

# A Merry American Christmas

By Marilyn Steiner

December 1, 2023, 7 PM  
December 2, 2023, 2 PM & 7 PM



**AUDITIONS - March 21 - 23, 2024**

*This is a community theatre event!*

**Ohio University Lancaster Theatre**  
*presents*

Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**

**THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**

©Disney

**SHOW DATES: July 21 - August 4, 2024**

**Audition Dates/Times**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024 6 PM - 9 PM**

**Friday, March 22, 2024, 6 PM - 9 PM**

**Saturday, March 23, 10 AM - 1 PM**

**Ohio University Lancaster Campus, Wagner Theatre**

*For audition information: <https://www.ohio.edu/lancaster/theatre>*

**OHIO** | **LANCASTER**  
UNIVERSITY | Theatre

## Making History

Some traditions, like those established by Mike and Margie in tonight's production of *A Merry American Christmas*, emerge slowly over the years and are really only recognized when looking back over time. Others, like this Special Holiday Collaboration, now in its second year, have a clear starting point - a meal and a meeting at Provisions in the summer of 2022 organized by Victor Jones. This meeting led to last year's community production of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. But, more importantly, it resulted in new and strengthened relationships between Ohio University Lancaster Theatre, Garret Players, and The Lancaster Playhouse. And, that is why we can confidently predict that this collaborative effort will continue into the future and become a part of all of our holiday traditions. Thank you for supporting live theatre in our community!

## Director's Corner

Last May, the creative team from the Ohio University Lancaster Theatre, The Lancaster Playhouse and Garret Players started to brainstorm a second holiday collaboration for 2023. We knew we wanted a family friendly show which could showcase the talents of actors from all three groups. Linda Kauffman sent us a link to Kate Smith's song *A Merry American Christmas* and that was the inspiration I needed to start writing the play.

As a collaboration, we worked together to obtain rights to perform well loved holiday songs and worked with the actors at every rehearsal to try to make the play fun and relevant. We hope you find something in the play to inspire you to start or continue your own holiday traditions.

From our theatre family to you...Have a Merry Christmas!

*Marilyn Steiner*

## With Special Thanks

### Our Guest Performers:

- The Lancaster Men's Chorus, Friday, 12/1/23, 7 PM
- Keys in Harmony, Saturday, 12/2/23, 2 PM
- One Voice Women's Barbershop Chorus, Saturday, 12/2/23, 7 PM

### The Creative Team:

- P.J. Aubrey
- Linda Kauffman
- Jane O'Brien
- Marilyn Steiner
- Cathy Bitler
- A. Victor Jones

### The Crew:

- Aiden Nicholson
- Anna Donahue
- Emma Clement
- Preston Cattran
  - Aidan Rich

Thank you for providing refreshments!

**Friends**  
of the Fairfield County District  
**Library**

**OHIO**  
UNIVERSITY

**LANCASTER**  
Theatre

# **A Merry American Christmas**

Written and Directed by Marilyn Steiner  
Assistant Director—Cathy Bitler

## **Scene 1: The Year 2023**

Margie, a widow in her 90s is reminiscing about past Christmases with her great granddaughters Makayla and Brianna.

- ◆ Margie: Gail Matos
- ◆ Makayla: Sara Joos
- ◆ Brianna: Anna Brandeberry

## **Scene 2: The Year 1945**

Margie is anxiously waiting to see if her sweetheart, Mike, will return from the Navy. While she waits, she gets a visit from the postman, a neighbor and some carolers. The beginnings of Christmas traditions are formed.

- ◆ Margie: Mara Kuriowa
- ◆ Mike: Aidan Rich
- ◆ Postman: Carl Davis
- ◆ Millie: Emily Bartholic
- ◆ Carolers: Cathy Bitler, Cody Feisel, Samantha Inman, Will Settemberino and Aliyah Graham

## **Scene 3: The Year 1965**

Margie, Mike and their children, MJ and Debbie, squabble about Christmas traditions in the groovy 1960s. The family is visited by a postman, a new neighbor and some carolers.

- ◆ Margie: Mara Kuriowa
- ◆ Mike: Aidan Rich
- ◆ MJ: Kylan Bowers
- ◆ Debbie: Isabella Bollinger
- ◆ Postman: Carl Davis
- ◆ Janice: Samantha Inman
- ◆ Carolers: Emily Bartholic, Cathy Bitler, Cody Feisel, Will Settemberino and Aliyah Graham



# The Lancaster Playhouse

[www.thelancasterplayhouse.org](http://www.thelancasterplayhouse.org)

740-407-2784 (leave a message)

[www.thelancasterplayhouse.org](http://www.thelancasterplayhouse.org)

- Sign up for our newsletter
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
- Attend a workshop or table read
- Audition
- Volunteer



Cast of *Bedroom Farce*

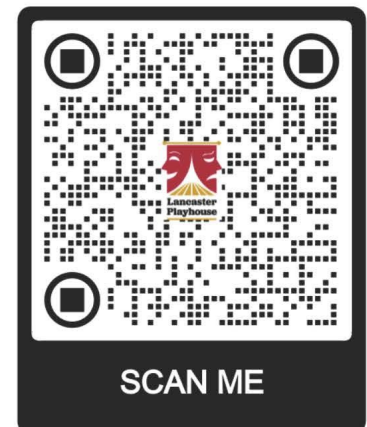


Cast of Ken Ludwig's *The Three Musketeers*

As a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, our continued success depends on our audiences, our many volunteers, and our generous benefactors.

Thank you Wendel Family Fund of the Fairfield County Foundation for your generous support!

The **Lancaster Playhouse** is a community organization dedicated to promoting the theatre arts both here in Lancaster and in the surrounding areas. Our mission is to create a vibrant theatrical experience that will entertain, inspire, and challenge our audiences, actors, and volunteers.



### **Scene 4: The Year 1985**

MJ and his wife Susie and their children, Jen and Mikey now live in the family home on Mulberry Street. Unfortunately, a snowstorm thwarts family tradition in the gnarly 1980s.

- ♦ MJ: Jeff Dupler
- ♦ Susie: Mary Ann Boone
- ♦ Debbie: Mara Kuriowa
- ♦ Jen: Sara Joos
- ♦ Mikey: Kylan Bowers
- ♦ Postman: Carl Davis
- ♦ Janice: Samantha Inman
- ♦ Carolers: Emily Bartholic, Cathy Bitler, Cody Feisel, Will Settemberino and Aliyah Graham

### **Scene 5: The Year 2005**

Margie and Mike are visiting MJ and Susie who are babysitting grandchildren Mickey and Olivia. The 21<sup>st</sup> century brings some new traditions to the Lawrence family while old traditions hang on.

- ♦ Margie: Gail Matos
- ♦ Mike: John Pekar
- ♦ MJ: Jeff Dupler
- ♦ Susie: Mary Ann Boone
- ♦ Mickey: Allison Bininger
- ♦ Olivia: Isabella Bollinger
- ♦ Postman Carl Davis
- ♦ Theodore: Will Settemberino
- ♦ Carolers: Emily Bartholic, Cathy Bitler, Cody Feisel, Samantha Inman, Aidan Rich and Aliyah Graham

### **Scene 6: Return to Year 2023**

Makayla and Brianna make sure their great grandmother, Margie, can keep her Christmas Eve traditions alive and a familiar face delivers a special holiday surprise.

- ♦ Margie: Gail Matos
- ♦ Makayla: Sara Joos
- ♦ Brianna: Anna Brandeberry
- ♦ Postman: Carl Davis

## Production Staff

Ohio University Lancaster Theatre Assistants - Emma Clement, Aiden Nicholson

Lighting Board and Projections - Emma Clement

Projections created by Cathy Bitler, Linda Kauffman and A. Victor Jones

Set Crew - Levi D. Donahue, A. Victor Jones, Marilyn Steiner, Carl Davis, Anna Donahue, Emma Clement, Aidan Rich,  
Preston Cattran, Aidan Nicholson, Pam Patula

Program Design - Marilyn Steiner, A. Victor Jones, Amber Landis

Program Editing and Production - Amber Landis

Scenic Design - A. Victor Jones, Marilyn Steiner

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR(S)'S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.

*Ohio University has ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC Licenses*

### Song licensing provided by "easysong":

"Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" by Johnny Marks,

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" by Ralph Blane and Hugh Martin

"Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie

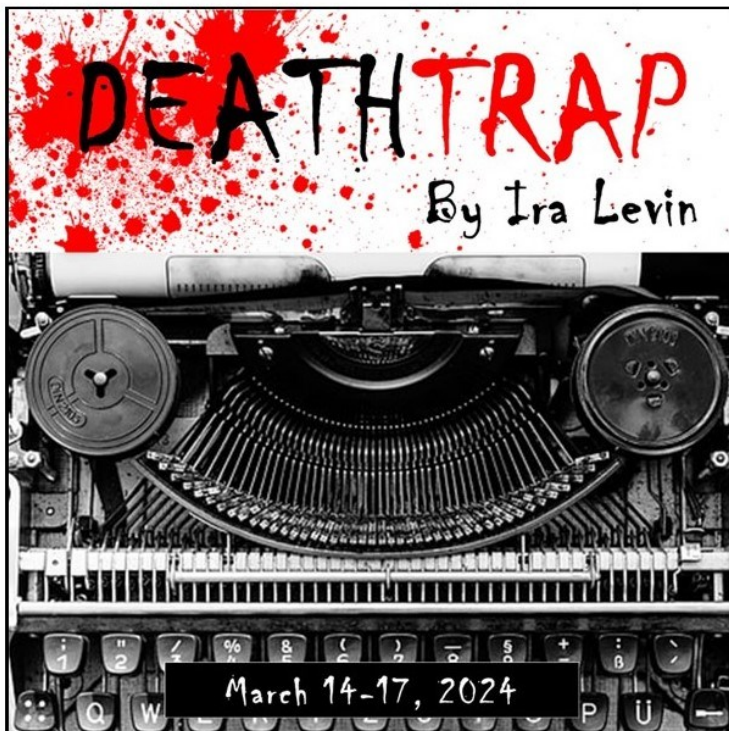
### Song licensing provided by Michael Marks from St. Nicholas Music:

"A Holly Jolly Christmas" by Johnny Marks

"Rockin' Around the Christmas" Tree by Johnny Marks

### Song licensing provided by Kelsey Lane from Universal Music":

"Little Saint Nick" by Brian Wilson and Mike Love



*Coming this spring...*

Thursday, March 14 -

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Tickets: \$18, Reserved  
Seating

Students: \$14



Ohio University Lancaster Campus,  
Wagner Theatre

1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster, Ohio

"It is a classic thriller, a genre with a style, a manner and an audience of its own." —  
New York Post.

"If you care to assassinate yourself with  
laughter, try DEATHTRAP." —  
Time Magazine.

*DEATHTRAP* is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the  
Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

# Friends of the Fairfield County District Library

219 N. Broad Street, Lancaster, OH 43130 proud sponsors of



## Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library support the Fairfield County District Library in many ways including sponsoring children's programs, storytimes, and activities; advocating for adequate funding of public libraries; and promoting community awareness of library services and the importance of literacy in Fairfield County.

## Garret Players

Garret Players is a volunteer theatre group performing staged readings at the Fairfield County District Library. This group shares an interest in encouraging educational, cultural, and entertainment values of live community theatre. Everything Garret Players does is donated, including the time and talents of the actors and crew. There are no admission charges and all donations received go directly to the Friends of the Fairfield County District Library, a 501(c)(3) organization.

**GARRET PLAYERS** presents

### Finishing School

By Elaine Liner  
Directed by Marilyn Steiner

Friday, February 23 at 7 pm  
Saturday, February 24 at 7 pm  
Sunday, February 25 at 2 pm

Main Library, Third Floor Garret, 219 N. Broad Street, Lancaster

Older gents Al and Wilzer meet on a park bench every morning to read and mock newspaper obits. True-to-life moments, the play takes an upbeat attitude toward life after 60, 70, and beyond. Appropriate for teens to adults.

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

**Auditions & Performance  
information can be found at:**

[www.garretplayers.org](http://www.garretplayers.org)