



**DARE TO
DREAM**

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JR.

A *Disney* MUSICAL REVUE ✦ ✦ ✦

July 31st, August 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, 2025
At Wadsworth High School
Performing Arts Center

WWW.WADSWORTHFOOTLIGHTERS.COM

Dare To Dream Junior Cast:

(Alphabetically by Last Name)

Sofia Alvorado
Michael Basinger
Madeline Bauer
Kate Becker
Maeve Becker
Lizzie Blaha
Ryan Boucher
Kaylee Carpas
Ryden Chapman
Wyatt Chapman
Juniper Cunningham
Corbin Demiter
LJ Doyle
Jet Druley
Natalynn Gaeckle
Beckett Gardner
Samantha Gorbach
Lisette Hill
Adam Huskey
Emersyn Kearney
Alyssa Kinder

Hayden Lane
Toby Liddy
Hayden Lovell
Rebecca Mangan
Josephine McIlvaine
Clara Molnar
Gracelynn Owensby
Madison Owensby
Ava Pesata
Blake Porinchok
Brynnley Reeves
Caroline Sack
Harper Schmid
Piper Schoonover
Katie Slaughter
Emily Smelser
Anna Smith
Alex Tilson
Lukas Ziska
Quinn Ziska

Who's Who:

Sofia Alvarado: Sofia Alvarado is a rising seventh grader at St. Francis de Sales Parish School! She has been a proud member of the Summit Chorale Society's (SCS) Children's Choir program since she was just five years old. When she's not performing or singing her heart out in the shower, she loves hitting the tennis courts. In her spare time, Sofia enjoys hanging out with her friends and family—especially her adorable little brother, Sebastian! She also has a blast playing video games, diving into her favorite books, and sketching. Sofia has taken part in several fun productions, including "High School Musical Jr." as Cathy, "Elf Jr.," and "Annie Jr." as Duffy, as well as performing in the chorus of Weathervane Playhouse's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." She feels so grateful for the love and support of her parents and grandparents, and she appreciates Mr. Cory Ott and Mrs. Angelina Nicholas for welcoming her back into the Wadsworth Footlighters community this season!

Michael Basinger: This will be Michael's second production with Wadsworth Footlighters, his debut performance being last year's High School Musical. Michael is in 8th grade and attending Wadsworth Middle School this fall. Michael is an active member and altar server at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, a Boy Scout of Troop 402, track runner, Taekwondo black belt, gymnast, and recreational player of various instruments. He is looking forward to taking the stage and sharing his talents with you!

Madeline Bauer: Madeline is an 8th grader excited to be part of this production with Wadsworth Footlighters. Her previous experiences include roles in Almost, Maine and Moana Jr. as well as providing backstage support for several productions. Outside of theater, she is a talented musician who plays the violin, French horn and trumpet. Madeline also serves on her church's mission team and enjoys playing tennis in her free time. She is grateful for this opportunity to perform and thanks her family and friends for their support.

Who's Who:

Kate Becker: Kate Becker is a junior at Padua Franciscan High School. She is very excited to be in this production of Dare to Dream Jr. Some of her favorite past shows include High School Musical (Martha Cox) with The Wadsworth Footlighters, Frozen Jr. (Young Anna), Annie Jr. (Tessie), and Super Happy Awesome News (Joey) with Ohio Youth Ensemble Stage along with Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Jr. (Mrs. Donner) at The Brecksville Theater. Kate recently returned from a service immersion trip to Tanzania, and also enjoys basketball, tennis, track, and playing her guitar. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her love of musical theater and for tolerating her constant singing. Enjoy the show!!

Maeve Becker: Maeve Becker is excited to be part of Dare to Dream Jr.! She has previously been in Bedbugs (Patsy) with The Wadsworth Footlighters, as well as Cinderella Jr. (Little Girl) and Annie Jr. virtual (Molly) with Ohio Youth Ensemble Stage and Frozen Kids (ensemble) with The Brecksville Theater Summer Camp. When not acting, she enjoys playing cello, reading, playing tennis and basketball, and painting. Maeve would like to thank Cory and her family for their continued support and encouragement.

Lizzie Blaha: Lizzie Blaha is very excited to be joining Footlighters for the first time in the ensemble. She attends Wadsworth Middle School and is entering 7th grade. She has previously been featured in several roles in other shows, including Glinda in the Wizard of Oz, Albert in Newsies, Older Simba in the Lion King, and Gracie Shinn in the Music Man. Outside of acting, she enjoys flute, dance, babysitting, and fashion.

Ryan Boucher: Ryan Boucher is excited to join The Wadsworth Footlighters in Dare To Dream Jr. Past roles include Olaf in Frozen Jr, Gaston in Beauty and the Beast Jr, and The Baker in Into The Woods Jr. Ryan is from Medina, OH and a freshman at Highland High School. In his free time he enjoys playing tennis, learning piano, and running with friends. He is a voice student of Denise Milner Howell.

Who's Who:

Kaylee Carpas: Kaylee is so excited to play Player 11 in Dare to Dream Junior! She is a rising junior, this is her second show, and has been in a nationally ranked a cappella group for two years. Her favorite Disney movie is Encanto! She is so grateful to be part of this cast - enjoy the show!

Ryden Chapman: Ryden Chapman is ecstatic to return to the Wadsworth Footlighters stage, where his passion for performance continues to thrive. A versatile and imaginative performer, Ryden has brought his talents to a variety of productions, including High School Musical and Folk Tails. Beyond acting, he has also stepped behind the curtain—writing and directing his own original show, a testament to his creative drive and dedication to storytelling. Inspired by the unwavering support of his family and friends, Ryden has embraced the stage as both a home and a calling. Whether he's bringing characters to life under the spotlight or shaping narratives from behind the scenes, Ryden is always eager to grow, create, and share his love of theater with the community. 🎭🔥🎭

Wyatt Chapman: Wyatt Chapman is excited to make his stage debut with the Wadsworth Footlighters. This is his first large production, and he's grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow as a performer. Wyatt would like to thank his family and friends for their encouragement and support. He previously appeared in Play On Words, a short play written by his brother, Ryden Chapman.

Juniper Cunningham: Juniper Cunningham is proud to perform in her seventh theatrical production as one of Mickey's minions in the Ensemble. She is especially excited about Dare to Dream, Jr. because it combines songs from many of her favorite Disney moments. Joon is in 8th grade at Wadsworth Middle School and enjoys participating in cross country, show choir, and track.

Who's Who:

Corbin Demiter: Corbin Demiter is a junior at Wadsworth High School and is excited to perform in Disney's Dare to Dream Junior. This marks Corbin's twelfth show, with favorite roles including Troy Bolton in *High School Musical*, the Narrator in *The Witches Princess*, Star Guy in *The Comic Book Artist*, and Crush in *Finding Nemo*. Corbin has been a member of the Wadsworth Choir for four years and is active in speech and debate, where he is a national octafinalist in storytelling and a two-time state qualifier in humorous interpretation. He would like to thank his family, directors, and fellow cast members for their support. Enjoy the show!

LJ Doyle: LJ has always had a love for music and performing, finding the stage to be a natural fit. He's sung solos in both choir and theater camps, and made his big production debut as part of the kids ensemble in *The Music Man* at Wadsworth High School. LJ also brought energy and charm to his role as Porcupine in the Footlighters' *Animal Tales*. A familiar face from the CIS Lip Sync Battle two years running, he thrives on the fun of performing in front of a crowd. Outside of theater, LJ is gearing up to join the middle school football team this fall and has been sharpening his culinary skills this summer. He's excited to keep growing as a performer and can't wait to audition for more shows in the future!

Jet Druley: Jet Druley is excited to return for her fourth production with the Wadsworth Footlighters! She will be entering seventh grade at Claggett Middle School this fall. Jet loves musical theatre and dance, and she trains at Medina Centre for Dance Art. She is grateful for the chance to perform with such a talented cast and crew.

Who's Who:

Natalynn Gaeckle: Natalynn Gaeckle is going into 8th grade at Wadsworth Middle School. She has performed in Lion King Jr for Wadsworth Middle School, and is currently in Dare to Dream Jr. She has been taking acting lessons for 9 months and has previously taken 7 years of dance lessons. Natalynn made 8th grade show choir at Wadsworth Middle School, and is looking forward to performing in their shows next year. She was able to see Hamilton live in June of 2025, and dreams to perform in a Broadway musical one day.

Beckett Gardner: Beckett Gardner is proud to have solos in Dig a Little Deeper and Nonsense Medley and is beyond excited to be a part of this summer's musical. Beckett is 15 years old and lives in Wadsworth with his two brothers, mom, and dad. He attends Wadsworth High School and will be entering 9th grade. Beckett has been involved with the Wadsworth Footlighters since 2022. His first musical was Willy Wonka Jr., where he performed as an ensemble member. He later played Gurgle in Finding Nemo Jr. (2023), a Storyteller in Folk Tales (2024), and a featured dancer/ensemble member in High School Musical (2024). In addition to Footlighters, Beckett is active in his school's drama department. He starred as President Franklin Roosevelt in Annie Jr. (2023), played Jacob in Book Reports of Destiny (2024), and brought Pumbaa to life in The Lion King Jr. (2024). He would like to thank his family, friends, and singing teacher for their support on this journey.

Samantha Gorbach: Samantha is an 8th grader at Sacred Heart of Jesus School. She is thrilled to be in her first Wadsworth Footlighters performance. She has enjoyed getting to know her fellow castmates and has had so much fun preparing for the show. Sammy also loves spending time with her horse Paco, reading and writing. She invites you to sit back, relax and enjoy the magic of the show!

Who's Who:

Lisette Hill: Lisette is thrilled to be returning for her second Footlighters' production. She's danced with Northeast Ohio Dance Academy for five years and appears annually in The Nutcracker. She is a huge Disney lover and maybe someday you will see her performing there!

Adam Huskey: Adam Huskey is a junior at Revere High School. Adam has always had a love for the theater, musicals, anything Broadway, and all things Disney. Adam's favorite musical is Phantom of the Opera and favorite musician is Michael Jackson. Adam is always ready to perform and sing. Adam has been in productions such as Murder on the 518, Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, and How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying. Adam is an active member in Revere Players and Revere's Choir program being a member of both the Chorale choir along with Reverse, Revere's nationally ranked A Cappella Group. Adam has also been in several performances this past year at Revere High School including the variety show performing Michael Jackson's Smooth Criminal and Billie Jean and RMPA's pancake breakfast performing The Other Side from The Greatest Showman. Adam's favorite Disney character is Quasimodo and favorite Disney movie is The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Adam Huskey's dream is to become an actor and singer on Broadway with the aspirations to become a famous actor later in life that everyone is talking about.

Emersyn Kearney: Emersyn Kearney is so excited to be cast as the role of Player 12 in Dare to Dream Jr.! This will be Emersyn's fifth production with past performances including Beetlejuice Jr. (Delia), Beauty and the Beast Jr. (Milkmaid/Featured Dancer), High School Musical (Featured Dancer), and Finding Nemo Jr. (Peach). She also has recently been cast as the role of Mrs. Wormwood in Buckeye Community Theatre's upcoming production of Matilda Jr., which is performing this October. Emersyn has been dancing with Dancexcel in Medina for the past five years taking classes in ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, and musical theatre. Emersyn has also been taking voice lessons with Kimberly States at KS Vocal Studio for about two years. Emersyn has been working very hard and is so excited to share this performance with you. She hopes you love it!

Who's Who:

Alyssa Kinder: Alyssa Kinder is a Sophomore. She has played the role of a Maiden in The Witch's Princess and also was one of the orphans in Annie Junior. Outside of theater she is a competitive cheerleader for Wadsworth high school, loves tumbling, dancing, and swimming.

Hayden Lane: This is Hayden's 6th play and his 3rd with the Wadsworth Footlighters. He loves singing on stage with his friends. Winthrop in the Music Man had been his favorite role to play. When he is not performing he is camping, hiking or fishing: He would like to thank Cory for this opportunity.

Toby Liddy: Toby Liddy is living the dream performing in his 4th production with the Wadsworth Footlighters. While theatre is Toby's first love, he also plays soccer, enjoys fishing, and is always ready for any card or board game. He would like to thank his family, Cory Ott, and all of the staff at Wadsworth Footlighters for this opportunity to take the stage once again.

Hayden Lovell: This is Hayden Lovells 9th production which 4 of them have been with the Footlighters. Hayden is 14 and going into highschool. She loves to sing and dance even outside of rehearsal. She likes hanging out with her friends and listening to music. She has always loved the Disney movies and jumped to the chance when she saw this opportunity. Hayden hopes you enjoy the show!

Rebecca Mangan: Rebecca Mangan has been in four shows prior to her performance in Disney's "Dare to Dream Junior". Her favorite show was "CHICAGO: Teen Edition" at Saint Vincent-Saint Mary's. Outside of theatre, Rebecca enjoys singing, as well as writing songs and poems.

Who's Who:

Josephine McIlvaine: It's showtime! Josephine is absolutely thrilled to be part of Disney's Dare to Dream! She is having such a blast, and she can hardly wait to be king of this stage tonight, imagining all the amazing things that will happen when she's a little bit older. You might have seen her recently as Amaryllis in The Music Man, or perhaps swimming along as Bubbles in Finding Nemo Jr. She is currently enchanting audiences in the youth cast of Ohio Light Opera's Brigadoon. When she's not on stage, Josephine loves to sing with her voice teacher, Amy Hanratty, and dance with Northeast Ohio Dance under the direction of Megan Stuart. She also cherished her time studying theater with Tiffany Haas at Destination Broadway in Orlando, Florida. Enjoy the show!

Clara Molnar: This is Clara Molnar's fourth show. She is twelve and going into seventh grade at Claggett Middle School. In her free time she does dance at The Dance House, where she just finished her eighth season. She does hip-hop, acro, and jazz. She also loves Boba and cooking in the summer. She does softball through Medina Fastpitch.

Gracelynn Owensby: Gracelynn has been in 11 total shows between her high school and Wadsworth Footlighters. She's been acting since the age of 9. She enjoys meeting new people throughout the shows and making some of her closest friends through theater. She hopes to continue her theater journey into her adult life for fun.

Madison Owensby: Madison is currently an 8th grader at Wadsworth Middle School. This is her 4th production with the Wadsworth Footlighters. She loves to read, listen to music and sing! In her free time she enjoys hanging out at home with her older sister and their two dogs. She dreams of being a marine biologist some day!

Who's Who:

Ava Pesata: Ava is an enthusiastic actress with a knack for diving deep into character. She has been a part of multiple stage performances and she is always stoked to take on new roles and push herself. She's hungry to learn and grow as an actor, and ready to tackle any challenge that comes her way. When she commits to a role, she gives it her all to make sure to nail the character and give an authentic performance that'll make the audience feel something real.

Blake Porinchok: Blake is a sophomore student who attends Wadsworth High School. He is very interested in acting, programming, and nature. Last year, he was in the high school's show choir, and he is very grateful for singing and dancing with his friends in the choir. Blake also has an interest in all things Disney, with him and his family occasionally going to Disney World as a vacation spot. Blake also likes to play video games, with some of his favorites being: Minecraft, Mario, and Super Smash Bros. He has a little brother and 2 cats. In school, he likes studying science, history, and math. He does well in his classes and is eager for what's next to come from them. In conclusion, Blake is proud of his role in theater, his time with friends and family, and his enthusiasm for school.

Brynnley Reeves: Brynnley Reeves, an incoming freshman at Wadsworth High School, is excited to be performing in her first production. She enjoys participating in her school's show choir and plans to pursue musical theatre throughout high school and potentially afterwards. Although she's been in choir since 5th grade and has enjoyed performing her whole life, she only recently gained the courage to perform in musical productions. She's very grateful for her friends and family who helped her discover the arts, and she's excited for the upcoming years hopefully full of theatre and music.

Caroline Sack: Caroline is so grateful for everyone who drove her to and from practice! She is so happy to be a part of the Dare to Dream cast, and she enjoyed making so many new friends! She was also in the Footlighters production of High School Musical. She hopes that everyone who watches enjoys the show!

Who's Who:

Harper Schmid: Harper Schmid, a Sacred Heart School student, has performed as Lulu in "Waitress" and Gracie Shinn in "The Music Man." She thanks her family and friends for their support.

Piper Schoonover: Piper is excited to take to the stage once more as Player 7! Her last performance with the Footlighters was as Gabriella in High School Musical. She has also taken part in other productions, such as Lion King Junior with the Wadsworth Middle School! If she isn't practicing lines, or practicing for the show, you can find her listening to music, drawing, or crafting! She wants to thank everyone who helped and supported her during this production! Don't forget to dare to dream!

Katie Slaughter: Katelyn Slaughter is entering the 7th grade in the fall. It is her first time joining the Wadsworth Footlighters and she is excited for this musical! She has been cast in multiple plays, her last being the orphan "Pepper" in Annie Jr. She has been seen on several stages including her school, Weathervane and the Stark Campus of Kent State University. When she is not rehearsing she enjoys snuggling with her dogs, sketching, completing diamond art and other crafts. Katelyn would like to thank God for her talents and her family for their support and encouragement.

Emily Smelser: Emily Smelser is a sophomore at Wadsworth High School who has loved being part of the Wadsworth Footlighters, with previous performances in High School Musical and Folk Tails. Other acting credits include the roles of Sandy in Annie Jr. and Little Mermaid in Book Reports of Destiny. Emily is passionate about performing and the joy it brings to audiences. Beyond acting, she loves singing and performs with her school's show choir. She's also an active Girl Scout, a member of the high school bowling team, and enjoys spending time with her friends and family. Emily is deeply grateful to everyone who has supported her journey in the performing arts.

Who's Who:

Anna Smith: Anna Smith is delighted to join the cast of the Wadsworth Footlighters' Dare to Dream Jr.! A rising fifth-grader at St. Francis Xavier in Medina, Anna has been performing since her first-grade debut as the Main Angel in the Advent play. She is a dedicated member of both the St. Francis Xavier Children's Choir and School Chorale. She recently shined as Marie in Bed Bugs , and her stage credits also include Weathervane Playhouse productions of Elf, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Beyond her theatrical pursuits, Anna proudly completed her first year with the Weathervane Musical Theater Company, studies voice at West Side Vocal Academy, and is a dedicated member of Girl Scout Troop 90152. Anna extends a heartfelt thank you to her mom, dad, and friends for all their encouragement and support. Enjoy the show!

Alex Tilson: Alex Tilson is a freshman at Wadsworth High School who has been doing theatre for two years, acting and singing in ten shows. He has played Simba in The Lion King, Mr. Toad in Wind In The Willows, Bathmat Man in Book Reports Of Destiny, Jack Scott in High School Musical, and many more. Off-stage, Alex enjoys drawing, videography, and academics. He is very excited to be in another Footlighters production!

Lukas Ziska: Lukas Ziska: Lukas is pumped to be back on stage with The Wadsworth Footlighters. This show combines two of his favorite things - Disney and musical theater. Some of his other favorite roles include James in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and Zeke in High School Musical. Lukas will be a sophomore at Medina High School.

Quinn Ziska: Quinn Ziska: Quinn is thrilled to be part of the ensemble for this show with The Wadsworth Footlighters. She has also performed in Bed Bugs, High School Musical Jr. and Folk Tails. Quinn will be a 7th grader at Claggett Middle School in Medina where she is a member of the orchestra, HIVE, and student council. Quinn's current favorite shows are & Juliet, Moulin Rouge and Six, The Musical.

Who's Who Production Staff:

Maureen Martin-Stocks (Choreographer): Maureen Martin-Stocks is so excited to be returning to Wadsworth Footlighters this summer . She teaches music and drama and is the artistic director at John Marshall High School in Cleveland. She also works throughout northeast Ohio at many different theaters as a choreographer, stage manager and director. She is truly living her dream everyday bringing performing arts to life while creating new opportunities and inspiring others. She is so excited to work with such a talented cast and crew and is SO thankful for this opportunity! (Also, she wants to shoutout to her family, husband and friends for always coming to support her ALWAYS.) Break a leg cast and crew and I hope you enjoy the magic of this show!

Angelina Nicholas (Musical Director): Angelina is an Akron/Canton based singer, actress, and vocal instructor. She received her B.A. in Music with a concentration in Vocal Performance, studying both opera and musical theatre techniques. Outside of teaching, Angelina can be found performing in theaters across Northeast Ohio and musically directing with local theaters. Performance Credits: Le Nozze di Figaro, The Pirates of Penzance, Footloose, The Little Mermaid, Oliver!, Rent, and more. MD Credits: Willy Wonka Jr., Nemo Jr., Frozen Jr., Footloose, Godspell, and more. Much love to the Wadsworth Footlighters, Cory Ott, and her husband, Nathan. Enjoy the show!

Cory Ott (Director): Cory has directed a number of productions including High School Musical, Finding Nemo Junior, Willy Wonka Junior, Mary Poppins Junior, and Almost, Maine for The Wadsworth Footlighters. He has also directed for Medina County Show Biz, Theatre 8:15, Wadsworth City Schools, Buckeye Community Theatre and The Luminescent Moon Theatre Company. Cory was a Cast Member for the Walt Disney Company, and hopes to return someday soon. He would like to thank the people who have helped him get where he is today, you know who you are! "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." Walt Disney. Cory hopes you enjoy Dare To Dream and thanks you for supporting the arts.

100 YEARS OF DISNEY MUSIC

The score of *Dare to Dream JR.* draws from almost 100 years of Disney music! Here's a timeline of when these songs first appeared in their original films:

1937
SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
"Heigh-Ho"



1940
PINOCCHIO
"When You Wish Upon a Star"

1950
CINDERELLA
"A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes"
"Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo"



1963
THE SWORD IN THE STONE
"Higitus Figitus"

1964
MARY POPPINS
"Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious"



1967
THE JUNGLE BOOK
"The Bare Necessities"

1977
THE MANY ADVENTURES OF WINNIE THE POOH
"Heffalumps and Woozles"



1989
THE LITTLE MERMAID
"Part of Your World"

1991
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
"Be Our Guest"



1992
ALADDIN
"Friend Like Me"

1994
THE LION KING
"I Just Can't Wait to Be King"
"Hakuna Matata"



1995
POCAHONTAS
"Just Around
the Riverbend"



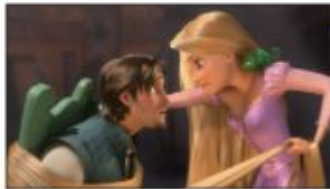
1996
THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME
"Out There"



1999
TARZAN
"Trashin' the Camp"



2010
TANGLED
"I've Got a Dream"



2016
ZOOTOPIA
"Try Everything"



2017
COCO
"Remember Me"



2021
ENCANTO
"Surface Pressure"



1995
TOY STORY
"You've Got a
Friend in Me"



1997
HERCULES
"Go the Distance"



2009
THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG
"Dig a Little Deeper"



2013
FROZEN
"Let It Go"



2016
MOANA
"How Far I'll Go"



2019
FROZEN II
"When I Am Older"

Next On Stage:



**ROTTEN
APPLES**

October 2025 Auditions:
August 2025

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