



MoCo Arts

# ON STAGE 2024 SEASON

MoCo Arts High School Musical Theatre Presents

# the PROM

SCHOOL EDITION

Saturday, January 20 at 7 p.m.  
Sunday, January 21 at 1 & 5 p.m.  
The Founder's Theatre at MoCo Arts

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the PROM School Edition  
Book & Lyrics by CHAD BEGUELIN  
Book by BOB MARTIN  
Music by MATTHEW SKLAR  
Based on an original concept by  
JACK VIERTEL

Original Broadway Production directed and choreographed by  
Casey Nicholaw

Originally Produced on Broadway by  
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The Prom School Edition is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com



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# WHO WE ARE

## **Our Mission**

*Transforming Lives Through Movement and Creative Expression*

## **Who We Are**

Founded in 1991, MoCo Arts is a nonprofit family-centered arts education organization located in beautiful downtown Keene. Focused on creating a better community through arts education, MoCo provides high-quality dance, theatre, and multi-arts instruction to kids from all over the Monadnock Region and beyond.

Committed to keeping the arts accessible, each year MoCo provides significant tuition assistance to families in need, and outreach that brings MoCo educators and programs to area schools, daycares, and other organizations.

Annually, 40% of our needed revenue comes from the support of you and our amazing community from individual donors, our signature fundraiser Lights. Camera. KEENE!, private and foundation grants, and corporate sponsorships. Thank you!

## **Why it Matters**

The importance of arts education for our children cannot be overstated. There is overwhelming evidence that children who are offered opportunities to explore the arts experience a deeper connection with peers, a higher level of confidence, increased creativity, and develop a love of learning that enables them to excel in other academic areas. Arts education teaches children that it's okay to be themselves. To embrace our differences and to recognize and utilize our unique strengths. Arts education is an equalizer, breaking down barriers and building stronger relationships.

MoCo's culture successfully combines inclusiveness, encouragement and respect, with rigor, high-expectations and professionalism. Students are nurtured, encouraged to take risks, make mistakes, and build self-confidence to accomplish individual and collective goals. MoCo kids take their confidence onto the stage, into the classroom and into the community. They are our future leaders. And through the transformational effects of arts education, and a little *MoCo Magic*, the future is bright. We're excited to celebrate 30+ years and to teach MoCo's next generation of students.



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**Established in 1991**, The Moving Company Dance Center started as one woman's vision to transform an old machine shop into a performing arts studio. Now known as MoCo Arts, **the family-centered nonprofit arts education organization**. MoCo offers dance and theatre classes for **ages 6 months to 18+ years, beginner through advanced, all abilities**. MoCo prides itself in being **affordable and accessible and has never turned a child away**. MoCo Arts is welcoming to all, regardless of social or financial status, and **provides up to \$80,000 in tuition assistance per year**.

**One of MoCo's greatest assets is its dedicated staff**, who not only bring years of unrivaled teaching experience but **actively cultivate an inclusive and supportive community where all children can thrive**. Every student who walks through MoCo's doors **is given the foundation to succeed in dance, theatre, and beyond**.

Today MoCo Arts is **teaching the next generation – alumni are sending their children to classes and camps**. Excited for future generations to explore all that the arts have to offer, **MoCo is here for children and families** throughout the Monadnock region and beyond. **To learn more about MoCo's mission and ways you can support our work, please visit [moco.org](http://moco.org), contact us at (603) 357-2100 and/or MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431. Every gift makes a difference.**

**Has MoCo Arts made a difference in your life?** Share your story with us! Record a short video or write an email to [info@moco.org](mailto:info@moco.org) letting us know how MoCo has positively impacted your life.

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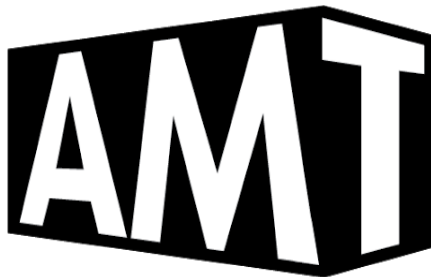


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# SCHOOL OF DANCE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: REAGAN MESSER

MoCo Arts School of Dance offers a variety of classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and up (beginners through advanced) in Fall, Spring, and Summer sessions. **Dance is for everybody** and MoCo Arts offers the grace and athleticism of Ballet, the fun of Hip Hop based in the current street styles, the showmanship of Broadway style Jazz, the free and expressive style of Modern, and the high energy hoofing of Tap. All programs participate in professional quality performances, but no dance student is required to perform.

MoCo Arts also offers classes for adults in Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop and Ballet.

*If your student is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade or younger, please refer to our Young Arts Program.*



*Time to Dance, School of Dance – Photo by Steve Holmes Photography*

# THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: LAURA CARBONNEAU

MoCo Arts' award-winning Theatre Program offers students opportunities to participate in musicals, straight plays and workshops.

- Students in grades 2-5 participate in our "Elementary School" Theatre program
- Students in grades 6-8 participate in our "Middle School" Theatre program
- Students in grades 9-12 participate in our "High School" Theatre program
- Students can participate in Theatre Games or the Improvisation Workshop to improve their acting skills.

Each Musical Theatre and Play class culminates in a fully produced performance. **All students are cast in a role and are encouraged, but never required, to perform.** They then work together to put on the production.

MoCo is excited to offer a new class, Adult Improvisation! For more information, visit [moco.org](http://moco.org).

*If your student is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade or younger, please refer to our Young Arts Program.*



*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Elementary School Musical Theatre – Photo by Steve Holmes Photography*

# YOUNG ARTS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: DANIELLE FITZPATRICK

Students 6 months through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are eligible for classes in our Young Arts program. Children develop their **creativity, cooperation skills and self-awareness** through play, imagination and fun, and our popular Young Arts Programs are infused with these qualities. Offering a wide variety of classes and camps, including dance and theatre, MoCo Arts Young Arts Programs can **help your child blossom** in expression and confidence.

*Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade may choose whether to stay in Young Arts for one more year, or move on to our Dance and Theatre programs.*



*Put Me In The Zoo, Creative Dance – Photo by Steve Holmes Photography*

# MULTI-ARTS CAMPS

## **Vacation Camps** (4 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Director:** Danielle Fitzpatrick

School Vacation Camps are multi-arts day camps that introduce children to fine and performing arts during school vacation weeks in February and April.

## **CupCAKE Summer Camps** (4 years through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

**Director:** Danielle Fitzpatrick

CupCAKE is a multi-arts summer day camp that introduces children to the fine and performing arts during the summer. Each week revolves around an exciting theme for an immersive arts experience.

## **C.A.K.E. Summer Camp** (3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Director:** Laura Carbonneau

Creative Arts at Keene (C.A.K.E.) is an NEA award-winning, fun-spirited, multi-arts summer camp with classes in art, creative writing, dance, drama, music, photography, technical theatre, video production, and more!

## **School's OUT! One-Day Camps** (4 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Directors:** Danielle Fitzpatrick & Laura Carbonneau

MoCo's One-Day camps offers an option for students to attend a camp during teachers workshops, holidays or other days off during the school year. Camp introduces children to the fine and performing arts. Each day revolves around an exciting theme for an immersive arts experience.



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**MoCo Arts**  
High School Musical Theatre

the  
**PROM**

**Production Staff**

Director	Laura Carbonneau
Music Director	Kate Butterfield
Vocal Coach	JoJo Mead
Choreographer	Maria McGovern
Costume Design	Samaira Aldrich
Technical Director	Alex Trombly <i>AMT Productions</i>
Video & Streaming Director	Dave Teubner <i>Keene Online</i>
Poster & Program Design	Chelsea Zichella
Advertising & Sponsorships	Pete Smith

**There will be a 10-minute intermission during this performance.**

**Special Thanks**

To our front desk staff Nat Zilske, Avril Miller, and Danielle Love.  
To Northfield Mount Hermon & Conor O'Reilly for designing the Step & Repeat and to Dominic DiBenedetto.

**ATTENTION**

Photography and videotaping are prohibited.  
Please turn off all cell phones and silence pagers.

**Scott Hussey Photography will be photographing this event.**

Photos will be available online for purchase.

## **Musical Numbers**

Overture  
Changing Lives  
Changing Lives Mini-Reprise  
Changing Lives Reprise  
Just Breathe  
It's Not About Me  
Dance With You  
Acceptance Song  
You Happened  
We Look To You  
Tonight Belongs To You  
Act I Finale  
Entr'acte  
Zazz  
The Lady's Improving  
Love Thy Neighbor  
Alyssa Greene  
Barry Is Going To Prom  
Unruly Heart  
Changing Lives Act II  
It's Time To Dance

## **Cast**

**Dee Dee Allen** — Reilly Hayes

**Barry Glickman** — Antonio Mack

**Angie Dickinson** — Lily Fitzpatrick

**Sheldon** — Chase Johnson

**Trent Oliver** — Henry Wichland

**Broadway Actors** — Phoebe Diven, Grady Kalich-Sampson,  
Kiera Kasschau, Vivian Neutra, Thompson Norris,  
Amara Northrop, Lily Tardiff, Kennedy Smith

**Waiters** — Harmony Brown, Drew Downing, Abby Hunter,  
Autumn Jeffs, Skylar Schmidt, Ariana Wilber,  
Zelda Zuser-Hedges, Olivia Keating, Allie Rabel

**Second Reporter** — Makayla Evans

**Third Reporter** — Grey Leinau



**Mrs. Greene** — Alexis Harvey

**Mr. Hawkins** — Ethan Anderson

**Clerk** — Kiera Kasschau

**Monster Truck Announcer** — Kennedy Smith

**Mrs. Reeder** — Thompson Norris

**Coach Denison** — Amara Northrop

**Cathy Hunt** — Phoebe Diven

**Mrs. McCarthy** — Makayla Evans

**Ray White** — Grady Kalich-Sampson

**Logan Burke** — Grey Leianu

**Alice Fleming** — Vivian Neutra

**Rory Walton** — Allie Rabel

**Mrs. Johnston** — Kennedy Smith

**Emma Nolan** — Kro Aronson

**Alyssa Greene** — Abby Morse

**Kaylee** — Dakota Pickering

**Shelby** — Kensie Stacey

**Nick** — Jack Bates

**Kevin** — Dahlia Yeager

**Brittany** — Skylar Schmidt

**Fernell** — Harmony Brown

**Jerusha** — Ariana Wilber

**Drew** — Drew Downing

**Meg** — Zelda Zuser-Hedges

**Brenna** — Autumn Jefts

**Jamie** — Abby Hunter

**Godspell Cast Member** — Grady Kalich-Sampson

**Second Godspell Cast Member** — Lily Tardiff

**Godspell Cast** — Phoebe Diven, Makayla Evans, Kiera Kasschau, Grey Leianu, Vivian Neutra, Thompson Norris, Amara Northrop, Allie Rabel, Kennedy Smith

## **A Note From The Director ...**

*“As teenagers, many of us dealt with the anxieties and pressures that surrounded school dances. And none was more high stakes than prom—the night many wait years for and that movies idolize. The Prom School Edition is a musical journey that takes us to the heart of Indiana, where two girls want to do just that—go to prom.*

*In the spotlight, we have two incredible young women working against their community’s beliefs and who want to dance to the rhythm of their love. Their journey becomes a rallying cry for change, a reminder that love knows no boundaries, and acceptance should be the melody that guides our steps.*

*Enter a troupe of Broadway’s (questionably) finest, armed with sequins, sass, and a mission to make a difference. The arrival of our Broadway troupe in this small Indiana town is more than just comedic chaos; it’s a reminder of the power of visibility. The Prom becomes a stage where the spotlight is shared, amplifying voices that have long been silenced.*

*“The Prom” is more than a musical; it’s a celebration of love’s resilience and an homage to the tireless struggles and triumphs of those who paved the way for love and acceptance. From the shadows of Stonewall to the steps of the Supreme Court, the journey of the LGBTQIA community in the U.S. is one of resilience, courage, and the unwavering belief in the right to love freely.*

*In class, we were intentional about creating a safe space for everyone. We created room for conversation and questions without judgment. As a group, the actors created rules for a “Safe & Supportive Space” which included respect for others and our space, confidentiality, kindness, understanding, and inclusivity. There are challenging moments throughout this show and we watched as each actor was vulnerable, honest, and kind in truly remarkable ways.*

*The Prom is not just a show; it’s an invitation to a sanctuary where everyone, regardless of identity, can unfold their story without fear or judgment. As we raise the curtain, let’s ensure that our stage is a haven—a space where authenticity is not only celebrated but protected. So, join us on this rollercoaster of emotions, where laughter and love take center stage, and acceptance becomes the encore that lingers in our hearts.”*

— Laura Carbonneau

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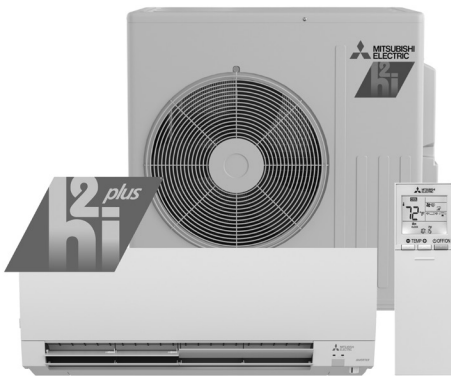
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**We are grateful to be in such a generous community!**

Donations to MoCo's Annual Fund are more important than ever, as we continue to grow into our beautiful building on Roxbury Street. It is imperative that we sustain general operating support as tuition and ticket sales only cover 60% of our annual operating revenue.

By supporting MoCo Arts Annual Fund you help continue to provide over \$80,000 in tuition assistance, keep class prices as low as possible, and provide high-quality arts education.

**To make a donation to MoCo Arts**, please contact Pete Smith, Director of Development, (603) 357-2100 x204, psmith@moco.org, visit moco.org, or send the donation envelope found in this program through the mail to:

MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431

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If MoCo is close to your heart and you share our belief that the arts are for all, please consider remembering us in your will or trust. We would be honored to be considered in your estate planning.

Our Director of Development, Pete Smith, would be happy to speak with you to provide more info or answer any questions.

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## A special thank you!

Thank you to all who donated to MoCo during Lights. Camera. KEENE! Because of your support we raised \$64,000 for students tuition assistance and year-round arts education. Ready to become a Next Gen student donor? Ask us how!

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# COMMUNITY STARS SEATS



MoCo Arts is pleased that 230 free Community Stars Seats are available during the 2023 season. Through a gift from C&S Wholesale Grocers and The Main Street America Group, eligible children and families have been experiencing the joy of live theatre and dance.

Starting its tenth year, the Community Stars Seats program is designed to bring children and families to shows who otherwise couldn't afford to attend. Tickets are distributed through nonprofit organizations in the Monadnock Region that serve low-income families and disadvantaged youth.

This initiative is part of **MoCo's continuing commitment to make the arts accessible to all.**

Previous recipients of Community Stars Seats include:

- ◆ Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ◆ Cedarcrest Center
- ◆ Monadnock Developmental Services
- ◆ Monadnock Family Services
- ◆ Keene Housing
- ◆ Keene Community Kitchen
- ◆ Winchester Learning Center

Nonprofit leaders interested in the free tickets are invited to contact Chelsea Zichella, Communications & Marketing Manager at MoCo about the Community Stars Seats. She can be reached at (603) 357-2100 x208 or at [czichella@moco.org](mailto:czichella@moco.org).

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## A LIFE TRANSFORMED: TESSA MINAHAN

"MoCo is my safe space."



*MoCo has always been a home away from home. I started dancing here when I was three years old, and since then, Moco has offered me so many opportunities. Along with the amazing staff, dedicated to all of the students growth and passions, I have seen myself grow from a shy girl to one who isn't afraid to take risks in class, ask questions, and make mistakes. MoCo is my safe space, a place completely separate from the outside world, one where I can grow my passion and my identity alongside lifelong friends. And for that, I will always be grateful to have a space such as MoCo.*

–Tessa Minahan  
Dance

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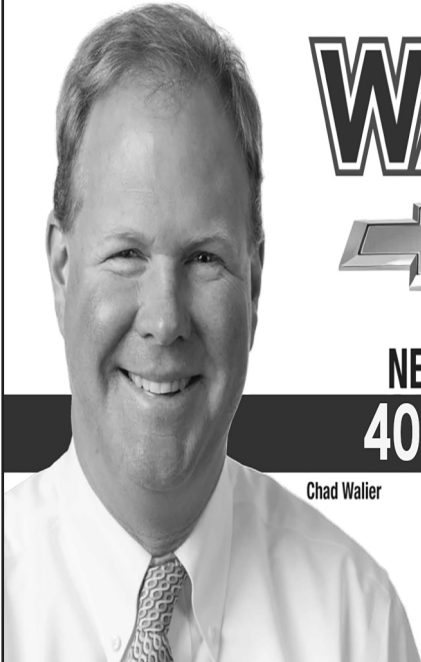
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The advertisement features a large black and white portrait of Chad Walier on the left side. To the right, the name "WALIER" is written in a large, bold, outlined font, followed by a square logo symbol. Below this is the Chevrolet bowtie logo and the text "CHEVROLET KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE". A dark horizontal bar contains the text "NEW ENGLAND'S CHOICE FOR 40 YEARS STRAIGHT!" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath the bar, the name "Chad Walier" is printed. At the bottom right, the website "www.WalierChevy.com" is listed above the slogan "The dealership you can trust." in an italicized font.



## A LIFE TRANSFORMED: KRO ARONSON

“I found an outlet,  
something to bring me  
joy during trying times.”



*I started at MoCo when I was 12 years old, during COVID. I had just moved from Texas and was struggling to make friends, and just struggling in general. Ever since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, I've been in love with theater. Once I joined MoCo, I found an outlet, something to bring me joy during trying times. Since then I have made great friends and honed my craft. It led me to KSC's production of Fun Home which was one of the best experiences I've ever had. It introduced me to Jo Jo who is a wonderful vocal coach who has really helped me develop my voice. It led me to have my first real experience with lighting in theater, which is something I've always wanted to do. All around, MoCo has made my life so much better and is sending me in a great direction.*

–Kro Aronson  
Theatre

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