



# KIRK PLAYERS SPOTLIGHT



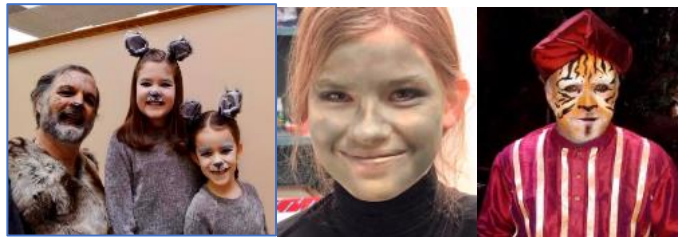
After a strong showing at auditions, we have a cast of over 40 adults and youth for our upcoming children's show *The Jungle Book* (March 27-29) at Mundelein High School. Jon Matousek returns as director to lead this talented cast along with Jenny Tomlin as Assistant Director and Jeanna Daebelliehn doing double duty in the show, serving as Choreographer and Stage Manager.



The multi-talented Jeanna performed with Kirk Players back in 2013 in the musical, *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* and has been on or backstage for several shows, including directing / choreographing "Seussical Jr." for the group. Jeanna is also a fantastic Kirk Players committee member and always willing to lend a hand.

For *The Jungle Book*, Jeanna will bring some fantastic choreography inspired by multiple cultures as she creates dances for all of these wild creatures.

Daebelliehn shares, "I have truly enjoyed working on the Kirk Players Children's Shows in the past, whether it was being on the production team or being a part of the cast. I have to give director, Jon Matousek, props for getting me involved with choreographing the children's shows. I love being a part of creating a visual story and bringing it to life on the stage. Choreographing productions for Kirk Players allows me to use my creative abilities to enhance the director's vision of the show."



This show has a large cast of 41 adults and children, so it is a big job to stage manage and choreograph. Daebelliehn's thoughts on taking on this task: "Since joining the group, I have always wanted to dabble in the other areas of working on a production. I have some experience in directing, choreographing, and acting in shows, but stage manager is a role that I filled this past summer with another theater group, and I realized that I actually enjoyed doing it. As stage manager, I am responsible for knowing the ins and outs of the show. So it is easy being able to choreograph the dance numbers and making sure that they mesh well with the rest of the flow of the show."



All of this great talent and energy will undoubtedly be reflected in this exciting production. As Jeanna says, "I encourage everyone to come see the Kirk Player's Production of *The Jungle Book*. This is not your Disney version of the story. This version not only delves into the story of the jungle animals that we know and love, but it very nicely weaves in the story about the original author of *The Jungle Book*, Rudyard Kipling, his life going to school in England, and the history of how the story of *The Jungle Book* came to be. We have a fantastic cast and crew that have been working hard to put this wonderful production to life!"



So bring your family and friends to *The Jungle Book* and join in the fun!

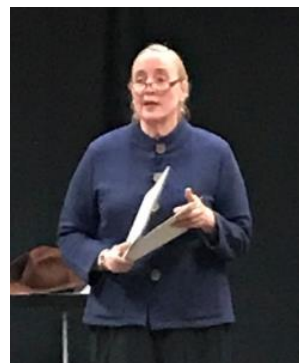


## Votes for Women Celebration

What a January we had with the “Votes for Women” event! The ensemble cast of this special event performed before great crowds at Fremont Public Library, the Dunn Museum and Del Webb Grand Dominion.

For the big event at Innovation Park, over 150 people came to enjoy the show with the addition of speaker Holly Kim and enjoyed a table raffle and a lovely afternoon tea.

Our volunteers were amazing, and many positive reviews were heard from the crowd. Gretchen would like to thank her cast, crew and everyone who came out to volunteer and see the show. You never know -- maybe we will perform it again this year! In the meantime, get out there and use that power to VOTE!





## Looking Ahead to “The Diary of Anne Frank”

The Kirk Players will host open auditions for their June show, *The Diary of Anne Frank* on **Monday, March 30 and Wednesday, April 1, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Mundelein**, located at 10 S. Lake Street. Callbacks are scheduled for Thursday, April 2 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

The auditions will consist of readings from the definitive 2016 edition, newly edited by Wendy Kesselman, Frances Goodrich and Elbert Hackett. This is a timeless classic of a young girl’s spirit as she faced the hatred and fears of World War II, a story that needs to be remembered. *Anne Frank* is more significant than ever with the cries of racism, anti-Semitism and increased white nationalism.

Roles are available for 8 men, ages 16 and up, and 5 women, ages 13 and up. Rehearsals will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, full schedule TBD.

Kirk Players is also looking for volunteers for tech roles for this production as there will be a significant need for assistance backstage as well as on stage. If you are interested in tech design or tech crew (lights, sound, set design, props, etc.), please print and complete the audition form on our website for any tech positions you are interested in, and email your completed form to [info@kirkplayers.org](mailto:info@kirkplayers.org).

Performances are June 5 - 7 (7 pm Fri/Sat, 2 pm Sat/Sun). Additional information and audition forms are available at [www.kirkplayers.org](http://www.kirkplayers.org). If you have specific questions, please email [info@kirkplayers.org](mailto:info@kirkplayers.org).

## Summer Workshops June 8 – July 27

For Youth Summer Workshop 2020, we will be running our classes for the different levels, Gretchen is working on some curriculum updates for each level, and we will also include scenes from our 2021 children’s show *The Trial of Robin Hood* for the older groups. We will be looking for assistants and teachers for all levels!

For Adult Summer Workshop 2020, we will be presenting one-act plays. All participants in the workshop will be cast in a play. If you are interested in directing a one-act, please e-mail Gretchen at [artisticdirectorgg@gmail.com](mailto:artisticdirectorgg@gmail.com) by April 15. You can pick your own show to direct or we would be happy to give you some suggestions. You will have an experienced director as your mentor for the session.

All Kirk Members, families and friends are welcome to our showcase at the end on July 27 where all of the hard work of our directors and aspiring actors can be experienced and celebrated. Don’t miss it!

## “Brilliance Behind the Curtain” Workshop April 25<sup>th</sup> – 10 am – 1 pm

The Artistic Development Committee is proud to announce our upcoming “Brilliance Behind the Curtain” workshop on April 25 from 10 am to 1 pm (location TBD). Did you ever wonder about the planning and thought process that goes into designing, building and decorating a magnificent stage? How about the creative work that goes into lighting and sound? Costuming, props, and special effects are key elements that help create the magic. And the partnership of directors, stage managers, and tech directors help mold this symphony of elements into something we can be very proud of as the actors take the stage!

Come to our “Brilliance Behind the Curtain” overview workshop and learn about each of these roles and more. We will leverage the standard role descriptions from the [AACT role guidelines](#), and then hear from those with a wealth of experience to learn how these come to life for the Kirk Players.

And in late October, we are planning a full-day workshop for aspiring Stage Managers and Assistant Stage Managers. More details to come.



### Jessica Rattanasena and the Pfanstiehl Grant

We are truly humbled by our member Jessica Rattanasena's initiative to submit and sponsor our nomination in her employer's Pfanstiehl Cares! grant. Pfanstiehl, Inc.'s mission is to bring light into the world by sponsoring organizations that positively impact the community by their service, care, and knowledge. Pfanstiehl awarded Kirk Players \$4,000 to help provide support for our upcoming 27th annual children's show *The Jungle Book*.

The Kirk Players and all of our members thank Jessica and Pfanstiehl for your support and generosity. We are truly grateful. The Kirk Players is honored to have been a part of the community for over 54 years, continuing to thrive because of the hard work of volunteer members as well as the generosity and support of the community.

### Thank you Sara!

Sara Gunther started doing Kirk Players productions while she was in high school and has been working on productions ever since. Her first role was in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* where she played a skunk, so it was fun to be able to be in the production again many years later as the White Queen. Sara became a Kirk Player member in January 1996 and has served in pretty much every role there is as a Kirk Player. She has won acting awards, The Golden Hammer and Hazen MVP awards, and has served as our esteemed Web master for several years.

Some of her favorite assignments were stage managing *The Happiest Millionaire*, directing *Winnie the Pooh*, performing in *You Can't Take It with You* and *Harvey*, and designing lights or working crew for over 30 shows. Her most memorable show was very early on. She had designed the lights for *Death of a Salesman* and when they went to load the first cue just before opening the doors, all the cues had vanished even though they had run through them 30 minutes earlier. The board wouldn't load the backup copies that had been saved so Sara had to reprogram the entire show with over 100 cues in about fifteen minutes while they held the house. Although it was a very stressful evening, everyone was helpful and supportive and worked together to get through it because as they say, "the show must go on".

Sara says, "Although I am sad to be stepping away from the Kirk Players, I am excited about all the theatre I am currently able to do with various schools and theatres. I most recently designed lights for Carl Sandburg Middle School's production of *The Lion King*, worked as a co-technical director on *Mamma Mia* at Vernon Hills High School, and am just starting to design lights for Warren Township High Schools production of *Elf the Musical*. I also serve as the Auditorium Manager and Assistant Director for Group Interpretation at Mundelein High School and have spent the past few summers designing lights for Four Chairs Theatre musicals. I am so grateful to be able to continue to spread the love of theatre to so many and to be working in a field that I love".

We want to thank Sara for all she has given the Kirk Players. She will always be a part of our family.

Cheers!

### Committee Members – Thanks for all that you do!

We appreciate your patience as all of the board members have been trying to schedule meetings around shows and events. Thank you for staying engaged on the committees, it makes a huge difference for Kirk Players!

#### Play Reading Committee

Please remember that even if you are not on the Play Reading Committee, you are welcome to submit evaluations of shows for the committee to consider. We are always looking for new ideas!

#### Awards

Please do not forget about the new award "Unsung Hero Award" given to someone who made a difference onstage or backstage, voted on by cast and crew. "Jungle Book" cast and crew, keep an eye out for someone who makes the production the best it can be!



## Membership Anniversaries

Amy Sharer - 2/16/15 (5 years)	Brian Motyka - 4/11/01 (19 years)
Lisa Willems - 2/27/17 (3 years)	Randy Rice - 4/13/04 (16 years)
Lisa Soare - 3/1/11 (9 years)	Fred Vipond - 4/13/04 (16 years)
Peter Grassl - 3/1/11 (9 years)	Mike Lieberman - 4/10/06 (14 years)
Gretchen Grassl - 3/1/11 (9 years)	Anna Lieberman - 4/10/06 (14 years)
Susie Hill - 3/1/13 (7 years)	Jeff Harding - 4/8/09 (11 years)
Martin Hill - 3/1/13 (7 years)	Jeff Griffith - 4/30/15 (5 years)
Mike Stebbins - 3/1/13 (7 years)	

## Happy Birthday Kirk Members!

### February

Brian Motyka  
Peter Grassl  
Meghan Lane  
Lisa Willems

### March

Anna Lieberman  
Dom Basso  
Bev Karns  
Susie Hill  
Betty Slack

### April

Jessica Motyka  
Jeff Griffith

**Fun Fact:** Franny Polack's husband Michael and daughter Julie both share the same birthday, February 21.

## Kirk Players Calendar

Monthly Membership Meeting	March 13 (Fri) 7:00 pm	St. Andrew Church
Monthly Membership Meeting	April 3 (Fri) 7:00 pm	St. Andrew Church
Monthly Membership Meeting	May 8 (Fri) 7:00 pm	St. Andrew Church
Monthly Membership Meeting	June 12 (Fri) 7:00 pm	St. Andrew Church
Jungle Book Set Build	March 21 and 22 (10 AM to 5 pm)	Mundelein High School
The Jungle Book	March 27-29 (7 pm Fri/Sat, 2 pm Sat/Sun)	Mundelein High School
Auditions for Anne Frank	March 30, April 1 - 7-10 pm (call backs 4/2)	St. Andrew Church
Brilliance Behind the Scenes Workshop	April 25 – 10 AM-1pm	Location TBD
Anne Frank Set Build	May 30 and 31 (10 AM to 5 pm)	Mundelein High School
The Diary of Anne Frank Performances	June 5-7 (7 pm Fri/Sat, 2 pm Sat/Sun)	Mundelein High School

## Our 55<sup>th</sup> Season

***Murdered to Death***  
by Peter Gordon  
October 2-4, 2020

***The Trials of Robin Hood***  
By Will Abrill  
March 26-28, 2021

***Mornings at Seven***  
By Paul Osborn  
June 4-6, 2021

## Spotlight is brought to you by...

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