

# THE EHSYF Star

Issue 2

May 2017

## Auditions



### AUDITIONS FOR **"DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID"**

presented by  
*East Hartford Summer Youth Festival* will be:

Thursday, May 25th at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, May 30th at 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 4th- 6-7pm

*(Sunday Appointment only-limited space available)*

Call Backs: Sunday, June 4th at 7 pm

*(By Invitation Only)*

**This Production is Open to Ages 10 and Up**

Auditions will be held at the  
**East Hartford Community Cultural Center,**  
50 Chapman Place, East Hartford, CT. 06108.

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) 421 West 54th Street, New, NY.

For more information, including audition requirements and show dates, please visit [www.ehsyf.org](http://www.ehsyf.org).

## What We're Up To

These days the EHSYF Board is busy with our fundraising efforts, so that we can make this summer's production as magical as we know it can be! Thank you to everyone who attended our Rural Legend fundraising concert and a huge thank you to Mark Weaver (an advisor on our Board and drummer in our pit orchestras!) and the band for their generosity! The talented local band donated all ticket sales to our organization and we are so grateful! The evening was a blast and we look forward to offering more Rural Legend concerts in the future!

We are so excited to have begun production meetings ahead of this summer's show. Most recently, some of the production staff met to discuss set design and how best to create the beautiful world of *The Little Mermaid* and let's just say- the audience is in for a treat!

## Upcoming Events- Dates

**TBA so keep an eye out!**

**Dining Out Fundraisers**

**Sweet Frog Night- Tentatively 7/7**

**Game Tournament FUNdraiser**

**Summer Show Rehearsals and Social Events**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 What We're Up To
- 1 Auditions
- 2 Introducing Our Artistic Team
- 2 Blast From the Past Photo
- 2 Meet the Member and Board Member
- 2 We want to hear from you! & Did You Know?

## INTRODUCING OUR ARTISTIC TEAM



**JOY GRABOW**  
Artistic Director

Joy Grabow has been the Theatre Advisor at Daniel Hand High School in Madison, CT since 2008. After 20+ years as a professional actress, she has worked throughout the state of Connecticut writing, directing and performing in children's theatre as well as teaching classes in film, television, musical theatre, acting and audition techniques, improvisation and dance. As an arts educator, Joy has created a number of theatre programs in many CT schools. Joy would like to thank all who are involved in the "East Hartford Summer Youth Festival" for inviting her to be a part of such a wonderful adventure.



**JASON PHILLIPS**  
Music Director

Jason Phillips is thrilled to have a chance to work alongside the talented youth in the East Hartford area this summer for the production of *The Little Mermaid*. This is Mr. Phillips' 15<sup>th</sup> time music directing a musical, but the first time with this group, although he assisted EHSYF with the production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (2012) and the *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala* (2014). Mr. Phillips has been teaching chorus and general music at Hall Memorial School in Willington since 2007. He has been actively involved in theater for over 20 years in all facets of it, with his favorite music directed shows being *Avenue Q*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Seussical*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Finally, Mr. Phillips is highly appreciative to work with Greer Cunningham and Al Girard since they have a true passion for theatre, and is grateful to work alongside them for this journey "Under the Sea."



**GREER CUNNINGHAM-PATTISON**  
Choreographer

An actor, singer, and dancer since childhood, Greer Cunningham-Pattison received formal theatre training at the Greater Hartford Academy of Arts and Clark University and dance training at Glastonbury Dance Center (which was owned by her mother for 32 years!). Greer's relationship with EHSYF began 12 years ago when she performed in the group's production of *Meet Me in St. Louis*. In 2011 she transitioned from performing in EHSYF shows to choreographing the summer and cabaret productions and the rest is history! She has also served on the EHSYF executive board as Secretary and currently serves as Vice President. Greer is super excited to be back this summer and to get the cast "flipping their fins" onstage!

**Blast from the past!**

**All Shook Up  
2013**





## MEET THE MEMBER

Introducing...

### Brendan Wlochowski!

Brendan is a 17 year old from Bloomfield, who attends Northwest Catholic High School. He joined EHSYF in the summer of 2015 to perform in "Seussical" as one of the Wickersham Brothers. Brendan says he can't get enough of performing and since his awesome cousin Jessie has been in EHSYF shows for many summers, he thought he'd go for it! ***We're so glad you did, Brendan!***



What he loves most about musical theater is the rush you get in front of a live audience which is something you can never truly replicate. Asked what he most loves about EHSYF, he says it is the community feeling of the group. As he puts it, "Many groups are close but what makes this group so unique is the age range. I've never seen anything like it!"

Brendan's most recent theatrical adventure was in Northwest's production of "The Little Mermaid" in March! He played Chef Louis who has a featured song, *Les Poissons!* He is looking forward to having a whole new adventure under the sea this summer with EHSYF!

Fun Fact: Brendan is part of his school's elite Jazz Choir!

## MEET THE BOARD

Introducing... **Glynis McKenzie, Treasurer**



Glynis currently serves as Treasurer of

the EHSYF Executive Board, but like all of our board members, she is a "wearer of many hats!" Glynis first became involved with EHSYF in 1981 as a performer in "Wonderful Town" because, as so many members tell us, all her friends were doing it...plus it was air-conditioned! Since then she has played many roles on and off stage: Ensemble and bit parts in shows, publicity person, set crew, painter, assistant stage manager, properties mistress, box office/ticket sales, videographer, as well as holding positions on the Board including Member-at-Large, Vice President, and Treasurer!

Glynis' favorite theatrical endeavor thus far was a production of Alan Ayckbourn's "How the Other Half Loves." The production was presented by East of the River's Cue & Curtain, an organization which was resurrected by Glynis. She co-produced and acted in Ayckbourn's play in order to improve upon what she describes as a disastrous production in high school! Cue & Curtain's most recent production was Neil Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" last month. Keep an eye out for any future productions!

Fun Facts About Glynis: 1.) Lots of people have collections - stamps, coins, shot glasses, spoons. Glynis collects programs from shows she's either seen or been involved with. 2.) She has seen Matthew Broderick on Broadway in four different shows. 3.) She does not have internet access or a smartphone and has lived to tell about it! 4.) She could use someone to help her with yard work.

\*Added by the editor: Glynis has a fantastic sense of humor!

## We'd love to hear from you!

Are you performing in any shows coming up? Let us know and we'll post it on Facebook! Do you have questions about the group or want to know how you can help out at event? Have ideas for the next newsletter or want to be featured in our Meet the Member section?

Please drop us a line at [ehsyf.inc@gmail.com](mailto:ehsyf.inc@gmail.com) or contact us through our website at [www.ehsyf.org](http://www.ehsyf.org)

If you are not already a member of our online group, please connect with us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ehsyf)

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are two shows which are tied for the title of "Musical most produced by EHSYF." Although there are several shows that EHSYF has put on two times in its over 50 year history, only "Bye, Bye Birdie" and "The Music Man" have each been performed by EHSYFers three times! Take a look at the Past Shows page on our website. Which show would you like to see again?