

Princess Fearless

Cast Member Bios:



Lina Zierler: Jocelyn

A 6th grader at South Charlotte Middle School, Lina enjoys boating, fishing, and hanging out with her two bunnies named Michael Scott and Kevin Malone. She has been seen in past Matthews Playhouse School of Theater productions including “E-I-E-I Oops” and “Babe the Sheep Pig”. When she isn’t performing, she can also be found playing accordion for fun and growing her own hot peppers! This will be her first mainstage production at Matthews Playhouse and she is thrilled to bring the story of Princess Fearless to the stage.



Bennett McGrath: Kelley

Bennett is incredibly excited to be in her first mainstage production at Matthews Playhouse. She is a 5th grader at Matthews Elementary and enjoys theater and crafting. Audiences may recognize Bennett from her previous role in “Babe the Sheep Pig” as part of our MPH School of Theater. When she isn’t on stage, Bennett can be found at the beach or hanging out with her dog, bunny, and 6 hermit crabs! Bennett would like to thank her parents and Apple for being her biggest fans.



Sam Villanueva: Javier

Sam is a 7th grader at Sun Valley Middle School where he plays percussion in the middle school band. He has been taking classes at Matthews Playhouse since 3rd grade and has been in MPH’s previous productions of Jungle Book, 101 Dalmatians, Pinocchio, and Oklahoma as well as Alice In Wonderland at Sun Valley Elementary School. In addition to performing, Sam loves to listen to music and play Animal Crossing and other online games with his friends.



Dr. Corlis Hayes: Mrs. Wickerman

By day, Corlis goes by Dr. Hayes at Central Piedmont Community College. Recently, she has worked on “You Can’t Take It With You” and “A Trip To Bountiful” at CPCC, “Having Our Say”, “Intimate Apparel”, and “The Glass Menagerie” at Theatre Charlotte, “Romeo and Juliet” at the Charlotte Shakespeare Festival, “No Exit” at the Carolina Actors Studio Theatre, and “Sister Act” at Matthews Playhouse. In her free time, she loves to read biographies and autobiographies, play golf, watch old movies, and listen to old R&B and jazz.



Ashlyn Young: Tiphania

A 5th grader at Ace Academy, Ashlyn is a natural born leader who loves reading, dancing, riding her bike, and sculpting with clay. She is the only girl out of four siblings and is proud to have a green belt in karate. Ashlyn is excited to be making her mainstage debut in “Princess Fearless”!



Madalynn Foxx: Keidra

Madalynn is a 5th grader at Indian Trail Elementary School and a deputy black belt who enjoys softball, theatre, reading, finding crystals, and singing. Madalynn has been seen onstage at Matthews Playhouse in various summer camp productions including Hamilton camp, Disney Villains camp, Broadway Favorites camp, and High School Musical camp. She is absolutely thrilled to be making her mainstage debut in this fun play!



Hannah White: Lou, aka Princess Fearless herself!

A 5th grader at Union Preparatory Academy, Hannah shows horses and loves to sing, dance, and play outside. Audiences may recognize Hannah from her prior stage experience in “Babe the Sheep Pig” and “E-I-E-I Oops” as part of our MPH School of Theater! In addition to performing on stage, Hannah lets her creativity show through writing and directing her very own plays. She is thrilled to be bringing the character of Lou to life in her mainstage debut at Matthews Playhouse!



Alyssa Ryzhikova: Melissa

A 7th grader at Omni Montessori School, Alyssa was born in Canada and celebrated her first birthday in St. John's, Newfoundland, a magical place full of icebergs and whales. At the age of three she moved with her family to Charlotte and has stayed here ever since. Alyssa is bilingual in English and Russian, has a younger brother Luka, and a lovely puppy named Casper. She has been taking piano lessons since she was four and is an aspiring black belt in the aikido classes that she takes with her dad. Alyssa's true passion is performing arts and she started playing in theater when she was five years old. This is Alyssa's first performance at Matthews Playhouse but has been seen in Masha and Mishka the Bear and Masha and Vitya: A Christmas Tale with Community Education Project.



Anastajia Charley: Danielle

Anastajia is a 9th grader at Porter Ridge High School who loves watching and being in musicals. She loves Legally Blonde and Six, both of which are her dream musicals to perform in. But, her favorite musical of all time is Hamilton, which she knows every single word to. When she isn't performing, you can find her talking with her friends and eating french fries. While this is her first performance at Matthews Playhouse, she is no stranger to the stage, having performed in “Frozen”, “Shrek”, “High School Musical”, and “Moana” with the Roc City Players, “Fences” with Imani Theatre Ensemble and “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” with “Magical Journey Through Stages” Company.



Imani Diann Beverly: Lauren

Imani is a 5th grader at Providence Spring Elementary and is proud to be a member of the jump rope team there. She is a dance student at Zeal for Life Dance Company and a member of the Community Soccer Team. In her free time, she enjoys reading, singing, cooking, photography, and training and playing with animals. She is very excited to be performing in her first show ever!



Mikayla Anita Beverly: Kindra

Mikayla is a 4th grader at Providence Spring Elementary who enjoys cooking, crocheting, making slime, and going on vacation. She is proud to be a member of the PSE jump rope team, a dance student at Zeal for Life Dance Company and a member of the Community Soccer Team. Mikayla is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform in her first show ever!



Marisa Becker: Mrs. Smith and Vovo

Marisa is the Education Coordinator here at Matthews Playhouse and is excited to make her debut on the stage. Originally from Northern Virginia, Marisa moved to Charlotte in 2015 where she worked at Goddard School of Matthews before finding her Matthews Playhouse family. She studied early childhood education at Northern Virginia Community College and enjoys working with children to help bring their imaginations to life. An interesting fact about Marisa is that she is an avid cruise goer and has been on over 20 cruises! She is also a lover of all things nerdy, although she actively rejects the label of “nerd”. When she isn’t working or going on a cruise, she can be found playing tabletop role playing games, collecting pretty dice, and listening to BTS.



Kate Ryan Carranza: Liz

Kate is a 6th grader at Marvin Ridge Middle School who loves acting, penguins, and vacationing at Disney! She wants to be a dentist when she grows up but has loved acting since she was a toddler. Kate truly fell in love with acting when her Kiddie Academy took a field trip to see an all kids show here at Matthews Playhouse. Since then, she has been seen as Babe in “Babe the Sheep Pig” with the Matthews Playhouse School of Theater. When she isn’t performing, she can be found hanging out with her cat, Pete. Kate is thrilled to be in her first mainstage performance at Matthews Playhouse bringing this exciting new play to life on stage!



Leo Walton: Jeremy

A fourth grader at Shamrock Gardens Elementary School, Leo always wanted to be an actor. As a little boy, he loved to dress up and play the roles of his favorite book characters. He loves to run track, especially middle distance races, such as the 800 and 1 mile. Leo loves music. Currently, he is exploring the world of modern hip hop, much to his mother’s chagrin.



Jonathan Charley: Mr. Miller (Aka Dad)

Jonathan is a Minister at Northside Church of Christ who enjoys roller skating, reading, singing, and playing basketball. His favorite food is pork 'n beans and hot dogs and he once auditioned for American Idol! In his youthful years, he dreamed of being 6 ft tall and buff, and yet he is neither. It has been many years since he has been on stage in shows, but as a minister, he is quite familiar with being in front of an audience. Nonetheless, he is thrilled to be back on the stage in a performing capacity and is excited to bring this show to life!



Georgia Charley: Mrs. Miller (Aka Mom)

Georgia works as a Domestic Engineer while also maintaining her many other skills as author, entrepreneur, hair stylist, and public speaker. She enjoys reading, community work, and caring for the less fortunate. While this will be her first mainstage theatrical performance, she is no stranger to the stage as she has performed many monologues from excerpts in her book, "Finding My Voice: Lord Help Me to Speak". She is also a Prayer Warrior. She is one of the Facilitators of the Rise



Elijah Lisbon-Shabazz: Pickles, the dog

Elijah is an 8th grader at Piedmont IB Middle School who loves to play the piano, draw, sing, perform, and play football. No stranger to the stage, Elijah's dad is an actor and just so happens to be the director of Princess Fearless. He has been involved at Matthews Playhouse since first grade and audiences may recognize him from "The Wizard of Oz", and various summer camp performances. He has also been seen in "Less Is Definitely More", "Let's Roar", and "Miss Nelson Is Missing" at Piedmont Middle. In addition to Princess Fearless, he is also currently working on a play called "Point Of View", which is a play to raise autism awareness.