



THE PONCA  
**PLAYHOUSE™**  
Presents

# *The Sound of Music*

MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS  
LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II  
BOOK BY HOWARD LINDSAY AND RUSSEL CROUSE

DIRECTED BY EDDIE DIXON

**SEPT 10-13 & 17-20. 2020**

**AT THE PONCAN THEATRE**

**LIVESTREAM PERFORMANCE SEPT 19**

CORPORATE SPONSOR



# The Sound of Music

Music by **RICHARD RODGERS**

Lyrics by **OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

Book by **HOWARD LINDSAY**

and **RUSSEL CROUSE**

Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers"

by Maria Augusta Trapp

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals on behalf of the  
Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

This production was made possible in part by a grant from  
the Oklahoma Arts Council

The Ponca Playhouse is thrilled to welcome



and their employees as the exclusive corporate  
sponsors for our production of  
**The Sound of Music!**

# **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

It has been my privilege to lead this production of *The Sound of Music* with the Ponca Playhouse. As a high school band student, this was the first musical I was asked to participate in as a trombone player in the pit orchestra. This production is a wonderful mix of nostalgia and getting to see this iconic piece of theatre through the eyes of kids who have never seen it before. The pandemic did not always make this easy. We got the word that we were moving to the Poncan Theatre just as we finished blocking the show in the Ponca Playhouse. I wish you could have seen it in that space! Here, you the audience can be more comfortable with the ability to distance and spread out. Thank you for taking the chance to be here. My eternal gratitude to the amazing cast and crew for following all the precautions and being wonderful in every way during stressful and uncomfortable rehearsals with facemasks and distancing. Art will get us through this! Thank you for your support.

*- Eddie Dixon*

## **OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Cherokee Strip Credit Union and Employees

MakeKings Signs - Justin Schacknies

Lottie McVay

Jes Photography

Carriage House Cleaners

Southwestern College - Allyson Moon

Northern Oklahoma College

Sean Rethmeier Photography

# CAST OF CHARACTERS:

MARIA RAINER .....	Kyla Radaker-James
SISTER BERTHE.....	Carli Pendleton
SISTER MARGARETTA .....	Mallory Kyler
MOTHER ABBESS .....	Suzi Lenhart
SISTER SOPHIA .....	Jennifer Heitman
CAPTAIN von TRAPP .....	Chris Schelp
FRANZ.....	Blake Brown
FRAU SCHMIDT.....	Julie Huster
LIESL.....	Kate Branstetter/Jocelyn Kuhlmann
FRIEDRICH.....	Zander Dobbs/Tryston McCarty
LOUISA.....	Faith Ballinger/Lauren Zimmerman
KURT.....	William Kiespert/Levi Dobbs
BRIGITTA.....	Emma Deming/Regan Friess
MARTA.....	Tenley Friess/Mackenzie Kyler
GRETL.....	Gracynn Smykil/Bryten Smykil
ROLF.....	Nathan Anderson/Landon Smykil
ELSA SCHRAEDER.....	Marybeth McCoy
MAX DETWEILER.....	Ryan Brown
HERR ZELLER.....	Jason Kiespert
BARON ELBERFELD.....	Nick Kelly
BARONESS ELBERFELD.....	Jennifer Heitman
FRAU ZELLER.....	Shandi Parent
ADMIRAL von SCHRIEBER.....	Sean Rethmeier
ENSEMBLE.....	Kaden Swords, Yessenia Aguilar, Jennifer Hoak, Addison Kyler, Elizabeth Coffman, Kira Pendleton, Cloey McLaughlin, Addyson Harmon, Jaclyn Heitman, Jericah Wood, Andie Wood, Jaelyn Stolhand

## UNDERSTUDIES:

Andie Wood (BRIGITTA/LOUSIA), Blake Brown (MAX), Carli Pendleton (MARIA),  
Jason Kiespert (CAPTAIN von TRAPP), Jaelyn Stolhand (MARTA/BRIGITTA),  
Jennifer Heitman (MOTHER ABBESS), Kaden Swords (FRANZ),  
Kira Pendleton (SISTER SOPHIA), Mackenzie Kyler (GRETL), Mallory Kyler (ELSA)

# BEHIND THE SCENES:

Producer.....	Chad Anderson
Stage Manager.....	John Kuhlmann
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Austin Hamman
Choreographer.....	Eddie Dixon
Costume Designers.....	Melodie Parman, Kat Long
Costumes.....	Melodie Parman, Kat Long, Sam Stuart
Rehearsal Pianist.....	Connie Van Ausdall
Props Mistress.....	Roseanne Cockriel
Sound Board Operator.....	Austin Hamman
Light Board Operator.....	Austin Nephew
Spot Lights.....	Jillian Boynton, Torynn Smykil, Rachel Friess
Running Crew.....	Tyler Coffman, John Kuhlmann
Set Design.....	John Kuhlmann, Lottie McVay
Set Construction & Painting.....	John Kuhlmann, Elizabeth Wood, Carli Pendleton, Kira Pendleton, Zach Zimmerman, Lauren Zimmerman, Cloey McLaughlin, Ryan Brown, Roseanne Cockriel
Photography.....	Sean Rethmeier Photography
Programs.....	Meghann Borum

# ORCHESTRA:

Orchestra Director.....	Chad Anderson
Keyboard I .....	Connie Van Ausdall
Keyboard II .....	Suzanne Sumpter
Bass .....	Paul Palma
Flute .....	Britany Lawrence
Clarinet I .....	Dineo Heilmann
Clarinet II .....	Jim Parham
Guitar .....	Ryan Taylor
Horn .....	Brandie Choate
Trombone .....	Rhonda Ringer-Riley
Trumpet I .....	Alex Hernandez
Trumpet II .....	Michael Farmer

# MUSICAL SYNOPSIS:

The story takes place in Austria early in 1938

## ACT I

### Scene 1: Nonnberg Abbey

*Preludium*.....The Nuns of Nonnberg Abbey

### Scene 2: A Mountainside near the Abbey

*The Sound of Music*..... Maria

### Scene 3: The Office of the Mother Abbess, the next morning

*Maria*..... Sisters Berthe, Sophia, Margareta and the Mother Abbess

*My Favorite Things*..... Maria and the Mother Abbess

### Scene 4: A Corridor in the Abbey

Reprise: *My Favorite Things*..... Maria

### Scene 5: The Living Room of the von Trapp Villa, that afternoon

*Do-Re-Mi*..... Maria and the von Trapp Children

### Scene 6: Outside the Villa, that evening

*Sixteen Going on Seventeen*..... Rolf and Liesl

### Scene 7: Maria's Bedroom, later that evening

*The Lonely Goatherd*..... Maria and the Children

### Scene 8: A Hallway in the Villa

Reprise: *The Lonely Goatherd*..... Gretl

### Scene 9: The Terrace of the Villa, six weeks later

*How Can Love Survive?*..... Max, Elsa and Captain von Trapp

Reprise: *The Sound of Music*..... The Children, Captain von Trapp and Maria

### Scene 10: A Hallway in the Villa, one week later

### Scene 11: The Living Room, the same evening

*So Long, Farewell*..... The Children

### Scene 12: A Corridor in the Abbey

*Morning Hymn*..... The Nuns

### Scene 13: The Office of the Mother Abbess, three days later

*Climb Ev'ry Mountain*..... The Mother Abbess and the Nuns

INTERMISSION—15 MINUTES

# MUSICAL SYNOPSIS:

## ACT II

### Scene 1: The Terrace, the same day

Reprise: *The Lonely Goatherd*

Max and the Children

Reprise: *My Favorite Things*

The Children and Maria

*No Way to Stop It*

Elsa, Max and Captain von Trapp

*An Ordinary Couple*

Maria and Captain von Trapp

### Scene 2: A Corridor in the Abbey, two weeks later

### Scene 3: The Office of the Mother Abbess, immediately following

*Godeamus Domino*

The Nuns

### Scene 4: A Cloister overlooking the Chapel

Reprise: *Maria*

The Nuns

*Confitemini Domino*

The Nuns

### Scene 5: The Living Room, one month later

Reprise: *Sixteen Going on Seventeen*

Maria and Liesl

### Scene 6: The Concert Hall Stage in Kaltzberg, three days later

Reprise: *Do-Re-Mi*

Maria, Captain von Trapp and the Children

*Edelweiss*

Captain von Trapp, Maria and the Children

Reprise: *So Long, Farewell*

Maria, the Children and Captain von Trapp

### Scene 7: The Garden of the Abbey, that evening

*Finale Ultimo: Climb Ev'ry Mountain*

The Mother Abbess and the Nuns



**CHEERS TO ALL OUR  
PATRONS & VOLUNTEERS!**

**WE COULDN'T DO ALL WE DO  
WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT...**

**HERE'S TO 60 MORE YEARS!**

# MEET THE DIRECTOR:

Dr. Edward Dixon is Director of Bands at Northern Oklahoma College and Instrumental Director of the Roustabouts musical show troupe. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education and a Master of Music degree in Music Performance from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee, and is completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education from Boston University. Currently he is the NOC Tonkawa Faculty Association President. In 2013 he received a NISOD Excellence Award. His college awards include Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's "Sinfonian of the Year."

Awards as a music educator in the marching band arena include Sweepstakes Champions, Bands of America Regional Champion and the Tennessee Division II State Championship. In 2004, he marched with the Division II and Class A World Champion Southwind Drum and Bugle Corps based in Lexington, Kentucky. He has acted in Regional Actors Community Theatre (ReACT) productions, including singing the dual title role in *Jekyll & Hyde-The Musical*. His directing credits include *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein*, *The Last 5 Years* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and many productions as director of the Evans' Children's Academy of Performing Arts.



## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Kyla Radaker-James (Maria Rainer):** Kyla is performing for the first time with the Ponca Playhouse but joined us as an Assistant Stage Manager for this summer's One Act plays. Her most recent appearance onstage was in *Willy Wonka* with Evans' Children's Academy of Performing Arts. Other appearances include *The Chalk Garden* (Laurel) at Friends University, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Lucy) at Theatre Bartlesville. She and husband Christopher moved to Ponca from Branson, MO about a year ago, where they had both worked for Sight & Sound Theatres for the past three years. Ms. Radaker-James says she can solve a Rubix cube in about two minutes. Kyla says "I would like to thank my Lord and Savior and the Ponca Playhouse for this incredible opportunity." She would also like to thank the cast for making this such a wonderful, unforgettable experience "You've brought music back into my home."



**Carli Pendleton (Sister Berthe/understudy for Maria):** Carli was most recently seen at the Playhouse in our Summer One Act Plays and in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Other recent appearances include *All Shook Up* (Lorraine) and *Next to Normal* at Northern Oklahoma College as well as *The Little Mermaid*, (Scuttle), *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette) and *The Wizard of Oz*, (Scarecrow), all with Evans' Children's Academy. Carli is a sophomore at NOC and the reigning Miss NOC Tonkawa. "I would like to thank all my family and friends for the constant love and support, and God for all His blessings."



**Mallory Kyler (Sister Margaretta/understudy for Elsa):** Though this is her first Playhouse show, Mallory was most recently seen in *Frozen, Jr.* and *What Christmas Means to Me* at the Poncan Theatre. Other appearances include *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Schroeder) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle's understudy), both with Evans' Children's Theatre. Mallory was raised in Ponca City and says she enjoys singing songs "way out of my range" in her free time, and that stage whispering is very hard. She would like to thank her family for supporting her new-found love of theatre. "I'd also like to thank my former voice teacher, Leslie Rardin, for teaching me the music in this show years ago. I dedicate my performance to her."



**Suzi Lenhart (Mother Abbess):** Miss Suzi was last seen on the Playhouse stage in *High Society*. Other Playhouse appearances include *Bonnie & Clyde* (Cumie Barrow), *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (Mrs. Spoford), *The Music Man* (Pick-a-Little Lady), *Li'l Abner* (Dogpatch Wife), *Fiddler On the Roof* (Grandma Tzeitel) and in the 2002 production of *The Sound of Music...* also as a nun!

She says playing the part of Mother Abbess has been the most challenging role she has attempted. Suzi thanks Chad and Eddie for having the confidence in her to take on the part and Kyla Radaker-James for being such fun to work with.



**Jennifer Heitman (Sister Sophia/Baroness Elberfeld/understudy for Mother Abbess):** Jennifer returns to the Ponca Playhouse after last appearing in *The Heiress* several seasons ago, and we welcome her back! Other appearances include *Murder, Mayhem and Movie Stars* (Mitzy) with Woodward Arts and Theater Council. She says this show is way outside her comfort zone... she's never done a musical before! "Thank you to my husband and daughters for sharing me with the theater!"



**Chris Schelp (Captain von Trapp):** Chris is a Playhouse regular, most recently seen just last March in our unfortunately shortened run of *Bell, Book and Candle*. Other Playhouse appearances include *Proof*, *The 39 Steps*, *Lend Me a Tenor* (Max), and *The Music Man* (Professor Harold Hill). Chris was born and raised in Prairietown, IL, which he says is exactly as big as it sounds.

"Thanks to my beloved and incredibly patient ladies: Katie, Joy, and Lydia."



**Blake Brown (Franz/understudy for Max):** No stranger to the Playhouse stage, Blake most recently appeared on our stage in *Fools*. Previous Playhouse appearances also include: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The 39 Steps*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Cocktails With Mimi*, *August: Osage County*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *The Broken Statue*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. He also appeared as Vinnie D.



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Ruzzio in *Lucky Stiff* at NOC. "I would like to thank my family for their support. I would also like to say I am happy to be back with the Playhouse!"



**Julie Huster (Frau Schmidt/Nun):** Julie was last seen on the Playhouse stage as Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a role which she says ties this one as a favorite because she loves portraying strong women. A proud Army brat, Julie grew up in Germany and says *The Sound of Music* has made her a little homesick for that part of the world! "I love people who make me laugh. I honestly think it's the thing I like most, to laugh." Julie sends a huge thank you to her family for their support and to Eddie for "giving this old gal a chance!"



**Kate Branstetter (Liesl/Nun):** Kate last appeared with the Playhouse as Young Lydie in our 2013 production of *The Broken Statue*, as well as in 2011's *The Music Man*. She can frequently be found singing and dancing in productions for Evans' Children's Theatre, such as her recent appearance in *Frozen, Jr.* as Oaken. Other favorite roles include *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) and *Oliver!* (Artful Dodger), both at the Poncan. Kate is a sophomore at Ponca City High School and involved in Student Council and Chorale. She is also a Po Ho-Stepper so she says marching to a whistle feels oddly familiar! The sixth of seven siblings, she says she has cherished the opportunity to be the "big sister" for a change! "I'd like to thank Eddie Dixon, Miss Suzi, and Mrs. Wimberley for igniting my love for music and singing. Thank you to my Branstetter Family Singers for supporting and most importantly to Jesus for all he provides for me." Follow Kate on Instagram @kate.branstetter.

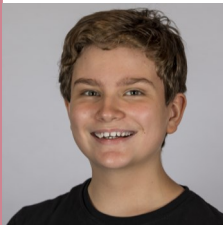


**Jocelyn Kuhlmann (Liesl/Nun):** Jocelyn is a frequent performer with Evans' Children's Theatre, most recently seen in *Annie* (Lily), *Oliver!* (Artful Dodger), *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow), and in the Evans' sing-along show. She says *The Sound of Music* has been an experience at the Playhouse and one she will never forget, especially working with Kyla and

Chris, who gave her support onstage and off. "I'm always thankful for my parents' love and support and very thankful for Eddie Dixon for giving me this wonderful opportunity to play such a special role."



**Zander Dobbs (Friedrich):** Zander recently appeared in the PoHi production of *Treasure Island* (a mix-up, he says, since he is home-schooled!) and has also appeared in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Born in Kansas, Zander says he loves playing guitar, singing, photography, studying anatomy, and acting. Zander says, "You have to fight for your dream, sacrifice, and work hard for it." He sends special thanks to John, Eddie, and Chad for making this show possible.



**Tryston McCarty (Friedrich):** A newcomer to the Playhouse, Tryston was last seen in the Evans' Sing Along at the Ponca Theatre this summer. Other appearances include *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Linus) and *Elf, The Musical, Jr.* (Mr. Greenway), both at the Poncan Theatre. Tryston was born in White Sulphur Springs, MT, and later moved to Ponca City. He

enjoys programming as a hobby and "just generally messing with computers." He says he particularly enjoys the Party and Concert scenes in this show. "Good Afternoon. Miss Hanigan, is it?"



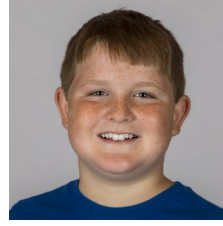
**Faith Ballinger (Louisa):** Another Playhouse newcomer, Faith recently appeared in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* as Sally, with Evans' Children's Theatre. Other appearances include *Annie* (Bert Healy), *The Lion King* (Timon), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), and *Oliver!* (Dipper), all with Evans' Children's Theatre. She enjoys studying dance, hiking, and mountain biking, and says she has learned the value of strong teamwork throughout this production of *The Sound of Music*. "I am grateful to have been cast in this play and appreciate getting to try something new."



**Lauren Zimmerman (Louisa):** Lauren is making her Playhouse debut, but is no stranger to the stage, having performed with Evans' Children's Theatre and others in Ponca City and Branson, MO. Recent Evans' appearances include *Annie* (Annette) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Silly Girl). She says Louisa is her favorite role to date. Lauren can be seen opening for the Hughes Brothers in Branson, and offstage enjoys spending time with family and friends. "Thank you to the Ponca Playhouse for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to many more shows!"



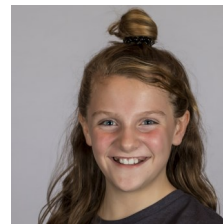
**William Kiespert (Kurt):** William, like his father, here makes his Ponca Playhouse debut. He was last seen onstage at the Poncan as Augustus in *Willy Wonka* with Evans' Children's Academy Theatre. William is a student at Frontier Elementary. He thanks his family for their love and support.



**Levi Dobbs (Kurt):** Levi is making his debut performance, both onstage and with the Ponca Playhouse! He says he loves to find snakes and bullfrogs in ponds. Other hobbies include pestering his three brothers, learning to play guitar, taking care of his chickens and playing card games. He would like to thank Eddie, Chad and John for this opportunity and their help, and sends love to his pet Gus. "I'm thankful for this opportunity to work hard and perform with a group of great people!"



**Emma Deming (Brigitta):** Emma is appearing for the first time with Ponca Playhouse but has previously appeared as the title role in *Annie* and in *Beauty and the Beast* (LeFou) with Evans' Children's Academy. She has two dogs named Dally & Axel. "I have enjoyed the experience of working with the people at the Playhouse." Emma would like to share her favorite quote, by Mother Teresa: "We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."



**Regan Friess (Brigitta):** Regan is no stranger to the Poncan Theatre stage, having appeared in *Frozen* (Ensemble/Middle Anna understudy), *Willy Wonka, Kids* (Veruca Salt), and *Annie* (Orphan). She also appeared in the St. Mary's School Production of *Most Epic Birthday Party Ever* (Skylar). Regan enjoys drawing, reading,

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

animating, singing and playing the piano. She has a dog named Okie and her favorite ice cream flavor is Cookies & Cream. "Thank you to my parents for allowing me to be in theatre, and thank you to everyone who made this play possible."



**Tenley Friess (Marta):** Tenley recently appeared in *Frozen* in the Ensemble and as Little Elsa's understudy, and also as Reese in *Most Epic Birthday Party Ever* at St. Mary's school. She plays competitive soccer, and has a bunny named Butterscotch. Tenley says she has learned a lot about singing harmonies in this show and wishes to thank the directors.

"This has been my favorite show!"



**Mackenzie Kyler (Marta/understudy for Gretl):** A newcomer to the Playhouse, Mackenzie last appeared as Little Anna in *Frozen, Jr.* with Evans' Children's Academy. Other Evans' appearances include *Annie, Jr.* (Molly) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Chip). When not onstage Mackenzie says she enjoys soccer, playing piano, and gymnastics.



**Gracynn Smykil (Gretl):** Gracynn is super excited to appear in her first full-length show! You may have previously seen her in the Evans' Children's Academy Sing-Along on Facebook Live. Always having fun, "Gracy" loves to smile and play on her tablet. She wants to thank Eddie for FINALLY letting her join the rest of her brothers and sisters in getting to be an official theatre kid. "I love you Mommy and Daddy and my whole family!"



**Bryten Smykil (Gretl):** Bryten is excited to be in her first production with Ponca Playhouse. Most recently seen in the Ensemble of *Frozen, Jr.* with Evans' Children's Academy, she says her favorite role was as an orphan in *Annie, Jr.* here at the Poncan. Bryten is a huge animal lover; her family includes two dogs, two cats, two parakeets and a fish named Kyle! She

wants to thank her Mommy and Daddy for letting her perform, and her big brother Landon for always letting her tag along.



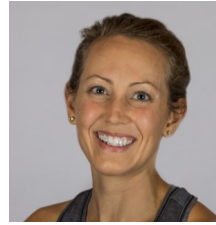
**Landon Smykil (Rolf):** Landon is appearing for the first time as part of a Playhouse production but has played several roles with Evans' Children's Theatre, including as a part of their recent variety show. Appearances include: *The Lion King* (Simba), *Frozen* (Kristoff), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), and *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks). Born in Fort Collins, CO, Landon

likes to sleep and draw in his free time. He says he learned a lot about blocking a show in the round vs. proscenium theatre through this process. "Thank you to my parents for always supporting me in theater and thank you to my best friend Mallory Kyler for sticking by my side."



**Nathan Anderson (Rolf):** This is Nathan's first appearance for Ponca Playhouse but he has appeared in several NOC and Evans' Children's Academy productions, most recently as Gaston in *Beauty and The Beast*. Other appearances include *Freaky Friday* (Adam, at NOC) and *Guys and Dolls* (Sky Masterson). A senior at Tonkawa High School, Nathan plays football

and basketball, runs track and also plays in the band.



**Marybeth McCoy (Elsa Schraeder/Nun):**

Marybeth is making her stage debut as Elsa Schraeder! When she's not at rehearsal she is either spending time with her family, running, or reading. The McCoy family enjoys travelling and adventuring together, spending as much time as possible in the great outdoors. About this role Marybeth says, "Elsa has been such a fun character to get to know and develop. She may be an antagonist in this story, but she's certainly not a villain... She's classy and remains true to herself. You almost can't help but relate to her on some level." She would like to thank Eddie and Chad for their kind, skilled and patient direction, friend Jennie for her enthusiastic support, her kids for daring her to audition, and most importantly her amazing husband for encouraging her through the process and tolerating the time away. "Enjoy the show. Auf Wiedersehen!"



**Ryan Brown (Max Detweiler):**

Ryan is a veteran of the Ponca Playhouse, with appearances including *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour Krelborn), *The Diviners* (Buddy Layman), *Young Frankenstein* (Igor) and most recently *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Freddy Benson). Some of Ryan's other experience includes Marcellus Washburn, Beadle Bamford,

and Herr Schultz, (all at CLOC), Uncle Fester and Toad at NOC, and Amos Hart and Sancho Panza at UCO. Ryan is also looking forward to directing *Man of La Mancha* later this season! He would like to thank Eddie for yet another opportunity to work with him on his hometown stage and his family for their unwavering support!



**Jason Kiespert (Herr Zeller/understudy for Captain von Trapp):**

A newcomer to the Playhouse, Jason most recently appeared in *Tosca* with the Painted Sky Opera. Other appearances include Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Jenik in *The Bartered Bride*. Jason says he is very excited to appear in the same show with his son, William, for the first

time, and wants to thank his wife for working so hard to care for their family while he has worked on this show.



**Nick Kelly (Baron Elberfeld):**

No stranger to the stage, Nick says he is thrilled to do his first Playhouse production with such an amazing group of people. He was last seen onstage in the Evans' Summer Variety Show and is particularly looking forward to playing Babkak in the upcoming Evans' production of *Aladdin, Jr.* He says he relishes the opportunity to argue in the

Party scene of *The Sound of Music* and would like to thank Director Eddie Dixon for letting him be a part of this show. "No matter what role I get or job I have to do during the show, it's always fun to be in and I couldn't be more grateful."

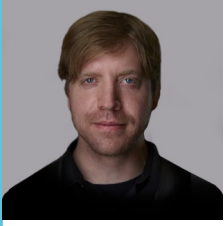


**Shandi Parent (Frau Zeller/Nun):**

Shandi has appeared in several Playhouse productions, including most recently in *August: Osage County* (Ivy) and *Medea* (Chorus) in the Summer One Acts. She says Ivy was her favorite role for the deep, complex character and the wonderful cast she had to work with! Shandi is a mother, girlfriend, realtor, dancer, singer, and crochet-er who loves to be onstage. She says *The Sound of Music*

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

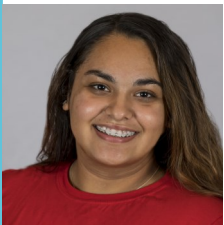
is a particular treat to perform in since it has been a favorite of hers since childhood. "Thank you to all who have helped me to live out my passion of being onstage, from watching kids during rehearsals to my boyfriend, who always encourages me to go for it!"



**Sean Rethmeier (Admiral von Schriever):** Sean last appeared on our stage as Edward Ferrars in last season's *Sense & Sensibility*. Other Playhouse appearances include *The Crucible*, *All My Sons* and *Li'l Abner*, as well as regional appearances in *White Christmas*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night*. Sean is a native of Winfield, KS and a man of many talents. He enjoys contra dancing, riding and fixing motorcycles, runs his own photography business, and is also currently fixing up an old Bed and Breakfast.



**Kaden Swords (Ensemble/understudy for Franz):** Kaden is a newcomer to the Playhouse, last appearing in *What Christmas Means to Me* at the Poncan Theater. Other appearances include the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* and the Ensemble in *Oliver!*, both with Evans' Children's Academy. Kaden is 16 and a junior at Ponca City High School, involved in Wrestling and singing with the PoHi Chorale. "I'd like to thank my family. I love them... they're pretty great!"



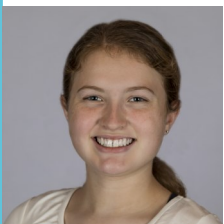
**Yessenia Aguilar (Ensemble/Nun):** This is Yessenia's debut theatre performance, but she has been dancing with Inciardi School of Dance since the age of 3. A full-time student at Ponca City High School, Yessenia is involved in DECA, Student Council, and hi-stepping. "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to strengthen my knowledge of theatre and singing while creating great memories and friendships!"



**Jennifer Hoak (Ensemble/Nun):** Jennifer says this is her first time performing at the Poncan Theatre! She last appeared in *9 to 5, The Musical* with Ponca Playhouse in 2017. "Thank you to my husband, Stephen, for letting me try another musical with the evening time commitment, and a big shout out to Jennifer Heitman for reminding me it was the last day to audition and for submitting my video to Eddie!"



**Addison Kyler (Ensemble/Nun/Maid):** Another Playhouse newcomer, Addison was last seen onstage as Bulda in *Frozen, Jr.* for Evans' Children's Academy. Other Evans' appearances include *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy) and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy). Addison says she loves singing and theatre, and in her spare time likes to hang out with her dogs Teddy and Bandit. "Thanks for coming to the show!"



**Elizabeth Coffman (Ensemble/Nun):** Elizabeth previously appeared at the Playhouse as one of the fairies in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has also appeared in *The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast* (Silly Girl), both with Evans' Children's Theatre. She says she adores *Six: The Musical*, Diet Pepsi, and anything sweet

and describes herself as an "overly energetic and self-confident Type 1 Diabetic, so I love insulin also!" Elizabeth would like to thank her third grade teacher, Lindsey Brandon, who first encouraged her to act, her mom, who always supports her, and Eddie, for "getting us back into the theater."



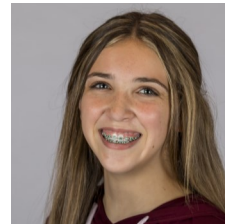
**Kira Lyn Pendleton (Ensemble/Nun/Maid/understudy for Sister Sophia):** Kira is new to the Playhouse but has performed in several Evans' Children's Academy shows, including as Anna in *Frozen, Jr.* and Belle in *Beauty and The Beast*. She says she is glad to be a part of *The Sound of Music* because she grew up watching it with her family. "I want to thank my family for always being so supportive, Eddie Dixon for giving me this opportunity, the cast for being kind and welcoming, and most importantly God, for giving me the gift of making people smile!"



**Cloey McLaughlin (Ensemble/Nun/Maid):** Cloey is new to the Playhouse as well but was recently seen in *Frozen, Jr.* with Evans' Children's Theatre, right here at the Poncan! She also appeared as the understudy for Babette in *Beauty and the Beast*, which she says was a favorite role. Cloey was born in Gainesville, Florida and has visited 18 of the 50 states.



**Addyson Harmon (Ensemble/Nun):** Addyson is another Playhouse newcomer. She last appeared in *Annie, Jr.* (Duffy) and *Frozen* (Bulda understudy) with Evans' Children's Academy. Addyson was born in Olathe, KS and loves to write in her spare time. "Thanks to my parents and brother for always being my biggest supporters!"



**Jaclyn Heitman (Ensemble/Nun/Maid):** Jaclyn is a newcomer to the Ponca Playhouse and was last seen onstage in *Frozen, Jr.* with Evans' Children's Academy of Performing Arts at the Poncan Theatre. She would like to give a shout out to her dog, Jersey.



**Jericah Wood (Ensemble/Nun/Postulant):** Jericah is appearing for the first time with Ponca Playhouse after several shows with Children's Musical Theatre of Bartlesville including *Moana* (Sina), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Maxine), and *Annie* (Orphan and understudy for Molly). Jericah is a student at Newkirk Middle School and loves mint chocolate chip ice cream, carpool karaoke with her friends, and the city of Tulsa, OK. "Thank you Mom and Dad for letting me have this amazing experience, and thanks to our awesome staff who made this show possible. Auf Wiedersehen!"



**Andie Wood (Ensemble/understudy for Brigitta/Louisa):** This is Andie's first performance with the Ponca Playhouse, but she is a 10 show veteran of the stage! She last appeared as Duchess in *The Aristocats, Jr.* for Evans' Children's Academy. Other appearances include *Annie* (July), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Flower Vase), both with Evans'. Andie loves

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES

to travel the world with her family. Her most recent adventures took her to New York City, Pune, India, and Frankfurt, Germany.



**Jaelyn Stolhand (Ensemble/understudy for Marta/Brigitta):** Jaelyn has been in several Ponca Playhouse productions, beginning with *Hide and Seek* when she was just 5 years old. Most recently she appeared in *What Christmas Means to Me* with Evans' Children's Academy as the twin version of herself. Her favorite role was as Tessie in *Annie, Jr.* where she had a solo in "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile." Jaelyn plays the ukulele and has a new corgi puppy named Nymeria. "Thank you to my family for supporting my love of theatre. Break a leg, everyone!"



**Connie Van Ausdall (Accompanist):** Connie has been a friend and advocate for the Ponca Playhouse for many years, as well as a highly valued volunteer, both as a member and a musician. She enjoys working on musicals when she takes a break from being a "Dog Mom." Recently retired from St. Mary's Church after 28 years, she now has more time for musicals, dogs and working at NOC!



**Chad Anderson (Music Director):** Chad is in his fifth year as NOC's Director of Musical Theatre and has performed, taught and directed since 2000. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Music from Oklahoma Christian University, a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Oklahoma City University, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre/ Directing from the University of Oklahoma. Chad has directed shows at several Oklahoma venues, including Sooner Theatre, Oklahoma City Theatre Company, Giving Tree Theatre, and Oklahoma Christian University. He has directed several shows during his time at NOC, including *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *The Wedding Singer*, *The Addams Family*, *Carrie*, *Shrek*, and *Freaky Friday*, and in 2017 he directed *Bonnie & Clyde* at the Ponca Playhouse. He is a member of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Pops Chorale and a frequent performer with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, performing roles in shows such as *Footloose*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Tarzan*, *Les Miserables*, *Big Fish*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and this summer's *Titanic*. Chad lives in Ponca City with his wife, Stefanie, and their three children, Nathan, Sam and Chloe.

## AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENT

MONDAY & TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2020  
7:00 PM AT THE PONCA PLAYHOUSE

John Steinbeck's

## OF MICE AND MEN

Directed by Sam Stuart

Production Dates: November  
13-15 & 20-22, 2020

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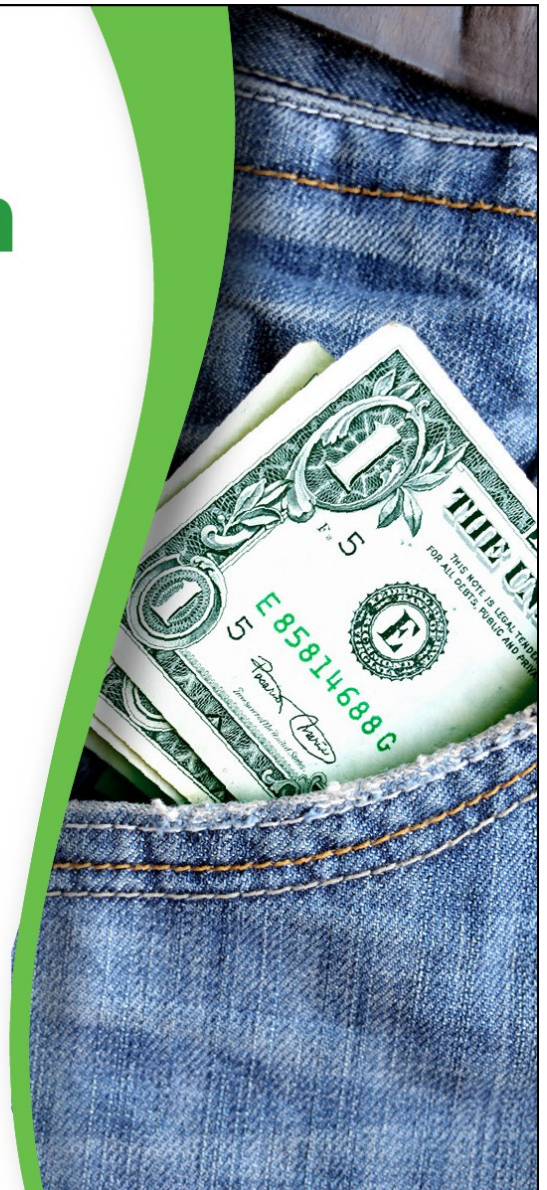
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SEPT 10-13 & 17-20, 2020

John Steinbeck's

**Of Mice and Men**

NOV 13-15 & 20-22, 2020

**62<sup>nd</sup> Season**

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JAN 15-17 & 22-24, 2021

**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT  
OF THE DOG IN THE  
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MAY 14-16 & 20-23, 2021