



ROTTEN APPLES

October 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2025
At Grace Lutheran Church

www.WadsworthFootlighters.com

ROTTEN APPLES

CASTLIST



THE HOST: ERIN BECKER

PRINCE: SAM ZIEMER

HAGATHA: KRISTIN KRANZ

GOLDILOCKS: JULIE ONDERAK

GINGERBREAD: GRACELYNN OWENSBY

CINDERELLA: ANDREA BATEMAN

FROGGIE: RYDEN CHAPMAN

SNOW WHITE: TALIA WESTERFIELD

RED: KIM PICKARD

FAIRY GODMOTHER: THERESA MCCORMACK

QUEEN: ANGELINA NICHOLAS

PEA PRINCESS: HEIDI FONGHEISER

STEPMOTHER: ELISABETH SMELSER

BRICKS: HOLLY FONGHEISER

PINOCCHIO: KATE BECKER

STICKS: EMILY SMELSER

WOLF: KEVIN PICKARD

HAY: SID KRANZ

JACK: LUKAS ZISKA





Who's Who:

Erin Becker (The Host): Erin is excited to return to the stage with the Wadsworth Footlighters in this production of Rotten Apples. Prior to this, her most recent role was Ms. Darbus in High School Musical, Jr. When not running around the stage, Erin enjoys "voice acting" during read alouds as the librarian at St. Francis Xavier School and playing tennis. Erin is thrilled to be joining her daughter Kate (Pinocchio) on stage, and her son Colin (tech) offstage. She'd also like to thank her other daughter, Maeve, for running lines with her and her husband, Brian, for all his love and support.

Kristin Kranz (Hagatha): Kristin Kranz loves channeling her inner witchy-poo to play Hagatha! Her four kids probably know this character well!! LOL. She has spent more time backstage with her children, but is really having fun getting a little bit of the spotlight. You may have seen her recently with Medina Showbiz in their production of Puffs and in the past with Stage Left Theatre Company in Shakespeare on the Square productions. Most of her energy is spent doing one on one "theater" with MetroHealth and her family medicine practice. Grateful for this opportunity and special thanks to my loving husband who encourages me.

Gracelynn Owensby (Gingerbread): Gracelynn has been in 12 total shows between her High School and The Wadsworth Footlighters. She's been acting since the age of 9. She has enjoyed making some of her closest friends and is enjoying making new friends throughout her theater journey.

Who's Who:

Ryden Chapman (Froggie): Ryden Chapman is thrilled to once again grace the Wadsworth Footlighters stage—because let's be honest, they haven't figured out how to get rid of him yet. A dynamic and endlessly curious performer, Ryden has tackled roles in Folk Tails, High School Musical, and Dare To Dream, bringing both heart and humor to every production (and occasionally snacks to rehearsal). Not content with just being on stage, Ryden also ventured into writing and directing his own original show—a bold move that proved he's just as dangerous with a pen as he is with a prop golden ball. His passion for storytelling, whether center stage or behind the scenes, is fueled by the constant encouragement of his wonderfully patient family and friends. Ryden is always looking for the next story to tell, the next character to embody, and the next excuse to wear dramatic eyeliner. He's honored to share his love of theater with this amazing community—and promises to keep the jazz hands to a tasteful minimum. 🙌🔥🙌

Kim Pickard (Red): Kim is excited to be back on the community theater stage once again after a 5-year absence. Her last role was M'Lynn in Wadsworth Footlighters' 2020 production of "Steel Magnolias". She has really enjoyed working on "Rotten Apples" with this extremely talented and creative Director and cast. This show is also very special to her as it is the first community production she's performed in with her wonderful husband, Kevin! She would like to thank him for encouraging her to audition and for all his love and support.

Angelina Nicholas (Queen): Angelina is an Akron-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 and musically directing with local theaters, crocheting, or reading. Performance Credits: Le Nozze di Figaro, The Pirates of Penzance, Footloose, The Little Mermaid, Rent, and more. MD Credits: Willy Wonka Jr., Nemo Jr., Frozen Jr., Footloose, Godspell, and more. Thank you to the Wadsworth Footlighters & Cory Ott. Much love to her husband, Nathan. Now who wants an apple?

Who's Who:

Elisabeth Smelser (Stepmother): Elisabeth Smelser is ecstatic to return to the stage after a 20+ year hiatus, making her debut with The Wadsworth Footlighters as the delightfully dramatic Stepmother in Rotten Apples. A lifelong fan of storytelling in all its forms, Elisabeth can often be found curled up with a cup of coffee and a good book or one of her favorite comfort shows. She also enjoys singing, attending live theater productions, serving in her church's youth group, and spending time with friends and family. She is especially grateful for the opportunity to share the stage with her daughter, making this return to theater even more meaningful. Elisabeth extends heartfelt thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.

Kate Becker (Pinocchio): Kate Becker is a junior at Padua Franciscan High School. She is having a blast being Pinocchio in this production of Rotten Apples. Some of her favorite past shows include High School Musical (Martha Cox) and Dare to Dream (ensemble) 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. While not on stage, Kate is a freelance sports journalist for Cleveland.com, and enjoys playing tennis and 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!!

Kevin Pickard (Wolf): Kevin is excited to perform in this Footlighters production of "Rotten Apples." This has been a great cast to work with and we hope that the show is as much fun to watch as it is to perform. Kevin previously played the role of Gordon in Footlighters production of "Ferndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Production of a Christmas Carol." He also played the role of Dr. Lyman in the Footlighters production of "Bus Stop." Kevin has most recently been in Medina Showbiz productions of "Gypsy," "Arsenic & Old Lace," and "A Christmas Carol." Kevin is especially happy to be cast in this show with his wonderful wife Kim. He is always grateful for the encouragement he receives from his family and friends.

Who's Who:

Lukas Ziska (Jack): Lukas is excited to be performing again with The Wadsworth Footlighters. He is a big fan of 80s movies, Disney trivia, Legos - and of course, being on stage. Some of his other favorite roles include James in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and Zeke in High School Musical. Lukas is a sophomore at Medina High School.

Sam Ziemer (Prince): Sam Ziemer (Prince Charming) is excited to be joining the Wadsworth Footlighters' production of Rotten Apples. He previously appeared as Apprentice Scrooge in A Christmas Carol with Medina County Showbiz. Outside of theater, he enjoys reading, writing, and teaching. Sam would like to thank his friends and family for their support!

Julie Onderak (Goldilocks): Julie Onderak (Goldilocks) is so excited to be making her Wadsworth Footlighters debut! This past summer she had the incredible opportunity of stage-managing High School Musical at Medina ShowBiz. Earlier this year she was seen on the Medina ShowBiz stage in Puffs (Harry, Myrtle). Previous acting credits include A Christmas Carol (Narrator 3) at Medina ShowBiz, Shakespeare in Hollywood (Darlene), and Monster in the Closet (Wanda) at Broadview Heights Spotlights, in addition to All in the Timing (Betty) at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus Theater. When not busy with theater, Julie attends Cleveland State University majoring in Marketing and International Business and will be graduating in December 2025. She would like to give God the glory and thank her family for their constant love, support, and encouragement. Julie thanks you for attending the show and supporting live theater. She hopes the show is "Just Right"!

Andrea Bateman (Cinderella): Andrea's acting career modestly began within a fireplace. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering and spending time at her church, making art through most mediums, reading, watching movies, and spending time with her family. For all their unending love and support, Andrea would like to thank her husband Daniel, children Willow and William, and parents John and Jennifer Vanke.

Who's Who:

Talia Westerfield (Snow White): Talia has always loved the theatre. She loves kids, enjoys spending time outside, and being creative. She is very thankful for her family's engagement to join theatre again.

Theresa McCormack (Fairy Godmother): Theresa is very excited to be in this production. Sharing the stage with her daughter, Talia, she found herself drawn to this chance to do this with her. The cooperation seen from the entire cast of various ages has given her a whole new perspective of theatre. She hopes you enjoy the mystery, comedy, and laughter as much as she herself has, being on this side of the stage.

Heidi Fongheiser (Pea Princess): Heidi is no stranger to the stage. The first time she was on the stage was in 101 Dalmatians, also a Wadsworth Footlighters production. Since then, she has acted, run sound, lights, and microphones for countless other productions and has enjoyed every prospect in theater. When she isn't on stage or doing theater, you can find her watching 9-1-1, reading, cross-stitching, or playing with her baby niece. Her favorite music artist right now is Taylor Swift. Heidi would like to thank Cory for the opportunity to be on stage again, and would like to thank the cast and crew for allowing her to have fun. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Holly Fongheiser (Bricks): Holly is so excited to be a part of this production of Rotten Apples, and she is even more excited to be a part of this incredible cast of fun people. When she isn't on stage, you can find Holly writing stories, reading books, binge watching Law and Order: Special Victims Unit, watching Marvel Studio's Thunderbolts* for the 87,000 time, playing with her niece, or listening to Taylor Swift. Holly has been with the Wadsworth Footlighters for twelve years, and has loved every minute of it, whether it's acting onstage or helping backstage. Holly is especially thankful to Cory for allowing her this incredible opportunity to learn and grow in her craft. She has loved being a part of such a fun cast of people and loves being with the crew involved. Break a leg, cast and crew! And enjoy the show!

Who's Who:

Emily Smelser (Sticks): Emily Smelser is excited to play the role of Sticks in this production of Rotten Apples. This is Emily's fourth show with The Wadsworth Footlighters, with previous performances in Dare to Dream Jr., 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 and as part of her youth group's worship team. She is also an active Girl Scout, a member of her high school's bowling team, and enjoys spending time with friends and family. Emily is deeply grateful to everyone who has supported her journey in the performing arts.

Sid Kranz (Hay): Sid will be playing the role of Hay, one of the Three pigs who is a cop and he ironically smokes a pipe. Sid has been in many other shows, including Puffs recently with Medina Show Biz. Sid wants to thank Cory for the opportunity to be in this play. Sid hopes that you enjoy Rotten Apples. Come see him in Medina Show Biz's production of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Who's Who Production Staff:

Cory Ott (Director): Cory has directed a number of productions including Dare To Dream Junior, 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 Rotten Apples and thanks you for supporting the arts.

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HOLIDAY SEASON!**



December 11th -14th, 2025
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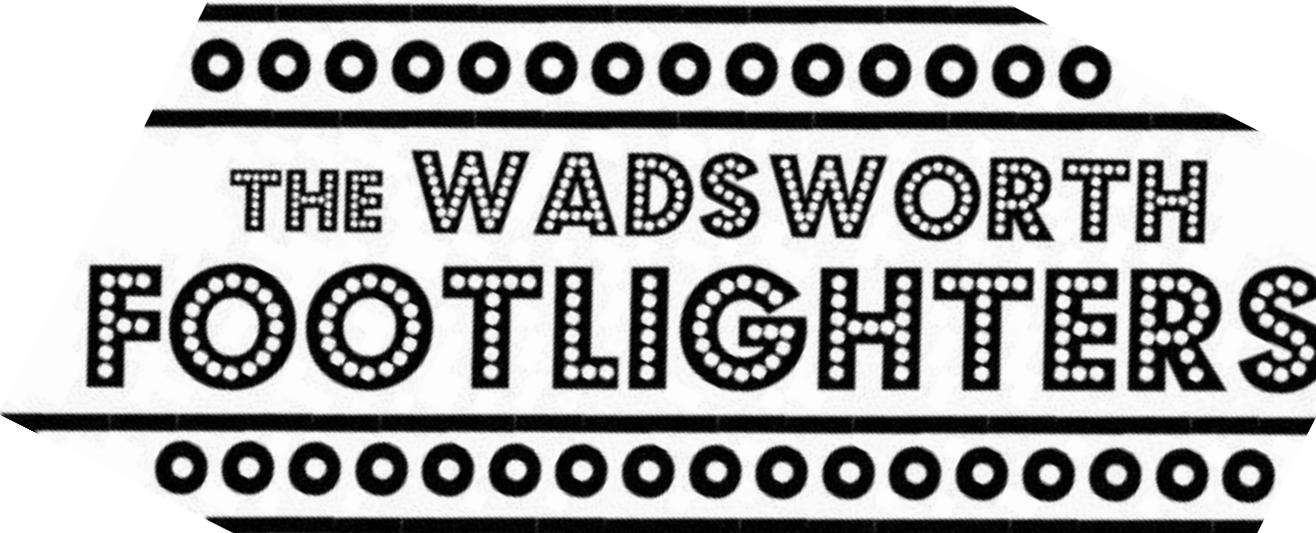
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