

A benefit production for **The Empire Arts Theatre**  
& **The Fire Hall Theatre**

## The Shelter Plays

“Boutique Theatre” for the discerning  
audience

Aug. 7, 8 at 7 pm

Aug. 9 at 2 p.m.

University Park, Shelters 3, 4, 5

Supported in part by the GF Park District

And the Greater Grand Forks Convention  
& Visitors Bureau



## The Shelter Plays

### Act I

**Shelter 2: Sensatiogal and Powerdude  
on Planet Limbo**

**Shelter 3: What if?**

**Shelter 4: The Johnson Family Reunion**

20 minute intermission

### Act II

**Shelter 2: The After Life**

**Shelter 3: Love in the Time of Covid**

**Shelter 4: The Hurley Burley**

**Shelter 2: *Sensatiogal and Powerdude on Planet Limbo*, written by Jack Lewis, directed by Marcus Woodard.**

**Cast: Alyssa Donacki, Ashley Fredricksen, Ben Schille, and Kelly Stagnaro**

**Ashley Fredricksen** is excited to be a part of The Shelter Plays and start the slow transition back into live entertainment. Ashley is a professional actor from Mesa, Arizona and is excited to be back in North Dakota. You may have seen her last summer as Leilani/Elle's Mom in *Legally Blonde* at the Empire Arts Center. Other roles include Cinderella (*Into the Woods*), Isabelle (*Christmas Carol*), and Robin (*The Secret Garden*). Ashley would like to thank Jace Erickson for trusting her and committing to doing this show. Enjoy!

**Kelly Stagnaro** moved to Grand Forks in 2017 and, shortly thereafter, was invited into the home of Debra Pflughoeft-Hassett. It was through her friendship with Debra that Kelly met Kathleen Coudle-King. When Kathy was casting the roles for "*The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time*", she thought of Kelly to play the role of Mrs. Alexander. Kelly jumped at the chance to work with Kathy and others involved in the Empire Arts Center and was delighted when Kathy contacted her again to join "*The Shelter Plays*", work with director, Marcus Woodard, and play a part (pun intended) in the effort to save the Fire Hall Theatre.

**Ben Schille** – An Air Force Veteran, studied theatre in college, but returned to the stage in 2019 after a bit of a hiatus when he answered the call for actors for *A Few Good Men* at the Fire Hall Theatre. In February, he returned to Fire Hall in *Love/Sick* as the compulsive kisser in the grocery store & the man with cold feet in the restroom. This is his first time playing an alien.

**Alyssa Donacki** has been a part of theatre since she was a child and has been active in the fine arts community ever since. She has been involved with Fire Hall Theater since 2015 and a member of SPA since 2009. She graduated from Red River in the Class of 2020 and will be attending Northland Technical and Community College this fall. Some of her favorite roles include Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Miss Spider in *James and the Giant Peach*, and Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical*.

**Jack Lewis (playwright)** has been doing theater since 3rd grade when he played a broken alien robot that needed to be whacked to stop repeating itself. The need for wackiness has never left him.

**Marcus Woodard (Director)** is a regionally known raconteur, wit, and director. He has been regularly involved in live performance in Grand Forks one way or another for nearly twenty years. He would like to thank you all for coming and wearing a mask and supporting live theatre in the Greater Grand Forks area and making sure that it is present for years to come.

**Shelter 3: *What if?***

**Written and directed by Shayla O'Leary.**

**Cast: Brooke Pesch (Em) & Lucas Reider (Josh)**

**Brooke Pesch** has been involved with Fire Hall Theatre since her early teens when Kathy Coudle-King directed her in "Deployed." Since then she has served in various capacities: Actor, Assistant Director, Teacher, Stage Manager, and Usher. She has also been seen on the Empire Stage in Kelly Clow's annual Rocky Horror Picture Show.

**Lucas Reider** has been in multiple Fire Hall productions, most recently *A Few Good Men*. He has a master's degree in History (we think but he never sent his bio in, so we can't be sure).

**Shayla O'Leary (playwright & director)** works in marketing as an event planner and social media manager. She thrives in creative environments and works well with like-minded individuals. Shayla frequents her time making art, writing poems, and over-analyzing past conversations. She has a great love for animals and enjoys spending time with her two cats.

**Empire Center Theatre is currently  
producing *The Great American  
Trailer Park Musical***

**August 4-22 at The Empire**

**Call 746-5500 for tickets or visit  
[empireartscenter.com](http://empireartscenter.com)**



**The Fire Hall Theatre will share  
plans for reopening soon.**

**[www.ggfct.com](http://www.ggfct.com)**

#### **Shelter 4: The Johnson Family Reunion,**

**written and directed by Kathy Coudle-King**

Cast: **Jennifer Dodds** (mother), **Eliza Dodds** (oldest), **Josie Dodds** (next oldest), **Amelia Dodds**, and **Lydia Dodds** (youngest), **Amy Lyste**, **Emma Lyste** (older sister), **Millie Lyste** (younger sister), **Ian Peterson** (favorite grandson), **Margo Lentz** (Grandma Johnson)

**Amy Lyste** is an artist by trade, she is also a wife and mother of two. She has a BFA in Visual Arts from UND and has loved putting that degree to work in the theater world. Though she usually can be found backstage painting a set or designing costumes she also enjoys being on the stage. This spring she was able to play the Moor Hen in the play "The Moors" at the Empire Theater Company.

**Emma Lyste** is 13 and has been involved with theater in Grand Forks since Kindergarten. Singing is her favorite past time and she has missed being a part of theater in the last strange months. Emma's most recent show was her middle school rendition of *Mary Poppins Jr.* when she played Jane. Her favorite part was that of James in *James and the Giant Peach*. Emma is excited to be a part of a live show and looks forward to a time it can be the norm again.

**Millie Lyste** is 9 and loves to ham it up on the stage. though in person she may be shy, she loves to be a part of the show. Millie's most recent show was *We are Monsters* where she played a lettuce loving Vampire. Millie decided at the last minute she really wanted to be a part of this show and she worked hard to learn the blocking and get into character.

**Jennifer Dodds** is performing with 4 of her 5 lovely daughters and was also seen in Fire Hall Theatre's 2018 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

**Amelia Dodds** is going into third grade this coming school year. She loves to read, perform, and play soccer. Amelia has played an angel in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and made an appearance in Fire Hall's *Love Loss and What I Wore*. She also likes going to Play Days at the Fire Hall.

**Lydia Dodds** is going into the first grade this coming school year. She has lots of big sisters who she likes to hang out with. Lydia played an angel in Red Rivers production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. She also likes going to Fire Hall's Play Days

**Eliza Dodds** is going to be a sophomore next year at Red River high school. She has participated in SPA, GCCC, IMI4U2C, and many school shows. Her first show ever, *The Wizard of Oz* put on by Fire Hall, propelled her into a life-long love of theatre.

**Josie Dodds** is 11-years old and has been involved with Fire Hall Theatre for years.

**Ian Peterson** is a precocious 13 year old hailing from rural Drayton, ND. His love for music and the stage was evident from an early age. Ian's first break came in 2014 at the age of 8 as Thor Waldgrave in *The Nerd* with Thief River Falls Community Theater. The following year, he landed the role of Schwartz in *The Christmas Story* at Empire Theater in Grand Forks. Since then Ian has been involved with children's theater at Fire Hall, starting with *Free to be You and Me*, as the worm in *James and the Giant Peach*, and most recently as Fizzy in *Bugsy Malone*.

**Margo Lentz** never submitted a bio so here's what we know: By day she is a mobility trainer for people with visual impairments. She served in the U.S. military in Intelligence. What she did, we cannot tell you, or you know what. She has been a patron of the Fire Hall for years, but this is her acting debut. We hope she catches the theatre bug and joins us again.

## INTERMISSION

### 20 MINUTES

Please enjoy the music of Mark Diers, and his daughters Hannah Diers & Katy Diers Kavanaugh who are donating their performance today.

Restrooms located on other side of splash park and playground.

Please consider visiting the food trucks and purchasing one of the face masks donated by Sarah Miretti Cassidy of NJ (Yes, she sent them from Jersey to help our theatres!) and Pamela Davis of GF.

Please return to the same shelters that you began with in Act. I.

Today's performance would not be possible without the incredible generosity of the actors, directors, and playwrights who donated their time and talent to create this event during the current crisis.

While we took precautions during the rehearsal process to protect their health, there was risk involved. We honor their commitment to theatre at this difficult time.

Our theatre and musical programs have suffered a huge hit, and no one knows when they will be able to operate at full capacity. If you are able to donate to help support their work, please do so they can reopen fully when circumstances allow.

Donations can be made online at

[www.ggfct.com](http://www.ggfct.com) &  
<https://www.empireartscenter.com/>

**Shelter 2: *The After Life*,**  
**written & directed by Jace Toutenhoofd**

**Cast: Grant Anderson (Cult Leader), Zoe Jiran  
(follower), Taylor Kiley (Co-Leader), Shayla O’Leary  
(Angel), Collin Pollasky (follower)**

**Taylor Kiley** is an incoming senior at Central High School. She is 18 and has spent all of her school career part taking in theatre both in and out of school. Her favorite role so far has been Erma in Anything Goes. She hopes to continue her pursuit in the performing arts as she takes on her next role as a young adult in this ever-changing world.

**Zoe Jiran**, a rising senior at Grand Forks Central, has always loved performing. Beyond school plays, she has participated in many children's shows at the Firehall and been in SPA for the last 12 years. She hopes to continue performing after high school. Zoe is very excited for the opportunity to act again this summer and wants to thank everyone who has helped to support the arts in our community.

**Grant Anderson**, a senior at RR, is having a lot of fun exploring a role unlike anything he’s done before. Mostly though, he is glad to spend time doing what he loves with the people he loves. Happy Rapture!

**Collin** Polasky will be a senior at Red River High School this fall. He has enjoyed participating in SPA as well as school productions, and is thankful for the opportunity to perform along his friends this summer

**Shayla O’Leary** works in marketing as an event planner and social media manager. She thrives in creative environments and works well with like-minded individuals. Shayla frequents her time making art, writing poems, and over-analyzing past conversations. She has a great love for animals and enjoys spending time with her two cats.

**Jace Toutenhoofd** (Playwright & Director) grew up around theatre and the arts. He was involved with Red River Theatre before he graduated in 2019. Jace makes videos for his own channel Jace Tout and one with his friends Taylor and Seb called Fatuity. Jace wants to thank his family and friends for always encouraging him, Anna, Grant, Taylor, Zoey, and Collin for being involved in this and Kathy for letting him write!

**Shelter 3: *Love in the Time of Covid*, written and by  
Kathy Coudle-King, directed by Jace Erickson &  
Ashley Fredricksen, and Kathy Coudle-King**

**Cast: Jace Erickson & Ashley Fredricksen**

**Ashley Fredricksen** is excited to be a part of The Shelter Plays and start the slow transition back into live entertainment. Ashley is a professional actor from Mesa, Arizona and is excited to be back in North Dakota. You may have seen her last summer as Leilani/Elle's Mom in *Legally Blonde* at the Empire Arts Center. Other roles include Cinderella (*Into the Woods*), Isabelle (*Christmas Carol*), and Robin (*The Secret Garden*). Ashley would like to thank Jace Erickson for trusting her and committing to doing this show. Enjoy!

**Jace Erickson** – What can we say since he never submitted a bio? He holds a master's degree in Music Education (maybe) from UND. He is a wonderful tenor, and if you ever have the chance to hear him sing, be sure to take advantage of it. In 2018, he was in Frost Fire's production of *Route 66*. Jace recently stepped down from directing the choir and band at Sacred Heart Catholic School in EGF. He has moved to Fargo, and hopefully will have more time to perform in choirs and on stage.

**Kathy Coudle-King (playwright, director, producer)** has written more than 50 plays, a novel (*Wannabe*), and wrote and directed the documentary *Off the Map*. She writes a bi-monthly blog, found at [www.coudle-king.com](http://www.coudle-king.com). Kathy served as the Exec. Director for the Fire Hall Theatre for 8.5 years, stepping down in Dec. of 2019. The impact of the pandemic on the arts keeps her awake at night and she is grateful to all involved in the *Shelter Plays* for putting in the time and effort to help pay a few bills at Fire Hall and The Empire. The arts are not just “dessert.,” they contribute to quality of life in our community. ,

**BRAVO!**

**We are so grateful to the GF Park District  
for their support of this fundraising  
effort on behalf of the Fire Hall Theatre  
& The Empire Arts Theatre.**

**Many thanks to the staff of the GGF  
Convention & Visitor's Bureau for  
producing the signage for this event.**

**Shelter 4: *Hurley Burley*, written by Per Andreaasen, directed by Denny Jacobs.**

**Cast: Emma Dodds (Maiden), Emily Walsh Johnson (Mother), Nicole Quam (Crone), and Matt Stavens (Witch)**

**Emma Dodds** just graduated from Red River High school this May. Her first theatre experience took place at Fire Hall when she was seven years old. Since that first performance, she has been in over thirty productions through both school and the Fire Hall. Next year she is continuing her education at NDSU in pursuit of a degree in Music Education.

**Eliza Dodds** is going to be a sophomore next year at Red River high school. She has participated in SPA, GCCC, IMI4U2C, and many school shows. Her first show ever, *The Wizard of Oz* put on by Fire Hall, propelled her into a lifelong love of theatre.

**Matt Stavens:** Matt is from Grand Forks, ND and has been involved in theatre since elementary school. Matt started doing summer theatre with Summer Safari, which he participated in for four years, followed by four years with the Summer Performing Arts Program in high school. He has recently been doing local professional theatre, starting with the North Dakota Shakespeare Company during its first season in 2017, *Frost Fire* in 2018, and with the Empire Theatre Company last summer. His most recent performance was in Empire's production of *Elf*. In the spring of 2019 Matt graduated from UND with a BFA in Musical Theatre.

**Nicole Quam** has been a fixture on the Fire Hall and Empire Arts stages. Last season she was seen in Empire Theatre Company's *The Moors*, and Fire Hall Theatre's *The Sunshine Boys*. You may also have seen her in *Hand to God* at the Empire and *Spitfire Grill*. There is not an aspect of theatre she is not familiar with, having built sets, costumes, directed, and is a professional make-up artist. She has also led and directed Shakespeare at the Fire Hall Theatre.

**Per Andreaasen (Playwright)** is an actor, author, and singer-songwriter who grew up in Minneapolis and arrived in East Grand Forks by way of New Mexico. If you're interested in his work you can find him on Patreon, Bandcamp, and Facebook as The Tom O'Bedlam.

**Dennis Jacobs (Director)** "Denny" lives in Crookston, MN and got his theatrical start in and around his hometown of Adrian, MI. Denny is delighted to have had the opportunity to direct and work with the four phenomenally gifted actors of *Hurley Burley*. Special thank you to Kathy Coudle King for trusting him with her cast. Bright blessings to all and Long Live Theatre!\*

\* \*

**Applause, please, for all our Shelter ushers for helping with this weekend's performances: Russ Schonmeier, Sue Moe, Dawn Moe, Laura Endres, Kelly King, Zach Tomczik, Adam Fortwenger, Kristi Hall-Jiran, and Brent Jiran. And thank you to Shayla O'Leary for sharing the canopies with us to help "shelter" our audience.**