

ABSENTEE BALLOT

The Old Town Playhouse will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2025, 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 (donation of \$25 or more in the current fiscal year) must be current.
- Return this entire page of the ballot. You must provide your name and email address for membership verification.
- Your ballot must be returned to the Old Town Playhouse Business Office **Monday, 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: _____

Members of the Artistic Committee

(vote for not more than 3)

- ☐ Cathy Louis
- ☐ Danielle Pelshaw
- ☐ Cameron Stefanski
- ☐ Fred Szczepanski
- ☐ Katelyn Wilson
- ☐ Write in: _____
- ☐ Write in: _____

Members of the Board of Trustees

(vote for not more than 1)

- ☐ Stephanie Johnston
- ☐ Write in: _____

CANDIDATES FOR ARTISTIC COMMITTEE:



Cathy Louis

After living in Detroit, NYC and Tampa Florida, I retired to Traverse City in 2017. I have loved and witnessed great theatre all my life, but my own onstage experiences ended after High School, until 2018, when I found OTP! Since then, I have been cast in six shows and worked backstage on another six in various capacities. I am also a member of Aged to Perfection Readers Theatre.

I would like to serve on the Artistic Committee and use my love of theatre as an audience member and what I have learned as a participant to promote OTP, to be a voice in the process of choosing shows and directors, and in supporting those productions, casts and crews, right up through Opening Night.



Danielle Pelshaw

I was welcomed into this family in 2013 and have been a part of 19 shows since then: 15 of those on stage, and the other 4 on the production team. There have been quite a few shows where I also assisted backstage. I also served a term on the Volunteer Committee between 2017-2020. I have also volunteered for Black and White Gala for many of those years, as an usher, and in concessions. In my 12 years here, I have been passionate in my growth not just as a human, but also within the organization itself. I believe that experience on all sides of theater really grows a deeper respect and sense of empathy for the work that goes in to putting on a show. My hope and extreme honor in possibly becoming a member of the Artistic Committee is to learn and grow even more in this respect, as well as trying to give back to the community that has given me, given all of us, so much. I promise to be a positive voice for all volunteers, to collaborate and communicate effectively with the other committee members, and help the OTP grow and expand artistically in the bright future to come.



Cameron Stefanski

Theatre has been a cornerstone of my life since I was five years old. Over the years, I've had the privilege to perform in, choreograph, and direct hundreds of productions regionally and professionally. My academic background in Arts Administration has further deepened my understanding of the power and impact of community-based theatre.

Old Town Playhouse is a place I care about deeply, and I believe in the role the Artistic Committee plays in shaping the creative vision and future of our work. I'm passionate about helping create theatre that not only entertains but also enriches, reflects, and uplifts our community. As someone who has served onstage, offstage, and on creative teams, I bring a well-rounded perspective and a collaborative spirit to the table. My love for theatre and the performing arts allows me to provide extensive insight for the betterment of Old Town Playhouse, our community, and the arts universally.

I would be honored to help steward the artistic growth of OTP and contribute to its continued success.



Fred Szczepanski

I am retired from 50 years of music service to the Catholic church and most recently as Director of Music for 34+ years at St Francis Church.

I was actively involved with the Old Town Playhouse in the 1990s and the early 2000s, both on stage and as well in other capacities. During that time, I was a member of the Artistic Committee and I would love to have the opportunity to return to that position now that I'm retired and have the time to devote to the Playhouse and all that it offers.

In addition to acting on stage in many musicals and plays over the years, I have also directed, vocal directed and played the piano for many performances at OTP as well as performances in Bay City, Midland, Northport and St Francis High School.

In my retirement I'm continuing to share my love of music by bringing its joy to Traverse and Leelanau area nursing and assisted living facilities, playing piano with the Salvation Army lunch service, playing with the Back Room Gang Dixieland Band, singing with the NMC Chorale, and being involved with numerous musical performances in the Grand Traverse and Leelanau area. Currently, I am the Music Director for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which is being performed this summer at the Northport Performing Arts Center. I am an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation where I play and sing at various services. In addition, I fill in at area churches that are temporarily in need of a pianist or organist. I also entertain every Thursday evening at That's a Pizza for a sing-a-long.

Music and theatre have been very important and rewarding part of my life and I look forward to continuing with my passion even more so now that I'm retired. I feel that with my background and theatre experience 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.



Katelyn Wilson

I would like to express my interest in joining the OTP Artistic Committee in 2025! I have had the pleasure of volunteering on and offstage with four productions since February 2024, allowing me to celebrate my passion for the arts, share stories with our community, and meet a network of lifelong friends. I am a proud Spartan with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting, and minors in Musical Theatre and Arts and Cultural

Management. I have a diverse background of experience in leadership, production, international studies, and learning and development for all ages, and I have worked professionally as an actor and instructor across the state of Michigan. I want to serve as a committee member to pursue a culture of inclusion, collaboration and innovation, and to further expand the reach of the Old Town Playhouse in Northern Michigan.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES:



Stephanie Johnston

I would be honored to be considered for an elected position on the Old Town Playhouse Board of Trustees. Theater has been a lifelong passion of mine, beginning at the age of six when my mother brought me to an audition at the Grand Rapids Civic Theater. That experience sparked a love for the stage that carried through college and into early adulthood.

As our family grew, my involvement in theater paused, but we remained connected to the arts, attending productions at Benzie Schools and at OTP such as *Into the Woods* and *Honk Jr.* In 2022, with our children grown, I fulfilled a long-held promise to myself and auditioned for *Cinderella* at OTP—reigniting my active participation in the theater community.

When I chose not to seek another term on the Benzie County Central School Board, it was with the intention of eventually serving on OTP's board. I understand the commitment required of board service and do not take it lightly. A trustee role is not honorary—it demands time, energy, and a deep sense of responsibility. My experience on the school board taught me the importance of governance without personal agendas, and the value of collaborative oversight.

I bring with me a strong background in fundraising, event planning, and strategic planning through my work with schools and church organizations. I believe these skills, combined with my passion for the arts and commitment to community, would make me a valuable contributor to the board.

I am committed to attending board meetings regularly, staying informed about OTP's programs, and actively participating in committee work. My goal is to serve with integrity, discretion, and a clear focus on policy and governance.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

- Program Coordinator for Munson's Family Medicine Residency
- Appointed and then elected as a school board member for Benzie County Central Schools for eight years.
- Has volunteered at Old Town Playhouse since 2022 as actor, crew, and production team.
- Volunteered with Boy Scouts of America as Cubmaster and Committee Member for nine years. Awarded with the Cubmasters Award.
- Volunteered with 4-H as Leader and Regional Chaperone for ten years.
- Volunteered with elementary school parent/teacher group with significant experience in fundraising.
- Former Property Manager at Crystal Mountain Resort for eleven years with significant experience with event planning.
- Past Public Relations Specialist for Benzie County Central Schools for nine years.
- Degree from Grand Valley State University.