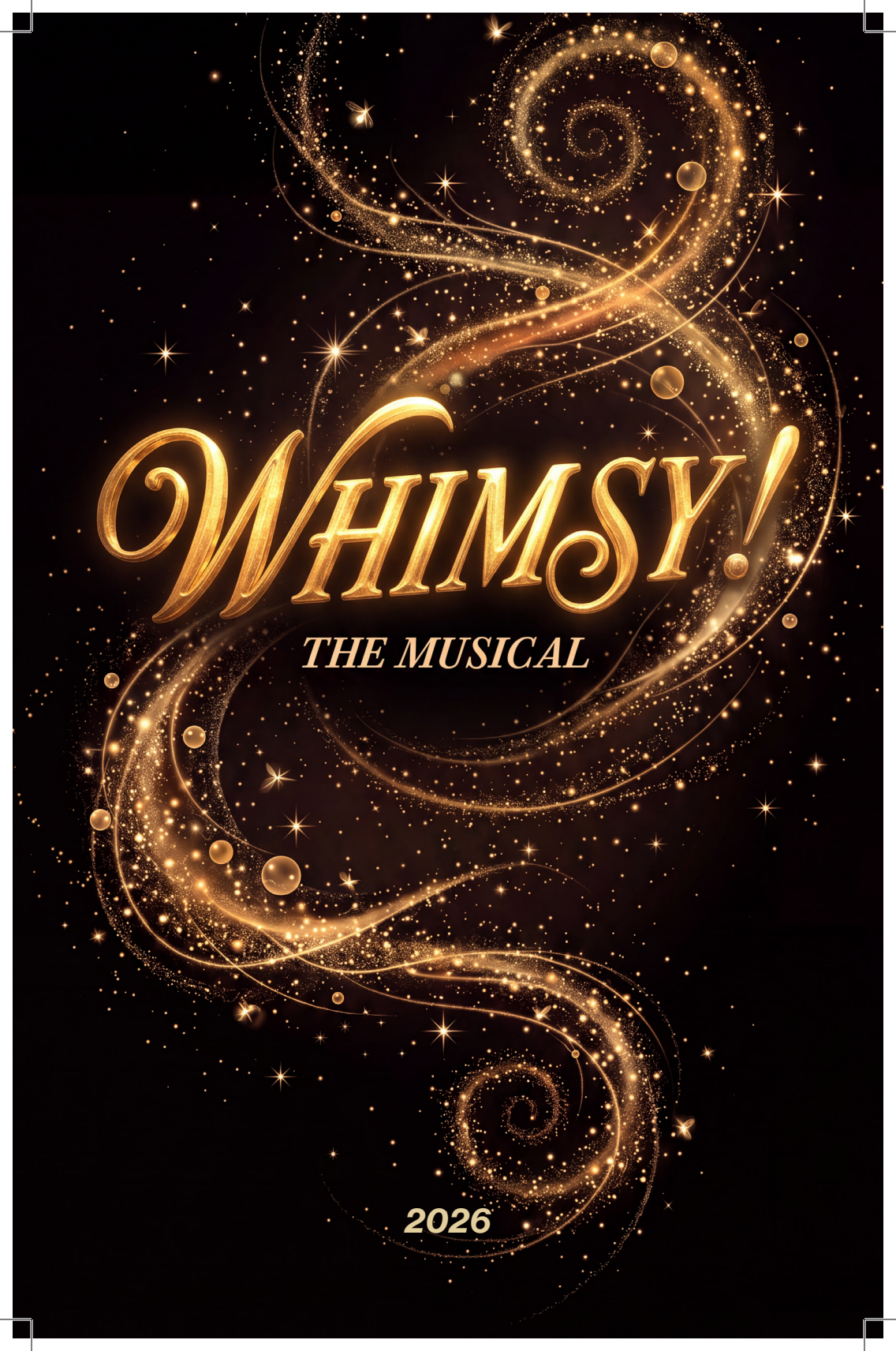




WHIMSY!

THE MUSICAL

2026

A Message from the Playwright



Hello, friends. *WHIMSY!* started as a short film idea and then, the way stories grow, it changed. It wanted songs, a stage, and a 15-year-old heroine spinning light and dreams. It wanted a dancing fairy-tale community, an Aunt Hattie wandering in with paint on her face and colorful clothes, and a reminder that the creative spark inside never disappears. It wanted seniors who find

love, and it wanted to say we can joyfully embrace our imperfections and even our limitations. It wanted us to learn to forgive and inspire our critics.

I wrote the book and lyrics because I've spent years watching kids and grown-ups question their gifts and talk themselves out of the thing they love. The Grumblers are real, but so is the moment you pick up a brush, put pencil to paper, or find the courage to try anything creative. This show is my way of saying the spark is still there. You can find it. You can even dance with it while you try – but never stop trying.

It's a family musical because I wanted something playful and true at the same time – something a child can understand and something young people and adults can relate to. The story is simple; the themes are timeless. Everyone who has contributed has given *WHIMSY!* its heartbeat. My hope is that it will grow beyond the IDEAL. I welcome your insights.

Thank you for coming. Your presence turns this premier into something very special. May you leave with a little more wonder in your pocket and a little less room for the grumbler that jeers, "not good enough, not now." So, friends – good courage, it's time to try!

Sincerely,

Susette Gertsch

Book & Lyrics

Scenes

Prologue: a lost child wanders deep in the Great Gimbal Forest - found and raised by the raspberry fairies. She grows and longs to find family and perform light spinning with the circus.

ACT I

Scene 1 – Into the World / Grumblers' Cave

Scene 2 – Hattie's Studio / Whimsy Art School

Scene 3 – Whimsy Town Square

Scene 4 – Mr. Brumble's Garden

Scene 5 – The Weedy Bog / The Locket

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene 1 – The Enchanted Hallway

Scene 2 – Hattie's Front Porch

Scene 3 – Hattie's Parlor / Grumblers Arrive

Scene 4 – Flashback / Breakthrough

Scene 5 – Forgiveness / Hope and Possibilities

Scene 6 – Whimsy Lane Near Whimsy Town Square

Scene 7 – Finale / Circus Parade

Raised by fairies and trained to spin light, young Wild Child leaves the forest to find her roots and perform with the circus. Facing the Grumblers who whisper she is not good enough, and nearly losing her tiny muse, she discovers – with help from Aunt Hattie and the storybook neighbors of Whimsy – that courage and connection are the real magic inside all of us.

Musical Numbers

Prologue – “Something’s Calling Me” – Wild Child, Raspberry Fairies

Act I, Scene 1 – “Not Good Enough” – Grumblers

Act I, Scene 1 – “I’m Your Muse!” – Little Wild Child

Act I, Scene 2 – “A.D.D. Me” – Hattie

Act I, Scene 2 – “The Elements of Art” – Hattie, Art Students

Act I, Scene 2 – “Tidy Up!” – Hattie, Art Students

Act I, Scene 3 – “We’re Still in the Story” – Company

Act I, Scene 4 – “He Runs Away” – Hattie

Act I, Scene 4 – “Your Special Day” – Hattie

Act I, Scene 5 – “Welcome Home” – Hattie

INTERMISSION

Act II, Scene 1 – “The Pearl” – Hattie, Lily, Wild Child

Act II, Scene 3 – “Without That Thought” – Hattie, Wild Child,
Little Wild Child

Act II, Scene 4 – “Seeds Can Grow” – Hattie, Wild Child

Act II, Scene 5 – “A Better Way” – Grumblers, Hattie

Act II, Scene 7 – “Time to Shine” – Full Company

Cast

Wild Child	GRACIE HATCHELL
Young Wild Child.....	HALLIE GIBB
Little Wild Child	KATIE HANSON
Aunt Hattie.....	ARI SIENNICK
Barnaby.....	MICAH NEILSON
Narrator.....	SYDNEY COLSTON
Judge Grumbler	JOSHUA KNIGHT
Perfectionist Grumbler.....	APRIL OWENS
Critic Grumbler & Frog Prince	RILEY OWENS
Valerie.....	JUNE CHAMBERS
Lily the Mermaid & Lynn.....	KENNEDY BEESTON
Sally & Mary-Mary	MAKENA SHELTON
Louie & Pied Piper	RENO PEROTTI
Mayor Jack & Fairy King	JOSH HOOKER
Mother Goose & Fairy Queen	COURTNEY CHRISTENSEN
Fairy Dancer	ADALYNN RYSZKA
Fairy Dancer	CLARA WHITTIER
Fairy Dancer	JUNE REESE
Fairy Dancer	SOPHIE LEE

Cast & Crew Bios/Photos below

MEET THE CAST



Wild Child

Gracie Hatchell

Gracie is thrilled to play Wild Child in *WHIMSY! The Musical*! Some of her favorite past roles include the Baker in *Joseph* and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Winifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*. When she's not onstage, she enjoys creating art, playing piano, and spending time outdoors.



Young Wild Child

Hallie Gibb

Hallie is so excited to share her love of dancing and singing with others. She can be found creating dances, movies and singing with her older sister Kennedy daily and has loved her experience getting to be in her very first play. Playing the young "wild child" fits her personality perfectly. She wants to thank her mom and daddy for helping her get to be in *WHIMSY!*



Little Wild Child

Katie Hanson

Katie discovered her love of theater after moving to Heber and has enjoyed performing ever since! Her previous productions include *The Jungle Book*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Aladdin*, as well as playing Ms. Sen, the royal tutor, in *Tut Tut!* and *Hermia* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is thrilled to be playing a Little Wild Child in *WHIMSY!* Katie loves the excitement of performing and the friendships she's made in the theater community. Offstage, she's an avid reader who enjoys building LEGOs, playing piano and violin, and skiing with her family.



Aunt Hattie

Ari Siennick

Ari is thrilled to be starring in the new and unique musical of "*WHIMSY!*" Previous shows include *Crazy For You*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *The Universal Language*. With a minor in theater, she's been a film producer, black box theater manager, and media coordinator for her university. She loves storytelling, writing, poetry, and film. She wants to thank her hubby, Leon, for his infinite love and support, and her two cats for being cats.



Barnaby

Micah Neilson

Micah comes from Idaho to participate in *WHIMSY!* as the bashful Barnaby Brumble who talks in riddles and sayings. This is his first experience playing a role in a musical and sees it as a way to explore and challenge himself. Professionally he is a software developer. Micah enjoys racquetball and learning on the topics of his Christian faith, self-improvement, technology, and finance.



Narrator

Sydney Colston

Sydney has enjoyed over 20 years in entertainment as an actor, producer, videographer, and celebrity manager. His credits include *Battle Dome*, numerous films, and over 80 national commercials. He contributed videography to *20 Feet from Stardom*, an Academy Award- and Grammy-winning documentary. Sydney has represented legendary musicians, entertainers, and Olympic gold medalist Al Joyner. He supports projects benefiting homeless veterans and promoting accessible media. Sydney looks forward to the future of entertainment, sharing positive new media where education, entertainment, peace, and love can inspire others to "Be the Change!"



Judge Grumbler

Joshua Knight

Joshua has been performing on stage for more than 30 years and is elated to be joining Laurie and Courtney again on stage to create magic after a 10-year hiatus. "If we can bring a little joy into your humdrum lives, it means that our work ain't been in vain. Bless you all!!" -Lina Lamont Singin' in the Rain

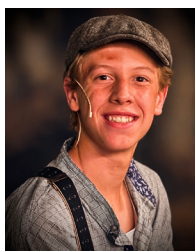
He dedicates this to those who question their talents and abilities, and to those who don't listen to the voices and critics and do what they do, Create!!!



Perfectionist Grumbler/Costumes, Hair, & Makeup

April Owens

Having worn nearly every theatrical hat imaginable, April continues to indulge her love of theater! This original production has been a fascinating journey, with a message she wholeheartedly believes in: quiet your inner critics and show kindness to yourself and others. Sharing the stage with her son, Riley, is especially memorable, as he graciously keeps her lines, blocking, and choreography straight! Much love to her kids for encouraging her imagination, and especially her husband, who supports her theater addiction and holds down the fort through everything from fake beards and painted obelisks to countless costumes and creative escapades!



Critic Grumbler & Frog Prince

Riley Owens

Riley is thrilled to join the cast of *WHIMSY! The Musical*. Some of his favorite recent stage credits include playing Jacob in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Albert in *Newsies Jr.* When not on the stage, he can be found on the lacrosse field or playing on his guitar. He wants to thank the playwright, director, cast, and crew for this wonderful opportunity.



Mayor Jack & Fairy King

Josh Hooker

Tenor Josh Hooker hails from Midway, Utah, and pursued a Master's degree from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where he studied with Carol Vaness. At IU he performed roles such as Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* and Don José in *Carmen*. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Utah Valley University, studying with Isaac Hurtado, and performed as Hoffmann in *Tales of Hoffmann*. He made his professional debut with Lyrical Opera Theater as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*. Josh enjoys whitewater rafting, snowmobiling, and going on horseback rides with his wife and two children.



Mother Goose & Fairy Queen

Courtney Christensen

Courtney has had the honor of being involved in theater for over 30 years. From community theater and screenwriting to producing, directing, and performing onstage, she has enjoyed every aspect of the theatrical experience. Above all, she treasures the lasting friendships and sense of family that theater creates. A Heber Valley resident since high school, Courtney is a proud mother of five who enjoys golfing, fishing, hiking, and exploring the outdoors. She is thrilled to be part of this exciting, original local production. Bringing something entirely new to the stage has been a unique and unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience!



Valerie

June Chambers

June is 10 years old and is making her acting debut as Valerie in *WHIMSY!* She is loving every minute of this new adventure and is excited to bring her character to life on stage. June has been involved in the Heber Valley Children's Choir and has been clogging for the past four years. When she's not performing, you can find her swimming, playing softball, or making home movies. She especially loves a good creative project, including filming and editing her own scary movie previews! June's love for performing, storytelling, and making movies makes her debut in *WHIMSY!* extra special. She can't wait to see where her love of acting takes her next!



Lily the Mermaid & Lynn

Kennedy Beeston

Kennedy is so excited to be a part of *WHIMSY!* Her favorite part of the production is getting to play a real-life mermaid. Although music has been a part of her whole life in one way or another, this is her first musical! It has been so fun getting to meet new friends and be a part of creating this special show. She wants to thank her parents for giving her the opportunity to be in a play!



Sally and Mary-Mary

Makena Shelton

Makena is thrilled to play Sally/Mary-Mary in this exciting new production! At 17, she has performed in numerous productions throughout the valley, including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Newsies*, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, and *High School Musical*. Passionate about theater since childhood, Makena has participated in numerous acting camps and productions and continues developing her talents through Ethos Acting Studio. Her favorite roles include Lily Potter Sr. in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and Muriel in *Newsies*. Makena looks forward to continuing her theater journey, growing as both a person and performer, and sharing her love of theater with audiences!



Louie & Pied Piper

Reno Perotti

Reno has enjoyed performing in numerous productions throughout the valley, including *Newsies*, *Something Rotten!*, *SpongeBob*, and *Beetlejuice* with Timpanogos Valley Theatre; *Mamma Mia!*, *The Lightning Thief*, *The Percy Jackson Musical*, and *The Phantom of the Opera* with Wasatch High School; and *Cinderella* with High Valley Arts. Reno is thrilled to perform at the historic Ideal Playhouse!



Fairy Dancer

Adalynn Ryszka

Adalynn discovered her love of dance at age two after watching *The Nutcracker* with her mom. She began lessons at UAC in Heber City at age three and has since competed nationally and at Youth America Grand Prix events. Since 2024, she has loved studying at Primary Ballet and the Heber Valley Ballet Company where she has performed in *Alice in Wonderland*, *Coppélia*, and *The Nutcracker*. Adalynn has also enjoyed playing flute and performing with Wasatch High School band and color guard. She is thrilled to bring her passion for ballet to *WHIMSY!*'s world premiere!



Fairy Dancer

Clara Whittier

Clara is 15 years old and is excited to be playing a fairy in *WHIMSY!* Clara has been dancing for as long as she can remember and has studied ballet for six years. She has also performed in 13 plays and loves expressing herself through both dance and theater. Clara is thrilled to be part of this magical production and hopes you enjoy the show!



Fairy Dancer

June Reese

June, who has been dancing since she was seven years old, is a freshman at Wasatch High School and a student at Primary Ballet in Heber. Besides dancing, she is an avid reader, music-lover, and fan of all things Korean.



Fairy Dancer

Sophie Lee

Sophie was a competitive dancer for five years before committing this year to the new Heber Valley Ballet Company to focus on studying ballet. She was thrilled to have this opportunity to dance on the musical theater stage - the only place she loves as much as the ballet studio! Sophie has been a featured dancer in several productions and has played Dory in *Finding Nemo*, Sky in *Beetlejuice*, and will play Little Red in Midway Playhouse's production of *Into the Woods Jr.* later this month. She is so grateful to live in a place with so many opportunities to train and perform!

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM



Director/Stage Manager

Laurie Turnblom

Laurie Turnblom is the director of *WHIMSY! The Musical*. In this amazing adventure of bringing a new work to the stage, she shares her experience and love of theater. She directed productions at Wasatch High School for three decades. As the co-founder of Timpanogos Valley Theatre, she helped to bring year-round community theater to Wasatch County. What a blessed and joyful ride it has been.



Co-Producer

Morgan Murdock

As a first-time co-producer, Morgan is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented, creative, and passionate team in bringing *WHIMSY!* to life. Morgan and his wife, Heather, have seven children and two grandchildren. Their family has enjoyed participating in community theater for many years. Morgan dedicated 24 years to education and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration. He enjoys traveling, exploring the outdoors with his family, and snowboarding. He hopes audiences embrace their imaginations, tune out the grumbling voices in their lives, and leave inspired to pursue their dreams and create some magic!



Art School Director

Brandi Muhlestein

Brandi Muhlestein is delighted to be part of the world premiere of *Whimsy!* With over 20 years in theatre and more than 100 productions under her belt, she has worn nearly every theatrical hat imaginable, including developing a children's theatre program. Her greatest joy is helping performers of all ages discover their talents, build confidence, and bring characters to life – especially when they surprise themselves! Offstage, Brandi's favorite cast includes her husband of 32 years, their four children, and six grandchildren. She believes a little imagination, a lot of heart, and a touch of whimsy make life magical!



Fire-Spinning, Free-Spirited, Whimsical Production Extraordinaire

Sally Neilson-Berg

Sally has acted in theatre and film since the '90s, B.A. theatre, and more intensely focused on fire dancing the last 13 years. She's lit up stages individually, with various troupes, and with her wife Jessica as their fire acrobatic duo- Luminous; including a western U.S. tour, corporate gigs, city shows, and numerous festivals. Her playwright mom, Susette Gertsch, modeled the Wild Child character after her, she played the original in the film *Whimsy*, and for this musical she worked with the Wild Child lead on her LED props while also serving as outreach coordinator, media relations, ticketing support, and official cast-and-crew cheerleader.



Fairy Ballet Choreographer

Aubrie Crandall

Aubrie has trained coast to coast, from Philadelphia Ballet to San Francisco Ballet, and danced with Ballet West on scholarship. With Utah Metropolitan Ballet, she competed at YAGP International Finals multiple times after winning first place with four ensembles in Salt Lake City. Highlights include performing at YAGP's inaugural Mexico gala and appearing as a ballet soloist in Yahosh Bonner's music video. Currently, Aubrie performs soloist and principal roles with BYU Theatre Ballet, BYU's premier ballet company. Studying Exercise Science and Ballet, she is passionate about developing technically and physically strong dancers while nurturing individuality and enriching the next generation of ballet.



Whimsles Choreographer

Carrie Dayton-Madsen

Carrie has been contra dancing for 16 years and calling and teaching dances for the past 8 years. A longtime member of the contra dance community, she loves the way dance brings people together through music, movement, and shared joy. For this production, Carrie contributed some of the contra dance choreography. When she's not dancing, she enjoys cooking, sewing, painting, teaching, and creating opportunities for people to connect through the arts.



Vocal Coach & Props

Heather Shumway Murdock

Heather is the loving wife of the marvelous Morgan, mother of seven fun-loving children, and grandmother of two adorable grandchildren. She has been teaching voice for 30 years and absolutely LOVES supporting theater in any way she can! Heather has thoroughly enjoyed being part of WHIMSY! and helping bring this magical production to life.



Vocal Coach & Props

Anna Wilson

Anna has 20 years of professional vocal teaching experience and loves helping singers feel confident, comfortable, and ready to perform. She has helped musically direct local high school productions, including Mamma Mia!, Hadestown, The Phantom of the Opera, Dames at Sea, and Bright Star. Anna is grateful to share her love of music and theater with others and couldn't pursue the things she loves without the unwavering support of her husband, Brady, and their five amazing children.



Assistant Stage Manager

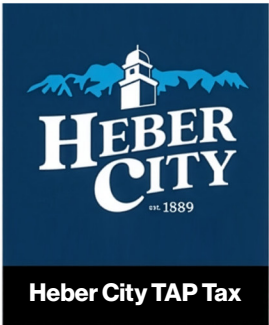
Tay Charchenko

Tay is super excited to be part of this production as the lead chair holder in the back stage crew, she is also thrilled to be in a couple of scenes. She was recently in Newsies at TVT as the famous Spot Colin. She has been doing theater for most of her life. Other shows she has recently enjoyed being in were Something Rotten as Nostradamus, and Mary Poppins as the Bird Woman. She loves to ride horses, and she hopes to do many more shows here at The Ideal Theatre.

Production Team & Crew

Playwright/Producer	Susette Billedeaux Gertsch
Co-Producer	Morgan Murdock
Director/Stage Manager	Laurie Turnblom
Assistant Stage Manager	Tay Charchenko
Art School Director	Brandi Muhlestein
Production & Marketing Assistant	Callie Wade
Fire-Spinning, Free-Spirited, Whimsical Production Extraordinaire	Sally Neilson-Berg
Fairy Ballet Choreographer	Aubrie Crandall
Whimsies Choreographer	Carrie Dalton
Grumblers Choreographer	Courtney Christensen
Vocal Coach & Props	Heather Murdock
Vocal Coach & Props	Anna Wilson
Audio Visual Designer	Dave Bates
Audio Visual Technician	Nathaniel Gay
Set Construction	Shawn Owens
Costumes, Hair & Makeup	April Owens
Costumes	Jolene Munford
Costumes	Erin Bailey
Costumes	Bethany May
Costumes	Mary Thomas
Costumes	Ginger Mortenson
Costumes	Crystal Davis
Special Projects & Production Support	Max Gertsch
Graphic Design & Branding	Chantry Brewer
Publicity	Jeff Johnson
Publicity	JoAnn Johnson

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WHIMSY!

THE MUSICAL

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Timpanogos Valley Theater

Jason & Julie Giles - The UPS Store – Heber City

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