



MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT™

A new musical *lovingly* ripped off from the motion picture
MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail



Present:

Monty Python's
SPAMALOT

Book & Lyrics by ERIC IDLE

Music by JOHN DU PREZ & ERIC IDLE

A new musical lovingly ripped off from the motion picture

"Monty Python and the Holy Grail"

From the original screenplay by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle,
Terry Jones, Michael Palin

Original Broadway Production produced by Boyett Ostar Productions, The Shubert Organization, Arielle Tepper Madover, Stephanie McClelland/Lawrence Horowitz, Elan V McAllister/Allan S. Gordon, Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, GRS Associates, Jam Theatricals, TGA Entertainment, and Clear Channel Entertainment

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Spamalot Director's Notes

I thought a great deal about what I would write in this space when the time came. Well the time has come and my thoughts have been the same each time.

Thank you.

Thank you to Eric Idle for writing a silly show for us to do and thank you to John Cleese, Michael Palin, Terry Jones, and Terry Gilliam for taking their checks and not making a big fuss about it. Thank you to Musical Theatre International for making it available to the public. Thank you to the Membership at Theatre 7 and to Richland Community College who backed a unique, and certain to be complicated, partnership.

Thank you to Land of Lincoln Credit Union for taking kindly to some silly publicity. Thank you to Lori Sturgill everyone who participated in the planning and execution of the Celebration Spamalot activities.

Thank you to every actor who put themselves out there and auditioned for a part. Thank you to the members who showed up with tool boxes and paint brushes. Who farmed through thrift stores and called in personal favors across four counties to make this happen.

Thank you to the members of the production team. Jerry Johnson for his attention to detail and his devotion to zen. Katie Eytchison for her support and organization. Tim Cain for his endless fountain of knowledge and patience for analysis and philosophy. Amy Rankin for her perfectionism and dedication to her craft. Dina Fryman – wow. Just . . . wow. Sarah Boline for working such a group of unique individuals into a cohesive musical powerhouse, not an easy job! Marie Jagger-Taylor, what a joy you have been to finally work with. Jim Culbertson . . . amazing. It has been such a privilege.

But also . . .

Thank you to my family, I hope you still recognize me when all this is over.

Thank you to everyone who lent a hand. There are so many people who are, in big ways and in small, responsible for the production you see tonight.

Thank you to you, our audience. Though it has been a wonderful ride, ultimately, we are doing this for you. Without you, we have no reason to go on.

We are so glad you are here.

And maybe most of all, thank you to C.W. for slipping that Monty Python's Final Ripoff cassette into my hand between classes in 7th grade. It would mark the beginning of a long love affair that has led me to this very place.

From all of us to all of you. A tip of the hat. Enjoy the show.

Michelle Stephens

DRAMATURG'S NOTES

Comedy is serious business.

"Spamalot" is derived largely from the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and assorted other classic Monty Python bits. The film is another version of the tale of King Arthur, whose origin stretches back to the 11th and 12th centuries.

Given the questionable origins of the story (King Arthur as an actual flesh-and-blood king and warrior may have never even existed), "Spamalot" has as legitimate a claim to being a true story as anything else written about Arthur.

The millennium since Arthur's life (or creation) has left us thousands of works based on his story. It says something that one of the 20th century's most important comedy acts first chose to focus its first serious movie-length effort on this story. (They followed it with films about the Biblical era of Christ and about the meaning of life.) And then they chose to allow it to be re-adapted for stage.

Eric Idle was authorized by the remainder of the Monty Python troupe to convert the film into a musical, keeping them updated regularly by sending CDs regularly throughout the three-year development. While "Spamalot" is an Idle project, it can be viewed as a Python work as well, since the Pythons operated strictly by unanimous vote – if one member had rejected the idea, the project would have been abandoned. Monty Python has always used music in its comedy. Despite being set in 932, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" featured a trio of songs, all of which are reprised in "Spamalot." "Monty Python's The Meaning of Life" featured eight songs.

John Du Prez became acquainted with "Spamalot" collaborator Idle when he played trumpet on Idle's composition "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," originally in the Monty Python "Life of Brian" film and to be heard a couple of times in today's show.

"Spamalot" originally had more music. Two songs performed during the brief 2004-2005 preview run in Chicago (which was attended by many in our cast and crew, and maybe even you) were trimmed before the musical became the Tony Award-winner you see today.

Idle had a page in his original "Spamalot" notebook that said, "Never mind the plot - it's Python!" But he also understood the musical needed a more upbeat ending than the "Holy Grail" film, which ends with police driving into the middle of the set and shutting everything down. He also came to realize the audience needed to understand throughout the presentation "that it isn't just a random revue."

As the original production worked through Chicago to Broadway, additional efforts made clear "Spamalot" was more than a revue. Projections were used in the play. While the concepts were not pioneering, they were novel. A further link to Monty Python was provided when founding member John Cleese recorded an announcement that was played before the production started. (The non-Broadway versions are provided with both animations for projection and a recording of Idle making the pre-show announcement.)

One of the most fun facts about the production is it has been banned in Malaysia. Even though there have never been any plans to put "Spamalot" on anywhere in Malaysia.



Eric Idle (book and lyrics)

Eric Idle has multi-hyphenated his way through life assiduously avoiding a proper job, from a writer and actor in the legendary "Monty Python" TV series and movies, to the creator and director of "The Rutles," the pre-fab four, whose legend will last a lunchtime. He has appeared on stage in drag singing rude songs at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl as well as performing in two highly successful tours, Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python (2000) and The Greedy Bastard Tour (2003), for which he journeyed 15,000 miles across North America in a bus. His Greedy Bastard Diary of that tour is published by Harper Collins. His play Pass the Butler ran for five months in London's West End; he has written two novels, Hello Sailor and The Road to Mars, a children's book, The Quite Remarkable Adventures of the Owl and the Pussycat, and a bedside companion, The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book.

John Du Prez (music)

John Du Prez, a Trevelyan Scholar at Christ Church, Oxford, and Associate of the Royal College of Music, entered the film industry in 1978 composing additional music for Monty Python's Life Of Brian. This began a long association with Eric Idle, leading eventually to their current writing partnership. He has scored more than 20 feature films including The Meaning of Life, A Private Function, A Fish Called Wanda, Once Bitten, UHF and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles I, II and III. Other Python projects include The Contractual Obligation Album, Monty Python at the Hollywood Bowl and The Fairly Incomplete & Rather Badly Illustrated Monty Python Song Book. He was musical director for Eric Idle's two North American stage tours, Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python (2000) and The Greedy Bastard Tour (2003). This is his Broadway debut.

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Cast & Crew

Michelle Stephens.....	Director
Jerry Johnson.....	Set Designer/Dennis Galahad
Sarah Boline.....	Vocal Director
Amy Rankin.....	Sound and Animation Design
Dina Fryman.....	Costume Designer
Marie Jagger-Taylor.....	Choreographer
Jim Culbertson.....	Musical Director
Katie Eytchison.....	Stage Manager
Seth Stedman.....	Scene Artist
Tim Cain.....	Dramaturg
Rachel Albrecht.....	Lady of the Lake
Jayson Albright.....	Robin
Doug Bishop.....	Lancelot
Megan Bresnan.....	Laker Girl
Merijha Branson.....	Minstrel
Marcus Brown.....	Bedevere
Juli Case.....	Laker Girl
Andrew Curry.....	Tim the Enchanter
Rob Eytchison.....	Sir Bors
Philip Finn.....	Dropper Off of the Dead
Geoff Cowgill.....	The Black Knight
Madison Grider.....	Second Coconut Guard/Minstrel
Dana Gruen.....	Laker Girl
Josh Hammon.....	Not Dead Fred
Tanya Haubner.....	Minstrel
Louise Haun.....	Woman of Distinction
Carly Hitchens.....	Laker Girl
RuthAnn Holmes.....	Bedevere's Patsy
Kevin Jones.....	Guard in Swamp Castle
Adam Lewandowski.....	Herbert
Dreux Lewandowski.....	The Knight of Ni
Tony Magagna.....	Brother Maynard/Mrs. Galahad
Amber Montgomery.....	Historian
Devin Moretti.....	Laker Girl
Alexys Morgan.....	Laker Girl
Tristyn Morgan.....	Man of Distinction
John D. Poling.....	The Minstrel
Scott Rueter.....	French Taunter
Joshua Sisson.....	First Coconut Guard
Josh Sowa.....	Patsy
Emily Steele.....	Woman of Possibility
Zach Stewart.....	Galahad's Patsy
Terri Tate.....	Robin's Patsy
Vineece Thompson.....	Woman of Interest
Bill Workman.....	Herbert's Father
Elijah Wendt.....	Mayor of Finland/Ensemble
Cameron Williams.....	Concorde

THE MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

Tuning

Overture

"Historian's Introduction to Act I" – Historian

"Finland" / "Fisch Schlapping Dance" – Mayor and Company

"Monk's Chant" – Company

"King Arthur's Song" – King Arthur, Patsy*

"I Am Not Dead Yet" – Not Dead Fred, Lance, Robin, and Bodies

"Come with Me" – King Arthur, Lady of the Lake, and Laker girls

"Laker Girls Cheer" – Laker Girls

"The Song That Goes Like This" – Sir Galahad and Lady of the Lake

"All for One" – King Arthur, Patsy, Sir Robin, Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad and Sir Bedevere

"Knights of the Round Table" – Company

"The Song That Goes Like This" (Reprise) – Lady of the Lake

"Find Your Grail" – Lady Of The Lake and Company

"Run Away!" – Company

(Intermission consists of two 7½-minute breaks, presented consecutively)

Act II

"Historian's Introduction to Act II" – Historian

"Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" – Patsy, King Arthur, Knights, and Knights of Ni

"Brave Sir Robin" – Sir Robin and Minstrels

"You Won't Succeed on Broadway" – Sir Robin and Ensemble

"Whatever Happened to My Part?" – Lady Of The Lake

"Where Are You?" – Prince Herbert

"Here Are You" – Prince Herbert

"His Name is Lancelot" – Sir Lancelot, Prince Herbert, and Ensemble

"I'm All Alone" – King Arthur, Patsy, and Knights

"Twice in Every Show" – Lady Of The Lake and King Arthur

"Act II Finale: I Am Not Dead Yet (Reprise) / Find Your Grail (Reprise) / The Song That Goes Like This (Reprise II)" – Company

"Bows: Always Look on the Bright Side of Life (Reprise)" – Company and Audience

Biographies



Katie Eytchison (Stage Manager)

Katie Eytchison is happy to be joining the cast of Spamalat for her second Theatre 7 show. Her "day job" is working for Peerless Cleaning and Restoration as a customer service rep. (read: stage manager of the office). Katie spent several years working in regional opera as an Assistant Stage Manager at Nashville Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Fort Worth Opera, Chattanooga Symphony and Opera and Sarasota Opera. Her alma matter include University of Illinois at Springfield (for a MA in English) and Eastern Illinois University where she fell in love with theatre. Thanks to all the members of the wonderful production team! Katie would like to thank her family and friends for all their support, and lots of love to her husband Rob.



Seth Stedman (Scene Artist)

Seth Stedman is an artist definitively. With degrees in the Arts, Fine Art and Liberal Science, he works toward an ideal goal of self-awareness, education and understanding of all people - especially himself. Seth has worked on a couple of theatrical productions, most notably, Assassins. He lends his talents with the hope of bettering the community.



Tim Cain (Dramaturg)

Tim is entertainment editor at the Herald & Review. He acted in Richland Community College's production of "Buried Child" and in the film "The Informant!" His book about Decatur Celebration was published in the summer. His favorite part of this experience has been trying to explain what a dramaturg does.



Rachel Albrecht (Lady of the Lake)

Rachel is thrilled to make her Theatre 7 debut! Favorite past roles include Adelaide (Guys & Dolls), Marian Paroo (The Music Man), Annie Oakley (Annie Get Your Gun), Janet Weiss (The Rocky Horror Show), Lily St. Regis (Annie), and Florinda (Into the Woods). She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received a B.A. in Theatre & Drama with an emphasis in scenic painting. She thanks to her incredible family for their continuous love and support and to Matt for believing in her and always keeping her laughing.



Jayson Albright (Robin)

Mr. Albright has worked in a cheese shop, a pet shop, a book shop, some shops with an extra P and an E, and (it goes without saying) an Indonesian Disco-theque. He is married with one frog, two ex-snails, a wee angry fish, and a photograph of a relaxing Lincoln. He would like to thank the law firm of Jack, Haven, Kennedy, & Luke for [REMOVED FOR LEGAL PURPOSES]; the R & D Department for birthing such a fine working model; and the lovely and oh-so patient Tedlyn for all the wonderfully supportive eye rolls. To Sirs Chapman, Cleese, Gilliam, Idle, Jones, and Palin: Bravo. Thanks. Wik.



Doug Bishop (Lancelot)

Doug is a Theatre 7 veteran and has also been in the RCC productions of Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead and Assassins, both directed by Michelle Stephens. He is a life-long Monty Python fan and credits his brothers for introducing him to them at a very young age. He would like to thank his beautiful wife Susan and his family for their support in his love for performing.



Megan Bresnan (Laker Girl)

Megan began acting at age 6 when she was cast as a munchkin in St. Teresa High School's production of The Wizard of Oz. Since then, she has acted in Murder at Monroe Place, Romeo, Beatrice and Toto too!, How to Kiss a Girl, Beauty and the Beast, The Drowsy Chaperone and Jesus Christ Superstar while attending St. Teresa High School. In the summer of 2013, she was cast as Helena in Richland's Discovery Theater production of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. In the fall of 2013 she played the role of Shelly in the Richland Community College production of Buried Child. Megan is a senior at St. Teresa High School and is an accomplished singer and dancer. Theater 7's production of Spamalot is her first of many Theater 7 experiences to come. She is honored to be in this production as she is growing in her acting career. She would like to thank her parents and her family for their continuous support in working towards her dreams and for always believing in her.



Merijha Branson (Minstrel)

Merijha has participated in over 30 productions in a variety of positions including acting, costuming, makeup, and directing. She'd like to thank her boys Hutson and Ethan for being supportive and patient so she could attend rehearsals. Her biggest thanks goes to her husband Ryan, for motivating her to reach for her dreams and being her biggest fan. "Life is so much more fulfilling with you by my side."



Marcus Brown (Bedevere)

Marcus is excited to join the cast. After his last role, the Bartender in *Marrying Terry*, he is excited to also have lines to say this time. Among his most favorite roles are Purlie in *Purlie Victorious* and Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Mostly, though he loves the camaraderie of a good company in a good show. He is thankful that his family allowed him a little time to go explore his inner Knight.



Juli Case (Laker Girl)

When Juli isn't singing songs about fischschlappung and the holy grail, she's often writing. Her fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in journals such as *Willow Springs*, *Witness*, *Water-Stone Review*, and *Chautauqua*, and she's currently working on a short story collection and a novel. You should definitely read all of her stuff. She sings with the Greater Decatur Chorale and teaches English at Millikin University.



Andrew Curry (Tim the Enchanter)

Andrew has been an active member of Theatre 7 in front of and behind the curtain for eight years. Some of his favorite roles include Joe in *God's Favorite*, Jack in *Leading Ladies*, Charles in *Bliethe Spirit*, and Dr. Terry Adams in *Marrying Terry*. Some of his favorite back stage positions have been directing *You Can't Take it with You* and *Play On*; stage managing *The Music Man*, *The Baseball Show*, and *Suds*; and helping with set construction for *Rumors* and *T*.



Rob Eytchison (Sir Bors)

You may remember Rob from the bleachers at Wrigley Field (Bleacher Bums), the penthouse suite at the Drake hotel (*Marrying Terry*) and Gainesville, GA (Cotton Patch Gospel). But now he finds himself in medieval England as part of a wacky, musical quest. This is Rob's fourth show with Theatre 7 and he is excited to join such a fun production. For over 13 years Rob has been a full time photographer with Interstate Studios where he takes school photos and trains seasonal employees. In his spare time Rob is active at First Presbyterian Church in Decatur with his wife, Katie. Much thanks to the directors and cast of *Spamalot* for this amazing journey - especially his wife, the Stage Manager.



Philip Finn (Dropper Off of the Dead)

Philip studied theater and opera in Cleveland in the 1970s and 1980s, performed most of the major oratorios in concerts and spent a summer in The Great Lakes Theater Festival. He moved to Decatur in 2000. His most recent roles were in [sic] and as Bradley in Sam Shepard's Buried Child. Used to younger parts, he finds his recent roles as an elderly grey caterpillar in a puppet adaptation of Trina Paulus' Hope for the Flowers, the ageless Proprietor in Stephen Sondheim's Assassins and an old math professor in Proof to be a disconcerting pattern, but he's reading Lear, Prospero and Falstaff just in case. Philip's favorite role is Long John Silver.



Geoff Cowgill (The Black Knight)

Mr. Cowgill was born in 1972 and, as of this writing, is still alive and residing in seclusion with his wife and two children in the wilds of Central Illinois. Cowgill's first professional acting work came in 1990 when he was cast as murdered homecoming queen Laura Palmer for the ABC television program Twin Peaks. Unfortunately, after the pilot was filmed the part was recast and the new performer was edited into the broadcast episode. Similar setbacks derailed Mr. Cowgill's acting career until it was saved from obscurity by this production of Spamalat. In November 2006 Cowgill was fully legally exonerated for any complicity in the Lindbergh baby kidnapping. #DUKAKIS88



Madison Grider (Second Coconut Guard/Minstrel)

Madison has been on the stage since she was very young, whether it was for ballet, music theatre or choir. For several years, she wanted to be a "rockstar" before desiring to be on Broadway. Singing and dancing have always been her favorite way of expressing herself, as well as watercolor painting and writing. She has decided to pursue a career in photography, an opportunity for her to travel the world and capture the beauty and awe of the people and nature of Earth.



Dana Gruen (Laker Girl)

Whether on the stage or in the audience, Dana has always loved theater, singing, and dancing! From parts in high school plays, being in the cast of the Jedemi 2008 production The Full Monty to writing songs for and lead singer in a band, Dana would go wherever the arts wind will send her including her current independent hair stylist career of 30 years!



Josh Hammon (Not Dead Fred)

A Decatur native, this is Josh's first show with Theater 7. He loves acting and singing, however dancing seems to be his one weakness. Maybe being a pushover too. And not working too well in groups. So I guess he has three weaknesses, with dancing being the first. Oh, and not speaking up enough, if that makes sense. That makes four... Yeah.



Tanya Haubner (Minstrel)

Tanya Haubner- After a 25 year Hiatus from Theatre and Shows, Tanya is thrilled to be returning to the stage. She has always been involved with Music and Theatre, spending her summers working with BOSS and the Park Singers, and school years on many musicals including Bye-Bye Birdie and Now and Then Muscial Reviews. Tanya is Married to Brian Haubner and they have 4 amazing kids and a grandson



Louise Haun (Woman of Distinction)

Louise, a retired Bank Officer and Real Estate Agent, has been singing in public since she was 5 years old. At 16, she was offered a contract from RCA to go professional. Her mother said, "NO." Starting in the fifth grade thru High School, she did programs at the Chanute Air Force Base. During this time, she sang with the Vermilion County Chorus, performed at the Illinois State Fair, sang at nursing homes, American Legion events and all of the plays and musicals in High School. Later she sang with the Greenville College Choir for 4 years in Messiah and Isaiah. She loves music, helping people and learning new things. She loves being busy and her daughter tells her that she can't keep up with her. She volunteers for eight different organizations and is hoping to find a part-time or full-time position. She is the mother of four, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of seven. Her husband, the late Lt. Col. Richard D. Haun, served in U.S. Army/Illinois Army National Guard.



Carly Hitchens (Laker Girl)

Carly is a junior at Maroa-Forsyth High School this year. She hopes to attend college in a few years while majoring in business and minoring in theater. She loves to perform and is excited to be a part of the ensemble in Spamalot. She would like to thank her parents and brother for always believing in her and her choir director at MFHS, Christopher Weisenborn, for being her biggest supporter and role model.



RuthAnn Holmes (Bedevere's Patsy)

RuthAnn is a native of Decatur where she taught for Decatur Public schools. She has appeared in T7 productions of The Baseball Show, Blithe Spirit as Madame Arcadi, Marrying Terry, and RCC's production of [sic]. She has also worked backstage as dresser, house manager, stage manager, stage crew, and prop master. RuthAnn loves to garden, read, crochet, and volunteering at the carousel at Scovill Zoo! Joining Theatre 7 has been an awesome experience. She thanks Jim for allowing her to have the time of her life, and thanks Theatre 7 for allowing her to have such fun!



Jerry Johnson (Dennis Galahad)

Jerry has been involved in theatre around Decatur since 1983. He has had the opportunity to fill many roles both onstage and backstage with Theatre 7, Richland Community College, JeDeMi Productions, and others. A few of his favorites include directing The 39 Steps and performing as Richard in Desperate Affection, Duke in The Great American Trailer Park Musical, and Roger/Gary in Noises Off. He would like to thank his wife Patsy for her infinite patience these past 30 years.



Kevin Jones (Guard in Swamp Castle)

Kevin started his acting career at age 5 when he convinced his mother that he did not break the vase. From this point, his career took off. Some of his roles included: Angel #2, Malchus, Jesus, The Devil, King George, and A Tree. As you can see, Kevin has done it all. However, church and school plays aside, this is his first "real" gig. He is honored to be a part of this play. Kevin can be seen at Garfield Montessori School teaching children of all ages (actually, between 10 and 15). He can also be seen driving around Decatur with his beautiful wife Nicole and two awesome kids (Abby and Ty). And yes, he enjoys ham and jam and Spam a lot!



Adam Lewandowski (Herbert)

Adam is grateful to have a chance to work on a wonderful show with a great cast and crew. He has been seen in past shows like last season's Bleacher Bums, Almost Maine, and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Adam would like to thank Dreux, Dane, and Stacey for their constant support.



Dreux Lewandowski (The Knight of Ni)

Dreux has been active with T7 both on and off stage since 2008. Spamalot is his dream musical full of zany characters funny bits and accents. Dreux thanks his wife, Peggy, for allowing him time to do one more show. He is excited to be working with both familiar and new talent and wishes all a hearty Ni Peng, Ni Wom!



Tony Magagna (Brother Maynard/Mrs. Galahad)

Tony is originally from Wyoming and moved to Decatur (by way of California) in 2009. He is an Assistant Professor of English at Millikin University. If you don't count his overly theatrical hand gestures while teaching, Spamalot marks his stage debut. So, why now and why this one? Well, he loves Monty Python. And Spam. A lot.



Amber Montgomery (Historian)

Aside from high school, with dramatic representations of classic fairy tales, this is Amber's first production in front of a live audience. Therefore, she has no theatre accomplishments of which to speak. She was born and raised in Decatur and is a life-long Monty Python fan. So, since she is not year dead, what better way to enter the theatre community than with Monty Python's Spamalot?

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Alexys Morgan (Laker Girl)

Alexis has been a part of many theatrical productions including Midsummer Moon Productions performances of Narnia, The Wizard of Oz, Seussical, Tarzan, and A Christmas Carol. She will also be in Decatur Underground Theatre's production of West Side Story. In her free time, she enjoys riding, showing and training her horses, spending time in nature with her pets (dogs, cats, horses, goats, chickens and rabbits), photography, reading and listening to music. She has spent several years volunteering and working at Brighter Pastures teaching children to ride horses. She is currently attending Richland Community College and is majoring in Biology and minoring in Theatre.



Tristyn Morgan (Man of Distinction)

Tristyn has been a part of many theatrical productions including Midsummer Moon Productions performances of Narnia, The Wizard of Oz, Tarzan, and A Christmas Carol. He also helped backstage for Seussical and will be in Decatur Underground Theatre's performance of West Side Story. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, playing his guitar, spending time with his pets, riding, training and showing his horse, reading, and photography. He is a volunteer at Brighter Pastures. He is attending high school at Morgan Learning Academy.



John D. Poling (The Minstrel)

John is on a movie adaption roll with Spamalat. Five of his last shows have been movies adapted as musicals or plays. This list includes White Christmas (Sheldrake), It's a Wonderful Life (Clarence), Nine to Five (Dick Bernley), and Shrek - The Musical (Mad Hatter). Theatre 7 audiences may remember him as Johnny Angel in Suds (2010) and Sid in The Pajama Game (2009). His last Richland Theatre appearance was in the 2012 production of The Laramie Project. Recent dramatic roles include Axel in The Pelican, Greg in Middletown by Will Eno, and Richard in Fabulation by Lynn Nottage. John has also directed for the Theatre 7, and he was one of the 2012 winning playwrights of Heartland Theatre's Ten Minute Play Festival.



Scott Rueter (French Taunter)

Scott has a long and checkered history with Theater 7. First cast as Mustardseed in A Midsummer's Night's Eve at about age 11, and at 14 cast as Richard Rich in A Man for All Seasons (the only two shows in which he has appeared with his brother Bob Rueter, another Theater 7 veteran), Scott has gone on to be a part of numerous Theater 7 shows and other productions. He has worked both on and off stage in many capacities, directing several previous shows for Theater 7, including both productions of Rumors. He was recently cast in a small part in the ABC true crime re-enactment show Final Witness, available for viewing now on the interwebz. He is lucky to be tolerated by his beautiful wife, Melinda, and is the annoying father to Griffin and Kaitlyn, all of whom he loves all the way to the moon — and back.



Joshua Sisson (First Coconut Guard)

Josh is excited to perform in his first role with Theatre 7. A former sandwich artist in the Nebraska Navy, Josh is a veteran of the prestigious Beirut chapter of Short Bus Productions, where he made his first stage appearance in *Silence! The Musical*. He has portrayed Steve in *Henry V's Bogus Journey* and a very convincing lamp shade in *Annie, Cock Your Glock*. He graduated with emphasis in Bovine Faecal Facilitation from Bennigan's University with 350 degrees for 25-30 semesters. Josh also enjoys quiet meditation, collecting vegan macrame, and skeet shooting. He would like to thank his fellow actors and crew members for allowing him the opportunity to be in the building.



Josh Sowa (Patsy)

This is Josh Sowa's 11th production with Richland Theatre and his 2nd Theatre 7 production. He has a special interest in this show because he is able to mix two of the greatest loves in his life, acting and playing the coconuts. His enthusiasm for performing with coconuts started at a very young age and even predates his interest in acting. Considered by many to be a child prodigy at the art of the coconuts, Josh performed throughout the country to soldout bingo halls and packed truck stops. He was even invited to open for the widely popular *Two Coconuts One Pineapple* all fruit band but because of schedule conflicts was unable to perform. While spending the holidays in Sweden, Josh was bitten by a moose while performing at a campsite and since then has not been able to touch a coconut. This is his chance to return to his former glory and show the world he still has what it takes to be the greatest coconut player alive.



Emily Steele (Woman of Possibility)

Emily Steele is returning to theater after a long break that involved getting an education at EIU, roaming around Europe (alas, no knights to be found) and finding employment at the *Herald & Review* to pay off the debt from said roaming. Her interests include: not tripping on stage, crocheting hats with beards, belting out show tunes at inappropriate times and making obscure references.



Zach Stewart (Galahad's Patsy)

Zach is not new to the theater world, but this is his first time working with Theater 7. Zach is 2014 graduate from Warrensburg-Latham High School; he is currently attending Richland Community College for an Associate in Fine Arts. After that he plans to transfer to a university for a B.F.A in Musical Theater. Zach has been in many theater productions and has had a few major roles, such as Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, and Ton Ton in *Once on This Island*. Besides theater Zach is also a delivery driver for Jimmy Johns, and he also works at The Scream Haunted Adventure.



Terri Tate (Robin's Patsy)

Though not her first time on stage in a T7 production, this is her first time in a musical. She's had an exciting time getting to know everyone through rehearsals and the whole process of putting together the show. She thanks all the cast and crew for making good memories, and thanks and love especially to her husband, Don, for picking up the slack around the house for the last three months or so.



Vineece Thompson (Woman of Interest)

Vineece Thompson is a (2014 honors) graduate of Decatur Christian School and a freshman (Trustees Scholar) at Richland Community College. Her goal is to receive a bachelor's degree in the Performing Arts, with a major in theatre and minor in music. Vineece's interest, training, and experience in vocal and instrumental music, dance, and theatre date back to an early age; and she has participated in several high school and Best of Summer Stock productions. She plans to pursue a career in acting and screenwriting.



Cameron Williams (Concorde)

Cameron is the son of Traci Williams and grandson of Robert Williams. He was born and raised in Decatur by his mother, the main influence in his performing career. He graduated from Lincoln College with a Bachelors Degree in vocal jazz performance in May of this year and is trying to create a future where music is once again held with the highest regard in our modern society. He's always had a passion for entertaining and love to fill audiences with boundless joy that inspires people to seek the world of the fine arts. Music is his religion, the fine arts are his life, and he feels no greater joy than performing for an audience.



Bill Workman (Herbert's Father)



Elijah Wendt (Mayor of Finland/Ensemble)

SHOCKING DISCOVERY

FRENCH SABOTEURS DEFACE SPAMALOT PROGRAM



Investigations have found material was struck from the pre-prepared program you have purchased. This insert will serve to rectify the results of French villainy and sabotage (pronounced "sab-oh-TAHJ) by villainous French saboteurs (pronounced "sab-oh-TWAH").

It is most typical of the vile crepes makers that they would remove the name of our King from the priceless souvenir you currently clutch. He is our conduit to The Lord, a righteous and not-at-all-silly man whom regularly converses with the Almighty One. He is Arthur. King of the Britons. Lord and ruler of all. Of England and Scotland. And even tiny little bits of Gaul.



MITCHELL VANZANT (ARTHUR)

Mitchell is 37 years old and has lived in Decatur most of his life. He currently resides in Forsyth with his wife and three awesome children. He has been acting since junior high, following in his father's footsteps. Over the years he has done several shows with Theatre 7 and will continue to audition and support the Decatur Arts as long as he can. "It is always a great experience."

JENNIFER THEIS

(LIGHTING DESIGNER)

The French are a blot on the earth, a moldy batch of fungii, but they are not stupid fungii. They know all too well how important light can be. For if there is no light, there is no show. So naturally their terrible selves attacked the very information about our Jenn, our goddess of light. Fortunately, King Arthur and his valiant court have rescued and returned this biography from jeopardy.

Jenn currently works with the Decatur Parks and Recreation Department. She previously served as technical director at Richland Community College, designing and building in excess of a half-dozen plays. Prior to arriving in Central Illinois, she spent eight years as a theatre production technician at Montgomery College in Maryland. During her time there, she provided technical support for over twenty guest artists. Some of her favorite credits include Bill Cosby,

The Kathy and Mo Show, and Cats. Previous, Jennifer worked as a carpenter at several summer stock companies. Jennifer received her BA in Design Technical Theatre and Theatre Education from Davis & Elkins College.

As the French hate all things good, joyous and righteous, the beasts naturally tried to erase our fabulous musicians from the tome you're grasping. (Sir Robin's minstrels narrowly escaped a similar fate.) Fortunately, our musicians are so marvelous, they cannot be contained.

The conductor is Maestro Jim Culbertson. In a 40-year career in Decatur public schools, largely at MacArthur, Culbertson set a standard for instrumental music in the city. His MacArthur Jazz Bands won 38 awards from jazz magazine Down Beat. He had conducted the Decatur Municipal Band since 1979. He has toured with his son Brian, one of the world's top smooth jazz artists. He was named Decatur Citizen of the Year in 2012.

Ths musicians are:

Claire Taylor, woodwinds ("The tips Claire gave me were invaluable." - Sir James Galway)

Darrell Aydelot, woodwinds ("Plays as I would imagine Pan sounded like" - Mercia Tribune)

Mike McDonald, trumpet ("That cat is too cool for me." - Miles Davis)

Phillip Tsigolaroff, trumpet ("That dud is righteous." - Thelonius Monk)

Dick Dickinson, horn ("His next mistake will be his first one." - every musician who works with him)

Eric Dawson, trombone ("My man is a level 99 player." - Wayne Henderson)

Andy Rauff, keyboards ("The reason my costuming went over the top was because I'd never be as good as Andy Rauff." - Elton John)

Lyn Sly, keyboards ("Listen! That Lyn is just not of this earth. Too much talent." - Bono)

LaVell Peete, drums ("He can play more smoothly with one hand than any combination of Allman Brothers drummers can play with four." - Rolling Stone)

Chris Hartley, guitar ("Hea, I watch him and steal his stuff. So what?" - Eric Clapton)

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