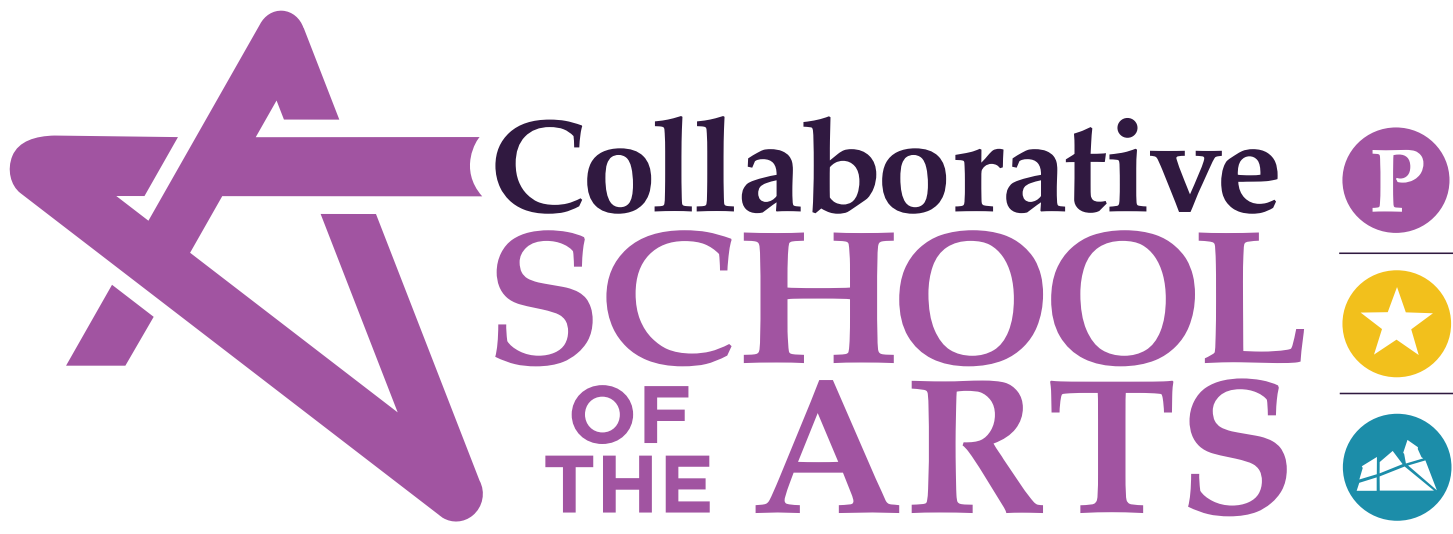


SUMMER STAGE

YOUNG ACTING COMPANY





Collaborative
SCHOOL
OF THE **ARTS**

SUMMMER 2023

**SUMMMER
STAGE**

**YOUNG
ACTING
COMPANY**

at theREP ★



“THE HORROR BACKSTAGE”

BY FALLON GREENWAY, JOHN KUNZ AND MADELYN MCMANN

CAST:

Mr. Cooper- Jake Goodman

Michael- Vex Ayers

Jack- Jordan Radez

Mitch- Joshua DeMarco

Mary- Anika Sohn

Alexandria- Zinnia Benjamin

Melissa- Karissa Mitchell

**Stage Crew / High Students Ensemble - Eve Ayers, Katherine Beaulac,
Javanah Coffin**

“THE SHOVE”

By Natalie Deso and Ava McTiernen

CAST:

Max- Eve Ayers

Alex- Jake Goodman

Hannah- Anika Sohn

Charlotte- Zinnia Benjamin

Dylan- Katherine Beaulac

Theo- Joshua DeMarco

Student Ensemble- Javanah Coffin, Karissa Mitchell

“MENDING BROKEN HEARTS”

By Karthik Nair and Isabella Wiu

CAST:

Ava- Karissa Mitchell

Jonathan- Josh DeMarco

Steve- Jake Goodman

Rob- Jordan Radez

**Scientist Ensemble- Eve Ayers, Katherine Beaulac, Zinnia Benjamin,
Vex Ayers, Javanah Coffin, Anika Sohn**

“ZERO GRAVITY WOES”

By Nathaniel Burke and Chloe Tyson

CAST:

Dylan- Jordan Radez

Jesse- Eve Ayers

Skylar- Javanah Coffin

Mission Control- Jake Goodman

Hound the Robot- Katherine Beaulac

“ENEMIES TO LOVERS”

By Sophie Duerr and Sean Halligan

CAST:

James- Vex Ayers

Angelina- Katherine Beaulac

Waiter- Joshua DeMarco

Boss- Javanah Coffin

Restaurant Go-ers- Eve Ayers, Jake Goodman, Karissa Mitchell,

Zinnia Benjamin, Jordan Radez, Anika Sohn

Content Warning // These plays have brief mentions of death, mild violence and homophobic discrimination.

DIRECTORS NOTE

For the last several years I have been a part of Summer Stage Young Acting Company in various capacities; as an actor, stage manager, teaching artist, and assistant director. This year from a new perspective as a director, I find myself marveling at all of the same things: most notably, how joyful it is to work with young artists and the magic of creating new work.

Both acting and playwriting are arts of service, in my belief. They are crafts that cultivate emotional intelligence, imagination, teamwork and empathy all attributes that will aid these students throughout their lives, on and off stage. To hone these tools, we spent this summer learning how to see the world through another person's eyes through various acting and movement techniques, how to say “yes, and” to the ideas of others with improv, how to sharpen our focus and take up space through games and exercises and of course, we had a blast doing it!

Theatre provides audiences with opportunities to both be entertained and to learn something new, about others and ourselves. These new plays and the performances they inspire give us the gift of a glimpse into how these young artists see our world. I'm grateful for all of their courage and commitment. Thank you for being here and supporting their hard work.

DRAMATURGICAL NOTE

“YOU DID WHAT?!”

by Megan Dellenbaugh

A line rich with possibilities, “You did what?!” was the required line students must include in their submissions for the 2023 Young Playwright Contest. Perhaps it was the springboard of inspiration for the play, or merely something the young writer(s) found a way to plug into an idea they already had germinating. Regardless, find a way they did! From creating conflict in outer space to betrayal in a science laboratory, the line inspired each writer (or set of writers) in a different way, leading to the five unique plays on stage today.

“The Horror Backstage,” by Madelyn McMann, Fallon Greenaway and John Kunz, uses “You did what?!” as a reaction to a shocking plot twist. A suspenseful yet funny play about competition and love, “The Horror Backstage” follows a complicated dynamic between castmates that quickly turns sinister. The required line comes at the very end, sandwiched between two enormous plot twists. It augments the surprise of the twists and leaves the audience wanting more.

That same line could imply a reaction to an atypical action from a character, as we see in “The Shove,” by Natalie Deso and Ava McTiernan. Deso and McTiernan’s play deals with themes of homophobia, bullying and how to stand up for yourself and your friends. At school, Dylan bullies a queer friend group. When he literally shoves one student, Hannah, a straight ally of the friend group, gets fed up and takes matters into her own hands—an interesting twist for the peacemaker of the group who spends a great deal of her time telling more temperamental members of the group not to “fight fire with fire.” So, when she breaks, the rest of the group is shocked, leading to a collective “You did what?!”

“You did what?!” can also imply betrayal, as Karthaik Nair and Isabella Wu used it in their play, “Mending Broken Hearts.” A poignant play about friendship, loss and perseverance. The main character, Jonathan, fights to find a cure for the disease that killed one of his best friends, Rob—back in their college days. Unbeknownst to him, a former friend—and scientist—Ava, is also attempting to find a cure. When a horrific accident destroys all of Jonathan’s research, he must team up with Ava to find the cure. “You did what?!” comes at the end of the play after Jonathan and Ava have patched up their friendship, and he finds out exactly what happened to his research. The line perfectly encapsulates the shock and anger he feels in the moment of realization and leads to a satisfying conclusion.

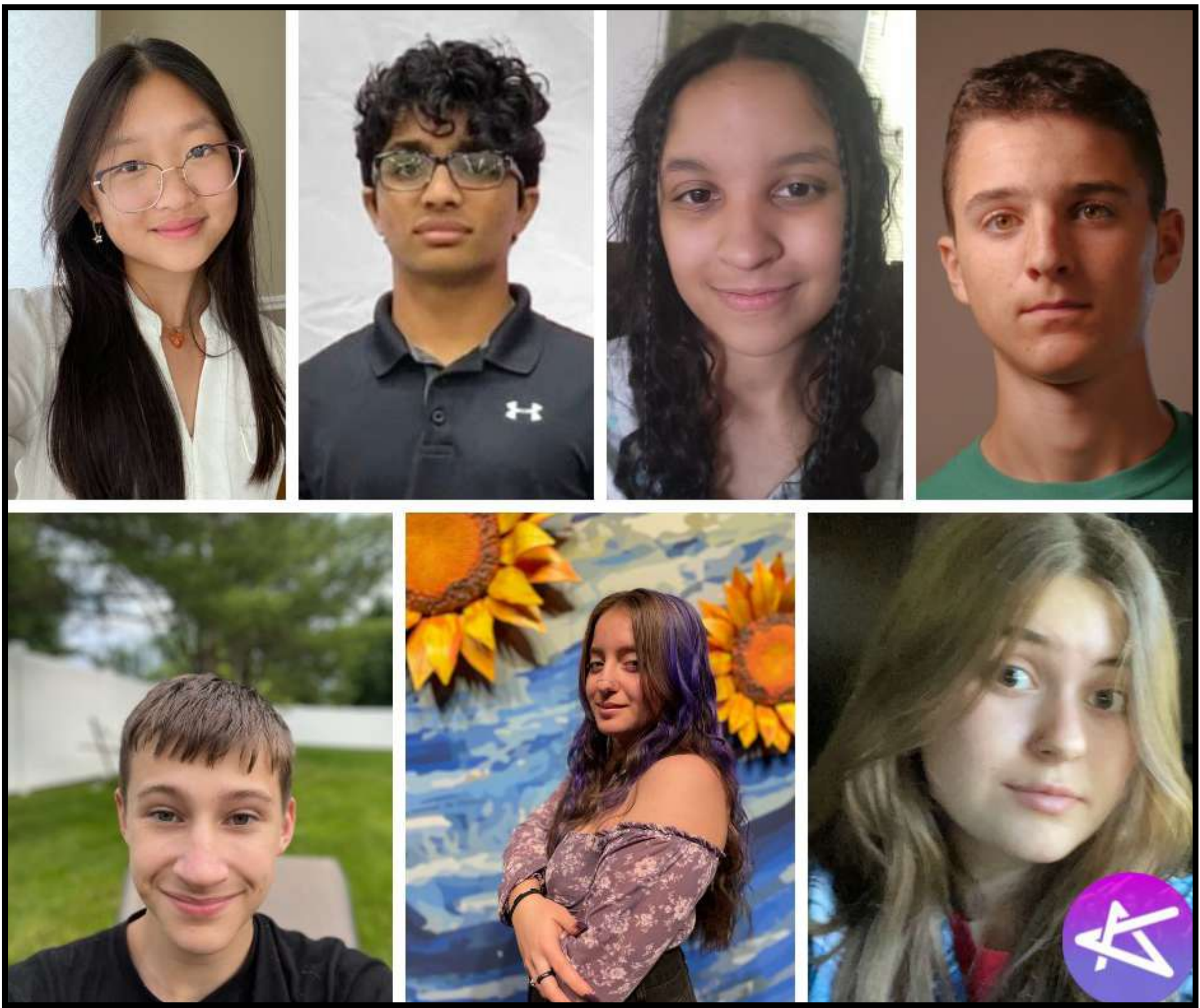
In “Zero Gravity Woes,” by Nathaniel Burke and Chloe Tyson, the playwrights use “You did what?!” to heighten conflict in an already tense moment ... in space. Following a crew of astronauts on their way to Kepler-62, the crew work to solve technical and relationship issues on a spaceship. Burke and Tyson’s play focuses on themes of friendship and tenacity—in highly pressurized circumstances. The astronauts attempt to dislodge a meteor that struck and stuck to the outside of the ship, breaking their internal heating system and basically threatening to “cook” them before they arrive at Kepler-62. As if that’s not enough to contend with, one of the astronauts reveals they tried to get someone fired and the line, “You did what?!” pits the crew against each other, making the already difficult task much trickier. Will they mend their friendships and the ship ... or be lost in space?!

Much like “Mending Broken Hearts,” Sophia Duerr and Sean Halligan’s “Enemies to Lovers” also use “You did what?!” as a reaction to betrayal. This tight comedic play is about two spies at dinner who are each tasked with taking the other out. Unbeknownst to each, they are both vying for a promotion and their current mission could lead to

just that. Everything changes, however, when they fall in love and no longer want to finish the mission. “You did what?!” comes into play as one of the spies finds out the other has already tried to poison them, turning the newfound love on its head.

The eleven playwrights each used “You did what?!” in different, but equally interesting ways. Although each play came from the same three words, the variety of genres, settings and characters shown today are creative and engaging.

PLAYWRIGHTS



Madelyn McMann (co-author of “The Horror Backstage”) will be entering her senior year at Cocksackie-Athens in the Fall.

Fallon Greenaway (co-author of “The Horror Backstage”) will be entering her senior year at Cocksackie-Athens in the fall. She’ll be pursuing the Pathways in Education track of the New Visions program at SUNY Albany. The experience as a playwright has been a new one for Fallon who typically finds herself on the stage, instead of behind the scenes. She has participated in many high school productions as well as roles with Timothy Murphy Players and Santa’s Magic Express. Fallon has enjoyed the process of seeing her play come to life and wants to thank the actors, theREP and Mr. Dial for this opportunity.

John Kunz (co-author of “The Horror Backstage”) will be entering his senior year at Cocksackie-Athens in the fall.

Natalie Deso (co-author of “The Shove”) will be a junior at Guilderland High School in the Fall. She’s loved theatre and writing ever since she was little and her dream is to become a bestselling novelist when she’s older.

Ava McTiernan (co-author of “The Shove”) will be a junior year at Guilderland High School in the fall.

Karthik Nair (co-author of “Mending Broken Hearts”) will be a junior at Guilderland High School. He plays tennis and tutors students at a local tutoring center. In his spare time, Karthik likes to bike and hang out with his friends.

Isabella Wu (co-author of “Mending Broken Hearts”) is a rising junior at Guilderland High School. She is passionate about music and the arts. Her first experience with theater was being cast in a production of “The Wizard of Oz.” She plays the cello and satisfies her creative energy through photography. She is also a part of the Guilderland Cross Country and Track Team.

Nathaniel Burke (co-author of “Zero Gravity Woes”) is a rising junior at Guilderland high school. Nathaniel runs cross-country and track and is also a Nordic Skier. He plays double bass and electric bass in an orchestra and a jazz band. In his spare time, Nathaniel likes to do carpentry and mountain biking.

Chloe Tyson (co-author of “Zero Gravity Woes”) is a rising junior at Guilderland High School. She enjoys dancing, reading, writing, listening to music and hanging out with her friends.

Sophia Duerr (co-author of “Enemies to Lovers”) is a rising junior at Guilderland High School. Creativity is where Sophie shines; she clearly has a passion for the arts! “Enemies to Lovers” is her first play, and she was super excited to hear the play read aloud during the summit. When she is not writing plays, she is sometimes performing in them as a recent cast member of her High School Theater Club -The Guilderland Players. She is always creating music and is an accomplished songwriter and musician. She plays bass guitar for her High School Pep Band and is an avid member of Proctors’ School of Rock program, as well as a recipient of Collaborative School of the Arts theREP’s 2023 Young Playwright Contest. Sophia looks forward to continuing to share her passion for the arts and exploring ways to increase awareness of the importance of creative forms of expression.

Sean Halligan (co-author of “Enemies to Lovers”) will be a rising junior at Guilderland High School in the Fall.

COMPANY MEMBERS



**Eve
Ayers**



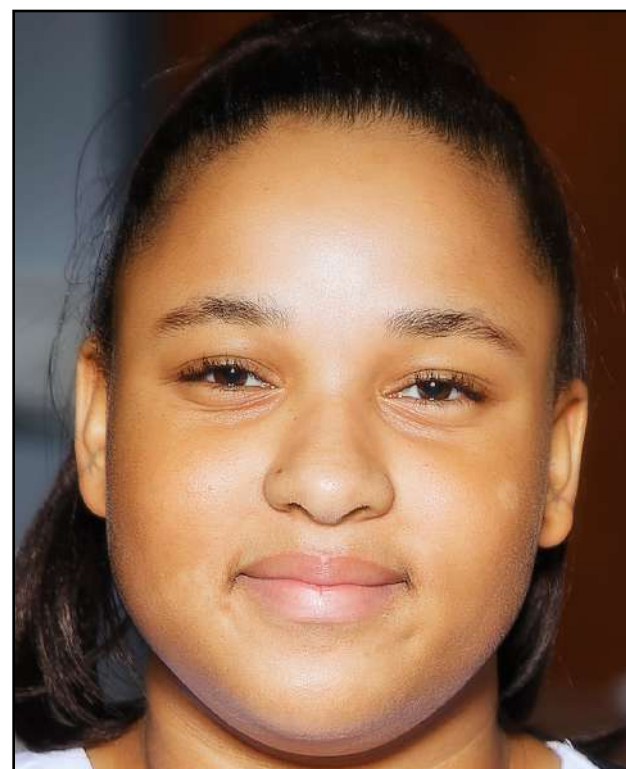
**Vex
Ayers**



**Katherine
Beaulac**



**Zinnia
Benjamin**



**Javanah
Coffin**



**Karissa
Mitchell**



**Jordan
Radez**



**Anika
Sohn**

Anika Sohn is excited to be a part of her second Summer Stage production. She has performed in her school's spring musicals "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Addams Family." She has been performing since she was three, dancing with Albany Berkshire Ballet from 2012-2020. She has always loved the stage and recently discovered her love of singing and acting. She is also a violist, playing with the Empire State Youth Orchestra for five years. Anika would like to thank her friends and family for their support, as well as Summer Stage for this opportunity.

Evie Ayers is fifteen years old and going into her Junior year at Guilderland High School. Her most notable roles include Viola in "Twelfth Night," Titania in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and Jill in "Love/Sick".

Javanah Coffins is very excited about the opportunity to participate in "the Summer Stage Young Acting Company." This will be her first time participating in this amazing program. Javanah has been part of a school play in elementary school and has been interested in theater and arts ever since. Her thrive to achieve on stage has been extraordinary. Javanah has created short monologues and practices short scripts on a regular basis. Javanah would like to thank her twin brother, parents and cousin for their motivation and support.

Jordan Radez is new to the Summer Stage Young Acting Company and glad to have the opportunity to participate in the program. Other credits include Iroquois Middle School's "Willy Wonka Jr." as Mike Teevee, and Valatie Community Theater's "Bugsy Malone Jr." as Featured Ensemble. He would like to thank his Parents, Grandparents, his Brother Sam, his Brother Ben, and his Voice Teacher Mr. Michael Lotano.

Karissa Mitchell is thrilled to be a part of the Summer Stage Young Acting Company for the first time! She is a rising Junior at Stillwater High School and has been a part of the shows, "Disenchanted," "The Little Mermaid" and as Sandy in "The Spongebob Musical." Karissa would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support.

Katherine Beaulac is a young actress based in NY. Kat has been acting since she was 4 years old. She is best known for her work as "Summer Hathaway" in the Glens Falls Community Theater production of School of Rock. Other notable roles include Matilda in "Matilda Jr." and Tessie in "Annie" with Schuylerville Community Theater. She played Cassie in "13 the Musical" at Capital District Arts Initiative, and is thrilled to be seen in the upcoming short film "Night, Night of Matter."

Vex Ayers is a fifteen-year-old actor who has spent more than seven years acting. He has appeared as a leading actor in productions such as "Beauty and the Beast," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Twelfth Night" and "Love Sick."

Zinnia Benjamin is thrilled to be a part of the 2023 Young Actors Company. Zinnia loves performing. She has been in shows with The Galway Players and her school drama club. Some of her roles include Red Riding Hood in "Into The Woods Jr," Bulda and Snow Dancer in "Frozen Jr" and Sara Crewe in "A Little Princess." Zinnia will be in 8th grade next year at Scotia-Glenville Middle School.

Josh DeMarco (company member/teaching artist) couldn't be happier to be returning to the REP this summer as a member of the Summer Stage Young Acting Company. Josh is an Albany native and has been involved with the REP for 5 years now! Previous credits include: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Wizard of Oz," "Jersey Boys," "The Full Monty," "Shakespeare in Love, She Loves Me," and "Mamma Mia!" Other credits within the community include: "In The Heights," "How to Succeed...," "Damn Yankees," "All Shook Up" and others. Please enjoy the show!

Jake Goodman (company member/teaching artist) is thrilled to be returning to theREP as a mentor and performer! Previous REP credits include “Jersey Boys,” “Your Best One,” “Camelot,” and “A Christmas Story, the Musical.” Other regional credits include “Newsies,” “Urinetown,” and “9 to 5.” In addition to performing, Jake is also a music director having musically directed in and around NYC at venues such as Pace University and 54 Below. Thanks to friends and family for endless support!



PRODUCTION TEAM

KD McTeigue (Director) (she/her) is an actor and singer living in the Capital Region. Credits include Capital Repertory Theatre, WAM Theatre, Troy Foundry Theatre, the Outer Loop and Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble. On-screen, KD has worked with an American High production company and had appeared on the Investigation Discovery Channel. With gratitude, she makes her directing debut with this year’s Summer Stage Young Acting Company. Many thanks to Margaret, Gabi, Angel and the entire production team at theREP for their collaboration and support. To the wonderful cast: break legs and have fun! And to you: enjoy the show!

Gabrielle Bazinet-Douglas (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be at theREP with Summer Stage Youth Acting Company. Gabi is a stage manager and performer, recently having performed in “Wizard of Oz” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” here at theREP, and currently performing in “Something Rotten” with Playhouse Stage Co. Recent stage management credits include “Seared” (MCC Theatre), “Mamma Mia,” “Dial M for Murder,” “Other World” (Buck’s County Playhouse), and “PERIOD!” at theREP. They have worked with McCarter Theatre Center in New Jersey on their youth programs including musical theatre masterclass series and a Shakespeare residency for elementary schools. Gabi graduated from Rider University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre.

Brandon Curry (Production Manager / Lighting Designer) is the Production Manager here at theREP and has been doing the lights for Summer Stage (and its predecessor, STAR) for quite a few years now.

Andrea Adamczyk (Costume Designer) in addition to managing the Costume Shop here at theREP, Andrea designed costumes for the premiere of “Secret Hour” by Jenny Stafford as well as Summer Stage 2022 and 2021 and specialty pieces for “Ethal Waters, His eye is on the Sparrow.” She was Assistant Costume Designer working with Howard Kaplan for “The True.” As a freelance Costume Technician in New York City, she built costumes for special events and industries for Polaroid, Chase MetroTech and Vanity Fair as well as theatrical productions for New York City Opera Company, Virginia Opera Company, NYU Educational Theatre, Dollywood and others. Locally, she has designed and built hundreds of costumes for the Bethlehem Central School District—“Titanic,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “The Wizard of Oz,” “Much Ado About Nothing,” “Grease,” “High School Musical,” “Seussical” and “Annie.

Chad Reid (Sound Designer) is an actor, sound designer and native of Albany who is excited to once again be working with theREP. Previous favorite sound designs for Chad have been “The Cake” with Schenectady Civic Players, “Gloria” with Albany Civic Theater, and “Hoodoo Love” with BTTUNY. Cha recently appeared in “The Complete Works of Shakespeare” (Abridged) as himself (and several others) on the Schenectady Light Opera Company stage. Chad would like to thank Stephanie Saint Germain, Yasha and Zarya for their constant encouragement and inspiration.

Production Team

Director-KD McTeigue

Production Manager / Light Designer-Brandon Curry

Assistant Production Manager / Audio Engineer-Luke Krauss

Production Stage Manager - Gabrielle Bazinet-Douglas

Costume Designer / Costume Shop Manager at theREP-Andrea Adamczyk

Assistant Costume Shop Manager at theREP-Carolyn King

Scenic Designer-Juliana Haubrich

Sound Designer-Chad Reid

Properties Head-Vanessa VanZandt

Dramaturgy Intern-Megan Dellenbaugh

Proctors Collaborative Administrative Staff

CEO of Proctors Collaborative-Philip Morris

Chief of Staff of Proctors Collaborative-Jean Leonard

Producing Artistic Director at theREP-Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill

Associate Artistic Director at theREP-Margaret E. Hall

Education Director-Christine Sheehan

Youth & Community Programs Manager-Angel Flores

Education Programs Manager-Shai Davenport

Marketing Account Executive (Edu)-Jessica Sims

Company Manager at theREP-Kait VanHeusen

Collaborative Scene Shop Staff

Collaborative Scene Shop Director-Obadiah Savage

Scenic Charge Artist-Laura Brignull

Operations-Cynthia Smith

Master Carpenter-Ken Decker

Steward-Leonard Moxon

Lead Carpenter-Bryan Drossel

Red Carpenter-Gabe Klingler-Horn

Shop Assistants -Logan Hall, Maya Krant, Vince LaClair, John Spang, Haley Macherone, Bob,

Acquasanta, Kyle Avery, John Ruquet, Eloise Sheiferdecker, Damon Snowden, Joe Vartanian

Scene Shop Apprentice - Thomas Raimo

SPECIAL THANKS TO

**Lucille A Herold
Charitable Trust**

**John D. Picotte
Family Foundation**

**Mashuta Family
Charitable Trust**

**Barry Alan Gold
Memorial Fund**

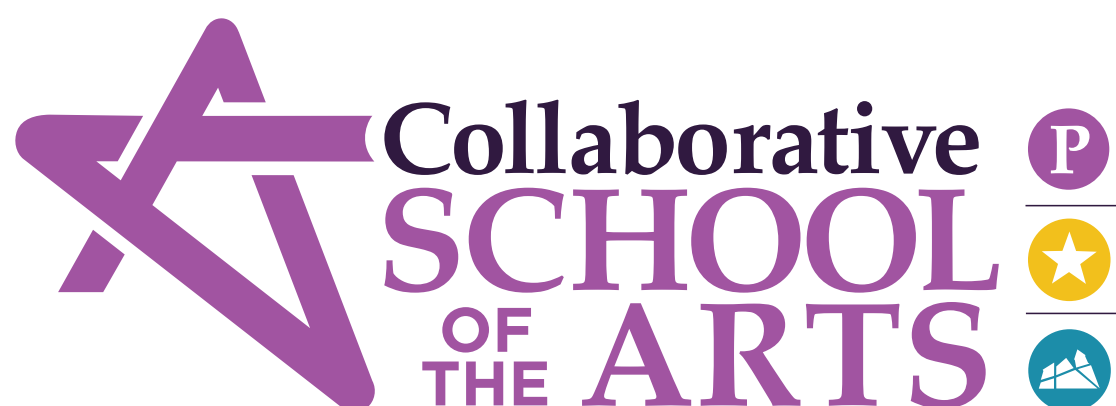
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Weir Foundation**



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