

THEATRE EAST PRESENTS



NOVEMBER 10-12. 2022

Director's Note

One of the most important decisions a high school theatre director has to make is which shows are best for their program. Each year this proves to be a challenge in a different way. For our Fall Play/One Act I had a new experience:

Picture it: Dawson County High School Performing Arts Center, Fall 2021. I was watching *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. at our Region One Act Play Competition. It was a small cast with no microphones and only a piano to accompany the performers. And, for the first time ever, I thought, maybe I *could* do a musical for One Act; that is, if it was small, without mics, and had a single accompanist.

A few moments later I began thinking about my first college musical, *The Spitfire Grill*. I think it might have been that day, or not long after, that I mentioned the idea to Mr. Speakman. I asked him to familiarize himself with the show and give me his opinion on if it would work. I kept the show in the back of my mind throughout the entirety of our season and when summer came along and it came time for me to choose a Fall Play/One Act, I genuinely considered 2 dozen other shows. Most were dramas. All were straight plays. But something clicked, knowing the talent we have and the challenges we were ready for, and I decided to pull the trigger on my first ever attempt at directing a musical for One Act Play Competition.

Working on *The Spitfire Grill* has been a total joy. It has dramatic moments like most One Acts I am used to and overall the subject matter is serious. But the show is fun and the songs are beautiful.

Our performance at both Sub-Region and Region One Act Competition was impressive, but we are excited to share a more full story with our audiences here today!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Addison Chaffin", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

THEATRE EAST PRESENTS



**THE SPITFIRE GRILL IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD
THEATRICALS.**

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**PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS, INC., NEW YORK CITY, PRODUCED THE NEW YORK
PREMIERE OF "THE SPITFIRE GRILL" OFF-BROADWAY IN 2001.
"THE SPITFIRE GRILL" RECEIVED ITS WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION BY THE
GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE, NOVEMBER 5, 2000, DAVID SAINT, ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR, MICHAEL STOTTS, MANAGING DIRECTOR.**

THEATRE EAST PRESENTS



directed by
ADDISON WALDEN

music and sound production by
CORY SPEAKMAN

piano accompaniment
DALE GROGAN



Cast

PERCY TALBOT BROOKE RHOBOTHAM
HANNAH FERGUSON DANI BENEFIELD
SHELBY THORPE HANNAH WAGNER
CALEB THORPE BEN MARSELLA
JOE SUTTER TANNER DECKARD
EFFY KRAYNECK ABIGAIL LLOYD
THE VISITOR..... ADDISON KELL

TOWNSFOLK

ANDIE ACKER
SARAH GROVES
PHILLIP JOHNSON
MOLLY MERCK
KENZIE MILLER
CHRISTIAN THOMAS



Crew

STAGE MANAGER RYAN KRISER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER.....EASTON SIVER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER..... JENNA VINCENT

LIGHTING DESIGNERXAVIER GRAHAM

LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR.....REUEL RODRIGUEZ

FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR...CARRINGTON DARST

FOLLOW SPOT OPERATORCASH LAVIGNE

SOUND OPERATOR ... SELENE BISHOP-O'BYRNE

COSTUME DESIGNER SARAH GROVES

COSTUME CREW CECELIA GROME

COSTUME CREW.....PEYTON HALL

COSTUME CREW.....SAVANNAH LIVINGSTON

COSTUME CREW..... ASHLYN MONTGOMERY

COSTUME CREW GRACE NISSEN

COSTUME CREW.....OLLIE STACY

COSTUME CREW.....MADIAN VELASCO

PROPS MANAGERANNELISE MARTIN

PROPS MANAGER KATE MITCHELL

RUN CREWHIRO BONCHEVA

RUN CREW JACKLYNN LEWIS

RUN CREWARIELLA PARDUE

RUN CREW.....MAGGIE PARKER



Bios

BROOKE RHOBOTHAM

PERCY

Brooke, a Junior at EFHS, is so honored to be playing the role of Percy Talbott. You may have most recently seen her as Miss Adelaide in the FOCAL center's summer musical Guys and Dolls. She is currently in James and the Giant Peach for JTF at the Holly. Her favorite past roles include Annie (Annie), Oklahoma (Ado Annie), Frozen Jr. (Elsa), and Steel Magnolias (M'lynn). She hopes to pursue acting into her adult life. She thanks everyone who has supported her acting journey, especially her mother, and hopes you enjoy!

DANI BENEFIELD

HANNAH

Dani Benefield is a junior at EFHS. She is currently involved in the Advanced Musical Theatre class production of Into the Woods as The Wolf and is also in the Advanced Drama class. You may have also seen her as a Bird Girl in Seussical Jr. and as Kate in Oklahoma! She is so excited for you to see this production of The Spitfire Grill and hopes that you don't think the cooking is too terrible!!

HANNAH WAGNER

SHELBY

Hannah is a senior at EFHS. She was involved in theatre in both elementary and middle school. She spent her first 2 years of high school in Forsyth Central before being redistricted for East Forsyth. Some of her favorite roles from across these years include: Ariel in The Little Mermaid, Hunyak in Chicago, and Aunt Eller in Oklahoma! She is so thankful to be a part of EFHS's production of The Spitfire Grill! Shoot the Moon!

BEN MARSELLA

CALEB

Ben is a senior at EFHS and has done theatre since 5th grade. Ben has previously been in Beauty and the Beast (Gaston) and Oklahoma (Jud). He is incredibly thankful for the opportunities he has been afforded in the theatre and would like to thank Mr. Walden and his parents for their continued support.

TANNER DECKARD

JOE

Tanner is a junior at EFHS who has done theatre since middle school, starting in Ichabod! (Stage Manager). Last year he acted in Seussical Jr. (Mr. Mayor) and Oklahoma! (Ensemble). Tanner is the president of the EFHS Improv club and hopes you come see him in the upcoming production of Into the Woods Jr. (Cinderella's Prince). He would like to thank his family for their financial contributions and for "taxi-ing" him around for theatre. He looks forward to continuing acting and studying palaeontology as a career.



Bios

ABIGAIL LLOYD

EFFY

Abigail is senior at EFHS who has been doing theatre since she was 6. She moved to Forsyth County in 5th grade where she was able to compete with the theatre company, Play on Players, at JTF for 2 years in Beauty and the Beast and Godspell! Her favorite character she has portrayed was Genie in Aladdin and Ouiser Boudreaux in Steel Magnolias! She could not be more grateful for the wonderful cast and crew of this show! She would like to thank her amazing theatre director, Mr. Walden, for opening her passion for the arts back up and helping her grow as an actor and student! She'd like to give a special thanks to her family for always supporting her through her theatre journey!

ADDISON KELL

THE VISITOR

Addison is a senior at East Forsyth High School. This is his second One Act/Fall Play. He was also involved in last year's Theatre Spotlight and Oklahoma! He is also involved in Cross Country, Swimming, Track, and Boy Scouts. He would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support.

TOWNSFOLK

ANDIE ACKER

Andie Acker is a sophomore at East Forsyth and this is her 5th show here at East! Some of her other roles include Mrs. Mayor in Seussical Jr. and Ensemble in Oklahoma. She has loved being a part of this amazing cast and crew. She would like to thank everyone in the show for being so fun and supportive and she would also like to thank her family for supporting her. She'd like to give a special thanks to her mom for singing "Shoot the Moon" and "Digging Stone" with her.

SARAH GROVES

TOWNSFOLK/COSTUME DESIGNER

Sarah is a senior at EFHS. She is involved in varsity cheer, FFCLA, and NTHS. She is the 10092 Thespian Troope President and a part of the musical theatre class at East. You might have seen her in Oklahoma! (Ensemble/Costumes), Seussical Jr (Bird Girl), or Steel Magnolias (Costume Crew Lead). Sarah is so excited to have the opportunity to be in the cast and crew of The Spitfire Grill. She hopes you enjoy the show and your trip to Gilead, Wisconsin.

PHILLIP JOHNSON

TOWNSFOLK

Phillip Johnson is a junior at East Forsyth High School. He is part of the Advanced Drama class and this is both his second musical and second one act play. Some of his past shows he has been in are The Dinning Room and Fairy Tale Life of Hans Christian Anderson at NFHS. He also was part of the ensemble for Oklahoma. He hopes you all enjoy the show!

MOLLY MERCK

TOWNSFOLK

Molly is in the 10th grade at EFHS. This is her third year of being in theatre and is so glad to have had all these different opportunities. She has been in Hilly Billy Hankrin (Betty), High School Musical (Gabriella), All Together Now (soloist), and Seussical Jr. (Bird Girl). Molly is also involved in Advanced Women's Chorus and two cheer teams at East as well as taking multiple honors classes. She has been so excited to be a part of these activities at her school with the best cast and crew ever! She would like to thank everyone who helped her get this far in what is hopefully just the beginning of her career!



Bios

TOWNSFOLK

KENZIE MILLER

Kenzie is a 9th grader at East. She was on Costume and Hair crew for Steel Magnolias. This is Kenzie's 3rd time doing tech for a show and her first high school production. Kenzie wants to thank her friends and family for their support. She also wants to thank the amazing cast and crew of this show for giving her a huge appreciation for techies around the world. She hopes you like the show!

CHRISTIAN THOMAS

TOWNSFOLK

Christian is a sophomore at EFHS. He's very excited to have finally gotten into high school theatre this year after only participating in a small scene in his freshman year. He would like to thank his grandmother for getting him into singing and performing. This is Christian's first one act competition and he is very proud to have been casted for ensemble. He is very excited to perform and add atmosphere to the Spitfire!

RYAN KRISER

STAGE MANAGER

Ryan Kriser is a senior at East Forsyth High School and is stage manager for The Spitfire Grill. She has been involved in East's theatre troupe since her junior year, and is extremely grateful to this amazing cast and crew!

EASTON SIVER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Easton Siver is a junior at East Forsyth. Last year, Easton teched for Steel Magnolias, Theatre Spotlight, All Together Now, Seussical Jr., and Oklahoma! Easton also served as Vice President for the troupe 10092 and Historian for East Forsyth FBLA. He would like to shout out to his lovely parents.

JENNA VINCENT

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Jenna is a Senior at East Forsyth. She is so very blessed to have been an Assistant Stage Manager for the first time in The Spitfire Grill. She wants to thank the Waldens for making this show possible, as well as her family for supporting her every endeavor; and especially her boyfriend who has been so supportive throughout the show. She hopes you enjoy the magic of this heartwarming story, The Spitfire Grill.

XAVIER GRAHAM

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Xavier is a junior at EFHS who has been here since their inaugural year. His first ever play was All Together Now, and he has done 3 more since then. He would like to thank his family and friends, especially his mom and step-father who have helped him and have contributed to the theatre community. He wants to pursue a career in tech and film and hopes that working in theatre tech can help him reach that goal.



Bios

REUEL RODRIGUES

LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR

Reuel is a senior at East Forsyth. This is his first production and is really enjoying his work so far at Theatre East. Reuel's hobbies include Audio Visual and playing Dungeons and Dragons with his friends. Reuel would like to thank his mother and father for all of their support.

CARRINGTON DARST

FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR

Carrington Darst is a freshman at East Forsyth High School. He is active in Theatre East largely because of Ms. Norwood from Little Mill Middle School. He discovered a passion for helping with sets and lighting while taking drama. Carrington was a spotlight operator in *Shrek* at Little Mill. Carrington believes everyone has an inner talent to share and help others with. When Carrington isn't working hard on school work or plays, he rides mountain bikes with the East mountain bike team and studies for his pilot's license.

CASH LAVIGNE

FOLLOW SPOT OPERATOR

Cash is a senior at East Forsyth High School, and he is one of the two spotlight operators for The Spitfire Grill. This is the second show he's spotlighted for Theatre East, and he's had a very warm welcome to theatre from all his peers. Cash would like to thank Mr. Walden for the opportunity to work on another show and his family for all of their support.

SELENE BISHOP-O'BYRNE

SOUND OPERATOR

Selene is a senior at EFHS who participated in every show last year. She is very sad to leave in May but very thankful for the opportunities presented to her. She would like to thank her family for being so supportive and watching her shows. She would also like to thank the cast and crew along with the Waldens and Speakman for making this show possible and making it a great show.

CECILIA GROME

COSTUME CREW

Cecilia Grome is a sophomore at EFHS. She has been in two school productions. She has done work with sets, props, and costumes. She is excited to continue her theater career at East. She would like to thank her mom for always being supportive when it comes to theater.

PEYTON HALL

COSTUME CREW

Peyton Hall is a part of the costume, hair, and makeup crew. This is her second show at East Forsyth High School and her 7th overall. She has had so much fun being a part of Theatre East and is so excited for everyone to watch The Spitfire Grill!



Bios

ASHLYN MONTGOMERY

COSTUME CREW

Ashlyn is a sophomore at EFHS. She is working hair and makeup for The Spitfire Grill and she also is participating in James and the Giant Peach for JTF at the Holly Theatre. You may have seen her as Ellen in Oklahoma! or you can catch her later this season as Jack in Into the Woods Jr. Ashlyn would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her in theatre and everything she does.

GRACE NISSEN

COSTUME CREW

Grace Nissen is a junior, and this is her first show at East. Outside of school, she enjoys playing drums, thrifting, and serving at her church. Grace is thrilled to be a part of East Forsyth Theatre and is so excited for the rest of this season. Grace wants to thank her family and friends for their unending love and support.

OLLIE STACY

COSTUME CREW

Ollie Stacy works as a technician in the production of The Spitfire Grill. She has been involved in theatre for 6 years and has performed in numerous productions. Besides performing, Ollie has been a technician for two years. She wants to thank her mother for always supporting her, and hopes to continue doing theatre for years to come.

MADIAN VALESCO

COSTUME CREW

Madian is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School. You may have previously seen her on the tech crew for Oklahoma! Madian loves art and hopes to get involved in leadership positions at Theatre East in the near future. She would like to praise her wonderful parents!

ANNELISE MARTIN

PROPS MASTER

Annelise has been involved in tech theatre with Mr. Walden since 9th grade at North Forsyth. She has loved every minute of her time with East's theatre program along with North's, and would like to thank all the seniors at Theatre East for putting in their time and effort to create a healthy and fun environment. Even when morale is low and everyone is tired the seniors always bring energy and excitement to the stage and continue to uplift and support all the cast and crew.

KATE MITCHELL

PROPS MASTER

Kate Mitchell is a sophomore at East Forsyth. You may know her as Props Master from last year's production of Oklahoma! In addition to theatre, Kate loves hanging out with her friends and doing art at East. Kate would like to give a shout out to her sister, whose dedication to marching band is her number one inspiration.

HIRO BONCHEVA

RUN CREW

Hiro Boncheva is working as a technician in The Spitfire Grill, and is a sophomore in high school. He has been doing theatre for about nine years, and would like to pursue acting further into college and possibly as a career. He would like to thank Ollie, Hannah, and Ria for being wallflowers, and loving him unconditionally.



Bios

JACKLYNN LEWIS

RUN CREW

Jacklynn is a freshman at East Forsyth. She was heavily involved in Little Mill Middle School's drama program and teched this past summer for Guys and Dolls at the FoCal center. She is very excited to be working on her first official high school show! Jacklynn would like to thank her parents for driving her to and from rehearsal. She also would like to thank Mr. Walden for giving her the opportunity to be a part of the production of The Spitfire Grill!

ARIELLA PARDUE

RUN CREW

Ria Pardue works as a technician in the production of The Spitfire Grill. She has been in theatre for seven years and has performed in many productions, but this is her first technician role. She wants to thank her family, specifically her grandmother, for supporting her in everything she chooses to do.

MAGGIE PARKER

RUN CREW

Maggie Parker is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School. She is on the deck crew and this is her first show! Maggie would like to thank her mother and father for always being there for her throughout the years.



CORY SPEAKMAN

Cory Speakman is the choral/musical theatre director at EFHS. This is his 16th year in education. Mr. Speakman has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Education from the University of West Georgia. He is also the director of worship arts at New Hope UMC and a performer/music director at the Holly Theater in Dahlonega. Mr. Speakman has performed in The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Frollo) and Newsies (Pulitzer) and has directed Forever Plaid, The Wedding Singer, Willy Wonka Jr., The Marvelous Wonderettes, Dear Edwina Jr., Oklahoma, and Guys & Dolls. He would like to thank his wife Katie for all of her support, and Mr. Walden and the amazing cast/crew for this amazing experience.

DALE GROGAN

Dale Grogan is a conductor and clinician with credits for over 200 musicals. Mr. Grogan serves as an adjudicator for the GHSA One-Act Play competition and as a clinician, accompanist, and adjudicator for the Georgia Music Educators Association. Mr. Grogan is a published composer, a proud member of ASCAP and the Georgia Theatre Conference Hall of Fame, and has affiliation with the American Federation of Musicians and The American Guild of Variety Artists. Go Broncos!



Bios

ADDISON WALDEN

Addison Walden is in his thirteenth 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 for the second year! Mr. Walden would like to thank his wife April, without whom he would literally not be here. She encouraged him to reach for new opportunities which led to his transition to East. She also raises their 2 daughters (Brianna and Raleigh) mostly on her own while he works nights and weekends. She still finds time to help design sets, create graphics, work with students in whatever capacity they need, and so much more.

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2022-2023 Season!

NOV 10TH @ 7:00 PM

NOV 11TH @ 7:00 PM*

NOV 12TH @ 2:00 PM



THEATRE SPOTLIGHT

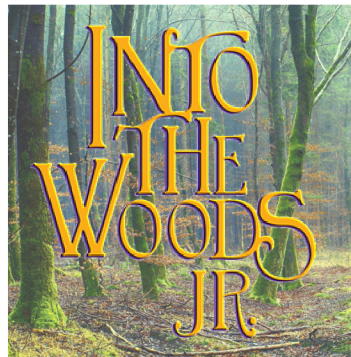
DECEMBER
6TH
@ 7:00 PM

MARCH 2ND @ 6:30 PM

MARCH 3RD @ 6:30 PM

MARCH 4TH @ 11:00 AM*

MARCH 4TH @ 2:00 PM



APRIL 20TH @ 7:00 PM

APRIL 21ST @ 7:00 PM*

APRIL 22ND @ 2:00 PM

* INDICATES MEAL PROVIDED BEFORE PERFORMANCE IN COLLABORATION WITH FCCLA!



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Special Thanks

I am so thrilled to be producing live theatre at East Forsyth High School for the second straight year! I could not do this alone, so please join me in thanking the following people (and apologies in advance for some very deserving people who I had to leave off the page, but I know you are not in this for the accolades). Thank you...

April Walden for your help with scenic design, graphic work, and many late night conversations which inspired me, got me excited about the show, challenged me at times, and kept me going on occasion when I wasn't sure I had it in me. I cannot imagine a more perfect partner personally or professionally.

Andrew Snider for your assistance early in the process with character work, prop procurement, t-shirt design, and social media.

Lisa King and **Terah Morris** for help with all the behind the scenes stuff no one thinks about (finances, transportation, ordering supplies, calendars, paperwork, etc.).

Mr. Cheney and **Mrs. Waddell** for your constant support of Fine Arts, our productions, and most importantly of the students themselves.

Emma Siver, **Dellan Short**, and **Fred Scanling** for coming to dress rehearsals of our One Act show and giving feedback to help us prepare for a rigorous competition.

Katie Speakman for coming in multiple times and working with performers on some of our more challenging scenes and also for lending us so much of your husband's time.

Kylee Bowen for help throughout the process including but not limited to offering encouragement to myself and the students, Sub-region and Region One Act day-of assistants, and dress rehearsal help.

Dale Grogan for swooping in to our show with great wisdom and poise and accompanying our students on the piano.

Cory Speakman for countless hours working with students and preparing to work with students; be it studying music or editing tracks, securing accompaniment or creating playlists, I know you are working hard so the students have a great experience.

Every Parent, **Guardian**, **Family Member**, and **Friend** for allowing me to work with these students so often and in such a meaningful way. I cherish the time I've been able to spend time with them and I know that means time away from you, so thank you tremendously.





MR. ADDISON WALDEN
DIRECTOR

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