

MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL  
STATESMEN THEATRE  
PRESENTS

A  
Year  
With

Frog  
and  
Toad

MUSIC BY  
ROBERT REALE

BOOK AND LYRICS BY  
WILLIE REALE

BASED ON THE BOOKS BY  
ARNOLD LOBEL

April & May  
2022

[www.statesmen theatre.org](http://www.statesmen theatre.org)

**Marshall High School's  
Statesmen Theatre Company**

presents

**A  
Year  
With**  
**FroG  
and  
Toad**

**Book & Lyrics by**

**Robert Reale**

**Music by**

**Willie Reale**

**Based on the books by Arnold Lobel**

**Originally presented on Broadway by  
Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel, Michael Gardner,  
Lawrence Horowitz & Roy Furman.**

**World Premiere at The Children's Theatre Company,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

**A YEAR WITH FROG & TOAD—TYA**  
**is presented through special arrangement with Music  
Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance  
materials are also supplied by MTI.**

**[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)**

**Cast (in order of scene appearance):**

Lady Bird (Blue) ..... Lia Davila  
Lady Bird (Red)..... Sophia Welch  
Lady Bird (Orange) ..... Saniya Desai  
Lady Bird (Gold).....Kate Butterworth  
Lady Bird (Yellow)..... Emily Paz  
Man-Bird 1 ..... Ethan Taylor  
Man-Bird 2 ..... Andrew Thompson  
Frog..... Luke Batarseh  
Toad.....Kian Mostaghim  
Mouse ..... Marz Jackle  
Snail .....Jason Baloyo  
Turtle.....Sara Porjosh  
Lizard ..... Alex Vieira  
Cookie Dancers ..... Sara Porjosh, Ivanna Stefanova, Jenna Walker  
Squirrels..... AJ Hernandez-Sortore, Nina Southern  
Father Frog ..... Daniel Petry  
Mother Frog .....Sara Porjosh  
Young Frog ..... Maya Dongre  
The Large & Terrible Frog .....Aldo Silva Suarez  
Moles .....Rainn Afif, Sophia Alexander, Marz Jackle, Alex Vieira  
Ensemble ..... Maya Dongre, Kate Linton, Daniel Petry,  
Aldo Silva Suarez, Ivanna Stefanova  
Puppeteers..... Rainn Afif, Kadyan Kalb

**Any video and/or audio recording of  
this production is strictly prohibited.**

## **Creative Team**

Director ..... Bernie DeLeo  
Vocal Director ..... Emi Eiting  
Band Director ..... Paul Vesilind  
Assistant Director ..... Olivia Tate  
Additional Vocal Help ..... Anna Valentino  
Choreography ..... Jenna Walker, Celina Zaccack

## **Production Crew**

Production Manager ..... Abby Brunner  
Stage Managers ..... Katie Myers, Jaya Nath  
Lights ..... Alex Thrasher, Maddie Schoepf, Percy Eisele  
Spotlights ..... Joey Colaianni, Kyle Ratner  
Sound ..... Dylan Brace, Ben Campagnuolo, Nova Chien,  
Brandon Smith  
Backstage Crew .... Emmie Baldwin, Brandyn Heath, Michelle Morris  
Ivanna Stefanova, Asher Wise  
Props Crew ..... Caitlin Golden, Samantha Lauber,  
Sara Moharerrzadeh, Hiram Weber  
Costumes ..... Sohani Agarwal, Molly Brewer, Cassidy Dorman,  
Anna Klimenko, Samantha Lauber, Tara McCaleb,  
Kieran Mertz, Pressley Stevens  
Hair/Makeup Crew ..... AJ Hernandez-Sortore, Haya Al-Maliki,  
Kieran Mertz  
Leaf Crew ..... Leiale Demant, Morgan Griswold, Jyoti Gupta,  
AJ Hernandez-Sortore, Kieran Mertz, Pressley Stevens, Asher Wise  
Publicity Crew ..... Rainn Aff  
Set Construction ..... 7th & 8th Period Tech classes

## **Adult Support**

Parent Costume Head ..... Barb Cressman  
Publicity Parent Head ..... Dixie Welch  
Drivers ..... Kristin Brace, Mary Golden  
Graphic Designer ..... Andy Saffron  
T-shirts ..... Stan Darke/DMV Tees



## The Band

Paul Vesilind ..... Conductor  
Noah Tennenbaum ..... Piano  
Alex Stenseth ..... Bass  
Scott George ..... Guitar, Banjo  
Pasha Ryutov ..... Flute, Alto Flute Piccolo  
Suhani Desai ..... Clarinet  
Gabriela Konde ..... Clarinet, Flute  
Luke Viskupic ..... Bass Clarinet, Clarinet  
Maya Tichoc ..... Trumpet  
Lucas Kim ..... Trombone  
Kelly George ..... Tenor Sax  
John Glasscock ..... Tuba  
Andrew Bruno ..... Alto Sax  
Ethan Bong ..... Drums  
Azalea McMillen ..... Percussion



*So very proud  
of you,  
our sweet and  
talented Sara!*

~

*Love, Mom, Dad,  
Edrees and Oliver*

## Songs / Musical Sequences:

### Act One

*"Opening/A Year With Frog & Toad"*... Frog, Toad, Birds  
*"Spring"*..... Frog, Toad & Company  
*"Seeds"*..... Toad  
*"The Letter 1"*..... Snail  
*"Getta Loada Toad"* ... Turtle, Mouse, Lizard & Company  
*"Underwater Ballet"*..... Turtle & Fishes  
*"Alone"*.....Frog  
*"The Letter 2"*..... Snail  
*"Cookies"* .....Frog, Toad, Cookie Dancers & Company

### Act Two

*"The Kite"*..... Frog, Toad, Birds & Company  
*"Leaves: A Year With Frog & Toad"*..... Birds  
*"He'll Never Know"*.....Frog, Toad, Squirrels  
*"Shivers"* .....Frog, Toad, Father Frog, Mother Frog,  
Young Frog & The Large & Terrible Frog  
*"Winter Ballet"*..... Squirrels  
*"The Letter 3"*..... Snail  
*"Down the Hill"*..... Frog, Toad & Moles  
*"I'm Coming Out of My Shell"*..... Snail  
*"Toad to the Rescue"*..... Toad & Moles  
*"Merry Almost Christmas"* ..... Frog, Toad & Company  
*"Finale/A Year With Frog & Toad"* ..... Entire Company

**\* There will be one 15 minute intermission \***

## Cast & Crew Head Bios



**Rainn Afif** (*Mole, Puppeteer*) a junior, is ecstatic to be in Statesmen Theatre's *A Year With Frog & Toad!* Rainn has participated in numerous Statesmen Theatre productions before, both as a tech and an actor. You may have recently seen their play *TheraDate* in the winter one-act festival *Actin' Out*, or seen them in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Working*, *Edit Profile*, and others! They would like to thank their family, friends, and teachers for supporting their passion for theatre.



**Sohani Agarwal** (*Costumes Head*) is a senior who is so excited to be head of costumes for her very last Statesmen Theater production. She has been in theater for four years now, working as a costume designer, stage manager, and an actor. Sohani would like to thank Mrs. Cressman and the costume crew for all their hard work. She would also like to thank Mr. DeLeo and the other crew heads for standing by her side for the past four years. She is going to miss the department and everyone in it when she graduates.



**Sophia Alexander** (*Mole, Ensemble*) is thrilled to be in her first musical with Statesmen Theatre. Previously, she has been in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Snout and *Saved* as Grandma. She is very grateful to the entire cast and crew for making this show possible. She also wants to thank her family for always supporting her. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Jason Baloyo** (*Snail*), a senior, is very excited to make his Statesmen Theatre debut. He has been a part of the Marshall Choir program for the past four years, and finally decided to try out for theatre. He has loved every single Statesmen Theatre show that he's been to, and is very thankful to finally be in one. Jason would like to thank his parents for all of their support and his friends for peer-pressuring him to finally audition for a show. Next year, Jason will attend Virginia Commonwealth University to study fashion merchandising.



**Luke Batarseh** (*Frog*) is hopping for joy to be a part of Statesmen Theatre's *A Year with Frog and Toad!* As a senior, this is his last show with Statesmen Theatre and it has been a blast for him to go out with a bang as Frog. You may have seen Luke in many previous ST productions, including *Geek!*, *The Gifted Program*, *Captain of the Bible Quiz Team* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Enjoy the show!



**Dylan Brace** (*Sound Head*) is happy to be working on *Frog and Toad* as this is his 6th and final show with Statesmen Theatre. During his free time he likes to play guitar and skateboard. And even though he is graduating this year he hopes the new members of the theatre department enjoy their time here as much as he has.

## Cast & Crew Head Bios



**Abby Brunner** (*Production Manager*) has procrastinated writing her bio because she doesn't want her time with Statesmen Theatre to end. This will be Abby's 10th ST show and she is more than grateful for the love she has received over the years. Abby is ecstatic that *Frog and Toad* is her last show with Statesmen Theatre. She would like to thank her fellow techs, all the cast members, Mr. DeLeo, and her family for giving her unwavering support over the years and encouraging her to pursue her love of theatre in college. Break legs to everyone in the department, always.



**Kate Butterworth** (*Yellow Lady Bird*) a sophomore, is thrilled to be in her first Statesmen Theater Production! Some of her favorite past shows include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Julius Caesar*, and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Kate loves to sing—she is a part of the Camerata Women's Choir and the Marshall acapella group, Noteworthy. She also had the privilege of performing in The Marshall Miscast and Marshall Choir's Valentine's Cabarets. She'd like to thank her family but especially her older sister for being someone she could look up to throughout her musical theater career.



**Lia Davila** (*Blue Lady Bird*) is a junior at Marshall, and this will be her fifth show with Statesmen Theatre! After a year of virtual theatre, Lia is still beyond thrilled to be back on stage. You may have recently seen her as Jill in *Lagging Out* from Marshall's One Act Festival, or as Mary in *It's A Wonderful Life* with the Vienna Youth Players. Lia also loves to sing and is in Statesmen Singers, the advanced mixed choir at Marshall. Endless thank yous to her wonderful friends, family and this incredible cast and crew! <3



**Saniya Desai** (*Orange Lady Bird*) is excited to be playing a Lady Bird in *Frog and Toad*! As a Freshman, this is Saniya's 4th stage appearance this year. She made her GCM debut as a Fairy in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, sang & danced in the *Disney in December* Choir show, and played Elise in *Macho* in the Winter One Acts. Saniya loves performing, starting dance at age 2, and choir and acting in 1st grade. Saniya is grateful to Mr. DeLeo for helping her develop as an actress, and appreciates the encouragement of her choir teacher, Ms. Pierson, and family and friends.



**Maya Dongre** (*Young Frog, Ensemble*) is delighted to be in this year's spring musical! She could not be more grateful for having this opportunity to meet new people and is so proud of what the cast and crew have accomplished together. It has been a very crazy few months trying to juggle all of the rehearsals, sports, and schoolwork that Maya had but she wouldn't have traded this experience for the world. Maya hopes that you can sit back, relax, and enjoy Statesmen Theatre's production of *Frog and Toad*!



**Caitlin Golden** (*Props Head*) is thrilled that *Frog and Toad* is her last show with Statesmen theatre! She is a senior this year and this is her eighth show at Marshall. This is her third year being a crew and department head, and she is so sad to leave the program and the close friends she's made in the four years she's been a part of Statesmen Theatre. In Caitlin's free time she loves to draw, workout, and hangout with her friends. Enjoy the show!

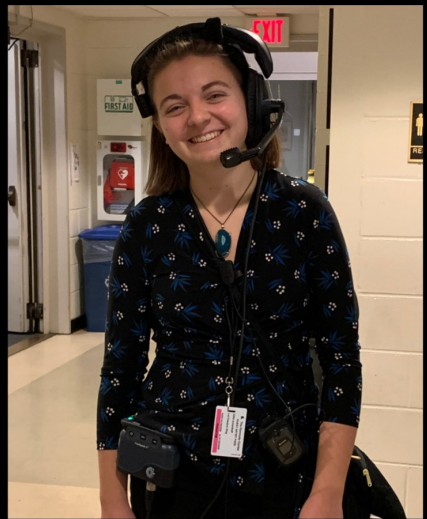


# You are our shining star - Bravo!

*"Drama is life with the dull parts left out" - Alfred Hitchcock*

Cheers to you Abby as you take your final bow. Your star will shine bright wherever you go. Let your heart be your guide and you cannot fail. Much love from your biggest fans - Mom, Dad and Emily

*"All your dreams will come true if you have the courage to pursue them." - Walt Disney*



## Cast & Crew Head Bios



**AJ Hernandez-Sortore** (*Squirrel, Ensemble, Make-Up Head*) This is AJ's last show at Marshall which is very heartbreaking for them. After playing everything from a demon to a squirrel, writing and directing a show (*The Mug* in this year's Winter One-Act Festival), *A Year With Frog and Toad* is a bittersweet ending. For all the underclassmen: keep on girlbossing!



**Marz Jackle** (*Mouse, Mole*) is so excited to be in her third production at Statesmen Theatre! You may have previously seen her as Ariel in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Sharon in *Working*. She'd like to thank her family for supporting her and Statesmen Theatre for being such an amazing community! She hopes you enjoy the show!



**Kate Linton** (*Ensemble*), a freshman, grew up reading the *Frog & Toad* books as a kid, and is absolutely thrilled to be part of Marshall's production of *A Year with Frog and Toad!* Her previous stage credits include *The Three Musketeers* (ensemble), *Seussical* (Bird Girl), and *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Moth). She wants to thank her family for supporting her, and the cast for being awesome! When she's not singing along to the catchy tunes from the show, Kate can be found reading, baking, or playing the piano.



**Kian Mostaghim** (*Toad*) is a senior and this is his 8th Statesmen Theatre production. He grew up reading the *Frog and Toad* stories and looks forward to sharing this story with audiences. Kian would like to thank his family and his dog Jake (who really wanted to be here tonight) for all of their support. Kian will be attending James Madison University in the fall and will be majoring in finance. He is grateful to have been a part of the amazing Statesmen Theatre program!



**Katie Myers** (*Stage Manager*) a sophomore, is excited to stage manage her first musical with Statesmen Theatre. Previously, she stage managed *Macho*, a play in Marshall's 2022 Winter One-Act Festival. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work over the past few months. Enjoy the show!



**Jaya Nath** (*Stage Manager*), a sophomore, is so excited to be doing her third show this year with Statesmen Theatre! She is so proud of her cast and fellow crew members for all the hard work they have put into making this show amazing, and would like to thank her friends and families for their support. She hopes you will enjoy this totally amazing production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Break legs, everybody!

***Kian, we think you are “toad-ally” awesome!***

*We can't believe this is your last show at Marshall.  
We've enjoyed watching you on stage. Always remember to  
dream big, work hard, and be kind. We love you!*

*Mama, Baba, Will, Patrick, Joseph, Liam, Majoon, Bajoon,  
Mama Mah, Baba Rashid, Grandma, Grandpa, & Jake*

*Good luck to all of the cast and crew!*





## Cast & Crew Head Bios



**Emily Paz** (*Gold Lady Bird*) a Junior, is thankful to be in her 5th Statesmen Theatre show. She fell in love with performing after her 6th-grade musical. She has been in choir since 6th grade but started theatre with Mr. DeLeo her sophomore year. You may have seen her in *Called Out*, *Working*, *Macho* (in this year's One-Act Festival), or *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in which she played Hermia. She is so excited to perform in a musical again! Emily has loved performing alongside her peers and can't wait for all of their hard work to be seen on opening night!



**Daniel Petry** (*Father Frog, Ensemble*) is a Junior and is overjoyed to be a part of *Frog & Toad*, his second Marshall theatre production. He is a part of Statesmen Singers and hopes to develop as a performer in *Frog and Toad* and in theatre class in the coming year. He is honored to work with such capable classmates. He also enjoys the full circle feeling of his role as Father Frog because his first role in a musical was Father Swan in *Honk!* in 7th grade. Enjoy the show!



**Sara Porjosh** (*Turtle, Mother Frog, Ensemble*) is super excited to be a part of Statesmen Theatre's production of *A Year With Frog and Toad*. You may have seen her in previous Statesmen Theatre productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Working*. In her free time, you can find her singing, hanging out with her friends, or napping. She is so proud of the work put in by the cast and crew of the musical! Sara hopes you enjoy watching the show as much as she has enjoyed being a part of it!



**Aldo Silva Suarez** (*Large & Terrible Frog, Ensemble*) is excited to be a part of *A Year with Frog and Toad*. He is having fun as a Freshman and already feels confident with his acting career. He likes to hang out with his friends and likes to help people out as much as he can. He is grateful for his friends and working with his cast and crew members. And he hopes you enjoy this wonderful performance.



**Nina Southern** (*Squirrel, Ensemble*), a senior, is struggling to grasp that she is performing for the final time at Marshall. She cherishes her experiences as Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a director/writer in the 2021 Winter One-Act Festival, a deviser in *Edit Profile*, and an improviser in *Called Out*. Nina would like to thank her family for always supporting her, her friends for sitting with her outside the auditorium, and the ST community for making her feel welcomed. She congratulates her senior peers for their hard work. Cast, #slay tonight!



**Ivanna Stefanova** (*Ensemble*) is so excited and appreciative to be a part of *A Year with Frog and Toad*! She is a sophomore this year and is glad this production is her first musical with Statesmen Theatre. She is very proud and excited for her fellow cast and crew mates to show off all the hard work they've put into this show! She hopes you have as much fun watching the show as she has had participating in it!





*~ Caitlin Golden ~  
Tech Theatre Crew*

*~  
Caitlin's the queen of the set,  
She'll build it or paint it, you bet,  
A casket she made,  
And received a high grade,  
Tech Theatre, she'll never forget!*

*~  
We're so proud of all  
of your accomplishments!*

*Love, Dad, Mom & Bentley*



Cassidy, we are so proud of you and all your creations.  
Love Mom and Dad



*Congratulations Emmie!  
You are our favorite "techie"!  
xoxo Mom, Dad, Annalise, & Harley*

## Cast & Crew Head Bios



**Ethan Taylor** (*Man-Bird*) is a junior and is excited to be in his 3rd show with Statesmen Theatre. He has enjoyed performing for almost a decade, and is thrilled he can continue with *Frog and Toad*. He enjoys singing and biking in his free time. He would like to thank all the cast and crew for all their hard work this spring and congratulates them on the wonderful show they made.



**Andrew Thompson** (*Man-Bird*) is so pleased he was able to participate in the musical after he had not performed in one since 8th grade. He is a senior and is glad to end off his High School years with a bang in *Frog and Toad*. Working with his fellow ensemble members has been so amazing. He hopes that you see the hard work they put into the show.



**Alex Thrasher** (*Lights Head*) This is Thrasher's fourth and final year in Statesmen Theatre, as she is now a Senior. It is her 10th show in the program and she has loved and appreciated every second of working with the people and on the shows. She is profoundly grateful for the faith that her friends and family have in her and the unwavering support that she receives from them. She would like to give a special thanks to her Director and fellow techs for making these past four years one of the most rewarding experiences of her life.



**Alex Vieira** (*Lizard, Mole*) is very thankful to be Lizard & Mole in *Frog & Toad* this year. He has been doing musical theatre since middle school and has been in choir since 6th grade. He is very excited to experience his final musical at Marshall High School right before he goes off to college and explores new activities there. Alex is in Marshall's Statesman Singers and also played football for the Statesman this fall. He hopes you enjoy Marshall's final production of the year.



**Sophia Welch** (*Red Lady Bird*), a Sophomore, is thrilled to be in her fifth Statesmen Theatre production. You may have previously seen her as Abigail in *Lagging Out* or Kate in *Working*. She is also a member of the Statesmen Singers, Marshall's advanced mixed choir, and she is an accomplished vocalist receiving several honors and awards, including winning 1st place in the International American Protégé Competition. In her free time, Sophia enjoys running track, playing basketball, and spending time with family and friends. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Interested in following us on social media? There are various ways!**

**Visit our website @ [www.statesmentheatre.org](http://www.statesmentheatre.org)**

**On Facebook: Statesmen Theatre**

**On Instagram: [statesmentheatre](https://www.instagram.com/statesmentheatre)**

**On Twitter: [@GCMTheatre](https://twitter.com/GCMTheatre)**

*Sophia Welch*  
*Break a leg, Sophia!*  
*We love you! Mom & Dad*





## Creative Team Bios

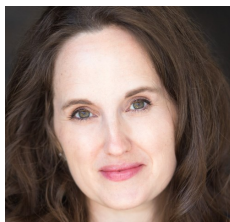


**Bernie DeLeo** (*Director*) is in Year 4 as the director of Marshall High School's theatre program. This is his 17th year in Fairfax County Public Schools: he has taught special education at Marshall Road Elementary, Vienna (3 yrs), drama at Thoreau Middle School, Vienna (4 yrs), then at West Springfield High School (6 yrs) before coming to Marshall HS.

Prior to teaching, Mr. DeLeo spent 20+ years working on stage & screen (large & small), as an actor, playwright, sitcom writer, screenwriter, film producer/creative executive in New York, Los Angeles,

Chicago and Washington DC. He worked at Broadway's Circle in the Square Theatre, HBO, ABC & Disney Studios, as well as Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth & other regional theatres. He is a graduate of Catholic University (BFA, Acting), Rutgers University (MFA, Playwriting) and George Washington University (MS, Special Education).

Mr. DeLeo discovered theatre in high school, and found it a welcoming environment where he could find out who he was and follow his dreams. He is thrilled to have come full circle as a high school teacher, creating the same home for students to explore their talents and make lifelong friends. Shout-out to this year's seniors, his first 4-year high school class at Marshall—you never forget your first 4-year group of students, and this class—which has been with him before, during and after the pandemic, has been amazing & incredibly special to him. He will miss you all!



**Emi Eiting** (*Vocal Director*) is a freelance performer, vocal coach, choral conductor, pianist, music director, and choral adjudicator working in Northern Virginia. From 2010-2016 she served as choral director at JEB Stuart (now Justice) High School in Fairfax County. There she led 4 choirs, taught IB Music and directed the school musical each year. As a freelancer she supports multiple schools throughout Fairfax County working on their musicals and Broadway cabarets as vocal coach, repertoire consultant, conductor and pianist, and serves as vocal director for the annual Cappies Gala. She is also a teaching artist for the Mason Community Arts Academy & Acting for Young People programs through George Mason University.

Before her career in education Emi worked for many years as an actor, music director, pianist, and stage manager at a number of regional theatres around the country, spent some time singing on a cruise ship, and toured the country with *The Magic School Bus- Live!* She has performed her solo cabaret show- 'Standing in the Middle of the Road' at Danny's Skylight Room (New York) and Speakeasy Stage Company (Boston). Emi has performed as a solo artist at the Kennedy Center on a concert featuring the music of composer Scott Evan Davis. In New York she has worked with composers Jason Robert Brown, Lance Horne, Brian Lowdermilk and Scott Evan Davis. Emi holds a Bachelors degree in Music Education from George Mason University. She has additional training in Musical Theatre from Interlochen Arts Program in Traverse City, MI. Emi lives in Alexandria with her husband and 6 year old daughter.



**Olivia Tate** (*Assistant Director*) currently teaches IB Social and Cultural Anthropology and Honors Government at GCM. A former high school theatre student at Yorktown HS in Arlington and at UVA, she is excited to be working again with Mr. DeLeo after helping out with shows the past 2-1/2 years. She is especially happy to be working on a musical again with these incredibly talented students. Cheers to live, in-person theatre again!

## Creative Team Bios



**Paul Vesilind** (*Conductor*) has been the band director at Marshall High School since 2009, conducting the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Marching Band. Before his tenure at Marshall, Mr. Vesilind taught high school band in Southern California for nine years. During those nine years his bands consistently earned superior ratings at festival, and his marching bands regularly competed at the state level. While in California, his bands performed music that ended up in the Dreamworks movie, "Shrek the Third", and on the "Ellen Degeneres Show." Mr. Vesilind holds degrees from George Mason University and California State University Northridge. He has studied trumpet with Dr. Dennis Edelbrock and David Detwiller and conducting with Anthony Maiello and Dr. Lawrence Stoffel. Mr. Vesilind is a member of NAFME, VMEA, and VBODA. Mr. Vesilind lives in Fairfax, VA with his wife and two children.



**Jenna Walker** (*Choreographer, Ensemble*) is a sophomore this year, and is very excited to be participating in her first show for Statesmen Theatre! She has been dancing for 12 years and is currently dancing at Legacy Dance. She is also on the Marshall Dance Team. She is so proud of her castmates for all of the work they have put into the show. Jenna has had an extremely fun time choreographing and would like to give a huge shoutout to her co-choreographer Celina Zaccack who is the toad to her frog!



**Celina Zaccack** (*Choreographer*) is very excited to be choreographing her first show for Statesmen Theatre. She is a sophomore and has been participating on and off stage in productions since she was little. She has been on the Marshall Varsity cheer team for 2 years and cheers at the Stingray Allstars outside of school. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being such fun and easy people to work with. Lastly, she would like to give a big shoutout to her co-choreographer, Jenna Walker, who is the frog to her toad!

***Congratulations, Dylan!***

*'We're so proud of you and can't wait to see where your dreams take you! We love you!*



## ***Director's Notes: A Show with Frog & Toad!***

Here we are, at the last and hardest show of the season—our annual spring musical—and it's good to be back onstage with a live band once again. One of the questions I like to answer in this space is, why THIS show? What inspired to you to pick this musical?

If you've been following the shows I've chosen for the past few years (my 4th at Marshall), you'll see that I have eclectic tastes. I never like to do the same thing or style of show twice. If students are going to be with me for 4 years, I want them to experience a wide range of shows, challenges and genres, which require different types of singing and acting. And so I will change things up, year after year.

Coming out of the pandemic, my main goal this year was to experience the joys of live theatre again, and for actors, crew & audience to have a rollicking good time, especially with the fall & spring shows. (I mean, we all lived through such a depressing time—let's smile again at the theatre, right??) I especially liked the idea of doing a children's show—and pulling in family audiences. Due to the pandemic, this may be the first live theatre that small children have ever seen, and I thought it would be rewarding to bring them into our space to see a really fun show. So I set out looking...

I'd discovered the *Frog & Toad* soundtrack on Spotify last year, and was instantly hooked, humming its toe-tapping tunes. THAT for me is Consideration No. 1—if I have to listen to a show for 6 months to a year, I'd better love the score—and not get sick of hearing it on repeat every day for a good quarter of a year .

But I'd also had a personal connection this show: not only had I read these books to my own kids when they were young, but we owned this hilariously weird Claymation *Frog & Toad* video (yes, on VHS) that my daughter and I still nerd out over and quote lines from (“We’re not afraid!” “What is...will power?”) (I still own it, but alas, have nothing to play it on!) The stories are fabulously funny fables about the ever-patient Frog and his dorky, at times exasperating friend, Toad. Buried in the stories are wonderfully clever lessons for very young people about overcoming people's opinions of you, learning to take risks with your friends at your side, and seeing how to navigate the ups & downs of friendship. Even better, they entertain parents and children alike. As that's our intended audience, we really hope you all connect with this fun, jaunty, warm show. Thank you for attending and supporting theatre at Marshall High School!

— Bernie DeLeo, April 2022

*Saniya, You are Beyond Comparison!!*

*Congrats to the Cast, Crew & Mr. DeLeo  
on another great production!*



## ***A Director's Thanks...***

Putting on a good show requires an army of helpers!. Mr. DeLeo cannot do it alone, and would like to personally thank:

Principal Jeffrey Litz, AP Danielle Schoolcraft, DSS Cindy Blakeley and the entire admin team for supporting this play and the Statesmen Theatre program;

Joe Swarm, Cornell Williams & the Activities Office for helping our cause, and Carla Martinez, Finance Officer, who pays all of my bills;

Olivia Tate, who has become my trusted right hand and vital sounding board! I love having you around, and your perspective is always welcome.

Jenn Brunner, Bonnie Campagnuolo, Dixie Welch & Kristen Hollenbeck, our stellar Statesmen Boosters Executive Board Officers—and ALL our amazingly generous boosters! Thank you for your time, help and donations! You all rock!

Kristin Brace & Mary Golden, for being my loyal pick-up drivers, and Mary also for her help with the program ads—thank you both so much for saving me time!

Maureen Berry, our ticket queen and Dixie Welch, our publicity goddess! Two hard-working ladies!

Shirley Alexander, for putting together our sold-out two feeder elementary school matinees!

Paul Vesilind, my fabulous & talented band leader—I knew we would get along, and I'm thrilled to have you running the pit band behind the scenes (literally!) You're a good dude!

Emi Eiting, our vocal director, who's jumped in a 2nd year in a row to assist us!

Kelli Pierson, who believed in me and every show I've picked for the prior 3 years; your help has always been invaluable to me. I'm glad that at least you got to help cast this last show!

Anna Valentino, for helping out on whatever is needed—you've been a joy to have with us, and we appreciate your cheerfulness and another set of eyes!

Phil Charlwood, my loyal friend, who helped out with some key props! Thank you for always being willing to drop everything to help out!

Dan Deiter, who gave up part of his Spring Break to teach my sound crew the fancy new digital sound board the county provided (Thanks, Tara Taylor!)

Brian Heath, for dropping everything on the past two shows to take such fabulous photos for us all!

Andy Saffron, my amazing graphic designer partner since my West Springfield days!

My other FCPS colleagues for helping on costumes, props and just moral support!

My wife Rebecca & fam for putting up with days-on-end absences, my grumpiness & long hours.

Any parent who has ever supported our plays in any way, shape, form (and whose names I might have missed here) — thank you for all of your help and support! We couldn't pull this off without you!

Last but not least, the true MVP of this show, Parent Volunteer Barb Cressman, who's been making costumes & guiding our costume crews the past 4 years! She puts in countless hours, and is a patient teacher to our students. A formal Marshall parent, she's been with me since Thoreau MS (2009!) and this show would not look half as good without her contributions! Thank you, partner!



## *Break a Leg Kate!*

*Can't wait to see and hear you on stage again! From your first productions at Rivendell till now, you are always a joy to watch on stage. We love you so much! Mom, Dad, Meg, Reyn*



## *We're proud of you, Jill!*

*Jill, you're a great kid, loving daughter, and wonderful person. God has big things planned for you! We love you! Mom, Dad and Garrett*



## **STATESMEN THEATRE PATRONS**

Statesmen Theatre Boosters rely on the generosity of members of the Marshall Community and the families & friends of students involved in our productions who make donations to support our 5-star theatre program. THANK YOU for your support!

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# *Marz - Your Passion Lights Up The Stage!*

*Since the moment you took to the stage, you've never been "mousy"! So excited to see you up there, again, doing what you love! Enjoy every minute!*

*Love, Mom, Dad, Riley, Abby, Lovie, and Sophie!*



