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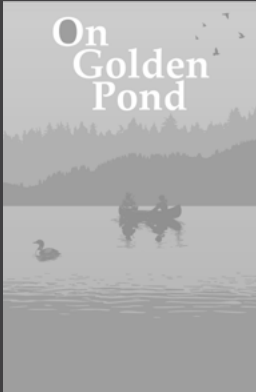


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Audience Services

Restrooms

- 2 all gender-welcoming restrooms are downstairs from the inner lobby level.
- Single-stall restrooms can be found in the lobby or in The Stage Door.

Accessibility

- Hearing Loop system (T-Coil hearing aids, earbuds, or PTC headset.) PenobscotTheatre.org/loop
- Large print & digital playbills available.
- Accessible bathroom is located in the lobby.

To See more about PTC, including our Mission Statement, Land Acknowledgement, Work Statement, staff bios and more visit www.PenobscotTheatre.org

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Lucas Richman, Music Director & Conductor

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2025-2026



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<p>MASTERWORKS I A JOURNEY ABROAD</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS II SYMPHONIC GLORY</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS III ETHEREAL STORYTELLING</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS IV THE RITE OF SPRING</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS V OUR AMERICAN STORY</p>
<p>September 28 3PM REZNIČEK CHAUSSON BRAHMS</p>	<p>November 16 3PM STILL MARSALIS DVOŘÁK</p>	<p>February 1 3PM LUDWIG-LEONE MOZART BEETHOVEN</p>	<p>March 22 3PM RIMSKY-KORSAKOV BOULANGER CHAMINADE STRAVINSKY</p>	<p>April 26 3PM TOWER COPLAND COLEMAN SCHUMAN GERSHWIN</p>



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"Without a hurt, the heart is hollow."

-El Gallo from The Fantasticks

Hello! And Welcome to The Fantasticks!

Many call The Fantasticks the perfect musical, and I can certainly see why. The music is simple enough for audiences to remember and hum afterward but challenging enough to engage. The story has everything - romance, sword fighting, dance, laughter, poetry, and adventure. It is truly a delight for the actors and the audience alike. It is filled with beauty, heartfelt emotion, physical comedy, and characters for each stage of life.

When it was written, it was cast with seven men and one woman. We have chosen to cast it equally with four women and four men. Sonically it creates a more interesting and balanced sound, with voices intermingling to give more texture and depth to every moment. Interestingly, while the playwrights permit productions to cast the two fathers as women, they insist the characters still be referred to as "Father" and "Dad." Perhaps the reason is simple: the rhymes are too good to lose.

The world is very hard right now, I hope this musical can serve as a respite. Daily, we're confronted with cruelty, terror, and uncertainty. The Fantasticks remind us, we are so fortunate to be loved and to love.

Sit back and, "try to remember when life was so tender that no one wept except the willow."

Jen Shepard

Artistic Director | Penobscot Theatre Company

Your 52nd Season

Steel Magnolias
Sept 4 - 28, 2025

The Turn of the Screw
Oct 16 - Nov 2, 2025

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella
Dec 4 - 28, 2025

Almost, Maine
Jan 29 - Feb 22, 2026

Darker the Night, Brighter the Stars
Feb 18 - Mar 8, 2026

The Garbologists
Apr 23 - May 10, 2026

The Fantasticks
Jun 11 - Jul 12, 2026

PTC Staff

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Artistic Director **Jen Shepard**
Operations Administrator **Kacie Gerow**
Director of Marketing **John Siedenbergl II**

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Box Office Manager **Frank Bachman**
House Manager **Ceraya Nichols**
Katie Limberis
Stage Door Bar Manager **Heather Astbury-Libby**

Dramatic Academy Staff

DA Education Director **Nellie Kelly**
DA Administrator **Kacie Gerow**

Production Staff

Production Manager **Jess Ploszaj**
Technical Director **James Kuzio**
Head Carpenter **William Dellinger**
Costume Dept Manager **Kevin Jacob Koski**
Costume Apprentice **Anna Kate Mason**
Light/Sound Supervisor **Gavin Kearns**

Resident Artists

Costume Design **Kevin Jacob Koski**
Props Supervisor **Thomas Demers**
Scenic Charge **Gwen Elise Higgins**
Fight & Intimacy Director **Angela Bonacasa**

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Downtown salutes Penobscot Theatre Company in this 52nd season of bringing top quality productions to the people of Eastern, Central, and Northern Maine. The arts are the lifeblood of a thriving community and the work of PTC has been a key component in the revitalization of Downtown Bangor.

We wish Jen and the entire production team success in this year of celebration and in creating a vision for the theatre's next half century.

Downtown forged a path as Maine's most unique radio show, with a mix of entertainment, sports, and community affairs. The local show with a national reach is now available everywhere as a weekly podcast, found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeart Radio, Podbean, Podchaser, and more. As always we're the home of great guests, from Ken Burns and Heather Cox Richardson to actors and directors from the Penobscot Theatre family.



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The Savvy Traveler



Dear Savvy Traveler,

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Best,
- The Savvy Traveler

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The Penobscot Theatre Company production of

The Fantasticks

Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt

*The musical is suggested by a play Les Romanesque by Edmond Rostand
Since its opening in May 1960 at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York, and its subsequent
revival at the Jerry Orbach Theatre, The Fantasticks remains the longest-running production of
any kind in the history of American theatre.*

THE FANTASTICKS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

June 11 - July 12, 2026

Scenic Design
Gwen Elise Higgins

Costume Design
Michelle Handley

Lighting Design
JP Sedlock

Sound Design
Eric Ferguson

Fight/Intimacy Director
Angela Bonacasa

Prop Design
Dan Bilodeau

Music Director
Larrance Fingerhut

Directed & Choreographed by
Rachel Ballasy

Production Stage Manager
Laura Garfein*

Assistant Stage Manager.....Jess Miller*
Scenic Charge.....Gwen Elise Higgins
Light/Sound Supervisor.....Gavin Kearns
Wardrobe/Crew.....Anna Kate Mason
Production Photos.....Bill Kuykendall

The Band

Larrance Fingerhut.....Piano
Richard Hsu.....Violin
Marisa Solomon.....Cello
Lynn Brubaker.....Violin
Noreen Silver.....Cello

Violin & Cello players play alternating performances.



**The use of any recording device, either audio or video,
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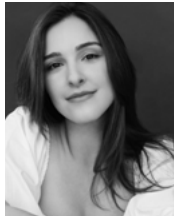
*Appearing through an agreement between PTC & Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the USA

† Denotes a member of United Scenic Artists, an arts Union

THE CAST



Tyler
Dobies*



Stephanie
Bacastow*



Andrew
Barrett



Christie
Robinson*



Laura
Hodos*



Frank
Bachman



Andy
Phinney



Arden
Hale McMillin

Narrator / El Gallo.....	Tyler Dobies*
The Girl / Luisa.....	Stephanie Bacastow*
The Boy / Matt.....	Andrew Barrett
Boy's Parent Hucklebee.....	Christie Robinson*
Girl's Parent Bellomy.....	Laura Hodos*
The Actor / Henry.....	Frank Bachman
Mortimer.....	Andy Phinney
The Mute.....	Arden Hale McMillin

Understudies

Understudies never substitute for the listed players unless addressed For Matt: Josh Worster, For The Mute: Abby Kimball, For Hucklebee: Heather Astbury-Libby, For Luisa: Arden Hale McMillin, For Bellomy: Frank Bachman, For Henry/Mortimer: Jen Shepard, For El Gallo: Andy Phinney

Musical Numbers

Act One

Overture
 Try to Remember
 Much More
 Metaphor
 Never Say No
 It Depends on What you Pay
 You Wonder How These Things Begin
 Soon It's Gonna Rain
 Happy Ending

Act Two

This Plum is Too Ripe
 I Can See It
 Plant a Radish
 Round and Round
 They Were You
 Try to Remember (Reprise)



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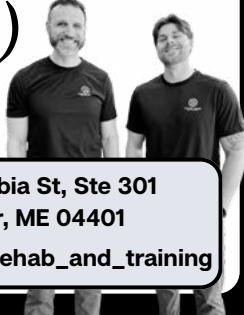




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Tyler Dobies* (*El Gallo*) PTC Debut! Select Credits: SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED, UNTITLED UNAUTHORIZED HUNTER S. THOMPSON MUSICAL (Signature Theatre); CAROUSEL (Boston Lyric Opera); FROZEN (Olney Theatre Center); NATE THE GREAT, MISS NELSON IS MISSING, THE SNOWMAN THE SNOWDOG (Imagination Stage); DESPERATE MEASURES (Constellation Theatre Co); SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD (Village Theatre); TICK, TICK...BOOM! (Monumental Theatre Company); JUNIE B'S ESSENTIAL SURVIVAL GUIDE... (TWUSA); HERE LIES LOVE (Seattle Rep); THE RACE 2020 (Intiman Theatre); E-TICKET TO BROADWAY; CONCERT FOR AMERICA (MD-Seth Rudetsky). Education: NYU STEINHARDT. (He/Him)

Stephanie Bacastow* (*Luisa*) is a New York City based Actor & Educator, delighted to be back at PTC! Other credits: A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC (Barrington Stage Co.), Ken Ludwig's A COMEDY OF TENORS (Riverside Theatre), LEND ME A SOPRANO (Shadowland Stages), and MARY POPPINS (PTC, New London Barn Playhouse). When not on stage, Stephanie teaches voice at Long Island University & CAP21/Molloy. Proud member of AEA, alum of NYU and the University of Georgia. Love to Sam, Mom, & Dad. stephaniebacastow.com @stephacastow (She/Her)

Andrew Barrett (*Matt*) is excited to be making his return to PTC. Recent credits: THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW (Brad), CINDERELLA (Ensemble), and A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Fred). He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant support. (He/Him)

Christie Robinson* (*Hucklebee*) is thrilled to return to PTC. Christie holds a MFA in Acting from the University of Florida, a B.S. in Music/Theatre Education from UMaine Farmington, & a Certificate of Musical Theater Performance from Circle in the Square Theater School. Select credits: NYC/Off-Broadway showcases (The Triad, Laurie Beechman Theatre), THE DIVINE, SWEENEY TODD, METAMORPHOSES (Constans Theatre), ROCKY HORROR (Mountain Rep), MEDORA MUSICAL (Stage West Ent.), WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE, THE SNOW QUEEN, HONKY TONK ANGELS (Hippodrome), CRIMES OF THE HEART, MARY POPPINS, 9 TO 5, ROCKY HORROR (PTC). Christie is currently the director of the Theater Arts Program at Hermon High School. (She/Her)

Laura Hodos* (*Bellomy*) is an award-winning actor, singer, & cabarista. PTC audiences may recall A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Jacob Marley/Mrs. Fezziwig), 9 TO 5 (Judy), ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE (Patsy), HONKY TONK ANGELS (Sue Ellen) & HONKY TONK LAUNDRY (Katie Lane), and her PTC cabarets, JULIE AND MARY AND ETHEL AND BABS and BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY SCREEN! She's a soloist with Opera Orlando, Orlando Philharmonic, Jacksonville Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Space Coast Symphony, & she's performed worldwide, including The Duplex & Don't Tell Mama in NYC, along with Radio City and Lincoln Center, and was a Cabaret Fellow at the O'Neill Theatre Center. www.LauraHodos.com (She/Her)

Frank Bachman (*The Actor*) Most recent PTC credits: ROCKY HORROR SHOW, when he spent most evenings in a verbal sparring match with audience members, 9 TO 5, MAMMA MIA, QUEEN, and ELF THE MUSICAL. A long time fixture in the arts on Mt Desert Island, Frank directed theater productions at MDI High School, spent numerous seasons at Acadia Repertory Theatre and The DeckHouse Cabaret, and has been a featured soloist with The Bagaduce Chorale. Away from, but not excluding Maine, he has had the fortune to have performed EVITA in 49 of the 50 states, and 14 different countries. (He/Him)

Andy Phinney (*Mortimer*) is thrilled to make his PTC debut! Andy performed theatre & opera for 10 years in the midwest from Branson, MO all the way to Chicago. Some favorite roles: THE SECRET GARDEN (Dickon), JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING... (Rueben), & RAGTIME (Willie Conklin). Recently he has performed at the Grand in Ellsworth in memorable roles like GREASE (Kenickie), SHREK (Donkey), and THE LITTLE MERMAID (Sebastian). When not on the stage, Andy spends his time teaching Reading at Ellsworth Elementary Middle School and hanging out with friends. (He/Him)

Arden Hale McMillin (*The Mute*) is originally from Louisiana where she performed in productions at Sullivan Theater, Theatre Baton Rouge, Red Magnolia Theatre Company, & Natchez Little Theatre. Her most recent roles in Louisiana: LITTLE WOMEN (Jo March), CINDERELLA (Grace), STEEL MAGNOLIAS (Shelby), MOTHER OF THE MAID (Joan D'Arc), MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (Doris Walker), and CLUE (Yvette). In Maine, she appeared in True North Theatre's production of TINKER BELL (Tinker Bell). She is also a costume designer and seamstress, with her favorite project being the regional premiere of WAITRESS at Theatre Baton Rouge. (She/Her)

Rachel Ballasy (*Director/Choreographer*) After previously directing THE LITTLE PRINCE with The Dramatic Academy, Rachel is thrilled to return to PTC to direct and choreograph this treasured piece! Based in southern New England Rachel has worked as a director, choreographer, and performer across Connecticut, Massachusetts, and, of course, Maine. Favorite past productions; LEGALLY BLONDE (Elle Woods), SWEENEY TODD (Beggar Woman), DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE (Louise U/S), 25TH...SPELLING BEE (Olive Ostrovsky), MATILDA (Choreographer), BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Director/Choreographer), GUYS AND DOLLS (Director/Choreographer), JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (Choreographer). Many thanks to Jen and Jess for their constant support and guidance. Love, as always, to her family! (She/Her)

Laura Garfein* (*Production Stage Manager*) is so excited to be back. She had worked for PTC in previous seasons as the assistant stage manager for PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER & MARY POPPINS. Laura has worked in regional theaters across the country, most recently The Wick Theater in Boca Raton, FL and The Little Theater on the Square in Sullivan, IL. She is now very excited to have returned to Maine. Enjoy the show! (She/Her)

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Larrance Fingerhut (*Music Director*) is a music director & composer who has worked with PTC on a variety of shows including GUYS ON ICE, LUMBERJACKS IN LOVE, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, ELF and MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET. Additionally, Larrance composed music for IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE and A CHRISTMAS CAROL, and composed and co-wrote the original musical, TRAPPED, A LOBSTER TALE. He has also been seen improvising on the piano for PTC's and ImprovAcadia's collaborations— A KICK IN YOUR DICKENS, A KICK IN YOUR DERRY'ERE, and A KICK IN YOUR CABOT COVE. (He/Him)

Angela Bonacasa (*Fight/Intimacy Director*) PTC credits: TURN OF THE SCREW, MOTHER RUSSIA, DIAL M FOR MURDER, BIRTHDAY CANDLES, MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY, DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, IRONBOUND, QUEEN, TRAPPED!, and CLARKSTON, among others. As an actor, she has appeared on the PTC stage in MARY POPPINS (Bird Woman) and A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Christmas Past). She is the Artistic Director of the Orono-based True North Theatre, directing: LIFE SUCKS!, THE CHILDREN'S HOUR, SILENT SKY, THE ODD COUPLE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, HOUSE OF YES, & THE LION IN WINTER. (She/Her)

Gwen Elise Higgins (*Scenic Design*) is a multi-hyphenate artist and craftsperson from Midcoast Maine. B.A. in Theatre from University of New Hampshire. Interned in Downeast Maine, apprenticed in Southern California. Select credits: MATINCUS (scenic), CINDERELLA (puppets), RICHARD III (scenic), SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK (scenic), FROG AND TOAD (scenic), JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH (scenic/puppets), MY STORY IS GLUSKABE (puppets), SHOUT! (scenic), DRIVING MISS DAISY (scenic), & 50+ productions painted. (She/Her)

Michelle Handley (*Costume Design*) is glad and grateful to be creating again with the lovely folks of PTC! She also designs with Theater at Monmouth, University of Maine Orono School of Performing Arts, Portland Stage, and Colby College. She is Costume Shop Manager with Colby College and has coordinated wardrobe for documentary shoots for Smithsonian Channel and Hulu. Michelle hangs her hat in Winthrop and draws her life's greatest delight from kiddos Lydia and Ethan, who fill her world with sunshine. Thanks and love to you, audience friends, for sharing in our art and caring. So glad you are here! (She/Her)

JP Sedlock (*Lighting Design*) is thrilled to be back at PTC so soon after the amazing run of Almost Maine and Darker the Night Brighter the Stars (Lighting Designer). He is currently the Scene Shop and Lighting Supervisor at the University of Maine and is the resident lighting designer for the dance department. JP would like to thank his Wife (MJ) and his two sons (Sullivan, Everett) for always being supportive and enthusiastic about his artistic endeavors. For more information about JP Sedlock visit jpsedlocklighting.com. (He/Her)



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Eric Ferguson (*Sound Design*) has worked in audio for over 35 years. Eric studied Music Production and Engineering at Berklee College of Music and Afro-Latin Music at California State University, Los Angeles. In the theatrical realm, Eric has sound designed a variety of shows in various theaters over the decades. As a recording engineer, Eric worked on projects for artists such as Phil Collins, Aretha Franklin, Kool and the Gang, Chicago, and Ringo Star. As a sound engineer, Eric has toured with Lee Ritenour, Mary Chapin Carpenter, James Ingram, and Dave Koz. Eric Ferguson is currently an Assistant Professor of Audio Engineering at the New England School of Communications at Husson University. (He/Him)

Dan Bilodeau (*Prop Design*) is excited to be returning to PTC. His design work has been seen in professional theatres including Custom Made Theatre Company, Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre, the Lewiston Public Theatre, The Theater at Monmouth, and Portland Stage Company. He designed scenery for Custom Made Theatre Company's Off-Broadway premier of Kurt Vonnegut's MOTHER NIGHT at the 59E59 theatre and has worked nationally on dozens of corporate theater events. Dan has been a guest artist at the University of Rhode Island, Providence College, Ohio Northern University, University of Southern Maine, and Boston College. He has designed over thirty plays at the Theatre at Monmouth, including fifteen by William Shakespeare. Dan holds an MFA in theatre design from Brandeis University and is the Mark and Marcia Bailey professor of speech

and theatre, at the University of Maine. He would like to thank Beth and the rest of his family for all their love and support.

Jess Miller* (*Asst. Stage Manager*) is excited to work on another production at PTC. They most recently stage managed A KICK IN YOUR DICKENS/CABOT COVE & assistant stage managed THE TURN OF THE SCREW. Prior to this they stage managed for regional theaters in Pennsylvania & New York. (She/They)

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Composer Harvey Schmidt and lyricist Tom Jones are the legendary writing team best known for shaping the American musical landscape with their 1960 hit, *The Fantasticks*. After its Off-Broadway opening in May 1960, it went on to become the longest-running production in the history of the American stage and one of the most frequently produced musicals in the world. Their first Broadway show, *110 in the Shade*, was revived on Broadway in a new production starring Audra MacDonald. *I Do! I Do!*, their two-character musical starring Mary Martin and Robert Preston, was a success on Broadway and is frequently done around the country. For several years Jones and Schmidt worked privately at their theatre workshop, concentrating on small-scale musicals in new and often untried forms. The most notable of these efforts were *Celebration*, which moved to Broadway, and *Philemon*, which won an Outer Critics Circle Award. They contributed incidental music and lyrics to the Off-Broadway play *Colette* starring Zoe Caldwell, then later did a full-scale musical version under the title *Colette Collage*. *The Show Goes On*, a musical revue featuring their theatre songs and starring Jones and Schmidt, was presented at the York Theatre, and *Mirette*, their musical based on the award-winning children's book, was premiered at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. In addition to an Obie Award and the 1992 Special Tony Award for *The Fantasticks*, Jones and Schmidt were inducted into the Broadway Hall of Fame at the Gershwin Theatre, and on May 3, 1999 their 'stars' were added to the Off-Broadway Walk of Fame outside the Lucille Lortel Theatre. Then in 2012, Jones & Schmidt were honored by being inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Jen Shepard (*Artistic Director*) has a deep love for PTC, having been cast in *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A RADIO PLAY* in 2015, which marked the start of her steady involvement with the company. Favorite credits: *BECOMING DR. RUTH*, *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*, and *A KICK IN YOUR DICKENS*. (She/Her)



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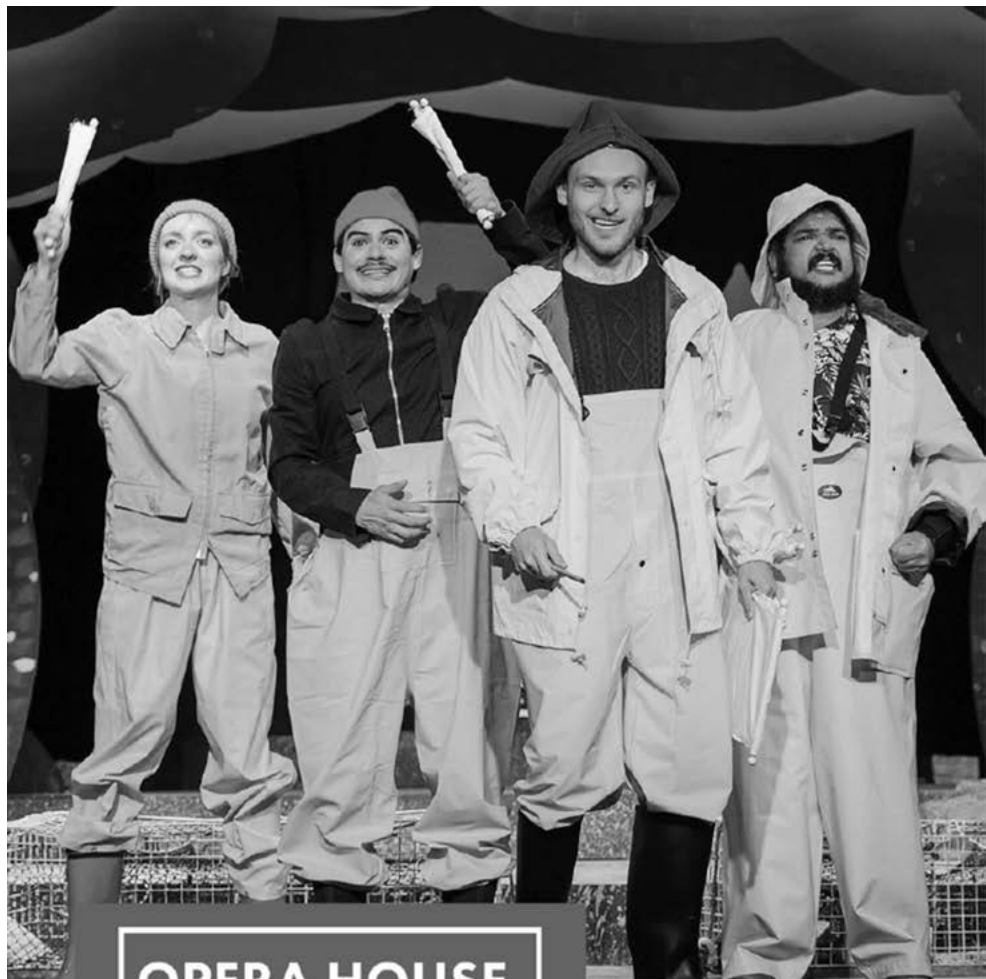
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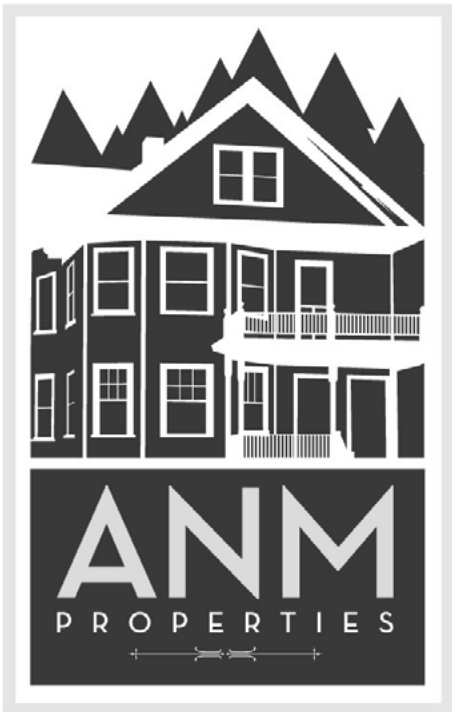
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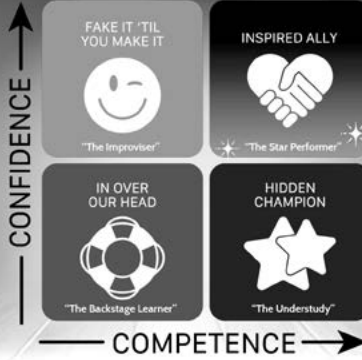
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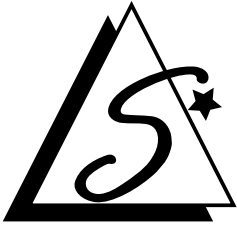
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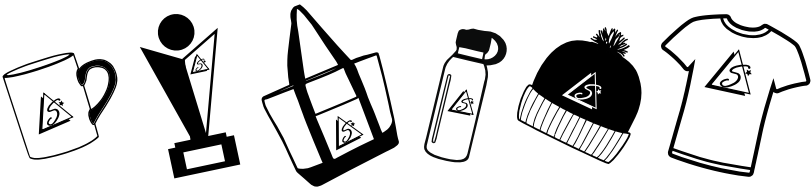
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