

# STANDING VATION



## Pride@Prejudice

by Daniel Elihu Kramer

February 13-22, 2026

# Great Red Wine

*made in Iowa  
from Grapes  
grown in Iowa*



## ***Iowa In the Dark***

is a dry red with light, fresh notes. First impressions are tangy acid followed by black cherry fading to plum, a dry mid-palate, and a long, pleasing finish. Made from Marquette, St. Croix, Petite Pearl, and Steuben grapes grown in Iowa, it's a versatile wine that pairs well with grilled meat and spicy foods.

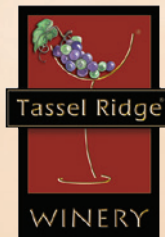
## ***2021 Iowa Sabrevois***

is a dry red with bold aromas of spices and leather on the nose followed by blackberry and plum notes with hints of baking spice, smoke, and licorice on the palate. Made from Sabrevois grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, it pairs well with grilled meat.

## ***2021 Iowa***

### ***Petite Pearl***

is a dry red with a lightly acidic entry transitioning to dark fruit and a long, drying finish. Made from Petite Pearl grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, 2021 *Iowa Petite Pearl* will pair nicely with grilled meat or pasta with a tomato-based sauce.



Tassel Ridge wines are sold at about 350 retailers in Iowa. For a list, visit [www.tasselridge.com/retail](http://www.tasselridge.com/retail). Or, Tassel Ridge can ship wine directly to you in Iowa, Arizona, Colorado, DC, Florida, Minnesota, and Missouri. Call the Winery at 641.672.WINE (9463) to place your order. Adult signature required for receipt of wine. Visit [www.tasselridge.com](http://www.tasselridge.com), our Facebook page, or call 641.672.WINE (9463) for information about hours, Seated Wine Tastings, and Wine & Food Events including Wine & Wood Fired Oven Pizza events.

**Tassel Ridge Dry Red Wines...*Simply Extraordinary***<sup>®</sup>

Leighton, Iowa • [www.tasselridge.com](http://www.tasselridge.com)

## A Note From The Director

*It is a truth universally acknowledged* that Jane Austen is one of the most beloved writers of our time. This past December marked 250 years since her birth in the small village of Steventon; the same village where she, with inspiration from her community and the support of her family, began the novel that would later become *Pride and Prejudice*. First published in 1813, the world and customs of *Pride and Prejudice* may seem foreign to us, but the themes and characters are wonderfully relatable. It is no wonder that it has inspired so many adaptations across film, television, plays, and even an online web series. For Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, pride and prejudice must both be overcome to achieve their happy ending. It is not merely that they overcome these things alone, but that they are challenged by each other and shaped by their friends and families to become the people that would most suit each other.

Whether you are an avid re-reader, a fan of the various adaptations, or someone who begrudgingly studied the novel in school, I hope you enjoy this show and experience the power of a story shared in community. Reading may be a solitary act, but engaging with other readers is a part of the joy that surrounds reading. Stories are meant to be shared. Thank you for choosing to be here to experience this story in this community.

Now, as Mr. Darcy once wrote, “I will only add, God bless you.” - Julia Spera

*Pride @ Prejudice*  
Cast

Actress A	Lauren Mills
Elizabeth Bennet	
Actress B	Susie Covert
Jane Bennet, Caroline Bingley, Lydia, Mary, Lady Catherine, Georgina, Jane Austen	
Actress C	Lisa Day
Mrs. Bennet, Charlotte, Mrs. Gardiner, Miss de Bourgh	
Actor A	Benjamin Roach
Mr. Darcy, Mr. Collins	
Actor B	Damian Williams
Mr. Bennet, Mr. Bingley, Sir William, Footman, Doctor, Mr. Wickham, Mr. Gardiner, Colonel Fitzwilliam	

Setting: Online and Regency England  
Time: Present Day and Early 1800s

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.  
No videotaping of this show is permitted.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.  
([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))

## Production Team

Director	Julia Spera
Assistant Director	Katie Wollan
Producer	Lisa Gould and Rebecca Shell
Stage Manager	Katie Wollan
Set Design	Julia Spera and Katie Wollan
Set Construction	Matt Tuttle, Katie Wollan, Julia Spera, Dan Chase, and cast
Set Painting	Katie Wollan, Julia Spera, and Kathy Polson
Lighting Design	Matt Tuttle and Katie Wollan
Sound Design	Marty Pohlmeier
Light & Sound Technician	Stacie Bendixen
Costumes	Emily Dokken
Props	Julia Spera and Katie Wollan
Choreography & Dance Music	Ben Spera
Hair & Makeup	Cast and Crew
Program	Abby Martin
Photographer	Greg Romans
Logo Design	Bekah Wieland
Marketing	Stacie Bendixen, Lauren Mills, Greg Romans

## 2025 - 2026 ACT Board of Directors

President - Dan Chase

Past President - Greg Romans

Johanna Guerdet  
Camille Smith

James Hagedorn  
Julia Spera  
Katie Wollan

Marty Pohlmeier  
Larry White

Mailing Address: PO Box 122, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Website: [www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com)

Email: [information@ankenycommunitytheatre.com](mailto:information@ankenycommunitytheatre.com)

### ACT's Mission:

To provide opportunities for Central Iowa community members  
to present and enjoy quality live theater.

### ACT's Vision:

To be a welcoming place where people of diverse backgrounds have fulfilling  
theatrical experiences that are a vital part of the cultural landscape and the quality  
of life in our community.

## Biographies



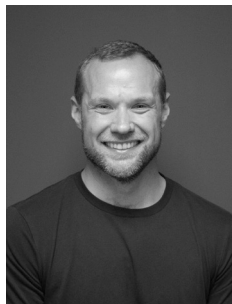
**Lauren Mills** (Actress A) last appeared on stage as Whitney in *A Piece of My Heart* in the fall of 2021. Since then she's directed three shows at ACT - *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, *Harvey*, and *Blithe Spirit*. It feels good to be back ON the stage! Lauren works for Ankeny Community School District as a Sign Language Interpreter. In her free time she enjoys painting, reading, and playing board games. She wants to thank her family for all their support and Abby for helping her run lines!



**Susie Covert** (Actress B) was involved in theater in college and directed elementary/middle school musicals in Oklahoma and Illinois. This is her second show with ACT. She is very excited to join this amazing cast to bring a new perspective, or several, on a classic! She likes to read, wear silly earrings, and do science. Enjoy the show!



**Lisa Day** (Actress C) is thrilled to be a part of the *Pride @ Prejudice* cast. Lisa grew up in Des Moines but has been living in the Twin Cities for the last 28 years. She moved back to Des Moines with her husband, David, in 2024. She has written, directed, and acted in plays in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Iowa City and Des Moines. Some of her favorite theater experiences include writing/directing *Consequences of Kissing Dragons*, and her graduate thesis, *Flying Lessons*. Lisa has an MFA in playwriting from the University of Iowa Playwright's Workshop. Lisa is a Grants Manager at Iowa Economic Development Authority and likes to run, bike, garden and bird watch with her husband and mother.



**Benjamin Roach** (Actor A) is thrilled to return to the stage after recent roles in *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* (Fred), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stanley), *Arsenic & Old Lace* (AD), and *Dial M for Murder* (Ensemble). He has greatly enjoyed working with the cast and creative team to bring this classic story – with a few twists – to life.



**Damian Williams** (Actor B) is delighted to be back at ACT! He was last seen on this stage as Max Halliday in *Dial 'M' for Murder*. Some of his favorite past roles include Scotty in *Ripcord* (Tallgrass), Bank Manager in *Once* (Playhouse), the Steward in *Into the Woods* (Tallgrass), and Richard Loving in *Loving* (ACT). Damian plays viola in the Des Moines Gamer Symphony Orchestra and Des Moines Community Orchestra. You can also find him playing D&D with his theater friends, writing fiction, cooking, and hanging out with his two cats, McGee and Pickle.



**Julia Spera** (Director) is grateful to be making her directorial debut with such a great cast and crew. Julia was the assistant director for *A Gift For Rebecca*, and was last seen on the ACT stage in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong*. Some of her favorite theatre experiences include *Our Town* (Emily Webb) at the Des Moines Playhouse, *These Shining Lives* (Pearl/ Dramaturg), and a devised version of *Don Quixote* at Belhaven University where she received her BFA in Acting. Julia works for both the Baxter Public Library and Java on Main in Baxter; she serves on the ACT Board, and as a Sunday School teacher at Baxter Congregational Church. She enjoys reading, crocheting, and spending time with her husband and their dog. Enjoy the show!



**Katie Wollan** (Assistant Director) is glad to be back at Ankeny Community Theatre, supporting this retelling of a classic. Katie has been involved here in many roles - from acting, to assistant directing, to ushering, and more. She lives in Ankeny and is very glad to be part of this creative and welcoming community theatre community!

## 2025 - 2026 Contributors

Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and foundations for their generous support of our organization.

### **Producer (\$1000+)**

### **Director (\$500 - \$999)**

Paul Guerdet  
Dennis & Lois Kern  
Becca Wemhoff  
Tom Wollan

### **Stage Manager (\$250 - \$499)**

Stacie Bendixen  
Solomon Brownlee and Gina  
Tiggles  
Cheryl & Max Clark  
Mike Gieszler  
Gloria Heston  
Mary Holwell  
Gene & Gail Lucht  
Katie Wollan

### **Actor (\$100 - \$249)**

John & Anne Claes  
Dan Chase & Carol Palmer  
Karen Cross  
Erik & Sally Egglund  
Bob & Mary Jo Frazier  
Larry White and Sarah Froiland  
Debra Garner & John Richards

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Tim & Michelle Olson  
Tim Panages  
Camille & Tyler Smith  
Ben & Julia Spera  
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Whitney & Matt Welp

### **Business Friends**

A Gentle Guide to Des  
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Ankeny Community Theatre is grateful for grant funding from BRAVO Greater Des Moines.

BRAVO offers financial support to fund the operations, programs, and educational opportunities of applicants through hotel/motel taxes and remains committed to investing in its seventeen cultural partners: Altoona, Ankeny Bondurant, Carlisle, Clive, Des Moines, Grimes, Indianola, Johnston, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Polk County, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights.

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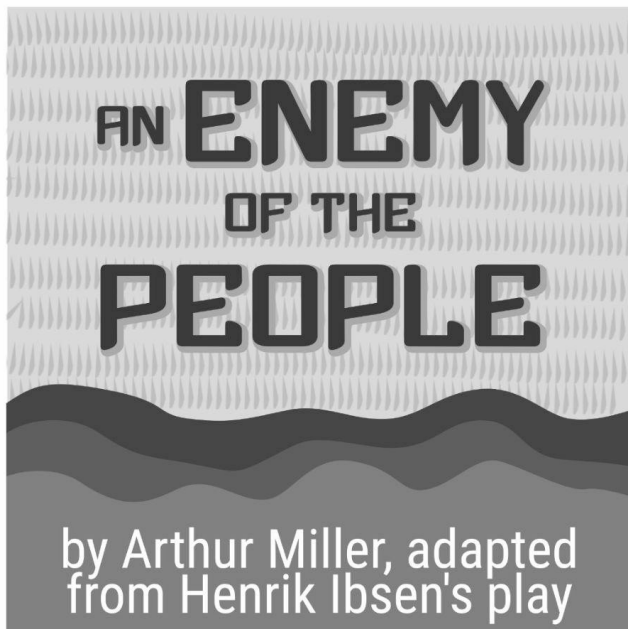
Unlike most community theatres, nearly all of our expenses are covered by ticket sales. If you're enjoying today's performance, please consider making a financial gift to help ACT continue producing high-quality, affordable live theatre.

Mail a donation to our address:  
Ankeny Community Theatre  
1932 SW 3rd Street, Ankeny, IA 50023

·Scan this QR code to go directly to the donation page of our website. You can easily use a credit card to make a donation right now.



***Thank you for coming.  
Join us for our next show!***



**April 17-26, 2026**

A close-knit Norwegian town has just begun to win fame and wealth through its medicinal spring waters...and then Dr. Stockmann discovers that the waters are contaminated. He immediately reports his findings to his associates but is shocked to find that those in power fight to silence him. This timeless tale highlights the conflict between doing what's right and doing what's expected of you. *Rated PG-13*

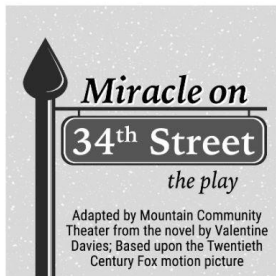
**Ankeny Community Theatre**  
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# ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

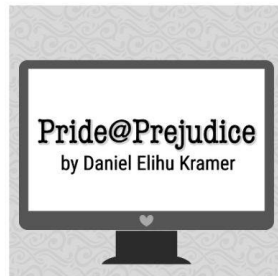
## 44<sup>TH</sup> SEASON | 2025-2026



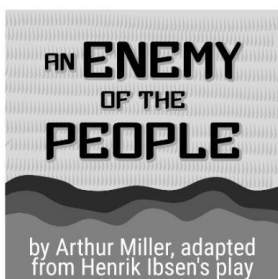
October 3-12, 2025



December 5-14, 2025



February 13-22, 2026



April 17-26, 2026



June 12-21, 2026



August 7-16, 2026



1932 SW 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
ANKENY, IA 50023

FOR TICKETS, CALL MIDWESTIX AT 515-244-2771  
OR VISIT [WWW.ANKENYCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.ANKENYCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.COM)

Presented by special arrangement with these publishers: *Blithe Spirit*: Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. *Once Upon a Mattress*: Concord Theatricals. *Miracle on 34th Street*: THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois. *Pride@Prejudice*: Playscripts, Inc. *An Enemy of the People* and *August: Osage County*: Dramatists Play Service.

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**ACT's Vision:**

To be a welcoming place where people of diverse backgrounds have fulfilling theatrical experiences that are a vital part of the cultural landscape and the quality of life in our community.



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Visit [ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com](http://ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com)  
and click *sign up for our email list*  
under the *get involved* tab!

## Want to do more to help ACT?

ACT's committees are made up of board members and other volunteers. The committees plan and carry out all the theater's functions, under the board's direction. Volunteering on a committee is a great way to make a real difference at ACT! [If you're interested in getting involved in any of these areas, please email volunteer@ankenycommunitytheatre.com to learn more.](mailto:volunteer@ankenycommunitytheatre.com)

**Building and Operations:** Responsible for the condition of the building and managing supplies.

**Data Management:** Responsible for all things *information* - databases, digital accounts and services, documenting and organizing information and materials related to running the organization, including policies and procedures.

**Finance:** Oversees financial management and brings financial recommendations to the board.

**Fundraising:** Develops fundraising events, grants, sponsorships and corporate/organizational fundraising, as well as major gifts and legacy giving from individuals.

**Marketing:** Advertising, social media, email marketing, newsletter, media relations, graphic design, playbills, community outreach.

**Membership and Sales:** Cultivates and manages individual donors (members); plans annual member event. Manages box office system and ticket sales, including pricing and season punch cards, as well as audience experience.

**Production:** Responsible for all aspects of putting on shows themselves; develops and implements related policies and procedures. Committee members also serve as producers.

**Volunteer:** Recruits, trains, and manages volunteers; develops policies and procedures related to volunteers; develops volunteer recognition.

# Coming in June...



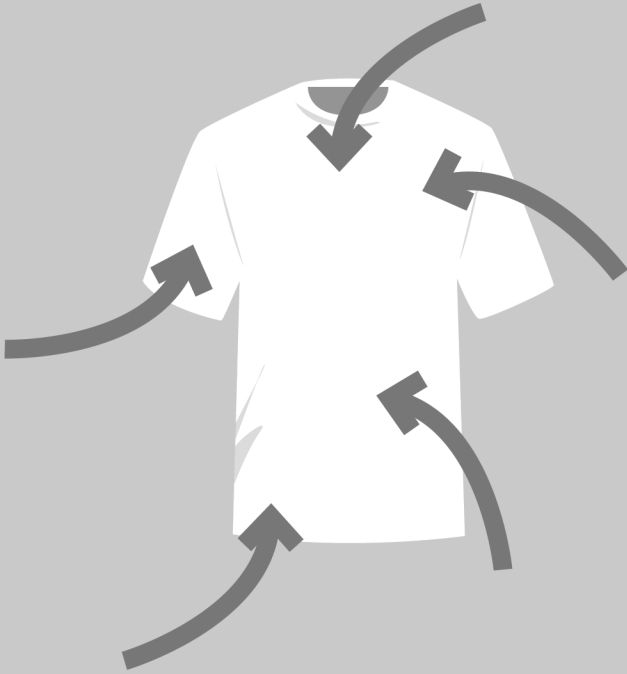
## June 12-21, 2026

Many moons ago in a far-off place, Queen Aggravain decreed no couples could marry until her son, Prince Dauntless, found a bride. Princesses came from far and wide to win the hand of the prince, but none could pass the impossible tests given to them by the Queen. That is, until the “shy” swamp princess, Winnifred the Woebegone, showed up. Would she be able to pass the Sensitivity Test, marry her prince and help Lady Larken and Sir Harry to the altar? Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the classic tale *The Princess and the Pea* provides some side-splitting shenanigans. For after all, a princess is a delicate thing. *Rated G*

## Ankeny Community Theatre

[www.ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com](http://www.ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com)

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**A Celebration in Song**  
*Wartburg Choir & Iowa State Singers*  
Saturday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.

**To Peace, To Music**  
Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Concerts to be held at  
St. Ambrose Cathedral  
607 High St, Des Moines



# Drake University

## presents

### THEATRE

#### **Little Women (the musical)**

Apr. 2-5, 2026 • Performing Arts Hall

#### **The Shape of Things**

Apr. 30-May 3, 2026 • Coleman Studio Theatre

### MUSIC

#### **Turner Center Jazz Orchestra Presents:**

#### **All We Need Is... The Beatles**

Mar. 26, 2026, 7:30 p.m. • Patty and Fred Turner Jazz Center

#### **Drake Opera Theatre presents Bizet's Carmen with the Drake Symphony Orchestra dir. Héctor Agüero**

Feb. 27 & 28, 2026, 7:30pm and Mar. 1, 2026, 2:30pm  
Performing Arts Hall

### ANDERSON GALLERY

#### **Transformative Impressions:**

#### **Richard Black International Juried Print Exhibition**

Opening Reception Feb. 5, 2026, 5-7pm  
on view through March 13, 2026

#### **55th Annual Juried Student Exhibition**

Opening Reception Mar. 29, 2026, 1-3pm  
On view through Apr. 19, 2026



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STANDING OVATION 2025-2026



THE DIFFERENCE IS

# Community

Music has played an important role in every phase of my life. From growing up with a mother who was a music teacher to singing in Luther College's Nordic Choir, I was raised to see how classical music is central to a healthy social fabric. As a Des Moines Symphony board member, I channel my passion for music into volunteerism, helping shine a spotlight on how the Symphony is making the arts more accessible throughout our community. It's rewarding to make a difference for people and nonprofits in Central Iowa, and I'm proud to work for a company that empowers team members to get involved. In fact, more than 100 of our employees serve on nonprofit boards and committees. It's one of the many ways we help the communities around us grow and thrive.

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**Emily Stork**

EVP, Chief Risk Officer

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