



The Marvelous Wonderettes

Dinner Theatre



WRITTEN AND CREATED BY
ROGER BEAN

February 2-4

CHATTANOOGA STATE FACULTY STAFF DINING ROOM
DINNER AT 6:00PM, PERFORMANCE AT 7:00

Director: Maggie Williams
Music Director: Jennifer Wilson
Choreographer: Lindsay Fussell
Stage Manager: Alex King
Assistant Director: Jacob Taylor
Scenic Design: Sarah Miecielica
Costume Design: Brenda Schwab

Director's Note

I chose this project in honor of my grandmother. She was a member of the class of 1958 and a lover of popular music from the time. While she was battling dementia, music was always something that we could connect over. She would sing and clap and smile so big remembering the songs from her youth and it brought her so much comfort in a time that must have been so scary for her. One of the last times I spent with her, we put on 1950s Spotify playlist and just listened and danced with her. She would have loved this show and she would have loved these girls.

But as I started delving more into this show and this script, I came to appreciate it for more than just its nostalgic soundtrack. The story of these girls and their friendship told over the course of two nights, 10 years apart, stole my heart.

Friendship is a gift that reminds us of who we were, who we are, and who we will be. Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy, and Suzy represent true friendship. The kind that impacts the course of your life, whether you realize it at the time or not.

In the ten-year span between acts, we see these young women grow from high school seniors and best friends to fiancés, wives, mothers, and women who have dealt with some of the toughest times that life has to offer. They have encountered grief and joy and had to face the consequences of the life they chose. But they will soon realize that they are not alone and that even though time, space and maybe some hurt feelings has kept them apart, the love that they shared for each other is still there when they need it the most to celebrate the best of times and to grieve the worst of times.

I love these girls and all their flaws and imperfections. I love their friendship and their willingness to dream. I love that through watching their stories unfold every night, I have been reminded of relationships that meant and still mean the world to me.

We all have relationships that have fallen behind, grown, or changed over the course of our lives. I hope that this show reminds you that looking back on the people we are and the people who we have loved along the way impact us today and empower us to move forward, stronger together.

Sincerely,

Maggie
Williams

This Show is Dedicated to
Mary Jane Garcia
Class of 1958

Beloved Grandmother and lover of the arts



Cast

Betty Jean Reynolds.....Sophia Hassevoort
Cindy Lou Huffington.....Gracie Gilbert
Missy Miller.....Moriah Bone
Suzy Simpson.....Vivian Long

Production Team

Director.....Maggie Williams
Music Director.....Dr. Jennifer Arbogast Wilson
Choreographer.....Lindsay Fussell
Stage Manager.....Alex King
Assistant Director.....Jacob Taylor
Scenic Designer.....Sarah Miecielica
Costume Design.....Brenda Schwab
Sound DesignTaylor Williams
Light Design.....Philip Luckey

Band

Keyboard.....Dr. Jennifer Arbogast Wilson
Drums.....Nathan Shew
Guitar.....Dustin Mitchell

Under the Lights

MORIAH BONE (*Missy Miller*) is ecstatic to be apart of this production with such a loving group of girls. She is so blessed for the opportunity to grow and learn from everyone around her. Missy has been a dream role of hers for a while. She loves how this character relates to her- as she is also a prop making, costume designing, bossy, protectionist, teachers pet, with Vivian as her best friend! You may have previously seen her in The SpongeBob Musical (SpongeBob), 9 to 5 (Judy Bernly) & Descendants (Evie)
She would like to thank Jen & Maggie for challenge her and encouraging her to grow! And lastly GO CHIPMUNKS

GRACIE GILBERT (*Cindy Lou Huffington*) is over the "Allegheny Moon" to be back at Chattanooga State for this production of the Marvelous Wonderettes! She is a graduate of the PATP and earned her Associates of Fine Arts through Chattanooga State during COVID. She recently finished a 9 month contract at Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota, FL where she played a myriad of roles in their children's theatre and earned her EMC card through understudying Sandra in "The Play That Goes Wrong." Some of her favorite roles include Carnelle Scott in "The Miss Firecracker Contest", Sophie in "Mamma Mia", and Rapunzel in "Into the Woods". In her free time she volunteers in the veterinary clinic at the Humane Society and had already adopted two cats since working there.

SOPHIA HASSEVOORT (*Betty Jean Reynolds*) is thrilled to be alongside this amazing cast and crew! Currently, she's a sophomore Theatre major at Chattanooga State, finishing her AFA this May, and can't wait to finish her BFA/BA. Sophia is a Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts alumnus (2019), and was nominated for her performance as Dominique du Monaco in Chatt State's production of "Lucky Stiff" for the "Best Supporting Performer in a Musical" award in Broadway World's Nashville Regional category (2022). Most recently, she's been in Cinderella with the Colonnade Players (Featured Dancer/US Cinderella), Lucky Stiff (Dominique du Monaco/Ensemble) with CSCC, and Guys and Dolls (Texan's Wife/US Arvide/US Brannigan/US Cartwright) with Anderson University. Some of her passions include drinking tea, cats, rice and beans, and sitcoms. Sophia would love to thank Alex King, Jennifer Wilson, Sarah Miecielica, Maggie Williams and Jacob Taylor, for being the most awesome people ever. Without further ado, enjoy the show!

VIVIAN LONG (*Suzy Simpson*) is thrilled to be performing in this Marvelous show!!! Some of her recent theatre credits include: Cinderella (Cinderella), Annabel Glick (Lucky Stiff), Jenny Hill (Big Fish), and Mal (Disney's Descendants)! She graduated the Professional Actor's Training Program in Spring 2022! She will soon be moving to Florida to participate in the Disney College Program. So getting to work again with these people she loves so much means the world to her! And speaking of people she loves, this show is dedicated to all of her friends and family who have supported her following her dreams!!!

Behind the Scenes

LINDSAY FUSSELL (Choreographer) has a long association with Chattanooga State as a dance teacher/choreographer/actor. She has served as Movement & Dance instructor for the 2nd year students in the Professional Actor Training program since its inception and has choreographed many musicals here, including Pirates of Penzance, Into the Woods, Fiddler on the Roof, Xanadu, Seussical the Musical, Secret Garden, The Drowsy Chaperone and Nutcracker Christmas Carol. Acting roles at Chatt St. include Spirit of Turpentine (Nutcracker Christmas Carol) and Mrs Gottlieb (Dead Man's Cell Phone). For the Chattanooga Theatre Centre she has been the resident dance teacher from 1996 until the pandemic shutdown (New classes start in February) , and has choreographed numerous musicals for CTC, to include Hello Dolly, Legally Blonde, A Christmas Story, Chicago, Cabaret, Anything Goes, High School Musical. Lindsay has also served as Director /choreographer for 9 to 5, Spamalot and Miracle on 34 th Street at CTC. She taught theatre dance and tap at Center for Creative Arts 1999-2019 and remains as resident choreographer for the Choo Choo Kids and has choreographed every high school musical there since CCA's inception, including The Addams Family, Pippin, Footloose, Hairspray, Big, Hello Dolly, Tarzan the Musical, Aida, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Fussell's choreography has been presented internationally in Lisbon, Portugal; Gangneung, South Korea; Ascoli Picena, Italy; and Hamm, Germany. Her 2010 flash mob video, with 144 local dancers, "Footloose in Chattanooga" can be seen on YouTube. She performed in That Other Woman's Child at ChattState and in the New York Music Theatre Festival. Lindsay is a proud original member of Chattanoodle Improv Company, directed by Rex Knowles and Sherry Landrum

SARAH MIECIELICA (*Production Designer*) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Design and Technology at Chattanooga State Community College. She obtained her MFA in Theatre Design and Technology from the University of Arkansas and a BS in Theatre from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse. Before teaching Sarah served as the Resident Designer and Production Manager at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre. She has worked professionally as a Prop Artisan and Manager at various professional theatres including The Alley Theatre, McCarter Theatre, and the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre. Sarah's design credits include productions at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre, Princeton University, The Playhouse in San Antonio, and the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre.

ALEX KING (*Stage Manager*) is a second year student at Chattanooga state going for his AFA in theatre. Alex was previously in Chattanooga States youth show "Rumplestiltskin," as well as Tom in "Radium girls." Alex started doing theatre in middle school and has been in many productions ever since. Some of his favorite roles were Buddy Layman in "Diviners," Dr Bradley in "The Man Who Came To Dinner," and Michael in "The Hearing." Alex is very excited to stage manage for the first time at chatt state with this wonderful cast and would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

Behind the Scenes

BRENDA SCHWAB (*Costume Designer*) has spent the past 40 plus years working in theater – professional , community and educational – acting , directing , costuming , coaching actors and singers and producing . She was co-founder of the New Harmony Theatre , a professional theater in New Harmony , Indiana , where she was in charge of the educational wing of the theater and directed the children's theater program .The past 18 of those years she has spent at Chatt State where she is the resident costume designer and teaches costume design and construction . She has appeared onstage at Chatt State and other theaters in the area . In the Chattanooga area as a director she has worked with the Signal Mtn. Playhouse , Oak Street Playhouse , Ensemble Theatre of Chattanooga and the Tennessee Valley Theatre in Spring City . She was the resident costume designer at the Cumberland County Playhouse for a number of years and was part of the first professional acting company hired there

JJACOB TAYLOR (*Assistant Director*) is over the “Allegheny Moon” to be making his community theatre directorial debut. Jacob, is studying here at Chatt State to get his Associates of Fine Arts degree (AFA). Along with being a student, Jacob works as one of the theatre department's student workers - where he does various things like helping in the scene shop, or helping other students prepare for their shows/ scenes. Jacob is no stranger to the stage, on and off. In high school he was a student director. Some of his favorite shows which he helped direct include: “The Glass Slipper”, “Jolly Roger and The Pirate Queen”, and “Rise of Robin Hood”. On stage Jacob has played various roles, many which are of his comedic casting type; his most recent include: “Patrick Star” (SpongeBob the Musical), “Reporter” (Radium Girls), “Zacky Price” (Big Fish), and “Steward” (Roger's and Hammerstein's: Cinderella). Whenever Maggie Williams, the director, asked him to assistant direct this show his jaw dropped!! He can't thank her enough for this opportunity. Doing theatre means so much to him, no matter what he is doing within the production. Having this show be the first he helps assistant direct means so much to him, not only because he is working with amazing and talented people, but also because he grew up on this music. When he would take rides with his grandmother many of these songs would be playing, and it just gives him a great feeling of nostalgia. So he would like to dedicate his part in this musical to her: Maryann Vidal. He would like to thank you all for coming to watch these beautiful and talented girls bring back to life the 50's and 60's. Unfortunately, he could not be one of them - if he was though, he would want to be his favorite character: Betty Jean. Don't worry though, no tears will start from him!! Now sit back, relax, and enjoy your high school prom!!

MAGGIE WILLIAMS (*Director*) is the resident Production Stage Manager at Chattanooga State. She holds a BA from Loyola University and is a graduate of the Professional Actor Training Program. She has been stage managing and directing for thirteen years , working for many companies across the south east. Some of her favorite credits include Into the Woods (Chattanooga State), Wind in the Willows (Emerald Coast Theatre Company), and Seven (Ensemble Theatre of Chattanooga). She is passionate about Theatre for Young Audiences having directed titles such as Snow White and the Huntsman, Androcles and the Lion, and most recently You're A Good Man Charlie Brown.

Behind the Scenes

JENNIFER ARBOGAST WILSON (*Music Director*) is a professor in the music and theatre departments at Chattanooga State, where she teaches Acting, Applied Voice, Voice and Speech, and Audition Techniques. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts Directing from University of Idaho, as well as a Master of Music and Doctor of Arts in Vocal Performance from Ball State University. Jennifer is active as a director in the Chattanooga area, and some cherished shows she's directed include *Big Fish*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Into the Woods*, and *Peter Pan*. An avid performer, some favorite past roles include Anna Leonowens (*The King and I*), Lady of the Lake (*Spamalot*), Lily Craven (*The Secret Garden*), and Snoopy (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*).

Special Thanks

Dr. Ken Cardillo, Fine Arts Department Chair

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Dr. Rebecca Ashford, President of Chattanooga State

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