

MINNETONKA THEATRE CURTAIN CALL CLUB

Newsletter - Winter 2021



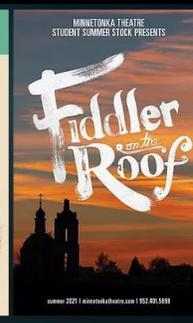
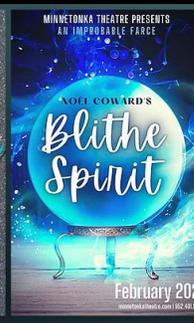
When the performances have ended, when the cast, the crew, and directors have been celebrated, honored for their talents and their tireless dedication, there is a group of supporters still there when the curtain calls end.

This group is more than just sentimental, cheering fans. They are faithful sustainers of the theatre arts craft who are dedicated to making each subsequent show the best it can be. For Minnetonka, this group is the Curtain Call Club. In the CCC it is our mission to support and celebrate all things Minnetonka Theatre and in championing them, we seek for our whole community to benefit.

In this update, it is our hope that you will get a better picture of who we are at the CCC and what amazing things are happening in Minnetonka Theatre. Thank you for being part of the celebration!

[» More CCC Info Here](#)

Minnetonka Theatre 2020-2021 Season



This Issue Highlights

- **Broadway Here I Come! Look Back**
- **Blithe Spirit Update**
by Caitlyn Carroll
- **Subject to Change Update,**
by Hailey Guptail
- **Celebrating the Class of 2021**
- **Note from the Director**

Upcoming Dates

March

Subject to Change & Blithe Spirit
Available to Rent
(at minnetonkatheatre.com)

April

Senior Award Applications Due
Theatre Merchandise
Ordering Window Opens

May

Something Rotten Opens

June

Annual Senior Celebration

July

Fiddler on the Roof Opens



Photography by Amy Jore

LOOK BACK TO FALL BROADWAY HERE I COME

Determined to provide opportunities to Minnetonka students, the theatre staff created a safe option for high school student performers for the fall musical production. With two casts, an outdoor venue, and socially distanced seating, amazing talent was displayed by all. What a welcome break from Netflix and Zoom calls!

» [Click to Buy Video](#)



Photography by Jill Dunning-Harris

The CCC provided the customary Tech Saturday Lunch to the cast, crew and staff with Covid-safe bag lunches.

BLITHE SPIRIT

Caitlyn Carroll, Student Director

Each year at Minnetonka Theatre, subzero temperatures and plummeting wind chills accompany the annual winter play, guaranteed to bring audiences an immersive theatrical experience they'll never forget. This year is no different...almost.

As Noël Coward's comedy *Blithe Spirit* takes to the stage, the cast, crew, and production team are in the midst of a rehearsal and performance process turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. The plotline follows novelist Charles, who seeks material for an upcoming book from a psychic medium, but instead finds himself inadvertently caught between his wife Ruth and the materialized ghost of his former wife, Elvira.

The occult elements of this show and the portrayal of characters from beyond the grave involves extensive costume, makeup, and special effects magic in order to be brought to life, so there is never a shortage of mystery or laughs.

On top of the complexity of the technical elements, adhering to pandemic safety measures made this show's journey even more unique. From implementing social distancing and the use of masks, to presenting the show through recorded performances instead of a live audience, the making of *Blithe Spirit* has been chock full of new challenges – thanks to the incredible students and staff, including directors Jim and Susanne Cada, these safety adaptations are no obstacle to the heart-wrenching and hilarious storytelling that is Minnetonka Theatre's *Blithe Spirit*.

The show will be available for viewing online in March, so stay tuned for further details and don't miss it!



Photography by Amy Jore

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Theatres across the world faced a year of uncertainty with COVID-19, and the reality that the pandemic could close down shows at any time or prevent a show or season from opening at all. Minnetonka Theatre leadership adapted by investing in a professional HD camera system that provides flexibility to pre-record or livestream student performances. This along with learning how to rehearse over Zoom and Google Meet has enabled this year's season to happen. The CCC was proud to help subsidize this investment early this year and enable our students to continue to be able to learn new skills and hone their talents.



Photography by Amy Jore

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***Blithe Spirit* and *Subject to Change* will be available to rent in March - follow CCC on Facebook or Instagram for updates**

SUBJECT TO CHANGE ORIGINAL ONE ACT PLAY

Hailey Guptail, Sophomore Actor

Being a part of Minnetonka Theatre's 2021 One Act, *Subject to Change*, has been an amazing experience! With the impact of COVID and all the restrictions to ensure our safety, we took the opportunity to try something different and write our own One Act piece this year. With the help of Christine Hwang, a Minnetonka Theatre alum and a professional actress featured as the Kim alternate in the Broadway National Tour of *Miss Saigon*, our show took shape. We took some creative liberties and showcased our production similar to a short film format. It's been such a great opportunity to learn what it's like to act for the camera, as well as to learn about all the tech aspects that go into making a film.

The show follows three teenagers as they navigate through the changes of life. Henry is turning sixteen and struggling with the importance and weight of getting his driver's license. Sophia is turning seventeen and faces the challenges of "fitting in" with the rest of her peers. The show also follows Alex, who is turning eighteen and dreading the looming pressure of "adulthood." Full of laughter and the perfect amount of thoughtfulness, the show provides exactly what is needed right now. I have loved being a part of this show and working with our amazing cast and crew! Stay tuned because this is a Minnetonka Theatre production you won't want to miss!



Screenshot courtesy of Lauren Barltelt

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2021

Planning for the annual senior celebration has commenced! Each year the CCC hosts the annual theatre banquet to celebrate the graduating class, reflect on their last four years and take their final bow on the Minnetonka Theatre stage. This year's celebration is planned for June 1st; location and format will be announced soon.

A key part of the celebration evening is the CCC Senior Awards, an application-based award granted to seniors who have exhibited leadership at the theatre and embody theatre values. The CCC Senior Award committee will be launching the application on April 1st and will be available on the CCC website, mtkatheatreccc.org.

Seniors will receive email communications and information on this year's festivities in the coming weeks.

DIRECTORS NOTE

Shakespeare in the Park-ing Lot?

Last year at this time we were putting the finishing touches on act one of our spring musical *Fiddler on the Roof* when the virus hit, isolated us, and ultimately shut down our production. We left the Arts Center, our home away from home, to quarantine with our families.

In the meantime, the staff and I knew we had to find a way to keep our students engaged. So, we recalibrated and held auditions online, rehearsed in a hybrid, physically distant format, built sets on a staggered schedule, and performed outside.

Broadway, Here I Come! was presented live in October. The musical revue brought students, parents, and audiences together after six months of theatrical deprivation. It felt so good to share the music of Broadway outdoors at the City of Minnetonka's amphitheater.

In March we will present our winter plays *Subject to Change* and *Blithe Spirit* via video on demand. Don't miss these delightful shows - the students are doing amazing work.

We've just completed online casting of our spring musical, the hilarious Shakespearian spoof - *Something Rotten*. Wait until you see the kids in this one! It'll blow you away! Our crew is planning to turn our back parking lot into a mini outdoor renaissance village. I know, right? Don't miss this brilliant and funny new show as our students literally sing and dance under the stars.

Then in July (stop the presses!) we are planning to move back into the theater and finally present our pandemic-delayed production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Emotions will be high as last year's seniors return to the stage to help tell the classic story of Tevye and his daughters.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to our program. As a Curtain Call Club member, your amazing support has shown our students that even in the face of a pandemic - the show must and will go on!

See you in the parking lot!

Trent Boyum

Minnetonka Theatre Artistic Director



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Ordering Window opens April 1st!

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mtkatheatreccc.org

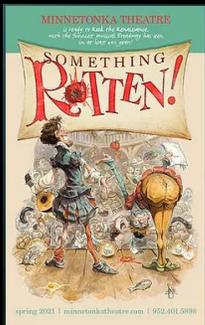
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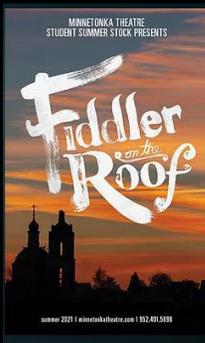
Next Up

Spring 2021



Minnetonka Theatre is ready to rock the Renaissance, with the funniest musical Broadway has seen in 400 years! Brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing and acting at the same time, they set out to write the world's very first musical instead.

Summer 2021



Set in Imperial Russia in 1905 in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-semitism of Czarist Russia.