FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the spring of 2001, Nordonia last produced *The Wizard of Oz*. I was a freshman in high school. I played a Winkie. It was my first musical, and I was so excited. Looking back, I cannot imagine that my fourteen year old self would have ever believed that this is where my Yellow Brick Road would have led me. The same show, the same stage, eighteen years later, but this time as Director.

This show truly did start me on my journey for what has nearly been the last twenty years of my life. This year's Oz marks my nineteenth consecutive musical with Nordonia Drama, from 2001 to today, and my sixth as Director. That seems like so many shows, but I remember each one, and coming back to Oz really is a full circle moment that I can only describe as surreal, and an absolute blessing.

To my cast and crew, I simply cannot express how proud I am of each and every one of you. This show has the biggest cast and most challenging tech and costumes since I have taken over the program, and you met each new challenge and hurdle with ease. You have worked so hard and I can only hope you know how special what you have created is. You are the reason I have made it to show nineteen and why I can look forward to show twenty and beyond. Thank you for coming with me to see the Wizard!

To my seniors. It seems like we just closed *Cinderella* a few months ago, and somehow here we are, three years later. It has been a privilege to watch you grow, not only as performers and artists, but into the outstanding young men and women you have become. Please never forget how Nordonia Drama has made an impact on your lives, for I will never forget how each of you have impacted mine. You will be a hard act to follow! I sincerely hope you all follow your own Yellow Brick Roads to your very own Over the Rainbows.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to ensure the success of the Drama Club and our productions. I have been so incredibly blessed over the last two decades to have such a wave of support. I simply could not do what I do without all the people who sacrifice their time, talent and money to make sure my Drama students can have the opportunities we are able to provide and I am humbled each year by your dedication. Thank you so much.

As corny as it is, Nordonia Drama has truly become my home…and there really is no place like it! Thank you for supporting the arts here at Nordonia and thank you for joining us on our journey to Oz. Enjoy the show!

Chris Simmons

Director of Drama

SENIOR AND LEAD BIOS

Abigail Ayers (Backstage Manager) is a senior working backstage on her fifth Nordonia Drama production. In addition to Drama, she has been in Marching Band for four years and has played softball for eleven. Abigail may not be on stage, but she loves being a part of Drama, even if she's in the shadows. She is kind but do not be fooled, she will yell at your butt until you listen, for they do not call her mom for no reason. Abigail plans to attend Tiffin University to study Forensic Psychology.

Nicky Dietzen (Ms Almira Gultch/Wicked Witch of the West) is a senior appearing onstage for her sixth production at Nordonia. She has previously been in the ensembles of *Cinderella, Les Misérables* and *Oklahoma!*,and served as a Director for *All in the Timing*. She also appeared in last year's Akron All-City Musical production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Akron Civic. Nicky is also a member of Mock Trial and Diversity Club. She plans to attend Temple University in Philadelphia to study Journalism, with a minor in Acting or Film. She would like to take a moment to say how much she will miss Drama and all the people she has met. Thank you to Chris and Megan for everything and to her family for letting her cackle in the basement these last few months.

Amy Rose Dudycz (Munchkin/Poppy/Flying Monkey) is a senior working on her fourth Nordonia musical production. She played in the Pit Orchestra her first two years of Drama, and has appeared onstage in *Oklahoma!* and *All in the Timing*. In addition to Drama, she is also a member of Band, Mock Trial, and National Honor Society. Amy Rose plans to attend Kent State to study History and Sociology and plans to then teach abroad. In her spare time she is the mama of two guinea pigs named Norman and Max. If you're looking, you'll probably find her eating cheese.

Ryan Dulaney (Hunk/Scarecrow) is in the twelfth grade and is appearing onstage for Nordonia Drama for the third time. He has previously appeared in *Oklahoma!* (Cord Elam) and *All in the Timing* (Mark). He is also a member of Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Choir and Synergy. Ryan plans to attend Baldwin Wallace University this fall to study Music Composition and/or Film. He can usually be found eating gateposts out on the cattle ranches. This one goes out to the man, the myth, the legend…Mr. Gary Pugh.

Meghan Falkowski (Glinda/Jitterbug) is a junior this year and this is her third production on the Nordonia stage, having previously been in the ensembles of *Les Misérables* and *Oklahoma!* She co-directed *The Universal Language* for this past fall's *All in the Timing*. She also has played Varsity Golf, is a Girl Scout, and sings with Synergy. Meghan would like to study zoology and looks forward to a career as a vet.

Hannah Ford (Nikko/Munchkin/Poppy) is a senior and is the current President of the Drama Club. This is her seventh onstage appearance for Nordonia Drama. She notably appeared in *Oklahoma!* (Aunt Eller) and *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Puck). She also stepped into a directing role for this year's fall production of *All in the Timing*, helming *Phillip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread*. Hannah is a member of National Honor Society and has also been dancing for eleven years. She plans to attend Notre Dame College to study Adolescent/Young Adult Life Sciences and Chemistry Education, with a minor in Performing Arts. She would like to thank her mom, dad, sister and grandpa for their love and support!

Joey Galla (Tech Crew Manager) is a senior and is working on the tech crew for his fourth consecutive musical production. This is his first year as the tech crew manager.

June Guy (Munchkin/Poppy/Flying Monkey) is a senior appearing in her fourth straight Nordonia musical production. She is also a member of Band and plays softball. She has been a Girl Scout for thirteen years and is a Gold Award recipient. June plans to attend Tri-C in the fall to study either Forensic Science and Criminal Justice or Terminally Ill Pediatrics.

Kaitlyn Hazelton (Makeup Crew) appeared on stage her freshmen year in *The Wedding From Hell*, playing Karoline Karter. She has since worked behind the scenes on Makeup Crew. She has participated in Volleyball, has lettered twice in both Mock Trial and Golf, and is a member of National Honor Society. Kaitlyn will be attending Kent State majoring in English/Professional Writing with a minor in Creative Writing. She would like to thank the love of her life and gorgeous red-headed friend, President Hannah Ford, for writing her bio. Finally, she would like to advise you not to run with scibbors.

Libby Herberth (Dorothy Gale) is currently in the ninth grade at Nordonia and is making her Nordonia Drama debut in *The Wizard of Oz*. She has previously appeared in productions of *The Sound of Music* and *Chicago* with Young Actors Studio. She sings and plays piano, and would one day like to have a career in theatre or music. Outside of Drama, Libby spends her time binge watching *Grey's Anatomy*.

Michael Kerosky (Munchkin/Crow/Ozian/Winkie) is a senior and has previously appeared on stage in *Cinderella*, *Les Misérables* (Bishop), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theseus) and *Oklahoma!* (Ike Skidmore). He also served as a student director for *All in the Timing*, co-directing *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*. He is also a member of Mock Trial, Treasurer of Drama Club, and the current President of National Honor Society. Michael will most likely pursue his collegiate studies in Neuroscience at the University of Notre Dame. He is very grateful to Drama, Chris and Megan, and all the others who work so hard for the opportunities this organization provides – it's meant a lot!

Nathan Lalli (Munchkin/Ozian) is a senior and this is not his first go around with Nordonia Drama. He has worked on Backstage Crew for *Les Misérables* and *Oklahoma!* and even had a cameo as a cowboy in the territory! Nathan is an eight year member of the Ski Club and competing in his first Special Olympics this year. After graduation, Nathan plans to continue his education and job training.

Will Makley (Uncle Henry/Oz Guard/Jitterbug) is a senior who has spent the last three years playing in the Pit Orchestra before finally finding the balls to make his way on stage for our fall production of *All in the Timing*, where he played Milton in *Words, Words, Words*. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Marching and Concert Bands. Will plans to attend Kent State University after high school to study Economics and join the KSU Air Force ROTC. This one goes out to the man, the myth, the legend…Mr. Gary Pugh.

Nataly Miller (Backstage Crew) is a senior working backstage on her second production following *All in the Timing*. She is a member of Marching Band and National Honor Society. Nataly plans to attend Tusculum University in Greensville, Tennessee, to study Pre-Medical Biology.

Miah Montesano (Aunt Em/Oz Beautician/Jitterbug) is a junior appearing in her fifth Nordonia Drama production. She also appeared in last year's Akron All-City Musical production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Akron Civic. She is the current Vice President of the Drama Club, has been a member of Choir for three years and would like to thank her family for teaching her how to be an old lady. This one goes out to the man, the myth, the legend…Mr. Gary Pugh.

Alex Posar (Hickory/Tinman) is thrilled to be taking on the role of the Tinman in his eighth and final production with Nordonia Drama! Some of his past credits have included: *Cinderella* (Sebastian), *Almost, Maine* (Lendall/Dave), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Demetrius), *Oklahoma!* (Andrew Carnes) and *All in the Timing* (Bill). He is also a member of the Symphonic Chorale and Synergy. After high school, Alex plans to join the National Guard while attending Kent State University. In his spare time, he enjoys watching science fiction movies and playing video games. This one goes out to the man, the myth, the legend…Mr. Gary Pugh.

Jeremy Pugh (Winkie General/Twister/Ozian) finishes out his senior year appearing onstage in his fifth Nordonia Drama production. He has also appeared in *Les Misérables*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Francis Flute), *Oklahoma!,* and *All in the Timing* (Swift/Ramón). He is also a member of Marching Band and Choir. Jeremy plans to attend Kent State University to continue his education. This one goes out to the man, the myth, the legend…Mr. Gary Pugh.

Adeline Riley (Munchkin/Ozian/Winkie) is in the twelfth grade and is appearing on stage for the fifth time, having previously appeared in *The Wedding From Hell, Les Misérables, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Oklahoma!* She is also a member of Choir and plans to further her education at Kent State University, where she will study Psychology and Writing. Thank you so much to Chris and Megan for these past four years, it has been a great experience!

Nathan Shaffer (Munchkin Mayor/Oz Gatekeeper/Crow/Jitterbug) is a junior and made his first appearance with Nordonia Drama in this past fall's *All in the Timing*, as Don in *The Universal Language*. He is also a member of Band and Choir, and is in the top 5% of all Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Players. After high school, Nathan plans to study Media Technology or Digital Design.

Kaeli Stephens (Munchkin/Tree/Ozian) is a senior who has previously appeared in *Cinderella, Almost, Maine, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Oklahoma!* She also worked on Backstage and Makeup for *Les Misérables* and student directed *The Philadelphia* for this past fall's production of *All in the Timing*. She is a member of Momentum, Girl Scouts, Choir and National Honor Society. Kaeli will attend the College of Wooster to study Pre-Health with a focus on Nursing. Finally, though he is unaware, Kaeli is secretly in a committed relationship with Logan Henderson.

Anthony Strong (Zeke/Cowardly Lion) is in the twelfth grade and has appeared on stage in a number of shows for Nordonia Drama, including: *The Wedding From Hell, Cinderella, Les Misérables, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander) and *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakim). He also directed *Words, Words, Words* for this past fall's *All in the Timing*. He has also performed onstage at Rubber City Theatre in Akron. He appeared in their production of *The Crucible* as Willard and then most recently, alongside Chris Simmons in *Guys and Dolls*, in which he played Harry the Horse. Anthony is also a member of Choir and Band. He would very much like to express his gratitude to Chris and Megan for the last four years, he cannot thank them enough. This one goes out to the man, the myth, the legend…Mr. Gary Pugh.

Ryan Walsh (Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz) is a junior and this is his first year involved with Nordonia Drama. After taking on the role of Leon Trotsky in *Variations on the Death of Trotsky* for our fall production of *All in the Timing*, he returns this spring as the wonderful Wizard of Oz. He would like to specifically thank Chris Simmons for writing his program bio, since he never turned the form in.