

Empress Theatre | 2025 Season | Volume 6

The Empress Theatre

Presents

TARZAN[®]

A black silhouette of Tarzan swinging on a vine. The vine is part of a larger green vine structure that frames the word 'TARZAN'.

The Stage Musical
Based on the Disney Film

August 22- September 6, 2025

EMPRESSTHEATRE.COM





Tarzan: The Stage Musical

is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.

www.MTISHOWS.com

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The Oquirrh Hills Performing Arts Alliance presents

TARZAN®

The Stage Musical
Based on the Disney Film



Music by Phil Collins

Lyrics by Phil Collins

Book by David Henry Hwang



**HELP KEEP
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 make up 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)

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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	Cheryl Cripps Richardson
Stage Manager	Celeste Reese
Assistant Director	Beth Bruner
Choreographer	Dylan Panter
Music Director	Serene Parker
Costumer	Candice Jorgensen
Set Design	Cheryl Cripps Richardson
Set Design	Celeste Reese
Set Painter	Gwen Jonsson
Lighting Design	David Bruner
Microphone Tech	Hutch Jorgensen



For decades I have been a part of theater, constantly on stage or designing wigs or costumes. Painting or helping in some capacity. So, when they asked me to direct, I thought I could do it with great panache! But then they said it was Tarzan; I changed my mind! I didn't think I would be able to give such a well-known story the justice it deserves. And yet I didn't say no. I took on the challenge knowing I had people in my corner (and that they probably had a backup plan if I did a bad job). I started to Live and breathe Tarzan. I studied the cartoon; I listened to the Songs on repeat. I thought long and hard about how I wanted to do this show. There were a few things I was excited to change (most stage versions of Tarzan have Mother and Father swimming with baby Tarzan. I never could get past how that baby survived if they were swimming in the ocean. Huh?) But there were still a lot of things I didn't know how to tackle or what direction to take. I agonized that every decision would be childish or silly. That no cast would ever take me seriously. I didn't want the show to just be some fluffy carbon copy Disney musical that ends up blending from one production to another. But then in November, I had an almost devastating diagnosis that required my baby to be born very early. Suddenly I was faced with a new perspective and new understanding of Kala. I understood the hope of being a mother and the identity crisis that occurred when that was challenged. Now while my baby is doing well and Kala's doesn't make it; I could understand with stark clarity the state of mind she might have had when she found Tarzan. The fierce protectiveness that she would have to make sure nothing took him away was now something I knew intimately. As I sang You'll be in my Heart to my new daughter in the hospital, I knew I'd need actors that could really show how tight knit the families in the show are. I wanted to highlight the relationships that make up every part of the show. And I really got the cream of the crop! Each person on the Pro team have been the most wonderful! They have made each person shine like professionals! Every actor has been a dream to work with and really took to heart that this show is about family. They bring an energy that makes me forget I don't have a bigger cast. They have taken these well-known characters and made them real people (or apes!) with very real trauma and healing. They have filled my world of Tarzan with so many amazing moments that draw you in and make you forget you are watching community theater. This story is about finding your place in a world not intended for you. It's about family, found and born, and how your family shapes you. It is a story that every person can relate to and I hope you come back again and again.



CAST OF CHARACTERS

- TARZAN TYLER RASMUSSEN -
- JANE SOPHIE MANZANARES -
- KALA ASHLEY BATES -
- KERCHEK SIMI KASALA -
- TERK SCOTT CARR -
- PROFESSOR PORTER SCOTT SHILL -
- CLAYTON IAN BATES -
- YOUNG TARZAN / ENSEMBLE CLARK PEHRSON -
- YOUNG TERK / ENSEMBLE TYLER PARKIN -
- MOTHER / ENSEMBLE AVERIE FORCHUK -
- FATHER / ENSEMBLE ZACH ANDERSON -
- LEOPARD / ENSEMBLE GWENY ADAMS -
- SNIPES / ENSEMBLE MICHAEL FEE -
- JONES / ENSEMBLE JUSTINA SPENCER -
- ENSEMBLE KAITLIN SWENSEN -
- ENSEMBLE LAURA KRUMMENACHER -
- ENSEMBLE TONY SAO -
- ENSEMBLE MICHELLE FRIERSON -
- ENSEMBLE SOPHIA CARTIER -
- BABY APE STELLA BRASSARD -



ACT ONE

Two Worlds - Father, Mother, Kala, Kerchak, Ensemble

You'll be in my Heart - Kala, Ensemble

Who Better than Me - Young Terk, Young Tarzan

No Other Way - Kerchak

I need to Know - Young Tarzan

Son of Man - Kala, Young Terk, Terk, Tarzan, Ensemble

As Sure as Sun turns to Moon - Kala, Kerchak

Waiting for this moment - Jane, Ensemble

Different - Tarzan, Jane

ACT TWO

Trashin' the Camp - Terk, Ensemble

Like no man I've ever Seen - Jane, Professor Porter

Strangers Like Me - Tarzan, Male solo

For the First Time - Jane, Tarzan

Who Better Than Reprise - Terk, Tarzan

Everything I Am - Young Tarzan, Tarzan, Mother, Father, Ensemble

You'll be in my Heart reprise - Kala, Tarzan

As sure as Sun turns to Moon Reprise - Kala, Tarzan

Two Worlds Reprise - Full Cast

Bows - Full Cast



Empress Theatre 2025

COMING SOON

The Empress Theatre

Presents



PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

Sept 26-Oct 11, 2025

EmpressTheatre.com



Empress Theatre 2025

COMING SOON

The Empress Theatre
Presents



Oct 31-Nov 15, 2025

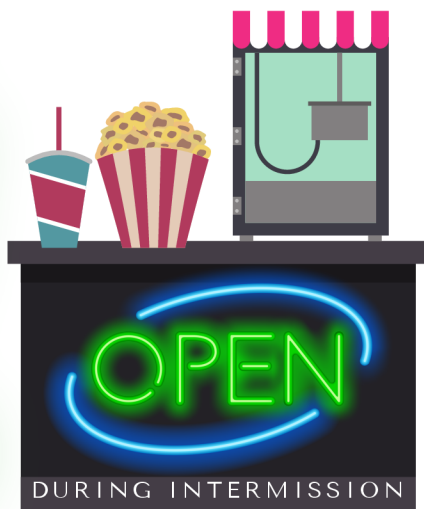
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CONCESSIONS

Treat Yourself!

DON'T
FORGET
TO GET
YOUR
REFILLS!



VOLUNTEER

Opportunities

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



*Oquirrh Hills Performing Arts Alliance
Presents*

The Empress Theatre

GALA

Sept 13th 2025

Save *the* Date

The Empress Theatre

Be a Sponsor

Gala 2025



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!

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





FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN COSTUMES
AND
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Special Thanks to

WEST VALLEY ARTS CENTER
for their partnership in advertising.

Beck Skeen Fraser

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Hannah Winkler

Gwen Jonsson

Jennie Jonsson

Michael Handy

Zac Freeman

Sunshine Studios Photography
and Draper Historic Theatre



Cast Biographies



TYLER RASMUSSEN IS SWINGING BACK ONTO THE EMPRESS THEATER STAGE AS TARZAN. A LONGTIME PERFORMER,

HE'S PREVIOUSLY BEEN SEEN AT THE EMPRESS AS ANTHONY IN SWEENEY TODD, THE TSAR IN ANASTASIA, AND JESSE TUCK IN TUCK EVERLASTING. WHETHER HE'S SERENADING IN VICTORIAN LONDON, RULING IMPERIAL RUSSIA, OR DRINKING FROM THE SPRING OF ETERNAL YOUTH, HE BRINGS A PASSION FOR STORYTELLING AND JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF CHAOS TO EVERY ROLE. HE'S THRILLED TO RETURN TO THE JUNGLE WITH THIS AMAZING CAST AND CREW, AND HE THANKS HIS FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND HIS BEAUTIFUL FIANCE AVERIE FORCHUK. .



AFTER A BRIEF HIATUS, SCOTT IS THRILLED TO ONCE AGAIN STRETCH HIS LEGS ON THE EMPRESS STAGE. LAST SEEN IN "SWEENEY TODD THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET", "THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME", AND AS AN ASST. STAGE MANAGER FOR "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS", THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A CHARACTER LIKE PROFESSOR PORTER HAS BEEN A DELIGHT. AMONG SCOTT'S FAVORITE PRODUCTIONS ARE ROLES IN "INTO THE WOODS", "THE MAN OF LA MANCHA", "ARSENIC AND OLD LACE", AND "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF".



ASHLEY IS SO GRATEFUL TO BE PART OF THIS GORGEOUS STORY! HER DAD USED TO SING "YOU'LL BE IN MY HEART" TO HELP HER FALL ASLEEP

EVERY NIGHT, AND SHE IS HONORED TO NOW PERFORM IT ON STAGE. SHE WAS LAST SEEN ON THE EMPRESS STAGE AS DELILAH MCPHEE IN BETWEEN THE LINES, AND BEFORE THAT AS ALICE MURPHY IN BRIGHT STAR. OTHER FAVORITE ROLES INCLUDE JO MARCH IN LITTLE WOMEN AND FIONA IN BRIGADOON. SHE IS IN AWE OF THE TALENT IN THIS CAST AND CREW AND HOPES EVERYONE ENJOYS THIS BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE. ASHLEY WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE AMAZING PEOPLE IN HER LIFE FOR THEIR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND SUPPORT AS SHE SINGS AND DANCES THROUGH IT. "ALTHOUGH WE'RE DIFFERENT, DEEP INSIDE US, WE'RE NOT THAT DIFFERENT AT ALL."



I AM CLARK PEHRSON AND AM SO EXCITED TO BE IN FIRST "NON-YOUTH" PRODUCTION! I'VE BEEN IN EMPRESS YOUTH THEATER 3 TIMES-SEUSSICAL JR,

HONK JR, AND MOST RECENTLY BRUCE IN MATILDA JR. I WAS ALSO IN NEWSIES JR AT WEST HILLS MIDDLE AND PLAYED SEBASTIAN IN THE LITTLE MERMAID JR, ALSO AT WEST HILLS. HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY ARTS!





MY NAME IS SIMI KASALA AND TARZAN THE MUSICAL WILL BE THE SECOND SHOW I HAVE EVER BEEN IN. MY

FIRST SHOW WAS SOMETHING ROTTEN AND WAS ALSO DONE HERE AT THE EMPRESS. THEATRE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING I LOVED BUT JUST HAVE NOT BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH TO DO UNTIL JUST RECENTLY WHICH IS WHY THIS IS ONLY MY SECOND SHOW. WHEN I AM NOT DOING THEATRE I LOVE TO DANCE, PLAY VIDEO GAMES, AND HANG WITH FRIENDS. WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THEATRE IS BEING SOMETHING ELSE BECAUSE ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN BEING AN ADULT.



SOPHIE MANZANARES (JANE) IS EXCITED TO BE MAKING HER EMPRESS DEBUT!

SOME OF HER FAVORITE ROLES HAVE BEEN WINNIE IN TUCK EVERLASTING (SVU), MARY ROBERT IN SISTER ACT (DHT), AND ELSA SCHREADER IN THE SOUND OF MUSIC (ACT). SHE IS SO GRATEFUL TO BE UP ON STAGE AND COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY! ESPECIALLY DYLAN AND AURORA WHO HAVE CHEERED HER ON AND SUPPORTED HER THE WHOLE WAY.



TYLER IS SO EXCITED FOR YOU ALL TO SEE THIS SHOW THAT EVERYONE HAS WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE! HE HAS LOVED GETTING TO

WORK WITH SUCH AMAZING AND TALENTED PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THIS REHEARSAL PERIOD. THIS IS HIS RETURN TO THE EMPRESS STAGE SINCE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE IN "BETWEEN THE LINES" PLAYING MARTIN/TROLL. HE WOULD LIKE TO THANK HIS FRIENDS IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE CAST FOR SUPPORTING HIM THROUGHOUT THIS SHOW, AND OF COURSE LOTS OF THANKS TO HIS PARENTS AND PRO TEAM FOR BEING ON HIS SIDE. ENJOY THE SHOW OF FAMILY AND APES! 🍌



SCOTT CARR HAS BEEN DOING THEATER SINCE HE WAS 13. TARZAN IS HIS 14TH SHOW, AND 3RD SHOW HERE AT EMPRESS. HE

IS NO STRANGER TO THE STAGE, THEATRE HAS BECOME A BIG PART OF HIS LIFE AND A PASSION THAT WILL ALWAYS TAKE HIM HOME. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO HAVE SUPPORTED HIM ALONG THE WAY, ESPECIALLY HIS SON. HE ADORES BEING A FATHER, AND HAS A PASSION FOR WRITING.



IAN IS EXCITED TO BE BACK AT THE EMPRESS! HIS MOST CHERISHED ROLES INCLUDE RIFF IN WEST SIDE STORY AND TOMMY

DJILAS IN THE MUSIC MAN, BOTH IN HIS HOMETOWN OF RICHFIELD UT.

HE IS THANKFUL FOR THE COACHES AND DIRECTORS IN HIS LIFE WHO HELPED HIM GROW AS A PERSON AND CULTIVATE HIS LOVE FOR BOTH ATHLETICS AND THE ARTS. HE IS ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR FAMILY WHO ENCOURAGE HIM TO STEP OUTSIDE HIS COMFORT ZONE OFTEN AND THE FRIENDS HE HAS MADE ALONG THE WAY. (SPECIAL THANKS AND LOVE GOES TO HIS MOM, HE WOULDN'T BE ON THE STAGE IF IT WASN'T FOR HER) WHEN HE IS NOT PERFORMING IAN ENJOYS READING, WATCHING GREAT MOVIES, AND PLAYING LOTS AND LOTS OF PICKLEBALL. (HE PROMISES HE'S NOT OBSESSED)



ZACK ANDERSON, (FATHER/ENSEMBLE) ORIGINALLY FROM LEHI, UT AND IS THRILLED TO MAKE THEIR EMPRESS THEATRE DEBUT.

A BFA GRADUATE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES FROM THE STEPHENS COLLEGE CONSERVATORY, WHERE THEY TRAINED EXTENSIVELY IN PERFORMANCE, MUSIC, AND COLLABORATIVE THEATRE-MAKING. ZACK HAS APPEARED IN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF SNOW WHITE AND ME (A NEW MUSICAL), PLAYED HENRY IN NEXT TO NORMAL, AND PERFORMED IN NUMEROUS PRODUCTIONS WITH THE OKOBOJI SUMMER THEATRE ZACK IS GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS PRODUCTION AND HAS GREATLY ENJOYED WORKING WITH THE CREATIVE TEAM. HE EXTENDS HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION TEAM AND TO HIS FAMILY FOR THEIR UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.





JUSTINA IS HAPPY TO BE BACK AT THE EMPRESS FOR ANOTHER PRODUCTION. SHE IS USUALLY SEEN STAGE MANAGING, BUT IS GLAD TO BE

ON STAGE. SHE LAST PLAYED LEANNE IN PUFFS HERE AT THE EMPRESS. SOME OF HER FAVORITE SHOWS SHE HAS WORKED ON ARE: SHE LOVES ME, LION KING, HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, AND SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL. SHE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THAT SUPPORT HER IN HER THEATRICAL PURSUITS.



TONY IS READY TO BLESS THE STAGE AT THE EMPRESS ONCE AGAIN BUT WITH A DIFFERENT FEEL FOR THE ENSEMBLE REALM.

YOU GET TO SEE .

HIM PING PONG LIKE KING KONG, DANCE THE LINE LIKE A VINE AND MANY MORE. GET READY TO ROYAL RUMBLE AND WITNESS THIS NEXT KING OF THE JUNGLE!!

AT THE EMPRESS TONY HAS ALSO BEEN IN BIG FISH, ROCK OF AGES, WEDDING SINGER, LEGALLY BLONDE, SHERLOCK, A CHORUS LINE, LITTLE MERMAID, INTO THE WOODS



AVERIE FORCHUK IS HONORED TO BE PART OF TARZAN! CREDITS INCLUDE ANASTASIA (MARFA), LEGALLY BLONDE (ENID),

INTO THE WOODS (NARRATOR), MATILDA (AMANDA), ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (DIANA), SWEENEY TODD, ELF, ALL SHOOK UP, AND THE LITTLE MERMAID. TRAINED IN CLASSICAL VOICE, DANCE, AND MUSIC COMPOSITION, AVERIE LOVES BRINGING BOLD STORIES TO LIFE. SHE'S ESPECIALLY THRILLED TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH HER FIANCE, TYLER (TARZAN), AND EVEN MORE EXCITED TO SWING INTO MARRIED LIFE WITH HIM THIS OCTOBER!



GWENY IS OVERJOYED TO BE BACK ON THE EMPRESS STAGE! YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HER AS LUCY VAN PELT IN

'YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN.' SHE'S ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPRISE HER ROLE AS THE LEOPARD, WHICH SHE PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED IN WEST JORDAN'S YOUTH THEATER PRODUCTION OF 'TARZAN.' GWENY THANKS THE CAST AND TEAM FOR THEIR TRUST AND IS GRATEFUL FOR THE CHANCE TO BE PART OF THIS AMAZING CAST.





LAURA KRUMMENACHER HAS BEEN PERFORMING FOR LOCAL AUDIENCES FOR MOST OF HER LIFE. SHE

GRADUATED IN VOCAL PERFORMANCE FROM UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY. THIS IS HER FIRST SHOW AT THE EMPRESS AND HAS LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.



KAITLIN SWENSEN (ENSEMBLE) IS SO EXCITED TO BE IN HER TENTH SHOW AT THE EMPRESS! SOME OF HER FAVORITES WERE;

SOUND OF MUSIC, GUYS AND DOLLS, AND GHOST THE MUSICAL. KAITLIN HAS GROWN SO MUCH THROUGH THIS SHOW, AND SHE CAN'T WAIT TO PROVE IT ON STAGE!



MICHAEL FEE (SNIPES – TARZAN) IS MAKING HIS STAGE DEBUT AT THE EMPRESS THEATRE. TRAINED BY JULIE-ANNE

LEICHTY AT ACTORS AT ACTION CONSERVATORY, HE HAS STUDIED MEISNER, STANISLAVSKI, AND LESSAC VOICE WORK. HE HAS STARRED IN TWO SHORT FILMS, FLORIDA, AND FIGHT IT. MICHAEL IS THRILLED TO JOIN SUCH A TALENTED CAST AT THIS HISTORIC VENUE.



HMICHELLE IS EXCITED TO BE JOINING THE EMPRESS THEATRE FAMILY IN THEIR PRODUCTION OF TARZAN. IN

ADDITION TO BEING A MEMBER OF THE ENSEMBLE, SHE HAS ALSO ENJOYED PERFORMING WITH LOCAL CONCERT BANDS AND ORCHESTRAS. MUCH LOVE AND THANKS TO HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR THEIR SUPPORT, AND OF COURSE, SPECIAL THANKS TO HER CAT, MURPHY.



SOPHIA CARTIER IS SO EXCITED TO BE IN TARZAN. THIS WILL BE HER 7TH SHOW AT THE EMPRESS THEATER. SHE

HAS BEEN IN FROZEN JR, SUCESSICAL JR, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, MTI'S JR. BROADWAY MUSICAL REVIEW, AND MATILDA JR. SOME OF HER MOST RECENT ROLES ARE AMANDA THRIPP IN MATILDA JR. AND VARIOUS ROLES IN MTI'S JR. BROADWAY MUSICAL REVIEW SUCH AS AUNT SPONGE IN RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES, HODEL IN MATCHMAKER AND THE ARIEL SWING FOR PART OF YOUR WORLD. SOPHIA LOVES BEING ON STAGE AND HOPES YOU WILL ENJOY THE SHOW.

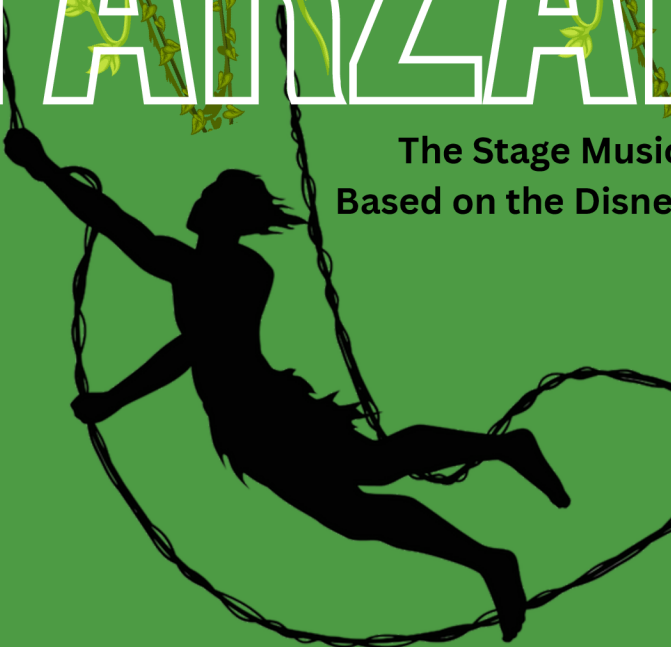


Empress Theatre 2025

Production Team Biographies

TARZAN[®]

The Stage Musical
Based on the Disney Film





CHERYL IS DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECT TARZAN. WHILE THIS IS HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT, SHE IS NO STRANGER TO THIS SIDE OF THE TABLE HAVING MUSIC DIRECTED MANY TIMES MOST RECENTLY FOR FREAKY FRIDAY HERE AT THE EMPRESS. CHERYL HAS THEATER IN HER BLOOD AND WHETHER IT'S ON STAGE, COSTUMES, WIGS, OR EVEN PAINTING SETS SHE HAS HAD HER HAND IN SOMETHING THEATER RELATED FOR OVER 20 YEARS. SOME OF HER FAVORITE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SHREK THE MUSICAL AS MAMA OGRE AND WIG DESIGN, SWEENEY TODD AS ENSEMBLE, AND ANASTASIA AS WIG DESIGN(TWICE!) CHERYL IS SO GRATEFUL FOR THIS AMAZING CAST! THEY HAVE BROUGHT THIS STORY TO LIFE IN A WAY NO OTHER COULD! CHERYL HOPES YOU ENJOY THIS PHENOMENAL PRODUCTION! WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE!



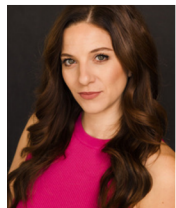
BETH BRUNER IS ALWAYS EXCITED TO SUPPORT TALENTED FRIENDS EXPANDING THEIR ART. SHE HAS DIRECTED FROM BRIGHAM CITY TO UTAH COUNTY. AT THE EMPRESS SHE HAS HAD THE JOY OF DOING FIVE WONDERFUL PLAYS AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE UPCOMING "PETER AND THE STARCATCHER".



CELESTE REESE IS BACK AT THE EMPRESS FOR MORE MAGIC. SHE HAS BEEN A PART OF 40+ PRODUCTIONS, BOTH ON STAGE AND BEHIND IT. SHE SPENDS MUCH OF HER TIME TINKERING, CRAFTING, OBSESSING OVER FICTIONAL CHARACTERS AND OTHERWISE SPREADING CREATIVE CHAOS. WHO BETTER THAN ME TO PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE? LAUGH, SHED A TEAR OR TWO, AND REMEMBER THAT STRANGERS LIKE YOU ARE CAPABLE OF MAGNIFICENT ADAPTABILITY AND MAY BE THE GREATEST ADVENTURE!



Empress Theatre 2025



SERENE PARKER BRINGS A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AS A VOCAL COACH TO MUSIC DIRECTING TARZAN. SHE FOUNDED SERENE VOCAL STUDIO IN

2016, WHERE SHE HAS HELPED STUDENTS EXCEL IN MUSICAL THEATER AND POP STYLES, WITH MANY ACHIEVING LEADING ROLES IN LOCAL PRODUCTIONS, INCLUDING HALE CENTER THEATRE AND THE RUTH. SERENE'S BACKGROUND IN ACTING ENRICHES HER TEACHING, FOSTERING CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCES. HER MUSICAL DIRECTING CREDITS INCLUDE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR., AND SHE HAS CONTRIBUTED HER DIRECTING SKILLS TO NUMEROUS CHORAL ENSEMBLES, AS WELL AS RECORDED SEVEN ALBUMS IN THE STUDIO. PASSIONATE ABOUT ARTISTRY AND EDUCATION, SERENE EMPOWERS PERFORMERS TO REFINE TECHNIQUE, DEVELOP STAGE PRESENCE, AND CONNECT AUTHENTICALLY WITH THEIR CRAFT.



CANDICE IS THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COSTUME THESE AMAZINGLY, TALENTED PEOPLE. SHE HAS BEEN SEWING COSTUMES,

CLOTHING AND MAKING QUILTS FOR LONGER THAN SHE CAN REMEMBER. CANDICE WAS TAUGHT BY HER MOTHER AND 7TH GRADE HOME EC TEACHER TO SEW AND ALTER CLOTHING. SHE IS CURRENTLY THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR THE EMPRESS THEATRE AND HAS DIRECTED, PERFORMED AND STAGE MANAGED MANY PRODUCTIONS HERE. THANK YOU TO CHERYL FOR TRUSTING ME WITH HER VISION. THANK YOU HUTCH, PENNY, ATTICUS AND CECILY FOR LETTING ME TURN OUR FRONT ROOM INTO A SEWING ROOM AND FOR HELPING ME WHEN YOU COULD. SHE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK HER GLUE GUN, FABRIC SCISSORS AND SEAM RIPPER FOR NEVER LETTING HER DOWN. HER SEWING MACHINE WILL NOT BE THANKED DUE TO GIVING UP BEFORE THE PROJECT WAS OVER.



