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NEAR WEST THEATRE PRESENTS

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PERFORMED BY A **SPRING INTERGENERATIONAL CAST**, AGES 7 AND UP
MARCH 25 - APRIL 10, 2022

PERFORMANCES: MARCH 25, 26, APRIL 1, 2, 3, 7*, 8, 9, 10~

*SENSORY PERFORMANCE

~22/23 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWING MATINEE

MAIN STAGE

RUN TIME: 2HRS 10MIN, INCLUDES 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

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MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS

LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

NEW BOOK BY DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

ORIGINAL BOOK BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

ORCHESTRATIONS BY DANNY TROOB

MUSIC ADAPTATION & ARRANGEMENTS BY DAVID CHASE

ADDITIONAL LYRICS BY DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE, DAVID CHASE, AND
BRUCE POMAHAC

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CHOREOGRAPHER

JULIE BILLINGHURST
STAGE MANAGER

MAEVE GREISING
ASST. STAGE MANAGER

CAMERON MICHALAK
SCENIC DESIGNER

JACK-ANTHONY INA
LIGHTING DESIGNER

RYANNE FURY
ASSISTANT TO THE LIGHTING DESIGNER

DAVID GLOWE JR.
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SOUND OPERATOR	OLIVE REITZ
SPOT OPERATORS.....	SAMANTHA JOHNSON, GABBY GREEN, MEGAN WILSON-REITZ
FLY OPERATOR	JAKE MASON

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KEYBOARD 2.....	GIDEON TEMPLE
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REED 2 (CLARINET, BASS CLARINET).....	ZOE FAGERHAUG
TRUMPET, FLUGELHORN	ZACH KERN
TROMBONE	CLAUDIA CANGEMI
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DRUMS/PERCUSSION	EVAN PALERMO
VIOLIN	CAYLEIGH STEWART
CELLO.....	JESSICA JONCZYK
BASS	GIANA FORMICA

PUBLICITY

CAST SPOTLIGHT RECORDINGS	NINA AUST
PRODUCTION PHOTOS.....	AMBER PATRICK
CAST BACKSTAGE PHOTOS.....	NINA AUST
PRODUCTION ART DESIGNER.....	NOAH HRBEK
PLAYBILL	BAILEY PFOHL

THE CAST

Ella	Sydney Noelle Warren Kennedy Smith (April 1)
Topher	Keaton Miller
Lord Pinkleton	Peter Bradley
Sebastian	Gary P. Samarin
Marie	Saundra Green
Jean-Michel	Connor Karboski
Madame	Amani Green
Gabrielle	Rachael Armbruster
Charlotte.....	Amy Aust
Fox.....	Josephine (Josie) O’Leary
Raccoon	Isaac Reitz
Mice.....	Demi Eidson, Kendall Pallett, Reese Reichel, Yamini Sridhar
Buttercup.....	Hannah Armenta, Sophie Hull
Footman	Blessing Gee
Coachman.....	Louis Schwartz
Enchanted Horses.....	Rachel Drotar, Zyaire Gale, Alana Lesnansky, Erin Sheplavy
Waltzing Couples	Hannah Armenta, David Bruney, Tom Campbell, Sara Danielle Chapman, Meghan Kreiger, AnnMarie Lowerre, Kathryn O’Sullivan, Kai Pennington, Adrian Santiago, Oscar Waters IV
Ensemble	Hannah Armenta, David Bruney, Tom Campbell, Sara Chapman, Rachel Drotar, Demi Eidson, Zyaire Gale, Blessing Gee, Sophie Hull, Meghan Kreiger, Alana Lesnansky, AnnMarie Lowerre, McKenzie Merriman, Josephine (Josie) O’Leary, Kathryn O’Sullivan, Kendal Pallett, Kai Pennington, Reese Reichel, Isaac Reitz, Adrian Santiago, Louis Schwartz, Erin Sheplavy, Yamini Sridhar, Oscar Waters IV, Ronald Watkins Jr, Amelia Workman

Understudies

For Ella: Kennedy Smith

For Topher/Jean-Michel: Oscar Waters IV

For Gabrielle/Charlotte: AnnMarie Lowerre,

For Marie: Amelia Workman

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The Pallett Family - Paul, Colleen, Kendall, and Ellie

The Eidson Family

The Reichel Family

The O'Leary Family

The Reitz Family



MASK UP!

Don't forget that your mask must be properly worn throughout the show. THANK YOU for helping keep everyone safe.

SPECIAL THANKS

to the following people for helping us put this show together

Sara Danielle Chapman
Jordan Cooper
Venchise Glenn
Bruce Hedderson
Carole Leiblinger-Hedderson
Andrew Henry
Adam Kirk
Emily Kless
AnnMarie Lowerre
Margaretta Milgram
Ernie Molner
Amaya Moore
Olivia Moore
Sophie O'Leary
Kathryn O'Sullivan
David Peita
Aaron Phillips
Marin Radabaugh
Sue Reichel
Hannah Reinschmidt
Adrian Scoccia
Destinee Siebe
Gwen Stembridge
Ally Stonally
Emily Szillat
Sydney Noelle Warren
Matthew Webb

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I recently found myself falling in love with the story of Cinderella, but not for reasons others might.

For me, it was never about a person who changes their appearance, and because of that, is noticed by a handsome prince who makes all of their dreams come true.

When I first started teaching for The Musical Theater Project, one of the workshops we performed was *Cinderella*. Jodi Kirk was the Artistic Director for the Music Theatre Project at that time. Many from the NWT community may know Jodi from her work directing our teens (including myself). Jodi is one of the best teachers around and she loves to jump into these deep conversations about why we are connected to the material we perform.

I explained to her my struggles with the story and messaging, and through our conversation I began to realize what actually attracted me to the musical version of the story. At the core of it, it's about love, kindness, and being accepted for who you are. Cinderella doesn't actually change. Yes, her clothing transforms, but **who she is never falters**, even when she is faced with challenges and individuals who can't show her love, compassion, or kindness.

We all have our own Cinderella story. For me it was finding a place like Near West Theatre at a time in my life when I felt alone and unseen. **NWT was where I learned that love can come in many shapes and forms, not just from family or from a partner but also from a community.** This is why after 30 years I have stayed connected to this



PHOTO BY AMBER PATRICK

place and community. I have recommitted myself to its mission and its purpose — to provide a safe space that is filled with love, kindness, and acceptance.

Because of that, transformations like Cinderella’s happen every single day. Sounds impossible right? What I’ve come to realize about Near West Theatre is that “impossible things are happening every day.”

Dreams are created.

Love is found.

Kindness is fostered.

That is the magic.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trinidad".

Trinidad Snider

Director & NWT Artistic Director

P.S. Speaking of magic... I hope you’ll join us at the theatre when we **announce Near West Theatre’s 2022/23 Season** after the final matinee performance of *Cinderella* on April 10. Fol-de-rol!

SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture Orchestra

Prologue: A Forest Ella & Chorus

Scene 1: A Rocky Glen

Me, Who Am I? Topher, Sebastian, Lord Pinkleton,
Knights, & Pageboys

Scene 2: Outside Madame's Cottage

In My Own Little Corner Ella

Scene 3: Throne Room of the Royale Palace

Your Majesty Lord Pinkleton & Topher

Scene 4: Town Square

The Prince is Giving a Ball/Now is the Time Sebastian, Jean-Michel,
Lord Pinkleton, Madame, & Crowd

Scene 5: Inside Madame's Cottage

Cinderella March Madame, Gabrielle, & Charlotte

Scene 6: Outside Madame's Cottage

In My Own Little Corner (reprise)/Fol-De-Rol Ella & Marie

Impossible Marie & Ella

Scene 7: Flight to the Castle

It's Possible Ella, Marie, & Chorus

Scene 8: The Castle Ballroom

Gavotte Orchestra

Ten Minutes Ago Topher & Ella

Waltz for a Ball Orchestra

Ten Minutes Ago (reprise) Ella, Topher, Lord Pinkleton, & Guests

Scene 9: The Palace Steps



ACT TWO

Entr'acte Orchestra

Scene 1: The Palace Steps

Stepsister's Lament..... Charlotte & Ladies of the Court

Scene 2: The Forest

The Pursuit..... Lord Pinkleton, Topher, Knights, Mice,
Raccoon, Fox, Pages, Footmen, & Coachman

Scene 3: Outside, then Inside, Madame's Cottage

He Was Tall..... Ella

When You're Driving Through the Moonlight..... Ella, Charlotte,
Gabrielle, & Madame

A Lovely Night Ella, Charlotte, Gabrielle, & Madame

A Lovely Night (reprise)..... Gabrielle & Ella

Scene 4: Another Part of the Forest

Loneliness of Evening..... Topher & Ella

The Prince is Giving a Ball (reprise)..... Sebastian, Lord Pinkleton,
Heralds, & Madame

Scene 5: Inside Madame's Cottage

There's Music in You Marie

Scene 6: The Palace Steps

Now is the Time (reprise)..... Jean-Michel, Gabrielle, & Marie

Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful? Topher & Ella

Scene 7: The Palace

Ten Minutes Ago (reprise)..... Topher, Ella, & Ensemble

Scene 8: The Royal Gardens

The Wedding (finale) Ella, Topher, Lord Pinkleton, Marie, & Company



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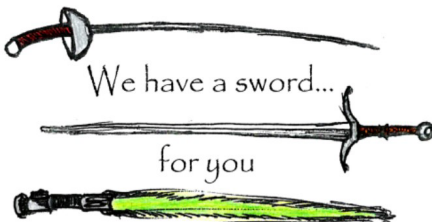
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GET TO KNOW THE CAST

Rachael Armbruster (*Gabrielle*) (She/Her) is a graduate of Kent State University with majors in Musical Theater and Visual Communication Design. She is thrilled to be on the Near West stage for the first time! Most recently she has been seen as Beth in Cassidy's production of *Little Women*, Deb in Cassidy's production of *Ordinary Days*, Sr. Mary Martin of Tours in The Player's Guild *Sister Act*, The Narrator in The Player's Guild *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Amy Star in Kent State's world premiere of *Any Resemblance*. Rachael also coaches color guard and danced for the World Class WGI ensemble, Matrix.

Hannah Armenta (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) Central Coast native and CMSD teacher, Hannah Armenta, is ecstatic to be returning to the stage after 13 years as a part of the ensemble of Rogers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* at Near West Theatre. This is her first show at NWT, and she is incredibly grateful to join such a talented community of people. Some previous credits include: Rosario in Luis Valdez's *Bandito!* at the Forest Theater Guild in Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, Blossom in High School Musical II at Pacific Repertory Theatre in Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, and Mayzie la Bird in *Seussical* at ARIEL Theatrical in Salinas, CA.

Amy Aust (*Charlotte*) (She/Her) is so excited to be in her first Near West Theatre show and to finally be back on stage again. She's so thankful to Trinidad, Julie, Emma, and Harrison for trusting her with this role and filling this process with so much joy. And special shout out to her wife, Nina, and their perfect daughter MJ. She couldn't do any of this without their love and support! They are her world!

Peter Bradley (*Lord Pinkleton*) (He/Him) is thrilled to be returning to NWT as Lord Pinkleton. He has recently been in productions such as an ensemble member in *Assassins* (Lakeland Civic Theatre), Freddie Trumper and John Adams respectively in *Chess* and *1776* (Near West Theatre), and George Seurat in *Sunday in the Park with George* (Ashtabula Arts Center). When he's not performing, he likes long walks on the beach and episodes of iZombie mixed with a glass of wine. He thanks his reluctantly adoring friends and family for their lack of heckling.

David Bruney (*Ensemble*) (He/Him) is thrilled to be making his debut at Near West Theatre. He has previously performed in *Hairspray* (Corny Collins) at Euclid High School, *Rocky Horror Show* (Brad) and in *Heathers: The Musical* (Ensemble) at Millennial Theatre Project, *Shrek: The Musical* (Cpt. of the Guard/Pied Piper) and *Anything Goes!* (Brother Luke) at Silhouette Productions. David would like to thank his family and friends for all their endless support. He would especially like to thank the audience members tonight and the many nights to come for supporting local theater. Enjoy the show!

Tom Campbell (*Ensemble*) (He/Him) is thrilled to be returning to his home away from home the NWT Stage. Tom has been involved with NWT since 2005 with his premiere show of *Oklahoma!* Recent NWT performance credits include: *The Little Mermaid*, *Big Fish*, *Beauty and the Beast* (2017), and many more. Tom also served as the Choreographer for *Les Miserables* and the *Big Fish* segment of the 2021 Benefit at NWT. Other recent local credits include *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Blank

BREAK-A-LEGS

Yay, Kendall! We are so incredibly proud of you! Reach for the stars, kiddo. Love, Mommy, Daddy, and Ellie

Keep Shining Demi! Team Eidson loves you!

Reese, you are a rockstar! Have the best time ever. Love, Mom, Dad and Danny.

ISAAC, THERE IS MUSIC IN YOU! WE LOVE YOU. GRANDMA SHARON
AND GRANDPA PETE

Shine brightly, Kendall! Love, Auntie Tricia

Kendall! We are so proud of you! keep shining! All our love.
Grandma, Ava, Marky, Auntie and Uncle Mark!

**There is music and dance in you, Josie! We
love you dearly! Love, Your Family xoxo**

Break a leg, Kendall! So proud of you! Love, Auntie Jen

Way to go, Amani! Way to go, Sandra! You beautiful ladies
are real stars. Break a leg!!! Love, Daddy/Sam

Mommy and Amani – This is your time! Baby and
me are rooting you on! (Congratulations, Fathi and
Fathia!) Love, Naima

Isaac - I wish I could see you perform but they don't
let dogs into NWT! Break a leg, woof! Love, Milo

***Meghan, thank you for sharing my
love of theater. You will always be a
shining star to me! Love, Nana***

Break a leg, Meggers!; Oh, the places you'll Go!; Love, Mom,
Mason, & Darin

Go Sandra and Amani. You two are awesome and the best
mother/daughter team ever. We love you. Brenda/Ron.

ISAAC, LET YOUR "LIGHT" SHINE!
LOVE, GRANDMA JEANNE

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GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

Canvas). Before moving back to Cleveland, Tom was a professional actor/dancer, choreographer, stage manager, and company manager in the Chicago theater industry working at places like Chicago's Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Broadway in Chicago, Million Dollar Quartet Chicago and more. Tom attended Loyola University Chicago and studied musical theatre, dance, and theatre management. Tom would like to thank his amazing friends and family for their love and support, especially his mom.

Sara Danielle Chapman (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) simply states, "If you know, you know."

Rachel Drotar (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) has performed in Near West Theatre productions for 21 years, debuting as a flower seller in the 2000 production of *My Fair Lady*. Favorite credits include *Big Fish* (Clown/Cheerleader), *West Side Story* (Jet), and *Once upon a Mattress* (Winnifred). She was recently seen creating music at Borderlight International Theatre and Fringe Festival with SongCraft, performing poetry for Voices of the Community with Mo Eutazia, and continues to center storytelling and relationship at the heart of her work. As a lifelong romantic, Rachel is thrilled to be bringing *Cinderella* to life with this amazing cast. Being with you all, "I may never come down to earth." Thank you. This performance is dedicated to her high school music director, Dr. Lisa Litteral, who provided the building blocks for what she now enjoys as an artist.

Demi Eidson (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is super excited to be in the ensemble for *Cinderella*! This is Demi's second production at Near West. She was last seen in *The Addams Family*. Demi has also been in several Beck Center productions. Demi would like to thank her family for all of their support. She would also like to thank the Near West family for always making her feel happy and included.

Zyaire Gale (*Ensemble*) (He/Him) is excited to be back on stage at Near West as a part of *Cinderella*'s talented ensemble. Zyaire's first show at Near West was *The Addams Family* but, the show that really made him excited to be a part of the community was *Chess*. He loved working on crew for *Big Fish* and continues to cherish the moments from *RISE*, *Edwin Drood*, and even Youth Choir. Zyaire would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him throughout the rehearsal process. He would also like to thank the Near West Community for making his final show so special.

Blessing Gee (*Footman/Ensemble*) (She/Her) has been at Near West Theatre since she was 13. She has been in ten productions with *Cinderella* being her eleventh. She was recently in *The Web of Anansi* playing the role of Osela! Blessing is a senior in high school and will be attending college this fall. She is so thrilled to have this be her last show before leaving for college. Blessing absolutely loves and adores this cast and is sure that you will too after seeing this amazing show! She would like to thank her best friends Abbey, Sophie H, and Sophie O, the amazing production staff; Trinidad, Julie, Emma, and Harrison, and also the cast and crew! Please enjoy and thanks so much for coming!

Amani Green (*Madame*) (She/Her) is so excited to play the role of Madame! She is even more excited that her mother is playing the role of Marie! This is a full circle moment 18 years in the making, beginning when she played the fairy godmother in an earlier version of *Cinderella* in middle school. She would like to thank her sister Naima (and the future niece or nephew she is carrying) for all of her support! This one's for you, GMA Nora. Enjoy the show!

Saundra Green (*Marie*) (She/Her) is elated to be in her fourth Near West Theatre production. Having followed in the footsteps of her mother, Nora Kellogg, who was well known for her roles at Cleveland's Karamu House, she began acting at age four. Ms. Green continued performing in school and occasional college and community theater productions. The role of Marie in Rogers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, has been an honor and an exciting challenge for her. She is so pleased to once again share the stage with one of her awesomely talented daughters and a beautiful cast. Lastly, Ms. Green would like to thank her family for their support. Love you, Mama!

Sophie Hull (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is overjoyed to be in another live musical at NWT! She has participated in NWT shows since age nine, and is currently a senior at John Hay. She sends her thanks to her best friends Abbey and Blessing for being her support system, and love to her mom who is the best person to binge Dance Moms with. Sophie dedicates all of her performances to her late dad, Jonathan. See you at the ball, queen!

Connor Karboski (*Jean-Michel*) (He/Him) A recent graduate from Cleveland State University, Connor is so excited to be doing his first show back in person! Though he hasn't been on stage at Near West since being in *Carrie* (ensemble) in 2017, he immediately felt right back at home in the cast of *Cinderella*. He would like to thank Trinidad, Julie, Harrison, and Emma for giving him this opportunity and for being such an amazing team to work with, and would also like to thank his best friend Anne for all of her emotional support.

Meghan Krieger (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is so very excited to be in the cast of *Cinderella* at Near West Theatre! This is her first show with Near West and she couldn't be more grateful to have this experience. Other productions include *Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical*, and *Mockingbird* at the Beck Center as well as *Annie* and *Beauty and the Beast* with PPFATA. Meghan is in ninth grade at Westlake High School, where she was in *Oklahoma!* and *Alice in Wonderland*. She would like to thank the cast and creative team for putting this show together, and her parents for driving to so many rehearsals.

Alana Lesnansky (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is excited to be in her second show at Near West Theatre. She has been dancing since the age of three, and has studied a wide variety of styles. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Youngstown State University with a minor in Dance. She spent a summer performing as a trombonist/back-up vocalist at Hersheypark. Alana continued her dance training with Rêve Dance Company through her time in graduate school at Penn State

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GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

University, where she earned her Master's Degree in Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology. Alana was most recently on stage in the dance ensemble of *The Little Mermaid* at Near West Theatre.

AnnMarie Lowerre (*u/s Gabrielle, Charlotte/Ensemble*) (She/Her) is excited to be on stage for the second time at Near West. She was last seen as Aquata in *The Little Mermaid*. After completing her degree in musical theatre, she went on to become a theatre teacher at a middle school. Some of her show credits include: *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles), *All's Well that Ends Well* (Helena), and *The Addams Family* (Grandma Addams). When she isn't onstage or in rehearsal, she can be found drinking coffee, hanging out with friends, or finding the best thrift deals. She would like to thank her family, friends, and Near West for always supporting her. Now, she welcomes you to have a ball and enjoy the show.

McKenzie Merriman (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is deeply honored to be included in the cast of *Cinderella* alongside this inspiring group of creative and loving community members. McKenzie does a lot of different things; she supports artists and organizations, makes collages, bakes bagels, wears funky outfits, moves her body and falls in love every day. A special thank you to Trinidad for second chances and new relationships.

Keaton Miller (*Topher*) (He/Him) is so excited to be joining the cast of *Cinderella* for his first Near West Theatre production. Keaton is a sophomore Musical Theatre major at Baldwin Wallace University and was last seen as the Steward in Baldwin Wallace's production of *Into the Woods*. Some of Keaton's favorite roles include Don Lockwood in *Singing in the Rain*, Danny Zuko in *Grease*, and Sky in *Mamma Mia!* Keaton would like to thank everyone in his Near West family for accepting him into the community and making *Cinderella* such an incredible experience. Insta: @keatonmiller321

Josephine (Josie) O'Leary (*Fox/Ensemble*) (She/Her) is so excited to be back at Near West Theatre as a Junior Company member! She was recently on stage as Leeward the seahorse in *The Little Mermaid*. Josie's a third grader at Urban Community School who loves to dance, sing, play tennis and violin, and play with her friends. She loves being here at the theater because it's her happy place! She thanks Sophie, Celia, and Ollie, her incredible siblings and dog.

Kathryn O'Sullivan (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is beyond excited to be back at Near West for her second show. Finding such a great community here last fall has made Cleveland feel like home for her as she now comes up on 10 months of being a Clevelander! Finding new friends and reconnecting with old friends has been a joy while bringing the story of *Cinderella* to life. She cannot wait to get out there and sing and dance again, and she wants to thank all of her friends and family for their continued love and support as this wouldn't be possible without it.

Kendall Pallett (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is thrilled to be making her Near West Theatre debut in *Cinderella*! She recently performed in two shows at Beck Center for the Performing Arts and just had a solo in her school choir concert. While maintaining

an A-average in school, Kendall also enjoys *Stranger Things*, basketball, singing along to most musicals (especially *Hamilton*!), and snuggling her puppy, Teddy. Thank you for all the love and support, Mom, Dad, and Ellie!

Kai Pennington (*Ensemble*) (He/Him) is so ECSTATIC to be a part of Near West Theatre's *Cinderella*! As a veteran, this is his eighth show at NWT. Some of Kai's favorite shows at NWT include his first show, *Xanadu*, and some of his recent shows like *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *The Little Mermaid*. Kai loves to be a part of the community and loves to do what he does best! Kai sends his love to all the people that get the opportunity to watch this magnificent show! Enjoy!

Reese Reichel (*Mice/Ensemble*) (She/Her) is thrilled to be in the ensemble. This is her first production and she is so excited that she gets to be in this wonderful cast! Reese loves to sing, dance, and play sports. Cheering her on is her Mom, Dad and brother, Danny, and two dogs, Chase and Roxy.

Isaac Reitz (*Raccoon/Ensemble*) (He/Him) is a fifth grader at Menlo Park Academy in Cleveland, where he most enjoys science class and chess club. Isaac was last seen at NWT as one of the graveyard ghosts in the Historic Haunts tour in October 2021. He is eager to experience his first real production, both indoors and onstage. He would like to thank Trinidad, because she's such an inspiration, and his dog Milo for giving him emotional support. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Gary P. Samarin (*Sebastian*) (He/Him) is excited to be back at the Near West Theatre having last been seen in *Showboat* as Captain Andy. He's been involved with theater for over 50 years in all elements of theater first getting started in major productions while in the Air Force. He has worked as a director, choreographer, costumer, set designer, and actor. He's also been on various theater boards. Some of his favorite roles have been Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, Roger Debris in *The Producers*, Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid* and Jester in *Once upon a Mattress*. He's very pleased to see theater back in town for all the talented people in this cast and others in greater Cleveland to entertain you.

Adrian Santiago (*Ensemble*) (He/Him) is a senior at Max Hayes High School and plans on going to college for fashion design. This is his third show at Near West Theatre.

Louis Schwartz (*Coachman/Ensemble*) (He/Him) is so excited to be doing his second show here at Near West. He was previously seen in the ensemble of *The Little Mermaid*. He is a recent graduate of The College of Wooster (chemistry major; theater and dance minor). Some of his favorite shows include *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), *Footloose* (Willard Hewitt), *Fools* (Dr. Zubritzky), *The Normal Heart* (Hiram Cedricson), and *Matt's First (Real) Thanksgiving* (Matt Quinn). He would like to thank Trinidad, Julie, Emma, and Harrison for an amazing experience and would like to thank the entire cast for the memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to the entire production team for everything you do, it would be impossible to name you all. Enjoy the show!



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GET TO KNOW THE CAST CONT'D

Erin Sheplavy (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is excited to be returning to the Near West Theatre stage in *Cinderella*. Erin has previously been seen in NWT's *Side Show* (Violet Hilton), *Big Fish* (Sandra Bloom), *Rent* (Mimi's Mom), *Miss Saigon* (Ensemble) and *Hairspray* (Shelly). When Erin isn't performing, she works as a Clinical Psychologist and Drama Therapist providing therapy and consultation services to children, adolescents, families, and theatres. Erin is grateful to the cast and crew of *Cinderella* for making this such an enjoyable, supportive, and connecting experience.

Kennedy Smith (*u/s Ella April 1st performance*) (She/Her) is fairly new to theater. She has been in *Annie Jr.*, *Mamma Mia*, *Into the Woods*, *Godspell Jr.*, and *Barefoot in the Park*, which is where she got her very first leading role. Kennedy is very excited to be a part of a show at Near West Theatre and she is very excited to be understudying *Cinderella* and to learn under Sydney. Kennedy hopes to make new friends and build up her skill set from this experience. She wants to thank her mom, grandma, and younger brother Kristian for always supporting her, no matter what.

Yamini Sridhar (*Ensemble*) (She/Her) is excited to be in her first production at Near West Theatre. She is a sixth grader at Campus International School (CIS). She is a book worm and loves Harry Potter. She loves music and plays the violin. She is also a *Hamilton* fan, and can often be found singing *Hamilton* tracks.

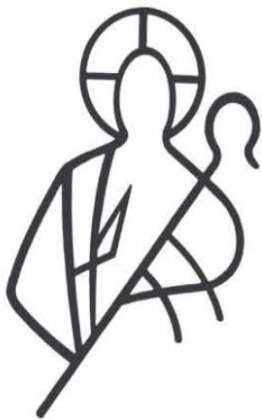
Sydney Noelle Warren (*Ella*) (She/Her) has been performing at Near West for the past three years. She is honored and extremely grateful to have her first lead role at the theater she calls home. Her recent credits include *The Little Mermaid*, *Big Fish*, *Chess*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *HAIR*. With a thorough background in film and theater, she is absolutely thrilled to work with this talented group of people! She would like to thank the cast and crew for their support.

Oscar Waters IV (*u/s Topher, Jean-Michel/Ensemble*) (He/Him) There are no words to describe how relieved Oscar is to be back on stage. He thanks Trinidad for allowing him to be a part of her vision. He sends his love to the cast and creative team, Mom, Dad, and Sydney. Much love to his family! Previous work includes *First Date* at Twin Masks Performing Arts Center, *Mamma Mia*, *Dreamgirls*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Weathervane Playhouse, and *The King and I* at Aurora Community Theatre. Let's light up the stage with the age old rapport! You are right, they are wrong!

Ronald Watkins Jr. (*Ensemble*) (He, Him) is a 14-year-old ninth grader at Shaker Heights High. He has one sister and a dog named Skruphie Rose, who he loves very much. He loves to write poetry and dance in performances. He can be described as fashionable, hard-working, and sometimes sort of goofy.

Amelia Workman (*u/s Marie/Ensemble*) (She/Her) is super excited to be a part of this wonderful cast! This is her first production with Near West and she has been overwhelmed by the incredible community she has experienced. Amelia works full-time in influencer and social media marketing, but has always been surrounded by the arts. Some of her favorite roles in the past include: Gertrude Mcfuzz in *Seussical the Musical* and Fantine in *Les Miserables*. Amelia currently resides in Lakewood and is a graduate of Kent State University. Enjoy the show!

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GET TO KNOW THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Julie Billinghamurst (*Stage Manager*) (She/Her) is so excited to be part of her first production at Near West Theatre! Her prior stage managing experience had her working for various theaters in Lorain County including French Creek Theatre, Lorain County Community College and Lorain Community Music Theatre. She is thrilled to be back doing live, indoor theatre again! It's Possible!! Thanks to Trinidad and the entire cast, crew and production team for making this one to remember. Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!!

Joshua Caraballo (*Sound Designer*) (He/Him) has been with NWT for almost 15 years now and has worked on shows that include *Willy Wonka*, *A Christmas Story the Musical*, *Move On*, *Hair*, and *Scrooge*. His most recent design with the theatre was the prerecorded production of *Les Miserables*. Other design credits include work with The Beck Center, Baldwin Wallace, and Tri-C's Jazzfest Productions. Josh is a graduate of Tri-C's Recording Arts and Technology program that is located on the Metro Campus where he works as a full time theatre technician and audio engineer. He is very excited about the return of live shows!

Emma Victoria Clark (*Choreographer*) (She/Her) is immensely proud of the cast of *Cinderella*. Her first time choreographing a show of this size, this process has been rewarding in so many ways. She was most recently seen on the NWT stage as Arista in *The Little Mermaid* and has been performing professionally for over a decade. Many sincere thanks to Trinidad for trusting her with this beast of a show, and to the entire production staff, cast, and crew. As always, she dedicates her work to her late grandfather.

Vanessa Cook (*Properties Manager*) (She/Her) BW Conservatory (BM) and Regent University (MA) alum, Ms. Cook is the owner of Cook Theatre Designs, LLC, a freelance design firm that serves Ohio theatre programs. She served as TD, designer and adjunct professor at Heidelberg University and is former costume/set designer for Heidelberg's Community Music School. Ms. Cook and her firm currently work with several Cleveland/Akron based theater companies most recently; Cleveland Opera Theatre, BW Opera, Hathaway Brown Theatre Institute, Cassidy Theatre, and French Creek Theatre. She assists with local and regional HS productions, teaching the next generation about technical theatre. Ms. Cook is the co-founder of the Norwalk Arts Center (NAC) and serves on the board of directors as secretary and production technical/design staff. She is looking forward to her directorial debut with the NAC teen theatre this summer.

David Glowe Jr. (*Costumer Designer*) (He/Him) is honored to return to Near West, where every experience here allows him to grow and share his talents. In the past, he has worked on many other productions locally and nationally such as *Sesame Street*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Producers*, *9 to 5*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Hairspray*, and *Legally Blonde*, to name a few. At Near West he has never seen a group of people more open and willing to give so much of themselves to allow others to shine and grow. David would like to thank Near West for providing him with opportunities to grow and develop relationships that are lasting. He cannot forget to lift up his three boys Nathan, Max, and Lincoln for their support and understanding.

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ARTISTIC TEAM_{CONT'D}

Maeve Greising (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is an alum of Oberlin College (BA-Creative Writing and Theater) who now serves with AmeriCorps. She has stage managed and assistant stage managed for student and faculty-directed shows at Oberlin, including operas, plays, musicals, circuses, and even one cabaret. She has previously performed with Near West as part of the Historic Haunts tour, and she looks forward to taking her first backstage role at Near West.

Perren Hedderson (*Technical Director*) (He/Him) has been with Near West Theatre for many years, starting as a young teen acting and helping construct the sets. He is now the Technical Director and a freelance Projection Designer. He has also worked in film here in Cleveland and for a few years in New Mexico. Credits include *We Will Rock You* (projections) at Blank Canvas Theatre, *Chess* (projection design) at Near West, and a side music project called Triage. He's a Dad now too with two kids. Love to Sarah, Kellen, Asa, and Sab!

Emily Hennen (*Assistant Technical Director*) (She/Her) graduated from Ohio University with a BFA in Production Design and Technology in 2016 and has been with Near West full time since 2018. Occasionally, she also works as a sound and video technician for Near West events and performances, and she is thrilled to continue working with such a talented and creative team.

Jack-Anthony Ina (*Lighting Designer*) (He/Him) is thrilled to be designing his first production with Near West Theatre! He is a director, designer, and stage manager with over 150 credits throughout Northeast Ohio and New York City. Jack is a proud graduate of Baldwin Wallace University. Recent Credits: *Kinky Boots* (Production Stage Manager), *Secrets @54 Below* (Director), *Newsies* (Director/Music Director), *The Scottsboro Boys* (Production Stage Manager), *Memphis* (Lighting Designer), *He's Lost His Marbles* (Director), and *Amélie* (Production Stage Manager).

Cameron Michalak (*Scenic Designer*) (He/Him) is a Cleveland-based Scenic Designer, Technical Director, Artist, and Builder. Regional design credits include: Cleveland Play House productions of *These Mortal Hosts*, *Venus in Fur*, and *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*. CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program's design credits include *She Stoops to Conquer*, *A Philadelphia Story*, *The Three Sisters*, *The Misanthrope*, and *The Winter's Tale*. Cleveland Ballet's *The Nutcracker Suite*. Selected local credits include *When Farah Cries* (Borderlight International Theatre Festival); *Dance Nation*, *John*, *Appropriate*, *The Effect* (Dobama); *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Wiz*, *Assassins*, *Urinetown*, and *Joseph...* (Near West Theatre); *Really Really*, *Young Frankenstein and Seminar* (Beck Center); *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Of Mice and Men* (True North Cultural Arts); and *Aida*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Hairspray*, among many others (M.A.D. Factory). Cameron is currently a graduate student in Goddard College's MFA Interdisciplinary Arts Program expecting to graduate in spring of 2022. By day, Cameron acts as Technical Director and Instructor for Cleveland State University's Department of Theatre and Dance.

Harrison Roth (*Musical Director*) (He/Him) is excited to be music directing his debut production at Near West Theatre. Originally from Toronto, Canada, Harrison is pursuing a BM in Music Direction from Baldwin Wallace University. Harrison is returning from his summer at the Clinton Area Showboat Theatre, where he music directed their productions of *Church Basement Ladies* and *Pinkalicious*. Additionally, Harrison was

featured as the Associate Music Director on their productions of *Always Patsy Cline*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, and *All Shook Up*, while also composing an original score for their production of the play *Constellations*. Previous credits with BWMT include Associate Music Director for *Into the Woods*, Assistant Music Director for *Lizzie* at the Beck Center for the Arts, and Assistant Music Director and Orchestrator in NAMT's 5x15 Musical Festival at the Beck Center for the Arts.

Jenny Hitmar-Shankland (*Scenic Charge*) (She/Her) has been painting for Near West Theatre since 2002. She paints as a scenic artist throughout Northeast Ohio but considers Near West one of her families. She has taught scenic painting at Baldwin Wallace University and regularly paints their mainstage shows. She has painted for the Cleveland Play House for seven years, and now operates under her business name Fresco Scenic Studio. She loves how close the Ohio theater community is and also has painted for Cleveland Opera Theater, Parade the Circle, Blank Canvas, Ballet Theater of Ohio, Carousel Dinner Theater, Sign Stage, and Chagrin Arts Academy. She is proud to have painted the Lobby mural for Near West Theatre, and grateful for the continual trust from an organization that allows her to throw large amounts of liquid around its beautiful stage. Love to her husband and two children who are growing up here.

Trinidad Snider (*Director*) (She/Her) has been a part of the Near West Theatre family since her first production in 1989 of *Fame* as Doris Schwartz. Her excellence as an artist also was developed through education at the Cleveland School of Performing Arts and Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, as well as extensive work as a director and performer in the Northeast Ohio community, including experience directing adults, teens, and children. She served as the Business Director for The Memorial Opera House in Indiana and has held many roles in Human Resources and customer service training for Marriott and InterContinental Hotels. Prior to accepting the role of Artistic Director at NWT, she served as a Teaching Artist with The Musical Theater Project, where she taught the Kids Love Musicals and Intergenerational programs, and helped to create and facilitate the Creative Aging Program focused on seniors and the arts. She resides in Chardon, Ohio with her husband Michael and their four amazing, hilarious children: Kirstin, Colin, Dylan and Michaela. She would like to give a special thank you to the cast and crew, the production team, the NWT staff, all the volunteers, and all of our friends and family members within our community and surrounding ones who continue to challenge, love and support NWT and its vision and mission.

Michael Stein (*Production Manager*) (He/Him) As *Cinderella* finally comes to NWT, Mike will be completing his sixth year as Production Manager - every year asking for the rights to do this show. Finally the shoe fit and we are doing it! Prior to coming to Near West Theatre in 2016, he was the Production Manager at the Palace Theater in Wisconsin Dells, WI (the water park capital of the world). His 40+ year career in theatre has taken him across the U.S. from Maine to California but mostly in Ohio as the Stage Manager/Production Manager/Lighting Designer/and all-around nice guy, at the Carousel Dinner Theatre in Akron, OH. He has also been the Lighting Designer for too many NWT productions to mention in this bio, but know they were all fabulous. As always, he gives his thanks and love to his wife Carlie for tolerating his lengthy time in this crazy world of theatre.

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