

**ANKENY COMMUNITY  
THEATRE PRESENTS**

**A PIECE  
OF MY  
HEART**



**BY SHIRLEY LAURO**

**OCTOBER 1-10, 2021**

# *A Piece of My Heart Cast*

## In Order of Appearance

Martha	Rachel Garlock*
MaryJo	Alison Buechler
Sissy	Stacie Bendixen
Whitney	Lauren Mills
Leeann	Lauren Kaniuk
Steele	Amy McGrew*
Soldier (multiple roles)	Bob Craven
Soldier (multiple roles)	Frank Sposeto, III*

\* ACT Debut

Time: 1962-1982

Place: Vietnam Memorial Wall - Washington, D.C.

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production is strictly prohibited under copyright law.

*A Piece of My Heart* is produced by special arrangement  
with Samuel French, Inc.

### **Special Acknowledgements**

A special thank you to the cast of the March 2020 production that was cancelled due to the COVID-19 shutdown and unable to return to the 2021 production: Ali Kirwen, Aaliyah Fondell, Jessica Holland, Brittany Beridon, Ethan Saltz, and Doug Moon.

## Production Team

Director	Frank Sposeto, III
Assistant Director	Lisa Gould
Producer	Jim Leeper
Stage Manager	Adriann Arrington
Set Designer	Frank Sposeto, III
Light Consultant	Matt Tuttle
Light Design/Technician	Lisa Gould
Sound Consultant	Joe Kirwen
Sound Design/Technician	Abby Martin
Playbill	Lynn Arterburn
Photographer	Lisa Wagner
Show Logo	Nicole Titus
Marketing	Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn, Stacie Bendixen, Lauren Mills, Cassie Twichell

## Director's Note

Our production of *A Piece of My Heart* is not about the Politics of the Age or the politics of today. We are attempting to preserve the real-life memories of those who served our country; whether those who gave a portion of their lives, a measure of their peace and sanity, as well as those who gave that and more - the ultimate sacrifice.

Those who served know there is laughter and humor at even the darkest of times. That is how we make it through the most difficult moments of our lives. The reality of war is that we are all humans who continue to internalize our experiences and we cannot stop thinking and feeling. Memories stay with us forever.

The women who boldly served during Vietnam in the Armed Forces, Red Cross, and USO put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis. To those women, we acknowledge that you made life bearable, if but for a moment, for many soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen. Thank you for giving on behalf of us all so that we could continue moving forward into eternity. May you also have a Piece of our Heart in return.

## Biographies



**Stacie Bendixen** (Sissy) has several onstage credits at ACT, including *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Honk!*, *The God Committee*, *110 Stories*, and *Francine's Will*. Offstage, she has served as board president, has been an assistant director, and continues to volunteer on committees. Stacie has also performed at the Des Moines Playhouse, Urbandale Community Theatre, and Class Act Productions in Altoona. She works in communications at Wells Fargo. In her spare time, Stacie enjoys volunteering with cats in shelters and she is learning to tap dance.



**Alison Buechler** (MaryJo) is thrilled to be joining the cast of *A Piece of My Heart*. She has done numerous shows at ACT. Des Moines Playhouse, Knoxville Community Theatre, and Newton Community Theatre. Some of her credits include: *Jekyll and Hyde* (Emma), *Mary Poppins* (Winifred), *Kiss Me Kate* (Lilli/Kate), *Elf* (Deb), *Doubt* (Sister James), and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive). She also had the opportunity to do regional theatre in Ohio with Trumpet in the Land theatre company as an actor and assistant music director. Outside the theatre, Alison enjoys biking, reading, yoga, and hanging with friends. She currently works at Athene.



**Bob Craven** (Soldier) made his ACT debut in *Happily Ever After* in 2019. He also appeared in *The Full Monty* at Actors (Ames). Bob's hobbies include old cars, houses, and music. He has been a realtor in the greater Des Moines area since 2005.



**Rachel Garlock** (Martha) is making her ACT debut. She has performed in *The Full Monty* (Pam Lukowski) with Actors. While at Davenport North High School, she appeared in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Mrs. Tottendale) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel). Rachel is an associate scientist at Merck Animal Health in Ames. When she's not working or acting, she enjoys singing and hanging with family and friends.



**Lauren Kaniuk** (Leeann) is excited to be back on the Ankeny stage after a 15-year absence. She portrayed Emily in *Our Town* in 2006. Her favorite roles are Gabriella in *Boeing, Boeing* at the Des Moines Playhouse and Mindy in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (where she met her husband, Dave) at Tallgrass. Lauren enjoys golfing, playing video games, and improv comedy.



**Amy McGrew** (Steele) is also making her ACT debut but has had lots of stage experience with Cherokee Community Theatre. Shows include *Mamma Mia* (Donna), *Le Misérables* (Fantine), *Noises Off* (Mrs. Clackett/Dottie), *Calendar Girls* (Chris), and *The King and I* (Lady Thiang). Amy enjoys golf, theater, reading, traveling, and spending time with her three grandkids. She is retired and has two daughters, one son-in-law, a husband, Mark, and a dog named Charlie. She is excited to be back on the stage and meet other actors in the area.



**Lauren Mills** (Whitney) has been seen on the ACT stage as Mrs. Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Zoey in *A Perfect Rendezvous*. She is thrilled to rejoin the cast and reprise her role as Whitney after a long 18 months! Lauren works across central Iowa as a sign language interpreter. In her spare time, she likes to paint, bake new recipes, and listen to audiobooks. Lauren is a member of the ACT Board of Directors and serves as the marketing chair.



**Frank Sposeto III** (Director/Soldier) has worked on the direction team with Lisa on three previous shows and is pleased to be able to finally bring *A Piece of My Heart* to Ankeny's audience. An Army veteran who served during Desert Storm, he has had a passion for this show since it was selected. In addition to being active in several area theaters, he currently serves on the Iowa Arts Council. He is married to Tammy and has eight kids (five whom he raised) and three grandkids.



**Lisa Gould** (Assistant Director) has served as producer (*Trouble with Cats*), stage manager (*Frankenstein*), assistant director (*A Few Good Men*), and director (*Dinner by Eight*, *Dead by Nine* and *'Night, Mother*). She has also appeared on ACT's stage in *Almost, Maine* and *Mom's Gift*. Lisa likes spending time with family and friends, going to her kids' activities, and watching movies. She and her husband, Troy, live in Johnston with their two children, Jordan and Alexis. Lisa works at Central Bank.



**Jim Leeper** (Producer) has over forty years of theater experience. He has appeared in eleven ACT shows and served as assistant director for *Mom's Gift*. Audiences have also enjoyed seeing him at the Des Moines Playhouse, ACTORS (Ames), and Urbandale Community Theatre. Jim enjoys sports and taking nature photography.

## 2021 - 2022 ACT Board of Directors

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Brad Church  
Devyn Henson  
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Lisa Gould

Joe Kirwen  
Jim Leeper  
Lauren Mills

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### ACT Assistant Director Training

Have you ever wanted to direct a production at ACT? If so, we have an exciting opportunity to help you get started!

ACT Assistant Director Training, facilitated by Michael Hollister, will be held on Saturday, November 6th, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Michael studied for his Master's Degree in Theater Direction and he will bring you a wealth of practical information via this Zoom session.



Those who complete this class will be eligible to serve as an assistant director at ACT. We share our list of eligible assistants with directors each season. Directors select assistants on their own so completing this class does NOT guarantee you will assist this season.

The registration deadline is November 3rd. Register for this free training at [ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://ankenycommunitytheatre.com).

## 2021 - 2022 Contributors

Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and foundations for their generous support of our organization. List does not include any contributions received after September 20, 2021.

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DS Hamilton  
Christopher Lewis  
Kimberly Spitzig  
Richard Wilson

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Stacie Bendixen  
Lois & Dennis Kern  
Alison & Joe Kirwen  
Gail & Gene Lucht  
Sharon Hall &  
Kirk Reeder  
Barb Wagner

### Stage Manager (\$250 - \$499)

Anne & John Claes  
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### Actor (\$100 - \$249)

Mary & David Bendixen  
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Diane & Jim Bys  
Susan Casber  
Linda & James Collins  
Troy DeStigter  
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Lauren Mills  
Anna Sunstrom  
Whitney & Matt Welp


### Business Friends Miller Way

Jack, a pathologically shy, 27-year-old man, begins a job at a retirement home helping the seniors with their daily needs. But it's the "geezers" who wind up helping Jack with his needs. On his road to an epiphany, Jack learns from the old folks that he must break out of his comfort zone to achieve anything in life. Jack learns to crawl - then walk, then fly - with a wise group of mentors guiding him along. A funny, heartwarming drama about growth and wisdom, learning and loving, life and death. Rated PG

To reserve seats, order online at [ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://ankenycommunitytheatre.com) or call Midwestix at 244-2771.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.  
JOIN US FOR THE NEXT SHOW!**

**GEEZERS**



**BY TOMMY  
LEE JOHNSTON**

**DECEMBER 3-12, 2021**

# ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS 2021-2022 SEASON

## A PIECE OF MY HEART



BY SHIRLEY LAURO

OCT 1-10, 2021

## GEEZERS



BY TOMMY  
LEE JOHNSTON

DEC 3-12, 2021

## CRY IT OUT



BY MOLLY  
SMITH METZLER

FEB 4-13, 2022



## AURA

BY TOMMY  
LEE JOHNSTON

APR 1-10, 2022

## GUESS WHO'S



## COMING TO DINNER

BY TODD KREIDLER

JUNE 3-12, 2022

## GODSPELL



MUSIC BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ  
BOOK BY JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK

AUG 5-14, 2022

1932 SW 3RD STREET, ANKENY, IA 50023

FOR TICKETS, CALL MIDWESTIX AT 515-244-2771  
OR VISIT [ANKENYCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.COM](http://ANKENYCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.COM)

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