

CAST INFORMATION

For Immediate Release

DATE: November 2021

CONTACT: Kori Radloff, korir@rosetheater.org, 402-502-4641

It's a Wonderful Life Cast Information



Wayne Dexter
Hudson II

Wayne Dexter Hudson II (*Actor 1 - Clarence*)

Wayne Hudson II is happy to reprise the role of Clarence for the 2021 production of *It's A Wonderful Life!* He's happy to be back home after graduating from Millard North High School in May this year; currently he's studying at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for a BFA in Theatre Performance. After school he plans to move to Chicago to begin his career as a working professional theater maker. Wayne is no stranger to the Rose stage, having previously appeared as Oscar Delancey in *Newsies*, Ralph Herdman in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, Pig in *Shrek the Musical*, and George in *Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular*. A proud Rose kid, Wayne performed in Rose Brigade in 2017, has taken many summer camps and classes. He is also an alumni of the Nebraska High School Theater Academy, having won "Outstanding Performance by a Male in a Supporting Role" in 2019 and selected as a finalist for "Outstanding Performance by a Male in a Lead Role" in both 2020 and 2021.



Summer Hurtienne

Summer Hurtienne (*Actor 2 - Joseph*)

Summer is excited to be in *It's a Wonderful Life* as Joseph! Summer made her debut on The Rose's mainstage in 2019 as Hortensia in *Matilda The Musical*, and was recently Jay in *Disney's Descendants*. Originally from Elk Grove, California, she starred in her first role in Toby Johnson Middle School's production of *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.* (2017). After moving to Omaha, she has been a part of plays at Elkhorn Valley View Middle School and Elkhorn South High School. When not on stage, Summer loves reading books like *Wildwood*, listening to Will Wood, and playing video games on her Nintendo Switch. She can also be found in your local Barnes and Noble.

=MORE =

The Rose Theater
2001 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68102

t (402) 345-4849
f (402) 344-7255
www.rosetheater.org



Cast Information - *It's a Wonderful Life*

at The Rose Theater

Page 2 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641



Marcel Daly

Marcel Daly (*Actor 3 - George Bailey*)

Marcel Daly is an artist and actor originally from Bellevue, Nebraska. He started performing at a young age in elementary school singing at talent shows and always watched Michael Jackson videos at home, also picking up theatre and saxophone through high school. After graduating from Bellevue West high school, he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha, graduating in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance with a focus on musical theatre. During and after graduation, Marcel has had much success as a performer and artist on the stage across the US and internationally. Marcel is thrilled to return to this role, filling in the shoes for George Bailey once again. Off the stage, Marcel teaches voice lessons, leads workshops, helping students who strive to pursue a career in the arts. His lifelong goal is to continue to perform worldwide as an established artist as well as work more as a composer, playwright, producer and arranger.



Delaney Jackson

Delaney Jackson (*Actor 4 - Peter/Mary*)

Delaney Jackson is an actor, director, and teaching artist based in Omaha. She is thrilled to be returning to the roles of Mary and Peter Bailey for *It's a Wonderful Life*. Delaney received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from the University of Nebraska Omaha in 2020 where she performed in several productions including *The Clearing* as Killaine Farrell, *Dogfight* as Marcy, and *The Harvester* in *Little Wars*. More recent credits include Richard and Others in the BLUEBARN's *R33* and Athena in Ollie Webb's *Dionysia: Three Greek Myths*.



Zhomontee
Shanice Watson

Zhomontee Shanice Watson (*Actor 5 - Billy/Harry*)

Zhomontee Watson is an established actress, singer, and mental health therapist. You may recognize Zhomontee from a recent Rose production of *The Descendants* as Cruella and Belle, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive The Bus* in her role of the Little Old Lady. Zhomontee was also played Deloris Van Catier in *Sister* at the Omaha Community Playhouse, Medda Larkin in *Newsies* at The Rose, and Uncle Billy in The Rose's production of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Zhomontee has received multiple awards to include an OEAA for Best Female Actress in a Musical in 2017.



Matthew Olsen

Matthew R. Olsen (*Actor 6 - Potter/Burt/Others*)

Thrilled to bring this story to life one more time! Previous Rose credits include *Corduroy*, *Howie D: Back in the Day!*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. You may have seen him around Omaha with Bluebarn Theatre (*The Woodsman*, *Venus in Fur*), Brigit St. Brigit (*Bernhardt/Hamlet*), Shakespeare On The Green (*Much Ado*, *King John*, *Merry Wives*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, *Othello*), Nebraska Shakespeare On Tour (*Hamlet*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Midsummer*, *As You Like It*). Other select Regional credits include: *The Matchmaker*, *Both Your Houses* (dir. Frank Galati), *True West*, *School For Lies*, *How I Learned To Drive & Oleanna*.

Matthew is an actor, facilitator, movement/fight coordinator based in Omaha. He holds a BFA from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and an MFA from Florida State University—Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. You can also catch him roasting coffee up the street at Bad Seed Coffee & Supply!

=MORE =

**Cast Information - It's a Wonderful Life
at The Rose Theater**

Page 3 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641



Natalie Hanson

Natalie Hanson (*Actor 7 - Violet/Ruth/Others*)

Natalie is a Chicago and Omaha based performer from Seattle. She was last seen as Audrey in *Disney's Descendants*, Pollyanna D. in the world premiere of *Howie D: Back in the Day*, Duckling/Puppy/Ensemble in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, all with The Rose Theater. Other noted Omaha credits include *Peter Pan* (Tigerlily) and *Newsies!* (Tommyboy) with The Rose Theater, and *Heathers the Musical* (ensemble) with the BlueBarn Theatre. While in Chicago, she was last seen in *Hope: Part 2 of a Mexican Trilogy* (Betty U/S) with Teatro Vista Theatre. Natalie is an alternative musician and producer under the artist name Facade Queen. She was recently nominated for the OEAA award for "Best New Artist." Natalie has also produced a collaborative EP Sigh,Sigh, Kiss! with her sister, Emilie and their duo "Court the Muse" in the winter of 2020. Other local collaborations include work with TBD Dance Collective where she choreographed, directed, and produced a dance piece to an original song for TBD Dance Collective's Making Space 2020 virtual event. Coming up next, Natalie will be creating a collaborative performance art piece through Amplify Arts to be performed in early March. To keep up with her artistic endeavors, Natalie's instagram is @facadequeen.



Prentiss
Matthews III

Prentiss Matthews III (*Actor 8 - Sam/Ernie/Others*)

Prentiss is a Georgia native. Who earned a BFA in Theatre from Valdosta State University in May of 2020. He is a Theatre Artist specializing in acting, playwrighting, singing, directing, and being a teaching artist. As an artist, he strives to create works that have a powerful message that touches on themes of social change, LGBTQ+ representation, and Blackness. Prentiss plans to continue cultivating his skills, expanding his career opportunities, and learning to find joy in every circumstance.



Sophia Presser

Sophia Presser (*Actor 9 -Janie/Others*)

Sophia (she/they) is excited to return to the Rose stage for *It's a Wonderful Life*. They were most recently seen in the Rose's production of *Disney's Descendants* as a member of the ensemble. Previously, Sophia was a part of *The World Goes 'Round and Chicago High School Edition* at Mercy High School where they are currently a junior. They are a student actor at The Rose and participated in Senior Rose Brigade in the past. Besides theater, she loves tap dance, being a teaching assistant, and graphic design.



Ella Stowell

Ella Stowell (*Actor 10 - Zuzu/Others*)

Ella Stowell is ready for her Rose Theater debut! Ella is a 6th grader and attends Papillion La Vista Community Schools. She has been taking acting camps and classes at The Rose since kindergarten, as well as acting and singing with PLAN since she was six. She was recently cast as Alice Wendelken in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at Bellevue Little Theater. Ella is in her 5th year of baton and pom with the Stepper-ettes. She is a member of many activities at her school including student council, band, and Battle of the Books. In her spare time, she enjoys playing video games, hanging out with friends, reading, and playing with her dogs.

= MORE =

Cast Information - *It's a Wonderful Life*

at The Rose Theater

Page 4 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641

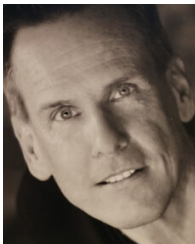


Sarah Lynn Brown

Sarah Lynn Brown (*Director*)

Sarah Lynn Brown (she/hers) has worked in Omaha as a director, actor, adaptor, and educator for the past 20 years, where she has facilitated countless productions and theatre education programs. She is currently on the Nebraska Arts Council Artist Roster as a Gender Performance and Theatre Adapting educator and a contract facilitator for WhyArts and Inclusive Communities.

Additionally, Sarah has worked for Utah Shakespeare, Folger Library Theatre, BlueBarn Theatre, Nebraska Shakespeare, NTC productions, Omaha Performing Arts, Omaha Symphony, Opera Omaha, Denizen Theatre (NY), University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Creighton University. Currently, Sarah creates and teaches from a shared studio: Leavenworth Space in Omaha Nebraska. She has a Masters of Arts in Theatre Education from the University of Northern Colorado and a BA from UNO. She is thrilled to be working on this magical show again this year.



Jerry Brabec

Jerry Brabec (*Music Director*)

Jerry Brabec, tenor, is an Ordained Deacon on the clergy staff at Omaha St. Paul United Methodist Church where he serves as Minister of Worship. His responsibilities include the overseeing of liturgical preparation for the congregation of 400. He also serves as choral director for Temple Israel's Kol Rina. Awarded the Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska, he studied choral conducting with Dr. Cina Crisara and Dr. Z. Randall Stroope. As a chorister of the acclaimed Robert Shaw Festival Chorus at Carnegie Hall, he sang for five years under the baton of the late Robert Shaw, was twice selected one of six participants in the Alice Parker Melodius Accord Fellowship Program and frequently continues his conducting studies with Ms. Parker during January in New York. At The Rose for the past twelve seasons, "It's a Wonderful Life" marks his 44th show as a visiting music director/vocal coach. He also serves as music director for the nationally acclaimed Rose Brigade, one of the award winning offerings of the "Broadway at The Rose" program. Formerly, Jerry taught at the high school level for Council Bluffs Community Schools, served as associate artistic director of the Omaha Clarion Chorale, and as artistic director for the Kanessville Chorus and Renaissance Faire of the Midlands.



Sue
Gillespie Booton

Sue Gillespie Booton (*Choreographer*)

Sue Gillespie Booton's national tour credits include "Annie Get Your Gun", "Beehive", and "Grease". Most recent credits include "Elf" (Sam/Mrs. Santa), "The Dollmaker's Gift", (Pola/Rebecca), "Rocky Horror" (Columbia), "Ring of Fire" (Ensemble) and "Always, Patsy Cline" (Louise). Choreographic credits include "Elf The Musical", "Matilda", Disney's "Newsies", "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", "Madagascar", "Mary Poppins", "A Christmas Story", "Tarzan", "Narnia", "Peter Pan", "HONK!" and "Annie - The Musical". She won the 2019 Omaha Entertainment Award for "Outstanding Choreography" for "Newsies" and is the 2020 nominee for both "Elf" and "Matilda". She was inducted into the Nebraska Music Hall of Fame summer 2019 and is the 2014 recipient of the National Freddy G Award given to outstanding musical theater educators as well as the 2014 Theater Arts Guild Education Award winner. Sue is The Rose Theater's Resident Choreographer and Director of BROADWAY at The Rose, which includes The Rose Brigade and Dance Lab at The Rose.

= MORE =

**Cast Information - *It's a Wonderful Life*
at The Rose Theater**

Page 5 of 5

Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641



Alease Timbers

Alease Timbers (*Assistant Director & Education Representative*)

Alease is excited for this to be her MainStage Directing Debut at the Rose Theater. Alease has taught, choreographed and directed for the Cumberland County School District, Fayetteville State University, Temple Theatre in Sanford NC, Bristol Valley Theatre in Naples NY, and Camp Lohikan in Lake Como PA. Some of her favorite works include directing *Emma: A Pop Musical* (Temple Theatre), *Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregulars* (an Omaha Theater Company Youth Production) and assisting with YGB “Young Gifted and Black” (TNT Omaha Theater Company).

###