

PLAYBILL®

UNOTheatre - SMTA
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, NE

• • • • • UNO THEATRE PRESENTS • • • • •



Conceived and Developed by David De Silva

Book by
Jose Fernandez

Lyrics by
Jacques Levy

Music by
Steve Margoshes

Title Song "FAME" written by Dean Pitchford and Michael Gore

SUMMER MUSICAL THEATRE ACADEMY



COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS | THEATRE

**The University of Nebraska at Omaha and UNO Theatre
in partnership with Omaha Public Schools &
Omaha South High School**

PRESENT

FAME THE MUSICAL

Conceived and Developed by
David De Silva

Book by
Jose Fernandez

Lyrics by
Jacques Levy

Music by
Steve Margoshes

Title Song "FAME" written by Dean Pitchford and Michael Gore

featuring
The Cast and Crew of the Summer Musical Theatre Academy
Academy Director Hal France

Choreographed by
Domanic Brown

Directed by
Vincent J. Orduna

Musical Direction by
Tyler Gruttemeyer

Costumes by
Jocelyn Reed

Set Designed by
Jason Jamerson

Lighting Designed by
Rick Goble

Sound Designed by
William Kirby

Costume Shop Manager
Charlene Wiloughby

Hair and Makeup Artist
Erin Rose

Technical Director
Grant Hilgenkamp

Originally produced at the Coconut Grove Playhouse,
Arnold Mittleman, Producing Artistic Director

Fame is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.co.uk • www.mtishows.com • www.mtishows.com.au

ACADEMY CAST & CREW

Cast

Serena Katz	Elly Cheatle
Nick Piazza	Aidan Upton
Joe "Jose" Vegas	Diego Martinez
Carmen Diaz	Olivia Bryant
Tyrone Jackson	Mekhi Payne
Iris Kelly	Piper Blackledge
Mabel Washington	Yolanda Henderson
Schlomo Metzenbaum	Andrew Milburn
Grace "Lambchop" Lamb	Yasmine Espinosa
Goodman "Goody" King	Elliot Kerkhofs
Miss Greta Bell	Sophie Thomas
Miss Sherman	Alexandra Zaleski
Mr. Meyers	Christian Vihstadt
Mr. Sheinkopf	Nolan McCormick
Ensemble	Savannah Clay
Ensemble	Cole Coppersmith
Ensemble	Dana Cutshall
Ensemble	Andrea Elizarraga joya
Ensemble	Amirah Gott
Ensemble	Marianna Hernandez
Ensemble	Isabella McAtee
Ensemble	Omari Montes
Ensemble	Joanna Sandquist
Ensemble	Jazmin Vargas Tapia
Ensemble	Teliyah Varoz
Ensemble	Jesse Villezcas
Ensemble	Grace Znamenacek
.	

ACADEMY CAST & CREW

Crew

Sound Crew David Ramirez Aceves

Props and Deck Crew Jay Bush

Props and Deck Crew Kolby Cleaver

Props and Deck Crew Hailee Davis

Props and Deck Crew Timur Guliev

Sound Crew Sofia La Fata Hornillos

Lighting Crew Jalen Johnson

Lighting Crew Angus Keesbury

Stage Management Isabella Loftus

Props and Deck Crew Kenny McMorris Jr.

Props and Deck Crew Will Mertins

Props and Deck Crew Adrian Ossenkop

Props and Deck Crew Kiley Rau

Wardrobe Crew Ulyana Romanova

Wardrobe Crew Skye Brown

Wardrobe Crew Magdalene Kennedy

Wardrobe Crew Kenya Lopez

Stage Management Etta Salzman

Orchestra

Keyboard 1 Rick Avard

Keyboard 2 Jennifer Novak Haar

Reeds Michael Prucha

Trumpet Sam Kalhorn

Trombone Peter Madsen

Guitar Jason Koch

Bass Steve Gomez

Drums Brandon Armstrong

SONGS

ACT I

Hard Work	Company
I Want To Make Magic	Nick
Can't Keep It Cool	Joe, Students
Tyrone's Rap	Tyrone
There She Goes/Fame	Carmen, Students
Let's Play A Love Scene	Serena
Bring On Tomorrow	Schlomo, Carmen
The Teachers' Argument	Miss Bell, Miss Sherman
Hard Work (Reprise)	Students

ACT II

The Junior Festival	Students
Think Of Meryl Streep	Serena
Mabel's Prayer	Mabel, Girls
Dancin' On The Sidewalk	Tyrone, Students
These Are My Children	Miss Sherman
The Pas De Deux (Dance)	Tyrone, Iris
In L.A.	Carmen
Let's Play a Love Scene (Reprise)	Serena, Nick
Bring on Tomorrow (Reprise)	Students
Finale	Company

SMTA TEAM

Creative, Production & Administrative Staffs

Stage Director	Vincent J Orduna
Assistant Stage Director	Jarod Cernousek
Musical Director	Tyler Gruttemeyer
Assistant Musical Director	Jennifer Novak Haar
Assistant Musical Directors	Mark Kurtz
Choreographer	Domanic Brown
Assistant Choreographer	Andrea Ford
Dance Assistant	Isabel Gott
Set Designer	Jason Jamerson
Costume Designer	Jocelyn Reed
Assistant Costume Designer	Thomas Rowe
Lighting Designer	Rick Goble
Sound Designer	William Kirby
Assistant Sound Designer	Michael Franklin
Hair and Makeup Artist	Erin Rose
Production Manager	Jason Jamerson
Stage Manager	Nick Jansen
First Assistant Stage Manager	Jozalyn Harrison
Second Assistant Stage Manager	Anna Dorr
Technical Director	Grant Hilgenkamp
Lead Carpenter	George Dixon
Carpenter	Caenis Bryan
Lead Electrician	Rick Goble
Costume Shop Manager	Charlene J.B. Willoughby
Wardrobe Mistress	Bonnie Schuur
Prop Master	Daniela Jacobo
Costume Assistants	Skye Brown Magdalene Kennedy Ulyana Romanova Kenya Lopez
Lighting Assistants	Jalen Johnson Angus Keesbury

SMTA TEAM

Creative, Production & Administrative Staffs (continued)

Sound Assistants David Ramirez Aceves
Kolby Cleaver
Sofia La Fata Hornillos

Production Assistants Isabella Loftus
Etta Salzman

Props and Deck Crew Jay Bush
Hailee Davis
Timur Guliev
Will Mertins
Adrian Ossenkop
Kiley Rau
Kenny McMorris

Academy Director Hal France

Administrative Assistants Brandon Miles Dorsey
Erica Ostermiller
Isabel Gott



LEARN ABOUT THE ARTISTS

To read about the Fame Cast and Crew please visit our digital program by the using your phones and the following QR Code



We began on June 6 when Broadway veteran and Omaha native Q Smith led a workshop about believing in yourself.



RECOGNITION & GRATITUDE

The UNO Summer Musical Theatre Academy has brought talented people and organizations together to realize the potential of a new generation. We would like to shine a spotlight on parents, guardians, and teachers for their continuous and persistent support and love.

The UNO Summer Musical Theatre Academy Says Thanks To Our

Community Partners:

Omaha Public Schools, Superintendent, Dr. Cheryl Logan
Omaha South High School, Arts Curriculum Specialist, Rebecca Noble.
Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority, Katie Bassett and Bill Pickett

Community Funding Partners:

UNO College of Communication, Fine Arts, and Media, Dean Michael Hilt
UNO Academic Affairs, Interim Senior Vice Chancellor Deborah Smith-Howell
Dr. Cheryl Logan, Superintendent Omaha Public Schools
Omaha South High School
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Mr. G. Richard and Mrs. Carol Russell
Mrs. Ruth A. Keene
Shari R. Hofschire
Heike and Adam Langdon
Mary Ellen Mulcahy



You can support the
Summer Musical
Theatre Academy

Planning Committee

Michael Hilt, Dean, College of CFAM
Amy Morris, Director School of the Arts Director
Steven Williams, Coordinator UNO Theatre
Cam Bexten, Development Director College of CFAM
Kristin Girten, Assistant Vice Chancellor, ORCA
Randy Mattley, Communications Specialist, College of CFAM
Jason Jamerson, Production Manager, SMT
Tyler Gruttemeyer, Omaha South High School Director of Voice
Hal France, Academy Director, UNO Theatre

RECOGNITION & GRATITUDE

Individuals and Organizations

Chancellor, Joanne Li
Q Smith, *Come From Away* Broadway and Q Smith Workshop
Dr. Sasha Kopp, Former Senior Vice Chancellor, UNO Academic Affairs
Makayla McMorris, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, UNO MarComm
UNO MarComm Team
Paula and James Blackledge, Caterers of Cast/Crew Party
Susan Kurtz, Business Manager, College of CFAM
Thomas Lowe, Administrator, UNO Theatre
Inclusive Communities, Cammy Watkins, Co-Executive Director and Dominic Green
O-PA NHSTA, Kathleen Hustead, Bill Grennan and Taylor Wyatt
Jim Boguess, Musical Director, Omaha Community Playhouse
Jay Wise, Omaha Symphony and UNO School of Music
Pat Ribar and Kiley Luchsinger, Gretna High School
Michelle Williamson, Millard North High School
Robyn Baker, Millard South High School
Brooke Phillips, Millard West High School
Kevin Barratt and Tyle Gruttemeyer, Omaha South High School
Chris Storm, Skutt Catholic High School
Sara Cowen and Scott Mead, Omaha Central High School
UNO School of Music Faculty - Olga Smola, Tomm Roland, Christie Beard, , Pate
Madsen and Jason Johnson
Jeff Scheffler
Jason Koch
Good Vibrations - Judy Divis

Special Thanks to The River Front Project and MECA

Katie Bassett, Vice President of Parks, MECA
Bill Pickett, Director of Events and Programming Omaha RiverFront
Jaden Hill, Event Manager, Gene Leahy Mall Opening
Pat Bressman, Theatre Musical Services
Mike Klug, Event Organizer Extraordinaire
Jasper Goforth, Audio Vision

To our remarkable, amazing SMTA teams, Directors, Designers, Creatives, Production Staff and
Administrative Staff who have collaborated in harmony, competency, and style!

Thank You All



WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF CREATORS

The College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media (CFAM) is dedicated to inspiring the creative spirit and cultural growth of all of our students.

We are comprised of three distinct schools in three unique facilities: the School of Music (Strauss Performing Arts Center), the School of the Arts (Weber Fine Arts Building), and the School of Communication (Arts & Sciences Hall).

Each school is built on a diverse array of courses led by a nationally-known faculty of musicians, artists, performers, writers, and scholars.

Music, art and art history, communication studies, journalism, theatre and creative writing provide unmatched opportunities, skill development and experiences for students preparing them for their professional fields.

I invite you to create your future with us and learn how a degree from one of our programs can put you on a successful path. I also invite you to attend one of our many musical and theatre performances, gallery exhibitions, public readings and other events throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hilt".

Michael L. Hilt, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Communication,
Fine Arts and Media



UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

cfam.unomaha.edu



WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

We are the creative heart of UNO with programs in theatre, art, and creative writing. UNO is the only school in a 400 mile radius of Omaha that has three arts programs combined into one school. Our School is dedicated to making the world a better place through deep reflection, rich artistic expression, and the celebration of the human spirit.

WHAT WE DO

Our course of study is both rigorous and useful. Each of the School's three programs is rooted in long-standing traditions that are time-tested and span centuries, but at the upper most levels students are encouraged to innovate and find new directions that grow out of the past. Faculty are passionate about helping each individual student be their best by finding their own unique voice and point of view.

OUR SETTING

Omaha is Nebraska's largest city and an unusually vibrant artistic hub. We have more galleries, museums, theatres, and performance venues per capita than any other location in our region. These supplement students' formal classroom training with rich cultural experiences, and many opportunities for networking, professional internships, and employment.

JOIN US

We would love the opportunity to share what happens in our building. Feel free to drop me a line. We are Nebraska's best kept secret. Come find out why!

Amy Millicent Morris
Director, School of the Arts
ammorris@unomaha.edu



**THE ARTS
START IN
WEBER**



arts.unomaha.edu



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



YOUR THEATRE CAREER BEGINS HERE

Our program will give you a total understanding of theatre-making, from box office to publicity, ushering to dramaturgy, design to performance, and much more. The range of classes that you will take balance traditional academics with rigorous professional training.

I'd enjoy sharing more. Give me a call **402-554-2430** or email **steven_williams@unomaha.edu**



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Weber Fine Arts Building | 6505 University Dr South | Omaha, NE 68182 | arts.unomaha.edu



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**DO YOU WANT TO BE
ONSTAGE NEXT SUMMER?**



**SUMMER MUSICAL
THEATRE ACADEMY**
...2023...

The month-long academy begins in June. The academy provides students to work with professionals. We accommodate students participating in both NHSTA and ITF. Rehearsals and classes take place in the Weber Fine Arts Building on the Dodge Street campus. Generous community and university support makes scholarships available. Contact UNO Musical Theatre instructor Hal France at hfrance@unomaha.edu



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

arts.unomaha.edu

FROM THE ACADEMY



Dear Friends,

In a community like Omaha, good ideas and action often flow in sync with generous intentions. UNO recognizes and celebrates the values of the community it serves.

We thank our donors and partners for making the first Summer Musical Theatre Academy possible!

Our mission in starting the SMTA was first to join the many musical theatre training efforts in our schools and theatre organizations. We celebrate the growth of musical theatre opportunities and exciting results of recent years. We applaud all of the teachers, directors, and program administrators.

The UNO Summer Musical Theatre Academy was established to offer college-level resources in the field of musical theatre performance and technical theatre. Talent blossoms when the drive towards self realization finds opportunity. It is our goal to provide quality opportunities.

We all see the role that technology plays in every aspect of the world. Theatre has always been a place where new technology shines. Our technical theatre faculty and facilities have made a big contribution to this program for both performers and technicians!!

Speaking of the world that lies ahead, what could be more important than our capacity to connect with each other. Theatre training expands that capacity!!

With the generous financial support of our partners and the kindness of our highly skilled professional team, we have been able to make this academy a welcoming and tuition free opportunity!!

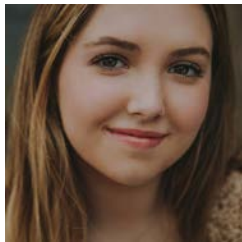
With a few more miles under our belts and a passionate commitment to growing our program, we hope to make the 2023 UNO Summer Musical Theatre Academy even better.

**Help us get started for 2023 with the UNO Musical Theatre Support Fund.
Donation cards are available in the lobby. Please ask our staff.**

Please consider joining us as we look toward a bright future with equity and inclusion for these beautiful young Americans!

Hal France
Academy Director and UNO Instructor of Musical Theatre

CAST BIOS



Elly Cheattle

as Serena Katz

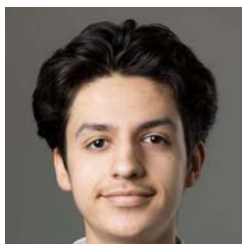
Elly Cheattle is an incoming junior at Elkhorn South High School. Her past credits include Mrs. Mayor in Elkhorn South's production of *Seussical* and Mrs. Jennings in Elkhorn South's *Sense and Sensibility*.



Aidan Upton

as Nick Piazza

Adian just graduated from Westside High School and will begin his college studies at University of Nebraska Lincoln's Johnny Carson School of Theater and Film. His credits include Giles Corey in *The Crucible*, Philip Henslowe in *Shakespeare in Love*, and Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*.



Diego Martinez

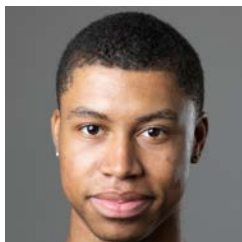
Diego is going to be a junior at South High School. He is part of the cast for *Fame*. This is his first Theatre production. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!



Olivia Bryant

as Carmen Diaz

Olivia is eager to be back on the stage for the first time since 2019. She was Pepper in *Annie* and in the ensemble in *Ragtime* at the Omaha Community Playhouse. In 2019 Olivia received the Dick Boyd Award. At The Rose Theater she played Anna in *Goosebumps The Musical* *Phantom of the Auditorium* and Brooklyn Newsie in *Newsies*. At Omaha South High School she's current!



Mekhi Payne

as Tyrone Jackson

Mekhi is going to be a junior at Omaha South High School. His past credits from this 2021 - 2023 school year include Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Eduardo in *The Cuban Swimmer* and Mekhi in *Runaways*. He was in OPS One Act Festival and Neon Theatre, and is a member of Omaha South's Improv team.

CAST BIOS



Piper Blackledge

as Iris Kelly

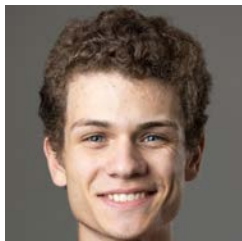
Piper is going to be a junior at Concordia High School. Her theatre credits include, Ancestor in *The Addams Family*, Purity in *Anything Goes*, and Gabriella in *High School Musical Jr.* She was in the Showcase Ensemble for this year's Nebraska High School Theatre Awards.



Yolanda Henderson

as Mabel Washington

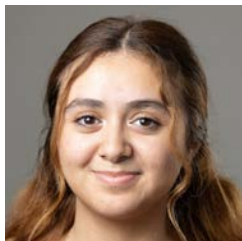
Yolanda Henderson is an incoming freshman at UNO, she recently graduated from Omaha South High School. During her time in high school she was part many musical productions such as *21 Chump St.* as "Naomi", *Hairspray* as a "Dynamite", and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as "Olives Mom/ Ensemble". She was also a 4 year member of "The Ambassadors" Varsity show choir, a 2 Year member of the Nebraska All-State Choir, and a 1 year member of the Omaha South "Luvabulls" dance team.



Andrew Milburn

as Schlomo Metzenbaum

Andrew Milburn is a self-taught actor with six years of theater performance experience. He played Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family*, Cinderella's Prince and the Wolf in *Into the Woods*, Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, Pinocchio in *Shrek: The Musical*, Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka Jr.*, and Rooster in *Annie Jr.*



Yasmine Espinosa *as Grace "Lambchop" Lamb*

Yasmin's first theater performance was in August 2021 for her high school's annual show. She found her love and passion for theatre once she got the lead roles as Margarita Suarez in *The Cuban Swimmer* (2022), for the Thespians Festival, and Ellie Cousins in *Murder at the Art Show* (2022).

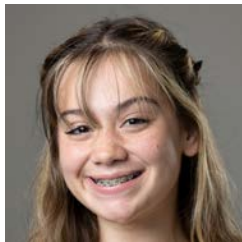


Elliot Kerkhofs

as Goodman "Goody" King

Elliot will be a senior at Millard North High School. He most recently was in the cast of *Tuck Everlasting* at the Bellevue Little Theater, and *A Christmas Carol* at the Omaha Community Playhouse.

CAST BIOS



Sophie Thomas

as Miss Greta Bell

Sophie is going to be a senior at Fort Calhoun Jr/Sr high school. She loves to act, sing, play the ukulele, guitar, and a little bit of the piano. She's been in all of her schools plays and musicals and is now starting to branch out to other musicals such as *Fame*. She is excited to grow as a performer and as a person. She also hopes to inspire others to perform.



Alexandra Zaleski

as Miss Sherman

Alex Zaleski is a young theater artist from Omaha Nebraska. Recently graduated, they will be going to Germany in the Fall as a part of the CBYX program. Some previous roles include Hecuba in *The Trojan Women*, and Olive in the Papillion Community Theater's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and they were recently a national finalist for the Jimmy Awards.



Christian Vihstadt

as Mr. Meyers

Christian is an incoming freshman at UNO, and just graduated from Millard North High School. His shows at MNHS included *The Little Mermaid*, *Alice In Wonderland*, and *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*.



Nolan McCormick

as Mr. Sheinkopf

Nolan McCormick is going to be a junior next year at Elkhorn North High School. His past productions include Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *James & The Giant Peach*, *School House Rock! Live*, and *The Canterville Ghost*.



Savannah Clay

Savannah Clay is a sophomore at Omaha Burke high School and she would like to thank her dad and stepmom for their support and dedication.

CAST BIOS



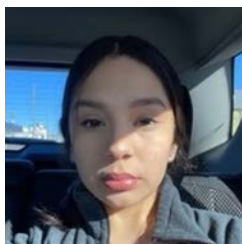
Cole Coppersmith

Cole is going to be a junior at Elkhorn South High School. His credits include Art awards, Competing in Elkhorn South's varsity show choir, Blackout, and playing roles in plays and ensemble roles in the school musicals.



Dana Cutshall

Dana will be an incoming freshman at Morningside University. Her past shows include *Little Shop of Horrors*, playing Chiffon, and *The Breakfast Club*, playing Claire. She is from Glenwood IA and has participated in many shows at the Mills Masquers over her high school career.



Andrea Elizarraga joya

Andrea is a sophomore at Omaha south high school. She is part of the UNO SMTA *Fame* production, and this will be her first show and opportunity like this and she is very honored! She would like to thank her family and friends for their support and can't wait to see the show!!



Amirah Gott

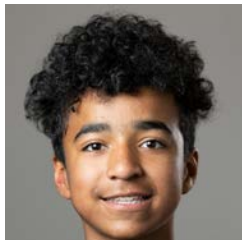
Amirah is a 16-year-old rising junior at Omaha South High School. This is her first acting role in a musical. She is a part of the Omaha South High show choir, "The Ambassadors." She is playing an ensemble character in the dance program in *Fame*.



Marianna Hernandez

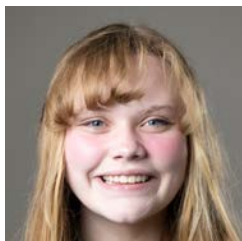
Mariana Hernandez (Ensemble) Mariana is a senior at Omaha South high school with several school productions under her belt, which include ensemble in *Hairspray*, ensemble in *Runaways*, and a variety of one-acts. Mariana is also an active member of the vocal music program at Omaha South participating in the varsity show choir "The Ambassadors".

CAST BIOS



Omari Montes

Omari is going to be a freshman in high school at Omaha South. He is on the ensemble team for *Fame* and will be participating in show choir and baseball. He would like to thank you for supporting him and fellow cast members in hopes that you enjoy yourselves.



Joanna Sandquist

Joanna loves musical theater, playing ukulele, songwriting, and baking. Some past favorite roles of hers include Tracy in *Hairspray* at Lewis and Clark, Barbara in *Orange is the New Glass* at Central and Cynthia in *Big* at Bellevue Little Theater.



Jazmin Varga Tapia

Jazmin Vargas Tapia will be a senior at South High Magnet School. They have been doing plays and musicals since pre-kindergarten and have been given roles such as Adella from *The Little Mermaid Musical*, 'Actor' from *The Brothers Grimm*, and even the lead role in *The Lion King Musical*, Nala.

Wanting to be a film actress, she t



Teliyah Varoz

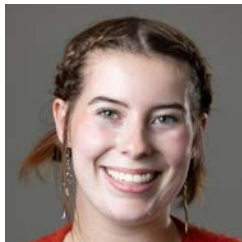
Teliyah is a part of the ensemble in *Fame*. Some of her past credits include Cherry in Omaha South High's *Runaways the Musical*, in which she was nominated and awarded Best Actress. She was also Tabitha Cincannon in *Murder at the Art Show*. Benvolio In *Romeo and Juliet*. Gabriella Montes in *High School Musical Jr.*, and Lady



Jesse Villezcas

Jesse is going to be a senior at Bellevue West High School. His past credits include ensemble for *The Pajama Game* and set crew for *She Loves Me*. He would like to thank his family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

CAST BIOS



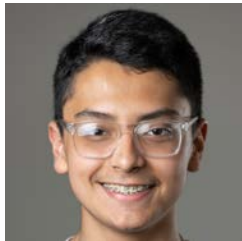
Isabella McAtee

Isabella goes to Platteview high school and will graduate in 2023. She plans to attend college for theatre performance and tech. Performing is her life and her passion. Some of her past roles include Knight of Ni in Platteview high school's *Spamalot*, The Big Bad Wolf in *Into The Woods*, she was a featured soloist in *The World Goes Round*,



Grace Znamenacek

Grace is going to be an incoming freshman here at UNO. She is a part of the ensemble of *Fame*. She is excited to perform with her new friends and she hopes her family and everyone else enjoys the show.



David Ramirez Aceves



Skye Brown

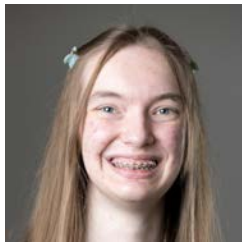
Skye is going to be a freshman in high school. He is part of the costumes team for *Fame*. This is Skye's first production. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.



Jay Bush

Jay Bush is a sophomore at Bellevue East. He is a part of the deck crew for *Fame*. His past credits are a light tech for *The Mousetrap* and light crew for *Hunchback of Notre Dame* At Bellevue East.

CAST BIOS

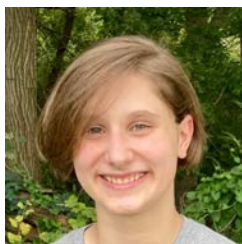


Hailee Davis

Hailee will be a senior at Mercy High School. She has been involved with lights at Mercy High for *Front*, *Animal Farm*, and was the lights manager for *Mary Poppins* this past spring. She would like to thank her parents and new friends made in this production for all the support and fun memories!



Timur Guliev



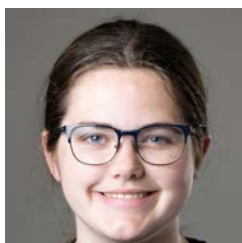
Sofia La Fata Hornillos

Sofia is going to be a sophomore at Westside in the Fall. Her past works include spotlight for *Little Shop of Horrors*, lighting assistant for *Our Place*, co-lights for *Shakespeare in Love*, and Kim in *Check Please: Take Two*. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their help and encouragement and can't wait to show everyone this amazing production!



Jalen Johnson

Jalen is a recent Westside graduate and is attending Doane University in the fall to pursue a degree in Theatre. He has been a part of Westside's productions of *Shakespeare in Love* (Richard Burbage) and *Our Place* (Stanley). When he is not onstage, Jalen remains active by pursuing his passions in screenwriting and playwriting.

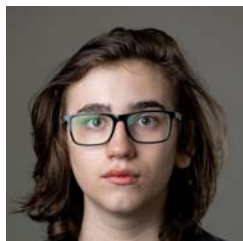


Magdalene Kennedy

Maggie is going to be a sophomore at Skutt. She is part of the costume team for *Fame*. She would like to thank her parents and siblings.

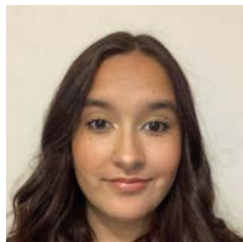
Kolby Cleaver

Angus Keesbury



Kenya Lopez

Kenya Lopez is going to be a sophomore at Omaha South High. Her past credits involve playing Enchantress/Babette in *Beauty and the Beast*, Jennifer in *Runways*, stage manager for *The Cuban Swimmer*, Balthazar in *Romeo and Juliet*, and playing Meredith Dish in *Murder at The Art Show*.



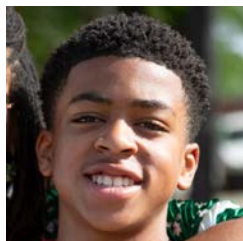
Isabella Loftus

Bella is going to be a senior at Duchesne Academy. They are an apprentice stage manager for *Fame* at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Their past experiences include being the Stage Manager for a Duchesne's director-written production *Hello from Crawdad* and Duchesne's *Little Women*. They also have various experiences in sound and lighting.



Kenny McMorris Jr.

Kenny McMorris Jr is heading to Buffet Middle school as a 7th grader. Fluent in Spanish with a 3.75 GPA he is exploring the arts as well as basketball. His first debut on the stage was at the Rose and since then he has played several lead roles one being the Prince in *Cinderella*. He would like to be a Disney actor and one day an Athletic Director.

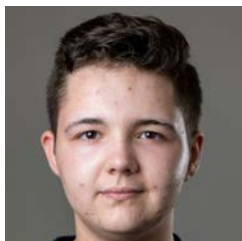


CAST BIOS



Will Mertins

Will is going to be a freshman at Westside High School. He is part of the crew for *Fame*. Past credits include lighting for *Grease* and Westside Connection (show choir) at Westside Middle School. He is also a member of Jr. ITS. Will would like to thank Ms. Meyers, Mr. Djernes, and his family.



Adrian Ossenkop

Adrian is going to be a senior at Bennington High School. His past credits include lighting technician for *Shrek the Musical* and lighting director for Bennington's Vocal Music Department. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support and Tye Hanke for empowering Adrian on his technical theatre journey to become a "Lighting Designer Extraordinaire." In the words of Lord Farquaad, "We all have our standards, but I will have perfection".



Kiley Rau

Kiley is going to be a junior at Millard North High School. She is a part of the technical crew for this production of *Fame*. For past shows, she has done set crew for her high school productions. Kiley thanks you for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!



Ulyana Romanova

Ulyana is going to be a sophomore in Westside High School this year. She has been involved in various productions like acting in the Rose Theater. This year she decided to try some more behind the scenes work and now is involved in the set building, set painting and costume crew for this musical. She has a lot of experience in sewing from school, drawing from the Joslyn Art Museum and building from her engineering classes. Some of her hobbies include, art, figure skating, volleyball, tennis and playing the piano.

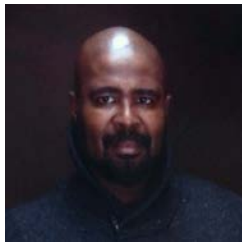
CAST BIOS



Etta Salzman

Etta is going to be a junior at Central High School. He is a stage management apprentice. Prior to this production, they also assistant stage managed Central's annual Roadshow and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* musical and she worked costume and makeup on the play, *Twelve Incompetent Jurors*. They would like to thank her friends and family for their infinite support.

STAFF BIOS



Vincent J Orduna

Stage Director

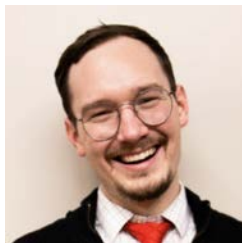
Vincent (VJ) Orduña He/Him:has worked in several regional theaters including Village Theatre, Seattle Musical Theatre, Seattle StageRight, Book-It Repertory and Taproot Theater. Favorite roles: The Baker (*Into the Woods*), Tonton Julian (*Once on This Island*), Mister (*The Color Purple*). Omaha audiences may have seen him as the Scarecrow (Omaha Playhouse-92). Favorite Directing Credits: *Company*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Next to Normal*, *Hairspray*, *Hamlet*, *Taming of The Shrew*. VJ did his Post-Graduate work at the National Shakespeare Conservatory and has been a teaching artist and acting coach for 20 years. Thanks to Hal, Tyler, Dom, Nicholas, Jarod, UNO, and this cast/crew for their support, trust, hard work, and talent.



Jarod Cernousek

Assistant Stage Director

A recent graduate of UNO with a degree in Acting and Directing, Jarod has spent the last four years growing as a theatre artist in Omaha and beyond. He has enjoyed working with the cast of *Fame* and such a cohesive team of directors. He thanks each student for their bravery and the parents/guardians who have allowed them to pursue Theatre. He hopes you'll enjoy the show.



Tyler Gruttemeyer

Musical Director

Tyler R. Gruttemeyer is the Director of Vocal Music at Omaha South High School and served as musical director for the South summer musical productions including *West Side Story*, *In the Heights* and *Once Upon This Island*. In the fall of 2016, he received the Nebraska Music Educators Association's "Young Music Educator of the Year" Tyler has a BA in Music Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the spring of 2013.



Jennifer Novak Haar

Assistant Musical Director

Jennifer Novak Haar performs frequently with the Omaha Symphony, the Omaha Chamber Music Society and as a collaborative pianist throughout the Midwest. She has music directed numerous productions, including at the Omaha Community Playhouse, and plays keyboard for Broadway and other touring productions as well as local theater. She plays with various jazz combos including her own group, Novak & Haar. Jennifer has performed at the Kulturnacht Festival in Braunschweig, Germany, played for the US tour of the Irish singing duo Fíré, and was the featured keyboard artist for Mannheim Steamroller Christmas' national tour. She graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory and was a Fulbright scholar at the Musikhochschule in Würzburg, Germany.



Domanic Brown

Choreographer

Domanic Brown is a choreographer, teacher, and dancer, who began with self taught dancing as a child. Since then he has studied Tap, Jazz, African, Modern/Contemporary, Ballet and Hip Hop inspired movement.

In his career he has danced with celebrity artist such as Lady Gaga and Chris Brown. Domanic has trained with many world renowned celebrity choreographers such as Maya Taylor, Richard Jackson, Brian Green, Tricia Miranda, Carolyn Dorfman and various others.

Currently he is very active in the dance community in Omaha, NE. He has been apart of the Moving Company since 2010 where he has grown heavily in the Modern style movement and is now apart of the team of directors where he serves as the Public Relations Director. Also he teaches various styles of movement at several community centers and studios in and out of state where he shares his passion with others!

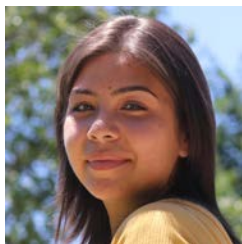
STAFF BIOS



Andrea Ford

Assistant Choreographer

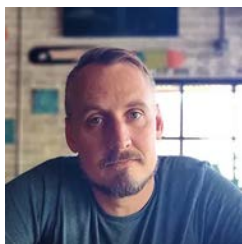
Andrea's love for dance began at a young age. She vigorously pursued dance through her teens and was invited to spend a summer training with the American Academy of Ballet in New York under Mignon Furman. She earned her BA at the University of Kansas and was able to study and dance with The University Dance Company under the direction of many esteemed choreographers such as Michelle Hefner-Hayes, James Moreno, Willie Lenoir, Jerel Hilding, Patrick Suzeau, and Muriel Cohen to name a few. In 2016, after moving back to Omaha, her and her husband Trevor opened Center Stage Dance in Elkhorn, NE and have just celebrated their 6th season. She has also had the great pleasure to choreograph for Bennington High School's productions of *Cinderella* (2020), *High School Musical* (2021) and *Shrek* (2022). She is so looking forward to seeing this cast hit the stage. Break a leg, all!



Isabel Gott

Dance Assistant

“Isa Gott (she/they) is a talented singer, actress, dancer, and performing artist, but for this production, she is working behind the scenes! She has just finished her first two semesters as student at UNO, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, and beginning next semester will also be adding a minor in theater with a concentration of musical theater. Isabel is very excited to be working on the production side of things, helping with choreography, as well as working with administration. She is so proud of her sister, Amirah, and cousin, Omari for their amazing work in this production, and is so lucky to have this experience with them. Love you guys!”



Jason Jamerson

Set Designer

Jason Jamerson (Scenic Designer, Production Manager) is an Assistant Professor of Scenic Design at UNO. Local credits include the Benson Theatre and BlueBarn Theatre. Other credits include Texas Shakespeare, the Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre, numerous shows Off Broadway, and Assistant Designer credits for Broadway and National Tours. Jason is thrilled to see a new generation of artists beginning the creative journey.

STAFF BIOS



Jocelyn Reed

Costume Designer

Jocelyn Reed is a freelance playwright, artist, and costume designer based in Omaha, Nebraska. Recently graduated from UNO with a dual degree in both Arts and Sciences, they've had the privilege of working with BLUEbarn theatre (2021), the Omaha Community Playhouse (2021) and The Great Plains Theatre Conference (2019) during their time in Omaha. In March they also produced a BIPOC voices festival, UNO's *Crossing the Street*, with the help of their dear friend Aaron Butler. Jocelyn hopes to someday found a devised company that creates new works by and for BIPOC communities. This fall in addition to designing costumes for OCP and the Ollie Webb Center, Jocelyn can be found working full time at The Rose Theater, saddled with a dual position as a stitcher in the Costume Shop, and working the Box Office.



Thomas Rowe

Assistant Costume Designer

Thomas Rowe is a Theater and Psychology major going into his fourth year of undergrad. Thomas has worked with UNO as a work-study in the costume shop for a year now and has been able to have a hand in many productions. His design debut was with the QWIT festival in the fall of 2020. Since then Thomas has been a Sticher in shows like *She Kills Monsters*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, and *Ernest in Love* at UNO. They also Co-Designed *Crossing the Street* in the spring of 2022. This summer Thomas is also working with Omaha Fringe festival as the Costume Designer for *One-Sided* and is preparing for UNO's coming season as the assistant to the designer for *In to the Woods*.

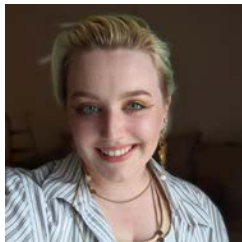


Michael Franklin

Assistant Sound Designer

Michael Franklin - (Assistant Sound Engineer) is a graduate of UNO with a Music Technology Degree and a minor in Theatre. Michael has previously sound designed *She Kills Monsters*, *Into the Woods*, *Clue on Stage*, and *Miracle Worker*. Michael is thrilled to be a part of the Summer Musical Theatre Academy's production of *Fame* and wishes nothing but the best for the cast and crew. Michael would like to thank his fiancé, Alex and the rest of his friends and family for all the love and support for allowing him to carry on his love of theatre.

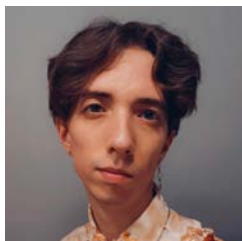
STAFF BIOS



Erin Rose

Hair and Makeup Artist

Erin Rose (Makeup and Hair Designer) is a local costume seamstress and designer. With a Bachelor's in theatrical costume design from UNO, previous shows they have designed are *Little Wars* and *Dogfight*. They enjoy creating cosplays and reading in their spare time.



Nick Jansen

Stage Manager

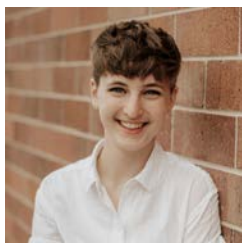
Nicholas A. Jansen is an Omaha based stage manager, actor, and playwright and a recent graduate of UNO Theatre. They have stage managed many community and professional productions in the Omaha area including most recently *Dionysia: Three Greek Myths* (Ollie Webb Center inc.), *When We Go Away* (Circle Theatre/Jewish Federation of Omaha), and *In the Upper Room* (Great Plains Theatre Commons/The Union for Contemporary Art). Nicholas is also on the board of directors for the Omaha Fringe Festival, where their play, *On the Line*, will be performed this August.



Jozalyn Harrison

First Assistant Stage Manager

Jozalyn Harrison is an Omaha stage manager who is excited to work with UNOTheatres SMTA production of *Fame*. She loves stage managing in the community and also teaches with OPS. Her recent credits include *Swing, Swing, Swing* and *Momentum* at American Midwest Ballet and *Betrayal* with Bridget St. Bridget Theatre.



Anna Dorr

Second Assistant Stage Manager

Anna Dorr is a Junior at UNO, who spent 2 years at Nebraska Wesleyan where she stage managed *Moscow...* and assistant stage managed *Merrily We Roll Along*.



Daniela Jacobo

Prop Master

Daniela Jacobo is excited to be working on *Fame* as Properties Director. She is entering her fourth year at UNO majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Technical Theatre and Design. Recently at UNO she has worked on props for *Ernest In Love* and was the head carpenter for *Crossing the Street*.

STAFF BIOS



Hal France

Academy Director

SMTA Director Hal France made his conducting debut in 1981 at the Kennedy Center working with Hal Prince, John DeMain and Carlisle Floyd on the World Premiere opera *Willie Stark* for the Houston Grand Opera. In 2019 he joined the UNO Theatre faculty as Instructor of Musical Theatre to build a musical theatre program at UNO. This coming fall, UNO will offer a concentration and a minor in musical theatre. The Summer Musical Theatre Academy grew from this commitment. He recently returned to Opera Omaha to conduct *Sweeney Todd*.



Erica Ostermiller

Administrative Assistant

Erica is going to be a senior at UNO. She is part of the administration team for *Fame*. Her past credits include Assistant Stage Manager for UNO's *She Kills Monsters*, Production Assistant for the Omaha Symphony's Christmas Celebration, and Stage Manager for UNO's *Crossing the Street*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

