

2020/21 NWT
AS
YOU'VE
NEVER
SEEN
US
BEFORE



WE REDID OUR TICKETING.

IT'S SIMPLE.

PAY.

WHAT.

YOU.

CAN.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.NEARWESTTHEATRE.ORG

Near West Theatre presents

RISE

The Isolation Project

An Original NWT Project
Created by NWT Youth
Presented via streaming online
October 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 2020

DIRECTED BY
TRINIDAD SNIDER

TEACHING ARTISTS
SCOTT ACKERMAN
MARIAH BURKS
JODI MAILE KIRK
TRINIDAD SNIDER
OLIVIA ZINK

EDITORS
PERREN HEDDERSON
TRINIDAD SNIDER

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
PERREN HEDDERSON

SOUND DESIGNER
EMILY HEHNEN

GRIP
RUSS MILLER

ADMIN SUPPORT
OLIVIA ZINK

SCREENPLAY
MARIAH BURKS
JODI KIRK
TRINIDAD SNIDER
DARIUS STUBBS

CINEMATOGRAPHER
PERREN HEDDERSON

LIGHTING DESIGNER
MICHAEL STEIN

CHOREOGRAPHERS
HANNAH DUNCAN
SELINA HOKELLO

Photographing, videotaping, or recording audio or images of this production, including by camera, cell phone, or other device, is strictly prohibited.

THE CAST

ZAIN ABBAS
CORA BARCELONA
GIA BARNES
KYLA BURKS
HANNAH DUNCAN
ZYAIRE GALE
BLESSING GEE
MAURA GILLIS
ALLISON GORMAN
BREEANA HEHNEN
SELINA HOKELLO
SOPHIE HULL
MARIE HUNT
JACKSON KENNY
WILLA KENNY
NIA LUGO
GABRIELLE LYKES
TAYLOR LYKES

AVALON MCLAUGHLIN
MARGARETTA MILGRAM
RUSS MILLER
JOSH MINK
AMAYA MOORE
OLIVIA MOORE
ISABEL MUZZY
SOPHIE O'LEARY
ELENA RODENBORN
HAYLEE SCAGGS
MATHER TASEFF
ALISON TOME
TABITHA TOME
GENEVIEVE VANCISIN
LANDON VINCEL
JACOB YANKOW
JULIA ZIEL





Caffeinating
Gordon Square since 2007

Gypsy Beans & Baking Co.

Passport Lattes • Handcrafted Pastries • Artisan Sandwiches & Soup

6425 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44102
gypsybeans.com • facebook.com/GypsyBeans

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I remember when I was younger and I wanted to talk about real life issues with adults that there were many times when I was not welcomed. There was always this feeling of not being able to participate in dialogue or conversation because of my age. I was too young. I didn't have enough life experience to have an opinion. What did I know about trauma at a young age? This is how I was made to feel on many occasions. It's one of the reasons I fell in love with a Near West Theatre when I walked through the doors over 30 years ago; here was a place where adults wanted to hear from teens. Teens like me. My opinions, my thoughts and my ideas were valued not only as a person but as an artist.

As we approached the beginning of this pandemic and quarantine, the first thing we wanted to do was reach out to our community and see how everyone was. We gathered together on our Circle Up calls over Zoom and checked in with everyone. Kids, teens, and adults alike. A safe space to share exactly where you were. The most interesting thing out of that experience was the fact that these young voices were uplifting and inspirational. Every concern they had was countered with a "we can get through this" and "things will be OK" approach. Their voices helped me. It inspired me to start having those bigger, more difficult conversations at my own dinner table, with my own kids so that there was a space where they could share their voices, their concerns, and their journey through all of this.

This generation has something to say. I knew that whatever we were going to do first as a production had to be from their perspective. From their experiences, from them. For 12 weeks, two nights a week, for one hour, we sat on Zoom calls and talked about what was happening in the world. Their fears, their journeys, and their lives. And here we are today ready to share that with you all. I feel incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to hear from them all and to see them grow as writers, poets, artists, and people.

The icing on the cake was being able to work alongside other teaching artists who I value and respect so much for their work, and their voices. Olivia Zink was new to us this year but truly understands and values everything that we do and believes in our mission. Mariah, Darius, and Scott all grew up at NWT, so they understand what it's like to be a young artist here. They were able to open up that same experience to these 30+ amazing kids. Jodi Kirk was one of our first teachers/directors at NWT who truly allowed us to have a voice at the table. She encouraged us to be seen AND heard. So to

have all of them with me on this journey was another opportunity to come full circle as I continue on my NWT journey. We have so much to learn as artists in this new creative environment and I am excited to see what we come up with. And I will say this: nothing is going to be perfect. We can all look at the things we create and find imperfections and things we wish we would've done differently. I choose to take a chapter out of the book that has been created by these young artists: I choose to look ahead with hope. I choose to try to be a better person in this world. I choose to fight for what is right. I choose to grow. I choose LOVE.

With Gratitude,

Trinidad

Trinidad Snider, NWT Artistic Director



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to our production of Rise: The Isolation Project!

Evaluating opportunities for accessibility and inclusion has been a priority historically for Near West Theatre and continues today. Two years ago, we embarked on a strategic planning process that would become our roadmap for change, investments, and mission-centric growth for several years. We knew then that accessibility and inclusion were key values of our mission, and goals were created to ensure our commitment into our future. This included identifying and addressing barriers that may exist that limit participation or opportunities for engagement in everything we do.

This included our ticket prices.

We already had some of the lowest prices in town, but something never felt quite right. As I would engage our guests nightly, I couldn't help but observe an unintentional economic barrier being created between our more expensive center section seats and our cheaper seats to the sides. Is this what we intended for our community? Are we truly being inclusive and accessible while limiting where our audience can sit? Wouldn't we be more successful in creating a diverse community by finding a way to remove this economic segregation in our ticketing policies? Sometimes we face great challenges in balancing our need for revenue to sustain our mission versus our commitment to mission itself.

So, last season we tested a "Pay What You Can" model of ticketing for one Thursday performance per production. We were humbled to see the response and all the new faces who joined our Near West Theatre community. We assessed this pilot to be a success, but there were also more questions and challenges brought forward. *How do we truly embrace our commitment while limiting this policy to only one show per production? Are we truly equitable in piloting this initiative only during our traditionally lowest revenue night of the week? How can families take advantage of this policy on a weeknight?*

We needed to take the leap and embrace the risk.

We are now committed to removing all barriers to audience engagement by extending this opportunity to every performance in our main season lineup, for every seat in the house, and every virtual performance. Our

new model focuses on equity and meeting people where they are. We have set our standard ticket at a suggested price of \$15 for any seat in the house. This is simply a reflection of a budgeting process defining what we would need to generate at 80% capacity compared to our investments on productions to break even. **You are invited, and encouraged, to pay what you can afford – for some people that may be \$5, for others it may be \$25.** Data shows that patrons will show up at a realistic level for their personal circumstance. We trust that this will hold true in our community as well, and we are excited to see what this does for our engagement in spite of the stressors of the pandemic.

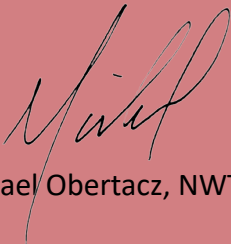
When the time comes for in-person shows, the organization is eager to see how the new Pay What You Can access for every show will make all seats affordable for patrons. We are confident that by making the center seats available at any price, we will truly make our performances and entire theatre accessible to people and families of all financial means. Our community now has the opportunity of choosing any seats they like in an equitable and fair first-come, first-served basis.

When I first started at this organization three years ago, I went to an event and spent time getting to know George Hrbek – a founder and visionary along with Stephanie – who told me “Mike, I would have kept our ticket prices at \$1 if I could.” That small statement told me a lot about our founders’ commitment to the mission of Near West Theatre and the community we serve.

I can’t wait for the day we open our house to audiences again, and when we do, I will be standing by the box office and happily accept that \$1 from anyone who wishes to experience our love for community and the transformational power of live theatre.

We are thankful to have you join us and to continue serving our mission during the immense challenges we face. Our prayers are with you all. Please stay safe. Love your neighbors. Make good choices. Vote.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Obertacz, NWT Executive Director

SCENES

“What The World Needs Now”

Music by Burt Bacharach

Lyrics by Hal David

Performed by Margaretta Milgram

Accompaniment by Jordan Cooper

“I Am I Feel”

Written by the Cast

Adapted by Jodi Maile Kirk

Edited by Noah Hrbek

“Struggle”

Written and performed by Amaya Moore

Directed by Jodi Kirk

“Overcoming Racism”

Adapted by Jodi Maile Kirk

Edited by Noah Hrbek

Performed by Kyla Burks, Hannah Duncan, Zyaire Gale, Blessing Gee, Allison Gorman, Selina Hokello, Sophie Hull, Margaretta Milgram, and Sophie O’Leary

“Black Trans Women Lives Matter”

Written by Blessing Gee and Sophie Hull

Adapted by Darius Stubbs

Performed by Blessing Gee, Selina Hokello, Sophie Hull, Genevieve Vancisin, and Landon Vincel

Directed by Darius Stubbs

“Returning to School”

Adapted by Darius Stubbs

Performed by Cora Barcelona, Gia Rose Barnes, and Jackson Kenny

“Letter to My Future Self”

Written and performed by Josh Mink

“Rise Up”

Song written by Andra Day and Jennifer Decilveo

Song performed by Andra Day

Choreographed by Hannah Duncan and Selina Hokello

Performed by Zain Abbas, Gia Rose Barnes, Maura Gillis, Selina Hokello, Marie Hunt, Jackson Kenny, Willa Kenny, Nia Lugo, Josh Mink, Olivia Moore, and Julia Ziel

Detroit Shoreway's
Neighborhood Tavern

XYZ the TAVERN

« *Casual Dining at its Finest* »

LUNCH • DINNER • WEEKEND BRUNCH
NY STYLE PIZZA • HOUSE SMOKED BBQ
WHISKEY • CRAFT BEER

24 craft beers on tap, over 100
varieties of whiskey and bourbon,
as well as delicious comfort food
from scratch. Home of the Serious
Slice & XYZ Smoked BBQ!

Kitchen is open until 2 a.m.

www.xyzthetavern.com

6419 Detroit Ave. *(next to Cleveland Public Theater)*

216 - 706 - 1104

Mon. - Fri. 11:30 a.m. — 2:30 a.m.

Sa. - Su. 9 a.m. — 2:30 a.m.



GET TO KNOW THE CAST

Zain Abbas is thrilled to be a part of *Rise: The Isolation Project*. He is a 6th grader at Dover Intermediate School in Westlake, Ohio. He has performed in many shows, including *The Addams Family*, *Robin Hood*, *Oliver!* and many more. He loves to draw and talk on discord in his free time. He would like to thank Trinidad and everyone who participated in *Rise*.

Cora Barcelona is ecstatic to be participating in *Rise* for the first time! Before the pandemic, she played roles such as Jojo in *Seussical the Musical*, Helena Landless in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and Gavroche in *Les Miserables*. She has also been a writer for *The Lunch Bunch* (Brooklyn Film Festival) and *Zombie Lake*. At the Beck Center she has studied acting, improv, musical theater, and dance. She enjoys history and criminology, and hopes to one day be a historian in London. Thanks to Near West Theatre for helping to brighten up quarantine!

This is **Gia Rose Barnes's** third production with Near West, and it is still filled with the excitement and adventure that she experienced during her first show. She is unbelievably proud of her fellow cast mates for the hard work and effort they've all put in. Gia is honored to be able to work with such amazing people, and can't wait to see what the future holds for her journey with Near West Theatre.

Avalon Bayley, an 8th grader at Albert Einstein Academy, has loved being on stage since performing a ventriloquist act to *It's Raining Tacos* in the school talent show in 4th grade. Last season she had her first professional role as an understudy in *A Christmas Story* at Playhouse Square. In 2019 she also had a lead in *Pajama Party* at the Clague Playhouse, a small part in *La Boheme* at the Ohio Theatre Playhouse Square and as a dancer for the L-Train Brass Band (the performance ensemble of The Brooklyn Brass Band Collective) in the Coney Island Mermaid Parade in NYC. She has studied at Tri-C's Vocal Arts Mastery Program, and is currently a member of the TriC Honors Orchestra. Her favorite performances and experiences have been as a member of Near West Theatre's *Rise* program for nearly three years as well as the Detroit Shoreway Youth Chorus. She wants everyone she meets to know that her favorite musical is *Hamilton*, and she will challenge you to a duel in any lyric from the show.

Kyla Burks is 18 and has been performing with NWT since she was 6 years old. She's done a few shows with here, including: *The Wiz* (2009) and *Into the Woods* (2011). In 2018 Kyla was able to preform in the musical *Aida* as Aida in 2018 here at Near West. Kyla has also done shows with Broadview Spotlights Theatre. She's played in the ensemble in *Evita* (2016), played the character Levora in *Disaster!* and played Chloe in *Be More Chill* in 2018. A year later Kyla was able to play Aida in the musical *Aida* once more at Akron Civic Theatre. The last show she had done before COVID-19 was *Ragtime* at Broadview Spotlights Theatre where she played Sarah. Kyla is so happy that Near West allowed her to find an outlet during these hard times and hopes for everyone to feel enlightened and or rejuvenated after watch *Rise: The Isolation Project*. Hope you enjoy the show!

Hannah Duncan couldn't be more excited to be (virtually) back at NWT

participating in *Rise: The Isolation Project*. Hannah is a 17-year-old senior at Kirtland High School who spends most of her free time training pre-professional in various dance styles at Savelli Dance. She has performed in numerous NWT shows as well as choreographing the show, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Prior, Hannah had assistant-choreographed *The Addams Family* and constantly involves herself in shows by volunteering and supporting from the audience. Hannah is proud to be a part of this project that amplifies the voices of today's youth.

This is **Zyaire Gale's** fourth production at Near West! They love participating on stage and behind the scenes. From joining Youth Choir to coming to rehearsals Near West has always been a special place for them. They would love to thank their friends and Trinidad for making this production a reality!

Blessing Gee is 16-years-old and a junior in high school and *Rise: The Isolation Project* is her 9th production at Near West Theatre. Onstage, her previous shows at Near West Theatre were *Xanadu*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aida*, *Newsies*, *Carnival*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, and *The Addams Family*. She has also done crew for a few shows at Near West Theatre. She was also in the production of *Aida* at Akron Civic Theatre. She is super excited that she participated in the production and can't wait for everyone to see it!

Maura Gillis is a 7th grader at Mayer Middle school in Fairview Park. This is Maura's third year performing at NWT, but *Rise: The Isolation Project* is her first virtual show. You might have recently seen her in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Big Fish*, and *The Addams Family*. Maura would like to thank Trinidad and everyone else that made this amazing project possible! She would also like to thank her mom for allowing Maura to interrupt her work time so could use her mom's computer! Maura hopes you enjoy this unique performance!

Allison "Al" Gorman is in 11th grade at John Hay Science and Medicine and wants to pursue Industrial Design. She has been featured in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* as Horcas and her first show at Near West was *Spring Awakening* running spotlights. This is Allison's 6th show with Near West; Allison has now done three shows as crew and three acting in the shows. Allison would like to say: "I prefer the term fabulously weird." – Alex Ferriro.

Breeana Hehnen is 10 years old and this is her first show at Near West Theatre. She is excited for the play to come out, and looks forward to doing more things with the theatre in the future. This is going to be the best!

Selina Hokello was happy to have the opportunity to take part in *Rise* this summer. She is 15-years-old and now attends Laurel School, entering into the 10th grade this school year. She has been in *Anyone Can Whistle* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, making this her third project here at Near West. She has also been cast as Cassandra in her school's production of *Trojan Women*. She would like to thank all of those who are able to witness the true magic of theatre, and hope you enjoy Near West as much as she does.

Marie Hunt is an 8th grade student participating in Near West Theatre's *Rise: The Isolation Project*. She attends Bay Middle School in Bay Village, Ohio. Marie has taken many acting classes at The Beck Center for the Arts and has some musical



FOLLOW US



@NEARWESTTHEATRE

A lifestyle boutique

Spa essentials
Home Decor
Artisan Jewelry

Artful
living

1364 West 67th Street,
Behind Near West Theatre
facebook.com/artfullivingboutique

~Proud to support Near West Theatre~

Farkas Pastry Shoppe **Fine European Pastries & Tortes**

Retail Hours:
Wed-Sat 9am-4pm
Sunday 12pm-4pm

216.281.6200
2700 Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

Farkaspastries@gmail.com • www.farkaspastries.com



A Cleveland Tradition for Over 45 Years

FARKAS
PAstry SHOPpe



Employment Law

Consultations Negotiations Mediation
In person or virtual

Denise J. Knecht Co. L.P.A.
700 West St. Clair Avenue
Hoyt Block, Suite 214
Cleveland, OH 44113

216-621-4882 | djknechtlaw.com

experience. School has also allowed her to perform in school concerts with the Chamber Choir and Band. Outside of theatre Marie enjoys drawing, using her laptop and phone, dance, tennis, swimming, and being busy. Marie really enjoys being a part of NWT and is grateful to them for having her in their shows and inviting her into their programs. These acting experiences have really benefited Marie.

Jackson Kenny is ecstatic to take part in his fourth production at NWT, in *Rise: The Isolation Project!!!* Previous NWT credits include *Anyone Can Whistle* (Pilgrim/Ensemble), *The Addams Family* (Ancestor) and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Reverend Crisparkle/Cedric Moncrieff). Jackson is twelve years old (which is hard to believe, he knows), goes to Menlo Park Academy, and loves anything that has to do with performance. He would like to thank his friends, family, and the entire cast and production team of *Rise: The Isolation Project!!!* Now sit back, and enjoy the virtual show!

Willa Kenny is thrilled to be making her NWT debut in *Rise: The Isolation Project!* She has been performing at The Beck Center since she was nine, and some of her favorite roles are Danni in *The Trials of Robin Hood*, Oompa Loompa #1 in *Willy Wonka Jr.* and orphan/pickpocket in *Oliver!* Other than theater, Willa enjoys writing and spending time with friends and family. She'd like to thank her family and NWT for this amazing opportunity! Remember to mask up and stay safe!

Nia Lugo is a freshman at Saint Joseph Academy and was recently seen as Rosa Bud in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at NWT. Outside of theatre she participates in volleyball and Model United Nations. She is so excited to share this amazing and heartfelt project with you and hopes you enjoy the show!!

Margaretta Milgram is a junior at Shaker Heights High School, and is so excited to be working with everyone at Near West Theatre again for *Rise!* She was previously seen as an ancestor in last year's fall youth production of *The Addams Family*, as well as having participated in a couple of other small events for the theatre, such as the open house and Coffee and the Arts. This is her second show at Near West and her 10th show overall—she has also done shows at Heights Youth Theatre and at Shaker Heights High School. In her free time, Margaretta likes to sing, draw, and play the ukulele. She has been singing for all her life, and earlier this year, she started taking vocal lessons with Cynthia O'Connell. Margaretta would like to thank her friends, family, Trinidad, Jodi, Darius, Mariah, and everyone else at Near West—both in the staff and the community—for giving her the chance to partake in this wonderful production, and for being endlessly supportive. Enjoy the show!

Josh Mink is a sophomore at Shaker Heights High School. Josh likes to play tennis, write, film, perform, and help around his community. Josh has performed in fifteen shows, with six at Near West, including *Anyone Can Whistle* (Treasurer Cooley), and *The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester). Josh also performs with the SHHS Theater Department, Heights Youth Theatre, Radio on the Lake Theatre, and the John Carroll University Summer Theater Camp. He is very happy to be a part of *Rise: The Isolation Project* during this pandemic pandemonium. Josh wants to thank the Near West team who made this possible! Stay safe everyone and wear your masks!

Amaya Moore is bursting with jubilation to be a part of this production! She is a 14-year-old 9th grader at Saint Joseph Academy, who has done several previous productions in this wonderful theatre including, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Newsies*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* as the Chairman, etc. Her first production at Near West was in 2014, in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Besides acting, she also enjoys writing short stories, making stickers, and listening to reggae music! She would like to thank Near West Theatre for always giving her a sense of comfort and inspiration in her darkest moments.

Olivia Moore is thrilled to perform in her 5th or 6th Near West Theater production! She is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ohio. She has participated in *Carnival* in the Near West, and has been participating in the rise programs. She loves performing in front of a crowd and enjoys being in a play and program.

Sophie O'Leary is a 15-year-old sophomore at Saint Joseph Academy. *Rise* is her fifteenth show at Near West Theatre, and she is so grateful to be a part of such an incredible organization. She has had an amazing experience doing *Rise: The Isolation Project* with so many old and new friends. She can't wait for everyone to hear the voices of her and her friends and see the wonderful art they made. Enjoy!

Sophie Hull couldn't be more excited to call the *Rise* project her last youth production at NWT! Sophie is entering her junior year at John Hay, and is on her way to becoming a driver. Though she has been with NWT since she was nine, she was most recently seen as Princess Puffer in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Along with being in fourteen shows throughout the years, she has also helped build the sets of *Chess* and *Spring Awakening*. Besides spending time at NWT, Sophie is embroidering, painting, and playing with her 3-year-old bestie, Greta. Enjoy sis!

Mather Taseff is excited to be a part of *Rise: The Isolation Project*! He was previously in the cast of *Anyone Can Whistle*, *The Addams Family* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, all at Near West Theatre. A resident of Ohio City, and sixth grader at Lakewood Catholic Academy, Mather enjoys soccer, making movies, playing the violin and drawing. He is thrilled to be working with the amazing cast of *Rise* and wishes to thank his friends, family and the director. Enjoy the show!!

Genevieve (Evie) Vancisin is thrilled to be part of the *Rise: The Isolation Project* at Near West Theatre. She is homeschooled and in the 7th grade. She enjoys acting and has gone to several acting camps and workshops, most notably Baldwin Wallace's theater camp. In addition to acting, she enjoys writing and researching greek mythology. She would like to thank her parents for being supportive of her dream.

Landon Vincel is excited to perform in his second Near West performance! He is an 11-year-old in 5th grade at Menlo Park Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. He has acted in one Near West performance, in the cast of *Big Fish*. He also enjoys reading and playing games with his family. He would like to thank Near West for the ability to be part of its wonderful community.

Jacob Yankow is a 12-year-old 7th grader at Ruffing Montessori. In his free time



It's taken years to perfect this West Side Vibe.



DON'S LIGHTHOUSE GRILLE

Before or after the show - We're open 'til 10:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Created, Owned and Operated by The Strang Corporation

Drop Anchor & Be Yourself

Corner of Lake Ave. & Clifton Blvd.

216.961.6700

audio craft

Elevate your entertaining.



whole home audio
lighting control
custom theaters
conference rooms
security systems

audiocraft.com

216.431.7300

info@audiocraft.com

THOMAS C. WAGNER, LLC

ATTORNEY AT LAW
14516 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107
(216) 781-4000

E MAIL: WAGNERT@TCWLAWYERS.COM
website: WWW.TCWLAWYERS.COM

SINCE 1990: REPRESENTING INVESTORS IN SECURITIES LITIGATION
AND FINRA ARBITRATIONS

MOD★MEX

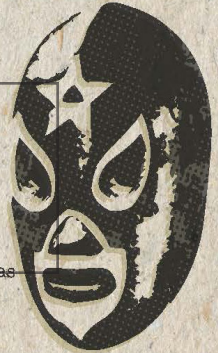
EL CARNICERO • LKWD
16918 DETROIT AVENUE
216 • 226 • 3415
elcarnicerolakewood.com

cocktails • latin beers • nightly
happy hour • weekend brunch • viva
carne fabulosa!

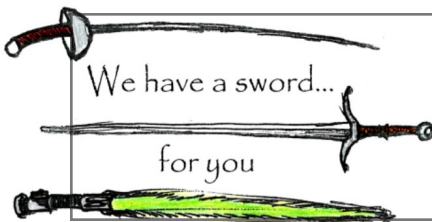
MOMOCHO • OHC
1835 FULTON ROAD
216 • 694 • 2122
momocho.com

award-winning cuisine • margaritas
• weekday happy hour-and-a-half •
outdoor patio • viva momocho!

© 2015 CHEF/OWNER ERIC WILLIAMS



Whatever Your World...



To learn more:

tworavensfencing@yahoo.com

tworavensfencingschool.com

216-287-1069

Two Ravens Fencing School



[/tworavensfencing](https://www.facebook.com/tworavensfencing)

he plays with his cousins, watches shows, sleeps, and eats. He was very excited to be in this virtual performance of *Rise*, which is his second show at Near West Theater. Jacob would like to thank everyone at Near West, but especially his group for helping him to open up and for helping him through these times. He would also like to thank his family for helping him through his journey.

Julia Ziel is honored to be a part of this beautiful and important show. She would like to thank Trinidad and all of the instructors, who were a part of this project, especially when they didn't let her get off easy. Julia was last seen at Near West Theatre in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She has also been a part of *The Addam's Family* and *Big Fish* on the NWT stage. Julia would like to thank her family, for allowing her to shut her door and experience *Rise* on her own, with no questions asked. Enjoy this amazing show.



**REQUEST A
RIDE TO VOTE**

**DRIVE VOTERS
TO THE POLLS**

www.VoterDriveCle.com

VoterDriveCLE@gmail.com

216-294-4261

**VOTER
DRIVE**

WWW.VOTERDRIVECLE.COM

VOTE!



An original presentation by Near West Theatre
Directed by Trinidad Snider
Streaming Online

DEC 11-20

www.nearwesttheatre.org

GET TO KNOW THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Scott Ackerman (Teaching Artist) made his Near West Theatre debut in 1987 with *Where Do I Go?* After many productions at NWT, he received his BFA in Dramatic Performance from the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music. In 2000, he moved to Stockholm, Sweden where he has been working as a freelance actor on stage and in films, TV, voiceovers, and commercials. He has had the great fortune to have worked with and learned from theatre artists from Bulgaria, France, Finland, Denmark, Holland, and Slovenia to name a few. He's eager to share what he's learned, and to learn from, the kids and actor-teachers of NWT.

Mariah Burks (Teaching Artist) is happy to be back at NWT! Mariah started her journey with NWT at 8 years old and has been involved for almost 19 years, both at the St. Pat's location and in the new facility. Some show credits include: *Annie*, *West Side Story*, *CATS*, *The Wiz*, *Rent*, *Into the Woods*, *Miss Saigon*, *Hairspray*, and many others. Mariah is grateful to be able to come back and be a part of this creative process that guides, nurtures and collaborates alongside these incredible teaching artists and our young artists as well.

Jodi Maile Kirk (Teaching Artist) is an arts educator, director, actor and activist who has worked extensively in Northeast Ohio theater for more than 25 years. Jodi formerly served as Director of Theater at Laurel School, Associate Artistic Director at Near West Theatre, and Director of the School Residency Program at Great Lakes Theater. She currently serves as the Director of Active Learning with The Musical Theater Project. She is a graduate of the University of Mount Union and earned her MA in theater from Bowling Green State University. As a theater educator, she has taught and worked with Cleveland School of the Arts, Lorain County Community College, Cleveland Signstage, and BGSU. Jodi believes that exposure to and experience with the creative process can be transformative. She is especially passionate about working with students who have special needs, emerging artists and seniors. She is thrilled to be joining such an incredible group teaching artists and is particularly excited to work with Trinidad, Scott, and Mariah who were part of teen productions that she conceived and directed. Such a full circle moment!

Perren Hedderson (Technical Director) 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. Recent credits include *We Will Rock You* (projections) at Blank Canvas Theatre, *Chess* and *Big Fish* (projections) at Near West, and a side music project called Triage – look for an EP dropping 2019. He's a Dad now too with a son. Love to Sarah, Kellen, and Sab!

Emily Hennen (Assistant Technical Director) graduated from Ohio University with a BFA in Production Design and Technology in 2016 and volunteered with Near West on and off since 2010, until joining the team full time in 2018. Her credits as a carpenter there include *Spring Awakening*, *Carrie The Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. 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.

Trinidad Snider (Artistic Director) is living her dream as Artistic Director for

Near West Theatre, after having been a part of the NWT family for over 30 years. She has appeared in many production here and all over the Northeast Ohio area. Trinidad previously served as the Business Director for the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso, IN and most recently worked as a teaching artist for The Musical Theatre Project where she helped to develop the Intergenerational Program working with school aged children and senior citizens. She is thrilled to be working with these amazing teaching artists who are also NWT alumni and a part of its history and legacy!

Michael Stein's (Production & Rentals Manager) 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 at the Carousel Dinner Theatre in Akron, OH. Prior to returning to Near West Theatre in 2016, he was the Production Manager at the Palace Theater in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Michael's lighting designs at NWT include *1776*, *Carnival!*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Urinetown*, *Once on this Island* 2009, *Secret Garden* 2010, *The Wiz* 2010, *Rent* 2010, *Willy Wonka* 2011, *A Christmas Story the Musical*, *Move On!*, and many of the yearly Benefit performances including this year's Bohemian Bash. As always, thanks to my wife Carlie.

Darius Stubbs (Teaching Artist) is a poet, playwright, performer, vocalist, educator and LGBTQ advocate who has been living and working in Cleveland, OH since 2006. Artistically, he has collaborated with many creative thinkers across the city with whom he has created over a dozen original performance pieces spanning the genre spectrum from performance art to fully-staged productions. Darius was last seen on Near West Theatre's stage as the Baker in NWT's 2012 production of *Into the Woods*. He is grateful beyond words to be back working with the wonderful people of Near West!

Olivia Zink (Teaching Artist) spent the last year with Near West Theatre in the role of Community Engagement Associate as a Notre Dame Americorps Volunteer, learning the truly hard work it takes to keep a theatre running. Before that, she spent four years as a theatre student at the liberal arts college, Wittenberg University, learning what it means to be a part of theatre both on and off of the stage. She was beyond excited to join Near West to help facilitate programming, putting her time with Project Jericho (Springfield, Ohio) and Horizon Education Centers (East Lorain, Ohio) to the ultimate good use.



HAPPY DOG



DETROIT AVENUE

5801 Detroit Avenue
Gordon Square | Cleveland, OH
Phone: 216-651-9474 | happydogcleveland.com

MON-WED 4PM-12:30AM
THU & SUN 11AM-12:30AM
FRI & SAT 11AM-2:30AM



lion and blue

CLOTHING • GIFTS • JEWELRY
15106 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood
216 529 2328

EST 1996

 lionandblue.com



GREATER CLEVELAND
COMMUNITY
SHARES

Your Gift. Your Choice.

**DONATE TO
NEAR WEST THEATRE
THROUGH
COMMUNITY SHARES**



**DONATE AT YOUR
WORKPLACE
OR GIVE ONLINE AT
COMMUNITYSHARES.ORG**



PROMISES TO CARE



HOLISTIC & THERAPEUTIC ORGANIC PLANT BLENDS
FOR YOUR SKIN

📷 Promisestocare
promisestocare.com
promisestocare@gmail.com

Your glow is our goal

Squash the Beef Catering

*100% Vegan
Comfort
Food*

- Birthdays
- Corporate Catering
- Small Weddings
- Baby Showers
- Church Dinners
- ...and so much more!

BOOK US!

216-245-2128

www.squashthebeefcatering.com

**SQUASH
THE
BEEF**



www.joymachines.net

**FOUNDED AND OPERATED
BY A PROUD NWT ALUM!**

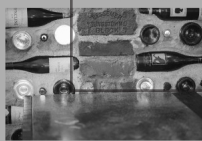
Open:
Mon - Fri, 11 - 7
Sat, 11 - 5
Sun, 12 - 4

216 394 0230

2605 Detroit Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

**Toast celebrates what the earth
has to offer...**

raise a glass with us.



1365 West 65th Street
Cleveland, OH 44102

216-862-8974

toastcleveland.com

eat :: drink
toast



DETROIT SHOREWAY

7400 Detroit Ave Cleveland, OH 44102
216-417-7001

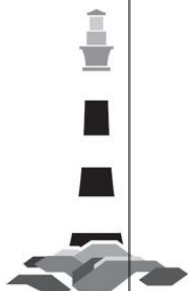
localeats.locallove

HERE FOR YOU AT ANY STAGE

Whether you're starting your first act in investing or are well on your way, your investment plan should be created just for you. However, developing and maintaining a comprehensive financial plan can be daunting.

We can deliver the guidance needed to develop a well-balanced investment plan.

Call today for more information or to schedule a consultation.



LIGHTHOUSE ADVISERS

8450 MENTOR AVENUE, SUITE 100

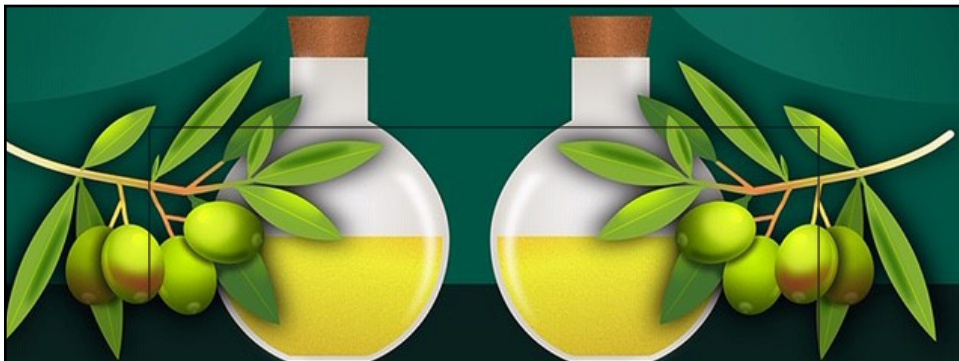
MENTOR, OHIO 44060

PHONE: 440.266.1979

FAX: 440.266.1975

WWW.LIGHTHOUSEADVISERS.COM

Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.
Investment advice offered through Lighthouse Advisers- a registered
investment adviser and separate entity from LPL Financial.



ASTORIA

CAFE • MARKET • SPIRITS

Taste the Magic! Feast on the Arts!

Then...

Be our Guest!

5417 Detroit Avenue | Cleveland, OH 44102

info@astoriacafemarket.com

astoriacafemarket.com

216•266•0834

LUXE

KITCHEN & LOUNGE

Food. Music. Friends

open daily 5pm. sunday brunch 10-3
happy hour 5-7 M-F

find us on facebook

6605 detroit ave. 216-920-0600. luxecleveland.com

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

**CONGRATULATIONS TO NEAR WEST THEATRE AND
WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY!**

I will be glad and rejoice in
you. I will sing praise to your
name, O Most High

Psalm 9:2



JOIN US WEEKLY FOR CATHOLIC WORSHIP AND SERVICES

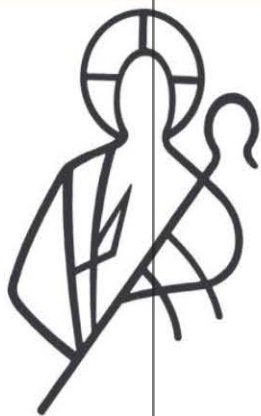
6928 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, Oh.

In the Heart of Ohio City



2700 Carroll Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 216.274.2940

**On the stage of everyday life,
we all need direction from God.**



*Praising God
Teaching Faith
Serving Others*

**Rocky River
Presbyterian Church**

www.riverpres.org

Dr. Jon M. Fancher, Pastor

The HeArd
Loves N.W.T.



Theatrical Interpreting
Services of Cleveland

www.heardwhatsup.com



THE HARP
CLEVELAND, OHIO

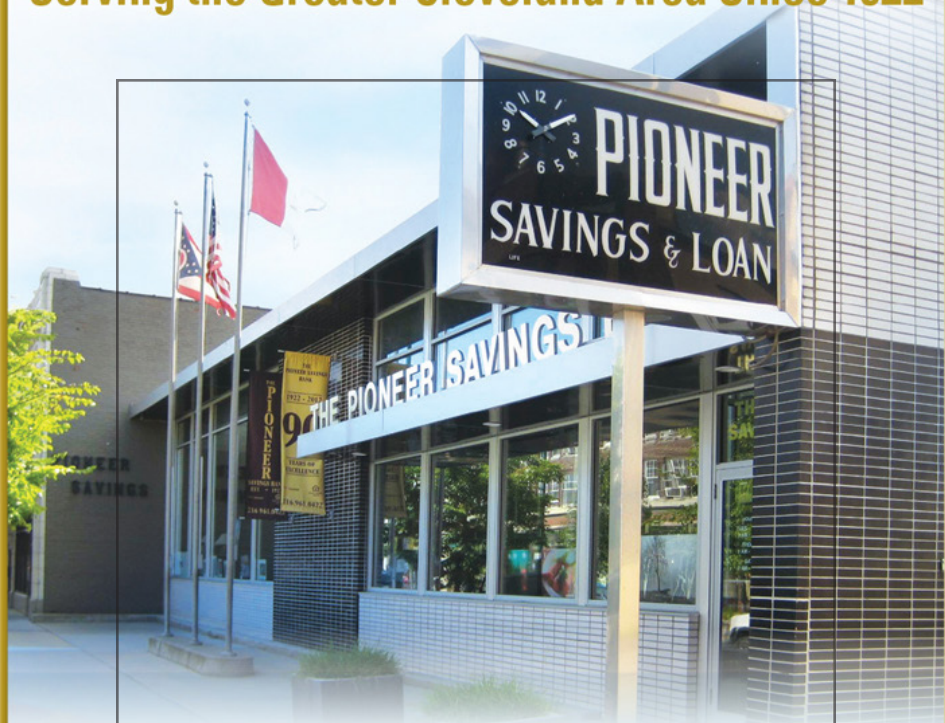
Cleveland's Best Patio

Join Us For Great Live Music Every
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

Call for Information 216.939.0200
www.the-harp.com

Located at 4408 Detroit Avenue

Serving the Greater Cleveland Area Since 1922



PSB

Est. 1922

THE PIONEER SAVINGS BANK

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL LOANS, REFINANCING,
SAVINGS, CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSITS, IRAS

Virginia C. Barsan - President/Chief Executive Officer

Joseph D. Rose - Executive Vice President/Secretary

6701 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102
(216) 961-0422 | www.psb1922.com

Member
FDIC



The care you *need*, where you need it.

Rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing • Long Term Care
Home Health Care • Assisted Living • Hospice
Home Delivered Meals • Child Enrichment Center



7801 Detroit Ave. | Cleveland | staugministries.org



Seth Chwast, fine artist

"I felt a wave of joy as I entered Seth's world of vibrant color and character. I sensed a stunning vision and imagination that has uncovered an avenue of expression. As an actor I hope I can communicate with my audience with such certainty."

- Gordon Clapp:

Emmy-winning, Tony-nominated actor

www.sethchwastart.com



*Pine Ridge Cleaning and Restoration would like to congratulate the performers
of the Near West Theatre!*

Master Certified
Water Restorer

Structural Drying
Experts

Carpet and
Upholstery
Cleaning



Mold
Remediation

Fire Smoke and
Water
Restoration

Tile and Grout
Cleaning

Call us for all of your Cleaning and Restoration needs

440-944-3957

PineRidgeRestoration.com

**President, Rick McGuigan, Proud and Active Member of the
Cleveland Theatre Community**



PLAY THAT MOVES YOU®

Play brings everyone together, fosters development and gets communities moving. Join Our Movement and see how play can move you!



Burke

CVSNIDER.COM
800.888.2889

Trademark(s) are the property of BCI Burke Company. © BCI Burke Company 2019. All Rights Reserved.



**Featured On Food Network
And Travel Channel**

**Kitchen Open Late
Retail Beer and Wine**

**7320 Detroit Ave
Cleveland
216.801.0305**

www.bantercleveland.com



Bodhi Tree
massage + skincare

2148 W 11th St, Cleveland, OH 44113

bodhitreecle.com

216.713.1644



**HOMEMADE ICE CREAM
AND HANDMADE CONFECTIONS**

**IN THE HEART OF CLEVELAND'S
GORDON SQUARE ARTS DISTRICT**

OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

**6800 DETROIT AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

216.651.2202

www.sweetmoses treats.com



'Ride With Us, We Support'

Bicycle Sales & Service

M-F: 10A - 7P

Sat: 10A - 5P

Sun: 12P - 4P

We stock the most popular!

216-218-1811

7437 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102

Corrigan Cracium Holick Funeral Homes

Now serving your community in 5 locations

Cleveland • Fairview Park • Westlake • Middleburg Heights

Joseph Cracium • James Cracium • Tom Corrigan

Chris Holick • Dean Schreiber

Dignity

216-281-7300

☞ LIFE WELL CELEBRATED ☞

440-331-0500



le petit
TRIANGLE
cafe

1881 Fulton Rd, Cleveland, OH 44113
open daily
brunch lunch dinner
216.281.1881 * lepetittriangle@sbcglobal.net
lepetittrianglecafe.com



LOCATION
6706 DETROIT AVE
CLEVELAND, OH 44102

216.862.7200

HOURS
MON – WED: 11AM – 12AM OR LATER
THUR – SAT: 11AM TO 2AM



**Congratulations on another
successful season for
Near West Theatre!**

Thank you for your continued partnership with
Urban Community School.

urbancommunityschool.org

UCS

Urban Community School





Near West Theatre.

The best place to party.

Affordable rentals in a customizable space.
Contact Mike Stein: mstein@nearwesttheatre.org



Follow Us!



Johnny Mango

World Cafe & Bar

3120 Bridge Avenue • Cleveland, OH 44113
216.575.1919 • www.jmango.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Amanda Bender

Thomas Campbell

Noah Hrbek

Angela Warholic

Anthony Williams

Edward Stockhausen & Kerry McCormack

Deb Yandala & Sherman Bishop

Ninja City

**THE RIGHT
STYLE VEHICLE
FOR EVERY OCCASION**



CLEVELAND • COLUMBUS

**Airport Transportation
Corporate Events
Evenings Out
Group Tours**

Contact: Mary Jo Mazzarella

800.321.6613

www.amerilimo.com



**Ithaca
Court**

Occasional House

A great place to stay when seeing
Near West Theatre productions!

For more information, contact
Ithaca.court@gmail.com

Committed to Excellence. Committed to the Community.

We proudly support
Near West Theatre.



Same-day
appointments
440.312.4533
lutheranhospital.org



Cleveland Clinic
Lutheran Hospital

Every life deserves world class care.

Full Color Printings

we print everything

Everyday Prices (2019-2020)

Flyers- 8.5x11, full color one side, matte / gloss finish: 250/\$89 500/\$126 750/\$144 1000/\$163

Pocket Folders- 9x12, full color on 14Pt cardstock: 100/\$237 250/\$347 500/\$475 1000/\$577

Posters- 18x28, full color, art can vary, 16Pt stock: 5/\$35 10/\$45 20/\$65 30/\$85 50/\$125

Table Throws- 6ft 3 sided, full color dye sub fabric: 1/\$108 2/\$182 3/\$254 4/\$328

Dry Erase Posters- 18x28, full color on 19Pt cardstock: 5/\$87 10/\$134 15/\$160 25/\$183

Pop-Up Retractable Banners- 33x81, art can vary: 1/\$87 2/\$140 3/\$193 4/\$244 5/\$295

Coroplast Signs- 24x36, full color one side on 4mm coroplast, art can vary: 5/\$95 25/\$320 50/\$440

Yard Signs (w/ frames) 18x24, full color on 4mm coroplast: 10/\$120 50/\$395 100/\$635

FullColorPrintings@gmail.com FullColorPrintings.com 216.227.8521
(don't forget the "s")



Proud Print Partner of Near West Theatre!

Break a Leg on your 2019-2020 Season!



LOCAL • FAMILY RUN • FAMILY PROUD
Full Service "One Stop Mailing Shop"

In Theatre, as in business, longevity is key. Rapid Mailing Services has been serving the Northeast Ohio Community since 1989.



- Giving back to the community for 30 years
- Expertise in both large and small projects
- Project management under one roof



Rapid Mailing Services

3424 State Road
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

330-929-MAIL (6245)
1-800-341-7680

www.rapidmailing.com

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| ♦ Mailing | ♦ Design |
| ♦ Pre-Sort | ♦ Marketing |
| ♦ List Acquisition | ♦ Printing |
| ♦ Addressing | ♦ Bindery |
| ♦ Data Maintenance | ♦ Fresh Ideas |

FREDDY HILL DESIGNS



CUSTOM PIECES MADE FOR
COMFORTABLE LIVING

Call or email to schedule a
consultation.

freddyhill@me.com

330-554-6482

Freddyhill1976.com

MERCHANDISE COMING SOON



**CLEVELAND
LUMBER CO.**

Rebuild. Remodel. Renew.

9410 Madison Ave. Cleveland, OH 44102 (216)961-5550

www.clevelandlumber.com

**THE CUSTOM MILLWORK SPECIALISTS
CRANE SERVICE FOR ROOFTOP DELIVERY**

PRESSURE TREATED STEPS

DRYWALL & PLASTERING TOOLS; ACCESSORIES & COMPOUNDS

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| • HARDWOOD FLOORING | • VELUX SKYLIGHTS | • FIRE RETARDANT LUMBER |
| • PANELING | • COMPOSITE DECKING | • GLASS & SCREEN REPAIRS |
| • PLYWOOD | • INSULATION | • VINYL SIDING |
| • INT. & EXT. DOORS | • CEILING TILES & GRID | • ROOFING MATERIALS |
| • ANDERSEN WINDOWS | • PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL | • CERAMIC TILE |
| • CARPET | • KITCHEN CABINETS | • COUNTERTOPS |
| • VINYL WINDOWS | • EXOTIC HARDWOODS | • MOULDING |
| • METAL STUDS | • CONCRETE | • POWER & HAND TOOLS |

**\$10
DELIVERY!**

M&TH 7:30-7 • TU,W,F 7:30-5 • SAT 7:30-1



INDULGENCE STUDIOS
Natural Gemstone Jewelry
One-of-a-kind Upscale Designs
For those who like to feel special.

Indulgencestudios.net

or

Etsy: Indulgencestudiosnet

eclectic.
ice cream

AUTHENTIC HANDMADE ICE CREAM



Classic Ice Cream
Vegan Ice Cream
Ice Cream Cakes
Floats
Smoothies
Handmade Belgium Waffles
Handmade Waffle Cones
Macchiatos
Coffee

11115 DETROIT AVE CLE OH 44102

www.eclecticicecream.com

cleveland PUBLIC theatre

CPT's Fall Season:

ALIVE ON LINE

OCTOBER 30 - DECEMBER 19



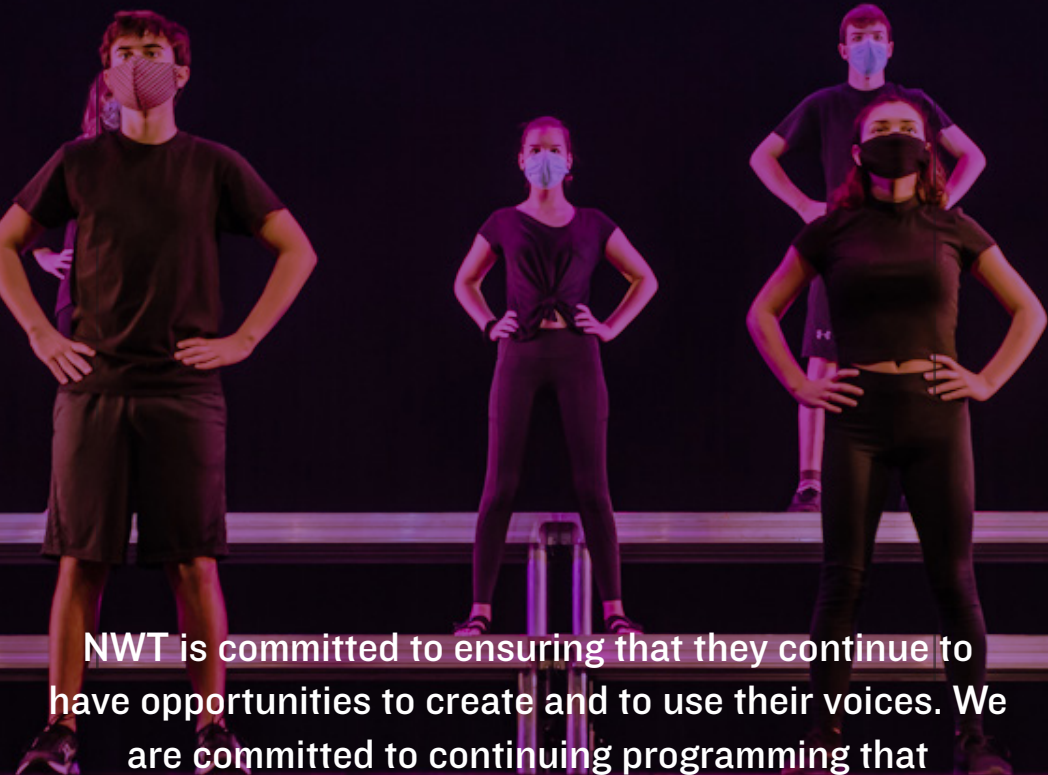
Visit www.cptonline.org to learn more.

Photo credit: Steve Wagner



Talespinner Children's Theatre
www.talespinnerchildrenstheatre.org

Our youth have shown
incredible leadership and
resilience while navigating
the pandemic.



NWT is committed to ensuring that they continue to
have opportunities to create and to use their voices. We
are committed to continuing programming that
transforms lives.

But we can't do it alone.

Please consider supporting Near West Theatre today.

nearwesttheatre.org/donate

Board of Trustees

Jazmin Long, *President*
Kenneth Kalynchuk, *Vice President*
David Schwieterman, *Treasurer*
Vincenzo J. Pierro, *Secretary*

Emily Baker
Toi Comer
Char Fowler
Kevin Kennedy

Jazmin Long
Vickey McBride
Katie O'Connor
Betsy Rader

Jan L. Roller
Edward Stockhausen
James Tusoch
Deb Yandala

Advisory Board

Jim Schoff, Charles Zellmer

Near West Theatre Staff

Michael Obertacz Executive Director
Trinidad Snider Artistic Director
Alvis Ashley.....Maintenance Technician
Amy Clausen Gertiser General Manager/Facilities Manager
Perren Hedderson Technical Director
Emily HehnenAssistant Technical Director
Bailey Pfohl..... Audience & Community Engagement Manager
Brendan Reynolds..... Development Director
Michael Stein..... Production Manager/Rentals Manager

Support Staff

Michelle Gregorczyk Accountant
Kevin Kelly Advertising Sales

To learn more about Near West Theatre, and to view bios and information about our staff and trustees, visit the *Who We Are* section of our website at nearwesttheatre.org.