



Book, Music and Lyrics by
JANET YATES VOGT AND MARK FRIEDMAN

Based upon the book "How I Became a Pirate"
Written by Melinda Long and Illustrations by David Shannon

DIRECTOR
David Gram

Music Director
Alissa Hetzner

Stage Manager
LeRoy Marvin Russ*

Costume Designer
Colin Franz*

Hair & Makeup
Mason Gaida*

Synergy On Stage
James Cech and Shelly Tocco

Acoustic Guitar/Mandolin
Andrew Toering

Scenic Designer
Olivia Armstrong*

Choreographer
Matilda Seagraves*

Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Friday, June 4, 2021 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 2 p.m.

*We are pleased to acknowledge the work of our students on the production team.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director

Joe Beck

Head Carpenters

Randy Magner, Jacquelin Stauder

Costume Shop Supervisor

Christa Koerner

Costume Shop Assistant

Shirleen DiFinzo

Costume Design Advisor

Whitney Locher

Choreography Advisor

Don Brewer

Scenic Design Advisors

Jeremy Barnett

Musicians

Accompanist/Keys

Alissa Hetzner

Acoustic Guitar/Mandolin

Andrew Toering

Production Manager

Jeremy Barnett

Assistant Director/Dramaturg

Gwyneth Labine*

Properties Master

Liv Kunkle*

Scene Shop Staff

Colin Franz*

Dialect Consultant

Karen Sheridan

Publicity Photography

Jessica Boone

CAST (in order of appearance)

Jeremy Jacob

Cayla Stus

Braid Beard

Antonio Vettraino

Seymour Braunschwagger

Emily Nichter

Max

Sophia Cannella

Pierre

Princess Jones

Swill

Braeden Haggarty

Scurvy Dog

Olivia Kiefer

Sharktooth

Kaye Hoffmeyer

Videotaping or recording of any form of this production is STRICTLY PROHIBITED

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Sophia Cannella (Max) is a rising Senior in the Musical Theatre Performance Program. You may have seen her in *Urinetown* in the ensemble, Nina in *The Nina Variations*, or Marmaduke in *Orlando*. She has also directed *Exes* and assistant directed *Macbeth*. She wants to thank her friends and family for their constant support. To see more check out her website www.sophiacannella.com

Braeden Haggarty (Swill) is now entering his senior year as a Musical Theatre Major and is happy to be performing for Oakland University's production of *How I Became a Pirate*! He is very excited and blessed to have the opportunity to play the role of "Swill". Braeden was also in the shortened version of *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* and Oakland's 2019 production of *James And The Giant Peach* and starred as "James". He is very thankful to be supported by both his family and his friends because he would not be here if they hadn't believed in him. He hopes to continue to make them proud in the future!

Kaye Hoffmeyer (Sharktooth) is delighted to be performing in her third production at Oakland University. Recently, she had the pleasure of playing Caroline in *I and You*. In the fall she will be a junior, pursuing a Musical Theatre BFA. She is beyond excited to be performing at Oakland for the first time in a live production!

Princess Jones (Pirate Pierre) is a junior BFA Acting major. Other productions she has been in here at OU include *Appropriate* and *Company Class: We (Are) The People*. Princess is very excited to be a part of children's theatre, and step on stage to perform in a live show for the first time in over a year! She thanks the director, production team, her family, and this wonderful cast for all the love and laughs throughout this process.

Emily Nichter (Seymour Braunschwagger) is a Junior at Oakland University, double majoring in Acting and Screenwriting. When she isn't performing, she enjoys working behind the scenes as a writer or dramaturg — where you may have seen her most recent work on Kassie Dunaj's *Exes* as part of OU's outdoor theatre program. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their support, and this amazing cast and crew for such a wonderful experience. She can't wait for all ye mates to enjoy the show! Aaarrrrggghh!

Cayla Stus (Jeremy Jacob) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major. Other productions she's been involved in at OU so far include *Failure: A Love Story* and *Social Justice: We (Are) The People*. Cayla is so excited to be sharing this story, and she hopes you love it as much as she loves being part of it. She would like to thank her family, friends, and professors for their infinite support, and the *How I Became A Pirate* family for an unforgettable experience.

Antonio Vettrai (Captain Braid Beard) is an upcoming Senior Musical Theatre major and is excited to be performing as Captain Braid Beard! Past Credits: Franz in *Appropriate*, The Porter/Doctor in *Macbeth*, Uncle Ernie in *Tommy*, Dr. Billeaux in *Urinetown: The Musical*, Jesus in *Hands on a Hardbody*, Director for *I and You*. "Enjoy the show mateys! Arrghhhh!"

DESIGNER BIOGRAPHIES

Colin Franz (Costume Designer) Is a sophomore in OU's Theatre Design and Technology program this year. He is *How I Became A Pirate's* Costume Designer and loved every step of the way. It is his first main stage design after working on many shows in tech and management positions and is excited to continue the path as productions continue. Past positions include Asst. Stage managing *The Servant of Two Masters*, and props master for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. When not Costume Designing he is also interested in Scenic design along with some interests in Management and Props. Now, strap on your boots, find your biggest buccaneer hat with lots of feathers, and enjoy *How I Became A Pirate!* Arrrrrrg

Liv Kunkle (Props Master) says Ahoy Mateys! Liv is heading into her Junior year as a Theater Design and Tech major. This was her first experience working as a Props Master and is excited to add this show to her resume. She has worked on previous OU productions such as "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" as the Costume Designer and "Macbeth" as the Assistant Costume Designer. She would like to thank fellow designer and close friend Colin Franz for supporting her throughout the process and collaborating with her on many aspects of the show such as our friend Petey the Parrot.

LeRoy Russ (Stage Manager) is a graduate BA Theatre major at Oakland University. Recently, he designed Hair and Makeup for *Curious Incident and the Dog in the Nighttime* and performed as Leeward and u/s for Flounder in *The Little Mermaid*. He is excited to get this ship afloat! Enjoy the show!

Matilda Seagraves (choreographer) is so excited to be choreographing *How I Became a Pirate!* Though she's no stranger to the role of choreographer, working with PIRATES is a new and welcome challenge! This is her first fully realized production here at Oakland, but in another life, you would have remembered her as a 60's secretary in "How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"! And now, before we set sail for this swashbuckling good time, here's a little pirate humARRR! What's a pirate's favorite food? ARRRR pizza! It's supposed to be something lik artichokes, but I like pizza better.

Gwyneth Labine (Dramaturg) is a senior acting major at Oakland University. Her previous design work includes hair and makeup for *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*. She is very excited for everyone to see *How I Became A Pirate* and wants to thank everyone involved! Please enjoy your journey into becoming a Pirate!

Mason Gaida will be entering his Junior year of OU's Acting BFA program. He has been a part of OU's *Macbeth*, as well as *Failure: A Love Story* and *Social Justice: We (Are) the People*. He's excited to present to you his first foray into hair/makeup design! Aye, aye!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Ahoy thar'! It is a joy to welcome you all to our production of *How I Became a Pirate*. To say this past year has been a challenging one would be an understatement. To be able to share this funny, tuneful and touching show with you - *in person* - is truly a gift.

I am so proud of my students and colleagues: for their resilience, their artistry and their generosity. And the fact we can all come together today as a community and take in Jeremy's pirating adventure, outdoors in the fresh air, warms my heart.

This is a story about family: finding your 'band of pirates', those who 'get you.' Families comes in all shapes and sizes and it is a concept that I believe you must define for yourself. Each production I work on introduces me to a new set of family members and yes, merry buccaneers! Likewise, this is also a show about 'home', and a sentiment I've learned to appreciate over the years: sometimes we have to leave home to truly appreciate its treasures.

Today, the cast and production team of *How I Became a Pirate* invites you to join our theatrical family for the next hour and set sail with us on this song and dance, high seas adventure!

Wishing you a safe and healthy summer, filled with fun, merriment and a few well-placed 'arrggghs!'

Cheers,

David Gram

Director, *How I Became a Pirate*

Special thanks to:

B. Nektar Meadery

Christa Koerner

Shirleen DiFinzo

Amy Tully

Manjit Gill

Carly Uhrig

Anthony Guest

Don Brewer

Kerro Knox 3

Terry Herald

Megan Herald

Katherine Boersma

and Kristina Riegle





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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.