



July 22–25 & July 29-Aug 1 2021 Fall Series

# OUR NEXT STORIES

#### JUNIE B. JONES IS NOT A CROOK October 1-3 and 8-10

Kindergarten isn't easy, especially when you're Junie B. Jones! First, a stealer stole Junie B.'s new furry mittens. Then, there's the handsomest new boy at school who thinks she's a nutball. And don't even get her started on Meanie Jim! Can Junie B. find the crook, fix her friendships, stand up to a bully, and still be her lovable, nutball self?

Auditions August 17 for grades 5 through adult Fall Series Pass Reservations begin August 23 On sale August 30 Sponsored by Refreshment Services Pepsi and WGEM



#### DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST November 26-28 and December 2-5

Cruel and vain, a prince is cursed to live as a hideous beast unless he learns to love and be loved in return. Strong-willed and smart, Belle is a lonely outsider in her small village. Although the Beast imprisons her, it may be Belle that captures his heart. Can true love prevail and have the power to transform in this enchanting tale as old as time?



Auditions September 18-19 for ages 16+ Fall Series Pass Reservations begin October 18 On sale November 1 Sponsored by Kohl Cash and Carry, Blessing Health System, and WGEM





### WGEM Chief Meteorologist <u>"Tevye" on the QHS Stage</u>



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#### QCT MISSION STATEMENT To offer and perpetuate quality entertainment and education in the performing arts through community participation.

2021 Curtain Times	
Evening Performances	7:30 pm
Sunday Matinée Performances	2:00 pm

2021 Ticket Prices	Section A	Section B	Section C
Musicals	\$28	\$26	\$24
Discounts	Save \$2 Senior Citizens (65+), Students, & Military. ID Required		
Student Theatre Plays & Lab Shows		\$12	

For Group Rates, visit 1 qct.org/tickets

\*Available upon request for ticket purchases made at the Box Office

**Box Office Hours** 

Monday-Friday	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday (Evening)	
Sunday (Matinée)	
(Saturday & Sunday hours during production times only)	·····

Buy Tickets Online Any Time www.1qct.org • Box Office Phone (217) 222-3209

#### **Ticketing Policies**

No refunds. No exchanges the day of the show. Exchanges issued 24 hours prior to the show's curtain time are subject to a fee of \$1.00 per ticket and are dependent upon seating availability. Lost tickets may be replaced for a \$1.00 fee per ticket. Tickets only valid until the curtain time printed on tickets. Empty seats at that time may be resold, and no refund will be issued for late arrivals. Due to fire codes, all attending, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

As a courtesy to other patrons, LATE ARRIVALS MAY NOT BE SEATED IN THEIR TICKETED SEATS once the performance has begun. Late seating is at the discretion of the house manager. Late arrivals may be asked to delay entering until a suitable moment in the production. FOR YOUR SAFETY PLEASE REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT UNTIL THE HOUSE LIGHTS ARE UP. 84TH SEASON - 433RD PRODUCTION



#### 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

**Director** Brandon Thomsen Choreographer Cheryl Kaiser **Conductor** Jonathon Weller Vocal Director Jessi Sparks

Technical Director Seth Campbell

Scenic Designer Lorne Kelley Lighting Designer Ken Phillips

**Costume Designers** Tania Ballve Valerie Hernandez

Hair and Makeup Designers Kristopher Kutcher Krist Mason

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Chicago is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

# **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Director Choreographer Vocal Director Conductor	Cheryl Kaiser Jessi Sparks
Scenic Designer	
Technical Director	Seth Campbell
Assistant Technical Director	
Stage Managers	Jeri & Dan Conboy
Lighting Designer	
Costume Designer	
Hair & Makeup Designers Sound Designer & Board Operator	
Properties Supervisor	Sue Allen
Props Crew	Katie Kraushaar, Marlene Kipley,
	MJ Mefford, Susan Scholz
Rehearsal Accompanists	Susan Job, Laura Kammerer,
	Colby Schulz
Audition Accompanist	Mary Shelor
Run Crew	
	Terri Stutheit
Set Crew	
Light Board Operator	Don Johnson
Spotlight Operators	Bailey McNamer, Amanda Veile
Costume Crew	
House Photographer	
Lobby Display	
Audition Welcome Table	Barbara Fry, Doris Malacarne

#### PLEASE

Turn off your cell phones, beepers, or alarm watches to avoid disturbing your fellow theatergoers and the actors on stage during the performance. We appreciate your cooperation.

#### LISTENING DEVICES

A limited number of listening devices are available for hearing impaired patrons. These may be checked out from our House Manager in the Box Office and returned following the performance.



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# Cast of Characters

Velma Kelly Roxie Hart	Megan Peters Michelle Bickhaus
Billy Flynn	Mark Hespen
	William J. Nolan III
	Diana Mast
Merry Murderess Liz	Kelsey Pigg
Merry Murderess Annie	Lindsey Stroot
Merry Murderess June	Julie Śchuetz
Merry Murderess Hunyak	Pichi Fernandez
Merry Murderess Mona	Allison Hutson
Go-To-Hell-Kitty	Heidi Larner
Fred Casely	Michael D. Perkins
Sergeant Fogarty /Judge	Mason Ellison
Martin Harrison/Harry/Doctor	Sean Major
Reporter	Drew Quintero
Jury	
Baíliff	Patrick Smith
	April Albert, Mason Ellison, Pichi Fernandez,
	Mekia Gay, Allison Hutson, Shawn Jones,
	Heidi Larner, Sean Major, Michael D. Perkins,
	Kelsey Pigg, Julie Schuetz, Patrick Smith,
	and Lindsey Stroot

### **Orchestra Members**

Conductor Piano 1	Jonathon Weller
Piano 2	
Violin	Andria Ball
Reed 1	Jack Ingram
Reed 2	Pam Potter
Trumpet ]	John Hume
Trumpet 2	Jacob Stark
Trombone 1	
Trombone 2	Nicole Smart
Bass	Spencer Smith
Percussion	

# **Special Thanks**

Nora Baldner-Schnack Jasmine Cobb Dan Conboy Judith Crocker Alex Ginos Logan Mulch Jackie Weisenburger

# Synopsis of Scenes

#### Act I

	Orchestra
	Velma Kelly and Company
"Cell Block Tango"	
"When You're Good to Mama"	
"All I Care About"	Billy Flynn and the Girls
"A Little Bit of Good"	Mary Sunshine
"We Both Reached for the Gun"	Billy, Roxie, Mary and the Reporters
"Roxie"	Roxie and the Boys
"I Can't Do It Alone"	
"I Can't Do It Alone (Reprise)"	Velma
"My Own Best Friend"	
"Finale Act I: All That Jazz (Reprise)"	

#### Act II

"Entr'acte"	
"I Know a Girl"	
"Me and My Baby"	Roxie and Company
"Mr. Cellophane"	
"When Velma Takes the Stand"	Velma and the Boys
"Razzle Dazzle"	Billy and Company
"Class"	Velma and Mama Morton
"Nowadays/Hot Honey Rag"	Velma and Roxie
"Nowadays/Hot Honey Rag" "Finale Act II: All That Jazz (Reprise)"	Company

# Quincy Community Theatre would like to acknowledge the members of the 2020 production who were unable to continue with the 2021 production:

Matthew Cornwell Ziven Crist Me Crouch Victoria DeMent Christina Duffy Les Fonza Tanya Juhasz Phil Kagan Doris Malacarne Amber Kelly Nicholas Lickfeld Jadon Mckenzie Amanda Saul Linda Waller

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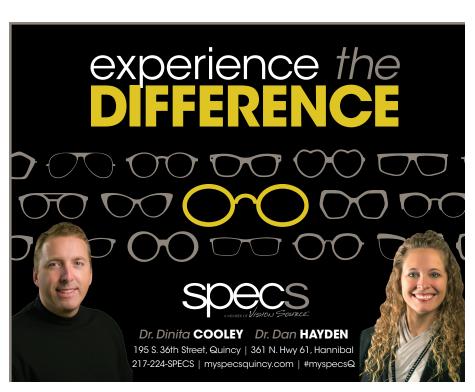


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## **Director's Note**

The original play *Chicago* was written in 1926 by Maurine Dallas Watkins, based on actual crimes that she reported on while working for a Chicago newspaper. Her play was an immediate hit, running 172 performances. In the 1970s, the rights were given to Bob Fosse to adapt Watkins' play into a stage musical, but it opened the same year as *A Chorus Line* and closed after two years. In 2002, the stage musical was adapted into a movie musical, winning Best Picture. Its greatest success came in 1996 when the Broadway

revival opened, and it is still running 25 years later!

Each time *Chicago* emerged, the United States was going through some kind of change/upheaval/revolution. With the 1920s, prohibition and a movement in women's liberation; with the 70s, Watergate; in the 90s, the O.J. Simpson trial; and 2002, the nation was going to war. In 2021, as *Chicago* finally comes to the QCT stage, the nation experienced a contentious presidential race and is emerging from a global pandemic. Why does *Chicago* continue to remain current? It's not a story about "Chicago," it's a story about American life.

Have you ever been to a nice restaurant or bar late at night, and at closing time the fluorescent lights suddenly come on and you see the room for what it really is? The walls are cracked, the floor is stained, there's trash in the corner. Our production of *Chicago* is placed in a seemingly glamourous theater, but when you look closely, you see it's falling apart, and it's dirty. Maybe this wouldn't be such a great place to be after all. This reminds us to look closely at what and who we glamorize. What do we accept as truth before we've done a close examination and sought all the facts?

*Chicago* is a satirical masterpiece. It uses humor, irony, exaggeration, and ridicule to expose and criticize our stupidity and vices. Practically every line and lyric of this show pushes attention to the fact that, in life, "things are not always what they appear to be." For us today we might consider that a smiling couple on social media is not necessarily indicative of a flawless marriage, or a headline is not the complete story. We are so easily pulled into illusions, facades, and mass hysteria. This was the case in 1926. This is the case in 2021.

When a professor at Yale Divinity School denounced Maurine Dallas Watkins' original play as vile, she replied, ".... Did God Himself, on His visit, never speak of evildoers, thus to unmask their wrongs? Satire isn't a lecture in dark robes; it's a fiesta of fun. Your laughter shocks you: so you'll think twice." Through its comedy, its choreography, and its sexy costumes, Chicago nudges us to investigate, ask questions, and dig deeper before drawing conclusions. How wonderful that theatre can bring us laughs, hummable tunes, a great life lesson... and all that jazz!

Benom f. Jemen

Brandon J. Thomsen



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Season Announcement Party and Fall Picnic: September 23 (More details coming soon!)

Seasont Ticket Renewals: October 11

New Season Ticket Sales: October 25

Season ticket holders get early access to seats and extra savings on regular ticket prices!

Quincy Community Theatre

www.1qct.org

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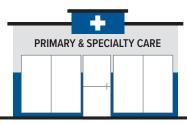
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### **Production Sponsors**









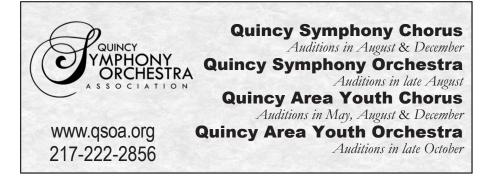












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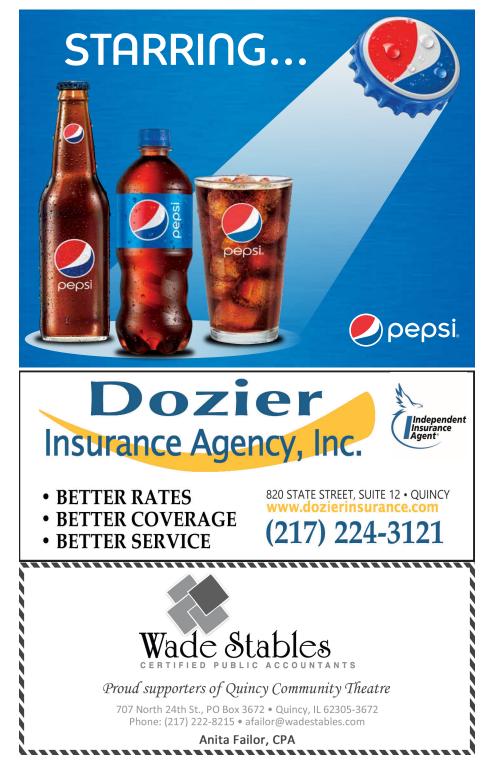




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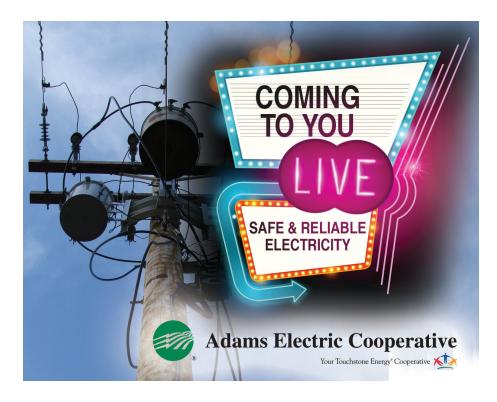


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## Meet the Cast

\*April Albert (Ensemble) is a first-time QCT performer. She previously played the character Texas in *Cabaret* at The Muni. April is the Office Manager at O'Donnell-Cookson Life Celebration Home and was previously a dance instructor and collegiate dance coach for 13 years. She is recently engaged to her fiancé, Austin. When she isn't wedding planning, you can find her dancing, attending concerts, or playing with their puppy, Sadie. April is so excited to have the opportunity to perform again and is thankful for all the family, friends, teachers, coaches, students, and colleagues who have supported and encouraged her on her dance journey.

**Michelle Bickhaus (Roxie Hart)** returns to the QCT stage in another spirited role. She has previously appeared as Maggie in Tennessee Williams' Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and, most recently, as Carlotta in Yeston and Kopit's *Phantom*. Michelle is a busy mom, mimi, teacher, writer, reader, hiker, and yogi.

**Mason Ellison (Sgt. Fogarty, Judge, Ensemble)** works as a production assistant for WGEM. Mason has been involved in numerous productions at QCT both on stage and backstage. His most recent shows include You Can't Take It With You, Hello, Dolly!, and Sweeney Todd. Mason was the recipient of the Ghost Light Award for the 2017 QCT season. Mason is also a member of the Quincy Symphony Chorus and enjoys watching movies with his family.

**Pichi Albright Fernandez (Hunyak, Ensemble)** is a graphic designer and mom to Enzo. She's returning to the QCT stage after 14 years! Her previous productions include Annie (QUILTA,) One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Lucky Stiff (QUILTA,) Beauty & the Beast, Grease, and Memories II. "Enzo, I love you mucho!"

**Mekia Gay (Ensemble)** is a baker, singer, and writer. She spends most of her time working or baking. She is currently enrolled at Auguste Escoffier, studying to be a Professional Pastry Artist.

**Mark Hespen (Billy Flynn)** is thrilled to play Billy Flynn in QCT's Chicago. He has previously appeared at QCT in A Christmas Carol and You Can't Take It With You. Mark is a Second City Conservatory Graduate and has a BFA in Acting from NIU. Mark moved to Quincy two and a half years ago to cohost "Mornings w/Mark & Sam" on 97.9 KICK-FM.

Allison Hutson (Mona, Ensemble) is a graduate of St. Ambrose University, where she studied music and marketing. She currently works at Quincy University as the Assistant Director of Admissions Communications. Allison is a foodie, coffee enthusiast, and photographer that loves to connect with others. She was last seen on the QCT stage as Kim MacAfee in Bye Bye Birdie and in Wonderful Things: The Songs of Jerry Herman. **Shawn Jones (Jury, Ensemble)** comes from Cincinnati, Ohio where he studied Dance, Vocal music and Drama at the School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA.) This is Shawn's 11th show at QCT. Just prior to the pandemic, Shawn opened a dance studio called The Beat Arts Academy, where he teaches Fosse Technique Jazz, Lester Horton Modern, Hip Hop, and African Dance.

**Heidi Larner (Go-to-Hell Kitty, Ensemble)** is an optometrist providing eye care for veterans at the Quincy VA outpatient clinic. She was last seen on the QCT stage in Wonderful Things: The Songs of Jerry Herman and is happy to be back once again to join this amazing cast of talented performers. In her spare time, she enjoys voraciously reading, meeting new friends, and spending time with her two dogs (Reggie and Tucker) and two cats (Heather and Max).

\*Sean Major (Martin Harrison, Harry, Doctor, Ensemble) Although new to QCT, he is no stranger to the stage. Sean served Hannibal Community Theater as technical director from 2001-2015, as well as appearing on stage in many productions, including Ten Little Indians (Phillip Lombard,) Bleacher Bums (Greg,) and The Foreigner (Rev. David Marshall Lee.) Sean is a musician and is involved with multiple music projects in the area. Sean has five children and lives in Hannibal with his wife Shana and their two dogs.

**Diana Mast (Matron "Mama" Morton)** has three amazing kids, Gwen (13,) Penny (10,) and Leo (7,) with her husband, John Mast. Diana works as a Senior Project Delivery Specialist at HCSC. Diana was part of the cast and crew for QCT's *Peter Pan*, the inagural production in the current location, and she was last seen on this stage in *Showboat* in 1996. Offstage, Diana enjoys camping and road trips with her family.

**\*William J. Nolan III (Amos)** was born and raised (and still working as a Director of Sales and Marketing) in St. Louis, Bill was encouraged by his loving wife of 25 years (Libby) to pursue this "bucket-list" role. Thanks to QCT and all his loved ones for their support.

**Michael D. Perkins (Fred Casely)** graduated from Western Illinois University with his bachelor's in Broadcasting and Music Business. His musical background is in gospel music/theater. Michael was trained in several dance styles: modern, jazz, ballet, hip hop and tap. This is his sixth production with QCT and is truly grateful for this experience.

#### \*First-time QCT performer

**Megan Peters (Velma Kelly)** is part of the 2020 cast and is thrilled *Chicago* is back in production! In the meantime, she was last seen in QCT's Wonderful *Things: The Songs of Jerry Herman* and the QCT Virtual Playwrights Festival in *Play Ball.* She is humbled to share the stage with this talented cast. When she's not at rehearsal, she's the business development coordinator at Klingner & Associates, and new this fall, she'll be officially joining a jazz ensemble! She loves spending time with her amazing family, core/strength training, and shopping. She would like to thank her husband, Dominic, for supporting her theatre passion and maintaining the endless routines at home with their four children. He is truly her "own best friend."

**Kelsey Pigg (Liz, Ensemble)** is the Marketing Coordinator at Klingner & Associates, PC. Previous QCT shows include *Is He Dead*? (QUILTA,) *Sylvia*, and *Les Misérables*, among others. Kelsey lives in Quincy with the best doggo in the world, Daisy. She loves photography, reading, and chewing gum.

**Drew Quintero (Reporter)** is so excited that live theatre is back and is thrilled to return to Chicago! Favorite roles include Buddy the Elf (*Elf the Musical*,) Pirelli (Sweeney Todd,) Ted (Peter and the Starcatcher,) and Enjorlas (Les Misérables.) QCT holds a special place in Drew's heart, and he is so happy that you are here sharing the magic of live theatre with him. "It's kind of fun to do the impossible" – Walt Disney

**Julie Schuetz (June, Ensemble)** is a lawyer, married to Jim, and a proud mother of three. She was last seen on the QCT stage in *Big Fish* (Sandra.) In addition to volunteering at QCT, Julie enjoys gardening, home renovations, board games, reading, yoga, tennis, and attending the many arts opportunities in the area!

**Patrick Smith (Balif, Ensemble)** is a bass singer from Hannibal, Missouri. A graduate from the University of Missouri with his Bachelor's degree in vocal music performance, Patrick has performed with companies such as Show-Me Opera in Columbia, Missouri as well as Opera NEO in San Diego, California. Patrick enjoys reading, yoga, and studying math and physics in his free time. Patrick returns to the stage from his last performance as Eddie in QCT's 2018 production of Mamma Mia!

\*Lindsey Stroot (Annie) is a Quincy native who continues her life-long passion for dance as both an instructor and performer. She works as an Account Executive at Current Health Solutions and serves the community as an ambassador for the Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce. In her free time, Lindsey enjoys silly adventures with her children, Ruby and Beck.

# Meet The Production Team

**Tania Ballve (2020 Costume Designer)** is a designer and wardrobe stylist from Barcelona, Spain. She received her Bachelor's in Fashion Design from Istituto Europeo di Design and her Master's in Fashion, Advertising and Audiovisual Media from Institut Català de la Moda. After many years working for companies such as Warner Group, Universal Music Spain and Sony Music, Tania fell in love with theatre and costume design. She previously designed *Phantom* and *Elf the Musical* for QCT.

**Dan Conboy (Stage Manager)** has enjoyed working with this great cast, crew, production team, and co-stage manager. Dan has been involved in many great collaborations at QCT over the past 28 years. Add one more to the list, Team Chicago!

**Jeri Conboy (Stage Manager)** is a longtime volunteer with QCT, having done every volunteer job except operate the sound board! She was most recently seen on stage as Emily Dickinson in The Belle of Amherst.

Valerie Hernandez (2021 Costume Designer) has been seen onstage at QCT previously in Little Shop of Horrors and Sister Act and backstage serving as Costume Designer for Is He Dead? and You Can't Take It With You. Valerie is a founding member & director of Square Peg Group-Troupe and will be directing the summer mainstage opera for Muddy River Opera Company.

**Cheryl Kaiser (Choreographer)** is owner of the Cheryl Kaiser School of Dance and Director/Choreographer of the Kaiser Dance Theatre, both located in Quincy. Cheryl has been an active member of the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters and has served many years on their board of Directors. She has choreographed over 100 musicals for the QCT stage and will once again direct *The Nutcracker Ballet* for this upcoming holiday season. Being the choreographer for *Chicago* has been both a challenge and a dream come true!

**Ken Phillips (Lighting Designer)** is happy to return to Quincy for his second show after *Phantom.* He holds an MFA in Lighting Design and currently works at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where he is the resident Lighting Designer/Supervisor for their Opera & Ballet department's 1,460 seat theatre. He primarily works in managing or designing for Musical Theatre & Opera. To view his work, please feel free to visit his website at KGPhillips.com. He would like to thank Brandon for welcoming him back, for his parents support, and the love of his wonderful wife, Alexandra.

**Jessi Sparks (Vocal Director)** is a Music Educator for the Lewis County C-1 School, where she co-teaches music with her husband, Nathan. She graduated from Culver-Stockton in 2008 with her Bachelors in Music Education. She has vocal directed the QCT productions of *Disney's Tarzan* and *The Addams Family*. She was seen on stage in *Sister Act* as part of the nun ensemble. She and her husband reside in Lewistown, MO with their three year old daughter, Amelia Jayne.

\*Jonathon Weller (Conductor,) a British-born American-raised singer and conductor, is the Education & Fine Arts Specialist at the Kroc Center. This is his first performance with QCT, but before moving to Quincy in August, he performed professionally throughout Chicago and is currently the Assistant Conductor of The Salvation Army's Central Territorial Staff Songsters.

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