

Disaster!

Cast

Bios

Chad (Thomas McMahon): Thomas is ecstatic to be making his CTW debut with Disaster! His past credits include Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar, Angel in Rent, Action in West Side Story, Shakespeare in Something Rotten, and more. He would like to thank his found family for their constant support, his mother for being his number one fan, and especially Tyler. Enjoy the show!

Marianne (Rachael Dexter): Rachael Dexter, a senior at IWHS, is thrilled to be back on the CTW stage! She enjoyed her time last summer playing Adella in The Little Mermaid. Rachael has been spotted on the IWHS stage playing Wednesday Addams, Sebastian in The Little Mermaid Jr. and Christine Daae in a Broadway Revue. She would like to thank Gina, Pat, Pam and the entire cast for making this a great experience! Rachael would also like to thank her family, friends and the community for their support!

Scott (Gared Thrush): Gared Thrush is a graduate from Illinois State University with a bachelor's in theatre with a focus in acting. He is ecstatic to be bringing Disaster! to you all as Scott! He has played numerous different roles from Landon in Good Kids to Jean in Rhinoceros. This is his fifth season with us and he's excited to be back! You may recognize him from last year's performance in The Little Mermaid as Sebastian here at CTW. He will also be performing later this summer in CTW's Barefoot in the Park. He wants to thank you all for taking the time to come and see him perform and hopes you enjoy!

Jackie (Jayne Henrichs): Jayne has appeared in numerous productions at CTW throughout the years, most recently as Miss Andrew in Mary Poppins. She's excited to share the stage again with her CTW family. Jayne is enjoying her newest role, grandma to Nixon.

Tony (Tyler McMahon): Tyler is thrilled to return to the CTW stage for the first time since 2009! Tyler has acted and directed with such groups as KVTA, LTW, Drama Group, Genesis Guild, OPTT, JDG and UPS for DownS. Favorite roles include Shrek in Shrek, Tateh in Ragtime, Nigel Rancour in Something's Afoot, Father Flynn in Doubt, and Pseudolus in Forum. He's also directed The Wiz, Addams Family, Little Shop of Horrors and Noises Off to name a few. Thanks to friends, family and supporters and especially Thomas and his pups back home, Nox, Cooper and Phoenix.

Ben/Lisa (London Clark): London will be a junior at Milford High School and is no stranger to the CTW stage. She was last seen as Jane Banks in Mary Poppins. Not only does she perform at CTW but she also performs at The Beef House Dinner Theatre, Kankakee Valley Theatre and in productions at Milford High School. This July, she will be performing in the Beef House Dinner Theatre's production of Escape to Margaritaville.

Levora Verona (Jordyn Ward): Jordyn has practically grew up on the CTW stage, performing in her first show, State Fair, at 2 years old! Since then, she has been in many productions at CTW and KVTA, most performing as Ursula in The Little Mermaid at CTW, as Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar at KVAT, and was the assistant director for KVTA's In the Heights. She loves the family she has created through CTW and is so thankful for the community we have.

Professor Ted Scheider (Craig Krukewitt): Craig is excited to be reprising a role he previously played for the Beef House Dinner Theatre in 2017. This is his first appearance with CTW, although if he looks at all familiar you may have caught him last year in The Play That Goes Wrong at the Lorraine Theater in Hoopston, grossly mispronouncing words while reading lines written on his hand! Craig currently lives in Fithian, IL, and regularly appears in productions in both the Champaign and Danville areas. Favorite roles include Tateh in Ragtime, the Baker in Into the Woods and The Cat in Honk!, and Malcom in The Full Monty. By day he works at the University of Illinois as a Human Resources Officer, and when he's not doing theater he is usually off seeing the world.

Sister Mary Downy (Kena Clark): Kena is happy to bring Sister Mary Down to CTW. She along with Craig Smith were both in Disaster! at The Beef House Dinner Theatre. She is a veteran performer at CTW and also frequently performs at The Beef House Dinner Theater in Covington, Indiana, Kankakee Valley Theatre Association and Acting Out Theatre Company. In July she will be performing at The Beef House in the premiere of Honky Tonk Angels 3. Kena works as the IT Director at Milford Public Schools. Kena's favorite role is mom to London aka Ben/Lisa. A special thanks to Kena for all your work behind the scenes.

Maury (Brian Zecher): Brian has been performing and helping behind the scenes at CTW for many years. If he's not on stage, he's helping with lights, sound, or any other needs the theatre has. He's also involved with the Iroquois County Fair, sings with A Natural High, and is a math teacher at Milford High School. A big thanks to Brian for all his extra work on the lighting for this show!

Shirley (Elyse Bulla) This is Elyse's third performance at the Country Theatre Workshop. Last summer she was the chef in The Little Mermaid as well as Sister Mary Catherine in Drinking Habits. Elyse wants to thank everyone for coming-enjoy the show!

Jake (Payton Anderson): Payton is a recent graduate of Watseka Community High School and will be attending Eastern Illinois University in the fall. While in high school he was active in band and show choir, serving as drum major for his last two years of High School.

Chef (Jackson Gray): This is Jackson's second show at CTW, playing Prince Eric last summer in The Little Mermaid. He has also performed at Central High School and KVTA.

Wealthy Man (Jim Shrove): Jim is a long-time performer at CTW and is having fun. He wants to thank the audience for coming. Sit back and enjoy the show!

Wealthy Woman (Chris MacDonald): Chris is a retired teacher who subs and works part time at the Gilman-Danforth library. She performed at CTW in “ Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat “ in 2011. She wants to thank Gina for casting her and her husband of 40 years for having to eat dinner alone many nights.

Tracey/Ensemble (Baylor Cluver): Baylor has just finished her Sophomore year at Eureka College (Eureka, IL) where she studies Vocal Performance, Acting, and Pre-Music Therapy. On campus she has taken on roles such as Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Fran Kubelik in *Promises, Promises*. This is her first season at CTW, and she has enjoyed getting to know all the lovely people on stage and behind the scenes. From Watseka, IL, Baylor looks for every chance to perform she can and is excited to share her love of the stage with everyone! Baylor will appear later this summer in CTW's Barefoot in the Park.

Blind Woman/Ensemble (Wendellyn Shelquist): This is Wendellyn's 17th show at CTW. You may have seen her in last year's *The Little Mermaid* as a Jellyfish/Chef and a nun in last year's *Drinking Habits*. Some of her other favorite roles have been the tipsy chambermaid in 2005's *Natalie Needs a Nightie* and Opal's neighbor in 2015's *Opal is a Diamond*. When “Wendy” is not acting or singing or writing poetry, she is the secretary at Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee. She hopes you enjoy this wild show!

Taxi Driver/Ensemble (Zakk Clark): This is Zakk's fourth production at the Country Theatre Workshop, Zakk is part of the combo (piano) for WCHS's Show Choir and accompanying soloists. He would like to thank his sister Marisa for all her work backstage. He hopes you enjoy this year's show, as he has certainly had a lot of fun being in it.

Ensemble (Addison Lewis): Addison Lewis is a junior at Hoopston High School. This is her second show with Country Theatre Workshop, appearing last summer as a mersister in The Little Mermaid.

Ensemble (Annika Greene): Annika is excited to be in the ensemble of Disaster! with this talented cast. They previously appeared in CTW's The Little Mermaid (2022) as Ursula's eel Jetsam and Charlotte's Web (2019) as the Little Lamb as well as a few other ensemble roles. They have also been in the WCHS spring play for the past 2 years. Annika would like to thank their mom for driving them to theatre practice for the past several years and casting them in the show this year.

Ensemble (Emma Mann): Emma is a Milford High School graduate and currently is a student at the University of Illinois. She previously appeared in CTW's Annie Jr. and various productions at Milford High School.

Ensemble (Lyndsey Leitz): Lyndsey is excited to take the stage again in Disaster! She previously performed in Addams Family and Route 66 at CTW in 2019. She was also a part of various productions at Milford High School. Lyndsey graduated from Illinois State this May and will be a Jr. High math teacher at Rossville in the fall. Enjoy the show!

Production Staff

Director (Gina Greene): Gina first became involved at CTW when her oldest was in Annie Jr. in 2015. Since that time, she's helped with sound and lights, set decorating, and has directed several shows. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with the talented, dedicated performers and production staff for Disaster! Gina works as a Training and Education Specialist at Clove Alliance in Kankakee. She lives in Watseka with her spouse Andrew and two children: Annika and Aaron.

Assistant Director (Pat Ward): Pat grew up in Gilman, married Dave Ward and moved to Ashkum where they raised three children Brad (Stacey) Ward, Kellee Ward, and Kirk (Becca) Ward. Pat has several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Pat is Secretary for the CTW and has been a member of the board for many years. When she isn't at the theater, she enjoys following her grandson's sporting events and cheering on the whole team!

Choreographer (Pam Hibbert): Pam is thrilled to be working on another Country Theatre Workshop production. She was first invited to choreograph some of the early shows under the direction of Wilma Dryden. Favorite productions include Annie, Fiddler on the Roof, Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast, Mary Poppins and The Addams Family. Pam has been the owner of the Studio on Main dance & fitness studio in Watseka, which has just celebrated 43 years of dance and fitness. She has coached numerous award-winning competition dance teams, the Miss Sweetheart Pageant, and Sugar Creek Opera's productions of "The Magic Flute" and "The Grapes of Wrath." She is also a certified personal trainer and fitness professional. Pam and her husband Gary live in Clifton. They have a 25-year-old daughter Ellaine. "Thank you to Gina for giving me this opportunity to work with you again and to the cast and crew for your energy and hard work!"

Costumer (Robin Shuda): Robin retired after 30 years in teaching, is now able to devote more of her time to theatrics—performing as a storyteller for libraries, schools, and churches, and working with both CTW of Cissna Park, and KVTA in Kankakee with costuming, directing, and acting. Some of Robin's favorite roles have been as Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*; Louise, in *Always*, *Patsy Cline*, and as 'Mother' to her now, 3 adult, children! But, her all time favorite role is as 'Binnie' to her 4 fantastic Grandchildren! Robin resides in Watseka, where she works part-time at the Watseka Public Library.