

# HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

presents



Book by  
**NICK BLAEMIRE**

Music Adaptation by  
**MADELINE SMITH**

Vocal & Incidental Arrangements by  
**MADELINE SMITH**

Additional Lyrics by  
**NICK BLAEMIRE**

Orchestrations by  
**MATTHEW TISHLER**

Music Produced by  
**MATTHEW TISHLER**

Songs by

Johan Alkenas, Adam Anders, Aristeidis Archontis, Antonina Armato, Howard Ashman, Peer Astrom, Stephen Mark Conley, Doug Davis, Charity Daw, Andrew C. Dodd, Josh Edmonson, Pipo Fernandez, Nikki Hassman, Samuel Hollander, Ben Hostetler, Tim James, Hanna Jones, Jack Kugell, Craig Lashley, Andrew Lippa, Jeannie Lurie, Alan Menken, Grant Phillip Michaels, Anthony Mirabella, Shayna Mordue, Chen Neeman, Susan Paroff, Shelly M. Peiken, Joacim Persson, James K. Petrie, Adam Schlesinger, Adam Schmalholz, Tyler Shamy, Jody Shihadeh, Nikki Ann Sorrentino, Thomas Armato Sturges, Ali Dee Theodore, Matthew Wong, David Zippel

*Based on the Disney Channel Original Movies written by Josann McGibbon and Sara Parriott*

**This production of Disney's *DESCENDANTS: The Musical* is rated PG by Music Theater International.**

*Disney's DESCENDANTS: The Musical* is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Music Theater International (MTI)  
423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019 212-541-4684 [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

*The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.*

# Production STAFF

## 2024



Director  
**Michael Zeiler**

Vocal Co-Directors  
**Kathy Grabigel**  
**Michael Zeiler**

Cast Choreography  
**Michael Zeiler**

Featured Dancers  
Choreography  
**Madison Faas**

Set Construction  
Coordinator  
**Dan Smith**

Stage Co-Managers  
**Christine Wagner**  
**Michael Zeiler**

Pit Orchestra Director  
**Gavin Virag**

Technical Directors  
**Jonathan Westergom**  
**Greg Wygonik**

Animated LED  
Lighting Design  
**Mark Loya**

Cast & Crew  
Stage Manager  
**Deb Lehw**

Set Design &  
Decoration Directors  
**Teresa Emeloff**  
**Lauren Hartner**  
**Renae Yoder**

Costume Design  
**Robin Davis**

Stage Hair & Makeup  
**Kristiona Miller**  
**Holly Drahos**  
**Madison Faas**

Ticketing  
**Robin Davis**

Billboards  
**Kristen Eddy** Eddy Studio

Publicity, Media, Promotional  
Materials, Programs, Cast Photos  
**Jennifer Goldberg**

Musical/Choir Council  
**Lily Biernesser**  
**Elizabeth Ransom**  
**Noah Blythe**





# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What an adventure for our students, staff, and HHS families! We all feel the theme of the **DESCENDANTS** series is important and relatable to what we are all experiencing currently in life. **At its core, DESCENDANTS is a musical about empathy, tolerance, and acceptance. We hope this show can be a reminder that no matter where we come from, we are better together.** This moral of UNITY, despite so many differences among each of us, is so crucial to build upon as a community. Our differences are what make us stronger together and what is needed to unite us all.

Highlands selected **DISNEY'S DESCENDANTS** for our musical production because this year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Walt Disney Company. On October 16, 1923 Walt and his brother Roy founded the Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio in Hollywood, California. Since that time, countless magical fairytales have been created and enriched the lives of viewers of all ages. **DESCENDANTS** is the PERFECT musical to showcase timeless heroes, villains, and princesses as we celebrate the **100 YEARS OF WONDER!** We could not resist this popular story of characters that has spanned over 100 years. The audience will find comedy, intense animation, and amazing choreography from our all-star talented cast. It will be a "magical" experience with a showstopping set and lighting design celebrating the 37th year of musical production at Highlands.



Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida was my second home from June 2007 through January 2018 (aside from the Highlands School District). The opportunity to work with the talented performers and cast members with the Disney Company was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. During my decade as a cast member, we were trained in the "magic" that is synonymous with Disney. We learned the Four Keys to Success: SAFETY, COURTESY, SHOW, EFFICIENCY. I reinforce this each year, and our Highlands students must adhere to these ideals to continue in our high-quality productions. Adopting these critical concepts is essential to creating this environment for our performing artists. I am blessed to have participated with the Disney Company, and I continue to share principles that have been learned with our students. It is my hope that you can feel the "Disney magic" through the heart and soul of the performers in **DESCENDANTS**.

Our talented students will showcase popular characters from the Disney Channel series and bring the music and orchestration to life before your eyes. These are songs multiple generations will know and the audience will feel the love and acceptance that is family, friendship, and significant others. There is a brave theme throughout the show of kindness and courage. Working with these students in my **FOURTEENTH** year as the musical director has been profoundly humbling to me. Watching the students learn and grow is an honor to me, and I am grateful for this opportunity. Thank you to all volunteers and staff, without whom we simply could not bring this production to our community. Above all, thank you to the students who are inspiring to us all. As a proud HHS alumnus, I recall my mentors who were always willing to lend a helping hand, and we hope that today's cast members will help mentor future generations to be "HHS Golden Stars".

Everyone associated with this production has worked tremendously hard to present this show for our community. We are proud that the cast, production staff, and creative team are made up of students, staff and community volunteers from right here in our Highlands district. We are so fortunate to have such amazing talent, as well as an outstanding volunteer spirit that simply does not exist anywhere else.

I would like to extend a special "THANK YOU" to the HHS **Cast of 2024!** It is an incredible honor to commemorate this premier. **DISNEY'S DESCENDANTS** requires an enormous amount of staging work, storyline integrity, characterization, high energy choreography, mesmerizing lighting design, and a "production aspect" that is beyond a typical high school musical. Thank you for every day, every moment, every effort each of you have spent to make this a real celebration. It is gratifying to have had the opportunity to spark an interest in music for many of these students and watch them showcase their talents at a high school level.

To the HHS cast and graduating **Class of 2024**, thank you for memories that will last a lifetime. Each one of you is a blessing and our community will continue to love and support you all. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your music education. It was an honor and a privilege. I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors and thank you for being such "golden stars" in our musical family!

Many thanks, much appreciation, and lots of magic, **MR. MICHAEL ZEILER**



# SYNOPSIS

## ACT ONE

**Once** upon a time, Belle and the Beast united all the Disney fairy tale kingdoms in an idyllic land called Auradon. To ensure peace in Auradon, villains and their sidekicks were banished to the Isle of the Lost, a wretched, magic-free island. Separated by a magical portal, the citizens lived isolated from each other for many years.

**Twenty** years later, in present day Auradon, Ben, the teenaged son of Belle and the Beast, prepares a speech for his upcoming coronation (**Better Together - Prelude 1**). Ben reveals his first official decree to his parents: the children on the Isle of the Lost will come to live in Auradon. As a test run, Ben has chosen the children of Maleficent, Evil Queen Grimhilde, Jafar, and Cruella De Vil to leave the Isle to attend Auradon Prep. Terrified of this plan, Belle and the Beast tell their son that this will be his one chance to bring villains into their world; if it fails, the portal between the two worlds will be closed forever.

**On** the Isle of the Lost, Mal, Evie, Jay, and Carlos - the troublemaking teenaged offspring of those four infamous villains - receive their invitation to leave the Isle to attend school in Auradon. Mal, the leader of the pack, ensures her friends they can stay on the Isle, where they rule the streets (**Rotten to the Core**).



**Maleficent**, Jafar, Grimhilde, and Cruella arrive to discuss the news with their children. Maleficent identifies an opportunity for revenge: If their children are released into Auradon, they can help the villains take over the free world. Maleficent persuades Mal to go to Auradon, steal Fairy Godmother's wand, and use it to open the portal so that they can rule both worlds together (**Evil Like Me**). Mal agrees, and the four friends (the "Evils") step through the portal to Auradon.



**In** Auradon, the Evils are greeted by the students of Auradon Prep (**Be Our Guest**). Despite their cheery welcome, there is immediate tension between the students and the newcomers. Fairy Godmother, the headmistress, welcomes them to the school, reminding them that magic is illegal on the premises and that they must follow the rules (**Good Is the New Bad - Preprise**). They meet Ben, his girlfriend, Audrey (Sleeping Beauty's daughter), Chad (Cinderella and Prince Charming's son), Doug (Dopey's son), and Jane (Fairy Godmother's daughter).

**The** Evils briefly pretend to fit in, but surreptitiously return to their troublemaking ways, wreaking havoc in the school hallways (**Good Is the New Bad - Part 1**). Evie has developed a crush on Chad, and tries to get his attention by cheating off her magic mirror in Professor Maurice's Chemistry Class. Tensions between the students and the Evils escalate, as Audrey and Maurice confront Ben about how poorly the Evils are assimilating into society (**Good Is the New Bad - Part 2**).

**In** their dorm room, the Evils craft a plan to steal Fairy Godmother's wand from the Museum of Cultural History. As they sneak out, they are spotted by Fairy Godmother and Jane, who decides to follow them to the museum. At the museum, Mal recites a spell from her mother's spell book, causing the guard to fall asleep. After a rare moment of indecision (**Evil Like Me - Reprise 1**), Mal grabs for the wand, but a forcefield protects it. Jay attempts to lunge for the wand, setting off the museum alarm. Carlos turns off the security system and the Evils sneak out of the museum uncaught - though followed by Jane.

**In** Remedial Goodness class, Fairy Godmother allows the Evils to video chat with their parents back on the Isle, who are dreaming about their impending takeover (**Rotten to the Core - Parents' Revenge**). Later, Jay and Carlos join the Tourney team, showing off skills they didn't know they had (**Goal**). Despite their athletic success, the Evils still face difficulties fitting in; Audrey insults Mal, Chad scams Evie into doing his homework, and Jane unsuccessfully attempts to tell a distracted Fairy Godmother about their visit to the museum. In spite of this, some Auradonians begin to appreciate the newcomers (**Good Is the New Bad - Reprise 1**).



**Ben** visits the Evils in their dorm room, and Mal tries to get information on the wand. Ben tells Mal that his girlfriend will stand with him at the coronation, near Fairy Godmother as she uses her wand to crown him. With a tear from a lonely Jane, the Evils use Mal's spellbook to whip up a batch of love-spelled cookies, crucial to their new plan of making Ben fall for Mal so she can be within arm's reach of the wand at the coronation (*Ways to Be Wicked - Preprise*).

**Mal** offers the potioned cookies to Ben, who instantly falls under the spell, professing his love for her in front of the whole school and inviting her to the coronation (*Did I Mention*). In response, Audrey takes Chad as her new boyfriend, much to Evie's dismay.

**On** their first date, Mal and Ben share the obligations and pressures of their lives, causing Mal to feel real feelings for him (*Better Together - Prelude 2*). Ben finds Maleficent's spellbook in Mal's bag and explodes in anger, mad at her for disobeying the rules of the kingdom and leaning into her villainous impulses. Mal storms off.

**Back** in the dorm, Mal announces that she is leaving for the Isle and asks Evie to come with her. Evie admits that, while heartbroken over Chad, she doesn't want to leave Auradon. The best friends promise they will always care for each other, no matter the world they choose (*Space Between*). Mal sets off for the Isle.

**When** Ben comes looking for Mal, Evie agrees to take him to the Isle to find her, but insists he follow her lead to fit in (*Chillin' Like a Villain*). Meanwhile, back in Auradon, the school erupts in chaos; Audrey and Chad happily tell Ben's parents that the Evils are the cause of the disorder (*Good Is the New Bad - Reprise 2*).

**Evie**, Jay, and Carlos find Mal on the Isle. They reveal that Ben is with them, eager to convince Mal to return to Auradon. Suddenly, Maleficent appears and Mal distracts her, allowing her friends to safely escape. Ben lingers and overhears Mal telling her mother about the love spell and their intent to steal the wand. Torn between two worlds,



Ben and Mal wonder what the future holds and what their obligations are to their respective communities (*If Only*).

**Back** in Auradon, Maurice confronts Evie about cheating in class with her magic mirror. Doug, who has developed a crush on Evie, stands up for her, and Maurice agrees to return the mirror if Evie can pass a test without it. Audrey and Chad rile up the Auradonians against Ben and the Evils (*Ways to Be Wicked*). Mal returns to Auradon, and, seeing the way the Evils have been vilified, the foursome commit to their plan to steal the wand.

**On** the day of the coronation, the Evil Parents watch the proceedings on TV until Maleficent reveals that she plans to rule the world solo - without the other villains. Evie learns she aced her make-up test and invites Doug to the coronation as her date. Meanwhile, Ben admits to Mal that he hasn't been under the effects of the love potion since going to the Isle, where magic doesn't work, and that he truly cares about her.

**The** coronation commences (*Go the Distance - Chorus*) and just as the Fairy Godmother moves to anoint Ben, Jane snatches the wand out of her hand, inadvertently opening the portal between lands. She revels briefly in her power, until Mal snatches the wand, pointing it at the crowd. Ben encourages Mal to make the right choice, but before she can decide her next move, Maleficent bursts through the window and takes the wand from her daughter. As Maleficent points the wand at Ben, Mal realizes her deep feelings of love for him - feelings her mom never showed for her. Maleficent revels in her evilness, towering over the Auradonians (*Evil Like Me - Reprise 2*).

**Working** together, Jay, Carlos, Evie, and Mal use their once-evil plans to steal the wand back from Maleficent. Enchanting a spell from memory, they cause Maleficent to shrink to the size of the love in her heart. Mal returns the wand to Fairy Godmother. Having used their powers for good, the Evils are welcomed fully by the Auradonians (*Better Together*), and Ben declares that the portal between the two worlds shall be opened forever (*Break This Down*).



# SCENES & SONGS

## ACT ONE

### OVERTURE

#### SCENE 1: AURADON, BELLE AND BEAST'S CASTLE

Better Together (Prelude 1) ..... Ben

#### SCENE 2: ISLE OF THE LOST

Rotten to the Core (Part 1) ..... Mal, Evie, Jay, Carlos, Isle Ensemble

Rotten to the Core (Part 2) ..... Mal, Evie, Jay, Carlos, Isle Ensemble

Maleficent's Entrance 1

Evil Like Me ..... Maleficent, Mal

#### SCENE 3: AURADON PREP

Be Our Guest (Part 1) ..... Auradonians

Be Our Guest (Part 2) ..... Chad, Auradonians

Good Is the New Bad (Preprise) ..... Fairy Godmother

Good Is the New Bad (Part 1) ..... Mal, Evie, Jay, Carlos, Auradonians

Good Is the New Bad (Part 2) ..... Doug, Audrey, Chad, Evils, Auradonians

Good Is the New Bad (Playoff)

#### SCENE 4: MAL AND EVIE'S DORM ROOM

#### SCENE 5: DORM HALLWAY

Truancy

#### SCENE 6: MUSEUM OF CULTURAL HISTORY

Museum Spells

Evil Like Me (Reprise 1) ..... Mal

Remedial Goodness

#### SCENE 7: AURADON PREP, CLASSROOM

#### SCENE 8: ISLE OF THE LOST, MALEFICENT'S LAIR

Rotten to the Core (Parents' Revenge) ..... Maleficent, Jafar, Grimhilde, Cruella

Tourney Field

#### SCENE 9: AURADON PREP, TOURNEY FIELD

Goal ..... Jay, Carlos, Mal, Evie, Ben, Chad, Coach, Auradonians

Good Is the New Bad (Reprise 1) ..... Doug





SCENE 10: MAL AND EVIE'S DORM ROOM

Ways to Be Wicked (Preprise) .....Mal, Evie, Jay, Carlos  
A Dream Is a Wish  
Potioned Cookies

SCENE 11: AURADON PREP, COURTYARD

Did I Mention (Prelude) .....Ben  
Did I Mention .....Ben, Jay, Carlos, Evie, Auradonians  
Did I Mention (Playoff)

SCENE 12: THE DATE

Better Together (Prelude 2) .....Ben, Mal  
The Fight

ACT TWO

ENTR'ACTE

SCENE 13: MAL AND EVIE'S DORM ROOM

Space Between .....Mal, Evie  
Chillin' Like a Villain (Part 1) .....Evie, Jay, Carlos

SCENE 14: ISLE OF THE LOST

Chillin' Like a Villain (Part 2) .....Evie, Jay, Carlos, Ben, Isle Ensemble



SCENE 15: AURADON PREP, HALLWAY

Good Is the New Bad (Reprise 2) .....Doug  
Sad Graffiti

SCENE 16: ISLE OF THE LOST, MAL'S HIDEOUT

Maleficent's Entrance 2  
If Only .....Mal, Ben

SCENE 17: AURADON PREP, COURTYARD

Ways to Be Wicked .....Audrey, Chad, Evils, Ben, Auradonians, Evil Parents

SCENE 18: THE CORONATION, AURADON CATHEDRAL

Coronation Day  
Go the Distance (Chorale) .....Auradonians  
Maleficent's Entrance 3  
Evil Like Me (Reprise 2) .....Maleficent  
Get the Wand!  
Better Together .....Company  
Break This Down .....Company  
Exit Music

# CAST of Characters

## ISLE OF THE LOST

MAL	Lily Biernesser
EVIE	Kayla Colledge
CARLOS	Noah Blythe
JAY	Keegan Babinsack
MALEFICENT	Elizabeth Ransom
GRIMHILDE (Evil Snow Queen)	Hannah Misejka
JAFAR	Mason Powell
CRUELLA DE VIL	Jay Gamble

## ISLE ENSEMBLE

**Dizzy** (related to Stepmother)  
Abigail Vulgris

**Uma** (related to Ursula)  
Jada Walters

**Lonnie** (related to Mulan)  
Samantha Markey

**Harry** (related to Capt. Hook)  
Wesley Pollick

**Gil** (related to Gaston)  
Zachary Vulgris

**Lead Tree/Horse Mascot**  
Luciana Cirino

## AURADON ENSEMBLE

**Royal Page** - Abigail Vulgris  
**Royal Guard** - Zachary Vulgris  
**Maurice** - Mr. Matt Sespico  
**Coach** - Jay Gamble  
**Snow White** - Chloe Fox

## FEATURED DANCERS

Adele Misjeka  
Amelia Smith  
Mikala Smith  
Natalie Stello  
Abella Valenti-Baker  
Shanna Wolfe

## AURADON

PRINCE BEN	Elliot Vunora
KING BEAST	Mason Powell
QUEEN BELLE	Hannah Misejka
FAIRY GODMOTHER	Haley Dixon
JANE	Abella Valenti-Baker
CHAD	Landen DonGilli
AUDREY	Adele Misejka
DOUG	Agastya Narang



# ENSEMBLE

## **SOPRANO**

### *Seniors*

Lily Biernesser  
Elizabeth Ransom

### *Juniors*

Samantha Markey  
Abigail Vulgris  
Shanna Wolfe

### *Sophomores*

Adele Misejka  
Hannah Misejka  
Abella Valenti-Baker

### *Freshmen*

Melissa Mialki  
Emily Terrill

## **ALTO**

### *Seniors*

Kayla Colledge  
Haley Dixon  
Jay Gamble  
Amelia Smith

### *Sophomores*

Luciana Cirino  
Natalie Stello  
Jada Walters

### *Freshmen*

Chloe Fox  
Felicia Patterson  
Mikala Smith

### *8th Grade*

Maria Luisa Petz  
Maria Monserratt Petz

## **BARITONE**

### *Juniors*

Noah Blythe  
Agastya (Gus) Narang  
Mason Powell  
Elliot Vunora

### *Sophomores*

Keegan Babinsack  
Neveah Derry  
Landen DonGilli  
Zachary Vulgris

### *Freshman*

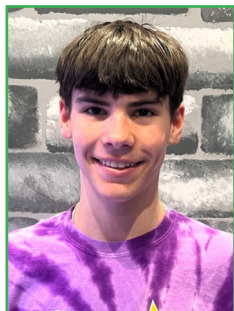
Wesley Pollick

### *8th Grade*

Liam Oddis  
Urijah Beam

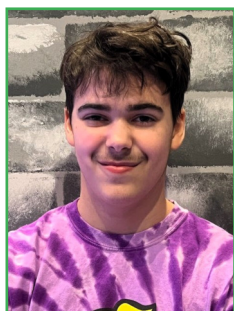


# Meet the CAST



**KEEGAN BABINSACK**  
**JAY**

A sophomore, Keegan's stage experience includes *Seussical Kids*, *Music Man Kids* and *The Addams Family*. He is a member of the Football and Track teams, International Club and Boy Scouts.



**URIAH BEAM**  
**ENSEMBLE: Pirate**

An 8th grader, *Descendants* is Urijah's first musical experience. He is a member of the Middle School Chorus and enjoys musical acting and bowling.



**LILY BIERNESSE**  
**MAL**

A senior, Lily was in the musicals *Mary Poppins Jr.*, *Into the Woods Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Mamma Mia*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Marching & Stage bands and Honors Choir. She plans to attend CCAC for radiology and obtain an MRI certification through UPMC.



**NOAH BLYTHE**  
**CARLOS**

A junior, Noah's musical experience includes *The Addams Family* (Pugsley) and Stage Crew for *High School Musical 2*. He is a member of the Football and Track teams and Variations Show Choir. He also has the coolest handshake with Adele.



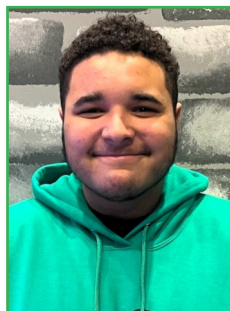
**LUCIANA CIRINO**  
**ENSEMBLE:**  
**Lead Tree/Horse Mascot**

A sophomore, Luciana's stage experience includes *The Music Man Kids*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Band, Variations Show Choir, Concert Choir and Track Team.



**KAYLA COLLEDGE**  
**EVIE**

A senior, Kayla's musical experience includes roles in *Mary Poppins Jr.*, *Into the Woods Jr.*, *Annie Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Mamma Mia*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of Best Buddies, Honors Choir and Softball Team. Kayla plans to attend Robert Morris University for psychology.



**NEVEAH DERRY**  
**ENSEMBLE:**  
**Uriel Blue / Nash Meldonia**

A sophomore, this is Neveah's first musical experience. He is also a member of the Variations Show Choir.



**HALEY DIXON**  
**FAIRY GODMOTHER**

A senior, Haley was in the musicals *Into the Woods Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Mamma Mia*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Honors Choir, Variations, International Club and Colorguard (captain). She plans to attend Slippery Rock University for criminology and criminal justice.



**LANDEN DONGILLI**  
**CHAD**

A sophomore, Landen's stage experience includes *Seussical Kids*, *The Music Man Kids*, *High School Musical 2*, *High School Musical* (Chad) and *The Addams Family*. He is a member of the Concert Choir and the Variations Show Choir.





## CHLOE FOX

**ENSEMBLE:** Fiona (Isle) /  
Ivy & Snow White (Auradon)

A freshman, Chloe's previous musical experience includes the role as Zaneeta Shinn in *The Music Man Kids*. She is also a member of the Variations Show Choir and Concert Choir.



## HANNAH MISEJKA

**GRIMHILDE / QUEEN BELLE**

A sophomore, Hannah's stage experience includes *Seussical Kids*, *The Music Man Kids*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Marching Band, Concert Choir, Variations Show Choir and Girl Scouts.



## JAY GAMBLE

**CRUELLA DE VIL / COACH**

A senior, Jay's stage experience includes *Frozen Jr.*, *Mamma Mia '21*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. Jay is involved in Tennis, Band, Variations and Honors Choir and plans to attend IUP to major in music education.



## AGASTYA NARANG

**DOUG**

A junior, Agastya's musical experience includes the role of the Duke of Weselton in *Frozen Jr.*, *Seussical Kids*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family* (Cousin Itt). He is involved in Boy Scouts, International Club, Band and Honors Choir.



## SAMANTHA MARKEY

**ENSEMBLE:**  
Red (Daughter of Queen of Hearts) /  
Lonnie (Daughter of Mulan)

A junior, Samantha was in the musicals *Annie Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Tennis Team, Variations Show Choir and International Club.



## LIAM ODDIS

**ENSEMBLE: Soldier**

An 8th grader, *Descendants* is Liam's first musical experience. He is a member of the Middle School Chorus and enjoys bowling.



## MELISSA MIALKI

**ENSEMBLE:**  
Gossamer (Isle) / Abigail (Auradon)

A freshman, *Descendants* is Melissa's first musical experience. She is also a member of the Variations Show Choir.



## FELICIA PATTERSON

**ENSEMBLE: Cassidy / Rebecca**

A freshman, Felicia was in the musicals *The Music Man Kids*, *Seussical Kids* and *The Addams Family*. She is also a member of the Variations Show Choir.



## ADELE MISEJKA

**AUDREY / Featured Dancer**

A sophomore, Adele was in the musicals *Seussical Kids*, *The Music Man Kids*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Marching Band and Track Team. She goes to Miss Brittany's School of Dance and also has the coolest handshake with Noah.



## MARIA PETZ

**ENSEMBLE:**  
Cami (Auradon) / Abigail (Isle)

An 8th grader, Maria was in the musical production of *Annie Jr.* She is also a member of the Marching Band.



## MONSE PETZ

**ENSEMBLE: Sonse Yi Yu**

An 8th grader, Monse was in the musical production of *Annie Jr.* She is also a member of the Marching Band.



## AMELIA SMITH

**FEATURED DANCER**

A senior, Amelia has been a featured dancer for the musicals *Mary Poppins Jr.*, *Into the Woods Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Mamma Mia '21*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is active in Dance, Variations, Best Buddies and International Club. She plans to attend beauty school to become a nail technician.



## WESLEY POLLICK

**ENSEMBLE: Harry / Phil**

A freshman, *Descendants* is Wesley's first musical experience. He is also a member of the Choir and Track Team.



## MIKALA SMITH

**FEATURED DANCER**

A freshman, Mikala's musical experience includes *The Music Man Kids*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is also a member of the Volleyball Team and is active with Best Buddies and Dance.



## MASON POWELL

**KING BEAST / JAFAR**

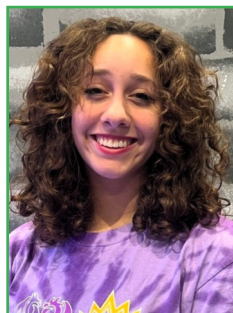
A junior, Mason's musical experience includes *Seussical Kids* (Judge Yertle), *Frozen Jr.* (King Agnarr), *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family* (Royal Guard). He is a member of the Honors Choir, NHS, Student Council and Variations Show Choir.



## NATALIE STELLO

**FEATURED DANCER**

A sophomore, Natalie was in the musicals *Seussical Kids*, *The Music Man Kids* and *The Addams Family*. She is involved in Cheerleading, Track, Drill Team/Band and Dance.



## ELIZABETH RANSOM

**MALEFICENT**

A senior, Elizabeth's musical experience includes *Mary Poppins Jr.*, *Into the Woods Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, *Mamma Mia* and *The Addams Family*. She is involved in Band, Tennis, Track and Competitive Dance. Elizabeth plans to attend Kent State for interior design.



## EMILY TERRILL

**ENSEMBLE:**

**Yzla / Arianna Fitzherbert**

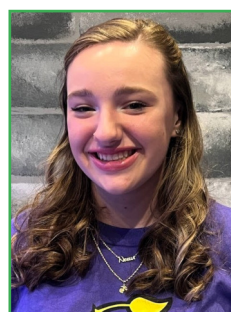
A freshman, Emily was a part of the ensemble for *The Addams Family* last year. She is also a member of the Variations Show Choir.



## MR. MATT SESPICO

**MAURICE**

Highlands High School Science Teacher Mr. Matt Sespico is making his musical debut in *Descendants*! In his 25th year of teaching at Highlands, Mr. Sespico also enjoys rockhounding, gardening and astrophotography.



## ABELLA

## VALENTI-BAKER

**FEATURED DANCER / JANE**

A sophomore, Abella was in the musicals *Seussical Kids*, *The Music Man Kids*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Drill Team, Track Team, International Club and Variations Show Choir.

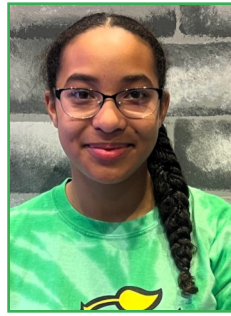




## ABIGAIL VULGRIS

**ENSEMBLE:** Royal Page  
Dizzy (Isle) / Ruby (Auradon)

A junior, Abigail's musical experience includes *Seussical Kids*, *Frozen Jr.*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the Variations Show Choir and International Club.



## JADA WALTERS

**ENSEMBLE:**  
Uma / Tara Meldonia

A sophomore, Jada was in *The Addams Family* last year. She is a member of the Marching Band, Variations Show Choir, Honors Choir and the International Club.



## ZACHARY VULGRIS

**ENSEMBLE:** Gil / Royal Guard

A sophomore, Zachary was in the musicals *Seussical Kids*, *The Music Man Kids* (Winthrop), *Frozen Jr.*, *High School Musical 2* and *The Addams Family*. He is involved in the International Club, Variations Show Choir and Baseball Team.



## SHANNA WOLFE

**FEATURED DANCER**

A junior, Shanna was in the musicals *Seussical Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.* and *The Addams Family*. She is a member of the International Club, Variations Show Choir and Varsity Golf Team.



## ELLIOT VUNORA

**PRINCE BEN**

A junior, Elliot had roles in the musicals *Seussical Kids* (Horton), *Frozen Jr.* (Kristoff) and *The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester). He is a member of the Band, Baseball Team and Boy Scouts.



# SET CONSTRUCTION

**Set Construction Coordinator**  
Dan "The Man" Smith

★ Dream Builders & Helpers ★

### Core Construction Team

Shawn Wolfe  
Ken Baker  
Michael Zeiler

### Volunteers

Becky DiPerna  
Jan Ransom  
Kathleen Ransom  
Jon Love  
Kristen McIntire-Lewandowski  
Shannon Valenti-Baker  
Kristen Vunora





**Gavin Virag**  
*Director*

<b>Cadence Chambers</b>	Tenor Saxophone
<b>Owen McIntire</b>	Trumpet
<b>Connor Watson</b>	Trombone
<b>Rick Butler*</b>	Guitar 1
<b>Ian Love</b>	Guitar 2
<b>Rob Gamberro*</b>	Bass Guitar
<b>Corey Beck*</b>	Piano 1
<b>Hilary Misejka*</b>	Piano 2
<b>Gerra Gembarosky*</b>	Piano 3
<b>Wyatt Starcher*</b>	Drumset
<b>Elliott Lentz</b>	Clarinet

*\*Professional Musician*

# PIT Orchestra



## Tech & Stage CREW



**Jonathan Westergom**  
**Greg Wygonik**  
*Technical Directors*

**Deb Lehew**, *Cast & Crew Stage Manager*  
**Mark Loya**, *Animated LED Lighting Design*  
**Kayla Stitt**, *Volunteer AV Tech*

**Christine Wagner**  
**Michael Zeiler**  
*Stage Co-Managers*



Aidan Adams  
Abbygail Bell  
Brooke Fennell  
Codi Goehring  
Dean Hoover  
Deana Hoover  
Jacob Lombardi  
Aidan McGrath  
Khalell Robinson  
Austin Scott  
Carter Scott  
Lilly Singleton  
Riley Therrien  
Cameron Whalen  
Connor Whalen  
Landon Whalen



# **SET** *Design & Decoration*

**THANK YOU to Teresa Emeloff's, Renae Yoder's & Lauren Hartner's ART Students & Michael Zeiler's MUSIC Students, especially those listed below, for helping with the set!**

Jackson Ament  
 Amelia Smith  
 Shanna Wolfe  
 Chloe Cowfer  
 Haylee Darrow  
 Paytyn Hawk  
 Payton Hursh  
 Jace Barch  
 Makenna Parise  
 Shelby Wojcik  
 Aiden Burford  
 Aidan Vargo  
 Keaton Wike  
 Emma Murrell  
 Faith Jordan  
 Elizabeth Ransom  
 Madison Kijowski  
 Samantha Markey  
 Jocelyn Bloch  
 Bella Bonnett  
 Anna Le Ray  
 Carrah Scardina  
 Julian Bowman  
 Dylan Kemp  
 Tristan Bair

Alexis Bender  
 Lyndsy Burkhart  
 Alayna Collins  
 Kahlee Davenport  
 Abigail Gamble  
 Ava Howard  
 Morgan Neese  
 Chloe Pacek  
 Avery Robinson  
 McKinley Snyder  
 Emily Terrill  
 Gabby Chambers  
 Madi Gorney  
 Leah Taraborrelli  
 Shelby Wojcik  
 Payton Bundy  
 Gabby Godfrey  
 Shanna Wolfe  
 Brooke Fennell  
 Lainey Graczyk  
 Ariona Hunter  
 Mya Vaughan  
 Riley Barger  
 Maryah Davenport  
 Emma Loughner

Chloe Neczypir  
 Dane Parise  
 Arwen Ross-Blewett  
 Lexi Welling  
 Jaden Bachman  
 Natalia Cook  
 Dayonna Dozier  
 Tamira Dozier  
 Keegan Babinsack  
 Hallie Bevan  
 Bryce Black  
 Piper Calligan  
 Anna Crowell  
 Natalie Dickerson  
 Sydney Garrison  
 Noel Ledonne  
 Jacob Millen  
 Julia Rittman  
 Saoirse Russell  
 Ella Stokes  
 Autumn Barch  
 Grainne Dignam  
 Thomas Adams  
 Carter Anderson  
 Abbygail Bell

Lily Biernesser  
 Sydney Biernesser  
 Christopher Bishop  
 Felix Blancarte  
 Noah Blythe  
 Aubry Bowser  
 Cadence Chambers  
 Luciana Cirino  
 Kayla Colledge  
 Chelsea Cowfer  
 Neveah Derry  
 Haley Dixon  
 Tyler Dollman  
 Landen DonGilli  
 Mariah Dzanaj  
 Chloe Fox  
 Jay Gamble  
 Codi Goehring  
 Jacob Hicks  
 Dean Hoover  
 Deanna Hoover  
 Samuel Johns  
 Hannah Leasure  
 Jane McGee  
 Noel McGee

Julia McSherry  
 Melissa Mialki  
 Adele Misejka  
 Hannah Misejka  
 Agastya Narang  
 Bethany Nix  
 Felicia Patterson  
 Mason Powell  
 Khalell Robinson  
 Austin Scott  
 Carter Scott  
 Natalie Stello  
 Jillian Taliani  
 Henry Thimons  
 Taylor Tutka  
 Abella Valenti-Baker  
 Brandon Vehec  
 Abigail Vulgris  
 Zachary Vulgris  
 Deshawna Walker  
 Jada Walters  
 Isabella Gardner-Buzza





# SPECIAL THANKS

to All of Our Magic Makers!



## AUDITION PANEL JUDGES

**Dr. Debra Lehew**  
**Holly Drahos**  
**Madison Faas**  
**Jocelyn Gentile**  
**Kathy Grabigel**  
**Christine McLaughlin**  
**Marcie Metnick**  
**Kayla Stitt**  
**Christine Wagner**  
**Jonathan Westergom**  
**Noah Woodward**

## SOCIAL WITH THE STARS

**Dr. Debra Lehew**  
**Erik Frantz**  
**Vicki Frantz**  
**Christine Spece**

## ART DECOR MAGIC MAKERS

**Erik Frantz**  
**Jennifer DiPerna**  
**Caitlin Misejka**  
**Kristen Vunora**

**Dr. Monique Mawhinney**, Superintendent  
**Dr. Cathleen Cubelic**, Assistant Superintendent  
**Highlands School Board**  
**Highlands Administrative Center Staff**  
**Mr. Michael Toole**, HHS Principal  
**Ms. Kaitlyn Selfridge**, HHS Assistant Principal  
**Mr. Thomas Stanko**, HHS Dean of Students  
**Patty Sirota & Brittany Barch**, HHS Secretaries  
**Highlands High School Staff**  
**Jonathan Westergom**, Highlands IT  
**Chris Reiser**, Buildings & Grounds Director  
**Matt Skurko**, Maintenance  
**HHS Custodians**

**Kathy Grabigel**, Staging & Musical Consultant  
**Natalie Cale** – Student Activities

F-Wing Classroom Friends: **Christine McLaughlin, Kristan Ferrante, Luke Pollick, Kristen Lucchino, John Millburn & Jennifer Galcik**

HHS Art Teachers **Teresa Emeloff, Renae Yoder & Lauren Hartner** and Art Students

**Michael Zeiler's HHS Concert Choir, Honors Choir, Broadway & Beyond, Music & Magic, and Move & Groove Music Elective Class**

*Highlands Variations Booster Board:* **Pam Morrow-Wolfe, Shawn Wolfe, Donna Smith, Suzanne Burdin, Shannon Valenti-Baker** and the **Variations Booster Parents** for organizing the Cast Party

*Concessions:* **Sherry Armstrong, Michael Toole, & Kristen Gettens**

HHS Musical Alumni volunteers **Caitlin Misejka, Kohl Casella, Jake Arvay, Naya Walters, Zach Dunlap** and **Eli Majocha**

**TribLive Total Media & the Valley New Dispatch** for continued coverage of HHS Music Program



# SPECIAL THANKS

**THANK YOU Variations Boosters** for all of your fundraising efforts and organizational skills in helping our program raise money.

**THANK YOU Kathy Grabigel** for your continued expertise in vocal and stage directing. You were blessed with a true gift for the theater. You have personally helped our students improve every rehearsal and bring the best out of their performance. You bring energy, heart, and soul to every rehearsal. You have helped to create such a contagious environment of positivity.

**THANK YOU** to our new set construction coordinator **Dan "the Man" Smith**. You created such a phenomenal team of workers with **Shawn Wolfe** and **Ken Baker**. Thank you to the three of you for the countless hours, hard work, and creative design that went into the seven weekends of construction for our musical set. Building a 50-foot-long "magical" castle was no easy task!

**THANK YOU Ms. Christine Wagner** for becoming the newest member of our musical staff. We appreciate your hard work and passion for our musical theater program. You are truly distinguished in your new responsibilities.

**THANK YOU** HHS Musical Alum **Madison Faas** for returning with us and sharing your professional talent and creativity. "To dance, is to let the body breathe." As a proud alum of the musical program, thank you for giving back to our district and community in such a positive and creative way. Your efforts and extra time are truly appreciated.

**THANK YOU Gavin Virag** for your incredible musical talents and inspiring the students of Highlands with your personality and charm! Your teaching style for instrumental music creates good vibes throughout every rehearsal and is a reflection of your professionalism and passion for our musical theater productions at Highlands.

**THANK YOU** to HHS Musical Alumni **Greg Wygonik** and **Mark Loya** for donating your services in developing and creating animated lighting design for our productions. As alumni of the musical program, thank you both for giving back to our district and community in such a positive way. Your efforts and extra time are truly appreciated.

## MINI- MUSICAL WORKSHOP

**Dr. Debra Lehew**  
**Ken Baker**  
**Shannon Valenti-Baker**  
**Suzanne Burdin**  
**Holly Drahos**  
**Kathleen Ransom**  
**Dan Smith**  
**Donna Smith**  
**Shawn Wolfe**  
**Pam Morrow-Wolfe**  
**Michael Zeiler**



**THANK YOU** to our co-tech director team **Jonathan Westergom** and **Greg Wygonik** for your never-ending intelligence with our theater audio and lighting system. Both of you are solely responsible for making sure students are taught the importance of a production looking and sounding good. In addition, thank you **Kayla Stitt** for volunteering your organizational skills with the AV team.

**THANK YOU** to the following magic-makers **Kristiona Miller**, **Holly Drahos**, and **Samantha Miller** for helping with the cast hair, wigs and make-up. Thank you, HHS Musical Alumni Kristiona for returning to our staff and sharing your cosmetic expertise. Plus, welcome HHS Alumni Holly for your first year of being a staff member with our production.

# SPECIAL THANKS



**THANK YOU Robin Davis** for ALWAYS being ready and available to help our cast with their costuming needs and unpredictable repairs. You have become a true "Edna 'E' Mode" from The Incredibles, with your fantastic sewing skills "darling!" Also, never-have-we-ever had such a fun-loving, positively spirited, professional "Ticket Master!" Thank you for all of the extra time with helping our students, families, and community with ticketing needs. Thank you for your phenomenal service with the musical productions over the years, as *Descendants* marks Robin's 19th production. Here's to the next 19 years of magic making!

**THANK YOU** HHS Alumni **Teresa Emeloff** and **Renae Yoder**, plus the newest addition to our art staff, **Lauren Hartner**. Thank you for always seeing "the vision" of bringing the magic to life and explaining details of "what were the artists really trying to say here" for the stage décor and design. Your creative talents, energy, and hype has been such a joy to work with year after year. Thank you for providing such a creative outlet for our art and music students.

**THANK YOU** HHS Alumni **Jen Goldberg** for your creative design talents, amazing proofreading skills, and "eye" for showcasing our students in such a positive way! Goldberg, you are "golden" beyond years here at Highlands!

**THANK YOU** HHS Musical Alum **Dr. Deb Lehw** for dedicating 37 years of service and volunteering countless hours toward the success of our musical productions over the years. It is only because of your leadership and passion for our musicals that we have always had such phenomenal "golden" productions. Your heart has always been in the right place for our district and community. Thank you for your warmth and care with everyone throughout the years. Looking forward to the next 37 years together of goldenness and magic!

**THANK YOU** to the numerous "golden" parent volunteers for your dedication and passion to helping the cast with set construction, props, costumes, fundraising, stage makeup, hair, concessions, rehearsals and meals.

**A VERY SPECIAL SHOUT OUT** and round of applause to the **Highlands School Board and Administration** for your wonderful support and care towards the music program and performing arts! Additionally, a sincere thank you to the staff, educators, families, and volunteers, who work so hard for our student's success! Our music students and staff are extremely excited to bring not only tonight's performance, but future productions to life for our phenomenal community. Here's to a "golden" year of musical performances!

**THANK YOU** to HHS science teacher **Matthew Sespico** for volunteering your time, science knowledge, and your "golden" acting skills to help bring an iconic Disney character to life for our production.



Magic Makers! 



<b>AK Valley Cager Classic</b>
<b>Altany, Loynd &amp; Lindquist, LLC</b>
<b>BPOE ELKS 644</b>
<b>Brackenridge American Legion Post 226</b>
<b>Charles J Jacques, III</b>
<b>Christine and Andrew Spece</b>
<b>Czekalski Real Estate, Inc.</b>
<b>Dan and Michelle Czekalski Bradley</b>
<b>The Lehew Family</b>
<b>Fraternal Order of Eagles Inc Aerie 699</b>
<b>Fox's Pizza Den - Tarentum, PA</b>
<b>Harvest Moon Coffee &amp; Chocolates LLC</b>

# **GOLDEN RAMS SHINING STAR MUSICAL DONORS**



<b>Heights Saxon Inn</b>
<b>Highlands Area Rotary Club</b>
<b>Highlands Childcare Center LLC</b>
<b>Highlands Variations Boosters</b>
<b>Janet and Wally Czekalski</b>
<b>Joseph Orlando Clothiers - Zac Ziolkowski</b>
<b>Josh Nulph</b>
<b>Kopor Corporation</b>
<b>Michael Zeiler</b>
<b>David's Diner - Springdale</b>
<b>TwoEight Printing</b>
<b>Valenti/ Baker Family</b>
<b>Wolfies Underground Utility Installation</b>

# **GOLDEN RAMS SHINING STAR MUSICAL DONORS**

## **GOLD STAR MUSICAL DONORS**

<b>Andrew and Katie Lynn Erwin</b>	<b>Highland Tire</b>
<b>Bergstrom Family - Robin</b>	<b>Jo Anne and Michael Faas</b>
<b>Bonita and Garry Raymond</b>	<b>Outdoor Life Lodge</b>
<b>Clear Blue Plumbing LLC</b>	<b>Rina M. Monteleone</b>
<b>Duster Funeral Home</b>	<b>Stefanie and Jack Crumpton</b>
<b>James and Kelly Powell</b>	
<b>John and Barbara Pollick (Grammy &amp; Grampy)</b>	<b>Michelle and Donald McKnight, Mimi, Pappy, Meemaw, Poppop</b>







## BROWN STAR MUSICAL DONORS

Allegheny Beverage
Brandon Johnson
Dr. Eric and Carolyn Bengel
Luis and Jenny Fabregas
Phillippi's Family Dining & Pizzeria
Ronald and Susan Dunlap
Sebak Insurance LLC



## WHITE STAR MUSICAL DONORS

Barley
Bob's Sub Inc.
Dr. Joy B. Krumenacker
Edward and Lucy Mahdik
Gary and Christine Miller
Judith and Amy Jarosinski
Main Squeeze Juice Café
Nicole Romano
Nicole Smith



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR  
WONDERFUL DONORS!  
WE APPRECIATE YOUR  
SUPPORT TO HELP MAKE THE  
“MAGIC” HAPPEN FOR OUR  
37<sup>TH</sup> MUSICAL PRODUCTION!



THANK YOU, MAGIC MAKERS!

**Fraternal  
Order of Eagles  
Aerie #699**

**204 Wood Street  
Tarentum, PA 15084**

**724-224-9961**





# THANK YOU, MAGIC MAKERS!



2130 Freeport Road, 2nd Floor - Suite C  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065  
724-895-3772

## HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL VARIATIONS BOOSTERS

**Highlands Variations Booster Board**

Pam Morrow-Wolfe, Shawn Wolfe, Donna Smith,  
Suzanne Burdin, Shannon Valenti-Baker

**A-K VALLEY  
CAGER CLASSIC**



*Christine &  
Andrew Spece*

**Saxon Inn**  
Natrona Heights, PA

*Charles J.  
Jacques, III*

*Janet & Wally  
Czekalski*

*Dan & Michelle  
Czekalski Bradley*

**BPOE  
ELKS 644**



**Tarentum, PA**

*The Leheuw Family*



THANK YOU, MAGIC MAKERS!

**Wolfie's**



Congratulations  
Cast and Crew of  
Disney's  
**DESCENDANTS**

**UNDERGROUND**

*Utility Installations!*

**724-816-3892**

# JOSEPH ORLANDO CLOTHIERS

EST. 1981

300 4th Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA.

ZAC ZIOLKOWSKI

*Valenti-Baker  
Family*

*Josh Nulph*

**Kopor  
Corporation**



*Michael Zeiler*



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

A non-profit organization  
that works to benefit  
the local community  
and support veterans.

**Brackenridge  
American Legion  
Post 226**

**THURSDAY BINGO 7:00 PM  
\$1000 JACKPOT MUST GO.**

845 Brackenridge Ave  
Brackenridge PA 15014  
(724) 224-8444

- Free first-year membership  
to eligible veterans
- Hall rentals
- Monthly breakfast buffet
- Charitable contributions
- Parade and holiday ceremonies
- Flag retirements



# THANK YOU, MAGIC MAKERS!



**Harvest Moon is a special place.**

Our original Tarentum location was created in 2020, just before the pandemic impacted us all. In an effort to provide our wonderful customers with more opportunities to gather together, we are now open at our second location in Natrona Heights.

We look forward to serving you at both locations!

**206 Corbet St.  
Tarentum, PA 15084  
724-671-7614**

**1705 Union Ave.  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065  
724-895-3738**

*info@harvestmoonc2.com*

**www.harvestmoonc2.com**



## Highlands Area ROTARY CLUB

**We meet at the Anchor Inn in Natrona Heights  
every Tuesday at 12 Noon.**

**Prospective Members Always Welcome!**



# THANK YOU, MAGIC MAKERS!



*Czekalski Real Estate, Inc.*

---

*2725 Freeport Rd.  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065*

***724-226-0700***  
***www.crehomes.com***

**THANK YOU**

to **Czekalski Real Estate** for its  
continued support and generosity toward  
the Highlands High School Musical!



# AUTOGRAPHS