

**youth
theatre!
northwest**


the
PRINCESS
and the
frog

July 15th and 17th

Virtual Streaming Beginning Friday July 23rd

Directed by:

CORY SOUTHWELL

Written by:

KATE SWENSON

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FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Emerging out of a year of confusion, fear, and stress from “All Around the World (La La La La La),” I was initially questioning how well this younger cast would collectively tackle the three-week, whirlwind intensity of summer stock.

In the thirteen rehearsal days leading up to their first performance, this “All Star” team of actors showed day-after-day that those worries were completely unfounded. This resilient cast “Straight Up” exceeded every challenge in every way.

- On our first day of rehearsal, we were “Livin’ La Vida Loca” with record high temperatures. Not a single actor complained.
- In our second week, when the water had to be shut-off for 24 hours of plumbing repairs, we just said “I Want You Back,” but we continued with our work.
- Distancing, masks, daily health screenings, and gallons of hand sanitizer were constant reminders that you “Can’t Touch This” ... or anything really.
- When I would be asking them to do something potentially nerve-inducing or ridiculous on stage, they would understand that as the director “I Want It That Way” and bravely jumped right in.
- Actors were “Torn” out of their comfort zones and grew together in new ways.
- When I was teaching choreography “Step By Step,” these actors were so patient with my inability to count and move at the same time. I’d laugh and say “Oops...I Did It Again,” but they remained understanding, supportive, and trusting in a way that cannot be taught.
- And “Finally” the way this cast looks out for each other was “Tearin’ Up My Heart” in the best of ways. Truly a director’s dream.

I am convinced now, more than ever, of the healing powers of making art together. And how important creating, joy, and laughter are to healing the soul. If the “Music”...makes the people...come together...now, does that make us all collectively a part of the “Rhythm Nation”?

The Princess and the Frog is a play about community, friendship, and cheering for the underfrog. People, or in this case not-people, working together from a place of love to forge a better tomorrow.

Just like Frieda and her friends, these actors are showing me that our hearts will go on...and on. And that the finish line can be a warm and welcoming place.

“Y’all ready 4 this?”

Cory Southwell
Director



From Youth Theatre Northwest’s 2015 production of *The Princess and the Frog*.

CAST LIST (In order of appearance):

Fairy Godperson/Scarlet	Chloe B.
Frieda the Frog	Kiseki B.
Friend/Lobster	Phoenix C.-R.
Sidekick/Shrimp	Käthe S.
Real Princess Minerva	Kirsten B.
Shoo Fly	Catie O.
Dragonfly	Fiona S.
Sidney Salamander	Harper A.
Cameron Chameleon	Maya N.
Vinchi Vulture	Wolfric H.
Feather Red	Ori T.
Feather Blue	Viola H.
Feather Yellow	Lizzie K.

ACTOR'S BIOS (Alphabetical by first name):

Catie O. (Shoo Fly) is very excited to be part of the cast for *The Princess and The Frog* this summer. Catie is 8 years old and is in the 3rd grade at Discovery Elementary School. Catie's previous productions include *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *The Greatest Showman* (Helen), & *Aladdin* (Abu). This is her first experience with Youth Theater Northwest and is thrilled to be part of such a great cast! Outside of the theater you can find Catie at ballet class, swimming, playing the violin or reading a good book.

Chloe B. (Fairy Godperson/Feather Scarlet), 8, is thrilled to be part of this unique rendition of *Princess & The Frog*. She always wanted to be part of a "cheering squad", so she is very gracious of all the wonderful YTN artists who gave her this opportunity. Battle of "Cheers" reminds her of battle of "Band" from *Reluctant Dragons*, very original. She wishes she could be "Fairy Godlady" 4ever sparkling the world with her magic wand. The props are simply magnificent, and her Tie-Dye costume is simply splendid-landiful. She loves singing + dancing + creating stories and would love to be part of a band. "Break a leg" to all the magical friends she made during this exhilarating production!

Fiona S. (Dragonfly) is ecstatic to be a part of *Princess and the Frog*, her first mainstage production, and is overjoyed for the opportunity to do it with YTN. She is 9 years old and in 4th Grade at Lakeridge Elementary, and loves to apply the kindness and passion she uses in the classroom to theater. When not performing, Fiona channels her boundless energy into other loves like choir, dance, piano, gymnastics, swimming, paddle boarding, and basketball.

Harper A. (Sidney Salamander) Harper is thrilled to be a part of *The Princess and the Frog* after a successful run of *The Wizard of Oz* at YTN earlier this year. She is 8 years old and in 3rd grade at

Northwood Elementary. When not at the theatre, you can find Harper killing it on the softball field, drawing, or doing funny impressions. Thanks to this fabulous cast and crew, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Käthe S. (Shrimp/Sidekick) is 9 years old, attends Westside School, and this is her second Summer stock production. When Käthe is not at Youth Theatre she can be seen in Ballet class, drum & piano lessons, reading, or hanging out with friends. Every possible minute that her parents allow, she can be found in Minecraft, or creating new Pokémon trainers in Procreate.

Kirsten B. (Real Princess Minerva) is 11 years old goes to St Therese Catholic Academy and she is going into grade 6. This is her first show at Youth Theater Northwest, but Kirsten has done other shows at Stage Struck. She has four sisters. Outside of acting Kirsten does choir, swimming, skiing, baking, and she loves to read.

Kiseki B. (Frieda the Frog) is in her 3rd show at Youth Theatre Northwest and is ecstatic to have a main role. Her favorite roles include: *Flora and Ulysses* (William Spiver) and *The Wizard of Oz* (the two good witches) at Youth Theatre Northwest, *Godspell Jr.* (Disciple Ensemble) and *Aladdin Jr.* (Jasmine) at Village Theatre. When she's not performing, Kiseki can be found reading, cooking and enjoying the beautiful weather outside. She hopes you enjoy *The Princess and the Frog!*

Lizzie K. (Feather Yellow) is excited for her performance in *Princess and the Frog* and this is her third show at YTN. She is going into 6th grade this fall at IMS, and when she is not acting, she loves drawing, dancing, and cooking.

Maya N. (Cameron Chameleon) Maya is 9 years old and will be going into 5th grade at Eastside Preparatory School. This is her second show with YTN. Her first show was *The Reluctant Dragon* which was also directed by Cory. Every year Maya does a variety of camps and activities at YTN. She plays Badminton and enjoys reading; her parents say “a bit too much!” and drawing. She would like to give a shout out to the quote unquote “Villains” that you will see very soon. They are actually very nice people, and it took a lot of hard work to develop their “mean” personality. Maya hopes you enjoy our play, *The Princess and the Frog!*

Ori T. (Feather Red) 10 years old, is a 5th grader at West Mercer Elementary. *Princess and the Frog* is her fifth YTN production. You might also have had a chance to see her as Bielke in *Fiddler on the Roof*, or lately, as Gary in *Sidekick Island*. Besides her love to the theatre, Ori practices Karate and loves hanging with her friends, her siblings, and with her turtle Willit.

Phoenix C.-R. (Lobster/Friend) *Princess and the Frog* is Phoenix's first stage show, but he has been active at YTN as an audience member and class participant since he was just two months old and was too mesmerized to fuss while watching his brother in *The Hobbit*. Phoenix is 7 years old and going into 2nd Grade at West Mercer. When not at YTN he is usually jumping around, playing with his hamster Toffee or his two dogs, or playing Minecraft with his cousin via FaceTime. Phoenix hopes you have as much fun watching the show as he has had being a part of it!

Viola H. (Feather Blue) is 9 years old and going to be a fourth grader this fall. “Princess and the Frog” will be her 4th production at YTN. She most recently appeared in “The Wizard to Oz” as Toto. Viola is excited to be a part of this fun-filled play with lots of unique characters. Besides acting, Viola loves reading, drawing, playing video games, and anything about animals! She enjoys taking care of her pet

cat and tortoise and playing with them. She also recently started playing the flute and soccer. Hope you'll enjoy the show!

Wolfric H. (Vinci Vulture) Wolfric is so excited for his 1st show at YTN -- after being in the audience for so many shows and participating in YTN camps for several years. Wolfric is excited to take on the role of Vinci Vulture in *The Princess and the Frog* this Summer. He is 7.5 years old and going into 2nd grade at St. Thomas School in Medina. Outside of YTN, Wolfie can be found building LEGOs, playing video games, playing soccer (and tormenting his older sister Eowyn!). Enjoy the show!

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Director	Cory Southwell
Set Designer	Brian Jackson
Costume Designer	Natasha Gier
Prop Designer	Christy Fox
Sound Designer	Troy Lund
Stage Manager	Michael Yakovich
Assistant Stage Manger	Annika Evens
Directing Assistant/Crew	Kyle G.
Marketing Intern	Mai N.
Technical Director	Brian Jackson

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS:

Cory Southwell (Director) Over his time at YTN Cory has worn many hats: educator, stage manager, prop designer, director, and Program Assistant. This past year at YTN Cory directed the Young Stage cast of *The Wizard of Oz*, stage managed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, directed *Sidekick Island*, and created props for *Men on Boats*. He is a graduate of Emerson College, with a degree in Theatre Education. Cory has been a state judge for the Washington State Poetry Out Loud Festival, completed the Washington State Teaching Artist Training Lab, and designed props for MoPop.

Brian Jackson (Set Designer, Technical Director) has been with Youth Theatre Northwest since 2003 as the Technical Director and a set designer. He has also worked with Seattle theater companies such as Seattle Scenic Studios, The Group Theatre, On the Boards, The Bathhouse Theatre, 14/48, Northwest Actors Studio, and Theatre Schmeater. He is grateful to be a part of an amazing YTN staff and production company. He'd like to thank the production team, crew, and the talented cast for their hard work.

Natasha Gier (Costume Designer) has been costuming with YTN since 2009, when she accidentally landed a costume internship here while studying fashion design. Loved it so much, and still going strong with more than 25 shows like *The Hobbit*, *Jungle Book*, and *Rent* under her belt with the theatre. When not designing a show, she still is found behind a sewing machine, making custom costumes, corsetry and even the occasional wedding dress.

Christy Fox (Prop Designer) is so thankful to be a part of this production and at YTN! It feels great to be doing theatre, especially in these difficult times, we need it now more than ever! It's such a wonderful outlet and community. It has been a pleasure watching the actors learn and grow through art. A few previous props at YTN - *Rescued*, *Flora and Ulysses*, *Through the Looking Glass*, *Rules of Comedy*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Harriet the Spy*.

Troy Lund (Sound Designer) has been designing sound, producing music and voice acting around the PNW for 25 years. He is the voice of Dr. Edgar Zomboss in the upcoming *Plants vs. Zombies 3*.

Michael Yakovich (Stage Manager) is toad-illy excited to be working with this amazing cast of swamp and sea creatures! He has been working with YTN since 2009 as an educator, prop designer, and stage manager. Thank you to Cory, Kyle, Annika, the production team, and cast for making this show a wonderful experience. Let's do this again soon!

Annika Evens (Assistant Stage Manager) was a student at YTN for 14 years both as an actor and student stage manager and is thrilled to be back as the ASM on *Princess and the Frog*. She is currently going into her senior year at Carnegie Mellon University where she is pursuing a BFA in Stage and Production Management.

Kyle G. (Directing Assistant/Run Crew) is honored to be assisting with *The Princess and the Frog* and giving back to the community that cultivated his love of theater. Recently, you may have seen him in *13 (Brett)*, *The Wizard of Oz (Cowardly Lion)*, or the grocery store (Actor Neutral). When not on stage, Kyle loves writing comedy songs and obsessing over Bo Burnham. He hopes to encounter the cast in many more productions to come. Enjoy the show!

Also this summer at Youth Theatre Northwest:



13

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