

The Phantom Tollbooth



By Susan Nanus

Based on the book by Norton Juster

Ankeny Community Theatre

September 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30

October 5, 6 & 7

2007

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2007-2008 Season***

The Phantom Tollbooth
Susan Nanus
September 21 - October 7

Murder Takes the Stage
James Reach
November 2 - 18

Plaza Suite
Neil Simon
January 11 - 27

The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase
Pat Cook
February 29 - March 16

Heaven Can Wait
Harry Segall
April 25 - May 11

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Everyone always asks, if they have never read the book, "Kyle, what is the show about?" I respond by telling them its like Alice in Wonderland sprinkled with learning.

Yet, there has been more than just learning in the world of the play. For the cast and crew it has been a great learning experience: learning lines, learning characterization, learning the role of director, learning movement, learning to adapt, learning to make something out of nothing, and learning what our limits are. I don't know how many times I have said to the crew..."Next time it would be so technical...I PROMISE!!!" I will NEVER be able to show the technical team how much I appreciate them and how much they have given to the show from altering a dress, making headgear, or building a book. Without them we would just be a bunch of people standing in the dark. THANK YOU, TECH TEAM! Your work has been amazing.

I think that the cast has done its share of learning just like Milo. I have seen growth and changes in each and every actor on this stage. I could not have asked for a better group. To them go many thanks, as well, because without them, I am just a person who has ideas. THANKS TO MY CAST! You have made me proud.

Now sit back and see what all of our learning has done to help Milo learn that you never stop learning. Thanks for coming and enjoy Ankeny Community Theatre's production of Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

Kyle Chizek



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CAST

* Denotes ACT Debut

The Clock/Tock the Watchdog	Michael Banks
Milo (Act 1)	Kevin Hyler*
Milo (Act 2)	Sam Hausler*
The Whether Man/Azaz the Unabridged	Scott Nielsen*
Gatekeeper/Senses Taker	Jo Anne Ware*
The Mathmagician/Dr. Kakafonous	Monte Engh
Humbug	Steve Hickle
Duke of Definition	Trish Richards
Minister of Meaning	Rachel Braak*
Earl of Essence	Gillian Randall*
Count of Connotation	Emily Polson*
Undersecretary of Understanding	Hayley Blok
The Everpresent Wordsnatcher	Anne Hyler*
The Demon of Insincerity/Dodecahedron	Jolene Schwarz
Spelling Bee	Wendi Taylor
Princess Sweet Rhyme	Darby Rourick*
Princess Pure Reason	Kylie McGill
Lethargian	Amanda Banks
Lethargian/The Terrible Trivium/Word Merchant	Jeff Hyler*
Lethargian/Word Merchant/Number Miner	Aaron Primrose
Lethargian/Letterman	Rebekah Boyd*
Lethargian/Dynne/Page	Lisa DeWaard
Lethargian	Alex Spenceri*
Lethargian	Hannah Braak*
Page Turner	Sophie Burke*
Page Turner	Matthew McGill

Act I - Scene 1 **Milo's Room**

Act I - Scene 2 Dictionopolis

15 minute intermission

Act II - Scene 1 Digitopolis

Act II - Scene 2 The Land of Ignorance

PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Kyle Chizek
Assistant Director/Fight Choreographer	Susan Gulbranson
Rehearsal Assistant	Courtney Alfaro
Acting Coach	Debi Garner
Stage Manager/Props	Shelley Blok
Set Designer	Keith Pederson
Book Page Designers	Jo Anne Ware & Leanne Kamberg
Light Designer	Harold Mosier
Sound Designer	Polly Taylor
Costumes	Shelley Blok, Kyle Chizek, Lynn Arterburn & Cast
Hair & Make-Up Designer	Maggie Siwinski
House Manager	Doug Arterburn
Refreshments	Bev Heldt & Christy Primrose
Playbill	Lynn Arterburn
Playbill Covers	Jeff Hylar & Lisa DeWaard
Posters	Sophie Burke & Emily Polson
Marketing	Dawn Hockemeyer & Lynn Arterburn

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

The directors would like to thank Plato's Closet, the cast and crew along with their families, our family and friends, and ACT for giving us the ability to do this. Kyle would also like to thank Gretta Berghammer, Cynthia Goatley and Gil Kyker.

Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers or other audible electronic devices before the show begins.

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Amanda Banks (Lethargian) made her ACT debut last spring in *Godspell*. Other theater experiences include *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* at Rabid Dog Theatre, *Cell Block Sirens of 1953* at Theatre for a Change, and *Jungalbook* at Grand View College. Amanda is a junior at Grand View College majoring in Theater Arts Acting.



Michael Banks (The Clock/Tock the Watchdog) is making his second appearance of the ACT stage having been in *Godspell* last spring. He has also appeared in *Treasure Island* and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* at the Kate Goldman Theatre. Michael enjoys photography and classic cars. He also enjoys sharing the stage with his daughter, Amanda. He works at KDSM-TV (Fox 17) in Des Moines.



Hayley Blok (Undersecretary of Understanding/Numbers Miner) made her debut last fall at ACT for *Our Town* and has been hooked on theater ever since. She appeared in *The Wizard of Oz* and participated in the Children's Summer Drama Camps. Hayley loves to dance, work on her websites, play the tenor saxophone, shop, and act. She is a 6th grader at Parkview Middle School.



Rebekah Boyd (Lethargian/Letterman) has been interested in acting from an early age. She was in the movie, *Traffic Jam*, and did a staged script reading of the play, *Treesitters*. She was in Tallgrass Theater's production of *Newsroom*. Rebekah is currently studying acting technique at AriesWorks Entertainment.



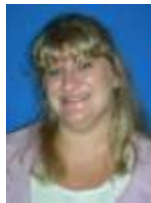
Hannah Braak (Lethargian) moved to Ankeny from Bluffton, South Carolina this summer. She is a 6th grader at Parkview Middle School. Hannah enjoys camping, reading, biking and playing the oboe.



Rachel Braak (Minister of Meaning) is also newcomer to Ankeny and ACT. She is an 8th grader at Northview Middle School. Rachel enjoys dog agility training, reading, biking, and horseback riding.



Sophie G. Burke (Page Turner) is appearing on the ACT stage for her first time. She performed at Harold Martin Elementary School in Hopkinton, New Hampshire in *Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock*. Sophie's hobbies include knitting, softball, basketball, swimming, and computers. She enjoys watching plays and learning about Asia. Sophie is a 5th grader at Northwest Elementary.



Lisa DeWaard (Lethargian/The Awful Dynne/Page) has a list of theatrical experiences which includes ACT's *Godspell*, Drama Workshop's *Song of Survival* and *Cowgirls*, Theater For a Change's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Tallgrass Theatre's production of *Wiley and the Hairy Man*. She enjoys Broadway, live theater, musicals, New York City, karaoke and spending time with her 3 "fur children" - her kitties. She is a customer service representative at Metlife Investors.



Monte Engh (The Mathmagician/Dr. Kakafonous) was the Scarecrow in the ACT's *Wizard of Oz* last season. In just a few months he went from a scarecrow without brains to getting brains to getting use to his new brains and now being a mathmagician. What was Kyle thinking! Other ACT productions include *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Funny Money*, *Dearly Departed*, and *Bedfull of Foreigners*. He is a biking enthusiast. Monte is married to St. Vicki and has 3 grown children. He is employed at Kum & Go. 13 15 14 20 5 5 14 7 8.



Anne Hyler (The Everpresent Wordsnatcher) is sharing the stage with two of her sons, Kevin and Jeff. This is her first time on stage at ACT. Anne had the role of Liesl in *Sound of Music*. Her hobbies include watching baseball and scrapbooking. Anne is employed with Principal Financial.



Sam Hausler (Milo - Act 2) is making his ACT debut. He enjoys sports, video games and acting. He has appeared in *Angel Alert* and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* at church. Sam is 13 years old.



Jeff Hyler (Lethargian /Word Merchant/The Terrible Trivium) is also making his theatrical debut. He enjoys baseball, scouts and camping. Jeff is a 5th grader at Westwood Elementary.



Steve Hickle (Humbug) was busy at ACT last year as assistant director for *Our Town* and *And Then There Were None*. Onstage ACT credits include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Don't Drink the Water* and

Schoolhouse Rock, Live! He has also appeared in productions at Pella, Prairie City, Theater For a Change and the Ingersoll Dinner Theater. Steve's hobby is live theater - who has time for anything else! He also enjoys movies, concerts and surfing the net. He is employed with Marsh. Steve wants to thank his wife, Cyndi, for her love and continued support.



Kevin Hyler (Milo – Act 1) is the 3rd Hyler making his ACT debut. He enjoys soccer and scouts. Kevin is an 8th grader at Northview Middle School.



Kylie McGill (Princess Pure Reason) appeared on ACT's stage in *It's A Wonderful Life*. She has also performed in church plays and musicals and at school. Her hobbies include piano, cheerleading, show choir, hanging with friends and Tae Kwon Do. She LOVES acting! Kylie is a 9th grader at Northview Middle School.





Matthew McGill (Page Turner) appeared in ACT's productions of *It's a Wonderful Life* and *The Wizard of Oz*. He also has performed in church and school plays. Matthew's hobbies include Tae Kwon

Do, reading, music and legos. He is a 6th grader at Parkview Middle School.



Gillian Randall (Earl of Essence) is making her debut at ACT. She has performed at the Ingersoll Children's Theater in *Santa's Toyland*, *Peter Pan* and *Winnie the Poob's Christmas Tale*, in *Lockers* at Goodrell

Middle School and in *The Wicked Queen* at Phillips Drama Club. She loves figure staking and belongs to Capitol Ice Academy. Gillian is an 8th grader at May Goodrell Middle School.



Scott Nielsen (The Whetherman/King Azaz) is no stranger to the world of theater. While living in Nebraska, Scott either performed in or helped with *Godspell*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Miracle Worker*,

Women and Wallace, and *Blythe Spirit*. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Brandi, and their daughters, Devan and Denae. One of his favorite activities is watching college football. He is employed with Lincoln Benefit Life which is a member of Allstate Insurance.



Trish Richards (Duke of Definition) appeared at ACT for the first time in *Schoolhouse Rock, Live*. She has been in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the Des Moines Playhouse and in various church and

school plays. Trish enjoys acting, singing, show choir, dancing, writing, and running websites. She is an 8th grader at Urbandale Middle School.



Emily Polson (Count of Connotation) has performed many church musicals and was in the ballet, *Peter and the Wolf*. This is her first show at ACT. Emily enjoys dancing, reading, cooking and acting.

Her favorite book just happens to be *The Phantom Tollbooth*. She is in 7th grade.



Darby Rourick (Princess Sweet Rhyme) Darby is also a newcomer to ACT. She has appeared in two school plays, *Hospital* and *Cactus Pass*.

Darby's hobbies include reading, computer, hanging out with friends and cross country. She is interested in European history and is learning French. Darby is an 8th grader at Northview Middle School.



Aaron Primrose (Lethargian/Merchant) was a member of ACT's *Schoolhouse, Rock Live!* He has appeared at the Des Moines Playhouse in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, at Westwood Elementary in

The Year Santa Forgot Christmas, and at Parkview Middle School in *Cactus Pass*. His hobbies include BMX biking, reading and hanging out with friends. He is a 7th grader at Parkview Middle School.



Alex Spencer (Lethargian/Word Merchant) had the role of Mr. Arable in *Charlotte's Web* at CAP Theatre in Altoona. This is his first show at ACT. He is interested in football, piano, cub scouts,

reading and soccer. He is a 5th grader at Holy Trinity.



Jolene Schwarz (The Demon of Insincerity /Dodecahedron) enjoys performing in and attending live theater. She had appeared in *Winnie the Pooh* and *High School Reunion* at the Des Moines Playhouse, *Newsroom* at Tallgrass Theatre and *Petticoat Junction* with *Reruns* at Theatre for a Change. Jolene first appeared at ACT in *Don't Drink the Water*. Jolene enjoys spending time with her cute & cuddly canine child, Keebler. She is a Senior Prospect Manager at Integer Group.



Wendi Taylor (Spelling Bee) enjoys singing in church and for special occasions. She has been seen on the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre stage in *Sound of Music*, *Showboat*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Aladdin*, *Little Mermaid*, and *Red Riding Hood*. Her ACT debut was made during *Schoolhouse Rock, Live!* Wendi is a Multi-peril Underwriter at Farmer's Mutual Hail.



Jo Anne Ware (Gatekeeper/Senses Taker) has had extensive theatrical experiences. She has performed with Ottumwa Community Theater, Iowa City Community Theater, The Second City Chicago and The Annoyance Theater in Chicago. She graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She enjoys art, music, writing, photography and theater. She is employed at Michaels.



Kyle Chizek (Director) This is Kyle's first directional project EVER!! You might remember him on ACT's stage in *And Then There Were None*, in *Cell Block Sirens of 1953* for Theatre for a Change, or at Fringe Festival with Rabid Dog Theatre in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*. He works as a consultant in West Des Moines. He is getting ready to be in *Jerry Springer - The Opera* for StageWest in January. Kyle has had a great experience doing this show and can not wait to have the opportunity to do it again...just on a smaller scale. He hopes that you all will enjoy what he's created.



Susan M. Gulbranson (Assistant Director) has had a vast amount of experience in the world of theater. She graduated with a degree in Fine Arts – Acting from the University of South Dakota. She is a theater blogger for Des Moines Juice, writes short fiction and studies Shakespeare. Susan also enjoys movies, singing, dancing and cooking. She is a desk jockey at Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Service.

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