



THE TRAIL TO OREGON

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY STARKID PRODUCTIONS



MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JEFF BLIM

BOOK BY NICK LANG, MATT LANG, BRIAN HOLDEN AND JEFF BLIM
ARRANGED BY CLARK BAXTRESSER AND PIERCE SIEBERS

DIRECTED BY AYDEN SOUPAL

NOVEMBER 9-12 & 16-19, 2023



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& 16-19, 2023**
Black Box

THE TRAIL TO OREGON

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	Ayden Soupal
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Drew Doman
STAGE MANAGER	Katrina Robinson
CHOREOGRAPHER	Lane Soupal
PRODUCER	Jeff Magnuson
COSTUMER	Krystal Krive
COSTUME ASSISTANT	Amanda Macomber
PROPERTIES	Ayden Soupal
SET DESIGN & BUILD	Kat & Derek Soupal
SET DRESSING & SCENOGRAPHY	Kat Soupal
LIGHTING DESIGN	Amy Jo Brown
LIGHTING TECH	Drew Doman
SOUND DESIGN & TECH	Leon Green
PUBLICITY	Scott Pohl

THANK YOU

Matt Ottinger, Impression 5 Science Center, Justin & Mary Tarkoski

**The video or audio recording of this performance
by any means is strictly prohibited.**

The Trail to Oregon! is the ninth original musical released by Team StarKid. The show parodies the video game series *The Oregon Trail* and was first performed in summer 2014 in Chicago. It was released on YouTube in February 2015. The musical had a limited run off-Broadway in New York in May 2015, running for eight performances. The original Chicago cast returned for this production.



WARNING

Dysentery! Tons of dysentery. There's a lot of swearing and some adult situations, too. But watch out for the dysentery.

The Trail to Oregon! is based on the cult classic educational computer game *The Oregon Trail*. We'll follow an all-American family of five as they make their way from Missouri to Oregon in 1848. During their journey, they encounter the prospect of starvation, bandits and dysentery. Be prepared for a musical, pioneer adventure of epic proportions — and some audience participation!

SETTING

The relatively new United States of America. This very date, 1848.

There will be one 15-minute intermission between acts.

CAST

FATHER

Quentin Villa

MOTHER

Taren Going

DAUGHTER

Kaela Panicucci

SON

Xia Skowronek

GRANDPA

Dale Wayne Williams

EVERYONE ELSE

JT Tosolt

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Riverwalk office open Tues-Fri
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and two hours prior to showtimes



Our current lobby artist is **David Winkelstern**

David specializes in 3-D art that reveals more and more with each view. He often uses layers and layers of latex paint to get distinctive results. Ten of the works on display were created recently, especially for this showing. No two creations are ever the same and all are unique.

This is his second showing at Riverwalk. David will donate half of his sales to the theatre. All prices are reduced (sometimes barely matching expense costs) to benefit Riverwalk.

When he is not playing music in local groups, writing for *City Pulse*, or working on his own writings, the retired teacher can be found playing with contact cement and paint in his Mulliken garage. Contact him at ahfungi@yahoo.com

SONGS



ACT 1

Gone to Oregon

Father, Mother, Daughter, Son, Grandpa

Independence!

Company

The Grind

Father, Company

Pays to be an Animal

Grandpa, Company

When the World's at Stake

Mother

Dysentery World

Father, Company

Wagon on Fire

Everyone Else, Company

ACT 2

Lost Without You

Daughter

When the World's at Stake (Reprise)

Father, Everyone Else

Speed Run

Company

Caulk the Wagon

Everyone Else, Grandpa, Company

You Gotta Go

*Audience choice of singer, Everyone Else

Naked in a Lake

Son, Company

FROM THE DIRECTOR

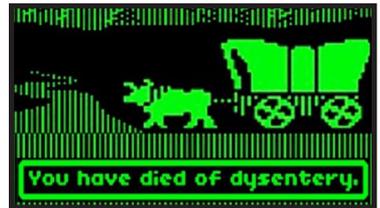


I remember watching this show, on YouTube, about 4 or 5 years ago and crying laughing, distinctly one bit wherein I couldn't breathe because I was laughing so hard and we ended up having to pause it so I could catch my breath. Now, realistically, am I expecting our production to do the same to you? Yes. So, I hope you brought an oxygen mask. Anyway, this show has taught me so many lessons, with it being my first musical in the director's chair, and I'm

so happy I had this team with me. We had some trials and tribulations on the road to it, but I couldn't be any happier for the destination, and any less grateful for the journey. I hope you laugh until you fart and fart until you laugh (I hope you aren't wearing white pants), and get ready to shout out funny names for our characters at the beginning of the show, like Deez Nuts, Mitch McConnell, and Micro Penis.

From all of us on the trail, thank you, and enjoy the show!

—Ayden Soupal



CAST & PRODUCTION TEAM



Taren Going they/them (**MOTHER**) – Taren is excited to be performing in the Black Box theater for the first time, and with this wonderful cast and crew! Taren’s recent roles include “KT” in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Peppermint Creek Theatre), “Sally Brown” in *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (RWT), and “Penny Pingleton” in *Hairspray* (RWT). Thanks to Kameron, Evelyn, and Cecily for being the absolute greatest, and for hating cross-country road trips just as much as I do.



Kaela Panicucci she/her (**DAUGHTER**) – Kaela is happy to be back at Riverwalk for her third show with the theatre. Originally from New Jersey, she has come to East Lansing to pursue a PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics at MSU. She was last seen on stage in Riverwalk’s *Big Fish* and, previous to that, LCC’s *Cabaret* and Riverwalk’s *All Together Now*. She would like to extend her sincerest gratitude to all the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication and, of course, to all of you for your continued support of local theatre. Enjoy the show!



Xia Skowronek she/her (**SON**) – After taking a 10-year hiatus from musical theatre, Xia is beyond excited to make her debut at the Riverwalk Theater as a 7-year-old boy. She’d like to thank her family, coworkers and Bert Payne for believing in her and pushing her to get back into her passion. Eat shit!

SPECIAL THANKS TO



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JT Tosolt any pronouns (**EVERYONE ELSE**) - JT is so excited to be performing in one of their “bucket list” shows! This is their second Riverwalk production, having been in last season’s *Fabulation*. When not rehearsing, they work as a software developer in order to provide for their two cats. They’d like to thank all their friends and family for encouraging them and being endlessly supportive. Enjoy the chaos!



Quentin Villa he/him (**FATHER**) - Quentin has been a huge Starkid fan since he was a young boy growing up in Coldwater, Michigan. Quentin is currently a Music major at the University of Olivet, and has also studied Theatre at Eastern Michigan University. His notable roles include “Sky Masterson” in *Guys & Dolls*, “Teveye” in *Fiddler on the Roof*, “Aaron Fox” in *Curtains*, “George Banks” in *Mary Poppins*, and “Coach Bolton” in *High School Musical*. He is very happy to have been given the role of “Father” and hopes his debut Riverwalk performance will at least be ok.



Dale Wayne Williams they/them (**GRANDPA**) - Dale Wayne Williams is excited to perform in the Black Box at Riverwalk for the first time! They have previously been seen on the Riverwalk mainstage as “Don” in *Kinky Boots*, at AECT’s production of *School of Rock* playing “Dewey”, and many other productions! They also directed *Big Fish* at Riverwalk last season. Outside of theatre, Dale Wayne works in child welfare and is training to summit Mount Kilimanjaro. They want to give a shout out to Fweddie-Weddie, the only party member to not make it to Oregon in Dale Wayne’s most recent attempt at the game!

Amy Jo Brown she/her (**LIGHT DESIGN**) - Amy Jo has been involved in the Michigan theatre scene for more than 30 years. She worked as the technical director for the Charlotte Performing Arts Center from 2007 until 2021 when she made the move to the Owosso Community Players at Lebowsky Center in Owosso. Amy Jo has performed, directed, designed lights and sound, operated boards, served as crew, stage manager, set design and construction, costuming, just about every role in front of and behind the curtain! She served on the board for several years for Andromeda Community Theater in Charlotte, has worked with more than two dozen regional and community theaters and continues to work with more and more groups each year.

Drew Doman he/they (**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LIGHT TECH**) - Drew is no stranger to Riverwalk Theatre. You might recognize him from productions like *Hairspray* (Edna) and *Pippin* (King Charlemagne). His most recent project was with Riverwalk’s *Kinky Boots* as one of the Angels! While he may not be on stage tonight, he is thrilled at the opportunity to learn and grow on the production team! He would like to thank his family and friends for dealing with his unavailability. Love y’all! Safe travels down the trail, and enjoy the show!

Leon Green he/him (**SOUND DESIGN/TECH**) – Leon is a sound engineer/audio technician and all-around volunteer. He has designed sound for *Bell, Book, and Candle*, *The Revolutionists*, *Lobby Hero*, *Doubt*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Pippin*, and many others. He has also provided set construction support on a number of shows. Leon is a member of the Riverwalk Board and serves on our Tech Committee.

Krysty Krive she/her (**COSTUMES**) – Krysty is excited to be a part of the production crew for Riverwalk's debut of *The Trail to Oregon!* This is her first lead costumer role. She started out assisting with costumes at Charlotte Public Schools and worked on *Peter and the Starcatcher* for Riverwalk last season. She is grateful and humbled to have met so many wonderful people on this journey. Krysty would like to thank her husband, Ray, for his support while she works on productions, Amanda Macomber for bringing her into the community theater world, and Ayden Soupal for trusting in her to costume his musical. To Oregon!

Amanda Macomber she/her (**COSTUME ASSISTANT**) – Amanda started doing costumes back in high school but then took a very long break from theatre until she was asked to help with costumes on one of her daughter's shows. Since then, Amanda has costumed shows at several local high schools, and multiple shows at Riverwalk, Great Escape Theater, and The Revue. She won an Excellence Award for her *Addams Family* costumes and the prestigious Sutton Foster Ovation Award for Charlotte High School's production of *The Little Mermaid*. Last season she costumed four shows at Riverwalk, winning a Barney Award for her work on *Bell, Book and Candle*.

Jeff Magnuson he/him (**PRODUCER**) – Jeff has been involved with Riverwalk Theatre since 1987. Onstage roles include *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *All My Sons* and *Bell, Book and Candle*. Thank you for supporting Riverwalk Theatre.

Scott Pohl he/him (**PUBLICITY**) – Scott is involved onstage and off at Riverwalk. A member of the Board, he's acted in *Misery* (Paul Sheldon; Best Lead Actor in a Play Barney Award), *Sweat* (Stan), and *Buried Child* (Fr. Dewis). Scott is a now semi-retired reporter at WKAR-FM, MSU's NPR station. Thanks for supporting Riverwalk; enjoy the show!

Katrina Robinson she/her (**STAGE MANAGER**) – Katrina is a 2013 graduate of SVSU's theatre program. She serves as a video producer for the State of Michigan – but nothing compares to live theatre! You might have seen her on stage with Ayden and Dale in *School of Rock*. She is grateful for the opportunity to work in Lansing's theatre scene, and has enjoyed getting to know the cast and crew. She thanks her family for being so flexible while she pursues theatre as a hobby again after a ten year hiatus. Enjoy the show!

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Cast photos by Ariniko O'Meara • Ariniko Artistry • @arinikoartistry

Ayden Soupal he/him (**DIRECTOR**) – Ayden is excited that you have decided to join us on the trail! This is his first musical as director, but not his first show, having directed *Misery* this past February at Riverwalk. He will also be directing *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* this upcoming May at All-of-us Express Children's Theater. He wants to thank this spectacular cast and crew for putting so much hard work into this show, and especially his sister for coming every weekend to teach dance. Thank you for supporting live theatre!

Derek Soupal he/him (**SET DESIGN/BUILD**) – Derek, the father of Ayden and Lane, as well as husband to Kat (all of whom are working on this show), is excited to be back working on another Riverwalk production. He recently won The Sharon Straubel Award at the Barney's this year for his special effects work on the *Misery* hobbling scene. He wants to thank his family, and hopes you enjoy *The Trail to Oregon!*

Kat Soupal she/her (**SET DESIGN/BUILD/SCENOGRAPHY**) – Kat, the mother of Lane and Ayden, as well as husband to Derek (all of whom are working on this show), is excited to be back working on another production at Riverwalk. Her previous credits include set work and painting on *Misery* at Riverwalk, as well as *Aladdin, Jr.* for Gardner International Magnet School in Lansing. She wants to thank her family and friends, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Lane Soupal they/them (**CHOREOGRAPHER**) – This is Lane's first show as a choreographer, and couldn't be happier to be working on this production. Some acting credits include *Cabaret* (LCC), *Freaky Friday* (Holt High School), and *All Together Now* (Riverwalk). They were dance captain for all of their high school shows, and took dance classes for 14 years. When they're not doing theatre they're currently studying at Wayne State University and are a drag artist. They want to thank their friends, family, and you for coming out to see the show!

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The Bowen Family
Joe & Kate Clark
The Cooke Family
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Carmine Eason
Carolyn Ellis Logan
Zach Everly
Alan & Suzanne Greenberg
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Erin Hoffman
Charles Hoogstraten
Mary Elaine Kiener
Judith Labovitz
Gini Larson
Carolyn Logan

Bernie Lucas
Amanda Macomber
Mara McGill
Amelia Mestelle
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Scott Pohl
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Gordon & Shelia Taylor
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Colleen Bethea
Diana Catallo-Porter
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Kelly Garland
Taylor Haslett
Marie Kuntz
Ron McNeill
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up next at Riverwalk

CHRISTMAS BELLES

a Jones Hope Wooten comedy

Directed by Kate Clark

DECEMBER 7-10 & 14-17, 2023

MOONGLOW

by Kim Carney

Directed by Emily Clark

APRIL 11-14 & 18-21, 2024

THE EXONERATED

by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen

Directed by Alan Greenberg

FEBRUARY 15-18 & 22-25, 2024

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

by Timothy Allen McDonald;
based on book by Roald Dahl

Directed by Linda Widener

MAY 16-19 & 23-26, 2024

AMADEUS

by Peter Shaffer

Directed by Amy Rickett

MARCH 14-17 & 21-24, 2024

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