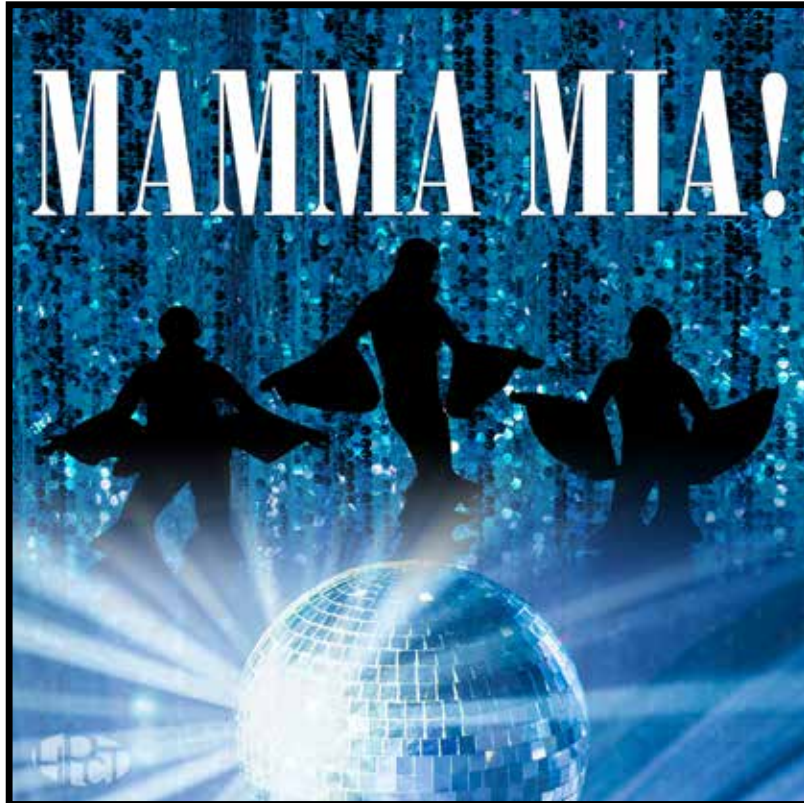




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Director's Note

What A Gift And What A Blessing

Francesca's story is many things—the story of a war bride, an Italian girl who builds a farm and a life and a family in the Iowa heartlands with her soldier from the States, the story of a grown woman who rediscovers the self she thought was subsumed in the details of running a household, and, above all, it is a love story.

Certainly it is a story of two people finding a wholly unexpected romantic love, swept away beyond reason, beyond the boundaries of time and place and expectations. But this story is, in many ways, a meditation on love, a joyous paean to all kinds of love: the struck-by-lightning, bolt-from-the-blue, finding-your-soulmate instant and compelling romantic attraction... love as a moment of grace, outside of time, that fuels a lifetime of duty... the kind of love that is built over decades, that expresses itself through daily acts of service and care and consideration... the love between parents and children... the artist's love for his or her vocation... and love that manifests as a tight-knit community pulling together to weather difficult circumstances. In the same way that joy is deeper and not always as easy as contentment, love is not always an easy emotion. Francesca's love certainly pushes her beyond the comfortable and carefully constructed path that she planned. *Bridges of Madison County* is a story of what happens when life takes a wholly unexpected turn, when we choose which doors to open, which roads to follow and which bridges to cross.

May your life be overflowing with love, and may love always light your path through the world.

...love is always better

~Heather Miyagi, Director

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

Book by
Marsha Norman

Music & Lyrics by
Jason Robert Brown

Based upon the Novel by Robert James Waller

Orchestrations by Jason Robert Brown

Originally produced on Broadway by Jeffrey Richards, Stacey Mindich, Jerry Frankel, Gutterman Chernoff, Hunter Arnold, Ken Davenport, Carl Daikeler, Michael DeSantis, Aaron Priest, Libby Adler Mages, Mari Glick Stuart, Scott M. Delman, Independent Presenters Network, Red Mountain Theatre Company, Caiola Productions, Rimmel T. Dickinson, Ken Greiner, David Lancaster, Bellanca Smigel Rutter, Mark S. Golub & David S. Golub, Will Trice with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures and the Shubert Organization in association with The Williamstown Theatre Festival

The World Premiere Production of *The Bridges of Madison County* was produced by the Williamstown Theatre Festival Jenny Gersten, Artistic Director; August, 2013

With the cooperation of Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY
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The Cast

David Zych (Music Director) once owned a favorite T-shirt proclaiming “Music is life, the rest is just details.” A veteran music director of over 25 productions, he is grateful beyond words to finally be doing theatre again, and would like to thank Heather, Mom and Dad, and Pfizer-BioNTech for making this opportunity possible. Past DLO credits include *Next to Normal*, *Curtains*, and *Sweeney Todd*.



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The Cast

Francesca.....Tania Arazi Coombs
Robert.....Jacob Deters
Bud.....Jordan Richey
Carolyn.....Ellis Mansfield
Michael.....Laramie Ziegler
Marge.....Suzy Goben
Charlie.....Mark Muller
Marian/Chiara/Ginny.....Kady Richey
Radio/State Fair Singer.....Angie Hinkle
Paolo.....Thomas Strain

Ensemble: Bryan Goode, Angelika Hustedt, Casey Marion, Isabella Norton, Jerry Strain, Paul Strain, Barb Whaling



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To Build A Home

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Temporarily Lost

What Do You Call A Man Like That?

You're Never Alone

Another Life

Wondering

Look At Me

The World Inside A Frame

Something From A Dream

Get Closer/Falling Into You

Act 2

State Road 21/The Real World/Who We Are

Almost Real

Before and After You/A Million Miles

When I'm Gone

It All Fades Away

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We apologize for any names omitted from this list.
Please see the Thank You list in the foyer.

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The Cast

Ann Wagle (Rehearsal Accompanist)

has enjoyed music throughout her life, although a Nurse by profession. She has played for numerous musicals in community theater, including *Hello Dolly*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Cinderella*, *Nunsense*, *Civil War*, and *Violet*. She is also thankful to serve as an organist at St. James United Methodist Church in Danville. Much thanks to countless mentors who have provided opportunities and inspiration, as well as Heather and David who have demonstrated patience and support in this current journey. Yet again, Ann has experienced music as an enduring means of God's amazing grace.



Barbara Whaling (Ensemble) is thrilled to be performing in *The Bridges of Madison County*. She was last seen as Emily Hobbs in *Elf the Musical*. Barb is a graduate from Columbia College in musical theatre. She would like to thank her family for the support and hopes you enjoy the show!

Laramie Zeigler (Michael) is 20 years old and is truly honored to be a part of this production. His favorite past roles include Ren McCormack in *Footloose*, Kenickie in *Grease*, and Wilbur Turnblad in *Hairspray*. He thanks you all for coming and hopes you enjoy this wonderful show.



Production Team

Director.....Heather Miyagi
 Music Director.....David Zych
 Choreographer.....Meritt Spicer
 Stage Manager.....Lisa Strain
 Dialect Coaching.....Maria Cristina Galmarini
 Mallory Hanley Metteucci and Luca Matteucci
 Costuming.....Kathleen Spain-Swiersz
 Jeremiah Strain, Angie Hinkle
 Props.....Aubrey Falconio, Casey Marion
 Set.....Rich Gobin
 Gary Lickfett, Heather Miyagi
 Rehearsal Accompanist.....Ann Wagle
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 Violin/Viola.....Breann Laermans
 Viola/Violin.....Chuck Evans
 Cello.....Jenny Marie Johnson
 Bass.....Donald Colby

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The Cast

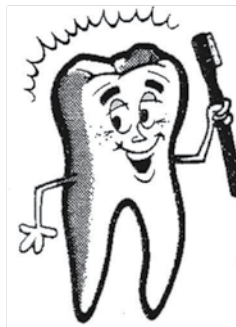
Lisa Strain (Stage Manager) has been involved in over 100 shows since she started doing theater when she was 12 years old. She has done theater all throughout the community in all types of functions and has a degree in Theater from Illinois State University. She is especially excited to stage manage for one of her favorite people, Heather. She is also excited to be involved in the show with the love of her life, Paul, and her stepsons, Thomas and Jerry. Lisa is the Theater teacher at Edison Middle School in Champaign, a new grandmother to sweet Ophelia, and a proud board member of DLO.



Paul Strain (Ensemble) has been active in the performing arts for over 35 years as a performer, director, instructor, clinician, technical guy, occasional judge and constant fan. He is happy to be returning to the beautiful Fischer stage with family and friends. And you, reading this : Thank you. Your support keeps local arts alive. Please consider your continued support of the Fischer Theater by attending additional events and becoming a "Friend of the Fischer."



Thomas Strain (Paolo) is thrilled to start off this year with this production of *Bridges of Madison County*! He last appeared as Buddy Hobbs in *ELF the Musical* last November. Thomas would like to thank his directors for this opportunity and his family and friends for the love and support. He hopes you enjoy the show!



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The Cast



Tania Arazi Coombs (Francesca) is a performer, stage director, writer, and scholar. In 2015, she made her debut at Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall as the winner of the American Prize Chicago Music Theater Award. She was most recently seen as Kate in Heartland Theatre Company's production of *Human Terrain*. Other performance highlights include: Dr. Vivian Watson in a three-country tour of the play *Preemptive*, Aldonza in *The Man of La Mancha*, and Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Jacob Deters (Robert Kincaid) is making his debut with DLO with this production. Jacob was last seen in The Legacy (Springfield) production of *Bright Star* as Jimmy Rae. Other favorite roles include Jimmy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (The Muni, Springfield), Dennis in *All Shook Up!* (The Muni), Race in *Newsies* (The Legacy), and Rod in *Avenue Q* (Bloomington Community Players Theatre). He currently serves as the President for Springfield Theatre Centre Board of Directors where he also co-directed *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in 2018. Jacob works at The University of Illinois as an Advisor in the Computer Science Department. He sends a special shoutout to his partner Jaime for always supporting his artistic endeavors.



Suzy Goben (Marge) has been involved in local community theater for over the last 19 years, and is always thrilled to be on stage again! Some of her favorite shows she has performed in have been: *Mamma Mia*, *August Osage County*, *The 39 Steps*, *Great American Trailer Park*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Spelling Bee* and *Nunsense*. Being on stage performing is her much loved hobby. Thanks to her husband Rich for always supporting her, and she means ALWAYS! And to Heather, the fabulous director for trusting her to do anything on stage!



The Cast



Kady Richey (Marian/Chiara/Ginny) a recent graduate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale with a M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology, is excited to make her DLO debut as Marian/Chiara/Ginny in *The Bridges of Madison County*. She truly found a passion for theatre throughout her involvement in speech, advanced choir, drama, and musicals in high school. During her college years, Kady served as the assistant speech coach and musical choreographer (*Anything Goes*, *The Addams Family*, *Stages Through The Ages*) for Benton Cons. High School. Past credits include: *Carousel*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Narnia: The Musical*, *The Producers*, *South Pacific*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Seussical*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Young Frankenstein*, and many more!

Merrit Spicer (Choreographer) is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such a beautifully talented cast. *Bridges* makes her 30th choreographed show. Some of her favorites are the recent *Elf*, *Grease*, *Big Fish*, and *9 to 5*. Merrit has taught dance for over 30 years. She also enjoys teaching yoga and spending time with her family. She would like to thank her family for giving her the opportunity to continue to work with DLO while they eat frozen pizza. Enjoy the show!



Jerry Strain (Ensemble) has been active in theater for 10 years with companies like CUTC and DLO. When not onstage he enjoys building props and costumes to be seen onstage. After just finishing up directing DLO's last show, *Elf the Musical*, he's glad to have a "break." He hopes you enjoy the performance tonight and will see you again soon!

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The Cast

Bryan Goode (Ensemble) is an experienced performer who has been in multiple DLO shows including *Next To Normal*, *Curtains*, and *Brightstar*, as well as several productions in Champaign, IL and other local areas. In his most recent work, Bryan played Buddy in *Elf The Musical*. He is happy to be a part of such a lovely production and hopes that the audience enjoys the show as much as he enjoyed being a part of it.



Angie Hinkle (Radio/State Fair Singer) has been involved in over 40 DLO shows so far and after a six-year hiatus, she is happy to be back. She is especially happy to sharing the stage with her talented daughter, Ellis.

Angelika Hukstadt (Ensemble) is new to the DLO stage, and very thankful to get this opportunity to once again be involved in community theatre. After a 12 year hiatus, she is excited to be on stage again! Her theater credits span from 1987-2009, taking place in various communities throughout Illinois and Iowa. Some of her favorite performances have included: *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Oklahoma*, *Nunsense II*, and *Joseph*. Thanks to her significant other, David, and her parents, Ursula and Larry, for all their love and support. And to Heather, our fearless leader, for giving her the opportunity to once again be on the stage, and to be involved with such a wonderful group of people!



The Cast



Ellis Mansfield (Carolyn) is a 17 year-old junior at Central High School. Some of her favorite DLO performances include Little Cosette in *Les Misérables*, Young Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*, and Young Violet in *Violet*. Ellis is active in her high school music theater scene and can be found slinging smoothies at Smoothie King in Champaign.

Casey Marion (Ensemble) is so excited to be a part of *Bridges of Madison County*. She has been involved in many music activities in the community, and recently joined the theatre community too. This is her second DLO production as an adult. She recently performed as Sam/Ensemble for *Elf the Musical*. She is a student at DACC with plans to start the nursing program in the fall.



Heather Miyagi (Director) is a current member and past President of the DLO board. She is an assistant set builder and is typically backstage or playing in the rigging. "Theatre is always such a collaborative effort—everyone's contribution, onstage or backstage, is absolutely essential, with no single component more important than another. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to direct this beautiful show, but mostly I am profoundly grateful for all of the people who actually deserve all the glory. **Love and deepest gratitude to all of you:** my directing, production and technical staff, cast, crew, musicians, DLO and other theatre folks, friends and family!"



The Cast

Mark Muller (Charlie) is glad to be back in his native Iowa, if only on stage. In the words of the immortal Led Zeppelin, "Where's that confounded bridge?"



Isabella Norton (Ensemble) is very excited to be in *The Bridges of Madison County*. This is Isabella's fifth production with DLO. She was most recently in *Elf the Musical* and *Frozen Jr*. She hopes that you enjoy the show. Thank you for supporting our community theatre.



Jordan Richey (Bud) just moved to the area to serve as a Biology Teacher at Danville High School, Jordan is beyond excited to make his debut with DLO. A graduate of Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville with a B.A. in Biological Sciences, Jordan spent his first two years of higher education at Southeastern Illinois College in Theatre. Past credits include: *9 to 5*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Carousel*, *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Aida*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*.

