

THEATRE EAST PRESENTS

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

Oklahoma!



APRIL 21-23. 2022

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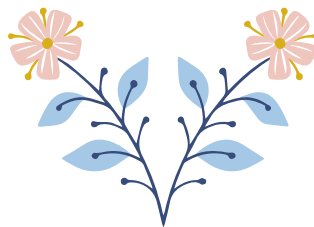
Oklahoma!

Music by RICHARD RODGERS

Book and Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs

Original Choreography by Agnes de Mille



Direction by
Addison Walden

Assistant Direction by
April A. Walden

Dance Choreography by
Kylee Bowen

Music and Sound Production by
Cory Speakman

Fight Choreography by
Dellán Short

Cast

Principles

Aunt Eller.....Hannah Wagner
Curly.....Sandro Arecco
Laurey.....Jenna Vincent
Jud.....Ben Marsella
Will.....DJ Fratt
Ado Annie..... Brooke Rhobotham
Ali Hakim.....Harrison Lowe
Gertie.....Abigail Lloyd
Carnes.....Cory Speakman
Ike Skidmore..... Kevin Parsons

Farmers and Cowboys

Dom Davis	Phillip Johnson
David Navarrete	Kayden Wilson
Tanner Deckard	Addison Kell

The Girls

Andie Acker	Elise Hendricks	Sedrina Ring
Dani Benefield	Savannah Livingston	Helena Saadat
Olivia Cannon	Molly Merck	Quinn Sanchez-Forsbach
Dominic Davis	Kenzie Miller	Erika Terek
Allison Dykes	Ashlynn Montgomery	Alexis Tesone
Nathania Espino	Dakota Montgomery	Nina Vail
Sarah Groves	Canaan Payne	Brianna Walden
	Preslie Ray	

Crew

Stage Manager.....Ryan Kriser

Asst. Stage Manager.....Easton Siver

Asst. Stage Manager.....Selene Bishop-O'Byrne

Props Manager.....Kate Mitchell

Props Manager.....JamieLynn Dickerson

Student Lighting Designer.....Xavier Graham

Student Sound Designer.....Jocelynn Harrison

Mic Operator.....Lauren Brady

Spotlight Operator.....Matt Kemp

Spotlight Operator.....Cash LaVigne

Costume Crew Lead.....Sarah Groves

Costume Crew.....Cecilia Grome

Costume Crew.....Peyton Hall

Costume Crew.....Madian Velasco

Makeup.....Emili Clark

Tech Booth Supervisor
Set Design/Costume Design

Cory Speakman
April A. Walden

Director's Notes

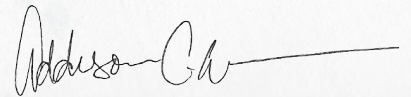
OKLAHOMA! is a classic. It is based on a 1931 play called "Green Grow the Lilacs" and hit Broadway in 1943. In 1955, the film version debuted on the Silver Screen. Since its inception, it has appeared countless times on stages across the world, including in London's West End starring a relatively unknown Hugh Jackman. Most recently, a revamped Broadway revival opened to rave reviews in 2019.

It is a lovely story that takes us back to a seemingly more simple time on the prairie "where the June bugs zoom." We love to sing the songs and bask in the simple splendor of the good feelings. Admittedly, among the sweet love stories and amiable characters, there are some darker themes as well as some insensitivities to race or gender roles, especially when viewed through a 2022 lense.

Suicide is one of those darker themes which may seem glossed over or made light of. I, personally, have been effected by suicide, having lost both friends and family members to it. Suicide affects our students and their family members as does depression, anxiety, and severe stress. We are fortunate to live in a society where help is readily available and accessible. I highly encourage anyone who is thinking about suicide in any way to seek professional help and/or reach out to our counselors here on campus. In OKLAHOMA!, suicide is weaponized by a complex character desperate to rid himself of his rival. It being a critical plotline, as well as for legal reasons, cannot be removed from the show, but I hope you will take into consideration the history of the show, the complexity of humanity, and the resources and information we have available for us to combat the suicide epidemic. I hope, too, that you can appreciate the artistic approach we've attempted to take as well as the execution of these scenes and songs by these incredibly talented students.

All of that said, OKLAHOMA! is a classic. It is a must-see by all who call themselves fans of the theatre. In spite of challenges I've had working through this script and meshing together students from all backgrounds and levels of theatrical experience, I am glad I have finally had the opportunity to work on a production of this show.

Thank you for your support of Theatre East and I hope you will enjoy the show!

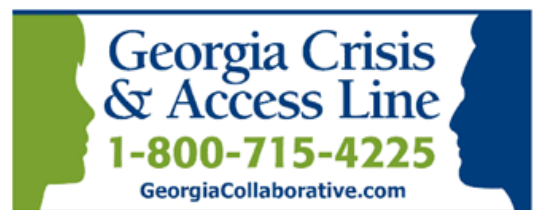


Family Ties is one of our East Community Partners. Their professional mental health counselors meet with students in need of counseling services on campus at East.



More info: <https://familytiesinc.com/>

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Mr. Curtis Mathis & the Engineering and
Technology classes for making our windmill spin!

Bios

Sandro Arecco (Curly) is a junior at EFHS and is excited to bring to the stage East's first every spring musical, Oklahoma! Some of his previous roles include Lancelot in KNIGHTS OF THE RAD TABLE and King Louie in THE JUNGLE BOOK. He would like to thank his friends for persuading him to do the musical and making it a fun time. Enjoy the show and have a beautiful day!

Andie Acker (Ensemble) is a 9th grader at EFHS. She was in SEUSSICAL (Mrs. Mayor) and HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (Martha). She's in chorus, and she listens to music in her free time. Andie wants to thank April for letting her help in the Media Center, Speakman and Walden for helping her grow as an actress, her family for always coming to her shows, and most of all her mom, who sings show tunes with her and drives her to rehearsals.

Dani Benefield (Kate/Dance Captain) is a 10th grader at EFHS. She was most recently a bird girl in SEUSSICAL JR., but you may have also seen her as Pabbie in FROZEN JR. at NFHS and Morticia in ADDAMS FAMILY JR. at LMMS. She was also involved in Ga All State Chorus and went to GA Thespian Conference. She would like to thank her directors and cast mates for making this an amazing experience and hopes you enjoy your trip to early 1900's Oklahoma!!

Olivia Cannon is a sophomore at East Forsyth High school. She has been in previous shows at North Forsyth high school and she does community theater at the Holly Theater. Olivia is so excited to be apart of the musical Oklahoma and she hopes everyone enjoys the show. Olivia would also like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.

Tanner Deckard (Ensemble) is a sophomore at EFHS. He has worked on ICHABOD!(Stage Manager) at LMMS & STEEL MAGNOLIAS(Run Crew) & SEUSSICAL JR.(Mr. Mayor). He is the president of the improv club, and is in tech and musical theater. He looks forward to continuing his theatrical career in the future. He is also interested in paleontology. He would like to thank his benefactors for financing and transportation during his shows.

JamieLynn Dickerson is one of the props mangers for EFHS Oklahoma! This is her first year on crew and her 4th year in theater. She is very excited to see what future shows the cast and crew has in store. Thank you to Peyton and to Mrs. Walden for being there for me through all the rehearsals.

Allison Dykes (Ensemble) is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School. This is her first play unless you count being a narrator for a play at Little Mill MS. Allison is very excited to be part of "Oklahoma!". She is part of the Beta Club, National Honors Society, and Science Ambassadors at EFHS. She is part of the EFHS Bass Fishing Team and has qualified for state. She is also in the Advanced Women's Choir. Allison would like to thank her family and friends for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!!!

DJ Fratt (Will) is a Junior at EFHS. This is his first musical. DJ plays music gigs with his dad on the weekends. At East, he is also the eSports president, a lacrosse captain, and a driver for the school's electric racing team. He plays bass, guitar, and some mandolin. He would like to thank his new five string bass, Arletta, for coming into his life.

Xavier Graham (Lighting Designer) is in the 10th grade who attends EFHS. Xavier has done lighting on a few occasions before, but this will be his 3rd show at East, and his 3rd show ever. Xavier currently takes A/V and through that class he has filmed several sports at EFHS including Football and Lacrosse. He first took theatre to get him closer to his dreams of becoming a director, eventually falling in love with doing lighting for shows.

Cameron Grome (Assistant Costume Director) is a freshman at EFHS. This is their first musical ever. She is involved with chorus at East and has been for the past 5 years. They are also in AP Human Geography and are enrolled in AP Psychology. She appreciates her mother for always being supportive when it comes to extra curricular activities and school programs she takes part in.

Bios

Sarah Groves (Ensemble and Costuming Lead) is a Junior here at EFHS. You may have recently seen her as a bird girl in SEUSSICAL JR. and as the Costuming lead In STEEL MAGNOLIAS. She is involved in the musical theater class and the cheer program. She is also a Thespian Theater Rep here at East Forsyth. Sarah wants to thank her family and Mrs. Walden for teaching her so much during this amazing experience.

Peyton Hall (Costume Crew) is a freshmen at EFHS. This is her first time on crew for a production. She has previously appeared on the Little Mill stage in Seussical Jr., Ichobod, Zeus on the Loose, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Peyton is so excited to be a part of Theatre East and see how the department grows. Thank you to JamieLynn for making her take the leap to crew and to Mrs. Walden for always being there.

Elise Hendricks (Ensemble) is a sophomore here at East Forsyth High School. You may have recently seen her as Shelby Eatenton in STEEL MAGNOLIAS and Mayzie La Bird in SEUSSICAL JR. Elise is currently 10th grade Class President and in the past, she was President of Troupe 89020 at Little Mill Middle School. Elise would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Walden as well as Mr. Speakman for their hard work, and she hopes that you enjoy the show!

Phillip Johnson (Ensemble) is a sophomore at EFHS. This is his time doing a musical but he has done productions like Moon over buffalo, The Dining Room, and A Fairy Tale Life: The Story of Young Hans Christian Andersen at North Forsyth High School. This is his second year in Advance Drama and also an inducted thespian. Phillip is grateful for Mr. Walden letting him have this opportunity and everyone else who has supported him.

Addison Kell (Ensemble/crew) He is currently a Junior in EFHS. This is Addison's first show as an ensemble he has been crew for the play Steel Magnolia. He is doing cross country, Swimming, Track and Field, Deca, and Boy Scouts. In his free time he likes to play video games, hangout with friends, watch shows, and Dnd. Some of the things he likes to do in school are art, history, and drama. Some people he would like to thank is his family, friends, the Waldens, and anyone else that he did not mention that helped him get here.

Savannah Livingston (Ensemble) is a sophomore at EFHS. This is her first high school theater production. When not on the stage she can be found with the Competition Dance team, as well as the mock trial team at EFHS. Savannah would like to thank her parents for constantly supporting her and giving their own time to allow her to dance her heart out on and off stage. She would also like to thank her closest friends for pushing her to get back into theater after many years away, it's something she will forever be grateful for.

Abigail Lloyd (Gertie) is a junior at EFHS. Some of her previous roles in theater include Ouiser Boudreaux in EFHS's one act, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, and FCHS drama. Her first ever role was Genie in ALADDIN JR. at Trip Elementary in Gwinnett county. She is also involved in EFHS Deca and has made it to ICDC two years in a row. She would like to thank her amazing parents and the Waldens for always having her back and listening to her jokes constantly.

Harrison Lowe (Ali Hakim) is a junior at EFHS. You may have seen him in SEUSSICAL JR. (Horton the Elephant), STEEL MAGNOLIAS (Assistant Stage Director), or-- at North-- in Godspell ("Light of the World"). Harrison is a member of the International Honor Thespian Society and serves as a theatre representative for East's Troupe 10092. Harrison would like to thank his friends and family for their support, and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Bios

Ben Marsella (Jud) is a junior at East Forsyth High School. He has been doing musical theatre since 6th grade. Past roles included Tweedle Dum (ALICE IN WONDERLAND), Gaston (Beauty and the Beast), and Bobby (The Wind in the Willows). Ben was Goalie on the inaugural East Lacrosse Team and is on the League of Legends team for East Esports. Ben wants to thank Mrs. Walden for being cool and letting him hang out at her desk all the time.

Molly Merck (Ensemble) is in the 9th grade at EFHS. This is only her second year of being in theatre and is so glad to have had all these different opportunities. She has been in HILL BILLY HANKRIN(Betty), HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL(Gabriella) at NFMS, ATN(featured singer), and SUESSICAL(Bird Girl) at East. Molly is also involved in advanced women's chorus and three different cheer teams at her school as well as taking multiple honors classes. She has been so excited to be apart of all these inaugural activities at her new school! She would like to thank everyone who has helped her get this far!! Her teachers and family especially!! This is just the beginning of her theatre career is over the moon to keep going!

Kenzie Miller (Ensemble) is a 9th grader at EFHS. She is excited to be a part of East's first spring musical. Recently she has worked on SEUSSICAL JR. as a WICKERSHAM, and FAIRY-FORKMOTHER in DEAR. EDWINA JR. Outside of school she loves community theater and volunteering at her barn. She wants to say a huge thanks to her family, and directors for their love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Ashlyn Montgomery (Ensemble/ Ellen) is a Freshman at East Forsyth High School. This is her fourth show with East and her 12th show ever. You may have seen her in SEUSICAL (Yertle the Turtle). She is currently A student ambassador for east, an officer for SKILLS USA and a officer for East's improv club. Ashlyn would like to thank her parents for being so supportive and allowing her to be so involved in theatre and her directors for putting in so much work to make this an amazing experience.

Dakota Montgomery (Ensemble) is a Freshman at East Forsyth Highschool. She has recently played a (Bird girl) during the East Forsyth production of SUSSICAL JR. She also participated in the East Forsyth Highschool production of MTI ALL TOGETHER NOW. She is currently in the East Forsyth Highschool Chorus and Dance Team. She would like to thank her parents and directors for the hard work put into this show.

David Navarrete (Cord Elam/ Ensemble) is a Junior at EFHS. This is his first ever theatre experience. David is Wide Receiver on the Varsity Football team. He has loved his time doing this play. He would like to thank the cast and crew for being so nice and cool and accepting him. Thank you to Mrs. Walden for convincing him to do this and to Mr. Walden for being awesome.

Kevin Parsons (Ike Skidmore) This is Kevin's first musical. He is the starting center for the Varsity EFHS football team. He also plays rugby for Alpharetta Phoenix Rugby Club. He would like to thank the cast and crew for being so welcoming. He would also like to thank Mrs. Walden for being amazing.

Canaan Payne (Ensemble) is a freshman at EFHS. This will be her 7th year involved in theater. She is currently enrolled in the Intermediate Women's Chorus and Musical Theater at EFHS. Her most recent role was a Wickersham Brother in SEUSSICAL JR. She was also in HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR at NFMS. She is currently a straight A student, and she greatly enjoys music. Canaan would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support.

Bios

Preslie Ray (Ensemble) is a Freshman at EFHS. This is her 4th year in theatre. She's been at FAPA, moved to LMMS Drama, and now is at Theatre East. She is in Color Guard and CrossFit. She greatly appreciates Mrs. Woods and would like to thank her for all she has done. She'd also like to thank the entire theater team for making her theater experience magical. She'd also like to thank the guard team for being so supportive!

Sedrina Ring (Ensemble) is a freshman at East Forsyth High School. This is her first play since elementary school. She is currently in acting class and participates in DECA. In her spare time she likes to read, play guitar, and play piano. She is very invested in her school work and likes to get good grades. She is grateful for her family and friends and would like to thank them for everything that they do for her.

Brooke Rhobotham (Ado Annie) is a current sophomore at EFHS. You may have recently seen her in SEUSSICAL "Cat in the Hat", or STEEL MAGNOLIAS "Mylnn", her favorite past roles include ANNIE "Annie", FROZEN JR. "Elsa", and WILLY WONKA JR "Willy Wonka". She is currently enrolled in Advanced Chorus and Musical theatre and is an inducted thespian. She thanks everyone who has supported her through her acting journey and hopes you enjoy.

Helena Saadat (Ensemble) is a junior at EFHS. This is her first musical ever. She is a choir student at East and has been taking choir classes since 8th grade. Helena is thankful for the support she has received from her family and friends. She wishes everyone good luck during the show.

Quinn Sanchez-Forsbach (Ensemble) is a freshman who goes to EFHS. They have been involved with theatre since 7th grade. They started out as a crew member, but switched to cast during MIDSUMMER (Snout) and has loved acting ever since. They are currently involved in Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Mock Trial, and the Speech and Debate Club. They would like to thank their parents for always picking them up from rehearsals and supporting them.

Easton Siver (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School. This is his first year in theatre. He participated in Steel Magnolias (Run Crew) and Seussical (Assistant Stage Manager). He would like to thank his parents for always supporting him.

Alexis Tesone (Ensemble) Alexis is a Freshman at EFHS. This is her very first show. She's very excited for her first performances and hopes the audience enjoys the show.

Jen Vincent (Laurey Williams) is a junior at EFHS, and is excited to bring to the stage Oklahoma! Some of her previous roles this year include Truvy Jones in EFHS one-act play competition, STEEL MAGNOLIAS. As well as, Sour Kangaroo in SEUSSICAL JR. She would like to thank Mr. Walden, Mrs. Walden, and Kylie for putting their all into this show. She would also like to thank her friends for always encouraging her. She hopes you enjoy the show, yeow!

Hannah Wagner (Aunt Eller) is a Junior at EFHS. She is thrilled to be a part of EFHS' first spring musical! Her first ever role was CES' production of ANNIE (Annie). She was also involved in theater at LMMS, performing in THE LITTLE MERMAID (Ariel) and SEUSSICAL (Jojo). She then went on to perform at Forsyth Central High School in CHICAGO (Hunyak). She would like to thank her directors, parents, and friends for supporting her along the way!

Bios

Brianna Walden (Ensemble) is a in second grade at Chattahoochee Elementary. This is Brianna's 2nd show. She recently starred as the Elephant Bird in Seussical, Jr. Brianna is a Brownie in Girl Scouts and loves to draw. She is a theatre kid by birth and looks forward to carrying on the family tradition. She want to thank her mom and dad and all her family and all the kids for being so nice.

Kayden Wilson (Ensemble) is in 10th grade at EFHS. He was both a towns person and headless horseman in Ichabod with Little Mill Drama Society, he appeared in All Together Now, and was Vlad Vladikoff in Seussical Jr. He loves watching his dad play hockey and time keeping for his games. He would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him. Hope you enjoy the show!

ADDISON WALDEN

Addison Walden is in his twelfth year of teaching. Mr. Walden grew up in Forsyth County then went to school at Georgia College and State University where he earned a BA in Theatre and an MAT in Education. He then went on to teach 3 years in Fulton County and 8 years at North Forsyth High School. He is thrilled to now be at East! Mr. Walden would like to thank Mr. Speakman for working tirelessly to find and make all the right sounds and songs as well as for managing the tech booth. He would like to especially thank his wife April without whom he would literally not be here. She encouraged him to reach for new opportunities which led to this new and amazing role. She also raises their 2 daughters mostly on her own and still finds time to design sets and costumes, create graphics, send out social media posts, help direct, and so much more.

APRIL A. WALDEN

April is currently running the Media Center at EFHS. She has a degree in Journalism from Georgia College & State University where she is also pursuing a Masters in Library Sciences. April has worked with her husband, Addison, on numerous plays over the years including *A Piece of My Heart* for which she won Best Costumes at the 2019 Region 7A One Act Competition. April is excited to be part of building the Theatre Department at East. She would like to thank her daughters Brianna and Raleigh for their patience and love and her husband Addison who knows she is usually right.

CORY SPEAKMAN

Cory Speakman is the choral/musical theater director at East Forsyth High School. This is his 15th year in education. He has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Education from the University of West Georgia. Mr. Speakman is also the music director at New Hope United Methodist Church, a performer/director at the Holly Theater in Dahlonega, as well as the music director for the Holly Performance Academy's Junior Theater Festival team. The JTF team under Mr. Speakman's direction has received awards for Best Music in 2020 and Best Overall Performance in 2021. His choral groups have consistently received Superior ratings in performance and sight-reading at Large Group Performance Evaluation. He lives in Ball Ground with his wife Katie!

KYLEE BOWEN

Kylee is currently enrolled at the University of North Georgia majoring in Criminology. She graduated from NFHS in 2018 where Addison Walden was her director. She has years of dance experience and is grateful to have the opportunity to share the love of dance with the students of Theatre East. Her greatest achievement in life is being April Walden's best friend. She would like to thank Nina and Dani for being fabulous dance captains for this show! She is incredibly proud of the cast of Oklahoma!

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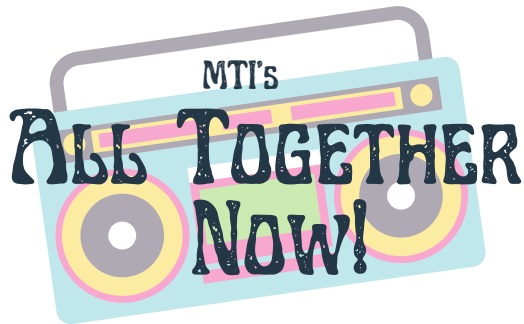
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