

Merely Players
Presents

CHICAGO

Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Based on the play by Maurine Dallas Watkins
Script adaptation by David Thompson

Directed by
Mona Wood-Patterson+

Note: Center each of these within themselves.

Choreographer
Zachary Chiero+

Music Director
Tom Kyser+

Tech Director/Scenic Designer
Charles Ford +

Costume Designer
JoAnn Nevils+

Assistant Choreographer
Dallas Padoven+

Stage Manager
Selena M. Trujillo+

May 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 2024
Merely Underground

Chicago is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

CHICAGO

The Cast

Velma Kelly	Mary-Catherine McAlvany+
Roxie Hart	Hallie Denman+
Billy Flynn	Zachary Chiero+
Amos Hart	Geoff Johnson+
Matron “Mama” Morton	Stacey Mock
Mary Sunshine	Melanie McLean+

The Ensemble

Liz	Cassandra Owen+
Annie	Gyana Bandy Gomar+
June	Sharina Ramsey-Adams+
Katalin Hunyak	Beth Miller+
Mona	Mohriah James+
Sgt. Fogarty	Michael Chapman+
Fred Casely	Holden Grace
Harry/Judge	Conor Sheehan+
Public Defender	Bray Helfrich
Martin Harrison	James Thompson
Doctor	Daniel Clark
Clerk/Cell Block Dancer	Melissa Mossinghoff+
Cell Block Dancer	Brin DeVore+
Cell Block Dancer	Kelsey Percival
Cell Block Dancer	Isabelle Rosales
Cell Block Dancer	Haley Sandford
Cell Block Dancer	JJ Simms
Go-to-Hell Kitty	McKenzie James
Bailiff	Shaunibah Morfin+
Reporter	Mary Lynn Clark+
Reporter	Lori Fisher+
Reporter	Lisa Govreau
Reporter	Abigail Kubicek+
Reporter	Jessica McCallum

The Production Team

Asst. Stage Managers	Natalie Cohn+
	Genevieve Thompson
Wardrobe Foreman	Jennie Albert+
Ticket Manager	Greta Richter +
Box Office Manager	Diane Panelli+
Tech Assistant	Zachary Chiero+

The Crew

Soundtrack Technician	Mick Souder+
Mic Technician	Heather Rasmussen Thomas+
Light Technician	Lynda Thompson
Props Master/Production Asst.	Diane Panelli+
Props Manager/Concessions Manager	Jamie Pickering+
Costume Manager	Grace Dendy+
Costume Assistant Manager	Beca Garza

Set/Scenery/Props Creation Crew

Matt Bodo
Nancy Carr
Kristen Chesney
Mary Lynn Clark+
Natalie Cohn+
Tara Demmy
Margy Dudley+
Charles Ford+
Beca Garza
Heather Howe+
Paul Laakso+
Michael Lee+
Jenny Mason+
Maureen May+
Jessica McCallum+
Diane Panelli+
Jamie Pickering+
Jeff Widen

Photographer	Kara Cavalca+
Poster Design	Kate Ishay+/Psyche Digital
Dramaturg	Suzy DiSanto
Rehearsal Pianist	Ryan Osborne

Parking Lot Guides/Concession Volunteers
Calvin Marshall Daphne Tingey
Kasey Jo Hall Dewa Ilg
Joy Kilpatrick Kari Pepper
Nora Stafford Marc Arbeeny+
Deb Schultz Joe Hutchinson
Katy Schneider+ Clark Adomaitis
Annie Pare Chrissy Mosier
Mika Inouye Samantha Duncan
Grace Morledge Linda Schwinghammer
Kathy Pierson Angela Reynolds

+ Merely Players Artistic Company

Please silence or turn off your cell phones; they don't work that well down here anyway.

We welcome you to take photos/video in the theatre before and after, but not during, the performance. If you post photos of the stage, please be sure to credit and tag Merely Players. @merely_players_durango

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production is strictly prohibited, a violation of the authors' rights and actionable under United States copyright law. For more information, please visit:
<https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

We know that, for many of you, taking performance photos or video of your loved ones is a huge temptation. Please respect this rule of theatre etiquette and resist! Phone use during a show is distracting to actors and audience members, violates our contract, and is disrespectful of our creative property. Live theatre is meant to be temporal – let it be just that. Thank you!

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts. Concessions from Gabe's Goodies will be on sale.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We offer our sincere gratitude to those who helped us with this show. Many hands and kind hearts help us to do our work:

Michael Burke and Burke family
Chris and Bill Warren
Colorado Comfort
Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado
Daniel Clark
Dina Carr
Durango Herald
Durango Smoke Shop
Office Depot
Susan Hillmeyer
Suzy DiSanto
Wendy Hassemer

Wink Winkler

Parents of Students and Families/Friends/Significant Others for providing support and love to those on our team

WHO'S WHO

Michael Chapman (*Sergeant Fogarty/Ensemble*) first appeared on the stage in High School with roles in *Guys and Dolls*, *The Music Man*, *Grease*, and riveting Dram-com's such as *Arsenic and Old Lace*. After a long hiatus, he returned to the theatre. Upon moving to Durango, he has appeared in various productions, including *Pippin*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Macbeth*, and several ten-minute play festivals. He has performed the works of Stephen Schwartz and Stephen Sondheim - but what about Bob? *Chicago* has presented Michael with the opportunity to complete his life's dream of adding Fosse to this prized trifecta, all while unabashedly displaying "jazz hands".

Zachary Chiero (*Billy Flynn/Choreographer*), a member of Actors' Equity, is grateful to be joining the cast of *Chicago*! Zachary has spent the last 12 years working with many theatres throughout the greater Philadelphia area. He has created three national tours with Enchantment Theatre Company, where he is currently an associate Artistic Director. His work with Tribe of Fools physical theatre company has earned him Barrymore nominations for Best Choreography for his work on world premieres *Fly*, *Eagles Fly* and *Fishtown: A Hipster Noir*. Favorite recent onstage performances include Alex in *Buyer and Cellar*, and a Clown in *Clown Sex Ed*. Love always to my husband, Dallas.
zacharychiero.com.

Daniel Clark (*Doctor/Ensemble*) got a chance to move to this beautiful town from the great state of Wisconsin two years ago. He loved being a part of musicals and plays back "home" and only recently stumbled upon the Merely Players. Currently he works as a machinist in Durango and enjoys spending his time in the great outdoors, which is mostly spent either elk hunting or fly fishing.

Mary Lynn Clark (*Ensemble*) is delighted to be dancing and singing for the second time with Merely Players. When she is not being company manager for Merely Players, Mary Lynn enjoys traveling and spending time with her three children and her husband of twenty-five years. She would like to thank Mona and the entire cast and crew for their support and encouragement in getting her out of her comfort zone to perform.

Hallie Denman (*Roxie Hart*) is an alum of the FLC music department. Past musical credits with Merely Players include Kelli Mangrum in *Hands on a Hardbody* and one of the Lucys in *Bright Star*. Hallie is so thankful that she gets to play pretend with some of her best friends every night - the magic of theatre. Big thanks and much love to the Merely family and her parents. A special shoutout to her fiancé, Jackson; here's to hoping our marriage is free of deception, trials, and -you know - jail time.

Brin DeVore (*Ensemble*) is beyond excited to be back for her fifth show with Merely Players after previous roles in *The Humans* and *Mamma Mia!*, as well as one of the Lucys in *Bright Star* last spring. *Chicago* was THE musical that she

and her brother belted out in the car every morning on the way to school - just the two of them singing along as every character. Now, getting to bring that same energy to the stage with a full cast feels like a theatre kid's dream come true! Rouge your knees, roll your stockings down and enjoy the show!

Lori Fisher (*Ensemble*) is delighted to be returned to Merely Players in this talented ensemble. She has loved the musical *Chicago* for decades and feels incredibly lucky to be a part of this production. Lori has been recently seen in other Merely productions as Virginia Drew in *Hands on a Hardbody*, and Mama Murphy/Ensemble in *Bright Star*. When not on the stage, Lori can be found cooking international cuisine, rafting rivers with her family, and reading anything she can get her hands on. She is grateful to her husband and children for supporting her theatre habit!

Gyana Bandy Gomar (*Annie/Ensemble*) is ecstatic to be a Merry Murderess for Merely Players' *Chicago*. She remembers making choreographies to the Cell Block Tango during sleepovers with friends, hoping that one day she would get to be in the cast of this wonderful show. Previous credits include Cindy in *Hands on a Hardbody*, one of the Margos in *Bright Star*, and Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility*. She would like to dedicate this performance to her kind husband, family, and friends, who love her even though she disappears for months at a time when she's getting ready for a show.

Lisa Govreau (*Ensemble*) Thirty years ago, Lisa and her family moved to Durango and eventually discovered Mona and Charles at DHS. They have been avid supporters and Merely Players season ticket holders since its beginning. A successful realtor who enjoys exposing clients to our wonderful community and its premier theater, Lisa has performed, sung, and emceed in the Snowdown Follies for over 20 years, and most recently performed in the chorus of *Mamma Mia!* with Merely. It's an honor and a pleasure to work alongside such talented individuals, many of whom she has known since they first "acted up" in high school!

Holden Grace (*Fred Casely/Ensemble*) studied theatre at Fort Lewis College, and has been performing theatre for all his life. Some productions you may have seen him in include *Sweeney Todd*, *Reefer Madness*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. He is very excited to be working with Merely Players, and he would like to thank his family and friends who have supported him.

Braden Helfrich (*Aaron/Ensemble*) is a second timer in the Merely scene, always and ever so grateful to work alongside a cast of unbelievably talented folks. You may recognize him from his run as Chris Alvaro in *Hands on a Hardbody* back in December, or his run with DHS Troupe 1096 from years ago. Theatre has quickly become an important part of his life yet again, and he sincerely hopes, but secretly knows, that you'll have a fantastic time with the show. He wants to thank his family and in particular his beautiful 4-legged daughter, Maeby, for the unconditional love and support.

McKenzie James (*Go-to-Hell-Kitty/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be a part of this fantastic Merely Players production of *Chicago*. You may have seen her recently

featured in the 24-Hour and 10-Minute play festivals or in the role of Kim MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* at DAC last summer. When she's not on stage or working she can be found spending time with friends and family or with her nose in a very good book. She would like to thank her parents for all their support over the years and for encouraging her theatrical endeavors.

Mohriah James (*Mona/Ensemble*) attended Fort Lewis College where she earned a B.A. in Theatre and met her wonderful husband, Geoff Johnson. Mohriah loves Merely Players and was most recently seen with the company as Miranda in *The Tempest* and Countess Andrenyi in *Murder on the Orient Express*. She has performed in the local annual *Rocky Horror Show* for over a decade and also Durango Theatreworks production of *A Christmas Carol: A Radio Play* for the past two years. Many thanks to Mona, Zach, cast, and crew for this experience, and Suzy DiSanto for instilling her love of jazz dance.

Geoff Johnson (*Amos Hart*) is jazzed to perform in *Chicago*. Recent Merely credits include Ned in *Small Mouth Sounds*, Mike Ferris in *Hands on a Hardbody*, Mayor Dobbs in *Bright Star*, and Agatha Trunchbull in *Matilda*. He loves to get silly with friends in Lower Left Improv. He was also seen at the Durango Arts Center in *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Reefer Madness*. In his free time Geoff enjoys pillaging the numerous little free libraries and then plopping down to pour over his plunder. Geoff can't wait to share the stage with his tantalizingly talented wife, Mohriah James.

Abby Kubicek (*Ensemble*) has enjoyed working with Merely Players both on and off stage for the past two seasons and is thrilled to be bringing one of her very favorite musicals to life! When she's not at the Merely Underground, Abby can be found running, reading, therapizing and spending time with her husband and dog. She would like to thank her family and friends for their incredible support.

Mary-Catherine McAlvany (*Velma Kelly*) studied musical theater at Humphrey's School of Musical Theater, contemporary dance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, and ballet at Boston Ballet Academy. She is a member of Merely Players, with whom she directed *All Together Now*, co-directed and choreographed *Bright Star*, choreographed *Macbeth*, and performed on the stage many times, most recently as Elinor Dashwood in Kate Hamill's *Sense and Sensibility*. She is the co-founder and co-artistic director of Wildwood Dance Project, with whom she makes dance films. One of her greatest joys is passing on her love of the performing arts to her four children.

Jessica McCallum (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be working on this amazing show with so many talented loved ones. She is very thankful for the thriving local theatre scene and the chance to make beautiful art with the Merely Players community once again. She is fully immersed in a midlife theatre renaissance, and she can't stop working on plays both backstage and onstage. She gets to do creative stuff with teenagers in her day job as a teacher at Animas High School, such as make cool media content (Follow @ahsquillmedia on Instagram!) and organize extemporaneous dance parties.

Melanie McLean (*Mary Sunshine*) is absolutely thrilled to be a part of Merely Players' production of *Chicago*. Melanie grew up in Boulder, CO and earned a B.A. in Theatre from Fort Lewis College in 1981. She has performed in multiple productions over the years with Fort Lewis College, Merely Players and with other local theatre companies. Most recently, she was seen in Merely Players' production of *The Lifespan of a Fact*. Melanie is a retired CPA and loves having more time to spend doing theatre, running, playing with her rescue Golden Retriever, Cedric, and spending more time with her husband, Hal.

Beth Miller (*Hunyak/Ensemble*) is delighted to be back on stage with Merely Players. A passionate story-weaver by nature, she has appeared in *The Secret Garden*, *Man of La Mancha*, and most recently *Men on Boats*. As a writer and educator, she believes in the power of story, the arts, and a little razzle dazzle. She would like to thank her sister for decades of living room choreography, and her husband for encouraging her joy in every form.

Stacey Mock (*Matron "Mama" Morton*) is beyond thrilled to play this role. She moved from Ohio in the summer of 2012 after falling in love with Durango working on a dude ranch. She adores exploring the mountainous wilderness with her pup and finding new ways to challenge herself. She has taught in Durango schools since moving here and helped open The Juniper School, where she has worked the past 7 years. She has loved musicals since she was tiny- her family was absolutely sick of *The Sound of Music* because it was watched on repeat. This is her first play, and she is so excited!

Shaunibah Morfin (*Bailiff/Ensemble*) is from Window Rock, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. She attended Fort Lewis College, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Theatre. She has been active in the theatre community of Durango for 9 years. *Chicago* will be her 5th show with Merely Players. She is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this story, along with the many talented individuals of the company.

Melissa Mossinghoff (*Court Clerk/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back with Merely Players to give 'em the ol' razzle dazzle in *Chicago*! Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Melissa has loved re-exploring her love of musical theatre with Durango's vibrant theatrical community. She recently performed with Merely Players in last winter's *Hand on a Hardbody* and has also been on stage at the DAC in *The Rocky Horror Show*, as well as with Durango Theatreworks in *A Christmas Carol* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Melissa is forever grateful for the beautiful family, friends, company, and community members of Durango.

Cassandra Owen (*Liz/Ensemble*) appears in her seventh production with Merely Players. She is a founder, filmmaker, dancer, choreographer, and teacher with Durango-based Wildwood Dance Project. From Orange County, CA, trained classically in dance, and a lifelong student of global song, dance, culture, and travel, Cassandra returned from winter travels in the Middle East to go deep with Fosse and be a part of bringing *Chicago* to the Durango stage.

Kelsey Percival (*Ensemble*) grew up dancing at Michelle Latimer Dance Academy in Denver. She trained under renowned guest choreographers Brian Freedman, Ray Leeper, Teddy Forance and others. She danced competitively for 14 years including at The Dance Awards National Competition in New York. She has performed as Tweedle Dee in *Alice in Wonderland*, Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* and Elizabeth Frankenstein in *Frankenstein*. She now teaches jazz, lyrical and ballet at Ballet Durango and hip hop for adults at the Smiley Building. She is overjoyed to return to the stage with Merely Players.

Sharina Ramsey-Adams (*June/Ensemble*) is a local of Durango who has been participating in performing arts as long as she can remember and is still performing in both Durango and Pagosa regularly. Sharina runs Adams Overhead Door LLC, a garage door company in Durango and is one of several leaders of a Christ centered recovery group held at Ignacio Community church Monday nights at 6:30pm, called Celebrate Recovery. She is the mother to a wonderfully talented and amazing 17 year old, Donny, and part-time mother to his 2 best friends. *P.S. Sharina is an avid worker-outer and slightly fitness obsessed.*

Isabelle Rosales (*Ensemble*) This is Isa's first production with Merely Players, and she is thrilled to be a part of *Chicago*. She's originally from California and moved to Durango about 5 years ago. Isa was also recently a part of *Rocky Horror* last fall, which was her first show in about 3 years. She started musical theater when she was around 7 years old and has never been in *Chicago* until now. She wants to thank all her family and friends for giving her the courage to audition for this show; she is so grateful for them.

Haley Sanford (*Ensemble*) is a graduate of Fort Lewis College with a BA in Theater. She has performed in numerous productions with Durango Theatreworks, including *Heathers: The Musical* (Martha Dunnstock); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Ensemble); and *Smashed Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet* (Nurse). She has performed with the Durango Arts Center as Mrs. Merkle in *Bye Bye Birdie* and was most recently in *The Rocky Horror Show* as Magenta. She is looking forward to joining Merely Players in this production, it's been a dream of hers to perform in *Chicago the Musical!*

Conor Sheehan (*Ensemble/Judge*) is theatrically thrilled to bring all that jazz of the Windy City to Durango with such a razzling AND dazzling ensemble! Recently seen honing his sutras with a wandering third eye as Rodney in the silent retreat of *Small Mouth Sounds*, he's reveled in playing such musical men as Albert Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie* (Durango Arts Center), Billy Cane in *Bright Star* (Merely Players), and J.D. in *Heathers: The Musical* (Durango Theatreworks). Thank you to Mona, Charles, Zach, Dallas, Mom, Dad, Grace, his bandmates (Luca and Clark), and this fantastically fabulous company. Enjoy the show!

JJ Simms (*Ensemble Member*) is thrilled to be back onstage with Merely Players after a handful of years away. She previously appeared with Merely in *Dead Man's Cellphone*. Big thanks to Mona and cast & crew for welcoming her back and folding her into all that jazz!

James Thompson (*Martin Harrison/Ensemble*) James and his family have lived in the Durango area for almost 20 years. James recently retired from a career in finance, and he's spending more time on his interests including theater, videography, art, the outdoors, and technology. James previously performed in Merely Players' productions of *Bright Star* and *Hands on a Hardbody*. He's grateful to the Merely family for welcoming a newcomer to their fold over the last year.

CREATIVE TEAM

Zachary Chiero (*Billy Flynn/Choreographer*), a member of Actors' Equity, is grateful to be joining the cast of *Chicago!* Zachary has spent the last 12 years working with many theatres throughout the greater Philadelphia area. He has created three national tours with Enchantment Theatre Company, where he is currently an associate Artistic Director. His work with Tribe of Fools physical theatre company has earned him Barrymore nominations for Best Choreography for his work on world premieres *Fly, Eagles Fly* and *Fishtown: A Hipster Noir*. Favorite recent onstage performances include Alex in *Buyer and Cellar*, and a Clown in *Clown Sex Ed*. Love always to my husband, Dallas. zacharychiero.com

Fred Ebb (*Author and Lyricist - 1933–2004*) was an award-winning lyricist, librettist and director who frequently and successfully collaborated with composer John Kander. Ebb earned four Tony Awards (for *Cabaret*, *Woman of the Year*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*) and four Primetime Emmy awards (for *Liza with a Z*, *Gypsy in My Soul*, and *Liza Minnelli Live From Radio City Music Hall*) along with dozens of other accolades, including the Kennedy Center Honors and membership in the American Theatre Hall of Fame. In 2005, by instruction of Ebb's will, the Fred Ebb Foundation was established to present an annual award to an up-and-coming musical theatre writer or writing team.

Charles Ford (*Tech Director/Scenic Designer*) is a master backstage technician and the Technical Director of Merely Players. An avid puppeteer, mask-maker, make-up artist, robotics engineer, and special effects designer, he has designed dozens of sets for a variety of theatrical genres. During his career as Durango High School's tech director and resident designer, Charles was the recipient of several awards, including the Durango Foundation of Educational Excellence's Outstanding Teacher Award and the Rocky Mountain Theatre Association Technical Theatre Award. Charles' world travels have seen him climbing to the top of Machu Picchu, swimming with sea turtles, and riding a camel. He has tried to bring the joy and exhilaration of travel back and use the inspiration to create theatre magic.

Bob Fosse (*Author - 1927–1987*) took an early interest in dance, displaying unusual skill. By his early teens, Fosse was dancing professionally in local nightclubs. He choreographed 1954's *The Pajama Game*, and his signature style, which incorporated complex moves and imagery drawn from vaudeville, was instantly popular. His next musical, *Damn Yankees*, was another smash. Fosse forged a working relationship and marriage with leading dancer Gwen

Verdon that would span his career. Hugely successful by 1960, Fosse still faced opposition from directors and producers who considered his material to be too suggestive. He decided to take on the role of director as well as choreographer in order to maintain the integrity of his artistic vision in Hollywood as well as on Broadway. His subsequent musicals included *Sweet Charity*, *Cabaret*, *Pippin*, *Chicago*, and *All that Jazz*. Fosse remains one of the most distinctive, decorated, and influential choreographers in history.

John Kander (*Composer*) is a Tony, Emmy and Grammy-winning composer, a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors Award, and a member of the American Theatre Hall of Fame. With frequent collaborator Fred Ebb, he composed the score to dozens of Broadway musicals, including *Cabaret*, *Zorba*, *Chicago*, *The Act*, *Woman of the Year*, *The Rink*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Steel Pier*. In addition to his Tony, Grammy, and Emmy awards, Kander received honorary doctorate degrees from Oberlin College and Niagara University, the President's Award from the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, the Kennedy Center Honors, and the Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement in Musical Theatre.

Tom Kyser (*Music Director*) retired in 2018 after 44 years in Music Education. During that time, his DHS choirs performed at Disneyland and Carnegie Hall, as well as at festivals throughout Colorado. The highlight of his musical theater career was emerging from the orchestra pit in a sequined jumpsuit and platform shoes (thanks to JoAnn Nevils) to sing "Beauty School Dropout" in the DHS production of *Grease*. Other musical direction credits include Merely Players' *Forever Plaid*, *Dames at Sea*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Matilda the Musical*, and *Bright Star*. It is with great joy that he's back to work on this production of *Chicago*.

JoAnn Nevils (*Costume Designer*) has been designing and stitching costumes most of her life. Merely Players has been her prime focus for the last 30 years. Every show is memorable, with each costume being created with love and care. One of her goals is to make the actor feel comfortable and special. Favorite shows and costumes are Hecate from *Macbeth*, Lord Farquaad from *Shrek* and the Scarecrow and Wizard from our punk version of *The Wizard of Oz*. Many thanks to my children, Bucky and Janette, for believing in me and to Mona and Charles for being my friends.

Dallas Padoven (*Assistant Choreographer*) is grateful to be coming back home to the Merely Players Stage. He directed and choreographed *Hands On a Hardbody* for Merely in December. After spending the past 10 years in and out of New York City, and Philadelphia performing professionally with Pittsburgh CLO, Walnut Street Theatre, TheatreRow NYC, Sacramento Music Circus, West Virginia Public Theatre, Totem Pole Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse and more, he now runs Farmington High School Theatre Department Troupe 381, teaching full-time directing their afterschool program. Much love to his husband, Zachary Chiero, Merely Players team, Mother, and Brother.

Selena M. Trujillo (*Stage Manager*) is a Durango native. She has worked as stage manager, techie and crew for Salt Fire Circus and Bare Bones Burlesque, Durango Arts Center, the Henry Strater Theatre, Snowdown Follies, 20 Moons Dance Company, Merely Players, Imaginario Circus, and Tami Graham Presents. She was seen onstage in the role of Andrew Hall for *Men on Boats* and the second sibling in *As You Like It*. She likes to play with art mediums outside the theatre and enjoys playing with her dog, learning new hobbies, and playing Dungeons & Dragons.

Mona Wood-Patterson (*Director*) has devoted her professional life to studying, teaching, and making theatre. She has directed over 150 productions in various venues and presented at educational and theatre conferences both in the United States and abroad. The Artistic Director of Merely Players, Mona has been the recipient of numerous awards; including Colorado Theatre Teacher of the Year and Fort Lewis College Distinguished Alumnus. Mona was recognized as the director of an exemplary theatre program by the International Thespian Society, and was awarded a Fulbright to teach theatre in England. In 2011, she was inducted into the Colorado State Thespian Hall of Fame, and she was selected as a participant in LaMama's International Director's Symposium in Italy in 2019. She is grateful that she gets to work and play amidst remarkable people in Durango.

CREW

Jennie Albert (*Wardrobe Foreman*) is excited to join Merely Players again. She has fond memories of her first Merely Players' show, *Camelot*, many, many years ago. Her life is full with her counseling practice and spending time with her husband, Luke, and her three children, Abbie, Will and Gabriella.

Natalie Cohn (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to join the *Chicago* team. She's always happy to help Charles as his loyal padawan with his building endeavors, especially if he's feeling classy enough to put on some Bowie while they work. She would like to thank whoever genetically engineered the modern potato for getting her through any and all tech weeks.

Grace Dendy (*Costume Manager*) is excited to be back in the Merely Magic! She has worked on three shows with the Merely Players community in the past two years, helping with costumes in *Matilda the Musical* and *Bright Star*, and then performing in *Damsels*, a Merely Studio Series production. She has been in several musical groups and grew up singing and performing on stage. *Chicago* is a wonderful play and she is eager to bring this play to life! She would like to thank everyone else working so hard to create wonderful and inspiring shows!

Beca Garza (*Costume Assistant Manager*) is thrilled to be making her debut with Merely Players Theater Company. Though she has participated in amateur productions building sets and assisting with props and costumes, this is her first post as a member of the Merely Players troupe. She is originally from Austin, TX.

Diane Panelli (*Props Master/Box Office Manager/Production Assistant*) co-founded a theatre production company at Sarah Lawrence College, then went on

to attending a cooking school in NYC and owning a restaurant in Telluride before moving to Durango in 2004. She serves on the Merely Players board and truly loves the hunt for all the props that make a show special.

Jamie Pickering (*Props Manager/Concessions Manager*) What do you think of when you hear Pop, Six, Squish, Uh-uh, Cicero, Lipschitz? A dead body, a gun, chewing gum and a kitchen knife is exactly what Jamie thinks of. When not merrily handing out murder weapons and singing along (quietly) backstage, Jamie spends her time as a professional vampire at the local Veterans Clinic, playing Dungeons and Dragons, and keeping her four cats from trying to murder each other.

Heather Rassmussen Thomas (*Mic Technician*) has grown up in Durango, getting her love of theatre early at four years old. She loves being involved in theatre both on and off the stage. Merely Players credits include *Mary Poppins*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Mamma Mia!* as the microphone operator and on stage for shows such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Sense and Sensibility*. Heather is excited to return to the booth as the microphone operator and hopes you will love our production of *Chicago!*

Greta Richter (*Ticket Manager*) was born and raised in Sierra Madre, not far from Hollywood and Burbank. She grew up enjoying musicals and was excited when her children became involved in theatre when they moved to Durango. Greta loves her work as Merely Players' Ticket Manager. She is grateful to God for bringing amazing theatre people into her life.

Mick Souder (*Soundtrack Technician*) has been on tech for Merely Players spring musical productions since 2015 where he enjoys the Merely's culture of excellence and gratitude. He recently added drone video production to a lifetime in various theatre, audio and moving picture arts.

Genevieve Thompson (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be working on this production! She previously helped out backstage in *Hands on a Hardbody* and ran sound for *The Half-Life of Marie Curie*. Genevieve is a high school junior, and she loves 3D-modeling, computer science, and taking four AP tests and the SAT in her free time. She also volunteers at The Powerhouse Science Center throughout the year. Genevieve is full of new ideas, and she highly values the importance of helping and teaching others.

Lynda Thompson (*Light Technician*) is excited to be working with a myriad of caring and talented people on this production. Although this is her first professional foray with Merely Players, Lynda has been backstage helping out with the annual Nutcracker Ballet in Durango for over 10 years. She is looking forward to learning more about the technicalities of lighting. Lynda enjoys singing, playing board games, traveling, and camping/hiking in her spare time. She is excited to be a part of the theatre magic.

SUPPORTERS/DONORS WHO HELP MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Mere words cannot describe how honoured we are by your support. We encourage our audience members to solicit these businesses and to tell the individuals that they are grand!

ARTISTIC

Lynnette Apo
Jeffrey Babchick
Susan Baldwin
Richard and Mary Lyn Ballantine
Anne Bartlett and Jeroen van Tyn
Mary N. Bedau
Linda Bellush
Carol Benjamin
Janet Blunt
Matt Bodo
Laura Boe
Lillian Boe
BJ Boucher
Kip and Nellie Boyd
Curt Brown
Rhonda Brown
Helen and Greg Bruckbauer
Cindy and Jon Buccowich
Ron and Linda Bunk
Sue Burke
Karin Burnett
Deborah and Patrick Callahan
Chuck Carson and Susie Wise
Kara Cavalca
Zachary Chiero
Mary Lynn Clark
Jennifer Cocchia
Nanc B. Cole
Deanna Collins
Elaine Collins
Nancy Conrad
Chris Cooke
Kate Cortis
John DeLeo
Margy Dudley
Kim Eisner
Catharine Eppinger
Richard Farrington
Charlotte Fischer
Nancy Fisher
Sarah Fischer
Mark Franklin
Kathrene Frautschy
Mandy Irons Gardner

Barry and Lyn Goldberg
Emily Golden
Reg and Bev Graham
Charlie and Daisy Grice
Carroll Groeger
Kathy Hall
Lorie Hansen
Tami Hanson
Jessica Jane and Jacob Harris
Satoko Harris
Jessie Harrison and Donald Archuleta
Donald and Wendy Hassemer
Diana Hassett
Jennifer Heinicke
Wendy Hillmer
Susan Hillmeyer
Darcy Hitchcock
Tammy Hoier
Carol Hotchkiss
Tara Jackson
Ginger Jenks
Susan Johnson
Maile Kane
Betty Kilpatrick
Jiri and Rachel Klubal
Darlene Koontz
Jill Langoni
Michael Lee
Trish Lemke
Deborah List
Keith Lucas
John Luckner
Thane Malison
Rochelle Mann
Jan and Greg Mayer-Gawlik
Brian McAleer and Carol Shepard
Liz McCormack
Maria McGuigan
Merely Entourage
Donna Middleton
Jerry Monaghan
Grace Morledge
Lindsey Nicholson
Deborah Ochsner
Roberto Ogarrío
Sally Olsen
The Oury Family
Susan Peabody
Dave Peters and Jodie Petersen
Louise Powers-Ackley

Claire Raines
John Redemske
Greta Richter
Rick and Deb Rodgers
Emily Rodman
June Russell and Frank Lockwood
Timothy Schaldach
Peggy Sharp
Richard and Georgi Silverman
Kristin Spiegel
Marlene Sloan
Kathleen Streid Noe
Anne and Steve Swisher
Kathy and Mike Switzer
Timothy Telep
Donna Thormalen
Jenny Treanor
Krista Vandiver
Voss-Patterson Family
Chuck Wales
Ivy Walker
Stuart Way
Carol Wehner
Kory Williams
Rob Woolf
Kay Zillich

DYNAMIC

Margaret Babiarz
Judy and Jim Bolen
Lindsey Breed
Marjorie Brinton
Carol Calkin
Dee Dee Carlson and Michael Goldman
Ted and Nancy Carr
Barbara Conn
Charlotte Deters and Tom Skurky
June Dunn
Glenda Ehrig
Barbara Elliott
Lora Fults
Brooke Goulding
Lani Graham
Nancy Greenman
Richard and Gail Grossman
Julie Hartman
Nancy Hodges
Judy Hook
Lindie and Daniel Hunt
Jesse Hutt

Gail Johnston
Joy Kilpatrick
Laura Miller
Pamela Moreno
Kay Neal
Winnie Neunzig
Lissa Paak and Gordon Henriksen
Melvin Owen
Lindsay Petersen
Karen Peterson
Jerry and Kristine Poer
Michelle Reott
Susan Rowe
Jeff and Lori Schell
Kathleen Shadell
Nancy Shanks
Pamela Smith
Kathy and Kent Stottlemyer
Greg Weiss
Peggy Winkworth
Jacqueline Zirkelbach

IMAGINATIVE

Jean Aaro
Carrie and Eric Allen
Annette Angst
Abby Bowen
Kathy Bulow-Cohen
Sandy and Michael Burke
Sharyn Butler and Ted Hall
Harding Cure
Dan and Jane Doty
Elaine Ehlers
James Eidson
Betsy Fitzpatrick
Pat Gillaspy
Gyana Gomar
Kathleen Goodman
Jeffrey Graves and Dr. Katie McCrea
Lee Hagar
Judy Hill
Patricia and Jay Joy
Susan Koonce and John Lyons
Sandra and Don Mapel
Evelyn and Kirk McLaughlin
MaryAnne Nelson
James Oliger
Mary Patalan
Rhonda Raffo
Susan Ristow

Peggy Schroder
Sharon Stetz
Laura Thompson Olais
Cindy Tucson
Ron and Jan Turner
Gretchen Wilson
Laurie Wilson
Suzanne Zerbe

CREATIVE

Kay Anderson
Meghann Baker
Sherrod Beall and Werner Heiber
Karen Bell
Ginny Brown
Susan Reese Brown
Dwight and Katherine Burgess
William Burke and Julia Sirna-Frest
Diane Campagna
Tom Campbell
Mimi and Bob Chaput
John Condie and Wanda Ellingson
N. Dale
Hallie Denman
Brian Devine
Katie Dittelberger
William and Kimberly Fisher
Susan and Scott Graham
David and Carol Grenoble
Barb Gysel and Frank Viehmann
Michelle, Will, and Isabelle Herringinger
Kristi Horvath
Paula Millar
Connie Jacobs and Tekla Miller
Ginger Jenks
Tami and Pete Joslin
Liese Krauser
Karren Little
Paula Lutz
Linda Mack and Wynn Berven
The Thane Malison Charitable Fund
Dell Manners and Burt Coleman
Hal and Melanie McLean
Jim and Karen McManus
Phyllis Max
Lynn May
Maureen May
Susan Merrill and Mike Uhes
Martha Tinsley Minot
Caroline Munger

Betsy Norton
Barbara Noseworthy
Liz Oetter
Shawna Off and Kent Ford
Marcey Olajos and Ron Lee
Meredith and Carlisle Page
Donna and Larry Perino
Jim Peters
Katy Pytte and Beach Edwards
Sejal Quayle
Joan Rhoades
Catherine Roberts
Pat and Mike Rustad
Marcia Sabeti
Faye Schrater and Dick White
Jill Schuman
John and Aline Schwob
Carol and Bob Simmons
Frank and Kathy Sinton
Tom and Susie Stuber
Marilyn Swanson
Mike and Caroline Todd
Nancy Uhl
Jonathan and Devon Wayne
Ann Willard
Bob and Lynn Wynn

INNOVATIVE

Kathleen Adams
Sue Agranoff
Anita and John Albright
Katherine Barr and Linda Barnes
Ted Bartlett
Debbie and Joe Bishop
Robert Bowie and Vicki Vandegrift
Cathy Crum and Mike Field
Peter and Jodye Glick
Lisa Govreau/Remax
Ruth Guarino
Stephen and Sheryl Guy
Deb and Bern Heath
Kurt and Diane Hillman
Doug Jacober
Chris and Tony Johnson
Dan Peha and Maureen Keilty
Russ and Janet Monell
Lynne Murison
Richard and Georgeann Reitz
Peppi Sanders
Janice Sheftel

Alison Smith
Ken and Jan Smith
Mick Souder and Linda Schwinghammer
Fred and Liz Whitehurst
Jill and Ted Wright

VISIONARY

Anonymous
The Bartig-Small Family Fund
Gayle and Wayne Bedor
Stephen Bowers and Wendy Grant
Cheryle Brandsma
Norman Broad and Carol Salomon
Jennie Dear
The Halverstadt Foundation
Michelle and Mark James
Marti and Steve Kiely
JoAnn Nevils
Christopher Otole
Nancy and Jim Ottman
Joan Roberts-Ems
Ray and Carol Schmudde
Karen Soltes
Gordon and Dene Thomas
Kimberlee and Chris Yeargin

INSPIRING

Anonymous
Marc and Pam Arbeeny
Bank of Colorado
Jim Beatty
Larry and Elizabeth Crawford
Janet Curry and Peter Arcomano
Kim Dalen
Bryan and Jacquelyn Dear
Margie and Will Gray
Marian Hamlen
The Harper Family and D&SNGRR
Ken and Debbie Kurz
Paul and Mary Jo Laakso
Nancy and John Loftis
Bud and Jeani Poe
Bob and Emmy Therrell
Lynda and James Thompson
Ilga K. Vise
Lucy West and Rhonda Eppard
Bill and Chris Warren
Jeannie and Steve Wheeldon
Rick and Enid Wood

EXTRAORDINARY

Anonymous

Lou and Joyce Fontana

Trisha and William Hayes

Susanne Shutz

Gary and Carol Treat

SUPERLATIVE

Diane Panelli

Grateful Acknowledgement to Our Generous Sponsors:

National Endowment for the Arts

Bank of Colorado

Colorado Creative Industries

Durango Friends of the Arts

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

Psyche Digital

MERELY PLAYERS was founded in 1994 and has been bringing theatre to our community ever since. Our vision is to consistently provide quality theatre in this region, while broadening the range of types of experiences available to local theatergoers through relevant, exciting productions. Merely Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and we assure you that any money donated will go toward making quality theatre in Durango both now and in the future.

We are excited to announce our 2024-2025 MERELY PLAYERS THEATRE SEASON:

A Historical Comedy

The Book of Will

October 2024

Holiday Rep Theatre

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

December 2024

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

December 2024

A Contemporary Drama

The Regional Premiere

Swing State

February 2025

A Musical Theatre Classic

Guys and Dolls

May 2025

We are also developing our Studio Series shows at this time.

Season Subscriber Brochures will be mailed this July. Season Subscribers get discount prices and the best seats in the house! Sign up for our mailing list at www.merelydirectors.org

ANNOUNCING AUDITIONS:

The Book of Will

June 24 and 25, 2024

The Miraculous Adventure of Edward Tulane

June 26 and 27, 2024

Watch our website or join our mailing list for more details in the coming weeks.
Video auditions are acceptable if you will be out of town.

For more information on Merely Players, to buy tickets, to get involved, or to be added to our mailing list:

Website: <http://www.merelyplayers.org/>

Telephone: 970.749.8585

Email: directors@merelyplayers.org

Like us on Facebook: Merely Players-Durango

Instagram: Merely_Players_Durango

MERELY PLAYERS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Artistic Director	Mona Wood-Patterson+
Technical Director	Charles Ford+
Artistic Associate	Zachary Chiero+
Company Manager	Mary Lynn Clark+

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Janet Curry, President
Marc Arbeeney, Vice-President
Kate Ishay, Secretary
Jessica Jane Harris, Treasurer
Diane Panelli
Heather Howe
Deborah Heath

Merely Players is supported in part by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support general operating expenses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for spending your time with us. We would love to know what you thought about the play. Drop us an email at merelydirectors@gmail.com or share with us on Facebook at Merely Players – Durango.