



CAST BIOS

Hannah Arnett (Miss Andrew- junior cast) Music has always been center stage in Hannah's life. She has been singing and dancing before she could speak a complete sentence, has been playing piano since 5 years of age, violin for 4 years, and now is thrilled with performing music theater. Her appearances include ensemble roles in *Les Miserables* and *Hello Dolly!*, supporting role as Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*, and lead role as Kim McAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Griffin Avery (Bert) is a twelve-year-old homeschooled seventh grader. This is Griffin's first performance with Places! Productions. He has had so much fun getting to know the other talented actors and working under the direction of the amazing Allison Zuccaro. Other credits include The Prince of Slumberland in *The Frog Prince*, Young Simba in *The Lion King Jr.*, Palace Guard in *Aladdin Jr.*, Tom in *SchoolHouse Rock Live! Jr.* and Drake in *Annie*. In addition to Theater, Griffin enjoys golf, soccer, karate and playing video games!

Naomi Avery (Michael Banks) is an eight-year-old homeschooled third grader. This is Naomi's first performance with Places! Productions. Starring in a show has been Naomi's dream since she was six years old where she got her start as an orphan in *Annie!* Other credits include Queen Titania in *The Little Mermaid*, Shopkeeper/Ensemble in *Aladdin Jr.*, Featured Ensemble in *SchoolHouse Rock Live! Jr.*, and a Pig in *The Little Red Hen*. In addition to Theater, Naomi loves to dance, cheer and play with her friends.

Savannah Bell (Miss Andrew- mini cast) has been seen at Places! Productions in *The Little Match Girl*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (Chip).

Charleen Bempong (Katie Nanna- senior cast) is a senior who has been acting for six years. This is her first Places! Productions show. Her last role was The Wizard of Oz in BASIS Mesa's production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Lucas Binder (Chimney Sweep- mini cast) is currently in fifth grade at LFPA. He is excited to perform in his first performance at Places!

Jahlile Cephas (Neleus- senior cast) must admit when he started this play, he didn't think it was going to be that big of a deal. Boy was he wrong. Every day he was there was a roller coaster. Learning choreography and memorizing lines was a new territory for him. But he learned a lot, and is glad he signed up. He would like to thank Mr. Mills for always bringing good energy to every rehearsal. And let's not forget Ayden for knowing how to play the guitar .Just kidding. He would like to thank everyone for giving him memories that will last a life.

Liam Chacon (Chairman- mini cast) 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*. This is Liam's second time with Places! Productions, and was previously Johnny in *At the Bandstand* and also played Randolph in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Liam also plays the piano and takes guitar lessons as well.

Ava Chiappetta (Mrs. Brill- junior cast) is a freshman at Gilbert High School. Some of her favorite roles include Madame Thenardier in *Les Miserables*, Widow Corney in *Oliver Jr.*, Denise in the *Play That Goes Wrong*-Zoni nominated, Pumbaa in *The Lion King Jr*-Zoni nominated, Madame de La Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie Jr*, and Georgi in *Miss Nelson is Missing*-Zoni nominated. Ava is so excited to be doing her first musical with Places! Productions. She would like to thank Allison, Abby and Mr. Mills for this opportunity!

Eden Chon (Miss Smythe- mini cast) This is her second show at Places! Productions. She has fallen in love with theatre and everything that goes into the production. She wants to give thanks to her family and friends for coming out to supporting her. Thank you!

Georgia Cleveland (Sweep 1- junior cast) Georgia Cleveland is playing the role of a chimney sweep. She is so happy to be joining Places! Productions again for *Mary Poppins*. She has been with Places! since she was in 2nd grade. Some of her favorite

shows she has been in include *Little Mermaid*, *Shrek*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Georgia is a freshman at Williams Field High School; she is a member of student council. When Georgia is not doing a musical, she enjoys dancing.

Lacey Davis (Katie Nanna- mini cast) is appearing in her 2nd production with Places! and is so happy to be a part of *Mary Poppins*. She previously had a role in the summer showcase *At The Bandstand* and also appeared in her school's production of *Wizard of Oz*. She would like to thank her mommy for always being there and helping her make choices, Elise for being there when she needs her, Kayla for being who she is and loving her for who she is, Lance for playing games, daddy for helping her rehearse and with her homework, & Riley for always giving hugs. Lacey says, "Always be kind and helpful."

Elise Davis (Chimey Sweep- mini cast) is appearing in her 1st production with Places & is excited & nervous for her first play. She previously appeared as a munchkin in *Wizard of Oz* at her school. She would like to thank her big sister Lacey for helping her read & do her homework, mommy for being so kind, joyful, helpful and snuggly, Kayla for helping her learn & act, Daddy for being so loving & watching football with her, Lance for being a good buddy & playing with her, & Riley for being nice & polite & babysitting. She promises to not make a fuss for Riley next time.

Lauren Devey (Mrs. Brill- senior cast) is a Sophomore at American Leadership Academy. She has been acting for 4 1/2 years and is a member of the International Thespian Society. Most recently, she played the role of Little Red Riding Hood in her school's production of *Into the Woods*, for which she won the award for "Best Supporting Actress in a Musical". This is Lauren's fourth season with Places! Productions. She played the role of Chutney Wyndham in *Legally Blonde Jr.*, was part of the incredibly talented ensemble cast of *Les Miserables*, and played the role of Ursula in *Bye Bye Birdie*. This season, Lauren is excited to join the senior cast of *Mary Poppins* in the role Mrs. Brill. In addition to acting, Lauren studies voice and American Sign Language, plays the piano, and is a talented artist.

Emma Douglas (Jane Banks- junior cast) is excited to make her debut with Places! Productions in the role of Jane Banks. She attends Basis Mesa School and is a part of their drama program. Recent credits include the lead role as Dorothy in her school's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Emma also enjoys dancing jazz and ballet at Dance Republic.

Bella Elle (Jane Banks- senior cast), age 14, is honored to return to the stage with her friends at Places Productions! fulfilling one of her dreams to play Jane in *Mary Poppins*. Most recently, Bella played the role of Mary in *The Secret Garden*. She has also been fortunate to play the role of Matilda with both AYT and Limelight theatres, and she has performed with Phoenix Theatre Co as Ivanka in *Once*, and

Gretl in *The Sound of Music*. In addition to theatre and singing, Bella loves dancing, and working with children and animals. Bella thanks everyone at Places! Productions for this opportunity, and says “Break Legs” to everyone!

Collette Etchamendy (Winifred Banks- mini cast) has been with Places! for years and has been a vocal student with Mrs. Zuccaro for as many years. She has had the honor of being in *The Happiest Place on Earth* (Little Anna), *We Will Rock You* (Bruce), *Pinkalicious* (Dr. Wink), *Beauty and the Beast* (Ensemble), *Little Match Girl* (Still Soloist), and *The Secret Garden* (Child Soloist). Collette thanks all of her family and friends for coming to see her in *Mary Poppins*.

Isabelle Ethchamendy (Winifred Banks- senior cast) has been with Places! since they began with *Annie*; she played Pepper. She was also in *Presto* for a few years, at the initial stages of the group's formation. Isabelle has had the honor of playing Cosette in *Les Mis*, Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, and *Mary Poppins* in the *Happiest Place on Earth*. These past 7 years with Places! have brought a fine collection of memories and shows!

Jaden Freehan (John Northbrook- mini cast) loves to play sports, read, and play with friends!! He is 9 years old and in 4th grade. He is homeschooled and goes to The Eagleridge Enrichment Program for homeschooled kids. This is Jaden's debut with Places. He would like to thank Mrs. Allison and Mr. Joseph for all their help with the play. He would also like to thank his sister Scarlett for getting him interested in theater, and a huge thanks to all his family for all of their love and support.

Scarlett Freehan (Mrs. Brill- mini cast) loves to sing, read, and do gymnastics!! She is 12 and in 7th grade. She goes to a Prenda school! This is Scarlett's second 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 one year at Eagleridge which helped her develop her love for acting. Scarlett loves animals, babysitting, and playing with younger kids. She would also like to thank Susan for all her help with costumes and Mrs. Allison and Mr. Mills for all their hard work with this play. A big thanks to Mr. Joseph and Miss. Abby. All of you are so wonderful!!

Mackenzie Gilligan (Winifred Banks- junior cast) is a 15 year old sophomore at Red Mountain High School. Her love of performing on stage started when she was cast in her very first role as Annie in her school production of *Annie* at age 11. Some of her past roles include Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and The Beast*, Gretchen Weiners in *Mean Girls*, Emma in *Emma A Pop Musical* and Nancy in *Oliver Jr* at Limelight Performing Arts. She has also performed as Ms. Honey in *Matilda Jr* at Inspire Theater Co and Mrs. Wormwood in *Matilda* at Greasepaint Youth

Theater. Last summer, she also had the opportunity to perform as Rafiki in *Lion King* at Fountain Hills Theater. She loves to do on-camera acting as well. She has been in several short films and a feature film in California. In her free time, she likes to play the guitar, takes acting and voice lessons regularly, draw, and spend time with her friends. She would like to thank the directors for giving her this amazing opportunity to make her Places! Productions debut playing Winifred Banks in the junior cast!

Aaron Gunderson (Chairman- junior cast) is 14 years old and in the 8th grade, and this is his first show at Places! Productions. Aaron Gunderson has been in many shows including *Dracula*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Orphans*, *Shrek*, *Macbeth*, *Emma*, and many more. His most recent show was the *Wizard of Oz* where he played as the Emerald City Guard. He has always loved watching plays ever since he was a child. In Aaron's spare time, he enjoys watching plays and movies, hanging out with friends, and playing games.

Josiah Gross (Policeman- junior cast) has been performing with Places! for several years. Shows include *Beauty and the Beast*, *Pinkalicious*, and *At the Bandstand*.

Olivia Haller (Bird Woman- junior cast) has spent most of her life on stage. This is her 13th Places! performance, following roles in *Annie*, *At the Bandstand!*, *The Happiest Place on Earth*, *Harmony High*, *Alice in Wonderland* (March Hare), *Type One*, *Shrek*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), *We Will Rock You* (Oz), *Legally Blonde* (Gaelen), *Les Mis*, *The Secret Garden* (Holmes), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Alice). A sophomore, Olivia also sings and dances in the Presto! show choir.

Charlotte Hover-Lashnits (Sweep 2- junior cast) is a 13 year old 7th grader at Elite Performance Academy. She is so excited to be making her Places! Productions debut. Charlotte has been performing since she was two years of age. Her favorite credits include *Marty* (*Madagascar*-Limelight), *Annie* (*Annie*-Stage Door Studio) and *Louisa* (*Sound of Music*-Stage Door Studio). She hopes you enjoy the show!

Tanner Hutchinson (George Banks- mini cast) is thrilled to join the Places! Productions family with his debut performance in *Mary Poppins, Jr.* (George Banks). He is also currently performing in *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year* (Joseph). Previous credits include *You're a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown* (Linus), *The Nativity Story: A Journey of Faith* (Roman Soldier/Innkeeper/Townsperson), *Character Matters* (Rumpelstiltskin) and various other school performances. Tanner is 11 years old and has also performed at his school's Performing Arts Night, plays trumpet in the school Spirit Band (is starting piano lessons in the spring!) and has sung in the seasonal children's choir at church. He has played a variety of sports over the years, his favorite being soccer. Tanner has a very analytical mind and in his spare time

loves STREAM activities like robotics, coding and LEGO. He is a hamster dad to his long-haired Syrian named Patches and his family has a yellow Labrador named Rawlings. He is very excited to have found Places! and looks forward to being involved with many shows in the future.

Ayden Iwan (Bert- junior cast) is honored to play Bert in this production of *Mary Poppins*. Some of Ayden's past roles include Conrad Birdie (*Bye Bye Birdie*), Marius Pontmercy (*Les Miserables*), and Dickon (*The Secret Garden*). Ayden has had a blast working on this show and would like to thank everyone who helped make it all come to life.

Kevin Jacobs (Robertson Ay- junior/senior casts) is thrilled to be performing in this year's production of *Mary Poppins!* Kevin is 15 years old and has performed in productions of *The Wizard of Oz*, *Hello Dolly*, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, *Into The Woods*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Puffs*. Kevin has received awards for Outstanding Ensemble Member in *Hello Dolly* and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. He was inducted into the International Thespian Society in March 2023. He is a part of the varsity ballroom team. He is the youngest of 4, likes to hang out with friends and play video games, and he loves his dog Charlie. Kevin expresses gratitude to his friends and family for supporting him and helping him grow.

Trinity Jones (Sweep 2- senior cast)

Mady King (Mary Poppins- junior cast) is super excited to be a part of this amazing show! She has been performing with Places! since the beginning where she was an orphan in *Annie Jr.* Favorite credits include, Places! Productions *Les Miserables* (Cosette), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Kim), *The Crucible* (Betty Parris), and *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (Belle). In addition to musical theater, Mady enjoys being a part of Places! Productions' PRESTO Performance group. She sincerely thanks the Places! Team for all their love and support!

Joseph Killinger (Chairman- senior cast) was most recently seen on the Places! stage in *Les Mis!*

Cecily Kinnaman (Mrs. Corry/Sweep 1- mini cast) is a fifth grade homeschooler who also attends Eagleridge in Mesa. She loves singing, dancing and acting, and after her first shows with Places! this past summer, she feels like she's found her second home. Some of her favorite roles include: Judy (*At the Bandstand*), Cruella (*101 Dalmatians*), Duffy (*Annie*), the Lamp Vendor in (*Aladdin*), Mayor's Daughter (*Bye Bye Birdie*), and a lioness (*The Lion King*). Cecily would especially like to thank Miss Allison for the opportunity to perform in both the Mini and Junior casts of *Mary Poppins!*

Rigley Kirpatrick (Neleus/John Northbrook- junior cast) loves being with the theater group Places! Productions. The past performances that Rigley has been in are *Shrek*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *101 Dalmatians*, *The Crucible*, *We Will Rock You*, *Rock and Roll Forever*, *Pinkalicious*, *Legally Blonde*, *Les Mis*, *Footloose*, *The Secret Garden* and *Music Man*. The school that Rigley attends is Learning Foundation and Performing Arts, where he also loves to dance. When he has free time he likes to FaceTime his friends and play Roblox. Another thing he likes to do is to go to the lake and go camping with his family. Rigley would like to thank his family for helping him do what he loves to do best.

Norah Kohnhorst (Chimney Sweep- mini cast) has had a passion for theater from an early age and has been passionate about learning and growing in her craft. Norah was the youngest cast member to be cast in *Secret Garden* at 5 years old, followed by her speaking role in *At The Bandstand*, and now a chimney sweep in *Mary Poppins*. She has chosen to fine tune her skill set in Ping for the last two seasons while maintaining her roles along the way. Norah's passion for theater has been her driving force in pursuing roles with Places! Productions as she continues to grow.

Isaiah Koo (Chimney Sweep- mini cast) makes his Places! debut in *Mary Poppins* as the youngest cast member!

Neelan Kumar (Sweep 3- mini/junior cast) 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 such as *Pinkalicious*, *Little Match Girl*, *Les Miserables*, *The Secret Garden*, and *At The Bandstand*.

Eliza Lauritzen (Bird Woman/Sweep 2- mini cast) is thrilled to be performing as the Bird Woman and a Chimney Sweep in *Mary Poppins!* She loved playing Cindy in *At the Bandstand* with Places! this past summer. Her other previous shows include *The Secret Garden* (Dreamer/Sowerby Child) with Places! Productions, *The Little Mermaid* (Tapping Gull) and *Newsies* (Newsie) with Inspire Entertainment. Eliza is thankful to her Places! Productions family and directors for helping her foster her love of performing!

Danielle Lee (Miss Smythe- senior cast) is a junior at BASIS Mesa. She has been involved in musical theater since she was 7, but she took a break for years until first

joining Places! back in the summer of 2022. This is her fourth production with Places!; her other credits being *Legally Blonde* (Courtney, Pforzheimer), *Les Miserables* (Old Woman), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mae Peterson). At school currently, she is in their Thespian Society and Intermediate Drama class. She hopes everyone finds the show practically perfect and thanks everyone involved with this magical show!

Saffron Lopez (Chimney Sweep- mini cast) is currently in fifth grade at LFPA. She is excited to be a part of her second show with Places. She previously performed in *At the Bandstand* with Places! and is preparing for her first musical at LFPA this fall.

Xander Lopez (John Northbrook- senior cast) is a junior at Williams Field High School and has been performing since the first grade. He has been a part of many plays such as *Puffs* (Wayne Hopkins) and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Robert) and many musicals like *Anything Goes* (Elisha Whitney) and *Mean Girls* (Kevin G). He is so grateful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy!

Olivia Malabanan (Chimney Sweep- mini/junior casts) is a sixth grader trying theater for the first time. She has found a natural love for it, as theater combines two of her favorite pastimes- singing and dancing. She wants to continue doing theater and she can't wait to perform!

Alexis Martin (Katie Nanna- junior cast) is thrilled to be a part of *Mary Poppins*!! Alexis recently started 9th 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 *Mary Poppins* for this amazing opportunity! "Enjoy the show!"

Kendal Martinez (Neleus- mini cast) is delighted to be participating in her second production with Places! Productions. Last year, Kendal had the honor of being a part of *The Secret Garden* cast. This year, she has the opportunity to play the role as Neleus as well as other roles in *Mary Poppins*. Kendal has been receiving private vocal lessons from Allison Huston and has been an active member of Inspire Entertainment's Vocal Company for the past 3 years. She has also received NATS honorable mention in 3 separate competitions and recently placed first in her category at Valley of the Sun NATS. A HUGE thank you to Allison Huston for always being such a positive light in Kendal's life; for always providing knowledge, energy and beautiful confidence. Thank you to the incredible *Mary Poppins* directors and staff who have made this production a wonderful experience for all involved. "Enjoy the show!"

Ashton May (Michael Banks- junior cast), a 10 year old 5th grader is excited to be playing Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins Jr* cast. He has appeared in several school Productions over the years including *Pinocchio*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, *Cinderella*, and *Wizard of Oz*. He has been in music classes since he was 2 years old and learned to play the glockenspiel, keyboards and ukulele! He also loves creating TikTok videos, playing Roblox with friends and drawing. Ashton would like to thank his parents for their continued support along with Allison Houston for encouraging him and the Places! Production Team for supporting young talent!

Farah McArthur (Mary Poppins- mini cast), age 11, is so excited to be performing in *Mary Poppins Jr*. She has grown up watching Julie Andrews shine in the movie and couldn't possibly be more thrilled than to play the "Practically Perfect" iconic role of Mary Poppins herself. Farrah most recently performed in Limelight's *Oliver Jr*. as *Oliver* and with Places! Productions for both *The Secret Garden* in the role of Mary Lennox, and *Les Miserables* in which she played the role of Young Cosette. Although still fairly new to the world of musical theater, music and performing have always been a passion of hers from the start. In the past year, she has won awards and accolades for her poem recitations (The Bard Competition) reciting verses from *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*, as well as multiple singing competitions (NATS) placing first in both categories of Classical and Musical Theater. Her all-embracing love of the theater is easily witnessed in every rehearsal and performance. She would like to thank Allison Houston for her diligent voice coaching and continuous encouragement and her family members for their unwavering love and support.

Lia McArthur (Chimney Sweep- mini cast), age 8, is thrilled to be making her musical theater debut as part of the ensemble of *Mary Poppins Jr*. She has grown up loving the movie and watching her sister in shows from the audience so 'move over Farrah, Lia's coming!' Lia, however, is no stranger to performing. She is a competitive gymnast now in her second year, this year competing in Xcel Gold with USA Youth Fitness Center. She has also performed in *The Nutcracker* and *The Halloween Show* with Studio R. She would like to thank Allison Houston for giving her this opportunity and her family for their love and encouragement.

Camila Mercer (Chimney Sweep- junior cast) is performing in her second theatrical production with Places! Productions as a chimney sweep and is looking forward to growing her skills as an actress. Camila realized her desire to pursue theater after landing a role in *Secret Garden* last season and has loved performing with Places! Productions in their musical show choir program as well. She is an aspiring actress with big ambitions and hopes to continue learning the craft of theater.

Hyrum McClure (George Banks- senior cast) is a sophomore at ALA Gilbert North where he is active in Theatre, Choir and Ballroom. While at ALA, he has played

Barnaby Tucker in *Hello Dolly*, Honza Kosek in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, Jack in *Into the Woods* and most recently was Wayne Hopkins in *Puffs*. Here at Places! Hyrum has been able to perform as Combeferre in *Les Miserables* and Albert Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Hyrum likes being on stage with his friends. He is grateful for the support he has received and appreciates all those that came to see *Mary Poppins*.

Chloe Miller (Sweep 3- senior cast) is a sophomore at ALA Gilbert North where she is involved in theatre and ballroom dance. Chloe's favorite roles include Kamila the Dynamite Girl in *Hairspray*, and an ensemble member in *Hello Dolly*. She also does backstage work such as spotlight and costume work. "I'd like to thank my parents for supporting me in everything I do, and my best friend Aria for sticking with me through everything."

Ethan Park (Chimney Sweep- mini cast) This is Ethan's first play. He is in second grade and attends KMBE School. In his free time, he likes to watch tv and play Minecraft. He really enjoys getting to sing and dance during practice.

Noah Park (Von Hussler, Sweep- mini cast) has done two prior plays; *Aladdin Jr.* and *Frozen Jr.* Although he has done other plays, *Mary Poppins* is still a new experience for him. This will be his first time doing a play outside of his school. Noah is in 4th grade and just moved from San Jose, CA. He enjoys playing video games and coding. He would like to thank his parents for supporting him.

Izzy Redwitz (Chimney Sweep/Swing- junior/senior casts) is a 9th grade student. She has a passion for theater, music, singing, and dance. Her past shows include *The Addams Family*, *All Shook Up*, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, *Les Miserables School Edition*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. She has competed in the Musical Theatre Competition of America and sings in the choir at Highland High School. Izzy thanks her family, friends, directors, and teachers who have supported and taught her over the years. She is excited to be a part of *Mary Poppins* and looks forward to performing with such fun and talented actors.

Leilani Robles (Sweep 1- senior cast) returns to Places! after previously performing in *Hairspray*, *Happiest Place on Earth*, *Shrek*, and *Presto!*

Ava Saba (*Mary Poppins*- senior cast) is 17 years old and a senior this year. She is thrilled to be back on the Places! stage once again. She was most recently seen as Lily in *Secret Garden* and Eponine in *Les Miserables* with Places! Productions. Some of her favorite roles she's played are Scaramouche in *We Will Rock You*, Beth March in *Little Women* and Fiona in *Shrek* with Places! Productions. Other shows she has been in are *Lion King*, *All Shook Up* and *42nd Street* with AYT and *Matilda* with

Valley Youth Theatre. As always, she wants to thank Allison Houston Zuccaro for always believing in her!

Juliana Salaiz (Mrs. Corry- junior cast) is a freshman at Gilbert High School. She plays trumpet with her school's band and has been in previous shows with other productions. She has been in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Lion King*, and *Addams Family*. She is very happy and grateful to be in a loving and supporting acting group and giving so many opportunities.

Piper Searcy (Miss Andrew- senior cast) has been in love with musical theater since the age of seven. Her favorite role of all time has been Scar in *The Lion King*. This is her fourth show with Places!, and she is so excited to be playing Miss Andrew!! Recently, she got a drama award at her school for Scar in *The Lion King* and Mayzie in *Seussical!* One of her greatest achievements outside of theater was getting her black belt in karate! She would like to thank her friends and family for being there for her no matter what!

Sam Shaw (Bird Woman/Sweep 4- senior cast) Places! credits include performing in *Les Mis* and music directing last summer's *At the Bandstand*.

Maria Stallings (Jane Banks- mini cast) is a 6th grade student and attends Legacy Charter School of Chandler. She has been performing in local plays with Places! Productions as well as her school for the past few years as well as taking voice lessons in Gilbert, Arizona. She loves performing on stage, acting, singing and dancing. She has past performances in shows such as *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Lion King*, *Rock and Roll Forever*, *Frozen* and *The Secret Garden*. She would like to thank her parents, Laura and Sean, her sister, Samara, and her grandparents, Charles and Beverly for their love and support.

Samuel Trudelle (Policeman- mini cast) is 10 years old and in 4th grade. This is his 5th show with Places! Productions. He was most recently seen in *At The Bandstand* as Brock and 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 Nintendo Switch.

Matthew Tuft (Robertson Ay- mini cast) is now on his 8th play! He enjoys playing comedic parts, and making new friends. And unlike his character, Robertson Ay, he's been known to talk your ear off. When he's not acting, he loves to build contraptions and invent different ways to solve real-world problems.

Makenna Valenzuela (Miss Smythe- junior cast) is an eighth grader and Vice President at Cooley Middle School. She currently takes weekly music lessons at the Vocal Studio of Gretchen Stalneck, where she has been trained to sing many

different vocals, one being the National Anthem for an ASU Volleyball game. This is her first time participating in musical theatre, and she looks forward to many more to come.

Jayda Vannoy (Chimney Sweep 4) is a 14-year-old girl who is a freshman in high school this year at Learning Foundation and Performing Arts. Previous performances at LFPA include solo performance (Sally Brown) "My New Philosophy," Anastasia "Once upon a December", *Footloose*, Musical Revue, Contar (Choir), Hot Chocolate "Polar Express." Upcoming, she will be Jane in *Emma: The Pop Musical*. The summer show she was Nancy in *Bye Bye Birdie* with Places! as she continues to learn and grow here. She wants to thank Allison and Mr. Mills and all of the staff and the choreographers.

Julia Vollstedt (Mrs. Corry- senior cast) This is Julia's second show at Places! Productions. She's recently graduated and has loved spending her gap year working and doing theater. She's been most recently seen in *Bye Bye Birdie* (Nancy- Places!), *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife- ALA), and *Hello Dolly* (ensemble/dance captain- ALA). She was also a member of a 5-time-"superior" rating advanced women's vocal ensemble and 2-time-"superior" rating jazz choir, as well as a national title-winning ballroom team.

Audrey Williams (Messenger- junior cast) was seen on the Places! stage in *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Legally Blonde Jr.*. She also performs in her school's theatre program.

Jackson Wood (Bert- senior cast) is thrilled to be playing Bert in this production of *Mary Poppins Jr!* Some of his past roles include: *Secret Garden* (Dr. Neville Craven), *Les Miserables* (Jean Valjean), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Conrad Birdie). He wants to thank his wonderful girlfriend for writing this bio for him and all his friends and family for their support.

Zayden Zahorka (George Banks- junior cast) is excited for his role as George Banks in Disney's *Mary Poppins Jr.* He was previously seen at Places! in *Bye Bye Birdie* as Hugo Peabody and *The Secret Garden*, EVCT's *The Lion King Jr.*, & *Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Clause*. Zayden has been active in drama and choir, and when he isn't rehearsing, you can find him reading, golfing, or playing basketball. Zayden is thankful for everyone at Places! and for friends and family that continue to support him.

Zander Zahorka (Michael Banks- senior cast) is a ten-year-old homeschooled student. This is his debut performance, playing Michael Banks in Disney's *Mary Poppins Jr.* He is excited to follow in his brother's footsteps to be performing on stage. When Zander isn't practicing his British accent, he can be found reading, gaming, or practicing karate. He is thankful for Places! giving him this opportunity.

CREATIVE BIOS

Abby Gordon (Stage Manager) is a senior at ASU as an Engineering major. She was most recently seen at Places! 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 fall. She would like to thank Allison, Joseph, and Mills for another incredible experience!

Susan Houston (Costume Designer) Susan would like to thank the Board of Places! for the opportunity to create a fresh approach for the *Mary Poppins* characters. Susan's credits with Places! include Costume Designer for *Les Miserables*, *School Edition*, *The Crucible*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Annie* and Costume coordinator/designer for *We Will Rock you*, *Little Women*, *Velveteen Rabbit*, *Shrek* and *Beauty and The Beast*. Before Places!, Susan designed for various youth theatres across the valley. Her favorite productions are *Les Misérables* (Arizoni recipient 2007-2008), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Arizoni Nomination 2008-2009), *Little Women*, *Peter Pan*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Cinderella*, and *Charlotte's Web*, her costume design debut.

Tim Mills is the honored Assistant Director to Director Allison Houston Zuccaro! His assistant directing credits with Places! Productions before *Mary Poppins Jr.* include *Annie Jr.*, *Aladdin Jr.*, *Hairspray Jr.*, *The Happiest Place on Earth*, *GTK Footloose*, *Shrek the Musical*, the short film *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *We Will Rock You*, *Legally Blonde Jr.*, *Les Miserables School Edition*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. His Places! Directing credits include the one-act Play *Remember Me* and the Musical *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* He has enjoyed being a part of Places! since the beginning, and watching the theatre grow! A big Thank You to all three casts for your efforts and desire to grow into even better performers! Thank you to our audiences for supporting the Arts and Places! Enjoy the Shows!

Joseph Strode (Choreographer) originally from Mississippi where he got his BFA in musical theatre from the University of Mississippi. He is the director of Ping (show choir), and previously music directed Places! Production of *Rock and Roll Forever*. His past credits include *Bye Bye Bride*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Footloose* at Hale Center Theatre. *The Secret Garden* and *Little Women* at Places! Productions. *Chicago*, *Assassins*, *Macbeth*, and *Hair* at Ole Miss Theatre, as well as performing at the historic Grand Ole Opry and Carnegie Hall. He would like to thank his family and fiancé for their unbelievable support.

Allison Zuccaro (Director/Music Director) is the Founding Artistic Director of Places! Productions. She graduated from ASU in 2012 with a BM in Music Theatre and Minor in Justice Studies and performed as a member of Actors' Equity Association before deciding her heart was truly in teaching and directing. Over the last 20 years, she performed in over 30 productions and has now directed 40. She is currently the performing arts instructor at East Valley High School and runs a private voice studio in Queen Creek. She thanks the amazingly talented *Mary Poppins* cast and crew, Joseph, Mills, and Abby for supporting this crazy new adventure of triple casting with patience and grace, the Places! Board, all of our incredible volunteers, her brilliant parents, her supportive husband John, YOU for supporting the arts, and Liz Rhodes, who, for the last 17 years, encouraged Allison to pursue her dreams and believed in her more than she ever believed in herself.