

Empress Theatre 2025

The Empress Theatre

Presents



Oct 31-Nov 15, 2025

EmpressTheatre.com





Murdered to Death

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THE MAGIC
ALIVE!**

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It's because of generous patrons like you that we are able to produce family-friendly entertainment here at The Empress.

Join in our Empress family today by making a contribution! Your financial gift will provide a more thrilling experience both on stage and behind the scenes for everyone to enjoy. Your gift may be used in the making of costumes, sets, or props. It may be used to help an underfunded actor get the makeup or shoes they need for a production. Your gift for certain will help spread the joy of live theatre to all who attend an Empress show.

For more information on how you can become a member and enhance your Empress experience, email empress@empresstheatre.com, visit empresstheatre.com/give.



2025 Sovereign Society Members

Josephine Members (\$5,000)

Rachel & Jason Sabin

Victoria Members (\$1,000)

Eric Barney

Goldman Sachs

Nefertiti Members (\$500)

Candice & Hutch Jorgensen

Jeremy Rowley

Sara Hunter

Suiko Members (\$250)

Kayla Martin

Constance Members (\$100)

Scott Merrill

David Pack

Lifetime Giving

Jake M. Andersen

Jen Bair

Stephen Bair

Eric G. Barney

Tanner Lindsay

Dr. David F. Pack

Rod and Joline

Walgamott

Aileen Ware

Anonymous

Knights of the Empress,
LLC



Mission Statement of OHPAA

The mission of the Oquirrh Hills Performing Arts Alliance is to cultivate and advance the performing arts in Magna Township and surrounding areas. OHPAA will work to create a distinguished arena for nurturing local talent and to provide cultural and educational experiences for the entire community by maintaining high standards of family oriented, quality programs and performances.

Board of Directors

Chairman: Eric Barney
Vice Chair: Jeremy Rowley
Treasurer: Natalie Grange
Secretary: Amanda Robison

Board Members: Barry Ricks - Actor Advocate
Sara Hunter
Sheay Neilson
Jason Sabin
Rachel Sabin
Marie Roe
Krystle Ricks



Resident Staff

Executive Director Position Open

Artistic Director Candice J. Jorgensen

Assistant Artistic Director Lisa Shortridge

Technical Director Adam Cannon

Costume Manager Lisa Shortridge

Marketing Director Kylee Larsen

Youth Show Coordinator Krystle Ricks

Staff Photographer Beth Bruner

Promotional Photographer Ashley Loewer

Front of House Manager Sara Hunter

Volunteers Coordinator Jordan Shami

**If you are interested in one of our director positions, please email
resume and/or inquiries to Empress@empresstheatre.com**

Want to Get Involved?

Join us on the third Tuesday of each month.

Board meetings are held at the theatre
at 7:30 PM. Members of the public are welcome and
encouraged to attend.

Board Applications are available and reviewed on a rolling basis.
We encourage all interested individuals to apply!

www.empresstheatre.com/OHPAA



Production Team

Director	Stephanie Johnson
Stage Manager	Candice Jorgensen
Set Design	Hutch Jorgensen & Family
Lighting Design	Chris Peck
Stage Painter	Marie Roe
Wig Master	Cheryl Richardson
Stage Hand	Penny Jorgensen



Director's Note

Welcome to 1930's England where the tea is hot, the secrets are plentiful, and you just do not know who the next victim might be. This farce celebrates the golden age of British mysteries – the elegance, the intrigue, and the delightful absurdity of polite people doing impolite things.

Inspired by the world of the incomparable Agatha Christie, we present this world of gracious society where manners are impeccable, intentions are suspicious ... and chaos is never far behind.



It has been a joy working with this cast and crew who have fully embraced the chaos and the charm of this madcap mystery. I dare you to sit back, keep your wits about you, and enjoy an evening where the clues are questionable, the characters are colorful, and murder has never been so much fun.

While this play approaches themes of murder and gun violence through the lens of comedy and farce, we recognize that these subjects can be sensitive or distressing. Our intention is to entertain while acknowledging the gravity such topics hold in real life. If at any time you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, please reach out to a trusted friend, counselor, or trained professional for support. Laughter and awareness can coexist—and caring for ourselves and one another always comes first.

This show is dedicated to my mum, Gloria, who would not have understood half the jokes but would have been tickled by the ones she caught. And, as always, to my Johnson Dozen. Love you with my everything.

– Stephanie Johnson, Director

CAST OF CHARACTERS

In Order of Appearance:

Mildred – Diana Sorensen

Dorothy – Addy Coates

Bunting, the Butler – J.D. Robison

Margaret Craddock – Catherine Bohman

Colonel Charles Craddock – Scott Sorensen

Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington – Cathryn Guzzwell

Pierre Marceau – Carina Dillon

Joan Maple – Chalese Craig

Constable Thompkins – Jiji Dillon

Inspector Pratt – Paul Gibbs



ACT ONE

Scene One: Late afternoon, autumn

Scene Two: The following morning

ACT TWO

Scene One: Two hours later

Scene Two: One hour later

Setting.

Lounge of a Country Manor
House in the 1930's



COMING SOON Empress Theatre 2025

The Empress Theatre
Presents

BEE TLE JUICE

Jr.

Jan 23-Feb 7, 2025

**EmpressTheatre
.com**

Artwork by Cassidy Lewis

COMING SOON Empress Theatre 2025

The Empress Theatre

Presents

Little of Shop

HORRORS



Feb 27-March 14, 2025

EmpressTheatre.com

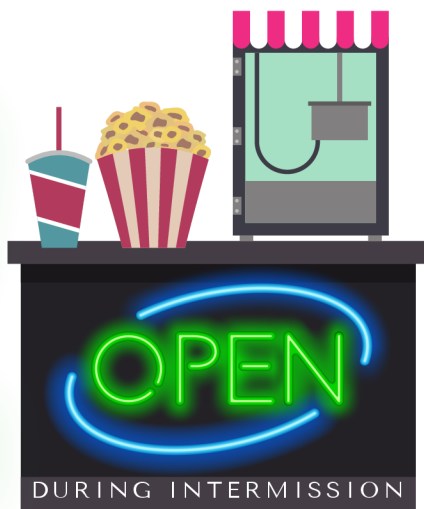


Artwork by AJ Mecham

CONCESSIONS

Treat Yourself!

DON'T
FORGET
TO GET
YOUR
REFILLS!



VOLUNTEER

Opportunities

Cashier
Popcorn Master
Soda Chef
Usher



Contact: Jordan Shami
Front of House Volunteers Coordinator
volunteers@empresstheatre.com



At This Theatre

The Empress Theatre started as a burlesque house where the miners could come and spend their time after long hours laboring in the pit. After a couple of years, the venue was transformed into a movie house, showing silent movies on a large screen (If you'll turn your attention to the S row, you will be able to see the remains of the screen from 1930; the black rectangle above the S row). After showing movies until the 1950's, the theatre closed down and remained vacant for some time. In the early 80's, the venue would be owned by Leo W. Ware.

Leo worked tirelessly on renovating the venue. One of the most obvious places is the Green Room (not accessible during shows, if you would like a tour, please contact anyone listed as staff in the playbill), which was dug out by hand with a wheelbarrow and trowel. Leo would spend the last years of his life renovating the Empress.

In 2006, The Oquirrh Hills Performing Arts Alliance (OHPAA) was formed. OHPAA took the keys and finished the work Leo had begun, culminating in the first performance in over 50 years.

The first production mounted was Forever Plaid. Leo was among those in the audience opening night. He passed away soon after, having seen his dream come to fruition.

Today we carry on the legacy Leo left behind. Our venue is run solely by volunteers and through funds raised by our generous patrons, volunteers, and board members. The dedication of all who walk through the Empress doors is a testament to true community theatre. As of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, the theatre has mounted 160 productions in just nineteen years since reopening with no end in sight. OHPAA and the staff of the Empress hope to continue bringing quality, family oriented theatre to the citizens of Magna and the Greater Salt Lake Valley.





In early 2021, a local group of people formed an LLC and raised the required funds to purchase the Empress Theatre from Aileen Ware and her family. We are grateful to the Ware's for trusting us with their theatre for so long.

This change in ownership has culminated in the changes you see here today! Throughout the years, the Empress has ebbed and flowed, always staying on course with steadfastness.

We are pleased to continue the partnership into the future and remained committed to taking care of this wonderful building.



Thank You to our sponsors



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Empress Theatre 2025



On Cue Costumes

Rebecca L Fenton

Sponsor and Creator of
Costumes for
Sweeney Todd, Anastasia, and
more coming soon!

FOR INQUIRIES CONTACT
ONCUECOSTUMES.COM



We love the support we get
from our community of
theatres here in Utah!



MIDVALE
ARTS



COUNCIL



WEST VALLEY
ARTS



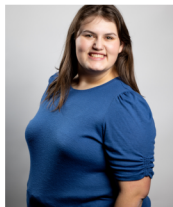


Special Thanks to

**Midvale Arts Council
Colleen Molen
Your Mom**



Cast Biographies



ADDY COATES (DOROTHY FOXTON)- ADDY IS SO EXCITED TO BE MAKING HER FIRST DEBUT WITH EMPRESS THEATER. SHE IS CURRENTLY A FRESHMAN AT SLCC

AND IS STUDYING EDUCATION WITH HOPES OF BECOMING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER. ADDY'S PAST ROLES INCLUDE URSULA IN THE LITTLE MERMAID, MRS. STANLEY IN THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER, DYUNA IN ANASTAISA, AND MRS. DASHWOOD IN SENCE AND SENSIBILITY, ALL WITH OLYMPUS HIGH SCHOOL. OTHER HONORABLE MENTIONS INCLUDE BEING A PART OF THE ENSEMBLE CAST IN FOOTLOOSE, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, WEDDING SINGER, AND SINGING IN THE RAIN. ADDY WOULD LIKE TO THANK HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR BEING THE BIGGEST SUPPORTERS AND BEST CHEERLEADERS A GIRL COULD HAVE. ADDY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE CAST AND CREW FOR EVERYTHING THEY HAVE DONE BY MAKING THIS ONE OF THE BEST EXPERIENCES OF HER LIFE. SPECIAL THANKS TO STEPHANIE AND CANDICE FOR BRINGING THIS SHOW TO LIFE AND ENTRUSTING ADDY WITH THIS ROLE. NOW... TIME TO GET COMFY, RELAX IN YOUR SEAT, BE PREPARED TO LAUGH AND SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHO THE MURDERER IS...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



CARINA DILLON (PIERRE) IS THRILLED TO BE BACK AT THE EMPRESS, HAVING PREVIOUSLY PLAYED ANNIE JUMP

CANNON IN "SILENT SKY." FAVORITE PAST ROLES INCLUDE ROMAINE VOLE (WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION), CLOPIN (HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME), RUTH (PIRATES OF PENZANCE), NANNY OGG (WYRD SISTERS), MRS. POTTS (BEAUTY AND THE BEAST), NICK BOTTOM (A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM), WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST (WIZARD OF OZ), AND LITTLE RED (INTO THE WOODS). CARINA HAS FIVE AMAZING KIDS, AND IS EBULLIENT TO BE SHARING THE STAGE WITH ONE OF THEM (JIMI DILLON) IN THIS FABULOUS PRODUCTION, AS WELL AS WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW!



Empress Theatre 2025



CATHERINE BOHMAN (MARGARET) IS THRILLED TO BE MAKING HER DEBUT AT THE EMPRESS

THEATRE! SOME OF HER FAVORITE ROLES INCLUDE: SUZY IN WAIT UNTIL DARK, OUISER IN STEEL MAGNOLIAS, ABBY IN ARSENIC AND OLD LACE, ELSA IN SOUND OF MUSIC, AND MRS. POTTS IN BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. CATHERINE WAS INSTILLED AT AN EARLY AGE THE LOVE OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING, BY WATCHING HER MOTHER WHO WAS A BEAUTIFUL OPERA SINGER. SINGING AND PERFORMING BECAME ONE OF CATHERINE'S GREATEST PASSIONS AFTER SHE PERFORMED IN HER FIRST MUSICAL, THE MIKADO, IN 2002; AND, SHE HAS ADORED THE STAGE EVER SINCE. SHE IS HONORED TO BE PART OF SUCH A WONDERFUL CAST AND CREW, AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK HER HUSBAND AND SON FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT. CATHERINE DEDICATES THIS SHOW TO HER DEAR LATE MOTHER, LYNNE SANDERS NELSON. LOVE YOU, MOM!



CATHRYN GUZZWELL (ELIZABETH HARTLEY-TRUMPINGTON) IS DELIGHTED TO JOIN THIS

PRODUCTION OF MURDERED TO DEATH. PAST ROLES INCLUDE MRS. MAYOR IN SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL, WANDA IN MURDER ME ALWAYS, SARAH IN TAPESTRY, AND KATHY IN HORATIO WILL BE LATE. SHE'S PROUD TO MAKE HER DEBUT ON THIS STAGE AND ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF HER HUSBAND AND THREE BOYS ALONG THE WAY.



CHALESE (JOAN MAPLE) IS EXCITED TO SHARE MURDERED TO DEATH WITH THE EMPRESS COMMUNITY.

SHE'S MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE WITH HAVING MUSIC AND DANCE NUMBERS TO FALL BACK ON, BUT IS EXCITED TO STRETCH HER ABILITIES AND MAKE HER PLAY DEBUT. SOME PREVIOUS EMPRESS ENDEAVORS INCLUDE DIRECTING THE WIZ FOR EYT, AND SPONGE BOB THE MUSICAL, STAGE MANAGING, CHOREOGRAPHING AT LEAST 10 SHOWS AND ACTING IN VARIOUS ROLES INCLUDING, MRS. TOTTENDALE, MINNIE FAYE AND SALLY BROWN.



DIANA SORENSEN
- MILDRED
DIANA IS SO
HAPPY TO BE
RETURNING TO
THE EMPRESS
STAGE SINCE

PERFORMING AS YENTE IN
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF A
YEAR AGO. SHE HAS ALSO
SPENT THE LAST YEAR
PERFORMING IN THE
ENSEMBLE IN ANASTASIA
(DHT) AND DOPEY IN SEVEN
(COURAGE THEATER), AND
MOST IMPORTANTLY AS NANA
TO HER BEAUTIFUL
GRANDDAUGHTER.

DIANA IS VERY GRATEFUL TO
THE EMPRESS FOR GIVING
HER THE CHANCE, COURAGE
AND CONFIDENCE TO
PERFORM AND FOR GIVING
HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO
PLAY AND HAVE FUN.
MY BIGGEST THANKS GOES
TO MY HUSBAND SCOTT FOR
BEING MY BIGGEST
CHEERLEADER, HERO, PRINCE
CHARMING, SUGAR DADDY
AND BFF...I LOVE YOU!

ALSO THANKS TO MY
CHILDREN AND FAMILY &
FRIENDS FOR ALL THE LOVE
AND SUPPORT! <3



J.D. (BUNTING)
HAS BEEN
PERFORMING IN
VARIOUS BANDS
AND
ORCHESTRAS
AND MUSICALS
FOR MOST OF

HIS LIFE. HE'S NO STRANGER
TO THE THEATER ALBEIT THIS
WILL BE HIS DEBUT ON-STAGE
ACTING ROLE! SOME OF HIS
FAVORITE ROLES HAVE BEEN
XANADU (DRUMS), AND
BRIGHT STAR (DRUMS), AND
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN,
CHARLIE BROWN (DRUMS).
HE'S ALSO THE PERCUSSION
SECTION LEADER FOR WEST
VALLEY SYMPHONY AND HAS
BEEN PLAYING WITH THEM
FOR 10 YEARS. HE'D LIKE TO
THANK HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE
FOR WEARING HIM DOWN TO
FINALLY AUDITION FOR A
SHOW, HIS LONG-SUFFERING
KIDS PUTTING UP WITH HIS
CONSTANT DAD-JOKES AND
PRACTICING HIS ACCENTS,
AND STEPHANIE FOR GIVING
HIM A CHANCE!



SCOTT SORENSEN (COLONEL CHARLES CRADDOCK)
IS THANKFUL TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH THIS
TALENTED ENSEMBLE. PREVIOUS (AND ONLY)
ROLES IN THE PAST 35 YRS: FIDDLER (EMPRESS)
AND ANASTASIA (DHT). SCOTT IS A SOFTWARE
CRAFTSMAN BY DAY, GRANDPA BY NIGHT, AND
TAKES A LONG NAP THE NEXT DAY. HE WISHES TO
THANK STEPH, CANDACE, AND THE WHOLE CAST
FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT ALONG THE WAY. AND
TO DIANA BANANA: "YOU CAN TALK ME INTO
ANYTHING, OLD GIRL, AS LONG AS IT MEANS
DOING IT WITH YOU. LOVE YOU!"

Empress Theatre 2025



JIJi DILLON (CONSTABLE THOMPkins) IS EXCITED TO SHARE HER TALENTS IN HER FIRST SHOW AT THE EMPRESS! THEY GRADUATED

FROM HIGH SCHOOL FROM SLSPA, WHERE THEY EARNED MANY AWARDS, INCLUDING THE 2025 BEST MUSICAL AT THE UHSMTA FOR HADESTOWN AND SUPERIOR RATINGS AT BOTH STATE SOLOS&ENSEMBLES AND STATE UHSAA THEATRE! SOME OF HER PAST ROLES INCLUDE FATE 1 IN HADESTOWN, ELSA IN FROZEN JR., GERTRUDE MCFUZZ IN SEUSSICAL JR., JAN WARWICK IN AN UNEXPECTED GUEST, AND DOGBERRY IN MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING! JIJi IS HONORED TO BE A PART OF THIS AMAZING CAST, BRINGING LIFE TO THE CLEVER CONSTABLE THOMPkins!



PAUL GIBBS IS BACK AFTER A LONG BREAK FROM THEATER, BUT HAS BEEN ACTING IN PLAYS SINCE 1988 AND IN MORE

THAN 50 SHOWS. PREVIOUS ROLES HAVE INCLUDED ED CARMICHAEL IN "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU", CAPTAIN NIPS IN "PRINCE BRAT AND THE WHIPPING BOY", BUDDY BAKER IN "COME BLOW YOUR HORN" AND BOMBUR IN "THE HOBBIT". THIS IS HIS FIRST TIME AT THE EMPRESS, ASIDE FROM BEING A BACKSTAGE VOLUNTEER FOR HIS SON TIMMY'S EYT PRODUCTIONS.

PAUL IS ALSO AN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS WHOSE FILMS HAVE APPEARED IN FESTIVALS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA. A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT SURVIVOR, HIS ACTIVISM ON HEALTHCARE ISSUES LOCALLY AND NATIONAL HAS TAKEN HIM TO THE STATE AND NATIONAL CAPITOLS AND THE WHITE HOUSE.



Production Team Biographies





STEPHANIE JOHNSON – DIRECTOR STEPH HAS DIRECTED MANY SHOWS LOCALLY INCLUDING THE

CURIOUS SAVAGE, CASH ON DELIVERY, AND INTO THE WOODS. SHE HAS ALSO BEEN ABLE TO PLAY MANY GREAT ROLES OVER TIME ... HOWEVER, SHE RARELY GETS THE CHANCE TO PLAY CHARACTERS HER ACTUAL AGE. SHE ASPIRES TO REPRIS PAST ROLES NOW THAT SHE IS A WOMAN OF A CERTAIN AGE. FAVORITE RE-DREAM ROLES INCLUDE AUNT ELLER (WHICH SHE PLAYED WHILE IN HER 20'S), EULALIE MCKECKNIE SHINN, AND OUISER (WHICH SHE PLAYED WHILE IN HER 30'S.) STEPH IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR MIDVALE ARTS COUNCIL. SHE ENJOYS TRAVEL, TAKING PHOTOS, AND LOVES A FRIENDLY GAMES NIGHT. UNDYING LOVE TO MY NIBLINGS AND SIBLINGS.



CANDICE HAS STAGE MANAGED SHOWS WITH MIDVALE CITY, SLCC BLACK BOX AND HERE AT THE EMPRESS. SHE

PREVIOUSLY WAS THE STAGE MANAGER FOR PUFFS. SHE ENJOYS STAGE MANAGING PRODUCTIONS BECAUSE IT'S THE ONE PART OF HER LIFE SHE CAN KEEP VERY ORGANIZED. SHE ENJOYS A GOOD SPREADSHEET, POWERPOINT AND GOOGLE FOLDER. CANDICE IS CURRENTLY THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR THE EMPRESS AND HAS "ENJOYED" IT SO FAR. SHE IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR STEPH ASKING HER TO JOIN HER ON THIS PRODUCTION. THEY HAVE DONE THEATER TOGETHER FOR MANY YEARS BUT IT'S BEEN AWHILE AND SHE REALLY MISSED CREATING STORIES TOGETHER. THIS CAST HAS BEEN AN AMAZING GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED VERY HARD. EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A COMEDY, THEY HAVE TAKEN THEIR CHARACTERS SERIOUSLY AND I HAVE LOVED WATCHING THEM ALL GROW. THANK YOU STEPH FOR BEING AN AMAZING MENTOR AND FOR TEACHING ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW. A HUGE THANK YOU TO HUTCH, PENNY, ATTICUS AND CECILY FOR NOT BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE WHILE I WAS AWAY AT REHEARSALS.





HUTCH JORGENSEN
IS PLEASED TO BE
INVOLVED WITH
ANOTHER SHOW AT
THE EMPRESS.
MOST RECENTLY HE
RAN THE

MICROPHONES FOR TARZAN,
ONCE UPON A MATTRESS AND
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE
BROWN. AFTER A LONG
HIATUS, HE PERFORMED IN
SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL
LAST YEAR AT THE EMPRESS
IN THE ROLE OF MR. KRABS.

SET BUILDING MAY NOT BE
HIS FAVORITE ACTIVITY, BUT
HUTCH IS GLAD TO SUPPORT
THIS WONDERFUL SHOW AND
HOPES YOU WILL TELL ALL
YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT IT.

