

WALH PERFORMING ARTS STUDIOS  
PRESENTS

# WORK IT 2023

SATURDAY JUNE 10TH 4PM & 7PM  
SUNDAY JUNE 11TH 10:30AM & 2PM

ORCHARD PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE



## **Artistic Directors**

David & Katie Walh

## **Faculty**

Michael Lambert, Cara Koselny, Jodi Kowalski,  
Debbie Dalessandro, Mikaela Sessler, Maddie Reed,  
Caryn Klein, Karyn Torres

## **Student Assistants**

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Ella Brayman, Katie Harrington,  
Elise Kubiak, Delaney Palmer, Gracie Pedretti, Emma Penders,  
Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith,  
Ava Stablewski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

**Backstage Coordinator** Jessica Penders

**Lighting-Technical Directors** Pat Murphy, Lite Trix, Mike Bertini, Kevin Zbrzezny

**Light Board** Jack Walh

**Sound** Dave Pruski, Advanced Audio Productions

**Videography** Candlelight Productions

**Photographer** Paul Kittell, Images In Action

### **A Very Special Thank You to:**

- All Parents who helped with the performance and throughout the year.
- Our incredibly talented staff of teachers.
- Pat & Sandy Walh, Dan & Colleen Speakman
- Orchard Park Middle School Facilities Staff

Please remain seated during the show. Ushers will not allow re-entry during a performance.

The use of cameras and video recorders during this performance is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all cell phone notifications & do not text during the show.

# **Enjoy the show!**

## Directors' Note

WORK is the foundation upon which dreams are built. It is the recognition that nothing worthwhile comes without putting in the necessary time and energy. Whether it's excelling in a profession, pursuing a passion, or overcoming personal challenges, hard work is the driving force that propels individuals forward.

The beauty of thriving through hard work lies not only in the end result but also in the transformative journey it offers. It cultivates a strong work ethic, fosters discipline, and builds character. The challenges faced along the way provide valuable lessons that shape individuals into better versions of themselves.

'WORK IT' is a testament to the power of determination, perseverance, and resilience. The process of preparing for this show was a journey that required discipline, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to one's goals. By embracing challenges, setting clear objectives, and staying focused, students have begun to unlock their potential, achieve success, and have experience personal growth along the way. Preparing for 'WORK IT' has not only brought about external accomplishments, but we hope has also fostered a deep sense of fulfillment and self-confidence in our performers that will last a lifetime.

Whether it's your little one's first time on stage, or your performer is taking their final bow before heading off to college, we thank you for being part of our Walh Studios family.

**Enjoy the show!**

David & Katie Walh

**Show Dedication:** On behalf of all of our faculty and students, we dedicate this show to the Lambert and Bembenista families, and all families that have lost a loved one this year.

# Awards

## **5 Year Awards**

**2023:** Sadie Alba, Emma Aquila, Marie Aquila, Gia Bertini, Mackenzie Bertini, Audrey Brehm, Amelia Doetterl, Gianna Drumsta, Evelyn Fisher, Riley Flynn, Lydia Girolamo, Elzbieta Glowczynski, Eliza Golembiewski, Paige Janak, Amanda Kern, Molly Loftus, Audrey Lopes, Charlotte Occhino, Hayden Page, Jeehoon Pasinski, Emma Penders, Chloe Rice, Kendall Rice, Rowan Rice, Grace Williams

## **8 Year Awards**

**2023:** Ella Brehm, Zoe Hallett, Ella Johnson, Chloe Koselny, Lydia Rodgers, Amelia Rupp, Allison Steinwandel, Giada Stewart, David Valdez, Evelyn Wachowiak, Kendall Zbrzezny

## **10 Year Awards**

**2023:** Gabrielle Bauerlein, Violet Czuba, Morgan Galley, Ella Helper, Jack Kalenik, Sarah Kalenik, Marissa Klavoon, Ava Krukowski, Elise Kubiak, Shannon Lichon, Meagan Malek, Sarah Malek, Rachel Mulawka, Gracie Pedretti

## **Senior Awards 2023**

Thank you for your friendship and for sharing your time and talents with us. We have been blessed to have you as part of our studio family. We wish you great success and happiness in all that you do.

Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster,  
Zoe Hallett, Shannon Lichon, Abigail Ludwick, Tristan Smith,  
Ava Stablewski, Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Megan Woodward

# **Congratulations!**



# **WORK IT**

## **Young Performers Showcase**

### **June 10th 4pm Show**

#### **All the Livelong Day**

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster, Zoe Hallett, Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders, Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski, Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

#### **Workin' Day and Night**

Mia Cummings, Grace Gainey, Luella Gervais, Elsie Griffiths, Raelyn Mathewson, Julia Miller, Adeline Obrochta, Francine Ortiz, Magnolia Roy, Christina Scheffler, Allison Serrano, Lily Szalda

#### **Pajama Time**

Maisie Bukolt, Meher Gosain, Charlotte Jakubowicz, Addison Klavoon, Evelyn Russo, AnaRose Sanborn, Isabella Steger, Kennedy Taub, Taylor Zbrzezny

#### **Almost There**

Mae Fisch, Aubrey Gainey, Grace Gibson, Gwen Gibson, Gianna Grzybowski, Maggie Miller, Ivy Obrochta, Carmen Ragona, Grace Valiquette

#### **I've Been Working on the Railroad**

Giavanna Agostino, Natalie Clark, Ellie Dickinson, Clara Doll, Felix Farugia, Evie Feyes, Annika Haslinger, Emily Krawczyk, Loretta Mayer, Mina Russin, Shea Ryan, Daphne Scott, Evelyn Scott, Lucy Wesolowski

### **It Don't Mean a Thing**

Ella Brehm, Mihret Creech, Haley Cummings, Violet Czuba, Morgan Galley,  
Eliza Golembiewski, Amelia Houseman, Ella Johnson, Adalyn Killock, Chloe Koselny,  
Molly Loftus, Rachel Mulawka, Charlotte Occhino, Delaney Palmer, Jeehoon Pasinski,  
Aislinn Reed, Kendall Rice, Miriam Sanborn, Alexandra Schimert, Claire Sullivan,  
David Valdez, Jordan Zbrzezny, Kendall Zbrzezny

### **All of You**

Clara Joy Chapman, Leighton Folaron, Levi Georgi, Charlotte Jakubowicz,  
Makenzie LoVallo, Adalynn McCabe, Lucy McCormick, Evelyn Russo, AnaRose Sanborn,  
Sarah Stoddard, Brooklyn Walker, McKenna Walker

### **Baby Shark**

Hazel Anderson, Adeline Arno, Kingston Conboy, Alexis Connor,  
Leah DeAngelis, Charlotte Ersing, Cecilia Holst, Hope Miller, Mia Rybczynski,  
Abigail Staniszewski, Skylar Taravella

### **Get Your Sparkle On**

Madalyn Brock, Leah Clifford, Madelyn Clifford, Willow Hammond, Celeste Ibarra,  
Adelynn Mackiewicz, Claire McGurn, Cora Vasquez

### **Splash n Go**

Cadence Beilman, Georgia Gibson, Maeve Higby, Allison Huffman, Vivian Masocco,  
Francine Ortiz, Gabriella Ragona, Allison Serrano, Laura Solak, Lily Szalda,  
Alexandra Trpevski, Charlotte Vesterling, Robin Zbrzezny

### **Money**

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster,  
Zoe Hallett, Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders,  
Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski,  
Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh



### **Your Bear Will Be There**

Maisie Bukolt, Meher Gosain, Charlotte Jakubowicz, Addison Klavoon, Evelyn Russo, AnaRose Sanborn, Isabella Steger, Kennedy Taub, Taylor Zbrzezny

### **Get Back Up Again**

Mae Fisch, Aubrey Gainey, Grace Gibson, Gwen Gibson, Gianna Grzybowski, Maggie Miller, Ivy Obrochta, Carmen Ragona, Grace Valiquette

### **Whistle While You Work**

Giavanna Agostino, Natalie Clark, Ellie Dickinson, Clara Doll, Felix Farugia, Evie Feyes, Annika Haslinger, Emily Krawczyk, Loretta Mayer, Mina Russin, Shea Ryan, Daphne Scott, Evelyn Scott, Lucy Wesolowski

### **A River Flows in You**

Ella Brehm, Mihret Creech, Haley Cummings, Violet Czuba, Morgan Galley, Amelia Houseman, Ella Johnson, Adalyn Killock, Chloe Koselny, Molly Loftus, Rachel Mulawka, Charlotte Occhino, Delaney Palmer, Jeehoon Pasinski, Aislinn Reed, Kendall Rice, Miriam Sanborn, Alexandra Schimert, Allison Steinwandel, Claire Sullivan, Charlotte Taub, David Valdez, Evelyn Wachowiak, Jordan Zbrzezny, Kendall Zbrzezny

### **The Loud Mouse Song**

Clara Joy Chapman, Leighton Folaron, Levi Georgi, Charlotte Jakubowicz, Makenzie LoVallo, Adalynn McCabe, Lucy McCormick, Evelyn Russo, AnaRose Sanborn, Sarah Stoddard, Brooklyn Walker, McKenna Walker

### **This Woman's Work**

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster, Zoe Hallett, Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders, Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski, Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

### **When Will My Life Begin**

Madalyn Brock, Leah Clifford, Madelyn Clifford, Willow Hammond, Celeste Ibarra, Adelynn Mackiewicz, Claire McGurn, Cora Vasquez

### **Part of Your World**

Hazel Anderson, Adeline Arno, Kingston Conboy, Alexis Connor,  
Leah DeAngelis, Charlotte Ersing, Cecilia Holst, Hope Miller, Mia Rybczynski,  
Abigail Staniszewski, Skylar Taravella

### **How Far I'll Go**

Gwyneth Budin, Lucy Fisch, Cassidy Helper, Grace Holst, Mia Lehde,  
Gabriella Ragona, Allison Serrano, Laura Solak, Olivia Stablewski,  
Alexandra Trpevski, Robin Zbrzezny

### **This is Me**

Gabrielle Bauerlein, Julia Bembenista, Gina Cappello, Allison Clark, Raegan Forster,  
Zoe Hallett, Katie Harrington, Sarah Kalenik, Ellie Meehan, Emma Penders,  
Emily Putnam, Summer Schwanekamp, Ella Smith, Ava Stablewski,  
Abigail Suminski, Keely Thorpe, Avery Walh

### **Finale - I Feel Like Dancing**

Full Cast

# **Thank You For a Wonderful Year!**



## ***Dance...Act...Sing...This Summer!!!***

**Register Online Today At: [www.walhstudios.com](http://www.walhstudios.com)**



# Congratulations Seniors!



# We Love You!

## Faculty Bios

**David Walh** earned his BA in Musical Theatre and Communication from the University at Buffalo and continued to study acting and voice in NYC. He has performed leading roles in several U.S. National Tours and regional theatres throughout the country including the Burt Reynolds Theatre, the Galveston Opera House, the San Antonio Arts Theatre, and the Fort Lauderdale Performing Arts Center. Locally, David has performed at the Alley Way Theatre, the Lancaster Opera House and Shea's Buffalo.

Credits include Jesus in Godspell, Bob Cratchitt in A Christmas Carol, Charlie in Brigadoon, Tom Sawyer in Big River, Adam in Children of Eden, a one-man show at Busch Gardens Williamsburg, independent films, commercials, and CD recordings. David was a lead vocalist and emcee at the American Music Theatre in Lancaster, PA for three years. Many of his students have gone on to study acting and musical theatre at prestigious Universities. David is currently a cantor at St. John Vianney Church.

**Katie Walh** earned her BFA in Dance Performance & Theatre Arts from the University at Buffalo. She is certified to teach through Dance Masters of America, where she has been a guest Master Class teacher. Katie also created curriculum for a new dance program at the Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania, where she taught for two years. Many of her students have been admitted to distinguished college dance and theatre programs, and have begun successful careers in the arts.

Katie is a former Miss Dance of New York and danced with the Zodiaque Dance Company. She enjoyed performing throughout the U.S. in theatre productions, independent films, and commercials.

Katie was thrilled to choreograph a flash mob for the Blue Cross Blue Shield "Healthy Changes Everything" campaign. She also worked with Fisher-Price in the development, casting, and choreography for the interactive dance game console, "My Toon TV," and supplied young actors for the Explore & More Play-it-Forward Canalside development campaign.

**Michael Lambert** earned his BFA in Dance Performance and Visual Communication from the University at Buffalo and is currently an adjunct professor of Dance at Buffalo State College. Michael is on the faculty of Dance Masters of America Teacher Training School and Student Honors Intensive Dance Program. He was the National Director of DMA's Miss/Mr. Dance of America Scholarship Pageant, College Outreach Program, and Jr. Membership program of Chapter 8 WNY. Michael is a former Mr. Dance of New York. Performance credits include: Tokyo Disneyland, Disney World, Royal Caribbean, Princess Cruise Lines, Jazz Dance World Congress, Live! With Regis & Kathy Lee, a special event in Miami with Faith Hill, the John F. Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage Series, and many shows in Las Vegas.



**Cara Koselny** is a graduate of the University at Buffalo with a BFA in Dance Performance. She also earned her Masters Degree in Elementary Education. Cara has traveled all over the world dancing professionally and has performed in Japan, Singapore, Guam, and on Holland America Cruise Lines. Cara also danced for many years in Las Vegas in Bally's Jubilee. She currently teaches 3rd grade in the Hamburg School District and recently choreographed East Aurora High School's production of Curtains.

**Jodi Kowalski** earned her BFA in Dance Education and Performance from the University at Buffalo, where she danced with the Zodiaque Dance Company. She then spent three years touring the U.S. with Sesame Street Live. Jodi has taught classes at the University at Buffalo and choreographed for the Zodiaque Studio Dance Ensemble. She has been teaching dance throughout WNY for many years and also choreographs the musicals at Lancaster Middle School. Many of her students have gone on to successful careers in arts.

**Debbie Dalessandro** earned her BA and MA in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia and has been a vocal music teacher in West Seneca for many years. Her performance credits are varied but her true passion has been helping others to develop their potential on stage; directing children and adults in over 50 musicals, variety shows, & summer camps at schools, churches and theatres. Debbie has trained in NYC with iTheatrics, the creators of the Broadway Jr. shows for young performers.

**Mikaela Sessler** earned an MS in Adult Education, Social and Psychological Foundations, from SUNY Buffalo State University. She also earned her BS in Health and Wellness with a minor in Dance, and before that an AS in Health and Wellness with a concentration in Exercise Science, both with highest honors. Throughout her academic journey, Mikaela received prestigious scholarships, including the Lucille and Jack Yellen Scholarship in Dance 2021/2022 and the Merit Based Graduate Scholarship 2023. She also achieved notable accolades, such as the Academic Excellence Award 2022 and recognition as the Outstanding Health and Wellness Graduate 2022. Mikaela has an extensive background in performance in many styles of dance. One of her most notable performance accomplishments is ranking in the top eight in experimental freestyle at House Dance International.

**Madelyn Reed** began her dance career nearly twenty years ago at Walh Studios as a student. Maddie trained at Walh Studios for 12 years as well as at Classical Ballet of WNY. She graduated from Canisius College in 2018 and from the University at Buffalo with a Master of Social Work in 2022. She is currently a social worker at South Buffalo Charter School. Maddie is very excited to bring her energy and enthusiasm to the Walh Studios faculty.

**Caryn Klein** began her dance career at a local Tonawanda dance studio where she danced for 14 years, 9 of which were on their performance team. One of her favorite accomplishments was earning a Standout in Ballet award at a nationally recognized dance convention. Caryn attended SUNY Brockport as a dance major before heading to Walt Disney World, where she participated in 3 internship programs. She is excited to have joined Walh Studios as a teacher, and thrilled to share her passion and love of dancing.

**Karyn Torres** is overjoyed to return to Walh Studios as a teacher. She was a student of Walh Performing Arts for 8 years, and a teaching assistant for 5 of those years. Karyn also serves as the Head of Recreational Classes at a local Gymnastics center. She is currently a student at the University at Buffalo, majoring in criminology. Karyn teaches with an excitement and eagerness for the arts.

# Register Now for Summer Camps

## SUMMER SKILLS CAMPS



**Glee Camp**



**Broadway Babies Camp**



**Tap Camp**



**Turns, Leaps, and Technique**



**Acro Camp**

## SUMMER FUN CAMPS



**American Girl Camp**



**Tik Tok Camp**



**Princess Camp**



**Mermaids and Unicorns Camp**







# Conditioning and Choreography

*with Ms. Maddie*



Mondays and Tuesdays  
7:00-8:30PM

45 Minutes of Conditioning, Strengthening, and Stretching  
Followed by 45 Minutes of Choreography in a Variety of Styles

July 10

*Lyrical*

July 11

*Musical  
Theater*

July 17

*Jazz*

July 18

*Hip-Hop*

with  
Ms. Mikaela!



Ages 13+  
Intermediate/Advanced  
Students Only

Register Today!

[www.walhstudios.com](http://www.walhstudios.com)



**Dance, Act, Sing...this Summer!!!**



Dear Abigail,

It has been the greatest joy to watch you grow from a 3 year old dancer to a 17 year old performer. We are so incredibly proud of you.

You are a bright star on and off the stage.

We love you so much.

Love, Mom, Dad and Andrew

*Abigail Suminski*



**Congratulations to Molly Loftus  
celebrating 5 Years of Dancing at Walh's.**

**Keep following your dreams!**

**We are so proud of you.**

**With love from Mommy, Daddy, Kevin and Diggs**



Congratulations to the  
students and staff of  
Walh Performing Arts Studios  
on an amazing year!



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*Maisie Bukolt*

Let's get ready to Celebrate **Pajama Time!** Don't forget, "**Your Bear Will Be There**" when your dancing on stage!

**Congratulations on your 2nd dance recital! We are so proud of our Broadway Baby.**

*Love,*

**Mom, Dad, and Easton**





If you ever feel like  
giving up,  
remember there's  
a little girl  
watching who  
wants to be just  
like you.

Don't disappoint  
her!



**CONGRATULATIONS to Senior Tristan Smith and to  
5 year award recipients Mackenzie and Gia Bertini!**



**We are so proud of you and have loved watching you grow as performers  
at Walh Studios. We can't wait to see what you do next!**

**Love, YOUR BIGGEST FANS**

**Aka - your family**





1 Million Memories.  
10 Thousand Inside Jokes.  
100 Shared Secrets.  
1 Reason - Best Friends 💖

No matter what tomorrow  
brings, enjoy every minute on  
every stage together.