

# BUILDING A SHINING FUTURE

for our youth | for our theatre | for the arts



**greasepaint**  
for youth for theater

BUILDING community | character | confidence | culture | careers

Maureen Dias-Watson, Producing Artistic Director  
Savannah Thompson, Director of Education/Development  
7020 E. 2nd Street, Scottsdale, AZ, 85251  
480.949.7529 | [www.greasepaint.org](http://www.greasepaint.org)

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

**Greasepaint is much more than a stellar youth theatre. It's a safe place, second home and extended family for thousands of kids.**

Every child needs a strong social niche outside the home: another place they feel safe and supported, and truly feel they belong. Someplace that builds their self-esteem and encourages them to dream. Somewhere they feel comfortable enough to genuinely express themselves, and confident enough to spread their wings. It's there they can reach their full potential.

For over 30 years, Greasepaint has *been* that niche for thousands of kids and teens between the ages of 6 and 20. We're a true community of youth actors. We've crossed over the threshold of theatre to become one big extended family ... and we serve as each other's biggest fans.

Ask around: Greasepaint provides the best that youth theatre can offer. Our organization is consistently designated as "Best in the Valley." But we balance our high production values with a family/friendly environment that is always bright, encouraging and fun.

Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage." We're here to help kids take that stage by storm. Theatre is a metaphor for life. We train actors. But more importantly, we develop beautiful people who love the arts and all their fellow players in this world.

Greasepaint brings kids from diverse socio-economic backgrounds into an inclusive culture where they learn to love one another not *despite* of but *because* of their differences. Rich or poor; black, brown or white; gay or straight; liberal or conservative; timid or bold ... we teach them all to perform, and to always lead first with kindness.

Our home base is the Stagebrush Theatre, a historic landmark in the heart of Old Town Scottsdale. We're proud to be an integral part of the Scottsdale arts scene, and thrilled to be able to bring Valley residents affordable children's theatre that appeals not only to the little ones, but to "kids" of all ages.

And by attracting the crowds we do to our stage, we know we're also helping to ensure the fiscal health of a vibrant downtown.

More than 500 kids grace the Greasepaint stage each year, and thousands more delight in our shows from their seats in the audience. Our theatre virtually buzzes with activity throughout the year. Each season we produce six mainstage shows -- most of them musicals -- and each show offers up six or more performances.

Every season includes one summer production for adults from our "Scottsdale Community Players," typically cast with college-aged alumni.

We also feature an annual "Bare Bones Production" for high school students who are very serious about their craft. In this intensive program, they take the reins and cast, direct, design and perform works of their choosing within a designated budget.

In addition, we offer numerous summer, winter and spring camps and skill development workshops in which youth learn to sing, dance, act, improvise and shine in every possible way on stage. And to ensure accessibility for everyone, each year we provide camp/workshop scholarships to families in need, and also provide free programs to underserved communities and schools.

A key goal of every program is to instill a deep love and appreciation of the arts that our youth will carry with them forever ... and pass on for generations to come.



My son Sawyer did shows at Greasepaint Youtheatre for six years, starting when he was 12. He liked to play the bad guy, but he learned so much good.

He learned to walk in the shoes of the characters he played and think like someone else. He learned about different times and places. He learned to speak up, stand tall and to tap into his imagination long after most kids give it up.

Sawyer learned what he was capable of if he stretched himself. He learned that it didn't happen overnight, that he had to do the work. And it was work - hard work - and it was fun. He learned it could be both of those things.

He learned how to improvise when things went awry. He learned that he could fail, and the world wouldn't end. He learned to try again. And then he learned to shine without dimming anyone else's glow.

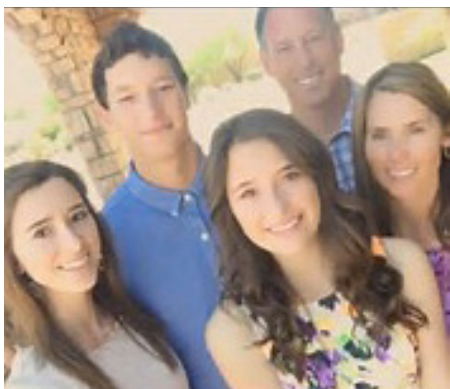
Sawyer is now studying electrical engineering and math in college with confidence and a sense of wonder.

It's because he fell in love in theater -- with the stage, with Shakespeare, with a girl. He fell in love with being a part of something good, even great, and how a cast and crew could become a family.

That doesn't happen just anywhere. It happens in the theater.

**~Karina Bland**





Our daughter Alyssa was a part of the Greasepaint family for six years. They truly are a family that invests in every child who walks through their doors. We have watched hundreds of children and teens develop a true passion for the arts. It is so important that we pass on the love for the arts to our next generation.

On a personal level, Alyssa has learned so much more than just acting. She has learned about teamwork, commitment, confidence and responsibility. All of these attributes will be so important in whatever profession she chooses.

We feel so strongly in what Greasepaint does that our family has made a serious commitment to ensuring its longevity and success. We invite others to make that same commitment.

**~Luis & Christine Gonzalez**

Greasepaint is a safe place to learn; that's why so many kids feel it's their home. I've gotten to improve my singing, acting, and dancing – but I'm just as thankful for the opportunities I've had to be behind the scenes working tech, where I learned to see theater from a different perspective, solve problems on the fly, get white make-up handprints off curtains every night(!), and be part of the creative process in a new way. These skills are so valuable, especially for an actor, and I'm grateful for every experience at Greasepaint.

**~Tatum Grell**



Greasepaint is a creative, safe haven for our daughter that teaches her and many other young performers the craft of acting. Even more than that, it is a place where these children learn to think for themselves, form deep friendships, and grow as performers and people.

Greasepaint never condescends to kids, but looks them right in the eye and challenges them to find their truth. High standards for emotional honesty and focus on craft encourages these performers to go beyond simply putting on a show. They consistently rise to the occasion and the result is remarkable — performances that capture the heart, the true heart, of each story.

**~Teresa Swingler**

There's something so unique about Greasepaint. It's really everything that community theater should be: from the brilliant artistic staff to the intimate and loved location and the inclusive and encouraging support offered to each and every performer.

Greasepaint instills so much confidence in its casts that I am always blown away by the quality of every show. It's a truly wonderful place for young people to flourish, and to give the best of themselves, not just on stage and to their audience, but to their community and each other.

**~Steve Gleave (at right with family)**



When we arrived for the first time at a small theater in Old Town Scottsdale, we had no idea the magic contained inside. We had no idea the impact the people in this building would have on our lives, in particular the lives of our children.

We were immediately embraced and welcomed into the Greasepaint Family. We love that our children have an opportunity to be a part of the high quality productions at Greasepaint. But what we value even more is the exceptional staff that genuinely cares about each child that comes through the door, whether they have a lead role in the show or have been cast for the first time.

The skills our children are developing at Greasepaint will stay with them throughout their lives, as will the friendships made. We are so grateful we get to be a part of the magic.

**~Kelli Sullivan**



# BUILDING CHARACTER

# BUILDING CONFIDENCE & CAREERS

## Greasepaint is the best place in the Valley for youth to learn the craft of acting.

We set high standards for excellence, because we know kids continuously rise to meet and exceed expectations. Over the years, Greasepaint productions have garnered rave reviews and hundreds of awards and nominations for excellence in theatre. Season after season, our shows sell out to full or near capacity due to the level of quality we bring to our stage.

Greasepaint is unique in that we hire outside professionals to lead every show and workshop. Each year we contract with more than 80 of the Valley's top directors, musical directors, choreographers, set designers, stage managers, costume and make-up artists, builders, musicians and lighting & sound experts. Not only does this bring a high degree of quality and professionalism to everything we do, but also serves a dual purpose of *supporting the careers of professional Valley artists*.

Every one of these professionals brings diverse talents, experience and teaching methods to their art. As a result, our youth are continually engaged by unique direction and points of view. That helps them grow as both people *and* performers, and grooms them to easily adapt to a wide variety of different environments.

Our focus for younger kids is to create a nurturing environment where they can explore basic acting skills in a completely safe space. We work with more mature youth to hone and perfect their craft, explore character development and movement, and tackle challenging scores and scripts through which they can stretch their skills and unlock talent they never dreamed was inside them.

For kids who prefer shining *behind* the scenes, we also offer opportunities to help on tech crews, assistant direct or stage manage, operate lights and sound, build sets, and serve as interns for our camps.

Our objective is not just to train actors, but to help create well-rounded individuals. The rigor of our classes and productions teaches teamwork and responsibility, as well as the importance of practice, hard work and perseverance. In addition to learning lines and hitting their marks, kids learn to collaborate, communicate and speak effectively in public.

These life skills prepare them for whatever roads lie ahead. Many of our alumni have gone on to Broadway or TV, but many more apply what they've learned to become respected professionals like doctors, attorneys and teachers. We get frequent reports about the accolades they *still* receive for their top performances, be it in a board room, courtroom, operating room, classroom or stage.

## NOTABLE ALUMNI

Greasepaint is incredibly proud of all of our alums throughout the years, who are now doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers and parents. Here are just a few of those who chose to pursue a career in the performing arts and what they're doing now:

### Asher Angel

Now starring in Disney Channel's *Andi Mack* and the DC hit movie, *Shazam*

### Lizzie Baggleman

Teacher - AZ School for the Arts

### Thomas Bigley

Associate Artistic Director, Porters of Hellsgate Theatre Company in Los Angeles

### Stefanie Brown

Television, Film, National Tour-*Wicked*

### Nick Cartell

Broadway - *Cirque du Soleil Paramour*  
National Broadway Tour - *Les Misérables*

### Natalie Charle Ellis

Broadway - *School of Rock*  
Broadway - *Beetlejuice*

### Kimiko Glenn

Brook Soso - *Orange Is the New Black* and Broadway - *Waitress*; Pene Parker - *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-verse*

### Mike Heslin

Broadway Actor, Model, TV, Film - *War Horse*

### Luke Kanter

Drama Instructor, LA Music and Arts School

### Brett Moellenberg

Managing Director at St. Thomas Playhouse; Co-Founder of The Spot Theatre Company

### Gabbi Ncube

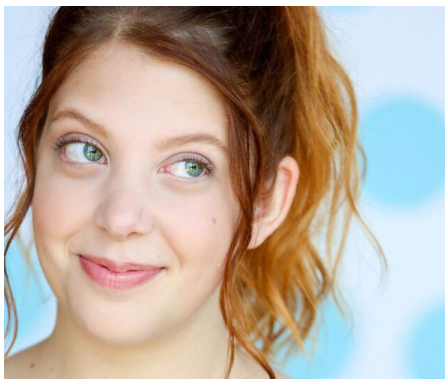
Los Angeles County Museum of Art

### Jennie Rhiner

National Tour - *Childsplay*







Greasepaint played a HUGE role in my life and helped shape my success in the arts. I spent a short amount of time there, but feel I was born there. It all started with a few small Greasepaint workshops, when I was prompted to audition for *Cinderella* and then BOOM! I came back to bend and snap for *Legally Blonde*. Now thanks to Greasepaint, I hope to touch hearts with the gift of performing and making people laugh for years to come!

**~Rachel Redleaf**

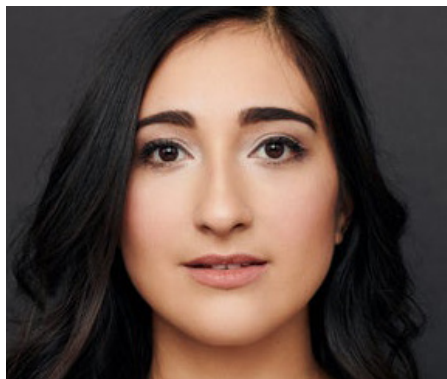
Now appearing in Netflix series, "Atypical" and Quentin Tarantino's blockbuster movie, "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"



When I was a sophomore in high school, Greasepaint was casting *Hairspray*. I was terrified, but wanted to prove that my past failures did not define me. I auditioned, got cast, and met some of the best friends I have ever had. That show changed everything for me! I joined the Bare Bones Acting Company and then was referred to the Herberger Young Artists Competition that helped pay for my college education. Today I'm a rising senior at NYU, studying Drama with a minor in Producing. I just finished my first union Off-Broadway production and am looking forward to what the future holds for my career. But it all starts somewhere! Greasepaint became my theatre home and gave me a safe place to make mistakes, experiment, and truly grow as a performer.

**~Arianna Williams**

Just wrapped the leading role of Robin in the Off-Broadway production of 'Eco-Village'



My time at Greasepaint is some of my fondest memories of theatre I have as a teenager. I learned so much, not only about theatre and becoming a better performer, but about camaraderie and working as a team. I made life-long friends and truly wouldn't trade that time for the world. I also got to teach for the first time at summer camps as an older teenager, which taught me leadership skills I still carry with me today. I felt supported there and guided by the creative team and staff, and experienced playing a leading role for the first time (Gabriella in *HSM*) which was a huge moment that propelled me to choose doing theatre for a living.

**~Krystina Alabado**

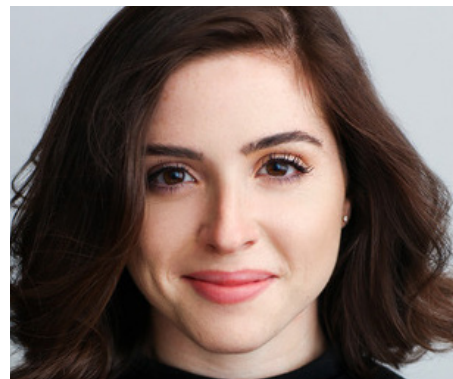
Gretchen in 'Mean Girls' on Broadway



Most of my on stage experience has taken place at Greasepaint. I started at Greasepaint when I was 9 years old as Gavroche in *Les Misérables*. I loved my experience of being in that show so much that I returned to do multiple camps, and five more shows there before I turned 18. I have learned so much, and made so many lifelong friends and memories inside the Stagebrush doors. Getting to play so many different roles in a wide variety of shows, directed by industry professionals, at such a young age was so special. I am now joining the Original Company of *Almost Famous the Musical* as William, and have several stage, film, and TV projects in the works.

**~Casey Likes**

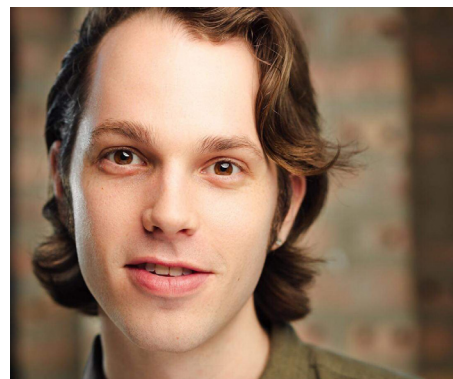
Now playing William in the new Broadway musical, 'Almost Famous'



Performing in *The Wiz* at Greasepaint in 2010 was my first time doing a musical. Growing up as a dancer, but loving acting, I had a sense that musicals might be up my alley, but I wasn't able to exercise that theory until Greasepaint. It was such a safe environment to learn and grow, as well as foster a love for musicals. I now live in New York City and am building a sustainable career as a dancer in musical theatre (national tours, a co-star on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, currently performing at the Joyce Theatre), and still maintaining friendships and connections I made at Greasepaint all those years ago. It's a core belief of mine that the arts are a vital part of development in adolescence, and I owe part of mine to this theatre.

**~Betty Weinberger**

Broadway National Tours, Co-Star on 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel'



Greasepaint provided the foundation from which I jumped when I entered the world of professional acting. I was given the opportunity to work on challenging material like *RENT* and *The Laramie Project* that other theatres weren't allowing teens to explore. I went on to pursue a BFA in Acting & a BA in Africana Studies from UofA. After graduating, I moved to Chicago, where I am currently working as a professional actor, playwright and artistic director of my own theatre company, The Story Theatre. I am so grateful for the lessons I learned at Greasepaint!

**~Paul Michael Thomson**

Actor/Playwright/Artistic Director, The Story Theatre



# BUILDING OUR FUTURE

## PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TODAY.

Give a little or give a lot,  
but PLEASE DO GIVE.

We depend on YOU for  
the funding we need to  
offer our quality shows,  
camps and workshops.

Every dollar you provide  
will help!

Thank you!

Your contributions are essential to helping Greasepaint provide our youth with high quality theater experiences without having to charge excessive fees or ticket prices.

As a non-profit community theatre, we rely heavily on donations. **Ticket sales cover only a third of our expenses.**

Each year we are only able to meet our budgetary needs through the generosity of corporate donations and from families and individuals like YOU.

**The amount we need to cover all of our expenses is over \$275,000 a year.**

Please open your heart and your wallet, and make a donation to support our talented youth! With a \$250 donation, you can become a VIP donor (see the benefits you'll receive on the page at your right.) If you can't give that much, give what you can!

Your donation will allow us to continue expanding our programming, offer additional classes and workshops, provide free programs to underserved communities and schools, and support our season productions.

## TO MAKE A TAX- DEDUCTIBLE\* DONATION:

- Pick up and fill out a contribution envelope in our theatre lobby and turn it in at the box office (or drop it in the mail later);
- Log onto [www.greasepaint.org](http://www.greasepaint.org) and click on the "DONATE" link; or
- Call 480.949.PLAY (7529) and speak with one of our staff members (Maureen Watson or Savannah Thompson) about how to become a VIP Donor or Corporate Sponsor.

## BECOME A VIP BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS, AND EARN AN INVITATION TO OUR SPECIAL VIP CELEBRATION PARTY!

*\*To the extent allowed by law. Please consult with your tax advisor concerning full limits of deductibility for your donation.*



Newsies



The Wedding Singer



Addams Family



Urinetown



Madagascar



Footloose

## TO MAKE A DONATION and/or TO BECOME A VIP DONOR:

- Pick up and fill out a contribution envelope in our theatre lobby and turn it in at the box office (or drop it in the mail later);
- Log onto [www.greasepaint.org](http://www.greasepaint.org) and click on the "DONATE" link; or
- Call 480.949.PLAY (7529) and speak with one of our staff members (Maureen Watson or Savannah Thompson) about how to become a VIP Donor or Corporate Sponsor.

### VIP DONOR BENEFITS

#### \$250-\$499

- All VIP Donors enter the house and choose their seats first ... prior to the general public!
- A special new Greasepaint T-shirt!
- Your name listed in all season production programs, on our lobby display wall, and our website
- Two complimentary tickets to any show in the season

#### \$500-\$999

- All benefits listed above PLUS:
- Two additional (four total) complimentary tickets to any show in the season
- 15% discount on camps, workshops and other educational programming

#### \$1,000-\$2,499

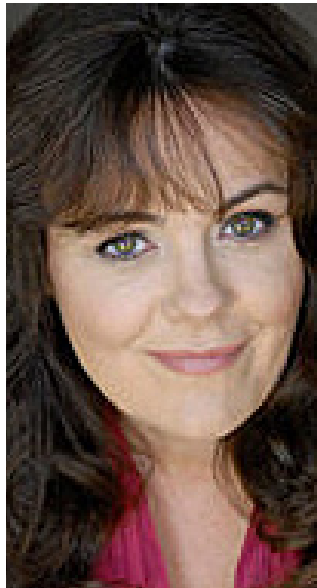
- All benefits listed above PLUS:
- Prominent listing on the lobby donor display
- A poster from each production autographed by the cast (upon request)
- 25% discount on camps, workshops and other educational programming

#### \$2,500+

- All benefits listed above PLUS:
- Two complimentary tickets to Greasepaint's Annual Gala event.

### BECOME A VIP DONOR TODAY!

We depend on the generosity of families and individuals like YOU!



**Maureen Watson**  
Producing Artistic Director

Maureen studied theatre at West Chester State University and at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. She performed internationally with UWP in between schools. She also has a BLS from ASU. Maureen has been a Resident Artist, Director, Teacher and Actor in the Valley for years, working with Childsplay, Theatre Artists Studio, and others. Maureen worked as AD in the early 2000's at Greasepaint and returned in 2010. Greasepaint is home, and Maureen directs one to three shows each season. She has won multiple awards for direction at Greasepaint and Brophy College Prep for shows including *Heathers*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Laramie Project* and *Our Town*. Maureen performs whenever time allows at Theatre Artist Studio, most recently in *Pas d'Action*.



**Savannah Thompson**  
Director of Education and Development

Savannah is thrilled to be on staff at Greasepaint, the organization that served as a springboard for her career in the arts! She has performed on Greasepaint's stage in productions of *Hairspray*, *Grease* and *Nevermore*, but was more involved backstage working on tech crews, stage managing, serving on GP's Alumni Board, and directing summer camps. Those experiences ignited her passion for a career in theatre management. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Barrett, the Honors College at ASU, with a degree in Arts Administration and a minor in Theatre. While there, she garnered professional experience through a variety of jobs with local theatres, including Childsplay and Phoenix Theatre. She is now beyond grateful to be working at Greasepaint to do what she loves at her home away from home.

**YOUR DONATION  
WILL HELP ENSURE  
A FUTURE FOR OUR  
THEATRE!**



## 2019/2020 SEASON



**AUG 2-10, 2019**

FRI & SAT 7pm, SUN 2pm



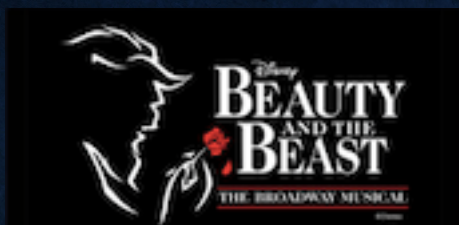
**OCT 11-20, 2019**

FRI 7pm, SAT 2&7pm, SUN 2pm



**JAN 24-FEB 2, 2020**

FRI 7pm, SAT 2&7pm, SUN 2pm



**May 1-10, 2020**

FRI & SAT 7pm, SUN 2pm

columbinus

a play by the United States Theatre Project

**SEP 6-8, 2019**

FRI & SAT 7pm, SUN 2pm

MAMMA MIA!

**DEC 6-15, 2019**

FRI & SAT 7pm, SUN 2pm



**MAR 6-15, 2020**

FRI & SAT 7pm, SUN 2pm

**TICKETS: \$17 each**

[www.greasepaint.org](http://www.greasepaint.org)

480.949.7529

Historic Stagebrush Theatre  
7020 E. 2nd St., Scottsdale, AZ