

TOP BILLING
ENTERTAINMENT

PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

15th Anniversary

Anne of Green Gables

Adapted by Joseph Robinette.
From the novel by L.M. Montgomery.



Directed by Hannah Okerson

NOVEMBER 2, 2024 | 5:00 PM

TOP BILLING ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

165 N GLENDORA AVE. GLENDORA, CA 91741



Letter from the Producer

Dear Friends and Families,

Welcome to tonight's performance of Anne of Green Gables. It is with great pleasure and pride that we present to you this timeless tale, brought to life by our talented cast and dedicated crew.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible performers. Their dedication, talent, and hard work have been truly inspiring. Each rehearsal was filled with laughter, learning, and an unyielding spirit, culminating in the enchanting performance you are about to witness. I also wish to thank our brilliant director for their creative vision and tireless efforts in shaping this production. Special thanks are due to our technical team, costume & set builders, and all the volunteers and parents whose support has been invaluable.

As you watch this performance, I hope you are transported into a world of wonder. I hope the story of Anne of Green Gables inspires you, just as it has inspired many others. Thank you for joining us this evening and for supporting the arts. Your presence here helps keep the magic of live theater alive, nurturing the dreams and talents of our young performers.

Enjoy the show!

Beep, Bop, Boop,

Kristina Keener Ivy

Kristina Keener Ivy, Executive Director
Top Billing Entertainment Performance Academy



☎ 626-963-1300

✉ www.topbillingent.org



Welcome & Reminders

Top Billing Entertainment Performance Academy is a non-profit performing arts group lovingly serving the San Gabriel Valley. Our journey began as the Keener Music Studio, with a heartfelt mission to provide professional-level instruction and performance opportunities to artists of all ages and abilities, all at an affordable cost. Our vision is that every performer deserves to be treated as if they had "top billing."

Inclusivity and kindness are at the heart of everything we do. We warmly welcome performers from all backgrounds and do not discriminate based on race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, parental status, or any other legally protected status. This commitment is reflected in all our policies, programs, and practices, including admissions, board member selection, scholarships, and hiring.

Before we dive into the magic of the performances, here are a few gentle reminders to ensure a wonderful experience for everyone:

- Please silence your cell phones to keep the focus on our amazing performers.
- Clap enthusiastically after each performance! Our performers thrive on your applause.
- Show respect by staying seated during performances and keeping noise to a minimum.
- If your child is crying, please go to the lobby to watch the performance on the screen until they are ready to return.
- Every soul should have a seat.
- Please no food or beverages inside the theater.



626-963-1300

www.topbillingent.org

a message from our director

Welcome to our production of Anne of Green Gables!

Awesome TBE Guests,

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to direct Anne of Green Gables. These past few months have been a true test of the cast and crew's resilience and dedication. It has been an honor to work with these children, who have devoted immense effort to present a beautiful show for you all. A phrase often shared with me when I first began performing resonates deeply: "Remember why you're doing it."

As a child, I loved being on stage. This passion was nurtured by the dedicated directors, choreographers, and parents who made those performances possible. Now, as an adult, I am committed to helping these children realize their dreams. Our presence here stems from a love for witnessing their singing, dancing, and acting. When we encounter challenges, we remind ourselves of our purpose: we are here for the children.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. K for her indispensable support in bringing all of our shows to life. None of this would have been possible without her. I also want to thank all the parents for allowing their children to be a part of our show. Lastly, thank you to you, the audience, for supporting children's theater.

Today, the children are the art.

***Thank you,
Hannah Okerson***

Scenes

A decorative horizontal border featuring a central branch with several leaves, flanked by two stylized flowers on either side.

ACT ONE

Scene 1 Marilla in the Kitchen at Green Gables, Matthew in the buggy on his way to the Avonlea train station where Anne is waiting

Scene 2 Marilla, Matthew, and Anne at Green Gables

Scene 3 the kitchen the next morning

Scene 4 Noon, Mrs. Spencer's parlor

Scene 5 Earlying Evening in the Kitchen

Scene 6 Next Day, Kitchen

Scene 7 One week later, Kitchen and Mrs. Lynde is at the door

Scene 8 The next evening at Green Gables

Scene 9 Mrs. Lynde's garden

Scene 10 Week and a half later, Kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 11 Mrs. Barry's Garden

Scene 12 week and a half later, kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 13 Next day around noon at Green Gables

Scene 14 Several weeks later, kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 15 Two Weeks Later at Green Gables

Scene 16 Two days later, kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 17 Mrs. Barry's Garden

Scene 18 Month Later, kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 19 Late Night at the Barry's house

Scene 20 Afternoon at Green Gables



ACT TWO

Scene 1 Late October, Kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 2 General Store, a little bit later

Scene 3 Christmas Night, Green Gables

Scene 4 Banks of the Lake of Shinning Waters

Scene 5 Banks of the Lake of Shining Waters

Scene 6 September Evening, Kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 7 Next June at the School House

Scene 8 Next April in the Kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 9 June at Avonlea Post Office

**Scene 10 Gilbert performing "Bingen on the Rhine" at the White Sands
Hotel**

Scene 11 train compartment next April

**Scene 12 June, split screen with the commencement of Queens Academy and
Kitchen at Green Gables**

Scene 13 few days later kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 14 Few days later, kitchen at Green Gables

Scene 15 Few Days later, porch of green gables

The Crew



Director

Hannah Okerson

Producer

Kristina Keener Ivy

Spot

Sofie Ortega

Playback/sound

Eileen Sandoval

Lights

Zoe Harwell

Props

Hannah Okerson

Stage Crew

Juke Cepeda-Cintron
Katelynn Wavra

Costumes

Hannah Okerson
Kristina Keener Ivy

Videographer

Christian Sandoval

The Cast



Hailee Montierro – Anne Shirley

Hailee Montierro is 14 years old. She is very excited to perform in this production of Anne of Green Gables! Hailee has been a part of Top Billing for about ten years. All the while, her love for theater has only grown. Some of her more recent roles have been Nikko in Wizard of Oz, Amanda Tripp in Matilda Jr., and Second Lady in Cinderella. Hailee is forever grateful to her castmates, her teachers, her friends, her family and her pets for their support. Finally, Hailee appreciates everyone coming to the show. She is thankful for an audience full of kindred spirits!



Lucy Green – Marilla

Lucy has been with Top Billing for a long while, and loves performing. She has been in many TBE shows, been on dance team, and takes private lessons with Ms. K. In addition to playing Marilla in Anne of Green Gables, she is also playing the role of the Caterpillar in TBE's production of Alice in Wonderland, which she encourages you to come see this winter! Enjoy the show.



Aiden Meshane – Matthew Cuthbert

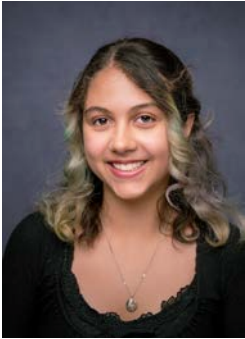
Aiden McShane is 17 years old and this is his first performance with Top Billing. He has performed in many shows before this one, playing characters such as Les in Newsies, Pinocchio in Shrek: The Musical, Hans in Frozen, and George in Our Town, to name a few. He loves performing and is very excited to play in this show! He would like to thank his friends and family for aiding him on his performing arts journey.



Kayleen Montierro – Diana Barry

Kayleen Montierro is 12 years old and has been with Top Billing since she was three years old. (About 9 years) She is so excited to play the role of Diana Barry! She also performed in other TBE shows including Disney Showcase, Aladdin, Lion King, Shrek, Little Mermaid, Annie, Frozen, Elf, Seussical, Wizard Of Oz, Matilda, James And The Giant Peach summer camp, and Cinderella! Several of her favorite musical roles have been Jojo/Boy in Seussical, Toto in Wizard Of Oz, Nina in Matilda, and Baby Simba in Lion King! She'd like to thank Ms. Hannah, Ms. K, her family, and her three dogs, Hippo, Ellie, and Piggy. Kayleen hopes you enjoy the show!

The Cast



Gianna Jimenez – Mrs. Lynde

Gianna Jimenez is 14 years old and loves performing. She has been in TBE shows, on the dance team, and takes private lessons with Ms. Mande. She is currently playing the role of Alice in Alice in Wonderland Jr and encourages you to come see it in January! She hopes you enjoy the show.



Nathaniel Nieves – Gilbert

Nathaniel is excited about joining this production of Anne of Green Gables. He is 11 years old, and this is actually his first TBE show! He just joined the Showstoppers dance team as well, and loves to dance and perform.



Charlotte Mitchell – Mrs. Barry/Moody/Mrs. Spencer

Charlotte is very happy to have this experience. This is her first performance with Top Billing and she is very excited to be in Anne of Green Gables. In 2023, she was part of the ensemble in CSArts production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. She is a sophomore in high school and hopes to come back for more Top Billing productions!



Arianna Sanchez – Jane

Arianna is 11 years old and this is her second performance with Top Billing. She loves performing in several groups such as bands and choirs. She is really excited to play the role of Jane and hopes you enjoy the show!

The Cast



Katelyn Pooakan - Ruby

Katelyn is thrilled to be performing in Anne of Green Gables! In addition to acting, Katelyn's other hobbies include ballet, playing the piano, and memorizing random things like the digits of pi. Lastly, Katelyn would like to thank everyone who made this show possible, including the director, the cast, and the audience! Thank you!



Mikayla Thron - Josie

Mikayla Thron is 13 years old. This is her first play with Top Billing. Her other hobbies include writing, listening to music, and spending time with her friends and family. She is very excited to perform.

UPCOMING EVENTS



TOP BILLING ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS



DECEMBER 14TH, 2024

3PM & 7PM

@ LOUISE K TAYLOR
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS \$15-\$30

AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT
THE DOOR

WWW.TOPBILLINGENT.ORG/BUY-TICKETS



HALLOWEEN SPIRIT WEEK

MON. 10/28 - PAJAMA DAY
TUES. 10/29 - TBE SPIRIT DAY
WED. 10/30 - HALLOWEEN COSTUMES
THURS. 10/31 - HAPPY HALLOWEEN! -STUDIO CLOSED
FRI. 11/1- DRESS LIKE A TBE STAFF MEMBER
SAT. 11/2 - DISNEY DAY
SUN. 11/3 - OLD RECITAL COSTUMES



Come to classes & lessons dressed up all week in person & online!
Be sure to tag us in your pictures.



VIP Circle

\$300 per family per year (Sept 24-July 25)

Perks Include:

- **VIP Ticket Access for ALL Shows** – Be the first to grab your tickets for EVERY TBE Show, Recital, and Event with early access 2 WEEKS ahead of the general public!
- **Access Every TBE Musical Video** – Enjoy full access to our entire Vimeo catalog and re-watch your favorite performances whenever you want. Plus, get full digital mp4 downloads for every show this season!
- **Exclusive Seating at Events** – Get 2 reserved seats at our Friendsgiving and the 15th Anniversary Gala.
- **Limited Edition Merch** – Receive a TBE Anniversary T-shirt that's exclusive to VIP Circle members only.

WWW.TOPBILLINGENT.ORG

MOVIE PREMIERE

Save the Date

NEW DATE
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 22, 2024
TIME TBA


MONROVIA HS THEATER
ASSIGNED SEATING
FORMAL ATTIRE
ENCOURAGED

ABU/SUN CAST WILL BE SHOWN
RAJA/MOON CAST TBA IN 2025

TOPBILLINGENT.ORG



UPCOMING EVENTS




Top Billing Entertainment's 15 year Gala

PROM NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 1, 2025



SAVE THE DATE

TBE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

WICKED

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

AMC Glendora, Time TBD



FALL 2024

Private Lesson Recital

November 9th at 6pm
November 10th at 4:30pm & 6pm

Featuring performances from our
amazing TBE private lesson students!

Voice | Piano | Strings

Tickets \$15-\$20

www.topbillingent.org/buy-tickets



SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR 15TH SEASON 2024-2025



JUNE 30, 2024
AT THE ACADEMY



JANUARY 10-12, 2025
BONITA CENTER FOR THE ARTS



MAY 3-4, 2025
AT THE ACADEMY



JULY 2025
BONITA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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.

TBE BOARD MEMBERS

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Vice President - Sarah Jimenez

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Costumes - Teresa Okerson

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Adriana Valdez
Jessica Vasquez
Anna De Vera
Julianne Vermilion
Maureen Vermilion
Katherine Vieser
Katie Weber
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 - Director of Dance, 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



Zoë Harwell- Intern & Recreation Program Teacher

Zoë Harwell has been with Top Billing for five years, and she's been involved in just about everything! From performing in musical theater and helping out at the storage unit to subbing classes and being a key part of the competition team, Zoë's always ready to jump in wherever she's needed. She also loves being a summer camp counselor and taking on the role of Lighting Director for camp shows. Zoë is all about helping the next generation thrive in the supportive environment she's grown up in, and she's super excited to keep making TBE awesome!



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!



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 Music Education. 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

Jahmal Rashad- Dance Teacher



Jahmal Rashad is 22 years old and from Pasadena, CA. He has been performing in shows with Top Billing Entertainment since he was 12 years old. Jahmal started singing in 4th grade and found his love for dance when he entered middle school. Jahmal lived in New York City for 4 years studying business while also expanding his experience by booking performing gigs on the side. He is currently a student at Citrus College where he is a part of the Citrus Singers and Vocal Jazz Programs. He reflects on his experiences and the knowledge that he has gained throughout his life which has shaped him as a performer. He is super excited to work with kids again and to share his experiences and teach his students many important things including following through with your goals will take you as far as you tell them to go, never give up, and work for the things you want in life.

Amanda Rueda - Director of Music & Vocal Arts, 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

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.

Eileen Sandoval- Director of Artistic Operations, 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.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



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.



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



Juli Vermilion Sison - Director of Showstoppers Team, 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.



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.

OUR AWESOME STAFF



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- Member-at-Large



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.



Jaime Zaldivar - Fundraising Coordinator

Jaime Zaldivar is a newbie to the Performing Arts world. In the two years since his son and daughter's 1st performance in TBE's "Beauty and the Beast", he's contributed much of his free time in getting to know how things work behind the scenes. Jaime has a background in Fiber Optics/Structured Cabling, Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, and currently works for a Physical Security Consulting firm with a team that oversees the Americas regions (Canada/US/Caribbean/Latin America). His pastimes include cycling, running, working out, he enjoys eating, the occasional swim, making marmalade, and recently started gaming (thanks to TBE). He will be helping TBE grow the fundraising program which involves seeking grant funding, hosting E-sport Gaming Tournaments, and Bingo events, for starters. You may even see him rolling up his sleeves in Stage Prop construction and repairs.



Evolution of Disney
HIGH GOLD, 3RD OVERALL



We Own The Night
GOLD, GRROWL AWARD

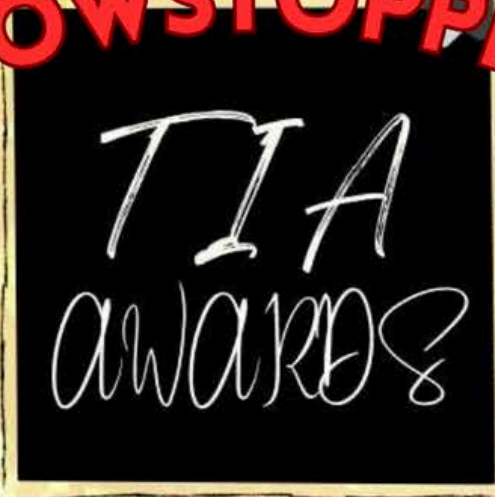


Cash in, Cash Out
HIGH GOLD
BEST CHOREO NOMINEE

SHOWSTOPPERS



Show Off
PLATINUM, BROADWAY
BELT, 4TH OVERALL



Step Sisters
HIGH GOLD, STAR TEEN
DUO DANCE, 2ND OVERALL



Super Mario Remix
HIGH GOLD, BEST BUDDY
DUO, STAR TEEN DUO TAP



Nothing Holding Me Back
HIGH GOLD, 2ND OVERALL



My Shot
HIGH GOLD, ARTICULATION
AWARD, 4TH OVERALL



Dangerous

HIGH GOLD, 1ST
OVERALL, TITLE 1ST
RUNNER UP



Runway

HIGH GOLD, 2ND OVERALL



L.O.V.E.

HIGH GOLD
1ST OVERALL, TITLE WINNER



Rainbow

HIGH GOLD



Good Morning Baltimore

HIGH GOLD, 5TH OVERALL



Summer

GOLD, DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE,
TITLE 1ST RUNNER UP



Greatest Showman

HIGH GOLD



Dream

HIGH GOLD, BREATH IN YOUR
MOVEMENT AWARD, 5TH
OVERALL

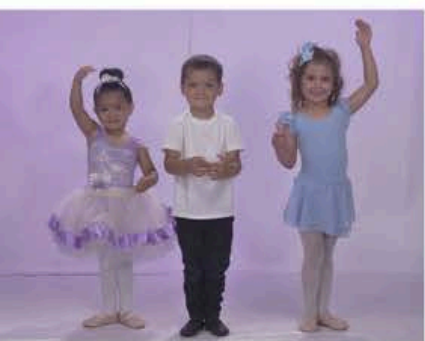


Stick It To The Man

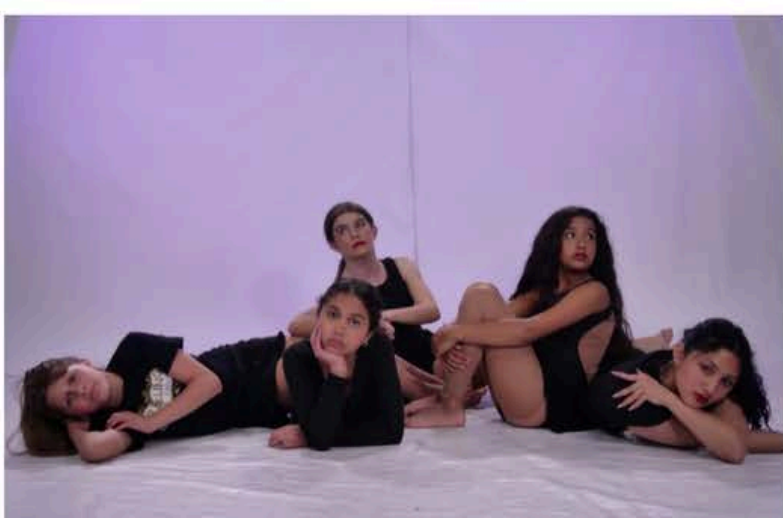
GOLD

PRIVATE LESSON RECITALS 2023-2024











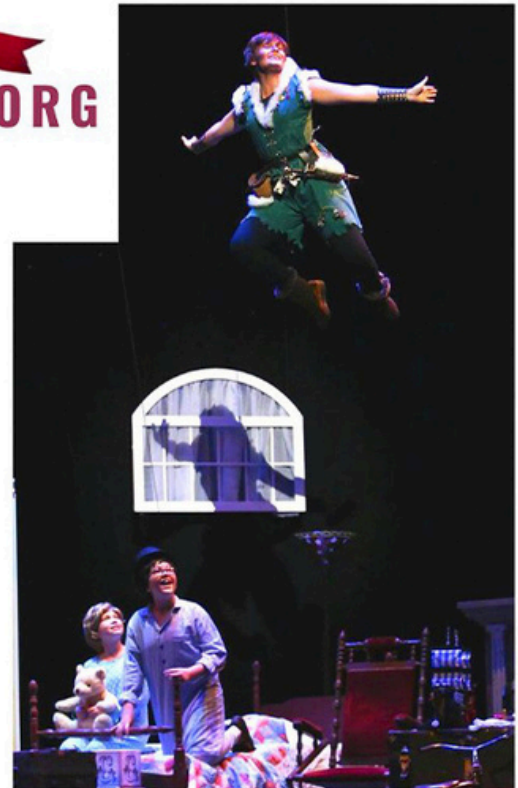


TOP BILLING
ENTERTAINMENT

PERFORMANCE ACADEMY
13th Anniversary

WWW.TOPBILLINGENT.ORG

DANCE - SING - ACT -
PLAY INSTRUMENTS



“Top Billing Ent. was my second home during grade school. Their teachers provided me a safe space to explore my art and hone my love for singing, acting and writing my own songs.”



- Sam Morelos

Co-Star of *That 90's Show*