



CAST BIOS

Leighton Bereche (Wanda) is 8 years old and entering 4th grade. This is her debut performance with Places! Productions, and she can't wait to take the stage as Wanda! She has previously starred in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Lion King*, and *Willy Wonka* at another local youth theater. Outside of musical theater, Leighton enjoys both tumbling and dance, including tap, jazz, ballet, and hip hop. She is also a three sport athlete participating in soccer, basketball, and swim. She would like to thank her director and the Places! team for this opportunity to perform for all of you today. "Enjoy the show!"

Liam Chacon (Johnny) is a sixth grader from Saint Timothy's Catholic School. Liam is a member of the school's drama club. Liam has previously performed as part of the drama club's *Christmas Nativity* show as one of the Three Wiseman, as well playing the character of Schroeder in the club's performance of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Liam also plays the piano and takes guitar lessons as well.

Eden Chon (Jane) This is Eden's first theatre appearance and won't be her last! She loves to swim, read, and dance and is already excited for the next theatre production. She would like to thank her family and friends who came to support her first time on a musical stage!

Lacey Davis (Evelyn) is very excited for her 1st production with Places! She has performed in the *Christmas Showcase* & *Wizard of Oz* at her school. She wants to thank Mr. Ray for the opportunity,

Miss Lily for teaching her how to dance, & Miss Abby for her warm smile. “I want to thank all my cast members for helping me & my mom for helping me rehearse.”

Scarlett Freehan (Darlene) loves to sing, read, and do gymnastics!! She is turning 12 in July and will be entering 7th grade for her 3rd year of homeschool!! This is Scarlett’s first play with Places Productions!! She was in the choir for *Seussical the Musical* at Queen Creek Performing Arts Center in 2018. She also took a theater class earlier this year at Eagleridge which helped her develop her love for acting! Scarlett loves animals, babysitting, and playing with younger kids!! She wants to thank the Lauritzens for telling her about Places!! She would also like to thank Miss. Lily and Super Sam for teaching her all the dances and songs for this play!! A big thanks to Mr. Kasey, Abby, and Allison, all of you are so amazing!!

Alec Gordon (Worthington) is entering his sophomore year at ASU and is the oldest *Bandstand* cast member (by a lot!!) His past roles include Maurice in *Beauty and the Beast*, Judge Hathorne in *The Crucible*, Mr. Laurence in *Little Women*, Khashoggi in *We Will Rock You*, Callahan and Kyle in *Legally Blonde*, and Bamatabois in *Les Mis*.

Josiah Gross (Mark) has been seen in Places! Productions’ *Beauty and the Beast* and last summer’s *Pinkalicious*. Josiah also sings and dances all year long in Ping.

Elyanna Guzman (Ruth) makes her Places! musical debut! She has also been a member of Ping for a semester.

Cecily Kinnaman (Judy) This is Cecily’s debut performance with Places Productions!, and she is starting off by doing two shows at once: *At the Bandstand* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. She is homeschooled and will attend Eagleridge Enrichment as a 5th grader in the Fall. Some of her favorite previous roles include: Cruella in *101 Dalmatians*, Duffy in *Annie*, the Lamp Vendor in *Aladdin*, and a lioness in *The Lion King*.

Eliza Kinnaman (Barb) This is Eliza’s debut performance with Places Productions! This is her third show, having previously portrayed Grandma Josephina in *Willy Wonka* and Rafiki in *Lion King*. She is homeschooled and will attend Eagleridge Enrichment as a kindergartner in the Fall. Eliza loves getting to perform with her big sisters!

Marliese Kinnaman (Janice) This is Marliese’s debut performance with Places Productions! She is homeschooled and will attend Eagleridge Enrichment as a 3rd grader in the Fall. A few of her favorite past roles have been: Rafiki in *Lion King*, Pepper in *101 Dalmatians*, and various ensemble roles in *Annie*, *Aladdin*, and *Willy Wonka*. She also loves playing basketball and swim team.

Norah Kohnhorst (Betty Jo) last appeared in Places! Productions' *The Secret Garden*. She also spent all last year performing with Ping!

Neelan Kumar (Skippy Paws) was born in 2009 in Gilbert, Arizona. She has lived in Mesa her whole life. She started taking voice lessons in August of 2017 and continued for 4 years. She became interested in taking piano lessons in 2018 and continued until 2021. Neelan is a student in BASIS Mesa. She is currently in band playing saxophone. At school, she has been awarded the citizenship, friendship and kindness awards. Neelan is also an honor student. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She likes hiking and target shooting. Neelan has traveled to many countries such as Italy, Switzerland, India, France and Iran. She is an amazing, kind hearted and intelligent young lady. Neelan joined Places! Productions in 2021. She has been in a few plays: *Pinkalicious*, *Little Match Girl*, *Les Miserables*, and *The Secret Garden*.

Anna Lauritzen (Patty) has loved playing Patty in *At The Bandstand*. Her most recent role was as a Sowerby/Crawford Kid in *The Secret Garden*. Anna loves art, gymnastics, & musical theatre. Anna would like to thank Mr. Kasey and Lily for making the summer musical so fun!

Eliza Lauritzen (Cindy) is thankful for the chance to play Cindy in *At the Bandstand*, alongside her siblings and so many friends! Some of Eliza's favorite roles have been as a Dreamer/Sowerby Child in *The Secret Garden*, a tapping Gull in *The Little Mermaid*, & a *Newsie* with Inspire Entertainment. When Eliza isn't performing, she enjoys dancing, drawing, playing the viola, and helping to care for her new baby brother! She would like to thank Mr. Kasey and everyone who helped with the summer production for making it super fun!

Owen Lauritzen (Michael) is excited to be Michael, a Bandstand Kid. He debuted in his first musical with Places! Productions as Basil Sowerby in *The Secret Garden* in the spring. Owen enjoys playing legos, baseball, & ninja courses. Owen is thankful for the chance to be performing this summer and thanks Mr. Kasey and everyone who made this experience a great one!

Saffron Lopez (Sandra) makes her Places! Productions debut after watching her brothers on stage at Places! in *Legally Blonde* and *Les Mis*.

Alexis Martin (Robin) is thrilled to be a part of both *Bye Bye Birdie* and *At The Bandstand*! Alexis just finished 8th grade at BASIS Mesa, where she starred in the school musical as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*! Other roles include Host 1 (*Rock and Roll Forever*), Mr. Pinkerton (*Pinkalicious*), and the titular character in *Winnie the Pooh*. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Bye Bye Birdie* and *At the Bandstand* for this amazing opportunity! Enjoy the show!"

Scotia Nixon (Laverne) is thrilled to be playing Laverne in *At the Bandstand* and thanks Mr. Kasey, Lily, and Abby for this opportunity and for working with her and encouraging her along the way!

Danitza Silva (Peggy) is a 12-year-old student at Mesa Arts Academy. She has performed in numerous shows at MAA since kindergarten. Last year, she performed in the *Pinkalicious* musical as Dr. Wink. Her favorite hobbies include drawing, singing and crafting. She would like to thank the Places! Productions team for inviting her to come back for another show this summer. She would also like to thank her nana Martha for driving her to rehearsals during the week when her parents are working.

Jose Silva (Carl) is an 8-year-old student at Mesa Arts Academy. The first show he ever performed in was *We Are Monsters*, hosted by MAA last winter. His hobbies include playing video games with his dad and friends. He would like to thank his sister Danitza for encouraging him to perform and Places! Productions for this wonderful opportunity. Lastly, he'd like to thank his nana Martha for driving him to rehearsals during the week when his parents are working.

Samuel Trudelle (Brock) is 9 years old and going into 4th grade. This is his 4th show with Places! Productions. He was most recently seen in *Les Miserables* as Petite Gervais. He is so happy to be back with his Places! friends once again. When he's not on stage, he likes to watch YouTube videos and play on his PS5.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Abby Gordon (Stage Manager) will begin her senior year at ASU as an Engineering major this Fall. She was most recently seen as Martha in the adult cast of *The Secret Garden* and had the incredible opportunity to direct *Rock and Roll Forever* last year. She is so excited to be back on the production side of Places! this summer. She would like to thank Allison for another great summer show experience!

Kasey Ray (Director) is fired up to get to direct *At the Bandstand* for a second time with a completely new set of faces filling the roles! Previous directing credits include *Harmony High*, *Beauty and the Beast Jr*, *Pinkalicious*, and *At the Bandstand*, all with Places Productions! Massive gratitude to Lily, Abby, and Sam for doing all the work so he can take the credit, and to Allison for this opportunity and for doing everything behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Lily Saba (Choreographer) is a Sophomore at Arizona State University. She was most recently seen as Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Amy March in *Little Women*, and Penny Pingleton in *Hairspray*. She also had the amazing opportunity to choreograph *Rock and Roll Forever* and *Les*

Miserables with Places! Productions. When she's not on stage, she enjoys photography, working for the Arizona Diamondbacks as a Rally-Back and hanging out with her friends. She would like to thank Allison and the Places! Team for the amazing opportunities they have given her.

Sam Shaw (Music Director) is thrilled to be given the opportunity to music direct for *At the Bandstand*. A few shows Sam has music directed are *Freaky Friday*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Footloose*. Favorite past roles of theirs include Hope in *Anything Goes*, Son in *Trail to Oregon*, and Serena in *Legally Blonde*. Sam will be attending Mesa Community College in the fall, and plans to transfer to ASU to pursue a degree in Music Education. They are currently in an original show called *Mr. Spectacular and his Incredibly Mundane Life* written and directed by Joe Sullivan. For more information check @space_porpoises on Instagram!