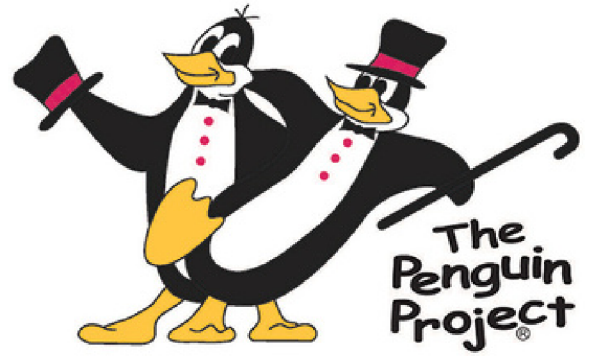




in  
partnership  
with



*Presents*



April 28, 29, & 30 2023

Belton High School

Book by Thomas Meehan

Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Produced with permission from Musical Theatre International



Once a year, a magical and touching celebration of the human spirit unfolds at numerous theaters across the country. A group of children in a program called The Penguin Project take to the stage to perform a modified version of a well-known Broadway musical. These productions are unique, however, because all the roles are filled by young artists with developmental disabilities including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities visual impairment, hearing impairment, and other neurological disorders. They are joined on stage by a dedicated group of "peer mentors" - children the same age without disabilities who have volunteered to work side-by-side with them through 4 months of rehearsals and through the final performance. By providing access to community theater, The Penguin Project demonstrates that the special challenges of a disability should not handicap a child's ability to participate in life's experiences.

Established in 2004, The Penguin Project has evolved into a National program, with Chapter sites throughout the United States. The program provides a supportive environment for children with disabilities to explore their creative talents. It has also demonstrated that participation in the performing arts has therapeutic value by enhancing social interaction, communication skills, self-confidence and self-esteem. The impact of the program has reached beyond the stage to create a social network for children who previously had very few friends and limited social opportunities.

"Our penguins may not be able to fly, but that does not prevent their spirits from soaring."

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Molly.....	Rose Gann
Kate.....	Lexi Murphy
Tessie/Lily.....	Bella Mikes
Pepper.....	Riley Long
July.....	Maddie Dollar
Duffy.....	Kelsie Olson
Orphan.....	Calleigh Morrow
Orphan/Mrs. Greer.....	Maccee Kacal
Orphan.....	Aleia Walker
Annie.....	Gracie Legg
Miss Hannigan.....	Meadow Lee
Bundles McCloskey/President Roosevelt.....	Jayden Fontenot
Apple Seller/Louis Howe.....	Bentley Moore
Sandy.....	Molly Kate Elkins
Officer Ward/Dogcatcher.....	Ewan Stanley
Grace Farrell.....	Luci Littlefield
Drake.....	Bryce Robinson
Cecille.....	Yamiril Alvarado
Annette.....	Dori Sawyer
Mrs. Pugh/Usherette.....	Kaydence Mangnall
Oliver Warbucks.....	Christopher Firkins
Rooster.....	James Ryals
Bert Healy.....	Scott Bradfute
Sound effects .....	Dakotah Ozark

## MENTORS

Omar Aguiar, Zander Aguiar, Scott Ayedelotte, Chandler Depue, Mariel Kacal, Mya Kacal, Hayden Maroney, Katherine McAfee, Lillie Mikes, Zoi Oakes, Emry Olivarez, Payton Shaw, Ally Rastelli, Gia Rastelli, Dori Sawyer, Kali Sawyer, Lexy Speegle, Patricia Walker, Livvy White

Director: Allison Ware

Music Director: Aleisha Martinez

Choreographer: Bree Strnad/Courtland Snelling

Stage Manager: Shelby Cozart

Mentor Coordinator: Sarah Wong

Penguin Project Coordinator: Jennifer Ramirez



Rose is in 2nd grade and loves hiking with her family, swimming, and cooking. When she grows up Rose wants to be a Princess at Disney World or have her own cooking show.



Lexi Murphy is 17 years old. She enjoys swimming, bowling, basketball and Pokémon. She likes to cook and spend time with her 4 nephews and friends in her down time.



Bella is a 6th Grader at LBMS. She loves to sing, dance, play basketball and make paper dolls. Her favorite artist is Taylor Swift and her favorite food is Chic-Fil-A.



Riley is a sophomore at BHS. She loves riding horses at BLORA, working out with her mom and Coach Bubba, and stalking the babies in her CrossFit SPRAG family.



Maddie is a junior at Belton High School. She loves Dr Pepper, movies, bowling, and hanging out with her friends and family.



Kelsie is a junior at LBHS. She enjoys hanging out with her friend group (The Bossy Bunch), going out to eat, and singing and dancing. She is always ready to celebrate with everyone!



Calleigh is an 11th grader at Killeen High School. She loves watching Master Chef Junior, Cheese It's, and her big bubba!



Macee is a 3rd grader at Lakewood Elementary. She loves soccer, bunnies, and playing with her sisters, brother, and friends!



Gracie is a 5th grader at Pirtle Elementary. She has always had a song in her heart. She loves to sing, dance, and draw.



Meadow is an 8th grader at NBMS. She likes animals, music, art, and working with kids.



Jayden is energetic & loves playing video games & spending time with his siblings. Jayden is very imaginative & holds true to the idea that anything is possible if you can dream it..



Bentley is in 4th grade & loves hanging out with his little brothers & his fab 4 friends. He loves to play Nintendo Switch & go swimming. When he grows up he wants to be a chef. He is so excited to be the apple seller in his first musical!



Molly Kate is a 4th grader at Sparta. She loves puppies, babies, playing basketball, going to church, and playing with her friends of all ages.



Ewan is a junior at Lake Belton High School. He loves animals, playing Xbox, and spending time with his friends.



Luci is a 17 year old junior at Belton High School. She enjoys playing Pokémon & Fire Emblem on her Nintendo Switch. She is a member of the BHS choir & theater. She would love to become a professional voice actor.



Bryce is a 4th grader at Sparta Elementary. He loves to play softball with Centex Champs and is a wonderful son and big brother.



Yamiril is a 7th grader at NBMS. She is in choir and theatre. She loves to sing and act. She loves to help people.



Dori is a 6th grader at NBMS. She loves to sing and help people when they need it.



Kaydence is a 6th grader at SBMS. She loves band, acting, and drawing.



Christopher is a junior at LBHS. He likes entertaining people and playing music, and he likes to be a very spirited person.



James is a 5th grader at Chisholm Trail Elementary. He loves creating comics and playing Super Mario Bros and Angry Birds.



Scott is 18 years old. He likes cooking. He loves to sing and dance, especially to musicals and sing-alongs. Jurassic Park and Spider-Man are his favorite movies.



Dakota is an 8th grader at BMS. She likes soccer, listening to music on her phone, and helping others and hanging out with her cousins.



Aleia is a 2nd grader at Tarver Elementary. She like to play Fortnite, Roblox, and play outside. Aleia Is excited to be a part of "Annie, Jr."

# Special Thanks

Dr. Matt Smith- Superintendent, Dr. Andy Morgan- Penguin Project Founder, Cran Dodds, Melissa Stuhff, Marie Phillips, BHS Thespian Troupe 3491, Denise Larsen, Ty Carter, LBHS Thespian Troupe 9051, Becky Olson, Kathy Firkins, Jaime Lindsey, Whitney Shaw-Lewis, Ann Utley, The Beltonian Theatre, Angel Ellebb, Karla McGinnis, Ryan McGinnis, Shelley Bales

# Mentors



Omar  
Aguiar



Zander  
Aguiar



Scott  
Ayedelotte



Chandler  
Depue



Mariel  
Kacal



Mya  
Kacal



Hayden  
Maroney



Katherine  
McAfee



Lillie  
Mikes



Zoi  
Oakes



Emry  
Olivarez



Payton  
Shaw



Ally  
Rastelli



Gia  
Rastelli



Dori  
Sawyer



Kali  
Sawyer



Lexy  
Speegle



Patricia  
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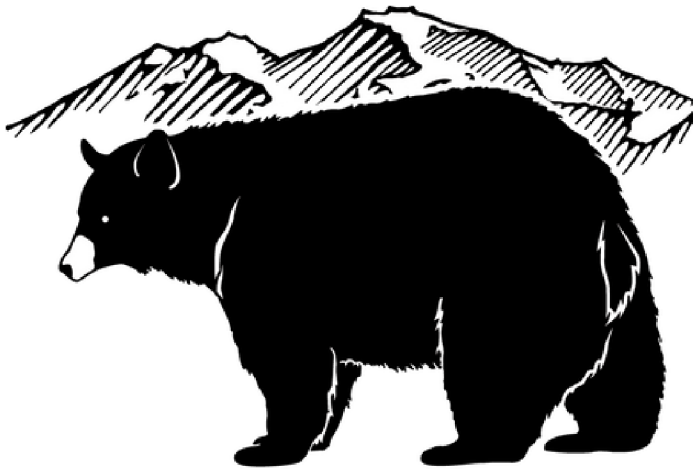
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*Josh Tulloch*



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