

Grand Forks Public Schools

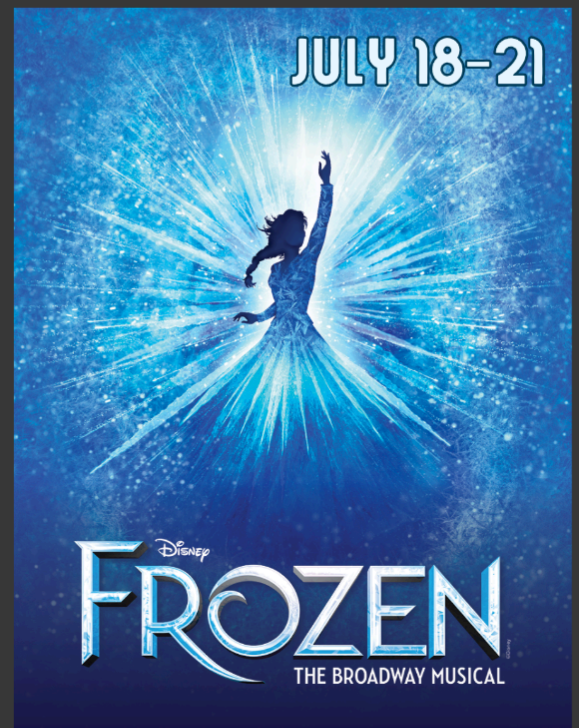
SPA[★]

SUMMER PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

39TH SEASON

WWW.SPACOMPANY.ORG

Disney's FROZEN and SEUSSICAL
are presented through special arrangement with Music
Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied
by MTI. www.mtishows.com



This program is sponsored in part by:

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THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS.



SPA 2026 STAFF

The number in parentheses indicates the number of years the employee has worked for SPA. * indicates SPA alumni

Director: Allison Peterson* (30)

Technical Director: Jake Geffre (20)

Frozen: Angie Black Erickson* (36), Rich McFarlane (24), Paul Barta* (22), Seth Brandl* (8), Noah Severud* (5)

Seussical: Alex Hovey* (12), Elizabeth Loeffler* (12), Alex Barta* (10), Ella Henry* (5), Abbey Kinneberg* (1), Simone Legerski* (1), Rowan Olmstead* (1), Rilyn Thompson* (1)

Office/Box Office: Bree Barta* (9), Ryann Barta* (9), Ligia Feo (5), Jada Jensen* (4), Anika Suriano* (4)

Technical Team: Matt Dunham* (10), Ian MacKenzie* (8), Chloe McCarthy* (6), Jackson Lee (5), Cooper Miller* (5), Nora Lee* (4), Quinlan Schudrowitz* (4), Blake Storbakken* (4), Owen Berglund* (1), Carma Johnson* (1)

Voice Studio: Ella Henry (5)

Costumes: Amy Lyste (1), Rebecca Uglem (1), Alex Rice (1), Emma Lyste* (1)

MySPA: Brenna Payne* (14), Bree Barta* (9), Ryann Barta* (9), Angie Johnson (6), Hannah Holte* (4)

ML Summer School Guest Artists: Kathy Coudle King, Emma Schreiber, Pamela Swenson, Oliver Wolfe*

Elementary SPA: Chris Fosse (39), Jamie Toutenhoofd* (27), Lindsey Wood* (18), Brenna Payne* (14), Lukas Opp* (14), Trina Connell (11), Matt Dunham* (10), Bree Barta* (9), Ryann Barta* (9), Chris Loeffler* (9), Emma Dodds* (6), Chloe McCarthy* (6), Anna Benson (4), Eliza Dodds* (4), Jennifer Dodds (3), Hannah Holte* (4), Anika Suriano* (4), Kelsie Wiens (4), Emily Dawes (2), Cami Antonenko* (2), Nora Anderson* (2), Rilyn Thompson* (1)

Pre-K SPA: Emma Dodds* (6), Eliza Dodds* (4), Jennifer Dodds (4), Hannah Holte* (4), Emily Dawes (2)

Middle School SPA: Rich McFarlane (24), Paul Barta* (22), Alex Hovey* (12), Elizabeth Loeffler* (12), Alex Barta* (10), Noah Severud* (5), Ella Henry* (5), Abbey Kinneberg* (1), Simone Legerski* (1), Rowan Olmstead* (1)

Bands on the Red: Brady Olson (6), Brady Zimmerman (1)

Instrumental Lessons Coordinator: Jeff Seabloom (28)

CODE OF CONDUCT AND THEATRE ETIQUETTE

The Grand Forks Public Schools Fine Arts Programs strive to create an enjoyable experience for everyone. We kindly ask all patrons to remain respectful, considerate, and polite when interacting with our staff, students, and fellow patrons.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, as we work together to create a welcoming atmosphere for all.

Please,

- Silence (or turn off) your cell phone
- Do not text during the performance
- Hold your conversations until intermission or the end of the performance
- If you need to exit the performance space, please wait until a break in the action
- When returning to your seat, please wait near the doors and quietly re-enter during applause or intermission
- No flash photography
- Unwrap hard candies/lozenges before the show or during applause
- Refrain from squeezing and crinkling water bottles
- Do not put your feet on the chair in front of you

Please be aware that we reserve the right to refuse service and remove from the premises anyone who is being rude or disruptive without refund of ticket purchase.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, as we work together to create a welcoming atmosphere for all.

NOTES FROM THE SPA DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 39th season of SPA! We are glad to have you here tonight to see firsthand the hard work and dedication the students and staff of High School SPA have put into this production. This year, there are over 180 students involved in the High School SPA program on stage and behind the scenes.

For the third consecutive summer, we have broken the 1,100 mark in registrations! SPA has many programs for students of all ages and abilities - from Pre-K children to participants in the Adult Transition Program, and no experience is necessary to participate.

We couldn't do any of this with our generous grantors, private donors, in-kind sponsors, and volunteers. We value the support we receive from the community, and this year we are once again hosting a spare change drive for the Grand Forks Foundation for Education Giving Tree and for the Santa Claus Girls. Both organizations directly help many of the students and families that are involved with SPA and the Fine Arts during the school year.

This program also wouldn't be possible without the team of directors, instructors, college students, and alumni that work with the students every day and surrender their summer to bring creativity, fun, and inspiration to groups of hard working, energetic, and enthusiastic students. It's a privilege to work with such high-caliber individuals who are both good at what they do and whose focus is solely on bringing the best experience possible for the students.

Thank you for attending today's performance and showing your support for the students of SPA. We hope you enjoy the show!

Allison Peterson, SPA Director

THANK YOU

**JULIE & GREG
NELSON**

**FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

**THANK YOU
TO OUR
GRANTORS**

THE MYRA FOUNDATION

**GRAND FORKS PARKS AND RECREATION
FOUNDATION - ULLAND FUND**

CITY OF GRAND FORKS ARTS REGRANT

A SPA TRADITION

We would like to invite all SPA students/alumni to the stage for the "Body Electric" for all High School SPA performances.

*Please note – this version is different from the Pre-K, Elementary, and Middle School Versions.
Students should stand by a High Schooler and follow their lead.*



Reece Aird



Jonas Ferguson

Following tonight's curtain call, there will be a final musical number. The rest of the students in the Summer Performing Arts Company will join the cast to perform "I Sing the Body Electric." This song has closed all SPA performances for the past 38 years. This symbolic song ties the entire program together. It has different meanings to different students, but a common theme can be found in the literal text. The students are celebrating not only the arts, but their growth in the arts yet to come. They will go on to create their own tomorrows as they continue in music and theatre. The song also symbolizes the passing of a class. This is the last summer program in which the class of 2027 will be able to participate. This "passing of the tradition" is represented by the two soloists selected to sing. Reece Aird, a senior, will sing the first verse and then turn the spotlight over to ninth-grader Jonas Ferguson, a student new to the High School SPA company.

"AND IN TIME WE WILL ALL BE STARS."

PAST "BODY ELECTRIC" SOLOISTS

1990	CRAIG SMYSER, RYAN KARELS	2008	BRIT LAZUR, IAN SHERWOOD
1991	SAM BLACK, LANA BOLLMAN	2009	CASEY SMITH, COLE SHERWOOD
1992	TRAVIS LIEN, MIKE MARCOTTE	2010	JENNA SPICER, BEN BREIDENBACH
1993	JUDY NYHLEN, JEFF JACOBI	2011	WILL BEATON, KENNY PRICE, JR
1994	JAMIE CADY, JENNI DURIEUX	2012	RYAN SCHUSTER, LOCUTUS LO
1995	RYAN KARELS, JILL JOHNSON	2013	KIRSTEN AAFEDT, LAUREN CRAIG
1996	ERIK HUNTER, CASEY KOOP	2014	JULIET WOLFE, ANTHONY SCHREIER
1997	MISTI KOOP, BILLY POEHLS	2015	TUCKER PEARSON, DREW RELLING
1998	ABBY LOCHNER, CHASE BURKHART	2016	LAUREN CRAIG, ALYSSA DONACKI
1999	MATT LUNEY, MAREN TUNSETH	2017	SYDNEY WARCUP, GRACIA LARSEN-SCHMIDT
2000	TERA KILBRIDE, LAUREN PALAY	2018	ANNA LAPP, CLAIRE HUEBNER
2001	JASON MELIN, MOLLY KINNEY	2019	CHLOE HEYDT, SOFIA RAMIREZ
2002	CHASE BURKHART, DEVIN LEVANG	2020	THE SENIOR CLASS OF SPA
2003	BETH LAIDLAW, KIRBY BLACK	2021	ELLIE KNUDSVIG, CAMI ANTONENKO
2004	MAREN TUNSETH, JACE BEEHLER	2022	ELIZA DODDS, ANDREW FOERSTER
2005	MARCUS WOODARD, AMELIA KLAUS	2023	GABRIELLE CORMIER, MILEY PISENO
2006	JAMES FREESTONE, BEN SUN	2024	HAILEY KALIS, JOSEPHINE VACURA
2007	ZACH SPICER, JACY THIBERT	2025	NATALIE BUCHHOP, OLIVIA SURIANO

SUPER SPA SUPPORTERS

THESE INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS BEING OUTSTANDING SUPPORTERS OF SPA.

1993 EVERETT KNUDSVIG
1994 SHIRLEY BOSTROM
1995 GLAYDE CORY
1996 GENE DURIEUX
1997 DUAINÉ SANDEN
1998 PAT OWENS
1999 LOREE STENEHJEM & JUDITH KONERZA
2000 VICKI ERICSON
2001 RON GRUWELL
2002 GRAND FORKS HERALD
2003 KEN SHERWOOD
2004 "THE ANSWER" PROGRAM
2005 LESLIE & PATRICIA HOWARD
2006 GF COUNTY COMMISSION
2007 MARK SANFORD & RON GRUWELL
2008 TIM & JOLYNN PRIBULA

2009 MARILYN HAGERTY
2010 DON LANGLEIE - POPPLER'S MUSIC
2011 DEB & GREG NELSON
2012 TOM & HELEN OPP
2013 US BANK
2014 DR. ROGER AND KIM AMUNDSON
2015 THE ULLAND FOUNDATION
2016 DR. ERIC LUNN
2017 STEVE THOMAS - SCOTT'S MUSIC
2018 BECKY SCHMIDT
2019 MARIA WILLIAMS-KENNEDY
2020 OUR GIVING HEARTS DAY SUPPORTERS
2021 HUGO'S FAMILY MARKETPLACE
2022 SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 INK, INC.
2024 MIKE SOLI
2025 BOYD WRIGHT & LILLIAN ELSINGA
2026 To Be Announced



**Help us give back
this summer!**



Let's work together to help students
in our community that need support!



Providing gift bags to children
aged 12 and under from
low-income families during the
holiday season.

You will see spare change buckets in the lobby at intermission and at the end of the show. We are collecting change for The Giving Tree and The Santa Claus Girls, two organizations that benefit the students in our community. Thank you for your consideration!

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NIGHT OF A SPA PERFORMANCE?
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For more info: spa@mygfschools.org



SPA
SUMMER PERFORMING ARTS

How can I help?

- Monetary donations
- Volunteer time/goods
- Attend performances and support our students
- Word of mouth/educate others about the program

What are monetary donations used for?

- Providing scholarships for families that need financial aid
- Hiring guest artists for ML Summer School
- Buying music, supplies, and equipment
- Paying operating costs for MySPA and Bands on the Red (programs that solely operate via grants/donations)
- Hosting after-SPA activities for students

Any donation directly
benefits our students.

Thank you for your support!

For more information, please
visit www.spacompany.org



NOTES FROM THE TECH DIRECTOR

As you sit back and enjoy today's show, I invite you to take a moment to look beyond the stage and recognize the incredible work happening behind the scenes. These students are often unseen by the audience, but their impact is visible in every moment of the performance.

Everything you see and hear tonight is the result of the hard work of our high school technical theatre students. From the platforms, to the facing, to the final coat of paint, these students have helped bring every technical element of this summer's productions to life. This summer presented unique challenges. Creating the icy beauty of Arendelle, but also creating the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss required imagination, problem-solving, and teamwork.

But SPA is about more than building sets and running tech. Throughout the summer, our students had opportunities to explore new skills, connect with professionals, and experience the many different forms of art. One highlight was learning the traditional Norwegian art of Rosemaling from professional artist Pieper Bloomquist. Students gained an appreciation for this decorative art form while learning scenic painting techniques for *Frozen*.

Thanks to the support of the Grand Forks Fire Department, tech students received hands-on fire extinguisher training and learned important fire safety practices. This experience provided valuable real-world knowledge and reinforced the importance of maintaining a safe environment in theatres, workshops, and beyond.

Students also had the opportunity to tour the Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center with their technical director, Patrick Hill. They got a behind-the-scenes look at a professional performance venue. Seeing the backstage spaces, technical systems, and production infrastructure of a large performing arts center helped students better understand the world of theatre and live entertainment.

We would not be able to provide many of these opportunities without the generosity of our donors and supporters. Your contributions make it possible for our students to participate in educational workshops, work with guest artists, and other activities that enhance their summer experience.

One of the greatest joys of SPA is watching students grow. Many of these young tech students arrived with limited experience and quickly developed confidence and took ownership of their work. We could not be more proud of this group of students. They have worked long hours and demonstrated remarkable responsibility.

On behalf of the entire technical team, thank you for joining us and supporting these talented young students. Please enjoy the show tonight, and join me in celebrating the outstanding students whose hard work, creativity, and dedication have made tonight possible.

Jake Geffre, Tech Director

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you for your continued support of the Summer Performing Arts (SPA) program. As SPA celebrates its 39th season, it remains a cornerstone of artistic excellence and student enrichment in our community. This summer, more than 1,000 students have chosen to participate in SPA's many offerings, with additional registrations anticipated through MySPA and the remaining Elementary SPA sessions. These young performers, artists, musicians, and technicians represent the very best of our schools and community, dedicating their time and talents to developing skills that will serve them both on and off the stage.

Throughout its nearly four decades, SPA has provided generations of students with opportunities to discover their passions, build confidence, and create lasting memories. The impact of this program extends far beyond Grand Forks, with numerous alumni pursuing successful artistic endeavors across the nation and around the world. We are fortunate to have Allison Peterson once again providing outstanding leadership as Director, ensuring that SPA continues to inspire creativity, collaboration, and excellence.

To our returning patrons, thank you for your steadfast support of this remarkable program and the students who bring these productions to life. For those attending a SPA performance for the first time, we hope you leave inspired by the talent, dedication, and potential displayed both on stage and behind the scenes. The success of SPA is made possible through the collective efforts of exceptional educators, committed students, supportive families, generous sponsors, and community members who value the arts. Your attendance, contributions, and encouragement help sustain a tradition that continues to enrich lives year after year.

To all of the students, directors, instructors, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to this summer's performances, thank you for your dedication and congratulations on another outstanding season.

Warm regards,
Dr. Terry Brenner, Superintendent

Join us for our
25th season!



Fall Auditions
September 1st and 3rd
Grades 3-9

Check out grandcititescc.org
for more information



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ON STAGE & BEHIND THE SCENES!**

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you for your help and donations!

GFPS print shop, GFPS buildings and grounds, Administration & custodial staff of: Red River High School, Phoenix Elementary School, Kelly Elementary School, Lake Agassiz Elementary School, Grand Forks Central High School, Sharon Lutheran Church, everyone that donated props/costumes, all businesses that displayed posters, Hugo's Family Marketplace, Red Ray Lanes, Premium Waters, Inc., Ink, Inc., Ben Hoffman, Northern Air Family Fun Center, Wick Publications, Donovan Hanson, Chris Berg, East Grand Forks Senior High Drama Department, Grand Forks Fire Equipment, Grand Forks Fire Department, Pieper Bloomquist, Dance, Etc., Pat Hill and the Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center

A special thank you to all of the "SParents" and community volunteers that help make our summers happen. Your donation of time and treats, and your willingness to volunteer, is greatly appreciated!

Check us out online!

Website: www.spacompany.org

Instagram: @summerperformingartscompany

Facebook: The Summer Performing Arts Company (SPA)

Check out these upcoming productions with SPA alumni!



DIRECTOR'S NOTES - *FROZEN*

Disney's *Frozen* debuted in November of 2013 as an animated film and became an instant mega-sensation. Kids were singing the songs on repeat, and stores were caught completely off guard by its massive success as they rushed to keep up with merchandise demands. In fact, parents spent months waiting on endless backorder lists just to score Anna and Elsa dresses for the holidays.

Bringing *Frozen* to life at SPA has been incredibly exciting, especially since this story is so deeply intertwined with our students' childhoods. They truly grew up singing these iconic songs. Yet, the movie's magic hasn't faded; *Frozen* remains immensely popular among youth today, capturing the hearts of a whole new generation. Beyond its cultural impact, it's simply a fantastic show for a student cast because it gives everyone a real chance to shine. Our tech crew has loved creating the special effects, the leading roles have some awesome featured moments, and our big, energetic ensemble truly brings the magic of Arendelle to life.

We are incredibly proud of all the students participating in this production. Some are veteran performers or tech students, while others are making their debut. However, each of them has chosen to engage in something positive this summer. By performing for a live audience, they have allowed themselves to be vulnerable, demonstrating remarkable courage and confidence. They are a wonderful group, and we take immense pride in each individual and their personal growth.

After each performance, our student actors will take a quick moment to remove and store their microphones before heading out to the lobby or outside, weather permitting, to thank you for attending the show. The cast would LOVE to pose for photos in costume with anyone who wants one, especially the little ones!

Whether or not you are able to stick around and chat after the show, please know how much we appreciate you being here. We absolutely notice you in the audience, and your presence means the world to our students, staff, and the entire program.

Thank you so much for choosing to attend this performance. The cast, crew, and staff all deeply appreciate you, and we hope you enjoy what we've prepared for you!

Rich McFarlane, Director of *Frozen*

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and processes to produce more abundant harvests.
At Simplot, we contribute to feeding our world,
by bringing earth's resources to life.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES - *SEUSSICAL*

Welcome to SPA 39, and thank you for spending a few hours of your summer supporting the arts and these students!

At its heart, *Seussical* is about connection. Horton hears a voice that no one else believes exists, JoJo discovers that imagination isn't something to outgrow, and characters from completely different worlds learn that none of us are meant to go through life alone. One of my favorite songs in the show is "Alone in the Universe." While the title sounds lonely, the song ultimately reminds us that there is always someone willing to listen, believe in us, and stand beside us. That's a message worth sharing, especially today.

It's also been another incredible summer at SPA. Every June I'm reminded how lucky we are to work with students who are willing to give up part of their summer to create something bigger than themselves. They've spent countless hours singing, dancing, building, painting, laughing, and occasionally wondering why I asked them to do that choreography one more time. Through it all, they've shown the same enthusiasm, kindness, and work ethic that make this program special year after year.

This summer also brought some new faces to our directing team. It has been so much fun welcoming Abbey, Rowan, Simone, and Rilyn back to SPA - not as students, but as staff members. Watching former SPA kids return to give back to the program that helped shape them is one of the most rewarding parts of this job, and they've been a fantastic addition to our team.

I also have to recognize our new costume crew, led by Amy Lyste. From the Whos to the Wickershams, the Bird Girls to the Sour Kangaroo, they embraced every wonderfully ridiculous challenge this show threw at them. Their creativity, talent, and positive attitude have been an absolute dream to work with, and this production simply wouldn't be the same without them.

Finally, thank you for being here. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, or simply someone who enjoys supporting the arts, your presence means more than you know. Programs like SPA continue because communities like ours believe young people deserve opportunities to create, collaborate, and imagine.

So sit back, let your imagination run wild, and remember, as Horton teaches us, that a person's a person, no matter how small. Enjoy the show!

Alex Hovey, Director of *Seussical*

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