

Kitsap Forest Theater – Seussical, the Musical Cast Bios

Luciana Barrera recently appeared on this stage as a Silly Girl in *Beauty and the Beast* and Beth in *Little Women*. This is her 10th show here at Kitsap Forest Theater. Happy 100th birthday, KFT!

Jordy Berretta is a recent graduate of Chico State where she received her BFA in Musical Theatre. This is her second show at KFT and she is excited to spend the summer out in the beautiful forest.

Katie Dreessen has been performing at the Kitsap Forest Theater since she was 9 years old and is thrilled to be back after earning her BA in Theatre Performance at WWU. Previous KFT roles: Meg (*Little Women*) & Katherine (*Newsies*). Love you, mom and dad!

David Duke is thankful to be in his 4th KFT show. He hopes to share the joy of Dr. Seuss with everyone.

Valerie Foster has been in 19 shows with Kitsap Forest Theater starting when she was 6 years old. She is happy to get to sing and dance all over the stage in this fun and busy show. (she/her)

Tod Harrick was found living amongst a pack of the rare Kitsap Peninsula hyenas. He was placed in a show cast at KFT to learn to imitate human behavior and has lived and acted here ever since. He thanks his family for their love and support.

Jo Johnson is excited to be performing for the second time on KFT's outdoor stage! Living here in Kitsap County, Jo has been seen as Sister Berta in KFT's recent *Sound of Music* and Basil in the independently produced/locally written *The Picture of Dorian Grey Musical*.

Leif Layman is excited to be doing his 3rd show at KFT. He was previously seen as Professor Bhaer (*Little Women*) and Gaston (*Beauty and the Beast*). Leif is also an epidemiologist with King County and is in the process of applying to medical school. Thanks to everyone who has supported his journey. (he/him)

Olivia Markle is excited to be in her 4th KFT show! Previous KFT roles: Brigitta (*Sound of Music*), Minnie Mae (*Bend in the Road*) & Chip (*Beauty and the Beast*). She loves musical theatre, singing, composing music, playing the piano, spending time in nature at KFT, and snuggling with her four dogs!

Mia Perritt is beyond excited to be in another KFT show after a long hiatus! She is a Senior at the Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Previous KFT credits: Adella (*Little Mermaid*), Shoemakers Elf/Duloc Feature (*Shrek*). Mia thanks friends and family for all of their love and support!

Jay Rauchenstein, the previous pit pianist (*Bend in the Road*, *The Sound of Music*), is pleased as punch to portray the present presentation's pendulous pachyderm.

Emma Shusterman is enjoying her 2nd show since taking a 10 year hiatus from the stage. When not acting, she has kept active in the community through helping her parents with props/sets, doing sound with her brother or volunteering to sell concessions.

Dee Smolar, longtime Mountaineer and KFT fan, is excited to be part of KFT's centennial season. This is her 6th KFT show (previously in *Music Man*, *Peter Pan*, *Beauty & the Beast*). Love to Dave & Solla Sollew!

Carol Stanley proudly thinks "How Lucky You Are" to be in her 18th production at KFT. She is "Havin' a Hunch" you will enjoy the show! Favorite Roles: Frau Schmidt (*The Sound of Music*) Liza (*Peter Pan*), Mother (*Tarzan*) and Grace (*Honk!*)

Olivia Sutherland is a Seattle based singer and performer excited to be in her second show with the Kitsap Forest Theater. She recently appeared as Sister Sophia in KFT's centennial production of *The Sound of Music* and is thrilled to be jumping right back into another show in this beautiful space.

Ashlyn Templin is so excited to return to this beautiful theater for her third show. She loves painting and all genres of music. She'd like to thank her family for all their support.

Isaac Tian is performing his 3rd show with KFT. He has also performed at Driftwood Players, toured with the Seattle Historical Theatre Project, and sang with the UW Chamber Singers. He just received his PhD in computer science from UW and is very interested in hearing if your company is hiring.

Anna Vizzare is thrilled to be spending another summer in the forest. Favorite past roles include Amy (*Little Women*) and Lefou (*Beauty & the Beast*). Anna is a 4th grade teacher in Seattle. For Gram. (she/her)

Pam Weaver is an accomplished singer, teacher, & director with degrees in Vocal Performance, Music Theory, and an MA in Education. She's making her KFT debut and is excited to be back on the stage!

Orit Wernor is thrilled to be performing in her second show with KFT. After spending her childhood doing musical theater, she only recently came back to performing after 11 years and is beyond excited to be sharing this beautiful stage with such a talented cast. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Dylan Yablonski has been performing in musicals since he was 5 years old. His favorite role was Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid*. He also enjoyed being in *Fiddler on the Roof, Peter Pan*, *Aladdin*, and *Cinderella*. He is thrilled to be in his 1st production with Kitsap Forest Theater.

Judy Yablonski has loved to dance her whole life. Her dance journey led her from Jazz and Tap to Modern Dance, Ballet, West African Dance, Lindy Hop, Swing, Yoga, and now, Musical Theater! She is excited to be part of her first production with KFT.

Guy Yarkoni is THRILLED to be a part of his first show at KFT! Guy is a senior at University of Utah, earning his BFA in Musical Theater! Previous credits include: *In Pieces* (U of Utah), Warren (*On A Clear Day)* and Barfe (*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*) both at Ballyhoo Theatre. Enjoy the show!

Michael Yichao is thrilled to make his KFT debut! Favorite past roles include Chip (*25th Annual Spelling Bee*, Edmonds Driftwood Players) and Tobias (*Sweeney Todd*, ASU). When not on stage, Yichao writes plays and serves as CCO for Jam&Tea Studios, a video game company. Michaelyichao.com. (he/him)

Seussical, The Musical Production Staff Bios

Greg Brown has happily been doing sound for the Mountaineers Players since 1973.

Guy Caridi is choreographing his 27th show (!!!) at the Kitsap Forest Theater. Guy's been choreographing, performing & teaching dance since 1991. He's the Artistic Director of Savoy Swing Club (30 years). He believes KFT's community-based al fresco theater is one of the best age-defying experiences.

Jenny Dreessen has enjoyed learning more about the producer's job this year. Next year she hopes to add to her favorite Kitsap roles: Marmee in *Little women*, Witch in *Into The Woods*, Witch in *Narnia*, Donna in *Mamma Mia!* She volunteers as Kitsap Kitchen Manager, Committee Chair, & Asst. Producer.

Gail Foster is pleased to be a part of the creative team for *Seussical*. She's costumed several other shows for this amazing group, as well as performing on stage since 1991 (most recent: Mother Abbess in SOM).

Joe Hinchy is happy to be here in his 1st show with KFT. A veteran over 100 different musical productions, Joe has been picking, plucking and strumming his way through life from his 1st show "Oklahoma" (1970) to his most recent show "Mean Girls" (2023).

Jim Johnson has been building since he was 6; this is his second production with KFT. He enjoys bringing concept sketches to life as part of the magical experience that is the Kitsap Forest Theater.

Mark Kunz is pleased to be in his 2nd performance for KFT (*Beauty & the Beast* 2022). He's been doing musicals since his friend of over 55 years, Mark Press, invited him to perform with him in *Music Man* 9 years ago. A multi instrumentalist, he leads his Big Band (Moonlight Swing Orchestra). It's still a fun ride!

Danette Lam has been part of the KFT family since 2011. She's always blown away by the hard working, incredibly talented group that brings the shows to life. It is such joy to be part of such a magical experience.

Gala Lindvall is happy to be producing for our centennial season (her 34th show for KFT). The beauty of this place and the incredible actors and production staff keep her coming back year after year. Special shout out to Jenny for being assistant producer and helping me to stay on the right path!

Leanne Markle, an independent artist & illustrator, is excited to be a part of her 4th show at KFT! She loves being a part of bringing these wonderful shows to life, painting sets, stage managing, making new friends, and spending time in the beautiful outdoors at this magical theater with her family.

Kevin Matthew would like to thank the production team of *Seussical* for the opportunity to help such a talented cast sound wonderful in this glorious venue. Last seen onstage at BCT as George Banks.

George Pledger loves the magic of Kitsap Forest Theater, has been part of various productions since 2014.

Mark & Nancy Press are thrilled to be back at KFT (after having so much fun last year with *Beauty & the Beast*) to create this musical land of SEUSSICAL. In the past year they also were the musical team for *ELF the Musical* (their 25th show at Edmonds Driftwood Players) and had a blast Music Directing *THE PROM* at Shorewood High. They also look forward to the return of their beloved Madrona Children's theater this coming season….When you have a cast and crew like this: Anything's POSSIBLE!

Shana Prine is excited to be working with KFT for the first time. A recent graduate of WWU, she is an English teacher by day and a pianist by night. Many thanks to her neighbors Mark and Nancy for getting her involved in the wonderful world of theater!

Craig Schieber has been directing and acting at KFT for 30 years. It's a delight to be working with this community as it celebrates 100 years of theater magic in the woods. Craig has also directed at Driftwood Theater and with numerous kids' summer and school programs. (he/him)

Jules Shusterman is excited to return for his 4th show running the sound board. Jules has a passion in education and is working on his Masters at the UW. (he/they)

Angela Templin is thrilled to participate in Kitsap Forest Theater in her first official role as the Prop Manager. She's excited to use her creativity to help the cast and crew bring this story to life and delight the audience!