys cross-stitch, puzzles, researching her ancestry, wandering around antique stores with friends, sitting on her screen porch watching the backyard wildlife with her border collie Meg. She sends her love to her husband, Mark and their kids, Kirah and Ethan.

Mark Mayhew (Technical Director) has been with Tallgrass for more than 15 years, volunteering to work backstage on the Board of Directors, and previously Technical Directing the summer Seedlings children's program. Mark has been co-designing with Thomas Perrine on several of the scenic designs of late and really enjoys their collective brain power and creative energy together. If you don't see Mark running with a power tool or making sure the volunteers have enough water, then you can find him reading sci-fi, or sending awful puns to his twin brother (also a TD!) in Cincinnati. A Senior Project Professional with SCS Engineers, Mark's limited free time is spent discussing interesting things he finds on the internet with his wife while they navigate parenting an adult (!) and a teenager while managing actors and techies.

Thomas D. Perrine (Artistic Director) wishes to thank all our audience members and Tallgrass Theatre supporters. With your continued support Tallgrass continues to grow. Thank you! Tom directed *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress, The Odd Couple, True West, The Elephant Man, Calendar Girls, Rumors, Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!), Wonder of the World, and Ripcord*, for Tallgrass Theatre Company. He has directed numerous productions in

the Des Moines area. Among them are *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*, *Souvenir*, *Bash: The Latterday Plays*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *A New Brain*, *Flaming Guns of the Purple Sage*, *Dirty Blonde*, *TopDog/Under Dog*, *The Laramie Project*, *Wit*, *As Bees in Honey Drown* and *The Vagina Monologues*. Tom was the head writer and creator of the play VOICES. He directed The Central Iowa Players (“Stigma Busters”), a theater troupe of people with mental illnesses who performed original skits designed to promote awareness and reduce the stigma of mental illness for over 12 years. He was awarded a Heroes in the Fight Award from Eli Lilly in 2008 for his work in the mental health field. Tom and his husband Bob Baskerville own and operate FRAME WORKS, a custom framing shop and small art gallery in Johnston, Iowa. In Tom’s copious amounts of free time, he dreams of having copious amounts of free time.

Bill Russel (Author) received Tony Award nominations for the book and lyrics of the original Broadway production of *Side Show* (1997). The critically praised revised version played the La Jolla Playhouse and the Kennedy Center and received an acclaimed Broadway revival in 2014 and a London premiere at the Southwark Playhouse in 2016. Mr. Russell co-wrote the book and lyrics for off-Broadway’s long-running musical *Pageant* and directed it in the Fringe and West End in London and at theaters around America. He authored the book and lyrics for *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens* (music by Janet Hood), directing it in London’s Fringe and West End, among many others. At the end of 2020, he co-directed a streamed version featuring 51 stars of theater, TV and film, including Nathan Lane, Cynthia Nixon, Cherry Jones, Fran Drescher, JK Simmons, Seth Rudetsky, Varla Jean Merman and Norm Lewis, as a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Other musicals for which he authored book and lyrics include *Up in the Air* (Kennedy Center) and the off-Broadway musicals *The Last Smoker in America*, *Lucky Duck*, *Fortune* and *The Texas Chainsaw Musical*. *Brave New World* (lyrics) premiered in Asheville, NC in 2016. *Unexpected Joy* premiered in New York and London in 2018. He has honorary doctorates from the Boston Conservatory and Morningside College and was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2016. More at www.billrussell.net.

Henry Krieger (Composer) began composing for Off-Off-Broadway in his twenties. Soon, collaborations with Tom Eyn and Broadway director/producer/choreographer Michael Bennett led to a workshop production of what was originally entitled *Big Dreams*. After several workshops, numerous rewrites, and an out-of-town tryout in Boston, *Dreamgirls* came to Broadway in 1981 and was nominated for thirteen Tony Awards (including Best Score), winning six. One song, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going," became a top hit, and others became popular as well. Twenty-five years later, the film version of *Dreamgirls*, directed by Bill Condon and starring Eddie Murphy, Jamie Foxx and Beyonce, was released and the soundtrack became a number-one album. Mr. Krieger also composed the scores to *The Tap Dance Kid* (1983-85) with Robert Lorick, and the acclaimed *Side Show* (1997-98), written with Bill Russell and directed and choreographed by Robert Longbottom. Oscar nominations: "Listen," "Love You, I Do" and "Patience" for Best Original Song. Grammy awards: Cast Album of *Dreamgirls* and "Love You, I Do" for Best Song in a Motion Picture. Tony nominations: *Side Show* and *Dreamgirls* for Best Score. Henry lives in Manhattan's West Village.

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