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## NEXT TO NORMAL



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**DIANA**

**\*ASHLEY RAMSEY**

**JACOB ERICKSEN**

**GABE**

**DEREK MARSDEN**

**NATHAN SACHS**

**DAN**

**JARED DALEY**

**HEATHER JACKSON**

**NATALIE**

**MICHELLE HICKMAN**

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# ON PITCH PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS:

# NEXT TO

Music by:  
*Tom Kitt*

Book & Lyrics By:  
*Brian Yorkey*

# NORMAL

*Original Broadway Production Produced by David Stone,  
James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo and Second Stage Theatre*

*Orchestrations by Michael Starobin and Tom Kitt  
Vocal Arrangements by Ann Marie Milazzo*

*New York Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, February 2008  
Carole Rothman, Artistic Director Ellen Richard, Executive Director  
'Next To Normal' was subsequently produced by Arena Stage in November 2008.*

*Developed at Village Theatre, Issaquah, WA (Robb Hunt, Executive Producer, Steve Tomkins,  
Artistic Director).*

*An earlier version was presented in the 2005 New York Musical Theatre Festival.  
Support for the development of "Next To Normal" was provided by the Jonathan Larson Foundation.*

## Direction

*Todd Taylor*

Directing Mentor:

*Jamie Allen*

Light Design

*Kace Bartholme*

Sound Board

*Ace Beus  
Braylee Beus*

Stage Manager

*Becky Bratt*

Costume Design

*Kennedy Miller*

Set Design & Paint/build

*Heather Poulsen*

Music Direction by:

*Quesley Soto*

Props Design

*Chip Castleton*

Sound Design

*Kennedy Miller*

## OPPA! STAFF

Executive Director

*Brandon Stauffer*

Technical Director

*Heather Poulsen*

Admin. Coordinator

*Leslie Barrett*

Production Management

*Kennedy Miller*

Education Director

*Ashley Ramsey*

Costume Shop Manager

*Amanda Larsen*

**Next to Normal is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)  
The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited**

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# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT 1

Prelude Light  
Just Another Day - Diana, Dan, Gabe, Natalie  
Everything Else - Natalie  
Who's Crazy/My Psychopharmacologist and I - Dan, Diana, Dr. Fine  
Perfect for You - Henry, Natalie  
I Miss the Mountains - Diana  
It's Gonna Be Good - Dan, Diana, Gabe, Natalie, Henry  
He's Not Here - Dan  
You Don't Know - Diana  
I Am the One - Dan, Gabe, Diana  
Superboy and the Invisible Girl - Natalie, Gabe, Diana  
I'm Alive - Gabe  
Doctor Rock - Dr. Madden  
Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling - Full Cast  
I Dreamed a Dance - Diana, Gabe  
There's a World - Gabe  
I've Been - Dan, Gabe  
Didn't I See This Movie - Diana  
A Light in the Dark - Dan, Diana

## INTERMISSION

## ACT 2

Wish I Were Here - Diana, Natalie  
Song of Forgetting - Dan, Diana, Natalie  
Hey #1 - Henry, Natalie  
Seconds and Years - Dan, Diana, Dr. Madden  
Better Than Before - Diana, Dan, Natalie, Dr. Madden  
Aftershocks - Gabe  
Hey #2 - Henry, Natalie  
You Don't Know Reprise - Diana, Dr. Madden  
How Could I Ever Forget - Diana, Dan  
It's Gonna Be Good Reprise - Diana, Dan  
Why Stay - Diana, Natalie, Dan, Henry  
A Promise - Dan, Henry, Diana, Natalie  
I'm Alive Reprise - Gabe  
The Break - Diana  
Make Up Your Mind/Catch Me I'm Falling Reprise - Diana, Dr. Madden, Gabe  
Maybe - Diana, Natalie  
Hey #3/Perfect for You Reprise - Henry, Natalie  
So Anyway - Diana  
I Am the One Reprise - Dan, Gabe  
Light - Full Cast



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Welcome to our production of Next to Normal! The cast and crew have worked tirelessly to bring this show to life and to portray each character with the depth and nuance they deserve. I am immensely honored to have the opportunity to work on this show and to collaborate with such an incredible and dedicated cast and crew.

My introduction to Next to Normal came through my niece. While listening to music together, the song "Superboy and the Invisible Girl" from one of her favorite musicals began to play. The style of music and the song itself instantly captivated me, and I became eager to learn more. Upon watching the musical, I was profoundly moved by its story and depth, which made it clear why it ranks among her favorites.

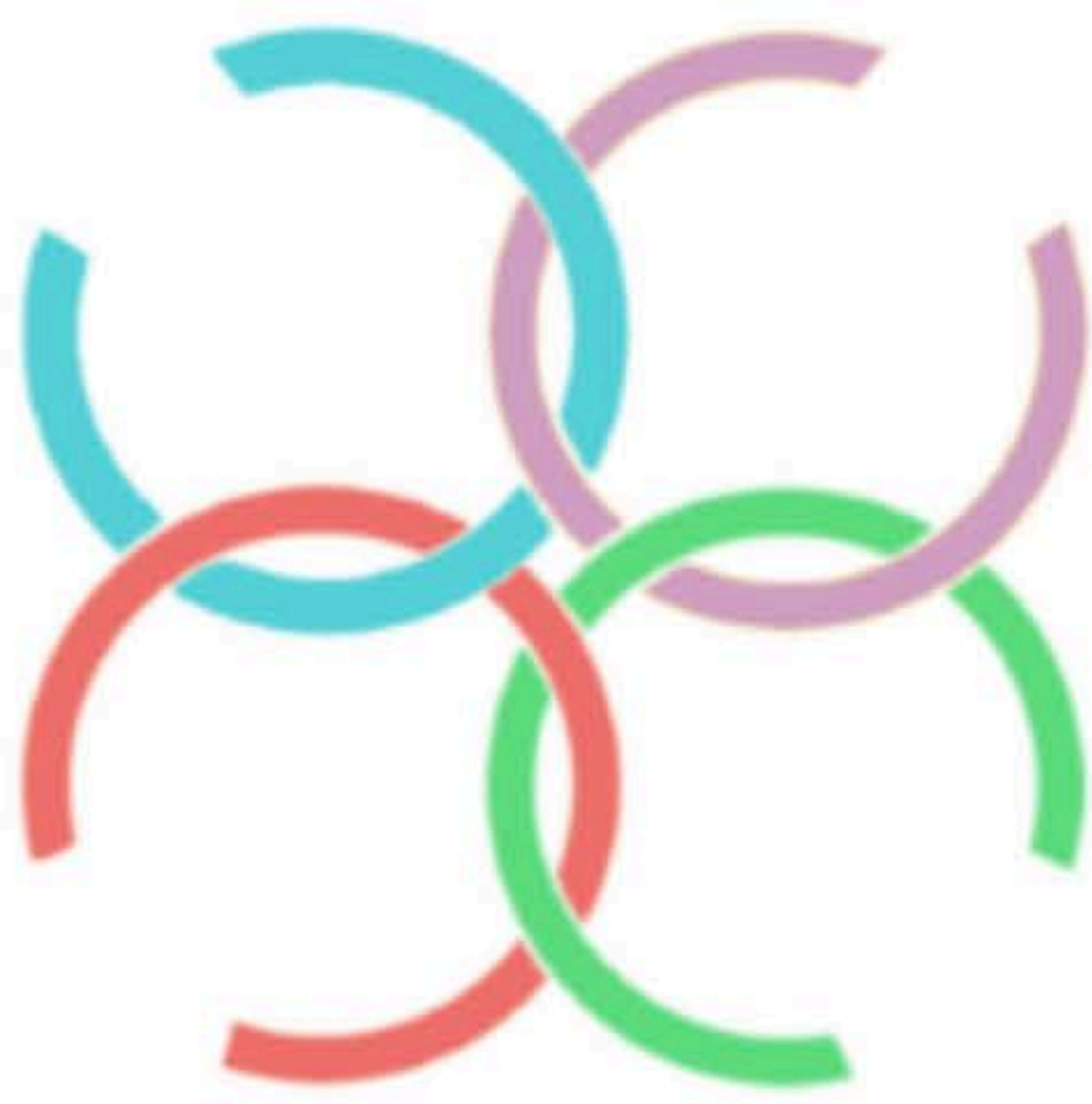
For me, Next to Normal is more than just a show; it is a raw and honest exploration of how mental illness can impact every aspect of our lives. The musical, with its incredible score and thought-provoking story, confronts the struggles of living with bipolar disorder, the impact on family relationships, and the often-overwhelming desire to maintain a façade of normalcy.

Our production aims to honor the heart of this story by focusing on authenticity and empathy. The journey through this musical is both heart-wrenching and inspiring. It challenges us to reconsider our perceptions of mental health and encourages a dialogue about how we support one another through our darkest times. The music, with its intricate melodies and powerful lyrics, serves not only to propel the narrative but also to illuminate the inner lives of the characters, offering a window into their hopes, fears, and moments of clarity.

As you watch this performance, we invite you to reflect on the themes of the show and how they resonate with your own experiences. Our hope is that by sharing this story, we can foster a greater understanding of mental health and a deeper empathy for those who live with its realities.

On behalf of the entire cast and crew, I want to extend our gratitude for your presence at the show and your support of the arts. Thank you for joining us on this journey and allowing us to tell this story!

*-Todd Taylor*



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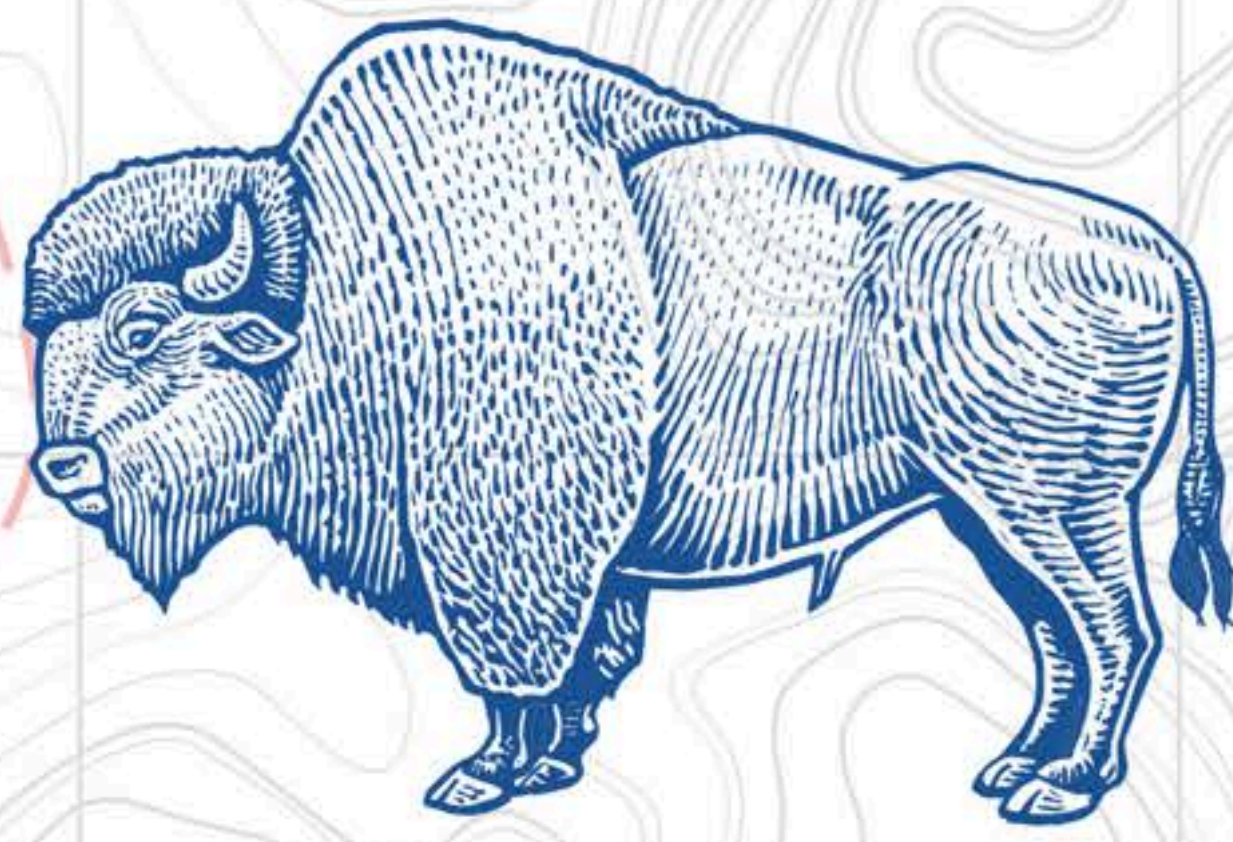


# almost, MAINE



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Creator's Stage **NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 7, 2024**



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Joshua Rice

Kelly Silvester

Leslie Barrett

Mandie Harris

Teresa Howell

Jeff Duncan

## **SUPPORTER:**

Anne Jones

Ashley Ramsey

Terry Davis

Caitlin Olsen

Chelsea Morris

Matt Higgins

Natalee Stuart

Sommer Ellsworth

Tyler Neil

Anonymous

## **ADMIRER:**

Chris & Jen Morgan

## **ENTHUSIAST:**

Rachel Helwig

Dan Tate

Creator Club Members are our most passionate supporters, and their monthly giving ensures that our mission will continue.

The support we receive from the Creators Club allows us to create children's theatre, community theatre, produce new works, and expand the arts in our community.

Select perks may include: Priority performance seating, Exclusive Creator Club events, Advance ticketing opportunities, Autographed cast memorable, gift shop discounts and VIP invitations.

All club members receive complimentary access to select performances of shows in our Creator's Stage series.

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**Thank You is never enough.**

# CAST AND CREW

*Ashley Ramsey*  
*(Diana - Th/S Cast)*



Ashley is honored to be a part of this production here at OPPA! Ashley has been involved in almost every aspect of theatre since doing her first show over 30 years ago. Some of her favorite roles include Ursula (The Little Mermaid), Rosie (Mamma Mia!), Blackstache (Peter and the Starcatcher) and Nurse (Romeo and Juliet).

*Derek Marsden*  
*(Gabe - Th/S Cast)*



Derek was last seen on stage as Joseph in Joseph... Dreamcoat at Centerpoint Theatre. Some other credits of his include Laurie (Little Women, OMT), Frederic (Pirates of Penzance, CPT), and Jack Kelly (Newsies, CPT). Derek is grateful to his wife, Rachel, and daughter, Luna, for their love and support. He could not be more thankful to be part of such an important show. The world is better with you in it. Please remember, you can get help from the National Crisis Hotline by calling 988.

*Heather Ann Jackson*  
*(Natalie - M/F Cast)*



Heather is delighted to be back onstage in OPPA's production of Next to Normal. Favorite past roles include Lucy in Jekyll & Hyde, Babette in Beauty and the Beast, and Jo March in Little Women. When she's not at the theater, Heather moonlights as a high school teacher and new adult author. She wants to thank her friends and family for their support, especially her husband, Philip, and their children.

*Jake Oaklyn*  
*(Dr. Madden - M/F Cast)*



Jake is excited to make his OPPA debut! He has appeared in countless local productions, including School of Rock at Hale Centre Theatre (he also played Theo in Creekside Theatre Festival's production), Legally Blonde at Empress (where he fulfilled his dream of playing Emmett), Elf at Centerpoint, Kinky Boots & Young Frankenstein (both at Ziegfeld/Egyptian, where he played Harry and Victor, respectively), Bright Star & 9 to 5 at Hopebox (where he played Daryl and Dwayne, respectively), and a Christmas Carol at Hale Center Theater Orem. Jake also participates in the annual Original Dickens Carolers of Utah. Thanks to his family and husband for helping to make this a reality. :) Please say hi afterwards!!

*Jared Daley*  
*(Dan - Th/S Cast)*



Jared is excited to take on the role of Dan. He is no stranger to playing comedic roles and this time he gets to play something more serious. This show means so much to so many people, he wants to do it justice. His last role was Quasimodo in Hunchback of Notre Dame and recently directed A Chorus Line and music directed Mary Poppins. Thanks go out to all who love and support Jared.

*Logan Kelley*  
*(Henry - Both Casts)*



Logan is thrilled to be back on stage with OPPA! Favorite credits include Into the Woods (Milky White), Hunchback of Notre Dame (Gargoyle), Tuck Everlasting (Jesse Tuck), Newsies (Jack Kelly), The Lightning Thief (Music Director), and Thick as Thieves (Music Director/Arranger). He is currently a full-time choir teacher at Sky View High School. He is a professional pianist and music director throughout Northern Utah.

*Michelle Hickman*  
*(Natalie - Th/S Cast)*



Michelle is thrilled to be making her debut with OPPA in the role of Natalie in "Next to Normal!" She has previously captivated audiences with her performances as Janet Van De Graff in "The Drowsy Chaperone" and The Cat in the Hat in "Seussical." Michelle is excited to be a part of telling this beautiful show, thanks the talented production team for their incredible work! Michelle thanks her love, Curtis, for his unwavering support!

# CAST AND CREW

*Mindi Hansen*  
*(Diana - M/F Cast)*



Mindi Hansen is excited to be part of her first show with OPPA! Mindi has performed with multiple theaters across the Wasatch Front, including Hale Centre Theatre - Sandy (A Christmas Carol, Phantom), Centerpointe Theater (Sister Act), Sandy Arts (Into the Woods), Ogden Musical Theater (Hunchback), and Ziegfield Theater (Les Mis). By day, Mindi is an Attorney and Mediator with the firm of Hanks & Peterson doing family law and estate planning. She is extremely honored to have the opportunity to be a part of telling this beautiful and important story.

*Nathan Sachs*  
*(Dan - M/F Cast)*



Nathan lives on peanut butter and honey sandwiches with a protein drink added in for good measure. He likes getting to know new people, laughing with them, being silly with them, but most of all he loves hugs. Some of his favorite roles include Caractacus Potts (Chitty), Nathan Detroit (Guys and Dolls), Aldolpho (Drowsy), Gomez (Addams Family) and King Arthur (Spamalot).

*Sterling Shane Allen*  
*(Dr. Madden - Th/S Cast)*



Sterling Shane Allen is a theatre generalist who holds a BA in Musical Theatre from Weber State University. This is his first show at OPPA. He will also be directing Almost Maine in the fall.

*Becky Bratt*  
*Stage Manager*



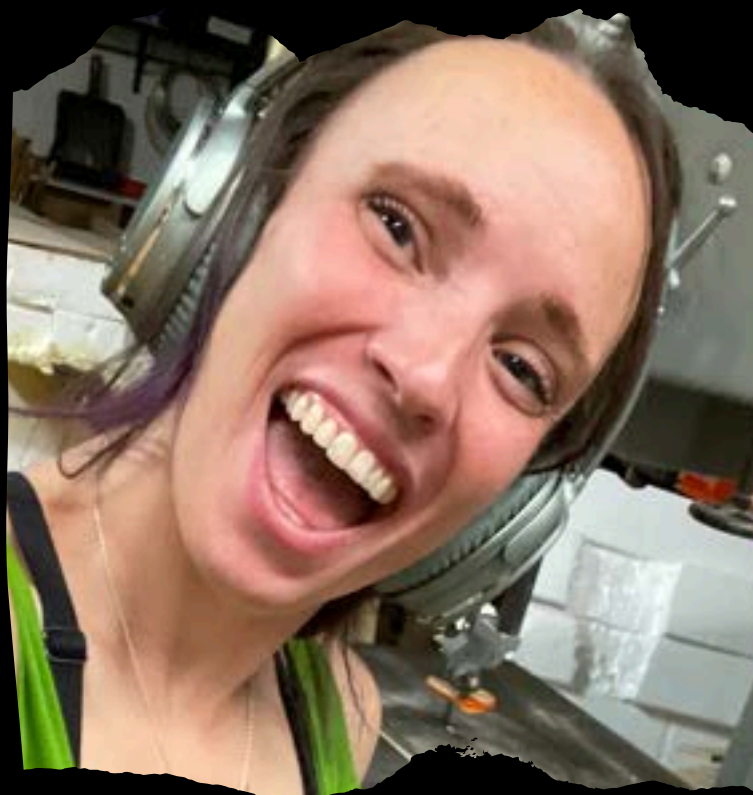
Becky has been involved in theatre since childhood, performing in a variety of plays up through high school. After taking an extended break as a young adult, she got back on stage at OPPA by performing as Kristine Linde in A Doll's House last year. This is her first time working as a stage manager and is very grateful for the opportunity!

*Chip Castleton*  
*Props Design*



Chip is an icon who has been creating random stuff since the day their mother popped them out of the womb. They have a passion for all things gay and all things design. They live laugh love theatre and would like to thank their fiancée Zendaya and their little sister Kiersti for helping them get to where they are today.

*Heather Poulsen*  
*Set Design*



Heather has been working in the shop with OPPA for the last year and loving it. She previously also was the designer for A Dolls House. She is excited to get to be part of creating this world.

*Kace Barthlome*  
*Light Design*



Kace Barthlome is a new lighting designer to the valley and has recently graduated with a degree in lighting.

# CAST AND CREW

*Kennedy Miller*  
Costume Design



Kennedy is excited to work on this production! She has been costuming for almost 5 years and this will be her 6th show here at OPPA!

*Quesley Soto*  
Music Direction



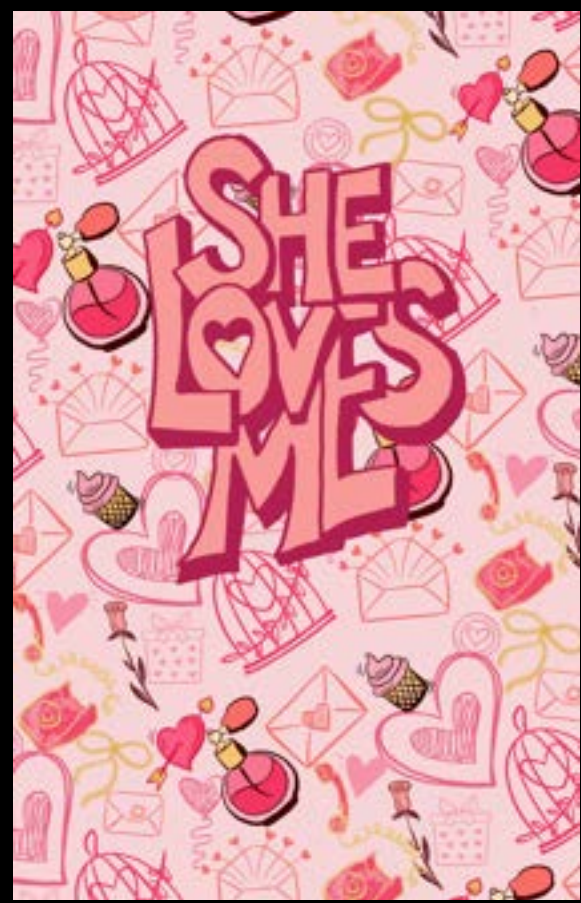
Quesley has been in several OPPA! Productions such as The Drowsy Chaperone, Cinderella and Rent and is currently in the production Mary Poppins. She has had many years of teaching music and voice and when given the opportunity, continues to share her talent through different aspects of theatre. This show will be bittersweet because it will be her last with OPPA! as she is moving to Virginia. "My best and favorite memories of Utah will be the time, friends and memories I've made at OPPA!"

*Todd Taylor*  
Director



Todd's affection and love for theater, including performing in shows, began at an early age while helping his mother put on shows for their local school groups, he realized his deep fascination for all things theatrical including behind the scenes. Todd's has worked on stage and behind the scenes helping with props, tech, costume design, stage managing. He then transitioned into the role of Assistant Director for DHT's 2017 production of The Little Mermaid and finally took up the mantle of director in his directorial debut of Aladdin Jr followed by Thoroughly, Modern Millie and A Christmas Story the Musical. He's beyond excited to be bringing such an important show to life on OPPA's stage.

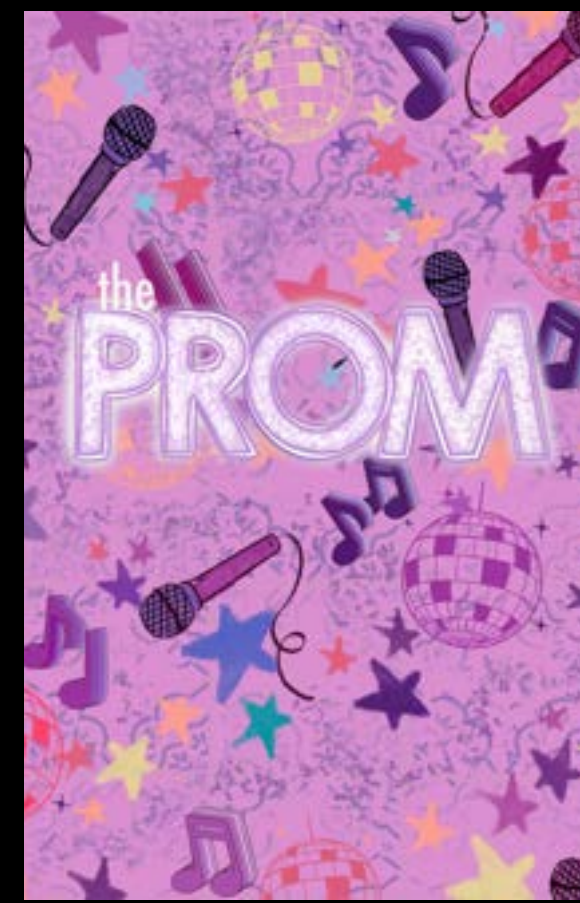
Main Stage



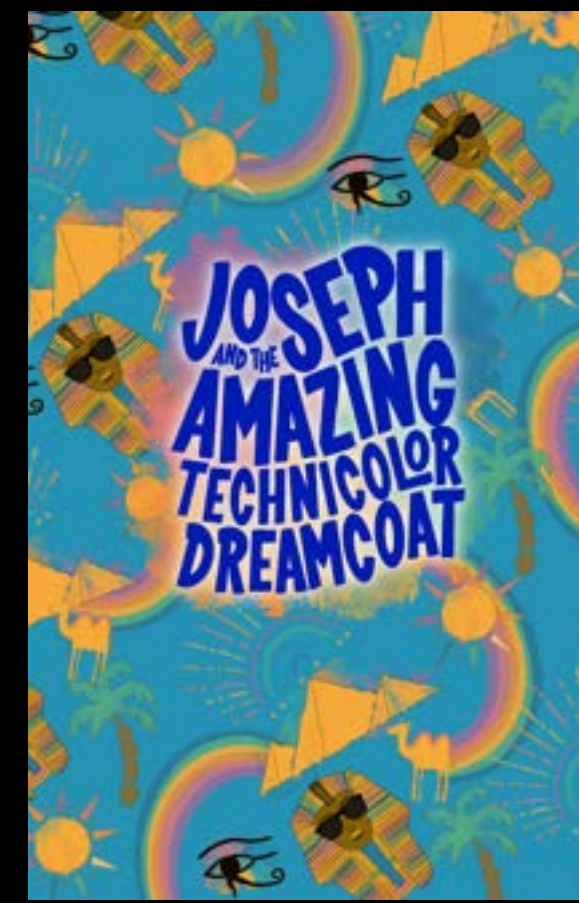
Feb. 7 - Mar. 1



April 4 - 26



June 20 - July 12



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Sep. 19-Oct. 4



Oct. 24 - Nov. 15

Creator's Stage



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NATALIE M/F



MICHELLE HICKMAN  
T/S

NEXT TO  
NORMAL



LOGAN KELLEY  
HENRY BOTH CASTS



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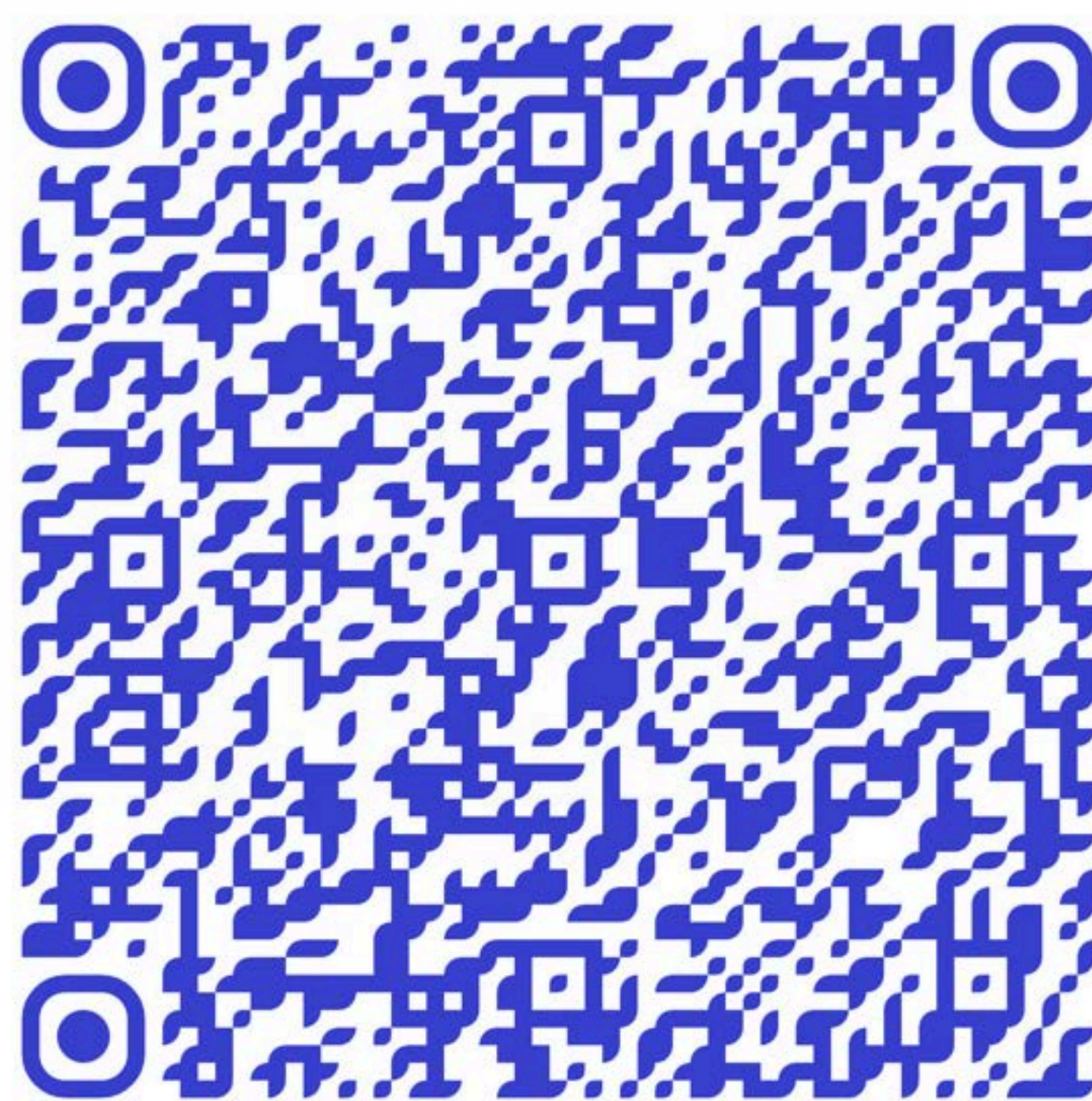
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