

the
PROM



Jun 7-23,
2024

**DIRECTED BY
GEORGE CANADY**

**MUSIC BY MATTHEW SKLAR
BOOK BY BOB MARTIN, CHAD BEGUELIN
LYRICS BY CHAD BEGUELIN**

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THE PROM

Directed by George Canady

Act One

Changing Lives.....Dee Dee, Barry, Ensemble
 Changing Lives *Reprise* Dee Dee, Barry, Angie, Trent
 Just Breath Emma
 It's Not About Me Dee Dee, Barry, Angie, Trent, Ensemble
 Dance with You..... Emma, Alyssa
 The Acceptance Song Trent, Dee Dee, Barry, Angie, Ensemble
 You Happened Emma, Alyssa, Ensemble
 We Look to You Mr. Hawkins
 Tonight Belongs To You Barry, Emma, Mrs. Greene, Ensemble

Intermission

Act Two

Zazz..... Angie, Emma
 The Lady's Improving..... Dee Dee
 Love Thy NeighborTrent, Ensemble
 Alyssa GreenAlyssa
 Barry's Going to Prom.....Barry
 Unruly Heart.....Emma, Ensemble
 It's Time to Dance..... Emma, Alyssa, Company

A Special Thank You To All Who Helped With This Production!



Desert Financial Credit Union
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 Spotlight Youth Theater



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Camp Rising Star Musical Theater Skills 12-17 – June 10-14
 Auditions: Junie B. Jones is Not A Crook – June 22
 Camp Rising Star Matilda Jr – June 17-29
 Camp Rising Star Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS – July 8-19
 Starlight Awards & Celebration – July 13
 Performance: PUFFS! - July 26-August 11

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Cathy Merrill
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Members Emeritus	Raquel L Jarvill, Barbara Surloff

OPERATIONAL DIRECTORS

Artistic Director	Dan Ashlock
Managing Director	(Open)

MISSION STATEMENT

Starlight Community Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit community theatre corporation dedicated to providing live theatre to entertain and enrich our community and to encourage youth and adult participation by providing growth and educational opportunities through a variety of theatrical experiences, both on and off stage.



Teen Cast

Narrator: Jacob Maddock
Wayne: Oli Pearson
Oliver: Liam Davenport
Megan: Brenna Eagmin
Cedric: Jay Sivey
Leanne: Maya McElhaney
Hannah: Meredith Arends
J. Finch: Isaac Greenland
Ernie Mac: Damion Martinez
Susie: Vera Ray
Sally: Sophia Walker

Adult Cast

Narrator: Kevin Tallent
Wayne: Joey Whelan
Oliver: Gabe Escudero
Megan: Kayla McCray
Cedric: Matthew Eads
Leanne: Cheney Garner
Hannah: Jennifer Scott
J. Finch: Tony Spencer
Ernie Mac: Donald Young
Susie: Ashley Smith
Sally: Kiley Bishop

THE PROM

Directed by George Canady

CAST

Dee Dee Allen	Andrea Hough
Barry Glickman	Matthew Ryan Harris
Emma Nolan	Ellie Sachs
Angie Dickinson	Samantha Belle
Trent Oliver	Josh Merrill
Sheldon	Forrest Ashby
Alyssa Greene	Sophie Bell
Mrs. Greene	Christina Clodt
Mr. Hawkins	Joshua Hengst
Kaylee	Kiki Hooper
Shelby	Ava Lorén
Nick	Ghost Bravo
Kevin	Marco Johnson
Featured cheerleader	Anabella Conroy
Youth Ensemble	Ashley Smith, Samantha Schaefer, Taylor Szymoniak, Mattie O'Hagan
Adult Ensemble	Alec Merrill, Maria Kovac, Kate Smithyman, Kayla McCray, Kelly Swope, Renee Ashlock, Vivian Lin

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	George Canady
Music Director	Jessica Wells
Choreographer	Lindsay Tejera
Stage Manager	Harleigh Irizarry
Stage/Set Designer	George Peterson-Karlan
Lighting Designer	Bill Griffith
Sound Designer	Nicole Thompson
Costume Designer	Mickey Courtney
Properties Designer	Logan Swope
Light Board Operator	Cheyenne Khoury
Sound Board Operator	Travis Bovard
Dance Captains	Ava Lorén, Kiki Hooper
Producers	Cathy Merrill, Rhiannon Cummings

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE MOMENTS OF
THE PROM

Please help us with our 2023-2024 Season awards
by nominating your favorite parts. We take your
suggestions to make the end of season awards ballot!





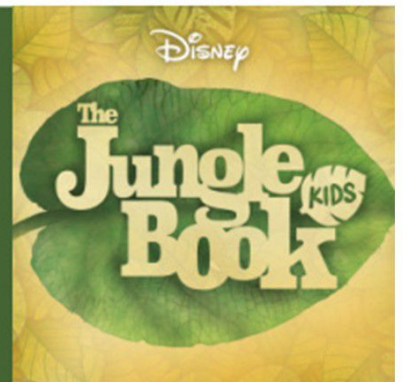
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2024**

**Musical Theater Skills Camp:
Singing, Dancing and Acting!
June 3-7 - ages 7-12
June 10-14 - ages 12-17**



**Youth Summer Show Camp I:
Matilda Jr.
June 17-29 - ages 8-16**

**Youth Summer Camp Show II:
Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS
July 8-19 - ages 6-12**



Registration open now!

www.starlightcommunitytheater.com/summer-camps



CAST

Forrest Ashby (Sheldon) is excited to make his acting debut in *The Prom*. He is the writer and director of the annual Loyola Academy drama production at Brophy College Preparatory where he teaches Humanities. "Love and thanks to Alma and Sarah."

Renee Ashlock (Adult Ensemble) is a middle school science teacher who loves photography and designing theatre lighting for shows at Starlight, Loyola Academy, and Desert Stages Theatre. This is her second show ever. She was in the adult ensemble of *School of Rock* last summer. Shout out to Nathan, Quinlyn, Alaine, Dan, and Dad for supporting her theatre obsession.

Sophie Bell (Alyssa Greene) is thrilled to be a part of her 4th show at Starlight! Recently, she has been seen as Rusty in *Footloose* (AYT), Vivienne in *Legally Blonde* (NVAA), Janis in *Mean Girls* (AYT), and Theo in *School of Rock* (Starlight). Sophie is a rising senior at North Valley Arts Academy, where she receives an arts focused education. She would like to thank her parents and her vocal coach, Jessica Wells, for always believing in her.

Samantha Belle (Angie) is honored to be making her debut on the Starlight Community Theater stage in the role of Angie. Originally from North Carolina, Samantha has been with her wife and two dogs in sunny Arizona for the last 7 years. When she's not singing, dancing, acting, modeling or an assortment of other entertainment related activities, she's a subconscious energy coach for creatives and entrepreneurs. See more of Samantha in the movie, *Instant Karma*, on Amazon Prime.

Ghost Bravo (Nick) is so excited to be participating in yet another show at Starlight Community Theater! He is currently a sophomore at Shadow Mountain High School! Some of Ghost's recent roles are Richie (*13 the Musical*), Pierre Dubois (Playfest: *Boy's Town*), and Officer Welch/Pudney (*Rumors*)! Ghost would like to thank the entire production team for all the work that they put into bringing this show together and making the process such a wonderful experience to be a part of!

Christina Clodt (Mrs. Greene) is excited to go to the Prom! Originally from California, she has performed in dozens of local productions. Recent credits include Mrs. Casewell in *The Mousetrap* (DST) and Baruska in *Once* (SYT). Offstage Christina is a baseball fan, a hodophile, mom to three grown up humans and a menagerie of beasts; Nina to one grand nugget + one on the way. She dedicates this Prom to anyone who has ever felt like they don't belong. "Love to Avery, Ashley, Sav, Kenzie, Noel and Josh." #lovethyneighbor

Anabella Conroy (Featured Cheerleader/Dancer) is very excited to be returning to Starlight in the production of *The Prom*! She is 16 years old, and figuring out life. She has previously been in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Cobweb), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Young Mary), *Beauty and the Beast* (Chip), *Charlotte's Web*, *Elf: The Musical*, *Little Women* (Marmee), and *Mamma Mia* at North Pointe Prep, *GODSPELL*, *Elf: The Musical*, *Captain Fantastic!*, and *13* at Starlight Community Theater, *Broadway Beat* and *Pirates! The Musical* at St. Jerome School. Bella would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her. She would also like to thank George Canady, Jessica Wells, and Lindsay Tejera for this amazing opportunity!

Matthew R. Harris (Barry Glickman) is excited and humbled to be making his Starlight Theatre Debut in *The Prom*. Credits: Fred Taylor *John Loves Mary* (AriZoni Winner), Gomez Addams *Addams Family*, Nathan Detroit *Guys and Dolls*, Max Detweiler *The Sound of Music* (AriZoni Winner), Pseudolus *Forum*, Edna Turnblad *Hairspray*, and Max Bialystock *The Producers*. To George, Jessica and Lindsay "Thank you for the opportunity to play this fun, and lovable character!" To my fellow cast and crew: "Thank you for your Art." To Mom, Kym, Alex, family/friends: "I love you all!" To Dad "This one's for you, I miss you!"

Josh Hengst (Principal Hawkins) wants you to enjoy this show and spread the good word about it, or there will be detention. Josh was recently in *Murder on the Express* (Starlight) and *Newsies* (Theaterworks). He thinks *The Prom* has a beautiful and heartfelt story, told by a very talented cast. Josh wants to take the opportunity to thank the cast and crew, his soul mate Christina, his kids, his friends, and his family for their loving support.

Kendal "KiKi" Hooper (Kaylee) has played a variety of roles: Eliza (*Hamilton*), Anna of Cleves (*Six*), Phillis (*Loving Lives*), Cheerleader (*Heathers*), Enchantress/Baker (*Beauty and the Beast*), Ensemble (*In the Heights*), Tiara (*Elf*), Bonnie/Electra Woman (*Captain Fantastic*), Electric Skate, (*SpongeBob the Musical*), and Gretchen (*Mean Girls*). Growing up, KiKi played competitive soccer and basketball. She also models, appearing in books, such as "Play Like a Girl" and "Force of Nature," and was invited to model at New York Fashion Week for Nike and Converse. At

Thunderbird High School, KiKi is varsity cheer captain and a straight A's honor student. Playing Kaylee in *The Prom* is a dream role for KiKi!

Andrea Hough (Dee Dee Allen) is thrilled to be returning to the Starlight stage, most recently appearing as Siobhan in last year's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Other favorite Starlight roles include Dolly Tate in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. "Thank you to Matthew, for being the greatest bestie both on and off-stage. To George, for giving me the space and opportunity to create the most magical on-stage moments. And to Tim: my partner, my love, my meme dealer, and best friend."

Marco Johnson (Kevin) is a junior at Pinnacle High School and is thrilled to be taking part in his second show at Starlight. He has performed in various shows around the valley which most recently include, the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* (PTC), Brother Jeremiah in *Something Rotten* (GP), Georg Nowack in *She Loves Me* (Starlight), and King Sextimus The Silent in *Once Upon a Mattress* (PTC). He would like to thank his family for being his biggest supporters. "Thank you to this amazing cast and crew for their hard work and support. Enjoy the show!"

Maria Kovac (Adult Ensemble) is excited to be back on the Starlight Stage with this outstanding cast! She was last seen in the Adult Musical, *Young Frankenstein*, here at Starlight. She has also performed in *Xanadu* (Starlight), *A Christmas Story: The Musical* (Desert Stages), and *Done to Death* (Starlight). When not performing on stage or working on the Production Crew, Maria works as a Pharmacist for Cigna. She would like to thank George, Jessica and Lindsay for this opportunity, as well as, her amazing family - JC, Makayla and Haizy!!! "Enjoy the show!!!"

Vivian Lin (Adult Ensemble) is excited to be joining this talented cast for her first show at Starlight Community Theater. She was most recently seen in Inspire's production of *The Secret Garden* as a Dreamer and in *Pride and Prejudice* as The Reader. She wants to thank everyone who made this possible!

Ava Lorén (Shelby) is 17 years old and is currently a junior at The Arizona Conservatory for The Arts and Academics! She has loved musical theatre all her life. Her biggest inspiration for the stage is Ms. Bebe Neuwirth so keep a look out for those mannerisms! Ava's biggest passion is musical theatre and she plans to continue it going into college! Ava would like to thank her mom for the countless things she does for her every day and always exceeding her expectations. Lastly, Ava hopes that you enjoy the show as much as she does. "It's time to dance!!"

Kayla McCray (Adult Ensemble) is so excited to be making her Starlight debut! You most recently saw her in *Dogfight*, at Desert Stages Theater in Scottsdale as Mama and Peggy. Other credits include Cinderella in *Disenchanted*, Buster Bluetang in *The SpongeBob Musical*, and too many characters to name in *The Wedding Singer*! Kayla plans to attend ASU to continue her bachelor's for psychology and eventually become a board certified behavior analyst. (BCBA) Kayla loves her job as she is a Registered Behavior Technician and works with kids on the spectrum. Kayla thanks her amazing mom and boyfriend for endless support. "Now sit back and enjoy the show!!"

Alec Merrill (Adult Ensemble) is very excited to return to Starlight after being away for a year. His recent experience was in *Elf The Musical* and *The Little Mermaid*. He would like to thank George Canady, Lindsay Tejera, and Jessica Wells for this wonderful opportunity!

Josh Merrill (Trent Oliver) is super excited to be back onstage after a year hiatus! Recent show credits include *Elf the Musical* and *The Little Mermaid*! After spending last year in Florida in the Disney College Program, he's happy to be performing again, especially in this show! He would like to thank George, Jessica, Lindsay and Harleigh for this opportunity as well as his brother and parents for their constant support!

Mattie O'Hagan (Youth Ensemble) is a 17 year old junior at North High School. Some of their most recent roles include Cowboy Bob in *Footloose* (AYT), Orcus in *She Kills Monster* (NHS), and Leaf Coneybear in *Spelling Bee* (AYT). Mattie would like to thank their friend Sophie Bell for informing them of the auditions for this show.

Ellie Sachs (Emma Nolan) is thrilled to be making her debut at Starlight! Ellie is 16 and goes to Chaparral High School. Some of her past favorite roles from around the valley include Eponine, Pippi Longstocking, Cat in the Hat, and Jemima Potts. She is so grateful for the opportunity and would love to thank her family and everyone at Starlight for this amazing experience. "Enjoy the show!"

Sam Schaefer (Youth Ensemble) is a school librarian by day, captivating audiences by night with tales both written and lived. When not immersed in the world of literature, Sam's heart belongs to

their mischievous pet monkey, Maurice, who fled the circus life for a quieter existence. Despite Maurice's fear of fiery rings, Sam finds solace in nurturing their bond. With a passion for storytelling and a quirky companion by their side, Sam's journey on and off the stage is a testament to the magic found in unexpected friendships.

Ashley Smith (Youth Ensemble) is 19 years old pursuing a degree in Law and Policy at GCC. She loves concerts and the stage so much that she works as a stagehand driving all across the valley helping set up all kinds of concerts and events. It's been over a year since she has been a part of a show and is so excited to be in *The Prom!* Thank you to the cast and crew for making this show happen and thank you to her family and Gma B for always coming to her shows, she hopes Gma enjoys this one from the stars.

Kate Smithyman (Adult Ensemble) is excited to be making her Starlight Debut in *The Prom!* Kate has recently portrayed Mrs. Bennet & Lady Catherine DeBourgh in the staged reading of *Pride & Prejudice* with Inspire Theater Company and Petra in the AZMTO Showcase production of *A Little Night Music*. Favorite roles include Prospero(a) in *The Tempest*, Chelsea in *On Golden Pond* and Curly's Wife in *Of Mice and Men*. She would like to thank George and the wonderful production team at Starlight for this opportunity and her husband, Jonathan, for all of his love and support.

Kelly Swope (Adult Ensemble) is excited to be a part of this important show. She has been seen on the Starlight stage as an actor and director. She was most recently as Meredith in *Bat Boy the Musical* with Neon Cactus Playhouse. She would like to thank George, Jessica, and Lindsey for this opportunity. "Enjoy the show!"

Taylor Szymoniak (Youth Ensemble) This is Taylor's first time performing with Starlight Community Theater! She is 18 years old, and is currently attending Liberty High School. Now, while most of her works reside on-camera, her most previous stage appearance was in the production of the Queen-inspired musical, *We Will Rock You*, where she was able to not only perform, but also choreograph! This Fall, Taylor will be continuing her acting career at the Savannah College of Art and Design, majoring in Acting (B.F.A.), and minoring in Film/Television. Taylor would like to thank all her cast/crew mates for making her first production at Starlight a fun and amazing experience!

PRODUCTION CREW

George Canady (Director) is pleased as prom punch to be back at Starlight to direct this witty yet endearing story. It's a great way to close out his directing career here in Phoenix. After 10+ years of directing, his local credits include *Bat Boy, the Musical* (Neon Cactus Playhouse), *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Starlight Community Theatre), *Done to Death* (Starlight Community Theatre), and *Darkside* (Mesa Encore Theatre). Nothing soothes his soul more than the opportunity to create mind-blowing theatre for audiences to enjoy. He's so grateful to Starlight's mission and that they've given him a chance to make theatre magic for you to enjoy! As the Aussies say it, "Catch ya later!"

Jessica Wells (Music Director) is excited to be back at Starlight for this production of *The PROM!* Other recent regional credits include: Starlight Community Theater's production of *School of Rock* (music director, Ghostlight Community Theater's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (music director), the TheaterWorks productions of *Newsies* (Hannah), *Mary Poppins* (Bird Woman), and most recently the *Sondheim Tribute Revue* (featured vocalist). She would like to thank the marvelous cast and production team for everything they've done to bring this show to life. "It has truly been a joy to build this PROM! together with you!"

Lindsay Tejara (Choreographer) started dance when she was 3. Since then she has studied in all type of dance style including tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical and musical theater. After several years on a competition team Lindsay went on to participate in theater shows around the valley. Lindsay has gone on to

choreograph multiple theater shows around the valley. She has earned her associates degree in dance and a bachelor's degree in business from ASU. Currently she is a full time dance teacher at a local elementary school. Lindsay is so happy to be a part of *The Prom* and is very thankful to have been a part of this production!

Harleigh Irizarry (Stage Manager) is excited to be working behind the scenes once again. In the past, she has stage managed shows such as *School of Rock* and *The Secret Garden*. When she is not on stage she can be found with her nose in a book or her computer, working on her master's degree. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support and George, who she is ecstatic to work with again. "Enjoy the show."

George Peterson-Karlan (Stage/Set Designer) This is George's first stage design for Starlight Community Theater. He has appeared, for SCT, as Parson/ Irish Policeman (*Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*) and as Frank Scanlon (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*). Recent roles include Martin Vanderhof (*You Can't Take It with You*), Hawkeye Pierce (*M.A.S.H. Remembered*), Dr John Douglas (*Miss Evers Boys*), Rev. Fred Phelps/ Murdoch Cooper (*The Laramie Project*) Henry the Doorman (*Trouble in Mind*), Joe Benjamin (*God's Favorite*), Les Kenkaat (*Boy Gets Girl*), Fezziwig (*A Christmas Carol*), Carter (*Things My Mother Taught Me*), Rev. Tooker/Doc Baugh (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*).

Richard "Mickey" Courtney (Costume Designer) has been costuming for the past 20+ years around the valley. This is his fourth show at Starlight after working on *Young Frankenstein* this past fall. Other recent credits include *Guys and Dolls* and *A Christmas Story the Musical* (DST), *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Tomfoolery* (FHT). Mickey thanks the cast and crew for trusting him. He also wants to thank family and friends for their support and patience.

Nicole Thompson (Sounds Designer) is excited to work on her 9th Starlight Production. Nicole recently directed, costumed and sound designed *Camelot and Camelittle* on the Starlight stage. Nicole has also recently just returned to the stage in Desert Foothills Theatre production of *Freaky Friday* in April. She is excited to be a part of such an amazing production and team. She would like to thank George, Mondo, Dan and her kiddo Marlene for their support!

Bill Griffith (Lighting Designer) is excited to once again be working with George. Previously the two have collaborated on lights for *Done to Death* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (BWW Award Winner) both here at Starlight. When not working in a technical role Bill does dabble in acting. Last seen here in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. He would like to thank George for once again having faith in his lighting abilities, and the cast and crew for a wonderful production experience.

Cheyenne Khoury (Light Board Operator) is 26 years old and found theatre life in college. From acting to stage managing it has become a big part of her life. She used to live in Vermont but came back to Arizona for family. Slowly starting to get back into the theatre groove.



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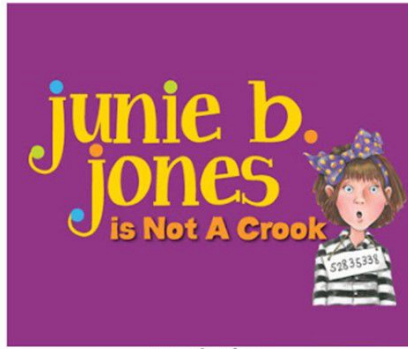
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2024-2025 SEASON



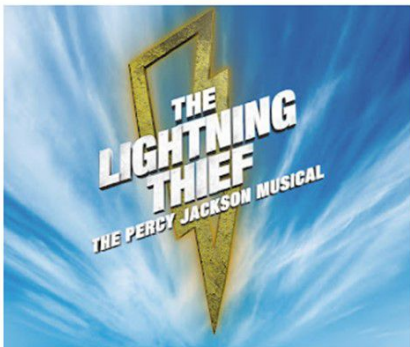
Double Cast Play
July 26-August 11, 2024



Youth Play
September 6-15, 2024



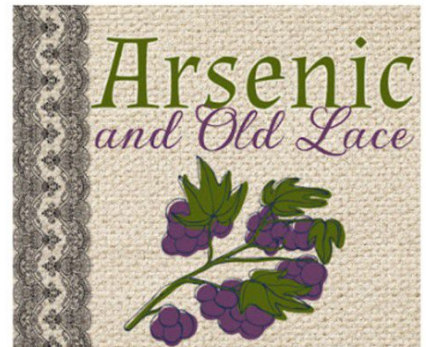
Special Event Play
October 18-20, 2024



Teen Musical
November 8-17, 2024



Adult Musical
January 10-26, 2025



Adult Play
February 21-March 2, 2025



Youth Musical
April 4-13, 2025



Special Event Play
April 25-27, 2025



All-Ages Musical
May 30-June 15, 2025

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