FROM THE DIRECTOR

Mamma Mia!? Here we go again!! It seems like we were just swimming Under the Sea, and now we already find ourselves in Greece. *Mamma Mia!* is a show that has been on our list to tackle for a few years now. It is an international sensation, marking its 25th anniversary this year! It redefined the contemporary jukebox musical by seamlessly incorporating the characters and plot into the catalog of one of the most popular and successful pop bands of all time: ABBA.

Mamma Mia! tells the story of Sophie, a young woman who, on the eve of her wedding, turns her world upside down by inviting three men from her mother's past to the island in the hopes of finding her father in time for him to walk her down the aisle. Over the course of a very eventful couple days, and with the help of her mother, Sophie discovers that families come in many different shapes and sizes. We all learn that love does not have to follow any rules; your family can be what you create.

To my Nordonia Drama family, thank you for making my life a dance party. I would be calling SOS if it were not for you. I am continuously in awe of the talent and dedication you pour into our productions and our students. Thank you for Taking a Chance on Me. I am so blessed to share the dance floor with each of you.

To our cast and crew, Thank You for the Music. This show had a lot of unique challenges that we have not really had to conquer before, and you tackled each one head on. I am so very proud of each of you for digging in when it got hard and leaving it all on the stage. You truly are Super Troupers, and I cannot wait to see what you all have in store for me next!

Mamma Mia! marks my 20th musical production as a member of the Nordonia Drama production staff. While I am not sure how I got here so fast, thinking back over all the productions I have worked on and all the people that have come and gone, it really is no surprise to me that I have truly made my home here on the Nordonia stage, surrounded by a family I love. I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to acknowledge my own Mamma Mia, Cindy Simmons. 20 years! For 20 years you have been by biggest fan and my fiercest supporter. I do not know if I would have made it to year 20 without you, but because of you maybe I can make 20 more! Thank you, for everything.

Thank you all for continuing to support the arts here at Nordonia. If you take one thing away from tonight's show, let it be what we have come to discover for ourselves: that any problem really can be solved with dancing! Enjoy the show Dancing Queens!

Chris Simmons, Director of Drama

WHO'S WHO - SENIORS AND LEADS

Caeden Bolling (Bill Austin) is a junior, and this is his sixth role with Nordonia Drama. He has also appeared onstage in: *Five By Ives*, *Once Upon a Mattress* (Wizard), *Puffs* (Wayne Hopkins), *The Little Mermaid* (Scuttle), and *A Murder is Announced* (Edmund). He is a member of the National Honor Society, Choir, and A Capella, and he also helps out at his church. After high school, Caeden plans to go to college for Education, continuing to have music be an important part of his life.

Alicia Byers (Lisa) is a senior, and she is appearing onstage in her second production with Drama. She appeared as Atina in last year's *The Little Mermaid* and also participated in Drama at the middle school. She has also participated in Choir and A Capella and plans to attend Kent State University in the fall to major in Interior Design. Alicia would like to take this time to thank her biggest fan, her mom, for all of her love and support!

Evan Doles (Harry Bright) is a senior making his musical debut in *Mamma Mia!* He previously appeared as Patrick Simmons in last fall's *A Murder is Announced*. He has played soccer for seven years and has been an avid fossil hunter for over a decade. This fall, Evan will continue his education studying Geology and has plans to then earn his Master's in Paleontology.

Julia Greenberg (Tanya, Makeup Crew Manager) is a junior making her third appearance in a Nordonia Drama musical. She has previously appeared onstage in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Nightingale/Mabelle) and *The Little Mermaid* (Andrina). She has also worked on tech and makeup crews for several productions. In addition to Drama, Julia is involved in A Capella and Choir. After high school, Julia would like to continue her education in the fields of Forensic Science or Biochemistry.

Abigail Krysinski (Ensemble) is in the twelfth grade. This is her fourth production with Nordonia Drama. She has previously appeared in *Puffs* (Hannah), *The Little Mermaid,* and *A Murder is Announced* (Miss Marple). She also participated in Drama at the middle school. This fall, Abigail plans to attend Ohio University to study Marine Biology.

Camille Laviano (Sophie Sheridan, Makeup Crew) is in the tenth grade and is making her Nordonia Drama debut in *Mamma Mia!*. She has previously appeared onstage with Drama at the middle school in *High School Musical Jr*. (Taylor). She has also played softball for ten years and is a member of A Capella. After high school, Camille plans to attend college to major in Nursing.

Claire Marchant (Rosie, Makeup Crew) is in the twelfth grade. She has appeared in several Nordonia Drama productions, including *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Puffs*, *A Murder is Announced* (Mitzi), and *The Little Mermaid*, for which she received a Dazzle Award nomination for Best Actress for her portrayal of Ursula. She is also a member of Choir. Claire plans to continue theatre and art after high school and would like to thank all of her friends for an amazing senior year!!

Amaya Mayes (Donna Sheridan) is a senior this year and is appearing in her third production on the Nordonia Drama stage. She has previously appeared in *The Little Mermaid* (Arista) and *A Murder is Announced* (Julia Simmons). Amaya also participated in Drama at the middle school. In addition to her time at Nordonia, she is taking classes at Kent State University and is currently completing her studies in Cosmetology School. After high school, Amaya will be continuing her education in the Acting BFA program at Baldwin Wallace University and hopes to one day own her own salon. She enjoys entertaining people and making people laugh, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Ash Penrod (Stage Crew Manager) is a senior this year. Between summer camps, middle school, and Nordonia Drama, they have been involved with theatre for about eight years. Ash has been the Stage Crew Manager for two years now. They have also been involved in National Honor Society, NST3, and the Golf Team. They have been taking horseback riding lessons for six years and currently plan to attend Lake Erie College to hopefully double major in Equine Therapeutic Horsemanship and Equine Business Administration. Ash hopes to continue with theatre in college as well.

Ezekiel Rayle (Sam Carmichael, Dance Captain) is a sophomore this year, and he is appearing in his fourth production with Nordonia Drama. His previous roles include: *Puffs* (J Finch), *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), and *A Murder is Announced* (Inspector Craddock). He also participated in Drama at the middle school in *High School Musical Jr.* (Troy Bolton) and last summer he performed with Rubber City Theatre in their production of *Mean Girls* (Kevin G). In addition to Drama, Ezekiel is involved in Choir and A Capella. After high school, he currently plans to double major in Theatre and an undecided science field.

Michael Satola (Eddie) is a senior, and *Mamma Mia!* marks his third production on the Nordonia stage. He has previously performed in *The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis) and *A Murder is Announced* (Rudi Scherz/Sergeant Mellors). In addition to Drama, Michael has been a part of numerous activities, including Band, Diving, Cross Country, and vocal lessons. He spends his spare time animating and making films, and he plans to attend Kent State University to major in Theatre and Acting.

Maliek Tyler (Ensemble) is a senior appearing on stage for the first time with Nordonia Drama in *Mamma Mia!* Last spring he played Bass Clarinet in the pit orchestra for *The Little Mermaid*. He is also a member of Choir, A Capella, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Marching Band. This fall, Maliek plans to attend The University of Akron to pursue a degree in a science related field.

Mason Tyler (Sky, Dance Captain) is a sophomore, and this is his third musical production at Nordonia, following *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Little Mermaid* (Pilot). Last summer he also performed in productions of *Mean Girls* (Mr. Duvall) and *Oklahoma!* (Dream Curly) with Rubber City Theatre and Akron's All City Musical respectively. Mason is a member of Choir and A Capella, is an Elite Company Dancer with Center Stage Dance Studio, and has choreographed for Drama at the middle school. After high school, Mason plans to continue his education, focusing on Music Education and Dance.

Jocelyn Whitaker (Minister, Ensemble) is a senior; *Mamma Mia!* marks her fourth appearance with Nordonia Drama following *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *A Murder is Announced* (Dora Bunner). Jocelyn is a member of National Honor Society, Choir, and the Girl Scouts. She has been honored to be the recipient of the Best Laugh award at the Drama Awards for the last two years and is hoping for a three-peat! After graduation, Jocelyn plans to attend Kent State University to major in Professional Writing.