



WordPlayers  
Theatre  
Company

# A Doll's HOUSE

By Henrik Ibsen

*An Acting Version  
by Thornton Wilder*

*Erin Presbyterian  
Church*

**SEPTEMBER  
12 - 22, 2024**

*wordplayers.org*



# **A DOLL'S HOUSE**

"A Doll's House (Wilder)" is presented by  
arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of  
Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## **SEASON SPONSORS**



Our current season is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.027 awarded to Knox County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Arts & Culture Alliance.

# **A DOLL'S HOUSE**

## **CAST**

### **(in order of appearance)**

Nora Helmer: Jaden Lily Branson

Thorvald Helmer: Tyler Glover

Christina Linden: Casey Maxwell

Nils Krogstad: Jonathan Gibson

Dr. Rank: Joe Jaynes

Ellen/Anna: Jae Campbell

Emmy: Naomi Whipple

Ivar: Nehemiah Whipple

Torvald/Krogstad Understudy: Ethan Norman

Nora/Christina Understudy: Rachel Norman

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director - Christi Watson

Stage Manager - Michelle Castleberry

Assistant Stage Manager - Emily Anderson

Scenic Design - Steve Krempasky

Sound Design and Sound Board Operator - Ethan Norman

Lighting Design - Bailee Bosclair

Costume Design - Ariana Dodson

Social Media - Xandria Cross

Projections Design/Operator - Cearan Jax Costello

Deck Crew - Lexie Gibson

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

*Leslie Arnold (Leslie Claire Photography)*

## OUR SHOW SPONSORS



New City Resources invites you to come join us **Saturday November 30, 2024** at Fellowship Church to experience behold the Lamb of God, an Advent song cycle by award-winning artist, Andrew Peterson.

*Tickets at:*

*[www.eventbrite.com/e/andrew-peterson-presents-behold-the-lamb-of-god-knoxville](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/andrew-peterson-presents-behold-the-lamb-of-god-knoxville)*

The background of this section is a photograph of a brick building with a large arched entrance. A paved walkway leads to the entrance. A white car is partially visible on the right. The text "BANK OF AMERICA" is overlaid in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is the Bank of America logo, which consists of three red and blue stripes of varying lengths, with a small registered trademark symbol (®) below it.

**BANK OF AMERICA**

## A DOLL'S HOUSE CAST



**Jae Campbell (Ellen/Anna)**, a long time friend of the theater, has been on the stage and behind the stage as an actor, playwright, director, and a part of the technical crew for the last 30 years. She has performed in a variety of shows such as children's theater, comedy shows, musicals and Shakespearian plays. Titles include *Matilda*, *Suessical*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Newsies*, and *Trailer Park Trash*. Her most recent work was *Jackie Robinson Steals Home*, a traveling show produced by The WordPlayers in February 2024. Jae is excited to be a part of such an amazing story and looks forward to opportunities to work with these cast and crew members again.



**Jonathan Gibson (Nils Krogstad)** is thrilled to join the Knoxville theatre community and to be a part of this WordPlayers production. He was last seen as Pinocchio in *Shrek the Musical* at Theatre Memphis in 2017. During his seven-year hiatus from performing, he could be found hiking, fixing computers, or cross-stitching. He would like to thank his son Timothy for always telling him "AHHH. DADA.", and his wife Juli Anna for her constant support.



## A DOLL'S HOUSE CAST



**Tyler Glover (Thorvald Helmer)** is a local actor here in Knoxville and is excited to work with The WordPlayers again. His credits with the company include *Hello Dolly!* and *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. His other theatre credits include: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *(Anon)ymous*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Hair the Musical*. He is a senior undergrad student at the University of Tennessee and hopes to pursue grad school for acting and a career in filmmaking.



**Joe Jaynes (Dr. Rank)** has appeared in 60+ stage, TV, and film productions. He is thrilled to be back with The WordPlayers after his recent appearance as Mordcha, the Innkeeper in *Fiddler on the Roof*. The theme of female empowerment in *A Doll's House* is just as radical and compelling today as when Ibsen's play was first performed in 1879. It's thrilling to be a part of bringing it to life in this place and time, and to share in the hard work that it takes to make great theater happen. Thanks Christi, Michelle, Emily, Ari, and fellow cast members for making this production so satisfying! And thank you, Kim, for your love, understanding, and support during the long days and nights that theater demands.

## A DOLL'S HOUSE CAST



**Jaden Lily Branson (Nora Helmer)** is beyond excited to be working with The WordPlayers again! She graduated this May from Belmont University with a BFA in Theatre Performance, where she had the opportunity to train at the London Academy for Music and Dramatic Arts. Recent credits include: Maeve, *Blue Stockings* (Belmont University), Annie Cannon, *Silent Sky* (Belmont University), and Malcolm, *Macbeth* (Belmont University). Jaden Lily has been active in the East Tennessee theatre scene from age 6, performing with Knoxville Children's Theatre, The WordPlayers, Oak Ridge Playhouse, Cumberland County Playhouse, and The Clarence Brown Theatre. She is so very grateful for this opportunity, team, and community of support!



**Casey Maxwell (Christina Linden)** is returning to The WordPlayers' stage for the first time since 2018 after playing Jane Eyre (*Jane Eyre*) and Jo March (*Little Women*, 2017) at the Bijou. Prior to that, she music directed *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and played piano for several summer musicals. Her corporate alter ego is an Email Marketing Specialist for a tech company, but she's grateful for every opportunity to be in a theatre. Thank you to the cast (and our unsung hero understudies!), crew, creative team, and you — our audience! Most importantly, thank you to the Lord for His undeserved grace and redeeming love.

## A DOLL'S HOUSE CAST



**Rachel Winfrey Norman (Nora/Christina Understudy)** is blessed to have been a part of The WordPlayers company for over a decade and is honored to understudy for Nora. She has had the privilege of directing some of The WordPlayers' Touring performances including *Sleepers, Wake!, On a Hill Far Away*, and *The Refugee King*. You may recognize her from past roles including Queen Jadis in productions *The Lion Witch and the Wardrobe* (2021 & 2023), May in *The Last Train to Nibroc Trilogy*, Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*, and Sister James in *Doubt* to name a few. She currently teaches Drama at Berean Christian School. Special thank you to Ethan, Bode and River.



**Naomi Whipple (Emmy)** is thrilled to be making her third appearance with The WordPlayers, following her roles in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. At just 13 years old, she has already had many opportunities to share the stage with others, including multiple performances with the Holston Middle School Show Choir, directed by the talented Natalee Elkins. Her stage credits also include ensemble roles in *Moana Jr.*, *Amanda Thripp in Matilda the Musical*, and *Nemo in Finding Nemo Jr.* Beyond the stage, Naomi has a deep love for cats and enjoys spending time taking care of animals. She is especially excited to portray Emmy and to share the stage with her little brother Nehemiah.



## ***A DOLL'S HOUSE CAST***



**Nehemiah Whipple (Ivar)**, 9 years old, is excited to make his debut with The WordPlayers in this production. He previously showcased his talent as Tommy in Holston Middle School's production of *Matilda the Musical*. A big fan of the Tennessee Volunteers, Nehemiah especially enjoys playing basketball, often found outside shooting hoops as early as 7:00 am. He is thrilled to take on the role of Ivar and share the stage with his sister Naomi.

## ***A DOLL'S HOUSE CREW***



**Michelle Castleberry (Stage Manager)** is honored to be stage managing her second show with The WordPlayers. She has previously been on stage with The WordPlayers as Annie in *Silent Sky* and for an advent tour as Elizabeth in *Sleepers, Wake!* Michelle has served in many roles in her theater career including: director, assistant director and choreographer. Some of her favorite productions are: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Silent Sky*, and *Steel Magnolias*. Michelle would like to thank her husband who always supports her in all her roles. Thank you to The WordPlayers for this opportunity and to the cast for such an amazing experience. Your bravery and dedication to your art is impeccable.

## ***A DOLL'S HOUSE CREW***



**Ariana Dotson (Costumer)** is ecstatic to be working with The WordPlayers again! Since graduating from UTK with a BA in Theatrical Tech and Design, she has worked with various theatre companies here in Knoxville including The Clarence Brown, Tennessee Stage, Pellissippi CC, and River and Rail. This will be her third production costuming for The Wordplayers and she is so grateful for their continued support of her design work. She'd also like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending encouragement and sends her love to each and every one of them!



**Christi Watson (Director)** is thrilled to work with The WordPlayers again. Last Fall, she appeared in The WordPlayers production of *Silent Sky* as Henrietta Leavitt. Christi is a theatre arts educator, actor, writer and singer. She has performed off-Broadway and around the country. Christi would like to thank the brave cast and crew for telling this important and timely story with her. She extends her deepest gratitude to her husband and children for their support.



**THE CONTRIBUTORS\***  
*We are very grateful for our  
Contributing Players!*

**ALL WORLD PLAYERS (\$1000+)**

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS (\$500-\$999)**

Steven & Nancy Pearson, Terry & Jeni Weber

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Darrin & Jessica Cross, Kay D. Lenox, Jack & Marjorie Lloyd,  
Michael & Nancy Lofaro, Dr. Joseph McQuighan,  
Mark & Doris Moreland

**UTILITY PLAYERS (\$25-\$99)**

Frank & CeCe Morris, Matthew & Jaime Straining

**OTHER SUPPORT**

Our 2024-25 Season is being supported, in part, by federal award number 21.027 awarded to Knox County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Arts & Culture Alliance.

*\*Gifts given between September 5, 2024 and Present*

**The WordPlayers are impacting the greater  
Knoxville community for the Kingdom of Christ.  
Your support is needed and greatly appreciated!**

**The WordPlayers is a non-profit, 501(c)(3)  
organization. Please send your tax deductible  
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WordPlayers  
Theatre  
Company

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Terry Weber, Secretary/Treasurer

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James Williams

### STAFF

Ethan Norman, Artistic Director

Leslie Arnold, Managing Director

Terri Lloyd, Graphic Designer

Joe Jaynes, Webmaster

Xandria Stavros, Social Media Coordinator



## COMING SOON!

### AUDITIONS:

*Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells*

September 30 at Erin Presbyterian Church,

6pm - 8pm

For details, go to [wordplayers.org](http://wordplayers.org)

### ***Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells***

By Allison Gregory, adapted from the book series by

Barbara Park

Dec. 13 at 7.30; Dec. 14 and 15 at 2.30

Pellissippi State's Clayton Performing Arts Center

*For more information regarding our season, please visit*

***[wordplayers.org](http://wordplayers.org)***

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