

LIVE ARTS THEATER

Teen Summer Musical | July 14-30, 2023

HEATHERS

The Musical



Artwork designed by AKA NYC © 2020 AKA NYC

WELCOME TO LIVE ARTS!

Check Us Out

 /LiveArts

 @livearts

 /LiveArtsTheater

Live Arts is honored to welcome you to our theater, which sits on the unceded homeland of the Monacan and Manahoac Nations. We recognize them as the original stewards of this land and offer our respect to their elders—past, present, and emerging.

WHILE YOU'RE HERE ...

Concessions are located on the 3rd floor. Enjoy snacks and drinks during a 15-minute intermission.

Restrooms are on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th floors. Single stall, gender-neutral restrooms and changing table are on the 4th floor.

Silence your cell phone and refrain from texting during the show. **No photography or video recording**, either!

NEW TO OUR THEATER?

Get involved! There are hundreds of ways to make theater with us.

Take a few minutes to fill out our **Volunteer Engagement Form**. We will reach out to you with more information about current volunteer opportunities.

Learn more at livearts.org. We can't wait to get to know you!



*New Volunteers
Scan Here!*



Find current volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved at
livearts.org/volunteer

A NOTE FROM THE ARTIST DIRECTOR

When we announced that HEATHERS was going to be our teen musical this year, emails started pouring in for auditions.

When we wrote the audition notice, we knew of the need to let people know that HEATHERS deals with some heavy issues, including suicide, bullying, gun violence, and homophobia, among others! HEATHERS is a dark comedy. We wanted to communicate that its purpose in including such dark content was to expose and confront the darkness head-on using satire—to poke at these topics considered too serious, too painful, in a comedic way. And perhaps then to provoke thoughtful discussions.

On July 4, the *New York Times* published (yet another) article with the title “It’s Hard to Stage a School Play Without Political Drama.” It said that school plays are now “the latest battleground” in a politically and culturally divided America. High school teachers are finding their choices of plays scrutinized, censored, and rejected. And those teachers are now self-censoring. One Oregon teacher had combatted objections, but ultimately produced, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, which includes gay fathers. But when her students said they wanted to do HEATHERS the following year, she felt she had to tell them “no.”

Thank you to Ti, Daniel, Abby, Mandy, Anne, Hannah, all the other creative team members, and to this astonishingly talented cast. I am proud of the show, and of Live Arts.

Susan E. Evans
Artistic Director

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Throughout this process, I've been guided by the words of the great poet and philosopher Belinda Carlisle:

*When I feel alone,
I reach for you,
and you bring me home.*

This story embraces the mistakes and failures that each of us make throughout our lives. We hurt those we love, we live too deeply in the past, or we lash out at the things and people we don't take the time to understand. All of this is on stage.

But this show also reminds us that we can change, and that change doesn't have to be large. Most of us won't change the world. But that doesn't mean we can't change our small corner of it. Not through grand actions and manifestos, but through small everyday moments of kindness.

The cast you are about to see has fought against their greatest instincts for perfection—and through sheer force of will, the cast has created a world that is full of a thousand tiny stories. I am more proud of them than they will know. They have given their time, energy, tears, and passion to this project, and I hope you watch for the little details. You'd be surprised how much happens when you look at those who are just outside of the spotlight.

Daniel Kunkel
Director | HEATHERS



HEATHERS THE MUSICAL

Teen Edition

**Book, Music, & Lyrics by
Kevin Murphy & Laurence O'Keefe**

Based on the film written by Daniel Waters

*Originally directed Off-Broadway by Andy Fickman
and choreographed by Marguerite Derricks*

JULY 14-30, 2023

Directed by
Daniel Kunkel

Musical Direction by
Abby Smith

Choreography by
Anne Talkington

**Act I is about 1 hour. Act II is about 1 hour.
There will be one 15-minute intermission.**

Pay-What-You-Can tickets sponsored by **Ting**

SENSORY WARNINGS

Sudden bright lights; sudden color changes; flashing lights; sudden loud sound effects including an explosion; simulated gunshots.



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Live Arts is supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

This production is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

<i>Beautiful</i>	Company
<i>Candy Store</i>	Heathers, Ensemble
<i>Fight for Me</i>	Veronica, Ensemble
<i>Freeze Your Brain</i>	JD
<i>Big Fun</i>	Kurt, Ram, Veronica, Heathers, Ensemble
<i>Dead Girl Walking</i>	Veronica, JD
<i>The Me Inside of Me</i>	Heather Chandler, Veronica, Ensemble
<i>You're Welcome</i>	Kurt, Ram, Veronica, Ensemble
<i>Never Shut up Again</i>	Heather Duke, Kurt, Ram, Ensemble
<i>Our Love Is God</i>	JD, Veronica, Ensemble

ACT II

<i>My Dead Gay Son</i>	Kurt's Dad, Ram's Dad, Ensemble
<i>Seventeen</i>	Veronica, JD
<i>Shine a Light</i>	Fleming, Ensemble
<i>Lifeboat</i>	Heather McNamara
<i>Shine a Light (Reprise)</i>	Heather Duke, Ensemble
<i>I Say No</i>	Veronica
<i>Hey Yo Westerberg</i>	Heather McNamara, Ensemble
<i>Kindergarten Boyfriend</i>	Martha
<i>Yo Girl/Meant to Be</i>	JD, Ensemble
<i>Dead Girl Walking (Reprise)</i>	Veronica, Ensemble
<i>Finale</i>	Company

PLEASE NOTE:

HEATHERS THE MUSICAL: Teen Edition contains discussions of dark issues and adult themes, including suicide, swearing, bullying, teen drinking, gun violence, murder, drug use, fat-shaming, and homophobia. HEATHERS is a dark comedy and exists to combat its own subject matter.

CAST

Sophia Christensen	<i>Veronica Sawyer</i>
Nikodemus Scott	<i>JD</i>
Korinne Brier	<i>Heather Chandler</i>
Violet Craghead-Way	<i>Heather McNamara</i>
Hope King	<i>Heather Duke</i>
Eli Smith	<i>Martha Dunstock</i>
Morgan Geissman	<i>Kurt Kelly</i>
Ezra Smith	<i>Ram Sweeney</i>
Anya Rothman	<i>Ms. Fleming/Ensemble/Swing</i>
Eliza Banaszak	<i>Principal Gowan/Ensemble</i>
Lucy Strandquist	<i>Coach Ripper/Ensemble</i>
Elena Witt	<i>Veronica's Mom/Ensemble</i>
Ethan Phelps	<i>Veronica's Dad/Ensemble</i>
Jacob Walton	<i>Ram's Dad/Ensemble</i>
Ben Lohr	<i>Kurt's Dad/Ensemble</i>
Gavin Pugh	<i>Big Bud Dean/Ensemble</i>
Soren Corbett	<i>Ensemble/Swing</i>
Dahlia Becker	<i>Ensemble/Swing</i>

Dance Captains: Dahlia Becker, Anya Rothman

Fight Captain: Soren Corbett

What is a swing? *The swings in our cast have rehearsed various roles and can fill in for any of those characters if necessary.*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Daniel Kunkel	Director
Hannah Zimmerman	Assistant Director
Abby Smith	Musical Director
Anne Talkington	Choreographer
Mandy Shuker	Production Stage Manager
Nicole Hardson-Hurley	Assistant Stage Manager
Hannah Zimmerman	Assistant Stage Manager
Etta Feigert	Scenic Designer
Daryl O'Connor	Props Designer
Joshua Reid	Lighting Designer
Daniel Angell	Sound Designer/Engineer
Liz Stone	Costume Co-Designer/Dresser
Anna Stockdale	Costume Co-Designer
Laura Rikard	Intimacy Choreographer
Ginger Craghead-Way	Dresser
Claire Rahilly	Dresser
Atlas Richardson	Dresser
Will Kelly	Soundboard Operator
Stella Shoemaker	Soundboard Operator

***Many people and organizations helped make this show a success!
Make sure to check out "WHO MAKES THIS WORK" on page 14 and
the Gratitude Board posted outside the theater.***

READ THE STUDY GUIDE



Explore HEATHERS! Read a full synopsis and learn more about how this cult classic film was adapted into a hit musical. Includes behind-the-scenes photos and more!

Scan here or go to livearts.org to read now.



JOIN US FOR A POST-SHOW AUDIENCE TALKBACK

Sunday, July 23 (2pm Matinee)

Take a peek behind the curtain with Director Daniel Kunkel and members of the cast of HEATHERS in a conversation moderated by Education Director Ti Ames.

All are welcome! You do not need to see the show to attend.

MEET THE CREATORS & DIRECTOR



KEVIN MURPHY | Co-Writer

Kevin Murphy was a producer of the original LA and NY productions of *HEATHERS* (Drama Desk nomination for music). He also provided lyrics and co-wrote the book for the award-winning stage musical *Reefer Madness* and was a producer on both the original Los Angeles and Off-Broadway productions, and co-adaptor of *Reefer* into a Showtime Original movie. Other TV credits include *Desperate Housewives*, *Defiance*, *Ed*, *Reaper*, *Caprica* and *Hellcats*.



LAURENCE O'KEEFE | Co-Writer

Laurence O'Keefe was a producer of the original LA and NY productions of *HEATHERS*. With his wife Nell Benjamin, he won the Olivier Award for co-writing *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, which ran two and a half years on the West End and has toured the UK. *Legally Blonde* received seven Tony Award nominations, two US national tours, and several international productions. Larry wrote the Off-Broadway award-winning *Bat Boy: The Musical*, which has received 500+ productions worldwide. Other credits include: *The Daily Show*, SyFy's *Defiance*, the Disney Channel, PBS, and *Cirque du Soleil*.



DANIEL KUNKEL | Director

Daniel Kunkel (he/him) is a director, writer, stage combatant, and podcaster. He has taught theater in person and remotely in New York City, Virginia, Oregon, and Ohio, and has been producing and developing plays, podcasts, and videos since 2016. Daniel is currently pursuing his Masters of Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Eliza
Banaszak



Dahlia
Becker



Korinne
Brier



Sophia
Christensen



Soren
Corbett



Violet
Craghead-Way



Morgan Isabel
Geissman



Hope
King



Benjamin
Lohr



Ethan
Phelps



Gavin
Pugh



Anya
Rothman



Nikodemos
Scott



Eli
Smith



Ezra
Smith



Lucy
Strandquist



Jacob
Walton



Elena
Witt

ELIZA BANASZAK | **Principal Gowen/Ensemble**

Eliza (they/them) acts in HEATHERS with Live Arts this summer. Previous roles include Baker's Wife in INTO THE WOODS (Live Arts, 2022), Ensemble in LOVE AND INFORMATION (Live Arts, 2022), Andy in *Spring Break* (Four County Players, 2023), and Ella in *Cinderella* (Four County Players, 2023).

DAHLIA BECKER | **Ensemble/Swing**

Dahlia (she/her) is a dedicated singer, actor, and dancer, and is thrilled to appear in HEATHERS! Dahlia is a sophomore at CHS. You may have recently seen her as Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof* (CHS), Grizabella in *Cats* (DMR Adventures), and much more!

KORINNE BRIER | **Heather Chandler**

Korinne Brier is a graduate of Albemarle High School and is attending VCU for musical theater in the fall. Her most recent roles include Jo March in *Little Women* (AHS, 2023), Antipholus of Syracuse in *A Comedy of Errors* (AHS, 2022), and The Witch in INTO THE WOODS (Live Arts, 2022).

SOPHIA CHRISTENSEN | **Veronica Sawyer**

Sophia (they/she/he) has been involved with Live Arts and theater since they were 12. Some favorite roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Western Albemarle) and Tin Man in THE WIZARD OF OZ (Live Arts Production Camp). Most days you can find her cuddled up with her cat, Kurplunk.

SOREN CORBETT | **Ensemble/Swing/Fight Captain**

Soren (he/they) is thrilled to be back on the Live Arts stage! Some of his recent credits include: *Cinderella* (Lord Pinkleton; 4CP), *Spring Break* (director; 4CP), *Matilda* (Ms. Trunchbull; DMR), INTO THE WOODS (Milky White/Rapunzel's Prince/Swing; Live Arts), *Tuck Everlasting* (Miles Tuck; AHS), *The Lightning Thief* (Luke; DMR).

VIOLET CRAGHEAD-WAY | **Heather McNamara**

Violet (she/her) is thrilled to be a part of HEATHERS. You may have seen her in Live Arts' IN HINDSIGHT, RAGTIME, FUN HOME, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, and LES MIS, or in productions at 4CP, Virginia Rep, ASC, and TheatreCHS. She will attend the Syracuse University BFA Acting program in the fall.

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CAST BIOS (CONT.)

MORGAN ISABEL GEISSMAN | **Kurt Kelly**

Morgan (she/they) is a rising sophomore at Albemarle High School and is excited to be part of this production with such talented people! You may have seen them onstage with Black Box Players or Lakeside Middle School drama. This is their first Live Arts show.

HOPE KING | **Heather Duke**

Hope (she/her) has been doing theater since she was eight. Recent credits include *Cinderella* (Four County Players), LOVE AND INFORMATION (Live Arts), INTO THE WOODS (Little Red; Live Arts) and *Tuck Everlasting* (Winnie Foster; AHS Players). She graduated from PVCC and will be transferring to JMU in the fall to study theater.

BENJAMIN LOHR | **Kurt's Dad/Ensemble**

Ben (he/they) has been working with Live Arts since 2012, and he will be studying theater at UVA. You might have seen Ben as Shrek in *Shrek: The Musical* (TheatreCHS, 2021), or more recently as Baldwin Blandish in *Crybaby* and Centipede in *James and the Giant Peach* (TheatreCHS, 2022).

ETHAN PHELPS | **Veronica's Dad/Ensemble**

Ethan (he/him) is thrilled to make his Live Arts debut! Ethan has been previously seen in *Spring Break* and *Winter Break* (Cody) and *Elf The Musical* (ensemble) at Four County Players, *Honk* (Ugly) and *Mean Girls* (Damian) at Louisa County High School, and *13: The Musical* (Archie) at Virginia Rep. He loves to play piano and guitar in his free time.

GAVIN PUGH | **Big Bud Dean/Ensemble**

Gavin is a recent high school graduate and is going to attend PVCC in the fall. Recently he played Mr. Duval in *Mean Girls* and Mr. Blunderbuss in *I Hate War*. Gavin is very excited to be in this wonderful musical!

ANYA ROTHMAN | **Ms. Fleming/Ensemble/Swing**

Anya (she/her) is an incoming freshman at the University of Pennsylvania where she will study theater. Recent credits include Meg in *Little Women* (Albemarle Players), Universal Understudy in INTO THE WOODS (Live Arts), Hugo in *Tuck Everlasting* (Albemarle Players), and Jesse in *Winter Break* (Four County Players).

WHO MAKES THIS WORK

SETS & LIGHTS

Will Barnett	Dan Feigert	Juan Robertson
Hill Barnett	Etta Feigert	Lucy Shadel
Leslie Benfield	Lita Flowers	Emily Torman
Matt Black	Will Kelly	Tony Walker
Elizabeth Carpenter	Savannah Meriwether	Annie Way
Rebekah Carroll	Israel Nixon	Dar Wyant
Warren Craghead	Josh Reid	
Ginger Craghead-Way	Christine Robertson	

FRONT OF HOUSE

Hope Bagley	Meg Hoover	Sandra Pai
Aly Brookland	Sue Horne	Andy Phelps
Gwendolyn Cassady	Jim Horstkotte	Jennifer Phelps
Elaine Chapman	Dinny Jensen	Tom Rainey
Mike Davis	Demitri Kalogeropoulos	Benjamin Randolph
Brian Dowd	Jonathan Karnes	Tracy Schwandt-Hardley
Malcolm Dyson	Greti King	Laura Shea
Nick Evans	Heidi King	Stephen Smith
Margaret Gardiner	Wendy King	Aimee Steussy
Amy Goffman	Margaret Lambert	Michael Swanberg
Dave Goldstein	Migas	Bill Julian
Morgan Hall	Nick Mattsson	Sydna Julian
Brian Hamshar	Jane McDonald	Katya Thalwitz
Jim Heilman	Patrick Migas	Roger Tolle
Edwina Herring	Evelyn Nazario	

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CAST BIOS (CONT.)

NIKODEMOS SCOTT | **JD**

Outside of theater, Nikodemus (they/he) loves gardening and rocking out at concerts! Live Arts credits include Ernestine in CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY (2023), Narrator in INTO THE WOODS (2022), and LOVE AND INFORMATION (2022). Previously, Nik was Leading Player in *Pippin* (2020) and Donkey in *Shrek* (2021) at Charlottesville High School.

ELI SMITH | **Martha Dunnstock**

Eli (they/them) is so excited to be in their first production at Live Arts! Previous roles include Liesl (*The Sound of Music*, BCE) and Patrice (*13*, DMR). When not performing, they can be found attending classes for an education degree, listening to '80s music, or playing "Tears of the Kingdom."

EZRA SMITH | **Ram Sweeney**

Ezra is a sophomore theater major at JMU. He enjoys Live Arts immensely because of the staff, productions, and, of course, the wonderful people they cast in shows! Previous roles include The Baker in INTO THE WOODS, Jesse Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting*, and Levy in *Bury the Dead*. He believes this show will be so VERY... VERY.. VERY...

LUCY STRANDQUIST | **Coach Ripper/Ensemble**

Lucy Strandquist is a rising senior at the Miller School of Albemarle. Recent stage credits include Wadsworth in *Clue* (MSA, 2023), Morticia in *The Addams Family* (MSA, 2022) and Louise in *Sunday in the Park with George* (ShennanArts, 2019).

JACOB WALTON | **Ram's Dad/Ensemble**

Jacob has grown up performing in choir and drama! He is a proud member of the Western Albemarle Choir and will be a Senior this year at WAHS! Recent credits include *Into the Woods* and *Perfect Ending* at Western Albemarle.

ELENA WITT | **Veronica's Mom/Ensemble**

Elena is so excited to be returning to the Live Arts stage. She is a rising senior at Western Albemarle High School. Her favorite roles include Young Cosette in LES MIS (Live Arts), Mary Lenox in *The Secret Garden* (Wayne), Matilda in *Matilda* (Wayne), and ensemble in *Cinderella* (Four County Players).



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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

DANIEL ANGELL | **Sound Designer/Engineer**

Dan (he/him) is excited to help this incredible cast tell their story. This is his third show designing and running sound at Live Arts. Before that he acted in several community theater productions around Charlottesville and in school. Enjoy the show!

ETTA FEIGERT | **Scenic Designer**

Etta (they/them) is a longtime volunteer taking their first stab at design. Previous Live Arts credits include, but are not limited to: CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY, LOVE AND INFORMATION, and every show during the 2021/2022 reIGNITE season.

NICOLE HARDSON-HURLEY | **Assistant Stage Manager**

Nicole is so grateful to work with Live Arts for the first time with this cast and crew! Nicole comes to stage management from a background in acting. Her recent stage credits include Consuela in *West Side Story* (Pacific Coast Rep, 2020) and Andrea in *Once on this Island* (Contra Costa Civic, 2019).

DARYL O'CONNOR | **Props Designer**

Daryl has made props for a dozen Live Arts productions over as many years. HEATHERS has been particularly fun, with a chance to make pig piñatas, school lunch trays, liverwurst, and a time bomb. Kudos to this wonderful cast and crew. Enjoy the show.

JOSHUA REID | **Lighting Designer**

Joshua graduated from VCU with a BFA in theater, with a concentration in lighting design and stage production. His previous Live Arts lighting design credits include PIPELINE, THE CHILDREN, and LOVE AND INFORMATION.

MANDY SHUKER | **Production Stage Manager**

Mandy (she/her) is loving her first time stage managing a teen production with this incredible cast and crew! Previous stage management credits include *Twelfth Night* at UVA, VIOLET at Live Arts, and *As You Like It*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *The Mousetrap* at Four County Players.

ABBY SMITH | *Musical Director*

Abby is the choir director at Henley Middle School and Western Albemarle High School, and teaches private instrumental lessons at the Music Education Center. She has been a part of Live Arts for the past five years, including instructing various summer camps and playing in the pit orchestra for shows including CRYBABY, RENT, and IN THE HEIGHTS.

ANNA STOCKDALE | *Costume Co-Designer*

Anna (she/her) lives in Crozet and spends a lot of time quilting and thrift store shopping. She is thrilled to be on the costume team with Liz, getting everyone in shoulder pads. Previous Live Arts productions include THE ADDING MACHINE (2012) and AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (2013). She wants to thank Susan, Ezra, and Scott for generally being very awesome.

LIZ STONE | *Costume Co-Designer/Dresser*

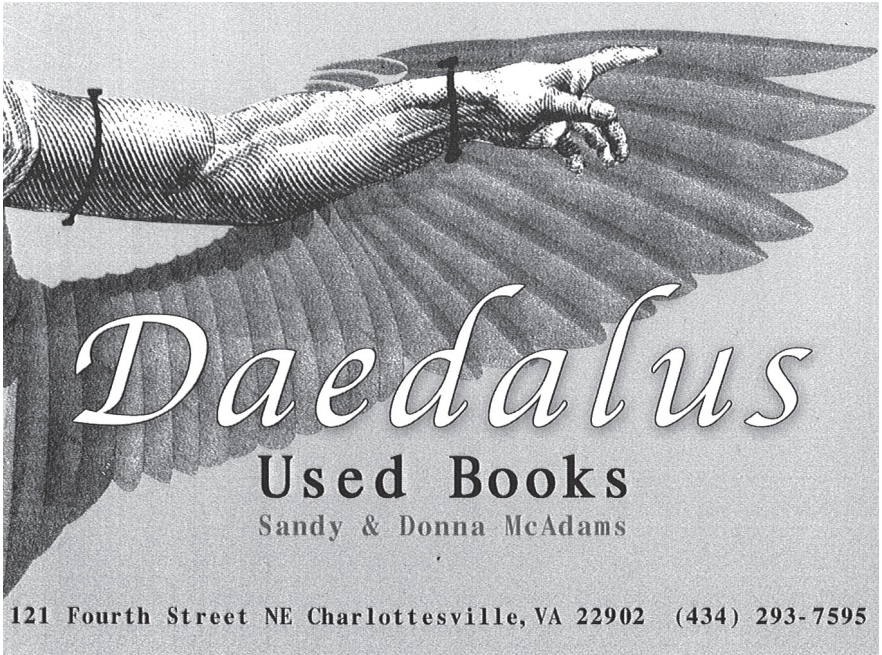
Liz (she/her) is a rising junior at Albemarle High School where she designed the costumes for *A Comedy of Errors* and *Little Women*. At Live Arts, she has been a dresser for INTO THE WOODS and assistant costume designer and dresser for LOVE AND INFORMATION.

ANNE TALKINGTON | *Choreographer*

Anne trained with the North Carolina State Ballet, performing in *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and more. She attended the Carolina Ballet's intensive program and studied at the Duke University Dance Program. Other credits: Ira David Wood III's *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre in the Park); *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Sweet Tea Shakespeare); The *Durham Dances* book project; *Something Rotten!* (Wayne Theatre).

HANNAH ZIMMERMAN | *Asst. Director/Asst. Stage Manager*

Hannah (she/her) is so excited to finally be on the technical side of a Live Arts show. Recent stage credits include Lucinda in INTO THE WOODS at Live Arts and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet* at Monticello High School. She is grateful for this experience and has loved every second of it. Next year Hannah will study marine biology and computing in the arts at the College of Charleston.



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If there is an error or you would like your name to appear in a different format, please contact us at development@livearts.org.

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Some gifts may be missing from these lists. We are working to fix this!

Please contact our development team at development@livearts.org if you have questions or concerns. Thank you!

A NOTE FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Kids experience hard things.

Kids talk about hard things.

Being a kid, in and of itself in contemporary society, is one of the hardest things to be right now. I am in awe of the kids who get up every morning, go to school, and deal with the microcosm of stress and anxiety brought on by classes, friendships, romantic relationships, family, politics, school shootings, a global pandemic—the list goes on and on.

I wholeheartedly believe that theater is a ritual and that the ritual changes depending on the story being told—and who's tasked with telling it, both cast and crew. In this case, the ritual can be scary and overwhelming, while also hilarious and endearing. **HEATHERS THE MUSICAL: Teen Edition** is a lesson in creating ritual amidst duality, where kids tell a hard story about really hard things. They just happen to be singing and dancing the entire time. We know the story, we know the tropes, but it's difficult to remind ourselves what it's like to live in a world where ritual and real life intersect in so many different ways. These actors do an amazing job at reminding us of just that.

Finding the *beautiful* in this world is hard. I applaud the cast of **HEATHERS** for being open and willing to do so while telling this story, especially one that reflects their generation's day-to-day life. They are beautiful in the attempt, and I'm so proud of their work. It's time for **BIG** (crazy, wild, hard, intense) **FUN**, folks!

Ti Ames

Education Director

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