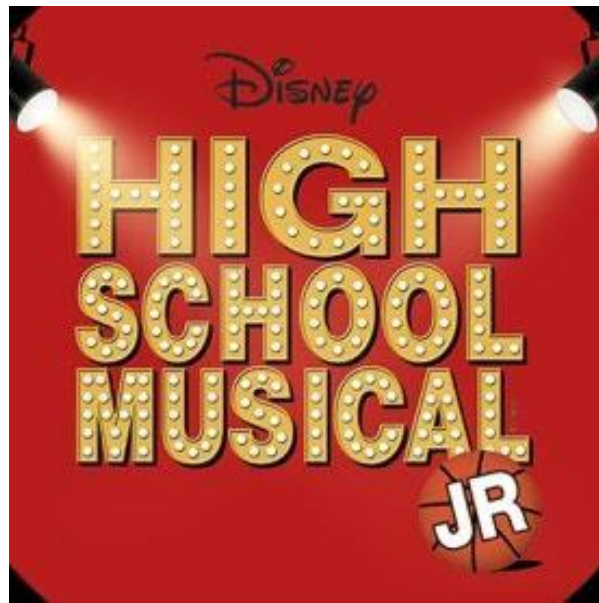




PROGRAM

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR.



Fri. Jun 26th 2026, 7:00 pm
Sat. Jun 27th 2026, 2:00 pm
Sat. Jun 27th 2026, 7:00 pm
Sun. Jun 28th 2026, 2:00 pm

About High School Musical Jr

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About The Venue Theatre

The Venue Theatre Company, founded in 2013 as an educational 501c3 nonprofit, provides enriching performing arts education for youth (and adults!). With highly trained educators and theatre professionals, The Venue meets all children at the level they are currently at and encourages them to develop their skills both as performers and as individuals. The Venue Theatre is committed to being a diverse, inclusive, and safe space for authentic expression and creative collaboration. All students, crew members, and volunteers, whatever their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation or identity, biology, education, neurodiversity, or physical ability, will be honored, integrated, and respected.

The Cast



Gavin Thornburg

Troy Bolton

Gavin Thornburg is playing Troy Bolton in this production of High School Musical. He is going into the 7th grade at West Jeff Middle School. This is Gavin's 12th performance with the Venue. His favorite role was Evan Goldman in 13. When not on stage, he is playing basketball (true life meets theatre!), soccer, or snowboarding! He loves doing theater and hopes to do many more shows in the future.



Rowan Sartin

Chad Danforth

Rowan (Chad Danforth/Troy US) will be a 5th grader at Elk Creek Elementary and is excited to return to the Venue stage! Rowan plays baseball and enjoys training his dog. Rowan would like to thank Atlas and Caleb for doing a great job directing this production. Enjoy the show!



Lila LeBlanc

Zeke Baylor

Lila (Zeke) is a 6th grader at EMS and is super excited to be performing in her first production with The Venue! When not on stage, Lila likes to craft, doodle, play basketball, and bake! They would like to thank their cast and the production team for making this such a great experience.



Cora Holajter

Sharpay Evans

Cora Holajter (Sharpay Evans) is a 7th grade student at West Jeff Middle School and is super excited to be performing in her 9th production with The Venue Theatre, which includes her participation in Junior Theater Festival (her favorite experience so far!). When not on stage, Cora enjoys playing lacrosse, basketball, and teaching herself piano. She would like to thank her cast and the production team for making this such a great experience!



Calvin Thomason

Ryan Evans

Calvin Thomason is 11 years old going into 6th grade attending DSA next year in the vocal department. He has been in over 10 productions and is no stranger to the stage. It is his home. This past year he was a part of a production that landed him a part with the lead roles through Magic Moments Another Night at Nick's as Connor. He shined in an amazing way. He also got the amazing opportunity to sing the national anthem for some veterans at Home Town Hero's Gala. To name a few. He enjoys playing flag football, piano, and trumpet.



Eva Caudillo

Taylor McKessie

Eva (Taylor) is a 6th grader at West Jeff MS and is super excited to be performing in her 9th production with The Venue Theatre. When not on stage, Eva enjoys playing soccer and cello. They would like to thank their cast and the production team for making this such a great experience.



Poppy Chapman

Gabriella Montez

Poppy (Gabriella) is going into 7th grade at Evergreen Middle School. Outside of acting she loves to play volleyball and play guitar with her dad who plays the drums. She also loves doing silly things with her hair. Enjoy the show!



Alyssa Hanzlick

Brainiac/Cheerleader

Alyssa Hanzlick (Brainiac, Cheerleader, and Gabriella's understudy) is a 9th grader at Conifer High School, and is so excited to participate in her third musical at The Venue! Her favorite roles were Eddie (13 JR), and Mrs. Harcourt (Anything Goes). Outside of theatre, Alyssa is a member of the JV Poms team, loves tumbling, and loves writing songs. She wants to thank her family and friends for supporting her and coming to her performances.



Harper Diner

Jackie Scott

Harper (Jackie Scott) is a 6th grader at West Jeff MS and is super excited to be performing in her first production with The Venue Theater! When not on stage, Harper loves competing in gymnastics and enjoys playing golf. She would like to thank her cast and the production team for making this such a great experience.



Claire McCloskey

Kelsi Nielson

Claire (Kelsi) is a 7th grader at West Jeff Middle School and is super excited to be performing in her fifth production with The Venue! When not on stage, Claire enjoys playing bass and painting. She would love to thank her cast and the production team for making this such a great experience



Amelia Russell

Ms. Darbis

Amelia Russell (Ms. Darbus) is going to be a 6th grader at Rocky Mountain Academy and is super excited to be performing in her third musical and first production with The Venue! When not on stage, Amelia enjoys baking, reading, crafting, swimming, and helping take care of younger kids. Amelia would like to thank her friends for introducing her to theater two years ago and the amazing production team for helping her learn and grow.



Carson Thornburg

Coach Bolton

Carson Thornburg is going into 5th grade at Elk Creek Elementary next year. He is VERY excited to be playing his older brother's Dad for a 2nd time, as Coach Bolton! This role may be one of his favorites, although Jasper in 101 Dalmatians is a close 2nd. This is his 7th show, and when not acting, he is playing soccer or skiing! He'd like to thank Atlas and Caleb for making this summer one to remember!



Eve Peacey

Martha Cox

Eve (Martha Cox / Taylor US) is a sixth grader at Denver School of The Arts and is super excited to be performing in her third production (two previous Junior Theatre Festivals) with The Venue Theatre, and her ninth show overall, and first with her little bro (Will). When not on stage, Eve enjoys dancing, crafting, baking, sewing, and piano. She would like to thank her cast, production team, friends, and especially her mom for making this such a great experience!



Nori Niles

Brainiac/Tech

Nori Niles (Brainiac/Ms. Darbus US) is a 7th grader at WJMS and is excited to be in her third official production at The Venue, including Anything Goes (Deck Stewardess) and 13 (Richie). When she's not on stage, Nori loves to read, collect pretty shiny things, listen to music, and create. She would like to thank her mom, her dad, her family, and her friends for pushing her to be the best version of herself. Nori is also so grateful to Atlas and Caleb for working to understand her well and making theatre so interesting. Enjoy the show!



Sierra Welsh

Kratnol/Brainiac

Sierra Welsh is playing (Kratnoff) in the high school musical. She is eleven years old and will be attending Buena Vista middle school this fall. She is super excited to be performing in her first production with the venue. When she's not on stage she enjoys reading and hanging out with friends. She would like to say thanks to the production team and cast for making this play such a great experience!!



Heidi Jacobsen

Brainiac/Jock

Heidi (Brainiac Jock and Kelsi's understudy) is a 7th grade student at EMS and is excited to be performing her first show at the venue! When Heidi is not on stage she enjoys sports such as flag football and basketball. She wants to thank her cast and family for always boosting her through rehearsals and tough times.



Quinn Bevil

Ms. Tenny/Moderator/Brainiac

Quinn Bevil (brainiac) is an 8th grader at west Jeff Middle School and is really happy to be performing in her first theatre show at The Venue. When not on stage she enjoys many sports such as basketball and volleyball, and playing the violin. She is so thankful for the kindness and fun from all the people at The Venue.



Genevieve Beckner

Drummajor/Cheerleader

Genevieve (Cheerleader) is a 6th grader at Evergreen Middle and has been performing at The Venue since she was in 1st grade and starred as Michele Desserts in the world premier of the World Wide Dessert Contest. This is her 6th show at The Venue. When she's not performing in theater, she loves performing on aerial silks, singing, and adventuring with her Girl Scout troop. Thanks for supporting her and community theater. Enjoy the show!



Alyssa Mayberry
Cheerleader/Jock

Alyssa Mayberry (Cheerleader and Basketball player) is a 5th grader at Elk Creek Elementary and delighted to participate in her third musical! Her favorite previous roles are (Spit, Sailor, and a passenger) in Anything Goes. Outside of theater, Alyssa is a Denver Nuggets cheerleader and loves to sketch. She wants to thank her parents for letting her participate in this musical.



Hazel Niles
Thespian

Hazel Niles (Thespian) is a 5th grader at West Jeff Elementary and is thrilled to be back on The Venue stage. This is her third show since getting introduced to theatre at last year's summer camps, including Anything Goes (Photographer) and A Christmas Line (The Stage Manager). Hazel also enjoys playing chess, practicing aerial silks, reading graphic novels, and learning to code. She would like to thank Atlas, Caleb, Stephanie, and her castmates for helping her gain confidence, learn new things, and get to where she is.



Adele Evans
Cathy/Thespian

Adele is performing as Cathy in this production. For the past seven years, she has been dancing with Peak Academy of Dance and performing in theater, developing a love for creativity, movement, and the stage. Adele has a tremendous sense of humor and enjoys creating art in her free time. One day, she hopes to share her kindness and compassion with the world by becoming a veterinarian. She's grateful to her family, friends, and all those who support her passions. I ❤️ Cathy!



Will Peacey
James/Thespian

Will (James) is a third grader at Rocky Mountain Academy of Evergreen and is excited to be performing in his first show with the Venue Theatre and second overall. When not on stage, Will enjoys lacrosse and Scouts. Will would like to thank the cast and production team (especially Atlas and Caleb) for getting him hooked on theatre!



Anna Kausch
Susan/Thespian

Anna is a 6th grader at the Havern School and is excited to participate in her first musical! Anna enjoys swimming, crafting, and music. She would like to thank everyone at the venue for being so welcoming and making her first theater experience a positive one!



Savannah Welsh
Cyndra/Thespian

Savannah (Cyndral) is going into seventh grade. We will be moving and her new school will be in Buena Vista. She is excited for her first production with the venue!! When not on stage, Savannah enjoys biking, kayaking and reading. She would like to thank her parents for letting her go into theater.

The Crew



Jack Plow

Assistant Lighting Designer/Light Board Operator

Jack is a 9th grader at CHS. He is excited to be co-designing lighting and running lights for HSM jr! In his free time Jack likes slaying monsters while playing Dungeons and Dragons and Zelda, eating Cheerios and building Legos. He would like to thank his parents, and his cat Milo for their support.



Zoey Runia

Sound Board Operator

Zoey Runia is the sound operator for High School Musical. She is a Sophomore at Conifer High School and loves to spend time in the theater with her friends! When she's not at the theater, Zoey also enjoys playing softball and thrifting. She thanks Jessica for being so awesome and London for driving her to the theater every day!



London Forbes

Followspot Operator

London Forbes is the spotlight operator for High School Musical. She is a senior at Conifer High School and has been involved in theater since she was 8 years old. She loves performing and being around her friends and family. When London is not at the theater she enjoys paddle boarding and shopping. She thanks her mom, Jessica, for her support and her friends for making the journey fun!



Kilo Ferrin

Technical Crew/ Stage Manager

Technician Kilo Ferrin has been involved in the scene at The Venue Theater Company for nearly two years. One of his greatest joys is working with the younger casts and having heartwarming experiences, from seeing the younger venue members grow up along with him, to buying them (super healthy!!) snacks at Safeway when they're worn out. Break a leg actors!

The Production Team



Atlas Drake Director/Choreographer

Atlas is a theatre artist based in Denver, with recent performance credits including Ragtime, Dance Nation, and In the Heights. They recently Assistant Directed Ride the Cyclone and are a graduate of MSU Denver's BFA Musical Theatre program. Atlas is also a Level 2 combatant with Dueling Arts International and has taught with AAPA and RMTK for four years!



Caleb Wenger Musical Director

Caleb Wenger is a local Actor, Music Director, and Musician in the greater Denver area. Recently, he has music directed and accompanied "Follies, in Concert" at Vintage Theater, "Cannibal" at Town Hall Arts Center, and "Beauty and the Beast, Junior" at Center Stage Theater Company. You may have seen him in performances of "Lyle the Crocodile" in the ensemble at the Arvada Center, or the previous year's "A Year with Frog and Toad" in the role of Snail. He was also recently seen as Bob Guadio in "Jersey Boys" at Town Hall Arts Center, "Pirates of Penzance" at Performance Now, and Joseph in "Joseph...Dreamcoat!" at The Candlelight.



Biz Schaugaard Set Designer

Biz Schaugaard grew up in Evergreen and got her start with the Evergreen Players. She currently teaches at the Logan School for Creative Learning and coaches theater at Cherry Creek High School. Biz has designed and built sets for multiple Venue shows including Beetlejuice, The Drowsy Chaperone, 13 Jr., Six: Teen Edition and Into the Woods!



Lyz Rand Resident Lighting Designer

Lyz discovered stage lighting design in high school. She has since designed lights for over 100 shows, and has been nominated for Best Lighting Design Award three times. She was also a Theatre Manager for 9 years; 7 in high school theatres which hosted around 100 events annually, 1 university theatre, and 1 professional theatre. Prior to that she was a high school Resident Lighting Designer for 5 years. Lyz is passionate about inspiring and empowering youth, and has taught hundreds of students the theory and practice of stage lighting, as well as stage management skills, all of which sets kids up with competency for whatever profession they later choose. She also runs a business helping tech theatre students discover what it's like to work in theatres on cruise ships. And she is a published author with 8 books on lighting and high school theatre management. In addition, she has consulted on the construction, and equipment upgrades, of several school and community theatres. Lyz has a BA in Stage Lighting, an MS in Entertainment Business Management, and held a Theatre Arts teaching certificate. Originally from England, and having lived in California, Washington State, and Australia, in 2024 Lyz fortuitously made her way to Conifer - and The Venue Theatre(!), where she has been designing the lighting since "MacBeth" in 2025. She is blessed with 3 kids, 3 kids-in-law, and her feline kid, Chester. When not working inside a black box full of electricity she enjoys hiking, rock climbing, X-C skiing, ice dancing, line dancing, cruising on ships, cruising in her camper van, and visiting family and friends in England.



Ryan Glaser **Sound Designer**

Ryan is a critically acclaimed multi-instrumentalist and theatre designer, who also dabbles writing and acting. You can see his theatrical writing debut "Brindlewood" presented by Third Side Theatre Co. this Fall in Denver Thanks!

The Venue Theatre Team



Lyz Rand **Executive Director**

As well as extensive experience in stage lighting and educational theatre operations management, on the flip side, Lyz's business experience includes; construction management, property management, real estate, cinema management, architectural lighting design, and she has owned a math learning center as well as a cruise agency. She has also consulted on the construction and/or equipment upgrades of several school and community theatres. Her master's degree is in Entertainment Business Management, where she earned three Course Director Awards. Lyz is honored to play a supporting role at this gem of a theatre in our community! Lyz is also The Venue's Resident Lighting Designer, and you can see her complete technical theatre bio above.



Jessica Forbes **Artistic Director / Costume Designer**

With two decades of experience as an elementary educator and gifted education specialist, Jessica brings a deep passion for fostering imagination, creativity, confidence, and youth development to her role. Her love of theater began in childhood through dance and has continued to grow through years of hands-on involvement in youth performing arts. As the parent of three theater kids, she has supported countless productions and understands firsthand the transformative impact theater can have on young people. She has served in many theatrical roles including theater board member, fundraising event coordinator, stage manager, show coordinator, props manager, and costume designer, developing a well-rounded appreciation for every aspect of production. As Artistic Director, Jessica is dedicated to advocating for the arts by creating an inclusive, encouraging environment where young performers can discover their voices, build confidence, and experience the joy of storytelling and collaboration on stage.



Biz Schaugaard **Technical Director**

Biz Schaugaard grew up in Evergreen and got her start with the Evergreen Players. She currently teaches at the Logan School for Creative Learning and coaches theater at Cherry Creek High School. Biz has designed and built sets for multiple Venue shows including Beetlejuice, The Drowsy Chaperone, 13 Jr., Six: Teen Edition and Into the Woods!

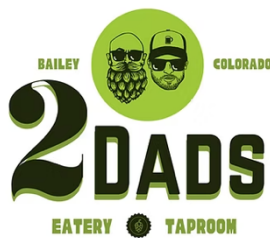
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