Director's Notes

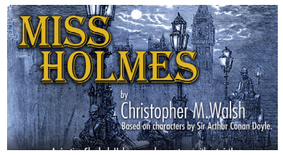
Oliver! made its premiere in 1960 and continues to be revived on London's West End and Broadway to this day. The 1968 film won 6 Academy Awards, including Best Picture! *Oliver!* is famous for its songs and grand dance numbers, but beneath the infectious score and lighthearted melodies lies the unflinching world of Charles Dickens' original novel. Dickens wrote *Oliver Twist* as a gritty critique of Victorian poverty, crime, and child exploitation. The criminal underworld Oliver encounters is driven by survival, danger, and violence — most memorably in Nancy and Bill Sikes' tragic, volatile relationship. We present these moments honestly, but not graphically. By confronting the true stakes of this world, the story's ultimate themes of resilience and hope shine all the more brightly.

Many years ago, I had the chance to play the Widow Corney and later served as music director for a children's production of this show. Since then, it's been a show I've dreamed of directing — and it's a dream come true to see it come to life here at the Kitsap Forest Theater. I've enjoyed this process and am so proud of everyone involved. KFT continues to bring together the best volunteers, designers, actors, and musicians to create such a wonderful theatrical experience for you.

I love the message that Oliver Twist gives us: he sees good in others and bravely stands up to injustice. I hope you and your family will see and embrace his message of hope, and that you'll "Consider Yourself" one of the family here at KFT! ~ Trina Williamson

You Are Not Alone: If you see yourself or someone you love in Nancy's story, help is available. Reaching out is a sign of strength, and support is free, confidential, and ready when you are. Resources: forestheater.com/resources, or scan:

2026 Fall Classic • September 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 19, 20 • 2 pm



A new Sherlock Holmes case with a very definite twist. In this deadly serious and thrilling story, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are intelligent, independent women in Victorian England. It is a time when society did not value those attributes, social class distinctions are explicitly set and any rebellion against social norms was not tolerated. Neither of these smart and brave women abides by the conventions of their time – to their peril. ***Miss Holmes*** is a riveting murder mystery by Christopher M. Walsh, based on characters by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

2027 Season Sneak Peek—New Worlds from Old Roots







These beloved musicals are known for their unforgettable music and powerful storytelling — but they share something deeper. At their heart, all three are stories of hope, resilience, and moving forward when life doesn't turn out the way you expected. Each explores the complicated, beautiful bond between parents and children, the bittersweet process of letting go, and the courage it takes to find your own path as the world changes around you.

From the fragile balance of tradition in ***Fiddler on the Roof***, to the healing power of imagination in ***Finding Neverland***, to the unexpected consequences of our wishes in ***Into the Woods*** — each show offers its own perspective on what it means to face change and discover a new way forward.

Season Auditions in Bremerton & Edmonds in January. Details: forestheater.com/auditions.

Coming Soon...

Find out more

SHERWOOD STATION

Bringing modern comfort down the trail

mountaineers.org/sherwoodstation

Mountaineers Players

THE MOUNTAINEERS PLAYERS HISTORY • 1923–2026

The rich history of The Mountaineers Players began on a Spring day in 1909 when a 'local walk' by a group of 66 hikers to view the wild blooming rhododendrons around Wildcat Lake went astray. They wandered into Hidden Valley Ranch and met Edward Paschall and family, starting a fast friendship that began one of The Mountaineers most enduring traditions.

Skits around campfires grew into a production of *Robin of Sherwood* on June 17, 1923, performed in the woods going from glade to glade with the audience following along. Realizing the need for a permanent theater, Bill Darling and volunteers built the outdoor amphitheater in 1925-1926. This marked the birth of The Players who went on to produce an annual spring show every year except 4 years during World War II and 2020. A summer show was added in 2007 and a fall show in 2024.

We also added the popular Adventure Camp in 2012 for kids grades K-4 and a Theater Camp for kids entering grades 5-8 in 2023.

The Mountaineers Players are one of the oldest, continuously operating community theater groups in the country, performing in one of the oldest outdoor theaters in North America. Read about our history and our early shows on our web site ("History" tab and "Past Shows" tab under "About Us").

And follow the links about Sherwood Station (name taken from our first show in 1923) to learn more about our new building project at the theater!

Kitsap Forest Theater Camp
Sing ✦ Dance ✦ Perform
Escape the Ordinary ✦ Create the Extraordinary

2026 Theater Day Camp • Aug. 3 - 7

Campers entering 5th–8th grades will rehearse a musical theatre review from a variety of Broadway shows, led by **Ila Dreessen (Elsa!)**. Learn the joys of the outdoor theater while developing teamwork, creative problem solving and confident performance skills. This will be an intensive and inspiring week of learning music/dance. The camp ends Friday with a performance for family/friends. August 3-7. Please see KFT website for details.

Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp
play ★ explore ★ create

We offer two one-week day camps for kids entering grades K-4th grade every July at this beautiful forest property with an optional Friday dinner/overnight for families. It's a great way to unplug your kids and get them outside. See our website for all the details.

Salmon Safari

In November, seagoing salmon migrate from their feeding grounds to streams of their birth. Chico Creek is the largest chum salmon run in Kitsap County. Watch our website for the date for a fun & informational tour of the returning Salmon. Perfect adventure for the whole family. Meet at the start of the Big Tree Trail. Tours run as needed. Rain or Shine!



Singing with Ila • The Voice Studio of Ila Faubion

Serving Poulsbo and Kitsap County • (425) 205-1341 • singingwithila@gmail.com

Are you interested in learning more about the magical instrument all of us carry within us? Whether you are a young singer interested in learning to sing like your favorite Disney Princess, or an advanced singer looking to further your skills, Ila is a vocal coach specializing in teaching musical theater and classical voice, as well as pop, folk, and bluegrass styles. Schedule your introductory lesson today!



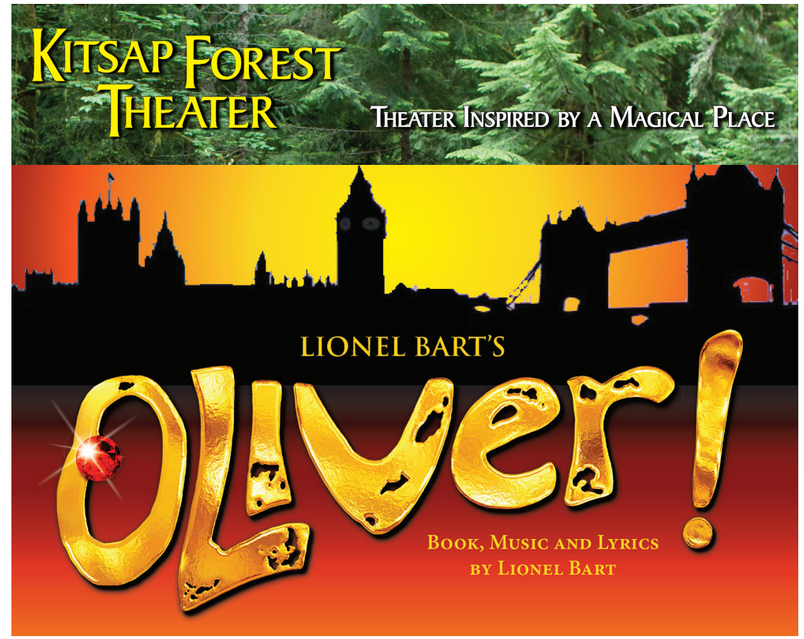
Foreman's Forest Works • 360-536-8960

Travis Foreman, the Kitsap Forest Theater caretaker, has left his mark all over the property – notice the benches, fences, arbors, swings, and mushrooms. Contact him for a custom piece of yard art to grace your yard.

Find us on Facebook
Kitsap Forest Theater
POST A COMMENT OR REVIEW

Did you enjoy your visit to our magical theater?

Become a theater ambassador and spread the word about this special place. Tell your friends, post a review on our facebook page, share our website: word of mouth is our best advertising!



July 25, 26 • August 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 • 2 pm

Director:	**Trina Williamson**
Music Director:	**Linda Kappus**
Choreographer:	**Guy Caridi**
Costumer:	**Dawn Janow**
Sets:	**George Pledger** **Jim Johnson**
Props:	**Angela Templin** **Reid Templin**
Stage Managers:	**Ta'Mara Bale** **Danette Lam**

Kitsap Forest Theater — Theater Inspired by a Magical Place — A Treasured Family Tradition Since 1923 — Mountaineers Players

Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* is presented by the Mountaineers Players.
Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart
through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials supplied by Music Theatre Int'l (MTI) • www.mtishows.com

Help ensure future generations experience the magic!

Thanks to the donors/volunteers who keep this magical theater thriving. Donate your time and money today to keep the tradition alive!

Please visit **www.ForestTheater.com** and click the ***donate*** tab for more info. Call 206-542-7815 or email players@forestheater.com with questions.

Thanks for your support of the Mountaineers Players/Kitsap Forest Theater.

www.ForestTheater.com

Synopsis of Scenes

Time: About 1850

Act One

Scene 1 **The Workhouse Dining Hall – early evening**
Food, Glorious Food ..... Oliver & Orphans
Oliver ..... Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney, Governors, Orphans

Scene 2 **The Widows Parlour – later**
I Shall Scream ..... Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney
Boy for Sale ..... Mr. Bumble

Scene 3 **The Undertaker's**
That's Your Funeral .....Mr. & Mrs. Sowerberry, Mr. Bumble
Where is Love? ..... Oliver

Scene 4 **The Undertaker's – next morning**

Scene 5 **Paddington Green – morning, a week later**
Consider Yourself ..... Dodger, Oliver & Company

Scene 6 **The Thieves' Kitchen – later**
You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two ..... Fagin & Gang
It's a Fine Life ..... Nancy, Bet & Gang
I'd Do Anything ..... Dodger, Nancy, Oliver, Bet, Fagin & Gang
Be Back Soon ..... Fagin, Dodger, & Gang

Scene 7 **The Street**

Act Two

Scene 1 **"Three Cripples" (public house–Clerkenwell) – following evening**
Oom-Pah-Pah ..... Nancy & Company
My Name ..... Bill Sikes
As Long as He Needs Me ..... Nancy

Scene 2 **Brownlow's – two weeks later**
Reprise: *Where is Love?* ..... Mrs. Bedwin
Who Will Buy? ..... Oliver, Street Criers & Company

Scene 3 **The Thieves' Kitchen – later**
Reprise: *It's a Fine Life* ..... Nancy, Bill Sikes, Fagin & Dodger
Reviewing the Situation ..... Fagin

Scene 4 **The Workhouse – a few days later**
Reprise: *Oliver* ..... Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney

Scene 5 **Brownlow's – later**
Reprise: *As Long as He Needs Me* ..... Nancy

Scene 6 **London Bridge – night**
Reprise: *Reviewing the Situation* ..... Fagin

Big Tree Trail

The Kitsap Forest Theater is surrounded by the Rhododendron Preserve – a 460 acre nature conservancy with over 70 acres of old-growth forest. One of the 10 largest Douglas Fir trees in the world (2nd largest in Kitsap County) is located on the preserve. The trail to 'Big Tree' is about 1/2 mile long and starts near Kitsap Cabin, ending at Big Tree. The tree is over 30' in diameter. The first part of the trail is steep – the hike takes you through Hidden Valley, on a bridge over Wildcat Creek with views of blooming trillium, wild rhododendrons and native trees and plants.

If you hike the trail after the show, please be sure your car is not blocking anyone in. Wear walking shoes and enjoy your trek to another time and place!

Cast of Characters

Oliver Twist ..... Melanie Waldman
Fagin ..... Kevin Matthew
Nancy ..... Sarah Conte
Bet/Hussar's Girl ..... ★ Jaylah Monroe
Bill Sikes ..... Bryon Scharenberg
The Artful Dodger ..... Mira Sayre
Mr. Bumble/Knife Grinder ..... Michael Sterling
Widow Corney ..... ✦ ★ Laura McFarlane
Mr. Sowerberry/Ensemble ..... Michael Hause
Mrs. Sowerberry/Ensemble ..... Jackie Alves
Mrs. Sowerberry/Ensemble (8/2) ..... Ila Sarah Dreessen
Noah Claypole/Ranch (Fagin's Gang)/Ensemble ..... Emma Layton
Charlotte/Squint (Fagin's Gang)/Ensemble ..... Erin Fall
Mr. Brownlow/Ensemble ..... Chris Saether
Dr. Grimwig/Ensemble ..... Walt Foster
Mrs. Bedwin/Ensemble ..... Erin Saunders

Orphans/Fagin's Gang

Captain/Ensemble ..... Celina Brewder
Drought/Rose Seller/Ensemble ..... Taya Clift
Scraps/Ensemble ..... Noa Rehder
Muck/Milk Maid/Ensemble ..... Harper Rogers
Ferret/Ensemble ..... Scarlett Rooks
Charley Bates ..... Ila Mae Carr
Nipper ..... Emerald Cohn
Handwalker ..... Ty Scharenberg
Snitch ..... Elly Scharenberg
Skip ..... Elsa Lenhardt
Weasel ..... Mabel Lenhardt
Pockets ..... Nora Saunders
Spider ..... Mona Sterling-Anderson
Patch ..... Sophia Sterling
Orphan/Townsperson ..... Lucy Saunders
Orphan/Townsperson ..... Dante Sayre
Orphan/Townsperson ..... Zoe Sterling
Orphan/Townsperson ..... Tiffany Sterling-Anderson

Adult Ensemble

Strawberry Seller/Townsperson ..... Valerie Foster
Townsperson ..... Alexandra Hartka
Matron/Townsperson ..... Allie Sterling
Old Sally/Townsperson ..... Erin Sterling
Townsperson ..... Cora Lee Sterling
Governor/Tavern Keeper/Townsperson ..... Bill Sterling

★ Dance Captains ✦ Fight Captain

Music & Dance Staff

Choreographer ..... **Guy Caridi**
Music Director ..... **Linda Kappus**
Accompanist/Keyboardist ..... **Shana Prine**
Keyboardist (8/15/26) ..... **Jay Rauchenstein**
Band Conductor/Trumpet ..... **David Baine**
Drums ..... **Mark Jackson**
Trombone ..... **Michael Bravin**
Violin ..... **Michelle Skellie**
Reeds ..... **Patty Putnam**
Flute ..... **Clarice Nash**
Fight Choreographers ..... **Lee Ann Hittenberger, Adam Somers**

Production Staff

Director ..... **Trina Williamson**
Stage Managers ..... **Ta'Mara Bale & Danette Lam**
Costume Design & Construction ..... **Dawn Janow**
Set Design/Construction ..... **Jim Johnson, George Pledger**
Wyatt Goldstein
Set Dressing/Painting ..... **Jenny Dreessen, Danette Lam**
Jerry Dreessen, Alissa Rooks, Sam Scharenberg
Prop Managers ..... **Angela & Reid Templin**
Technical Director/Sound Design/Sound Technical ..... **Kevin Matthew**
Sound Board Operator ..... **Michael VanderDoes**
Dialect Coach ..... **Katie Dreessen**
Intimacy Coordinator ..... **Annika Nordleaf-Nelson**
Trail Decorations ..... **Robin Rogers**
Misty & Celina Brewder, Alissa Rooks, Sayre family, Erin Saunders, Scharenberg family, Sterling family, John Woodworth
Publicity Manager ..... **Jerry Dreessen**
LeeAnn Nolan, *Players' Committee and entire Oliver! cast, crew & families.*
Seabeck Highway Sign ..... **Danette Lam**
Graphic Design, Buttons, Program ..... **Gala Lindvall**

Special Thanks to:

Tom Vogl, *CEO of The Mountaineers,* **Mark Kerr**, *VP of Properties, and* **Mountaineers staff** *for their unwavering support of The Mountaineers Players.*
Prestige Copy & Print *(printing & mailing);*

Production Manager ..... **Gala Lindvall**
Associate Production Manager/Kitchen Manager ..... **Jenny Dreessen**
Shuttle Driver ..... **Les Bagley**

Thanks to our many Volunteers!

Putting on shows at KFT takes an army of volunteers who sell tickets, house manage/usher, head park/park, sell concessions, help backstage with sets and painting and **cook for cast and crew**. **Thank you to all of you who are the backbone of our organization, helping to staff these positions for our shows.** **If you'd like to volunteer** to help in any of these areas, please call 206-542-7815 or email players@foresttheater.com to sign up. And see the show for free!

And what do you think of our latest volunteer project – the beautiful colored signs identifying the many native trees and plants as you walk down the trail? This was a joint project with many people helping to make it a reality!