

ARTSTREAM'S GAITHERSBURG THEATRE COMPANIES PRESENT:

# THE MAGICAL CIRCUS QUEST

&

# ARE YOU FOR REELS?!: A STORY OF MOVIE MAYHEM

**MAY 12-14 AND 19-21: FRIDAY AT 7:30PM,  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT 2:30PM**

BLACKROCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
12901 TOWN COMMONS DRIVE, GERMANTOWN, MD 20874

**VIDEO PREMIERE: FRIDAY, JUNE 2 AT 7:30PM**

FILMED PREMIERE | ZOOM



ArtStream, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit arts organization, supported by individual donors and by funding from the Montgomery County Government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and by the Maryland State Arts Council, on the web at [msac.org/recognizing-our-grants](http://msac.org/recognizing-our-grants). Additional funding comes from The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

Additional funding for the Cabaret Companies comes from Ms. Kristen N. Chou, CEO, Ning Solutions Inc.





# Theatre for an Inclusive World

**Please take our audience survey! We value your feedback. Scan the QR code to complete the survey or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/3L8TG8V](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3L8TG8V)**



# About ArtStream

ArtStream's classes, workshops, and performing companies fuel each student's imagination, creativity, and focus. And that's not all. Students improve communication and social skills and develop friendships. Newly discovered talents and capabilities improve self-esteem, poise, and confidence that extend into their daily lives. All ArtStreamers are valued for their creative contributions. ArtStream's demanding and very entertaining process encourages students to discover their creativity and strengths and perform with confidence!

*"My son has many challenges with social situations, and making new friends is very difficult. I see a really positive change in him since he began this ArtStream class! He looks forward to the class and feels comfortable with the teachers. They are fabulous."*  
— Parent of a 20-year-old ArtStream student

## Take a Performing Class

ArtStream offers performing arts classes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) — including autism. You do not need to have any acting experience to take a class.

Learn about our current classes or register for an upcoming class today.

Classes: [www.art-stream.org/take-a-class](http://www.art-stream.org/take-a-class)

## Join Our Monthly Super Social Saturdays

Practice being your best self in a group event setting. Show your skills, be silly, express yourself, practice positive social experiences, and dance!

# Attend a Show





# Looking Ahead...

## Don't Miss 2023's Performances

### **ALEXANDRIA IN-PERSON THEATRE COMPANY**

Friday-Sunday, March 17-19 and 24-26  
Friday at 7:30pm and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30pm  
Video Premiere: April 6, 7:30 p.m.

### **ALEXANDRIA VIRTUAL THEATRE COMPANY**

March 26, 3:30 p.m.  
Video Premiere: April 6, 7:30 p.m.

### **GAITHERSBURG THEATRE COMPANIES**

Friday-Sunday, May 12-14 and 19-21  
Friday at 7:30pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 pm  
Video Premiere: June 2, 7:30 p.m.

### **SILVER SPRING THEATRE COMPANIES**

Friday-Sunday, June 9-11 and 16-18, 2023  
Friday at 7:30pm and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30pm  
Video Premiere: July 6, 7:30 p.m.

### **MARYLAND CABARET FALL AND SPRING**

Monday, January 23 (fall).  
Monday, May 15 (spring) at 7:30pm.  
Video Premiere: Fall: February 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Video Premiere: Spring: June 1, 7:30 p.m.

### **VIRGINIA CABARET SPRING**

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:30pm.  
Video Premiere: June 1, 7:30 p.m.

## **Tickets**

[www.art-stream.org](http://www.art-stream.org)  
(301) 565-4567



Get Involved  
with ArtStream

# Perform with **ArtStream**

Auditions for the Theatre Companies occur in the fall for shows the following spring. Cabaret Companies hold auditions in the fall and winter.

## **Theatre Companies**

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Actors develop and perform an original musical. The company votes on a theme, creates original characters, and improvises scenes. Scenes are then scripted to become an original one-act musical. Each performance presents two of these musicals in a double bill before a live audience.

## **Cabaret Companies**

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Actors agree on a theme for ensemble music and dance performances, and then each actor works with the choreographer and music director to develop solo and small-group music, dance, or drama performances.



### **Requirements to perform**

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have participated in at least eight weeks of ArtStream classes in the past two years

### **Reserve your spot**

on the audition list by calling ArtStream at 301-830-5896.

When there is space in the company, we will invite you to join us for an audition.



Bring ArtStream  
to Your Community

# CLASSES FOR YOUR Community

ArtStream's talented Teaching Artists lead a variety of workshops and classes for groups, schools, and private organizations. Classes are designed for people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs), including autism. Learning through the arts is empowering. Classes/programs build upon entertaining and demanding games that encourage participants to be creative, to pay attention to others, to listen, to respond, and to engage with others. Classes/programs foster social connections as participants practice communication skills like eye contact, listening, and self-awareness. In the process, participants build their confidence, discover their creativity and strengths, and expand their capabilities and self-awareness. All of this, and more, while having fun!

## Programs include:

- ✓ Dance and movement
- ✓ Drama and storytelling
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Musical theatre
- ✓ Self-advocacy
- ✓ Workplace communication
- ✓ Public speaking

Contact ArtStream for more information and to design a class to fit your organization's needs. You can reach Program Manager Rachael Sutherland at [r.sutherland@art-stream.org](mailto:r.sutherland@art-stream.org) or 301-830-4588

*"As a parent and professional in the field of developmental disabilities, ArtStream is one of my favorite programs to witness and collaborate with. Attendees are more comfortable with a variety of communication partners across all settings. Even our nonverbal friends benefit from ArtStream programming, as I've heard two young adults speak for the first time during an ArtStream class. My face hurt from smiling!! Thank you, ArtStream."*  
— Jenn Lynn, Executive Director, Upcounty Resources (UCR)



# Support ArtStream



# Donate

Tuition and ticket sales cover less than half of the cost of ArtStream's programs. Your donations make it possible for actors with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) — including autism — to perform on stage, feel empowered and respected, and actively engage in our communities.

- ✓ \$75 funds a full costume for one Theatre Company actor.
- ✓ \$300 underwrites a public speaking workshop for self-advocacy and pre-employment skills.
- ✓ \$1,000 sponsors an eight-week class such as Broadway Song & Dance, Shakespeare, Directing & Design.

Donate: [www.art-stream.org/donate](http://www.art-stream.org/donate) or mail a check to:  
**ArtStream | PO Box 75090 | Chicago, IL 60675-5090**

# Volunteer

Volunteers ages 13+ are needed to help in classes, backstage, and onstage.

Volunteers are eligible for Student Service Learning (SSL) hours, and ArtStream looks great on college applications!

Groups and families are welcome.

Volunteer: [www.art-stream.org/who-we-serve/volunteer/](http://www.art-stream.org/who-we-serve/volunteer/)

Questions? Reach out to Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Katie Mraz at [k.mraz@art-stream.org](mailto:k.mraz@art-stream.org) or 703-483-5209 for more information.

# Advertise

To include your ad in our programs, please contact ArtStream.

Advertise: [c.palmore@art-stream.org](mailto:c.palmore@art-stream.org) or visit our website  
[www.art-stream.org/advertise-with-artstream](http://www.art-stream.org/advertise-with-artstream)

GAITHERSBURG A

# ARE YOU FOR REELS?! A STORY OF MOVIE MAYHEM

## Director's Note

It has been such a pleasure coming back to direct Gaithersburg Company A this year! This has been a year of transition, adaptation, and growth. From welcoming new members into our company and saying "see you later!" to familiar faces, to navigating a new performance venue, Company A has shown inspiring creativity, flexibility, and inclusivity. Just like the cast and crew in *Are You for Reels????!!!*, our actors, mentors, and staff have brought enthusiasm and positivity to every rehearsal. We all believe in the importance of stories and imagination to take us to new worlds. The pandemic has highlighted just how vital the arts are as a source for connection and joy. Even when we're dealing with divas and budget cuts, we can make amazing things happen when we work together and believe in ourselves. Thank you to all of the actors, families, friends, mentors, and staff who have supported us this year! Now sit back, relax, and let the silver screen (stage!) work its magic!

*Kristen Pilgrim – Director*

# Tonight's Performance

## Production Team

**Director:** Kristen Pilgrim

**Assistant Directors:** Pam Freedy & Lisa Troshinsky

**Original Music And Lyrics:** Wendy Lanxner

**Editors:** Pam Freedy, Lisa Troshinsky, & Wendy Lanxner

**Choreographer:** Shelley Fisher

**Lighting:** Stephen Deming

**Set Designer:** Zoe Hall

**Costume Designer:** Stefany Thomas

**Volunteer Mentors:** Nicole Acquaye, Pierre Bouvery, Taz Stone

## Cast

Nicole Acquaye as  
Claudia Jenkins

Shelley Belgard as Rosie Phoenix

Pierre Bouvery as Louie

Tyler Brown as Cyrel  
Worthington

Ben Collins as Henry

Megan Cooper as Betty De Miles

Shelley Fisher as Razz Mctazz

Adrian Forsythe Y Korzeniewicz  
as Lieutenant David

Andrea Geller as Sarah

Nader Khalaf as General Johnson

Joey Kitchelt as John Kelley

Terrel Limerick as Smith David

Matthew McMeekin as Captain  
Gideon

Tanya Meyerson as April  
Fontaine

Joe Myers as Woodman

Cecelia Pauley as Ruth Harrison

James Richard as Lando

Andrea Soltesz as Chrissy

Taz Stone as Lieutenant  
Letterman

Adam Tepper as John Silver

Lisa Troshinsky as Phyllis

GAITHERSBURG B

# THE MAGICAL CIRCUS QUEST

## Director's Note

Are we unique because of our talents or is there something deeper at play? When we lose an ability, what happens to us internally? During *The Magical Circus Quest* we have the opportunity to explore these questions. Often, we become so caught up in external acts of greatness that we forget traits such as courage, sacrifice, and remorse are just as extraordinary. Each actor gets to take their character on a journey during the show, and each journey is different. They decide and take ownership over how their characters evolve, which makes this show all the more special. Their dedication to their characters, the music, and the choreography fully rounds out a very vibrant theatrical experience. Each actor and member of the team has pushed each other as artists who are together with the goal of telling a complete story while having a good time. I hope when you watch *The Magical Circus Quest*, you will also enjoy yourself and do your own introspection on what qualities make you exceptional.

*Jordan Harris van Donselaar - Director*



# Tonight's Performance

## Production Team

**Director:** Jordan Harris van Donselaar

**Assistant Directors:** McKenna Kelly, Kristen McMillion

**Music Director:** Andy Hunt

**Choreographer:** Nicki Jacobsen

**Stage Manager/Props Designer/Costume Designer:** McKenna Kelly

**Set Designer:** Zoe Hall

**Lighting:** Stephen Deming

**Volunteer Mentors:** Syra Gosh, Jackie Palmer

## Cast

Becky Birch as Sweetpea  
(Good Witch)

Kirsten Davidson as Sandra  
(Clown)

Matt DiGilio as Jesters (Juggler)

Syra Gosh as Police Assistant

Jessica Grossman as Mindy the  
Magnificent

Peter Han as Officer Han (Police  
Officer/Police Lieutenant)

Justin Hunsinger as Demus the  
Wise (Good Wizard)

Andy Hunt as Chief Gregorio  
(Police Chief)

McKenna Kelly as God Mic

Mike Krempasky as  
Master Psychic

Shannon Lyons as Ariel  
(Mermaid)

Kathleen Maloney as Luna (Dog  
Tamer)

Kristen McMillion as Acrobat #2

Nicki Jacobsen as Wacky Wanda  
(Clown)

Conor O'Shaughnessy as Clint  
(Retired Stuntman)

Jackie Palmer as Trapisestrada  
(BMX Rider)

Al Richardson as Rex (The Snake)

Cindy Ring as Alexis (Acrobat)

Nmandi Thompson as Rose  
(Singer/Dancer)

# MEET THE CAST AND CREW OF **Are you for Reels?!** **A Story of Movie Mayhem**

## **Nicole Acquaye (Volunteer Mentor, Claudia Jenkins)**

Nicole began volunteering with ArtStream in April 2022. Nicole has been interested in acting since middle school but was too shy to take the stage then. Nicole performed with choirs since age 9 to exercise her love for music! She got to combine her love for theatre and music when performing a *Phantom of the Opera* medley. Nicole loves to read and sing, and spend time with family and friends. She is a research fellow in a neuromuscular clinic. Nicole will be a medical student this upcoming fall! She really enjoys volunteering as a mentor for ArtStream. "Thank you to all the wonderful ArtStream actors for being such a fun part of my life!"



## **Shelley Belgard (Rosie Phoenix)**

Shelley is 49-years-old and has been performing in ArtStream productions since its beginning, over 15 years ago. Before that, she performed in productions put on by Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts (BAPA). Her first acting experience was as a Lost Child in *Peter Pan* when she was in elementary school. Although the role was a small one, she loved playing the Lost Child and became hooked on acting. When she was in high school, she was in a summer production of *Jesus Christ Super Star* at American University, and she also performed in a cutting of *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* at the DC Shakespeare Theater. Besides loving to act, Shelley loves to read. Also, she is enthusiastic about karate, and take classes twice a week. Shelley enjoys playing bocce, going bowling, and have participated in Track and Field in Special Olympics. In addition to spending time with her hobbies, at Comfort Care she assembles age-appropriate supplies in backpacks for children who are going into foster care. The backpacks are sent all over the United States. She would like to thank the ArtStream staff and volunteers for making it possible for her to be in theatre productions, her Target staff for their support and for providing transportation to rehearsals and productions, and her family and friends for watching her shows. And thanks to everyone for cheering her on!



## **Pierre Alexandre Bouvery**

**(Volunteer Mentor, Louie)**

Pierre (he/him), age 27, is an aspiring poet, performer and artist who is thrilled in contributing to Artstream's production of *Are You For Reels*. Pierre has been training in acting both in the U.S through programs like Imagination Stage and outside of the U.S at a young age. Pierre has a bachelor's degree majoring in Performing Arts from the Richmond International American School of London and a MFA degree in Advance Devising and Performance from Rose Bruford College in London. Pierre started being a volunteer for ArtStream for a workshop called 'Stories Through Movement' in the summer of 2022 and is continuing volunteering as a mentor for this season's show in 2023. Acting has been a quintessential part of Pierre's experience being part of the arts and hopes to contribute and assist future performers, especially in physical theater. Previous shows include: *POMAD Pielian* (2021), *When We Dead Awaken* (2019), and *'Club Cockatoo'* (2018). Pierre enjoys traveling, writing, scuba diving, and playing music sometimes. Pierre would like to thank his family for all the support and love they provide during this strange journey known as life and allowing him to pursue his artistic interests.



## **Tyler Brown (Cyrel Worthington)**

Tyler is a 31-year-old actor from Germantown, MD. He auditioned with ArtStream after graduating high school and has had the "theatre bug" ever since. Tyler has worked at Wegmans since 2016 and enjoys his job as a grocery assistant/stock person very much. His hobbies include Lego building, traveling, golf, and swimming. "I'd like to thank ArtStream, my friends and family for always being supportive."



## **Benjamin Collins (Henry)**

Benjamin is a 56-year-old actor from Rockville, Maryland. This is his seventeenth show with ArtStream! Before ArtStream, Benjamin acted at Rock Terrace High School and Imagination Stage, he met ArtStream co-founder Nicolette Stearns. Benjamin works as an operations specialist at Special Olympics International in Washington, D.C. He is also a Special Olympics athlete in bocce and powerlifting, and he loves to participate in the annual Super Polar Bear Plunge with the organization. Benjamin has a great memory and loves trivia. "I love being with everyone in the company. Congrats to the cast!"



## **Megan Cooper (Betty De Miles)**

Megan is a 39-year-old actor from Rockville, Maryland. She has been acting with ArtStream since the first Inclusive Theatre Companies - this is her sixteenth show! Megan's love for dancing and acting blossomed through performances at Imagination Stage many years ago. In addition to performing, Megan is also an author. She co-authored the children's book *The Colorful Adventures of Pauline and Tiff* with ArtStream co-founder Nicolette Stearns. Megan lives independently and works at Interfaith Works. She is very active in community activities, including Special Olympics. She competes in cross-country skiing, sailing, swimming, and basketball, earning medals at the Special Olympics World Games in China (sailing), Austria (cross-country skiing), and Idaho (cross-country skiing). "I am thrilled that we are in our second post-COVID ArtStream season of in-person rehearsals and performances with all of my ArtStream friends."



## **Shelley Fisher (Choreographer; Razz Mctazz)**

Shelley is a choreographer and performer. She teaches dance classes, performs, and manages events. Some of her most rewarding moments come from serving as the choreographer for Gaithersburg Company A. "Now everyone put your hands to your mouth and yell out loud, 'Go Gaithersburg Company A!!'"



## **Adrian Forsythe y Korzeniewicz (Lieutenant David)**

Adrian is currently leading a hangout for middle school kids. His ambitions are to be an advocate for people with disabilities, create his own business, and be an actor. He graduated from the George Mason LIFE Program with concentrations in theater and communications. At George Mason, Adrian appeared in plays, worked backstage, and joined several student theater groups. Adrian has extensive work experience, ranging from interning at the Smithsonian Institution with Project Search to a Congressional internship on Capitol Hill. Adrian is a trained peer mentor with Project STIR. Adrian works for TerpsExceed as a peer advocate specialist. With ArtStream, Adrian was a client liaison on the board, participates in the Gaithersburg Theater Company A, and leads communication and community workshops.



### **Pamela Freedy (Assistant Director)**

Pam is thrilled to be returning to Gaithersburg Company A for a second year. Last year you may have seen her as Evil Hannah in the premiere of *Inclusia*! Pam has been acting, directing, and teaching theatre for 18 years, having worked as a theatre teacher in schools and community arts organizations in Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, and London, UK. When not working hard with Company A, Pam is the Education Programs Manager at Imagination Stage. She wants to send a huge thank you and congratulations to the entire cast and crew!



### **Andrea Geller (Sarah)**

Andrea is an exuberant actress who has been performing with ArtStream since the beginning. She performed with Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts (BAPA) before that. At home, Andrea is an avid reader and iPad user, and loves to dance. She has been working at NIH as a mail clerk for over 26 years and loves that she gets to converse with everyone who works in her building. More recently, Andrea spent time volunteering at Spirit Club, a local inclusive gym. Andrea is also a Special Olympics athlete - this year she earned a gold medal for her impressive performance in bowling. Andrea is known for her friendly demeanor, you can always catch her making conversation with her neighbors at her apartment building, and with her friends here at ArtStream. Andrea sends thanks to everyone at ArtStream for helping her with her lines!



### **Nader Khalaf (General Johnson)**

Nader is a 29-year-old actor from Bethesda, MD. This is his sixth year acting in an ArtStream performance, and he has participated in several ArtStream classes. Nader works part-time at both the Marriott hotels and the Congressional Country Club. He loves his neighborhood and volunteers at the Carderock Springs Swim and Tennis Club. Nader enjoys going to the gym and competes in swimming, soccer, basketball, pickleball, and tennis with Special Olympics. He loves being in the company of people and enjoys talking about landscaping, reptiles, beekeeping, and politics. He spends a lot of time with his cat, Marble, browsing Facebook, caring for his yard, operating his outdoor equipment, and taking the Metro to DC. "I enjoy acting and am so happy that I made new friends at ArtStream. It's a wonderful place, thank you!"





### **Joey Kitchelt (John Kelley)**

Joey is a 27-year-old who attended Rock Terrace School and lives in Olney, MD. He enjoys attending classes at Montgomery College and began his experience with ArtStream in 2020. He enjoys singing and dancing and has been loving musical theater since he was a child. His interests include cartoon drawing, acting (including impressions), and he has a fourth-degree black belt in taekwondo. Joey plays percussion and sings in the Neurodiversity rock band with Upcounty Community Resources. He is very excited about his performance with ArtStream!



### **Terrel Limerick (Smith David)**

Terrel is an actor from Bethesda, MD. He has been acting with ArtStream since the very beginning – this is his seventeenth show! Terrel began acting when he was 15 years old with Imagination Stage (formerly Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts) and believes acting is a great goal to pursue! Terrel has worked at Special Olympics International in Washington DC for 18 years. He is currently a special assistant in the business department. In July 2015, at the Special Olympics World Games in Long Beach, California, Terrel became a “World Champion,” winning a bronze medal for being the first sailor from the USA to sail a boat solo at the World Games. He is also on the Special Olympics ski and track and field teams. “Special thanks to my family, friends, counselors, sports coaches, and ArtStream staff for always encouraging me to aim high!”



### **Wendy Lanxner (Music Director)**

Wendy is a Washington area teaching artist and arts in health practitioner. She is Musician in Residence at Johns Hopkins Children’s Center and provides programming through several agencies including Arts for the Aging and Washington Performing Arts. Wendy is also a music director with Lumina Studio Theatre, plays bass with the band Wendy & the Lost Boys, and volunteers in hospital settings through Musicians on Call. She received a Master’s in Music Education from the University of Florida. Wendy is thrilled to be working with such wonderful actors at ArtStream!



## **Matthew McMeekin (Captain Gideon)**

Matthew is a 44-year-old actor from Bethesda, MD. He started with ArtStream as Old Green Eyes in *Saving the Starlight*, performed at the Arts Barn in the 2006-2007 season. In 2009 he was James Beard-Childs in *It's a Wonderful Pie* which was performed at BlackRock Center for the Arts, so he's returning to a familiar stage. He has also performed in ArtStream plays at Rosborough Center Theatre, the Olney Theater, and Bender JCC of Greater Washington. Matthew starts each day with a 6 a.m. swim practice (butterfly is his favorite stroke) and then goes on Zoom for classes at Opportunities, Inc. Matthew loves all his hobbies, which include singing, whistling, acting, swimming, listening to music, and learning foreign languages (he speaks French, Spanish, and German fluently, and can order a meal in Chinese). He is happy that ArtStream is rehearsing and performing in person now. "Thanks for all the support I've gotten from the ArtStream directors, mentors, and fellow actors through the years."



## **Tanya Meyerson (April Fontaine)**

Tanya is an ArtStream veteran. Tanya loves volunteering in retail. She works at two different thrift stores and loves being able to organize the incoming donations and interact with customers. Tanya is also a Special Olympics athlete. She attended the State Competition for bowling a number of times, most recently earning a Bronze medal for her performance. In her free time, Tanya enjoys working on puzzles, going for walks, and attending activities in the community. Tanya is also a talented chef - she always shares her delicacies with her friends and staff. Additionally, Tanya enjoys creating pottery; her dishes, pots, and plates can be found in her friends' and families' homes. Tanya hopes everyone enjoys the show!



## **Joe Myers (Woodman)**

Joe is a 37-year-old actor from Kensington, MD, currently living in Rockville, MD. Joe has been an actor with ArtStream since the beginning, making this his seventeenth ArtStream show! Before that, Joe was an actor with Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts (now Imagination Stage). Joe is the front desk receptionist for Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children (CSAAC). Joe really enjoys his art class at VisArts and he is a member of the SPIRIT Club.



## **Cecelia Ann Pauley (Ruth Harrison)**

Cecelia Ann is a 43-year-old actor. Born in Bangkok, Thailand, Cecelia now lives in Silver Spring, MD. She has been an ArtStream actor since the beginning – this is her seventeenth show with the Gaithersburg ArtStream Theatre Company! Cecelia has been a performer since fourth grade, performing at Cabin John Middle School, Churchill High School, Imagination Stage (formerly Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts), and Potomac Community Theatre. Professionally, Cecelia works with the Arc in vocational services. She enjoys singing, music, dance, theatre, and cooking. “Thanks to my parents and family for all their support.”



## **Kristen Pilgrim (Director)**

Kristen is excited to be directing Gaithersburg Company A again! She began teaching with ArtStream in 2012, directing the George Mason ArtStream group. Since then, she also taught Shakespeare and improv classes at Oakton. Kristen is a local director, actor, and fight choreographer in the DMV region and is an advanced actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors. She has been a teaching artist with several other companies including Educational Theatre Company and Traveling Players Ensemble. Kristen was inspired by her work in theatre education and by ArtStream to become a Registered Drama Therapist, and received her Master's in Drama Therapy from Lesley University. She now works with all ages at Dominion Hospital and at the Expressive Therapy Center, helping clients heal through theatre.



## **James Richard (Lando)**

James is an actor who resides in Clarksburg, MD. He joined the ArtStream family while he was still a senior in high school. Since joining, his love for acting has given him the confidence to explore and perform in other plays. James is currently attending Montgomery College. When he isn't acting, taking classes, or working, James enjoys movies, video games, music, swimming, exercising, traveling, volunteering, social dances, gardening, drawing, the park, church, the beach, and cooking with his family. “I am so thankful for the support of my Gaithersburg Company A cast members, ArtStream staff, volunteers and my family.”



## **Andrea Soltesz (Chrissy)**

Andrea is an ArtStream actor. This is her eighth show! Andrea works at Giant. She has been there for 18 years and loves her job. Andrea is a dedicated actor. She reads her script every day because she loves being in the play. Andrea also enjoys dancing and Zumba. "ArtStream helps make me feel proud of myself! It's fun to act on stage and screen!"



## **Taz Stone (Volunteer Mentor, Lieutenant Letterman)**

Taz is a senior at the Academy of the Holy Cross and has been involved with theatre throughout their life. Growing up in a family of theatre people, Taz developed a love of all things performing, whether it be acting, singing, dancing, or improvisation. They are experienced in many forms of dance, including Irish dance, tap, jazz, hip-hop, and musical theatre dance. Recently, they made their directorial debut at Holy Cross with Team StarKid's *The Trail to Oregon*. Previous credits include Mrs. Wormwood in *Matilda the Musical*, John the Baptist/Judas in *Godspell*, Dewey Finn in *School of Rock*, and Squidward Tentacles in *SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical*. Taz is also a choreographer and dance captain for Holy Cross' performing arts department. In their free time, they enjoy cosplaying, doing ceramics, and playing with their cat, Oliver, and their dog, Bibi. "I am most excited to share my love of theatre with a whole new community of people. Everyone at ArtStream is so loving and supportive. I am ecstatic to be working alongside so many new people who also hold theatre near and dear to their hearts."



## **Adam Tepper (John Silver)**

Adam is a 35-year-old actor from Gaithersburg, Maryland. He has performed with ArtStream since 2007. Adam has also performed with the Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts (now Imagination Stage) and in the Summer Theater Arts for Youth Program at the Bender JCC of Greater Washington. In his spare time, Adam participates in Special Olympics swimming, basketball and tennis. Adam also enjoys watching the Washington Capitals and the Washington Nationals. "Thanks for coming today. Be sure to applaud loudly, or I'll make you walk the plank! AARGH!"



## **Lisa Troshinsky (Phyllis)**

Lisa has a background in dance and theater, having been in dance companies and community theater in the D.C. area. Lisa is a full-time high school English teacher. She freelances theater and dance reviews for various publications, including *The Washington Diplomat*.



# MEET THE CAST AND CREW OF

# The Magical Circus Quest



## **Becky Birch** (Sweetpea, good witch)

Becky Birch is a 43-year-old actor from Rockville, MD. She started acting when she was 12 years old at Bethesda Academy for the Performing Arts, now Imagination Stage. She does custodial work daily at NIST, a U.S. Government agency in suburban Maryland. She is employed by Didlake Contractors. Her fiancé, Max Rubenstein, is teaching her how to become a deejay. They enjoy travel, sports events, musical theater and being with their friends.



## **Kirsten Davidson** (Sandra, clown)

Kirsten Davidson is an ArtStream actor from Rockville, MD who has been acting with ArtStream for 17 years. She retired from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission after 29 years. She receives residential support services from the Jubilee Association of Maryland. She is active in Jubilee and SPIRIT Club activities. Kirsten served on the ArtStream Board of Directors as Client Liaison from 2018-2019. She enjoys Zoom Sibling Happy Hour meetings with ArtStream and other Zoom activities with Jubilee. She likes listening to music, dancing, traveling, eating out, and spending time with family and friends. "Thanks to my parents, sisters, and ArtStream directors and mentors for all their support. I LOVE ArtStream!"



## **Matt DiGilio** (Jesters, juggler)

Matt DiGilio is a 31-year-old actor from Rockville, Maryland. He joined ArtStream in the fall of 2019 and is on his third performance on the ArtStream stage/screen! Matt works for Montgomery County Government in Rockville as an Administrative Aid. Matt serves as the Client Liaison to the ArtStream Board of Directors. He plays basketball, softball, soccer, and bowling. He also likes going to baseball games, listening to music, biking, and hanging out with friends. He is very grateful to be a part of ArtStream and appreciates all the support from his family and friends.



### **Syra Gosh (Volunteer Mentor, Police Assistant)**

Syra Gosh is excited to be performing in her first show with ArtStream! Syra got interested in acting in 6th grade. Her interest in music began at age 7. Previous performances include *Seussical The Musical* at Kingsview Middle School. Her hobbies include editing, music (Piano and Singing), drawing, acting, and volunteering. Syra would like to thank her parents and friends as well as all the other volunteers and amazing actors.



### **Jessica Grossman (Mindy the Magnificent)**

Jessica is an ArtStream actor living in North Bethesda, Maryland. In addition to ArtStream, Jessica appeared onstage at Rock Terrace High School in *The Secret Garden* (Mary), *The Wizard of Oz* (Ms. Gulch, the Wicked Witch), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), and *Annie* (Miss Hannigan). This is Jessica's ninth ArtStream show! Her experience with ArtStream has been very good. She learns a lot about herself while having fun. "I want to thank Mom, Amy, Andrew, and Liz for their support and encouragement throughout my ArtStream experience."



### **Peter Han (Officer Han, Police Officer, Police Lieutenant)**

Peter is from Rockville, Maryland. He joined the Gaithersburg A Theatre Company in 2018. In addition to Peter's ArtStream experiences, he served as a Party Guest for four seasons in Chamberlain Performing Arts' *Nutcracker* in Richardson, Texas, plus has been thrilled to present skits in various talent shows. During the day, Peter is proud to be working part-time at TopGolf in Germantown, and participates in the Supported Employment program at the Kennedy Institute of Catholic Charities in Rockville. In his spare time, he enjoys neighborhood walks, puzzles, SPIRIT Club classes, Special Olympics bowling, and movie watch parties with his sister. Peter is excited for his fourth season with ArtStream's Inclusive Theatre Companies, and is very grateful for the support of his fellow cast members, ArtStream staff and volunteers, plus his family and friends!



### **Jordan Harris van Donselaar (Director)**

Jordan Harris van Donselaar is an actor, writer, and director currently based in Silver Spring, MD. This is his first ArtStream show, and he is so proud of the work his actors and team have devised! He began his acting journey with Lumina Studio Theatre before attending the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Yale University in 2020 with a BA in Psychology and completed the Multidisciplinary Academic Program in Human Rights. Beginning in the 2023/2024 school year, he will be obtaining a master's degree in acting in the United Kingdom. He would like to thank his team for their hard work and family for their deep support, especially his amazing husband Oliver.



### **Justin Hunsinger (Demus the Wise, Good Wizard)**

Justin Hunsinger is a 31-year-old actor from Rockville, MD. This is his fifth performance with ArtStream, and he loves the experience and is very passionate about acting. Justin works at Special Olympics International in Washington, D.C. as the Coordinator for Health Engagement. His hobbies include sports, karaoke, dancing, and hanging out with friends. "Thank you to my parents and sisters for supporting my dreams."



## **R. Andrew Hunt (Music Director, Chief Gregorio, Police Chief)**

R. Andrew (aka Andy) has been writing songs and performing since 1982. This is his first ArtStream show, and he has found the role of Music Director to be a very rewarding opportunity. Andy got his first guitar from a Portland, Oregon pawnshop for his 18th birthday in 1981 and began teaching himself to play. This began a lifelong journey of developing as a guitarist, singer, and songwriter. Over the past 4 decades Andy performed as a solo artist and with bands on the west and east coasts. He has been a registered BMI artist since 2010. Andy would have liked to explore a full-time music career, but after earning his Bachelor's degree in psychology in 1986, he chose the steady work of becoming a professional social worker. He went on to earn his Master of Social Work Degree in 1991 and joined the U.S. Public Health Service. He continued to write music and play in bands "on the side" while serving in a variety of assignments as a Commissioned Officer. In 2021, Andy retired after 30 years of service, which opened the door to spending more time on music. You can explore his music on his YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/@R.AndrewHuntMusic](https://www.youtube.com/@R.AndrewHuntMusic) Andy currently does part-time independent social work consulting, and also works part-time as an Usher for the Baltimore Orioles. He lives in Mount Airy, MD with his wife Teresa.



## **Nicki Jacobsen (Choreographer, Wacky Wanda, Clown)**

This is Nicki's second production with ArtStream! She teaches ArtStream classes and loves working with the Theatre as well. Nicki grew up dancing and always loved to create. She comes from a Puerto Rican background that fuels her passion of dancing to many genres of music. Previously, she choreographed dance for various dance companies, dance events, and public and private schools throughout Montgomery County. Gaithersburg Company B will be her first of many productions with Gaithersburg and she is so excited to be able to create with such talented actors around her! "This has been an amazing experience. I am really proud of our ArtStreamers!"



### **McKenna G. Kelly (Stage Manager, Costume Designer, Property Master, & Assistant Director)**

This is McKenna's 9th year working with ArtStream, and she is no stranger to theatre. Since grade school, she has worked in some capacity of theatre - whether in acting, costume design, make-up design, properties, scenic painting, booking, front of house, assistant directing, backstage crew, or stage managing - for well over 50 productions, and is very excited and thankful to be a part of this production!



### **Mike Krempasky (Master Psychic)**

Mike is a 39-year-old actor from Olney, Maryland. This is his eighth show with ArtStream. Mike attended Sherwood High School where he sang in the chorus for three years and performed in Rock-n-Roll Revival for two. Mike attends Community Support Services, where he receives job support and training. Mike enjoys computers and would like a computer job one day. He loves watching football and playing video games. Every year he plays on a basketball team. Mike also enjoys bowling and is a First-degree brown belt in karate. "I have enjoyed acting with ArtStream, from the first day I started."



### **Shannon Lyons (Ariel, mermaid)**

Shannon is a 43-year-old actor from Rockville, MD. She was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and moved with her family to Olney, MD, in 1987. She has been an actor with ArtStream for sixteen years. Shannon's love of drama began at Imagination Stage (formerly Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts) where she performed for 10 years. Shannon works as a childcare assistant at The Children in the Shoe Child Care in Bethesda, MD. She has been employed there for over 16 years. Some of Shannon's favorite activities include karaoke, dancing, Zumba, going to the movies, and swimming. She also enjoys arts and crafts projects, photography, and scrapbooking. She loves to travel and spend time with her nieces and nephews. "Thanks to my parents for supporting me through the years with my love of acting."



## **Kathleen Maloney (Luna, dog tamer)**

Kathleen is an actor from Rockville, MD. This is her seventeenth show with ArtStream. Kathleen attended Elizabeth Seton High School, where she performed with the choir. She graduated from Richard Montgomery High School and received childcare certification from Montgomery College. Kathleen served on the Board of Directors and the Public Policy Committee of the ARC of Montgomery County. Kathleen is the youngest of five children. She aspires to be a professional singer or actor in Hollywood, including movies, film, and TV. Her ultimate goal is to perform with her favorite Soap Opera stars in General Hospital. "I'll always be a star wherever my journey takes me. And I'll remember to thank you all when I receive my award on the red carpet. Shout out to my mom and dad and my Maloney family, that gave me everything in life!"



## **Kristen McMillion (Assistant Director, Acrobat #2)**

Kristen is a 21-year-old student and a first-time performer with ArtStream. Kristen performed in 15 theatrical productions with West Virginia's Contemporary Youth Arts Company and spent plenty of time working behind the scenes for various theatre companies. Off the stage, Kristen is a psychology major at Shepherd University who enjoys baking, traveling, and watching movies in her free time.



## **Conor O'Shaughnessy (Clint, retired stuntman)**

Conor O'Shaughnessy is a 35-year-old actor from Rockville, MD. This is his thirteenth show with ArtStream! Conor performed in plays while attending the Harbour School in Baltimore. He also performed with Dawn Productions at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Eubie Blake Center, and Martin's West. Conor works delivering mail at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. His hobbies include ballroom dancing, karaoke, guitar, hiking, fishing, and bowling. "I appreciate my family and friends for their support."



### **Jackie Palmer (Volunteer Mentor, Trapisestrada, BMX Rider)**

Jackie is a 17-year-old excited to be working with ArtStream for the first time! She has never really considered herself an actor, but she enjoys supporting other people in pursuing their passions, especially creatively. Jackie does a lot of digital art and cheer. She enjoys psychology, and she loves socializing! "I would like to thank ArtStream for giving me the opportunity to volunteer for them!"



### **Alexander Richardson (Rex, the snake)**

Alexander (AI) Richardson has performed with ArtStream for seventeen years. Born in Washington, DC in 1981, AI lived in Switzerland, Zambia, and Australia before settling in Rockville, MD where he now makes his home. AI works with St. Coletta and Jubilee. He maintains an active life that includes music with the InterPLAY Orchestra, sports with Special Olympics and the Montgomery County Road Runners (MCRRC), art and crafts with UCR, as well as acting with ArtStream. He enjoys travel, movies, and fishing.



### **Cynthia Ring (Alexis, acrobat)**

Cynthia is a 55-year-old actor from Rockville, MD. She originally hails from St. Louis, Missouri, and attended Rock Terrace High School. Cynthia has acted with ArtStream since the first year of Theatre Companies. This is her seventeenth show! She is a proud part of the Best Buddies program. Cynthia loves attending social dances and going out with friends. She is grateful that her sister comes every year to watch the shows. "Thank you to my sister and her husband and my nieces."



### **Nmandi Thompson (Rose, singer/dancer)**

Nmandi Thompson is a 25-year-old actor who started acting with ArtStream in 2019. Nmandi began her acting career in 2015, performing at Imagination Stage for many years during middle and high school. Favorites include *Wicked*, *O Wonder!* and *A Tempest Tale*. Nmandi also enjoys cheerleading, dancing, reading, singing, and writing. "I would like to thank my parents and my sister for being there for me and supporting me in my acting journey! I also thank the ArtStream staff, they are amazing!"





**THANK YOU**  
for coming to see our  
Gaithersburg Theatre Companies performances!





**Congratulations to ArtStream for its success and thanks to all the actors, directors, mentors, stage crew, choreographers, costume designers, musicians and everyone who has made this success possible.**

**ArtStream's success is your success. Matthew has loved every role he has acted over the last 13 years and is excited to see who he will be in 2020!**

**—The McMeekin Family**



Old Green Eyes in "Saving the Starlight", 2007  
A Swimming Jock in "Fast Times at Woolsey High", 2008  
James Beard-Childs in "It's a Wonderful Pie", 2009  
Prince Robin the Brave in "Once Upon a Time – Again", 2010  
Albert (a film maker) in "That 60's Play", 2011  
Kristoff McLawyer in "Dairy She Wrote", 2012  
Dr. McKelvey, DDS in "Goldfall", 2013  
Big T in "Great Scott", 2014  
Coach Joe, the bobblehead, in "The Lost Toys", 2015  
Geoffery, the Jester in "It's About Time", 2016  
Thunder Tree in "To Enchantia", 2017  
Professor Why in "To-may-to, To-mah-to", 2018  
Emcee Dion in "The Magic Within", 2019  
Uncle Albert in "Prom's the Word", 2020-2021  
McFirefly in "Inclusia", 2022  
Captain Gideon in "Are You For Reels", 2023



# Congratulations

**Congratulations to the ArtStream  
actors for an amazing performance season!**

**We know your talent and hard work will be  
rewarded with great performances.**

**GO ARTSTREAMERS!**

**Megan, Mike, and Ellen Cooper**

# ArtStream



**320**  
**PERFORMANCES**  
since our  
first show  
in 2007



**1,600**  
**PEOPLE**  
**WITH IDDs**  
empowered annually



**850**  
**CLASSES**  
held annually



**4,711**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**HOURS**  
completed annually



## Catalogue for Philanthropy

ArtStream is proud to again be selected as “One of the Best” community-based nonprofits in the 2022-2023 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington.

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**Thank you to Artstream for  
all your hard work. We  
love the program and  
are so glad Chris can be  
a part of it!**

**—The Pagonis Family**

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**PERFORM  
YOUR ART OUT.**

**Congratulations  
to all our  
ArtStreamers!**

**The ArtStream Board**

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Wendy Lanxner

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Christopher Mannix

Kelly McKenna

Kristen McMillion

Diana Metzger

Josie Morgan

Lawrence Mushlit

Mark Mumm

Heather Newhouse

## 2022-2023 ARTSTREAM THEATRE COMPANY AND CABARET ARTISTS

Nadia Abouraya	Justin Hunsinger	Eric Niedringhaus
Sabrini Babu	Aaron Hyndman	Josef Newton
Suzan Basoglu	JP Illarramendi	Kerry O'Brien
Shelley Belgard	Ravi Jesrani	Conor O'Shaughnessy
Becky Birch	Mark Jones	Chris Pagonis
Claudia Bocock	Patrick Jones	Cecelia Pauley
Ana Bradley	Stella Rose Kalb	Michael Piccone
Tyler Brown	Laurie Ann Kehoe	Laurie Pippenger
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Jason Hartt	Siobhan Murphy	William Ward
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# Become a Volunteer Today!

Are you or someone you know looking for a fun and creative way to support individuals with disabilities?

Then become an ArtStream volunteer!

Volunteers are needed in Virginia, D.C., Maryland, and online to act as role models and encourage students in classes, workshops, theatre companies, and cabarets.



## Requirements

- At least 13 years old or rising into the 9th grade
- Interested in the arts or working with individuals with disabilities
  - Training will be provided, no experience necessary
- Positive role models who lead by example
- Enthusiastic, reliable, and responsible

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# THANK YOU

**TO ALL OF THE ARTSTREAM TEACHING ARTISTS AND STAFF  
FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK! THE BROWN FAMILY**

From your friends at The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team

## Congratulations

### ArtStream

Thank you for all you do! Keep up the great work.

We are all rewarded by your talent and devotion.



**Special Care  
Planning Team**

*"Acting is not about being famous, it's about exploring the human soul."*

- Annette Bening



Thanks for a great season!