

# Meet Our 2014 ACT Summer Drama Camp Staff



**Lynn Arterburn**

Camp Director

Lynn has been involved with Ankeny Community Theatre since 1992 and has worked with the drama camps since 2004. Lynn wears many hats at ACT as marketing coordinator, director, producer, and costumer - just to name a few. She is currently serving on the ACT Board of Directors. In the past, Lynn served as a 4-H leader, directed church drama groups, and taught workshops in communications on the local and state levels. Lynn worked for the Ankeny Community Schools as a substitute teacher for all grades and then as a teacher's associate for fourteen years at the elementary level. She retired last year. Lynn enjoys sewing, cross-stitching and taking hiking vacations with her husband, Doug. Lynn will be teaching youth drama classes this fall through Ankeny Community Education and at the Kirkendall Library. 'I'm excited to be a part of both of these new partnerships. It will be a great way for ACT to provide educational opportunities in theater to people of all ages.'



**Keith Berger**

Lead Instructor: "Places Please"

Keith has been teaching at the ACT Summer Camps for five years. He has actively performing musical theatre in Des Moines for the last 20 years. Favorite roles include Kenickie in *Grease!* (Ingersoll Dinner Theatre), Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Urbandale Community Theatre), Huckabee in *The Fantasticks* (Prairie City Playhouse), Latham Calvert in *Farmer Song the Musical* (New York Fringe Festival), and, Benjamin Goldman in *Caucus the Musical* (Class Act Productions). Keith is employed with the Des Moines Public Schools as a special education teacher and behavior interventionist. A highlight of Keith's performing career was to have the opportunity to perform a solo at Carnegie Hall! Keith also enjoys volunteering for Amanda the Panda and Hospice.



**Brittany Beridon**

Lead Instructor: "Acting 101", "Pete the Cat", "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Day", "Fractured Fairy Tales"

Brittany is a recent Theatre Arts graduate from Grand View University. The Des Moines native has been an active participant in the theatre since elementary school, having performed, directed, and helped out technically whenever and wherever she could. Brittany is so very excited to spend part of her post grad life with these campers and sharing her love for theatre with them. There is much fun to be had, and many memories to be made!



**Chris Bernard**

Lead Instructor: "Dinosaurs, Dragons and Other Creatures From Long Ago", "Live on Stage!"

Assistant Instructor: "Acting Out", "Under the Big Top"

Chris is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts at Drake University. He is studying musical theatre and is also a percussion performance minor. Along with performing in plays and musicals, Chris also plays in orchestra pits. He was most recently on stage in the Des Moines Community Playhouse production of *Les Miserables*. This summer, Chris will be performing onstage in *Spring Awakening* at Des Moines Onstage and in the pit at the Des Moines Community Playhouse Production of *Shrek*. This will be his first year working as an ACT camp instructor.



### **Allison Buol**

Assistant Instructor: "Acting 101", "Under the Sea", "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good Day"

Allison Buol is completing her second year as a student at Drake University. She is a Musical Theatre major with a Marketing minor. You may have seen her in *The Bernstein and the Bard* (Maria), *The Clean House* (Matilde), *Childe Byron* (Young Woman), or *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Understudy Stella, Ensemble). She is so thrilled to be a part of the Ankeny Community Theatre's summer camps and to get to know all of the students!



### **Anne Claes**

Assistant Instructor: "Give a Kid a Stage", "The Wacky World of Dr. Seuss", "Places Please"

Anne has appeared several times on the ACT stage, her favorite roles include *Godspell* and *Plaza Suite*. She plays Panacea in the June ACT musical production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. This will be Anne's fourth year as an instructor at the ACT Summer Camps. She is looking forward to working with Keith Berger on "Places Please" and teaming up with her husband John for the sessions "If You Give a Kid a Stage" and "The Wacky World of Dr. Seuss". Anne is a Para-educator at Urbandale Middle School.



### **John Claes**

Lead Instructor: "If You Give a Kid a Stage", "The Wacky World of Dr. Seuss"

John may be a familiar face to many of you have been involved with ACT before! John has been active in theater for many years, including roles on the ACT stage dating back to 1994. Past roles include George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* (2005) and Jesus in *Godspell* (2007). He plays Pseudolous in the June ACT musical production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. John, who also serves on the ACT Board of Directors, is excited to return to the ACT Summer Camps for a second year to teach with his wife, Anne.



### **Sarah Devick**

Lead Instructor: "It's Showtime"

Sarah will be a camp staff member for her fourth year. She is an ISU graduate with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She taught Head Start for six years before staying home with her three children for seven years. She is now a building associate in Ankeny at Southeast Elementary. Theater has always been a big part of Sarah's family and the whole family has been involved with ACT at some point. She was in her first play when she was seven and ever since has done anything just to be involved. Sarah had the opportunity to be in ACT's December production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* with her two daughters. Now, each of her three children have participated in an ACT camp! Sarah says her love of theater is the reason she comes back to work with kids every year; every year, the kids AMAZE her!



### **Lauren Dursky**

Lead Instructor: “Acting Out”, “Under the Big Top”

Assistant Instructor: “Off Broadway Boot Camp”

Lauren is a Junior in performing arts with a double-emphasis in Acting/Directing and Design. Her credits include assistant stage managing for ISU Theatre's productions of *Into the Woods* and *Amadeus*, costume designing for ISU Theatre's productions of *A Steady Rain* and *Romeo and Juliet* along with costume designing for Boone Community Theatre *Beauty and the Beast*. She has participated in the ISU Ten-Minute and One-Act Play Festivals for two years. Lauren would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her in all her endeavors. She is also excited to work with all the kids at Ankeny Community Theatre.



### **Brooke Greenberg**

Assistant Instructor: Tall Tales”

Brooke will be a Junior BFA Musical Theatre Major at Drake University this fall. She comes from the Chicagoland area where she spent most of her time doing theatre. Brooke has worked at a children's theatre camp for the last three summers and has assistant directed for children's theatre productions. She has been in more than thirty productions professionally, educationally and in the community. Brooke is so excited to be joining the Ankeny Community Theatre Camp staff and can not wait for camp to start! She is looking forward to meeting everyone and having a fantastic summer!



### **Megan McAtee**

Instructor: “Once Upon a Stage”

Megan is thrilled to be returning to work with ACT's children's summer camps again! She was the head Theatre and IMPROV counselor at Camp Echo in upstate New York. She also developed and ran the Children's After School Theatre (CAST) Program in Storm Lake, Iowa while she attended Buena Vista University. After graduation, Megan moved to Des Moines and appeared onstage in several shows in the area including *Six on Six: The Musical* (Right Brain Productions), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Enchanted April*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, and *The Buddy Holly Story* (Des Moines Playhouse). Megan works for Pearson Education supporting math and science instructors at DMACC and other Iowa schools.



### **Andrew Overton**

Lead Instructor: “In the Spotlight”, “Tall Tales”

Camp Director's Assistant

Andrew is entering his second year as a BFA Musical Theatre Major at Drake. This is his first summer teaching at Ankeny Community Theatre, but not his first experience with children's theatre. He was one of the founding members of Adolescent Anarchy at the Des Moines Playhouse, which is a Teen Theatre Initiative. Andrew assisted in the first production of *Lord Of The Flies*, where he worked with children age 10-16. He has also been involved in a lot of community theatre, doing numerous shows at the Des Moines Playhouse and Des Moines Onstage. This summer he can be seen as a Bad Idea Bear in Avenue Q at StageWest and as Georg in Spring Awakening at Des Moines Young Artists Theatre. He can't wait to start working with the children at ACT this summer!



### **Chris Pighetti**

Assistant Instructor: "It's Showtime"

Chris is new to the ACT camp staff this year! He was born and raised in the Des Moines area having grown up and graduated from Ankeny High School in 1990. Chris continued his education at the University of Northern Iowa and graduated with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Physical Education. He currently teach Middle School PE in Carlisle, Iowa. Chris enjoys the summer, live music, sports, movies, new technology, reading, and being with others doing something active. He is excited about being a member of the ACT Camp Staff.



### **Christopher Priebe**

Lead Instructor: "Off Broadway Boot Camp"

Assistant Instructor: "Audition Workshop", "Improvisation Workshop"

Director's Assistant

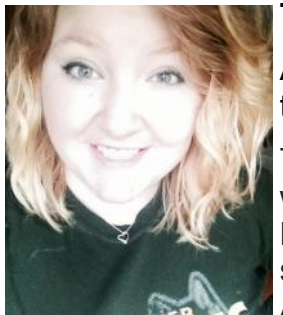
Christopher Priebe is also one of our many new staff members this year. He is a senior at Iowa State where he is studying acting and directing. He first took the stage at thirteen and ever since has been working on plays. A few of his favorite roles include Salieri in *Amadeus*, Sorin in *The Seagull*, and Claudius in *Reverse Hamlet*. He has worked at EWALU as a summer camp counselor and currently provides daycare at Caterpillar Clubhouse in Gilbert. He is grateful for this opportunity to learn and share his love of storytelling with children.



### **Jazlyn Richardson**

Assistant Instructor: "Pete the Cat", "Live on Stage"

Jazlyn Richardson is excited about joining the ACT summer camp staff. She was born and raised in Arizona until she was fourteen years old. Her family moved to Iowa to be closer to other relatives. She went to many high schools, and during her time at East High school, she took drama class with Ms. Gaynes. She is now a full-time student at DMACC Urban Campus and enjoys her theater class with Mrs. Albanese. She is outgoing, funny, and enjoys being with children.



### **Tayler Ross**

Assistant Instructor: "Once Upon a Stage", "Dinosaurs, Dragons, and Other Creatures From Long Ago", "In the Spotlight", "Fractured Fairy Tales"

Tayler Ross is heading into her third year as an assistant on staff and loves working with the kids that come to camp! She has graduated from Hoover High School in Des Moines, where she was active in drama both on and off stage. After appearing on stage in *Get Smart*, she began a more active role off stage as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager for shows like *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Aladdin*. Her work earned her the Iowa Grand Champion Stage Manager title at the 2010 Iowa Thespian Festival. Taylor was on thespian board in 2011. She has also been active with the Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) contests, for which she achieved All-State Non-Performing honors in Choral Reading. Taylor attends DMACC and is studying Early Childhood Education. She plans to continue at DMACC this fall then transfer to Iowa State to earn her bachelors.



### **Clare VanEchaute**

Lead Instructor: "Under the Sea"

Camp Director's Assistant

Clare is a sophomore BA Theatre Arts student at Drake University. She also majors in Public Relations and Writing. Clare has been involved and in love with theatre since the first grade when she saw a travelling Broadway production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. Recently, she was the Assistant Director for Drake's fall production of *Sweeney Todd* and was in the ensemble of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

This summer, she is the Stage Manager and Assistant Director for StageWest's production of *Avenue Q*.



### **Angela Youngers**

Lead Instructor: "Audition Workshop", "Improvisation Workshop"

Angela Youngers worked as a theater/speech/language arts teacher in the West Des Moines school district for the past six years where she also directed the junior high play and mime production. This fall, she will join Waukee Senior High School as part of the English department. She serves as a member of the ACT board and actively participates in ACT productions. In June, she can be seen on the ACT stage as Gymnasia in *Something Funny Happened on the Way to the Forum*. She enjoys singing loudly in her car, reading a variety of fictional genres, and writing her

own novels, having just recently self-published her first ebook. Angela will be teaching the improvisation and audition workshop classes in July, as well as an Introduction to Adult Acting through Ankeny Community Education this fall.

