

PLAYBILL[®]

Wawasee High School Performing Arts
Syracuse, IN
presents



Letters To Sala

Wawasee High School Performing Arts Department

PRESENTS

LETTERS TO SALA

by Arlene Hutton

originally conceived by Lawrence Sacharow
based on the book *Sala's Gift* by Ann Kirschner

Directed by
Kristin Bonner

Assistant Director
Sarah LeCount*

Assistant Director
Chris Dykhuisen

with

Technical Director
Lighting
Ben Essick

Set Construction
Dan Wray
Jim Cox

Projections/Spotlight
Kyle Maxwell

German Language Consultant
Kyle Garner

Tech Manager
Weston Plikerd*

Sound
Jaxon Brown
Noah Smeltzer

Lighting
Prescott Wagoner*

Projections
Mya Dyson

Lighting Asst.
Conor Feeney

Sound Asst.
Kaitlyn Large

Photographs appear with permission of the
Sala Garncarz Kirschner Family.

Letters to Sala is controlled exclusively by Dramatist Play Service.

* Denotes members of the International Thespian Society



INTERNATIONALSM
THESPIAN SOCIETY

HONORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

CAST

In New York City

SALA GARNCARZ Ava Weldy *

ANN, her daughter Karissa Boesenberg *

CAROLINE, her granddaughter Julia Stover *

ELISABETH, her granddaughter Callie Brown

In Sosnowiec, in the camps, after the liberation

YOUNG SALA Frankie Levinson

In Sosnowiec

CHANA, her mother Gwendolyn Frank *

RAIZEL, her sister Charlotte Kompagne*

BLIMA, her sister Raelyn Yoder

LAYA DINA, her sister Alicea Miller

ROZIA, her cousin Raily Klinefelter

BELA, friend from home Marin Wagoner

FRYMKA, friend from home Katelyn Plikerd

SARA, friend from home Alicea Miller

In the camps

ALA GERTNER Sophia Smith *

CHAIM KAUFMAN Zach Miller*

HARRY HAUBENSTOCK Issac Miller *

ELFRIEDE PACHE Gwendolyn Frank *

HUBERT PACHE Abraham Sanchez-Hernandez *

LUCIA Grace Douglas *

GUCIA Katelyn Plikerd

ZUSI Marin Wagoner

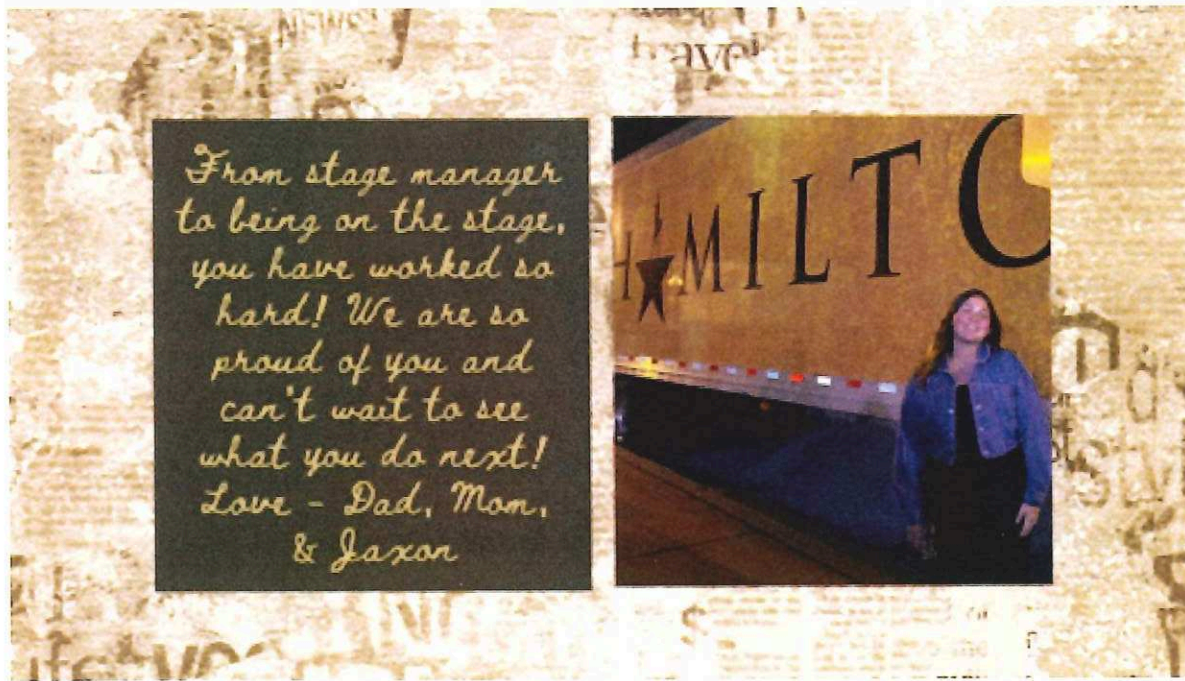
RACHEL Alicea Miller

SIDNEY KIRSCHNER, an American Soldier Jaiden Jones

In the camps (continued)

Ensemble

Mia Bradley
Julieann Eaglin
AJ Ens
Jaiden Jones
Alixzandra Salvo-McDaniel
Addison Mock
Ashley Wake



SASS, ATTITUDE, AND PERFORMING HAS ALWAYS BEEN
YOUR THING! ALWAYS BE YOU!
LOVE
MOM, DAD, AUSTIN AND HALEY!



SENIOR BIOS



Karissa Boesenberg * *as ANN, her daughter*

Karissa has been a part of 11 Wawasee shows since her Freshman year, her favorites being Tuck Everlasting, Guys and Dolls, and The Play That Goes Wrong. She plans to attend college in the fall to double major in Neuroscience and Psychology. She loved learning from and forming friendships with people who see as much beauty in theater as she does, and she hopes to continue being a part of performing arts during college and the rest of her life if possible. Her favorite memories include making lifelong friendships with the backstage crew and running wild at cast parties. Her advice to underclassmen is to appreciate every second of it because it'll be over much sooner than you'd like. "I could live like this forever" -Tuck Everlasting



Issac Miller *

HARRY HAUBENSTOCK

Issac has been in 5 shows at Wawasee High School: Tuck Everlasting, Play That Goes Wrong, Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief, Annie and Letters to Sala. Issac's favorite memory from Wawasee theatre was when he took a dive for his book that had fallen off stage on a show night during Tuck. Although he plans on pursuing a music education degree, Issac is so glad he stepped out of his shell to join the theatre department. He wishes that others do the same because it's an amazing experience.



Gwendolyn Frank * *as CHANA, her mother*

Gwen is excited to be in her eleventh show at Wawasee High School! She was ecstatic to have the opportunity to play Annie this year! Since her freshman year she's been in almost every role imaginable; Ensemble in Guys & Dolls, Tuck Everlasting, The Play That Goes Wrong, and Percy Jackson, Flounder in The Little Mermaid, Crew in 3 shows, Student Director in Murder on The Orient Express, and Holly in Love, Loss, and What I Wore. She has made lifelong friends, cried, laughed, and blossomed on Wawasee's stage. She's been in theatre as a whole for almost 10 years now and has plans to minor in Theatre Arts in college. Additionally, she hopes to go to IWU or Grace to pursue her dreams in Spanish Education. Gwen would like to thank her family and friends for their support. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Colossians 3:23



Zach Miller*

CHAIM KAUFMAN

Zach has been in four shows at Wawasee High School: Tuck Everlasting, last year's musical Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief, and this year's Annie and Letters to Sala. Zach's favorite memory was his first time performing on stage. Zach's inspiring words are "Every role matters, even if you're just a background character."



Abraham Sanchez-Hernandez *

HUBERT
PACHE

Abraham has been in Guys and Dolls, The Little Mermaid, Murder On The Orient Express, Tuck Everlasting, Annie, and Letters to Sala. His favorite memory is from Murder On The Orient Express after the first show weekend at rehearsal, when everyone couldn't stop laughing all of rehearsal. His advice for underclassmen is "Always allow yourself to enjoy the little moments in life".



Jaxon Brown


Jaxon has been a part of three shows, Percy Jackson, Annie and Letters to Sala. He was the soundboard tech in Percy and Sala and transitioned to the stage as Warbucks in Annie. He has always enjoyed coming to the shows and was glad to have had this opportunity. His favorite memory is screaming songs in the tech booth with Mya and Weston. Jaxon's future plans are to attend college to study either Music Education or history. His advice to underclassmen is to try new things because you never know the friends you'll meet or the experiences you'll have. Don't be afraid to be the oddball because it may be fun.

SENIOR BIOS



Noah Smeltzer

Noah is participating as part of the tech crew for the first time this year for Annie and Letters to Sala. His favorite theater memory was when Prescott went "Super Saiyan" lifting a Christmas tree. Noah's words of advice to younger students are "to thine own self be true. Don't let yourself get hung up on the past when your time is not over yet."



WAWASEE

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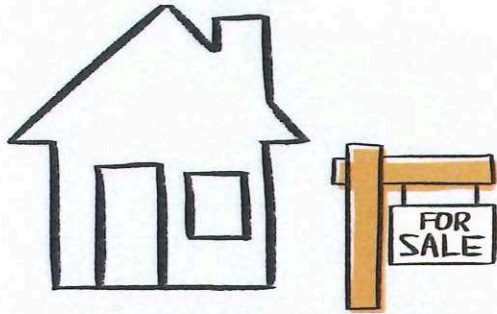
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Dentistry

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Good Luck Wawasee
Performing Arts!!



We are so incredibly proud of you this year! We have seen you grow, flourish, and push yourself beyond your comfort zone and we love you so much!

♥ Dad, Mom, Lily, Grandma & Grandpa

Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised.

- Proverbs 31:30



From a little girl....

Gwen

We have enjoyed watching you follow God and chase after your dreams. We are so proud of the woman of God you are becoming!

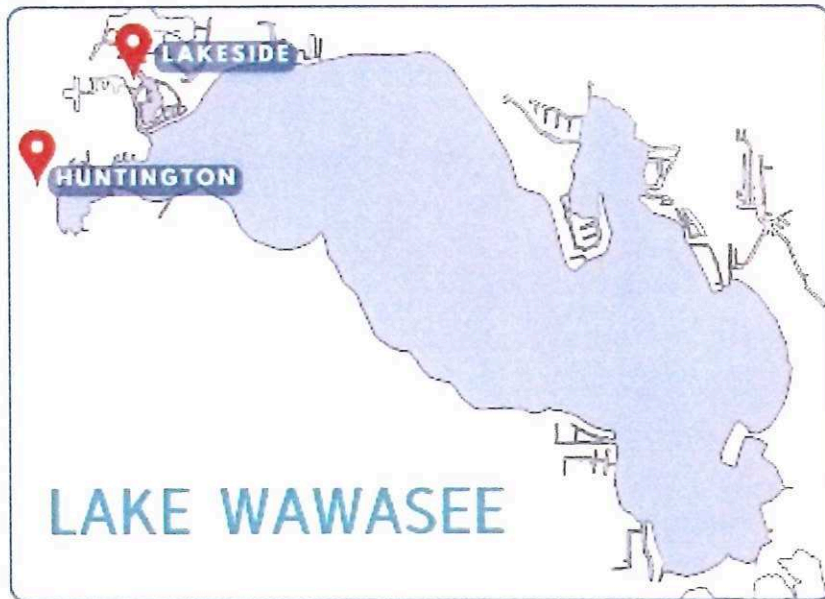
Love you!
Mom, Dad, and Lilly

...to a young woman



Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.

- Proverbs 31:25



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liebe Sala *Requinta 13-42*

ich so ein langes nicht schreiben, jetzt wenn wir sind zusammen bei Sala, in dem

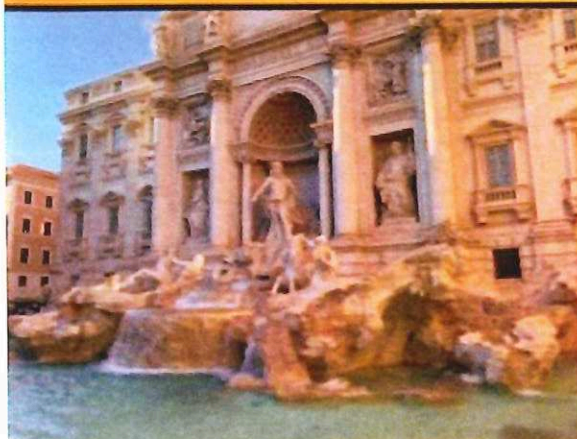
Special Thanks Go To:

- Wawasee Central Office
- Wawasee High School Administration
- Wawasee Theatre Booster Club
- Wawasee High School Custodians
- Wawasee High School History Department
- Wawasee High School Foreign Language Department
- Parents who helped assemble the set
- Parents who fed us
- Technical Theatre Classes
- Madalyn Becola and Audrey Miller
- Casey's Gas Station

kein zeit und schreiben paar werte zu dir.

uns gar nicht neues wir arbeiten for fri.

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Coming Fall of 2026!!



About the story.

On October 1940, Sala Garnarcz was sixteen, the daughter of a rabbi and teacher and the youngest of eleven children in a poor family living in Sosnowiec, Poland, close to the German border. When her older sister Raizel was ordered to report to a Nazi forced labor camp, Sala volunteered to take her place. Neither she nor her family suspected that six weeks of required labor would stretch to almost five years of slavery. Through letters from family and friends that she managed to hide and keep safe, *Letters to Sala* tells the story of one young woman's experiences in the most inhumane and unimaginable of situations.

Sala's collection of hidden letters she received from family and friends, which she kept secret for decades until sharing them with Ann Kirschner her daughter; highlight the resilience of the human spirit amidst unimaginable hardship.

Our cast was able to have a zoom call with

Ann Kirschner and Arlene Hutton, the playwright
a few weeks ago. This show has been life
changing for all of us.



Sala Garnarcz, age 16, in 1940. She was the youngest of eleven children in a poor family living in Sosnowiec, Poland, close to the German border. When her older sister Raizel was ordered to report to a Nazi forced labor camp, Sala volunteered to take her place. Neither she nor her family suspected that six weeks of required labor would stretch to almost five years of slavery. Through letters from family and friends that she managed to hide and keep safe, *Letters to Sala* tells the story of one young woman's experiences in the most inhumane and unimaginable of situations.

Sala died on March 7th at the age of 94. The letters and a diary Kirschner kept were put on display in 2006 at the New York Public Library. The same year, Ann Kirschner, a professor at the City University of New York, published a book about the letters titled "Sala's Gift: My Mother's Holocaust Story." A play, "Letters to Sala," also was written by Arlene Hutton.

Along with her daughter, Kirschner was survived by her husband of 72 years, Sidney; a son, David; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son.



Ann Kirschner and Arlene Hutton with her daughter, Sala, in 1940. Sala was the youngest of eleven children in a poor family living in Sosnowiec, Poland, close to the German border. When her older sister Raizel was ordered to report to a Nazi forced labor camp, Sala volunteered to take her place. Neither she nor her family suspected that six weeks of required labor would stretch to almost five years of slavery. Through letters from family and friends that she managed to hide and keep safe, *Letters to Sala* tells the story of one young woman's experiences in the most inhumane and unimaginable of situations.





A Note From the Director

I don't even know where to begin when talking about this show. It has been life-changing in so many ways. It's always fun to see young people learn about things they hadn't thought about before, but this topic is not one of those things. The holocaust is proof that people can do evil things. I remember in 8th grade when my history teacher showed me a photo of the Jews in a concentration camp. It was not only shocking to me but made me angry. I'm thankful for that teacher because he taught me what hate does. I have spent a lot of time thinking about those things and the best thing that came from my ponderings is that we can make a difference by being better than the evil people in the world. Bad things happen to all of us. Likely, not as bad as what Hitler did to the Jews, but we all have a life to live and if we can make the world a bit better by just doing the right thing I think that's a lesson worth teaching to the young.

The cast got to meet not only the playwright of this show but also Sala's daughter. Ann Kirschner is the person Sala gave her letters to and who wrote Sala's story so that it could be told. We are so thankful to her for this story. I really do think that when these students think back on their high school experiences that this will be one that they remember as hard, but good. I think that this show is one of the most moving experiences we have had on the Wawasee stage. And it's a true story.

I hope you will appreciate the message of Sala. That the world is hard but we don't have to hate. She kept her letters from her children for forty years so that they would not learn to hate. To me that is the best sort of lesson. We are constantly bombarded with information that we can't manage to sort through it all. I hope we can realize what it's doing to our children and that we will work to keep them children as long as we can.

Typically I end my note with encouragement to sit back and relax and enjoy the show. That will not happen today, but you will leave here reflecting on the world around you and what life is all about and how you want to navigate from here on out. I challenge you to go out and make a difference in someone's life who needs your help.

Deuteronomy 7:6

Kristin Bonner