

OUR 2019-2020 PATRONS

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Director Cheri Moser
Producer Craig Strutt
..... Kay Moser

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
Flash Photography and any Recording Strictly Prohibited.



The Elkader Opera House has an induction loop system thanks to an upgrade of the sound equipment by the Opera House Players. With the activation of the T-coil by your audiologist and instruction on its use, you can receive the maximum benefit from your hearing aid. The internal tonal correction of your hearing aid will bring the sounds you hear directly to you without the use of an additional receiver or headset. Two portable units are available for your use as well. Please request the use of a unit when you place your ticket order. This loop system is available for main floor seating only, so if you want to maximize your hearing experience, please request main floor seating when purchasing your tickets.

Fruitcakes

by
Julian Wiles

Licensed by Arrangement with
DRAMATIC PUBLISHING
PO Box 129
Woodstock, IL 60098

Choreographer's Circle (\$100-\$249)

Francis(Gus) & LaVonne Augustson
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Florence Gifford
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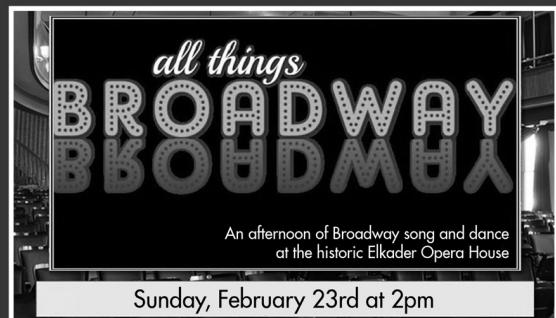
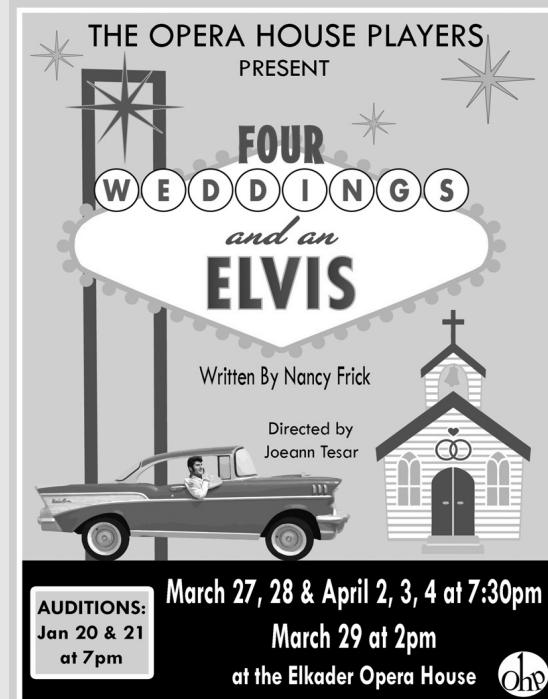
Little Beebo - Sam Frailey - This may be Sam's first time performing with the Opera House Players but he is no stranger to the stage. As a young boy Sam participated in the musicals "Beauty and the Beast" and "Cinderella" as a village person for Prairie du Chien High School. He sings with his family for church specials and in Prairie Christian Academy's school choir. He regularly plays roles for his school's annual "Patch the Pirate" play. His love of performing is mostly due to encouragement from his mother and grandmother who actually bribed him to play the role of Kurt in "The Sound of Music" at Prairie du Chien High School. He accepted even though he had the time of his life, made great friends, and said he would have done it for free if he knew how much he was going to like it. He is looking forward to being on stage with his grandma for *Fruitcakes* and is taking full credit for convincing her to audition this time!

Sally - Mariah Moser - This is Mariah's sixth OHP production. She played a gnome in *Shrek the Musical* (2015), a child in *Christmas on Broadway* (2015), a kid/chef/squirrel in *Willy Wonka* (2016), Claude Herdman in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2017), and Fannie in *Mary Poppins* (2018). Mariah has also been on stage in six children's theater productions, was a munchkin in MFL MarMac High School's Wizard of Oz (2015) and played the role of Molly in MFL MarMac High School's Annie (2018). Mariah also performed in the OHP 50th Anniversary Showcase (2016) and in two Kids Off Broadway Cabarets (2017 & 2018). Mariah is in 6th grade at MFL MarMac and enjoys reading, dancing, reading, playing piano, reading, playing french horn, babysitting and reading some more. Mariah lives in McGregor with her dad, mom, and three younger siblings.

Miss Alice - Lori Frailey - Lori "accidentally" tried out for *Fruitcakes* the night she brought her grandson (Sam Frailey- Little Beebo) to auditions. She realized that if Sam got a part she might end up driving him to rehearsals so she threw her name in the ring and read parts too! They were both delighted to be offered roles and have enjoyed this shared experience. Lori says, her hard life and premature aging have finally paid off by getting to play "Alice"! This is the second time Lori has been in a production at the Opera House. The first was "about a 100 years ago" as one of Jacob's wives in *Joseph* shortly after her and her three girls arrived in the area. Lori has always enjoyed acting and was very involved in productions in High School and College. One of her favorite roles was Laurey in the musical "Oklahoma" her senior year of high school. Life got busy raising a family, working full time in the accounting department at Dillman Equipment and a very busy music schedule to boot – so acting got put off to the side. Even so, theatre was definitely always in her life in other ways -she has accompanied for countless musicals in PDC and coached a mime and drama team for many years. When not acting, the top of her head can often be seen behind a piano playing for various schools, churches and other events. What makes her the happiest? Playing games and spending time with her friends and family – especially her grandchildren .

Miss Sara - Mary Beth Specht - Mary Beth has been performing with the Opera House Players since 2012. Some of her favorites include *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Willy Wonka the Musical*, *Catch Me if you Can* and most recently *The Producers*. She has also performed with The Allamakee Community Players, the New Minowa Players, The Muse Theater and The LaCrosse Community Theater. Mary Beth is co-founder of the Mama Moon Theater Company which produces and

Upcoming events at the Elkader Opera House



Be sure to check out our websites for more information on upcoming events.
www.OperaHousePlayers.com
www.ElkaderOperaHouse.com

Email us at list@operahouseplayers.com



Pathway Academy, and when he grows up, Rowan wants to invent better protective gear for our police officers and military, "like superheroes have."

Little Larry - Tucker Bolsinger - Tucker is eleven years old and a 5th grader at Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary School. He first appeared on the Opera House stage in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as Teddy Shoemaker. Tucker enjoys playing football, basketball, baseball, and Taekwondo. When he's not on the field or court he can be found playing sports on his Xbox. His favorite sports teams are the Iowa Hawkeyes and Dallas Cowboys. His family consists of parents, Barb & Mark, big brothers Brandon (Cassie) & Blake, nephews Kash & Knox.

Sammy - Trace Moser – This is Trace's first big OHP show, but he has performed on this stage several times. He sang and danced with his family in the OHP 50th Anniversary Showcase (2016) and performed with his dad in the Love, Broadway Cabaret (2018.) He has also been in the cast of four children's theater productions, *Pinocchio*, *Jumping Jacks & The Beanstalk*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and *We Are Monsters*. Just last Christmas, he performed a duet with his mom and was in the children's chorus of the Classic Christmas Fantasy Concert. Trace is a 3rd grader at MFL MarMac who hopes to be a graphic designer when he grows up. Trace lives in McGregor with his parents and three sisters (who probably all have cooties).

Little Skeeter - Taryn Moser – Taryn is very excited to be performing in her fourth big OHP musical, although she is no stranger to the Opera House stage. Taryn played the role of a child in *Christmas on Broadway* (2015) and Gladys Herdmann in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2017). She was most recently Michael in *Mary Poppins* (2018), a role that got her a 'Best Supporting Actress' nomination from the Iowa Community Theatre Association. She was also seen in the OHP 50th Anniversary Showcase (2016) and has sung solos in three Off Broadway Cabarets (2017-2019). She has taken part in five children's theater productions, *Cinderella*, *Pinocchio*, *Jumping Jacks & The Beanstalk*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and *We Are Monsters*. And finally, she played a munchkin in MFL MarMac High School's "Wizard of Oz" (2015). Taryn is a 4th grader at MFL MarMac who hopes to be a vocal therapist when she grows up (while still acting on stage for fun – of course!) Taryn lives in McGregor with her parents and three siblings.

Meredith - Macy McGeough - Macy is ten years old and a fourth grader at MFL MarMac. She is thankful for her first big OHP production opportunity. She was fortunate to take part in two children's theater productions, *Gulliver's Travels* and *We Are Monsters*. She was also in the "Wizard of Oz" musical for MFL MarMac High School in 2015 as a munchkin. She is quoted saying, "Being a part of theater is so great because it really never has to end. You can do this until you are eighty or older." Macy's parents are Adrian and Jackie McGeough of Marquette and she is the youngest of four children: RoseMary, Gabe and Quinn. She has been her siblings' biggest fan and is excited for them to watch her perform. Macy loves to read and is active in a Harry Potter book club within her school. She plays the piano, enjoys puzzles and crafts in her free time. She is hoping to become a doctor someday.

Amy - Hannah Koehn - Hannah is an 8th grader at Central Elkader. She is involved in chorus and track. Hannah lives in Elkader with her mom, Dee, and sister, Ashlyn. This is Hannah's second Opera House Players production having been in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2017). She enjoys listening to music, reading and hanging out with friends. She loves performing and hopes to be involved in future productions.

Mary Beth - Aiyana Janes - Aiyana is delighted to be involved in her second theater production with the OHP. She was part of the kid ensemble in *Mary Poppins* (2018) and also sang in the children's choir for the Classic Christmas Fantasy concert. Aiyana enjoys working on the backstage crews and has been a great help to her mom with costuming. In addition to acting, she also loves art, history, soccer, and spending time with her family. She attends Pathway Academy and wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up. Aiyana lives near Garnavillo with her mom, dad, and younger brother.

Little Billie - Ella Buckman - Ella is currently 13 years old and a 7th grader at Central Community School. Ella resides outside Garnavillo with her parents and two sisters: Maddison and Brenna. In her free time Ella enjoys reading, writing, and playing with her many outdoor cats! Ella first performed on the Opera House stage in *Shrek* (2015). Ella has also been in *Willy Wonka* (2016), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2017), and *Mary Poppins* (2018) where she played the role of Jane Banks. This will be Ella's fifth OHP performance. Ella is extremely excited to perform onstage once again this holiday season!

Joanie - Layia Koeller - Layia is a 4th grader at MFL Mar Mac school. Layia has enjoyed theater camp productions at the Elkader Opera house. When she doesn't have her nose in a book, you'll find Layia enjoying time with her family or creating a new recipe in the kitchen. Her favorite game to play is Life. Layia resides in McGregor where she is little sister to Sam, Max, Ruby and Ty, and her parents are Ryan & Tricia.

Shepherd - Ashlyn Koehn - Ashlyn is a 6th grader at Central Elkader. She is involved in volleyball, basketball and chorus. Ashlyn lives in Elkader with her mom, Dee, and sister, Hannah. This is Ashlyn's first appearance on the Opera House stage and she loves it. She enjoys music, hanging out with friends and playing with her dog, Roxie.

Laura – Gretel Moser – Gretel is so excited to *finally* get to perform in an OHP show! She was last seen on stage as a 2-year-old, dancing with her family in the OHP 50th Anniversary Showcase (2016). She is now 5-years-old and ready to be the best sheep she can be! Gretel loves to dance and has been taking jazz, tap, and ballet for two years. She also loves to sing! She has written multiple plays with her siblings, which are performed for a select audience in the family living room. The Opera House is one of Gretel's favorite places to be as she has



MEET THE CAST

Mack - Cary Kann - Cary has been involved in countless OHP productions both onstage and as a set/prop designer utilizing his talents in the visual arts. He last appeared in *The Producers* (2019). He won a 2017 ICTA award for his portrayal of Larry in *South of Hope* (2018). Cary lives in Prairie du Chien with his wife, Jonelle. He has three grown children: two beautiful daughters who both continue to enjoy performing on stage and an extremely handsome son who looks just like him

Jamie - Christopher Lange - This is Christopher's second OHP production, appearing in the 2018 production of *Mary Poppins* as part of the children's ensemble. Christopher has also taken part in the OHP summer theatre camps for three years. In addition to acting in plays, Christopher is actively involved in scouts, band, football, basketball, and baseball. He is currently a 6th grader at Ed-Co, and when his time is not being spent enjoying the activities mentioned, you can find him playing more sports with his friends, playing video games, and creating art. The little bit of time he has left goes to his family, which includes his dad Andrew, mom Jenny, brother Ryan, sister Haley, and dog Kate.

Beebo - Jonathon Moser – He's back! If you attended our fall show, *The Producers*, you'll likely remember Jonathon, who had a blast playing the mild-mannered accountant, Leo Bloom. Now he's thrilled to be a part of this family-friendly, feel-good holiday show and perform on stage with his four children! Jonathon has performed in or directed nearly 30 shows at the OH. Some of his recent favorites include Frank Abagnale Jr. in *Catch Me If You Can* (2017), Jamie in *The Last Five Years* (2012) and the loveable ogre Shrek in *Shrek the Musical* (2015). He enjoys working backstage as well as designing and building the sets for *Mary Poppins* (2018), *The Producers* (2019), and now, *Fruitcakes*. Jonathon is a chiropractor in McGregor where he lives with his wife and children: Mariah (Sally), Taryn (Little Skeeter), Trace (Sammy), and Gretel (Laura). He is the co-owner of Grumpsters Cabins, a beautiful getaway in the hills of McGregor.

Betty Jane - Audra Janes - This is Audra's second theater performance with the OHP- she played the Bird Woman in *Mary Poppins* (2018) and also sang in the *Classic Christmas Fantasy Concert*. She is thrilled to be sharing the stage with both her children: Aiyana (Mary Beth) and Rowan (James). Besides acting, Audra also enjoys singing, traveling, reading, teaching Sunday school, and homeschooling her awesome kids. She lives near Garnavillo with her husband, Steven, and their two aforementioned awesome kids. Audra would like to thank her family and friends for their support and to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! Matthew 1:21

Director's Circle (\$500-\$749)

Joan E. Barton
Karen Schroeder
Craig & LeAnn Watson

Producer's Circle (\$750-999)

Tim Burrack & Gail Moorman Behrens

Angel's Circle (\$1000+)

John & Med Bickel
Dr. Michele & Steve Dikkers

Keith & Kathy Garms
Bob & Becky Glesne

Pastors Margaret & Mark Yackel-Juleen

performs plays in the Northeast Iowa and Prairie du Chien area. She relishes the opportunities she has to perform, meet new theater friends and embrace her crazy, creative self. Mary Beth is the mom to three spectacular kids and two perfectly wonderful granddaughters. When she is not studying lines getting ready for a performance, she loves cooking, baking and all things athletic. She wishes you and your families a warm, festive and blessed Holiday Season.

Skeeter- David Beck - David has been active with the Opera House Players since spring 2002. Accompanying at the piano for performances led to a spot on the stage in the 100th anniversary performance of *The Governor's Son*. Since then David has been cast in such memorable roles as Donkey in *Shrek*, Fagin in *Oliver*, detective Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me If You Can* and Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*. David fills his spare time with genealogy, collecting and repairing cuckoo clocks, playing piano and photography. He is also involved with the Garnavillo Historical Society and the Motor Mill Foundation. David is employed at FreedomBank and attends Grace Reformed Baptist Church.

Mattie Sue - Donna Anderson - Donna is no stranger to the stage. From the first time she tapped across the stage at the age of two it became a passion. She performed with her father in shows for the Navy and continued her love of the theater throughout high school and college. She first appeared on the Opera House stage during *The Sound of Music* (1978). Since then she has acted in, directed, or has done choreography for over 50 productions with the OHP. Past roles include the wicked Widow Corney in *Oliver!*, the fun loving Gladys in *Copacabana*, Ava & Mawtilda in *Love Thy Neighbor* and let's not forget the ever busy Mrs. Brill in *Mary Poppins*. She's also an active member of the Mamma Moon theater company. She lives with her husband, Mike, on a farm near Elkader. Their wonderful children, Matt, daughter-in-law Heather, Darcy, son-in-law Jeff and beautiful granddaughters DeAnna and Danielle live in Minnesota.

Rick - Brandon Douglas - Brandon Douglas is excited to be back on the Elkader Opera House stage. You likely have seen Brandon in the recent productions of *The Producers* as Max Bialystock, *Mary Poppins*, *Almost Maine*, and *Comedy of Tenors*. When Brandon is not rehearsing, you may find him teaching music at Central Schools, directing music at Peace UCC, writing his own music, or ice skating along the Turkey River. Look to your horizons!

Rick - Jon Banse - Jon resides south of Strawberry Point, near Backbone State Park with Marge, his wife. They have one son, Jonathan, who is attending Wartburg College. Jon has been actively involved with the Opera House Players (OHP) since 1995. Jon was last on stage in *The Producers*. Besides the theatre, he enjoys spending time with his family, singing with his quartet "Three Lads and Dad" and the Keystone Barbershop Chorus.

James - Rowan Janes - Rowan is excited to be making his theater debut! Last year, he enjoyed working on the set and costume crews for *Mary Poppins* and performing in the Classic Christmas Fantasy concert. Rowan loves playing board games with his parents and older sister, hanging out with friends, soccer, Legos, and singing in the shower at his home near Garnavillo. He attends

2019-2020 Supporting Members Actor's Circle (\$25-\$49)

Janann Bachtell
Jane Baker
Barbara K. Boies
Luann Butikofer
Jerry & Kelly Carpenter
Mike & Joanne Carroll
Steve & Janet Christianson
Bruce & Ellen Collins
Darlene Dittmer
Marvin & Julie Duff
John & Betty Fischer
Jim & Janet Fogg
Linda Gardner & Anne Shelton
Robert & Donna Gilkes
Oswald & Carol Goettler
Joan Deann Good
Ruth Grau
Merle & Darlene Hageman
Jean Marie Hall
Layton & Barb Hansel
Pat Hare
Magdalena Hayford
Winnie Holmes
Glenn & Laura Janssen
David & Mary Kahrs
Cary & Jonelle Kann
Louis & Angel Keppler
Patsy Kerndt
Gerry & Sandy Kramer
Pat Krapfl
Shirley Marmann
Sharon Matthew
Bill McHugh
Frank & Sandy McMillin
Gerald & Lorraine Miller
Linda Miller
Carl & Laura Moser
Christina Mueller
Justine Nesvik
Richard & Mary Newbern
Jeanne & Donald Niosi
Lillian Nold
Judy Olson
Ann Ott
Larry Popenhagen
Floyd & Janice Possehl
Ann K. Powers
Larry & Jennifer Reed
Gerald & Arlene Reimer
Linda Roberts
Rich & Barb Roepke
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Sonja Sersland
Kenneth & Linda Staff
Duane & Sara Strong
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Jennifer Wachuta
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Steven Warren
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Cheryl & Jim Whalen
David & Leslie Wynthein
Rosana Zamora

Playwright's Circle (\$50-\$99)

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Dennis & Mary Beck
James Brust
Dennis & Lorna Christeleit
Jerry and Joanne Cummings
Tina Dryer
Janine DuCharme
Bona Dean Feller
Chris Foley
Susan & Norman Friedrich
David & Ann Gibney
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Randy & Sue Henning
Dr. Jeff & Carolyn Hoffmann
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Gary & Betty Jackson
Trudy Johnson
Thelma Keehner
Dolly Klingeman
Anita Kobliska
Maxine Kuehl
Bruce & Betty Landis
Fred & Lynn Lange
Kevin & Kim Lau
Rolle & Barbara Leary
Diane & David McKenzie
Patrick & Donna McLane
Ginger Medberry

Rob & Dawn Medberry
Donna Menken
David & Melanie Mergen
Mary Milewsky
Bob & Susie Moran
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Marilyn Seedorff
Lowell & Joyce Siegle
Leon Skubinna
James & Trina Springsteen
Alice Staples
Sue Stott
Betty Troendle
Randy & Kathy Waterman

THE CREWS

SET CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN & PROPS

Cary Kann
Cheri Moser
Steve Warren
Taryn Moser
Aiyana Janes
Bob Hankey
Christopher Lange
Wendy Shea

Jonathon Moser
Kay Moser
Trace Moser
Audra Janes
David Beck
Tom Chandler
Macy McGeough
Clark Ott

Del Reimer
Gus Augustson
Mariah Moser
Gretel Moser
Rowan Janes
Andrew Lange
Jon Banse
Janet Ott

LIGHTING & SOUND

Jay Moser

Marla Reimer
Bob Hankey

Del Reimer
Craig Strutt

TICKETS

Terri Strutt

Clayton Drug

COSTUMES & MAKEUP

Audra Janes
Rowan Janes

Mary Beth Specht
Aiyana Janes

Barb Chandler

PROGRAMS & PUBLICITY

Craig Strutt
Marla Reimer

Cheri Moser
Kay Moser

Thank you to...

- Mrs. Butikofer's Home Economics class at MFL MarMac for baking us fruitcakes
- Helen & Ann Gritzner for baking all our holiday cookies used in the show
- Grant Hankey for letting us borrow from his beautiful Christmas tree collection
- Sarah Sheehan for the whirlygigs
- Dave Beck for the cuckoo clocks
- Jenn Kutsch for the beautiful Christmas tree
- Cutting Edge Archery Elkader for the Deer Props
- Mike Casper for the stove and camping supplies

Thanks to all who helped make this show possible after the program went to press.

spent many hours there working on set, watching her mom direct, and watching her dad & siblings rehearse on stage. Gretel would like to direct shows when she grows up. But for now, she's pretty sure she's the 2nd best actor in the family, after her dad, of course. She is a Kindergartner at MFL MarMac and lives in McGregor with her parents and three older siblings.

Frances - Ruby Koeller - Ruby is in 8th grade at MFL MarMac School. She loved performing in *Willy Wonka* (2016) and *The Worst Christmas Pageant Ever* (2017). She also appeared in three children theatre shows on the Opera House stage. Ruby enjoys being on stage at school, including roles in "Annie" and "Princess Who?" Ruby loves cross country and track. She also LOVES Christmas! She hopes to be a pediatric nurse one day. Ruby lives in McGregor with her parents Ryan and Tricia and siblings Sam, Max, Ty and Layia.

Director - Cheri Moser – Cheri has been involved in over 30 OHP shows in the past 27 years. Cheri especially loves to work with kids and help grow their love for live theater! Some of her favorite roles on stage include *Millie in Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2014) and *Princess Fiona in Shrek the Musical* (2016). She most recently directed *The Producers*. Cheri lives in McGregor with her husband, Jonathon, and four kids, who are all in the cast of this beautiful show! Speaking of family, she wants to give a 'shout out' to the grandparents of her children, who make all this work and all these shows possible! Cheri believes live theater helps teach us compassion for all living things and appreciation for the world around us. She is well aware she wouldn't have any of these opportunities if it weren't for the hard work of her parents, in-laws, and many others! Thanks, OHP! (P.S. - Cheri highly recommends YOU be a part of this amazing group as they welcome new faces with open arms!)

Director - Craig Strutt - Craig, has acted in or directed 56 OHP productions since returning to the OHP stage in *Annie* (1992) where he played the role of Oliver Warbucks. He directed such OHP productions as *The Wizard of Oz* (2004), *Music Man* (2009) and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2014). He was last seen on stage in *It Runs In The Family* (2019). Craig is spending more and more time working with the technical end of these theater productions in lighting and sound. Craig lives in McGregor with his wife, Terri, the "Ticket Queen". Craig is a chiropractor in McGregor.

Producer - Kay Moser – Kay has been involved with the OHP since 1973. Having appeared onstage in many productions, she is most often found producing, directing, and generally helping out in all areas of any show. Her valuable experience is crucial to every OHP show. She enjoys life with her husband, Jay, their sons, Jonathon, (a nominee for Best Actor for his performance in *South of Hope*) Benjamin, and their amazing wives and beautiful children.

The Cast

Cary Kann	Mack Morgan
Christopher Lange	Jamie
Jonathon Moser	Beebo Dantzler
Audra Janes	Betty Jane
Sam Frailey	Little Beebo
Mariah Moser	Sally
Lori Frailey	Miss Alice
Mary Beth Specht	Miss Sara
David Beck	Skeeter
Donna Anderson	Mattie Sue
Jon Banse & Brandon Douglas	Rick
Rowan Janes	James
Tucker Bolsinger	Little Larry
Trace Moser	Sammy
Taryn Moser	Little Skeeter
Macy McGeough	Meredith
Hannah Koehn	Amy
Aiyana Janes	Mary Beth
Ella Buckman	Little Billie
Layia Koeller	Joanie
Ashlyn Koehn	Shepherd
Gretel Moser	Laura
Ruby Koeller	Frances

The Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: *And an Angel of the Lord appeared to them*

Mack's Barn December 20th - 5pm

Scene 2: *Breakfast*

Mack's Barn December 21st - 8am

Scene 3: *Buster the Christmas Hog*

Beebo's House - Later that morning

Scene 4: *The Recipe*

Miss Sara and Miss Alice's Kitchen - following

Scene 5: *Play Practice*

Mack's Barn - Late that afternoon

ACT II

Scene 1: *Clyde the Hunting Angel*

Mack's Barn December 22nd - early morning

Scene 2: *Eggnog*

Miss Sara and Miss Alice's Kitchen - later that morning

Scene 3: *You can't fix everything*

Mack's Barn - later that night

Scene 4: *The Grand Illumination*

Beebo's House - following

Scene 5: *The Show must go on*

Mack's Barn December 23rd - evening

Scene 6: *Christmas Eve*

Mack's Barn December 24th - evening