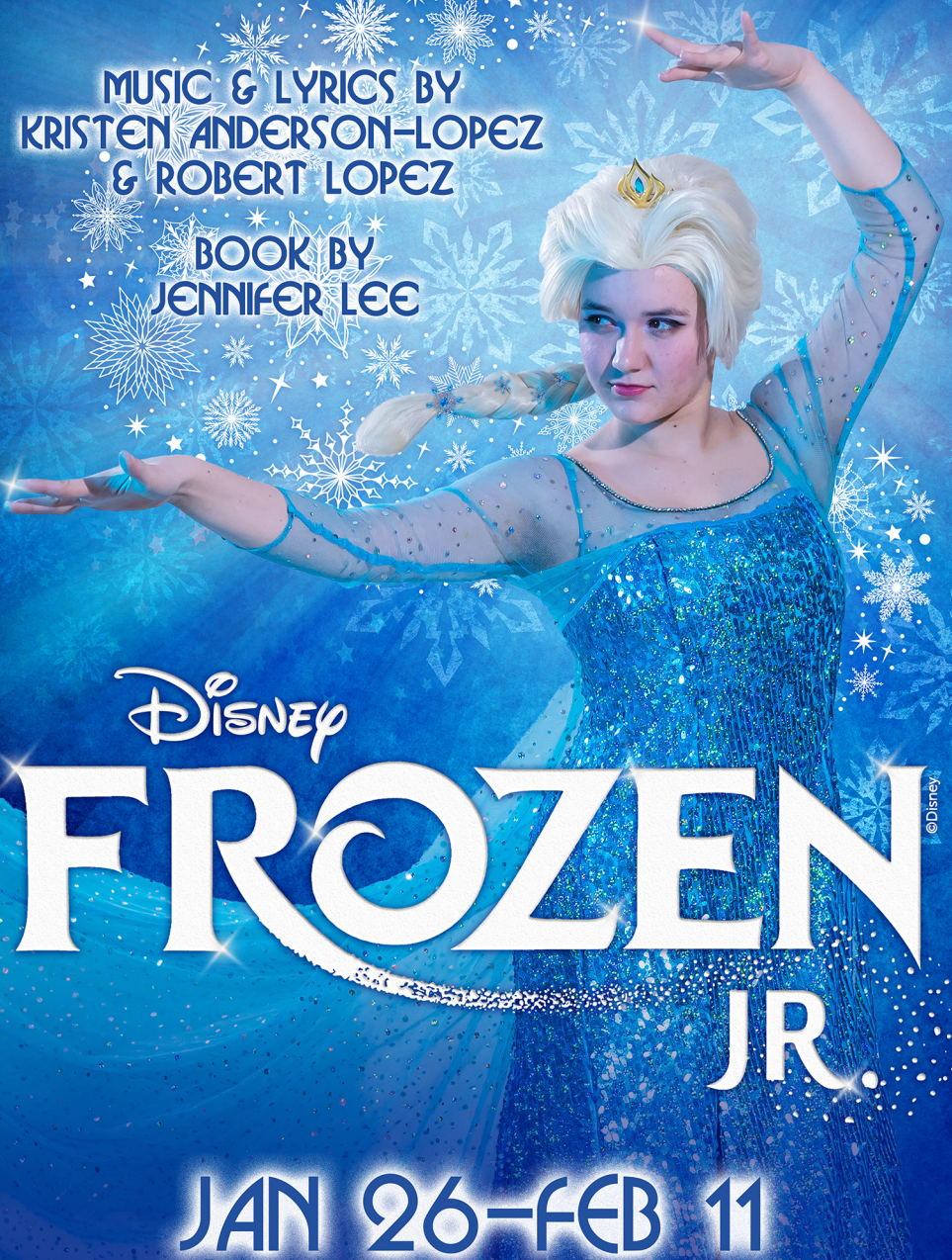


In Association With Music Theatre International  
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The Production of

MUSIC & LYRICS BY  
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Disney

FROZEN  
JR.

JAN 26-FEB 11



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Our production of *Disney's Frozen Jr.* is not merely a showcase of budding talent; it's a celebration of the invaluable role children play in shaping the cultural tapestry of the arts. From the smallest supporting roles to the spotlight of the lead, each child contributes to the sorcery of scenes unfolding before your very eyes. We invite you to join us in embracing the laughter, love, and self-discovery woven into *Disney's Frozen, Jr.* by our talented young performers.

Together, let us celebrate the enduring spirit of youth, their enveloping energy, and the precious gift of childlike innocence that graces the stage in front of you.

Allow us to open the gates—Arendelle awaits!

## UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS





Disney  
**FROZEN**  
JR.

**Music & Lyrics by  
Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez**

**Book by  
Jennifer Lee**

Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee and directed by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee  
The original Broadway production of *Frozen* was directed by Michael Grandage and  
produced by Disney Theatrical Productions.

Original Broadway Orchestrations by Dave Metzger

Original Broadway Music Supervision and Arrangements by Stephen Oremus

Additional Broadway Dance Arrangements by David Chase

*Frozen Jr.* Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by Madeline Smith

*Frozen Jr.* Script Adapted by Sara Wordsworth

Director/Choreographer  
**Allison Maxwell**

Music Director  
**Tori Rathbun**

Assistant Choreographer  
**Lauren Stromak**

Scenic Designer  
**Bonnie Sprung**

Sound Designer  
**Lamar Hickley**

Lighting Designer  
**Nicholas Hogan**

Prop Designer/TD  
**Tori Oakes**

Costume Designer  
**Tamara Marke-Lares**

Assistant Stage Manager  
**Avery Tyler**

Scenic Charge Artist  
**Bonnie Sprung**

Production Supervisor  
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**January 26 - February 11, 2024 | The Athens Theatre**

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### Director's Notes...

Taking on the role of both choreographer and director of this iconic and larger than life production has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding. As the mother of a 5 year old little girl, I feel like I have been preparing for *Frozen* for the past 3 or 4 years. I feel a familiarity and camaraderie with the characters that only comes from watching the movie multiple times a day, every day, for an entire year.

It's been 10 years since the movie premiered and *Frozen* continues to captivate and entertain the young and the young at heart. With its catchy tunes, humor, quirky characters, and universal themes, *Frozen* has stood the test of time as an instant Disney classic. I think a lot of the appeal of *Frozen* comes from its fresh take on the fairytale genre. The princess saves herself in this one, the evil queen is, in fact, not evil. True love's kiss isn't the only way to break a spell. In *Frozen*, we learn this, and other lessons as well. Olaf teaches us the magic of optimism and innocence, Oaken teaches us the magic of self care and a cozy blanket, Kristoff and Sven, the magic of true friendship. We learn that some people are worth melting for, the past is in the past, fear is the enemy, and a little love will bring out the best in someone. Love, bravery, and understanding are the highest and purest forms of magic. With Anna and Elsa, we learn that you don't have to face the world on your own, and fear and pushing people away are the biggest challenges to your "magic." *Frozen* is also a story of acceptance, both of yourself and others, and the need to let go of perfectionism and conformity. Elsa's strength is also her weakness and Anna's weakness is also her strength, showing us that there is magic and power in all of us, and the best way to find it is just to be yourself.

It has been such a joy to work with these talented children and watch them grow as people and as actors. The amount of work and dedication they've put into this production is admirable. This may be a "Jr" production, but these young people are far from just kids doing a "kid show." They are young professionals, and the talent and hard work you'll see on this stage reflects that.

I am so grateful and honored to be at the helm of this magical and heartfelt story. I hope you have as much fun watching this show as we had putting it all together.

*Allison Maxwell*  
Frozen Jr. Director and Choreographer



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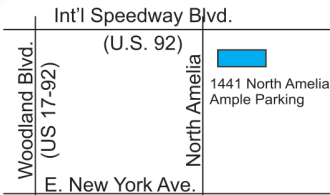
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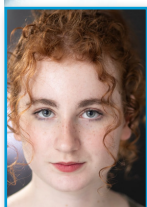
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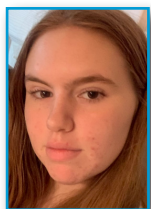
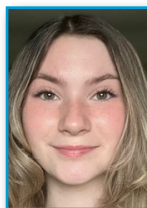


**Noelle Blasingame** (Anna) is delighted to be back at the Athens Theatre! Noelle, a 14-year-old 9th grader at DeLand High School, is an active member of the school's choir and theater programs. Previously, she portrayed Bruce in *Matilda the Musical Jr.* and Belinda Cratchit in *Scrooge*. Some of her other favorite roles include

Olive Ostrofsky in the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Janis in *Mean Girls Jr.* (Theatre West End). Noelle is also a member of the Four Counts group at Dr. Phillips Center of the Arts. She extends her gratitude to the directors of *Frozen Jr.* for the fantastic show and her moms for their unwavering support! Enjoy the show! Instagram: @noelleblasingame.



**Kate Budzinski** (Anna) is very excited to be returning once again to the Athens stage. You may have just seen her here as Susan in *White Christmas*, or Lavender in *Matilda Jr.* Some other recent credits include Cady Heron in *Mean Girls Jr.* (Theatre West End), Angela in *TRAP* (DeLand High School), and Harry in *Puffs* (Shoestring Theatre). Kate is actively involved in the choir and theater program at DeLand High School and enjoys biking in her free time. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.



**Marion Cass** (Queen Iduna/Elsa Understudy) considers it a great privilege to be part of this amazing production of *Frozen Jr.* Marion is a Sophomore at DeLand High School, where she is in theater and chorus. She is also on the chorus council. Previous credits include *Matilda Jr.* (Ensemble), *Footloose Youth Edition* (Ethel McCormick), and *TRAP*

(Marion Jay). Marion has also been involved with the Athens Theatre Youth Academy (ATYA) for the past few years as a student and a junior counselor. Thank you to the creative team for this incredible opportunity, and to the cast and crew for putting on such an amazing show. And lastly, a huge thank you to her family, for always being there to cheer her on! Enjoy the show!





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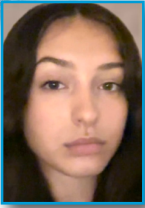
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# MEET THE CAST



**Lara Castro** (Ensemble) is excited to be in her first production with Athens. She has also been accepted into the top 10 in the Next Star production out of 300 kids. She has done theater and dance for 2 years. She has always loved acting since she was very little. *Frozen* is one of her favorite Disney movies since she was 5 and it has always held a very special place in her heart. She is so happy to be part of a production that taught her the beautiful message that Love means putting someone else's needs before your own.

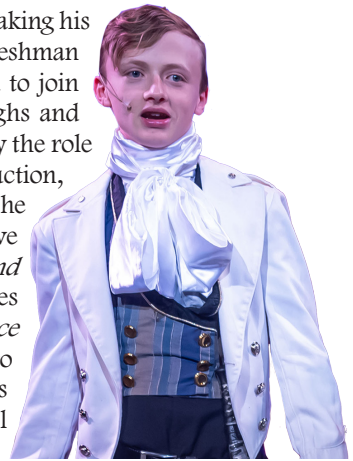


**Stevie Christofore** (Pabbie) is a freshman at DeLand High School and has been performing in theater since she was 8 years old. She started at Lochwood Academy in Sanford in 2018, moving to Baystreet Theater in Eustis in 2019-2020. During her time at Baystreet, she landed the role of Marta in *The Sound of Music* at Icehouse Mount Dora Theater. She moved to DeLand in late 2019. Starting this year at DHS, she was able to partake in her high school theater production, *TRAP*. Ending here at Athens Theatre, she is excited to continue her love of acting here in DeLand until her graduation in 2027.



**Bradyn Darrow** (Hans) is excited to be making his Athens debut in the role of Hans. He is a freshman at DeLand High and is so excited for you to join us for a fun-filled adventure, full of laughs and fun. You might have recently seen him play the role of Harold Hill for his middle school production, *The Music Man* at his home theater, The Carol Ann Kelley Theatre. You may have

also seen him play Edmund in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* at the Shoestring Theater. Other past roles include Bruce from *Matilda*, Cheshire Cat from *Alice in Wonderland*, and other minor roles. He would like to thank his parents, teachers, directors, the Athens Staff, his family and his friends, and God for the many wonderful gifts he has received. He hopes that you enjoy the show.



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# MEET THE CAST



**Riley DeBord** (Bulda/Swing; Queen Iduna/Anna) is a sophomore at OCVS and is thrilled to be making her Athens Theatre debut! Riley has been in Florida for two years and has done many shows at Theater West End. Riley has played the roles of Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz*, Mama Ogre/Mama Bear/Duloc Doll/Dancing Rat in *Shrek*, Martha Cox in *High School Musical*, Rusty in *Footloose*, and Ensemble in *Les Misérables*. She has performed in *Newsies*, playing the roles of Bunsen/Scab 2/Katherine

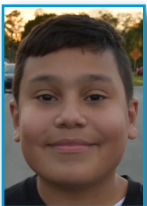
US at Theatre South Playhouse! Riley has also performed at Dr. Phillips Center in *Take It from The Top* in 2022! She was recently seen in a production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Theater West End. Riley wants to give her family a huge thank you for all the love and support through the years of performing. She wants to thank her Directors and Crew for putting together an amazing show.



**Leona Gibson** (Middle Anna) is so excited to be playing Middle Anna in this production of *Frozen Jr!* This will be her second show at the Athens—last year she appeared as Alice in *Matilda*. Leona is currently homeschooled and is planning to start at University High School next year as a Freshman. In her free time, she enjoys playing piano, writing, and her cats. Leona would like to thank her mom and dad for driving her all over town and country for her passions. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Kailee Gleason** (Ensemble/Summer Choir/Snow Choir) is excited to be back on stage performing at the Athens Theatre. She last played Amanda Thripp in *Matilda Jr.* and has also performed in the Athens Theatre Youth Academy production of *101 Dalmatians*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and the whole staff team of *Frozen Jr.* for this opportunity.



**Jacob Gomez** (Weselton) is excited to be performing for the first time at the Athens Theatre in the role of Weselton. He is a freshman at DeLand High School and is excited to meet so many new people. He loves to make people happy! He has been in multiple shows in middle school, such as Baby Bear in *Shrek Jr.* and Chad in *High School Musical Jr.* He would like to thank his Parents, Siblings, Friends, and all the people who have helped him get to this point in his journey. He would also love to thank the Staff

and Crew at the Athens Theatre for giving him this opportunity to be in this amazing show!



**Nohely Gomez** (Ensemble) is excited to perform in her first stage performance in *Frozen Jr.* While this may be her first production, she has been a student of the Athens Theatre Youth Academy for 4 years, appearing in camps such as Improv, Pantomime, Theatre Games, *Game of Tiaras* (as the animated snowman), Musical Theatre, Acing the Audition, Let's Dance, and most recently appeared in the ensemble in *Footloose Youth Edition*.



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# MEET THE CAST



**Annie Irving** (Ensemble) is thrilled to be performing on the Athens stage for the first time. She has done several productions with Baystreet Players in Eustis where she has been an active member of their Young People's Theater program. She played Mrs Potts in *Beauty and the Beast JR*, Queen in *Cinderella JR*, Big Kids Ensemble in *Matilda*, Ernie/Dr. Campbell in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Ensemble in *Madagascar JR*, Mackenzie in *The Great Christmas Cookie Bake-off*, and many more. She also assisted in directing and performing in a teen production of *BOX*. Along with performing she has also helped spotlight and was the assistant stage manager for *Hands on a Hardbody* and assistant stage manager for *Baby*. She would like to thank her Director for giving her this amazing opportunity, her Musical Director, her Choreographers, her fellow cast mates, everyone else who has made *Frozen* happen, and finally, her parents who have always believed in her.



**Mia LaBell** (Ensemble/Snow In Summer Chorus) is excited to make her debut on the Athens Theatre stage. Her other local performances were as a Party Girl/Angel/Macarob in Ormond Ballet's 2023 production of *The Nutcracker*, and as Flotsam in the David C. Hinson Sr. Middle School theatre programs's production of *The Little Mermaid Jr*: Mia is a voice student in the Athens Theatre Youth Academy.



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# MEET THE CAST



**Lynnea Massaro** (Young Elsa) is 11 years old and is delighted to take the stage for her Athens Theatre debut. Recent roles include the understudy for Jane and Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins* at the Ritz Theater in Sanford and Les in *Newsies*. She is a member of Circle Theater Kids and has been in multiple productions, the most recent as the understudy

for Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Catch her in *Finding Nemo* this April in Winter Springs. Most days you will find her singing and dancing. She thanks God, her family, and the Athens Theatre Team. She hopes you enjoy the show!

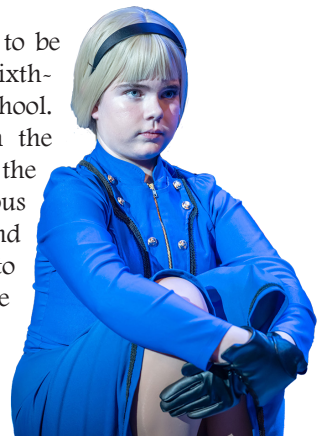


**Sophie Mercado** (Elsa) is thrilled to return to the Athens stage! You may have seen her over the past year as Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Shoestring Theatre, in the ensemble of *Seussical the Musical* at The Little Theater, or most recently in the ensemble of *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*. She has been involved in local theater

since the age of 5 and currently serves as the Youth Liaison on Shoestring Theater's Executive Board. Outside of the theatre she enjoys singing, going to the gym, and writing her music. She would like to thank Anne Sollien, Kirsten Kiwior-Taylor, Tori Rathbun, Allison Maxwell, her family, and all the other beautiful people who have supported her over the years. She would also like to thank God for His many blessings to her. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Elizabeth Miller** (Middle Elsa) is excited to be on stage with the Athens Theatre! She is a sixth-grade student at St. Barnabas Episcopal School. Though this is her first production with the Athens Theatre, she has done a lot with the Athens Theatre Youth Academy! Previous Roles include Grace Farrell in *Annie Kids* and Cruella DeVil in *101 Dalmatians Kids*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and everyone at Athens Theatre Youth Academy for always being there to support her!





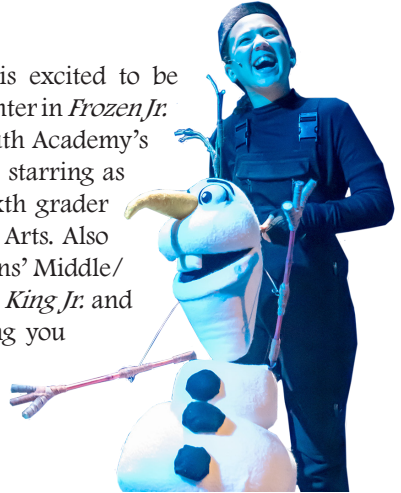
# MEET THE CAST



**Cadence Mimms** (Ensemble) is a fifteen-year-old sophomore at Deltona High School; also studying for an associate of arts degree at Daytona State College. Cadence first started doing theatre in 2018, and since then has fallen in love with it. Before moving from New Hampshire, Cadence performed in a production of *Stories Under the Big Top* (Ensemble) and *The Trial of Goldilocks* (Judge Farmer). She was most recently seen on the Athens Theatre stage in *Footloose Youth Edition* (Ensemble) and *Singin' in the Rain Jr.* (Ensemble). In addition, she was in her school's production of *The Wizard of Oz.* (U/S Tinman, Ensemble). You may have also seen her working behind the scenes on the most recent main stage productions at the Athens Theatre including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Misery*, and *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*. Cadence is excited to be performing on the Athens Theatre stage once again and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Makenna Grace Moore** (Olaf) is excited to be returning to the Athens stage this winter in *Frozen Jr.* Last seen in the Athens Theatre Youth Academy's summer production of *Annie Kids*, starring as Annie, she's 11 years old and a sixth grader at Ivy Hawn Charter School of the Arts. Also seen locally in Millennium Musicians' Middle/High Show Choir and on the stage as Scar in *Lion King Jr.* and as Pua/Hei Hei in *Moana Jr.* Makenna is wishing you happy holidays and looking forward to her first professional season-ticketed performance.



**Zoey Natal** (Young Anna) is thrilled to perform her first show at the Athens Theatre. She is a 6th-grade homeschooler who has a passion for theater. In addition to acting and singing, Zoey also enjoys reading, drawing, baton twirling, bicycling, and swimming. Recent shows include *A Christmas Chaos* (Mary), *Mary Poppins* (Annie/Toy/Ensemble) and *Narnia* (Lucy Pevensie). Zoey would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support. Enjoy the show!



# MEET THE CAST



**Laura Ortiz** (Snow/Summer Chorus/Dance Captain) was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Florida in 2011. Since she was very little, she has shown an interest in Performing Arts and started dancing at the age of 4 in the styles of Ballet, Jazz, Tap, and Lyrical, with Tap being her favorite one. She has experience as a competitive dancer in different styles. Due to her increasing interest in becoming a complete performer, she started performing in musicals at the Athens Theater in DeLand, in which she has participated in *Seussical Jr* as Wickersham 3, in *Matilda Jr* as Hortensia, in *Footloose* as Band Girl and Ensemble. She was cast in *Mary Poppins* as Chimney Sweeper and Ensemble at the Ritz Theater in Sanford. She's happy to be back at the Athens Theater as Snow Summer Chorus and Ensemble for the musical *Frozen!* Laura has been part of the school choir since middle school, and currently is part of the dance performance group of Spruce Creek HS called Papillon, for which she choreographed the Tap number for this year's winter recital. She's currently taking classes at Athens Theater to continue to improve her singing and acting skills. Laura thanks God, her family, and friends for all the support, and is happy, thankful, and honored to be cast for *Frozen* at the Athens Theater with such a great production and talented performers!



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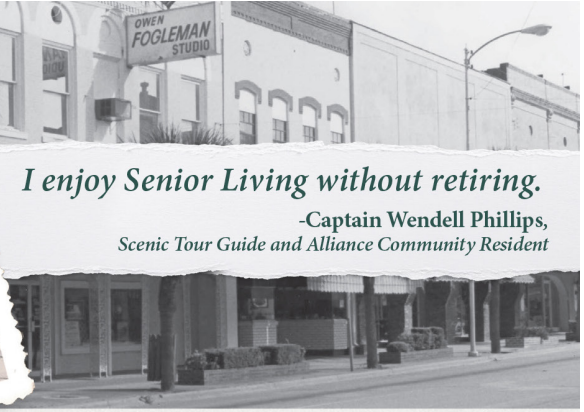
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# MEET THE CAST



**Tessa Ruth** (Oaken/Swing: Bulda) is filled with excitement to bring this character to life for you. He's the perfect mix of humble, cheerful, warm, kind, silly, and more, all put in one! Here at the Athens Theatre, they've been seen as The Ugly Duckling in *Shrek TYA*, 2022, and Mrs. Phelps in *Matilda Jr*, 2023. But may they just say, *Frozen*, is by far a favorite to many.



It's one of them. They want to thank the team bunches, and you! For your support which allows this Theater to put on great performances. Thank you! Now it's time to sit back, relax, or as they like to say - get all hygge! And enjoy this heartwarming performance! See you in Arandelle! Hoo Hoo!!



**Robinson Rosenberg** (Sven) is excited to return to the Athens Theatre for another professional production. His theatrical journey began with improv and acting classes, fueled by a summer of fun as Dexter in *Singing in the Rain Jr*. His passion for character roles is evident in his mic-dropping rhymes as Plankton in

*Spongebob SquarePants* at Center Stage Theatricals. Followed by his dramatic portrayal of Mr. Wormwood, a heartless father and crooked car salesman in *Matilda*, and his most recent role, dancing his heart out to win the affection of his love as Willard from *Footloose*. Robinson is no stranger to the stage; his musical studies at the Cuchetti School of Music in NSB have earned him 2 Superior Awards for his performance on the guitar, and over the years he has enjoyed weekly voice, guitar, and drum lessons at the school with James Duchon and Jaime Tauler. He is humbled and grateful for his chance to perform again at the Athens!



**Dina Schulz** (Ensemble), a long-time student of the Athens Theatre Youth Academy, is excited to return to the Athens stage for her first professional production. Dina was last seen as Coach Dunbar in the ATYA Summer Camp production of *Footloose Youth Edition*. Her other local performances were through Volusia County Schools as Veruca Salt in *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory* for the Citrus Grove Elementary Drama Club in DeLand, and Florinda in *The Not So Mysterious Disappearance of Cinderella* for the Southwestern Middle School Theatre in DeLand.



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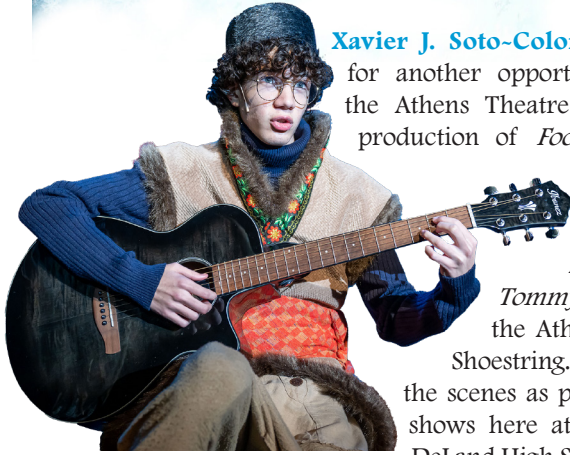
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-JOE HEARN

# MEET THE CAST



**Xavier J. Soto-Colon** (Kristoff) is excited for another opportunity to perform at the Athens Theatre after last summer's production of *Footloose Youth Edition* with the ATYA, where he enjoyed playing the role of Ren



McCormack. Other credits include *Tommy* and Michael in *Matilda Jr.*; also at the Athens, and Ernie Mac in *Puffs* at the Shoestring. He has also been involved behind the scenes as part of the tech/run crew for a few shows here at the Athens. He is a Freshman at DeLand High School where he is involved in chorus

and theatre and likes to spend his free time playing guitar. Xavi loved spending time with the cast and crew for this production and hopes everyone enjoys the show!



**Brayden Volkman** (King Agnarr) is excited to be taking the stage at the Athens Theatre. Brayden is 13 years old and a 7th-grade student at Southwestern Middle School, right here in DeLand. He loves making people laugh on stage doing improvisation and has performed in other shows including

*Aladdin Jr.* and *Willie Wonka Jr.* He would like to thank Ms. Angelyn from Athens Theatre Youth Academy for supporting his endeavors in improvisation, acting, and his family and friends for their love and support.



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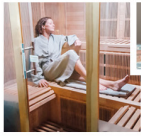
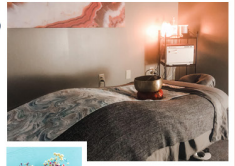
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# Disney FROZEN JR.



## ~ CAST ~

Young Anna.....	Zoey Natal
Middle Anna .....	Leona Gibson
Anna .....	Noelle Blasingame & Kate Budzinski
Young Elsa .....	Lynnea Massaro
Middle Elsa.....	Elizabeth Miller
Elsa.....	Sophie Mercado
King Agnarr .....	Brayden Volkman
Queen Iduna (Elsa Understudy).....	Marion Cass
Pabbie .....	Stevie Christofore
Bulda (Swing - Queen Iduna/Anna) .....	Riley Debord
Kristoff.....	Xavier Soto-Colon
Sven.....	Robinson Rosenberg
Hans.....	Bradyn Darrow
Weselton.....	Jacob Gomez
Olaf .....	Makenna Moore
Oaken (Swing - Bulda).....	Tessa Rashaw
Ensemble.....	Nohely Gomez
Ensemble .....	Annie Irving
Ensemble .....	Dina Schulz
Ensemble .....	Lara Castro
Ensemble.....	Cadence Mimms
Snow/Summer Chorus .....	Kailee Gleason
Snow/Summer Chorus .....	Mia Labell
Snow/Summer Chorus/Dance Captain.....	Laura Ortiz

## ~ PRODUCTION TEAM &

Director and Choreographer.....	Allison Maxwell
Music Director.....	Tori Rathbun
Assistant Choreographer.....	Lauren Stromak
Producing Artistic Director .....	Frank Ramirez
Scenic Designer/ Scenic Charge Artist.....	Bonnie Sprung
Prop Designer/Scenic Builder/TD.....	Tori Oakes
Costume Designer.....	Tamara Marke-Lares
Lighting Designer/ATD.....	Nicholas Hogan



## ~ ACT I ~

Let the Sun Shine On  
A Little Bit of You  
First Joik  
Do You Want to  
Build a Snowman?  
For the First Time in Forever  
Dangerous to Dream  
Love Is an Open Door  
Reindeer(s) Are Better  
Than People  
You're Hired  
In Summer  
Hygge

## ~ ACT II ~

Let It Go  
For the First Time in Forever  
(Reprise)  
Mountain Fall  
Kristoff's Joik  
Fixer Upper  
Colder by the Minute  
Finale



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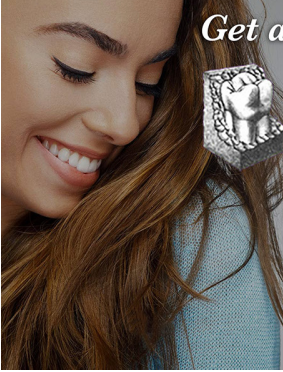
With a fact that will surprise most, the history of *Disney's Frozen* traces its roots all the way back to World War II. In 1943, Walt Disney and Samuel Goldwyn met to discuss the possibility of collaborating to produce a biographical film of author and poet Hans Christian Andersen. MGM's studio would shoot live-action sequences of Andersen's life, and Disney would create animated sequences of Andersen's most iconic stories, including *The Snow Queen*. Right away, Walt's team of storytellers and animators encountered difficulty. Simply put, they couldn't find a way to make audiences relate to the Snow Queen's character, and the project was abandoned.

In 1952, MGM went on to produce its own successful live-action film of the icy monarch. In 1989, Disney resurfaced the project after the success of *The Little Mermaid*, but creative challenges persisted and it was again scrapped in 2002. In 2008, it was revived yet again as *Anna and the Snow Queen*. Anna's name was added to the title because one of the major hurdles that Disney faced was that their main character, who happened to also be the title of the movie, was the villain! Disney's marketing team, concerned that emphasizing the word "Queen" might deter young boys, opted for a single-word title: *Frozen*. Despite a fun and light-hearted story, the writers just could not make the Snow Queen's character resonate. After 70 years in the making, the breakthrough came in 2013 when Anna was rewritten as Elsa's younger sister, transforming the character dynamics and setting the stage for the iconic success we know today. In this magical twist, the bond between sisters became the beating heart of a tale that would etch itself into the frosty realms of Disney history.

## TECHNICAL CREW ~

Sound Designer..... Lamar Hickley  
Scenic Build Crew ..... Jonathan Jackson, Ethan Roth, Henry Roth, Diego Caso  
Production Supervisor/PSM..... Diane McLean  
Assistant Stage Manager..... Noah Clark  
Costume & Prop Shop Manager ..... Amy Uppercue  
Child Guardian/Backstage Manager ..... Lauren Stromak  
Lightboard Operator ..... Madison Thompson, Jo Brown  
Spotlight Operators ..... Megan Quiroga, Jessie Ret,





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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Allison Maxwell** (Director) is so excited to serve as director and choreographer for *Frozen Jr!* She directed *Matilda Jr.* last season and has choreographed several Athens shows, such as *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Shrek*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *Scrooge, the Musical*. Along with her husband, Allison is the owner of the Emmy Award-winning Studio Creative Group here in DeLand. She has studied and worked with dance greats such as Garth Fagan, Jean Pierre-Bonnefoux, and Jared Grimes and has served as choreographer for shows such as *Annie*, *Anything Goes*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Wiz* at theaters across the Southeast. Favorite onstage performances include roles in *Spamalot*, *9 to 5*, *Anything Goes*, and *Sweet Charity*. For over twenty years, Allison has been an award-winning dance instructor and choreographer and currently teaches everything from Ballet to hip-hop at the Children's Musical Theater Workshop in Ormond Beach. Allison is also working towards a Master's degree in Creative Writing and Literature at Harvard University. She would like to thank her husband Joey and daughter Delaney for keeping her feet on the ground and her head in the clouds and sending love to her entire Athens family for enabling her to do what she loves while surrounded by such incredible people!



**Tori Rathbun** (Music Director) is very excited to be back at the Athens for another youth production! Though you are most likely to find Tori at DeLand High School, teaching the budding singers in DHS's fabulous Choral Program, she also holds a variety of Music Direction credits throughout central Florida. Some past favorites include *Shrek TYA*, *Seussical, Jr.*, *White Christmas*, *Urinetown*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Fantasticks*, and *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow*. Outside the realm of Music Direction, Tori has performed in a wide variety of theaters in central Florida, including our very own Athens--where she was last seen as Emma Carew in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Most recently, she was the Witch in *Into the Woods* at Shoestring Theatre. Tori would like to thank Elliott for bringing Hygge to her life every day.



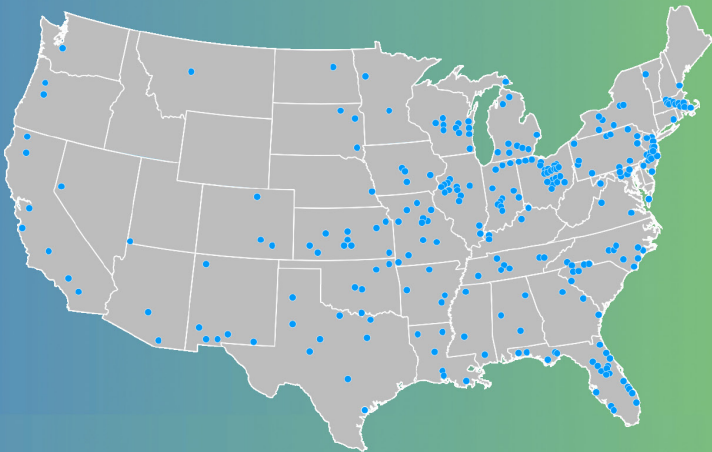
**Lauren Stromak** (Assistant Choreographer) is a performer, choreographer, and educator originally from South Florida with a degree in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida. Her artistic journey has taken her to various stages in Florida, from Stuart to Tampa and throughout Central Florida. Lauren is thrilled to be the Assistant Choreographer for *Frozen Jr.* under Allison Maxwell. Her association with Athens Theatre began in 2021 when she joined the cast of *Elf*, and has been a teaching artist at the Youth Academy since the fall of 2021. This past summer Lauren choreographed *Footloose Youth Edition* on the Athen's stage and served as Assistant Choreographer for *White Christmas* over the holidays. She's sending warm hugs to her family and friends for their endless support and love.



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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Bonnie Sprung** (Scenic Designer) is excited to design for the first time at Athens Theatre after scenic painting many shows over the years and most recently *White Christmas*. Bonnie has a BA from Hofstra University in Set Design and Graphics, along with her AA from Valencia Community College in Fine Art. She has done set design, scenic painting, make-up, and stage management for over 300 shows in Orlando and New York. She worked as a Set/Scenic designer for the BCC Summer

Fine Arts program and the JCC Center Players. Stage Manager, Sound, and Graphics for Summer Winds Theatre. She has also designed for GenY Productions, Florida Theatrical Association, First Academy Middle and High School, Westridge Middle School, Boone High, Lake Brantley High, Central Florida Community Arts, Gotha Middle School, The Masters Academy, JCC Youth Academy, and The Ensemble Company. Some of her nominated designs include *Cabaret*, *The Flick*, *Bat Boy the Musical*, *Jane Eyre the Musical*, *Torch Song*, *Clybourne Park*, *Perfect Arrangement*, and *Three Days of Rain and Hysteria*. Bonnie has over 30 years of experience in curating, and judging various art exhibits and thespian competitions. She is a member of the Women's Caucus for Art and is a past president of the FL chapter. Currently, she is on the Seminole Cultural Arts Council Board. Bonnie has shown her fine artwork and has received several awards. [www.BonnieSprung.com](http://www.BonnieSprung.com).



**Lamar Hickley** (Sound Designer/Director of Sound) has always been involved with the Arts. Since the age of 8, he has acquired the skill to play multiple instruments and gained knowledge in the area of sound reinforcement. He has over 20 years of experience as a recording engineer, in live mixing, and music production. In 2012, he received his AS degree in Music Production Technology and in 2014 he received his BAS in business supervision and management. Lamar's passions in

the industry of audio granted him the "Most Outstanding Student" award in 2012. As a result, he was selected as the face of the Music Production Technology at Daytona State College. In 2016, Lamar was introduced to the Athens family and is honored to have his company "Kevin Majestic Productions," responsible for ensuring all the audio needs are met with nothing but the best sound and quality!

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Mike Kitaif for our Publicity and Production Photos**

**Stephanie Mullins for additional production photos**

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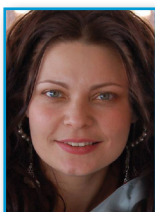
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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Nicholas Hogan** (Lighting Designer) is excited to be working with the Athens as Director of Lighting/Assistant Technical Director. Nick found his passion for lighting in early high school, practicing design at the historical Barn Theatre in Stuart, Florida. After high school, Nick went on to find employment in various lighting positions in places such as the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, the Lyric Theatre, and the Orlando Repertory Theatre. Nick is responsible for the lighting design and execution of the

Athens mainstage shows as well as their limited engagement performances.



**Tamara Marke-Lares** (Resident Costume Designer) is a sculptor, painter, printmaker, and creature marionette maker. She has been designing costumes freelance for 19 years. She has designed for Dance, Ballet, Opera and Cirque productions, as well as numerous collaborative and solo productions. Some favorite costume credits include *Margaritaville*, *Rock of Ages*; *Ragtime*, *Shrek!*, *Elf*; *Clue*; *Ain't Misbehavin'*; *Jerry's Girls*; *Chicago*; *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*; *James and the Giant Peach*; *Guys and Dolls*; *Into the Woods*; *The Wedding Singer*; *Jekyll & Hyde*; *The Lion King, Jr.* and *The Producers*. This is her sixth season with the Athens Theatre. Tamara spends her days teaching at Ivy Hawn Charter School, creating art and costumes and being amazed by her two crazy-talented children.

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# MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



**Diane McLean** (Production Supervisor) is a professional stage manager with over 30 years experience in regional, touring, and Off Broadway theater, as well as film and higher education. She received her MFA in Stage Management from Boston University. She has stage managed for The Kennedy Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Huntington Theatre Company, Lyric Stage Company, Boston University College of Fine Arts, and Boston University Tanglewood

Institute, to name a few. Film credits include *War of the Worlds*, directed by Steven Spielberg and Stephanie Daley starring Tilda Swinton. In addition to her work at the Athens Theatre, she is a professor and mentor to students at the Mike Curb College of Music, Entertainment, & Art at Daytona State. She is also the former Professor of Theatre at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. She'd like to thank Frank and the staff and board of the Athens Theatre for the opportunity to engage in theatre once again in her new hometown of DeLand. Love to H, C, and G.



**Emerson Short** (Stage Manager) is very excited to be a part of her first production with Athens Theatre! She is currently a student at Daytona State College and will be getting her AA degree in Spring 2024. Her most recent Stage Management credits include *The Prom*, *Leonard Bernstein's New York*, and *The Glass Menagerie* at Daytona State. She has also stage-managed at the International Orlando Fringe Festival in productions such as *The Murray Method* with Beth Marshall Presents and *The Inclusivity Project*. Emerson also has various technical credits

such as *Assassins*, *Into the Woods*, and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* as the lighting designer. She would like to thank her mentors, Samantha Stern, and Diane McLean for their guidance, the Athens Theatre for the opportunity, and her friends and family for their support.



**Amy Uppercue** (Costume Shop Manager) has been working behind the scenes at the Athens Theatre since 2011, and has loved being a part of all the magic that has been created on our stage. Favorite costume design credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Legally Blonde: the Musical*, and *Footloose*. In addition to running the Athens Costume Shop, Amy is also a teaching artist for the Athens Theatre Youth Academy, and serves

on the board of the National League of Junior Cotillion West Volusia Chapter and the DeLand Choir Parents Association. So much love to C, HK, AB and B. Enjoy the show!





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# MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



**Alexa Baldwin** (Executive Director) is a graduate of Kent State University with her BFA in Musical Theatre. After twelve years of working in the theatre industry and managing the offices of several companies, Alexa became the Director of Marketing and Operations for the Sands Theatre Center (DBA - Athens Theatre) in July of 2011. In 2021, she was made the theatre's Executive Director.

Among other shows, she has appeared on the Athens Theatre's stage as Sandy in *Grease*, Fantine in *Les Misérables*, and as Roz in *9 to 5 the Musical*. She has dedicated her life to working with an incredible family of co-workers and volunteers to make the Athens Theatre a representation of what community theatres can strive to be—both onstage and off. In addition to her theatre family, she is fortunate to have an incredible husband and daughter who are endlessly patient and supportive with all thing Athens Theatre. Mrs. Baldwin thanks everyone in the cast, crew, production team, and ALL the staff for the tireless hours they spent making tonight's magic happen. She hopes that you enjoy the show and come back to visit us again soon.



**Frank Ramirez** (Producing Artistic Director) is a dedicated entertainment professional with over twenty-plus years of experience. His journey in the arts has taken him behind the scenes, on stage, in union management, production management, stage management, general arts management, production direction, and creative guidance on multiple levels in the arts industry. He joined the Athens Theatre in 2018, has directed numerous mainstage productions on the Athens

stage, and is thrilled to be the Producing Artistic Director for this beautiful jewel of a theatre in the heart of Downtown DeLand. In the past, Frank has been part of multiple productions and organizations on Broadway, Off-Broadway, professional regional theatres, event management, and theme park entertainment management. He has also been associated with The Jim Henson Company via Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry, where he served as Company Manager and facilitator of their worldwide full-scale theatrical productions in Canada, China, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, and nationally across the USA. Frank also worked as a guest artist instructor of Stage Management at SUNY Potsdam/Crane School of Music. Mr. Ramirez works with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to help steer the creative vision for the Athens Theatre. This includes working with a committee to develop play selections, production schedules, and budgets. He is responsible for hiring and overseeing all staff necessary to prepare for and present each Athens Theatre Company production. In addition, he oversees the production management aspect for all live events on the Athens stage.





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# MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



**Craig Uppercue** (Development & Community Partnership)  
A Stetson University alumnus, Mr. Uppercue has taught for 18 years in the public school systems of Florida from the Elementary to Collegiate levels. Craig is the Music Director of the Off-Broadway National Tour *The Rock & The Rabbi* and performs with the show when available. Other performing opportunities include Broadway and Off-Broadway credits such as *The Witnesses Musical* (Original Cast member), *The Lion King*, *Songs for a New World* and numerous national tours throughout the U.S. He is actively involved with many professional symphonies, and maintains an active performing schedule with professional artists throughout the nation. Mr. Uppercue has been with the Athens Theatre since 2011, and he has directed many musicals and plays at the Athens as well, most recently *Shrek TYA!* Craig and his wonderful wife, Amy, live locally, enjoying every moment as they watch their three daughters grow up!



**Santi Gabino Jr.**, (Marketing and Communications Manager), a native of South Florida, made the exciting decision to relocate to DeLand in the Summer of 2022. With a rich background in event management, Santi served as the Executive & Marketing Director of a highly successful venue in Homestead, FL for over 11 years. During his tenure on his family's estate, he orchestrated nearly 100 weddings, attracting attention from renowned publications like *Allure Bridal* and *Modern Bride* for magazine shoots. The venue also became a prime location for television filming and hosting esteemed networks such as Nickelodeon and Telemundo.

He also spearheaded the creation of a wildly popular Farm to Table dinner series. Having cultivated a substantial social media following in his previous role and drawing upon his expertise, he now oversees the creation of all marketing materials, social media strategies, business to business promotions, and the crafting of all press releases and public communications.

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# MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



**Roberta (Bobe) Kenemer** (Resident Graphic Artist) is a graduate of Ringling College of Art & Design (formerly Ringling School of Art), majoring in Graphic Arts & Illustration. After relocating to Volusia County in 1982, Bobe worked for a small publishing company and as a Cartographer before accepting a position at Tennant Printing Company in DeLand. She gained extensive experience in the Graphics Department of various printing companies, along with numerous freelance projects,

before assuming her role with the Athens Theatre in the fall of 2019. As the sole image designer for the theatre and the Athens Theatre Youth Academy, her graphic design skills play an integral role in the theatre's visual identity. She takes immense pride in being part of the Athens Theatre family and eagerly anticipates the opportunity to contribute to the creative journey of each upcoming production and event.



**Shonda L. Thurman** (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advocate) Born and raised in Flint, MI, Ms. Thurman holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Roosevelt University, in Chicago, IL, and Stephens College in Columbia, MO. She also holds a theatre management certification from Tiffany Vega Management. Shonda is currently the curriculum manager for the Orlando Family Stage and current co-chair for the Juneteenth lunch and Learn Facts of Freedom. Her performance credits

range from local to all over the country in national tours. In her roles as a DEIA, performer, director, and educator she believes that everyone deserves a voice, their stories told and heard, and themselves represented in whatever arena they choose. "I am not a teacher I am an awakener." ~Robert Frost.



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Daytona Beach  
DaytonaPlayhouse.org  
January 19 - 28



### Flagler Playhouse

Bunnell  
FlaglerPlayhouse.com  
January 25 - 27  
at Matanzas High School



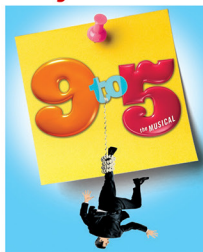
### Gateway Center for the Arts

DeBary  
gatewaycenterforthearts.org  
April 26 - May 5th



### The Little Theatre

New Smyrna Beach  
NSBPlayers.org  
February 22 - March 10



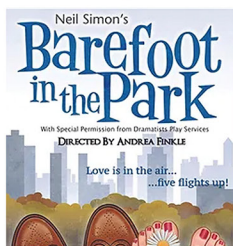
### The Ritz Theater

Sanford  
ritztheatersanford.com  
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ShoestringTheatre.net  
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