

OUR TOWN

TROUPE
10523

GUILFORD
NORTHWEST

Special Thanks to:

Anna Zillowski-Auditions

Benjamin Davis-Assistant principal

Beth Cox-Auditions

Beth Rickerts- Auditions

Candace Williams- Auditions

Corey Yngsdal-Director of Choirs

Chris Hill-Source 4/Piedmont Graphics

Denise Francisco- Principal

Greta Martin-Assistant Principal

Minh McNicholas-Auditions

Nicholas Shoaf-Auditions

Vickie Oakley-NW Treasurer

Will Stapleton-NWGHS Theatre Director

All cast & crew Parents, teachers, and NW middle community

Thank you for your continued support throughout our production.

We couldn't have done this without you! We look forward to seeing you back in April for Footloose!

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jacob Charles Luck

Producing Director

Corey Yngsdal

Music Director

Delaney Miller & Olivia Bogle

Assistant Directors

ANNA RIVABEM

Stage Manager

Kate Cohan

Assistant Stage Manager

November 17-November 19, 2022

NWGHS Auditorium



Summary

Described by Edward Albee as “the greatest American play ever written,” Our Town presents the small town of Grover’s Corners in three acts: “Daily Life,” “Love and Marriage” and “Death and Eternity.”

Our Town opened on Broadway at Henry Miller’s Theatre on February 4, 1938, produced and directed by Jed Harris. The original cast featured Frank Craven, Martha Scott and John Craven. The play returned to Broadway four times: in 1944 starring Marc Connelly; in 1969 starring Henry Fonda; in 1988 starring Spalding Gray; and in 2002 starring Paul Newman.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Stage Manager Act I - Reece Biggs*
Stage Manager Act II-Maya Adams
Stage Manager Act III-Olivia Gatewood
Emily Webb – Meagan Brady*
George Gibbs – Ryland Cooley*
Dr. Gibbs – William Cohan*
Mrs. Gibbs – Izzie Gile*
Mr. Webb – Griffin Lund*
Mrs. Webb – Ava Pike*
Rebecca Gibbs – Annabelle Lee*
Wally Webb-Spencer Lund
Sam Craig– Will Martin*
Mrs. Soames – Amelia Winter*
Howie Newsome– Sofia Gatewood
Professor Willard– Caroline Verm*
Joe Crowell/Si Crowell-Cameron Allison
Joe Stoddard-Reagan Mistysyn*
Constable Warren-Mia Christman
Simon Stimson- Rory Goss*
Woman in Balcony– Abby Swink*
Lady in Box- Zella Lautzenheiser
Belligerent man– Grady Jones
1st Dead Person– Delaney Miller*
2nd Dead Person– Harley Campbell
Ensemble-Gavin Brown
Ensemble-Ava Hepler
Ensemble-Calla Campbell
Ensemble-Haven Swayze
Ensemble-Abigail Teauge

*= Denotes Member of JR International Thespian Society Troupe 10523.

Students who are members of the International Thespian society earn points by their service to theatre arts and recognizes their commitment to our theatre program to recognize their outstanding achievement.

DIRECTORS NOTE

As a young person, I can remember weekends traveling through the Appalachian regions with family and friends, seeing the colors of the leaves changing, the smell of firewood burning, and the Christmas trees over the hills in the distance. During my time at Western Carolina University eight years ago, my fondest memories are of the mountain ranges appearing as I traveled through the state down I-40. Much like Grover’s Corners, Western North Carolina is steeped in its culture and heavily influenced by the diverse communities that brought people together.

Our Town is one of the greatest and most performed American plays ever written. As we go on this journey tonight, I ask you to consider when you first realized what it meant to be alive. This play is, and always will be, about us, our community, our families, and our pursuit of one another. From playing George Gibbs myself at 16 in Act I, to marrying the love of my life three weeks ago as Act II depicts. Our Town represents us and what is the most valuable thing we have: the timelessness of life, the rich traditions of our ancestors, and the footprints that started our journey thousands of years ago.

You’ve got to love life to have life, and
you’ve got to have life to love life.
Thornton Wilder

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CAST BIOS

Abby Swink she/her (Woman in balcony) Abby is excited to be a part of NWGMS Our Town after working with the stage crew in the Grease production last spring. When she's not in school, Abby can be found taking film acting classes at In-Studio and running track. She would like to thank her mom and dad for always supporting her following her dreams.

Abigail Teague (Ensemble) Abigail is excited to be back on stage in her second production. Previously she was seen in the Princess and the Pea at Oakridge elementary. Outside of school she enjoys singing, drawing, special effects, and spending time with her dogs. Abigail thanks her family for being supportive and encouraging her.

Amelia Winter (Mrs. Soames) Amelia is a 7th grader at NWGMS, recently she was seen in Grease. She enjoys taking dance and singing classes. Outside of the theatre she enjoys spending time with her family. She wants to thank all her friends and family for supporting her.

Anna Rivabem (Stage Manager) Anna is excited to be included in the production. Recently was stage manager for Grease. She loves having a family like the crew to work with and hopes everyone enjoys the play!

Annabelle Lee (Rebecca Gibbs) Annabelle is a 7th grader at Northwest Middle School. She is very excited that she got the role of Rebecca Gibbs, which she was hoping to get. After working backstage in Grease last school year, she is looking forward to being on the stage this year. Annabelle has an older sister and a younger brother. She would like to thank her brother, Davis, for helping her memorize her lines. She would also like to thank her parents, Davis and Wendy Lee, her sister Georgia, her friend Anabelle Cole, and everyone in the cast of Our Town. Rest in peace Aliyah. We all love you.

Ava Hepler (Ensemble) is thrilled to make her acting debut in Northwest Middle School's Our Town. She is an active 7th grader at NWGMS. When Ava is not in school, she is staying busy mountain biking, playing lacrosse, and spending time with her family. She wants to thank her parents and 3 siblings for always encouraging and supporting her adventurous spirit.

CAST BIOS

Ava Pike she/her (Mrs. Webb) Ava is incredibly excited to be back on the stage as Mrs. Webb! She was last seen as Jan in Grease. Ava is the current president of the JR International Thespian Society Troupe 10523 at Northwest! Other than theatre she also loves to draw and sing! Lots of love to Mom, Dad, Eli, Ezra, Miya, Ethan, and Kendall!

Cameron Alison he/him (Joe Crowell, Jr. / Si Crowell): Cameron is honored to be a part of the cast of Our Town. He was recently seen in Triad Pride Acting Company's Assassins as Billy. Prior he enjoyed working with Kernersville Little Theater in the Little Mermaid, Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars where he won "Best Male Lead in a Play" for his role as Ash. Cameron enjoys going on adventures with his family, running 5Ks and making people laugh.

Calla Campbell (Ensemble) is a 6th grade student at Northwest Middle School. She is super excited to be participating in the school's play, Our Town. Calla looks forward to theatre with Mr. Luck every week! Prior to this year, she took recreational theatre classes through Drama Kids of the Triad. When not in school, she enjoys gymnastics and taking classes at The Acting Academy.

Caroline Verm (Professor Willard): Following her debut as Patty Simcox in the spring musical Grease, Caroline has discovered a passion for theatre. She has an extensive background in music, art and dance. She began violin in first grade and ballet at age 4. She contributes to the NWGMS Orchestra, the Greensboro Symphony Youth Orchestra and dances with Greensboro Performing Arts. Caroline adores her friends and is eager for the next opportunity to take the stage. She's thankful for the support of her family.

Delaney Miller (Assistant Director, 1st Dead Person) Delaney is not a stranger to the stage, but this is her first run as an assistant director. She is very thankful for the opportunity to work behind the scenes. Prior to Our Town, Delaney played Sandy in Grease during NWGMS spring production. Locally, Delaney has been in many community productions with The Drama Center of Greensboro and The Community Theatre of Greensboro. She has been taking acting classes at in-STUDIO for the past three years in hopes to one day pursue an acting career. Delaney will debut next month in her first professional production in Goodly Frame Theatre's A Christmas Carol.

CAST BIOS

Gavin Brown (Ensemble) is very excited about starting acting. He is interested in making his own movies when he's older. He has been writing scripts since he was in second grade. Gavin is a very creative young boy and is thrilled to be part of the NWGMS theatre program. This will be his first acting play and he hopes to be in more. Gavin would like to thank Mr. Luck in believing in him and his mother for always supporting his theatrical goals. Enjoy the show.

Grady Jones (Belligerent man): This is Grady's first acting experience, and he is excited to be a part of NWGMS production of Our Town. Grady is enjoying Mr. Luck's 8th grade theatre class and can't wait to produce Footloose in the spring!

Griffin Lund he/him (Mr. Charles Webb): Griffin is so excited to be on the stage after serving as Assistant Director and sound in the NWGMS production of Grease last spring. Outside of theatre, Griffin enjoys baseball, making short films, traveling and hanging out with his friends and two brothers. He would like to thank his family and friends for supporting his dreams and always being there for him.

Harley Campbell (2nd Dead person) Harley is excited to be in the production Our Town at NWGMS. Harley's hobbies that she does outside of school are drawing, playing outside, and singing. She has 3 brothers and 1 sister. Harley loves to play the flute in band and also enjoys acting. Harley is always willing to try something new things even if it is challenging. Our Town is the first production that Harley has ever done. Harley wants to thank her brother Zane for introducing her into theater and to all her friends that has made this amazing journey with her.

Haven Swayze (Ensemble) is excited to make her acting debut in Northwest Middle School's Our Town. Haven is a 6th grader at NWGMS and has loved getting involved with the theatre department. In her spare time, she is a member of the competitive dance team at Nans School of Dance, participating in acro, hip-hop, jazz and contemporary dance. Haven wants to thank her family for supporting her and Mr. Luck for this opportunity.

Izzie Gile (Mrs. Gibbs) Izzie is very excited to be part of Our Town. Izzie performed in the musical Grease at NWGMS and in Elf Junior with the Liberty Lake Community Theater in Spokane, Washington. Izzie has always loved dance and tumbling since she was four years old. She wants to thank her family for all their support and Mr. Luck for his commitment to the play and NWGMS Drama.

CAST BIOS

Kate Cohan (Assistant Stage manager, Sound) Kate is happy to be apart of her first play. Kate has been dancing she she was 5. Outside of Theatre she enjoys art, reading, swimming, and spending time with family. She wants to thank Will her older brother “Dr. Gibbs” for sharing his love of theatre with her. Enjoy the show!

Maya Adams (Stage Manager Act II) Maya is happy to make her NWGMS debut, previously she was in The Music Man at Stagelights, Shrek the musical, High School Musical, School Of Rock, Marry Poppins, The Lion King at Broadway kids in Florida. Outside of theatre Maya enjoys singing and taking voice lessons. Maya thanks her family for supporting her dreams.

Meagan Brady she/they (Emily): Meagan is eagerly anticipating being onstage for Our Town! Her interest in acting sparked in 4th grade at Oak Ridge Elementary when she played Princess Amy in The Princess and the Pea. She recently worked backstage as a dresser for NWGMS’ first musical production Grease. Meagan has also employed her acting abilities for her Odyssey of the Mind team for the last 2 years. She is so grateful for the support of her family and team!

Mia Christman (Constable Warren) While not new to drama, this is Mia’s first year in Drama and she will be making her stage Debut in Our Town. A happy and outgoing 8th grader at NWGMS, Mia has an eclectic range of interests outside of school as well, including playing softball and volunteer work. Mia is delighted to participate in this presentation and sends a heartfelt thanks to Mr. Luck for the opportunity, and to all her family for their unconditional support!

Olivia Bogle (Assistant director) is very excited to be part of Our town! This is her first time participating in a school play and is really enjoying it. She feels like she has learned so much about theatre over the past couple of months and can’t wait to see what’s next for her! She would like to think her mom and dad for encouraging and helping her along the way.

CAST BIOS

Olivia Gatewood (Stage Manager Act III) is excited to be part of NW Middle school’s production of Our Town, this is her first appearance on a school stage. She currently enjoys Mr. Luck’s 8th grade theatre class, and in the past has participated in small theater and improv groups. When not in school Olivia enjoys listening to music, playing her guitar and basketball.

Reagan Mistysyn (Joe Stoddard) Reagan is overwhelmed with excitement to be a part of NWGMS second play production! She was in Grease this spring, and The Brothers Grimm at Little Theatre Winston-Salem in October where she takes Acting classes. She wants to thank her friends and family for helping her through this process. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Reece Biggs (Stage Manager Act 1): Reece is over the moon to share with you everything you need to know about Grover’s Corner in Act 1. Over the summer, she performed in Greensboro Community Theatre’s productions, Matilda Jr. and Little Red Riding hood. This past spring, Reece enjoyed being a part of the first musical production at NW Middle School, Grease. She will perform in Goodly Frame Theatre’s production of A Christmas Carol this December. Reece wants to thank her parents for all the support and for the new Docs.

Rory Goss (Simon Stimson) Rory serves as the Sunshine Chair for the Junior Thespian Society at Northwest Guilford Middle School. He recently was seen as Roger in Grease for NWGMS’s first theatre production in April 2022. He has since trained at UNC School of the Arts’ Acting Out intensive and sings tenor in his church’s choir. He would like to thank Mr. Luck & Mr. Yngsdal for their patience & encouragement. He would also like to thank Kate Cohan for keeping the cast focused during rehearsal.

Ryland Cooley (George Gibbs) Ryland is thrilled to be a part of Our Town! This is Ryland’s second stage performance with NWGMS Drama Club. He most recently was Teen Angel in Grease! Ryland was named All County Chorus once again in 2022 and 2019 and National Honors Chorus for 2019. When he’s not singing and acting, he enjoys swimming and getting together with friends. Ryland thanks all who have supported him in his passion for music and theatre. He knows without their appreciation of his abilities, none of this would be possible.

CAST BIOS

Sophia Gatewood (Howie Newsome) is a new student at NW Middle school as an 8th grader and is excited to be part of Our Town. Over the last 2 years she has enjoyed participating in small theatre and improv groups. When not in school, Sophia enjoys creating jewelry, playing piano and basketball.

Spencer Lund he/him (Wally Webb): Spencer is very excited to be a part of Our Town his first year in middle school! He took theater classes when he was younger but hasn't performed in several years and is happy to be back in theater. When he's not acting, Spencer enjoys playing baseball, video games, watching movies and spending time with his family. He wants to thank his mom and dad for supporting him in whatever he tries and his two brothers for encouraging him to try out for the play.

William Cohan (Dr Gibbs) Will is an eighth-grader who loves acting almost as much as life. He is excited to be in the second production in Northwest middle history. Will was seen in Grease this spring as Doody. Outside of the theatre, Will likes to play and watch hockey and football, and play video games. Thanks mom, dad, Kate, Grandparents and Family for supporting the theatre.

Will Martin (Sam Craig) Will previously starred in the NWGMS production of Grease. He loves acting and is excited to get on the stage again. Will is often found playing sports. Soccer is his favorite, but he enjoys them all. He can not sit still and is constantly outdoors. He is actively involved in his church youth group and loves spending time with his family.

Zella Lautzenheiser (Lady in the box) Zella is very excited about her first performance in NWGMS's Our Town. She is a current 8th grader, and one of her favorite classes is Theatre. Zella loves playing the trumpet in the band and singing. She also enjoys volunteering with preschoolers at her church in her spare time. She wants to thank her family for being supportive throughout this acting experience.

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DIRECTORS BIO

Mr. Jacob Luck resides with his wife Tatum and new pup Remi in the Piedmont Triad. Born and raised in High Point, he attended Ledford Senior High and spent five years in the band program until he took a liking to theatre arts at 14. Mr. Luck attended Western Carolina University and later graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Jacob is committed to theatre education in Guilford County Schools and a recent graduate of GCS Alternative certification track. This is Mr. Luck's 4th year of teaching and 3rd year at NWGMS. He thanks the parents and community for their support of our Drama program.

Jacob's theatre experience: Director: Grease (Northwest Guilford Middle), Upcoming Footloose Spring 2023. Actor: Regional – Upcoming A Christmas Carol, (Goodly Frame Theatre), The Lost Colony, The Hunting of The Snark (Roanoke Island Historical Association), South Pacific, Beautiful Star: An Appalachian Nativity (Triad Stage). Local – “Barfee” in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Open Space Café Theatre); “George Gibbs” in Our Town (High Point Community Theatre); “Old Fezziwig” in A Christmas Carol (Twin City Stage); “Shrek” in Shrek: the Musical; “Smee” in Peter Pan (Lexington Youth Theatre); “Edna” in Hairspray; “Norman” in The Boys Next Door (Ledford High School). Educational – Antigone, Hello Out There!, Assassins Workshop, A New Brain, Miscast (UNCG); “Chris” in Hands on a Hardbody (GTCC). Stage Management: Dembe (Paper Lantern Theatre Company). Film/TV: Ain't No Man music video, Horizon Forest products. Education: Bachelor of Arts Drama with a Minor in Musical Theatre, UNCG. In-Studio. Actors' equity candidate, SAFD Unarmed and single sword.

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Rachael Smith

Riley Lund

Savannah Mattei

Spencer Stinson

Vella Day

A Legacy of Love Aliyah Marie Thornhill 2008-2022



Aliyah attended grade school in Greensboro, NC where her love for music, theater and dancing began to flourish. She learned to play the piano, joined a dance studio and performed in dance recitals and a production of Grease where she touched the hearts of so many people. Aliyah finished middle school at Northwest Middle School in Greensboro and transferred to Riverside High School in Durham, NC where she continued to pursue her dreams. Although her time on this earth was short, we are all blessed to have had the time to know this beautiful spirit. Aliyah has left an eternal mark in this world and her memory and spirit will carry on until the end of time.

MUSIC DIRECTORS BIO

Mr. Corey Yngsdal is the Chorus Teacher at Northwest Guilford Middle School. He grew up for 13 years in South Africa, where he began pursuing his passion for music with playing piano and clarinet as well as singing in multiple choirs. During his high school years, he toured internationally with the Kwa-Zulu Natal Youth Choir (an acclaimed state choir) to Greece in 2011, Italy in 2013 and Poland in 2015, where the choir won numerous top rankings and awards.

Mr. Yngsdal completed his Bachelor's of Music Degree (B.M.) in both Music Education and Piano Performance from 2015 – 2019 at California Baptist University as well as his Master's Degree (M.M) in Choral Conducting from the University of Mississippi – Ole Miss in 2022.

Mr. Corey Yngsdal's theatre experience: Sound Of Music – Kurt von Trapp (2009), Hairspray – Wilbur Turnblad (2014), Mary Poppins – Associate Music Director (2018).

2023 SPRING MUSICAL AUDITIONS DECEMBER 10

