

A Note from the Artistic Director

Each time I sit down to contemplate what BYT's next play will be, I listen for the voice of my ever-present and all-knowing God. His unfailing love and care for each and every human is unprecedented and never ceases to amaze me. I humbly ask Him to make me more like Him and to help me show others who He truly is. I don't know if the writers of Disney's Frozen thought about God, or even sought His unending wisdom, but to me, it speaks volumes about a love that is true. It beautifully portrays Philippians 2:3 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." The personification of Princess Anna is a clear example of an imperfect being- just like you and me- who lays down her begrudging attitude to save not only herself, but her sister and the people of Arendelle. Queen Elsa, whose strength is her greatest weakness, would rather die than hurt even the lowliest soul. Olaf's positive attitude helps to eliminate the negativity that so many of us - like the people of Arendelle - listen to and rise above their fears. It is a fairy tale laced with the truth about what happens when you embrace Biblical principles and put them into action.

I am truly grateful to the cast, crew, and parents who pray and work hard to make BYT all that it is meant to be. As I sit at the helm, I will always put God first and endeavor to choose plays that reflect the character of God. I will teach everyone that is part of BYT that God believes in them (even if they don't believe in Him) and His grace, mercy, help and wisdom are free to anyone who asks.

Thank you for your support and I know you will be awed by the superb performance of this hardworking cast and crew. They are not only great when they perform onstage, but in line with our motto- great offstage as well.

Cynthia Ford
Artistic Director and Founder of BYT

A Note from the Stage Manager

Throughout my life with theatre, I have had the privilege to be involved in many different areas. I have been able to be on stage as an actor, pouring my soul into every line and every song. I have been able to be a part of the creative process, designing sets or putting together a scene or dance. I have been in the audience, watching with wide eyes as I see a masterpiece unfold before me. Whether I am in the audience, on the stage, or behind the scenes, each experience is something magical. For all of you, you are the audience; you get to see the finished product. You are here to have a good time and enjoy the show, and that's exactly what we want to help you with. However, as an audience member, you don't get to know about all that goes on before a show. Let me give you some insight into what it is like.

Everything starts even before audition day. For this show, we had auditions on September 14th, about a month after our last production. For many of these cast members, they prepared for auditions once they heard about the next production. Auditions can be scary and nerve-wracking and you want to be prepared. For the creative team, we started planning the show even before this when we chose what musical we would be doing next. So much preparation is done before we even meet the cast and they meet us. Then comes the big day, auditions. As someone showing up to audition, you feel a range of emotions throughout the day. You're nervous but excited, confident but then scared. As someone who is conducting auditions, there are also many things I am considering: excitement to see new and returning faces, a feeling of wanting to make sure I don't make anyone any more nervous than they already are and of course I am already having to focus on casting.

Casting is one of the hardest parts of my job. As someone who has many times eagerly awaited the cast list, I always want to get it out as soon as I can. However, I also want to put a lot of thought and time into it, because this is an extremely important and difficult decision. Many people think that casting is deciding who is better or more talented, but that isn't all it is. At the end of the day, we want to put on a good show, so talent does factor into it, but there is so much more. We want to challenge them, we want to put them with someone who they will work well with, and we want to give them a chance. Yes, we want to put on a good show so talent is important, but we also want to focus on growth. Finally, the cast list is sent out. Eagerly you open the list, scan for your name, and maybe you are overjoyed, or maybe you are disappointed. Not everyone can have the role they want, but everyone will contribute to the show. Everyone is important.

Then it's time for rehearsals. Rehearsals are fun, but they are hard. Putting on a show is a lot of work and takes a lot of time. Sometimes, it takes more time than you think. I remember thinking that one of the dances I was in charge of would take 1 ½ hours; it took almost 8. But that's okay, I would rather work extra time to help the cast members be the best they can be. For the cast, rehearsals are a time to connect with your cast, to meet your new family. Rehearsals can be long, but I am always proud of the effort that each and every cast member puts in. Of course, just when you think the show is almost perfect, dress rehearsals start. Running the show is one thing, but when you add lighting, mics, sets, and costumes it can seem like you just took 30 steps backward. However, the cast and crew don't give up and the second dress rehearsal is a crazy improvement.

Then comes the most exciting part: opening night. All the hard work and dedication lead up to this. Cast and crew members alike running around filled with nervous energy. This is where it all comes together, and this is the most amazing part. You hear the audience talking with excitement, knowing that they are here to see you and all you have worked for. For the audience, they may just see a show. As cast or crew member, we see everything we worked for come together. When you watch our show, think of all that went into it. I hope it helps you enjoy our show even more than you already will.

Jennifer Ford
Stage Manager