



2024-25 Season
PLAYBILL



The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

From the book by Kate DiCamillo
Adapted by Dwayne Hartford

Directed by Brian Tabak

JULY
18-20

AUGUST
1-3, 15-17

FREE
7:30 PM

Roycroft Pavilion Rotary Bandshell



CAST

Edward Tulane.....Charlie Von Adler
Traveler, Pellegrina, and Others.....Lanie Shannon
Abilene, Lolly, and Others.....Alexa Gioia
Bull, Lucius, and Others.....Mark Tramont
Nellie, Marlene, and Others.....Susan Acker
Bryce, Lawrence, and Others.....Ryan Harrington

CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....Brian Tabak
Assistant Director.....Carolyn Quigley Mazierski
Producer.....Justyne Harris
Asst. Producer.....Paige Batt
Stage Manager.....Danielle Rennicks
Sound Design/Technician.....Bella Albino
Sound Technician.....Tony Mercurio
Lighting Technician.....Breanna Grayson
Lighting Design.....Lowell Sylwester, Jesse Mallen
Costume Designer.....Avery Mengay
Assistant Costumer.....Ginny Miori
Edward Tulane Doll Designer.....Charles Ford
Edward Tulane Doll Costumer.....JoAnn Nevils
Lucy Puppet Builder.....Brian Tabak
Music Composer.....Kyle Sorrell
Props.....Renee Ronan, Cathy Schrader
Set Piece Build.....Jesse Mallen, Mike Wier
Marketing.....Mary Loliger, Rick Lattimer, Paige
Tomlinson, Tim Musial, Jesse Mallen, Laurie Oravec
Headshots.....Dori Shear-McGowan

SPECIAL THANKS

Shawn Ronan, Nancy Sheehan Johnson, Nativity
Lutheran Church

Theatre in Hamlin Park Committee

Justyne Harris, Paige Batt, Rick Lattimer
Jesse Mallen, Mary Loliger

**DIRECTORS! PLAY SUBMISSIONS
NOW BEING ACCEPTED
FOR THE 2026-27 SEASON
DUE AUGUST 1!**



auroraplayers.org/opportunities/scripts

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

Lancaster, NY

FALL '25 OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Oct. 5th @ 9Am
Monday, Oct. 6th @ 5pm



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^RSVP^



BIOS



Susan Acker (Nellie, Marlene, and Others) - Susan is thrilled to perform in her first Theatre in Hamlin Park production! You may have seen her on the Aurora Players stage as the neurotic Christine Gorman in *Rumors* or in one of many locally written one-act plays. Off stage, Susan enjoys long road trips to see silly stuff, with her beloved dogs and singing badly but with great enthusiasm, to the dismay of her neighbors.



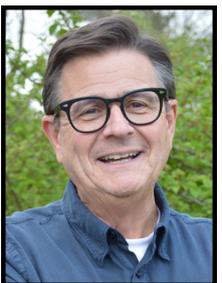
Alexa Gioia (Abilene, Lolly, and Others) - Alexa Gioia is honored to be performing in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* in her first production with Theatre in Hamlin Park. Alexa has recently graduated from Canisius University and has performed in many plays and musicals for around 15 years. Alexa's recent roles include Mrs. Hubbard in *Murder on the Orient Express* and Aunt March in *Little Women* for the Canisius University Little Theatre. In her free time, Alexa enjoys birdwatching and hiking.



Ryan Harrington (Bryce, Lawrence, and Others) - Ryan is excited to act in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane!* This is his first production with Theatre in Hamlin Park, though he previously performed with Aurora Players in *Christmas at Pemberley*. Offstage, Ryan just graduated from Canisius University and is preparing for his first semester of law school at the University at Buffalo. He would like to thank the directors, cast, crew, and everyone else who made this miraculous show possible!



Lanie Shannon (Traveler, Pellegrina, and Others) - This is Lanie Shannon's fourth production with Theatre in Hamlin Park, including Baloo in *The Jungle Book* and Mrs. Whatsit in *A Wrinkle in Time*. She performed live theatre across New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Tennessee, in Paw Island audiobooks and on-screen in "Full Body Wag" and PAX TV's "It's a Miracle." Her favorite roles include Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Claudius in *Hamlet*. Lanie most recently appeared in Towne Players's *The Outsider* as Louise.



Mark Tramont (Bull, Lucius, and Others) - Mark Tramont is thrilled to make his first appearance with Theatre in Hamlin Park. Other credits include Robert in Lake Plains Players production of *Proof*, Greg in AR Gurney's *Sylvia* with Kenton Players. His most recent appearances have been in *Almost Maine* and *Death of a Salesman*. Mark is the CFO of St. Mary's High School in Lancaster and co-owner with his wife Eileen of AuNaturel Mastectomy Boutique in Amherst. They reside in East Amherst.

BIOS



Charlie Von Adler (Edward Tulane) - Charlie is thrilled to make her Aurora Players debut this summer! A proud EAHS Theatre alum, she toured from 2019-2024 with Missoula Children's Theatre and Bright Star Touring Theatre. She simultaneously directed and performed full-scale musicals with up to 65 children in less than one week (*Pinocchio*, *Rumpelstiltskin*) and starred in numerous two-person improvisational plays for all ages (*Maximus Mars*, *FrankenSTEM*). Many thanks to Charlotte's teachers, friends, and father for their unwavering support!



Brian Tabak (Director) - Brian's heart has been a quiver since he learned that he'd have the opportunity to make his Aurora Players' directing debut with Theatre in Hamlin Park's production of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* ...so much so, in fact, that his cardiologist is growing concerned. For much of the 2010s, Brian was the Creative Director for WNY's longest-running improv program, CSz Buffalo, and during his time there he performed in more than 1,100 ComedySportz (CSz's flagship competitive improv show) matches. In the last decade or so, Brian has slowly shifted his focus to scripted theatre, appearing on stages scattered about WNY. He can frequently be seen at NRTG's Ellicott Creek Playhouse (*The Creature* in *Young Frankenstein*, Garry in *Noises Off*, and Charles in *Blithe Spirit* among others), was recently seen as Jonathan in Rocking Horse Productions' *The Play That Goes Wrong* and Andy Dufresne in *The Shawshank Redemption* at Desiderio's, and made his Aurora Players debut in 2023's *One Man, Two Guvnors*.



Carolyn Quigley Mazierski (Assistant Director) - Carolyn is thrilled to return to East Aurora after a 15 year hiatus, with her last role being Vibrata in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Favorite productions include *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie), *Noises Off* (Dottie), *The Sound of Music* (Maria), and directing *The Drowsy Chaperone* at NRTG. In her "free" time, Carolyn is a teacher, a proud mom to Will & Mia, and a happy wife of Bob. Shout out to friend and director, Brian, for bringing her along on Edward's "adventure."



Danielle Rennicks (Stage Manager) - Danielle is excited to be stage managing for Theatre in Hamlin Park! She has previously worked with Rocking Horse Productions as the stage manager for *Steel Magnolias*, *Frankenstein*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Dial M for Murder*, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. She was assistant stage manager for *The Odd Couple* and stage crew for *Murder on the Orient Express* and *It's A Wonderful Life*. Danielle also plays bass clarinet with the Buffalo Wind Symphony and Orchard Park Symphony Orchestra. She enjoys playing video games with her supportive husband, Dan, and spending time with their 2 cats.

CELEBRATING OUR 92ND YEAR OF COMMUNITY THEATRE



AURORA PLAYERS PRESENTS OUR 2025-26 SEASON



Directed by
**Nathan Andrew
Miller**

Book by Marsha Norman
Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
Based on the novel by Robert James Waller
Musical Direction by Benjamin Davis

October 10-12, 17-19, & 24-26, 2025



Directed by
Benjamin Davis

Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig

March 13-15, 20-22, & 27-29, 2026



Directed by
Marc Ruffino

Based on the screenplay by
Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard
Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall

May 29-31, June 5-7, & 12-14, 2026

For more information:
auroraplayers.org or 716.687.6727

EDWARD TULANE'S JOURNEY TO EAST AURORA



The star of the show has gone on a miraculous journey to reach us. Our Edward dolls (yes, plural – you see, just like other diva actors, we need to give our dolls plenty of time off to recuperate between shows) were handmade in Colorado especially for a production of *Edward Tulane* by Merely Players in Durango. After their December run, the Edwards made the 1,500 mile journey to Florida, where they appeared in a March production with The Story House in Niceville. After closing night in The Sunshine State, they traveled another 1,200 miles north to East Aurora to star in our production in July & August.

BIOS

Charles Ford (Edward Tulane Doll Designer) - Charles is a master backstage technician and the Technical Director of Merely Players in Durango, Colorado. An avid puppeteer, mask-maker, make-up artist, robotics engineer, and special effects designer, he has designed dozens of sets for a variety of theatrical genres. Charles' world travels have seen him climbing to the top of Machu Picchu, swimming with sea turtles, and riding a camel. He has tried to use inspiration from the joy and exhilaration of travel to create theatre magic.

JoAnn Nevils (Edward Tulane Doll Costumer) - JoAnn has been designing and stitching costumes most of her life. Merely Players in Durango, Colorado has been her prime focus for the last 30 years. Every show is memorable, with each costume being created with love and care. One of her goals is to make the actor feel comfortable and special. Favorite shows and costumes are Hecate from *Macbeth*, Lord Farquaad from *Shrek* and the Scarecrow and Wizard from our punk version of *The Wizard of Oz*. Many thanks to my children, Bucky and Janette, for believing in me and to Mona and Charles for being my friends.



AURORA PLAYERS THEATRE IN HAMLIN PARK



Since 2018, Aurora Players' Theatre in Hamlin Park has brought free, family-friendly performances to the Rotary Bandstand in East Aurora's Hamlin Park. This summer tradition makes the arts more accessible by removing cost barriers and welcoming audiences to enjoy live theater in a relaxed, outdoor setting.

Guests can bring their own lawn seating and enjoy concessions available inside the Roycroft Pavilion. The program also offers hands-on opportunities for newcomers interested in all aspects of theatrical production—furthering Aurora Players' mission to engage, entertain, and enrich the Western New York community.

Production History

2018: *Alice in Wonderland*

2019: *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*

2022: *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

2023: *The Jungle Book*

2024: *A Wrinkle in Time*

We Have a Seat for You!

Through a generous donation from The Scott Bieler Family Foundation, we are preparing to install brand-new seating in our auditorium – and we're inviting you to become a visible part of this exciting transformation.



With a gift of \$300, you can purchase an engraved brass commemorative plaque that will be displayed for the next ten years – the equivalent of \$30 per year – on the seat of your choice. Whether you choose to honor a loved one, celebrate your own passion for the arts, or leave a message of inspiration for others, your plaque will be a meaningful tribute and a proud part of our theater's history.

All of the proceeds from your donation will support other improvements to our theater home, including fresh paint, newly refinished floors, and new carpeting. Within a week of purchasing your seat plaque, a volunteer from Aurora Players will contact you to discuss which seat you would like to choose for your commemorative message(s) and to confirm your engraving. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis in order to be fair to all.

Join us in shaping the future of our theater – one seat, one memory at a time.

Your donation may be tax-deductible; please consult your tax advisor. Aurora Players is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please note: Individual show seating is not guaranteed in seats bearing your plaque(s).

auroraplayers.org/we-have-a-seat-for-you

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AVRORA PLAYERS

THEATRE IN HAMLIN PARK

Our ability to bring you on a “Miraculous Journey” every summer is made possibly solely through the generosity of our audience. Please scan or click the QR code or link to make a donation and keep bringing free theater to East Aurora!



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