



MAMMA MIA!

— THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA —

Benny Anderson & Bjorn Ulvaeus



April 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th and 11th at 7PM
April 4th and 11th at 2PM



Tickets at:
IHSdrama.com



Irvington
Conservatory
Theatre



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COLLEGE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Last One

Usually I write a note covering the history of a production, or the theme, and/or how it has a specific message for our times. But "Mamma Mia" is mostly just a good time. The overall theme, as I interpret it, is "All you need is love, and there are lots of different kinds." Wise words, and helpful to remember always.

But I thought instead, I should address the elephant leaving the room...me. This is indeed the last production (#48) of my 25 year career here in Fremont; 14 years at Washington High School, and 11 years here at Irvington. It has been an honor and privilege to work with the artistic teams, admin, teaching staff, parents, and most of all, the students of Fremont. I have been lucky in the extreme during my time here.

As educators there is no greater joy than watching our students grow and develop skills, talents, and knowledge that they will take out into the world with them. As a theatre educator, not only do I get to see this growth, but I get to exhibit our student's achievements in front of large, generous audiences.

This does create some stress. There is no deadline like an opening night, and each and every show is a miracle to me. But there is nowhere else that I have experienced such communal joy as when all our collective work comes together in a High School production's opening night. There is really nothing else like it.

However, for a host of reasons, it's time for me to move on. I'm ready to give the reins of the IHS theatre program over to new hands that will bring new energy to the program, and explore avenues I haven't. It's a good thing.

Goodbye Charlie

In addition to me, Charlie Rodda, our band director, is retiring. Mr. Rodda has been our Music Director for the past 38 years. His influence on our program and students is immeasurable, and he will be sorely missed. We are one of the few High Schools that still has a live student orchestra for our musicals. Mr. Rodda's skill in preparing his

students and adapting to the stressful environment of Musical Theatre has been essential to the success of our productions. He has volunteered hundreds of hours of his time while managing his award winning music program here at IHS. It has been a center piece of our arts magnet program. We are forever grateful for his dedication to our theatre program.

New Sheriff In Town

With such a huge exodus, please welcome Keith Brown with all the support you can offer as he steps into this insane position. Mr. Brown choreographed the fights for Romeo and Juliet this fall. I enjoyed working with him very much. Artistically and educationally we think very much along the same lines and he is an excellent fit for our program. Mr. Brown is liked, and respected by our students. I know we can look forward to great things to come.

You all may be familiar with the building project that is affecting teachers and programs throughout the school starting this summer. They are bulldozing our costume storage along with other classrooms and facilities on our campus. We are moving some of it off campus, but we will lose about $\frac{3}{4}$ of our costume stock. In the weeks to come you may hear of opportunities to obtain some of these garments, but it is a big hit to our program.

With this and other challenges it is essential that Mr. Brown gets all the support and help he needs. The Irvington Theatre Program will only continue if the Fremont community; parents, staff, administration, students, alums, and patrons all step up to give support.

Change is good. But change with support is essential in this case.

Thank you everyone who has made my experience in Fremont the best years of my life. I will still be around, not moving or anything. But I leave the program in Mr. Brown's capable hands. It truly has been an honor.

Sincerely,

With fond gratitude for the past 25 years.

Matthew A. Ballin

CAST LIST

Mamma Cast (1st Weekend)

DONNA Aleah Haskin
SOPHIE Kaia Liu
ALI Veronika Timoshenko
LISA Ella Le

Mia Cast (2nd Weekend)

DONNA Danielle Sorci
SOPHIE Gabrielle Sonnberger
ALI Priyanka Chitlu
LISA Kiera Johnson

TANYA London Roush
ROSIE Marissa Rosado
SKY Vihaan Ailani
PEPPER Dylan Aguiar
EDDIE Aanjuli Das
HARRY Caden Chatkara
BILL Jaden Hsu
SAM Levi Sampson
FATHER ALEXANDRIOS Leo Wong

ENSEMBLE

Alen Carlson
Anna Bulanova
Ayla Jivraj-Cros
Claire Stanton
Isabel Wang
Jackie Salazar
June Bunker
Karly Johnson
Keala Rasay
Lyndon Li
Madeleine Conrad

Melinda Du
Phyu Sin Lamin
Samantha Detberner
Sara Erande
Sriya Sangubhatl
Tanvi Gokhale
Trinity Shonghom
Venice Roush
Ysabella Lima
Zara Villa

BAND

KeyboardsLuna Yang
Joanna Huang
Matthew Chan
Jeffrey Lee
BassNerissa Tsai
Percussion / DrumsKayla Vu

CREW

Stage Manager Sundus Pathan, Ho Yiu (Charlotte) Wong
Props Mistress Trina Ing
Deck Managers Aryanna Deshmukh
Deck Crew..... Chloe Casis Mohammed Shaahid Shamiyulla,
Sarvin Basnyat, Sana Syed, Filipe Bjelchic, Ashwin Gupta
Deck Managers Sebastian Gutierrez, Maya Rhodes
Sound Board Operator Aryanna Deshmukh
Light Board Operators Mira Thiagarajan
Spot OperatorsHanaa Azad, Lindsey Luo
Graphic Artists Makyala Nguyen

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Matthew Ballin
Music Director Charlie Rodda
Vocal Director..... Erin Reis
Choreographer Savannah Riddle
Student Choreographer Veronika Timoshenko
Stage Movement Consultant Gracie Hollwager
Costume Designer Elizabeth Whitaker
Scenic Designer/Technical Director Stewart Lyle
Lighting/Sound Coordinator Ryan Willer
Production Manager Michele Hartmangruber
Costume Assistants Kathy Alvitre, Amie Rashe Conrad,
Brenda Monlux, Smita Mukherjee,
Rashida Jivraj
Box Office Manager Nicole Marsella-Jensen
Webmaster Martha Garcia
Production Graphics Coordinator Summer Jones & Henry Fung
Marketing and Sponsorship Manager Yolanda Stanton
Director Assistants Bhargavi Kumari,
Ishan Mukherjee, Claire Stanton

CAST BIOS



Dylan Aguiar - Pepper

Dylan is enthralled yet again to be performing in her second Irvington play as Pepper in Mamma Mia! You might have spotted her as Gregory and The Apothecary in Romeo and Juliet. Dylan thanks Irvington for allowing her the opportunity to perform, and is especially grateful to her father for giving her the sufficient funds to participate (again). And, of course, thanks everyone for watching the show!



Vihaan Ailani - Sky

Vihaan is thrilled to return to Irvington for the 5th time after debuting in "A Midsummer Night's Dream". He loves acting and is grateful to perform with such a talented cast! Past roles include an Ancestor (Grandma understudy) in The Addams Family & Mitch Mahoney in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and this last fall as Romeo in Romeo and Juliet. On screen, Vihaan has been in the films "Bhangra Baby" and "Was I A Good Father?", and recently participated in a Disney acting workshop. He thanks his family, friends, and teachers for their constant support.



Anna Bulanova - Ensemble

Anna is very excited to be a part of Irvington's musical production "Mamma Mia". This is her first time participating in an Irvington musical and is ready to embark on new experiences along with tight friendships between her crew members. Music is something that Anna has always striven for, and putting dancing along with music is a dynamic that brings out her inner true self. She would like to thank all her directors and family members for pushing her to her limits and giving her the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing production.



June Bunkder - Ensemble

June is thrilled to be part of her first production in Mamma Mia! She has always loved entertaining her family through singing and dancing and memorized ABBA's greatest hits by the time she was three. June is excited for many more productions at Irvington. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support, and a special thank you to Agnetha, Björn, Benny, and Anni-Frid. Thank you for the music!



Alen Carlson - Ensemble

Alen is excited to be in the ensemble for mamma Mia. This is his third show. He would like to thank all his friends and family for supporting him.



Priyanka Chitlu - Ali

Priyanka is thrilled to be back at Irvington for her fifth time after debuting as "Pigpen" in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown". Priyanka loves to sing, act, and dance, and theatre is her way of showing it. Her past performances include: "Loggaine Schwartzandgrubeniere" in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee", "Morticia Understudy/Ensemble" in "The Addams Family", "Charlotte" in "Cinderella", "Ensemble" in "The Little Mermaid" with Starstruck Theatre, and "Boylan Sister/Star to Be" in "Annie" with One Stage Theatre. Priyanka would like to thank her family, friends, and teachers for always supporting her. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Caden Chatkara - Harry

Caden is excited to be back for his sixth ICT show in a row! You may have seen him as Giles Corey in The Crucible, The King in Cinderella, and even Cousin It in The Addams Family. He is an avid lover of the performing arts, as he has been in choir for five years and drama for four. He is even an officer of the IHS Juggling Club! He can't wait to perform for everyone and come back again next fall for his Senior Year



Madeleine Conrad - Ensemble

Madeleine is overjoyed to perform in her third IHS performance, after participating as a member of the ensemble in last year's performance of Cinderella, and playing Juliet's Nurse in Romeo and Juliet in the Caribbean. She loves acting and is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform again. She wants to thank everyone who has supported her over the years.



Aanjuli Das - Eddie

Aanjuli Das is a senior at Irvington High School and is thrilled to play Eddie in her 6th ICT production. Memorable credits include Sister Layla in Romeo & Juliet on the Caribbean, Mr. Green in Clue: On Stage! High School Edition, and student director for a one-act at the Lenaea Theatre Festival last year. Beyond theatre, she enjoys gardening, baking sweet treats, and watching horror movies. She would like to thank her parents for their continued support and Mr. Ballin for his guidance these past 4 years. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does!



Samantha Detherner - Ensemble

Samantha is a freshman at Irvington High School and she's excited and thrilled to be a part of Mamma Mia and ITC for the very first time. She wants to be involved in more ITC productions in the future and also loves to work with amazing people. During her free time, she loves reading, playing games, hanging out with friends, singing, dancing, and doing theatre. She would like to thank her family for supporting her every single day and Mr. Ballin for everything that he has done and giving her this opportunity to be in Mamma Mia.



Melinda Du - Ensemble

Mel is thrilled (and honestly a little overwhelmed) to be making their theatrical debut at Irvington. Stepping into the world of theatre for the first time again has been both terrifying and exciting, and they're grateful for every moment of it. Mel would like to thank their directors, castmates, friends, and family for welcoming them, encouraging them, and helping them discover a newfound love for performing.



Sara Erande - Ensemble

Sara is thrilled to be starting her journey in theatre in the ensemble in "Mamma Mia". Although her first time in theatre, she has had previous experience in competitive dance and singing. Outside of musical theater, you can find her curling up with a good book or journaling. She would like to thank her family, fellow cast and crew, and friends who put up with her frequent bursts into song.



Aleah Haskin - Donna

Aleah Haskin is EXTREMELY excited to play Donna in ICTs "Mamma Mia!" She has starred in many performances over the years, including the roles of Willy Wonka in MCT's production of "Willy Wonka Jr", Lady Capulet in ICTs "Romeo and Juliet", Madame in ICTs "Cinderella", Mrs. Wormwood in MCTs "Matilda Jr". She hopes you enjoy watching all of the Dancing Queens (and Kings) on stage. Please cheer, laugh, or cry loudly - and remember Aleah will always accept candy, money, or flowers for her amazing performance ;)



Jaden Hsu - Bill

Jaden Hsu is extremely happy to be back in Irvington Theater, only this time as an Actor and as Bill Austin in Mamma Mia. He is happy to be able to enjoy acting and singing and is grateful that Irvington has allowed him to do so. He's been a lights booth tech in Romeo and Juliet in the Caribbean. He'd like to thank his years of Cello practice for his singing, Mr. Ballin for casting me in the show, his fellow cast and crew members for helping him along the way, and of course God for keeping him alive.



Ayla Jivraj-Cross - Ensemble

Ayla is so excited to be in her favorite musical, Mamma Mia. This is her second time at ICT, being in the ensemble of Cinderella last year. She loves singing and dancing, so musicals are her favorite place to be. Ayla would like to thank her two cats, Bonnie and Clyde, and her two moms and especially her wonderful beautiful kind smart awesome grandma, Grammy. And thank YOU for coming to my TED talk.



Karly Johnson - Ensemble

Karly is excited to perform alongside high school students in her first musical Mamma Mia at Irvington Conservatory Theatre. She would like to thank her best friends Celeste, Sahara, and Mia and her teachers Mrs.Ortega and Mrs. Martin for always encouraging her. She would also like to thank her lovely family for supporting her acting dreams. She hopes you all enjoy the show. Lastly she would like to say thank you for the music and thank you for coming.



Kiera Johnson - Lisa

Mamma Mia here we go again.... Kiera is excited to be a part of her third and last high school production in her favorite musical. She would like to thank her family for being there for her and supporting whatever path she chooses. She would like to give a special thank you to her parents and boyfriend Levi for always believing in her and helping her make her dreams come true. She hopes you enjoy the music and show as much as she does and if you get the chance come back to see the show again.



Ella Le - Alië

Ella is ecstatic to be back as Ali in Mamma Mia! You may have seen her as the Queen or as the nice stepsister, Gabrielle, in Irvington's Cinderella the Musical. She is a junior at Irvington High and her hobbies include dancing, sewing, and baking. She is extremely grateful for her "Lisa" and for the opportunity to join this production. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Ziming (Lyndon) Li -Ensemble

Lyndon is boy who always has passion of learning and self-improvement. With the dream of being an actor,he believes the hard work and the persistence are the only way to success.He won't give up any chance of improve skill and restore the experience.Even though as an ensemble,he still gonna provides the highest level to the audience,ensure the smooth performance of this musical piece.



Ysabella Lima - Ensemble

Ysabella is a freshman at Irvington high-school who's excited for her first ICT performance. She's ready to make her debut in the program and meet lots of new people! She's already been in shows outside of school but has always dreamed of getting into ICT's program since she was young. She thanks her parents who have always supported her dream to act and her friends who are always there to cheer her on! She also thanks all of you for coming and hopes you enjoy the show.



Kaia Liu - Sophie

Kaia Liu is so ecstatic to be portraying the character of Sophie Sheridan. She has been doing theatre since Kindergarten, and she has been in love with it since. Past roles include Young Elsa in Starstruck Theatre's Frozen Jr. and Nightingale in Ohlone College's Once Upon a Mattress. In her free time she loves to drown herself in music and talk to friends. She thanks Mr. Ballin for all of his hard work and her family and friends for supporting her journey. Enjoy the show!



Keala Rasay - Ensemble

Keala is so excited to be in Mammamia with Irvington as her third show here! She plays the role of ensemble and is really excited about it because there is so much dancing involved. Previously, she has been in "The Addams Family" as ensemble with Irvington Conservatory Theater and "Cinderella" as ensemble with Irvington Conservatory Theater as well as some shows with the theatre company "StarStruck". She thanks the directors for allowing her to this wonderful experience and is happy to be doing another Irvington show!



Marissa Rosado- Rosie

Hello chiquititas! Marissa Rosado is excited that you spent your money money money to come and see the show! She had a dream of playing the witty super trouser Rosie Mulligan, and when the directors took a chance on her, she happily said I do I do I do. With ABBA to thank for the music, she and the rest of the cast have become dancing queens and are ready to give you give give you give you the show of a lifetime! With the name of the game now in place, get ready to be shouting Mamma Mia! throughout the rest of the night!



Levi Sampson - Sam

Levi Sampson is simply a boy looking to put his energy toward something that's fun and is fun for others. He found that in theater, performing in front of others was always a strong suit for Levi, never being scared to be loud. Being very extroverted Levi loves meeting new people and the plays were always a place where he met new people. And he is grateful to be a part of such an amazing production and cast.



London Roush - Tanya

London is so excited to be back at Irvington for her third show! You may have seen her as Cat in the Hat in Seussical (Starstruck), Beetlejuice in Beetlejuice Jr. (One Stage), or Madame in Cinderella (Irvington High School). She would like to thank her family, friends and girlfriend for always supporting her and cheering her on! She appreciates her cast, crew, and production team for all their hard work and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Venice Roush - Ensemble

Venice is thrilled to be a part of this show with her sister, London. Venice has a younger brother, Everest who she refers to as her twin. Some of her favorite hobbies are ceramics, singing, dancing, basketball, pickleball and thrifting. She is very excited for you to see the show and would like to thank her friends and family for building up her confidence.



Leo Wong - Father Alexandrios

Leo Wong is ecstatic to perform as a Mamma Mia cast member. He has performed in previous IHS productions (A&OL, Cinderella, R&J of the Caribbean). Fatass Kasane Teto. Notable roles include Benvolio. Uhhh yeah please enjoy the show because we worked like dogs to make this happen :)



Matthew Chan - Keyboards

Matthew Chan is thrilled to debut in the Irvington Pit orchestra for the first time. He wants to pursue a career in chemistry and loves riding his red scooter. He currently participates in the SFSYO and Irvington's Jazz band. He would like to thank his piano teacher and supportive parents.



Joanna Huang - Keyboards

Joanne is excited to perform as a keyboardist in the pit orchestra for Mamma Mia. As a longtime pianist, music-lover, and ABBA listener, she is grateful to be part of such a fun show! She would like to thank her family, music teachers, and everyone who was involved with this production.



Jeffrey Lee - Keyboards

Jeffrey is excited to debut as a keyboardist with Irvington for the first time in "Mamma Mia!". Along with this, Jeffrey plays percussion with the Irvington Wind Ensemble and San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. Jeffrey would like to thank his music teachers Mr. Rodda, Mr. Lemmon, and Ms. Shih, his family, and his friends for their support.



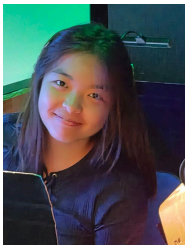
Nerissa Tsai - Bass

This is Nerissa's first show and she is grateful to be part of the show.



Kayla Vu - Percussion / Drums

is a sophomore at Irvington who plays multiple instruments and sings as part of choir. Although she joined Mamma Mia's pit orchestra as a drummer rather late, being a part of a musical has been a blast, and she looks forward to working with ICT in the future.



Luna Yang - Keyboards

Luna is excited to participate and support the Mamma Mia cast in this year's orchestra. She plays the piano and has been involved in orchestra for 2 years. Her favorite song to accompany is "Thank You for the Music."

STAGE CREW



Hanaa Azad - Spotlight Operator

This is Hanaa's 4th production with the ICT after working in Arsenic & Old Lace, Cinderella, and Romeo & Juliet. She helped build the set and operate a spotlight during the show. She has really enjoyed her time in Stagecraft and is excited to participate again next year.



Sarvin Basnyat - Deck Crew

Sarvin is thrilled to be back at Irvington for his second time after debuting as a deck hand in Romeo and Juliet. He likes stagecraft and is grateful that Irvington allows him to join them. Sarvin would like to thank all his teachers, family, and friends as well as his instructor Stewart Lyle for teaching him the ways of building sets.



Filipe Bjelchic

Felipe is excited to be part of the Deck Crew, helping Irvington perform "Mamma Mia". They are happy to help Irvington's actors pursue their dreams. Felipe would like to thank Shaahid and Ashwin for watching Skibidi Toilet and Kai Cenat backstage.



Chloe Casis - Props Mistress

This is Chloe's 2nd production with the ICT after working in Romeo & Juliet in the fall. She helped build the set and manage props. She has really enjoyed her time in Stagecraft and is excited to work on more shows in the future.



Aryanna Deshmukh - Deck Manager

This is Aryanna's 4th time working on a play, and in the fall she worked on Romeo and Juliet. She is taking over the sound board which is new for her, but she is excited to learn some new skills.



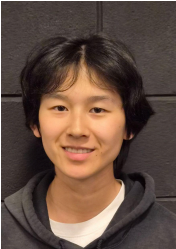
Sebastian Gutierrez - Deck Crew

Sebastian Gutierrez is pleased to work as deck manager on his 8th and final show with ICT. He has worked as Assistant Stage Manager and Deck manager in many other shows including The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Addams Family, and Cinderella. I am grateful to ICT for once again letting me be part of this incredible production.



Ashwin Gupta - Deck Crew

Ashwin is here for the first time because of his best friend Shaahid. Ashwin likes skibidi toilets and kai cenat. He has previously watched many plays and was interested in seeing what it is like working backstage. I would like to thank shaahid for putting him on and watching the skibidi toilet with him.



Lindsey Luo - Spot Operator

Lindsey is excited to be operating one of the follow spots during Mamma Mia. This is her second time working in the tech crew, the first being Romeo and Juliet. She is grateful for having the opportunity this year to learn different tools and techniques in building sets.



Trina Anne Ng - Costume Assistant

This is Trina's 2nd time being a part of the stage crew, but she is excited to work on props with her amazing teacher Mr. Lyle. She enjoys walking her dog and spending money on clothes. Her dog's name is Cotten. This one's for you, Cotten!



Maya Rhodes - Deck Manager

This is Maya's 7th and final show as a tech for Irvington High School. Maya's happy that their last show for Irvington is one of their favorites, Mamma Mia. Maya enjoys spending time with friends before shows and backstage. Outside of stagecraft, Maya enjoys swimming, waterpolo, hanging out with friends, and spending time in nature. Hope you enjoy the show!



Sundus Pathan - Stage Manager

Sundus is excited to be returning for her fourth year as a tech. She has been stage crew for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Crucible, Addams Family, Arsenic and Old Lace, Cinderella, and finally, Romeo and Juliet. She hopes this show will be a great experience as she has always enjoyed working on Irvington's Musical Productions.



Sana Syed - Deck Crew

Sana is thrilled to be back in stagecraft after taking a year long break for her third musical! She is grateful to be a part of yet another beautiful production in ICT in her last semester of high school!



Mohammed Shaahid Shamiyulla - Deck Crew

This is Shaahid's third show after doing Cinderella, and Romeo and Juliet. He has enjoyed his time working on the shows and enjoys spending time with his friends and making the show run as smoothly as possible. His interests outside of teching involve watching skibidi toilet with his best friend ashwin and playing car crushers 2



Mira Thiagarajan - Props Mistress

Mira is excited to be back for her second show at Irvington high school. She is a freshman and started stagecraft during her first semester. Last semester she was doing deck crew and she is excited for a new experience being a lighting operator. Mira is excited for this experience and hopes you will enjoy the show!



Charlotte Wong - Stage Manager

Charlotte is a senior at Irvington and is excited to be stage managing her last show at ICT with Sundus! Mamma Mia will be her 8th show working in tech at ICT; other past credits include spotlight operator for The Spongebob Musical and deck crew for Into The Woods with StarStruck Theater. She is super thankful for all the amazing friends and memories made here the last 4 years and for her family for supporting her through every show. She hopes you will enjoy Mamma Mia!! :)

DIRECTORS ASSISTANTS



Bhargavi Kumari

Bhargavi is excited to be back for her 3rd play with Irvington. Her latest role was Juliet in Romeo and Juliet. She is grateful to be helping out with Mamma Mia and hopes everyone will enjoy the show.



Ishan Mukherjee

"His third time on the stage, Under the spotlights heavy gaze, from Arsenic's graceful wine, To Cindy's magical divine. Now in Shakespeare's tragic play, Ishan shall be Romeo in display, The clashing of fatal sword, Ishan hopes to never bore. Fights, dancing, and forbidden love, Romeo and Juliet in heaven above. New faces: cast and crew, on Valhalla's stage the story comes true. Family, friends, Ishan thanks thee all, For support, to make him stand tall. On the stage where all the actors glow, Come watch this magnificent show. "



Claire Stanton

is thrilled to be back in Irvington's Theater with her second production, Mamma Mia! Her first production was Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet of the Caribbean" but now she's switching things up being a director's assistant! Claire loves supporting her fellow cast/crew members and practically lives in the green room. She loves spending whatever free time outside of theater playing video games and spending time with her dog, Cauli. Claire is happy she gets to be part of director Ballin's last production and hopes to be part of many more!

PRODUCTION TEAM



Matthew Ballin (Director)

Matthew Ballin holds a BFA in Theater from UC Santa Barbara, an MFA from The Ohio State University, and spent a year abroad in the Tel Aviv University Overseas program. This school year will be Mr. Ballin's 25th and final year teaching Theater Arts in Fremont; the first 14 having been at Washington High. He has acted and choreographed fights throughout the Bay Area, and is an Associate Artist with the Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC) out of Livermore. He thanks his wife and family for managing without him during all the crunch times, and is grateful to everyone who has supported the ICT program during his time here at Irvington.



Charlie Rodda (Music Director)

Mr. Rodda has been teaching in Fremont Unified since 1988 and at Irvington High School since 1992. In that time, the program has grown from about 30 students in one band class to over 300 at its peak with five Concert Bands, Orchestra, Jazz Band and two Marching Bands. The concert groups consistently earn Superior ratings and the Marching Band has become one of Northern California's best placing 1st or Sweepstakes at every review this year. Mr. Rodda was recently selected to be the conductor of the All-Northern California Jr. High Honor Band for 2024.



Erin Reis (Vocal Director)

Erin Reis is a Bay Area vocalist, actress, director and private vocal instructor with 25 years of performance experience in Musical Theatre, and is in her 17th year of teaching music. She holds her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts and Music from SFSU and runs a private Vocal Studio in the East Bay. Over the years Erin has performed in over 50 musical theatre productions/ staged concerts in the San Francisco Bay Area and has worked with a wide variety of Theatre companies. Erin enjoys directing and vocal directing for various High Schools in the East and South Bay, but loves calling ICT her home. Outside of the Arts, she is passionate about traveling, good food, figure skating, rescuing dogs/ other animals, and loves going on adventures with her two mutts Jiminy and Walter. Erin would like to dedicate this show to her Grandma, who passed away this February.



Stewart Lyle - Stagecraft/Scenic Designer/Tech Director/Master Carpenter

Stewart Lyle has 200 exhibition credits, and 300 theatrical production, design, construction, management, direction, and performance credits in the US, Asia, and Europe. This includes over 100 appearances as a performer/actor/singer in operas, musicals, and dramas, over 50 as a director, and over 70 as a Scenic Designer, plus he is an award nominee in all three areas. Working with the Students here in Fremont is a JOY! Love always to Donna, his foundation of love for 32 years.



Ryan Willer - Lighting/Sound Coordinator

Ryan Willer is a math and leadership teacher at Irvington High School. He has been teaching for fifteen years and his favorite class to teach is trigonometry. In 2012, he volunteered to help with ICT's fall play "The Hobbit". Since then he has been helping design lighting and sound for nearly all ICT productions.



Elizabeth Whitaker - Costume Designer

Liz has been a devoted part of the ICT family since 2002, continuing long after her last child graduated IHS in 2009. What began as a chapter of parenting grew into something lasting and unexpected, a place filled with joy, connection, and just the right touch of theatrical magic.

As the resident costume designer, Liz transforms fabric into storytelling—crafting each piece so performers can step confidently into character and shine under the lights. She is grateful to work alongside a dedicated group of fellow costume volunteers—some of whom never had children in the program—whose shared passion and generosity help bring each production to life.

Even without children in the school, Liz stayed—drawn in by the culture, the laughter, and the music echoing through the auditorium. Like a true “Dancing Queen,” she has found her rhythm here, carried along by the energy of rehearsals and the joy of performance, always ready to say “thank you for the music” that fills these walls.

The students are at the center of it all. They inspire her, challenge her, and enrich her life more than they will ever know. Watching them grow, take risks, and shine is its own kind of “Super Trouper” magic—bright, powerful, and unforgettable.

And as if that weren’t enough, this journey has brought extraordinary people into her life. The parents who walk through these doors alongside their children have become some of her closest friends—an unexpected gift, and truly more than she ever asked for.

For Liz, Irvington theatre isn’t just a place—it’s a feeling. It’s a community. It’s a family. And much like the spirit of *Mamma Mia!*, it lifts you up, fills your heart, and keeps you coming back, time and time again.



Michele Hartmangruber - Production Manager

Michele began her theatrical career in 1973 in a new theatre named Valhalla. She started out as a pit orchestra musician, and became ensconced in all of what the theatre has to offer. Acting, directing, technician, marketing, lighting and sound, and her favorite - stage management in over 100 productions! Michele has worked professionally as a Stage Manager and House Manager for the Amador Theatre and Firehouse Arts Center. She also successfully ran the Ohlone College Theatre Festival for 10 years. Michele, after 53 years in theatre, finally (?) retired. It is rumored that you can still find her hanging around with the stage ghost.



Savannah Riddle - Choreographer

Savannah is a 2013 ICT CCA/PAC alumnus, and has a certificate in Dance Choreography from Ohlone College. Savannah returns to IHS after having choreographed the dances for the 2018 ICT production *Fiddler on the Roof*, and doing hair and makeup for the 2015 ICT production of *Urintown*.



Martha Garcia - ICT Webmaster

Martha is the parent of a 2019 ICT CCA/PAC alumnus, and has enjoyed giving back to the program as our volunteer Webmaster for the past 11 years! She’s a retired Executive Assistant and a professional percussionist who freelances for several Bay Area musical theater companies (including Fremont’s *StarStruck Theatre*). When not volunteering, performing, or seeking out cats to pet, Martha can often be found cheerfully searching for and correcting Mr. Ballin’s grammatical and spelling errors.

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to the following organizations for their generous support of our program.

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Send Correspondence to:

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2001 N Main St, Suite 410, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

510-745-7058 – Direct Line

925-298-3680 – Fax

Email: jeffrey.buk@wellsfargo.com

THANK YOU

No one can go it alone in the theater and every year that gets more true. We are so lucky to have a fantastic group of staff and volunteers. And I would like to extend a special thanks to our stars behind the scenes.

I am so lucky and grateful for my partners in crime, each one an incredible teaching artist. They continue to help me understand this job and keep me from making the big mistakes: Our newest member, Stewart Lyle, our Stagecraft teacher and Scenic Designer has been a fabulous addition to our team, completely cleaning and organizing our scene shop while designing and building our set with the help of his fabulous students; Our Costumer Liz Whitaker brings a whole new visual quality to the stage with each production, and has been a personal mentor, confidant and friend since I arrived in 2015; Ryan Willer, the ASB Program Director and our expert on all things lighting, sound, and other electrical stuff works tirelessly as the ASG Coordinator and our super tech. Ryan is the hardest working educator on this campus and his dedication to this school and our program is unparalleled. He is depended upon for everything from sound and lights, to tickets and the box office interface. And it's not like he doesn't have anything better to do .

Most importantly, I would like to Thank Charlie Rodda, our esteemed Band Teacher and Orchestra conductor. Charlie has been so generous with his time and energy and has been an institution here at Irvington and the Music Director of our shows since 1992. Mr. Rodda is retiring this year along with me, and he leaves an amazing legacy of countless awards, conducting dozens of our shows, and a huge impact on all our students. He has been the music of Irvington for the past 35 years.

A huge shout out to Henry Fung and Summer Jones who help us with the specialized printing needs for our marketing and PR.

I would like to thank Nicole Marsella-Jensen, who has run our box office for years. She was not available for this one, but I want to acknowledge her here in my last program thank yous.

Martha Garcia, our fabulous webmaster, and my longtime friend, who keeps our online presence up to date and shiny (and corrects my spelling mistakes in this program). We have the best web site I have seen for any high school theatre program, and I am so grateful she has stuck around long after her extremely talented and successful singer daughter IZYE graduated in 2019.

Our production manager, Michele Hartmangruber, has improved our communication with cast members and parents and coordinated all our meals; taking many tasks off my plate. A theater troupe, like an army, travels on its stomach, and thanks to her we are still moving along. She retired earlier this year, but stuck around to make sure all cast, crew, orchestra members, and production staff, including the director, got fed. Along with manning the house, concessions and box office for each performance.

A big shout out to the costume shop crew who regularly show up to help Liz out and make our actors look stupendous. Thanks to Kathy Alvitre, Amie Rashe Conrad, Brenda Monlux, Smita Mukherjee, and Rashida Jivraj

Thank you to Makyala Nguyen for designing our fabulous poster and T-shirt, which you can buy during intermission if there are any left. She really captured the imagery I was looking for, and added so much more to it. A truly talented artist.

I'd like to thank all of our parent volunteers, without whom we could not manage. They brought in meals, manned the box office, made donations, ushered for the show and so much more!

A very special thanks to our new Marketing and Sponsorship Manager, Yolanda Stanton, for tireless work promoting our production through press releases, production photos, developing corporate sponsorships and just getting the word out there and bringing in much needed donations. She has been a big part of the success of this production and the continued surviving and thriving of our program this year. We are so glad to have made friends with these generous members of our community.

Thank you to professional photographer, Mike Rasay, who has photographed several of our productions and helps us keep a fantastic visual record of our productions. We are so grateful for his volunteer help.

I would also like to thank Mohammed Shaahid Shamiyulla for volunteering to video our production for archival purposes. I'm so grateful for him taking this responsibility off my shoulders at the last minute. And I really suck at taking video. ;)

Of course I would like to thank the entire cast and crew. We have pushed them to the absolute limit and they have endured with diligence, camaraderie, and grace. A group of talented theater artists who give so much of themselves to our productions is a gift to our school and our community, this may have been our hardest show ever!

As always, we would like to thank the Theater and Dance Department at Ohlone College for their continued technical and financial support.

And more than ever I'd like to thank my wife Pam, who for 25 years has dealt with the stress of having a husband who every school year disappears for a few months to put on plays and musicals with other people's kids. She, along with my two kids, Emmy and Moss, are the unsung heroes of all of our productions, as are all the families of staff connected with the play. You make as much a contribution to our shows as anyone.

And finally, thank you, our audience and supporters who make all of this possible through your continued patronage. To all of you and anyone who has helped us in person or by donation. I ask that if you enjoy our shows, and would like our program to continue and thrive, keep coming back, and consider a donation. Donations, along with information and resources can still be found at our website: www.ihsdrama.com

Thank you so very much!!!

Sincerely,

*Matthew Ballin
Theatre Director (Until June)
Irvington Conservatory Theatre*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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