

# BIOGRAPHIES



## Phoebe Jacobs (Dorothy Gale) | OR

Phoebe is a newly 16 soon-to-be Junior at West Salem H.S., and SHE LOVES MUSICAL THEATRE! She made her professional debut as "Taylor McKessie" in ET's production of *High School Musical*, and recently played "Uzo" in WSHS's production of *Godspell*. When not performing, Phoebe loves reading, playing her guitar, singing, dancing and studies acting. She is also interested in film acting, playing the lead in 5 short independent films. Her sister Oliva is a flying monkey in Oz and sister Savannah is a yoga instructor in Salem. Catch Phoebe this fall as "Ella" in West Salem High School's production of *Cinderella*.

## Kurleen Nowickas (Aunt Em/Glinda) | OR

This is Kurleen Nowickas' debut with Enlightened Theatrics. She has recently performed with Portland Opera, Opera Theatre Oregon, Lakewood Theatre Company and Pentacle Theatre. Kurleen is a graduate of Western Oregon University, where she studied with Kevin Helppie. She studied opera at AIMS in Austria, and currently studies voice with Cynthia McGladrey. Kurleen is thankful for the support of her family and friends here in OR and in her native island of St. Lucia. She is especially grateful for her husband, James; son, Jaylun and dog, Dash. Special thanks to Cynthia McGladrey and Jo Dodge.



## David Brown (Uncle Henry/Guard) | OR

David has been acting and dancing since the age of 11 and enjoyed a career in production shows before taking an extended hiatus for college and parenthood. Since returning to acting in 2010, he has appeared in dozens of stage and screen productions, including as Joe Keller in *All My Sons*, as Gov. Jack Slaton in *Parade*, in the title role for *Uncle Vanya*, as program host Clifton Feddington in *The 1940s Radio Hour*, as Clarence Day in *Life With Father*, and as Pres. Franklin Roosevelt in the new Italian feature film *In Guerra per Amore (At War for Love)*. David is delighted to be working with old friends and making new ones here at Enlightened Theatrics!



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## **Cassi Q Kohl\* (Scarecrow/Hunk) | OR**

Cassi, a proud member of Actor's Equity, is happy to be back in Oregon! She won Drammy awards for Best Supporting Actress as Ilona in *She Loves Me* (Lakewood) and Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* (Mock's Crest). She originated a role in the Off-Broadway production of *Soul Doctor* (New York Theater Workshop) and traveled as a Mainstage performer with Disney Cruise Line. Favorite regional credits include Theaterworks USA, GFour Productions (Philadelphia), Seattle Children's Theater, and Clackamas Repertory Theater. Love and gratitude to Ronni Lacroute, Jamie Rea, & Vinnie! For more information about upcoming performances, visit her website at [www.CassiQ.com](http://www.CassiQ.com)



## **Jamie Lowe (Tinman/Hickory) | FL**

Jamie is glad to be back at Enlightened Theatrics! He graduated from Elon University in 2011 with a BFA in Music Theatre. He was last seen as Margaret Mead in "Hair". Other favorite roles include Ernst in "Cabaret" and Toad in "A Year with Frog and Toad" in Deland, Florida. For the last 3 and a half years, he has taught theatre and dance at the Children's Musical Theatre Workshop in Ormond Beach, FL. Jamie would like to thank his friends and family for their constant love and support.



## **Kyle Jack (Cowardly Lion/Zeke) | NY**

This is Kyle's Enlighten Theatrical debut! He is excited to be apart of this wonderful production. Kyle was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He attended The Pennsylvania State University where he obtained a degree in Integrative Arts with minors in Dance and Theater. He would like to thank his family and friends and Vinnie for all their support. His most memorable roles include *Godspell* (John the Baptist/Judas), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Joseph Asagai), *Suessical* (Wickersham Brother) and many others. He wants to thank his mother and the audience for coming.



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## **Tiffany Carstensen (Almira Gulch/Wicked Witch of the West) | OR**

With her Enlightened Theatrics debut, Tiffany is thrilled to be playing such an iconic role. Born & raised in Oregon and a graduate of SOU, Tiffany has been teaching and directing for almost 20 years and is thrilled to be back on the boards as she is usually “on the other side of the script” as the Director of Theatre Arts at McKay HS. She would like to thank Vinnie and ET for the opportunity to grow; Terry, Josie, the parental units, and her family and friends for their support- so lucky to have you; and her students who continue to inspire her and talked her into auditioning!

## **James Kemp (Professor Marvel/ The Wizard of Oz) | OR**

We moved to Salem from Coos Bay in 2013. We had both been active in theater in Oregon’s Bay Area. I debut here with Enlightened Theatrics. Most recently, I was The Servant in 2014 in the Scottish Play. My favorite role was Fagin in LTOB’s “Oliver!” in 2010. In 1996, I directed the world premiere of Miklos Laszlo’s play “And the Snow Falls” at OBT in Coos Bay. My radio adaptation of that play was broadcast on KMUZ in December of 2015. I am grateful to Vincenzo for the opportunity to play Professor Marvel/ The Wizard of Oz.



## **Arianne Meneses (Ozian Ensemble) | NY**

This is Arianne’s Enlightened Theatrics debut! She’s ecstatic to be part of this production of The Wizard of Oz! She is from Los Angeles, CA but moved to New City to further her dance education. She recently graduated The American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and is a proud alumni. Arianne’s favorite credits are, Peter Pan (Tiger Lily), Fosse Tribute (Ensemble), and Into The Woods Jr. (Baker’s Wife). She wants to thank her family for their unending love and support, and to thank her Relevé family that shaped her in many ways.

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## **Camille Trinka (Ozian Ensemble) | OR**

Camille is excited to make her debut at Enlightened Theatrics! A Portland native, Camille is a BFA Musical Theater graduate from The University of the Arts. She has performed in Philadelphia, New York City, and the Portland area. Camille was recently seen as Princess Fiona in *Shrek The Musical* at Northwest Children's Theater. Other recent credits include *Oklahoma* at Broadway Rose Theatre and *Mame* at Lakewood Center for the Arts. A favorite role was Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*. Camille thanks Vinny for this opportunity and her friends and family for their love and support.



## **Catherine Vessey (Ozian Ensemble) | OR**

Catherine is 17 years old and will be a senior at Salem Academy in the fall. She has been acting since she was young and loves performing with Enlightened Theatrics. Since moving to Oregon from Kansas three years ago, she has appeared locally in *Les Miserable* with Pentacle Theatre, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* with SKIT theatre, and in *Oklahoma* at South Salem High School. Her favorite roles have included starring as Annie with Sterling High School in Kansas, and as Marie in *Aristocats* with Family Community Theatre in Hutchinson, KS. She studies vocal performance with Amy Billings.



## **Eduardo Juarez (Ozian Ensemble) | OR**

This is Eduardo's first stage production since moving from Illinois, and he couldn't be more thankful that it so happens to be with Enlightened Theatrics! He is no stranger to the stage for his credits include: *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.* (Tevye), *Annie* (Rooster Hannigan), *The Great Gatsby* (Tom Buchanan), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), and more. He would love to thank his family for constant encouragement and support, his friends from back home flying to see this production, and the wonderful and talented cast and crew! Thanks for taking me somewhere over the rainbow!



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## **Jade Tate (Ozian Ensemble) | OR**

Jade is delighted to be a part of the Wizard of Oz! She is a graduate of Southridge High School, and her favorite roles include Serena in *Legally Blonde the Musical* and the Sugar Plum Fairy in *Shrek the Musical*. She is very proud of Mickey for his hard work as Toto. Jade would like to thank Enlightened Theatrics for g Jade is delighted to be a part of the Wizard of Oz! She is a graduate of Southridge High School, and her favorite roles

## **Jared Lingle (Ozian Ensemble) | WA**

This is Jared Lingle's Enlightened Theatrics debut. He from the small town of Battle Ground, WA. Jared just graduated from Prairie High School. His theatre experience includes: *Guys and Dolls* (Nathen Detroit), *The Pajama Game* (Sid Sorokin), *Romeo & Juliet* (Mercutio), *21 Chump Street* (Justin Laboy) He would like to thank his wonderful cast and directors, his family and friends, and Claire Verity for Teaching him everything he knows. He would like to also thank his beautiful girlfriend bella for sticking with him through this, "I Love You!"



## **Joshua Schwartz (Ozian Ensemble) | NY**

Josh is a proud graduate of CAP21 and is thrilled to be working with Enlightened Theatrics once again. Josh was honored to be apart of ET's production of *Hair* last year! Being born and raised from Brooklyn, NY, Josh is no stranger to the Big Apple, but is always looking forward to where he will end up next. Be on the lookout to see Josh as Billy Lawlor in the *42nd Street* U.S. Tour starting this December! Josh's credits include: Stage: *Footloose* (Ren), *Hairspray* (Link), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Eugene). Commercial: Hasbro Toys Jenga Tetris. Film: Sydney Hall, The Outskirts. Josh would like to thank Vinnie, Jenny, Dan, M & J, his entire loving family and his beautiful Nevada!



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**Mallory Bahner (Ozian Ensemble) | OR**  
This is Mallory Bahner's Enlightened Theatrics debut. She is thrilled to be a part of this fabulous show! Born in Anaheim, California and raised in beautiful Salem, Oregon. She enjoys everything about theatre. Her favorite credits include: The Music Man, The Little Mermaid (Adella) and Footloose (Urleen). She would love to thank her family and friends for all their encouragement throughout the years.

**Meggan Herod (Ozian Ensemble) | NY**  
Meggan Herod is grateful to be making her Enlightened Theatrics debut! Though she resides in New York City, Meggan is originally from Colorado and feels completely at home in beautiful Salem! Favorite credits: The Producers (Ulla), Chicago (Hunyak), Les Miserables (Cosette). Meggan would like to thank her mom, dad, James and Aspen for always being supportive!



**Olivia Jacobs (Ozian Ensemble) | OR**  
Olivia is a 12 year old, soon-to-be 7th grader at Walker Middle School. Liv makes her professional debut with The Wizard of Oz! Earlier this year she played the lead "Nicole" in a short Art Institute film called Little Fish. Liv played "Mary Oakley" in WSHS's production of Annie Get Your Gun, and has performed in numerous dance and voice recitals. Outside of performing, she loves to make funny movies using her dad's phone - and harassing her sister, Phoebe! Liv is having the time of her life as a citizen of OZ. Thank you Vinnie!



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## **Peter Vessey (Ozian Ensemble) | OR**

Peter is 11 years old and will be a sixth grader at Howard Street Charter School this fall. Having moved to Oregon three years ago from Kansas, this seemed like an ideal show for him. He first performed on stage as Baby Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web* with Family Children's Theatre in Hutchinson, Kansas when he was just three years old! Fifteen shows later, his favorite roles have been Michael in *Mary Poppins* with Pentacle Theatre, and Winthrop in *Music Man*. In his spare time, he likes to research the Titanic, practice the violin, and annoy his 5 siblings.

## **Sam Hall (Ozian Ensemble) | NY**

Originally from England, Sam considers himself a dancer with a musical theater heart. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Dance and Choreography and while there got to work with many acclaimed faculty members in and out of the school. Currently a NYC resident Sam spends his time teaching, auditioning and dancing for Community Dance Project, the resident company of the 92Y. This is Sam's first production with Enlightened Theatrics! He would like to thank his family (NYC, VA, U.K.) for everything they have given him. As always, this one is for you David.



## **Mickey Tate (Toto) | OR**

Mickey is so excited to be playing Toto in the *Wizard of Oz*! He is a two year old chihuahua and papillon mix! His favorite food is chicken and he loves taking naps. His dream is to star in his very own Disney Channel show.



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## Vincenzo Meduri | OR *Producing Artistic Director*

A Salem native, Vincenzo graduated from Sprague High School in 2007 and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from Elon University in North Carolina in 2011. Following graduation, he pursued his dreams in New York City where he worked as the Producing Assistant on the Broadway production 'A Night with Janis Joplin'. Having discovered a love for directing and teaching, Vincenzo returned to Salem to found Enlightened Theatrics; an organization for artists, students and dreamers dedicated to instilling hope, education and inspiration in generations to come. He currently sits as the Vice President of the Salem

Theatre Network and is a proud Board Member of Liberty House, a Child Abuse Assessment Center. In addition, Vincenzo works closely with other downtown business and organizations through GoSalem365.com, which helps to promote and engage downtown with the entire Salem community.

## Daniel Gibson | NY *Music Director*

Currently traveling the world as a Vocal Director for Royal Caribbean Productions, Daniel has served as Music Director for Enlightened Theatrics and Curtain Call Theatre; Vocal Coach for Broadway Kids Auditions and Manhattan Movement and Arts Center; and Associate Music Director at The Flat Rock Playhouse. Actor credits: Flat Rock Playhouse, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, NYC West Village Musical Theatre Festival. Member of Actors' Equity and Alumnus of The BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. BFA Elon University.

## Jenny Lynn Spencer | OR *Choreographer*

Jenny's dancing career began at the early age of 2 years old. As a young adult, she trained for years with the Oregon Ballet Theatre. After leaving Oregon, she moved to New York and worked under the wing of the legendary Annie Reinking and Gwen Verdon. Jenny was then cast in the Broadway Revival of the Tony Award Winning Musical Chicago. This led to a successful career as a Broadway Singer, Dancer, and Actress including: The Producers (Ulla), Annie Get Your Gun (Dolly Tate). Side Show (Bud), Dance of the Vampires (Magda), Dracula, Fosse (Lead singer/dancer with Ben Vereen), Applause (Debbie),

Romeo & Juliet, All Shook Up (Sandra), Henry Mancini Project (Lead singer/Dancer). While in New York Jenny also choreographed the Off Broadway Show, "Forever Dusty"- The Life of Dusty Springfield. Jenny Lynn now lives in Oregon with her husband and two children.

