

2022

Mill Mountain Theatre Presents



Mill  
Mountain  
Theatre  
CONSERVATORY



# Peter & Wendy

November 4 - 13

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Artistic Director..... Ginger Poole  
Director.....Tiffany Waters  
Assistant Director and Production Stage Manager.....Francesca Reilly  
Costume Designer..... Victoria Buck  
Director of Production..... Matt Shields  
Fight Choreography..... Victoria Buck, Drew Callahan  
Production Photography..... Ian Ridgway

## MMT STAFF

Producing Artistic Director.....Ginger Poole  
Business Manager.....Larry Kufel  
Director of Development..... John Levin  
Director of Education.....Victoria Buck  
Education Associate/Community Engagement Coordinator.....Francesca Reilly  
Resident Teaching Artist..... Josh Polk  
Creative Director of Public Relations..... Ian Ridgway  
Director of Production..... Matt Shields  
Resident Musical Director..... Seth Davis  
Assistant Technical Director/Lighting and Sound Supervisor..... Savannah Woodruff  
Carpenter..... Drew Callahan  
Trenten Woods

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# CAST

(in alphabetical order)



**Drew D'Alessandro, *Slightly*** Drew is thrilled to be playing the part of Slightly today. You may have recently seen him in *The Secret Garden* (Colin). His other favorite stage performances have been: *A Christmas Story* (Schwartz), *Madagascar* (Rico/Lars), *Little Mermaid* (Flounder) & *The Addams Family* (Pugsley). He attends CSMS where he is in 7th grader. When he is not on stage you can probably catch him singing, dancing or playing the drums. Drew would like to thank all of his family and friends for coming today and for all of their support. He also hopes everyone enjoys the show!



**Rory Grant, *John Darling*** Rory Grant, a 5th grader at Bonsack Elementary, is thrilled to be back on the Waldron Stage at MMT. Rory was most recently seen in *Peter Pan, Jr.* as Michael Darling and as the Munchkin Mayor in *The Wizard of Oz*. Some activities he enjoys outside of theatre are yo-yoing, video games, golf and reading. He would like to thank MMT for this opportunity and his parents for their continuing support of his love of acting.



**Eve McLoney, *Michael Darling & Tinkerbell U/S*** Eve is so excited to return to MMT as Michael Darling in *Peter and Wendy!* She was last seen on the MMT stage in *A Christmas Story* (2021) as Randy. Other past roles include *Brand New Day!* (Singer), *Peter Pan Jr.* (Tinkerbell), and *Mary Poppins Jr.*, *The Sound of Music* (Gretl Von Trapp), and *Babes in Toyland* (Jill). Eve is in 5th grade and began her training in theatre at age 5. In addition to taking Musical Theatre and Acting Classes at MMT, she takes piano and voice lessons, and swims. Eve is very grateful to everyone at MMT for this amazing opportunity and the chance to work with this wonderful cast and crew! She hopes you enjoy the show.



**Ben Meyer, *Mr. Darling/Hook*** Ben Meyer is an 8th grader at North Cross School who has enjoyed a wide variety of theatre and acting experiences. In 2022, he was Seymour in the North Cross production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He also has performed in the Virginia Children's Theatre's productions of: *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, *School of Rock* and *Suessical Jr.* Ben has appeared in television commercials for Southern Home Trust, Freedom First Credit Union and Meyer Natural Meat. When he is not acting, Ben enjoys sports such as cross country and baseball.



**Emily Mower, *Queen Lily*** Emily is excited to be back with MMT for this show! She is a 7th grader at Roanoke Catholic. Some previous shows include *Annie Jr.* (Annie), *A Christmas Story* (Helen), *Matilda* (Alice) and *Lion King Jr.* (Scar). In her spare time she enjoys dance, volleyball and creative writing. She would like to thank her parents and friends for always supporting her love of theatre. She encourages you to follow your heart and never grow up!



**Riley Parks, *Wendy Darling*** Riley Parks (Wendy), a Roanoke Catholic 7th grader is thrilled to be returning to the Waldron stage for a play that is near and dear to her heart. She has performed in over 20 shows across the Roanoke Valley. Her favorite credits include: *Fun Home* (Young Allison), *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *The Sound of Music* (Gretl), *As You Like It* (Dennis, Amiens, Corin), and *Secret Garden* (Robin/Garden Sprite). She trains with Mill Mountain Theatre Conservatory, Virginia Children's Theatre Academy, Kevin Jones Performing Arts Studio, and Divine Dance Center. She is grateful for the opportunities Mill Mountain Theatre has provided her to grow as a performer over the years. She thanks all of those who have encouraged her to follow her dreams. Enjoy your journey to Neverland!

## CAST



**Ruth Parsons, *Curly*** Ruth Parsons, 10, is excited to make her MMT debut in *Peter and Wendy!* Ruth is a 5th grader at South Salem Elementary. She has received theatre education and training from Mill Mountain Theatre, PB&J Theatre, and Virginia Children's Theatre as well as private vocal, piano, and acting lessons. She is currently also cast in PB & J's *Balloonacy* as the Little Girl. When not on stage, Ruth enjoys basketball, lacrosse, and playing with her dogs. Ruth would like to thank her coaches, friends, and family for their support in making her theatre dreams come true.



**Amelia Raring, *Master Panther/Mermaid #2*** Amelia is excited about *Peter and Wendy* and to be part of this wonderful cast! She is a 6th grader at Hidden Valley Middle School and a Mill Mountain Theatre Conservatory Student. She had her Roanoke debut this spring in Mill Mountain Theatre's *Write Stuff!* Relocated to Roanoke in December, she previously was a member of the Performing Troupe at Stage Center in Shreveport, Louisiana where her favorite role was Lavender in *Matilda the Musical*, followed by Flounder in *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, and Tessie in *Annie Jr.* Amelia is happy to find a home at Mill Mountain Theatre and would like to thank her dad, mom, and brother for their continued support and encouragement.



**William Richardson, *Crocodile/Mermaid #3*** William is a Sophomore in at Cave Spring High School who has been performing since around the age of 8 years old. He spends his time playing video games, Singing, Acting, and Dancing, and spending time with his friends. Performing is one of his favorite things to do. Some of his most recent credits include Burton's Center of Performing Arts' *Godspell* (We Beseech Thee Soloist), CSHS/HVHS's *Into The Woods* (Cinderella's Prince), and MMT's *High School Musical: One Act Edition* (Ryan/Coach Bolton). He can't wait to make a bigger and better comeback in the following years!



**Brent Saunders, *Tootles*** Brent is a 7th grader at Read Mountain Middle School. He started acting with Virginia Children's Theatre and most recently played the role of Twin #2 in *Peter Pan Jr.* He loves performing and aspires to be a singer. He started singing with the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir and now takes vocal lessons with Susan Lewis Music Studio. He enjoys performing at recitals, festivals, and other venues. He also takes hip-hop classes with Floyd Ward. In his spare time, he enjoys raising goats on the farm, arts and crafts, playing ukulele, and riding his four wheeler. Brent is very excited to be performing with Mill Mountain Theatre for the first time!



**Ruby Spence, *Mrs. Darling/Smee*** Ruby is thrilled to be a part of another production with MMT! She is a junior at Salem High School, and has been involved with theatre for a little over two years. Aside from theatre, Ruby also loves to write music, and is in a small band with her best friend. She loves dogs, biking, and crocheting, too! She'd like to thank her family and friends for their constant encouragement and MMT for this wonderful opportunity. She couldn't do it without them. Lastly, she hopes everyone enjoys the show!



**Jack Swank, *Peter Pan*** Jack Swank is a 6th grader at Hidden Valley Middle School. Jack's favorite and most recent role was Flick, in *A Christmas Story*. He has also acted in several Virginia Children's Theatre productions. He was the Munchkin Mayor in *Oz: A Staged Concert*, Iago in *Aladdin Jr.*, Flounder in *Songs of the Past*, and Bob the Builder in *The Velveteen Rabbit*. He also starred in his first film in 2021, *Omega and Sparks*, a Grandin Film Lab Production and a short film winner from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. In his spare time, he enjoys playing classic rock songs on his guitar. He also loves to play baseball and spending time at the lake, wake surfing, kneeboarding, and fishing. Jack would like to thank Mill Mountain Theatre for giving him this opportunity and hopes you'll never grow up.



## CAST



**Natalie Thorell, *Tinkerbell/Mermaid #1*** Natalie Thorell, a 6th grader at HVMS, is thrilled to be returning to the MMT stage! Her last MMT production was *The Sound of Music* in the role of Gretl. She recently performed as a Dance Core member of VCT's *Brand New Day Concert* in Elmwood Park. Natalie has been a dancer since she was three, is learning the trumpet, and enjoys going for burgers at Jack Brown's any chance she gets. She is grateful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Holden White, *Nana/Pirate*** Holden White is a sixth grader in Roanoke County Schools. He was most recently in *Brand New Day* with Virginia Children's Theatre. Other credits include *Cinderella*, *Peter Pan Jr.*, *Moana Jr.*, *Mary Poppins Jr.*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (WBHS). Holden would like to thank Mill Mountain Theatre for giving him this opportunity.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Tiffany Waters, *Director*** Tiffany is tremendously excited to welcome you to Neverland! She is a director, educator, and costume designer based in Durham, NC, who earned her MLitt/ MFA from Mary Baldwin University's Shakespeare & Performance program in partnership with the American Shakespeare Center. Tiffany's most recent directing credits include *The Botetourt Project* with MMT in partnership with the History Museum of Western VA and *Twelfth Night* with the Rude Mechanicals in D.C. In writing *Peter and Wendy*, she was inspired by the joy, curiosity, and creativity that her students bring to every class, rehearsal, and performance. She aims to capture the unique experience of growing up and hopes this play inspires and revitalizes our curious instincts. Tiffany would like to thank her extraordinarily talented cast & crew, MMT staff for bringing her back for this amazing experience, her thoughtful students at SCS, and her partner, Haggard, for believing in the magic of theatre.

**Francesca Reilly, *Assistant Director and Production Stage Manager*** Francesca Reilly is a performer and educator whose love for theatre began at 9 years old after seeing the Broadway musical, *Wonderful Town*. A few of her favorite acting credits include Mouse from *Goodnight Moon the Magical Musical*, and more recently Junie from *Junie B. Jones the Musical*. A Northern Virginian turned Roanoke native Francesca moved to the star city after graduating from Hollins University where she received her Bachelor's in Music with a focus in Vocal Performance. This year Francesca decided to continue her studies and is currently working on her Master's of Music Education from Shenandoah University. Other accolades include a certificate in Music Theatre Performance. Francesca loves being a part of the MMT family as a member of the education team. She is so proud of the entire cast and crew and is wishing them love, faith, trust, and pixie dust on their journey to Neverland!

**Victoria Buck, *Costume Designer and Fight Choreographer*** Victoria is originally from Columbus, Georgia, where she spent her childhood acting, singing, and dancing in local theatres and studios. After graduating from high school, her passion for the performing arts and theatre education led her to Greenville, South Carolina, where she received her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theatre Arts from Furman University, and then on to Staunton, Virginia, where she received both her Master of Letters (MLitt) and her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin University. In her time as an artist, Victoria has worked primarily as an educator and actor, serving several theatres in Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia, including the Springer Opera House, the Warehouse Theatre, and the American Shakespeare Center. Currently, Victoria is the Director of Education at Mill Mountain Theatre as well as the Acting teacher for the Burton Center for Performing Arts. She loves being a part of the arts community in Roanoke and seeing the wonderful work of all the students she is fortunate enough to teach.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Matt Shields, Director of Production** is a native of Virginia, having grown up in Loudoun County, he first moved to the region in 2013 to attend school at Radford University where he graduated with a BS in theatre. After working for a few other companies, Matt is happy to call MMT his artistic home. In the past few years Matt has served in a variety of jobs around Mill Mountain, including Props Master, Costumes Manager, Teaching Artist, Scenic Designer, and Company Manager. Matt is very happy to now be serving MMT as the Production Manager and is grateful to MMT for all the faith they have put in him over the years.

**Drew Callahan, Fight Choreographer** Drew is beyond thrilled to be back in Roanoke at MMT. A Virginia Beach native, Drew got involved in theatre at a young age. After high school, he decided to continue his education of theatre at Radford University. While there, he acted in numerous productions, as well as working as a carpenter and technical director. Drew has worked professionally as a carpenter at StageDoor Manor, and as an acting apprentice at Williamstown Theatre Festival. When not on the stage or in the shop, Drew can be found surfing, playing Dungeons and Dragons, or spending time outdoors. He is impressed by not only Mill Mountain's, but the entire artistic community's perseverance and determination to come back better than ever after this pandemic. He is grateful to the team at MMT for bringing him back, and cannot wait to see what the future holds.

## SPONSORS & GRANTORS

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

Mill Mountain Theatre is honored to offer two scholarships for students in the Conservatory programs providing life skills and training in theatre disciplines. Both are supported by donations from friends who share beliefs about growing our future talent.

- The **John T. "Jack" Avis Scholarship** was established by MMT's Board of Directors to recognize the service of a director and president who served MMT from 2004 to 2017. The award goes to a student of any age who demonstrates leadership.  
– **Elise LeGault, 2022 Recipient** –
- The **John Sailer Scholarship Fund** is in memory of a scenic and lighting designer whose creativity impacted productions at many theatres, including MMT, for decades. The award was created by his family to enable students interested in technical aspects of theatrical productions to attend MMT classes.  
– **Taylor Berenbaum, 2022 Recipient** –

For information about donations to MMT's scholarship funds, please contact John Levin at 540-342-5761 or [development@millmountain.org](mailto:development@millmountain.org)

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I discovered my love of performance when I was 5 years old. My first performative memory is at my grandma's house in Manassas, VA, when she bought me a microphone for my birthday. If you grew up in the 90's, you might remember the bright pink mics attached to a stereo that you'd have to carry around with you. Of course, I had to try out my new toy immediately, and a few days later when my great-grandpa visited, I put on an entire show of self-written dialogue and songs (and a few fan favorites such as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star") for my family. This was my first play. When I was 6, I became obsessed with biology and geology, so I asked my grandpa to film a short clip of the scientific discoveries I made with my first microscope. This was my first movie, Bill Nye style. In first grade, I created a game called, "G.I. Joe versus Barbies," that everyone in my class played all year. The girls would defend the dome jungle gym against the infiltrating G.I. Joe boys, and day to day we'd keep track of their advancements on a map that our teacher let us post to the classroom wall. This was my first devised performance.

When we're little, everything we experience is a new and magical discovery. We take in the world through playing pretend, and kids can have fun with the simplest of objects. The jungle gym can be a maze-like fortress; your headband can be a princess crown; gather enough rocks, twigs, and leaves, and they can be the stew you cook while you pretend to be a pioneer in the American west. As we get older, our world gets smaller. Because we gain more knowledge and learn to understand that the jungle gym is for kids to climb on, the headband is to keep your hair back, and the rocks, twigs, and leaves are just pieces of nature on the ground, we find that our brains force us to move beyond imagination and process the world around us literally. Everything must make sense, everything must have a purpose, and if we can't see it...we don't believe in it.

The magic of theatre is that it invites us to revitalize our imaginations. To see the world, not as it is, but as the play sees it. In the theatre, boxes can be turned into beds, pool noodles can be made into children's toys, and windows can become portals to a magical, alternate reality.

J.M. Barrie first wrote "Peter and Wendy" as a play in 1904 and later as a novel in 1911. Most of us might be more familiar with other adaptations such as Disney's animated "Peter Pan" (1953) or "Hook" featuring Robin Williams (1991) which acts as a sequel of sorts to Barrie's original work. The subtitle for "Peter and Wendy" is, "The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up," which serves to introduce the play's primary theme: the conflict between childhood and the responsibilities we're expected to take on as adults. When I wrote the adaptation that you'll see today for Mill Mountain Theatre, I had a strong desire to maintain as much of the original structure of the 1904 play as possible. This adaptation is divided into 5 acts with the same scene titles used in Barrie's Peter and Wendy. In writing this play, I found that I was tremendously inspired by my own recollections of childhood and those of my students, many of whom are in our cast, that I am fortunate enough to witness and play my own part in on a daily basis.

Our adaptation emphasizes the joy of discovery, the conflict between wanting to stay young forever and wanting to grow up, and the uncertainties of our inevitable death. In this world, Peter Pan is reimagined as a well known figure to the Darling children through stories and toys—akin to a modern day superhero. Wendy Darling, the play's protagonist, loves to play pretend with her brothers, but both her and her parents realize that the days when Wendy wants to "play at Peter Pan" will soon be behind them. Wendy discovers that she's conflicted—does she want to grow up or does she want to stay forever young? You've all heard the sayings—time only moves forward, all good things must come to an end, nothing can last forever. As you're reading this director's note, I'd like for you to take a moment to remember the happiest day of your life. Now imagine if that day never ended. This might be fun, at first, but now I'd like for you to consider all the things you'd be missing if you were never able to move beyond that singular moment in time. To live is to experience both joy and misery, and one cannot exist without the other. Whether we want to or not, one day our lives will come to an end, and to die would be an awfully big adventure.

—Tiffany Waters, Director of Peter & Wendy

## MMT Board of Directors

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## MMT Student Advisory Board

The Mill Mountain Theatre Student Advisory Board is made up of MMT Conservatory students who have been nominated and elected by their peers and the MMT Education staff to serve on this board. Their primary purpose is to provide feedback to the theatre from the student perspective on the existing structures and programs, as well as to generate ideas for future programming, performance titles, and ways to support the theatre and the Roanoke Arts Community. The SAB will also nominate and elect officers to serve each semester, and the elected president will serve as the representative to the MMT Board of Directors at select monthly meetings to observe the proceedings and provide student input.

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# FALL EXTENSION CLASSES



## PreK to 2nd Grade Theatre: Seasonal Songs & Stories

There's nothing quite like the holidays! Each week students will learn about a new holiday through stories and songs, using holiday themes to explore what it means to be a performer and feel confident on stage. Come join us as we learn, play, and celebrate the fall and winter seasons! Holidays will include Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and New Years. All students PreK – 2nd grade can sign up for this class – all skill levels welcome, no experience required!



## Music Theatre Conservatory\*

Music Theatre Conservatory Extension is a continuation of our advanced class for conservatory students who want to pursue the performing arts either in college or professionally, or who want to grow significantly as actors, singers, and dancers. Music Theatre Conservatory involves testing and expanding your talents in singing, acting, and dance, and this audition-only class will involve advanced storytelling and technique work.

\*Only students who have already been accepted into our regular fall Music Theatre Conservatory class, Dance Conservatory Class, or Acting Conservatory class may enroll in this particular class.



## NEW: Theatre for Active Audiences

Do you love watching theatre or reading plays? Do you want to understand more about the process of putting on a show without performing yourself? Do you just want to learn more about theatre, get to see some performances, and talk about it all with your friends and classmates? If any of these apply to you, then our NEW Theatre for Active Audiences class is the place for you! This theatre-appreciation style class promises to be fun and engaging for drama enthusiasts of all kinds. All students ages 5th – 12th Grade can sign up for this class – all skill levels welcome, no experience required!



## Middle & High School Theatre

Come have a blast and learn essential acting, auditioning, and improvisational skills in this action-packed class! From skits, improv games, to scene work, to learning and practicing the basics of auditioning, this class promises tons of fun-filled activities while helping students learn and practice the foundations of theatre. If you're looking to learn a new skill, practice an old one, build confidence, gain communication skills, and have a ton of fun in a safe environment where everyone can let their creativity run wild, then this is the place for you! All students 6th-12th grade can sign up for this class – all skill levels welcome, no experience required!



## Beginner/Intermediate Dance

Do you love to dance and want the chance to learn new skills, practice old ones, or just have a place to come and dance it out with your friends and classmates? Whatever your reason, this class is the perfect place to come and get moving! Students will learn and practice skills and techniques from multiple forms and areas of dance and then put what they've learned to use with fun dance combinations set to fun, upbeat songs. Don't miss this chance to come and dance with us! All students ages 5th-12th grade can sign up for this class – all skill levels are welcome, no experience required!



## Elementary Acting: Adventure Stories

Learn basic acting techniques through games, storytelling exercises, scenes, and more, all based on classic adventure stories that students will know and love! Jump into the exciting world of theatre and practice important skills such as character development, clarity of speech, body awareness, and making big, bold choices on stage and in life. All students 3rd-5th grade can sign up for this class – all skill levels welcome, no experience required!

Visit [millmountain.org/class](http://millmountain.org/class) to register