

Young People's Theater

YPT 2017 Camp Team



John Bogdan A native of Ann Arbor, John Bogdan has been the music director for well over 20 shows over the past 10 years. John began his music directing career as a high school senior for his school's production of *West Side Story* and has done multiple shows every year since. Theater companies he has worked with include the Farmington Hills Players, Birmingham Players, the Motor City Lyric Opera, UMGASS, WSU, EMU, and the University of Westminster. His formal education is from the University of Michigan and the Royal Academy of Music in London, England. Also an accomplished pianist, John performs regularly throughout Michigan and abroad.



Nick Casella is very excited to be returning to YPT this year. He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a major in Theatre arts and a minor in Entertainment Design and Technology. He is both an actor and a lighting designer. He got his start in theatre back in 2007 at YPT and did several shows and summer camps with them over the years including *Annie*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The sound of Music*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and more. He has performed in many musicals and plays throughout high school and college and has designed lights for several shows at EMU. Nick is very passionate about all aspects of theatre, both on and off the stage and is so excited to be apart of an organization that is bringing the joy of theatre to children.



Sarah Ceccio is overjoyed to be back at YPT! Having grown up in Ann Arbor, she is now a 3rd year student at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, studying theatre and education. Over ten years ago, Sarah was a YPT camper performing in *The Jungle Book*, *Disney Musical Revue*, and *School House Rock LIVE! Jr.* Sarah has been an actor and singer since her start with YPT, and has gained experience in directing, costuming, makeup, and props design. Her most memorable productions include *Into the Woods* (The Baker's Wife), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Peretti), and *The Music Man* (Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn). Sarah is beyond the moon excited to help make camp the best and most fun it can be this summer!



Aris Chalin Aris is going into 11th grade next year at Community High School. His first show with YPT was *The Sound of Music* in 2010; he has been with the organization ever since. One of the things that brought him back was the incredible and welcoming environment that the YPT team has created, and he is very fortunate to be a part of that team for the first time this summer. *Beauty and the Beast* was his eleventh show with YPT. Aris has also appeared in *Oliver!* (Mr. Sowerberry), *The King and I* (Prince's Entourage), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Yussel), *The Little Mermaid* (Flotsam), *Annie* (Dog Catcher), *The Wizard of Oz* (Ozian), *Seussical* (General Genghis Khan Schmitz), *Grease* (Doody), and *Shrek the Musical* (Shrek). For the past two years, Aris has also participated in Community Ensemble Theater (CET) shows, including *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Just Desserts*. In addition to theater, Aris is an avid jazz piano player and jazz singer. Special thanks to Ane, the team, and all of the wonderful children performing in *Xanadu*.



Tema Cohen is thrilled to be helping out this summer in the wonderful world of YPT! In 2013, Tema participated in YPT's production of *The Little Mermaid*, and thoroughly enjoyed it. She just graduated from Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, and will be studying voice and theater at Denison University in the fall. In addition to music, theater, and dance at home, Tema also attended Belvoir Terrace, a performing arts camp in Massachusetts for five years. Some of her most memorable productions are *Urinetown* (Hope Cladwell), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), and *Chicago* (Roxie Hart). Tema can't wait to spend time this summer back at YPT!



Paige Conway Paige is so thrilled to be back with YPT for another summer! Paige will be directing *101 Dalmatians*, *Xanadu*, and *AristoCats* with our young people this year and she's so excited for all of them! Last year Paige directed campers in productions of *The Jungle Book* and *Once on this Island*. She also taught one session of the Auditioning Master Class. Paige was also the Production Manager for YPT's productions of *Crazy For You* and *Legally Blonde* this season. In addition to her work with YPT, Paige is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association as a stage manager and frequently stage manages with professional theatre companies all over Southeastern Michigan including Williamston Theatre and Kickshaw Theatre, among others. She just closed a production of *Taking Shakespeare* at Williamston Theatre, and is currently stage managing a production of *Really* with Kickshaw. She has also directed several staged readings with Williamston Theatre and co-produces *Dark Nights at Billtown*, a biannual reading series through Williamston Theatre. Paige graduated with a BFA in Theatre from Michigan State University, with a concentration in Directing in 2015. She is so lucky to have joined the ranks of the "working artists" group. Thanks for sharing your kids with us this summer – it's going to be a blast!



Simone Jenkins, YPT's Fabulous Costumer! Simone is mum to Ana Morgan. Ana first discovered YPT participating in the summer camp production of *Aladdin* in 2010 and we have been hooked on Broadway and YPT ever since. Simone's mum is a classical dance teacher in Sydney, Australia, where she grew up and she spent a lot of time around costumes and theatre. Simone first joined the costume team on *The Little Mermaid* (2013) and has stayed ever since. She enjoys the creativity costuming offers and that each show she learns something new about making costumes. Mostly, she loves how much thought and detail goes into each and every costume and being part of the magic and hard work that makes YPT an inspirational place to be.



Olivia Kemp is beyond excited to be returning to her roots at YPT this summer! She will be entering her junior year at Dexter High School this upcoming year and hopes to pursue musical theater in college. Olivia caught the theater bug when she was 13 with YPT's *Seussical* where she played a giraffe. Since then, she has appeared as a featured dancer in YPT's *Mary Poppins* and *Shrek*, and Porter/Leopard in *Tarzan*. She has also been very lucky to be part of the drama program at her school and has been part of *Chicago* (Hunyak/Uh-Uh), *Beauty and the Beast* (Madame D'Arque/Rose), and *R&H's Cinderella* (Cinderella). When she's not onstage, Olivia loves to sing, be

outside, color, and play with her dog. This will be her second summer working at YPT camps, and she is ecstatic to introduce so many young people to the magic of musical theater!



Linsey Laurinec Linsey is now a senior at Arbor Prep High School and was in YPT's previous productions of *Legally Blonde the Musical* (*Elle Woods*) and *Beauty and the Beast* (*Mrs. Potts*). She has performed in numerous plays, including Center Stage's productions of *Footloose* (*Rusty*), *The Wizard of Oz* (*Cowardly Lion*), *Once Upon A Mattress* (*Winnifred*), *The Music Man* (*Mrs. Paroo*), *Grease* (*Frenchy*), and *Mary Poppins* (*Mrs. Banks*). This is her first time helping out YPT's drama camps, but has a long background in working with children. She has helped and participated in Center Stage's drama camps (assistant: 2 years and participant: 9 years) as well as worked as a babysitter. Linsey, on top of her experience, currently works at Wiard's Orchard, where she runs the children's inflatables at the Country fair (worked: 2 years) and is a part-time volunteer teacher (preschool through first grade) at her church's fall, winter and spring Sunday school (worked: 6 years). She loves to conduct community service and is now her school's National Honors Society (NHS) secretary for the 2017-2018 school year, where she will be responsible for keeping track of the organization's plans for service as well as

making sure that the overall NHS runs smoothly. With this much knowledge of management and the service of helping children, she is honored to be a part of YPT and its magical wonders it holds for these young people.



Ella Manning is ecstatic about joining YPT this summer! Ella is a rising junior at Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Over the years, Ella has fallen in love with all aspects of the theater. From the fifth grade on, she was hooked! Ella has been in shows with Center Stage Productions, Tappan Players, Forever After Productions, Burns Park Players, and is currently a member of Pioneer Theater Guild. Along with theater, she is a member of The Pioneer Choirs and is part of an extracurricular a capella group! Singing in the choir also allows her the incredible opportunity of a week-long intensive at Interlochen Center for the Arts every summer. With the many shows she has performed in, Ella is eager to see a show through the whole process from the perspective of a new and wonderful leadership role. With this position being her first experience (besides audience member!) with YPT, she is excited to be immersed in such an incredible theater community that she has long admired. Ella is ready to inspire, learn, and have fun!

Jenn Monk-Reising, YPT's Fabulous Designer! Coming Soon!



Ana Morgan Ana is a Freshman at Community High School. She has been doing YPT since 2nd grade. Some of her favorite performances have been *Legally Blonde* (Elle's Mom/Ensemble) and *Crazy For You* (Elaine). In her free time Ana likes to practice special effects makeup and dance. She's looking forward to working with such a great cast and crew!



Jeremy Muse is back from another summer at YPT! A graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in theatre arts, and a concentration in performing arts management, this is his third year and third summer with YPT since joining on *Seussical*. Usually on the stage management team backstage at YPT, Jeremy has been involved with groups onstage and off around Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas, including originating roles and writing an original musical (*Dysotypical*) with N.E.R.D.S.; a U of M group. Hailing from Canton, MI where he grew up with a youth theatre group similar to YPT, he is very blessed to work with such a fantastic group as Young People's Theater.



Lucas Rubin is heading into his Senior Year at Greenhills School. Having performed in productions with YPT since he was six years old, Lucas is excited to finally work on a crew position at this amazing organization. Previous productions with YPT include Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* (2017), Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* (2013), Horton in *Seussical* (2014), and many more! Lucas has been a member of the Greenhills School Choir since he was in sixth grade and also enjoys studying classical music. He has also attended Interlochen Arts Camp as a Musical Theatre major during the past three summers. On top of that, Lucas also has developed a passion for directing, after having assistant directed two productions in the middle school at Greenhills. Lucas is excited to be on the YPT creative team this summer and to work with your amazing kids!



Carter Schmidt will enter the 12th grade at Community High School in the fall. He is thrilled to have performed in his 11th show with YPT, *Tarzan*! Other productions include, *Peter Pan*, *Sound of Music*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Oliver*, *The King & I*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Little Mermaid*, *Godspell*, *Wizard of Oz*, and *Mary Poppins*. His previous vocal and theater experiences include productions and camp experiences at Wild Swan Theater, Ann Arbor Youth Civic Theater, Ring of Steel, and Interlochen. Carter enjoys hanging with friends, watching movies, reading, and flying. He would like to thank YPT staff for giving him this amazing opportunity, his voice coach John for all his support, and everyone involved in making YPT a place for young people.



Patrick Schrock, YPT's Fabulous Sound Designer! Coming Soon!



Stephanie Smith will enter the 9th grade at Skyline High School this fall. This is her first time working on the YPT summer camp team and she is thrilled! She has performed in 8 YPT shows, and 15 additional shows outside of YPT. Her most recent show was *Beauty and the Beast*, though some other past productions include, *Legally Blonde*, *Crazy for You*, *Tarzan*, *Shrek*, *Mary Poppins*, *Seussical*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Fame*, and, *The Three Trees*, among others. She discovered her love for theater in 1st grade, and found her second family at YPT soon after. Her passion for theater has been growing since her first show. In her free time, Stephanie enjoys singing, dancing, reading, and drawing. She's excited to meet this year's campers and help them have a great camp experience! She would like to thank the YPT staff for this opportunity!



Eddie VanRiper Eddie is very excited to be working on Once Upon a Time this summer. He most recently worked as the music director for YPT's Beauty and the Beast this past spring, and can't wait to be involved in YPT summer camps for the first time. Eddie is a math and music teacher at Emerson School in Ann Arbor, where is also involved in the musical theater program. Eddie would like to thank Ane for her constant support and guidance, aa well as Rachel, Olivia, and Aris for being such a fantastic team!



Rachel VanRiper is a Resource Room Teacher/Teacher Consultant at Huron High School. She graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor's degree as an Intervention Specialist. Rachel is absolutely thrilled to be joining the YPT team this summer to work on her first summer camp show! She has a background in musical theater and appeared in numerous musicals while in high school. Her favorite roles include Ida (Honk!), Laurie (Oklahoma), and Little Red Riding Hood (Into The Woods). When Rachel is not teaching or working with YPT, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband, Eddie. Rachel is very excited to return to her roots in musical theater and bring stories to life with the energetic and talented kids at YPT!



Tim VanRiper is excited to be working on YPT summer camps again this year. Over the past 5 years Tim has Directed, Music Directed, and played for many YPT shows (when he's not galavanting around Los Angeles, that is). Tim is always honored to work with such mature young people to help improve their already incredible amount of talent. Summer camps at YPT offer all the professionalism and dedication of a full mainstage show, and it's always a pleasure for Tim to help make that magic happen. Outside of YPT, Tim is preparing for a big move to China in August, where he will be a 7th grade history teacher.



Alaina Whidby is a Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre student at Oakland University. Alaina has been making memories with YPT since she was a little girl and has been working with YPT on their summer camps for three years. Some of Alaina's favorite roles include Roxie Hart (*Chicago*), Hodel (*Fiddler on the Roof*), and Judy Turner (*A Chorus Line*). Alaina has experience in acting, singing, dancing, yoga, and design which she is excited to share with all of you!



Christopher Wolf is currently a Master's of Music candidate at the University of Michigan. As a classically trained opera singer, he has sung in operatic roles with the Montefeltro Festival in Italy, Palais Corbelli in Vienna Austria, Butler University, Indianapolis Opera, and Michigan Opera Theater. Some of his operatic roles have included the Chevalier in Pulenc's opera, *The Dialogue of the Carmelites*, Gastone in Verdi's *La Traviata*, Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and most recently a Baker/Cadet in David DiChiera's *Cyrano* at Michigan Opera Theater in Detroit. Christopher began his career in musical theater and still loves to cross-over from opera! Some of his previous shows have included: *Parade* (Leo Frank), *Seussical* (Cat in the Hat), *Grease* (Doody), *Hairspray* (Link Larkin), *The Wedding Singer* (Glen Guglia), and *Guys and Dolls* (Benny). In addition to performing, Christopher has a private voice studio which ranges in all ages. He believes in training students a healthy classical technique at the core regardless of musical theater or opera aspirations. This fall his season will include: Eddie in William Bolcom's opera *A Dinner At Eight*, as well as the operas: *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, and *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Michigan Opera Theater.



Siani Woods is a Sophomore at The University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business where she is also a Theatre Arts minor, looking to pursue a career in Business Entertainment. Siani is returning to YPT after completing her first year in Philadelphia, where she works in Theatre Management and Marketing. She had the pleasure of acting in *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Corry) and *Tarzan* (Troupe of Apes) with YPT during her final years of high school at Greenhills and is extremely excited to be back with the most amazing stars she knows! Siani has most recently starred as The Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical* with Stimulus Children's Theatre and as Joanne in *Company* with Front Row Theatre Company in Philly. She looks forward to a summer full of smiles and laughter with the best and brightest that Michigan has to offer!