

THE OPERA HOUSE PLAYERS  
PRESENT

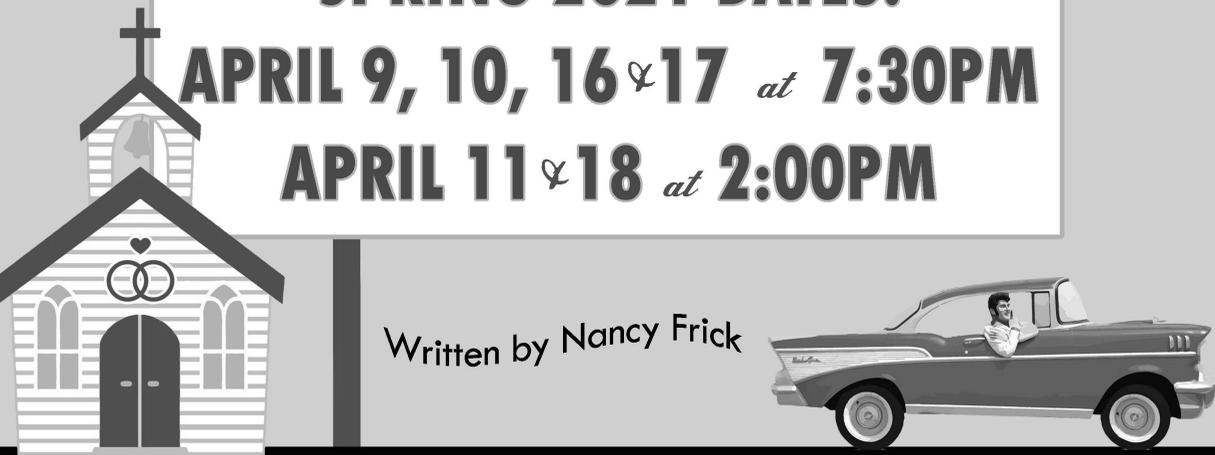
**FOUR**  
W E D D I N G S  
*and an*  
**ELVIS**

**PERFORMANCES**

**SPRING 2021 DATES:**  
**APRIL 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 7:30PM**  
**APRIL 11 & 18 at 2:00PM**

Written by Nancy Frick

*Performances at the Elkader Opera House, 207 N. Main Street, Elkader, IA  
Produced by special arrangement with Baker's Plays*




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# *Four Weddings and an Elvis*

by  
Nancy Frick

Licensed by Arrangement with  
Samual French Inc  
235 Park Ave South  
New York, NY 10003

[www.SamuelFrench.com](http://www.SamuelFrench.com)

Director. . . . . Joeann Tesar

Co-Director / Producer.. . . . Kay Moser

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.  
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.

# MEET THE CAST

**Sandy** - Avalon Dziak - Avalon is thrilled to be returning to the Opera House stage after \*ahem\* a few years away. You may remember her from *The Wizard of Oz*, *Children of Eden*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Hello Dolly!* and *Run for Your Wife*, to name a few (and if you don't, she forgives you. That was awhile ago, after all). She has spent the last number of years being a nomad, moving from state to state, performing and being generally entertaining. She currently lives in Marquette with her grandmother and shattered dreams.

**Bev** - Diane Fisk - Diane is in her 42nd year with the Opera House Players (yes, she was very young when she started). She has enjoyed wearing many hats throughout the years, acting, directing, choreography, orchestra and stage manager to name a few. She was last seen on stage in *The Producers* (2019). Other roles include Helene in *Sweet Charity* (1984), Roxy Hart in *Chicago* (1991), Kathy Sheldon in *Singing in the Rain* (1995), Rose in *The Secret Garden* (2000), Sister Leo in the *Nunsense* shows, Carol in *Catch Me If You Can* (2017) and the all time favorite *The Wicked Witch in the Wizard of Oz* (2004). She continues to direct the high school musicals at MFL MarMac, directs the bell and vocal choir at St. Paul in Monona and in her spare time works at Fisk Farm and Home in Monona. She lives in Monona with her husband, Tim and loves spending time with their eight wonderful grandchildren.

**Stan** - 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 *Fruitcakes* (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.

**John / Elvis** - Mike McCoy - Mike and his wife Dawn live in Prairie du Chien, where Mike taught Middle School English for over 30 years. He now teaches Adult Education part-time for Southwest Tech in Fennimore. They have three children: Tom, Kyle, and Caitlin. Mike's stage experiences include some performances for the Prairie du Chien Cultural Committee...back in the last millennium! He is anxious to return to the stage and can't think of a better place than The Elkader Opera House.

**Bryce** - David Beck - David Beck has been active with the Opera House Players since Spring, 2002 when he accompanied at the piano in *Stardust*. This led to a spot on stage in the 100th anniversary production of *The Governor's Son* in November, 2003. Since then David has been cast in such memorable roles as Roger DeBris in *The Producers*, Fagin in *Oliver!*, Donkey in *Shrek the Musical* and Elwood P Dowd in *Harvey*. David fills his spare time with genealogy, cuckoo clocks, photography, and piano. He is also involved with the Garnavillo Historical Society and the Motor Mill Foundation. David is employed at FreedomBank and attends Grace Baptist Church in Elkader.

**Lou** - Jay Moser - Jay has been involved with the OHP since 1973, he is one of our "light" guys and has also appeared in over 20 productions. Some of his favorites were *Noises Off*, *Death by Chocolate* and the *Murder Room*. Retired as the pharmacist/owner of Elkader's Moser Family Pharmacy, he is spending time with his wife, Kay, son Benjamin, Jenna, grandsons Kallum (3) and Ronan(1); son Jonathon, Cheri and grandchildren Mariah (12), Taryn (11), Trace (9) and Gretel (7) as well as his OHP family of friends! Hope everyone enjoys the wonderful new stage floor!!

**Fiona** - Mary Beth Specht - Mary Beth has been performing with the Opera House Players since 2013 beginning as an ensemble member in the musical *Oliver!*. Some of her favorite roles have included Charlotte in *Moon over Buffalo*, Mrs. Beauregard in *Willie Wonka*, and most recently as the “Hold Me, Touch Me” Old Lady in the wildly funny OHP production of *The Producers*. The Opera House has become like a home away from home after many plays and musicals, each experience being wonderful, unique, and rewarding. She grew up in White Plains, New York and moved to Prairie Du Chien in 1982. Never expecting to make the Midwest her permanent home, it has become her personal stage for raising three amazing children and pursuing a love of golf, skiing, hiking, biking, and other passions including Granny Basketball. Mary Beth has been in the education field as a teacher, administrator, and mentor for the past 40 years - a career that has brought her some of the greatest challenges and joys in her life. Her most cherished and favorite memories and moments are those spent with children, grandchildren, and her husband, Jim, who lovingly tolerates her wacky escapades and crazy dreams. She hopes you will enjoy this visit to Las Vegas!

**Marvin** - Mark Yackel-Juleen - Mark originally hails from Minnesota, moving to Elkader 5 years ago from southwestern Minnesota. He was drawn into theater by his family “Watching my family shine on stage inspired me to trod the boards as well,” says Mark. In Minnesota, Mark played the lead, Fr. Tim Kavanaugh, in *Welcome to Mitford*, and Grandpa Vanderhof, in the ensemble cast of *You Can't Take It With You* with the Fulda Community Players. He also played the ominous Herr Zeller in the Prairie Arts Continuum production of *The Sound of Music*. His first role with the Opera House Players was as Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka the Musical*. He played the dastardly Lord Clive Wickenham in *While the Lights Were Out*, and ensemble

parts in *Catch Me If You Can*. He is excited to be back on stage with this delightful cast. Mark is a Lutheran pastor and serves as Director for Small Town and Rural Ministry at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, doing research, resource development, and teaching rural ministry courses.

**Fist** - Justin Rork - his is the first time ever Justin has been in a play or decided to do anything quite like this! Married with 3 beautiful daughters (the oldest is 17 and his twins are 12), this 45-year-old native of Guttenberg was born in Summerville, New Jersey and has lived in Texas, Florida, Alabama, Minnesota and the U.S. Virgin Islands – with his current home, Elkader, being his favorite. A water tower painter, his hobbies include hot rods and creating his own amazing paintings.

**Ken** - John (Corky) Bickel - Corky was there when the "King" started and is pretty sure he saw him in the parking lot waiting for the reopening of White Springs. “Long live Elvis!”

**Cameraman** - Jim Specht - Jim is looking forward to yet another upcoming plan of retirement in his educational career as a teacher for at-risk youth (inexplicably, he keeps coming back). In an effort to complete a “bucket list” item, his debut performance on any stage anywhere was as Phil in *Almost, Maine*. He insisted that his debut was a “one and done” experience; however, after “two and through,” “three, let me be,” this show is now his “four, I’m out the door.” He really does have a good time, it’s just that – in his words – “there’s a lot more to acting than you would think.” Married to Mary Beth, he enjoys his family, the Badgers, and walking their dogs, Oscar and Pearl.

**Police** - Craig Strutt - Craig, has acted in or directed 57 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.

**Vanessa/Co-Director/Set Design** - Joeann Tesar - Having directed the Opera House Players' summer Blackbox shows (*South of Hope*, *Almost, Maine* & *A Year in the Death of Eddie Jester*), this is her first main stage production. Since 2011, Joeann has performed many times on this stage. The irony of her favorite roles to date (Mrs. Meers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and Conchita in *Copacabana*) is that despite her questionable singing and objectionable dancing skills, the OHP family has always supported and provided many opportunities for her to blossom for which she is deeply grateful. A past nominee for Best Lead Actress by the Iowa Community Theatre Association and co-founder of Mama Moon Theatre Company, she has truly enjoyed every aspect of this production – from rediscovering her love of all things Elvis to the many creative talents that have given life to her vision and allowed the untethered channeling of her inner kitsch goddess. A Chicago transplant, she is married to Dan, a farrier & blacksmith artist, and they are proud of their son, Danny, who is successfully following in his father's footsteps.

**Co-Director/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

Sandy.....	Avalon Dziak
Bev .....	Diane Fisk
Stan .....	Cary Kann
John .....	Mike McCoy
Vanessa .....	Joeann Tesar
Bryce .....	David Beck
Lou .....	Jay Moser
Fiona .....	Mary Beth Specht
Marvin .....	Mark Yackel-Juleen
Fist .....	Justin Rork
Ken .....	John (Corky) Bickel
Camerman .....	Jim Specht
Police .....	Craig Strutt

### Act 1 Scene 1

#### Bev & Stan: The Payback

### Scene 2

#### Vanessa & Bryce: The Comeback

### Act 2 Scene 1

#### Marvin & Fiona: The Real Thing

### Scene 2

#### Sandy & Ken: The Epilogue

# Upcoming events at the Elkader Opera House

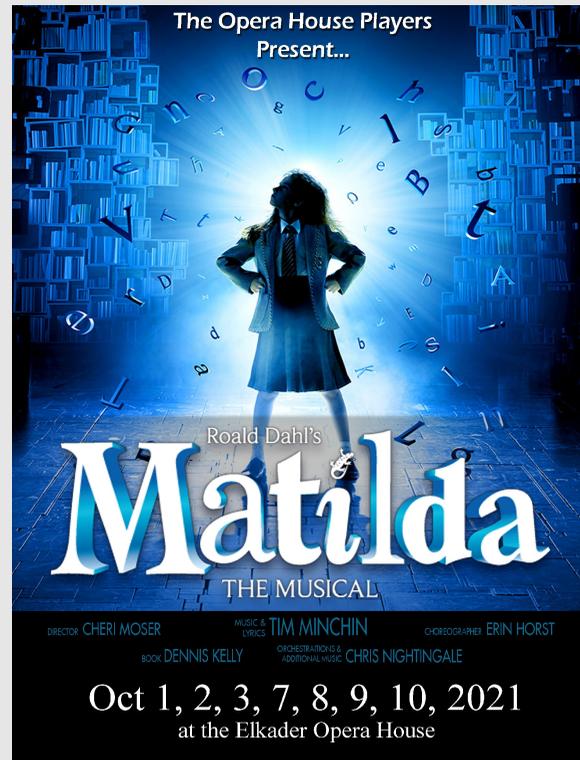
TRYOUTS for  
**MATILDA**  
by Roald Dahl  
May 11 & 12, 2021 at 6:30pm



2021 THEATRE CAMP DATES: JUNE 14-18

Show Name: To Be Announced Soon  
Open to students completing 1st grade thru high school  
Registration opens in April

Camp runs 9am-3:30pm on Monday-Thursday  
and 12pm-8pm on Friday  
with one performance at 7pm on Friday, June 18th!



Oct 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2021  
at the Elkader Opera House

Be sure to check out our websites for more information on upcoming events.  
[www.OperaHousePlayers.com](http://www.OperaHousePlayers.com)  
[www.ElkaderOperaHouse.com](http://www.ElkaderOperaHouse.com)

We maintain an email list to keep you informed of events, and occasional special offers just for our email members.

Email us at [list@operahouseplayers.com](mailto:list@operahouseplayers.com)

## THE CREWS

### SET CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN & PROPS

**Tom Chandler**  
Cary Kann  
Justin Rork  
Erica Rork  
Jim Specht

**Jonathon Moser**  
Kay Moser  
Joeann Tesar  
Rob Medberry  
Jay Moser

**Del Reimer**  
Gus Augustson  
Janet Ott  
Mary Beth Specht

### LIGHTING & SOUND

Craig Strutt

Marla Reimer  
Bob Hankey

Del Reimer

### TICKETS

Terri Strutt

Elkader Floral Shop

### COSTUMES & MAKEUP

Barb Chandler

Mary Beth Specht

Jennifer Lancaster

### PROGRAMS & PUBLICITY

Craig Strutt  
Marla Reimer

Terri Strutt

Cheri Moser  
Kay Moser

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

# Director's Notes

A more expensive option to the new 1953 craze of recording your own singing voice on vinyl, Elvis walked into the Sun Record Company in Memphis hoping that the rumors of being discovered there were true. Asked by the secretary "Well, who do you sound like?" He responded with, "Ma'am. I don't sound like nobody." The assessment of that demo performance was, "Good ballad singer. Hold." At his first public performance, Elvis was extremely nervous causing his leg to shake. A born showman, he decided to exaggerate the movement to make it look intentional causing a huge audience response. Thinking they hated him and were booing him offstage, he was assured that was not the case.

Presley has become an indelible part of popular culture and has influenced generations of people. I so enjoyed this well-written script by Nancy Frick (who, though initially not interested in theatre, was welcomed by a hometown group and after many years of working backstage as a crew member, producer and director, finally tried her hand at playwriting), I realized how much I really did love Elvis. In this "little love song" of a show, I wanted to be faithful and pay tribute to the things that defined him. Bill Belew, inspired by a floor tile, created The Conquistador black jumpsuit (often worn in his Las Vegas shows) designed to appease Elvis' distaste for tuxedos while lending a greater ease of movement after Presley ripped his pants during a performance. Electing not to go "with one particular motif," Graceland's original interior designer, George Golden (winning the job because he befriended Elvis' dad and never badgered mom to make any decisions), was once described as "a man who created fine examples of incongruous opulence of a late fifties' lush life." Naturally, it became an inspiration in my choices for set and prop design.

John Lennon once commented, "Before Elvis, there was nothing." For me, the story of Elvis is one of many that shows how the arts matter. Music, theatre, dance, writing, painting - all are not optional but absolutely essential in finding and celebrating the joys of our life. Thank you for supporting the arts by seeing the results of the many diverse talents of countless dedicated, hard-working community members. My hope is that if you do not find your own inner creative force, you will gladly embrace it when it finds you.

Joeann Tesar

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

Janann Bachtell  
Barbara Barr  
Ric & Ila Benzing  
Bernard & Maureen Bergan  
Theresa & Elmer Bries  
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Darlene Dittmer  
Tina Dryer  
Marvin & Julie Duff  
Roland & Elizabeth Evans  
Pat & Arlys Fitzgerald  
Alex & Cathy George  
Julita Goedken  
Joan Good  
Ruth Grau  
Merle & Darlene Hageman  
Magdalena Hayford  
Roger & Rebecca Hefel  
Erhart Hehr  
Randy & Sue Henning  
Madonna Hosch

Glenn & Laura Janssen  
David & Mary Kahrs  
Ron & Georgi Kaiser  
Cary & Jonelle Kann  
James & Mary Keehner  
Patsy Kerndt  
Amanda Kerner  
Randi Kluesner  
Pat Krapfl  
Rolfe & Barbara Leary  
Adam Lenehan  
Susan Lueder  
Shirley Marmann  
Sharon Matthew  
Donna Menken  
Gerald & Lorraine Miller  
Linda Miller  
Cici Mueller  
Justine Nesvik  
Jeanne & Donald Niosi  
Lillian Nold  
Tracy Nuss

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Pat Hunsberger  
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Karen Schroeder  
Craig & LeAnn Watson**

***Angel's Circle (\$1000+)***

**John & Med Bickel  
Dr. Michele & Steve Dickers  
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Pastors Margaret & Mark Yackel-Juleen**  
*A Special thank you for the generous  
endowment to the Opera House from the  
Jean Tappan Trust*

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

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