
 Starlight Community Theater Presents



September 10-19, 2021

 Directed by Van Rockwell

by Dale Wasserman  
adapted from the novel by Ken Kesey

Produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, New York

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

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## ***ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST* Director's Message:**

Before you read any further... please know our production of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* does not advocate mental illness and addiction as funny. This play, and ultimately our production, is meant to not only entertain, but bring awareness to those who are suffering from these afflictions.

Many people asked me... "why on earth would you do *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* during a pandemic? Life is already rough enough right now, so why would I go to the theatre and watch a group of people be mistreated by state hospital workers?" This is a valid point

However, why not watch a performance of *Cuckoo's Nest*? First of all, it's rarely performed. Secondly, despite the pandemic causing a ruckus everywhere for everybody and dividing us as a nation, there is one component we as the public are missing or completely disregarding... mental health. I read the *Cuckoo's Nest* play and couldn't help but see similarities to our current environment.

It would be easy and unchallenging to focus on the riff between McMurphy and Nurse Ratched. There's not enough focus on the human aspect, where we see the supporting characters' scuffles with the world around them. I read the play repeatedly in 2019 and 2020, back when Starlight had intended the show to be performed in the 2020 line-up. All I could see was an unchanging parallel of Plato's *Allegory Of The Cave*. The state hospital is an 'island.' The patients can never leave. They linger and endlessly saunter around until an authority figure says they can leave. When they do try and leave, they find themselves right back on the 'island' again. There are many visitors who can visit the 'island,' who only serve to keep the characters on the 'island' for longer. There may be ample opportunity to leave, either through a window or a front door, but it's not as simple as it looks.

McMurphy realizes the state hospital under Ratched's control is far worse than being in a state prison. He begins to see something is off. This is a primary motif in the production. You see it in the scenic design. You hear it in the music. Staff appear and disappear. Locations change, but it never seems like anyone moves anywhere new. Call it a nightmare-ish quarantine, comparable to the quarantines we just had. Some people were happy to leave. Others are still in it. With annoying interruptions by the staff, intercom, and music – it is no wonder we're watching a cuckoo's nest and feeling like we'll soon be a part of it.

Not to say mental illness and addiction depicted in the play should be disregarded. Not to say there are no longer abuses seen in the workforce. But the depiction given in *Cuckoo's Nest* now works as a platform for a parable of struggles between personal freedom and the brokers of power, and not as a cautionary look into the mental health system. That parable has been done before. The film made that parable years ago, and it's been too easy of a choice to serve under.

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* should remain an emotive story of the danger of abuses (enacted or potential) of power by a small number of controlling forces over the dignity, freedom, and well-being of the masses. Does that message still speak to us, presently, either in a pandemic? Or, either on a political spectrum as we've seen in the last couple of months, and years? I believe so, and mightily. The way in which Nurse Ratched chooses her words, and massages them into messages of concern should mirror the manipulation of the messages which flood across our airwaves, cyberspace, social media, news sources, and overall opinions (not to mention diplomacy for one another... I mean, has anybody actually read comments on YouTube or Twitter)?

At the end of the day, or performance rather – we have it pretty lucky. We're fortunate enough to be here watching live theatre. We could be far worse off. If you learn anything from our production, it's that mental health is far more powerful than any pandemic. How we feel enables how we act. And we need to work on ourselves before we can inspire others.

***Van Rockwell***

*The director would like to specially thank Chris Chavez, David Chorley, Louis Farber, and Marcos Voss. in addition to Dr. Carrol Wheat, Mom, and Dad for always advising mental health "is a crucial part of (my) journey to wellness, and there's no shame in seeking help in any capacity."*

# ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

## CAST

Randle McMurphy.....	Keath Hall
Dale Harding.....	Wade Moran
Chief Bromden.....	Palimo Lopez
Aide Warren.....	Bill Griffith
Aide Williams.....	Michael Rodriguez
Nurse Ratched.....	Andrea Hough
Nurse Flinn.....	Taylor Tunnell
Billy Bibbitt.....	Bear Golden
Frank Scanlon.....	George Person-Karlan
Charles Atkin Cheswick III.....	Cody Bro
Anthony Martini.....	Jay Budzin
Dr. Spivey.....	Scott Sims
Aide Turkle/Ruckly.....	Jim McCabe
Andy Starr.....	Colleen Rose Thompson
Sandra.....	Nicole Thompson

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Van Rockwell
Stage Manager.....	Nicole Thompson
Set Designer.....	Michelle Johnston
Sound Designer.....	Van Rockwell, Nicole Thompson
Lighting Designer.....	Renee Ashlock
Properties Designer.....	Ric Alpers
Stage Combat Choreographer.....	Keath Hall, Van Rockwell
Costume Designer.....	Heather Riddle
Hair/Make-Up Designer.....	Bear Golden
Sound Board Technician.....	CJ Schuett
Light Board Technician.....	Nathan Loucy
Producer.....	Nena Rippenkroeger

Cast and Crew bios may be found online at:  
[www.starlightcommunitytheater.com/cuckoo](http://www.starlightcommunitytheater.com/cuckoo)



# STARLIGHT

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## COMMUNITY THEATER

### BOARD MEMBERS

President.....Cathy Merrill  
Vice President ..... Elizabeth Spencer  
Secretary .....Samantha Hartwell  
Members At Large..... Justin Cain, Craig Frooninckx, Lynn Golden,  
..... Elise Kurbatt, Heather Riddle, Christina Robinson  
Member Emeritus/Co-Founder .....Patricia Bennett  
Members Emeritus.....Raquel L Jarvill, Barbara Surloff

### OPERATIONAL DIRECTORS

Managing Director.....Nena Rippenkroeger  
Artistic Director.....Dan Ashlock

### MISSION STATEMENT

Starlight Community Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit community theatre corporation dedicated to providing live theatre to entertain and enrich our community and to encourage youth and adult participation by providing growth and educational opportunities through a variety of theatrical experiences, both on and off stage.

**A Special Thank You to all who helped with this production, especially:**

Thomas Graca  
Samantha Hartwell  
Raquel L Jarvill  
Danell Rankin





**Keath Hall (*R.P. McMurphy*)** - Originally from San Diego, Keath has a BA in History from SDSU and an MA in Literature from NAU. He has worked as an actor, director, fight choreographer and technician for over 20 years. You may have seen him in *Orson Welles* at the Don Bluth Front Row Theatre. "Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death but once." - (a guy who got stabbed 23 times)



**Wade Moran (*Dale Harding*)** - Wade is excited to be back at Starlight in a role he has wanted to play for many years. His last outing on this stage was as the mild-mannered Marvin in Starlight Community Theater's production of *4 Weddings and an Elvis* (AriZoni nomination – Best Supporting Actor). We are glad to be able to share with you this still popular show exploring how we once viewed mental illness and the power struggle between individuals and the society which defined "normal". Thank you to our loyal patrons of live theatre and to the folks at Starlight Community Theater for making it happen.



**Palimo Lopez (*Chief Bromden*)** - Palimo is a graduate of the Esther Boyer College of Music at Temple with a Master's in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. He has worked locally in three independent feature films and a fourth, *Run Rabbit*, scheduled to be released in Jan 2022. Starlight's production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is Palimo's debut to live stage theater.



**Bill Griffith (*Aide Warren*)** - This is Bill's first production with Starlight and his first production in the state of Arizona. He recently transplanted from outside of Chicago where he helped form the local group Latitude 41 theater. He has been involved in many productions in the last 20 years, doing everything from acting, to set design, technical directing, producing, and directing. He would like to thank his ever-growing family for putting up with the many nights away from home and Van for this opportunity with a new group.



**Michael Rodriguez (*Aide Williams*)** - Michael is proud to be performing in such a classic show for his Starlight debut. Michael is a student at MCC (Mesa Community College) studying theatre. He tries to perform regularly around the valley as well. Michael would like to thank Van, Nicole, Dan, and his cast mates for an awesome experience. He hopes you enjoy the show!



**Andrea Hough (*Nurse Ratched*)** - Andrea is honored to be returning to the physical stage for her fifth show with Starlight and thrilled to be playing the role her ex-husband swears she was born to play. Last seen as Captain Belle Crozier in the virtual production of *The Present Tense*, other beloved roles have included Dolly Tate in *Annie Get Your Gun* (Starlight), Daelynn in *The Balance of Equality* (The Herberger Theater), Lily in *Swallow Your Mind* (Virtual Theater of Arizona) and Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance* (Fullerton College). Andrea is an advocate for

diversity and inclusion in local theater, and is the Executive Director of Virtual Theater Lab. She sends her thanks to Mom and Dad for their unwavering support and babysitting services, to Tim for his love and encouragement (and tacos!), and to all the healthcare workers who have sacrificed so much to save lives and guide us through the pandemic. Get vaccinated!



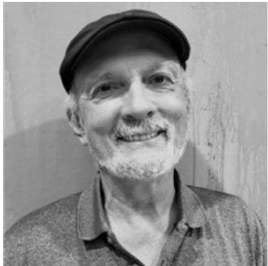
**Taylor Tunnell (*Nurse Flynn*)** - This is Taylor's first appearance in a Starlight production and her first in any community theatre. She is currently attending ASU (Arizona State University) working toward her

Bachelor of Arts through the Starbucks ASU online program. She is truly honored to take part in this show and grateful to be welcomed in a community with such talented, kind, and hilarious people.



**Bear Golden (*Billy Bibbit*)** - Bear is thrilled to be doing another show at Starlight with such an incredible cast. His previous works include ... *Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch

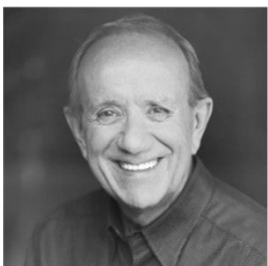
Mahoney), *Dracula* (Renfield), *Puffs* (J. Finch-Fletchly - AriZoni nomination), and many more! Much love to Bear's family who puts up with this theater nonsense and to his friends who have held his hand along the way.



**George Peterson-Karlan (*Frank Scanlan*)** - George is delighted to be working in live theater again. Recent roles include Dr John Douglas (*Miss Evers Boys*), Rev. Fred Phelps/Murdoch Cooper (*The Laramie Project*, Mesa Encore Theater/Virtual Theater Lab) Henry the Doorman (*Trouble in Mind*, Black Theatre Troupe), Joe Benjamin (*God's Favorite*, Stage Left), Les Kenkaat (*Boy Gets Girl*, Mesa Encore Theatre), Fezziwig (*A Christmas Carol*, TheaterWorks), Carter (*Things My Mother Taught Me*, Stage Left) and Rev. Tooker/Doc Baugh (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Stage Left), Phillippe (*Heroes*, Heartland Theater Company, Illinois), and Andrew Barth (*Send the Light*, School of Theater and Dance, Illinois State University).



**Cody Bro (*Charles Atkin Cheswick III*)** - Cody Bro was born in Brooklyn, New York. This is Cody's fourth performance at Starlight. He's likes acting in plays on a stage to an audience of people watching him. One day soon Cody hopes he will be the most wildly popular actor in the whole world, a household name across every continent around the entire globe. In his spare time he hangs out with his friends, too countless to name, or his wife, Emily.



**Jay Budzin (*Anthony Martin*)** - Jay is thrilled to be performing at Starlight Community Theater and wishes to thank Van for this wonderful opportunity. Jay has performed in a number of theatres throughout the valley. His performances include: Oscar/Kelly in *Lady for a Day*, Porter Milgrim in *Deathtrap*, which was nominated for 5 AriZoni awards, winning the award for Best Director. Also, playing Mr. Witherspoon in *Arsenic & Old Lace*. A favorite role was playing Mr. Dussel, in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Jay has also appeared in television commercials, print and internet advertising. He is represented professionally by the Deborah Maddox Agency. Enjoy the show and thank you for supporting community theatre! PTL.





**Scott Sims (*Dr. Spivey*)** - Scott Sims is no stranger to Starlight having appeared in *Dracula* (Zoni nominee), *Annie*, *Four Weddings And An Elvis*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Company*, *The Curious Savage*, and *Curtains*. He has been musical director for *Bye, Bye Birdie!*, *Cinderella*, *Where's Charley?*, *It's a Bird... Plane... Superman*, et al. Scott directs choirs at Deer Valley High School, Glendale, and leads the praise band at Living Water Lutheran Church. He thanks his wife, Debbi, for encouraging him to be on stage again.



**Jim McCabe (*Aide Turtle/Ruckly*)** - Jim is a special education and math teacher at Liberty High School (Peoria), proud father of three, and backseat driver of a tandem bicycle. He is pleased to be performing in his first Starlight production. Favorite past roles include the title role in *The Wizard of Oz* and Giles Corey in *The Crucible*, both at TheaterWorks. Endless gratitude to my wife, my hero, and my inspiration, Christa.



**Colleen Rose Thompson (*Candy Starr*)** - Colleen Rose Thompson is tickled to portray Candy Starr at Starlight. Since January 2019, she's had the time of her life becoming a bona-fide theatre kid. She's greatly enjoyed participating in a variety of live and virtual productions, including the Arizona premiere of *PUFFS!* at Desert Stages Theatre. Most recently, she starred as Clarissa Hailsham-Brown in Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web* (DST). Huge thanks to all who've taken a chance on her!! IG: @colleen.rose.art #HopeThroughHollis



**Nicole Thompson (*Sandra/Stage Manager/Sound Design*)** - Nicole Thompson is happy to be a part of her third show at Starlight. This is her first-time stage managing and is excited to work alongside this crew and this wonderful cast. Nicole professionally stage manages around the valley and jumps into a few shows acting. Nicole was the Virtual Theatre Arizona's Company Manger during the Pandemic Prime, while stages were quiet. Nicole also Sound Designed for *Spider's Web* at Desert Stages, played Lucy Westenra in Starlight's *Dracula* and much more. This is Nicole's fourth time stage managing while being a part of a show.

**Van Rockwell (*Director/Sound Design*)** - Van Rockwell is blessed, delighted, and grateful to be returning to Starlight Community Theater, after a two year long hiatus. Previous directing credits at Starlight include *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, *A Murder is Announced*, and *You Can't Take It With You*. He was last seen directing *Bonnie & Clyde*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (AriZoni Nominee for Best Director of a Youth Musical), and *Miss Nelson is Missing* (AriZoni Award for Best Director of a Youth Play) for Limelight Youth Theatre. And before that, *She Kills Monsters*, *Boy Gets Girl*, and *Jesus Hopped The A-Train* for Mesa Encore Theatre; and *Blacklisters* for Brelby Theatre. During the pandemic, he premiered his original play, *Love Quotations*, for Virtual Theatre Lab; and co-



directed *The Laramie Project* with Mesa Encore Theatre and Virtual Theatre Lab. His next directing project will be *The Unexpected Guest* for the Sun City Grand Drama Club, opening in December. "Thank you, Dan, the cast, the crew, the designers, my pets Murphy, Darcy, and Carmen Sandiego; and of course, mom and pop, for raising me to enjoy and encourage me to participate in any capacity of the theatre and stage." Also, mental health matters. Please remember to focus on your own health (mental, physical, emotional, etc.) during these uncertain times.



**Michelle Johnston (*Set Painter*)** - Michelle has been a part of Starlight for over 7 years now when she painted her first set for *Beauty and the Beast*. When not designing enchanted woods or stately living rooms or sneaking in the occasional role on stage she's an investigator at MUFG Union Bank. She's been in the field of financial crimes for over 20 years and retired from the US Army reserves in 2016 after 26yrs of service.

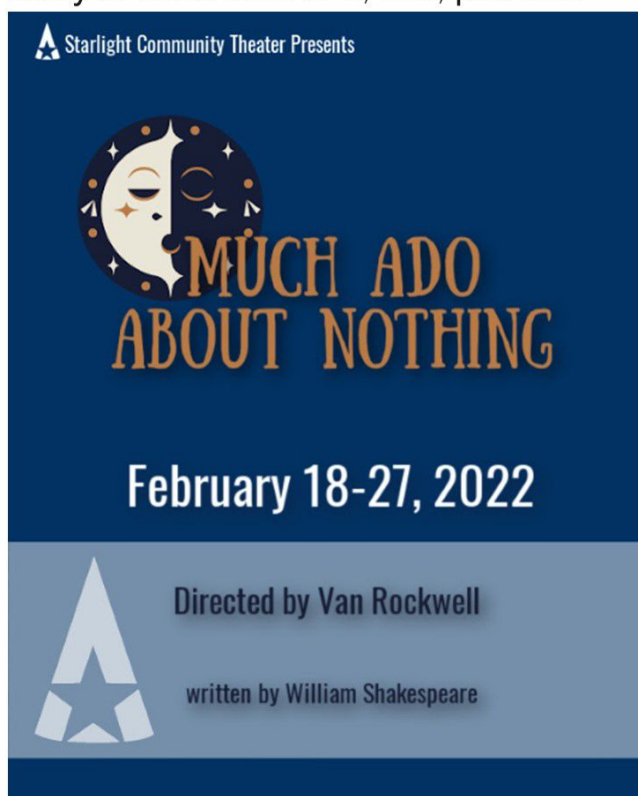
**Renee Ashlock (*Lighting Designer*)** - Renee has served the Lighting Designer for *Avenue Q School Edition*, *Holy Matrimony* and *Mamma Mia* (Starlight) and *Oliver*, *Damn Yankees* (DST). She has also been a stage manager and technical director for numerous DST, ASA and BCHS productions. Her favorite theater jobs are set construction, lighting, and photography. Renee teaches middle school science for the Loyola Academy at Brophy College Prep. She appreciates and loves her supportive family: Dan, Nathan & Alaine and Quinlyn.

**Nathan Loucy (*Lighting Tech*)** - Nathan is a student at Desert Heights Preparatory Academy. He has been performing with Starlight since 2016 and is excited for the opportunity to learn the "behind the scenes" technology that makes a show happen!

**CJ Schuett (*Sound Tech*)** - This is CJ's first show with Starlight but his credits include: *Suessical Jr.*, *Jungle Book Jr.*, *Annie Jr.*, *Mamma Mia*, & *Beauty and the Beast*. CJ is a high school junior and is a self-described "total performing arts nerd." She thanks her sister, Nicole, who recruited her for this show.

**Heather Riddle (*Costume Designer*)** - Heather is a stay-at-home mom of 5, wife, part time nurse, piano teacher and business owner. She has costume designed many productions around the valley and is thankful for this opportunity to work with such an amazing cast and production team. She is also grateful for her super supportive husband and kids who encourage her and whom she loves incredibly much.

**Ric Alpers (*Properties Designer*)** - Ric has been involved in theater for 50 years. With a background in Children's Theater, he has worked for The California Young People's Theatre, Phoenix Little Theater's Cookie Company, and ASU's Imagination Corporation. He spent 29 years with the Paradise Valley School District as Auditorium Manager. He is an AriZoni nominated Director and Designer and an NYA winning Director. He has also cleaned quite a few theater bathrooms.





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