

LITTLE LAKE THEATRE COMPANY

Agatha Christie's
**MURDER on the
ORIENT EXPRESS**



RAILWAY TICKET		DEPARTURE	<i>Istanbul</i>	→	DESTINATION	<i>Paris</i>			
CAR	<i>20</i>	ROW	<i>2</i>	SEAT	<i>5</i>	DATE	<i>8.30-9.14</i>	TIME	<i>7.00 pm</i>

SEAT

5

ROW

2

CAR

20

2025
LITTLELAKE.ORG





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Welcome to the Lake!



Welcome, Adventurers!

Thanks so much for joining us. Whether you've been coming to Little Lake for decades or this is your very first show with us—welcome. Truly.

This year's theme, *Adventure Awaits*, isn't just about the stories we'll tell on stage (though believe me, there are some incredible ones coming your way). It's also about the adventure that lives in every corner of this community. It's about trying something new—maybe stepping into a class for the first time, or finally auditioning for that show you've been thinking about. It's about lending your time, your talent, your heart to help make this place as magical as it's always been.

Theatre, at its best, brings people together. It lets us laugh, cry, question, and grow—side by side. That only happens because of you. The people in this audience. The volunteers behind the scenes. The students who bravely take the stage. The donors who make sure the lights can come up again, and again, and again.

This community has been telling stories for 77 years. And with your help, we're just getting started.

So here's to the next step. To a season full of bold choices, big feelings, and beautiful moments shared. Here's to saying yes to the adventure—whatever that looks like for you.

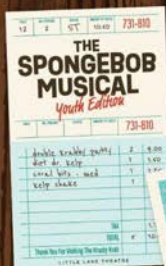
With so much gratitude,



Patrick Cannon
Artistic Director



Patti Knapp
Managing Director



Artistic Director
PATRICK CANNON

Managing Director
PATRICIA KNAPP

August 29th-September 14th, 2025
Little Lake Theatre Company presents

Murder on the Orient Express

By Agatha Christie

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

Directed and Scenic Design by
TUCKER TOPEL

Starring

SEAN MICHAEL BARRETT
JOHN M. HERRMANN
CANDICE FISHER
DELANEY MOLNAR
KATHY HAWK

CHELSEA DAVIS
COLE VECCHIO
COLE MCGLUMPHY
ERIC LESLIE
OLIVIA LONG

Director of Production
NATHAN WALTER

Lighting Designer
NICOLE WHITE

Sound Designer
STEVE SHAPIRO

Costume Designer
NINA STUMPF

Props Designer
ALEX KEPLAR

Dialect Coach
LISA ANN GOLDSMITH

Stage Manager
ANDONETTA CHIARINA TRAGESER

Assistant Stage Manager
MARIA MASSENGILL

Intimacy Coordinator
BEE ANDERSON

Special thanks to:
Hawk Photography and Multimedia LLC.



In memory of
Tracey Taylor Perles

THE CAST

Sean Michael Barrett	Hercule Poirot
John M. Herrmann.....	Monsieur Bouc
Chelsea Davis	Mary Debenham
Cole McGlumphy	Hector MacQueen
Cole Vecchio	Michel the Conductor/Head Waiter
Candice Fisher	Princess Dragomiroff
Delaney Molnar	Greta Ohlsson
Olivia Long	Countess Andrenyi
Kathy Hawk	Helen Hubbard
Eric Leslie	Colonel Arbuthnot/Samuel Ratchett

LITTLE LAKE THEATRE COMPANY STAFF

Founding Director	Will Disney	Associate Directors	Jamie Agnello, Art Deconcellis, Sunny Disney -Fitchett, Kathy Hawk, Jennifer Smith-Lybarger, Tucker Topel, Nathan Walter
Artistic Director	Patrick Cannon		
Managing Director	Patricia G. Knapp		
Director of Production	Nathan Walter	Teaching Artists	Kauleen Cloutier, Madeline Dalesio, John Franz, Jonah Hartman, Kathy Hawk, Samantha Hawk, Leann Knotts, Holly Jones, Mary Meyer, Christine Pittman, Helga Terre
House & Food Beverage Manager	Leigh Ann Frohnafel		
Properties & Costume Librarian	Sylvia Sims-Linkish		
Box Office Staff	Melanie Murphy		

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

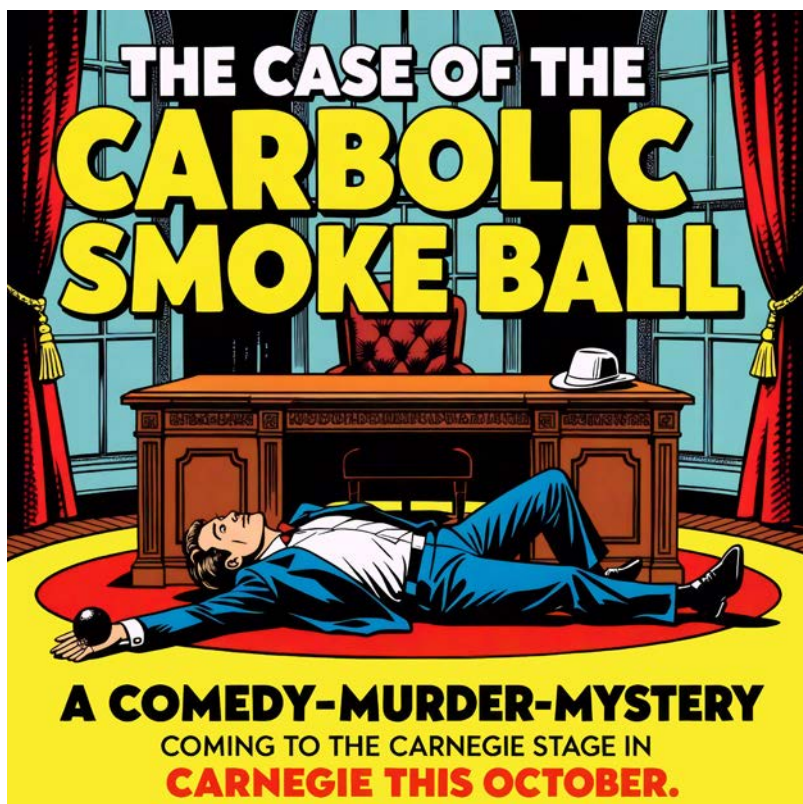
Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* is a timeless classic. A group of seemingly unconnected strangers boards the luxurious Orient Express — but when a murder occurs, it's up to the legendary detective Hercule Poirot to uncover the truth and identify the killer.

At its core, this story is about human connection, loyalty, and the lengths people will go to for what they believe is right. It's a mystery filled with twists, turns, and the complexities of justice and truth.

This is a play for theatre lovers — a show within a show, packed with all the elements that make live performance so thrilling: fog, strobe lights, gunshots, fights, laughter, tears, and a touch of old-fashioned glamour.

So sit back, watch your back, and enjoy *Murder on the Orient Express*.

-Tucker Topel





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Up Next...

REEFER MADNESS

Oct 2-19, 2025

Recommended for ages 18+ | Book by Kevin Murphy & Dan Studney

Music by Dan Studney | Lyrics by Kevin Murphy

Get ready for a wild ride with “Reefer Madness,” the outrageous musical satire that lights up our 2025 season! Inspired by the 1936 cult classic film, this hilarious show takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the hysteria surrounding marijuana use in the early 20th century. Follow the story of clean-cut kids Jimmy and Mary as they fall prey to the wiles of the sinister drug and spiral into a world of jazz, debauchery, and hilarity. With catchy songs, over-the-top characters, and laugh-out-loud moments, “Reefer Madness” is a side-splitting, high-energy romp that will leave you rolling in the aisles. Don’t miss this irreverent and entertaining musical at the Lake. Grab your tickets now and join us for a night of outrageous fun!

CALENDAR GIRLS

Oct 30-Nov 16, 2025

Recommended for ages 13+ | Written by Tim Firth

Brighten up your year with “Calendar Girls.” Based on a true story, this delightful comedy follows a group of extraordinary women from a small English village who decide to raise money for charity by creating a calendar—posing in the nude! With courage, camaraderie, and a touch of cheekiness, these women defy expectations and inspire their entire community. “Calendar Girls” is a celebration of friendship, resilience, and the power of ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. Join us for an unforgettable night of laughter and love. Get your tickets now and be part of this joyous, feel-good production!

MRS. BOB CRATCHIT’S WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE

Dec 4 to 21, 2025

Recommended for ages 13+ | Written by Christopher Durang

This holiday season, join us for a hilariously irreverent twist on the classic A Christmas Carol with Christopher Durang’s Mrs. Bob Cratchit’s Wild Christmas Binge. In this madcap comedy, Mrs. Cratchit has had enough of her overworked husband, their countless children, and the sentimental holiday clichés. When the Ghost of Christmas Past arrives to set things right, chaos ensues as the story takes wildly unexpected detours. Filled with sharp wit, zany characters, and laugh-out-loud moments, this uproarious spoof turns tradition on its head and delivers a fresh dose of holiday cheer. Perfect for anyone looking to shake up their holiday season with something unexpected and wildly entertaining!

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Sean Michael Barrett (Hercule Poirot) is thrilled to be putting his “little grey cells” to use at Little Lake Theatre! Some of Sean’s favorite adventures have been Big Fish (Amos Calloway), Guys and Dolls (Nathan Detroit), The Addams Family (Gomez), 1776 (John Adams), The Drowsy Chaperone (Aldolpho), It’s Only A Play (James Wicker), A Year with Frog and Toad (Frog), A Servant to Two Masters (Truffaldino). He would like to thank the cast, crew, and staff for making the show so amazing! All the thanks to family and friends! For Brendan.

Chelsea Davis (Mary Debenham) is thrilled to return to Little Lake Theatre in this production of Murder on the Orient Express. It has always been a dream of hers to take a fancy train to exotic locals and now she can. Previously seen as Sophie in The Da Vinci Code her other theatre credits include Mimi, Rent (Stage 62), Audrey, Little Shop of Horrors (Centre for Theater Players), Rosa Parks, Rosa Parks & the Montgomery Bus Boycott (Prime Stage), Mrs Joe & Others, Great Expectations (Prime Stage) and others. She would like to dedicate this performance to all those still seeking justice for loved ones taken, especially amongst the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities. May we all remember to love our neighbors and never take this big wide world for granted.

Candice Fisher (Princess Dragomiroff) is delighted to return to “the Lake,” where she was last seen as “Cookie Cusack” in Rumors. Favorite past roles include: “Paulette” in Legally Blonde, “Jolene Oakes” in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and “Tatiana Racon” in A Comedy of Tenors. Candice has performed locally with companies such as Pittsburgh Musical Theater, South Park Theater, and Stage 62, where she is also a Managing Director. She is particularly thankful to her Mom, who introduced her to Monsieur Poirot at a young age (though she’s been side-eyeing letter openers ever since). Love to Tiny Spicy. Thank you for supporting community theater - enjoy the show!

Kathy Hawk (Helen Hubbard) is a retired music teacher from the Baldwin Whitehall School District where she taught vocal music for 29 years as well as directed the middle school musical theatre program. Kathy has been very active in the professional and community theater scene in Pittsburgh working at many local theaters both performing, teaching/directing, or working behind the scenes. Some may remember Kathy from seeing her as Ethel Thayer in On Golden Pond last season. Some other favorite shows include Gypsy (Mama Rose), Into the Woods (Witch, Jack’s Mom), and Church Basement Ladies (Karin). Kathy has both her Music Education degree and Masters in Vocal Performance from Duquesne University. She is forever thankful to her unbelievably supportive husband and daughters. She would like to thank her Little Lake family for a wonderful experience and she hopes you enjoy the show.

John M. Herrmann (Monsieur Bouc) Hello there, we’ve met someplace before, haven’t we? Yes, I’m sure of it. I never forget a face. I know, it was right here at the theater. I’m very excited to be part of this amazingly talented cast and back on the stage at Little Lake Theatre. My most recent show at The Lake was White Christmas in 2023 playing the part of General Waverly. Following this I will be playing the part of Fr. Virgil in Nuncrackers at The Old Schoolhouse in Hickory. Thank you for coming out and supporting community theater. Please tell your friends.

WHO'S WHO

Eric Leslie (Colonel Arbuthnot/Samuel Ratchett) is excited to be continuing his villain era at the Lake with one of his least redeemable characters yet, balanced by another who at least mostly only commits sins against language. Thank you to Tucker for the opportunity to work with this excellent cast on such a gorgeous show. Eric was last seen at the Lake in *Wait Until Dark* and *Deathtrap*; when not on stage he can be found petting cats, playing games, trying not to get into arguments on the internet and wrestling with living in interesting times. Further thanks to the humans and animals that make up his circle of loved ones, and to you for spending some time with us. Enjoy the show!

Olivia Long (Countess Andrenyi) is excited to return to Little Lake for her second show! After helping crack *The Da Vinci Code* earlier this year as Collette, she's thrilled to help unravel another mystery as Countess Andreyi! She's loved getting back on the stage with her recent roles of Marianne in *The Revolutionists* with South Park Theatre and Mrs. Fisher in *Squabbles* with Old Schoolhouse Players. She has also performed as The Wizard in *Once Upon A Mattress*, J. Gribble in *Room Service*, Mrs. Kirk in *Little Women*, Mrs. Holloway in *The Uninvited*, and many other roles that have helped grow her love of theater! Apart from acting, Olivia enjoys both writing for the stage and directing, also treasuring her time both as a director and player in her college improv comedy group, WU's *Line Is It Anyways!* She has had such an amazing time helping bring this classic Agatha Christie story to life! She hopes you enjoy the show half as much as she enjoyed being a part of it!

Cole McGlumphy (Hector MacQueen) is a community member from Venetia, PA. He's excited to be returning to perform in his 5th show at Little Lake Theatre in *Murder on the Orient Express*. His past productions and roles include: *Funny Money* (Sgt. Davenport), *Blues is the Roots: The Willie Dixon Story* (Leonard Chess), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Feldzieg), and *SpongeBob the Musical* (Old Man Jenkins) and many more. In his spare time, Cole likes to watch and review movies, write plays/productions, hang out with friends and family, and cook. Performing in an Agatha Christie show has always been a bucket list Dream for him. Cole would like to thank Tucker, Andi, Patrick, Nathan and everyone at Little Lake theatre for giving him this opportunity and the phenomenal cast and crew for their incredible dedication and support. Finally, Cole would like to say thank you to Mom, Dad, Rei Rei, Mum, Grandma, and his little Buddy Cruz. Your love and support is the greatest gift in the world. He hopes you enjoy this Great show, it's *Murder*.

Delaney Molnar (Greta Ohlsson) As an avid reader of murder mysteries and Agatha Christie novels, Delaney is excited to return to the Little Lake stage and to be performing in her first straight play since 2019! She was previously in *Matilda* (Acrobat) and *White Christmas* (Rita) and directed last year's *Goldilocks* and the *Three Bears*. She has also performed at Mon River Arts, South Park Theatre, and Stage 62. Delaney is the Assistant Program Director of South Park Children's Theatre, where she directs and choreographs for both the indoor and outdoor stages, among many other duties. She would like to thank Tucker and the rest of the cast and crew for all of their hard work on this production, and she looks forward to leaving audiences guessing "whodunnit?"

Cole Vecchio (Michel the Conductor/Head Waiter) is a Pittsburgh based actor making an exciting return to Little Lake Theatre! He has a B.A. in Theatre-Acting from Slippery Rock University. Past roles include: Silas (*The Da Vinci Code*), Justin Hicks (*A Fox on the Fairway*), Dracula in *Dracula*, a new stage adaptation which he wrote! Banquo (*Macbeth*), Jacob Lansky (*The Green Book*), Dallas Winston (*The Outsiders*), Father Flynn (*Doubt*,

WHO'S WHO

a Parable), Benedick (Much Ado About Nothing), Ebenezer Scrooge (A Christmas Carol), Pastor Manders (Ghosts), Kyle (Hungry Jane), performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Kit, a role he originated in the world premiere of December Things, and Cassius (Julius Caesar). Cole would like to thank director Tucker Topel for casting him in this show, the tremendously talented cast and crew for all their hard work, Rachel for being a gorgeous and supportive wife, Darrin Mosley for being the best friend/brother ever, and Mom, Dad, Casey, Stone, Chance, Darci, Teddy, Sonny, Ricco, Rocket, Ethel, Lucy, Ciarán, Béla, and Nyxie for their constant love and support. Instagram: colevecchioactor

Bee Anderson (Intimacy Coordinator) is thrilled to be spending their summer with Little Lake Theater! Recently, Bee was the Stage Manager for Barefoot in the Park & The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition. Bee is excited to be switching roles to Intimacy Coordinator for the remainder of the season at Little Lake. Originally from Southern New York, Bee moved to Pittsburgh in 2020 for grad school at CMU. Following grad school, Bee was hired at Pittsburgh Opera as an Assistant Stage Manager and has settled in the Pittsburgh area with their fiancé. When not working, Bee prefers to spend time reading horror and/or true crime books and cuddling with their cat.

Lisa Ann Goldsmith (Dialect Coach) is an award-winning actor, director, and dialect coach with numerous professional credits across the country. Most recently, she directed A Fox on the Fairway for Little Lake's 2024 season, and has been the Dialect Coach for many productions, most recently, The DaVinci Code. She is the co-host of the internationally known podcast The Bardcast: It's Shakespeare, You Dick!, winner of the New York Shakespeare Awards for Best Podcast with listeners in six out of the seven world continents (come on, Antarctica!!). She has taught at theatre conservatories all over the country, in addition to her many private coaching students, and has students working on Broadway, in film and in television. Lisa Ann is thrilled to be the 2023-24 recipient of Slippery Rock University's President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is also the Theatrical/TV/Commercial Business Representative for the Ohio-Pittsburgh Local branch of SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists). She was the Dialect Coach for many Pittsburgh CLO productions, most recently Madame Cliquot and Camelot. As an actor, she will be appearing next in September 2025 as Madame De Volanges in Les Liaisons Dangereuses at Schoolhouse Theater in Croton Falls NY.

Alex Keplar (Props Designer) is a Pittsburgh based scenic and properties designer. She is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and is excited to be working at the Lake again! Some of her recent credits include Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812 (Scenic Designer, Pittsburgh CAPA), Miss Julie (Properties Designer, Pittsburgh International Classical Theatre), I Never Saw Another Butterfly (Scenic Designer, Prime Stage Theatre), and A Sherlock Carol (Properties Designer, Kinetic Theatre). She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support!

Maria Massengill (Assistant Stage Manager) is very happy to be helping out as ASM for Murder on the Orient Express! You may have previously seen her as ASM for Spongebob the Musical: Youth Edition, Barefoot in the Park, and 9 to 5 The Musical from this season! She would like to thank Nathan Walter, Tucker Topel, and Patrick Cannon for allowing her to be a part of this production (Seriously, Thank you guys.) She also would like to thank her Dad for always driving her everywhere (I love you dad.), and to her friends for their love and support! :)

WHO'S WHO

Steve Shapiro (Sound Designer) is so very excited to be back at Little Lake, where he designed last year's Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville. Steve has been designing sound around the United States for 45 years. He started as the Resident Sound Designer for Syracuse Stage in the early 80's and moved on to The Cleveland Playhouse before establishing sound design residency at Miami's legendary Coconut Grove Playhouse from 1990 to its closing in 2006. Since then, Steve has been the National Sound Designer for Menopause the Musical and The Play with Rocky Bleier, as well as establishing a residency at The Pittsburgh Playhouse, where he has designed over 100 productions. In Pittsburgh he has designed for City Theatre, The Rep, Quantum Theatre and PICT. A recipient of 4 Carbonell (South Florida Theater Critics) Awards for Best Sound Design, Steve is currently Head Engineer at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center in Midland, Pennsylvania. He has designed over 2,000 theatrical productions around the USA and the world, including composing the score for 5 productions of Angels in America and the score for Alan Ginsburg's only play, Plutonian Ode.

Nina Stumpf (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be designing at Little Lake again this season! Their previous designs at the Lake include Spongebob the Musical: Youth Edition, Finding Nemo Jr., Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, and Fox on the Fairway. They hold a BFA in Theatre Production & Design from Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts. Thanks for supporting live theatre!

Tucker Topel (Director/Scenic Designer) is a scenic designer, director, and teaching artist based in Pittsburgh, originally from Southern Wisconsin. He holds a BFA in Scenic Design from Point Park University and has collaborated with numerous organizations across the city, including Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Point Park University, The Collective, and Mercyhurst University, among others. As a director, Tucker's credits include Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches with Elsewhere Theatre Co. This fall, he will begin pursuing his MFA in Scenic Design at the University of Connecticut. Over the past few years, Tucker has had an incredible journey designing more than 20 productions at the Lake. He is deeply grateful to be ending his time in Pittsburgh — and at the Lake — by both directing and designing this show. He extends heartfelt thanks to Patrick, Patti, and the entire team of staff, artists, and performers for their support and collaboration. A special thank-you to the cast and crew of this production for helping make this final project a dream come true.

Andonetta Chiarina Trageser (Andi) (Stage Manager) is so excited for her first show at the Lake and to work with such an amazing cast and crew on Little Lake Theater's production of Murder on the Orient Express! Previous credits include: Beauty & the Beast (Stage Manager), Guys & Dolls Jr. (Stage Manager), Newsies Jr. (Stage Manager), The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition (Stage Manager), Jesus Christ Superstar (Production Assistant), and Waitress (Production Assistant). Andi also would like to dedicate all her work and dedication for this production to her father, Jack Phinney who passed in 2018 and her oldest sister, Cailyn Phinney who passed in 2022.

Nicole White (Lighting Designer) is ecstatic to be rejoining the Little Lake Theater team for another fantastic season. This will be her 4th season here as resident lighting designer. When she's not working here she is the resident lighting designer at Alumni Theater Company (ATC) and a resident electrician at City Theater. Her most recent lighting design is Love Is... produced by and performed at ATC. She also works in various departments

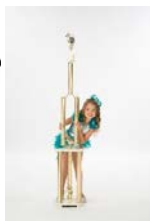
WHO'S WHO

behind the scenes for a variety of TV shows and movies that film here in Pittsburgh such as *Mindhunter*, *Cha Cha Real Smooth*, *The Gymnast*, and *Mayor of Kingstown*. She is extremely excited to bring the skills she's gathered through these experiences to Little Lake to boost production value and increase your experience.

Nathan Walter (Director of Production) attended Washington and Jefferson College where he received a B.A. in Philosophy, English, and Communications. Since graduating, he has worked in the Pittsburgh area as a Stage Manager and Director. Theaters he has worked for include Quantum Theatre, The Pittsburgh CLO, Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, Pittsburgh International Classical Theatre, Throughline Theatre Company, South Park Theatre, Stage 62, Mon River Arts, Theater Factory, and Little Lake.

Patricia Knapp (Managing Director) began her tenure as Managing Director of Little Lake Theatre in October 2019. She has overall responsibility for day-to-day operations and fiscal management, including budgeting. She is leading initiatives to strengthen Little Lakes' financial base and support innovative programs to expand Little Lake audiences and is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors. In her tenure as Little Lake Theatre Managing Director, she has raised over \$300,000 for facility improvements and introduced accessible programming to the Little Lake community. Before becoming Managing Director, she had over 40 years of development, marketing, and business management experience. Most recently, she spent three years in Washington D.C. as the Business & Development Director for Washington Revels, a multicultural non-profit arts organization. Patti worked for 15 years with Pittsburgh Musical Theater as their Marketing & Development Manager while overseeing numerous educational programs reaching over 268 students ages 4-18, as well as maintaining the company's database. She was instrumental in formulating a successful \$3-million-dollar capital campaign, which resulted in Pittsburgh Musical Theater purchasing the building that has housed them for over 12 years. She has worked as a consultant to other nonprofits, assisting with grant writing, marketing, and implementing accessibility initiatives in the Pittsburgh area. She is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful community, and we hope you enjoy our 2025 season. Welcome to the Lake!

Patrick Cannon (Artistic Director) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Pittsburgh, PA. Patrick holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theater from Columbia College Chicago and a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting and Playwriting from Point Park University and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association. His film projects, *Submit it to Festivals*, *Mulligan*, and *We Are Nowhere*, have been Official Selections in five Academy Award Qualifying Film Festivals. Patrick won the Broadway World Pittsburgh Award for Best Direction of a Musical for *Amélie* at Little Lake. He has worked with renowned theater companies nationwide, including Pittsburgh Public Theater, City Theatre, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Drury Lane Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Garage Rep, and Cape May Stage, among many others. He most recently appeared on stage as Roy Scheider (Chief Brody) in *The Shark is Broken* with Barebones Productions, Pittsburgh Public Theater's productions of *Sweat* (Jason) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (The Dentist), as well as City Theatre's production of *Clyde's* (Jason). Cannon is currently in his fourth season serving as the Artistic Director of Little Lake Theatre.



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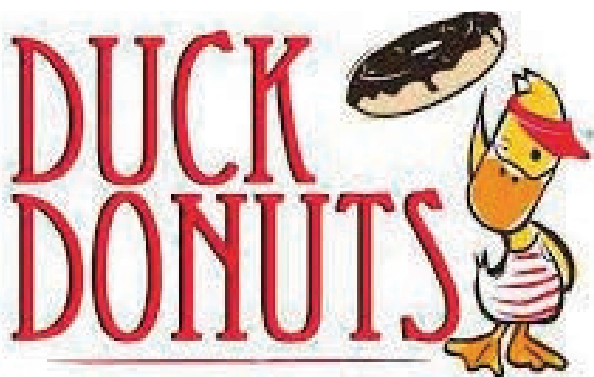
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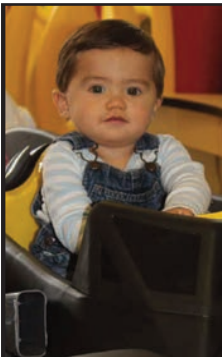
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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy; however if we have not listed you correctly (or your name has been omitted), please call us or send us an email at info@littlelake.org and we will correct your information on our next playbill. Thank you!

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Contestant Registration . \$35.00
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Special Guest Judges!

Ages: 8-18 are eligible to enter as a contestant
Each Performance should be no more than 5 minutes

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2025 MENU

Savory Plates to Share

Fruit and cheese platter

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Salsa and Chips

A generous portion of salsa and a bag of corn chips. Salsa sold separately if you need a little extra.

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Grab a snack bag of your favorite munchie to enjoy.

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Water, **large/small**

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Coke, Diet Coke, Ginger Ale, Sprite, Lemonade
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