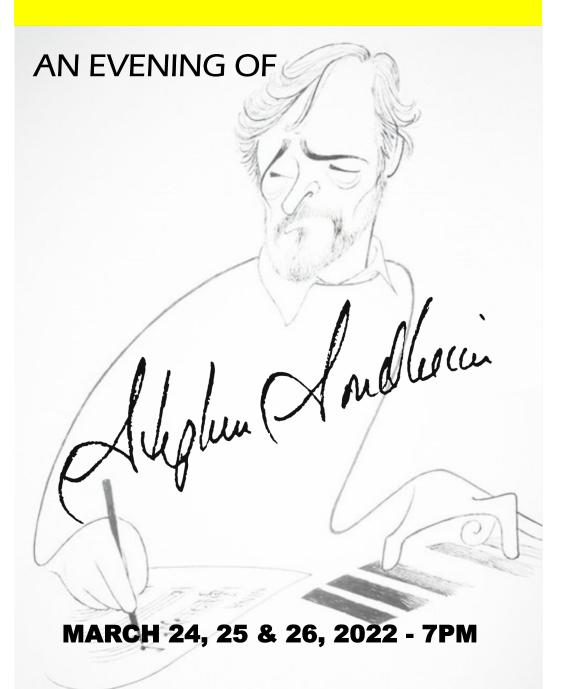
# PLAYBILL

NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



### THE NIAGARA PROSCENIUM PLAYERS OF NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL proudly presents

6

AN EVENING OF

Choreography by SUSAN MARCOLINI

Costumes by DANIELLE DEPALMA

Technical Direction by RICH MERANTO

Directed by DENNIS WILSON

Original Book by DENNIS WILSON and TOM VITELLO

Produced by TOM VITELLO Vocal Direction by VERONICA SCHUCKER

Music Direction by TOM VITELLO

Sound and Lighting by RANDY RIEKER and NICK FAGIANI

# Welcome to the Niagara Falls High School Performing Arts Center!

Please familiarize yourself with the following reminders as a courtesy to yourself, other patrons and the performers:

- Restrooms are located in the front lobby. Please be discreet if you
  have to leave during the performance.
- Please turn off all cellular phones and other electronics as a courtesy to other patrons and the performers. Cellular frequencies will interfere with the wireless audio system used in this theatre.
- Please remain seated through the entire act of the performance to avoid distracting the performers and patrons.
- The use of flash photography, video and audio recording including via mobile device is strictly prohibited, as it is hazardous to the performers and a contract violation. Please help us by observing this rule.
- While we appreciate your enthusiasm, please be mindful of proper theatre etiquette as this is not a sporting event.
- Thank you and enjoy the show!

Break-a-leg and leave it all on stage,
Andy. I'm so

Proud!

Love, Nana

### LaSalle Early Childhood Center



8477 Buffalo Ave. NF NY 14304 www.LaSalleEarlyChildhood.com

Preschool 3 and 4 classrooms
UPK 4 classroom

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FALL 716 283 5140 ext. 306

Break a leg, Sally!

You've come a long way from singing "Down by the Bay"! Love, the Staff at LECC

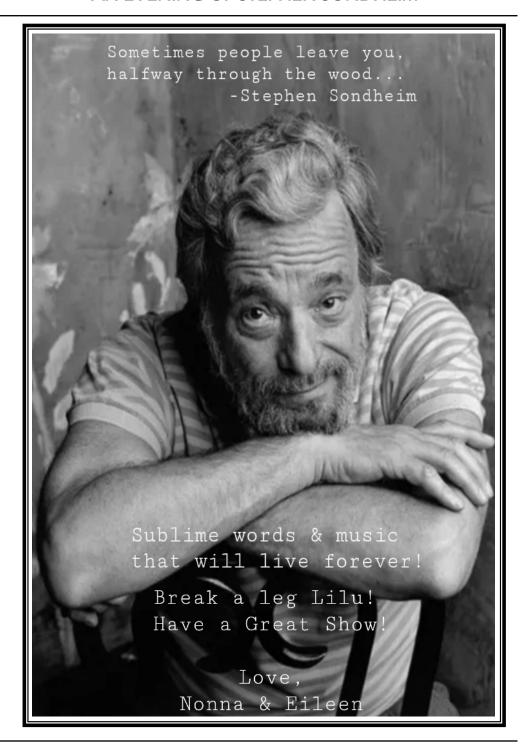
### **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

### **ACT ONE**

Opening: Putting it Together Barbra Streisand: The Broadway Album from SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE
Comedy Tonight
Not a Day Goes By
If Momma Was Married
Everybody Says Don't
, , ,
from ANYONE CAN WHISTLE  Children Will Listen Haleigh Routhier

### **INTERMISSION**

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts. There will be food and beverage available at the concession stand in the front lobby. Please do not bring food and beverages into the Performing Arts Center. Thank you for your cooperation.



### **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

### ACT TWO

Entr'acte: Company
Getting Married Today Lilu Wilson, Elsa Rodriguez-Pedraza (Soprano), and Conner Kinney (Tenor)
The Ladies Who Lunch
Another Hundred People
from COMPANY
Send in the Clowns
Losing My Mind
I Fell Pretty
A Boy Like That/I Have a Love Charlotte Garber and Madisyn Tolfa
America
Finale: SomewhereCynthia Jones* ** and the Cast from WEST SIDE STORY
Bows: Old Friends

Penny Tie, You are so loved. Enjoy the show. We are proud of you. Break a leg!

Love, Mom, Dad & Rigby



### THE CAST

Evan DalPorto - M.C. Manny Mejia - M.C.

Keyonah Allen Christina Custode-Macri\*\* Julie Doerr\*\* Nevaeh Everett Aaliyah Freeman Charlotte Garber Lexus Hale\* Savannah Heller Alejandro Heredia-Rodriguez Ariano Heredia DJ Hernandez Arielle Jones Cynthia (Feagin) Jones\* \*\* Conner Kinney Penny Lane Brianna London

Manny Mejia

Nancy Pitaressi\* \*\* Camilla Ralands Haleena Reygers Sally Rick Else Rodriguez-Pedraza Andy Routhier Haleigh Routhier Veronica Schucker\*\* Cara (Pellow) Scott\* Katherine Sirianni-Morock\* \*\* Raven Thuman Madisyn Tolfa Lenore (Frazier) Uhrich\* Elizabeth Wagner Lilu Wilson Audrianna Yates\*

\* = Alumni \*\* = NFCSD Staff

### **COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP**

Danielle DePalma - Costumes Christina Custode-Macri - Make-up

### STAGE CREW

Jeanelix Acosta-Flores Forever Adams Jeremiah Whitlow Joseph Wyno

### **USHERS**

Kaelyn Walter - House Manager

Natalie Deweese Felicia Hernandez Aubrey Hoffman Chloe Johnson Jayvon LeCounte Noah Livesay

# Break-a-leg, Aaliyah! Mr. Duncan

### SALLY

Something familiar, Something peculiar, Something for everyone, Best wishes tonight! Love, Grandma Rick

# Break your legs, Nerd!

Love, Haleigh

# Congrats, Madisyn! So excited for you!

From, Peggy and Family

### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Director	Dennis Wilson
Vocal Director	
Choreographer	
Music Director	Tom Vitello
Costume Director	Danielle DePalma
Technical Director/Stage Crew Advisor	rRich Meranto
Lights and Sound	Randy Rieker and Nick Fagiani
Producer	Tom Vitello
Set Design	. Dennis Wilson and Tom Vitello
Multimedia Design	Tom Vitello
Stage Manager	Charity Hosler
Assistant Stage Manager	Leah Scrivano
Light Operator	Ashley Kinney
House Manager	Kaelyn Walter
Programs and Posters	Tom Vitello
Box Office Jacob Kopera, Barbai	ra Rodgers and Parent Volunteers
Will Call	Parent Volunteers
Concessions	Parent Volunteers
50/50 Tickets	Parent Volunteers





### We are so proud of you! Shine on that stage!

Uncle Bill, Aunt Brieanna, Dom and DJ

# To our bright and shining star; Break-a-leg!



Love, Mom and Dad

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Mr. Mark Laurrie, Superintendent of Schools Members of the Niagara Falls Board of Education

Mrs. Cynthia Jones, Chief Educational Administrator Mr. Bryan Rotella, Administrator Mr. Edward Ventry Mrs. Cheryl Vilardo, Administrator

Mrs. Veronica Schucker
Mrs. Christina Custode-Macri
Ms. Susan Marcolini
Mr. Richard Meranto
Mrs. Danielle DePalma
Mr. Randy Rieker and Mr. Nick Fagiani

Ms. Judy Rodgers Mrs. Christina Schove Mrs. Jill Wagner

Mrs. Joanne Thuman

Mr. Jacob Kopera and Ms. Barbara Rodgers

Mr. Robert Touchette Mrs. Teresa Kurliovitch

All of the Parent and Student Volunteers

NFHS Security Officers

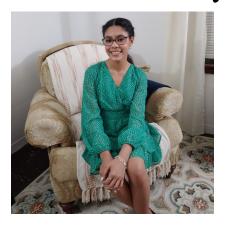


# Good Job, Sweetie! Madisyn, We Love You!



Love, Papa & Kelly

# Elsa, We're So Proud of You!



Love, Mom and Dad

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

### THE CAST

KEYONAH ALLEN is a senior at Niagara Falls High School and has a deep love and passion for theatre. She was previously cast in Agnes of God (Mother Superior), The Wiz (Munchkin), Once on This Island (peasant), Jesus Christ Superstar (Chorus), Elf the Musical (Charlotte), The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (Dorothy), Evita (Ensemble), Clue (Assistant to the Director). Keyonah's other hobbies include being on the track and tennis teams and playing in the NFHS band. Keyonah would like to thank her cast-mates, family and friends for their support and a wonderful show.

CHRISTINA CUSTODE is a Grammy Recording Academy Artist, multi-award winning singer songwriter and pianist. She is a graduate from the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York (BM '10, MA '14) and is thrilled to be participating as a performer in the NFHS' production of An Evening of Stephen Sondheim. Christina performs regularly to capacity crowds at numerous establishments and festivals along the East Coast and is expanding her footprint in the region with multiple engagements throughout the United States. Her music can be heard on numerous FM/AM radio, internet radio stations, Pandora and Spotify. Her original music has gained notice not

only for pristine instrumental and vocal performance quality, but also for its compositional value. Custode headlined at the Reel Harmony Songwriter Festival in Roscoe, NY as the People's Choice Award Winner and was awarded the Best Singer Songwriter award at the Roswell Film Festival in Roswell, NM, where she competed with artists from all over the world. She has also been named "Buffalo's Best Female Vocalist" and "Buffalo's Best Original Music Act" multiple times, garnering several Artvoice Best of Buffalo Awards. Christina currently has a private music studio where she teaches piano, voice and mallet percussion to aspiring musicians throughout the Western New York Area and is on staff at NFHS as an instrumental music director.

EVAN DALPORTO is a freshman at Niagara Falls High School. Recently, he made his stage debut in Clue as Colonel Mustard. When offstage, Evan enjoys hockey, watching movies, and baseball. After High School, Evan wants to attend Notre Dame or UCLA for Business Administration of Film. Evan would like to thank his friends and family. He would also like to thank the director Mr. Wilson and Mr. Vitello for giving him the opportunity.

JULIE DOERR is the Public Relations
(Continued on page 16)



IN AMERICA, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE



# Break a Leg!

TE ADORO!
YOUR FAMILY,
DAD, MOM, ADAM
AND THE ZOO

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 14)

Director for the Niagara Falls City School District. She has worked as a television news producer for WGRZ-TV and as an on-air news anchor and reporter for the former WGRNewsradio55. Doerr studied tap, ballet and jazz dance, acting and vocal performance at Williamsville North High School, the Community Music School of Buffalo, Michigan State University and the David deMarie Dance Studio. She appeared in the Niagara Proscenium Alumni Players performances of Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita as Peron's Mistress. She has performed Evita at the Lancaster Opera House. Doerr holds a degree in broadcast journalism from Michigan State University.

**NEVAEH EVERETT** is a 10th grade student at the Niagara Falls High School. She was previously seen in *Meowy Christmas* and *Miracle on 34th Street* both produced at the N.A.C.C.. She is grateful for the opportunity to be in this show.

AALIYAH FREEMAN is a Senior at NFHS and was most recently seen in the high school's production of *Clue* as Miss Scarlet. She was also a featured dancer and the dance captain for the NFCSD Alumni Production of *Evita*, and she is very excited to be dance captain for this show as well. Aaliyah has danced for 13 years and can't wait to be on stage dancing again. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support. And

would especially like to thank cast and crew for all of their hard work to put on an amazing show!

CHARLOTTE GARBER is a senior at Niagara Falls High School. She participated on the stage crew for *Clue*, and is participating in the student run production of *Plaza Suite* in May. She has been involved in choir since third grade. She has also been involved in the NFHS track team and cross-country team. She is excited to be involved in this show and would like to thank Mr. Wilson, Mr. Vitello and Mrs. Schucker for this opportunity.

LEXUS HALE is a junior at Buffalo State College who is majoring in theatre with an education path. You may have seen her as Veronica Saywer this last October in *Heathers*. Before that she was rehearsing the role of the Tin Man in *The Wiz* until COVID-19 hit two weeks before opening. She has also appeared in *Once On This Island, Steel Magnolias* and *Fiddler on the Roof.* She would like to thank the NFHS Theatre Department and the cast for their hard work and dedication and also her family and friends for the endless support.

SAVANNAH HELLER is a freshman at NFHS. Although she did participate in the Niagara Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker", this is her first school perfor(Continued on page 18)



### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 16)

mance. She has been dancing for about 7 years through different styles of ballet, jazz, acro, and tap. She was showcased in the Nutcracker for 3 years. She is excited to be participating in these evenings performance of An Evening of Stephen Sondheim. I would like to thank Mr. Wilson for getting me to where I am with performing.

### ALEJANDRO HEREDIA-

**RODRIGUEZ** is a Sophomore student at Niagara Falls High School. He has been involved in Lion King Jr. (Mufasa), Frozen Jr. (Kristoff), and the 2020 Production of Freaky Friday as Mike the Fiancé, but due to the COVID-19 Pandemic was not able to perform. He was also involved in the Niagara Proscenium Alumni production of Evita as ensemble. He was originally cast as Colonel Mustard in Clue, but ultimately was unable to perform. Alejandro is grateful and honored to now be involved in the Niagara Proscenium Players production of An Evening of Stephen Sondheim. He is a huge fan of Sondheim's work. He is grateful for the support of his friends and family. He hopes you enjoy the show!!

ARIANO HEREDIA is a freshman at NFHS. He has never been involved in a theatre production before! He is excited to be in this production and hopes that the people enjoy the show.

DJ HERNANDEZ - DJ is a senior at the Niagara Falls High School, He has previous been in the Alumni show *Evita*. He dances and sings and is a member of chorus at NFHS.

ARIELLE JONES - Arielle is a freshman at Niagara Falls High School. She is excited to be making her musical debut in An Evening of Stephen Sondheim. Arielle participates in chorus and cheer. In her free time, she reads and hangs out with friends. I want to thank Mr. Wilson and my family for the encouragement.

### CYNTHIA (FEAGIN) JONES is a

1987 graduate of Niagara Falls High School. While in high school, she was one of the "Feagin Theives" in the NFHS musical production of Oliver, directed by John Eckler. Cynthia is currently the Chief Educational Administrator of Niagara Falls High School. She was previously seen in the Niagara Proscenium Alumni Players production of Smokey Joe's Café. She is married to Pastor William K. Jones, Sr. and they have a total of seven children together. Cynthia is very involved with her church and is an Ordained Minister at Potter's House Christian Community Church in Niagara Falls, NY. She is also the Minister of Music for the Sanctuary Choir and the Praise and

(Continued on page 20)

# Haleigh, I know you will blow us all away! Break-a-leg!

Debbie Deweese Schmidt

Best wishes, Niagara Proscenium Players!

Anonymous

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 18)

Worship Team. Cynthia would like to thank the staff and students on Niagara Falls High School for their positive impact on our city and the school community through the Arts!

CONNER KINNEY is a senior at Niagara Falls High School. He has been a part of several Niagara Proscenium Players Productions. He was most recently seen as Mr. Boddy in Clue and The Admiral in the NFCSD Alumni Production of Evita. He was also cast as Uncle Henry in The Wiz. Connor is thrilled to be a part of the cast of An Evening of Stephen Sondheim.

PENNY LANE is a Freshman here at Niagara Falls High School. During her middle school years, she was a featured performer in *Frozen, Jr.* Penny has lent her talents to online productions and Shea's Performing Arts Center. Most recently Penny was seen in *Freaky Friday*. She is a member of the NFHS Chorus. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

BRIANNA LONDON is currently a freshman at Niagara Falls High School. Brianna's first musical debut was supposed to be the middle school production of *Freaky Friday*. However, due to COVID-19, the musical did not take place. Her debut performance was the

recent alumni production of *Evita*. When she's not performing, Brianna focuses on her grades and spending time with her loved ones.

MANNY MEJIA is a Senior at Niagara Falls High School. Manny was previously seen in The Niagara Proscenium Players Production of Brighton Beach Memoirs (Stanley), The Miracle Worker (James) and most recently as Wadsworth in Clue as well as various other roles over his years in theatre. Recently Manny was nominated in the Kenny Awards for Outstanding Acting Performance. Upon graduation, Manny plans to attend Buffalo State College to further his education in theatre arts and education. He would like to thank family and friends for their support. In addition, he would like to thank the cast for their hard work. Enjoy the show!

### NANCY (BUFFONE) PITARRESI is

a graduate of LaSalle Sr. High School and has a Master Degree from Niagara University. Nancy has studied dance, clarinet (LaSalle Jr/Sr Bands) and has been involved in other musical areas. Nancy has participated in both *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita* as part of the alumni productions here at NFHS. Nancy is currently working as a teacher in the Niagara Falls City School District. Nancy would like to thank Tom, (Continued on page 22)

"You shine, Penny"

Love, Uncle Joe, Marme and Veronica



Break-a-leg, Haleigh!
We Love You!
Love, Mom and Jess

BREAK-A-LEG, HALEIGH!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!
LOVE, ANDY

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 20)

Dennis and Susan for sharing their superb talents and opportunity to join this talented cast. Thanks to Olivia and Julia for their support!

CAMILLA RALANDS is a Freshman at Niagara Falls High School. She has previously been in the musical alumni production of *Evita*. She is currently in the Wolverines Marching Band. She has seven years of dance experience at Legacy Dance Studio.

HALEENA REYGERS is a junior at Niagara Falls High School. You may recognize Haleena from previous roles in *Dig It* (soloist), *At The Bandstand* (Janice), *Annie, Jr.* (Annie), or *Elf Jr.* (Jovie). Haleena has also been in many choir events and is in both Jazz and Advanced Choir at NFHS. Haleena is thrilled to be a part of this production and is so grateful for the wonderful cast and production staff who made this experience wonderful!

SALLY RICK is an eleventh grade student at NFHS. She started doing performances at birth but not for an audience until 79th Street School. She has been in 4 plays as supporting roles and is looking forward to another performance. Along with her love of drama, she loves animals and hopes to work with them in the future. She would like to thank all the teachers and her

friends that have supported her along the way.

ELSA RODRIGUEZ-PEDRAZA is a freshman at Niagara Falls High School. She is a high honors student and always likes to stay on top of everything. Her big debut was in *Frozen*, *Jr*. when she was in 7th grade and also was in *Freaky Friday* before the COVID-19 pandemic. She would like to thank friends for the support and her directors for this opportunity.

ANDY ROUTHIER is an senior at Niagara Falls High School. Andy has been in a variety of shows in the past 5 vears. He believes his best work was in the Little Mermaid Jr (Sebastian) for NEP, Once On This Island (Storyteller) for the High School, and The Wiz (Wiz) that was slated to be at the NFHS right as COVID began. His most recent being the Niagara Proscenium Players of Niagara Falls High School's production of Clue (Professor Plum). Andy would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him thus far, and would also like to thank the cast and crew for this wonderful opportunity. He is so excited to spend his senior show on this stage, and hopes the audience enjoys the show!

HALEIGH ROUTHIER is a senior at Niagara Falls High School. This is (Continued on page 24) Break-a-leg, Andy! We Love You!

Love, Mom and Jess

Break-a-leg, Charlotte!

Love, Mom, Dad and Caroline

Madisyn,
Break-a-leg, not a knee!
Lori Saph

One last time from the top, and 5.6.7.8...

Just kidding, Sue Marcolini is gonna

make you do this 20 more times!

condrats raven and Penny -

YOU BUYS WORKED SO WELL LOGETHER! #COMEDYTONIGHT

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 22)

Haleigh's second show here at the high school. Her past performances include Belle in the Niagara Experience Players production of Beauty and the Beast, J.r and the role of Ursula in NEP's The Little Mermaid, Jr. She's also performed in Frozen, Jr., Into the Woods, Jr, and Annie, Jr. She was also seen in the NFHS production of Clue, starring as the Singing Telegram Girl. Haleigh is very excited to be working and learning from all her wonderful cast mates as well as her wonderful director and producer.

### KATHERINE SIRIANNI-MOROCK

is a graduate of NFHS Class of 1995 and is very excited to be part of this student production. While at NFHS, Katharine appeared in Up the Down Staircase, The Wiz, Hello Dolly!, Broadway Bound: A Musical Review, Bye, Bye Birdie, Curtain Call: A Musical Review and Kiss Me Kate, in which she played the role of one of the gangsters. Previously, Katherine was in the Niagara Proscenium Alumni Players productions of Smokey Joe's Café, Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita. Katharine graduated from Niagara University with a Bachelor's in Social Work and went on to work at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center as an inpatient social worker on both the Children's and Adult Psychiatric units, while she attended State University of New York at Buffalo to pursue

her Master Degree in Social Work. Katharine currently works a Clinical Supervisor for Horizon Health Services Health Homes (Niagara County). Katharine attends tap classes at Niagara Dance Centre, as a hobby. Katharine would like to thank her three children and husband for all their support.

**RAVEN THUMAN** is in 11th grade at NFHS and is excited to participate in this year's production of An Evening of Sondheim! Raven has performed in the Gaskill Prep School production of Lion King, Jr. as part of the ensemble. She has a history of ballet and tap dance with Miss Bev's Dance Studio and Legacy Studio. She is currently a model with MODAL Productions. In her spare time Raven can be found playing Pokemon Go or teaching Spanish to her dad! She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her in her dreams to reach for the stars!

MADISYN TOLFA is in her Junior year of high school, and has been a part of shows since she was in 7th grade. Singing and acting has become such a great outlet for her to be able to express herself and show others her talents. She has learned so much throughout the years she's been a part of theater, from being Matthews in *Elf Jr.*, to being Zazu in *Lion King Jr.*, to participating in *The* 

# We are so proud of you, Madisyn!



Love always, Mom and Logan

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 24)

Wiz, although it was never performed. Once the pandemic hit, it was really tough on her because she had lost that outlet and was stuck for a while. But now, she is so grateful to have been a part of *Evita* and now in this beautiful show. Madisyn thanks Mr. Vitello, Mrs. Schucker, Mr. Wilson, and her family and friends for helping her finally get back into the swing of things, and supporting her to pursue her passion of music and singing.

LENORE (FRAZIER) UHRICH is a 1990 graduate of NFHS where she played Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line*. Most recently she performed with her alumni friends in the musical *Evita*.

ELIZABETH WAGNER is a sophomore student at Niagara Falls High School. She has been in At the Bandstand as Ensemble, Annie, Jr. as July, The Little Mermaid as Ariel, Beauty and the Beast as Ensemble, Frozen as Ana, and Mamma Mia! as Ensemble. She has also been in a film, Cabrini as an orphan, that will soon come out in 2022. She would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for all of the kindness and their support.

**LILU WILSON** is a senior in High School. She is very musically inclined,

being in band for 8 years. She plays trumpet, guitar, ukulele, piano and trombone. She is currently in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Gold Jazz. She also participates in Marching and Pep Band events. Throughout her High School career, she had done a variety of shows with the Niagara Proscenium Players of Niagara Falls High School. She has been both in shows and has helped on the sidelines. Most recently, she played Mrs. Peacock is the Niagara Proscenium Players production of Clue and is very excited to be in the cast of An Evening of Stephen Sondheim.

AUDRIANNA YATES is ecstatic to be on the stage again with the Niagara Proscenium Players! She is a Niagara Falls High School graduate of the class of 2007. Throughout high school, she spent all of her time doing musicals and taking classes in theater/dance education. She was one of three students from Niagara Falls to have gone to the New York Summer School of the Arts (NYSSA) in NYC. After graduation, Audrianna went on to be a theater major with a dance minor. In college she danced with the Tanzen Dance Company, Buffalo Contemporary, and the Nakita Monet Dance Project. She then went on to work for the entertainment department for Busch Gardens Sea World for 6 seasons. Currently she is a dance teacher at Jaclyn Carols Dance

(Continued on page 28)

"All the best performers bring to their role something more, something different than what the author put on paper. That's what make theatre live. That's why it persists. -Stephen Sondheim

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 26)

Academy as well as a Director for the Niagara Experience Players. You may have seen her in former alumni shows such as Evita (Adult Eva), Jesus Christ Superstar (Mary Magdalene) and Smokey Joe's Café. Other stage credits include Anything Goes (Erma), Winnie the Pooh (Rabbit), Den of Thieves (Maggie), A Funny Thing...Forum (Tintinabula), Les Miserables (Eponine), just to name a few of her favorites. She is always so grateful for any chance to get on the stage. She would like to thank Dennis, Tommy, and Sue for this opportunity to be able to perform with some of her students and former students. She would also like to thank her friends and family for all of their love and support especially her parents! And of course a special thank you to my little guy, Cory, for being my number one fan, even though you think I sing to loud in the car.

### PRODUCTION STAFF

(in alphabetical order)

CHARITY HOSLER (Stage Manager) is a sophomore at NFHS. She is a board of director for the class of 2024 and participates in Zonta Club. She is a member of the NFHS chapter of the National Honor Society and enjoys volunteering at Hopeclub of Niagara in her free time. She has previously been involved in shows in middle school as well as being the assistant stage manag-

er for the alumni production of *Evita* and the stage manager for the High school production of *Clue*.

ASHLEY KINNEY (Light Board Operator) is a Junior and is thrilled to be working on another NFHS Production. Ashley was the light board operator for the NFCSD Alumni Productions of *Evita* and *Clue*. When not working on shows, Ashley loves to spend time reading and watching TV. Ashley would like to give thanks to the cast, crew and her family for all the support.

### SUSAN MARCOLINI

(Choreographer) is delighted to once again, join the talented students at NFHS. Some of her past credits include, Jesus Christ Superstar, A Chorus Line, Ragtime, Mame, Pippin, and several more. She enjoyed working with the Niagara Experience Players for many years and holds a B.A. in dance from the University at Buffalo. She began choreographing for Niagara Falls High School in 1989 for a production of Jesus Christ Superstar. She is currently employed by the Niagara Falls City School District as a speech language pathologist.

RICH MERANTO (Technical Director) is in his 30th year of teaching at Niagara Falls High School. He teaches media production and helps the stu-

(Continued on page 30)

# **Congratulations**

to the cast and crew of An Evening of Stephen Sondheim... Especially my Choir kids! So proud of all your hard work! -Schucker



Raven, Alejandro, Madisyn, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Haleena, DJ, Brianna, Penny, Arielle and Elsa

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 28)

dent in the program run the Our Schools Channel, OSC. Rich is also the head coach of three Varsity sports at NFHS (Girls Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor track). As a tech director, Rich has built apartments, high school gyms, swimming pools, houses, apartments for homeless people, cruise ships, sports cars, small Russians villages (again), giant hairspray cans, schools, night clubs, burger stands, radio stations, courtrooms, French barricades, bridges, trains, libraries, restaurants, a town in Iowa, embassies, and even four hair salons. When he isn't doing all that he's probably watching Doctor Who. Most recently, Rich began with his family, Meranto Media, Inc., a company that helps cities, towns, school districts, churches, theatres, and small businesses design, create, and install a small media production studio which can produce and broadcast their events and programming for platforms like Facebook, YouTube, cable access channels and websites. <a href="http://">http://</a> www.merantomedia.com.

VERONICA SCHUCKER (Vocal Music Director) is currently the choral music director at NFHS after a long tenure teaching elementary vocal and choral music. Veronica has a BS (1990) and MM (1995) in Music Education, both from the State University College at Fredonia. Veronica has directed and

vocal directed many elementary musicals as well as being Children's Vocal Director of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (2008) and Vocal Director of Fiddler on the Roof (2018), Once On This Island (2019) and The Wiz (2020). She played keyboard in the pit orchestra for Hairspray (2017). In addition she performed and Vocal directed the student choir for Jesus Christ Superstar (2019) and was Vocal Director for the students in Evita (2021). Most recently, Veronica was honored to direct the NCMEA Junior High Choir (2022). Veronica is enjoying her work as vocal/choral director at Niagara Falls High School and is thankful to work with energetic and creative students. Enjoy the show!

LEAH SCRIVANO (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore at Niagara Falls High School. She has been in productions before such as *Lion King Jr* (Sarabi), *Frozen, Jr.* (Sven), *Freaky Friday* (Ensemble), *Evita* (Assistant Stage Manager) and *Clue* (Assistant Stage Manager.) She loves theater and is thrilled to be working with this show.

TOM VITELLO (Producer) is currently a Spanish teacher at Niagara Falls High School. Tom graduated from the S.U.N.Y. College at Buffalo in 1998 with a B.S. in Spanish Education and a

(Continued on page 32)

# Take a bow, Lilu



We are SO PROUD of you!

With all our love, Mom & Mary,

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 30)

M.S. in Education in 2000. Tom is also a 1995 graduate of N.C.C.C. where he earned an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts/Humanities - Social Science. Tom's has over 100 theatre credits to his name including: Anything Goes!, The Pajama Game, Guys and Dolls, A Chorus Line, Forum, The Music Man, Grease, Hello, Dolly!, Fiddler on the Roof, Godspell, Little Shop of Horrors, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Company, Pippin, Man of La Mancha, Evita, Children of Eden, Steel Magnolias, Annie, Bye Bye Birdie, Barry Manilow's Copacabana, Jekyll and Hyde, Les Miserábles, Chicago, The Rocky Horror Show, Smokey Joe's Café, Ragtime, Willy Wonka, The Addams Family, Hairspray and West Side Story. Other music credits include: Handel's Messiah, Berlioz' Messe Sollennelle, Mahler's Symphony 8 - Symphony for a Thousand, Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, and other selected works all performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Holy Trinity Lutheran Concert Choir. Tom served as the Music Director, Arranger and Studio Musician for two CD recordings, My Father's Hymns and Broadway and Beyond, by local artist Lee Stevens. In 2008, Tom performed in concert with Grammy Award Winner Kenny Loggins at Artpark. Tom has worked with the Drama Clubs of Lewiston-Porter, Starpoint, and Niagara Falls High School and has been on the production staff for several musical

theatre productions at NCCC. Tom served as the Drama Club Advisor / Director for Niagara Catholic from 2000 to 2006. For the Fall 2005 semester, Tom was the Musical Director for the theatre department of N.C.C.C. Tom proudly is co-founder of the Niagara Falls City School District Theatre Hall of Fame. In 2019, he was Co-Vocal Director at City Honors School in Buffalo for their production of Mamma Mia! In summer of 2021, Tom was the Executive Producer of The Therapist, a web series on YouTube that was written by his friend and colleague, Dennis Wilson. Tom composed and recorded all the underscoring and theme song, *Journey*. He would like to thank family and his husband, Jacob for being so supportive and always working the box office for every one of the NFHS theatre productions.

KAELYN WALTER (House Manager) is a sophomore at Niagara Falls High School. She has worked as both cast and crew in numerous films in the Western New York area, and most recently played The Cook in the NFHS performance of Clue. Tonight she will be working behind the scenes, but hopes to continue her acting career after high school by attending University of Southern California. She would like to thank everyone for their support over the past few years and hopes you

(Continued on page 34)

Congratulations, **Conner Kinney!** You amaze everyone when on stage! We're so proud of you! Love, Your Family Mom is looking down smiling!

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 32) all enjoy tonight's show!

**DENNIS WILSON** (Director) was born and raised in Niagara Falls, NY. He attended Niagara University where he earned a BFA in Theatre Arts and a Med in Education Administration from Grand Canyon University. Upon graduation from Niagara University, Dennis became heavily involved in community theatre in Buffalo, NY. He relocated to New York City in 1995 and was immediately cast in theatrical productions. -The next few years Dennis engaged in a professional acting career. He was blessed to be able to become a member of The Actor's Equity Association (AEA). Dennis has performed in the National and Canadian Touring Companies of Five Guys Named Moe (Little). Regional

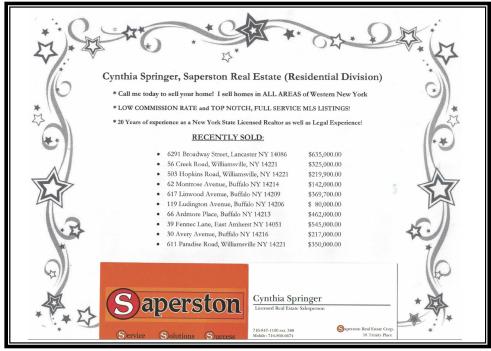
Dennis has performed in the National and Canadian Touring Companies of Five Guys Named Moe (Little). Regional credits include: Once On This Island (Papa Ge), Toys in the Attic (Gus), Ain't Misbehavin (Andre), The Zoo Story (Peter), A Chorus Line (Mike & Bobby), Cabaret (Kit Kat Girl), West Side Story (Luis), Dutchman (Clay), Jesus Christ Superstar (Judas), Hair (Tribe Member), Smokey Joe's Café.

Dennis is an accomplished choreographer, having staged productions of Sophisticated Ladies, Ragtime, The Wiz, Cabaret, West Side Story, The King and I, Smokey Joe's Café and Jesus Christ Superstar.

In 2005, Dennis founded a theatrical

production company... Dendewil Productions. Dennis also humbly adds the title of author to his credits having written and self-published three books, My Void My Voice (Poetry 2012), Eros Dennis (Poetry 2013), Morning Coffee Thoughts (Positive Affirmations 2016). Most recently Dennis wrote, produced and directed his first web series. The Therapist, which had its premiere in October 2021. Dennis currently resides in Niagara Falls and teaches theatre at Niagara Falls High School.





### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Good evening everyone,

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once said "Music is the universal language of mankind." No truer words were ever spoken. Music and lyrics enters our souls and changes us. We listen when we're happy, when we're sad, when we're lonely... and on and on.

In creating this very special show...An Evening of Stephen Sondheim, we have two goals in mind. The first goal is to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of the great Stephen Sondheim who for years has written some of the most beautiful songs we've ever heard. The second goal is take you on a journey of laughter, love and memories. I am so very proud of this production and of our talented students who you'll see on the stage tonight. Performing the songs of Mr. Sondheim is no easy task and these students perform effortlessly. With each production from the Niagara Proscenium Players of Niagara Falls High School, I am continuously amazed at how truly amazing the performers and crew are. What I love most about this show is that it is completely tailored to the student performer's specific and unique talents. Sadly, we lost Stephen Sondheim on November 26, 2021. He was inarguably one of, if not, the most important American Composers and Lyricists in 20th century musical theatre. We are so very proud to pay tribute to this great man and the incredible body of work he has left us.

An Evening of Stephen Sondheim is a show that was created by myself and the incomparable Tom Vitello. Tom never ceases to amaze me with tireless efforts on our productions. From producing to organizing, printing and recording music, he also handles all of the front of house duties and quite often is my own personal comic relief partner! Sue Marcolini jumped on board to once again give us great choreography and she is always a complete joy to work with! Veronica Schucker as the Vocal Director helped the cast to navigate through extremely difficult music. Christina Custode–Macri brings another level of talent, elegance and style to this show. Rich Meranto (Tech Director), Nick Fagiani (Sound) and Randy Reiker (Lights) are my absolute heros! No matter how odd my visions are for shows they do whatever it takes to make it happen. And a relatively new member of our team is Costumer Danielle DePalma. Danielle creates beautiful looks that only enhances our productions. I cannot begin to tell you what an absolute joy and blessing it is to work with these amazing people.

It is our hope that you will sit back and enjoy the performers, the music, the lyrics and the universal language of mankind.

Thank you, Dennis Wilson

## NIAGARA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT THEATRE HALL OF FAME



2021 INDUCTION CEREMONY Saturday, March 26, 2022

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 THEATRE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Ms. Angela Ruggiero

Mr. Jeffrey Perri

Mrs. Wendy Zito Hayes

### THEATRE HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tom Vitello, Co-Chairperson
Dennis Wilson, Co-Chairperson
Allen Booker
Robert Kazeangin
Susan Marcolini
Richard Meranto
Paul M. Wos

## MEET THE INDUCTEES ANGELA RUGGIERO



Ms. Ruggiero is a retired teacher of the Niagara Falls City School district having taught first grade at 24th Street School, and 2nd grade at Abate Elementary and 79th Street School. From 1983-1993, Ms. Ruggiero was the Assistant Director of the LaSalle Players Drama Club and from 1993-1998, with the retirement of Leon Packman, became the Director of the group.

As assistant director, the LaSalle Senior High School Stage performed: The King and I, Oklahoma!, Oliver, The Pajama Game, Hello, Dolly!, Funny Girl, The Sound of Music, South Pacific, Damn Yankees, Grease, George M, Fiddler on the Roof, Carousel, Arsenic and Old Lace, Charley's Aunt, A View from the Bridge, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Odd Couple, Ten Little Indians, Biloxi Blues, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Not So Grimm Fairy Tales, Charlotte's Web, Steel Magnolias, Tom Sawyer, and Teahouse of the August Moon.

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As director of the LaSalle Players, her shows included, *Nunsense*, Meet Me in St. Louis, Wizard of Oz, Bye Bye Birdie, It's A Grand Night for Singing, James and the Giant Peach, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

In the early 2000's, Ms. Ruggiero signed on as a member of the theatre production staff at Niagara Catholic for several seasons. Performances included *Pippin*, *Evita*, *Steel Magnolia*, *Ten Angry Jurors*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Godspell Grease* and *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Ms. Ruggiero's dedication to teaching and educating her students is evident every time she shares a story about a prior student or performance. Her love for the theater continues today as she watches her former students perform in regional theaters, including the Kavinoky Theatre, the Irish Classical Theater, the Lancaster Opera House and Shea's Performing Arts Center.

Ms. Ruggiero's passion & devotion for education and theater will forever serve as an inspiration to all those whose lives she has touched.



### **MEET THE INDUCTEES**

### **JEFFREY PERRI**



After graduating Niagara Falls High School, Jeff obtained his Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from PACE University in lower Manhattan, NY. There he quickly became integrated into the NYC Theatre scene. At PACE he was seen in various main stage productions in a lot of character roles, where his forte lies. He was seen in musicals such as Cabaret, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and Kiss Me, Kate, to name a few favorites.

Post graduating, Jeff found himself not only immersed in performing in regional and Off-Broadway productions but also continued his scenic design interest which he gained while in High School. Through there he was mentored by Broadway scenic designer, Anna Louizos, and worked on multiple Broadway and Off-Broadway productions as a Design Assistant (Baby it's You, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Rodger and Hammerstein's Cinderella, The Performers, Son's of the Prophet, Aladdin at 5th Avenue Theatre). There Jeff began his own scenic design venture and has designed over 20 productions nationwide,

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including Always, Patsy Cline at famed Bucks County Playhouse with Sally Struthers.

Being an artist, having multiple outlets is a must and Jeff found his career growing into many directions and soon found himself working in the fast paced industry of Broadway advertising as a creative marketer for over 6 years. There he worked on over 30 Broadway and Off-Broadway productions including multiple Tony Award winning shows (highlights include: Kinky Boots, A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder, The Ferryman, Curious Incident...Dog in the Night-Time, Sweat, Pretty Woman, Rocky, Cats, Little Shop of Horrors).

During the 2020 election, Jeff served as the Associate Marketing Director for Broadway for Biden, a grass-roots group of Broadway professionals dedicated to change and getting Biden elected as president.

Currently, Jeff is the Marketing Director for renowned Tony Award winning theatre company, Deaf West Theatre, there he combines his vast career in the performing arts and advertising into creating valuable change by bridging the Deaf and hearing worlds in arts entertainment. Being a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) himself, it's the perfect combination of his multiple passions and creates the difference we need in the arts industry. For more, visit JeffreyPerri.com.

With the support and guidance of some incredible mentors and teachers, Jeff is the individual he is today. Arts Education is one of the most valuable tools that molded his successes and there is nothing more meaningful than the people who shape it - he dedicates much of his love and learnings to Mrs. Kate Muldoon, who forever believed and encouraged him throughout High School and after, becoming his closest mentor and close friend. "The noblest form of art is that of making others happy." - PT Barnum

### MEET THE INDUCTEES

### **WENDY ZITO HAYES**



Intelligence, talent, passion, drive, success, generosity, loving, inspirational and motivational. These are the qualities that a Niagara Falls City School District Theatre Hall of Fame Honoree possess. These are the qualities that Wendy Lynn Zito – Hayes had. Wendy is a graduate of LaSalle Senior High School Class of 1985. While in high school, she was cast as Irene Malloy in Hello Dolly, Babe in The Pajama Game. She performed in several One Act Plays during this time as well.

She attended Niagara University where she received a B.A. in Theatre Arts. Her career in the entertainment industry included theatre and television. She was a noted actress, dancer, singer, choreographer, director and producer. Some of her most notable works are as Sally Bowles in Cabaret, Brooke in Noises Off, Rosalia in West Side Story and Lula in Dutchman. While in college, she was also a member of ART a children's theatre troop at Artpark. She was involved in several

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local and regional productions both here in the U.S. and Canada. Wendy performed nationally and internationally as a featured singer/dancer in The Vegas Show. She founded a theatrical production company, Zito Productions under which she produced, directed, choreographed and starred in an original musical revue titled 1944. Under her production company she was able to bring performers from all different backgrounds and cultures together to celebrate a universal passion for live theatre. In 1996, Wendy landed a role as a guest star on the tv series Kung Fu: The Legend Continues. Her career took her on a journey that spanned New York City, Toronto and Los Angeles and beyond. Wendy loved all things arts related and worked hard to provide live entertainment to the city of Niagara Falls as well as other regions.

Wendy was a beautiful woman with an extremely kind, warm and gentle spirit. Anyone who was ever in her presence felt loved and appreciated. She was a great humanitarian. Donating time, money, love and care to those in need. She spoke up for and fought for the rights of those who could not fight for themselves.

Her most prized and cherished accomplishment was her family. Mother to three beautiful daughters Savannah, Juliet and Aubrey, Wife to Jason, sister of Pete Jr. daughter of Iris and Pete Sr.

Sadly, Wendy passed away on March 13, 2009. Wendy's legacy lives on through all of us who knew and loved her and that her life and accomplishments are honored and celebrated by the current students of the Niagara Falls City School District.



## MISSION OF THE NIAGARA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT THEATRE HALL OF FAME

The mission of the Niagara Falls City School District Theatre Hall of Fame is to recognize theatre alumni and theatre department professionals of the school district for their outstanding contributions to the theatre department and their work in theatre beyond their tenure in the school district.

Each year, the Hall of Fame Committee will select future nominees each year. Alumni and department professionals are nominated by submission of an official nomination form. On the following page, the criterion for nomination eligibility are listed. Recipients will receive an award at each year's induction ceremony and their names will be permanently displayed at Niagara Falls High School. The display is forthcoming and is currently in the design phase.

Click here to submit a nomination to the NFCSD Theatre Hall of Fame

### NFCSD THEATRE HALL OF FAME NOMINATION CRITERION

- 1. Nominee is a former theatre department alumnus
  - Nominee was active in the theatre department production as an actor, stage crew/technical crew member or pit orchestra member.
  - Nominee exhibited outstanding qualities not limited to talent that makes him/her worthy of nomination.
  - Nominee was a student in the theatre programs in the high schools that make up the NFCSD but is not necessarily a graduate of the NFCSD.
- 2. Nominee is a current or past theatre department production staff member.
  - Nominee was active as a production staff member including but not limited to director, producer, assistant director, choreographer, costume director, orchestra director, technical director, artistic director.
  - Nominee exhibited a notable dedication to the department.
  - Nominee does not need to be a graduate of the NFCSD but was employed as a staff member in a school in the NFCSD or was employed as a "subcontracted" staff member for a/some production (s).
- 3. Nominee was an alumnus of the theatre department and is now/was actively working in theatre in a professional/semi-professional capacity
- 4. Award may be granted posthumously.

### Break-a-leg, Sally!



Love,
Grandma,
Aunt Reenie,
Uncle Ron
and Ryan





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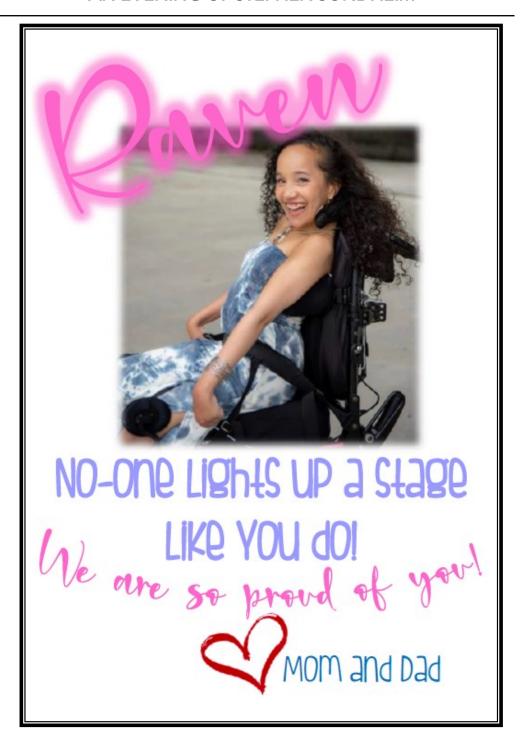
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If you ever have lock or bicycle needs, think of US!

SALLY BREAK-A-LEG! Andy Routhier,
Break-a-leg
and congratulations on your
final senior show! I am
beyond filled with pride with
the man that you've become,
and could not be happier with
all that you have
accomplished. I cannot wait
to see you make the world
outside high school your own!

Love Dad, Casey, & Marshmallow



### Haleigh,

I couldn't be more excited to see you back on stage. You're so full of potential and talent, and I just know you'll excel on any avenue of life you pursue. I love you, and I'm proud to be your father.

Break a leg!

Love Dad, Casey, & Marshmallow

### **BRONZE DATRONS**

- ♦ Andy, Break-your-legs! Brooklyn Hale
- Love you, sister! You are the best! Andrés and Edwin
- Good luck, Madisyn! Blow them away, beautiful! The Diems
- Haleigh and Andy, my beautiful and talented grandchildren, I'm so very proud of you! - Lots of love, Gramma.
- You rock, Julie Doerr! Love, your sis!
- ♦ Congrats, Sally! Love, Syd

#### FRIEND PATRONS

♦ Good luck to everyone! - Andrés Díaz Pedraza

To the cast and crew of

An Evening of Stephen Sondheim,

Fortune favors the bold.

Be strong and confident,

and you'll do great!

Mrs, Schove, Mrs. Bodkin and Mrs. Karski

### **COMING SOON!**

# LOOK FOR THE 2022-2023 NFHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT SHOW SEASON

and

## THE NEW NFHS THEATRE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

Featuring:

- Archival show programs, production photos and show posters.
- Forthcoming student theatre performances and audition information.
- Future alumni productions.
- NFCSD Hall of Fame inductees, biographies, nomination forms, etc.
- and much more!