

TOP BILLING
ENTERTAINMENT
REPERTORY THEATRE



The 25th Annual Putnam County
SPELLING BEE



Directed by Eileen Goodwin & Christian Sandoval
Choreographed by Sofie Ortega
Music Direction by Kristina Keener Ivy

MAY 4 - 2 PM & 8 PM | MAY 5 - 2 PM & 7 PM

Top Billing Entertainment Performance Academy
165 N Glendora Ave. Glendora, CA 91741

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Welcome to our production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"!

As the directors of this delightful and heartwarming musical, we are thrilled to present the story of six kids vying for the title of spelling champion, all while navigating the challenges of adolescence and self-discovery. Set in a middle school gymnasium, this musical comedy offers a glimpse into the lives of these young spellers, each with their unique backgrounds, fears, and aspirations. From the overachieving Marcy Park to the endearing William Barfee with his 'magic foot', and the charmingly eccentric Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre, our characters are sure to capture your hearts and leave you rooting for them until the final word is spelled.

At its core, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" celebrates the human spirit - its resilience, vulnerabilities, and capacity for growth. Through the lens of a spelling competition, we explore themes of friendship, acceptance, and the pressures of conformity, all with a healthy dose of humor and wit. As you watch these characters navigate through the highs and lows of the bee, we invite you to reflect on your own experiences of growing up, facing challenges, and discovering who you truly are. Perhaps you'll see a bit of yourself in one of our spellers or recognize the struggles they face in your journey.

We are immensely proud of the hard work and dedication put forth by our talented cast, crew, and production team to bring this show to life. Their passion and commitment shine through in every scene, song, and dance number, and we are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented group of individuals. So sit back, relax, and enjoy the laughter, the tears, and the unforgettable moments that "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" has to offer.

Thank you for joining us on this spellbinding journey, and may you leave this show with a renewed sense of joy and an appreciation for the magic of live theater.

Christian Sandoval & Eileen Goodwin



MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Company
The Rules	Company
My Favorite Moment Of The Bee	Rona Lisa Peretti
My Friend The Dictionary	Olive Ostrovsky , Rona Lisa
The First Goodbye	Company
Pandemonium	Company
I'm Not That Smart	Leaf Coneybear
The Second Goodbye	Company
Magic Foot	William Barfee, Company
Pandemonium (Reprise)	Company
My Favorite Moment Of The Bee 2	Rona Lisa Peretti
Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor	Mitch Mahoney, Company

Act Two

Chip's Lament	Chip Tolentino
Woe Is Me	Schwartzzy, Mom Carla, Mom Dani, Company
I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)	Leaf Coneybear
I Speak Six Languages	Marcy Park
I Love You Song	Olive, Olive's mom , Olive's Dad
Woe Is Me (Reprise)	Schwartzzy
My Favorite Moment Of The Bee 3	Rona Lisa Peretti
Second Part 1 & 2	Olive, Barfee, Company
Champion	Rona Lisa, Company
Finale	Company



THE CREW

Director

Christian Sandoval

Eileen Goodwin

Producer

Kristina Keener Ivy

Choreographer

Eileen Goodwin

Sofie Ortega

Music Director

Kristina Keener Ivy

Spot

Sofie Ortega

Christian Sandoval

Lights

Zoe Harwell

Frankie Fontana

Dance Captain

V. Barder

Playback/Sound

Eileen Goodwin

Set Design / Costumes

Desiree Cabana | Gracie Padilla | Lucy Padilla | Seth Martino

Chandler Van Allen | Frankie Fontana | V. Barder | Kaz Shearer

Laura Gage | Em Gage | Bryan Ha | Andrew Gonzalez | Diana Baron

WHO'S WHO



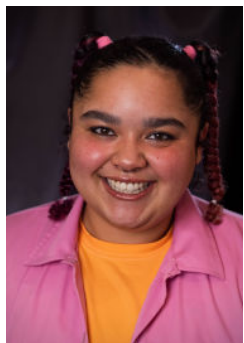
Chandler Van Allen (Chip Tolentino)

Chandler Van Allen is 24 years old and is ecstatic to bring one of his favorite roles to the stage! This is Chandler's 2nd show with Top Billing Entertainment, other roles you have seen him in include Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors, Brad in Rocky Horror, Clopin in Hunchback of Notre Dame, Horton in Seussical, Barnaby in Hello Dolly, and Albert in Bye Bye Birdie. Chandler likes to thank his friends and family for supporting his theatre journey and for blessing him with kindness. You can find Chandler on Instagram @chandler_van_allen



Bryan Ha (Leaf Coneybear)

Bryan Ha is an eccentric, multi-faceted Asian-American performer and storyteller who's invested and passionate about emboldening the performative space for marginalized communities and unraveling his own artistic expression. He's excited to be back working with Top Billing Entertainment for the second time. Past Credits include Rocky (Rocky Horror Show) and Max Greenberg (Who Donut). Along with his work in theatre, film, and voice work, he is a member of Visions on the Fly Productions and hosted biweekly improv sessions in SGV parks. He is also a content creator on TikTok (@astrayepersona) and YouTube.



V. Barder (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre)

V. (They/Them/Theirs) is beyond grateful to be back on stage making their TBE debut as Logainne "Schwartzzy" Schwartzandgrubenierre and dance captain. As a self-taught artist and an alum of The Broadway Collective, V. is excited to share their love and passion for theatre from a black and trans perspective. PROTECT BLACK TRANS YOUTH. PROTECT QUEER ART. PROTECT TRANS KIDS. Outside of theatre, V. has an enthusiasm for child care and development, baking and cooking for their Instagram story and friends, and arts and crafts of all sorts. V. would also like to take a moment to extend their love to their partner, friends, and family who have all been so supportive of them and their endeavors! Previous credits include Cat in the Hat ("Seussical"), Heather Chandler ("Heathers"), Assistant Choreographer (Class Act). You can find V. on Instagram @dykelodeon

WHO'S WHO



Frankie Fontana (William Barfee)

Frankie Fontana is 16 years old and is very excited to play Barfee! This is Frankie's 39th musical performance and he's so excited to add one more to the list. Past favorite roles include Ricky (Ride the Cyclone), Lion (Wizard of Oz), and Emmett (Legally Blonde). Frankie has been a Top Billing Entertainment student since 2019. He attends private lessons with William Lagos and attends The California School of Arts - San Gabriel Valley. Frankie wants to thank his directors, choreographers, friends, and family. RE-ELECT FRANKIE FOR CLASS PRESIDENT!!!

@frankiefontana0107



Gabrielle Kauffman (Marcy Park)

Gabrielle Kauffman, age 24, is an alumna of Indiana University, currently working in social media marketing within the film and entertainment industry and has worked on a wide range of films with her favorite campaigns being "No Hard Feelings" and "Spider-Man: Across the Spiderverse." As a native New Yorker, she moved to Los Angeles a year ago to pursue her passion for film marketing. This is her debut at Top Billing Entertainment and she is excited to get back on the stage. Previous credits include; Maureen (Rent), Elle Woods (Legally Blonde), Valerie Clark (A Chorus Line), Alysha (American Idiot), and Ado Annie (Oklahoma). You can find Gabrielle on Instagram (@gabby.kauffman) and TikTok (@gibbytime02).



Gracie Padilla (Olive Ostrovsky)

Gracie Padilla is 17 years old and excited to play one of her dream roles, Olive Ostrovsky on stage! This is her 10th musical with Top Billing Entertainment, and 1st musical with the Top Billing Repertoire department. Some of her recent roles have been Glinda (The Wizard of Oz), Pilar (Legally Blonde), and Ms. Mayor (Seussical). Gracie would like to thank Ms. Eileen and Mr. Christian for giving her this wonderful opportunity, and making this show fun, exciting & memorable for all of us!

WHO'S WHO



Seth Martino (Mitch Mahoney)

Seth is enjoying his return to the stage after 10 long years. He has 5 kids (and I guess they needed to be raised or whatever 😞), but he's back now! He's known Keener for over 20 years. She was his choir director in high school where he was a WescovAire for 2 years and he's been a pirate in Peter Pan, Maurice in Beauty and the Beast, and a member of the quartet in The Music Man TWICE under her tutelage. Most recently he was a phantom in Rocky Horror Show with TBERT and he's very excited to play Mitch Mahoney for you tonight! Did he mention the co-directors are his younger brother and soon-to-be SILI? He wants to dedicate the show to family and friends who continue to support and love on him. 🙌❤️ @freshtoseth on IG



Em Gage (Douglas Panch)

Em is very excited to be performing with Top Billing Entertainment once again. Some of her past roles have included Vivienne (Legally Blonde), Cogsworth (Beauty and the Beast), and Janet Weiss (Rocky Horror Show). Besides theater, Em's hobbies include playing guitar, going to the movies, and being with her pets. Em is so excited to get to be in such a fun show with such a talented and special cast. She would like to thank her family, friends, and all of TBE for making this experience so magical.



Kaz Shearer (Rona Lisa Peretti)

Kaz Shearer is so excited to be a part of this production with Top Billing Entertainment as Rona Lisa Peretti. Previous credits include Wicked Witch of the West (Wizard of Oz), Escapologist (Matilda), and Maria (The Sound of Music). Kaz would like to thank Eileen, Christian, and Sofie for putting together such a wonderful show and for letting them be a part of it. You can find Kaz on Instagram @k4z.o0

WHO'S WHO



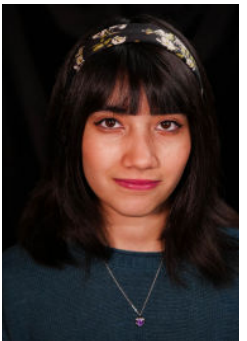
Laura Gage (Mom Dani)

Laura is excited to take the stage again for her third show. She is stepping out again from helping behind the scenes supporting her daughter Em for the last six years from creating props, costumes, and set pieces, to volunteer hours during show runs. Doing musical theatre was something she always wanted to do from early on in life when her Mom introduced her to musicals. She is so thankful for another opportunity to perform a featured role playing the part of Dani, Logainne's Mom. Laura would like to thank her family and friends for all the amazing encouragement and a big thank you to Top Billing Entertainment!



Liza Harwell (Mom Carla)

This is Liza's third stage experience in her adult life. She has been an avid musical theater fan for as long as she can remember. She has played Professor Winthrop in Top Billing's production of Legally Blonde, The Narrator in Top Billing Repertory Theater's production of The Rocky Horror Show, and now she is thrilled to be playing Mom Carla in this production. She is thrilled and honored to be part of this production. She would like to thank all of her family (especially Adam, Zoe, Abbey, Maya, and Grandma Jokes), friends, and the Top Billing Entertainment family for making this adventure possible.



Lucy Padilla (Olive's Mom)

Lucy Padilla is 16 years old and is so excited to be playing Olive/Leaf's Mom in her first Top Billing Repertoire musical! This will be her 10th musical with Top Billing Entertainment and is so grateful to have been welcomed into this community by everyone at Top Billing. Some of her past roles have been Mrs. Phelps in Matilda, Aunt Em in The Wizard of Oz, and Kate in Legally Blonde. Lucy would like to thank Ms. Eileen and Mr Christian for giving her this wonderful opportunity, and making this show fun, exciting, and memorable for all of us!

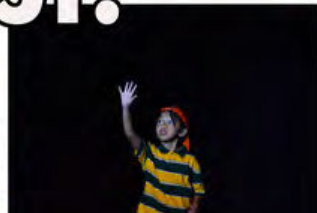


Andrew Gonzalez (Olive's Dad)

Andrew is happy to be performing again with Top Billing Entertainment. He has loved the arts since childhood and has had an amazing experience with the amazing community at Top Billing.



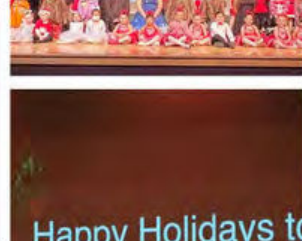
Seussical Jr.



November 11-13, 2022



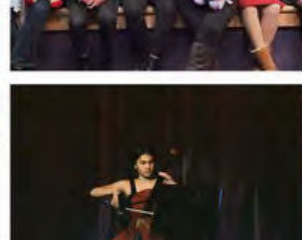
ALL HEARTS COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS RECITAL



Happy Holidays to Top Billing Fam



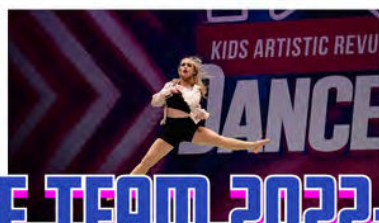
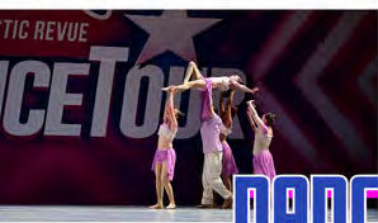
DECEMBER 17, 2022







PRIVATE LESSON RECITALS



DANCE TEAM 2022-2023





Recreational Hip Hop



Monday Recreational Tiny Top Tap & Ballet



Tuesday Pre-school Tap & Ballet



Wednesday Recreational Tiny Top Tap & Ballet



Wednesday Pre-School Ballet



City Ballet & Tap



Beginning Jazz



Color Guard



When Can I See You Again? Dance Team



Monday Recreational Jazz



Wednesday Tiny Top Hip Hop



Pop Rock Band



Music Video Dance



Musical Theater Performance Class



Parent Dance



Intermediate/Advanced Ballet



Hallelujah Dance Team



Good Feeling Dance Team

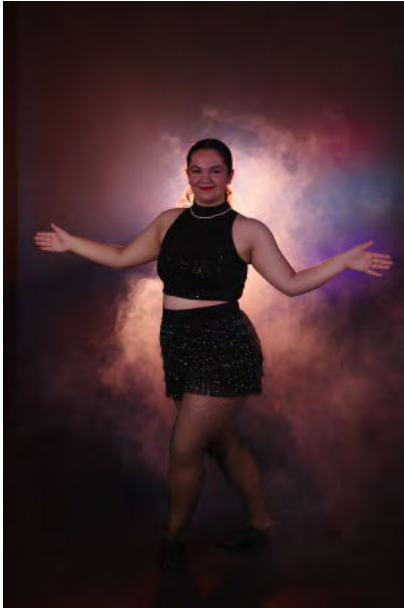


Lion King Medley

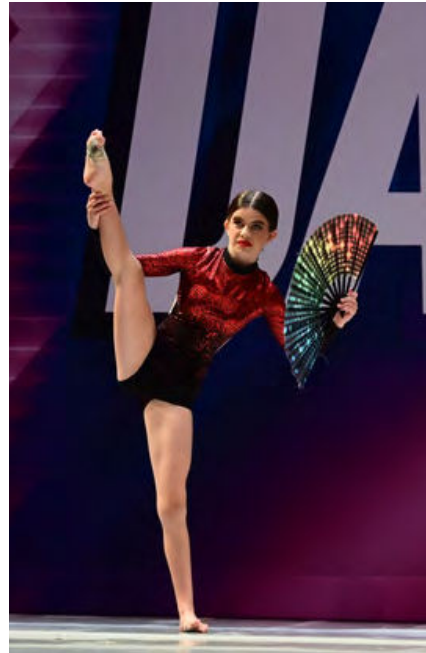


Move It

All That Jazz
Kaela Okerson



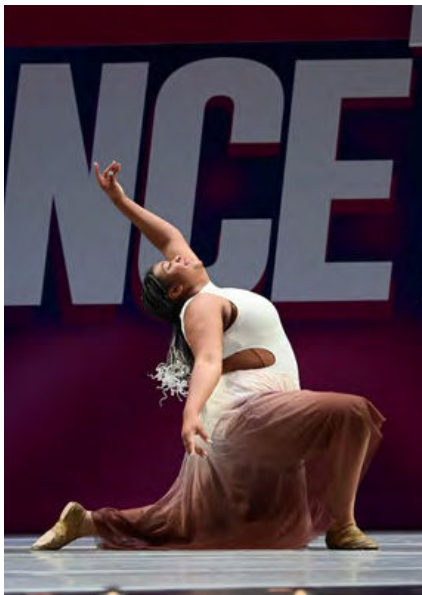
Make a Man Outta You
Jessica Ray



Wellerman
Chelsea Lee



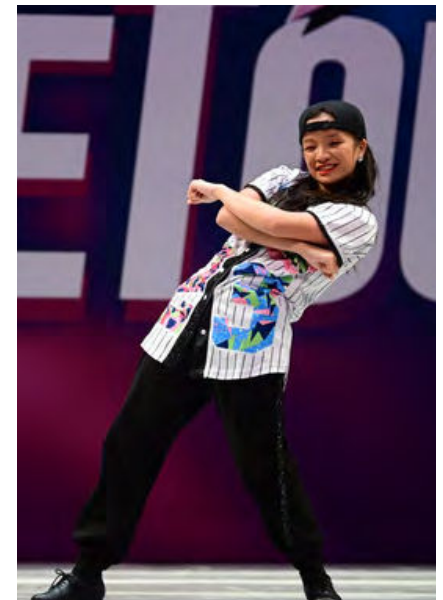
I Was Here
Ellie Nathaniel



Washing Machine Heart
Eva Clark



Finesse
Denise Lee



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES!



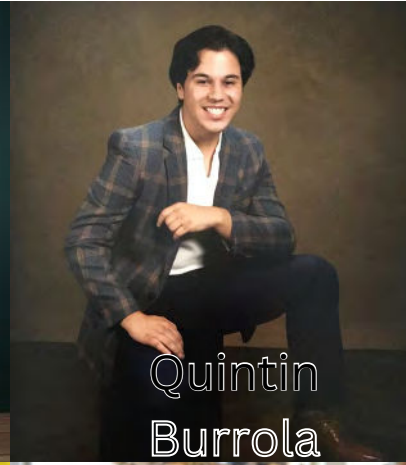
Madeleine
Danison



Kennedy
Percival



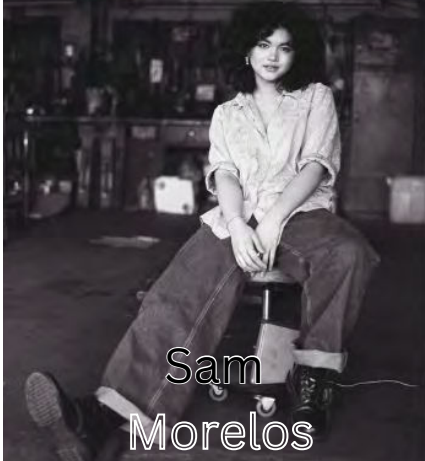
Audrey
Krok



Quintin
Burrola



Kaz
Shearer



Sam
Morelos



Avery
Lima



Julianna
Mountain



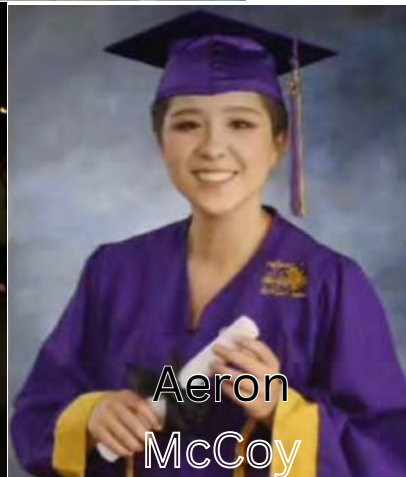
Gavin
Garcia



Lucas
Longoria



Adri
Gonzalez



Aeron
McCoy



Madison
Barba



Jane
McClure

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the parents and volunteers for giving your time to make this show a success. There are too many of you to list in the program, but we hope that you know that we appreciate everything you do to help us. Thank you for choosing to work with us and allowing us to be part of your lives. You will never know what a blessing each and every one of you is to us.

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President – Desiree Cabana

Vice President – Ashley Harrison

Secretary – Laura Gage

Treasurer – Liza Harwell

Fundraiser Coordinator - Ali Oliver

Parent Liaison/Social Media - Sarah Jimenez

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Vice President - Sarah Jimenez

Secretary - Nassim Baiedi

Treasurer - Liza Harwell

Costumes - Teresa Okerson

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Kurt Wilson

OUR AWESOME STAFF



Kristina Keener Ivy - Founder & Executive Director

Goes by the nickname Ms. K. She is honored to have created core childhood memories with so many students and families these past 20 years. She is the proud Founder and Executive Director of Top Billing Entertainment Performance Academy, the premier non-profit performing arts training facility in the San Gabriel Valley of Southern California. She is also a Nationally Award-Winning Performer, Teacher, Director, Producer & Costumer. She is the original Tetra Threat Performer and can sing in seven languages, plays piano, ukulele, guitar, bass, banjo, woodwinds, brass, and reed instruments, and is also an accomplished dancer and actor. She holds a BFA in Opera Performance and a BFA in Music Education Summa Cum Laude with Honors from Northern

Arizona University and has performed in and produced/directed over 100 stage productions and four feature films. She has won numerous awards including Best Musical Theater Director in the USA. She is currently also still working as a private lesson teacher - instructing voice, piano, guitar, acting, dancing and song writing to her 30 weekly students in addition to her other TBE duties. Creating a safe, friendly, and supportive environment for aspiring performers to thrive continues to be her passion. She would like to thank Jesus for all the good gifts around us, her husband, David, for his unending love and patience, and her family, friends, and especially her students for their continued support. "Remember to only compare yourself to yourself, you are an original and therefore your only competition is yourself. Beep, bop, boop."



Temria Airmet - Master Dance Teacher & Choreographer

Temria Airmet holds her MFA in Dance from California State University Long Beach (2019) and her BFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah (2009). She is the Artistic Director and Creator of the project-based dance company, Temria Dance Haus. She is the owner of Movement 4 Therapy where she dedicates time to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patients with the healing benefits of dance movement. She was the Co/Creator and Artistic Director of Myriad Dance Company from 2015-2017. Airmet has performed professionally with Topsy Point Projects, Brine Arts, Arts of Chaos, Transfusion Hype, and Voodoo Productions. She has taught with Pasadena Dance Theatre, Oxnard College, Ballet West, Millennium Dance Complex, The University of Utah's Tanner Dance, and other studios throughout the Salt Lake

and Los Angeles Valleys. Airmet currently teaches in higher education with San Bernardino Valley College and in studio with Top-Billing Entertainment. Temria knows art as a means to better understand the human experience and she does everything she can to support her fellow artists and grow the voice of the dance community from a local to global scale.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



Chen Chu - Strings Instructor

Chen is a music teacher, violinist/violist, and conductor with over 15 years of experience. While attending New York University (NYU), he majored in music education and studied with Mark Steinberg of the Brentano String Quartet. As a firm believer that music changes lives, Chen thinks private lessons is the best way to establish a solid foundation on which one can further pursue great music making, be it in a solo or group setting. Learning a musical instrument can definitely be a challenge, however, Chen has developed a knack for turns it into a fun experience that is rewarding for both teacher and student. As a teacher, he has conducted several youth orchestras in NYC and LA. A sought after chamber music coach, he also maintains a private studio of violin and viola students. As a performer, he has played at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and Alice Tully Hall on many occasions with world renowned artists including Lukas Foss, Leon Botstein, Quincy Jones, Michael Kamen, Clark Terry, David Sanborn, Shawn Stockman, and Richard Drefuss. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking and traveling with his wife.



Emily Gage - Musical Director & Rentals Manager

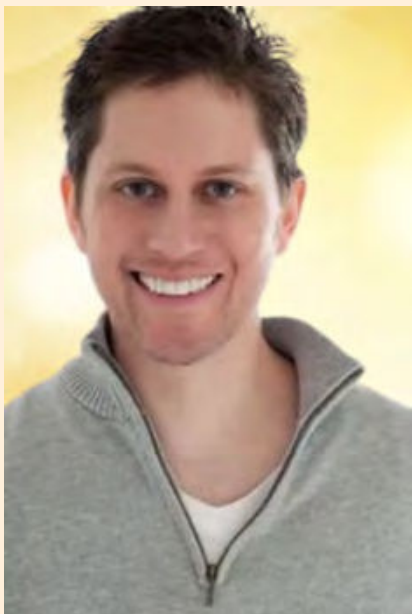
Emily has been with Top Billing since 2016, but has been involved in theatre since she was 6. She has always had a love for theatre and has been a part of many musicals over the years. Her favorite roles include Grace Farrell in “Annie”, Grimsby in “The Little Mermaid”, Ms. Darbus in “High School Musical”, and Kassim in “Aladdin”. Emily has taken voice lessons and has played guitar, ukulele, and clarinet for many years. She loves to work with kids and to see them learn and grow in their abilities. Emily is so grateful for all the opportunities that Top Billing has provided for her and is honored to get to spread the love of theatre with a younger generation.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



Eileen Goodwin - Summer Camp Director & Musical Theater Instructor

Eileen first joined the Top Billing family as a performer in TBE's first showcase "Best of Broadway". She later rejoined as Motormouth Maybelle in "Hairspray" and Ursula in "The Little Mermaid". She has since portrayed various roles in productions throughout the region. Notable roles include: Daniela in "In The Heights" (The California Theatre), Gary Coleman in "Avenue Q" (Long Beach Playhouse), Reindeer in "There's No Business Like Snow Business" (TBE), and Killer Queen in "We Will Rock You: The Queen Musical" (Southern California Debut) in which her performance earned her an Inland Theatre League award. She created and teaches TBE's Musical Theatre Performance class, has directed several TBE shows including Seussical Jr., The Little Mermaid Jr., and Frozen Jr. Doubling as a pediatric nurse, Eileen has a certain passion for working with children and is honored to have the opportunity to share her love of theatre with the kids.



David Ivy - Director & Videographer

David was excited to make his stage directing debut with Top Billing Entertainment. David graduated with honors from USC's School of Cinema-Television and currently works as a music composer for film and television. He is also currently in post production for his first feature film. David is excited to share his passion for the performing arts with the younger generation and looking forward to putting on the best show the TBE kids can perform.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



Hayden Launchbaugh - Improv Acting Teacher

Hayden is a lifelong performer with experience in musical theater, competitive choir, improv, and just about everything in between. She uses her psychology degree to be a better educator, ghostwriter, marketing specialist, mediator, and friend. She loves creating travel itineraries, reading about new psychological research, and going to as many concerts as possible. She is a music history fanatic and will always trade a fun fact for a high five!



Amanda Rueda - Master Voice & Piano Instructor

Amanda "Mandee" Rueda has been part of the Top Billing family for 20 years. She received her Bachelor's Degree from San Diego State University emphasizing in Vocal Performance and minored in Women's Studies. She studied and was trained in opera and classical music during her time in San Diego and began her teaching career in 2013. Mandee's experience spans many genres ranging from classical to more contemporary styles such as pop and musical theater. She can sing and teach songs in 5 different languages. Her prior performance roles were in West Side Story, Die Zauberflöte, Guys and Dolls, Beauty and the Beast as well as in various vocal ensembles. Mandee has been coached by and done master classes with renowned vocalists in the industry such as Lori Laitman, Lee Gregory, Kristina Keener Ivy, Audra McDonald and Lucas Meachem just to name a few. Mandee is a vivacious, passionate, and confident teacher who enjoys working with kids of all ages and different walks of life.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



Hannah Reyna Manuit - Acting & Dance Teacher

Hannah Reyna has been in the Top Billing Family for almost a decade and is excited to join this amazing team of instructors. She recently earned a BFA in Acting for the Stage and Screen at Azusa Pacific University and continues to master her craft and learn more and more each day. She is also a trained singer and dancer. (And a founding member of our Top Billing dance team.) Straight out of college, she was able to land a commercial agent and several paid stage shows! Her most recent theater credits include: Three Sisters (Irina), Spongebob the Musical (Sardine, Sea Anemone, Ensemble), The Addams Family (Wednesday). She can not wait to teach what she has learned with those who share the same passion for performing as she does.



Jane McClure- Front Desk

Jane performed as Aunt Em in the Wizard of OZ, her first ever musical, with TBE this past summer. Her first theater experience was as Peter Quince in A Midsummer Night's Dream. She graduated from high school when she was 16 and is currently enrolled at Citrus College. In her free time she does pottery, and loves to tell stories. She's felt so welcome and is incredibly happy to be part of the TBE Family. She is ready and excited to answer questions, find lost items, organize stuff, and cheer everybody on.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



Hannah Okerson - Nationally Award Winning Competition Team Choreographer, Dance Teacher, Musical Director

Ms. Hannah has participated in Top Billing Entertainment productions since Beauty and the Beast in 2014. She has maintained a busy schedule since with roles in Royal Oak Drama, Charter Oak Drama, and Top Billing Entertainment shows. During the summers of 2019 and 2020 Hannah directed as a volunteer the summer camp productions which included, "School House Rock Jr.", "Junie B. Jones Jr.", "Moana Jr.", and "Alice in Wonderland Jr." She also choreographed the tap section in "In Summer" for Frozen Jr. and "Put on a Happy Face" for "Bye Bye Birdie." Some of her favorite roles have been Jessica in "Curtains", Mr. Smee in "Peter Pan", and Rafiki in the "Lion King." Hannah recognizes that she has been helped and mentored by many great people along her journey to where she is today and is grateful for the opportunity to pay it forward. "In theater, we are the art."



Sofie Ortega - Musical Choreographer & Front Desk

Sofie has been involved in the performing arts since 2011 and has been a part of the Top Billing Family since 2017. She has had years of vocal and dance training and has performed in countless musical productions. Some of her theater credits include Top Billing's "Legally Blonde" (Elle Woods), Citrus College's "Grease" (Ensemble), and Top Billing's "Elf the Musical" (Jovie). Sofie has also had years of choral training and was president of Glendora High School's advanced show choir in the 2021-2022 season. She currently attends Cal Poly Pomona with the goal of earning a Bachelor's Degree in Theater. Sofie finds joy in helping young performers learn and grow and fulfill their dreams and is excited to continue this journey as a part of the TBE staff!

OUR AWESOME STAFF

Yvette Reyes - Director of First Impressions



Yvette found her love of performing in front of a crowd at the age of just three years old when she became a recreational cheerleader for her local community. She then grew a passion for music and especially singing performing in elementary, junior high, and her high school show choir - where she first started working with Ms. K. Since then, she has been a part of over a dozen productions at Top Billing Entertainment including playing Babette in Beauty and the Beast, Ariel in the Disney Spectacular Showcase and many roles in all the Christmas shows. She enjoys doing the Christmas shows the most because "Christmas is the best time of the year." Along with performing, Yvette has also been a party performer portraying characters such as Ariel, Moana, Princess Jasmine, Sophia the 1st, Princess Elena, Isabella from Encanto, and Wonder Woman at countless birthday parties and events. Her involvement and passion for working with children and entertainment has led her to pursue this next chapter in her career. She is excited to now be a part of the TBE team as the Office Manager and Executive Assistant to Ms. K. She looks forward to getting to know all the TBE Families!



Leslie Sandoval - Dance Teacher & Choreographer

Leslie was born and raised in West Covina CA. She was introduced to dance at the age 6 but didn't start pursuing her professional career until the age of 17. She began to dance at Dellos Dance and Performing Arts, where she studied all styles that were offered from ballet to hip hop, jazz, tap, and lyrical. At 17, she decided to start her training in LA, where she's been able to work with and be exposed to all different types of artistic movers. With her inspiration and knowledge, she was able to create a style and space that allows everyone to explore their own body movement. She combines hip hop and contemporary with the want to teach individuals that there are no limitations within dance. Above all, Leslie hopes to spread freedom and individuality through her art wherever her career in teaching may take her.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



Christian Sandoval - Media Production & Rentals

Christian first joined the Top Billing family in 2013 when he played Tommy Djilas in “The Music Man” and has been involved with the company ever since. His other roles with TBE including Gaston in their 2014 production of “Beauty and the Beast,” The Lion in “The Wizard of Oz,” and Link Larkin in “Hairspray.” He was also honored to have been given the opportunity to write Top Billing’s 2015 Christmas show “There’s No Business Like Snow Business.” Some of his other favorite roles outside of Top Billing include Charlie Brown in “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown,” The Lion in “The Wiz,” and Shrek in “Shrek: The Musical.” Christian also has many years of experience as a professional magician and party performer playing characters such as Batman, Superman, Captain America, and Santa Claus. With the firm belief that children are the future Christian cares deeply about Top Billing Entertainment and the wonderful opportunities they provide for all children. He’d like to thank God, his parents, his two older brothers Seth and Andrew for inspiring him, and his little sister Alina for always supporting him in his creative endeavors.



Christopher Severino - Pop Rock Bands, Guitar, Ukulele, Bass, Drums

Christopher (they/them) is a musician from the Los Angeles area who has been honing their craft for nine years as a guitar player. They were inspired by their father to take up music and have been passionate about it ever since, believing in its power to bring people from all walks of life together. They have been dedicated to mastering the guitar, developing a versatile style that allows them to navigate a wide range of genres. They have enjoyed playing live shows for the past few years, and are excited to now be recording an album with their band Black Zone, which showcases their unique style and talents. They are also looking forward to sharing their skills and expertise with the younger generations, and inspire them to pursue their passion for music.

OUR AWESOME STAFF

Kaz Shearer- Dance Teacher, Choreographer



Performing has been Kaz's passion for as long as they can remember, and they are overjoyed to have the opportunity to share that passion with the budding young performers in our community. They are eager to bring fresh and innovative ideas to our classes, creating an environment where students can not only learn the art of performing but also discover the joy and self-expression that comes with it.

Working with children has always been a source of inspiration for Kaz. Their boundless energy, creativity, and enthusiasm make each day a new and rewarding experience. Kaz believes in fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere where every student feels empowered to explore their own unique abilities and develop a lifelong love for the performing arts. Joining this team is a dream come true, and Kaz is committed to contributing their utmost to ensure a vibrant and enriching experience is had by all. Kaz is excited to collaborate with their fellow educators, parents, and, most importantly, the incredible students who make each class a celebration of movement and self-discovery.

Juli Vermilion Sison - Tap Instructor & Competition Team Choreographer



No stranger to the stage, Juli began her performing arts career at age 3. While growing up, she took any opportunity to be a choreographer for all of her performing outlets, including her high school's show choir, the WescovAires (where she met and worked with Ms. K!). Outside of school, she was invited to take on the role of lead vocalist with the 18-piece big band, the Swing Time Orchestra. Her interest in swing music motivated her to learn how to tap dance, which ignited her true passion on the stage. Juli has been with Top Billing Entertainment since 2021 and has taught group classes and private lessons, in addition to creating choreography for TBE's dance team and for various musical theater productions. She is extremely thankful to be a part of such a talented and supportive team of educators.

OUR AWESOME STAFF

Marco Tacandong - Hip Hop Teacher & Competition Team Choreographer



Marco Tacandong is a dancer, choreographer, and educator from Jacksonville, Florida. He started as a hip-hop dancer and eventually learned other styles as his love and curiosity for dance grew. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Jacksonville University where he studied various styles from the faculty and guest artists. Marco was a part of a hip-hop dance crew in Jacksonville called WreckLess, and Florida State College at Jacksonville's Dance Repertory Company, danceWORKS. Being a member of danceWORKS for two years provided him with a diverse set of influences in his craft and leadership skills that have helped him throughout his career. He has created, performed and produced numerous works that were presented on stage, events, and video projects. He also taught hip-hop and contemporary at several dance studios in Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra. He aims to provide deliberate instruction while cultivating a fun and safe space to dance.



Katelynn Wavra - Dance Teacher & Front Desk

Katelynn has been a part of the Top Billing family since 2016 but has been dancing since she was 3 years old. She is trained in ballet, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, tap and musical theater. She loves teaching and working with Kids. She currently also teaches ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop at Le Petit Dance studio, which is where her love of dance originated. On top of being a dance instructor and choreographer for the past two years, Katelynn recently earned her AA in Interdisciplinary studies from Liberty University and also enjoys tutoring and babysitting. You might also recognize her as one of our Top Billing Party Performers. She is so thankful and blessed for all the opportunities that God has provided her with.

OUR AWESOME BOARD



Desiree Cabana- President of the Board of Directors

Desiree Cabana, the esteemed President of the Board of Directors at Top Billing Entertainment Performance Academy. With a career spanning over five decades in youth advocacy, Desiree has made an indelible mark as a founding member of our academy. Her unwavering commitment to nurturing young talent in the performing arts has not only impacted the lives of countless individuals but also extended to her own family, as her son and now granddaughter have thrived within our programs. In recognition of her exceptional community service, Desiree Cabana was honored as the “Woman of the Year” by the 48th Assembly District. We take pride in celebrating her remarkable journey and look forward to her continued leadership in guiding our academy towards new heights, where she continues to shape the stars of tomorrow.



Ashley Harrison- Vice President

Ashley Harrison’s affiliation with Top Billing Entertainment began around 2011. During this time, she has actively participated in four productions, showcasing her commitment to the organization. Notably, she has contributed her talents to productions of “Legally Blonde,” twice, “Hairspray,” and “Rocky Horror Show.” In addition to her on-stage roles, Ashley has undertaken significant responsibilities off-stage. For an impressive span of eight years, she has diligently served as the Snack Bar Manager and as a valued member of the board, where her insights and dedication have played a pivotal role in the organization’s ongoing success. Ashley’s family has also been deeply immersed in the TBE community, with her children participating in numerous productions over the years. Her dedication to community extends beyond TBE, as she and her family generously volunteer their time and expertise to support local children’s sports teams, exemplifying a commitment to giving back.

OUR AWESOME BOARD

Laura Gage- Secretary



Laura Gage has been an integral part of Top Billing Entertainment for nearly seven years, commencing her involvement when her daughter made her inaugural appearance and embarked on her journey in music, singing, acting, and directing. During this time, Laura has not only been a steadfast pillar of support for her daughter but has also joined us as a performer on stage and has extended her dedication to the TBE staff by actively contributing behind the scenes. Her contributions have encompassed the creation of props, costumes, set pieces, as well as overseeing the smooth execution of shows and recitals. In the present year, we are privileged to welcome Laura as one of our esteemed board members. Her unwavering drive and commitment to excellence align seamlessly with the values we uphold at TBE. Over the course of the past 25 years, Laura has honed her professional expertise as a Commercial Insurance Broker, amassing a wealth of experience in interacting with the public and accomplishing tasks with efficacy and precision. Laura's inclusion as a board member is a testament to her exceptional qualifications and her dedication to Top Billing Entertainment's continued success.

Liza Harwell- Treasurer



Elizabeth Harwell, known to most as Liza, is a passionate advocate for education, the arts, and community engagement. With a career spanning two decades in teaching, Liza has not only imparted knowledge but also nurtured creativity and a love for learning. In addition to her roles in education and family, Liza has worn multiple hats throughout her career. She successfully ran a baking business, showcasing her entrepreneurial spirit and culinary talents. Her ability to balance the demands of entrepreneurship with her teaching career is a testament to her organizational skills and passion for diverse interests. Liza has also served as an office manager for a financial advisor, demonstrating her versatility and adaptability in different professional domains. Her keen attention to detail and organizational skills have been valuable assets in every role she has undertaken. At the core of Liza's journey is her dedication to building a supportive community. Realizing that providing a safe space for others is the key to progress and growth has been the most impactful lesson that Liza has learned in her career. She looks forward to applying her experience, skills, and dedication to the Top Billing Board of Directors.

OUR AWESOME BOARD

Ali Oliver- Fundraiser Coordinator



Ali Carey-Oliver is a passionate enthusiast of musical theater, having cherished this art form throughout her entire life. Her deep-seated love for musical theater was fostered by her upbringing in an environment teeming with singers and musicians. Ali's early involvement in school and church choirs, as well as theater productions, attests to her strong connection to the performing arts from a young age. In addition to her musical pursuits, Ali's interests extended to competitive activities during her high school years. She took part in Dramatic Interpretation and Impromptu speaking as a member of the high school debate team, showcasing her talent and versatility in the realm of speech and performance. Ali's passion for the arts has not only enriched her own life but has also influenced her daughters, who have been actively engaged with Top Billing Entertainment (TBE) since 2017. Her active involvement in more than a dozen TBE shows highlights her dedication to the organization. She is widely recognized as the face of the "50/50" initiative at TBE shows and recitals, further underlining her commitment to promoting the arts and youth involvement in them.



Parent Liaison/Social Media

Sarah Jimenez, MAT, MS.Ed, has joined the TBE board to serve as the Parent Liaison/Social Media. She has 15 years of educational experience that includes, teaching, instructional coaching, and administrative work. In addition to being a busy mom of 4, she currently works as an elementary Assistant Principal for a charter school in Riverside. She is passionate about ensuring that all children have access to opportunities that allow them to discover their own unique talents and giftings and is proud to have 3 of her children who have been a part of Top Billing since 2019. Sarah is eager to come alongside TBE board members, staff, families, and students to help further the mission and vision of Top Billing for many years to come!

OUR AWESOME BOARD

Camilla Danison- Member-at-Large



Camilla Danison joined Top Billing Entertainment in 2012, and since then, her unwavering commitment and dedication have made her an essential part of our organization's journey.

Camilla's multifaceted contributions have had a profound impact on the growth and success of TBE.

One of her key roles within the TBE community has been her instrumental involvement in fundraising efforts. Through her tireless dedication and strategic approach, she has played a pivotal role in securing the necessary resources that have allowed our organization to thrive. Camilla's fundraising prowess has been instrumental in enabling TBE to continue delivering exceptional theatrical experiences to our audiences. Beyond her fundraising endeavors, Camilla has been a constant source of positivity and motivation for the entire TBE family. Her infectious enthusiasm and unwavering support have boosted the morale of our community, fostering an environment where creativity and passion flourish.

Kim Krok- Member-at-Large



Kimberly Krok has been an enduring presence at Top Billing Entertainment since its inception, making her an indispensable part of our history and growth. Throughout her tenure, Kimberly has been a versatile and invaluable contributor behind the scenes. Her meticulous attention to detail and financial acumen have been pivotal in the realm of bookkeeping, ensuring the organization's financial stability and success. Beyond the numbers, she and her husband have been a driving force in set building and various aspects of production, tirelessly working to create the immersive and captivating worlds that our audiences have come to cherish.

Kimberly's dedication extends to her family, with her daughter taking center stage in our productions since the age of 5. As a supportive and nurturing mother, Kimberly has been instrumental in fostering her daughter's growth and passion within the performing arts. This year marks a significant milestone as her daughter graduated from high school and embarked on a new journey at UCLA, a testament to the guidance and encouragement she has received under Kimberly's loving care.

TOP BILLING
ENTERTAINMENT
PERFORMANCE ACADEMY
13th Anniversary



Spring Spirit Week

SAT. 5/4- STAR WARS DAY
SUN. 5/5 - TBE SPIRIT DAY
MON. 5/6 - CRAZY HAIR AND SOCK DAY

TUES. 5/7 - DRESS LIKE YOUR FAV TBE TEACHER

WED. 5/8 - TWIN DAY

THURS. 5/9 - DISNEY DAY

FRI. 5/10 - PAJAMA DAY

Come to classes & lessons dressed up all week in person & online!

Be sure to tag us in your pictures.

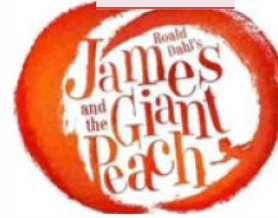
20

TOP BILLING
ENTERTAINMENT
PERFORMANCE ACADEMY
10th Anniversary
Summer Day Camps

24

MAKE BELIEVE ADVENTURE CAMP

JUNE 3-7 & JULY 22-26



JUNE 10-28

Junie B. Jones[®]
The Musical

JULY 1-19

DANCE CAMP INTENSIVE

JULY 29-AUG 2

WWW.TOPBILLINGENT.ORG

Musical Theater Performance Presents

Letters to Mom: A Mother's Day Celebration

Featuring performances from:

Isla Duran | Molly McClure | Kara Reger
Austen Cole | Jolie Villa | Kendelyn Kay
Adelaine Gacuya | Evelyn Brandenburg
Zion Brooks | Ellie Liu | Jessica Ray
Emma Liu | Kayleen Montierro | Benicio Zaldivar
Camilla Zaldivar | Ellie Schroeder

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 6 pm

Top Billing Entertainment Performance Studio
165 N Glendora Ave, Glendora, CA

www.topbillingent.org/buy-tickets



SAVE THE DATE!!

**REWIND TO THE
90'S
RECITAL**

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

1PM AND 6PM

LOUISE K. TAYLOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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SAVE THE DATE!

**SPRING PRIVATE LESSON
RECITAL**



Saturday May 18, 4pm and 6pm

Sunday May 19, 1pm and 3pm

**Open to all current TBE private lesson
students**

www.topbillingent.org/upcoming-events