



All Shook Up  
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**Pinnacle Creative Arts**  
**March 26 - 28, 2021**

# Director's Notes

Where to begin? First, this show has been in the works for almost two years now. We first started talking in 2019, and season schedule changes put it off until spring of 2020; then COVID pushed the show back until now. We started rehearsals in November then theaters and performing spaces shut down again and many cast members needed to quarantine due to exposures from school or work. We decided to take a two-week rehearsal break to allow everyone to finish their quarantine and assess the possibilities of continuing on. During that time we were able to find this performing venue and work with Evelyn Holbrook and Andrew Cupo to ensure the show could go on.

I want to thank First Southern Baptist Church of Paradise Valley. They have been our rehearsal home for MANY weeks. They provided us a LARGE room where we could spread out. Even more importantly it had THREE doors to the outside we could open and lots of fans. This level of ventilation is an important factor in our protocols and we just lucked out to have that available.

But a director's note is really to share the ideas behind the show so let's get on with it. The star of this show is the music. Those incredible songs made famous by Elvis, arranged beautifully for musical theater performers. William Sawyer spent hours with our actors working every harmony and rhythm because these beautiful arrangements are not easy.

*All Shook Up!* at its base is a jukebox musical (a musical that features hit songs of a popular music group or genre). To be honest, I am not a huge fan of this type of musical. Often the story is weak (or nonexistent), and songs just seem to come out of nowhere with lyrics that do not forward the plot. *All Shook Up!* is different.

The story itself isn't original (it is very similar to Shakespeare's Twelfth Night), but it is fun! And the writers did an amazing job finding the right Elvis song lyrics to connect to each moment in the story. That's why I was so excited to work with choreographer Cydney Trent. Cydney and I had worked together at TheaterWorks and I knew her approach to musical theater choreography would focus on storytelling and character and motivation.

The color and energy in this show comes from the choreography and the colorful costumes—that incredible joy we could all use right now just exploding through that fourth wall. Mattaea Reeves' costume design not only showcases the 50s setting; but also allows us to experience the color Chad brings into the town.

Dillon Girgenti worked with me to create a cartoon-feel to the show with the people bringing dimension to an otherwise flat town and world. We wanted to use light creatively to not just illustrate location, but to represent the light and hope these townspeople begin to experience—particularly relevant in this moment as we are all beginning to have hope and start to see the light at the end of this pandemic. THANK YOU to William Smith and everyone who helped build Dillon's design and bring it to life. We were thrilled that Andrew Cupo joined our team as lighting designer to enhance this design concept.

Now the cast. We had so much to overcome with scheduling, some initial casting challenges and more. But through it all this cast has become a family, a team. That first rehearsal where they all were finally together and they were all giving everything to each other; it was magical! There is nothing that can compare to a cast that has become a true family both on stage and off. Thank you one and all for sharing your gifts with us. Thank you Pinnacle Creative Arts and Lexi, Kimi, and Edie for your support and for helping allow this experience to happen!

# Creative Team

## **Meribeth Reeves (Director)**

Meribeth has been working in theater for the past 28 years in theater administration, directing, stage managing and producing. She is the Managing Director of the Scottsdale Center for the Arts and former executive director of Desert Foothills Theater where she worked for twelve years building the youth theater and education program as well as enhancing the work of the adult theater. She is President of the ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence Board of Directors, proud Arts Hero from March 2017 and an alumni of ASU Lodestar American Express Leadership Academy Class VIII. Meribeth has directed and stage managed throughout her career in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Arizona. Most recently she served as assistant director, with Chris Hamby in TheatreWorks *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (put on production hold due to COVID19); directed *Hunkr'd Down* featuring Ed Asner and Janet Arnold for Scottsdale Arts' virtual programming; *Frozen, Jr.* at the Martin Pear, Jewish Community Center; and *Shrek, TYA* at Desert Foothills Theater. This is her third production with Pinnacle Creative Arts—having previously directed *Annie Get Your Gun* and *White Christmas*. "Thank you to Matt for being so supportive of his absentee wife, and to Mattaea and Mason for their constant inspiration. Thank you to my incredible design team including Mattaea Reeves and Dillon Girgenti, choreographer Cydney Trent and music director William Sawyer as well as sound designer Tim Roberts for their help making this show run smoothly. Thank you to Evelyn Holbrook and Andrew Cupo for all their support. Thank you also, to all the incredible young actors, parents of actors, and adult actors I have worked with throughout the years and director friends who continue to provide support and critiques that help as I continue to grow as a director."

## **William Sawyer (Music Director)**

A man of few words, William graduated from the University of Maine with a bachelors of music in performance and education. He has helped with multiple music programs across the area but this is his first show as full music director.

## **Cydney Trent (Choreographer)**

Cydney is thrilled to be working with PCA, and Meribeth Reeves on *All Shook Up!* Over the past seven years, Cydney's choreography has been seen on stages all over the valley, including, TheaterWorks, Phoenix Theatre, Spotlight and MTA. Most recently, she earned a Zoni nomination for her choreography in *Anything Goes* at Theater Works. Cydney is a proud 20+ year member of Actors' Equity. Originally from Denver, Colorado, she has lived and performed all across the country, as well as on the oceans aboard the Disney Magic. Her voice can be heard as Princess Petunia in the animated cartoon series, *VeggieTales* (2005-2015). Cydney was a rotating cast member with the Off Broadway company, *Golf: The Musical*, and has been seen performing across the Valley at Phoenix Theatre, Symphony Hall, Arizona Broadway Theatre, Herberger Theater Center, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. She was most recently seen onstage in *The Music Man* with Arizona Theatre Company in both Tucson and Phoenix. Cydney's best-loved role is Mom to her beautiful 13-year-old daughter, Marlee Gray. Do what you love!!!!

## **Alexia Wussow (Stage Manager)**

Alexia has been involved in theatre for 11 years with various theatre companies around the greater Phoenix area, working with PCA since its inception in 2016. She has performed in over 35 shows and choreographed 9 musical productions. Most recently, she played Mrs. White in *Clue on Stage*, while also managing the costuming and publicity. Her passion for the administrative aspects of the theatre world have grown in

her time with PCA, having recently taken on the role of social media marketing manager, Her first experience stage managing was last year for *The Sound of Music* at Northwest Christian School. Her enthusiasm for a seamless scene change is unmatched. She loves to keep busy, taking on the prop design and publicity for this show as well. She is so blessed to be working with these talented kids again and thanks everyone for coming to support them and PCA! A shoutout and special thanks to her blessing of a boyfriend, Jordan, for putting up with ridiculous schedules, accompanying her on errands, and assisting with crazy projects to bring this show together!

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**[PinnacleCreativeArts.com](http://PinnacleCreativeArts.com)**

## TIME and PLACE:

*A small, you-never-heard-of-it town  
Summer of 1955*

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

<i>Jailhouse Rock</i>	Chad, Prisoners, Warden
<i>Heartbreak Hotel</i>	Henrietta, Dennis, Barflies, Sylvia, Lorraine, Natalie, Jim
<i>Roustabout</i>	Chad
<i>One Night</i>	Natalie
<i>C'mon Everybody</i>	Ensemble
<i>Follow That Dream</i>	Chad, Natalie
<i>One Night With You</i>	Chad
<i>Teddy Bear/Hound Dog</i>	Chad, Sandra, Dennis, Natalie
<i>One Night With You</i>	Jim
<i>That's All Right</i>	Chad, Dennis, Lorraine, Dean, Sylvia, Barflies
<i>It's Now or Never</i>	Dean, Lorraine, Passengers
<i>Love Me Tender</i>	Chad
<i>Love Me Tender</i>	Natalie
<i>Blue Suede Shoes</i>	Natalie, Chad, Dennis, Guys, Ensemble
<i>Don't Be Cruel</i>	Chad, Jim, Ed
<i>Follow That Dream (Reprise)</i>	Ed
<i>One Night With You</i>	Sandra
<i>Let Yourself Go</i>	Sandra, Statues
<i>Can't Help Falling in Love</i>	Ensemble

## INTERMISSION

<i>All Shook Up</i>	Ensemble
<i>It Hurts Me</i>	Dennis, Chorus
<i>A Little Less Conversation</i>	Ed, Girls
<i>The Power of Love</i>	Jim, Chad, Sandra
<i>All Shook Up (Reprise)</i>	Sandra
<i>I Don't Want To</i>	Chad
<i>Devil in Disguise</i>	Matilda, Angelettes, Devilettes
<i>There's Always Me</i>	Sylvia
<i>If I Can Dream</i>	Chad, Lorraine, Dean, Ensemble
<i>Can't Help Falling in Love (Reprise)</i>	Earl, Jim, Sylvia, Matilda
<i>One Night With You</i>	Sandra, Dennis
<i>Fools Fall in Love/The Wedding</i>	Natalie, Townspeople
<i>Burning Love</i>	Ensemble
<i>Bows</i>	Ensemble

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

Chad  
Natalie Haller  
Lorraine  
Dennis  
Mayor Matilda Hyde  
Sheriff Earl  
Dean Hyde  
Sylvia  
Jim Haller  
Miss Sandra  
Henrietta  
Bus Driver

## Prisoners

Adrian Bahnerth, Alaina Lish, Braiden Lee, Julia Kelly, Katelyn Karcher, Oakley Rinehart, Paige Schmella, Sofia Doe, Sydney Perko

## Barflies

Caroline Schumann, Indigo Steele, Julia Kelly, Paige Schmella, Skylar Kervin, Sofia Doe, Sydney Perko

## Bus Passengers

Gabby Astrowsky, Indigo Steele, Skylar Kervin, Sydney Perko

Keagan Smith  
Isabella Varela-Prendergast  
Alaina Lish  
Adrian Bahnerth  
Katelyn Karcher  
Braiden Lee  
Oakley Rinehart  
Lexie Shaw  
Zachary Snyders  
Olivia D'Ortenzio  
Caroline Schumann  
Sofia Doe

## Statues

Gabby Astrowsky, Indigo Steele, Sofia Doe, Sydney Perko

## Angelettes

Indigo Steele, Julia Kelly, Paige Schmella, Sofia Doe

## Devilettes

Gabby Astrowsky, Caroline Schumann, Skylar Kervin, Sydney Perko

Director  
Music Director  
Choreographer  
Stage Manager  
Producers

Meribeth Reeves  
William Sawyer  
Cydney Trent  
Alexia Wussow  
Edie Chudnow, Kimi Wussow

Set Design  
Set Construction  
Costume Design  
Properties Design  
Sound Design  
Lighting Design  
Publicity

Dillon Girgenti  
William Smith, Jim Allmeyer  
Mattaeva Reeves  
Alexia Wussow  
Tim Roberts  
Andrew Cupo  
Alexia Wussow

Production Baby

Hazyl Sawyer

# CAST PHOTO BOOTH



# CAST PHOTO BOOTH



**Not Pictured:** Braiden Lee, Caroline Schumann, Indigo Steele, Katelyn Karcher, Zachary Snyders



## WHO'S WHO

**Adrian Bahnerth** (*Dennis / Dance Captain*) has never been so excited to be part of a production. Playing Dennis is a dream come true. Adrian loves performing on stage and some of his favorite roles have been in *Clue* as Col. Mustard, *High School Musical* as Chad, *Willy Wonka* as Phineous Trout, *Singing in the Rain*, *Beauty in the Beast*, and many others. Adrian is a Sophomore at Bridgeway Academy. Outside of dance and theater, Adrian enjoys mountain biking, fishing, making his friends and family laugh, and vocal lessons with the wonderful Kevin Glenn. Adrian wouldn't be here today without Meribeth, who gave him the love for theater and performing in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; he owes this all to her. Thank you to all his friends and family who continue to support him. P.S. My mom doesn't know what a trim is.

**Alaina Lish** (*Lorraine*) is thrilled to be playing Lorraine alongside this very talented cast in her first performance at PCA! Alaina is a freshman at the Arizona School for the Arts, with a focus in piano and theater. When she's not at school or rehearsal, she's volunteering at the animal shelter. She would like to thank everyone at PCA for this amazing opportunity!

**Braiden Lee** (*Sheriff Earl*) is excited to be doing his first show at PCA. He has been a part of school shows at Cactus Shadows High School and Black Mountain Elementary School. He has been in two other musicals including *Aida* and *Aladdin Jr.* Braiden is especially excited for this role because it is his first singing role in a musical.

**Caroline Schumann** (*Henrietta / Ensemble*) is 13 and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Arizona School for the Arts. Her recent credits include *Seussical: the Musical Jr.* (Almost Famous Theatre), *Nutcracker Swing* (Convergence Ballet), and *Das Reingold* (Arizona Opera). Caroline was recently awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Youth Musical Theatre at the Cal-Western Regional NATS Competition. She studies voice with Mary Jane McCloskey, ballet

and contemporary dance at Ballet Theatre of Phoenix, improv at Second City, and musical theatre at Interlochen Academy for the Arts and Valley Youth Theatre. When she is not performing, she enjoys painting, swimming, camping, and playing with her younger brother.

**Gabby Astrowsky** (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be part of the ensemble alongside this talented cast. Some of Gabby's favorite shows have been *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *School of Rock* (Summer Hathaway, NYA nom.), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Shprintze at AZ Broadway Theatre). She thanks her family and friends, the whole cast, and Meribeth Reeves for her wonderful direction in putting on an amazing show.

**Indigo Steele** (*Ensemble*) Bio not received

**Isabella Varela-Prendergast** (*Natalie*) is a sophomore at Cactus Shadows High School and is so excited to play Natalie in this production. She would like to thank Meribeth and the entire crew for this opportunity. Bella is most excited about being back on stage, something she has missed beyond words. Some of Bella's favorite roles include Mayzie in *Seussical the Musical* and Ursula in *Bye Bye Birdie*.

**Julia Kelly** (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back in the theatre as a part of *All Shook Up*. In addition to her love of acting, singing, and dancing, she plays the harp, drums, ukulele, and piano. She also competes in Irish dance and was the Irish Dancer in Dream City's *Celebration of Christmas* for several years. She thanks all of her teachers, coaches, and her parents for all their support.

**Katelyn Karcher** (*Mayor Matilda Hyde*) is a 16-year-old sophomore at Chaparral High School. This is her first production with PCA, and she is very excited to be here. Katelyn was most recently in *The Soul of Frankenstein* as Elizabeth at Spotlight Youth Theater and could not wait to be a part of another production. And as her character would advise you... no roustabout behavior during the show!

## WHO'S WHO

**Keagan Smith** (*Chad*) is a 16 year old sophomore at CSHS. This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> production with PCA, last seen as Bing Crosby in *Hope for the Holidays*. At 12 years old, Keagan's passion for theater came alive when he saw a performance of *All Shook Up* at DFT. He is so excited to be able to perform in the play that set his performing desires ablaze. When not onstage, Keagan enjoys playing bass guitar for DVBC Praise Team, playing the bari sax for CSHS concert and jazz bands, and helping build sets for any play he is privileged enough to participate in. Keagan would like to give a special Thank You to Meribeth for inspiring and encouraging him to grow in his talent, and for continuing to believe in him; as well as his family for their never-ending support and love. Sit back and enjoy your journey back in time with *All Shook Up*.

**Lexie Shaw** (*Sylvia*) is 16 years old and has been doing theatre since she was 5. She has always had a love for singing and acting. She would like to thank Meribeth and the whole team for helping to put together this wonderful show.

**Oakley Rinehart** (*Dean Hyde*) is a multi-theater-award-nominee who is beyond excited to be in his first show at PCA and to work with Meribeth and everyone in the amazing cast and crew. His recent credits include Frédéric in *Pirates Of Penzance* and Charlie Davenport in *Annie Get Your Gun*. He is so excited to share this fun story with you and hopes you enjoy the show.

**Olivia D'Ortenzio** (*Miss Sandra*) is thrilled to be in PCA's production of *All Shook Up*. Olivia has loved performing in various productions including *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* as Sally; and *Seussical: the Musical* as JoJo. Her favorite role was Molly Hobbs in PCA's production of *Elf the Musical Jr*. Olivia enjoys singing, playing with her two bulldogs, and running for her track team.

**Paige Schmella** (*Ensemble / Dance Captain*) has done many shows around the valley. Some of her favorites are

*Freaky Friday* at Valley Youth Theatre (Ensemble), *Newsies* at Scottsdale Desert Stages Theatre (Specs), and *Frozen Jr.* at Starlight Community Theatre (Anna). Paige is also a competitive dancer and has been since she was 9 years old. Some of her favorite accomplishments in dance are winning nationals in the jazz solo division in 2019, as well as being a Ms. Teen Dance Arizona runner-up alumni!

**Skylar Kervin** (*Ensemble*) Bio not received

**Sofia Doe** (*Ensemble*) is 12 and is delighted to be back performing with PCA. Sofia's experience with theater started at age 7 when she joined the cast of *Alice in Wonderland* at Desert Foothills Theater. She has been part of kids' and adults' plays including *Willy Wonka*, *Newsies*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Grease*, and *Gypsy*. Sofia is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade attending STMS, where she played Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web* last fall. She also enjoys singing and has found the challenge of a live show thrilling.

**Sydney Perko** (*Ensemble*) is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Sonoran Trails Middle School, and is excited to be in one of her very first performances in PCA. Her theatre experience includes *Once Upon a Crime* as Porky the Police Officer, and *The Amazing Adventures of Superstan* as Max Volume both at DFT. Sydney is thrilled to be a part of this awesome experience and she cannot wait to work with this amazing cast & crew. She's so thankful for this opportunity!

**Zachary Snyders** (*Jim Haller*) is 17 years old and a senior at ASA. This is his first production at PCA. Some of his other favorite shows/roles include: Mr. Banks (ASA), *Bare* (Spotlight), Pugsley in the *The Addams Family* (DFT), and the March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland* (VYT). Zachary enjoys improv and singing and would like to pursue an acting career. Zachary would like to thank Meribeth and the PCA team for this opportunity, and his teachers, coaches and family for all their love and support!

## Cast Shout Outs

**Sydney**, I am so excited that you have this opportunity! I am very proud of how far you have come in theatre. I know you love acting & singing so I can't wait until you perform! You will light up the stage! I love you, Momma

\*\*\*\*\*

**Keagan**, We are so proud of you and are amazed at how much you have grown and matured into a spectacular performer. No matter where your dreams and talents lead you, we will always be there to support you and cheer you on. We love you so very much. Love, Mom and Dad

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sofia**, congratulations on another great performance. We are very proud of you and we love watching you perform! Your energy and infectious smile are a joy on stage. We are very proud of you and love you to the moon and back.  
Love, Dad and Mom

\*\*\*\*\*

To our Sweet **Caroline**. We are so proud of you and love to watch you perform. Continue to reach for the stars because you are definitely our shining star.  
Love, Mom, Dad & Nathaniel

\*\*\*\*\*

## **A Very Special Thank You!! We could not have done it without you!!**

Cammi and William Smith  
Tom and Leanna Hill  
Andrew Cupo  
Evelyn Holbrook  
Desert Foothills Theater  
First Southern Baptist Church of PV

Jim Allmeyer  
Jordan Reichsmann  
McKenna Roberts  
India Chudnow  
Octavia Chudnow  
Phil Wussow

All the parents who helped in various ways and who shared their AMAZING kids with PCA!!

### **Many THANKS to our Sponsors:**

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- o Stevanie Bahnerth
- o Anonymous Donor



## And a Big Announcement...

In December of 2019, we paid tribute to the brave men and women who defend this country and those who have made it more bearable through the years.

*Hope for the Holidays: A WWII Christmas* was the first full original production at Pinnacle Creative Arts, and it was very well-received!

We loved putting the show together and honoring those who served with a little comedy and music, all tied together with the spirit of Christmas and patriotism.

It was a big deal to Mr. Bob Hope and will always be held dear in our hearts.

And that's why, we are very excited to announce the first ever PCA original sequel!

Set in 1952 during the Korean War  
(*sometimes known as the Forgotten War*),  
Pinnacle Creative Arts Presents...



Due to our desire to **tour** the Greater Phoenix Area, we are seeking out show **sponsors**. Sponsors will receive benefits such as comp tickets and/or merchandise.

We hope to partner with and reach out to local and national military and veteran organizations. If you have connections, please contact us at [pcastudiointern@gmail.com](mailto:pcastudiointern@gmail.com)

More information to come, so stay tuned!