

GYPSY

A MUSICAL FABLE

CAST BIOS



REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEB HALBOT

CAST BIOS



Lyrik Alkema, *Ensemble, Baby June Understudy*

Lyrik Alkema is excited to be a part of the *Gypsy* cast in the children's ensemble and as Baby June's understudy. Lyrik is a dedicated dancer and focuses on all genres, training at various studios throughout Orillia and the GTA. Recently she performed at the CNE and is also part of the Ballet Jorgen's A Canadian Nutcracker touring cast for a third season.

Theater Credits include: *Annie, Below*. Film Credits: *Sara Snow and the 7 Dancers, The Tea Party, The Dance Jam and Little Girl, Big Imagination*.

Lyrik is grateful for her dedicated teachers, Rachael Pazan, Larinee Movsessian, and Anastasia Loskutov. And thanks all the cast and crew of MAT.



Stephanie Anderson (Wilson), *Tessie Tura, Rose Understudy*

Stephanie Anderson (Wilson) is a Canadian performer, singer, dancer, choreographer, director and intimacy director. Stephanie has extensive dance, theatre and vocal training and her true passion is performing. A graduate of the Randolph Academy for Performing Arts, Stephanie has worked with many professional theatre companies, some of which have travelled to The Orillia Opera House.

She continues to broaden her artistic horizons by immersing herself in all aspects of theatre including voice over, animation and improv. Stephanie currently works as the resident choreographer and as a film & drama associate at St. Andrew's College.

Gypsy is Stephanie's favourite musical of all time and she is truly excited to be a part of MAT's production. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support.

Stephanie dedicates her performance to her Momma Rose..

*THE PARTICIPATION OF STEPHANIE WILSON IS ARRANGED BY PERMISSION OF CANADIAN ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

CAST BIOS



**Laura Bainborough, *Ensemble*,
*Louise Understudy***

When Laura is not on stage she runs her photography business, Laura Joy Photography, based in Barrie. She would like to express a big thanks to her friends and family for their support.

Past stage roles include: Sandra in *The Play That Goes Wrong* (MAT), Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (MAT), The Bunny in *Urinetown* (MAT), Hunyak in *Chicago* (MAT), Ugly Duckling Shrek (KCP), Laker Girl in *Spamalot* (KCP). Thank you for joining us - Enjoy the show!



Samantha Cole, *Miss Cratchitt*, *Renee*

Samantha Cole is thrilled to be a part of *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. A high school drama teacher by profession, she is thrilled to be doing what she loves outside of work too with this wonderful cast, crew and production team. Samantha owes much to her past and continued experience as an actor and creative team member of Duck Soup Productions. Special thanks goes out to her family, friends, and all supporters of the Arts. Enjoy the show!



Eric Copland, *Yonkers*, *Farm Boys/Broadway Boys*

This is Eric Copland's first theatrical performance. Although he has limited experience in theatrical productions, it is not his first time on a stage.

He regularly performs in Fern Resort's lip sync shows put on by the staff. He enjoys expanding his knowledge of the performing arts and believes that his bubbly and energetic personality will lend itself well to the stage.

CAST BIOS



Charlotte Dionne, *Baby Louise*

Charlotte Dionne is excited to join her first production with MAT. She has been a part of many great shows including *Radium Girls* (TLSS), *Matilda* (Duck Soup), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Duck Soup Productions), and *James and the Giant Peach* (Express Yourself).

Charlotte thanks her family, friends, and all of the members of Duck Soup Productions for their amazing support. Thank you for supporting live theatre, and please enjoy *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*!



Stephen Dobby, *Tulsa, Pasteys*

Stephen Dobby is thrilled to be a part of the wonderful cast and crew of *Gypsy*! He has performed most recently on this stage with MAT in *The Rocky Horror Show* as well as all around Simcoe County, including *God of Carnage* and *Little Shop of Horrors* with SST, *The Old Man and the Old Moon* with Huronia Players, as well as productions with KCP, TBTB, and *Burro'd*.

He would like to thank Josh for leading this fantastic production and special thanks to Sheri for spending all the extra time working with him. As always, thanks to his family for putting up with rehearsal schedules and to all of you who come out to support local theatre!

CAST BIOS



Olivia Everett, Louise

Originally from Belleville, Olivia graduated with her HBA in Theatre & Drama Studies and Diploma in Acting (U of T/ Theatre Erindale & Sheridan College), in 2012. Since graduating she has remained active in Theatre and Performing Arts in the Toronto and Barrie areas. Past roles include Constance in *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* (Erindale Theatre), Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (SST), Velma Kelly in *Chicago* (MAT), Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly!* (SST), and Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown* (MAT).

Olivia's first love is MUSIC! While living in Toronto she met guitarist (and now husband), Paul Everett. An Acoustic Duet was born! 'Pj & Oli' perform for events and weddings in Barrie and the GTA, as well as touring some of the wineries in Prince Edward County during the summertime. Olivia has been at Moving Art Centre in Barrie since 2019, as the 'office ninja', and instructor of Musical Theatre, and voice.

Olivia is so humbled to take on the role of Louise (for the second time!) She is pleased to work with MAT again, and to be part of such a beautiful show, and she can't wait to share it all with a talented cast & crew, and an audience.



Nicole Farrer, Agnes

Nicole began her dance education at the age of three, marking the beginning of her passion for performance. She has since studied a diverse array of dance genres, including ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, hip hop, and musical theatre. Currently, she serves as a dance instructor at Express Yourself Performing Arts, a local children's theatre school.

Nicole has performed in St. Paul's productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *The Music Man*. Nicole is excited to make her Mariposa Arts Theatre debut with *Gypsy*!

CAST BIOS



Anna Gagliardi, *Electra*

Anna Gagliardi, by profession, is a healthcare researcher and educator: <https://ARGLab.ca>. While not formally trained, she possesses a deep love for all genres of music and dance. Anna performed with a cast of 400 all-ages dancers in Le Grand Continental®, a contemporary-style line dance choreographed by Sylvain Émard, as part of Toronto's 2018 Luminato Festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfewEuPwc0U>.

She also performed with a cast of 30 amateur and professional dancers in the 2018 MOonhORsE Dance Theatre's Older & Reckless production of Montre(olly)wood!, a combination of Bollywood and contemporary movement, choreographed by Roger Sinha, at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

Anna is thrilled and honoured to play the role of Electra in MAT's 2024 presentation of *Gypsy*.



Paige Greig, *Ensemble, Baby Louise Understudy*

Paige Greig is delighted to be a part of MAT's production of *Gypsy*! They are fairly new to theatre having only done one other actual show (The Prom with GBMTC) and are happy that they got the chance to be in this show! When they're not performing, they tend to indulge in the other forms of art; dancing, drawing, painting and playing the ukulele.

They also enjoy annoying their very lovely and supportive brother whom they are very grateful for and love deeply :)

CAST BIOS



Annalise Henderson, *Thelma*

Annalise is thrilled to be working on her first MAT show. She has done many performances from a young age in dance, theatre, and vocals. From lead roles to ensemble and backstage. She loves every aspect of the theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Molli Holmes, *Angie, Gail, Ensemble*

Molli Holmes is delighted to be returning to an ensemble role for her second Mariposa Arts Theatre production. She had a tremendous amount of fun in the 2017 MAT production of *Chicago* and is looking forward to yet another memorable experience with her new cast and crew for *Gypsy*. Molli has been dancing since the age of four in various genres such as ballet, hip hop, lyrical, and jazz. She also likes to sing while she putters around the house. In her down time Molli volunteers with the SPCA and enjoys the simple pleasures of being outdoors, gardening, painting, reading, doing yoga, spending time with her friends and family, and cuddling her two cats at home. She is grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the very talented cast of *Gypsy*, and grateful to her boss, Lindsey, at Heartworks Children's Studio for the support and accommodating time off for rehearsals!



Charlotte Houldsworth, *Baby June*

Charlotte is ecstatic to be playing the part of Baby June in Mariposa Arts Theatre's production of *Gypsy*. Previous credits include: Matilda Wormwood in *Matilda* (Duck Soup Productions) and Charlie Bucket in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Duck Soup Productions). Special thanks to her family and friends who are always so supportive, and to the cast and crew of *Gypsy* for being so welcoming during her first production with MAT. Now, May we entertain you?

CAST BIOS



Finnie Jesson, *Rose*

Gypsy is Finnie's first production with MAT, and she couldn't be more grateful and excited to have the opportunity to perform the role of Rose. During the day she teaches music, drama and dance to young people.

She has performed with theatre groups in and around the GTA. Some favourite roles include Donna in *Mamma Mia* (Marquee Theatrical Productions) Mother in *Ragtime* and Fantine in *Les Miserables* (Etobicoke Musical Productions). A big thank you to the cast and entire production and artistic team for being so incredibly welcoming and warm!



Laura Macdonald, *Mazeppa*

Laura is a former youth dancer, who found her way back to the stage after a 20+ year hiatus. Regularly performing as a heels, burlesque, and contemporary dancer throughout Ontario she loves teaching adult dancers and watching as they learn to step into their innate energy.

Honoured to be among the greats of MAT for the first time as part of Gypsy - she's learned it's never too late to try something new, chase your dreams, and reignite your passions.

Recently, Laura has performed as part of *In Transit* (Slain Productions, Simcoe County Theatre Festival), *After Dark, Carnivale*, and *You Better Work* (Studio House Barrie), and moonlights as 'Pumpkin Poundcake' through Bootleggers Burlesque, *Crimson Cabaret* (Slain Productions), *A Night of Burlesque* (TroyBoy Entertainment), and *Scarlet Studios House of Burlesque*.

Mom, Dad & Oba, this one's for you

CAST BIOS



Peter Merkle, *Uncle Jocko, Cigar*

Peter grew up in Scarborough where he enjoyed theatre in high school. He moved to Orillia in 2015 and was encouraged by his wife to try out for MAT productions. Since then he has been in several shows including *Chicago, Urinetown, The Rocky Horror Show, Lucky Stiff, Living Together, Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, MAT's 50+ Anniversary Show* and *The Play that Goes Wrong*.



Stella Minges, *Clarinet Kid, Rich Man's Son, Ensemble*

Extra! Extra! Hey look at the headlines: This is Stella's first play! Stella is kinda nervous and kinda excited to be in the cast of *Gypsy*. Stella's pronouns are they/ them and they enjoy reading, drawing, playing chess and taekwondo.

Stella hopes everyone had fun working on the show and hopes you enjoy watching it. Banana! :3



Randy Nichol, *Pop*

Randy is a classically trained tenor. He attended The Manhattan School of Music before relocating to the United Kingdom where he performed many of the romantic lead roles, including Nemorino (*L'Elesir d'amore*), Rodolfo (*La Boheme*) and Don Jose (*Carmen*). Randy sang with many of the regional opera societies in London and Southern England. Randy returned to his hometown of Orillia in 2023 and has recently performed

on St Paul's production of *The Music Man*. Randy originally performed with MAT in 1979 in the chorus of *Annie Get Your Gun*. His upcoming role will be Mathew Cuthbert in St. Paul's production of *Anne of Green Gables*.

CAST BIOS



Natasha Paquin, *Delores*, Ensemble

Natasha is a 21 year theatre veteran and is very proud to be a part of yet another exciting MAT production. She has performed in Sudbury as well as in and around Simcoe County in various productions such as *Shrek the Musical*, *Urinetown*, *Harvest Moon Rising*, *Beauty and the Beast*, etc... and has enjoyed getting to entertain you in *Gypsy* with a whole gang of new faces. When she's not on stage, you can find her working as a

medical radiation technologist at a local hospital or spending time with her beloved nieces and nephew. Thank you to all of her friends and family for their endless support and tolerance of the constant singing of showtunes!

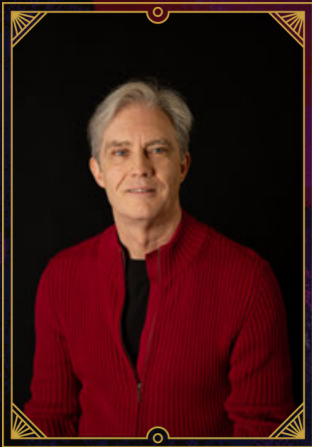


Vivienne Pottage, Ensemble

Vivienne Pottage is excited to be making her theatrical debut in *Gypsy* as a member of the children's ensemble. She is in the eight grade at Guthrie Public School and found her love for the theatrical when she played the Wicked Witch of the West in the school's 2023 production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Vivienne has been dancing for ten years and is currently a member of the competitive dance team at Tapps Performing Arts in

Orillia and studies voice with Maestro Music in Barrie. She is looking forward to gaining more theatrical experience and continuing to expand her performance skills with the Mariposa Arts Theatre.

CAST BIOS



Ted Powers, *Herbie*

A graduate from the Circle In The Square Professional Workshop in New York, his last NYC credit was the musical *JP Morgan Saves The Nation* (En Garde Arts) by the late composer Jonathan Larson of *Rent*. Recent credits include four site-specific productions: *The Man With The Golden Heart* – Trinity St. Paul's United Church Sanctuary (2023 Toronto Fringe Festival), *A Christmas Carol* – in a barn at the White Meadows Maple Farm

(Theatre Bacchus), *The Winter's Tale* – the backyard of a home in the Toronto's Annex Neighbourhood (Dandelion Theatre), and *Twelfth Night* – on the grounds of the Stephen Leacock Museum (Mariposa Arts Theatre).

Other credits: *Sequence & Love Letters* (Blackhorse Village Theatre), *Marjorie Prime* (Bloor West Village Players / remount Blackhorse Village Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Stage Centre Productions), *Something Rotten* (Over The Footlight Productions), and *Side By Side By Sondheim* (South Simcoe Theatre). He is pleased to return to the stage of the Orillia Opera House after a few decades away.



Nicole St. Louis, *Marjorie May*

Nicole St. Louis is delighted to be making her debut performance with the Mariposa Arts Theatre Foundation as a Hollywood Blonde. Her love for the theatre and performing began at a young age.

Growing up she was a member of the Joy of Performing Arts Academy (JOPAA), through which she performed at a number of showcases in the Barrie area. Her love for the theatre extends to her career

as a teacher, instilling her passion for the arts in each of her students. Over the past several years, Nicole has been heavily involved in her school's annual musical as a choreographer and part of the core production team. She is now ready to step out from behind the curtain and return to the stage in *Gypsy*!

CAST BIOS



Alyse Squirrell, June

Alyse is over the moon with excitement to be a part of MAT's production of *Gypsy: A Musical Fable!* Alyse has been an avid part of the GTA's performing arts community for over 20 years, both as artist, educator and leader. As an educator she has had the pleasure of working with amazing companies such as Ovation Performing Arts for 10 years, choreographing Education Arts Canada's various shows and other

schools across the GTA/Simcoe County as a Dance and Musical Theatre Instructor.

Alyse is currently on the Board of Directors for Queensville Players as Artistic Director and Publicity Executive. She has a deep understanding of what it takes to bring a show to a stage, from backstage to onstage, artistic team to social media, she has done it all.

Alyse's most recent credits include: Choreographer and Costume Designer for *Anastasia* (Queensville Players), Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Queensville Players), Babette and Dance Captain in *Beauty and the Beast* (Queensville Players), Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Show* (MAT), Jetsam in *The Little Mermaid* (SCS Musicals), Thelonius in *Shrek the Musical* (Marquee Theatre), Margot and Assistant Choreographer in *Legally Blonde the Musical* (ASTC) and Sharpay Evans in *High School Musical* (Queensville Players).

A huge thank you to her family and friends for always supporting her crazy busy schedule! Many thanks to the incredible cast and crew of *Gypsy* for their hard work and sharing their passion for the arts with the world. Now put your feet up (not really, this is a theatre!) and have an egg roll because everything's about to come up Roses! xox

CAST BIOS



Catherine Sherwood, *Ensemble*

Catherine is delighted to have the opportunity to be a part of the cast of *Gypsy*. This will be her first production with the Mariposa Arts Theatre Foundation. Catherine first stepped on stage at the age of 11, now she is 16 and her passion is still strong.

Her past credits include: *Cinderella The Musical* (Unionville Theatre Company), *Matilda*, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* (Duck Soup Productions), and she has worked with Arts Orillia and Mixed Company Theatre. Many thanks to all her family and friends who have shown her support and another thanks to all the people who are coming to watch the show. Thanks to the *Gypsy* Cast & Crew!



Lyla Stanton, *L.A., Ensemble*

Lyla is thrilled to be a part of her first Mariposa Arts Theatre Production. Lyla's passion for theatre started at a young age with the Muskoka Touring Company. However, it wasn't until she starred in *Sound of Music* with the Bracebridge Rotary Club as Louisa Von Trapp, that she really fell in love with the stage. She starred in her second show at the Rotary Club in *Billy Elliot the Musical* as Debbie Wilkinson. Lyla is very excited to star in *Gypsy* next to the extremely talented cast. She thanks her family for their support and the friends she has made during rehearsals.



James Sweet, *Mr. Goldstone, Ensemble*

Hi, this is James first time in a play, how ever he does sing karaoke on Friday nights at the Army and Navy Club, play in a ukulele group, and sings in a group called Harmonicity every Tuesday ,he also sings for senior citizens in nursing homes.

CAST BIOS



Valerie Thornton, *Ensemble, Tessie Tura Understudy*

Valerie graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Voice in 2002 from the University of Victoria, and shortly thereafter returned to the Orillia area to settle down with her husband, James, and their three children Liam, Madeline, and Cole. An accomplished soprano soloist, Valerie has sung as a member of the Cellar Singers, Bravado! show choir, and is currently singing with Quire. Valerie's always loved the stage having performed in numerous musicals and plays with MAT, Coldwater Village Players, and South Simcoe Theater, most notably as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Anna in *The King and I*, and most recently as Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. However, she is most proud of directing two musicals with MAT including *Sweeney Todd* (2010) and the award winning *Urinetown the Musical* (2019).



Wil Twynstra, *Mr. Weber, Kringelein, Phil*

Wil is honoured to be a part of the Mariposa Arts Theatre company, working with fantastic talent in a phenomenal production. Wil studied Theatre and English literature at York University. This is his return to theatre after a 22 year hiatus, but has performed stand up comedy across Ontario in various venues and events for the past 15 years. Thank you to all at MAT, and to his wife and supportive family.

CREW BIOS



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4th Street Jazz Project, Band Leader Robin Watson

The 4th St. Jazz Project is excited to be the jazz band for the MAT production of Gypsy!

4th St. formed in the fall of 2019 with a group of former Orillia high school students who just wanted to play a variety of jazz styles including swing, bebop, rock fusion and Latin. Over the years the instrumentation has grown to a full jazz ensemble which has five saxes (altos, tenors and baritone), four trombones, four trumpets and a rhythm section of keyboard, bass and drums. When asked to be the Gypsy band a few changes were done to match the instrumentation of the show which now adds saxes on flute and/or clarinet, a French horn and a percussion section.

The band meets once a week in a large garage, thus qualifying them as a true 'garage band'. They have performed as part of the Orillia Jazz Festival, the Orillia Sunday Evening Band Concert series and in Christmas concerts with Orillia Brassworks. This marks their first MAT show.

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Stevie Baker, Producer

Stevie Baker is proud to be the President of the Mariposa Arts Theatre Foundation. She is the General Manager of Canada's first official Forum Theatre and Theatre of the Oppressed centre - Mixed Company Theatre. She has been the Head of Production at Dauntless City Theatre since its inception. She is honoured to serve as a director on the board of Arts Orillia. Internationally she has worked with Kansas City's MET and served as Artistic Director of The Daegu Theatre Troupe in Daegu, South Korea.

Stevie is extremely, and probably annoyingly, proud to be working with her child Stella on their first play!!! She is truly humbled by all the tremendous work our cast and crew have put into this beautiful show. Special congratulations to our director, Josh, on his incredible directorial debut.

For MAT - *The Play That Goes Wrong* (PROD), *Try To Remember* (SM), *The Queer Cabaret* (DIR), *The Rocky Horror Show* (PROD), *Steel Magnolias* (DIR)



Savana Collier, Assistant Producer

Many moons ago, Savana completed her BFA specializing in Theatre at York University. Moving to the Orillia area a little more than a decade ago, she found herself working with the Wasaga Community Theatre where she was involved on stage with several productions (*A Nice Family Christmas*, 2017; *Death by Design*, 2018; *Skin Flick*, 2019).

Most recently, she became involved with MAT (*The Play That Goes Wrong*, 2024) and was given the opportunity to try her hand backstage (*I'll be Back Before Midnight*, 2024). She is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with this amazing group of humans as the Assistant Producer for *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*.

She hopes you enjoy this amazing spectacle and all of the sweat and tears that these talented, beautiful people have dedicated to the show. Thank you for supporting local theatre!

CREW BIOS



Linda Gidora, Lead Set Painter

Since moving to Orillia eight years ago, Linda has worked on painting the sets for MAT. A landscape artist in real time, she has contributed to several major productions including *Chicago*, *Rocky* and *Urinetown*. There is a lot "monkey painting" (plain walls and coloured flooring) but the exciting part for her is creating special effects and authentic artistic representations in the plays themselves. She looks forward to the challenge of each new play!



Haven Hache, Assistant Stage Manager

Haven is a first-time assistant stage manager and this is her first time being involved with MAT. She participated in various plays when she was in high school. With a deep love for all things theater and the arts, she is excited to be involved in this musical production. She is also excited to learn from the experience of the creative team and support them in bringing this show to life.



Dianne Richardson, Props Master

Dianne first became involved with Mariposa Arts Theatre in the mid 1990s working on props for *Brigadoon*. Since then, she has worked on many MAT productions assisting with props, producing and Assistant Stage Managing. Recent productions she has been involved with include ASMing for *Urinetown The Musical* and assisting with props for *Rocky* and *The Play That Goes Wrong*. She also served on the MAT Board of Directors from 2003 to 2023. Dianne would like to thank her husband for his ongoing support through the many hours required to be involved with MAT.

CREW BIOS



Josh Halbot, Director

Curtains up! Light the lights! Josh Halbot is absolutely overjoyed to be presenting his directorial debut in Mariposa Arts Theatre's 2024 production of *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. While he has been on stage in MAT productions for almost twenty years (woof), the opportunity to direct one of his all-time favourite musicals was just too tantalizing to pass up.

He has been absolutely carried through this entire process by the boundless talents of our entire cast, band, and production team. Without the dedication, organization, talent and skill of every single member of this creative team, he would undoubtedly be in the fetal position trying to figure out how to plunk out "let me entertain you" on a cheap keyboard. Despite many challenges and misadventures along the way, this team has been so wildly professional and capable, and he could not dream for anything more.

Furthermore, he would be remiss not to thank the MAT board for taking a chance on him in this opportunity, his parents for their seemingly unending support, and every single one of you for coming to see this absolutely sublime cast. Now let us entertain you, and we'll have a real good time!



Erin Hawke, Costume Designer

Erin has always been an avid lover of musical theatre and theatrical costuming. She has an Advanced Diploma in Fashion Design from Fanshawe College (2007), and has been working in the industry for about 15 years. Erin works designing costumes throughout the year for a local youth theatre company, as well as doing commissions for other local theatres and individuals.

She enjoys challenging herself to recreate looks from various movies, musicals, and tv shows.

Past credits include:

Stitcher: *Romeo & Juliet, Taming of the Shrew, The Trojan Women* (Stratford Festival).

Designer and creator: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Mary Poppins, The Wizard of Oz, Annie, Newsies, Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Duck Soup Productions), *The Rocky Horror Show* (MAT).

Costume assistant: *Swing* (Muskoka Summer Theatre)

CREW BIOS



Shannon Hawke, *Publicity*

Shannon grew up on the Orillia Opera House stage in dance competitions, Kiwanis music festivals, and the Orillia Wind Ensemble, but rarely through theatre. Generally, more comfortable on the production side of creative projects in the region, including short films and festivals, it has only been a recent endeavour to return to the stage.

Shannon's first production with MAT was as Kitty in *Chicago* (2017), and she has since cannonballed into the welcoming community. Past credits include: *Bard in the Yard: Twelfth Night* (Publicity, Co-Producer, 2021), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Publicity, Ensemble, 2022), MAT's Inaugural *Queer Cabaret* (Publicity, Emcee, 2023), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Publicity, Co-Producer, 2024) and now *Gypsy!* She currently sits on the Communications Committee for MAT.

She would like to thank her fantastic team of photographers whose creative eyes showcase the beauty of every show; the phenomenal production team who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to help this talented cast shine; as well as her friends and family for their constant inspiration, enthusiasm, and passion for our local arts and theatre community.



Stephanie Lamb, *Lead Set Dresser*

Stephanie is thrilled to be working behind the curtain for the first time in *Gypsy: A Musical Fable!*

She has been on-stage most recently this past April as Countess Lily in *Anastasia* (Queensville Players), and in previous MAT productions as the Usherette in *The Rocky Horror Show* ('22), Swing in *Urinetown* ('19), and as June in *Chicago* ('17).

Stephanie currently works as a Junior Designer with Linda Mazur Design, and as the Digital Administrator & Social Media Manager for MAT. Come say "hi" on Facebook or Instagram @mariposaartstheatre! Many thanks and congratulations to every one of the crew, cast, and band involved in this production; and a special shout out to Manpreet and Taylor -- we truly make a phenomenal team. So... curtain up, light the lights, and enjoy the show!

CREW BIOS



Susan Mitchell, *Props Master*

With no prior theatre production experience, just enthusiasm and a little creative flair, Susan first volunteered with MAT to help with props and the backstage crew in 2018. *Gypsy* is her 11th production with MAT and she continues to have a great time sourcing out set pieces and props and working backstage. Susan encourages anyone who wants to be part of the backstage magic and work along side a great team of volunteers to contact MAT. Thanks for supporting MAT and enjoy the show!



Sheri Nicholls, *Choreographer*

Sheri Nicholls returns to Mariposa Arts Theatre as choreographer. Initially, she received her dance training in Orillia, but has been lucky enough to teach dance and work in choreography around Ontario including Cobourg, Peterborough, Barrie, and Orillia. She has choreographed many MAT shows including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *Urintown*, *Lucky Stiff* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. She returns to work with Mariposa Arts Theatre time and time again because of the fantastic and talented people involved. Many thanks to the cast and crew of *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. Enjoy!



Leigh Rawlins, *Stage Manager*

Leigh is so excited to be working with MAT again. She holds a high honours diploma in technical production for theater from Sheridan College which has taken her to many places throughout Canada and America. Her all-time favourite technical credits; *Grease* (Theater St John's, SM), *Blood Brothers* (Theatre Sheridan, SM), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Canadian Tour, Spot Op.). Thanks to Josh and Stevie for their support. Love to Chris, Mom 'Liver, the fam and KNNEM. Enjoy the show!!!

CREW BIOS



Veronica van Muyen, Assistant Director

Born and raised in Orillia, Veronica moved to the UK in 2013 where she remained for ten years. In that time she gained a BA in Musical Theatre from the Guildford School of Acting. Whilst training, roles included Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods*, King Richard in *Richard III*, and Maureen in *Honk!*. She appeared in various staged concerts on the West End stage, mainly with the London Musical Theatre Orchestra and Roles We'll Never Play. Previous roles include Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* (Theatre by the Bay), and MAT productions *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Music Man Jr.* For the Village Players, Nancy in *Oliver!*, *Oklahoma*, *HMS Pinafore* and *Pirates of Penzance*. This is Veronica's first time on the other side of table and is so thrilled to be a part of *Gypsy!*



Sami Jo Whalen, Musical Director

Sami Jo Whalen holds an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in music from York University and has extensive experience in musical theatre. She has served as the co-music director and clarinet player in *The Velveteen Rabbit* (2012) and *Annie* (2013), while in Goose Bay, Labrador. Back in Ontario, she has also served as the vocal and music director, co-producer, and set designer and builder for several productions, including *Madagascar Jr.* (2022), *James and Giant Peach* (2023), and *Finding Nemo Jr.* (2024) at the school where she runs the music department. Sami Jo is thrilled to join the production of *Gypsy* as the music director bringing her passion and love of the art to the show.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PRODUCTION

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