

PLAYBILL®

Young Actors' Theatre
Spring Valley, CA

YOUNG ACTORS' THEATRE
A CALIFORNIA NON PROFIT CORPORATION
PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Wizard of Oz™

November 9, 10, 11, 16,
17, & 18 at 7PM

November 11, 12,
18, & 19 at 2PM

Young Actors' Theatre

PRESENTS

THE WIZARD OF OZ

(R.S.C. Version 1987)

By L. Frank Baum

With Music and Lyrics by

Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Background Music by

Herbert Stothart

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard

Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane

for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the classic motion picture owned by Turner

Entertainment Co. and distributed

in all media by Warner Bros.

Director

CHRISTINE CORDOVA

Assistant Director

CAEDYN NATION

Music Director

MORIAH ANGELINE

Choreographer

MARC CARO-WILCOX

Sound Design

JASON TARLOV

Production Chair

JESS REED

Light Design

JOHN DEMAREE

Stage Manager

JERRICA STONE

Costume Design

ANGEL MERRITT

Assistant Stage Manager

MAX COSTON

Set Design

CONNIE THOMAS

JOHN HANEY

The Wizard of Oz is presented by arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022. www.tamswitmark.com

SONGS

ACT I

Over the Rainbow	Dorothy
Munchkinland Musical Sequence	Glinda, Dorothy, Munchkins
Yellow Brick Road	Munchkins
If I Only Had a Brain	Scarecrow, Dorothy, Crows
We're Off to See the Wizard	Dorothy, Scarecrow
If I Only Had a Heart	Tinman, Dorothy, Trees
We're Off to See the Wizard	Dorothy, Tinman, Scarecrow
If I Only Had the Nerve	Lion, Dorothy, Tinman, Scarecrow
We're Off to See the Wizard	Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion
Poppies	Glinda, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion, Poppies

ACT II

Merry Old Land of Oz	Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion, Guard, Ozians
King of the Forest	Lion with Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman
March of the Winkies	Winkies
Jitterbug	Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion, Jitterbugs
Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead (Reprise)	Winkies



CAST

Cast Members

Toto	Louie Sayler
Dorothy Gale	KayElah Gardner
Aunt Em, Crow, Jitterbug, Ozian	Kate Marshall
Uncle Henry, Emerald City Guard	Jackson Muns
Zeke, Cowardly Lion	Miles Reed
Hickory, Tinman	Nate Flores
Hunk, Scarecrow	Julia Swann
Miss Gulch, Wicked Witch	Kaylee Fuller
Professor Marvel, Wizard Of Oz	Tyler Merritt
Glinda	Lillian Becker
Munchkin Farmer, Jitterbug, Ozian	Anna Furlong
Munchkin Mayor, Poppy, Winkie, Ozian	Ella Crook
Munchkin Coroner, Poppy, Jitterbug, Ozian	Giana Bove
Munchkin Barrister, Poppy, Jitterbug, Ozian	Cadence Grosch
Dance Captain, Tree, Poppy, Jitterbug, Tornado Dancer, Ozian	Mandy Keller
Winkie General, Crow, Ozian	Ryan Moran
Nikko, Munchkin, Ozian	Dylan Masis Thomas
Lullaby League, Snowflake, Ozian	Delilah Lopez
Lullaby League, Snowflake, Jitterbug, Ozian	Justine Garcia
Lullaby League, Snowflake, Tree, Ozian	Mairin Furlong
Lollipop Guild, Monkey, Ozian	Dylan Taylor-Aven
Lollipop Guild, Monkey, Ozian	Nicholas Haney
Lollipop Guild, Monkey, Ozian	Roan Furlong
Tree, Poppy, Jitterbug, Tornado Dancer, Ozian	Arabelle Quiggle
Crow, Poppy, Tornado Dancer, Winkie, Ozian	Cassidy Walters
Poppy, Tornado Dancer, Winkie, Ozian	Ashley Trachta

CAST

Cast Members (continued)

Poppy, Tornado Dancer, Winkie, Ozian	Penelope Bur-Min Estigoy
Poppy, Winkie, Ozian	Kate Park
Winkie, Ozian	Spencer Freye

SHOUT OUTS



Cassidy - We're proud of you and the confidence theater has given you! Keep working hard and keep reaching for the stars!
Love, Mom & Dad

Miles - We are not lion when we say how much we enjoy watching you on stage. That would be cowardly of us... YLF

A big thank you to Faye Hamelin, a dear friend of Christine Cordova, for creating our Glinda costume while visiting from Canada!

ARTISTIC TEAM

Crew Members

Director	Christine Cordova
Assistant Director	Caedyn Nation
Choreographer	Marc Caro-Willcox
Music Director	Moriah Angeline
Stage Manager	Jerrica Stone
Assistant Stage Manager	Max Coston
Crew Members	Jordan Taylor, Kamryn Stinebaugh, Aliya Maestas, Maria Minutelli, Natalie Gelb, Sean Gelb, Kim Gelb, Lorelei Deuel, Nicole Soares, Aubrey O'Brien, Leksi Waring, Joanna Demaree

RENTALS

We have everything you need for your business meeting, civic group meeting, dance recital, music recital or other event to be successful. ENCORE! Theater, home to Young Actors' Theatre, is available for rent and is fully equipped with both sound and lighting for any type of celebration, production, or party. Various seating configurations are available. In addition, we have a large inventory of theatrical costumes, sets pieces, props, and furniture to make your next performance a success. To view our inventory, please contact the front desk at (619)670-1627 or frontdesk@yatsandiego.org



WHO'S WHO



Louie Sayler

as Toto

Louie is thrilled to be making his theatrical debut under the direction of his "Grandma CC" (director Christine Cordova). Although this is Louie's first time on stage, his dancing career began at a young age when he learned to twirl and "dance" for a cookie. In his free time, Louie enjoys chasing squirrels, burrowing under blankets, and barking loudly at the amazon delivery man. He spends his days with his best friend and big sister "Nena Bear" and although he is little in size, he is fierce and boldly makes himself known to all he encounters.



KayElah Gardner

as Dorothy Gale

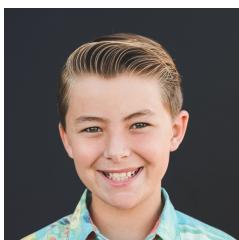
KayElah Gardner is 11 years old. She is so happy to be Dorothy in Wizard of Oz in her 7th YAT production. Past roles include Cathy/Cheerleader (High School Musical), Sleeping Beauty/Sparrow (Into the Woods), Jungle Singer (Jungle Book), Duchess (Aristocats), Alice (Alice in Wonderland), and Lily St. Regis (Annie). She wants to thank her family and the YAT production staff.



Kate Marshall

as Aunt Em, Crow, Jitterbug, Ozian

Kate is 12 and loves performing, whether it be dancing, singing, or acting. This is Kate's 2nd YAT performance and she is excited to work with these amazing people. Kate has been in multiple other performances at other studios. She also plays the guitar, takes voice lessons, and dances competitively. Kate would like to thank the YAT artistic team, and cast for their support.



Jackson Muns

as Uncle Henry, Emerald City Guard

Jackson is 11 years old. Wizard of Oz will be Jackson's third Young Actors' Theatre Production. His past roles include Cinderella's Father (Into the Woods) and a Jock (High School Musical). Jackson has found his love for theater! He is excited to be working with this talented group of actors and directors.

WHO'S WHO



Miles Reed

as Zeke, Cowardly Lion

Miles is 10 years old and in the 5th Grade. This is his 13th production with YAT. Some of his favorite roles have been Ugly (Honk), Grandpa Joe (Willy Wonka) and Little Boy (Ragtime). He loves to dance, sing, take photos, play video games and make people smile. He'd like to thank his family, friends and the artistic team for their support.



Nate Flores

as Hickory, Tinman

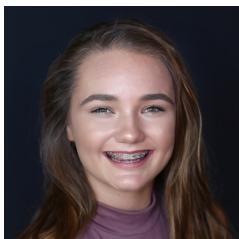
Nate is 12 years old and is SO excited to be playing the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz. A couple of his past roles include Mr. Bucket (Willy Wonka) and Buzzy the Vulture (Jungle Book). Nate also loves playing baseball and hopes to one day be a singing, dancing MLB player. Nate would like to thank Mrs. C. and the entire artistic team for all of their hard work to make this a wonderful production!



Julia Swann

as Hunk, Scarecrow

Julia is 12 years old and in 7th grade. This is her 7th production with YAT. Some favorite roles include: Jack's Mom (Into the Woods) and Dorothy (The Magical Land of Oz). She enjoys acting, singing, competitive swimming, camping, and hanging out with friends. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, and Mrs. C and the artistic team for the wonderful opportunity!



Kaylee Fuller

as Miss Gulch, Wicked Witch

Kaylee has been involved in YAT for four years. Some of her favorite roles include Quin-Po (Mulan), Viola (My Son Pinocchio, Jr.), and Dance Captain (School House Rock). She would like to thank the cast and artistic team for all their support. She hopes you enjoy the show.

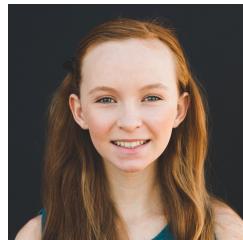


Tyler Merritt

as Professor Marvel, Wizard Of Oz

Tyler is 13 years old and eager to make his YAT stage debut. He was stagehand for Snoopy (YAT) and was George Washington in 13 Colonies. He would like to thank the production crew for mentoring him through his first true stage performance.

WHO'S WHO



Lillian Becker

as Glinda

Lillian is 12 years old and loves to dance, act, and sing! She's looking forward to performing in The Wizard of Oz, as this will be her first experience with theater. Lillian has done a few on screen performances, which include a recent documentary for French Television. She would like to thank everyone who works behind the scenes to make theater possible.



Anna Furlong

as Munchkin Farmer, Jitterbug, Ozian

Anna is a 13 year old veteran of the YAT stage, last performing in Peter Pan. Anna is thrilled to be a part of the Oz production as an ensemble member, folksy in Munchkinland, freaky as a jitterbug in the woods and chique as an Ozian. Anna would like to thank her family, friends and especially her grandparents for coming to see the show.



Ella Crook

as Munchkin Mayor, Poppy, Winkie, Ozian

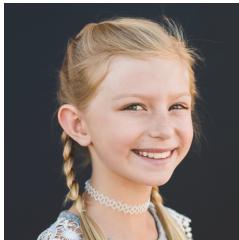
Ella is a bright, beautiful young lady with a true passion for the performing arts. She participated in the musical "The Lion King" at the Kroc Center in 2016 as a hyena and played the 'Cat in the Hat' in the musical "Suessical" this past summer. Ella enjoys singing and dancing around the house and putting on performances with her two sisters.



Giana Bove

as Munchkin Coroner, Poppy, Jitterbug, Ozian

Giana is 11 years old and has previously appeared in six YAT productions. She won the 2017 National Youth Arts Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress for her role as Veruca Salt in Willy Wonka. When not acting, Giana studies Taekwondo, where she has earned a Black Belt. Other interests include traveling, reading, and art. Giana would like to thank her parents for supporting her acting adventure.



Cadence Grosch

as Munchkin Barrister, Poppy, Jitterbug,

Ozian

Cadence is 10 years old and in 5th grade. She loves all things theater- dancing, singing and wonderful costumes. Some favorite roles: Jungle Singer (Jungle Book), Voice of the forest (Into the Woods) and featured dancer (Schoolhouse Rock). She also enjoys drawing and gymnastics. She has met so many fantastic people at YAT and would like to thank everyone for making this such a great experience.

WHO'S WHO



Mandy Keller

as Dance Captain, Tree, Poppy, Jitterbug, Tornado Dancer, Ozian

Mandy is 12 years old and this is her 16th performance with YAT. Her past favorite roles include: Blue Fairy (My Son Pinocchio), Kaa (The Jungle Book), Little Girl (Ragtime), Violet Beauregarde (Willy Wonka) and Martha (High School Musical). When not at the theater she enjoys playing the piano, trampoline jumping, and gymnastics. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Ryan Moran

as Winkie General, Crow, Ozian

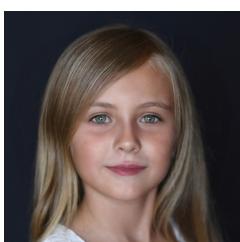
Ryan is excited to be a part of the Wizard of Oz cast! He is in 7th grade and has been participating in YAT productions since 2015. His favorite shows include Fiddler on the Roof and Beauty and the Beast. In addition, to musical theatre he enjoys playing video games and practicing jiu jitsu.



Dylan Masis Thomas

as Nikko, Munchkin, Ozian

Dylan is 10 and he's excited to be in Oz, his 12th show with YAT. He's been performing since he was 6, and considers YAT his 2nd home. He's also had experience working in commercials & loves to be in front of the camera. He's studied Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Tap, Acrobatics & Ballet. He loves to sing, dance, spend time with friends and watch his favorite shows Glee & Pitch Perfect.



Delilah Lopez

as Lullaby League, Snowflake, Ozian

Delilah is eight years old. This will be her third production at YAT. She has performed in The Jungle Book, My Son Pinocchio and now in The Wizard of Oz. She loves to sing and dance. She has taken ice skating, gymnastics, voice and piano lessons. Delilah would like to thank all the wonderful staff at YAT and her family for their support.



Justine Garcia

as Lullaby League, Snowflake, Jitterbug, Ozian

Justine loves the stage & is excited to journey to Oz, her 4th show at YAT! At 10, YAT has quickly become her happy place and she's made many friends. She's been loving theatre & dancing since she was 3 years old, and has such pure joy about performing. She continues to grow with each new adventure. Cannot wait to see her light up the stage as our little Lullaby League Munchkin!

WHO'S WHO



Mairin Furlong

as Lullaby League, Snowflake, Tree, Ozian

Mairin is a 10 year old actress who likes the costuming and make-up best about this production. She is very creative and has mastered the art of diplomatic middle child. She is happy to be a part of this production with some good friends and looks forward to future YAT shows. Shout outs to Gramma, Papa and Grammy for coming all the way from Florida to see the show!



Dylan Taylor-Aven *as Lollipop Guild, Monkey, Ozian*

Dylan is 8, and he is super excited to be performing in his third production at YAT. Most recently he was in My Son Pinocchio and The Jungle Book. In 2016 Dylan had a spot on the Jimmy Kimmel show opposite Benjamin Cumberbatch. Dylan enjoys riding his bike and playing soccer. Dylan thanks his parents and all the support he has received from his YAT family.



Nicholas Haney

as Lollipop Guild, Monkey, Ozian

Nick has been performing with YAT since March 2016. He has performed in several shows and 6 productions and is currently a member of the YAT tour group. He is very excited to be working with Christine again. She holds a special place in his heart as she was his first director in a major production.



Roan Furlong

as Lollipop Guild, Monkey, Ozian

Roan is a first time YAcTor following in his big sisters' footsteps. He is 8 years old and hopes his friends come see him perform because he loves both the Lollipop League and the Monkey roles. He's hoping to learn to tap dance for future productions. "Papa, check me out!" Thanks to Gramma, Papa and Grammy for coming to witness his debut.



Arabelle Quiggle

as Tree, Poppy, Jitterbug, Tornado Dancer, Ozian

Arabelle is extremely proud to be joining the cast of Wizard of Oz. She joined YAT during the fall 2016 for Disney Villains Camp. She followed that with ensemble roles in A Holiday to Remember, Hamilton Camp, and Jungle Book. Arabelle dreams of being a Disney kid-com star. Arabelle would like to thank her mom, dad, brothers and sister for their love and support.

WHO'S WHO



Cassidy Walters

*as Crow, Poppy, Tornado Dancer, Winkie,
Ozian*

Cassidy is excited to be doing her 4th production with YAT. Her previous roles have included being a Kaa Tail and Thug Monkey (*Jungle Book*), a soloist and ensemble (*Schoolhouse Rock*), a camera person and featured dancer (*Willy Wonka*). She would like to thank Ms. C and the artistic team for everything they do for the show!



Ashley Trachta

*as Poppy, Tornado Dancer, Winkie,
Ozian*

Ashley has been a part of two after-school performances at her school given through YAT. She previously performed as the body of Kaa & a monkey (*The Jungle Book*), and she was also a Skater & Brainiac (*High School Musical*).



Penelope Bur-Min Estigoy

*as Poppy, Tornado Dancer,
Winkie, Ozian*

Penny is 12 years old and in 7th grade. She loves to draw and read. She is also excited for her first performance with YAT. She is currently studying dance, music, and art. She would like to thank her Aunt Lethia for making this dream come true.



Kate Park

as Poppy, Winkie, Ozian

Kate, a 5th grader, looks forward to her appearance in the Wizard of Oz! Previously, Kate has been in 5 performances at her school. Her latest role was an elephant (*The Jungle Book*) and before that she played a Lost Boy (*Peter Pan*). She loves singing and enjoys doing art projects.



Spencer Freye

as Winkie, Ozian

Spencer is 12 years old and in 6th grade. This is his first production with YAT! Previous roles include King Triton (*Little Mermaid - YAT Summer Camp*) and King (*Cinderella - Theatre Kids Workshop*). He currently plays percussion with the San Diego Youth Symphony and his school band. He is very grateful for the opportunity to work with the dynamic YAT community.

ARTISTIC TEAM WHO'S WHO



Christine Cordova

Director

Christine Cordova has been teaching youth theater for over 20 years. Favorite directing credits include Willy Wonka (NYA award), Peter Pan, Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Beauty & The Beast and Godspell. All 5 of Christine's (now adult) children performed on the YAT stage, including the inaugural production of Bye-Bye-Birdie! Christine is happy to be working with Marc, Moriah, Caedyn, Jerrica and her Grandpuppy, Louie! She would like to sincerely thank Jerry, Robb, Oliver, and Shawna for their invaluable support on this project.



Caedyn Nation

Assistant Director

Caedyn is excited to be making her Assistant Directorial debut. She has been performing for many years, and is thrilled to be on the creative team! This has been an amazing experience for her and she has learned so much from this talented artistic team. Caedyn would like to thank Christine, Marc, and Miss Moriah for giving her this incredible opportunity.



Marc Caro-Willcox

Choreographer

Marc Caro-Willcox is a San Diego native performer/choreographer and is thrilled to be back at YAT for The Wizard of Oz! Production credits include: Tuck Everlasting (SDJT), Willy Wonka (YAT), The Wiz (VSPA, Director), Little Shop of Horrors (SDCC, Asst. Choro), Joseph and Godspell (The Rock Academy). Marc has held teaching positions at San Diego Junior Theatre, The New Conservatory Theatre of San Francisco, Visionary School of the Performing Arts (Director of Youth Theatre), The Rock Academy. Selected performance credits: Shockheaded Peter (Cygnet), A Chorus Line and Seussical (CPH), Joseph and Smokey Joe's Cafe (SDCC). Thanks to Christine and Moriah for making this experience so wonderful. And thanks to Oliver for everything. Enjoy the show!

ARTISTIC TEAM WHO'S WHO



Moriah Angeline

Music Director

Moriah is excited to return to YAT after a long hiatus! She has directed, musical directed, and choreographed youth shows for YAT, CYT, Poway High School, and Granite Hills High School. She is a professional actor who has performed on stages across the US and in Japan and loves sharing what she has learned with young actors. She can be seen singing all over San Diego and is co-owner of Lip Service Singing Telegrams. Moriah is happy to be soaking up the gorgeous San Diego weather once again after living in Las Vegas (starring in Mamma Mia) and New York City. There's no place like home!



Jerrica Stone

Stage Manager

Jerrica began playing the piano at age 4 and it quickly became her life passion. In high school and college she began to pick up other instruments and has played and sang in musical ensembles at Grossmont, SDSU and the City Ballet. Jerrica now performs around San Diego in multiple ensembles. She played in the orchestra for YAT'S production of Beauty and the Beast and Ragtime, was the stage manager for Peter and the Starcatcher, and was the music director for Thoroughly Modern Millie and Into the Woods.



Max Coston

Assistant Stage Manager

Max is 14 and in 9th grade. He has been in 11 productions with YAT. Max is excited to be the ASM for Wizard of Oz. Recent credits include: Peter (Peter and the Star Catcher), and the Baker (Into the Woods). In addition to acting, Max has also taken an interest in the technical side of running a show. Max would like to give a special thanks to Jerrica for this opportunity.

young actors' theatre



A California Non-Profit Organization



"A Theatre Experience That Lasts A Lifetime"

Young Actors' Theatre (YAT) is dedicated to providing professional level theatrical training to children of all ages and abilities. Initially founded by Jean Isaac as an after-school program, YAT has now expanded its vision to include seven major musical productions, multiple theatre camps, and an annual holiday show.

YAT's goal is to provide a multitude of theatrical elements to interested students in a caring, non-competitive atmosphere, all under one roof. Each student and their family are an integral part of YAT's success. The performer and YAT form a partnership, bringing imagination and adventure to the theatre experience. Ultimately, this partnership produces an extraordinary experience for all to enjoy!

Young Actors' Theatre teaches students about creative group dynamics and helps each individual child grow and play at their own pace. Outgoing children find a place to strut their stuff. Shy children find a comfortable, nurturing place to build their confidence and self-esteem! Young Actors' Theatre offers more than just training for theatre, we offer a theatre experience that lasts a lifetime!

Performing Arts Center
9620 Campo Rd
Spring Valley, CA 91977
619.670.1427



Administrative Offices
9628 Campo Rd, Ste J
Spring Valley, CA 91977
619.670.1627



www.yatsandiego.org



We would like to recognize
Jean Isaac and our Board of Directors
for their tireless dedication and
commitment to this organization.
It is through their individual commitment
to YAT that we are able to keep
the arts alive in our community!

Executive Board

Jean Isaac	Kerry Tarlov	Jamie Keller
Audrey Gardner	Joe Dionisio	Kristina Petrea

Board Of Directors

John Haney	Jessica Isaac	John Kolb
Elise Pett	Jess Reed	David Silva
Connie Thomas		

Auxiliary Board

John Demaree	Jason Tarlov
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**"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."**

-Winston Churchill

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Performance Dates:
Dec 7th, 8th, 9th,
14th, 15th, & 16th
At 7 PM**

**Dec 9th, 10th, 16th,
& 17th At 2 PM**



**Camp Dates:
Dec 26th - 29th
Jan 2nd - 5th**

Performances Fridays

**Recommended Ages:
6 - 12 years old**

**Workshop: Dec 10th
Auditions: Dec 18th**

**Performance Dates:
Feb 22nd - Mar 4th**

Grades 2nd - College

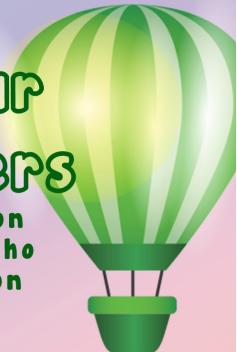


www.yatsandiego.org

9628 Campo Rd Ste J, Spring Valley, CA 91977

Thank you to our committee members

We have nothing but appreciation
for all of the amazing people who
volunteered for YAT's production
of Wizard of Oz!



Sets

John Haney
Connie Thomas
Sandra Lopez
Mike Lopez
Tammi Marshall
Steve Marshall
Bill Bove
Tania Bove
Michelle Muns
Harry Muns
Vena Taylor
Rich Aven



Props

Jessica Nichols
Danielle Becker
William Becker
Sean Crook
Anmarie Crook
Jennifer Freye
Rich Freye
Michelle Park

Rehearsal & Greenroom

Heather Trachta
Joanne Swann
Sandi Fuller
Renee Quiggle
Scott Quiggle
Debra Gardner
David Gardner



Hair & Makeup

Michelle Garcia

Concessions

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Kristina Petrea
Kelsey Goldman

Publicity

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Suzanne Chambers

Stephanie Lower

Doris Kay Reed

Delson & Company

Debra McDowell

Tracey Singer

Jeff Deuel

Walters Law Group

Steve Wallace

Thanks to all our supporters. We can't produce quality shows, classes, and camps without your help.

Young Actors' Theatre is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

To make a tax deductible donation, please use the envelope found in your playbill,
call 619.670.1627, or visit yatsandiego.org.

**Every donation from Wizard of Oz will be entered to
win a family 4 pack of tickets to see Annie!**

List as of October 2016 - If you feel your name is missing, please contact us

BARONA

A friend of Young Actors' Theatre



Barona is dedicated to making a difference in the community and continues our tradition of giving back and supporting those around us.

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Congrats KayElah!

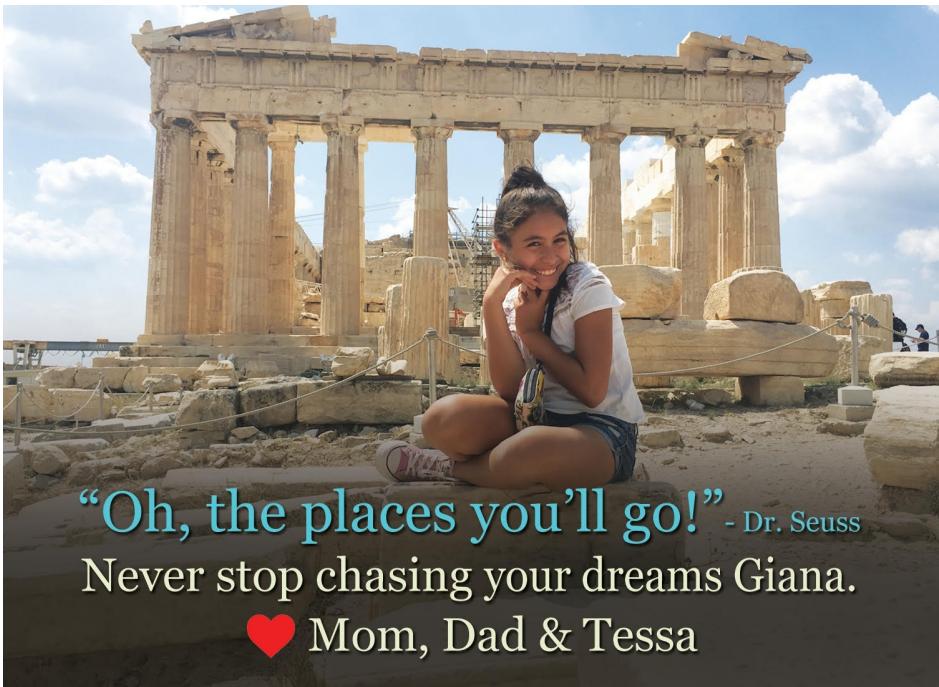
Love, Mama and Papa, Jack, Joseph, KayElah and James.



**KayElah you've been gracing the stage since you were 3 years old.
We are so proud of you and love you to the moon and back.**

“Oh, the places you’ll go!” - Dr. Seuss
Never stop chasing your dreams Giana.

❤ Mom, Dad & Tessa





Julia,

We are so proud of how hard you have worked! You are so passionate about acting and it shows when you are on stage. You are our shining star!

Congratulations on a wonderful performance!

We love you!
Mom, Dad, and Connor

WALTERS LAW GROUP

CHRISTOPHER L. WALTERS, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

(619) 888-5759
1901 First Avenue, Second Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

clw@walters-law-group.com
www.walters.law.group.com

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Personally, this show holds a special place in my heart, as it was the very first show my own kids participated in. The year was 1993, my daughter was the Coroner Munchkin, and I remember the energy and magic fondly. I, as well as my children, met some of our best friends in that production. I made my directorial debut with The Wizard of Oz in 2001, and have been involved with the show either as a makeup artist, director, or parent numerous times over the past 25 years. It is with great joy that I go over the rainbow once again with this wonderful cast and crew.

The Wizard of Oz is a timeless story of discovery. A classic battle between good and evil. It is a mixture of fantasy and reality, as we follow Dorothy Gale in her quest to return home to Kansas. Throughout the journey, Dorothy offers hope to all she encounters, and encourages them to follow their dreams. Her faith in OZ's ability to help is infectious, and carries the four friends through every challenge. No matter that it seems at times evil will win, no matter how the rules change, they are not deterred.

Here at YAT, the Jr. Division offers unique opportunities for children aged 8-13 to tackle roles usually reserved for much older actors. I am continually amazed at the talent and great work ethic found in these young people. They encourage each other, support one another, and rise to the expectations of the production team. Developing attitudes of true teamwork is what youth theater is all about. I believe teaching kids the virtues of kindness, respect, and inclusiveness is key to their future success on and off stage. Sharing my philosophy of "Every part is vital, being a diva is not the goal!" is my passion, as well as that of my directorial team.

The contributions from our parent volunteers are invaluable. Every costume, set, prop, technical aspect, concession, lobby decoration, etc. are created by parents from this cast. We simply could not do these productions without them! Their enthusiasm is contagious, and their creativity exceeds my expectations at every turn. On behalf of our entire team, I hope you enjoy watching this show as much as we have enjoyed creating it!

Christine Cordova

"No matter how dreary and grey our homes are, we people of flesh and blood would rather live there than in any other country, be it ever so beautiful. There is no place like home." Frank L. Baum, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz





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