

main floor seating when purchasing your tickets.

The Producers

A New Mel Brooks Musical
Book by
MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN
Music and Lyrics by
MEL BROOKS
Original direction and choreography by Susan Stroman

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Director.Cheri MoserChoreographer.Erin HorstProducer.Kay Moser

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers. Flash Photography and any Recording Strictly Prohibited.

The Elkader Opera House has an induction loop system thanks to an upgrade of the sound equipment by the Opera House Players. With the activation of the T-coil by your audiologist and instruction on its use, you can receive the maximum benefit from your hearing aid. The internal tonal correction of your hearing aid will bring the sounds you hear directly to you without the use of an additional receiver or headset. Two portable units are available for your use as well. Please request the use of a unit when you place your ticket order. This loop system is available for main floor seating only, so if you want to maximize your hearing experience, please request



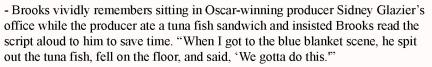
I often refrain from writing director's notes as I believe that good theatre need not be explained! However, it is sometimes fun to discover the facts behind a show and in my research preparing to direct this ridiculous Mel Brooks comedy, I found many things about *The Producers* very fascinating. (Especially considering its

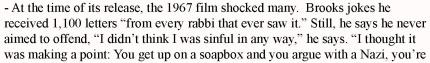
controversial history, best known for taking political incorrectness to new levels.) I also want to share my strong belief that live theatre has the ability to transport us to different places and times as well as showcase the power of comedy and humor. I do believe this show succeeds in doing both. ~Cheri



- Brooks first wrote the idea based on his experiences working as an assistant to a producer named Benjamin Kutcher. "He lived in the office," remembers Brooks. "And little old ladies would actually come to his office—he would make love to them, the last fling they'd ever have. They'd make out a check and they'd say 'What's the name of the play? 'He'd always say, 'The name of the play is cash.' And they'd make it out to cash."

- Brooks also knew a pair of showmen who had more or less failed their way into prosperity. "They were doing flop after flop and living like kings", Brooks said. "A press agent told me, 'God forbid they should ever get a hit, because they'd never be able to pay off the backers!'





going to lose. But if you can ridicule him and make people laugh, then you win. It's as simple as that. The only real way I could get even with Hitler and company was to bring them down with laughter."

- Mel Brooks himself served in WWII. He was a member of the 1104th Engineer Combat Group, under his birth name, Melvin Kaminsky. The group saw action in the Battle of the Bulge. "When we did the show on Broadway, during one of the last previews at the St. James there was a big guy who said this was an outrage," Brooks said, recalling that the man told him, "How dare you. I was in World War II." Brooks replied, "So was I. I didn't see you there."



- Brooks cannot read music. In order to write music for his shows, he hums into a tape recorder and those are transcribed by an expert. Brooks wrote the entire score by himself using the same method.
- The 2001 Broadway musical won a record 12 Tony Awards. To this day, *The Producers* still holds the award for most wins by a musical. (The musical *Hamilton* came close in 2016 with 11 Tony wins.)

*References: April 2018 article on IndieWire, Dec 2017 article in Entertainment Weekly, June 2001 New York Times article. The Producers Trivia on IMDB.



MEET THE CAST

Max - Brandon Douglas - Brandon Douglas is excited to be back on the Elkader Opera House stage as a sleazy, slimy, and vile jerk, who also gets to play Max Bialystock. You likely have seen Brandon in the recent productions of *Comedy of Tenors, Almost Maine*, and *Mary Poppins*, and now will be taking on one of the biggest challenges yet while playing Max. When Brandon is not rehearsing, you may find him teaching music at Central Schools, directing music at Peace UCC, writing his own music, or taking long walks along the beach (riverfront?). He hopes that you enjoy the show and requests that you please laugh. It helps Bialy's ego.

Leo Bloom - Jonathon Moser — Jonathon is excited to be back on the Opera House stage to sing and dance in this hilarious show! Jonathon has performed in or directed over 28 shows at the OH. He was last seen playing the role of Frank Abagnale Jr. in OHP's *Catch Me If You Can* (2017). Some of his other recent favorites include *The Last Five Years* (2012) and the title character in *Shrek the Musical* (2015). He also enjoys working backstage. He helped design and build the sets for *Mary Poppins* (2018) and *The Producers*. Jonathon is a chiropractor in McGregor where he lives with his wife and children: Mariah (11), Taryn (9), Trace (8), and Gretel (5). He is also the co-owner of Grumpsters Cabins, a beautiful getaway in the hills of McGregor.

Roger De Bris - David Beck - David Beck has been active with the Opera House Players since spring 2002. Accompanying at the piano for performances led to a spot on the stage in the 100th anniversary performance of *The Governor's Son*. Since then David has been cast in such memorable roles as Donkey in *Shrek*, Fagin in *Oliver*, detective Carl Hanratty in *Catch Me If You Can* and Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*. David fills his spare time with genealogy, collecting and repairing cuckoo clocks, playing piano and photography. He is also involved with the Garnavillo Historical Society and the Motor Mill Foundation. David is employed at FreedomBank and attends Grace Reformed Baptist Church.

Carmen Ghia - Max Koeller - Max is excited to be a part of *The Producers*, his 5th Opera House Show! He made his debut as the remarkable Augustus Gloop in *Willy Wonka* (2016). He's also played a Detective/Pilot in *Catch Me If You Can* (2017), Bob Bradley in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2017), and the Park Keeper in *Mary Poppins* (2018). He's made additional appearances in two Children's Theatre shows, two Kids Cabarets, and in the 2016 Christmas Fantasy concert. Max has performed in several school productions as well, including portrayals of Mr. Smee in "Peter Pan" and Daddy Warbucks in "Annie". He's excited to play Charlie Brown in this year's school musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown!" Max is a Senior at MFL MarMac where he is involved in, band, choir, show choir, National Honor Society, speech, and debate. He lives in McGregor with his parents (Ryan and Tricia) and four siblings: Sam, Ruby, Ty, and Layia

Ulla - Jenna Moser - After a few years break, Jenna is excited to be back at the Opera House with such amazing and talented people. Her first ever Opera House performance was *Shrek the Musical* (2015) her junior year of high school. With her new job as a claims assistant at Cottingham & Butler, she's glad to finally have the time to come back perform on this stage. She lives in Garber with her parents (Steve and Cindy) and has two siblings; Nicole and Jesse.

Franz Liebkind - Jakob Regal - Franz Liebkind - Jakob is from McGregor where he lives with his wife, Tiffany. Jakob enjoys spending time on the Mississippi and is currently attending Upper Iowa University. Jakob has been in previous productions such as *A Comedy of Tenors, Catch Me If You Can* and *Caught in the Net*.

Bag Lady, Old Lady, Ensemble - Donna Anderson - Donna is no stranger to the stage. From the first time she tapped across the stage at the age of two it became a passion. She performed with her father in shows for the Navy and continued her love of the theater throughout high school and college. She first appeared on the Opera House stage during *The Sound of Music* (1978). Since then she has acted in, directed, or has done choreography for over 50 productions with the OHP. Past roles include the wicked Widow Corney in *Oliver!*, the fun loving Gladys in *Copacabana*, Ava & Mawtilda in *Love Thy Neighbor* and let's not forget the ever busy Mrs. Brill in *Mary Poppins*. She's also an active member of the Mamma Moon theater company. She lives with her husband, Mike, on a farm near Elkader. Their wonderful children, Matt, daughter-in-law Heather, Darcy, son-in-law Jeff and beautiful granddaughters DeAnna and Danielle live in Minnesota.

Blind Violinist, Sabu, Stalin, O'Rourke, Ensemble - Jon Banse - Jon resides south of Strawberry Point, near Backbone State Park with his wife, Marge. They have one son, Jonathan, who is attending Wartburg College. Jon has been actively involved with the Opera House Players since 1995. Jon was last on stage in *Mary Poppins*. Besides the theatre, he enjoys spending time with his family, singing with his quartet "Three Lads and Dad" and the Keystone Barbershop Chorus

Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble - Brenna Buckman - Brenna is a junior at Central Community School, and lives in Garnavillo with her parents and her younger sister, Ella. She spends most of her free time singing or hanging out with her friends. Shes been in many OHP productions since she started in 2015. She's beyond thrilled that she's a dancer in The Producers!

Old Lady, Showgirl, Ensemble - Alyssa Delaney - Alyssa is a junior at Waukon High School. At school she participates in the theater department, acting in the high school's spring play, and being involved in individual and group speech. She also enjoys participating in FBLA, archery and creating art. Alyssa is excited to be in her very first production with the Opera House Players and has loved every minute of it. She has an older brother, Quinton, and a younger brother, Ryan. Alyssa lives in Waukon with her parents, Bill and Kelly.

Old Lady, Showgirl, Ensemble - Diane Fisk - Diane is starting her 41st year with the Opera House Players (yes, she was very young when she started). She has enjoyed wearing many hats throughout the years, acting, directing, choreography, orchestra and stage manager to name a few. She was last seen on stage as Miss Lark in *Mary Poppins* (2018). Others include Helene in *Sweet Charity* (1984), Roxy Hart in *Chicago* (1991), Kathy Sheldon in *Singing in the Rain* (1995), *Rose in The Secret Garden* (2000), Sister Leo in the *Nunsense* shows, *Carol in Catch Me If You Can* (2017) and the all time favorite The Wicked Witch in the *Wizard of Oz* (2004). She continues to direct the high school musicals at MFL MarMac, directs the bell and vocal choir at St. Paul in Monona and in her spare time works at Fisk Farm and Home in Monona. She lives in Monona with her husband, Tim and loves spending time with their seven wonderful grandchildren.

Usherette, Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble - Alice Gifford - Alice is a sophomore at Central Community School in Elkader where she lives with her parents, two cats, two dogs and a bunny. She also has two older sisters. Alice is no stranger to the Opera House. A couple of her past favorite shows have been *Shrek* and *Mary Poppins*. In her free time, Alice loves singing and listening to music, traveling, as well as spending time with her friends and family.

Usherette, Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble - Rose Grau - Rose is a junior at MFL MarMac High School where she participates in cross country, speech, show choir, choir, National Honor Society, and dance team. She is also involved in school musicals, including an upcoming performance of "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" where she will play the role of Sally. Rose was on the Elkader Opera House stage years ago as she performed in two children's theater productions. However, this is Rose's first OHP musical! She has thoroughly enjoyed this experience as she's getting to do three things she loves: singing, dancing and performing! Rose lives in Monona with her parents, Josh and Annette, and five younger siblings; Joseph, Clare, Julia, Emma, and Leo.

Workman, Mr. Marks, Mel, FDR, Sergeant, Ensemble - Cary Kann - Cary has been involved in countless OHP productions both onstage and as a set/prop designer utilizing his talents in the visual arts. He last appeared in *A Year in the Death of Eddie Jester* (2019). He won a 2017 ICTA award for his portrayal of Larry in *South of Hope* (2018). He is also looking forward to playing Mack in *Fruitcakes* this December. Cary lives in Prairie du Chien with his wife, Jonelle. He has three grown children: two beautiful daughters who both continue to enjoy performing on stage and an extremely handsome son who looks just like him.

Nun, Lick Me Bite Me, Ensemble - Gayle Moore - This is Gayle's 12th OHP production, last appearing as Charlie Bucket's mum in *Willie Wonka* (2016). In real life she has five crazy, wonderful kids, 3 beautiful grandchildren (Sophia, Jace, & Scarlett) and another grandson on the way! She has a passion for writing/composing, and has several plays and two full-length musicals (1904 and c.1933) to her name. She was involved with the Elgin Homecoming Musicals for 25 years and costumed Valley/NFV H.S. theatre productions for 17 years. She teaches Sunday School at East Clermont and is an R.N. at the Elkader Care Center. Gayle LOVES being a part of the OHP and is delighted to be back on the Opera House stage!

Drunk, Scott, Jason, Stormtrooper, Ensemble - Jesse Moser - Jesse has been a part of the OHP since 2013. He last appeared in *Shrek the Musical*. He lives in Farmersburg with his loving girlfriend, Meg and her son, Treyton. Jesse works as a brick tender with Zach Moyle Masonry. Outside of the Opera House, Jesse plays music with his bands on weekends, loves spending time with his family, and teaching Trey how to play drums. Thank you for supporting local theater, enjoy the show!

Bum, Gunter, Churchill, Judge, Ensemble - Jerry O'Brien - lives on a farm near Volga with his wife, Deanna. He teaches Industrial Tech. and Vocational Agriculture at Central School in Elkader. He has a daughter and 3 grandchildren who live in Aplington. He was last seen in *Shrek, The Musical* (2015). A memorable role was the village idiot in *The Baker's Wife* (2007). He says it was the easiest role he has ever played, and many people say it fit him perfectly. (Continues in 3 pages)

THE CREWS

	ET CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN & PRO	
Tom Chandler	Jonathon Moser	Del Reimer
Cary Kann	Kay Moser	Gus Augustson
Roger Thomas	Dave Beck	Marge Banse
Jon Banse	Janet Ott	Cheri Moser
Steve Warren	Wendy Shea	Mariah Moser
Taryn Moser	Trace Moser	Gretel Moser
Jessica Sloan	Mary Beth Specht	Jim Specht
Marley Mindt	Audra Janes	Rowan Janes
Aiyana Janes	Cameron Berges	Sarah Berges
Emma Berges	Joselyn Berges	Salsabila Putri
Riley Whitney	Diane Fisk	Maddy Streicher
	Avalon Dziak	
	LIGHTING & SOUND	
Jay Moser	Marla Reimer	Del Reimer
,	Bob Hankey	Craig Strutt
	TICKETS	C
Terri Str		Claritan Dina
Terri Sur	ин	Clayton Drug
Barb Chandler	COSTUMES & MAKEUP Mary Beth Specht Verna Lenth	Wendy Shea
Craig Strutt Marla Reimer	PROGRAMS & PUBLICITY Terri Strutt	Cheri Moser Kay Moser

Thanks to all who helped make this show possible after the program went to press

The Cast

Brandon Douglas
Jonathon Moser Leo Bloom
David Beck
Max Koeller Carmen Ghia
Jenna Moser Ulla
Jakob Regal Franz Liebkind
Donna Anderson Bag Lady, Old Lady, Ensemble
Jon Banse Blind Violinist, Sabu, Stalin, O'Rourke, Ensemble
Brenna Buckman Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble
Alyssa Delaney Old Lady, Showgirl, Ensemble
Diane Fisk Old Lady, Showgirl, Ensemble
Alice Gifford Usherette, Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble
Rose Grau Usherette, Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble
Cary Kann Workman, Mr. Marks, Mel, FDR, Sergeant, Ensemble
Gayle Moore Nun, Lick Me Bite Me, Ensemble
Jesse Moser Drunk, Scott, Jason, Stormtrooper, Ensemble
Jerry O'Brien Bum, Gunter, Churchill, Judge, Ensemble
Wendy Shea Nun, Old Lady, Pianist, Ensemble
Mary Beth Specht Hold Me Touch Me, Ensemble
Nicholas Stavroplus Street Cleaner, Bryan, Donald, O'Riley, Ensemble
Maddy Streicher Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble
Joeann Tesar Shirley
Brittni Tieden Dancer, Showgirl, Old Lady, Ensemble
Brandon Walker Cop, Kevin, Jack, Rolf, O'Houlihan, Ensemble
Riley Whitney Dancer, Showgirl, Old Lady, Ensemble



Nun, Old Lady, Pianist, Ensemble - Wendy Shea - In 2009, when she retired after teaching reading in Guttenberg for 34 years, Wendy tried out for her first play and has participated in productions both on stage and back stage ever since. Wendy lives on the hill overlooking Guttenberg with her husband, Barry. She is blessed with two great kids, Robin and Brian and a beautiful granddaughter, Marley.

Hold Me Touch Me, Ensemble - Mary Beth Specht - Mary Beth is delighted to be back on stage with the OHP for the over the top and hilarious show, *The Producers*. Mary Beth has enjoyed being a part of many OHP musicals beginning with *Oliver* and including, *Shrek*, *Willy Wonka*, *Thoroughly Modern Milly*, *Copacabana*, and *Catch Me If You Can*. A special kind of magic happens during a musical as the songs, choreography, scenery, costumes, lighting and sound come to life after months of rehearsals and dedication from a talented cast and crew. To be a part of a production of this magnitude is an awesome experience. It is pure joy and love of the theater that brings such talent together for the enjoyment of our audience. When not involved in a play or musical, Mary Beth can be found on the golf course, basketball court, or climbing up or skiing down the mountains of Colorado. Her favorite and most cherished moments are those spent with her three children, two grandchildren and her greatest fan, husband, Jim.

Street Cleaner, Bryan, Donald, O'Riley, Ensemble - Nicholas Stavroplus - Nicholas is a 16 year old junior at MFL MarMac High School participating in his 9th musical at the Elkader Opera House. He has played a myriad of roles in OHP musicals *Oliver, Willy Wonka* and *Shrek*. He was most recently on stage in *It Runs in the Family* (2019) playing the role Leslie and hopes to participate in more plays to come. He also enjoys band, choir, speech, and school plays. He is an active member of the Boy Scout Troop 32 and is currently working on his Eagle Scout project. He enjoys taking part in the OHP Productions and is looking forward to the next one.

Dancer, Old Lady, Ensemble - Maddy Streicher - Maddy is thrilled to be dancing and in the ensemble in her first OHP production. She lives in Edgewood, Iowa and is a junior at Ed-Co High School. Besides drama, Maddy is active in cross country, golf, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Student Council, and speech. She also dances for Fusion DanceWorks. Maddy will never forget all the amazing memories she's made on the Opera House stage!

Shirley - Joeann Tesar - Always excited to be on the Opera House stage, this is her 13th show as a performer with the Opera House Players since her 2011 debut as Lillian in *The Forgotten Carols*. Venturing into the director's chair in recent years with the last three years of summer Black Box shows, Joeann is looking forward to directing the upcoming spring comedy, *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. Like the Opera House Players on Facebook and join the January auditions for this very funny show!

Dancer, Showgirl, Old Lady, Ensemble - Brittni Tieden - Brittni lives in Volga, and is a junior at Central Community School. She is the daughter of Delvin Jr. & Tina Tieden, and a sister to Brianna, Brandy, Brooke, and Brandon. Brittni really enjoys time spent at the Elkader Opera House in any capacity, and has been fortunate enough to grace the stage again. She loves her character and can't wait to show you her great dance moves! Brittni loves theater, track, chorus, fashion, and spending time with friends.

Cop, Kevin, Jack, Rolf, O'Houlihan, Ensemble - Brandon Walker - Brandon is excited that he finally had time to audition for an OHP show and he cannot wait for future auditions. A senior at Clayton Ridge High, Brandon started theatre in 2017 when he moved to Iowa from Tennessee. Brandon now hopes to major in culinary arts, theatre, or music. Brandon says he has had an absolutely amazing time working on this show and hopes you enjoy watching it as much as he enjoyed being in it.

Dancer, Showgirl, Old Lady, Ensemble - Riley Whitney - Riley is a junior at MFL MarMac High School. Daughter of Jim and Sarah Whitney, Riley lives in Marquette, Iowa and has four brothers (Brad, Corey, Daryl, and Aedan). Riley participated in *Alice in Wonderland*, a children's show at the Opera House in 2009. She is thrilled to finally be back for this production. Riley is very involved in the vocal music programs in her high school including choir and show choir, as well as serving as class president and member of NHS among many organizations. Riley has performed in her high school's musicals, "Cinderella" and "Annie", and looks forward to her next role after this show in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" where she will play Lucy.

Director - Cheri Moser – Cheri has been involved in over 30 OHP shows in the past 27 years. Cheri has directed, choreographed, played in the pit or been on stage since she was in 3rd grade. Some of her favorite roles include Millie in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2014) and Princess Fiona in *Shrek the Musical* (2016). Cheri has directed the OHP fall musical for the past 4 years including *Willy Wonka* (2016) and *Catch Me If You Can* (2017). She was recently nominated for the Iowa Community Theatre Association's 'Best Director of a Musical' award for her direction of *Mary Poppins* (2018). Cheri works at the Trinity Cluster Church office in Monona and is also a co-owner of Grumpsters Cabins, a beautiful getaway in McGregor. She lives in McGregor with her husband, Jonathon, and four kids: Mariah (11), Taryn (9), Trace (8) and Gretel (5).

Producer - Kay Moser – Kay has been involved with the OHP since 1973. Having appeared onstage in many productions, she is most often found producing, directing, and generally helping out in all areas of any show. Her valuable experience is crucial to every OHP show. She enjoys life with her husband, Jay, their sons, Jonathon, (a nominee for Best Actor for his performance in *South of Hope*) Benjamin, and their amazing wives and beautiful children.

Upcoming events at the Elkader Opera House

Keystone Chorus

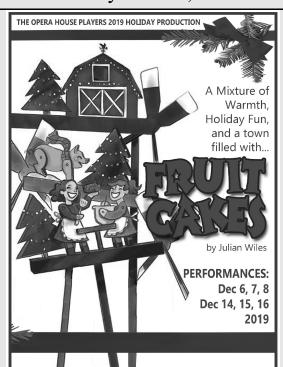
Guest Quartet - Double Stuf Saturday Nov 2, 2019 - 7:00pm

A Tribute to the Music of **John Denver** by Layne Yost

Friday November 15, 2019 at 7:30pm

Country Rewind with Swearingen & Kelli

Saturday Nov 23, 2019





March 27, 28, April 2,3,4, 2020 - 7:30pm Matinee Sun. March 29, 2020 - 2pm

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Email us at list@operahouseplayers.com

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act 1

Scene 1 Shubert Alley		
It's Opening Night		
Scene 2		
We Can Do It		
Scene 3 The Chamber Street Offices of Whitehall & Marks		
I Wanna Be a Producer Leo, Chorus Girls, Accountants		
Scene 4The Office of Max BialystockScene 5The Office of Max BialystockScene 6Rooftop, Greenwich Village Apt on Jane Street		
In Old Bavaria. Franz, Pigeons Der Gutten Tag Hop-Clop. Franz, Max, Leo		
Scene 7 Home of Roger DeBris		
Keep it Gay Max, Leo, Roger, Roger's Team, Carmen		
Scene 8 The Office of Max Bialystock		
When You've Got It, Flaunt It		
Scene 9 Little Old Lady Land		
Along Came Bialy		

Act 2

Scene 1 The Office of Max Bialystock
That Face
Scene 2 Stage of Broadway Theater
A Wand'ring Minstrel. Jack Have You Ever Heard The German Band - interrupted. Jason Have You Ever Heard The German Band. Franz
Scene 3
It's Opening Night (reprise). Usherettes It's Bad Luck To Say Good Luck On Op'ning Night. Carmen, Roger Leo Franz
Scene 4
Scene 5 The Office of Max Bialystock
Where Did We Go Right? Max, Leo Leo Goes To Rio. Ulla, Leo
Scene 6
Scene 7 Downtown New York City Courtroom
'Til Him
Scene 8
Goodbye All

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