Nordonia Drama

PERFORMANCES

April 8 & 9 @ 7:30pm
April 10 @ 3:00pm

For ticket and performance info please visit nordoniadrama.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to musical theatre at Nordonia!

It has been two years since we paused our production of *Seussical* for an extended spring break, not knowing at the time that we would not be returning to the Jungle of Nool. The last two years have presented us all with challenges, large and small. We have all grown, as individuals and as a community. So, we are so excited to be able to be back on stage this spring, and to share our medieval fairytale world with you all.

Once Upon a Mattress, is a musical retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale of The Princess and the Pea. It takes the classic story and turns it on its head, while maintaining its heart and the message at the core of the story. It is a simple one: don't judge a book by its cover. It is a timeless message, which seems more relevant today than ever before. Very often, the message we all need is also the simplest.

My introduction to *Once Upon a Mattress* was in 2005, when Nordonia last visited the Swamps of Home. I was one year out of high school, and my predecessors Vicki Lester and Molly Tittle welcomed me back as a production assistant. Now it is 17 years later, and I am finally revisiting this show as my ninth musical as Director at my alma mater. I will forever owe so much to these amazing women who took a chance on me so long ago.

To my cast and crew. Thank you. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and dedication in our return to the stage. Remember these moments, and this show. I hope you look back on our time together with the fondest of memories. To the Class of 2022, it's been a lot of ups and downs, but we have made it, and I am so proud of the young adults you have all become!

I have spent a lot of time recently thinking back over all the shows that have come and gone while I have been working at Nordonia. There have been hundreds of students, thousands of costumes and props, and enough memories for several lifetimes. I have been so blessed to share this love and passion with so many people, including my entire family. My dad loved every show, and always dropped everything to help build a set or custom design a prop, like the lute our Minstrel will be using onstage, which he built for our 2005 production. While he is no longer here, just this one small thing makes him a special part of my show. I can only hope he knew just how proud I was, and still am, to have had him as my dad, and by my side.

Thank you all so much for returning to the theatre with us, and for your continued support of the arts at Nordonia. Enjoy the show!

Chris Simmons
Director of Drama

WHO'S WHO - SENIORS AND LEADS

Caeden Bolling (The Wizard) is a freshman this year and is appearing in his first musical with Nordonia Drama. He previously appeared last fall as Norman in *Five by Ives* and as Rooster in *Annie Jr* at the middle school in seventh grade. In addition to Drama, Caeden is a member of Symphonic Chorale and Synergy, and participates with NST3. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his brother and using his gifts of sarcasm to poke fun with and at his friends.

Ella Bozan (The Minstrel) is in the ninth grade and this is her first musical on the Nordonia stage. Some of her favorite performances from around Northeast Ohio include *Little Women* (Jo March), *Beauty and the Beast Jr* (Belle) and *Willy Wonka Jr* (Charlie). Ella is currently taking CCP classes at Kent State, and would like to study Psychology at Yale after high school.

Alessia Carrosellia (Princess #12, Dance Captain) is a senior who is performing in her fourth musical at Nordonia after previously being on stage for *The Wizard of Oz, Seussical* and *No Day But Today*. She also appeared in *Five by Ives* this past fall. She has been a member of the Drama Club for four years, serving on the Executive Board this year, and has also been involved in Dance. This past fall, Alessia was cast as an extra in a movie! After graduation, she plans to continue her education at Kent State.

Jeremiah Evans Jones (Ensemble) is a senior, appearing in his third production with Nordonia Drama, after having been on stage in *No Day But Today* and *Five by Ives*. He is also a member of Momentum, runs track, and loves doing impressions. This fall, Jeremiah plans to study at Kent State.

Jacob Filisky (Prince Dauntless the Drab) is a senior. In addition to performing in productions with the middle school, Jacob made his Nordonia Drama debut in the seventh grade, playing Gavroche in our 2017 production of *Les Misérables*. He has since appeared on stage in *The Wizard of Oz, Seussical* (Wickersham Brother) and *No Day But Today*. In his time off the stage, Jacob is a member of Choir, played baseball growing up and went out for track this year. This fall, Jacob plans to further his education at Cuyahoga Community College with the plans to later transfer to a four year university.

Grace Garner (Makeup Crew Manager) is a senior and has been a part of the Makeup Crew for four years. Outside of school, she has been a member of a competition dance team for seven years. Following high school, Grace plans to go to college to study Law and continue to dance.

Andrew Hawkins (Stage Crew Manager) is in the twelfth grade. He is currently serving as the Stage Crew Manager after having worked on the Stage Crew for numerous Nordonia Drama productions. He has also worked as a production assistant and director on our productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Five by Ives* respectively. After high school, Andrew plans to attend Columbia College Chicago to further his education, studying Film.

Libby Herberth (Princess Winnifred the Woebegone) is a senior. This is her fourth Nordonia Drama musical performance, after having appeared in *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy Gale), *Seussical* (Gertrude McFuzz) and *No Day But Today*. This year she also made her first appearance in a fall play in *Five by Ives*. Libby studies voice with Vicki Lester, and sings and plays piano at her church. Fun fact, she spends an average of 8212 minutes per year in the drive thru at Dunkin'. Libby does plan on college, but the "where" and "what for" are still to be decided. One thing she is sure about, is that theatre will remain to be a constant in her life.

Leah Jackson (Queen Aggravain) is a senior this year appearing in her sixth production with Nordonia Drama. She has previously appeared in *All in the Timing* (Kafka), *The Wizard of Oz, Seussical, The Importance of Being Earnest* (Miss Prism) and *No Day But Today*. This past fall she worked as a director for *Five by Ives*, and is currently on the Executive Board for the Drama Club. Leah is also a member of the Bowling Team and 4H. She enjoys art and painting, and takes voice lessons with Vicki Lester. After graduation, Leah plans to study Film and Entertainment Media with a minor in Fine Arts.

Elliot Marchant (Sir Harry) is in the twelfth grade and is making his Nordonia Drama debut on stage in *Once Upon a Mattress*! He has appeared on stage at Phoenix Performing Arts in *Mary Poppins* (Bert), *Beauty and the Beast Jr* (Beast) and *Little Women* (Laurie). Elliot is considering continuing his education at Cuyahoga Community College, pursuing a theatre-related field.

Kenia Miranda (Stage Crew) is a senior. She has been a part of Stage Crew since she was in the eighth grade, continuing with productions at the high school. In addition to working on crew, she is also involved in Math Club, Girls Who Code and Spanish Club. After high school, Kenia plans to study Computer Science in the UK.

Stella Naymik (The Jester, Dance Captain) is a senior this year, and this is her fifth performance with Nordonia Drama. She has appeared on stage in *All in the Timing, The Wizard of Oz, Seussical* (Jojo) and *No Day But Today*. She has also performed in productions with Rubber City Theatre and The Cassidy Theatre. Offstage at Nordonia, Stella has worked as a director for The *Importance of Being Earnest* and *Five by Ives,* and is the current Drama Club President. Outside of Drama, she is involved in soccer, Momentum, and is also the President of Mock Trial. She is keeping herself busy with her Etsy Shop, @stellastarstationary, and her YouTube channel, Stella's Book Nook. After graduation, Stella plans to attend Kent State for Digital Media Production and English.

Richie Nyce (King Sextimus the Silent, Tech Crew Manager) is a junior. This is his fifth production with Nordonia Drama since first appearing as a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*. He has appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing, Seussical* and *Five by Ives*. He has performed in productions at Aurora Community Theatre, and has worked tech for several of our productions. Richie is a PM Shift Leader at Chick-Fil-A and currently plans to study Computer Science at Kent State after high school.

Hadassah Rayle (Ensemble, Makeup Crew) is in the twelfth grade this year. She has appeared on stage in *All in the Timing, The Wizard of Oz, Much Ado About Nothing, Seussical* and *No Day But Today*. Hadassah also assisted as a Director for The *Importance of Being Earnest* and *Five by Ives*. She is the current Secretary of the Drama Club. In addition to Drama, she participates in Mock Trial, NST3, National Honor Society and acapella. After graduation, she plans to attend The University of Akron, in the Honors College, studying Music Education and Theatre.

Isabella Zeman (Lady Larken) is a fresheman, but this is not her first production with Nordonia Drama. She first hit the Nordonia stage as a Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*. She has also appeared in *Annie Jr* (Annie) and *The Jungle Book* (Baloo), as well as our fall production of *Five by Ives*. She has also appeared in *The Box* at Weathervane. Isabella studies voice with Vicki Lester, plays piano, dances, and participates in acapella. She is unsure of her path after high school, but could see herself pursuing a career in the performing arts.