

# PLAYBILL®

Auburn Area Community Theatre

AUBURN AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE  
JUNIOR PERFORMERS PRESENT:



# Winnie the Pooh

BY A.A. MILNE  
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY KATHRYN SCHULTZ MILLER



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
915 E. GLENN AVE, AUBURN, AL

AUBURNACT.ORG

**Oct 11-14, 2023**

**Auburn Area Community Theatre Inc.  
AACT Jr. Performers**

PRESENTS

**WINNIE THE POOH**

Based on the book  
By  
A.A. Milne

Adapted for the Stage  
By  
Kathryn Schultz Miller

**Background music composed by**

*12th Night Opening* - Andrew Lynch  
*Bow music* - Harrison Lyda  
*Little Prelude and Fugue, Theme for a One Handed Piano Concerto, Butterflies in  
Love* - Sir Cubworth  
*An English Country Garden* - Aaron Kenney  
*A White River* - Aakaish Ghandi

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# CAST

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Mr. Milne ..... Sam Edwards

Mr. Shepard ..... Silas Creel

## Narrators

Ferret ..... Ruby Andrzejewski

Tiny Mouse ..... Sylvia Merrill

Cousin Mouse ..... Nolan Hayes

Hedgehog ..... Wesleigh McClellan

Alexander Beetle ..... Isabel Holland

Dragonfly ..... Adalyn Inger

Butterfly ..... Eden Chung

Cuckoo-Bird ..... Josiah Mason

Wood Pigeon ..... Maia Laurencio

Frog ..... James Keel

## Once Upon a Time

Rabbit #1 ..... Hailey Tran

Owl #1 ..... Owen Wells

Piglet #1 ..... Norah Cook

Roo ..... Rebecca Urness

Kanga ..... Lyla Fain

Eeyore #1 ..... Cooper McInnis

Christopher Robin #1 ..... John Davis DeBlanc

Pooh #1 ..... Sam Mason

## Rabbit's House

Rabbit #1 ..... Hailey Tran

Pooh #2 ..... Sylvie Faulkner

Christopher Robin #2 ..... Anne Elese Loden

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# CAST

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## Piglet's House

Piglet #1 ..... Norah Cook  
Pooh #3 ..... Annie Mason  
Christopher Robin #3 ..... Miles Stewart

## Eeyore's Tail

Eeyore #1 ..... Cooper McInnis  
Pooh #4 ..... Gracyn Tompkins  
Owl #2 ..... Levi Johnson  
Christopher Robin #3 ..... Miles Stewart

## A Very Strange Creature

Piglet #2: ..... Abby Hudson  
Rabbit #2 ..... Kai Johnson  
Pooh #5 ..... Evelyn Miller  
Kanga ..... Lyla Fain  
Roo ..... Rebecca Urness  
Christopher Robin #4 ..... Chloe Cox

## Time to Party

Eeyore #2 ..... Cooper Laney  
Pooh #6 ..... Allison Lyda  
Owl #1 ..... Owen Wells  
Christopher Robin #4 ..... Chloe Cox  
Piglet #2 ..... Abby Hudson  
Kanga ..... Lyla Fain  
Roo ..... Rebecca Urness  
Rabbit #2 ..... Kai Johnson

## Special Thanks:

Grace United Methodist Church  
Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints  
Auburn University Facilities  
Auburn University Dept of Theatre and Dance  
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Sara Custer and Staff of Dempsey Arts Center  
First Team Construction  
Helga Geying  
Steve Bice

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# CREW

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## Crew Members

Creative Director	Melanie Brown
Assistant Creative Director	Virginia Posthumous
Scene Directors	Audrey Miller, Rhema Creel, Olivia Lepczyk
Stage Manager	Julia Decoteau
Cast Managers	Mercy Creel, Sophia DiJulio, Isabel Lepczyk
Stage Manager in Training	Zoye Tompkins
Rehearsal Assistants	Maggie Blair, Abby Bubb, Cassidy Cox, Jack Crawford, Dalty Bendinger, Audrey Edwards, JD Higginbotham, Harrison Lyda, Mary Margaret Buck
Set Designer and Production Manager	Cora Connelly
Costume Designer/Manager	Rebecca Miller
Costume Assistants	Linne Johnston, Lilon Merrill, Stephanie Maple
Makeup	Yumi Stokes , Rosie Ramapuram , Abby Bubb, Dalton Bendinger, Nancy Bendinger, Rebecca Miller
Sound Design	Lily Hamilton
Music Composition	Harrison Lyda, Andrew Lynch
Light Board Operator	Evan Tompkins
Sound Board Operator	Harrison Lyda, JD Higginbotham
Spotlight Operator	Cassidy Cox
Props/Set Creation	Cora Merrill, Janae Merrill, Jack Parsons, Brian Wells
Props Coordinator	Brigitta Brunner-Johnson
Lighting Design and Tech Assistance	Terry Kelley, Andrea Holliday, John Creel
Graphic Design	Chris Alonzo
Social Media	Amber DeBlanc
Ticketing	Julie Wells
T-shirt Design	Lily Hamilton
Playbill Designer	Ross Blair

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# BIOS

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**Ruby Andrzejewski** is a 6th grader at Drake Middle School. This is her second show at AACT, previously performing in James and the Giant Peach. Ruby dreams of attending the Alabama School of Fine Arts to study musical theatre. The woods and the stage are her happy places.

**Eden Chung** is a 3rd grader at Pick Elementary School, this will be her very first show with AACT. Since her birth, Eden has always possessed a deep passion for the performing arts, particularly singing, acting, and dancing. She is currently in The Nutcracker at Variations Dance Studio. Her favorite sport is soccer and her favorite subject in school is math.

**Norah Cook** is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Yarbrough Elementary. Her favorite subjects in school are music, art and enrichment. She also loves to play piano, soccer and dance and to play with her friends and her dog Charlie. She has loved being a part of Winnie the Pooh and rehearsals have been so fun! This is her first play but she can't wait to do more!

**Chloe Cox** loves theatre! This is her third AACT production, previously performing (and puppeteering) in Jack n Lil' and James and the Giant Peach. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, drawing, and doing flips on her trampoline. She hopes to do more plays in the future, but until then she'll be singing and dancing around the house.

**Silas Creel** is a homeschooled seventh grader. He is the middle child of seven kids, and he has two very tiny and very adorable Yorkie Terriers. Besides acting, he loves to draw, watercolor, animate, and make up games to play with his family and friends. He is SO excited to perform in his second play at AACT!

**John Davis DeBlanc** is 8 years old and a 3rd grade student at Creekside Elementary. He participated in the AACT camp "Play in the Woods" and was bitten by the acting bug. This will be his first official production with AACT. When he is not acting, John Davis loves to play video games, read, and play piano.

**Sam Edwards** has been in plays since he was 7 years old, including Flat Stanley Jr, Elf Jr, How to Hug a Cactus, the Best Christmas Pageant Ever and James and the Giant Peach. Sam loves to dance and play the drums and video games. Sam has loved his time with the children's plays at AACT and can't wait to try out for his first teen play. He hopes you enjoy Winnie the Pooh!!

**Lyla Fain** is a 6th grader at Drake Middle School. She began acting 2 years ago in drama club at Ogletree and was in AACT's James and the Giant Peach last fall. In her spare time, she enjoys playing volleyball and hanging out with her friends. She can't wait to be in another AACT show!

**Sylvie Faulkner** loves reading, the Bible, her family and friends, horses, and painting. She was born at home in Auburn, AL. She is also in the kids' choir at church and this is her second performance. When she was little she did something wrong, she tried to act innocent but it didn't work on her mom. She would like to dedicate this performance to her family.

**Nolan Hayes** is making her debut with AACT. She has previously performed as part of an assemble cast at Troy University's Summer Spotlight showcases in Aladdin and Jack and the Beanstalk. In addition to acting, Nolan loves to sing and dance.

**Isa Holland** is so excited for this production! This is her first real, official, public play performance! She is 12 and in 7th grade at East Samford School. She enjoys many subjects, especially ELA. Some of her hobbies are making crafts, drawing, reading, writing, playing soccer, singing, and acting. She has been in a few plays before, but her favorite one is Frozen.

**Abby Hudson** is thrilled to make her acting debut as Piglet! Seven-year-old Abby loves hanging out with her two big sisters, talking smack to her four big brothers, and playing for hours with her twin sister, Livi. Abby would like to thank AACT for this opportunity, and her sweet cousin- Light, for inspiring her to audition. She sends Good Luck wishes to all her cast mates!

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# BIOS

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**Adalyn Inger** is 9 and this will be her third play. She was in Aladdin at Pick Elementary and was an Agrabah. She was an angel in a Grace Preschool Christmas play. She likes to write, draw, and play iPad in her free time.

**Kai Johnson** is a 7th grader at East Samford School. Winnie the Pooh is his third production with AACT. He has also performed with APAC. Kai is a kind-hearted child who loves math and swims for the Opelika Swim Team.

**Levi Johnson** is smart, creative, intelligent and he loves S.T.E.M, acting, and robotics. He is in 6th grade at Drake Middle School. His favorite subject is Science or S.T.E.M. His favorite food is probably pasta with alfredo cheese. He has been acting for 3 years and has been in 3 plays with AACT.

**James Keel** is "hoppy" to be making his AACT debut with Winnie the Pooh! James is in 4th grade at Pick Elementary School. Last year James was in the 3rd grade ensemble of PES's Aladdin. James loves to read Harry Potter, watch movies, build with Legos, and practice martial arts at Auburn Academy of Martial Arts. James wants everyone he "toad-ally" likes being in this play!

**Cooper Laney** is a 1st grader at Trinity Christian School. Winnie the Pooh is Cooper's first performance. He is very excited to be a part of this show. In his free time Cooper plays baseball and enjoys playing Legos with his sister, Caroline.

**Maia Laurencio** is 10 years old and really excited to be in her first play. In addition to theatre, she enjoys art, reading, baking, and playing outside.

**Anne-Elese Loden** is very excited to make her acting debut in Winnie the Pooh. She participated in several theater classes and is thrilled to be part of one of the productions. When she's not acting, Anne-Elese enjoys imaginative games, building with Legos, reading books, dancing, blowing bubbles, and spending time with her family and friends.

**Allison Lyda** is 9 years old and in the 4th grade at Pick ES. This is her second performance with AACT and she has participated in three school plays. Her brother is on the stage crew. In her spare time, she likes hanging out with friends, playing video games, and reading. Her favorite food is ramen noodles and her favorite color is pink.

**Wesleigh McClellan** is a 4th grader at Creekside Elementary. She is super excited to be in Winnie the Pooh as a hedgehog. This is her second play with AACT. She likes to do gymnastics, sing and especially act. When she grows up, she wants to be on Broadway in New York.

**Samuel Joseph Mason** is seven years old, the seventh of eight children, and attends The Mason Academy. He loves playing in the woods with his siblings, building Legos, and playing soccer and baseball. Sam previously appeared in APAC's Junie B. Jones, The Sisters Grimm, and Finding Nemo Jr. He is excited to perform the role of Winnie the Pooh in his AACT debut!

**Annie Mason** is nine years old and attends The Mason Academy. She is excited for her first live performance with AACT, though she previously appeared in The Show Must Go Online. She has also appeared in APAC's Finding Nemo Jr. and Junie B. Jones. When not on stage, Annie enjoys playing outside with friends. She is thrilled to bring the role of Winnie the Pooh to life!

**Josiah Mason** is eleven years old and attends The Mason Academy. When not rehearsing with AACT, he enjoys baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and playing with siblings and friends. This is his fourth show with AACT. He most recently appeared in Finding Nemo Jr. and Fantastic Mr. Fox with APAC. He hopes you will enjoy your journey through the hundred-acre wood!

**Cooper McInnis** is a 7th grader at East Samford School. His previous roles include the Butler in Pick Elementary School's production of Frozen Jr., Caleb, the mischievous little brother, in One Starry Night at Providence Baptist Church and Earthworm, in AACT's production of James and the Giant Peach. Cooper is very excited to be in another AACT production.

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# BIOS

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**Evelyn Miller** is a homeschooled 6th grader, and she is thrilled to be a part of another show with AACT which in her opinion is the best theater in the world.

**Miles Stewart** is a 10-year-old at Wrights Mill Road Elementary. This is his first performance with AACT and he is excited to play the role of Christopher Robin #3. His interests include soccer, basketball and acting.

**Sylvia Merrill** is 9, in 4th grade at Pick. This is Sylvia's first play, but she has loved singing and dancing since she was a toddler. She is always smiley, chatty, and thoughtful to everyone she meets. In her spare time she plays with friends, plays Roblox Royal High with her sister, plays board games with her family and builds blanket forts for her 2-yr old brother.

**Gracyn Tompkins** is performing in her second show with AACT. When she isn't on stage she enjoys watching Nailed It and hanging at a park. She hopes you enjoy the adventure!!

**Hailey Tran** is 12 years old and goes to East Samford School. She was James's mom last year in James and the Giant Peach, where she got eaten by a rhino. She plays piano, does school choir and likes to draw, sing, and swim in her free time. She also collects Squishmallows. Rebecca Dawn Urness is 8 years old and attends Auburn Classical Academy. While this is her first acting role with AACT, she has performed countless "shows" at home since she could walk and talk. She enjoys traveling, water sports, softball, dancing, desserts, and art projects. Above all, she loves her family, friends, and Jesus.

**Owen Wells** is a 10-year-old 5th grader at Notasulga School. After two sessions with AACT Academy this will be Owen's first production role. In addition to theater Owen enjoys the visual arts, sketching and creating comic strips. He enjoys hosting gatherings, cooking and board games at the AUUF Community Game night.

## Director's Bios

**Rhema Creel** is in 11th grade and is ecstatic to present the remarkable actors of Winnie the Pooh! She has been involved with AACT for (barely) over a decade, and wouldn't trade this theater family for the world. Over the years, she's been a part of ten casts, two crews, and countless audiences. She is ever-grateful for this directing opportunity and for her fellow directors, Audrey Miller and Olivia Lepczyk.

**Olivia Lepczyk**, now a senior in high school, has been working with AACT since she moved to Auburn in 3rd grade. In fact, one of the first things she did after arriving was enroll in an AACT theatre class. After a nine-year-long journey from a stage-frightened kid through many different roles both on- and off-stage, she is now very excited to be directing her first show. She's very honored to have this role and to have made this journey with AACT. Working on all these productions over the years has helped inspire her to pursue a future in education and acting, in hopes of inspiring future generations in the way that she has been during her years with AACT. She hopes that you enjoy the show!

**Audrey Miller** has been a part of the AACT theater family since she was eight years old. Nine shows later, she's thrilled to be back as a teen director. Audrey's been homeschooled since preschool and is now a senior. She hopes to go to Auburn University to be a vet and stay at the community theater leading the children. Audrey has always loved the Winnie the Pooh stories and has been so blessed to watch these wonderful children bring their own personalities to the Hundred Acre Woods. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does!





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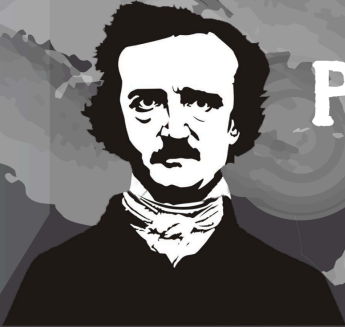
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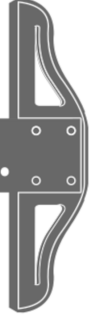
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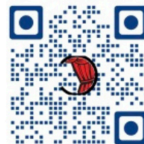
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## LOVE ADS

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We are so proud of you, **Miles!** Love, Mommy, Daddy, Henry and James

**Evelyn**, you are going to be an AMAZING Pooh Bear! You are so thoughtful and talented and we can't WAIT to see you perform! We love you as much as Pooh loves honey! Mom, Dad, Claire, Audrey, Mocha, and Bella

**James**, we are so proud of you! Break a 'frog' leg, buddy! Love, Dad, Mom, Chloe, and Lily

**Gracy**n - "As soon as I saw you, I knew a grand adventure was about to happen." - Pooh said it best. Thanks for this amazing Adventure!!

**Zoye** - "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think" - Christopher Robin. So proud of my girl!!

**Evan** - "People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day" - Pooh. Thanks for always doing the impossible!

**Olivia**, now you can really say you've done it all in the theatre. You've gone from the ensemble to a director, and we could not be more proud! We can't wait to see what you do next. Love, Mom, Dad, and Isabel

**Isabel**, we knew you could rock the stage, but look at you rocking the backstage, too! Everything you do, you give it your all and we love that about you. Love, Mom, Dad, and Olivia

Congratulations to our grandson, **Cooper McInnis**, who has made us so proud with all his talents. We love you, Cooper, and encourage you to keep up the good work. Love, Granny and Granddaddy Keen

**Cooper** – We are so proud of your hard work and enthusiasm! Can't wait to see you shine! Love, Dad, Liz, and Edwyn

**Cooper**, we are so excited to see you and your friends on stage! We love to see the talents God blessed you with but most of all we love to see how much you love to perform! Have fun and we love you!! Love, Mama, Mr. Kelly, Aubree, Cameron and McKinley

**Levi**, we are so proud of you and can't wait to see the production! You make an excellent Owl. Love, Mom and Dad

**Levi**, great job! We are so proud of you! Love you lots! Kirin, Savannah, and Sarah

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## LOVE ADS

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To **Abby Hudson**, our own little Piglet: We love you and are SO proud of you!! Love your BIGGEST fans, Mom, Dad, Lucy, Jack, Ty, Hank, Bo, Hadley and Livi

We are so proud of our little "hedgehog"! We love you **Wesleigh**. - Nana and Dave

**Wesleigh**, We are so proud of you. Break a leg! - Pa and Gigi

We love you **Wesleigh**! You have worked so hard and we can't wait to see you shine! Love, Mama and Daddy

**Wesleigh**, I am so proud of you and your love of the arts. I look forward to seeing you shine in Winnie the Pooh! Love, CeCe

**Wesleigh** - break a leg! You are amazing! Love, Jon

**Kai**, we're so proud of you! Break a leg. Love Grandma & Grandpa

What do you get when you cross a Rabbit with a Winnie the Pooh? A Hunny Bunny! Great job, **Kai**! Love, Aunt Larissa, Uncle Ken, Nicky, Matty & Caroline

Way to go, **Kai**! We think you're "some-bunny" special. Love, Mom & Dad

Dear **Cass** and **Chloe**, You are so uniquely and wonderfully made by God and I am so proud of you. GREAT JOB!! Love, Cocky

**Cassidy** and **Chloe Cox**~ so proud of you!! Have fun!! Love, MeeMee & PopPop

**Norah**, we are all so proud of how hard you've worked and we can't wait to watch you perform and shine on stage in your first play! We love you so much! Love, Mommy and Daddy

**Sam** you always make us smile! We are very proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad and Audrey

**JD**, we are so proud of your involvement in a behind-the-scenes role with AACT! Love, Mom and Dad

**Adalyn**, we couldn't be more excited to see you in Winnie the Pooh! Love Mom, Dad, and Marlowe

Break a leg, **Ruby**! We are so proud of you. Love, Mama, Daddy, & Leo

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## LOVE ADS

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**Isa**, you fill us with immense pride. Witnessing your growth and performances has been a true pleasure. Our love for you is immeasurable. Mom, Dad, and Roman

**Lyla**, we can't wait to see you shine as "Mama Kanga" on stage! We are so proud of you and know you are going to do amazing! We love you- Daddy, Mama, Grayson, Cooper, Phelps & Lyla

**Allison**, we are so proud of you! Keeping looking for the honey jar at the end of the rainbow. Love - Mom, Dad, and Harrison

Our dearest little **Rooster**, we love your energy, spirit, and determination! We're so proud of the work you pour into everything you tackle. Know you are ridiculously loved. Have fun and keep shining the light God gave you. -Mom, Dad, & Shane

We are so proud of you **John Davis!** We can't wait to see you shine on stage! We love you! Love, Mom, Dad, and Will

**John Davis**, Bebe is so proud of you for trying something new! That's so brave! I can't wait to see you shine my baby. Love, Bebe

**John Davis**--Congratulations on your first performance. We are so proud of you! Love Nanny and Pappy

**Maia**, we are so excited to see you perform in your first play! Break a leg! Love Papi, Mami, and David Benjamin

**Eden**, we're beyond excited to see you shine on stage and witness the magic you create with AACT. Sending all our love and best wishes, Mom, Dad, your brother, and sister

**Anne-Elese**, you were born to be on the stage and we are looking forward to your debut! We hope this is the first of many to come. Love ya bunches! -Dad, Mom, Nathaniel, Nora, Clayson & Everett

Have a great show **Nolan**. We're so proud of you. Love, Mom and Dad

We are so proud of you, **Hailey**. Have a great show!!! Love, Daddy, Mommy, big sister Emily and little brother Dylan.

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*AACT serves the Auburn/Opelika Community by providing an opportunity for education and participation in the world of theatre while presenting a quality, entertaining, and thought-provoking theatre experience. We can only continue to fulfill these goals thanks to the money, time, and materials provided by our community's generous donors.*

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WINTER CLASSES

## AACT ACADEMY

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## CREATIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.”

**A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh**

From its very beginning, the AACT Youth and Jr. Performer Program has had three main goals: First, to create an environment where young actors can have a positive theater experience. Second, to offer teens and young adults opportunities for leadership and mentoring roles. Third, to produce an excellent production. While planning and preparing for this fall show, we had some interesting challenges to consider. We would need to find an alternate space to rehearse and perform as the Jan Dempsey Art Center, our usual location, is closed for renovations. We needed to think creatively to best use our resources and fulfill all our goals.

*Winnie the Pooh* written by A.A. Milne and adapted for stage by Kathryn Schultz Miller is the perfect show to accomplish everything we wanted to. The story is classic, with familiar and loveable characters. The script is well written, with flexibility allowing us to cast as needed for the space we would be in. Most importantly its structure allows us to give our amazing teens more opportunities to learn and grow in more ways than we have ever been able to. Audrey Miller, Olivia Lepczyk, and Rhema Creel have been able to try their hand at directing for the first time. In addition we have teens that are learning to communicate, teach and support younger actors, stage manage, build and organize props, create makeup designs, both on paper, and then on actors. Andrea Holliday taught two directing workshops for all of the teens. We have been able to spend more time with the cast teaching and reinforcing basic theater skills. In other words, we are all working, learning, growing and having fun while we are doing it!

My heart is full of gratitude for the many creative people willing to share their time and talents. If I began listing all the people I am grateful for and what they have done to help, it would take pages. I do need to thank my husband Steve, Cora Connelly, Rebecca Miller and Virginia Posthumus. You hold me up and keep me going. Thank you to all the teens, actors and families! Last, and most importantly, dear audience, YOU are who we have been rehearsing for! I hope you enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed preparing it! Melanie Brown

“Some people care too much. I think it's called love.”

**A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh**

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