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Directed By Dennis Elkins / Music Director Laura Ritter

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Program

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SETTING– Medieval Castle TIME– Many Moons Ago

CAST (In order of appearance)

Jester	Tim Kelley
Panto Prince	Emily Laramie
Panto Princess	Ellianna Ropp
Panto Queen	Jessica Candid
Panto Jester	Jane Sorber
<hr/>	
Wizard	Tom Holahan
Princess #12	Kadie Smith
Lady Rowena	Chelsea Murdock
Lady Merrill	Katie Beach
Prince Dauntless the Drab	Tyler Auffhammer
Queen Aggravain	Kristine Montgomery
Lady Lucille	Shea Ropp
Lady Larken	Michaela Swedberg
Sir Studley	Bobby Francis
King Sextimus the Silent	Ralph Welsh
Sir Harry	Jacob Sorber
Princess Winiffred	Grace Majer
Lady Henrietta	Rebecca Benitez
Sir Luce	Brent Smith
Lady Mabelle	Lindsey Norris
Emily	Ellianna Ropp
Lady Charlotte	Jessica Candid
Lady Florence/Nightingale	Jane Sorber
Sir Manley	Michael Benitez
Lady Beatrice	Ellianna Ropp
Lady Rosalind	Kadie Smith
Sir Loyne	Brandon Dyer
Maxine, the kitchen maid	Emily Laramie

Playmakers

Director	Dennis Elkins
Music Director	Laura Ritter
Choreographer	Lynn Campbell
Producers	Mike & Kate Shipley
Stage Manager	Katie Beeson
Assistant Stage Manager	Anna Walsh
Light Design	Alex Cahill
Light Runner	Andrew Sexton
Sound Technician	Jim Smith
Sound Runner	Brea Shipley
Costume Design	Betsy Allardice, Kris Yon
Set Construction	Wayne Madison, Jim Harriss
Set Decoration	Kristine Montgomery, Ralph Welsh, Mike & Kate Shipley
Playbill	Linda Lavold, Jim Harriss, Caitlin Herrington Cashwell
Publicity	Angel Ruff, Shelley Holbrooks
Volunteer Coordinator	Kris Hersom

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**The videotaping or other video or audio recording
of this production is strictly prohibited!**

Meet the Cast

Tyler Auffhammer (Prince Dauntless) enjoys playing sports, hanging out with friends, and listening to music in his free time. This is his 10th production at CLT and he appeared most recently in CAYT's *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* as grandpa Joe.

Katie Beach (Lady Merrill) is an itinerant minstrel from Taylors, originally from Central, who grew up on CLT's hallowed stage (and was murdered on it, too; playing Lady Macduff was fun! We're allowed to say Macduff, right?) Other roles here at CLT include Miss Goodheart in *A Christmas Carol*, and many years ago (don't ask a lady how many) was an understudy for Lady Larkin in a production of *Once Upon a Mattress* at OCT. Who knows what's next? Not even Katie...

Michael Benitez (Sir Manley) works as the Choir Teacher for Southwood Academy of the Arts. He has performed in or directed over 50 different large-scale musical productions, not including many different local choir performances. He also loves to dance and has training in tap (ECDA), hip hop, and ballroom. Michael's most recent performance was in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in Mauldin. Michael is so excited to be onstage with his wonderful wife in this production!

Rebecca Benitez (Lady Henrietta) is no stranger to the stage, with theatre credits from the Market Theatre's main stage, the Electric City Playhouse, and even the 24-Hour Musical. Her hobbies include knitting, gardening, baking, and various crafts. She also enjoys dancing and takes ballet and tap from ECDA. She also has several years of classical ballroom training. When she is not busy with those, she enjoys spending time at home with her husband, their 2 pet birds, and their dog. Rebecca is excited to be part of this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

Jessica Candid (Panto Queen, Lady Charlotte) is excited to be returning to the CLT stage in *Once Upon a Mattress*. She recently appeared in CLT's production of *A Christmas Carol* last December. Jessica studied Performing Arts at Clemson University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 2022. When she's not on stage, Jessica works as a biomedical engineer and enjoys reading, crochet, and watching movies.

Brandon Dyer (Sir Loyne) is returning to theatre for the first time in over ten years! His last show was with the Greenville Children's Theatre for a production of *Ebenezer* in 2011. Currently, his biggest hobby is cosplay. For him, cosplay is an extension of theatre where you can become someone else for a short time and entertain others, even off stage! He is excited to be joining CLT for this show!

Bobby Francis (Sir Studley) returns to the stage for the first time since 2015. Previous credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Dentist), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Knight), *Shenandoah* (Nathan Anderson), *Lil Abner* (General Bullmoose), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Baker / Fork). Bobby lives in Central with his wife and 5 dogs. He rides horses and disc-golfs in his spare time.

Tom Holahan (Wizard) is retired and lives in Anderson with his wife Kim, and is the proud father of four daughters and Poppi to three grandchildren. He appeared most recently at CLT as Mr. Fairfax in *The Christmas Express* and El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*. He has also sung (first tenor) for the past 10+ years with the GAMAC Chorale in Anderson. Tom is very grateful to be included in this fun production and be a part of this terrific cast.

Timothy Kelley (Minstrel, Jester) A professional opera singer, Tim is no stranger to musical theatre. Appearing in over 80 different productions, Tim is happy to be returning to the CLT stage! Notable roles include Javert in *Les Misérables*, The Engineer in *Miss Saigon*, Bobby in *Company*, and Clifford Bradshaw in *Cabaret*. This performance is dedicated to the memory of Pat Shull!

Emily Laramie (Panto Prince, Maxi, the Kitchen Wench) This is Emily's eighth theater production and her first at the Clemson Little Theater. She is from North Carolina but is a first year student at Clemson University, and is grateful to join such a welcoming theater community away from home. She hopes you leave the show feeling inspired and she appreciates your coming to support the arts!

Grace Majer (Princess Winifred) is thrilled to join this cast for her first musical. Growing up with a theater director for a mother, Grace has been involved in shows since elementary school. In 2020, she earned her Master of Arts in Theatre from

Regent University. Aside from acting, Grace enjoys reading, hiking, and writing, and currently has three published novels. She hopes you love the show!

Kristine Montgomery (Queen Aggravain) Kristine hasn't been on a theater stage in over 30 years and is thrilled to take part in this show. A Chicagoland native, she moved to Anderson in 2013 and is Director of Media & Communications for Saint Mark UMC in Seneca. She loves animals, coffee, and all things artistic.

Chelsea Murdock (Lady Rowena) is very excited to be a part of *Once Upon a Mattress* for the third time in her life. Twice in the same role! This is her first production since 2008. She loves being a teacher, and you'll often hear her singing or writing whenever she is bored. She wants to thank her mother for her love and support!

Lindsey Norris (Lady Mabelle) is making her acting debut at CLT after being inspired by her children's love of theatre. She did musicals in high school and decided to say "Oui!" to another try. Lindsey loves chocolate, hanging out with her family and camping. She would like to express special thanks to her husband Mark and kids for supporting her theater endeavors!

Ellianna Ropp (Panto Pricess, Lady Beatrice) is a sophomore at West-Oak High School. Elli is a member of the honors choir and the student-led ensemble, Praelia Voces. She has been in several productions over the past six years, from which you might recognize her. Her favorite roles include, Louisa in *The Sound of Music* and Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*. Elli has loved being a part of this hilarious show and adored working with an amazing cast, crew, and director.

Shea Ropp (Lady Lucille) has always had a love for theater and has managed to pass that love on to all nine of her children! In 2018 her oldest finally convinced her to let her three oldest audition for the CAYT show *Anne of Green Gables*. She has been a proud parent, chauffeur, producer, actor, and most recently a stage manager for various shows over the last six years. Shea especially enjoys being in shows if she can share the experience with one or more of her children, as is the case for *Once Upon a Mattress*. A HUGE thank you to her husband for letting her pursue this hobby and "holding down the fort" at home.

Brent Smith (Sir Luce) When his young daughter was shy about auditioning for a play, Brent encouraged her by auditioning along with her, thus launching his career in play acting. With no experience and or training, he began his acting career as The Guard in *The Wizard of Oz*. When Brent is not on stage, he is a self-proclaimed comic book nerd that also enjoys kick-boxing, as well as drawing & doodling. Favorite quote: "What's the point of being grown up if you can't act childish sometimes?" Doctor Who.

Kadie Smith (Princess #12, Lady Rosalind) has been doing theatre for seven years. With notable roles such as Two-Bit in *The Outsiders* and Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. This is her 3rd show at CLT and she will be assistant teaching at CLTs CAYT summer camps this summer. Some of her favorite things include singing, going to theme parks, and (most importantly) doing theatre!

Jacob Sorber (Sir Harry) is excited to be back on the CLT stage as Sir Harry. Past shows include *Les Misérables*, *Oliver*, *The Music Man*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Off stage, he's also a computer scientist, teacher, researcher, YouTuber, gardener, small-scale fish farmer, all-around nerd and dad. It's been fun to share the stage with Jane.

Jane Sorber (Panto Court, Nightingale/Nightwing) is very excited to be a part of this production, especially because she gets to act alongside her dad (Sir Harry)! She has been a part of *Sound of Music*, *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Legally Blonde* (the musical), and *Peter and the Starcatcher*! When she's not singing, she enjoys running track and cross country, reading, spending time with friends, and being outside.

Michaela Swedberg (Lady Larken) is a Clemson local and a passionate patron of the arts. Her favorite roles include Liesl from *The Sound of Music* and Babette the Feather Duster from *Beauty and the Beast*. She enjoys reading high fantasy novels, mountain hikes, and cuddling with her cat, Clementine, in her free time.

Ralph Welsh (King Sextimus the Silent) is a Principal Lecturer at Clemson University. He discovered the joy of community theatre a decade ago, after bravely auditioning for his first show. He wants to thank Dennis and Laura for the opportunity

to work with this amazing cast and production team. The challenges of playing a mute in a musical have been joyful and truly rewarding };+D.

Directors and Crew

Director: Dennis Elkins Until 2017, Elkins taught theatre in higher academia. Recently, he's created three solo shows celebrating the escapades of "mr. dennis" in *the N trilogy: box., bag—and blood* at the 2023 Edinburgh Fringe. Other solo shows include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *An Evening with O. Henry*. Favorite roles include Lear, Polonius, and Edna Turnblad. Favorite venues include the Nashville Rep, the Colorado and Utah Shakespeare Festivals, and Thingamajig Theatre Company. Directing credits include *Bright Star, Pirates of Penzance, Jersey Boys, and Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Elkins is a teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework® and member of Actors' Equity.

Music Director: Laura Ritter is happy to be music directing her 3rd show with Clemson Little Theatre. After a long career in East Tennessee, where she taught at Walters State Community College and music directed for Encore Theatrical Company, Laura and her husband, Greg, are pleased to call Clemson their home. She is the music director at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Seneca and also serves on the music faculty at the South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University. In her spare time, she co-directs the Young Voices of the Foothills children's choir. Shout out to this wonderful cast and crew, and especially her dear friend Dennis Elkins.

Katie Beeson (Stage Manager) is so excited to be part of the *Once Upon a Mattress* team! This is her first time serving as a Stage Manager at CLT. Her acting experience includes roles in *Winnie-the-Pooh, A Christmas Story, A Murder is Announced, and Romeo & Juliet*. Katie would like to thank Dennis Elkins and Kate and Mike Shipley for the opportunity!

Anna Walsh (Assistant Stage Manager) Originally from North Charleston, SC, Anna is a recent Clemson graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts. She loves all aspects of the theatre, from acting on stage to working behind the scenes. Anna will be starting graduate school in the fall with plans to become a theatre arts teacher. She cannot wait to share her love of the craft with her future students.

And don't miss our next show; it's just for fun!



Belles ... More Busted Than Ever
By Ginny McKinney

Directed by Danna Briggs

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Performances: June 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 2024

Friday & Saturday at 7:30pm
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The SHULL Must Go On!



For more than a quarter century Pat Shull graced this theatre with her passion, her many skills, her love of theatre, and her love of this place. Sometimes she acted (very well, indeed!) or performed other tasks supporting our shows, and she served on our Season Planning Committee, helping select shows

for the future. But her real passion at CLT was directing plays, especially musicals. Musicals such as the extraordinary *Man of La Mancha*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. But she was equally adept at dramas such as *Our Town*, or lighter fare like *Dracula Bites*, *Leading Ladies*, and *Dearly Departed*.

Pat was a special director at CLT, more than once stepping in to help us out when another director had to drop out mid-season. But most especially, Pat was a very dear friend to CLT and to those of us who worked with her.

Sadly, our dear friend Pat Shull died on the evening of November 23, 2020, after a brief illness. It was in the times of COVID, so we could not even have a proper gathering to mourn her as a family should.

Pat Shull loved Musicals! And she loved CLT. In honor of her memory, her family made a substantial donation to CLT to use to help offset the high cost of musical shows. Known as "The SHULL Must Go On!", that fund has been bolstered by contributions from others at CLT to help keep the music playing. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to this fund, please contact the theatre office at 864-646-8100.

Remember Pat.
And celebrate the shows.

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2024 CAYT Summer Drama Workshops



Week 1: July 8-12

3rd–5th grades-Becoming a Character

6th–12th grades– Improv!

Week 2: July 15-19

3rd–5th grades-Becoming a Character

1st–2nd grades-Little Stars Onstage

Week 3: July 22-26

1st–2nd grades-Little Stars Onstage

6–12th grades-Polishing Your Craft



Triple-Threat: June 17-21 - 9th-12th grades

Triple-Threat: June 24-28 - 5th-8th grades

Little Stars Onstage

(Sessions offered July 15-19 and July 22-26) \$90

Grades 1st-2nd

Welcome to the stage! Young actors and actresses will develop an introductory level of understanding for theatre through games and collaborative activities. These activities will encourage appropriate behavior onstage, getting into a character, and learning basic theatre vocabulary that will get them ready for performing! By the end of the week, the students will perform a skit guided by their instructor to show off everything they've learned in the past week.

Becoming a Character

(Sessions offered July 8-12 and July 15-19) \$90

Grades 3rd-5th

What does it mean to be “in character”? Students in this session will learn what it takes to become another person on stage. Students will learn the art of characterization through engaging activities that teach students to give purpose to their movements and facial expressions onstage. Through these exercises, students will become more familiar with common theatre terminology used in productions that will benefit them when they take the stage! By the end of the week, the students will perform a skit which will highlight their newly developed skills in characterization and stage presence.

Polishing Your Craft

(Session offered July 22-26) \$90

Grades 6th-12th

Boost your skills as an actor with this session. Students will be encouraged to collaborate with their instructor and peers to create an original script to perform by the end of the week. With guidance from the instructor, students will learn how to choose a genre, main idea, and unique characters for their original play. Through this creation, students will gain a better understanding of play creation and characterization. By having students create their own skit to perform, with teacher guidance, they will have more responsibilities than the younger groups. These students will have the opportunity to build skills that they will use in CAYT productions.

Improv!

(Session offered July 8-12) \$90

Grades 6th-12th

It's time for improv! Perfect your improv skills in this session where students will learn how to create unique characters, accept ideas, and support their scene partner onstage through improvisation techniques and activities. These important elements of improv will not only help students onstage but offstage as well. By the end of this week, students will perform sketches made up completely on-the-spot to highlight their improvisation skills.

Musical Theatre

Triple-Threat Training Intensive

(Sessions June 17-21 and June 24-28 from 10am to 4pm) \$300

Grades 9th-12th on June 17-21

Grades 5th-8th on June 24-28

(limited tuition assistance and sibling discounts are available upon request)

Ready to become a "triple-threat" actor? Students will be trained in the arts of musical theatre. Students will gain confidence in acting, singing, and dancing by participating in theatre exercises that will grow their skills in each field. This training will assist students in acing their musical theatre auditions. By the end of this week, students will be prepared to enter a mock audition in the form of a showcase to demonstrate their skills as triple-threat actors!

Registrations begin on Monday April 1 at 9AM.

Registration forms will be posted on the CLT Website.

www.clemsonlittletheatre.com

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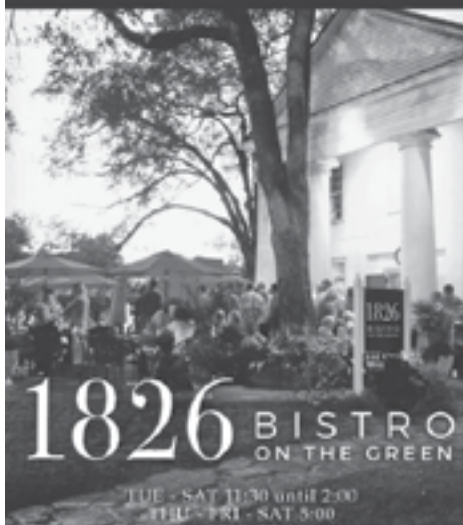
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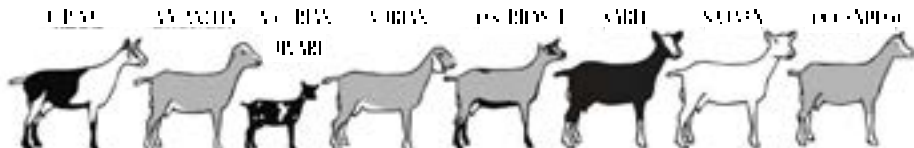


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