

Meet the Crew

DEB CHURCHILL – Producer/Costumer/Ticket Master/Kitchen Manager

Deb Joined ASTRA during the very first production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2004) and has loved being involved every minute since! She is an active parishioner at All Saints and a retired teacher. Blessed by all the friends and family in her life, Deb looks forward to the next chapter in her life, which definitely includes more traveling! Grateful to the cast, orchestra, and crew of *Newsies*, especially her amazing departmental leads and Breanne for her persistence in making *Newsies* happen – thank you! “Much love to Tim, Jillian, and Mom.”

BREANNE SERRANO – Director/Choreographer

This is Breanne’s 10th summer with ASTRA! She has been involved with 7 shows: directing, assistant directing, choreographing, serving, performing and supporting. ASTRA is home to Breanne, and she loves the environment that it shapes for others, so they feel safe to create art. *Beauty and the Beast* (ASTRA 2018) will always hold a special place for her as it was her solo directorial debut, where she met one of her stepson’s Eli as he played Chip! She assistant directed & choreographed “Guys & Dolls” (2015), played Truly Scrumptious “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” (2016), directed and choreographed “Singin In the Rain” (2019), co-created The 2020 Gala and directed/ created last summer’s “Music Through The Decades. A huge thank you to the ASTRA committee, Father Cal & the All Saint’s staff, Paula, her amazing Producer Deb, her dance captain and co-choreographer Ellie and the cast for making this show a dream come true. Thank you to her kiddos Eli, Andy & Jack for allowing her to be their bonus mom, her fiancé and love of her life, Mike who supports her in everything she does, her family, friends and her three poodles Pippin, Chip & Sully. She hopes you enjoy the show & “Seize the Day!”.

LINDSAY DELMARTER – Vocal Director

Lindsay Delmarter (Music Director) is honored to bring *Newsies* to life with this incredible cast and production team! She directs music throughout the Puget Sound region, with recent credits including *The Prom* (Auburn Community Players), *I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change* (Renton Civic Theatre), and *Rocky* (Tacoma Little Theatre). When not directing, she performs onstage and teaches voice alongside her best friend. Heartfelt thanks to her family, friends, and God—the true Director of her life.

MIKE LEWIS – Orchestral Director

Mike Lewis has been the orchestra director for a number of ASTRA musicals. Besides being a percussionist, he has been a high school band teacher, a school administrator, and is currently teaching music in Central Kitsap. He has a strong love of musicals and their unique ability to bring people together. His love of musicals started with attending shows at the Paramount and 5th Avenue theaters with his mother.

ELLIANA GREGORY – Tap Choreographer & Dance Captain

Elliana "Elli" has had a blast being tap choreographer and assisting Breanne in choreographing *Newsies*, this has been a dream come true! She has been dancing since she was 2 years old. Most recently Elli was the choreographer and assistant director for *24-25' School Year* at Mason Middle School and choreographed *Cinderella* (Mustard Seed). Elli won the 2019 student choreography contest at Riot Dance Center. She wants to thank ASTRA for this opportunity. Jeremiah 29:11

NANCY MORRIS – Set Design/Scenic Artist/Assistant to Producer/House Design

Nancy is happy to be creating imagery for ASTRA once again. Since the beginning of ASTRA, Nancy has designed much of the framework for the action and storyline of most shows. Working with such a talented production team is so much fun!

VALERIE CARR – Prop Master

Valerie is no stranger to the stage, on or off. She is both a performer and creator. Working as the prop lead and painting the large backdrops has been a joy for her. When not involved with theater, Valerie spends her time on other creative endeavors, writing, drawing or creating. She lives for the arts and expression through physical media.

ROD NIRSCHL – Construction Manager/Website Design & Editor

Rod has been working on ASTRA stage construction since the first ASTRA show more than 20 years ago. Rod enjoys working with all the creative and talented people who have amazing dedication to creating outstanding entertainment for our audiences. Rod would like to dedicate this show to all his wonderful former ASTRA construction colleagues with whom he was able to share creativity.

STEVE MILLER – Lighting Design

Steve Miller is grateful to be returning to ASTRA after a 10-year hiatus due to an overseas tour, extended by the pandemic. Steve joined ASTRA with *5 Ghosts* and has served in several roles, including lead, producer, lighting designer, dishwasher and custodian. Steve does not

consider himself a thespian but is drawn to ASTRA by the positive growth experiences it provides. Steve finds it heartwarming to see young members build on their ASTRA experience and enter the performing arts, technical and hospitality industries.

JEFF FLYNN – Sound Manager

Jeff started working with ASTRA nineteen years ago when he was “volunteered” to build a library table for *The Music Man*. Since then, he has done stage and set construction, been a spotlight operator, served on the ASTRA Committee, and twice co-produced with wife, Nanette. “I love working with the talented, hardworking, and creative people in ASTRA and being part of a show that is enjoyed by so many people.”

KARYN PANESKO – Program/Graphic Artist/Posters

Karyn has been a devoted patron of the stage for more than 45 years and an ASTRA supporter from the beginning (2004). “For me, theatre is art imitating life. It’s a place to connect with others, to challenge oneself to greater heights, and to ponder what it means to be part of the human family — all while being thoroughly entertained!” Besides her passion for theatre, Karyn has an extensive background in office administration and lay ministry. She has served on numerous councils, commissions and leadership teams since joining All Saints Parish (2000). These days, she primarily facilitates the Bible Study Ministry she co-founded (2004), serves as a lector and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Mass and assists the Funeral Ministry when needed. In her spare time, Karyn enjoys cooking, reading, travel, football and studying Spanish.

ROCKY ROSS – Photographer

Rocky is a parishioner of All Saints Catholic Church. He is retired and volunteers at Good Samaritan Hospital. Rocky enjoys photography and traveling. Enjoy the show!

MELIKA MINDEMANN – Sound Technician/Photographer & Videographer

Melika has grown up singing and playing instruments like the piano, bass guitar, and cello. She has sung in talent shows, churches, choirs, and traveled with worship teams in Youth Encounter. She has participated in productions and spotlight at St. Luke’s Theater Company since 2015. As of 2022, she continues to work backstage as a lead or assistant at Mustard Seed Theatre. This will be her first year supporting ASTRA as sound tech!

HAILEY WHARTON – Stage Manager

Hailey Wharton is ecstatic to debut with ASTRA on Newsies! She is an elementary music teacher and private voice instructor in the Pacific Northwest. Recent credits include *La Boheme* as Young Artist and Chorus (Tacoma Opera) and *Don Giovanni* as Chorus and Dance Assistant (PLU Summer Opera).

When she is not teaching or performing, she is narrating the actions of her cats, Cocoa and Oliver.

Find out more at <https://www.haileywhartonperformer.com/>

PRISCILLA JARVIS – Kitchen Co-Lead

Priscilla is happy to be part of another amazing ASTRA production and excited to make this her 13th show. After being on stage for one show (*Anything Goes*), Priscilla definitely prefers to be behind the scenes, helping make sure everything runs smoothly, only this year, you will find her in the kitchen! She hopes you enjoy the show!

STACY GREGORY – Kitchen Co-Lead

Stacy has been working in all different capacities backstage for many years but is excited to be back for another year with ASTRA. Most recently you may have seen her work as House Manager/Prop Master/Set Dresser in *Tuck Everlasting* (Mustard Seed). Where her family goes, Stacy goes...just not on stage. We hope you enjoy the show. Jeremiah 29:11

PAULA SCHMITZ –Tech Advisor/Bookkeeper/Parish Liaison/Tickets/Orchestra Assistant

Paula has been involved with ASTRA from its inception, and since 2006 has served as staff liaison from All Saints Parish. From playing in the pit orchestra to assisting lighting and sound departments, she enjoys volunteering wherever her skills are needed. Her favorite memories include being part of the car team for ASTRA's production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and playing bass for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *42nd Street*. Playing keyboard in the orchestra for *Newsies* this season is sure to be added to this list of favorites!