“Witch” Cast & Crew Biographies

Cast

Abby Perry (she/her) - Elizabeth

Abby is excited to be back onstage after a quick 14 year break! She would like to thank Sally, Ben, Steven, the crew, and the wonderful cast for playing pretend with her. A special thanks to Adam, Heleena and Wes for their love and support. You three are her reasons, you make every day more beautiful than the last, and she loves you more than anything in the universe!

Lewis C. Elson (he/him) - Scratch

Lewis was most recently seen on stage in *The 39 Steps* (sort of), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Originally from the U.K. and now based in Michigan, Lewis has worked in stage and touring productions on both sides of the Atlantic. He is grateful to Sally, the cast and crew for making this such a rewarding experience, and thanks his friends and his dopey cat, Fang, for putting up with him throughout the process.

Hannah Zwolensky (they/them) - Cuddy

Hannah is thrilled to be performing in their first show with Peppermint Creek and making their return to the stage after a theatre hiatus. Professionally, Hannah works in international education and is an avid traveler, having visited over 10 countries in the last few years. Favorite previous credits include Tucson based productions: Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, the Tucson Shakesqueer, and stage managing for *Birds of North America*, Winding Road Theater Company.

Ndegwa McCloud (he/him) - Frank

Ndegwa is thrilled to be back at PCTC for their production of *Witch*. You may recognize Ndegwa from his last show as Brooks in *Little Women* at Riverwalk Theatre. He was also in *Mankind* with PCTC, and starred as Damon in Ixion Theatre's production of *When I Come to Di*e, and as William in Riverwalk Theatre's production of *Lobby Hero*. He would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support of his acting career.

Jeff Magnuson (he/him) - Sir Arthur

You've seen Jeff onstage and backstage for 40 years, most recently here at PCTC in *The Best We Could*, *Mankind*, and *Beautiful*, and at Riverwalk Theatre in *The Shark is Broken*. More online at lansingtheatre.org. Do you choose care or cruelty? Many organizations urgently need our support right now. Greater Lansing Food Bank, Arts Council of Greater Lansing, and our theatre companies are great places to start. Love and gratitude to Amy, Sam, Cara & Eli.

Storm Hawthorn (she/her) - Winnifred, Fight Choreographer

Storm is thrilled to be back with PCTC! She was recently in *Ransacking Troy*, but the last time she was on the Peppermint Creek stage was in 2024 for *How To Defend Yourself*. She was recently seen in *Little Women*, *First Date*, *Angels in America*, *Moonglow* (Riverwalk Theatre), and *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (LCC). When not onstage, Storm is a librarian who enjoys crocheting, taking pictures of her dog, and longboarding. She would like to thank the amazing people who support her (fools, especially!) and everyone involved in this production for their endless hard work and kindness.

Crew

Sally Hecksel (she/they) - Director

Sally is a Lansing area actor and director. She was last seen on stage as Susan Hendrix in *Wait Until Dark* (LEB) and behind the curtain as stage manager for *Eureka Day* (PCTC). Other notable roles have been Anne Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Thespie Award, Barney Award, RWT), Mimi Marquez in *RENT* (Thespie Award, RWT), Queenie in *The Wild Party* (Pulsar Award, Thespie Awards x2, PCTC), Margo in *Bright Star* (Pulsar Award, PCTC) and Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show* (RWT). She has served as intimacy coordinator for multiple shows in the Lansing area and is part of the advisory board for Peppermint Creek Theatre Company, as well as Renegade Fringe Festival. She's so grateful to have been able to work with so many wonderful people, especially her cast and crew, who she thanks for

their bravery and trust. She would especially like to thank MaryRose, Ben, Steven and Maggie for their support.

Ben Cassidy (he/him) - Asst. Director/Stage Manager

Ben has directed several shows for PCTC over the years, favorites including *Falsettos* (Thespie Award), *The Wild Party* (Thespie Award), *Eureka Day*, and *[title of show]* (which is the actual name of the show, not a typo). He is especially grateful to Sally for being an incredible theatre partner and friend through countless productions, adventures, and years of making theatre together. Many thanks to the entire cast and crew of *Witch* for being such a joy to collaborate with. Ben is grateful to continue creating theatre with the incredible Lansing arts community.

Steven Walker (he/him) - Asst. Stage Manager

Steven is thrilled to join this production of *Witch* as Assistant Stage Manager. A lifelong theatergoer and Broadway enthusiast, Steven has spent decades experiencing theatre from the audience and is excited to experience the craft from this new point of view. He is eternally grateful to Sally, Ben, the cast, and the crew for allowing him to learn and grow throughout the process (he didn't even have to sell his soul).

Bryan Dryer (he/him) - Set Designer

Bryan is excited for *Witch* to be his next design experience at Peppermint Creek Theatre Company, especially because it means working with Ben and Sally again. A long-time native of Owosso, you might have also seen his work at the Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts. When not working on theatre stages, Bryan also enjoys playing loud, angry guitar. Much love to the cast & crew, and to his fantastic family!

Riley Hirai (he/they) - Sound Designer

Riley Hirai is from Tallahassee, FL, with this being his third year in Lansing, MI. This is his first show in Michigan doing sound, but has done tech in the past for *Ride the Cyclone* (PCTC) and *12 Incompetent Jurors* (RWT). He is very excited to be working with such talented individuals both in the cast and crew and is looking forward to working on more shows in the future.

Frank Malusek III (he/him) - Lighting Designer
Frank is a Lansing local lighting designer. He has worked with theatres including Riverwalk Theatre, Peppermint Creek Theatre, and Evolve Theatrics designing lights for shows such as *Ride the Cyclone* (PCTC, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (RWT), *Chicago* (ET), and *Come From Away* (RWT). He is excited to be working with such an amazing cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the performance!

Sara McGirr (she/her) - Properties Design

Sara McGirr is thrilled to step behind the scenes to lead the props department for *Witch*, marking her second Peppermint Creek production after previously assisting with costumes for *Mankind*. Returning to theatre twenty years after acting in Minnesota and South Dakota, she utilizes her background in interior design, sewing, and resourceful crafting to bring the unique visual details of this world to life. Sara extends a heartfelt thank you to Erin Biel for mentoring her in Props Mastery, the Director for taking a chance on an unknown designer, and her husband Sam "The Pizza" Wisniewski for being her greatest cheerleader.

Karyn Perry (she/her) - Dance Choreographer
Karyn is the owner and director of Karyn's Dance Place in Holt. Karyn and her dancers have traveled to many events including numerous Bowl game half times, The Pistons, The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and local community service events. Karyn has been awarded several Barneys, Pulsars, and Thespies for her work on numerous musicals for Riverwalk Theatre and Peppermint Creek Theatre. Karyn also choreographs for Okemos High School. Her most recent shows were *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Ride The Cyclone*. Karyn is happy to be working with Sally and her amazing cast and crew.