Nordonia Drama

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

MUSIC & LYRICS BY

RICHARD M. SHERMAN & ROBERT B. SHERMAN

MUSIC BY

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SONY/ATV PUBLISHING

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY

JEREMY SAMS

BASED ON THE MGM MOTION PICTURE

LICENSED SCRIPT ADAPTED BY RAY RODERICK

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us as we fly off into our closing production of our Drama season, one that has been a bucket list show of mine to bring to the stage for years. Growing up, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* was a favorite movie of mine, and it still is. Since it has been adapted for the stage, it has remained in the back of my mind, waiting for all the theatrical puzzle pieces to fall into place. This year was finally that year.

Better known for creating the world's most famous undercover agent, Ian Fleming's last novel was one he wrote for his son. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: The Magical Car* was a story he could share with a younger audience, while still embracing his signature innovative flair. Brought to the screen with the iconic Dick Van Dyke, the story has supercharged the imagination of audiences for generations, mine included.

Caractacus Potts, an eccentric widowed inventor, could never be accused of not doing the absolute most with what he has. More than anything, he loves his children, and through his imaginative and perhaps unorthodox parenting, gives them the world. The Potts Family brand of wacky imagination is what we have embraced and infused into our world. Whether you have seen the movie once, a hundred times (like me), or never, we hope our show will spark your own imagination and have you flying alongside us.

To my cast, crew and staff. Thank you so much for all your hard work, your time, your dedication and courage to jumping into this insane show. Getting to do this show, on this stage, has been an actual dream come true. I cannot wait to see which bucket list show will be next! To the Class of 2026, all I can say is thank you. Thank you for changing my life in a way I did not see coming. You are going to be an impossible group to follow. Break a leg, always, in all you do.

Finally, I need to acknowledge the moment my life changed. 25 years ago, my Aunt Heidi took me to NYC for the first time for my spring break. We would go a couple more times, seeing my first 14 Broadway shows together. I did not realize at the time how these trips would impact me. She gave me the spark that has brought me here and has made theatre such an important part of my life, of my identity. Last year we lost one of my biggest fans. She saw almost every show, knew many of my students by name through countless stories, and knew more than anyone how much I wanted to direct *Chitty*. I am so sorry I did not get the car off the ground in the time we had, but I know you are watching, this is for you.

As always, thank you for supporting the arts at Nordonia! I **Truly** hope you find our production as **Scrumptious** as we do!

Chris Simmons, Director of Drama

WHO'S WHO - SENIORS AND LEADS

Molly Anderson (Stage Crew) is in the twelfth grade and this is her fourth show with Drama. She is a jack of all trades, having worked on both tech and stage crews as well as playing in our orchestra. She is a member of the band and plans to attend Cuyahoga Community College to continue her education and would like to eventually become a set designer for theatre.

Ryan Arieta (Grandpa Potts) is a sophomore and this marks his third performance with Drama this year, following his debut as Charlie Brown this past fall and Paris in *Romeo & Juliet*. He has worked with the Dobama Emerging Actors Program and been involved in productions of *Gypsy* and *Spongebob Jr*. at Aurora Community Theatre and Hathaway Brown. He is also involved in choir and acapella, and plans to release more music to his Spotify soon. Ryan currently hopes to continue his education in a music related field, possibly Voice or Composition.

Liz Ayers (Tech Crew) is a senior. This is her second year with Drama, having both worked on tech crew and played in our orchestra. She is also a member of the band and the Environmental Club. Liz plans to attend college this fall. A fun fact about Liz is that she loves to garden. She loves it so much that she can sometimes get a little crazy when animals try to break in, like Mr. McGregor from Peter Rabbit.

Abigail Bendlak (Stage Manager) is a senior in her fourth year with Drama. She has been a member of our stage and tech crews, working as our resident stage manager for the last two years. She has also kept busy working as a library page and barista. After graduation, Abigail plans on attending Ohio Wesleyan University this fall. She plans to double major in Chemistry and Environmental Science with a Medieval Studies minor.

Addison Campana (Jemima Potts) is a freshman making her Nordonia Drama debut as Jemima in *Chitty*! She has also performed with Drama at the middle school and is a member of acapella. Addison currently plans to study Psychology in college and has a very special message for our audience: BUY ME A CANDY GRAM!!

Hailey Cannon (Ensemble) is in the twelfth grade this year. She has appeared onstage in the ensembles of *The Little Mermaid, Mamma Mia!, The Addams Family* and *Romeo & Juliet,* and has also worked on crews for our shows. She has been a member of Drama's exec board for three years. Hailey is currently in the Media Arts program at CVCC and plans to go into film production after graduation.

London Chapman (Goran, Fight Captain) is a senior this year. This is her fourth production onstage with Nordonia Drama, following appearances in *Mamma Mia!, The Addams Family* (Grandma Addams) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Nurse). She also appeared as Deena last summer in *Almost, Maine* with Rubber City Theatre. She is currently serving as the Secretary for Drama and has worked on crews and played in the pit for past productions as well. London is on the exec board for Mock Trial and is in Band. She also works at Tacos Mexicanos. After high school, she plans to continue her education at the University of Cincinnati where she will study Early Childhood Education and Music. London would also like to say that her favorite candy is Kit-Kat…you know what to do.

Kaitlynn Fountain (Ensemble) is a senior this year and this is her fourth time performing onstage in our spring musicals! She has also been onstage in *The Little Mermaid, Mamma Mia!* and *The Addams Family*. After graduation in May, Kaitlynn plans to go to cosmetology school and work in a hair salon.

Zion Fountain (Ensemble) is a senior and this is his fourth year with Drama. He has appeared onstage at Nordonia in *Puffs, The Little Mermaid, Mamma Mia!* (Pepper), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mushnik), *The Addams Family* (Mal) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Capulet). Zion also spent time in *Almost, Maine* this past summer with Rubber City Theatre, appearing as Phil. He enjoys playing volleyball for fun, has been involved in acapella for 6 years, and is even working to start his own acapella group! Zion plans to attend the University of Dayton this fall.

Lowell Halfhill (Baron Bomburst) is a senior. He is returning to the Nordonia stage after his debut in *Romeo & Juliet* as Montague. He has also previously been onstage with Ellet CLC and Rubber City Theatre, serving on the Advisory Committee for their Teen Takeover program. Past shows include *Peter Pan* (Smee) and *Almost, Maine* (Jimmy, Man). He volunteers at FOCUS Rescue and Rehabilitation. Lowell plans to attend The University of Akron this fall to study Sociology or History, while continuing theatre. He still likes coffee. (Same Lowell. Still same).

Katie Hersh (Baroness Bomburst) is in the twelfth grade and has been involved with Nordonia Drama all throughout high school. Her turn as the Baroness marks her seventh performance onstage, following: *Puffs, The Little Mermaid, Mamma Mia!, Little Women, The Addams Family* and the title role of Juliet in last winter's *Romeo & Juliet*. Katie is the Vice President for Drama this year and has also been involved in acapella for eight years. Katie currently plans to continue her education after graduation, studying Film, Theatre or English.

Brenna Hier (Stage Crew) is in the twelfth grade and this is her second Drama production on crew, having also worked on *The Addams Family*!

Gabriel James (Stage Crew) is a senior. This is his first production working with Nordonia Drama. Welcome Gabriel!

Finley Kinkoph (Orchestra - Clarinet) is back playing for their second musical production with Drama, having played for *The Addams Family*.

Camille Laviano (Truly Scrumptious, Makeup Manager) is in the twelfth grade. This is her fifth and final production onstage with Nordonia Drama, following performances in: *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday) and *Charlie Brown* (Lucy). Camille also appeared onstage in *Almost, Maine* (Glory) at Rubber City Theatre last summer. She is Co-Makeup Manager for Drama and is also involved in choir, acapella, softball and Pep Club. She still has a camel. Following graduation, Camille plans to study Pediatric Nursing at Kent State University. When asked if there was anything else she would like to include, she simply said: NOTHINGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG.

Benjamin Marchant (Boris) is a sophomore. This is his second production with Nordonia, following his performance as Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family* last year. He has also performed in numerous productions with Akron's Phoenix Performing Arts and the Akron All-City Musical production of *The Little Mermaid*. He is a member of choir and acapella and is currently undecided on his post-high school plans.

Patrick Newyear (Orchestra - Trombone) is joining us again in the pit for their senior year, having played for *The Addams Family* last year.

Ezekiel Rayle (Caractacus Potts, Dance Captain) is a senior taking his final bow for Nordonia Drama in his tenth production on our stage. His previous roles with Nordonia include: *Puffs*, *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *A Murder is Announced* (Inspector Craddock), *Mamma Mia!* (Sam), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin, and Everyone Else), *Little Women* (Laurie), *The Addams Family* (Gomez), *Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), and *Romeo & Juliet* (Romeo). He has also worked with Rubber City Theatre in Akron on several productions, including *Freaky Friday* (Adam), *Mean Girls* (Kevin G) and *Almost, Maine*, and currently serves on the Advisory Committee for their Teen Takeover program. In addition to being the President of Drama, he is also active with choir and acapella. After high school, Ezekiel plans to continue his education, studying Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences. Ezekiel would like to send a special thank you to everyone who has helped and supported him over the past four years: Chris, Megan, Dane, Lester, the Dulaneys, family, friends, Camille, and God.

Isaac Ring (Orchestra - Saxophone) is in the twelfth grade and is returning for his second musical with Drama. He also played in the orchestra for 2025's *The Addams Family*.

Andrew Rosenblum (Orchestra Liaison) is a senior and this is his second year working with our Drama productions. He played in the orchestra for *The Addams Family* last year and is serving as our Orchestra Liaison for Drama this year. After high school, Andrew will attend The Ohio State University where he will study Business and Finance while minoring in Music and Spanish.

Ollie Weatherlow-Rand (Jeremy Potts) is in the tenth grade. This is their second production with Nordonia Drama following last year's *The Addams Family*. They have also performed with Drama in middle school as well as our summer camp programming. Ollie is an aspiring cartoonist and animator, and is a member of Art Club. Shout out to Ollie's dog Stella!!

Jasmine Wren (Ensemble) is in the twelfth grade, and this is her first time performing onstage with Drama. She performed with the pit orchestra for *The Addams Family* last year and is also involved with Marching and Concert Bands. Jasmine plans to attend Bowling Green University after graduation.