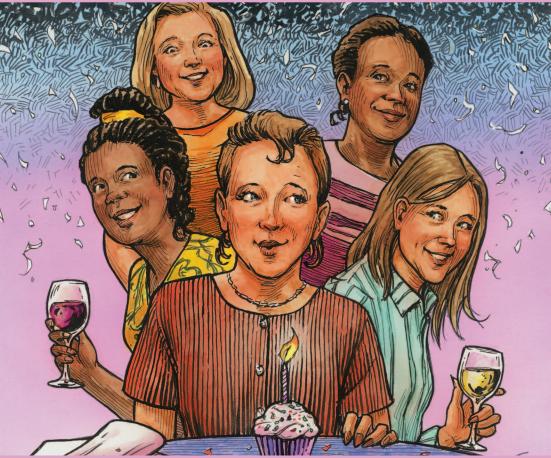
MEADOW BROOK THEATRE

A Professional Theatre on the Campus of Oakland University THE EXTENDED STAY HOTELS PRESENT



Birthday Club

By Phil Olson January 11 - February 5, 2023

Meet Noah

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- 2021 winner of the "NextGen National: Finding the Voices of Tomorrow" competition

NOAH CANALES comes prepared and adapts to challenges. OU provided opportunities that taught Noah professionalism, prepared him to face challenges and pushed him to compete and achieve, even winning a prestigious national vocal competition. After graduation, he signed with a New York agency, putting him on a path to a dream career on Broadway.

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Welcome to Meadow Brook Theatre

Michigan's Answer to Broadway - 56th Anniversary Season

A Message From the Directors Cheryl L. Marshall & Travis W. Walter



A TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Welcome back to our 56th season and to our first production of 2023! We are honored to have you in our audience and ecstatic to offer you this marvelous cultural experience from the largest 501(c)3 non-profit professional theatre in Michigan. Meadow Brook Theatre is proud of

the high quality and creative talent evident in each of our performances, from its first production in 1966 to today.

As we continue our 2022-2023 season, theatergoers will be treated to a comedy that, warms the heart, tickles the funny bone, and welcomes a full cast of returning favorites to the MBT stage. If you enjoyed Mom's Gift, then we know you will love Birthday Club, a Michigan Premiere comedy by the same playwright.

Of course, the remaining shows in our season are certainly not to be missed. Sing along to Blues in the Night starting in February. Celebrate family with our spring drama, Harry Townsend's Last Stand. Get countrified in April with Honky Tonk Angels. And close out the season with the hilarious farce, Noises Off. We hope you will join us and we look forward to welcoming you throughout the entire season.

Moving into the new year, we continue to reflect daily on our good fortune to be part of this community. Meadow Brook Theatre wishes to celebrate the arts and culture that helped us through the dark days of the pandemic and hopes that during 2023 we can continue to be the beacon of light that brings everyone a little bit closer together.

As always, thank you to Oakland University. We are extremely proud to call this campus our home!

Enjoy the show!

Chang & marshall Train W. Watthe

Chervl L. Marshall Managing Director

Travis W. Walter Artistic Director

HOUSE RULES Masks are encouraged, but not required to enter the theatre. To allow others around you to enjoy the play, we remind you to please turn off your cell phones. The use of video and/or photography is strictly prohibited. Violations may be punishable by ejection and may render the offender liable for monetary damages. Children under the age of 5 years old are not allowed into the theatre during performances. After the show, we invite you to take a moment to share your experience with us through Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram.

Share your review of Birthday Club using #MBTBirthdayClub or #MBTheatre



By Phil Olson

DANI COCHRANE* SARA KMIEC* LYNNAE LEHFELDT* TAMARA PILAR* DEBBIE WILLIAMS*

Managing Director CHERYL L. MARSHALL Artistic Director TRAVIS W. WALTER

Director TRAVIS W. WALTER

Choreographer DEBBIE WILLIAMS

Scenic Design BRIAN K. KESSLER Costume Design MARLEY BOONE

Lighting Design PHILLIP HALL Sound Design MIKE DUNCAN

Stage Manager BRITTANIE NICHOLE SICKER*

*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

"Birthday Club" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

UNION AFFILIATIONS:

This theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. The theatre operates under the agreement with the International Alliance of Theatre Stage employees, Local 38



*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



Meadow Brook Theatre is a Constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the nonprofit professional theatre, The Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce, Culture Source, Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Business & Professional Association, and an original founding member of League of Resident Theatres (LORT), an organization comprised of theatre companies throughout the nation.

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THE CAST



Cochrane



Sara

Kmiec







Tamara PiLar

Debbie Williams

Cheryl	LYNNAE LEHFELDT
	DEBBIE WILLIAMS
	TAMARA PILAR
	DANI COCHRANE
	SARA KMIEC

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance.

Understudy for Cheryl, Emily, Kathy	MARY MAGYARI
Understudy for Abbie, Sarah, Kathy	JESSICA NICHOLS
Understudy for Emily	ANTONIO VETTRAINO

TIME & PLACE Present Day Cheryl's Living Room

~~ There will be one fifteen minute intermission ~~

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This activity is supported by the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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Birthdays are a Time for Celebration!

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When we are born, people immediately start counting the time we have been alive. 3 months... 6 months... 18 months... At some point, our family gathers to give us presents, eat cake, and celebrate another year on earth. As we grow older, we may still celebrate with family, but also start to celebrate with the friends that we collected along our journey through time. Birthdays can be a time of reflection where we examine our accomplishments and set goals for the following year.

Some people belong to birthday clubs where groups of friends get together on everyone's birthday. I was surprised to learn as we were getting ready to produce this show that some people belong to multiple birthday clubs. Phil Olson, who was last represented on our stage with *Mom's Gift*, wrote this fun story and workshopped it through the pandemic with lots of zoom readings and productions. We are so grateful to be able to produce his show live on our stage for you, our audience. We hope you find the humor and the joy that is *Birthday Club* and that it keeps you laughing on your way home.

Enjoy the show!

Travis W. Walter ~Director やたい

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I dedicate Birthday Club to Nancy Howland.

was the designated driver and observer of her Birthday Club for several years. Nancy has a close-knit group of loyal friends, with different personalities and backgrounds, who get together to celebrate, commiserate, and support each other while partaking in a glass, or four, of wine.

It was extremely entertaining and often times hysterical to be the "fly on the wall" and hear the candid conversations between these accomplished women. It was so entertaining that I asked Nancy if it would be okay to write a play about it, and with her permission and blessing, I wrote *Birthday Club*.

Thank you, Nancy.

Phil Olson ~Playwright

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WHO'S WHO

DANI COCHRANE [She/Her] (Kathy) MBT select credits: Nana Does Vegas, Mary Jane, Blithe Spirit, Stick Fly, and Mom's Gift. Dani is a Detroit based stage and screen actor, as well as an experienced voice over artist, director, and stage manager. She holds an MFA in acting from **DEBBIE WILLIAMS** (Emily) is thrilled the Hilberry Repertory Company at Wayne State University and studied abroad at the Moscow Art Theatre School. Other select credits: Detroit '67 and Birthday Candles at DPT. A Very Williamston Christmas at Williamston Theatre, and Anatomy of Why Do Fools Fall in Love, Working, a Hug at Tipping Point Theatre. "Thank FANCY, a Country Jukebox Musical, Nana you to my family, especially my little." DaniCochrane.com

to MBT once more before she moves to credits. Love you, Ron & Daph! NYC! Credits at MBT include the title role in The IT Girl, Viktorya in The Snow TRAVIS W. WALTER (Artistic Director) is Geese, and recently Lynette in FANCY, a an alumnus of Oakland University and has been Country Jukebox Musical. Other credits an employee at Meadow Brook Theatre since include Sandy in Grease and Donna in graduating in 2002. In May of 2010, Travis Mamma Mia. Special thanks to her family was named Artistic Director after previously and Cody.

LYNNAE LEHFELDT (Cheryl) was last continues to enthrall audiences by bringing seen in Clue: On Stage, Blithe Spirit, and Michigan, North American, and world Murder on the Orient Express at Meadow Brook. She serves as the Associate Professor of Voice and Movement in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Oakland University. She received her BA in Theatre and Film from the University of Kansas and her MFA from Wayne State University's Hilberry program. LynnaeLehfeldt.com

TAMARA PILAR (Abbie) Off-Broadway: Twelfth Night, As You Like It (Public Theater, NYC). Regional: Be Here Now (NC Stage), Fairview, Asking Strangers The position the second longest. Meaning Of Life (Detroit Rep), Hairspray (North Shore Music Theatre), Once On BRITTANIE NICHOLE SICKER (Stage This Island, A Christmas Carol (Meadow Manager) is excited to join the company at Brook Theatre). Other credits: Little Shop MBT after over a decade on the road. of Horrors, Dreamgirls. TV: "LWT w/John Career highlights include tours of Jersey Oliver" (HBO). Instagram: @pilarthestarlet Boys, Kinky Boots, Rock of Ages, Legally YouTube: @pilarontv



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to return to the MBT stage with Birthday Club! MBT: Things My Mother Taught Me, Calendar Girls, Nana's Naughty Knickers, The Snow Geese, FANCY, a Country Jukebox Musical. MBT Choreography Does Vegas, and Little Shop of Horrors. Nat'l and European Tours of A Chorus Line, Rocky Horror Picture Show and SARA KMIEC (Sarah) is happy to return Grease, along with numerous regional

> holding the title of Interim Artistic Director during the 2009-2010 Season. Travis premieres to life on Meadow Brook Theatre's stage. In 2013, he was named one of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's Elite 40 Under 40; professionals from various business, government and non-profit sectors charged with giving recommendations to improve quality of life in Oakland Country. Travis has won numerous awards for his directing at MBT and has directed over 55 productions at the theatre. Travis was the youngest person to be appointed as Artistic Director of MBT and has currently held the

> Blonde, Million Dollar Quartet, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, and Patti LuPone: Don't Monkey with Broadway. Britt has been lucky enough to work and travel in 40 US states, 62 countries and 6 continents.

WHO'S WHO

BRIAN K. KESSLER (Scenic Design) is in CHERYL L. MARSHALL (Managing Director) his 18th season with MBT. He is also the has been working at MBT over the past theatre's Production Manager. Favorite 36 years. She became managing director design credits include: Murder On The in 2007 and since that time has been Orient Express, Mary Stuart, Johnny instrumental in the growth of MBT and Manhattan, Atomic and Dracula: A Rock its awareness in the national theatre Opera. Brian also has designed for Mosaic, conversation. She is proud of the work OCC, and The Ringwald. Brian would like her "Theatre family" produces season to thank Jess and his family for all their after season and even more thrilled to love and support.

ecstatic to be making her Meadow Brook for their constant love and support. design debut! Marley is a freelance actor, costume designer, and is the current PHIL OLSON (Playwright) grew up in costume shop manager for Albion College. Edina, Minnesota, home of the first She has designed over 30 professional indoor mall, and played varsity football, productions in Michigan, Pennsylvania, basketball and track at Edina East High and New Jersey. Her next show is costume School. After high school, he went on to designing A Servant of Two Masters for Dartmouth College, where he majored Albion College. All of Marley's resumes, in mathematics, was All Ivy, All New production photos, and show updates England, and All East in Track, and played can be found at www.marleyboone.com. tight end on the Ivy League Championship BFA: Michigan State University... go green! Football team. After graduating from

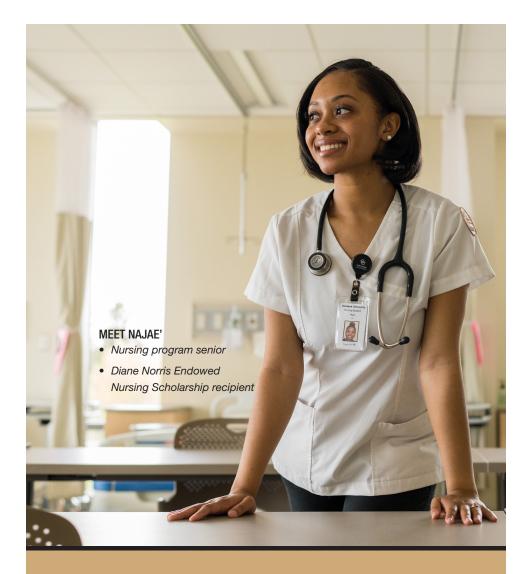
excited to return to the 2022-2023 Meadow Bears," he went on to receive an MBA from Brook Season for Birthday Club! Since The University of Chicago and pursued a his departure from the full-time Meadow business career while writing stage and Brook family, he has been studying screenplays. Phil currently lives in Los Lighting Design in the Masters of Fine Angeles where he writes and produces Arts program at Wayne State University. plays. He has 16 published plays that have Previous credits include: Blithe Spirit, had over 400 productions around the U.S. The Spitfire Grill, and FANCY: a Country and Canada. Ten of his plays are published Jukebox Musical.

thrilled to be back for his 16th season as Hug Me County Fair, Don't Hug Me I'm Resident Sound Designer. Past favorite Pregnant, Don't Hug Me We're Married, shows include The Spitfire Grill, Arsenic Don't Hug Me We're Family, Mom's Gift, and Old Lace, and The IT Girl. As a A Nice Family Gathering, A Nice Family musician, composer and designer he has Christmas and Polyester The Musical. worked at several theatre companies Mr. Olson has written 7 award-winning in and out of state and lectures at plays set in small towns in Minnesota. His OU. Mike is grateful to be part of the play A Nice Family Gathering has been Meadow Brook family. Sarah, Lilianna, Jessica, Rob and Kaila. His play Mom's Gift was produced at the



see you, our patrons, at every play. She would like to thank Larry and the MARLEY BOONE (Costume Design) is 3 Js and her 4 adorable grandchildren

Dartmouth, Mr. Olson tried out for the **PHILLIP HALL** (Lighting Design) is Chicago Bears. After his "summer with the by the Samuel French iprint of Concord Theatricals, including: Don't Hug Me, A MIKE DUNCAN (Sound Design) is Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol, A Don't Much love to optioned to be made into a feature film. Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester Hills, MI, starring Cindy Williams (Laverne & Shirley). As a script doctor, he's re-written three movies that have been produced, as well as thirteen original screenplays. He's also sold two screenplays.



Nursing student NAJAE' RATCLIFF wanted compassion at the core of her career, and found that curriculum and community in Oakland University's School of Nursing. In the final stages before graduation, her education has transformed her lifelong dream of becoming a labor and delivery nurse into her eventual profession and has built confidence and knowledge to thrive in her field.

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Hernandez, Izzy Krzewski, Mark LeMire,
Cassius Merriweather, Sydney Nummer,
Marielly Perez-Lugo, Amanda Pordon,
Annabel Pulman, Parker Splete, Sam
VanKampen, Izzy Whitt, Madison Wiley,
Tuger Xiong

Production Manager / Technical Director / Brian K. Kessler Head Stage Technician / Jeremy Burzuk Properties Director / Kristen Gribbin Costume Shop Manager / Liz Goodall Costume Shop Foreman / Mary Pettinato Head Wardrobe Technician / Shelby VanOphem Scenic Carpenter / Isabella Harvey, Riley Stone Scenic Artist / Gwen Lindsay Master Electrician / Brian Debs Assistant Master Electrician / Griffin Proctor Audio Engineer / Mike Duncan Interns / Zachary Dalton, Jillian Evennou Mary Magyari, Emily Marentette, Cheyenne Miller, Jessica Nichols, Cadence Potts, Ariel Sheets, Antonio Vettraino

House Photographer / Sean Carter Photography: Sean Carter House Videographer / DR Legacy Productions: Dave Legacy, Patty Larin Walby, Karl Walby

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE GUILD

The Meadow Brook Theatre Guild is a volunteer group organization to support and promote community interest in Meadow Brook Theatre.

President / Jeni Walch Vice President / Event Advisor / Maryann Wilshere Treasurer / Speedy Bates Recording Secretary / Robin Richards Corresponding Secretary / Jan Shotwell Membership / Mentoring / Kathy Warriner Past President / Sue May Parlimentarian / Suellen Parkes Newsletter / Teresa Koempel

GUILD MEMBERS

Judy Anders Deanna André Speedy Bates Terri Bendes Colleen Brnabic Marina Cantarella Russo Jeni Carino Mary Caughlin Paulette Cushnier

Judy Dery Karen Elliott Dawn Evoe-Danowski Sandy Fick Maryann Foxlee Peggy Gamble Deanna Gross Judith Hickman Marie Hochstein Sue Jayroe Marge Kaiser Teresa Koempel Birdie Kutcher Dorothy LaBay Cheryl Marshall Sue May Theresa Meegan Sonia Milton Joyce Obenhoff Suellen Parkes Gwendolyn Ray Doreen Raynak Melinda Reeber Robin Richards Barbara Sasseen Kathy Serafino Jan Shotwell Romayne Stapleton Carol Stidham Donna Vogt Jeni Walch Lucille Walla Kathy Warriner Maryann Wilshere Judie Wurges

Since the inception of the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild in 1977, the Guild has raised just over \$1,000,000 to benefit Meadow Brook Theatre. If you would like information on joining the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild, call (248) 370-9705

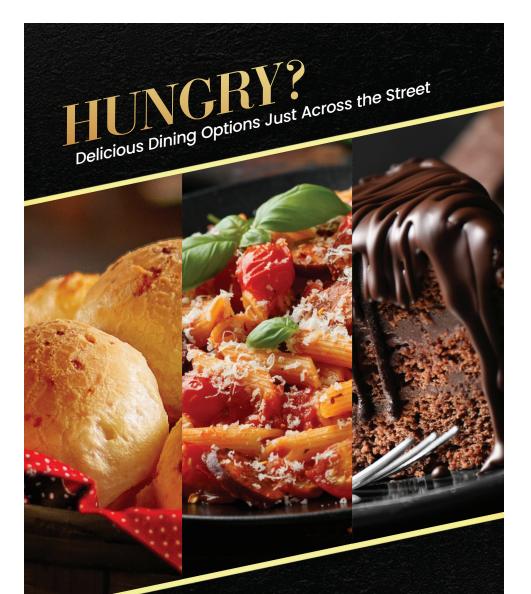
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Meadow Brook Theatre is most appreciative of the support of the Meadow Brook Theatre Guild.

WISH LIST

Visit MBTheatre.com/wish-list/

Donations of goods and services make a difference for Meadow Brook Theatre! By helping us reduce costs, you can help MBT contribute more resources to enhancing artistic programming.



Bravo Italian Kitchen | Chipotle Mexican Grill Kruse & Muer in The Village | Menchie's Frozen Yogurt Mitchell's Fish Market | Noodles and Company | P.F. Chang's Shake Shack | Starbucks | The Jagged Fork



Walton & Adams