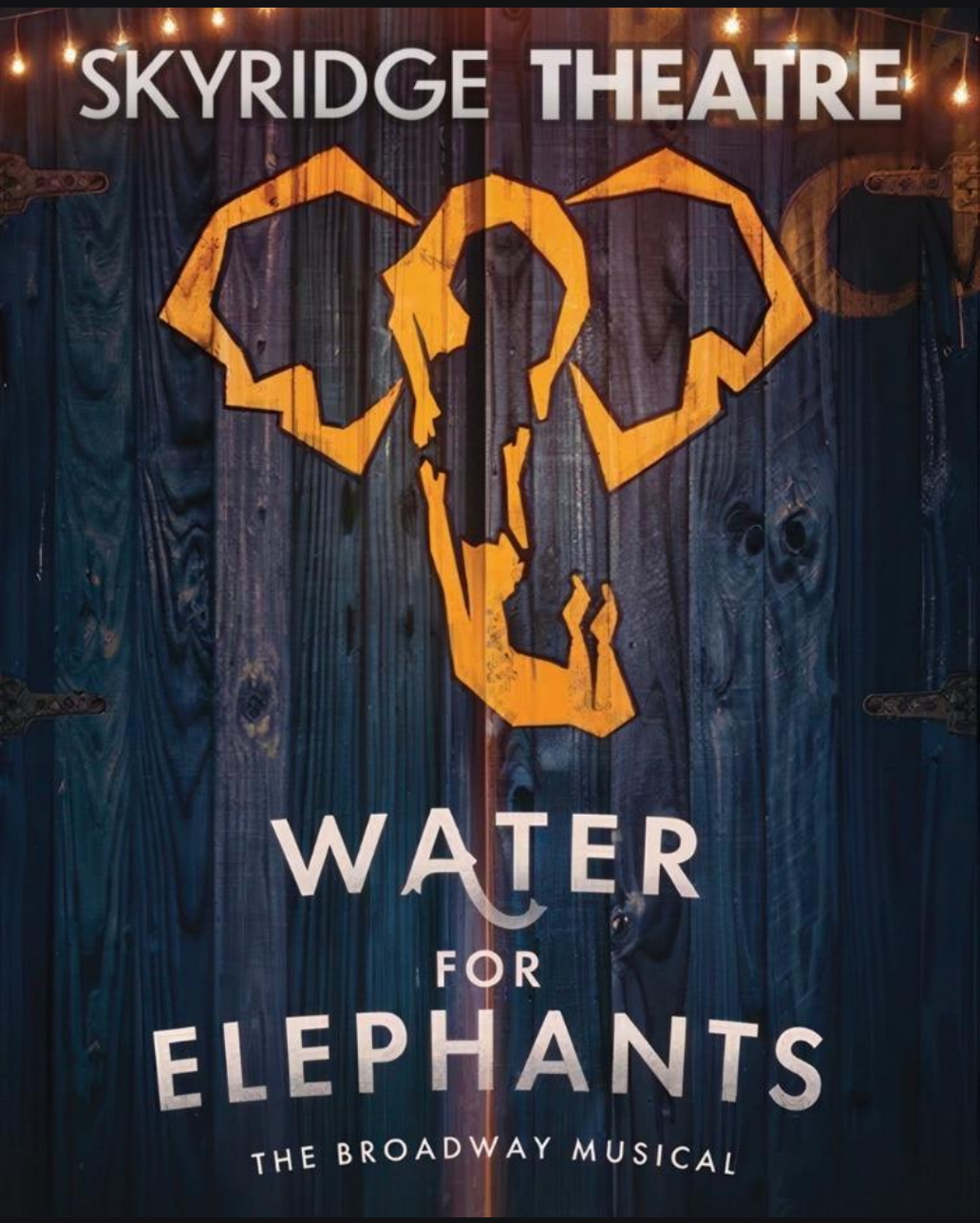

SKYRIDGE THEATRE
WATER
FOR
ELEPHANTS
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL



OPENING NIGHT: FEBRUARY 26, 2026

# SKYRIDGE THEATRE

# WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

A NEW MUSICAL

BOOK BY
RICK ELICE

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
PIGPEN THEATRE CO.

BASED ON NOVEL BY
SARA GRUEN

ANNABELLE TAYLOR ZACH FULLER
NOAH BROWN MICHAEL JOWETT
NATALIE ALDRICH HOLLY ETRINGER CLAIRE ALLEN JACKSON PERKINS

DIRECTOR
JOHN BROWN

CHOREOGRAPHY
KIRSTEN RICHARDS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
RACHEL DOMINGUEZ

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
CHIP BROWN

COSTUME DESIGN
SHANNON HARRIS

HAIR DESIGN
CHELSEY BEAN

SET DIRECTOR
JENNIFER SCHOEBINGER

STAGE MANAGER
KAITLYN HALLS

SOUND DESIGN
LILY REEDER

PUPPET DESIGN
SUMMER JOWETT
LJ JONES
KAT FULLER
RACHEL SWOGGER

LIGHTING DESIGN
ZOFIYA WARNER
RAY MCDONALD

FRONT OF HOUSE
SUMMER JOWETT
KAT FULLER

MARKETING DIRECTOR
HEATHER NEWALL

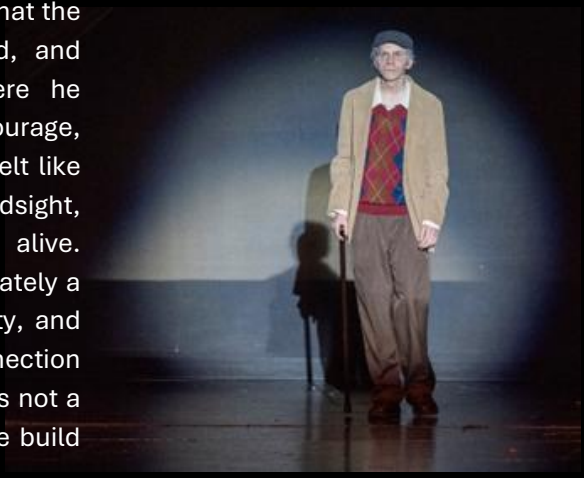
# THE STORY

*Water for Elephants* is told through the lens of an older Jacob Jankowski, nearly six decades removed from the most transformative chapter of this life. Now feeling invisible in the quiet routine of assisted living, Jacob reflects on the season that shaped him most profoundly. As memory carries him backward, the audience is transported to the height of the Great Depression, when a devastating tragedy upended Jacob's future and sent him leaping onto a passing train — the train of the Benzini Brothers Circus.

Young Jacob, once a promising veterinary student, finds himself immersed in a traveling world of spectacle and survival. The circus dazzles audiences with breathtaking performances, but behind the glitter lies instability and danger. Struggling financially and held together by grit more than security, the company is led by the charismatic yet volatile August, whose authority casts a long shadow over performers and animals alike. Jacob is hired as the circus veterinarian, caring for creatures who are as vulnerable as the people who tend them.

As Jacob grows closer to Marlena, the circus's equestrian star, and bonds with Rosie, an elephant deemed untrainable, he begins to confront the moral compromises of this fragile world. Trust is hard-won and easily shattered. Loyalties are tested. Love becomes both a risk and a refuge. In the tension between cruelty and compassion, Jacob must decide what kind of man he will become.

Looking back across the decades, the older Jacob recognizes that the circus — chaotic, troubled, and fleeting — was also where he discovered belonging, courage, and resilience. What once felt like instability becomes, in hindsight, the place he truly came alive. Water for Elephants is ultimately a story about memory, identity, and the enduring power of connection — reminding us that home is not a place we inherit, but one we build together.






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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A couple of years ago I turned 50 and it hit me harder than I thought it would.

Most of us eventually hit a milestone that prompts us to look backward. When we look back, we certainly see our achievements, but more often, we find ourselves dwelling on the chaotic, uncertain, or painful seasons in our lives—the times that pushed us to our limits and left us asking: *Why did that season shape me the way it did?*

*Water for Elephants* lives inside that question.

When Mr. Jankowski looks back on his time with Benzini Brothers circus, he remembers instability, danger, and loss. However, it was then—in the most uncertain chapter of his life—that he discovered who he truly was.

Over the past few weeks, I have found myself reflecting on themes from the story and have tried to talk about them with my students at each rehearsal. Specifically, that: ***belonging is built***; ***trust is delicate but necessary***; and ***resilience grows in community***.

Tonight, I invite you to consider: Where in your life have you mistaken chaos for failure, only to later discover it was transformation? Within the uncertainty of life, may we all choose to build belonging, trust in those around us, and create a community that can endure.

JOHN BROWN
*Director*




CIRCUS
MARVELOUS
ELEPHANT


CIRCUS
WILD ANIMAL
EXHIBITION
CIRCUS
MARVELOUS
ELEPHANT

# TECH CREW

STAGE MANAGER
KAITLYN HALLS

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
KYLE PEREZ

LIGHTING DESIGN
ZOFIYA WARNER,
RAY MCDONALD

SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR
ETHAN TIMMERMAN,
BAIYA SANFORD

SOUND DESIGNER/OPERATOR
LILY REEDER

SOUND ASSISTANT
PALOMA RUELAS

SET DESIGNERS
ANNA VAN HORN,
CHARLOTTE BAER,
ABBY WILSON

ASSISTANT SET DIRECTOR
KAY WHYTOCK,
MICAH TAYLOR

FLY OPERATORS
BAILEY JENKINS, KAY WHYLOCK, MICAH TAYLOR, KADEN HARRIS

# PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR
JOHN BROWN

CHOREOGRAPHY
KIRSTEN RICHARDS

SET DIRECTOR
JENNIFER SCHOEBINGER

SET CONSTRUCTION
JENNIFER SCHOEBINGER,
TECHNICAL THEATRE CLASS

PUPPET DESIGN
SUMMER JOWETT, LJ JONES, KAT FULLER, BART TAYLOR, RACHEL SWOGGER, MDT CLASS

VIDEOGRAPHY
JEFF BATT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
RACHEL DOMINGUEZ

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
CHIP BROWN

COSTUME DESIGN
SHANNON HARRIS

HAIR DESIGN
CHELSEY BEAN

MARKETING DIRECTOR
HEATHER NEWALL

FRONT OF HOUSE
SUMMER JOWETT, KAT FULLER

PHOTOGRAPHY
PAUL JOWETT, EMILY ALDRICH





CAST
*(in order of appearance)*

Mr. Jankowski ---------- Noah Brown
Camel ---------- Natalie Aldrich
Wade ---------- Jackson Perkins
Wallis ---------- Holly Etringer
Barbara ---------- Claire Allen
August/Charlie ---------- Michael Jowett
Marlena/June ----------AnnaBelle Taylor
Jacob Jankowski ---------- Zach Fuller
Sue/Orderly ----------Gwenyth Wilkins
Vera/Nurse Rosemary ---------- Piper Marchant

Puppeteers

Silver Star, a horse/Malu, a giraffe ---------- Anneli Abbott
Agnus, an orangutan ---------- TJ Chisholm
Rex, a lion ---------- Taylor Manning
Sarge, tiger ---------- Sariah Stoddard
Debra, a Zebra ---------- Darbie Astill
Rosie, an elephant –---------- Eli Bagley, Sam Mendenhall , Rohnin Harris

Kinkers

Olivia Bean, Ezekiel Lewis, Aria VanHorn, Brinley Cotterell, Chloe Robbins, Darbie Astill, Samantha Bartholomew, Jersey Smith, Eavie Wilson, Lina Marghin, Bella Rosello, Kiersten Sneddon, Gabriella Schramm, Sariah Stoddard, Spencer Tingey, Jocelyn Dame, Karsyn Dame, Maxwell Robertson, Allison Brown, Chloe Shields, Lily Slothower, Kiana Lee, Henry Sevy,

Rousts

Anneli Abbott. Edyn Armitage, Eli Bagley, Lily Blanchard, Devin Briggs, Teresa Chisholm, Trace Christiansen, Brooklyn Conley, Kimberly Crawford, Sallie Eddy, Haley Forsloff, Rohnin Harris, Adelaide Hill, Savanna Hull, Isaac Jacomini, Sasha Lakin, Taylor Manning, Samantha Mendenhall, Richard Musick, Ashtyn Ogden, Madelynn Peacock, Lily Robertson, Sydney Sanchez, Zachary Schaeffer, Liam Smith, Elena Sperry, Anissa Tibbett, Megan Walstad, Cameron Webecke, Catelyn Woolley




MARVELOUS
ELEPHANT



# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT I

Prologue ---------- Company, Mr. Jankowski
“Anywhere/Another Train” -------- Jacob, Camel, Wade, Barbara, Company
“The Road Don’t Make You Young” ---------- Company
“Easy” ---------- Marlena
“The Lion Has Got No Teeth” ---------- August, Jacob, Company
“I Choose the Ride” ---------- Jacob, Company
“Ode to an Elephant” ---------- Mr. Jankowski, Jacob, Marlena, August
“Just our Luck” ---------- Mr. Jankowski, Barbara, Wallis, Vera, Sue
“I Shouldn’t Be Surprised” ---------- Marlena, Mr. Jankowski
“Silver Stars” ---------- Jacob
“The Grand Spec” ---------- August, Company

## ACT II

“Funny Angel” ---------- Mr. Jankowski
“Zostan” ----------Company
“Squeaky Wheel” ---------- Barbara, Wallis, Jacob
“You’ve Got Nothing” -------- August, Jacob, Marlena, Camel, Wallis, Wade
“What Do You Do?” ---------- Marlena
“Wild” ---------- Marlena, Jacob
“The Road Don’t Make You Young (Reprise)” ---------- Wade, Company
“Go Home” ---------- Jacob, Company
“Zostan (Reprise)” ---------- Jacob, Mr. Jankowski, Company
“I Choose the Ride (Reprise)” ---------- Company

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION







# WHO'S WHO



**ANNABELLE TAYLOR**, *Marlena/June*

AnnaBelle is a senior and has done theatre since 7th grade, and it has since become her safe haven. Ever since starting theatre at Skyridge, she has found a deeper love for the art and has grown so much as an actress and a person. Her favorite projects have been being Persephone in Hadestown her junior year, Hamlet at the Shakespeare competition this year, and Carmen in This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing. Water for Elephants has been the most incredible opportunity for her, and she has loved every second of the process. She loves the friends and people who have made it such a wonderful experience. She is so grateful for her chance to portray Marlena and tell this character's beautiful story.



**ZACH FULLER**, *Jacob*

Zachary has long awaited acting in a show of this magnitude. He's been in past shows at Skyridge such as Beauty and the Beast and Mamma Mia. He played the guitar in the pit for Frozen as a freshman and Hadestown as a sophomore. Although very musically minded, he has a very large passion for acting and becoming a character on stage to tell a wonderful story. Water for Elephants means a lot to Zach, and he is incredibly excited for you to watch and enjoy this profound show!



**NOAH BROWN**, *Mr. Jankowski*

Noah is super cool and awesome and plays a very old guy in the play, although he isn't old. Noah is, in fact, 16, not 80 years old, which is weird because I'm not 80. I mean, HE is not 80. He has been in like 10 shows, something like that. His favorite show was Beauty and the Beast, when he played Lefou. Other than that, that's all you need to know about me... I mean him. Noah Brown.



**MICHAEL JOWETT,** August/Charlie

This is Michael's 8th year of acting and final year at Skyridge High School, and this will be his seventh show. He is very excited to perform August and would like to thank his director, John Brown; choreographer, Kissy; family, friends, and vocal teachers, Ethan Kelso and Chip Brown, for helping him prepare for this role. Some of his previous roles and accolades include Cogsworth (his personal favorite role), the Sheriff of Nottingham at Skyridge, and previously taking 1st place in region for classical scenes and 3rd place at the Utah Shakespeare Festival for scenes..

# WHO'S WHO

**NATALIE ALDRICH**, *Camel*



Natalie is a senior and has loved her time in Skyridge Theatre. One of her favorite things to do is sing under stage lights, and she would like to thank her family for all their support. Natalie has been in many Skyridge shows, including Frozen, Hadestown, Mamma Mia, and This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing. Some of her past roles have been Polly in Crazy for You and the Wardrobe in Beauty and the Beast. Natalie loved competing at State and making incredible friends. Bringing the soulful role of Camel to life on stage has been a dream, and she hopes you love the show!

**JACKSON PERKINS**, *Wade*



Jackson Perkins is a junior at Skyridge and is incredibly ready and prepared for his role as Wade in Water for Elephants. He is excited to perform in this rather obscure show. This is his third show performed with Skyridge, the first being Edward Tulane and the second being Mamma Mia!. However, Jackson has been performing for seven years now, his first-ever show being Mary Poppins when he was 10. He's been in many productions since, most of them outside of school. That's why he's excited to be a part of this show, as it is one of the few Skyridge productions he gets to be involved in.

**HOLLY ETRINGER**, WALLIS



Holly, a senior, is excited to bring to life Wallis, a cynical but loyal clown who especially adores her dog, Queenie. Holly is grateful for all the long-lasting relationships she has built this year and is thankful to her family, who have always supported her. For the past three years, she has enjoyed working with her director, John Brown, and her ever-talented peers. She looks forward to attending BYU after graduation and continuing her passion for the arts. So for tonight—laugh, cry, and enjoy the show!



# WHO'S WHO

**CLAIRE ALLEN**, *Barbara*



Claire Allen has loved theatre her whole life, and she feels very lucky to be Barbara in Skyridge's production of Water for Elephants! Some of Claire's favorite roles have been Eurydice in Hadestown, Éponine in Les Misérables, and her current role, Barbara. Claire has loved the environment and friends that Skyridge Theatre has brought her. She is very grateful for the opportunity to share the stage with her incredible castmates and to be able to work with our talented director and choreographer. Claire is so thankful for everyone involved in this production of Water for Elephants.



**GWENYTH WILKINS**, Sue/Orderly

Gwenyth is currently a senior at Skyridge High School and has been doing theatre since 7th grade. Gwenyth has always loved musicals since she was a little girl. She has been in four Skyridge musicals so far, including Frozen, Beauty and the Beast, Hadestown, and Mamma Mia!. She has loved Skyridge's theatre program and has grown so much from it. Pushed to her limits, she is sad this is her last Skyridge musical but is excited to see where she goes next. She would love to thank her family for always supporting her and showing up to her shows. She hopes you all enjoy this spectacular show!

**PIPER MARCHANT,** *Vera/Caretaker*

Piper is thrilled to be performing as Vera in Water for Elephants. She started theatre working tech during her 8th and 9th grade years before switching gears in 10th grade and deciding to give acting a shot, which she believes has been one of the best decisions she has made. Previously, she has been in the ensemble for Frozen, Beauty and the Beast, Hadestown, and Mamma Mia!. She hopes to continue acting outside of high school while getting her degree in accounting. She is so grateful for her friends, family, the volunteer parents, and John Brown for making this an amazing experience.


CIRCUS
MARVELOUS
ELEPHANT



# SPECIAL THANKS

- To the incredible teachers at Skyridge High School—thank you for your patience and understanding as we brought this production to life. Your support makes all the difference.
- To the **Skyridge High School administrative team**, especially **Jed Francis and John Wallwork**—I deeply appreciate your encouragement and belief in the arts. And to the **Alpine School District**, thank you for fostering an environment where students can explore, learn from, and perform truly meaningful works of art.
- To the **parents, families, and friends**—this show simply would not have been possible without you. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support allow these students to take part in something bigger than themselves, and for that, I am endlessly grateful.
- I am deeply grateful to the extraordinary parents who gave their time, creativity, and craftsmanship to bring our puppets to life for *Water for Elephants*. These beautiful pieces add magic, movement, and imagination to our storytelling, and they would not exist without the generosity and talent of **Summer Jowett**, **Kat Fuller**, **Rachel Swogger**, **LJ Jones**, **Paige Funk**, and **Jenene Allen**. Thank you for the countless hours, careful hands, and loving support you offer our students and our program. Your work quite literally helped create the wonder on our stage.
- **Summer Jowett**, thank you for your incredible efforts with concessions and for your endless creativity in supporting and funding our program. Your work behind the scenes has a lasting impact.
- **Kat Fuller**, from your volunteering to help with service and support, to the images t-shirts to design work to graphic art, your talents enrich this program in countless ways. Your efforts are treasured, your artistry is invaluable—but beyond that, I'm grateful for your friendship.
- I am incredibly grateful to **Chelsey Bean**, our Hair and Make-Up Designer, your artistry and vision helped bring each character vividly to life. You put in so many hours and so much effort, I am beyond grateful to you and your family. I would also like to extend sincere thanks to **Melissa Southwick** and **Cadie Smith** for their invaluable assistance. Their time, attention to detail, and steady hands ensured that every performer stepped onstage looking polished and performance-ready.
- **Jennifer Schoebinger**, once again, you have brought this production to life in a way that cannot be explained. Your vision, organization, and artistry are the framework of this program. I will never be able to express my gratitude for you.
- **Shannon Harris**, our Costume Designer, your creativity and dedication shaped the visual world of this production. From initial concept to final fitting, your work helped define character, deepen the storytelling, and bring the stage to life with color, texture, and authenticity. On behalf of the entire company, we extend our profound gratitude for your extraordinary talent and commitment.
- **Heather Newall**, thank you for solving problems before we even knew they existed and for lifting Skyridge Drama in ways and to places no one ever imagined possible. More than that, Ramona and I are most grateful, for your love, support and friendship. You and John are family!
- **Kissy**, your energy, passion, and unmatched ability to create magic on stage with these students is something truly special. Thank you for your dedication and brilliance.
- **Chip**, I am in constant awe of you. Your talent knows no bounds, your creativity has no limits, and I am beyond blessed to call you my son—and even more lucky to call you my friend.
- And finally, to **Ramona Brown** thank you for everything you do for me and for the program. I am carried forward by your support, your patience, and your love. Thank you for telling these stories with me.


MARVELOU
ELEPHAN


THE BENZINI BROS
WORLD FAMOUS
CIRCUS
WILD ANIMAL
EXHIBITION
CIRCUS
MARVELOUS
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# WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

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