



**WATERSHED
PUBLIC THEATRE**

presents

A Special Maury Christmas

December 8 & 9, 2023 7:00 pm
December 9 & 10, 2023 3:00 pm

**Jones Student Center
Columbia State Community College**



**WATERSHED
PUBLIC THEATRE**

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Milly Johnson
Megan Lewellyn
Vilah Sartwell

Cameron Schulz
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Our Mission

At Watershed Public Theatre, we believe that theatre is the ultimate collaborative art and work to bring together arts professionals, volunteers, students and patrons to share in the illumination that only live performance can provide. We maintain our focus on nurturing community and practicing social and environmental responsibility while striving for the highest quality of artistic and educational experiences.

A Special Maury Christmas

developed by the Artist's Lab
for Watershed Public Theatre

Cast

Grandma Sue	Kay Ayers
Grandpa Jack	Darin Grebel
Janice	Katelyn Rust*
Daniel	Daniel Meeks
Margret.....	Haley Hixson
Richard	Luke McGuire
Andi.....	Vilah Sartwell†
Lilly	Kailen Long

Production Team

Director	Beverly Mitchell
Music Director	Jessica Fonville*
Lead Playwright	Christian Randell*
Stage Manager.....	David Fonville*
Assistant Stage Manager	Caleb Finley*
Costume Coordinators.....	Heather Barnard* McKenna Steel*
Technical Director	Zach Perkins*
Support Crew	Justin Blackburn, Kate Foreman, Susan Gaw, Sarah Kennedy

Setting

The home of Jack and Sue Murray
Christmas, 1973

**Indicates a member of the Artist's Lab for Watershed Public Theatre*

†Indicates a member of WPT's Apprentice Company

***Photography, video or audio recording
is prohibited during the performance***

The Cast



Kay Ayers (Grandma Sue) is thrilled to be back again on the WPT stage! She was last seen in *Romeo & Juliet* as Capulet. Previous WPT credits include Marmee in *Little Women* and Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Victorian Christmas Carol*. Kay is grateful for the opportunity to work with this remarkable company again! An Illinois native, Kay has been a staple in Middle Tennessee's theatre scene for almost three decades.

She is a graduate of Millikin University's theatre program and has graced most of Nashville's stages at some point. She'd like to thank her partner-in-crime, Michael, for his support, especially when running lines!



Darin Grebel (Grandpa Jack) is truly excited for his first production with Watershed Public Theatre. Darin worked at Center Stage in Fontana, where his favorite roles include Earl in *All Shook Up*, Uncle Arvide in *Guys and Dolls* and Grandpa in *Ragtime*. Darin graduated from CSUF with a BA in theatre and from CSDH with an MA in Theatre.



Haley Hixson (Margret) is so excited to be a part of another Watershed production! She was recently seen in *Anastasia* as The Tsarina. Other credits include Matilda (*Matilda*), Cinderella (Roger's and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*), and Frances (*The Burnt Part Boys*). She hopes you enjoy the show!



Kailen Long (Lilly) This is Kailen's first production with Watershed Public Theatre but hopefully not her last! Kailen has previously been on stage in *Chicago*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Into the Woods*, *Once on This Island* and more. She is married to her best friend, Alan, who was recently on stage as Gleb in WPT's *Anastasia* (which her mother, Cheri Hughes, also music directed!) Music and

theater are a big part of her family and she hopes to carry on that tradition with her three sweet boys (Elam, Farren and Gus). Kailen hopes that this show gets everyone fully in the Christmas spirit and makes them think of family, friends and time with loved ones!



Luke McGuire (Richard) is excited to be returning to Watershed Public Theatre for another show. Luke is a teaching artist at Watershed Public Theatre and Nashville Children's Theatre. You might have seen him in Nashville Children's Theatre's *Three Little Kittens* (Pinwheel), Watershed Public Theatre's *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Adam) or Murfreesboro Little

Theatre's *Puffs* (Wayne). Luke would like to thank the cast, crew, and his friends for this opportunity to be part of this extraordinary show.

The Cast *(continued)*



Daniel Meeks (Daniel), a Chattanooga native, has an MFA In Acting from Indiana University, where he also taught acting, voice & speech. He currently works as a professional voice actor in video games, animation, commercials, and narration. Favorite past stage roles of his include Captain Hook (*Peter Pan*), Frollo (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), and Claudius (*Hamlet*).



Katelyn Rust (Janice) is so excited to be performing again with Watershed Public Theatre! She spent time studying musical theatre at California State University of Fullerton, where she received vocal and acting training. Some of her favorite roles to date are *Stagedoor* (Terry), “The Sin Eater” (Little Sister), and *Little Women The Musical* (Amy). All her love to Tim and their boys.



Vilah Sartwell (Andi) Vilah has recently joined Watershed Public Theatre. She has been in theater her whole life. She is an actress, model, and carpenter. Vilah would like to thank the cast and crew for making her first experience truly memorable and loving.



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The Production Team

Heather Barnard (Costume Coordinator) is very excited to be a part of *A Special Maury Christmas*! She loves the theater and is very honored to be a part of this wonderful cast and crew. Her hopes for you while watching the show is that your Christmas spirit rises to magnificent heights. She would like to thank Watershed Public Theatre and the Artist's Lab for giving her the opportunity to expand her knowledge and skills for theater and is so excited for future projects! She would also like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive and encouraging during her theatrical journey and her dogs Gibbs and Ginger for being the best. All the glory to God, Merry Christmas!

Justin Blackburn (Support Crew) is excited to work on yet another production with Watershed Public Theatre. Prior to joining the WPT team, he was actively involved in Theatre Charlotte and worked a variety of jobs on several productions. In his spare time he enjoys thrifting, practicing magic and providing support for theatre programs in Middle Tennessee schools. He resides in Mount Pleasant with his amazing wife Joyce and dogs Ralphie and Rickie. Thank you for supporting local arts!

Caleb Finley (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of this wonderful holiday show! Previously seen on stage in *Anastasia*, Caleb was also Assistant Stage Manager for WPT's *Those Wicked Stepsisters*. Hope everyone enjoys helping us create new Christmas memories and have a fantastic holiday!

Kate Foreman (Support Crew) is a Columbia native who has worked in professional theater in Middle Tennessee for more than 18 years, including 8 years working for Nashville (formerly Tennessee) Repertory Theatre. Kate is thrilled to be working at the helm of Watershed Public Theatre. Many thanks to husband John, the WPT board of directors, the cast & crew, audiences, friends and family for their amazing support. Merry Christmas!

David Fonville (Stage Manager) is a 2020 Freed-Hardeman Graduate in Theatre-Performance. He has appeared on the Watershed Public Theatre stage in *Anastasia* and *Romeo & Juliet*. Other notable roles include Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, Lucien P. Smith in *The Boys Next Door*, and John N Fail in *Failure: A Love Story*. He would like to thank God, his family and his beautiful wife for allowing him to pursue his theatrical endeavors.

Jessica Fonville (Music Director) is so excited to work on her third show with Watershed Public Theatre! You may have seen her as Jo March in WPT's production of *Little Women* last year. Other credits include Audrey (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Henrietta Leavitt (*Silent Sky*), and Grace (*Annie*). She is happy to work on *A Special Maury Christmas* with her husband, David, and is grateful to him and her family for their continued love and support.

Susan Gaw (Support Crew) has been in live entertainment for over 25 years, doing everything from dressing ice skaters at a theme park to traveling with Muppets across the country to working concerts to being a wife and mom! She'll let you guess which has been the most challenging. Thanks to Nate, Allison, and Adam for letting her live the dream!

The Production Team *(continued)*

Sarah Kennedy (Support Crew) is enjoying another Watershed Public Theatre experience. By day she is the director of Ghostlight Books in Spring Hill. In between peddling books, teaching, directing and keeping up with her son Benjamin and miscellaneous pets, she also advises for youth arts and education in multiple organizations regionally and nationally, including serving as WPT's Education & Outreach Manager.

Beverly Mitchell (Director) is a director, playwright and retired professor. As a member of the Columbia Arts Council, she is committed to the development of all arts for all people.

Zach Perkins (Technical Director) recently relocated to Columbia from Kansas. He has worked on several Watershed Public Theatre productions, including serving as Assistant Technical Director of *Anastasia*. Local performance credits include *Romeo & Juliet* and *Those Wicked Stepsisters* with Watershed Public Theatre, as well as *Hamlet for Community Theatre*, *Inherit the Wind* and *Father of the Bride* with Maury County Arts Guild. He has enjoyed getting involved in local theatre and can't wait to do more!

Christian Randell (Lead Playwright) was last seen onstage in Watershed Public Theatre's productions of *Anastasia* (Ensemble) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo) and looks forward to many more opportunities with them. Other credits include *Macbeth* (Macbeth), *Silent Sky* (Peter Shaw), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Demetrius). Outside of rehearsals, Christian is a cast member on the podcast "Improv Tabletop" and loves getting to create more stories with them. Check it out anywhere you get your podcasts!

McKenna Steel (Costume Coordinator) was most recently seen on the Watershed Public Theatre stage portraying Anya in *Anastasia*. Other credits with WPT include *Romeo & Juliet* (Mercutia) and *Little Women* (Meg). She holds a BA in Theatre Studies: Performance and loves that she gets to put that degree to work! McKenna would like to thank her husband, Christian, and their cat, Nott the Brave, for letting her pursue her dreams.

Watershed Public Theatre extends special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their assistance and in-kind donations:

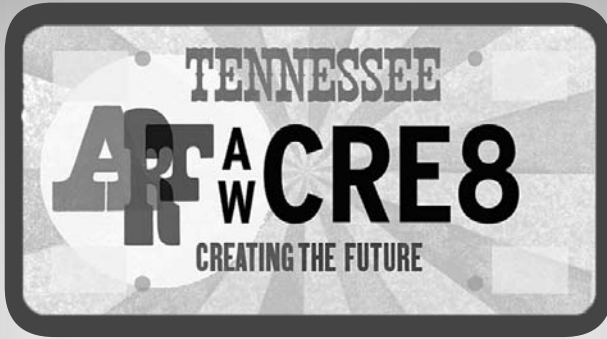
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