



# CASSIDY THEATRE

*Celebrating 50 years!*

6200 Pearl Road | Parma Heights, OH 44130  
(440) 842 - 4600 | [boxoffice@cassidytheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@cassidytheatre.com)



**Book by Terrance McNally**

**Music by Stephen Flaherty**

**Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens**

**February 9-25, 2024**

*Ragtime* is presented by special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)



## Cast of Characters

In order of appearance

The Little Boy .....	Koen Antel
Father .....	Dan Polk
Mother .....	Aubrie Wancata
Younger Brother .....	Daniel Mills
Grandfather .....	D. Keith Stiver
Coalhouse Walker .....	Jae Snow
Sarah .....	Megan Jones-Turner
Booker T. Washington .....	Kenneth Perdue
Tateh .....	Cody Swanson
The Little Girl .....	Isabella Disantis
Houdini .....	Oleg Faynshteyn
J. P. Morgan .....	Tom Hill
Henry Ford .....	Mark Hilan
Emma Goldman .....	Theresa Dean
Evelyn Nesbit .....	Isabel Valega
Stanford White .....	Zac Marshall
Harry K. Thaw .....	Joseph Petrak
Kathleen .....	Gina Marafiotte
Willie Conklin.....	Dave Hopkins
Sarah's Friend .....	Lauren Sturdivant
Coalhouse Walker III .....	Victoria Horvath
People of New Rochelle .....	Amanda Droste, Greg Gnau Dave Hopkins, Hannah Pryseski, Amy Smialek, Cherie Stebner
People of Harlem .....	Mattie Adon, Wesley Allen, Justin Fulton, Lauren Sturdivant, Mari Starek, Jesse Tinsley
Immigrants .....	Hannah Armenta, Giovanni Conti, Amanda Droste, Gina Marafiotte, Hannah Pryseski, Amy Smialek, Joie Snider, Cherie Stebner, Gunner Tekaucic, Cindi Verbelun, Nik Welker

## Orchestra

Keyboard 1 .....	John D. Roberts
Keyboard 2 .....	Frances Pawuk
Flute .....	Jo-Ann Hodge
Clarinet .....	Kim Coxe
Violin .....	Margaret Lynch
Trumpet .....	William Legare
Trombone .....	Jeff Krejci
Trombone .....	Stefan Mazur
Bass .....	Blake Kniola
Drums/Percussion .....	Karli Messer

## Production Team

Director .....	Marc C. Howard
Music Director .....	John D. Roberts
Choreographer .....	Kim Mihalik
Stage Manager .....	Jen Sindyla*
Producer .....	Georgia Muttillio
Producer .....	Joellen Woodring
Scenic and Lighting Designer .....	Shawna Melnykowski
Sound Designer .....	Vic DiAngelo
Properties Designer .....	Gretchen Woods
Costumer .....	Katie Wells
Lightboard Operator .....	Joellen Woodring
Sound Board Operator .....	Katrina Yeigh
Spotlight Operator .....	Anna Marie Babinec
Backstage Crew .....	Amy McSweeney
Dresser/Wardrobe .....	Rachel Merk
Photographer.....	Keli Schimelpfenig

\*Member of the Stage Managers Association.

## Cassidy Theatre, Inc.

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**Welcome to Parma Heights** and thank you for joining us in this 50th Year Celebration of community theatre in Parma Heights. The dedicated work of the Cassidy Theatre Board of Directors, actors, musicians, lighting, sound, props, directors, and volunteers is inspiring and appreciated. We are very proud to have one of the finest community theatres of Northeast Ohio in our city.

**Enjoy the Show!**

**Parma Heights City Council**

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Rick Haase - Ward 4/Council Pro Tem  
Sue Durichko - Council At-Large  
Christopher Kolezynski - Council At-Large  
Stephanie Palmisano - Council At-Large



## Act 1

Ragtime .....	Company
Goodbye, My Love .....	Mother
Journey On .....	Father, Tateh, The Little Girl, Mother
Crime of the Century .....	Evelyn, Chorus Girls, Sob Sisters, Judge, Jurors
What Kind of Woman .....	Mother, Kathleen, The Little Boy, Policeman, Brother
A Shtetl IZ Amereke (Ellis Island) .....	Tateh, The Little Girl, Immigrants
Success .....	Tateh, Emma, The Little Girl, J.P. Morgan, Immigrants
His Name was Coalhouse Walker .....	Coalhouse, People of Harlem
Gettin' Ready Rag .....	Coalhouse, People of Harlem
Henry Ford .....	Henry Ford, Coalhouse, People of Harlem
Nothing Like the City .....	Mother, Tateh, Little Girl, Little Boy
Your Daddy's Son .....	Sarah
The Courtship .....	Coalhouse, Little Boy, Little Girl, Mother, Grandfather, Sarah, Company
New Music .....	Mother, Father, Brother, Sarah, Coalhouse, Company
Wheels of a Dream .....	Coalhouse, Sarah
The Night That Goldman Spoke at Union Square .....	Brother, Emma The Ralliers
Gliding .....	Tateh, The Conductor
Justice .....	Coalhouse, Lawyers, Mother, Sarah, Company
President .....	Sarah, Company
Till We Reach That Day .....	Sarah's Friend, Company



## *Intermission*

## Act 2

Coalhouse's Soliloquy .....	Coalhouse
Coalhouse's Demands .....	Coalhouse, Willy Conklin, Company
What a Game! .....	Father, The Little Boy, Fans
Atlantic City .....	Evelyn, Mother, Father, Houdini, Company
Buffalo Nickel Photolay, Inc. ....	Tateh
Our Children .....	Mother, Father, Tateh
Harlem Sequence .....	People of Harlem
Sarah Brown Eyes .....	Coalhouse, Sarah
He Wanted to Say .....	Coalhouse, Emma, Brother, Men
Back to Before .....	Mother, Women
Look What You've Done .....	Booker T. Washington, Sarah, People of Harlem
Make Then Hear You .....	Coalhouse
Epilogue: Ragtime .....	Company
Epilogue: Wheels of a Dream .....	Company

# Who's Who in the Cast



**Mattie Adon** (Harlem Ensemble) is thrilled to push her limits in this production of *Ragtime* at the Cassidy Theatre! This past year was a theatrical awakening for Mattie, who played a Wolf Cub in *Rudyard Kipling's, Jungle Book* and Snaps, in the Summer Camp production, *Big Feet in the Mist*, both at the Fine Arts Association of Willoughby. This was followed by *Seussical the Musical* at Western Reserve Playhouse, which was her most rewarding experience to date! Mattie has truly found her people in the theater community. She is delighted to be a part of and learn from this extraordinary cast! Mattie thanks Director Marc Howard for the opportunity and she dedicates her performance to her brother, Kane, who is always there for her .



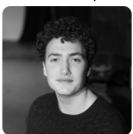
**Wesley Allen (Harlem Ensemble)** is excited that he was asked to be a part of this wonderful cast and to get the chance to be in *Ragtime*. A resident of Cleveland and a graduate of Ohio University, he is back on the stage after a little bit of a healing hiatus. Wesley has performed in shows at Dobama, Cleveland Public Theater, Beck Center, Convergence Continuum, Blank Canvas Theater, and many more. In the last year, he strutted his stuff down the runway in a Summer and Winter Fashion Show. He would like to thank Cassidy Theater for welcoming him and he cannot wait to possibly do more shows with them in the future. Wesley would love to thank his mother and his husband, Ben, for always supporting him in his theatrical endeavors!



**Koen Antal** (The Little Boy), age 12, is in sixth grade at Shiloh Middle School in Parma. Koen sings in his school choir and performs solos at his church. He plays the piano and has taken lessons for 4 1/2 years. This past summer, he participated in Cassidy's Youth Production *Willy Wonka Kids* summer camp as Charlie Bucket and also starred as Kurt VonTrapp in Parma City Schools Foundation's *The Sound of Music* at Valley Forge High School.



**Hannah Armenta** (Immigrant Ensemble) is excited to make her Cassidy Theatre debut. Recent credits include *The Music Man* (Featured Dance Ensemble) and *Cinderella* (Ensemble/Waltzer) at Near West Theatre. Hannah would like to thank Marc, her fellow Nor Cal native, and the entire production team for this opportunity. She would also like to thank her brain cell, friends, and her fiance, Sarah, for the ever-present support and love. #TPOG



**Giovanni Conti** (Immigrant Ensemble) is excited to be a part of the ensemble in this production of *Ragtime*. This is his first performance at The Cassidy Theatre, and he is grateful for the opportunity. In the past, Giovanni has played the Narrator/Mysterious Man in *Into The Woods* and has been a member of the ensemble for *The Music Man*, *Head Over Heels*, and *Cabaret*. He is looking forward to collaborating with the remarkable cast of this production.



**Theresa Dean** (Emma Goldman) last performed in Cassidy's 2015 production of *9 to 5* and is very happy to be back. She most recently appeared as Sugar (*Tiny, Beautiful Things*) and Martha (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*) at Twin Masks Performing Arts. Favorite roles include Mrs. Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*), Aldonza (*Man of La Mancha*), and The Witch (*Into the Woods*). Many thanks to Marc and the entire production team for the chance to portray this important, revolutionary woman. "I want freedom, the right to self-expression, everybody's right to beautiful, radiant things." EG



**Isabella Disantis** (The Little Girl) is 7 ½ years old and a very ambitious first grader. She may be the smallest cast member, but she has a big personality and love for the stage. Bella is thrilled to be a part of *Ragtime* where she will share the stage with old friends and make new ones. In addition to theater, Bella loves to play piano and is a Parma Seminoles

Cheerleader! Prior theater credits include *The Sound of Music* as Gretl. "Hi to Mommy, Daddy, Josh, Jacque, Grandma, Grandpa, Auntie Jen, and all my friends! Thank you for always coming to see me on stage!"



**Amanda Droste** (New Rochelle Ensemble) is thrilled to join the Cassidy Theatre community as an ensemble member in *Ragtime*. A longtime performer and performing arts educator, she is excited to bring her classical training and contemporary experiences to the stage. Her favorite roles include the White Witch from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and the Baker's Wife from *Into the Woods*.



**Oleg Faynshteyn** (Houdini) is very excited to be on a stage again after a decade hiatus! Born in the Ukraine, with his family immigrating to Buffalo, New York in 1998, he attended SUNY Buffalo from 2010-2014 in their BFA Theatre Performance program where his last role was Rocky in the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* in 2013. Life took him to NYC and then to Atlanta, Georgia before ultimately relocating to Ohio in 2021. He is grateful to be a part of such a great production, and wants to be a part of the Ohio theatre community!



**Justin Fulton** (Harlem Ensemble) returns to Cassidy Theatre again! Justin was most recently seen onstage in *Legally Blonde* at Millennial Theatre Project. Justin is so excited and thankful for the friendships made and experiences he's had being introduced to theatre. During the day, Justin is Paraprofessional for Cleveland Metropolitan School District and is looking forward to having a permanent home in the fall. Many thanks to his friends, family and to Brenton for all their love and support.



**Greg Gnuau** (New Rochelle Ensemble) is delighted to make his Cassidy Theatre debut. He has worked throughout Northeast Ohio and is a veteran of more than 70 productions. Favorite roles include Horace Vandergelder (*Hello, Dolly*), Fred/Petruccio (*Kiss Me, Kate*) Yvan (*Art*), Giles Corey (*Crucible*), and Colonel Pickering (*My Fair Lady*). Thanks to Marc and this incredible cast and production team for welcoming me. Thanks to my family for the constant support. Enjoy!



**Mark Hilan** (Henry Ford) A Chicago native and retired radio news anchor, Mark has community theatre experience spanning six decades. Since moving from Brooklyn, New York to Northeast Ohio six years ago, he has played lead and supporting roles for French Creek, Workshop Players, Clague Playhouse, ACT, Hudson Players, Stow Players, CVLT, Happy Ending Lyric Players, Spotlights, Stage Door Studios and Akron BOOM. And he hopes you enjoy the show!



**Tom Hill** (J. P. Morgan) is thrilled to make his Cassidy debut as JP Morgan and proud member of the Ensemble. Tom has appeared at numerous NE Ohio theaters including Rabbit Run, CVLT, Lakeland, Blank Canvas, Near West and more. Favorite roles include Max Bialystock (*The Producers*), Alfred P. Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*), Edward Bloom (*Big Fish*), Edna Turnblad (*Hairspray*), Pseudolus (*Forum*) and many more. Thanks to this extraordinary cast, crew, and production team and to his loving family for putting up with his addiction to the stage.



**Dave Hopkins** (Willie Conklin) is pleased to be revisiting *Ragtime* for the second time having first portrayed J. P. Morgan in Near West's production in 2012. This is Dave's third appearance at Cassidy, previously appearing as Speed in *The Odd Couple* and the Telephone Repairman in *Barefoot in the Park*. He hopes you enjoy the show and of all the recent shows he's ever done, tonight's is his most recent. Dave thanks his very special friend Karin for all of her love and support.



**Victoria Horvath** (Coalhouse Walker III) is five years old and attends preschool at Childtime Learning Center. She loves costumes, swimming, video games, french fries, and cats. This is her first stage appearance of what will most likely be many.



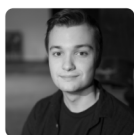
**Megan Jones-Turner** (Sarah) Making her debut at Cassidy Theatre, Megan is a vibrant addition, having previously shone in roles such as the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Sarah's Friend in *Ragtime*, and Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. A Vocal Performance alumna from Kent State University, Megan has also trained under voice coach Cynthia O'Connell. Immensely grateful for her family and friends' support, Megan is thrilled to bring her passion and talent to the Cassidy Theatre stage.



**Gina Marafiote** (Immigrant Ensemble) is very excited to be making her debut at Cassidy theatre for *Ragtime*. She was most recently seen in *Ragtime* at Weathervane and is delighted to be part of telling such a captivating story again. Some of her past shows include *Memphis*, *Chicago*, *Dreamgirls*, and *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*. She is grateful to be part of such a talented cast! She would like to thank her friends and family for all their support!



**Zac Marshall** (Stanford White/Judge) is very excited to join the amazingly talented cast! This will be Zac's first play at the beautiful Cassidy Theatre. His previous works include ACT's *Urinetown* (2023), as well as many productions put on by Thrive Performing and Visual Arts. His proudest theatrical accomplishments include writing much of Thrive's *Wizard of Oz* (2023), and *Thrive's Annual Holiday Spectacular* (2022).



**Daniel Mills** (Younger Brother) is thrilled to make his debut at Cassidy Theatre! His previous theatre credits include *Anything Goes* (Sailor Quartet) and *Once Upon a Mattress* (Minstrel). Daniel is a graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in Computer Science. Love and gratitude to my amazingly supportive family and friends. IG: @iamdanielmills



**Kenneth Perdue** (Booker T. Washington) is both happy and emotional to be a part of another performance where singing and talent is showcased. A Karamu House Alumnus of the late 80s and 90s, Kenneth was trained in vocals and drama and has even been a director for Arena Fest. Although he did not pursue the dream at an early age, he has since gotten permission from his wife and at over the age of 50 has joined the music program at Tri-C with Professor Stiver.



**Joseph Petrak** (Harry K. Thaw) is thrilled to be coming back to community theater with Cassidy Theatre. *Ragtime* has been on his list of things to do! A life-long resident of northeast Ohio, he spent 10 years affiliated with The Medina County Show Biz Company both on and off stage in various roles and positions. He spent a short time as a flight attendant before obtaining a Music Education degree at The University of Akron. He conducted for the Summit Choral Society for a few seasons with their training choirs. He taught general music for 18 years before receiving his M.Ed from Liberty University and switching to school administration. He currently works for Akron Public Schools as an administrator. He is married and has two grown children.



**Dan Polk** (Father) is thrilled to be returning to Cassidy once again where over the years he has appeared in multiple shows, including *Mamma Mia!* (Sam), *Annie* (Oliver Warbucks), *Sound of Music* (Capt Von Trapp) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas). Other favorite roles include Dan (*Next to Normal*), Billy Bigelow (*Carousel*), Jackson (*Pump Boys and Dinettes*) among many



others. He has received national recognition for performing our National Anthem for the Cleveland Guardians, Cavaliers and Browns, Cincinnati Bengals, Pro Football Hall of Fame and many other events.



**Hannah Pryseski** (New Rochelle Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her debut with Cassidy in this production of *Ragtime*. Hannah was involved in choir, theater and band in high school. It wasn't until 11 years after graduating that she finally got back into theater at the beginning of 2023. Her most recent roles were Lucy/Mrs.T & Bad Idea Bear in *Avenue Q*,

Emma Borden in *Lizzie: The Musical* and Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*, all with MTP in Akron. She'd like to thank her friends, family, and Valley Tavern family for their love and support. Lastly, she would like to dedicate these performances to her friend Sean, who passed away unexpectedly in August. This is "FOR YOU" Sean. We love & miss you so much.



**Amy Smialek** (New Rochelle/Immigrant Ensemble) has taught high school and college English and drama, directed 25 high school performances (including *Ragtime!*), and has been a literacy coach and principal for a small charter school. You may recognize Amy from some of her past Cassidy performances: *Plaza Suite* (Muriel), *9 to 5* (Judy), *Noises Off!* (Brooke), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Maggie), and more. Currently a curriculum software project manager, Amy serves as the Executive Director for the Cleveland Theatre Conference. In her spare time, Amy endures her kitty Clarence's crazy ways, and she reenergizes when she's with her sister's 3 kiddos. Amy is grateful to be a part of such a poignant and powerful show. Now let us all learn to be a little more like Mother and try to bridge the gaps that continue to surround us so we all "will ride on the wheels of a dream."



**Joie Snider** (Immigrant Ensemble) is a highest honors freshman at Valley Forge High. Her favorite roles include *Annie* (Orphan Ensemble), *Cinderella Jr* (Step-Sister), *Seussical Kids* (Thing Two), *Willy Wonka Kids* (Veruca), *Music Man Kids* (Eulalie Shinn), *Elf the Musical* (Ensemble), *Wizard of Oz Jr.* (Tinman), and *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Vivienne Kensington).



**Jae Snow** (Coalhouse Walker), graduate from Akron Firestone High School and Kennesaw State University, is excited to make his return to the Cassidy Theatre Stage. Previously, you may have seen him in *Beauty and The Beast* (Knife/Hatseller), *Into The Woods* (Cinderella's Prince/Wolf), *The Color Purple* (The Pastor/Buster), *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*

(Jackson), *Kinky Boots* (Simon Sr.), and *Memphis* (Wailin' Joe).



**Mari Starek** (Harlem Ensemble), 15 years old, is thrilled to be part of this cast! She was recently seen here at Cassidy in *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Pilar). Favorite shows include *Children of Eden* (Storyteller), *Annie* (Orphan Ensemble), *Aladdin Jr.* (Agrabhan), *Elf the Musical* (Ensemble), *The Little Mermaid* (Ensemble), and *Frozen Jr* (Pabbie). "I hope you enjoy the show!"



**Cherie Stebner** (New Rochelle Ensemble) is pleased to have an opportunity to perform in this gorgeous snapshot of history. As a former school librarian, historical fiction is her favorite genre of books. Cherie was last seen as The Ghost of Christmas Past and Jocelyn Jollygoode in *Scrooge, the Musical*, at the Akron Civic Theatre's Boom Theatre. Thank you to the

audience for joining us tonight and supporting live theatre.



**D. Keith Stiver** (Grandfather) is very happy to be making his debut appearance on the Cassidy stage. He has been performing live theatre for 55 years and has served as director or music director of over 40 productions all over northeast Ohio. In addition to his work in theatres, Keith is a member of the adjunct music faculty at Tri-C, teaching music, and

is the Director of Music at Lyndhurst Community of Faith Church. He also operates the Stiver Voice Studio in South Euclid. He is forever grateful for the love and support of his husband Marc, and their chihuahuas, Sebastian and Junior.



**Lauren Sturdivant** (Sarah's Friend) is ecstatic to return to Cassidy's stage after her debut performance as JoAnn Jefferson in *Rent* on The Cassidy Theatre stage. Lauren is a performer and stage manager in various theaters around Ohio. Other roles include Squeak in *The Color Purple* and Deanna Jones in *Dreamgirls* (Weathervane Playhouse), the lead role of Prit in Kia Corthron's *Breath, Boom*, Lorrell Robinson in *Dreamgirls* (Karamu), Jamaica Pearl in the world premiere of *THE MIGHTY SCARABS!*, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide* (Lady in Red), and *Gem of the Ocean* (Black Mary). A Hiram College (BA Music) and Kent State (M.Mus.Ed) alum, she teaches and directs 7-12 grade vocal music and directs the drama program in her school district.



**Cody Swanson** (Tateh) is an actor, teacher, stage manager, and fight choreographer, who is ecstatic to be making his Cassidy Theatre debut with this beautiful production! Favorite regional credits include *Young Frankenstein* (Igor) at Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, *Romeo & Juliet* (Mercutio) and *Measure for Measure* (Duke Vicentio) both with The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, *Assassins* (Sam Byck) at Lakeland Civic Theatre, and *Bus Stop* (Carl) at Big Dog Theatre. Cody also has credits with SmashUp Entertainment, Shadow of the Run, and The Cleveland Play House. Thank you to all who made this production possible, and to you, audience, for supporting LIVE theatre!



**Gunner Tekaucic** (Immigrant Ensemble) age 17, is a high school senior. Although this is Gunner's first time appearing on the Cassidy Stage, he has participated in other productions in the past including *Alice in Wonderland* (King of Hearts), *Grease* (Roger), *Sound of Music* (Herr Zeller), and *Superheroes* (Green Lantern and Hawkeye). "I am happy to have performed with this cast!"

**Jesse Tinsley** (Harlem Ensemble) grew up in Texas, and got his first taste of stage fright with his older brother's funk band. He outgrew being "the cute little one in the front", and headed to Spain to study flamenco guitar, pursue journalism and learn Spanish. He came to Cleveland in 1995, writing for the Plain Dealer and performing with the Fairmont Spanish Dancers. Jesse continues to tell stories through his writings and in commercials and film. Jesse's favorite foods are paella, lamb chops and duck chuchi, especially followed by a good game of chess or corn hole. He is grateful to be a part of this talented cast and to the Cassidy Theatre for providing continued opportunities for area artists.



**Isabel Valega** (Evelyn Nesbit) is thrilled to be making her Cassidy Theatre debut! She has most recently been seen in *The Wizard of Oz* at Theatre Agape (Glinda), *Bye, Bye Birdie* at Medina Show Biz (Kim MacAfee), and *Newsies* at Olde Town Hall Theatre (Katherine Plumber). By day, Isabel is a special education teacher at North Ridgeville Schools. Isabel is incredibly grateful to be part of such an important show. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting and encouraging her. Enjoy the show. Whee!



**Cindi Verbelun** (Houdini's Mother/Immigrant Ensemble) was last seen as Beverly in *The Shadow Box* (ABM). Regional: YouTheatre - *America Jesus Christ Superstar* benefit with Ted Neeley, Ben Vereen, Yvonne Elliman, Barry Dennen & Jack Black (Agape Extended Choir), *Inherit The Wind* (Juror) Cleveland Play House, & BeckettFest (House Manager) Rubicon Theatre Company. Locally, Cindi spent 22 years with MTC, her appearances include: Grandma Gelman (*Caroline, or Change*), Rosie (*The Wedding Singer*), Grace (HONK!), & her Cabaret: *Life Upon The Wicked Stage*. Other favorites: Miss Maudie (*To Kill A Mockingbird*), Amy (Company), Maria (*West Side Story*), Becky (*Patent Leather Shoes*) & (*Parade*). Thanks Marc!



**Aubrie Wancata** (Mother) has waited nearly her whole life to play this role, and her heart is very full. This marks the end of her 12 year hiatus from the stage, having last performed as Nancy in Cassidy's 2011 production of *Oliver!*. Though she's had parts in 30-some shows, by far her favorite role is that of mother to her son Elliott. She's excited to show him that you are

never to old too be a theater kid. Shout out to Andy for unwavering support and flexibility, and to her bestie Tim for being the ultimate stage mom.



**Nik Welker** (Immigrant Ensemble) is excited to join this very talented cast as a member of the ensemble. This is Nik's first time at the Cassidy Theatre and his first time on the stage since high school. His credits from all those years ago include *The Phantom of the Opera* (Phantom) and *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Mr. Salt). He is also a former competitive soloist in Solo and Ensemble. Nik

is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a degree in Information Systems, and is grateful for the unexpected opportunity to tap into his performance skills for the first time in a long time.

## Who's Who Behind the Scenes



**Marc C. Howard** (Director) is excited to return to Cassidy to direct this most poignant piece of musical theatre. He is originally from California and has taught and studied dance, choreographed, directed, and performed all throughout the Bay Area and Los Angeles for well over 3 decades. Marc attended California State University, Chabot College, and The American

Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and studied dance with Joe Tremaine, Dennon & Sayhber Rawles and Hinton Battle. He also worked with Lucas Films for MTV. Locally, Marc has directed, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Into The Woods*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Chicago*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Grease*, *Next To Normal*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Something Rotten*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Addams Family*, and many more both well known and obscure. He would like to thank his husband Keith and their two fur babies, Junior and Sebastian, for all their love and support. For more information go to: [marcchoward.com](http://marcchoward.com)



**Shawna Melnykowski** (Scenic and Lighting Design) is happy to be returning to Cassidy Theatre after a 20 year hiatus. In fact, the last show she lighting designed here was *Ragtime* in 2003. Shawna has been the Technical Director at Parma Senior High for the past 23 years until it closed in June. She also works as part-time theater staff at Tri-C where she has

been for 27 years. She has enjoyed designing sets and lighting for many community theaters over the years. She is a proud wife and mother of 4 children. In her spare time, Shawna is a Sunday school teacher and trustee of her church, Independence UMC and a gymnastic coach for Sokol Greater Cleveland. She is an assistant scoutmaster in boys and girls scout Troops 652, assistant cubmaster of Pack 652 and Advisor for Venture Crew 652. She currently holds the position of Treasurer for the Ridge-Brook PTA and is a CPR/First Aid and Wilderness First Aid instructor for the American Red Cross. She is excited to be back working with the wonderful people at Cassidy. Break a leg!



**Kim Mihalik** (Choreographer) has been performing and directing in area community theatres like Cassidy, Clague, Strongsville Community and Berea Summer Theatre since 1981. Having grown up on the Cassidy (Greenbrier) stage, she is especially happy to be a member of the board!

Her background is in education as she has been a fifth grade teacher, drama coach, and corporate trainer during her career. Many thanks to Marc for the opportunity and best wishes to this amazing cast on a successful run!



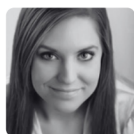
**Georgia Mutillo** (Producer) has been a staple at Cassidy Theatre for decades. Serving as Vice President on the Board of Trustees, producing countless productions, and even appearing in numerous productions throughout Northeast Ohio. Georgia is a jack of all trades. Georgia's favorite productions that she has produced include *The Addams Family* and *The 39 Steps*. Some of Georgia's favorite onstage appearances include *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Plaza Suite*, and *Gypsy*. Georgia is thankful for the many patrons that come thru our doors every season, as well as for all of the volunteers and staff who help bring each and every production to life!



**John D. Roberts** (Music Director) is the former Principal of Valley Forge High School and Managing Director of the Cassidy Theatre. He is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and Kent State University. In 1975, Mr. Roberts founded the Greenbrier Youth Theater and has directed or musically directed over 125 shows. In 1979, he wrote the music and the lyrics for *EBENEZER*, a Christmas Musical with Mr. David Jecmen. In 1981, he partnered with Mr. Bruce Michalski and wrote *Tom Sawyer's World*. Mr. Roberts retired from the Parma Schools in 1999 and went on to become an assistant professor of Education at Baldwin -Wallace where he was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award in May of 2003. He currently is a member of The Parma Symphony Orchestra, writing grants for the Orchestra and working in multiple local community theaters and schools.



**Jen Sindyla** (Stage Manager) is the resident stage manager, Youth Summer Camp director, and board member here at Cassidy. She is an active board member for Independence Community Theater where she is the Youth Summer Camp Director and has directed *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Godspell*. In addition to Cassidy and ICT, Jen is also on the board of directors at The Brecksville Theatre and works as the Summer Camp Director. Favorite onstage roles include *Annie* (Miss Hannigan) and *Nunsense* (Sister Robert Anne). Jen also Co-Directed Cassidy Theatre's first teen production of *Legally Blonde Jr.* in August. She holds a BA in theater from Baldwin-Wallace - but theater is just Jen's "hobby job." During the day she works for the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools teaching 4th grade. Jen Sindyla is also a member of the Stage Manager's Association.



**Katie Wells** (Costumer) is thrilled to make her design debut at Cassidy Theatre and is excited to step in as the new Resident Costume Designer. After attending CSU with a Scholarship in Costume Design, her designs have been seen on stages and screens through out Ohio, New York and Maryland. Over the last decade she has held over 6 design residencies in Northeast Ohio. She has won several awards for her costume designs including a Certificate of Honor from the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. Also an actor, she is a proud Actor's Equity Membership Candidate. She would like to thank Marc and Mike for this opportunity. Thank you for supporting local theatre!



**Joellen Woodring** (Producer) first got involved in theater a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.... Or maybe it was during high school. She first became involved with the Cassidy Theatre in 2012 and she can count on one hand how many productions she has not participated in since that time. Joellen is a proud member of the Board of Directors and has been running the lightboard for many years. She is excited to be expanding her skills into producing. Joellen is very proud of this talented cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Gretchen Woods** (Properties Designer) is back for yet another production at Cassidy. In almost twenty productions here and at French Creek Theatre and Clague Playhouse, she's done a little bit of everything: building sets, making papier-mâché cows, running a spotlight, assembling fake drugs out of pantry items, assisting with quick changes, helping actors run lines, and making certain a haunted door is appropriately squeaky are just a few highlights. Many thanks to her family for being "voluntold" that they are helping build sets, and for putting up with the late nights and improvised meals that go along with (community) showbiz!



## CASSIDY THEATRE

*Celebrating 50 years!*

## 2024 Anniversary Season

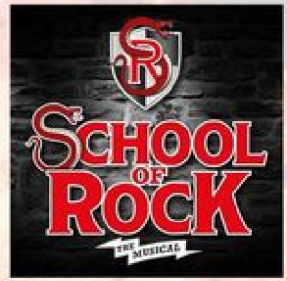
440-842-4600 | [www.cassidytheatre.com](http://www.cassidytheatre.com)



February 9 - 25



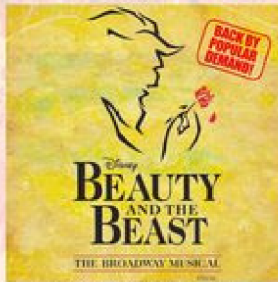
April 12 - 28



June 7 - 23



August 9 - 25



October 11 - 27



December 6 - 22

Join the **Volunteers of Cassidy Theatre** Facebook page. Ushering, building sets, organizing costumes and more. It's fun to get involved! We make calls for volunteers regularly and all levels of experience are welcome.



The Cassidy Theatre is made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

## Luminance Art Glass & Interior Design

17124 Forest Oval  
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216 375-9683

**Christine Hnat**

Designer

[luminance337@att.net](mailto:luminance337@att.net)



# Braww!

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# PARDON OUR DUST!

For the  
50th anniversary  
the lobby is  
undergoing some  
improvements

The Cassidy Theatre  
and the City of Parma  
Heights are proud to  
develop and maintain  
this building to serve the  
needs of the community  
and continue to bring  
culture and  
entertainment  
to the area.





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## A Message from our President...



**Dear Cassidy Theatre Family,**

Greetings! 2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of Cassidy Theatre and we have a year-long celebration planned to commemorate the occasion – but we need your help!

The arts have the power to transform individuals and communities alike. They inspire us, challenge us, and bring us together in ways that few other things can. But in today's world, funding for the arts is becoming increasingly scarce. That's why it's more important than ever for those who appreciate the arts to step up and support them.

The demands of modern theater programming have increased significantly over the years, with audiences expecting more immersive and technologically advanced experiences. This has led to a need for upgraded infrastructure to support these demands, including state-of-the-art lighting, sound systems, and projection equipment. Upgrading infrastructure can be costly, but it is necessary for us to stay competitive and provide our audiences with the experiences they have come to know and love. The equipment at Cassidy Theatre is nearing end-of-life, and we need your support to continue making much needed upgrades. Along with technical infrastructure upgrades, we are also quickly outgrowing our storage space and as a result, will need to begin searching for additional commercial real-estate to support our growing scenic, costume and prop storage needs. This is a pure overhead investment for our organization, and in order to maintain affordable and accessible programming for the public – we need your support!

By donating to the Cassidy Theatre, you can make a real difference. Your support can help to ensure that artists are able to create and share their work on our stage, and that we are able to continue to offer affordable arts and arts educational programming to the public. But the benefits of donating to the arts don't stop there. Studies have shown that engagement with the arts can have a positive impact on mental health, social connectedness, and overall well-being. By supporting the Cassidy Theatre, you are not only investing in the cultural fabric of our society but also in the health and well-being of our communities.

If you believe, as we do, that the arts are essential to our society, we urge you to consider donating today. Donations can be made via our website at [www.cassidytheatre.com](http://www.cassidytheatre.com), by visiting or calling our box office, or by visiting us in the lobby before a show, or during intermission. Cassidy Theatre is a registered 501c3 and all donations are tax deductible. Together, we can ensure that the arts continue to thrive at Cassidy Theatre and enrich our lives for the next 50 years! Thank you for your support.

Warmest Regards,

**Mike Caraffi**  
**Board President**



All programs and artists are subject to change without notice.



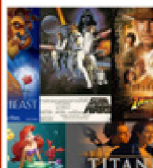
## Announcing the Cleveland Pops Orchestra 2023/2024 Season!

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Ask about our Subscription Packages!

### A Night in Hollywood

Sat., 10/21/23 - 8pm - Severance



**Music from your favorite blockbuster movies** including Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Titanic and more.

### A Mediterranean Cruise

Sat., 11/18/23 - 8pm - Severance



**A stay-cation with the Pops!** Enjoy the enchanting sounds of France, Italy, Spain, and Greece with French songstress Gay Marshall.

### Holiday Cheer!

Sun., 11/26/23 - 2pm - Connor Palace



**Making spirits bright** with this annual concert featuring the Pops Chorus, Dancing Santas, adoptable shelter pets and more holiday magic!

### New Years Eve: Concert & Party

Sun., 12/31/23 - 9pm - Severance



**End 2023 with song and dance.** After the concert, enjoy a cash bar as you dance the night (and year!) away and count down to the midnight balloon drop.

### A Tribute to the Beatles

Sat., 2/3/24 - 8pm - Severance



**Celebrating 60 years of the Beatles!** Hear music from the early days through the solo years performed by the Pops and Classical Mystery Tour, four musicians who sound and look just like the Beatles.

### Champagne & Shamrocks

Fri., 3/1/24 - 8pm - Severance



**Kick off March with the songs and dances of Ireland** featuring Cleveland's own Murphy's Irish Dancers and vocalist Connor Bogart O'Brien.

### Broadway Rocks

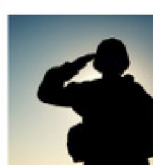
Fri., 4/12/24 - 8pm - Severance



**Shining the spotlight on musical theatre** as Broadway vocalists perform selections from shows including Wicked, The Book of Mormon, Hairspray, Rent, The Wiz and more.

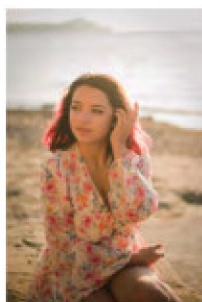
### A Tribute to our Armed Forces

Sat., 6/1/24 - 8pm - Severance

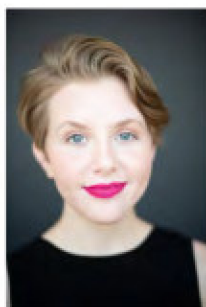


**Saluting our heroes** with stirring patriotic music and a special tribute to NASA featuring videos from space flights, furnished by NASA Glenn in Cleveland.

For more information, visit: [ClevelandPops.com](http://ClevelandPops.com)



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LAURA L. JOSS - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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As Mayor of Parma Heights, I am thrilled to support the Cassidy Theatre, which I consider to be Parma Heights' cultural gem. The arts are a tremendous part of community life in Parma Heights because of the rich history and tradition of the Cassidy Theatre that has been a part of the fabric of our lives here since 1975.

I know you will join me in continuing to support the work of the countless staff and volunteers that make our community theatre one of the finest in Northeast Ohio. Their dedication to producing high-quality productions and engaging with the community is truly inspiring. The performing arts are an essential part of a thriving community, and the Cassidy Theatre is a shining example of this belief in action.

It is with tremendous pleasure that I fully support the Cassidy Theatre throughout their 2024 Main Stage season.



**Marie Gallo**  
**Mayor of Parma Heights**