

## ABSENTEE BALLOT

The Old Town Playhouse will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 6:30 pm. If you cannot attend, you may use this ballot to vote for members of the Artistic Committee and Board of Trustees. Please see self-provided biographies of the candidates on the following pages.

**To vote absentee:**

- Your membership must be current (donation of \$25 or more in the current season, July 1 2025 to June 30 2026).
- Return this entire page of the ballot. You must provide your name and email address for membership verification.
- Your ballot must be received by the Old Town Playhouse Business Office by 4:00 PM on **Tuesday, June 23.**

**You may return your ballot by:**

- Email to: office@oldtownplayhouse.com
- In person at the Business Office during business hours
- Mail to: Old Town Playhouse, PO Box 262, Traverse City, MI 49685

Voter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Members of the Artistic Committee**

(vote for not more than 3)

- Aria Davis
- Colleen Hill-Rakunas
- Meaghan Kenny
- Delaney Leach
- Joelle Mabey
- Kelly Rose
- Cameron Stefanski
- Fred Szczepanski
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Members of the Board of Trustees**

(vote for not more than 1)

- Allison Goldsmith
- Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

## CANDIDATES FOR ARTISTIC COMMITTEE:

### Aria Davis



I am a 4-year volunteer for OTP. I have directed and starred on MainStage, as well as worked with young company. I am passionate about theatre, specifically community theatre, and love to see people on stage! During my day job, I am a volunteer coordinator for the Cherryland Humane Society and have a passion for working with both people and animals. My favorite musical is *Wicked*, and favorite straight play is *Mr. Burns: a Post Electric Play*.

The past four years I have watched artistic committee help choose wonderful shows and support the amazing teams that work on them. Every year I am with the Playhouse I ask myself one question: how can I be more involved? The opportunity to shape the next few seasons and offer a diverse voice at the table would be a wonderful opportunity for me to do that. My degree is in theatre, so I have done a fair amount of reading and writing on plays but, more than that, I am passionate about community and connection. How can we showcase the talent we have, how can we expose our community to new ideas and how can we create memorable moments of connection on stage and off? The Playhouse is my artistic home, and as member of Artistic Committee my aim would be to not only give back to that home but open the door even wider. I am a firm believer that everyone should do community theatre at least once, and accessibility, communication and mentorship are the ways to ensure that happens. In that way, The Artistic Committee is vital to everything OTP does and I would love to contribute my skills and passion to it. Thank you for your consideration!

### Colleen Hill-Rakunas



My lifelong love and support of the arts, combined with extensive experience both onstage and behind the scenes, make me eager to serve on the Artistic Committee.

Theatre and music have been woven into my life from an early age. My background includes years of involvement in theatre, band and orchestra, and years immersed in the collaborative and creative process that makes live performance so meaningful. These experiences gave me an appreciation not only for artistic expression, but also for the discipline, teamwork, and dedication required to bring quality productions to life.

For the past 15 years, I have been deeply involved with Old Town Playhouse, contributing to more than 30 productions in a variety of capacities. This involvement has allowed me to experience theatre from multiple perspectives and develop a strong understanding of what contributes to successful, engaging productions both artistically and operationally.

I am committed to supporting quality theatre that challenges, entertains, and connects with audiences. Equally important, I bring a practical understanding of business, audience engagement, and what drives attendance and community support. Strong artistic vision and sound organizational decision-making are not mutually exclusive; in fact, the most successful theatres balance both.

I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my experience, perspective, and dedication to the Artistic Committee and help shape seasons and productions that are artistically rewarding, financially responsible, and meaningful to our community.

### **Meaghan Kenny**



I have been a part of the OTP community since I moved to Traverse City in 2012 - first as an active audience member and then in my first OTP show, *Steel Magnolias* in 2014. Since then, I have continued to actively participate in a variety of roles at OTP (on stage, producer, concessions volunteer, and audience member as often as possible!) and am passionate about bringing quality productions to the Traverse City area and about the arts in general. When I am not at the theater, I can be found planning weddings and events at fox & fern events, running on the tart trail, or enjoying all the Traverse City area has to offer with my two sons (who also love being audience members at OTP :)).

I believe that I would be an asset to the artistic committee in all of the different areas the committee provides support for:

- **Community:** I am passionate about elevating the OTP brand and strive to provide a safe space for volunteers to be able to trust. I am also excited about planning volunteer events with my background of event planning. My experience as a producer in the past and a small business owner leads to a strong understanding of community building and brand building.
- **Production Cycle:** I enjoy attending productions and am able to provide helpful and honest feedback about what is working and what may need some potential adjustments in all aspects of theater. I also believe educating the audience is an important piece about demonstrating the importance of the arts and the hard work that our volunteers put into each production and part of the theatrical experience.

- Forward Thinking: Script reading/feedback about future production calendars is something that I excel at not only because of my love of theater, but because of my ability to discern quality and exciting productions, as well as understanding what would work best for our community, volunteers, and budgets. I also find that I am a strong resource for what is needed in a director/production team and would be an asset to the panel.

### **Delaney Leach**



I am from Traverse City. After attending the University of Michigan to study Film and Creative Writing, I moved back to the area. For the past four years, I have been involved with the Old Town Playhouse. I have worked on several production teams and most recently made my acting debut with OTP in *Paint Night*.

In middle and high school, when relatives were working on shows, I begged to peek in on rehearsals and see how everything worked. Since returning to the area, it has been so joyful and enriching to my life to be involved with the Playhouse. It's wonderful to see the Old Town Playhouse grow in these past few seasons and I would love to help be a part of future growth, as well as foster the wonderful community already doing wonderful work here.

### **Joelle Mabey**



As you know, I care deeply about the work OTP does and the role it has played in my life. Because of my children, Noah and Micah, this theatre will always hold a special place in my heart, and I'd welcome the chance to support the artistic vision of the organization in a more hands-on way.

I believe I would be an asset to the committee because:

- I bring a collaborative mindset and enjoy working with others to balance artistic ambition with community engagement.
- I value thoughtful season planning—stories that resonate, elevate diverse voices, and serve both our audiences and our performers.
- I have a strong understanding of the local theatre community, including its strengths, opportunities, and the unique culture that makes OTP special.

- I'm organized, reliable, and solutions-oriented, which helps keep discussions productive and moving forward.

I'd be excited to contribute.

### **Kelly Rose**



I'm a 36-year-old assistant behavior analyst living right here in TC with my sister and her (our) 3 dogs. I performed on stage for the first time when I was 6 at the urging of my parents and never stopped. I started acting in community theater when I was 9. I started in OTP in 2015, and after taking a hiatus for school and work I returned in 2022 and haven't left! I've been on the stage, helped hair and makeup, done stage crew, helped running tracks, and assistant stage managed.

I want to be involved in artistic committee because I believe in OTP and want to help shape its trajectory for the future generations. I've been involved with several theater companies in my life, and this is the first one that has felt like home. I want to be a part of helping to find the balance between what the theater needs to do to generate interest and profits, and what the members want to do to continue being able to be ahead of the game. I have a background in working as a volunteer coordinator which I believe would be beneficial as it gave me experience in supporting the needs of volunteers while also having to understand and meet the needs of a governing board as well.

### **Cameron Stefanski**



Theatre has been a cornerstone of my life since I was five years old — as a performer, choreographer, director, and administrator. I hold a degree in Arts Administration, and my career has spanned touring internationally with The Young Americans, serving as Development Director for a performing arts organization in New York, and building a communications practice rooted in storytelling and community engagement. Today, that work extends into fundraising for Broadway productions and bringing professional-level performing arts opportunities to Northern Michigan.

I share this because I believe the AC benefits from members who understand the full ecosystem of what makes a season resonate — not just what happens onstage but the community building, audience education, and strategic thinking that surround it.

Old Town Playhouse is a place I care about deeply. I've been on its stage, in its audiences, and in its creative conversations. I'm passionate about helping shape work that entertains, challenges, and reflects our community — and I would bring a collaborative spirit, a well-rounded perspective, and a genuine commitment to stewarding OTP's artistic growth.

### **Fred Szczepanski**



I'm a resident of Traverse City and I'm requesting to be considered for a position on the Old Town Playhouse Artistic Committee.

I was actively involved with the Playhouse in the 1990s and the early 2000s in numerous positions. During that time, I was a member of the Artistic Committee and this past year I was invited to once again join the committee to fill a position which was being vacated by a previous member who was relocating. I have so enjoyed the opportunity to be an active member of this committee, and I would love to be able to

continue my involvement and participation in reviewing and selecting future plays and musicals.

The opportunity to play “The Man in the Chair” for *The Drowsy Chaperone* this spring filled me with the love and excitement of the theatre. I feel that with my past theatre experience as well as my 50-year career as church music director I have much to offer the Artistic Committee and I thank you in advance for giving me the opportunity to be considered for this esteemed position.

## **CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

### **Allison Goldsmith**



Hello everyone, my name is Allison Goldsmith and I am running for the open seat on the OTP Board of Trustees. Since 2023, Old Town Playhouse has brought immense joy to my life through the talented, compassionate people involved in our community. You may know me from my roles onstage in *Beauty and the Beast*, or backstage as a lighting board operator and the lighting co-designer for *Waitress* and *Rocky Horror Show*.

The ongoing success and longevity of OTP is incredibly important to me. To support our future, I want to expand my volunteerism by collaborating with the Board on financial, strategic, and policy governance. While my background is not in business or marketing, I bring 13 years of experience as a practicing physician and lifelong

student. This professional background has instilled in me key attributes that will directly asset the Board: rigorous preparedness, sharp attention to detail, efficient task execution, and trustworthy teamwork. Above all, I offer a deep willingness to learn and a profound love for this wonderful theater community. I would be honored to earn your vote.