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JIMY FOREMAN Artistic Director

MOON OVER BUFFALO By Ken Ludwig

KEITH ROBINSON Treasurer

DIRECTED BY CHRIS BILECKI



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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director – Chris Bilecki Stage Manager – Cathy Schaffer Stage Crew – Jacob Mildner Lighting Design – Adam Shanaman Light Operator - Nathan Shanaman Sound Operator – Will Mitchell Spot Operators - Brian Boies and Julie Boies Costuming - Sheri Ammanniti Hair Styling - Mary Ailing Board Liaison – Leslie Shanaman Prop Master – Chris Bilecki Set Design – Chris Bilecki Set Construction - Doug Franks, Brian Boies and Chris Bilecki

Special Thanks

We would like to thank George Sherwood and Gary King for their generous prop donations!



Thank you for the upgraded lighting.







Thank you to Sandusky County
Communities Foundation for
grant to pay for security
cameras.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Moon Over Buffalo is a show that has held a special place in my heart ever since I had the pleasure of performing it in the role of Paul. It was 2011 and I was living in a tiny town called Athens, Texas. I had moved there for my job and without any family or friends, it was hard to feel at home. And then I stumbled upon this amazing community theatre called the Henderson County Performing Arts Center (HCPAC).

I grew up doing theatre but it had been quite some time since I had been involved so I decided to give it a shot again. I went to an audition as a complete stranger. But after being cast, I quickly found the home that I had been looking for. I was only in Texas for a couple of years but the shows I did at HCPAC are the highlight of my time there. And a huge part of those good memories is a man named Dennis Gilmore. Dennis was the Executive Director of the Henderson County Performing Arts Center and he was also my director for Moon Over Buffalo. Dennis was a tireless advocate for community theatre and was the Executive Director of HCPAC from 1989 up until 2014 and was also heavily involved in various roles on a national level with the AACT. He was always encouraging and welcoming to me and he gave me a family and a home when I needed it the most. Sadly, Dennis passed away in 2021. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy and a hole in all of the people's lives he touched. This show is dedicated to the memory of Dennis Gilmore, from half a country away.

I hope you all enjoy this show as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you! In our fast paced and often stressful world, it is not often that we get a chance to just unplug from everything for a little while and laugh together. Now is that chance!

It is such an honor to be directing my first show here at the BSA, another theatre that has quickly become a second home to me. This is truly a wonderful place full of so many extraordinarily talented and dedicated people. Community theatre is alive and well and that is clearly evident at the BSA!

Sit back, relax, let loose and above all: enjoy the show!

Chris Bilecki

Synopsis

In the madcap comedy tradition of *Lend Me a Tenor*, the hilarious *Moon Over Buffalo* centers on George and Charlotte Hay, fading stars of the 1950s. At the moment, they're playing *Private Lives* and *Cyrano De Bergerac* in rep in Buffalo, New York with five actors. On the brink of a disastrous split-up caused by George's dalliance with a young ingénue, they receive word that they might just have one last shot at stardom: Frank Capra is coming to town to see their matinee, and if he likes what he sees, he might cast them in his movie remake of The Scarlet Pimpernel.

Unfortunately for George and Charlotte, everything that could go wrong does go wrong, abetted by a visit from their daughter's clueless fiancé and hilarious uncertainty about which play they're actually performing, caused by Charlotte's deaf, old stage-manager mother who hates every bone in George's body.

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for printing our posters and playbills

Moon Over Buffalo Cast

George Hay..... Samuel Hohman

Charlotte Hay...... Tricia McElfresh Ethel...... Janet Wittenmyer Rosalind......Leslie Shanaman Howard Jared Bradley Eileen Ivy McElfresh Richard Doug Franks Soldier 1......Julie Boies Soldier 2Tori Boies Soldier 3......Brian Boies

A word from the BSA President: Marty Siegel

Welcome to the Bellevue Society for the Arts. I would like to take a few moments to say Thank You to those who have helped support live theater. It takes many volunteers to bring a show to opening night, and I am so very proud and thankful of all the hard work from each and every one who has been involved.

The show you are about to enjoy was a labor of love given by many more than those listed in this program, we are thankful for those who have assisted in any way.



We run on revenue from ticket sales, sponsors and donations. Thank YOU for your support. It takes many hands, hours, and dollars to get to opening night.

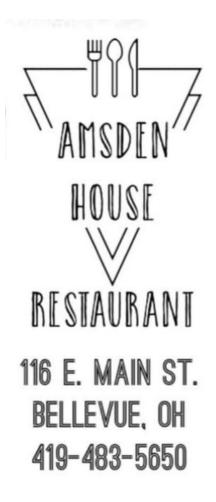
In closing I would like to thank those currently serving on the board, those who have retired, and our many committee chairs. I truly appreciate all you do or have done for BSA. Sit back and enjoy the show.

Spread the news for the BSA!!





Special Thanks to Amsden House for purchasing the naming rights to our kitchen for a 10 year financial commitment to our theater.



For information on how to name a portion of our venue after your business or loved one, contact a current BSA board member.

SCENES

SETTING

On stage and Backstage at the Erlanger Theatre.

TIME

Buffalo, New York, 1953.

Act I

A mid-morning in June

~INTERMISSION ~

Act II

Scene One: Two hours later

Scene Two: Immediately following

Scene Three: Two hours later



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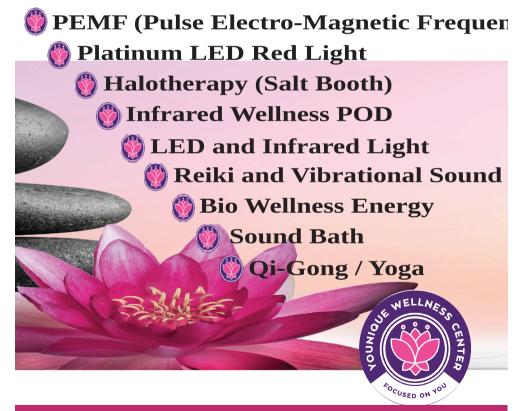




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Doug Franks



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Ivy McElfresh



Tricia McElfresh



Adam Shanaman



Leslie Shanaman



Janet Wittenmyer





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To enrich the lives of the people of Erie County by addressing community needs, providing leadership, and cultivating resources for a lasting impact.

VISION

A vibrant and empowered Erie County, whose residents thrive and where the community flourishes.



The Huron County Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of the people of Huron County. In 1997, It was established as an affiliate fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County and in 2021 became its own community foundation.

The mission of the Huron County
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Meet our Cast & Crew

Brian Boies (Soldier) lives in Bellevue with his wife Tori and their nephews Jay and Trysten. Brian works as a diesel mechanic at Heidelberg Materials. Brian has been behind the scenes as a stage hand and worked lights for several shows, and this is his first time on stage.

Julie Boies (Soldier) lives in Bellevue with her kitty, Adidas, and works at the Bellevue Goodwill Store. This is her second show at BSA, after being in the ensemble for *Once Upon a Mattress*. Julie looks forward to doing more shows in the future.

Tori Boies (Soldier) lives in Bellevue with her husband Brian and their nephews Jay and Trysten, and works at the Bellevue Goodwill Store. This is her second show at BSA, after being in the ensemble for Once Upon a Mattress. "I love watching all the shows come together!".

Jared Bradley (Howard) is the son of David and Cindy Bradley of Bellevue, and works for the United States Postal Service. You may have seen him on this stage as Cogsworth in Beauty and the Beast, Chris in Hands on a Hardbody, or in 42nd Street at FCT, Twelfth Night with the Birchard Players, or in The Secret Garden, Mousetrap, and The Pirates of Penzance, at BSA, not to mention many more!

Doug Franks (Richard) lives with his theatre-active family in Marblehead. He's appeared on stage in FCT's Elf, The Wizard of Oz, and The Play that Goes Wrong, among others. At BSA, you may have seen him as JD in Hands on a Hardbody, or in The Sound of Music. He was the stage manager for Beauty and the Beast, and loves to create magic on stage through his imaginative set building,

Meet our Cast & Crew

Samuel Hohman (George Hay) comes from a theatreloving family, all who have been connected to BSA and other places for quite some time. Sam and his wife of 30 years, Nicole, live in Sandusky with their daughters Laura and Chelsea. Sam has performed at BSA in Hello, Dolly! as Cornelius, in Little Shop of Horrors as Orin Scrivello, DDS, and in *Funny* Girl as Nick Arnstein. He directed The Sound of Music in 2022. Sam has been the assistant director of the High School play at Danbury High School in Lakeside-Marblehead for 3 years, and was the music director for 2 years for the Perkins HS spring musical. He has also performed and assistant directed at Harlequins Coach House Theatre in Sandusky. Sam would like to thank his family for being so gracious and supportive in allowing him to take the many hours of time to step into this role!

Ivv McElfresh (Eileen) lives with her family in Clyde and works as a Barista at Dunkin'. She has appeared in over 50 productions. Some of her favorite roles include Belle in *Disney's* Beauty and the Beast, Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, Phyllis Dale in 42nd Street, Macy's Elf in Elf The Musical at FCT, as well as Kelli in Hands on a Hardbody, Ayah in *The Secret Garden*, Sally in A Charlie Brown Christmas, and Charlotte in A Christmas Carol.

Tricia McElfresh

(Charlotte Hay) is an English Teacher at Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Center and the Youth Minister at Hayes Memorial UMC. She is the Camp Administrator for FCT's Summer Youth Camp and has been on FCT's stage as Patty in A Charlie Brown Christmas and Auntie Em in The Wizard of Oz. As a member of BSA, she played Virginia in Hands on a Hardbody, and was the assistant director for *Beauty* and the *Beast*. She lives in Clyde with her family, enjoys camping and spending time doing amazing shows with great people.

Meet Our Cast & Crew

Adam Shanaman (Paul) has been involved in over 30 productions as a performer, director, assistant director, stage manager, stage crew, and light and sound designer/operator. Some of his favorite roles he has performed on stage include Pharaoh in *Joseph and the* Amazing Technicolor *Dreamcoat (FCT)* the Sergeant in *Pirates of Penzance* (BSA) Captain Von Trapp in Sound of Music (BSA) and Mortimer Mortimer in *Failure: A Love* Story (Bluffton University). Adam is excited to share the stage with his wife for the first time as a couple.

Janet Wittenmyer (Ethel) is thrilled at being cast in Moon Over Buffalo. A veteran on the stage, this is her fourth show in Bellevue. Janet has been in too many shows to name over many years in Chicago and Northwest Ohio. Most recently she played Peggy in *Godspell* in Norwalk, and Imogene Fletcher in Four Old Broads in Port Clinton. In her real life Janet has been a Lutheran pastor for 40 years. She is currently the pastor at Trinity Lutheran church in Willard. She has two adult sons who live in Chicago, and a Collie named Molly.

Leslie Shanaman (Rosalind) lives with her husband, Adam in Bellevue and teaches 3rd grade at Bellevue Elementary School. She has been involved in well over 50 productions, has served as the director of BSA's Teen Theatre program since 2019, and assistant directed for years before that. Some of Leslie's favorite onstage roles include Ariel in The Little Mermaid (FCT), Heather Stovall in *Hands on a* Hardbody (BSA), Glinda the Good Witch in The Wizard of Oz (FCT), and most recently, Mrs. Potts in *Disney's Beauty* and the Beast here at BSA.

Meet Our Cast & Crew

Behind the Scenes

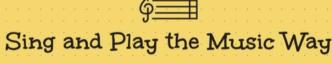
Sheri Ammanniti (Costume Manager) works as a nurse and lives in Bellevue with her husband, Mike, She's a mom to 3 and a grandma to 1. She has served many years on the BSA Board, and has costumed more shows than she could count. She is a jackof-all-trades, having started on stage, been an assistant director and managed the ticket booth. She works tirelessly to bring Directors' visions to life on stage. She brought the enchanting characters to life for *Beauty* and the Beast.



Chris Bilecki (Director) first took the stage at the age of 10 and has since been involved in too many shows to keep track of. His most recent roles include Willy Loman in *Death of a* Salesman at BSA, Dr. Sanderson in Harvey at The Ritz and Detective Sergeant Trotter in The Mousetrap at BSA. While Chris has had a chance to wear many different hats in the theatre, both on stage and behind the scenes, Moon Over Buffalo is his first time in the director's chair and he couldn't be more thrilled to be doing it here at the BSA! He has had an absolute blast directing this incredible cast and he can't wait to do it again later this year when he directs *The Foreigner* as the opener for BSA's 30th season!

Cathy Schaffer (Stage Manager) lives in Norwalk with her husband Tony and is employed by Civista Bank. Cathy has been the stage manager for multiple adult and children's productions. Most recently, she was the Assistant Stage Manager for BSA's Beauty and the Beast.

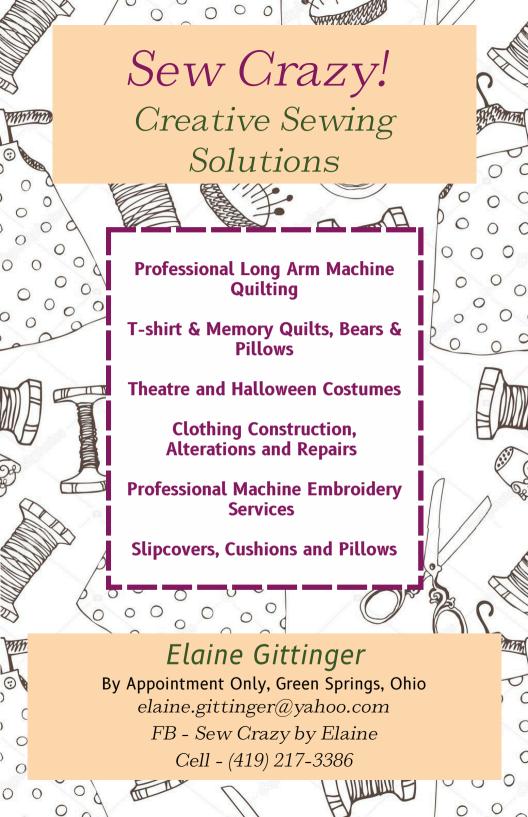




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