



**FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 10, 2024**

# Grumpy Old Men

THE MUSICAL

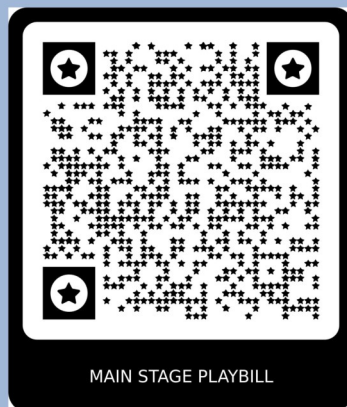
Book by **Dan Remmes**

Music by **Neil Berg**

Lyrics by **Nick Meglin**

Adapted from the Warner Bros. motion picture written by **Mark Steven Johnson**

GRUMPY OLD MEN THE MUSICAL S is presented by arrangement with THATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE



MAIN STAGE PLAYBILL



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<b>CHRISTOPHER ANDREANA</b>	<b>SÁRA KOVÁCSI</b>
<b>JOHN KREUZER</b>	<b>PAMELA ROSE MANGUS</b>
<b>MARY KATE O'CONNELL</b>	<b>CHRISTOPHER WAGNER</b>

**MERRICK ALLEN**                      **HEATHER CASSERI**                      **JASON FRANCEY**  
**TAYLOR LEE HALL**                      **ROBERT MCKNIGHT**  
**ALEXANDRA GRACE NOWAK**                      **EMORY REDFEARN**                      **BRYAN SHARRY**

**TERRI FILIPS VAUGHAN**

# STEVE VAUGHAN

### **A Message from Executive/Artistic Director...**

The pandemic certainly took its toll on the arts but O'Connell & Company is proud to say we made it through, we're moving forward, and we are here to celebrate this special season with you. This 2023-2024 season we bring you something for everyone! It's time to celebrate! From off Broadway hits to Broadway blockbusters, and from Regional Premiers to Musical Theater legends, and from original shows to exciting and creative programs. We also celebrate our new home at 4110 Bailey Ave. We thank all those who helped make this possible including - The Town of Amherst, our sponsors and donors, The OC&C Board of Directors, volunteers, artists, Friends of OC&C and you, our treasured audience and supporters.

Welcome to the Celebration! Thank you for choosing O'Connell & Company!

**Mary Kate O'Connell**  
**Executive/Artistic Director**

### **O'Connell & Company "In Memoriam"**

*"The best things in life come in threes. Friends, dreams and memories."*

These special friends helped make our dream come true & will always have a very special place in our memory...

Gabrielle Burton, John Buscaglia, Jeanne Cairns, Joan Calkin, Dr. Sebastian G. Ciancio, D.D.S., Rosalie Ciminelli, Roz Cramer, Saul Davidson, Marcy Dandes, Denise English, Marc-Jon Filippone, JR Finan, Timothy Finnegan Neil E. Garvey, Esq., Joey Giambra, Jimmie Gilliam, Sharon Goldhawk, Jack Greenan, Bill Greiner, Carol Greiner, Don Gwitt, Richard Hummert, Vince Illos, Don Jenczka, Bess Brown Kregal, Mary Ann Kresse, Robert J. Kresse, Esq., Art Leeming, Mary Loftus, Dr. Gerard Mosey, Joe Natale, Beatrice E. O'Connell, Maureen A. O'Connell, Patti O'Connell Cooke, G. Daniel O'Connell, Paul O'Hern, Ellen Opiela, Jenn Orr, Hallie O'Shea, Tess Spangler, Sharon Strait, Ron Swick, Elaine Todd, Michael Tosha, Jeff Venuti, Tim White, Tom Zindle

## **CAST**

John Gustafson.....**MICHAEL STARZYNSKI**  
Max Goldman.....**MICHAEL J. GALANTE**  
Ariel Truax.....**ANNE DeFAZIO**  
Jacob Goldman.....**CHRISTOPHER WAGNER**  
Melanie Norton.....**SÁRA KOVÁCSI**  
Sandra Snyder.....**PAMELA ROSE MANGUS**  
Grandpa Gustafson.....**JOHN KREUZER**  
Chuck Barrels.....**CHRISTOPHER ANDREANA**  
Punky Olander.....**MARY KATE O'CONNELL**  
Harry.....**MERRICK ALLEN**  
Tim.....**JASON FRANCEY**  
Unis.....**HEATHER CASSERI**  
Stan.....**BRYAN SHARRY**  
Fran.....**TAYLOR LEE HALL**  
Karla.....**EMORY REDFEARN**  
Bo.....**ROBERT McKNIGHT**  
Lo.....**ALEXANDRA GRACE NOWAK**

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

Director.....**STEVE VAUGHAN**  
Musical Director.....**NATHANIAL HIGGINS**  
Choreographer.....**TERRI FILIPS VAUGHAN**  
Stage Manager.....**ALLEY GRIFFIN**  
Scenic Designer.....**DAVID BUTLER**  
Costume Designer.....**ELAINE HECKLER**  
Lighting Designer.....**JAY MARKS**  
Prop Designer.....**MATT MOGENSEN**

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT ONE

*Wabasha*.....The Townspeople  
*Way to Go*.....Max, John, Grandpa, Chuck  
*Wabasha #1*.....The Townspeople  
*Heat Wave*.....Ariel  
*I Like the Way Things Are*.....John, Max, Melanie, Jacob  
*When No One's Around*.....John  
*Wabasha #2*.....The Townspeople  
*Your Own Home*.....Punky, Chuck, Ariel, Karla, Unis  
*Life is All About Livin'*.....Grandpa, Harry, Stan  
*Parents and Paradise*.....Jacob and Melanie  
*Snyder Comes Along*.....Snyder and her Minions  
*An Angel*.....Chuck  
*Opportunity Knocks*.....John, Max, and Company

## ***Intermission***

## ACT TWO

*Opportunity Knocks (Reprise)*.....The Townspeople  
*In Like Flynn*.....Max  
*An Angel (Reprise)*.....John  
*Your Own Home (Reprise)*.....Punky  
*The Mirror Lies*.....Ariel and John  
*Snyder Comes Along (Reprise)*.....Max and Snyder  
*When No One's Around (Reprise)*.....The Townspeople  
*Wabasha #3*.....The Townspeople  
*Family or Friend*.....Max  
*Wabasha #4*.....The Townspeople  
*Best Man*.....=.....Company

## Who's Who

**MICHAEL STARZYNSKI** (John) previous credits include: *The Addams Family*, *The Broadway Christmas Carol*, *Nunsense A-Men*, *Buffalo Quickies* (2016 ARTIE BEST ENSEMBLE OF A PLAY), and *Urinetown - The Musical!* (2017 ARTIE BEST PRODUCTION OF A MUSICAL). Michael appeared in the Regional Premiere of *Bright Star* with Aurora Players and sixteen seasons of the *Buffalo Quickies* at the Alleyway Theatre. He was last seen in BUA's production of *A Great Wilderness* and *Nuncrackers* with O'Connell & Company. He teaches second grade and encourages you to: Support the Arts in Education - You never know what hidden talent is just waiting to be discovered!

**MICHAEL J. GALANTE** (Max) most recently directed O'Connell and Company's *Nuncrackers* and now returns to the stage where he has been seen in *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Addams Family Musical*, *Damn Yankees* (Artie nomination for Joe Boyd), and *Working, the Musical*. He also recently directed *The Play That Goes Wrong* at the Kavinoky Theater and *John and Jen* at the Taylor Theater. He thanks his wife Shari and kids Kaitlyn and Patrick for their love and support.

**ANNE DeFAZIO** (Ariel) is excited to be back on stage with O'Connell & Company. Recently she's been seen in *Showtune* (Woman 2) at MusicalFare and *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Lazarus/Joey) for Starring Buffalo. Other favorite Buffalo theatre credits include: *Network* (Louise) with Kavinoky Theatre, *The Secret Garden* (Mrs. Medlock) with Second Generation, *Hairspray* (Prudy Pingleton/Prison Matron) with Kavinoky Theatre and, *1776* (Thomas Jefferson) with Connell & Company. Thank you to Michael, Samantha, and Charlotte for their love and support.

**CHRISTOPHER ANDREANA** (Tim) Is happy to be back at O'Connell & Company. Christopher has been seen in numerous productions in WNY and has been fortunate enough to work with Musicallyfare, Second Generation, Subversive Theater, ART, Rocking Horse, Lancaster Opera house and NRTG. Christopher holds a BFA in musical theater from UB. He would like to thank his family, Friends and mentors for their love and support.

**SÁRA KOVÁCSI** (Melanie) is a regular at O'Connell & Company, she was most recently seen in last season's production of *The Addams Family* (Grandma). Favorite performances with O'Connell & Company include the Artie-Award winning *1776* (Wilson), *Damn Yankees* (Doris), and *It Shoulda Been You* (Jenny) for which she received an Artie Nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Musical. She wants to thank Alan for all that he does—but especially for taking care of Will and Eliza every night for a month so she could go to rehearsal.

## Who's Who

**JOHN KREUZER** (Grandpa Gustafson) is back! You have seen him on the O'Connell & Company stage in *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Wicket*, *ART*, and *Young Frankenstein* (Artie Nominee - Supporting Actor in a Musical). He has appeared on many local stages as an actor, vocalist, and improviser for over 30 years. Much love and thanks to the "Kreuzer Dynasty" for their support, encouragement, and inspiration.

**PAMELA ROSE MANGUS** (Snyder) has performed throughout WNY for many years and has been honored with multiple Artie Awards for her endeavors. Recent productions: *Anne of Green Gables* (Marilla) with TOY, *The Convent* (Mother Abbess) with Brazen Faced Varlets, *Romeo and Juliet* (Nurse) with Shakespeare in Delaware Park. Some past favorites: *The Mai* (Grandma Fraochlan) with ICTC, *Cabaret* (Fraulein Schneider) with Second Generation Theatre, *1776* (John Adams) with O'Connell & Company and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Falstaff) with Shakespeare in Delaware Park. Coming up: *Oklahoma!* with O'Connell & Company.

**MARY KATE O'CONNELL** (Punky) always enjoys performing with O'Connell & Company! Recent productions include *A Big Band Christmas*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, and *Nuncrackers*. And now it's time for some Grumpy fun! She thanks her wonderful circle of supportive friends and Rosy, the Wonder Dog!

**CHRISTOPHER WAGNER** (Jacob) is thrilled to be performing again with O'Connell & Company. He was most recently seen on the Shea's 710 stage in O'Connell & Company's *Plaid Tidings* (Jinx). Christopher is an active vocalist in Western New York, performing with Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Harmonia Chamber Singers, and was a chorister in the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus' 2020 Grammy Award-Winning recording. He thanks his family and his partner, Dillon, for all of their constant support.

**MERRICK ALLEN** (Harry) is thrilled to be on the O'Connell & Company stage for the first time! He graduated SUNY Fredonia with a BFA in musical theatre and was seen recently at the Lancaster Opera House in *Grand Horizons* (Brian), *Clue* (Mr.Body), *The Sound of Music* (Rolf), and *Man of LaMancha* (Padre). College credits include *The Wild Party* (Burrs), and *Small Mouth Sounds* (Rodney). Special thanks to Lauren for her constant love and support.



## Who's Who

**HEATHER CASSERI** (Unis) is thrilled to be returning to the O'Connell & Company stage, having previously appeared in *Reefer Madness* (Sally), *Sunset Boulevard* (Betty Schaefer) and *1776 the Musical* (Martha Jefferson). Favorite credits include: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Sally) at Theatre of Youth, *Rent* (Maureen) with Bellissima Productions, *As You Like It* (Audrey) at Shakespeare in Delaware Park. Heather has a BFA in Theatre Performance from Niagara University. She thanks her family and friends for their love and support.

**JASON FRANCEY** (Tim) is thrilled to be back at O'Connell & Company! Last seen on the O'Connell & Company stage in *The Golden Girls the Lost Episodes Vol 4*. He holds a BA in Theatre from SUNY Potsdam and is an MFA candidate in Theatre Arts at the University of Idaho. His previous local acting credits include *The Buffalo Quickies* (Various) at Alleyway Theatre, *Twelfth Night* (Sir Andrew) at Inclusive Theatre of WNY, and *Rehearsal for Murder* (Ernie) at the Lancaster Opera House.

**TAYLOR LEE HALL** (Fran) is thrilled to be making her O'Connell & Company debut! Past favorite roles include Marcy in *Dogfight* and Lily in *Brace For Impact* (Artie Nomination for Best New Play) with Bellissima Productions, and Jenny in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and Everybody in *Everybody* at The University at Buffalo. She graduated with a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University at Buffalo. She would like to thank her friends, family, and partner Michael for their constant love and support!

**ROBERT McKNIGHT** (Bo) is beyond excited to be a part of this production! He is a recent graduate from the University at Buffalo, where he received a BFA in Musical Theater. His most recent credits include Ensemble in, *Reefer Madness*, Smudge in *Plaid Tidings: Forever Plaid*, Oliver in *The Music Man*, and Olive's Dad in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Some of his favorite past roles include Hysterium in *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum*, and The White Rabbit in *Alice*. He would like to give a special thanks to his family - mom, dad, Brian, and Catherine - for their endless support and love. He would also like to thank everybody for taking the time out of their days to come and support our production, and he hopes you all enjoy the show!

## Who's Who

**ALEXANDRA GRACE NOWAK** (Lo) is thrilled to be back with O'Connell & Company after just appearing in *Reefer Madness* at the Shea's Smith Theatre. She holds a BA in Theatre Performance & Business Management from Marymount Manhattan College. Most notable performances include *Matilda* (Miss Honey), *Chicago* (Hunyak), *42nd Street* (Ensemble), and the Buffalo 48 hour Film Festival. Many thanks to her Family, boyfriend, and mentors for all their love and support. [AlexandraGraceNowak.com](http://AlexandraGraceNowak.com)

**EMORY REDFEARN** (Karla) is pumped to be back with O'Connell & Company having previously appeared in *A Chorus Line* (Maggie) and *The Addams Family*. Recent credits include *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Lucy), *Something Rotten* (Bea), and *Drunk Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy). They hold a BFA in Music Theatre from the University at Buffalo. She thanks her friends and family for their support.

**BRYAN SHARRY** (Stan) is happy to make his return to the O'Connell & Company stage after previously performing in *Chicago* (Fred Casely) and *The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes- Vol. 4* (Sylvia Martinelli). He would like to thank his friends and family for their ongoing support and encouragement.

## GRUMPY OLD MEN: THE MUSICAL

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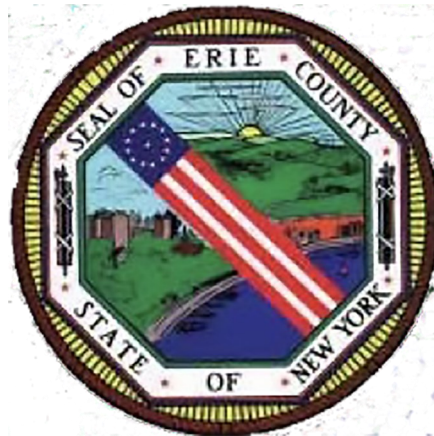
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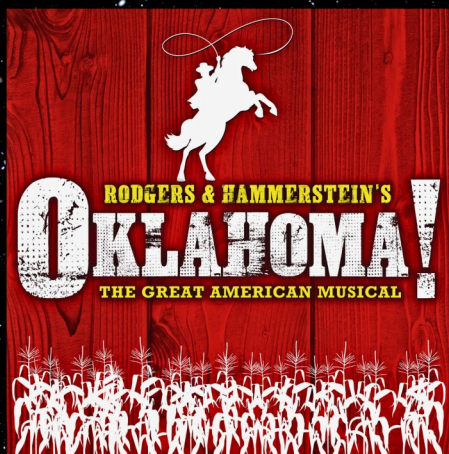
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