

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Play and
Gabriel Pascal's motion picture 'PYGMALION'

Music by
FREDERICK LOEWE

Book & Lyrics by
ALAN JAY LERNER

StageCoach Players Presents



Directed by
Sue Price Johnson

126 S. Fifth St.
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-758-1940

Judy O'Connor
Pit Director

Cortney Jo Newby
Vocal Director



My Fair Lady

June 5, 12 @ 2:00 pm
2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 @ 7:30 pm



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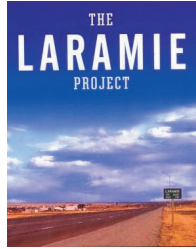
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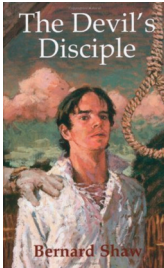
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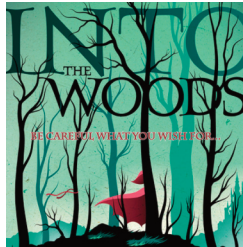
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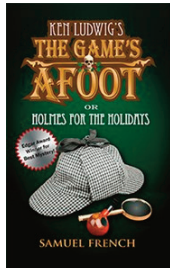
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DeKalb County for over 69 years, with
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My Fair Lady

ACT I

- Overture Orchestra
- Scene 1 Outside Covent Garden - a cold March night.
Why Can't The English? Henry Higgins
Wouldn't It Be Lovely? Cockney Quartet, Eliza
- Scene 2 Tenement Section - Tottenham Court Road - later that evening.
With A Little Bit Of Luck Doolittle, Harry, Jamie
- Scene 3 Higgins' Study - the next day.
I'm An Ordinary Man Henry Higgins
- Scene 4 Tenement Section - Tottenham Court Road - several weeks later.
Reprise: With A Little Bit Of Luck Doolittle, Ensemble
- Scene 5 Higgins' Study - later that afternoon.
Just You Wait Eliza
Servant's Chorus Servants
The Rain In Spain Eliza, Henry Higgins, Col. Pickering
I Could Have Danced All Night Eliza, Mrs. Pearce, Maids
- Scene 6 Outside Ascot - a July afternoon.
- Scene 7 Ascot - immediately following.
Ascot Gavotte Ensemble
- Scene 8 Outside Higgins' home - Wimpole Street - later that day.
On The Street Where You Live Freddy
- Scene 9 Higgins' Study - six weeks later in the evening.
- Scene 10 Transylvanian Embassy Promenade - later that evening.
- Scene 11 The Ballroom of the Embassy - immediately following.
Embassy Waltz Ensemble

15 Minute Intermission

ACT II

- Scene 1 Higgins' Study - 3:00 A.M. the following morning.
You Did It Col. Pickering, Henry Higgins, Mrs. Pearce, Servants
Reprise: Just You Wait Eliza
- Scene 2 Outside Higgins' home - Wimpole Street
Reprise: On The Street Where You Live Freddy
Show Me Eliza, Freddy
- Scene 3 The Flower Market of Covent Garden - 5:00 A.M.
Reprise: Wouldn't It Be Lovely? Cockney Chorus, Eliza
Get Me To The Church On Time Doolittle, Ensemble
- Scene 4 Higgins' Study - the following morning.
A Hymn To Him Henry Higgins
- Scene 5 Mrs. Higgins' Garden - later that morning.
Without You Higgins, Eliza
- Scene 6 Outside Higgins' home - Wimpole Street - dusk that afternoon.
I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face Henry Higgins
- Scene 7 Higgins' Study - immediately following.

Bows

Cast

In Order of Appearance

Eliza Doolittle	Rose McGregor
Freddy Eynsford Hill	Jeff Heider
Mrs. Eynsford Hill	Donna O'Hagan
Colonel Hugh Pickering	Tom Merkel
Bystander, Maid, Ensemble	Janice Sodoma
2nd Bystander, Footman #2, Ensemble	Tim Ropp
Hoxton Man, Lord Boxington, Ensemble.....	George Schippits
Selsey Man, Bartender, Butler, Ensemble	Larry Rapach
Professor Henry Higgins	Gavin Wilson
Cockney Quartet, Ensemble	David Wester, Bryan Fowler Doug Kenney, Mark Dettman
Alfred P Doolittle	Todd Pope
Jamie	Jeff Little
Harry.....	David Watson
Angry Woman, Ensemble	Wendy Tritt
Angry Man, Chauffeur, Sir Tarrington, Ensemble.....	Tom Stark
Mrs. Pearce	Abbey Thompson
Servants, Ensemble	Aubri Barnes, Deb Brubaker Karla Gulke, Scott Kennedy, Sophie Kennedy Connor Madziarczyk, Tom McManamon Tim Ropp, Janice Sodoma, Pablo Suarez
Mrs. Hopkins, Ensemble	Leigh Foulk
Lady Boxington, Ensemble	Ruth Hart
Policeman, Ensemble	Pablo Suarez
Flower Girl, Ensemble	Sarah Duffin
Footman #1, Ensemble.....	Brent Monteiro
Lady Tarrington, Ensemble	Suzanne Heegaard
Professor Zoltan Karpathy	Lawrence Nepodahl
Mrs. Higgins	Roberta Maxfield
Dr. Themistocles Stephanos, Ensemble	John Linderoth
Lady Stephanos, Ensemble	Paula Howlett
Queen of Transylvania, Ensemble	Deb Brubaker
Queen's Escort, Ensemble	Benjamin Rodriguez
Mrs. Higgins Maid, Ensemble	Chris Welch
Ensemble	Chuck Rea, Renett Ferns Dorcas Keating, Deanna Lamesch Jaycee Mattis, Muriel Melgoza Mia Gulke, Edward Keating, Virginia Keating, Elizabeth Rapach

Backstage Singers

John McCue, Jaycee Mattis, Roberta Maxfield, Abbey Thompson

Crew

Director	Sue Price Johnson
Vocal Director	Cortney Jo Newby
Pit Director	Judy O'Connor
Rehearsal Pianists	James Nerstheimer, Jodeen Colter, Abi Mogge
Stage Manager	Peggy Bell Carey
Assistant Stage Manager	Angela Schiola-Niemeyer
Choreographer	Sarah Morton
Dance Captains	Dorcas Keating, Tom McManamon
Producer	Gloria Dennison
Dialect Coach	Patricia Finn-Morris
Hair & Make-up	Megan Johnson
Costumes.....	Sharon Holmes, Janet Rosenberg
Costume Help	Susan Johnson
Maid Uniforms	Margaret Wester
Eliza's Ascot Dress.....	Joanne Gardner, Rebecca Gardner
Mrs. Pearce's Dress	Sarah Abbott
Properties / Head Backstage Runner	Mandy Paschen
Set Design	Sue Price Johnson, Gloria Dennison
Set Construction.....	Dave Pearson
Construction Help.....	Bob Brown, Gloria Dennison, Doug Johnson, Sue Price Johnson, Chris Lettermann, Roberta Maxfield, Brent Monteiro, Todd Pope, Larry Rapach, George Schippits, Janice Sodoma, Pablo Suarez, David Watson, David Wester
Set Decoration Help	Deb Brubaker, Peggy Carey, Gloria Dennison, Sarah Duffin, Leigh Foulk, Suzanne Heegaard, Sue Price Johnson, Rose McGregor, Jaycee Mattis, Roberta Maxfield, Todd Pope, Larry Rapach, Julia Lyn Shedd, Abbey Thompson, Chloe Wester, David Wester, Kayla Wester
Master Painter.....	Roberta Maxfield
Lighting Design.....	Steven Rauch
Lighting Programmer	David Olson
Lighting Board.....	Deanna Aguilera
Sound Designer / Operator	Paul Watson
Sound Assistant	Dan Hyde, Mark Hunyard, Allison Hunter-Rosene
Sound Effects / Monitors Operator	Allison Hunter-Rosene
Backstage Helpers	Nicholas Bantz Beaty, Bob Brown, Kristin Good, Liz Poppins Denius, Anne Kennedy, Lynne Kunde, Sue McCue, Summer McFalls, Jaycee Mattis, PLUS ensemble

Program Graphics Wendy Tritt
 Program / Poster / Table Tents Sue Price Johnson
 Dining Fundraisers Jan Kuntz

Orchestra

Pit Conductor Judy O'Connor
 Assistant Pit Conductor Ethan Woyach
 Violin Dani Pivonka (1st weekend), Isaac Parra (2nd weekend)
 Violin 2 Katja Wiemer
 Cello Ashley Hofer
 Bass Adam Dorland
 Flute / Piccolo Lynn Hansen
 Clarinet Mary Stratton
 Clarinet / Bass Clarinet Aaron Butler
 Trumpet 1 Chris Monteiro
 Trumpet 2 Ethan Woyach
 Trombone Dave Balika (1st weekend), Sean Holly (2nd weekend)
 Piano Abi Mogge
 Percussion Evan Taylor

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MY FAIR LADY BIOS

Aubri Barnes - (Servant, Ensemble) is making her first appearance on stage since college. She is excited to be appearing in *My Fair Lady*, one of her favorite musicals. She has appeared in *Cinderella* as Cinderella, *Annie*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and many others. In her free time, she sings, works, and plays with her kitten, Snape!

Deb Brubaker - (Queen of Transylvania, Servant, Ensemble) has been involved in Stage Coach productions both onstage and backstage since her college days. Among her favorite shows are: *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Fools*, *Dracula*, *Curtains*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Shrek*, *How To Succeed* and *White Christmas*. She most recently appeared in *Miracle on 34th Street*. Deb lives in DeKalb with her husband Gary.

Peggy Carey (Stage Manager) is excited to be working on the other side of the table. Watching a show come together from auditions to performance has been an amazing adventure. Previously, she has been seen on stage at SCP in *Cinderella*, *Shrek*, *9 to 5* and as the 'coffee break lady' in *How to Succeed*. When not at Stage Coach, she co-directs The Little Treble Makers Show Choir with fellow Stage Coacher Cortney Jo Newby and participates in the music department of Sycamore UMC. She wants to thank her stage-managing mentors, Kathy, Jan, Gloria and Sue for showing her the ropes. Kudos to the cast and crew - You did it!

Mark Dettman - (Cockney Quartet, Ensemble) is excited about making his Stage Coach Players debut in *My Fair Lady*. Recently retired he is trying his hand at stage. Mark has performed in three plays at the Albright in Batavia and a year ago played Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* in WMC Productions in Warrenville. He has enjoyed meeting and working with the cast and is looking forward bringing *My Fair Lady* in the stage.

Sarah Duffin - (Flower Girl, Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of her eighth production at SCP. She studies dance and drama with Emergence Dance Theatre, sings with DeKalb High School's Varsity Choir and

Madrigal Singers, and plays the tenor saxophone. She plans to study musical theatre/dance at Brigham Young University. Thanks to Mom and Dad for putting up with her crazy schedule and to the cast and crew for making this a wonderful experience. Enjoy the show!

Renett Ferns - (Ensemble) works at Neptune Dining at Northern Illinois University. She graduated in December 2015 from NIU with a Master's in Special Education. *My Fair Lady* is her fifth production with Stage Coach Players. She has really enjoyed working with the cast and crew on this show.

Leigh Foulk - (Mrs. Hopkins, Ensemble) lives in the Sycamore area with her husband and daughter. This is her first production with Stage Coach and it has been a wonderful experience. She wants to thank her family for their support that allowed her to spend time getting her theater fix.

Bryan Fowler - (Cockney Quartet, Busker, Ensemble) is in his twenty-third show with Stage Coach Players' *My Fair Lady*! You may have also seen him recently in CCT's *Aida*, SCPs' *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* or Kishwaukee College Theatre's *God of Carnage*. He would like to thank you all for coming and making this all possible, and his family for keeping him sane in his frantic schedule (and maybe sometimes driving him a little nuts).

Karla Gulke - (Servant, Ensemble) is on stage for the second time in three months after having taken a 25 year break. She made her debut in CCT's *Oliver* this past March. This is her first time in a Stage Coach production and she is delighted to share the stage with her youngest daughter Mia. She lives in Sycamore with her husband, Scott, and teaches Kindergarten at North Elementary School. She would like to thank her family for their support.

Mia Gulke - (Kids Ensemble) is 8 years old and in Second grade at North Elementary School in Sycamore. This is her second appearance on stage. She was in *Oliver* with

CCT this past March. This is her first Stage Coach appearance. She would like to thank her family, friends and teachers for their support and encouragement.

Ruth Hart – (Lady Boxington, Ensemble) is appearing in her third Stage Coach show, but she has been behind the scenes helping with props for other productions. *My Fair Lady* brings fond memories of the Shabbona High School Senior class trip to Chicago to see it. She wants you to know that, honestly, the talent in this show is every bit as exciting as that of Rex Harrison, Julie Andrews, and the rest of the cast way back then.

Suzanne Heegaard - (Lady Tarrington, Ensemble) is a Jersey girl at heart, but settled in Sycamore after graduating Wheaton College with an Education degree and meeting her husband Frank. Besides being a Homemaker, she is a Home Educator of her 1/2 dozen daughters (3 graduated, 3 to go). She loved music/theater in high school and college and is thrilled to finally take some time for herself to do it again. She's thankful to God for this great opportunity and wonderful group to work with.

Jeff Heider - (Freddy Eynsford-Hill) is excited to be on stage again at Stage Coach! This is his eighth show at SCP. He has also sung onstage at Chicago's Symphony Orchestra Hall and NYC's Carnegie Hall. Jeff lives in Bolingbrook and works as a sign language interpreter. He thanks his family and friends for their support and enthusiasm! As always, Jeff dedicates his performance to the memory of Joe Daversa who convinced him that he belongs on the stage.

Paula Howlett – (Lady Stephanos, Ensemble) is a retired special education teacher who lives in DeKalb with her dogs Faith and Lucy. She was last seen in *Mary Poppins*. She'd like to thank Sue for welcoming her to the cast and to let the audience know that the music in *MFL* will keep you "dancing all night."

Sue Price Johnson - (Director) and her husband, Doug, have lived in the Sycamore area for the last 8 years. She is self-employed, owns and manages 3 short term vacation rental homes near Disney World in Florida. Sue also enjoys directing the theatre

productions for Sycamore High School. *My Fair Lady* is the 6th musical, and 8th production, that Sue has directed for Stage Coach Players. She would like to thank her husband, Doug, for his help building the set, her daughter, Megan, for her help with the cast's hair and make-up! She would also like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for making the last two months such a pleasure! What a great group of people to work with! I hope you enjoy the show!

Dorcas Keating - (Ensemble) - Despite her focus in Opera, Dorcas has cherished musical theater since she was 5 years old! She has had principle roles in *Annie*, *Joseph*, *Godspell*, and *Mame*, with many ensemble credits-including SCP's *Mary Poppins*! The greatest joy in musical theater for Dorcas is sharing it with family, and she is thrilled to have her kids on stage for the first time with her... Hoping to start a new tradition on the Stage Coach stage!

Edward Keating - (Kids Ensemble) is appearing in his first stage production. A typical 8 year old, Edward is busy with cub scouts, karate, and church activities. Known as the "director" of the family, his instincts will serve him well in community theater. He joins his Mom and baby sister in his first Stage Coach production... It is a family affair!

Ginny Grace Keating - (Kids Ensemble) joins her mother (Dorcas Keating) and older brother (Edward) in her enthusiastic debut. Three years old... And building a musical theater bio!

Scott Kennedy - (Servants Ensemble) first developed his appreciation for community theater in 2013 when he was cast as the Inn Keeper in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Scott's first production with SCP was *Mary Poppins*. It's his pleasure to work with such a talented and dedicated group of people as well as sharing his theater experience with his daughter Sophie.

Sophie Kennedy - (Servant, Flower Girl, Ensemble) is happy to be back on stage! This is her second show with Stage Coach, the first being *Mary Poppins*, and she hopes to be involved in many future productions. When she's not belting out show tunes, she is most likely tap dancing or happily engrossed in a novel. She would like to thank Sue for casting her, and her fellow cast members for making this experience a memorable one.

Doug Kenney - (Cockney Quartet, Ensemble) and his wife Lora and family live in Sycamore. This is his 4th production he has sung and tried not to dance in at Stage Coach Theatre. He enjoys singing in the musicals here as well as his church choir. Thank You to my family and fellow cast members for their patience with me during the production process and run of the show.

Deanna Lamesch – (Ensemble) has lived in the DeKalb area for 2 years. She currently works as an Instructional Assistant with the DeKalb school district. This is her first musical involvement with Stage Coach. She has previously been involved in a number of Performing Arts Guild productions. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this a wonderful learning experience.

John Linderoth – (Dr. Themistocles Stephanos, Ensemble) was doing musicals with Piedmont Light Opera Theatre and Oakland Lyric Opera prior to his initial SCP appearance in *Suessical*. He has been in several shows, including *Christmas Carol*, *Hello Dolly*, *Curtain's*, *White Christmas*, *Mary Poppins*, *And Then There Were None*, *Harvey and Miracle on 34th Street*. He is the eldest member of the this cast and his dancing will remove any doubt about it. Let's hope he can sing on key.

Jeff Little – (Jamie) is happy to be appearing with SCP for the 11th time. This is his 3rd time in *My Fair Lady*, having previously played Freddy and Doolittle. He has appeared with dozens of Midwest companies, performs as singer/pianist in venues including resorts, cruise ships, Sr. Centers, churches and choral groups. He works as an extra in film and tv. For many years he has been "in residence" at Santa's Village -greeting thousands of visitors as Santa Claus.

Connor Madziarczyk - (Servant, Ensemble) is happy to be in his first Stage Coach production. Thank you for bringing me into the Stage Coach family. And thank you to Professor Higgins for giving me that raise.

Jaycee Mattis – (Ensemble) is currently a student at Marquette University in Milwaukee. This is Jaycee's fifth show with SCP, her seventeenth show overall. She was last seen in Stage Coach's production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. She would like to thank her parents and grandparents for all their support. She would also like to say thanks to the wonderful people involved with this production for all their hard work.

Roberta Maxfield - (Mrs. Higgins) was recently seen as Queen Victoria in *Mary Poppins*. Her favorite SCP roles are Kate Keller in *All My Sons*, multiple characters in *Forbidden Broadway*, Eulalie Meeknie Shin in *The Music Man*, Sister Mary Amnesia in *Nunsense*, Sister Helen in *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* and Mazeppa in *Gypsy*. She thanks Sue for allowing her to be part of this wonderful production with such an amazing cast and crew!

John McCue - (Ensemble) first appeared with Stage Coach players in 1971. Since then he has been involved in more than 100 shows of all types. John has acted, designed sets, built sets, done archive photography, and worked back stage in many productions. John prefers musicals, but just can't resist playing the bad guy in more serious productions. John was last seen in *Nine to Five*. John is a retired State of Illinois Child Abuse Investigations Supervisor.

Rose McGregor - (Eliza Doolittle) is thrilled to be appearing in her second Stage Coach show! Rose was first seen on the Stage Coach stage in *Mary Poppins* as Mary Poppins. Thanks to Sue, Cortney, Judy, Peggy, Sarah, and the rest of the fantastic cast and crew for all of their hard work to put this wonderful show together. Rose dedicates these performances to her loving family and Cameron.

Thomas McManamon - (Servant, Busker, Ensemble) has been performing with SCP since he was 15 years old. Some of his favorites include *High School Musical*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Annie*, and *Spamalot*. Many thanks to all for your love and support.

Muriel Melgoza - (Ensemble) is from Aurora. Her hobbies include singing, acting, and making DIYs. This is her first time performing with Stage Coach!

Tom Merkel - (Colonel Hugh Pickering) has enjoyed theater since high school. He has appeared in several shows, including *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *Music Man*. He met his wife through theater and has a good time performing with her and other special friends. He hopes to keep doing shows as long as he can. Tom lives in Sandwich with his wife, who he wishes to thank for her support in this adventure. They have several grandchildren.

Brent Monteiro - (Footman #1, Ensemble) just left the magical world of *Mary Poppins*, and is happy to return to London (albeit in a different part of town) for SCP's second musical this year. Previous Stage Coach shows include *Oliver!*, *Camelot*, *Brigadoon*, and *Squabbles*. Brent was a contestant in the *Putnam County Spelling Bee* with Fox County Players, has appeared in the Sandwich Fair melodramas portrayed Jesus in DeKalb Methodist's Celebration Chorale. He is organist at Waterman Presbyterian Church.

Sarah Morton - (Choreographer) This is Sarah's first time choreographing a musical and coincidentally her first time working "behind the scenes," as she typically is found on-stage. Her most recent credits include Stage Coach Players' White Christmas (Judy) and Do Black Patent Leather Shoes... (Virginia), as well as Wheaton Drama's Hairspray (Tammy). Sarah is very excited to see the ideas she created dancing alone in her bedroom transform into visual art with actors of all dance levels. Shout out to the cast for their patience with her enthusiastic and probably confusing ideas. Y'all rock. Enjoy the show!

Lawrence Nepodahl - (Professor Zoltan Karpathy, Ensemble) has been with SCP for

20 of its 70 years. His first show was *Arsenic and Old Lace* in 1996. Since then, he has been in a myriad of shows with us. He's a character man now, and always enjoys working with director, Sue Price Johnson. He hopes you enjoy all the hard work put into this production.

Cortney Jo Newby - (Vocal Director) This is Cortney's first show as Vocal Director with SCP. She attended SIUC for music theater and is thrilled to finally be able to put her many years of schooling to the test. Some of her favorite roles with SCP include the Dragon (*Shrek*), Boylan Sister (*Annie*), Roz (*9 to 5*) and Winifred Banks (*Mary Poppins*). She and fellow SCP member, Peggy Bell Carey, co-direct The Little Treble Makers Show Choir. Cortney would like to thank James, GB Stars, and her family for their love and support. This show is dedicated to her 4 year old son, Quaid, who now requests to listen and sing his favorite MFL songs, "Just a Little Bit" and "Wouldn't It Be Lovely".

Judy O'Connor - (Pit Director) is a long-time Stage Coacher with more than 30 shows under her belt! Many shows have been special to her, but several stand out: *Gypsy*, *Hello Dolly*, *Grease*, *Les Miserables*, *Bye Bye Birdy*, *Joseph...* (all of them!), *Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical*, *9 to 5*, *Spamalot*, *Shrek*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Annie Get Your Gun!* She has received the SCOTY and the Lucille Aikins Lifetime Achievement Awards and most recently directed the music for *Mary Poppins*. She is thrilled to be directing the *My Fair Lady* pit and working with some of the best musicians, cast, and crew in the business! Her next project will be music directing *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* in Nov./Dec of 2016.

Donna O'Hagan - (Mrs. Eynsford-Hill) has been involved in Stage Coach since 2004, when she was in *The Wizard of Oz* with her daughters. She shared the stage with her husband in *Music Man* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Her proudest SCP experience was *Bill W. and Dr. Bob*. Love to "My Fairest Lady"... My Mom! To Renett, my former student, so happy we did this together. Sue, the cast and crew, "I never doubted that you'd do it and YOU DID IT!"

Todd Pope - (Alfred P. Doolittle) was last seen at SCP in *Spamalot*. He's thrilled to be Eliza's bloomin' father in *My Fair Lady*. Todd has also played the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*, Billis in *South Pacific*, Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and Mr. Bumble in *Oliver*. Sue, thanks for the nod and your patience with my crazy schedule and special thanks to Carol and the boys for tolerating my silly need to express myself.

Elizabeth Rapach - (Kids Ensemble) is performing in her first theater production. However, she has spent years in various dance classes, tumbling, gymnastics, and performs regularly with her school choir. She is understandably excited to be a part of the Stage Coach Theatre, and being in the production with her father, Larry, makes it extra special. She lives with her parents and younger brother (and rabbit) in Hampshire, where she attends the fourth grade.

Larry Rapach - (Bartender, Selsey Man, Butler, Ensemble) started acting in *Fiddler on the Roof* in 1986. He was morning man and program director (WRMN/WJKL), and has performed at: The Woodstock Opera House, ECC Visual and Performing Arts Center, Hemmens Auditorium, Shakespeare in the Park (Elgin and Schaumburg), Shady Lane Dinner Theater, and ten years as Chancellor and King at Medieval Times. Larry grew up in Elgin, and now lives with his wife and children in Hampshire.

Chuck Rea - (Ensemble) lost a bet and is in his first show since the DuPage Bar Association's extravaganzas of the late 80s and early 90s. Chuck practices law and lives in Hinckley. He would like to thank Sue for this opportunity to have fun and broaden his horizons and apologizes to his fellow cast members (whose talent he is in awe of). He hopes you all enjoy the show.

Benjamin Rodriguez - (Queen's Escort, Ensemble) is 15 and a freshman at DeKalb High School. This is his first appearance on stage with Stage Coach and he has enjoyed it immensely. His busy schedule this spring included two orchestras, a quartet and auditions for two institutes on cello while rehearsing for MFL. He would like to thank his family for supporting him and the

Kennedys for giving him many rides. He can't wait to appear in another production.

Tim Ropp - (Servant, 2nd Bystander, Footman, Busker, Ensemble) has been doing theatre since the age of seven...teen. Coming from a musical family, he's always had harmony and rhythm on the brain, but it wasn't until his senior year of high school that he unleashed his love for the stage. Nowadays, he's always on the lookout for a chance to perform. Tim studied sign language interpreting in college and will soon be pursuing a degree in Deaf and Hard of Hearing education.

Angela Schiola-Niemeyer - (Assistant Stage Manager) has enjoyed helping with *My Fair Lady* and watching everyone's wonderful talent shine through. Although this is the first show she's been involved in without Piper, she's happy that Piper could come along and keep her company.

George Schippits - (Lord Boxington, Hoxton Man, Ensemble) jumped into theater 11 years ago and has done over 25 shows with local organizations- acting, producing and directing. George has had a wonderful time with this highly talented cast and crew. He lives in Genoa with his wife Kathy, whom he thanks greatly for "letting me go out to Play".

Janice Sodoma - (Servant, Maid, Bystander, Ensemble) is in her 28th show and is excited to do another show with Stage Coach. Favorite shows are too many to count, but include *Shrek* (Sugar Plum Fairy), *Mousetrap* (Ms Casewell), and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Janice is back at NIU pursuing a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling. Thanks for supporting what we all love to do, live theatre! Isn't it lovely?

Tom Stark - (Lord Tarrington, Angry Man, Ensemble) lives in Plano with his husband, George Burns III, and their three dogs. This is Tom's second show with Stage Coach and his first musical in years. Tom has enjoyed getting to know this wonderful cast and would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support; especially George for putting up with the crazy rehearsal schedule these past weeks.

Pablo Suarez - (Servant, Policeman, Ensemble) is happy to be back on stage, learning and enjoying the magic of musical theater, after the success of *Mary Poppins*. His passion for musical theater started just a few years ago when he decided to start studying at Protagonistas Music Theater school back in Buenos Aires Argentina.

Abbey Thompson - (Mrs. Pearce) earned her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from UC Santa Barbara in 2000 and two Masters degrees from UNC Chapel Hill in 2006 and 2008. Originally from California, she has since lived in seven different states; she moved to Sycamore in 2015 to take the helm of the NIU Music Library. This is her first musical with Stage Coach and is thrilled to be part of such a talented cast and crew.

Wendy Tritt - (Angry Woman, Ensemble) most recently appeared as Mrs. Brill in SCP's *Mary Poppins*. Other favorite roles include Ms. Shellhammer in *Miracle on 34th Street*, Mrs. Braddock in *The Graduate* and Margaret "The Lush" Pommerance in *9 to 5*. Off stage, Wendy has been set designer for many shows and was assistant director/stage manager for the 2016 Black Box production of *Cradle and All*. Wendy is a graphic designer and owns Trittenhaus Design in Sycamore.

David Watson - (Harry) is a retired Aurora firefighter who has performed with several Fox Valley Theater Groups, both behind the scenes and on stage. He has appeared as Ellwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*, Ebenezer Scrooge in *Bah Humbug!*, The Puerto Rican attendant in *SteamBath*, and has played *Oliver!*'s Fagin twice (although 40 years apart). This is his first appearance with Stage Coach Players but hopefully not his last. David lives in Yorkville with his wife and no kids or grandkids.....finally!!

Chris Welch - (Mrs. Higgins maid, Ensemble) has dreamed of being in *My Fair Lady* since she first saw it as a child. She's been part of SCP since 2005 and recently appeared in *Mary Poppins* and *Night of the Living Dead*. Some of her favorite roles were in *White Christmas*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Annie*, and *Joseph*. Chris would like to thank Sue and Cortney for this 'lovely' opportunity to

realize her dream, and Bill for all his support and encouragement.

Dave Wester - (Cockney Quartet, Ensemble) was dragged into this, his first Stage Coach production, by his 15 year old daughter who was eager for him to join her. Mostly at home with his wife and 5 kids, he has been experimenting with farm life in DeKalb: raising chickens, milking goats, gardening and hydroponics, as well as balancing a busy practice as a physician assistant in family practice.

Kayla Wester - (Flower Girl, Ensemble) is making her Stage Coach debut. She lives in DeKalb with her 4 siblings, 2 dogs, 4 cats, some goats and chickens, and two wonderful parents. She is homeschooled and excited for the chance to have some theater experience. She hopes you enjoy the show

Bethany Williams - (Ensemble) has done community theater at Pec Playhouse and North Riverside Community Theater. This is her first show at Stage Coach. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making it a wonderful experience. Enjoy the show!

Gavin Wilson - (Henry Higgins) has lived in DeKalb since college when he studied music composition at NIU. He has been involved with Stage Coach Players since they did *Camelot* 20 years ago, and hopes to continue for 20 years more. He'd like to thank his beloved wife Mary for always encouraging him to follow his love of theatre, and for keeping things running smoothly at the Hillside Restaurant while he does it.

Director's Notes

My Fair Lady is on the StageCoach Players stage for the first time! The musical first opened on Broadway in 1956. At that time it was the longest running musical with a total of 2,717 performances. The show starred a young Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison. For the 1965 film, the part of Eliza was recast with Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison again playing Henry Higgins. One of the many controversies at the time was that Ms. Hepburn was not allowed to sing the majority of Eliza's songs. She was forced to lip sync to other ladies singing her songs! The only song she was allowed to sing in her own voice was "Just You Wait".

The story of My Fair Lady is based on the 1913 play, Pygmalion, written by George Bernard Shaw. George Pascal's film premiered in 1938 starring Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller. Pygmalion and My Fair Lady storylines are nearly identical, with the exception of the wonderful music added to the film and stage production. I really prefer the black and white 1938 film to the 1965 film. My personal reason is that the main characters were more endearing. The best thing about the 1965 show is definitely the addition of the wonderful music score. Alfred P. Doolittle's "With a Little Bit of Luck" and "Get Me to the Church on Time", Eliza Doolittle's "Wouldn't it Be Lovely" and "I Could Have Danced all Night", Freddy Hill's "On the Street Where You Live", and of course, Henry Higgins "I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face."

Two more controversies were also associated with the 1956 musical and 1965 film. First was the ending of the play. The 1913 play ends with Eliza walking out on Higgins. The writers wanted a happier ending for Broadway, but disagreed on how the story should end. Should Eliza run off to marry Freddy Hill or should she go back to Henry Higgins? Personally, I never felt there was much of a chemistry between Eliza and Higgins in the movie. Ironically enough, I felt that Higgins and Col. Pickering did have the chemistry! I don't want to give it away, so I won't tell you the ending. The other controversy was the use of the British curse word "bloody" on stage. My goodness - how things have changed, and yet, how they have stayed the same!!

I hope you enjoy the show!

Sue Price Johnson, My Fair Lady Director

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