



Spotlight On  
AMY JO  
BRIXIUS

# 2024 SEASON

**OUR TOWN**  
APRIL 18 - 21

**THE WIZARD OF OZ**  
JUNE 7 - 16

JIMMY BUFFETT'S  
*Escape to*  
**MARGARITAVILLE**  
JULY 26 - AUG 4

**CHICAGO**  
TEEN EDITION  
SEPT 12 - 15

**LEGALLY Blonde**  
OCT 17 - 27

**BLITHE SPIRIT**  
NOV 14 - 17

Ken Ludwig's & Jack Ludwig's  
**TINY TIM'S CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
DEC 12 - 15

**COCOA CABARET SERIES**  
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AMY JO  
BRIXIUS

**CONCEIVED & PERFORMED BY  
AMY JO BRIXIUS**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR & PIANO  
PRODUCER  
PUBLICITY  
LIGHTING  
SOUND**

*Kevin Edward Gane  
Jasmine Ammons Bucher  
Rosemary Bucher  
Miguel Santiago  
Trent Coulon*



## PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to the Hershey Area Playhouse! As Chair of the Board, I have the honor and enjoyment of working with exceptional production teams, passionate theatre academy teachers, dedicated volunteers, talented casts, and exuberant theatre enthusiasts. But to be honest, nothing delights me more than working on our Spotlight productions.

To say Amy Jo has performed many times at the Playhouse would be an incredible simplification. From Winnifred to Mrs. Lovett to Violet and everything in between, Amy Jo has entertained, inspired, and led support for community theatre in a way no one else can. But her dedication to the Playhouse and ability to weave her essence throughout the fiber of this organization goes far beyond her incredible talent. Amy Jo's leadership of the Artistic Committee has resulted in some of our most successful seasons. Her pride and generous communication about the Playhouse has resulted in hundreds of new visitors. And her influence on fellow performers has created a comforting home for many.

In developing tonight's program, Amy Jo wanted to focus on various influences throughout her life. But I can't help but wonder if Amy Jo is aware of how many people she has influenced. I have known Amy Jo Brixius for a long time. To be honest, I can't even remember day one. All I know is her kind spirit made me want to spend more time in her presence. I wanted to be a part of her active listening, her generous friendship, and her genuine caring. I wanted to watch her develop her characters through curiosity, understanding, and dedication. And I wanted to watch her develop her stagecraft. All this influence resulted in me auditioning for my first show at the Hershey Area Playhouse. And I've never looked back. I suspect that around tonight's packed house, there are so many more "Amy Jo Spotlight Stories." As we celebrate her tremendous talent, I encourage you to share them.

I wish to express my sincerest thanks to the many volunteers and current and past board and committee members who make performances like this a reality. Without their generosity, productions like these would not be possible. We follow a long line of dedicated individuals who have maintained a commitment to quality theatre in Central Pennsylvania. It is an honor to be a part of this tradition, and we thank you for your continued support. Please come back to visit us for our upcoming productions. If you like what you see today and are able to support our efforts, please consider sharing your own gifts at [hersheyareaplayhouse.com](http://hersheyareaplayhouse.com).

**JASMINE AMMONS BUCHER,  
BOARD CHAIR**



## Amy Jo Brixius

**AMY JO BRIXIUS** has found a theatre home for herself at the Hershey Area Playhouse, but loves supporting theatre all around the area. She is absolutely thrilled to be performing this Spotlight in the place that renewed her love of theatre. She was most recently seen in *School of Rock* as Ms. Sheinkopf. Previous roles include *9 to 5* (Violet), *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), *The Wedding Singer* (Angie), *Rock of Ages* (Justice), *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *Gypsy* (Mazeppa), and *The Music Man* (Ethel Tofflemier) all at HAP. She has also appeared in *Anything Goes* (Mrs. Harcourt) at the Carlisle Theatre. Amy Jo serves on the Playhouse Board of Directors and is the Chair of the Production and Artistic Committee. She is a 3rd grade teacher at Pine Grove Elementary. She also serves on the board and works at the Open Door Project, a nonprofit in Pine Grove. She is absolutely thrilled and honored to be given the chance to showcase her talent and share her story through this spotlight show. She would like to thank you all for coming out tonight to support her and making this dream a reality. She would like to dedicate this performance to Blaine Shover, Ellie Goldenberg, Gene Ellis, and Marj Bicknell. They were unforgettable music and theatre influences in life and she will continue to shine their light on the stage and beyond. She/her

# MUSICAL NUMBERS, ARTISTS, & COMPOSERS

IN MY LIFE ..... *The Beatles*

A CHANGE IN ME ..... *Alan Menken, Tim Rice*  
From *Beauty and the Beast*

HAPPILY EVER AFTER ..... *Mary Rodgers, Marshall Barer*  
From *Once Upon a Mattress*

EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORN ..... *Poison*  
From *Rock of Ages*

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC ..... *ABBA*  
From *Mamma Mia!*

So I say,  
Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing  
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing  
Who can live without it? I ask in all honesty  
What would life be?  
Without a song or a dance, what are we?  
So I say thank you for the music  
For giving it to me

ONE FINE DAY ..... *The Chiffons | Carole King, Gerry Goffin*

WILL YOU STILL LOVE ME TOMORROW ..... *The Shirelles | Carole King, Gerry Goffin*

NATURAL WOMAN ..... *Aretha Franklin | Carole King, Gerry Goffin, Jerry Wexler*

## INTERMISSION

A LITTLE PRIEST ..... *Stephen Sondheim*  
From *Sweeney Todd*  
Featuring Eric Mansilla

FOR BABY ..... *John Denver*

VIENNA ..... *Billy Joel*

KING OF ANYTHING ..... *Sara Bareilles*

LANDSLIDE ..... *Stevie Nicks, Fleetwood Mac*

MAKE YOU FEEL MY LOVE ..... *Adele | Bob Dylan*

TAKING CHANCES ..... *Celine Dion | Kara DioGuardi, Dave Stewart*

CHANGE IT ..... *Dolly Parton*  
From *9 to 5*

**KEVIN EDWARD GANE (MUSIC DIRECTOR & PIANO)** is frequently sought after to direct, accompany, and perform in the Mid-Atlantic region. He holds a bachelor of arts in music from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., and has worked with such companies as Palmyra Theatre, The Media Theatre, The Players Club of Swarthmore, and Upper Darby Summer Stage. Kevin serves as Director of Music and Organist at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and is artistic director of their music series “Music on High,” and is an adjunct professor of music at Lebanon Valley College teaching classes in music theater. These are their stories. DUN DUN. kevingane.com. He/him

**JASMINE AMMONS BUCHER (PRODUCER)** is a vocalist, director, producer, and HAP board chair. Bucher is an instructor and director of educational technology at Lebanon Valley College. She holds a BA in English and MBA from Lebanon Valley College, as well as an MA in humanities from the Pennsylvania State University. She received an Honorable Mention for the 2018 Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre Education. This is her fourteenth year directing productions at Palmyra Area High School, where she is president of the Palmyra Theatre Boosters and troupe director for International Thespian Society Troupe #8430. She has participated in master classes with Broadway’s Jenn Collela, Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty, Tom Kitt, Lea Salonga, Morgan James, and Alex Newell. Directing projects at HAP include *Rock of Ages* and *The Wedding Singer*. She/her

**ROSEMARY BUCHER (PUBLICITY)** is an NYC-based producer, director, writer, singer, arts administrator, graphic designer, therapist for theatre teachers (amateur licensing associate at Concord Theatricals), and HAP board member. rosemarybucher.com. She/her

**MIGUEL SANTIAGO (LIGHTING)** has worked in all aspects of theatre from performing to involvement on the technical side. He specializes in lighting design and has worked as a designer on numerous shows, some of which include *Sweeney Todd*, *Kodachrome*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Bandstand*, *9 to 5*, and *First Date*. Miguel maintains a busy schedule working on and performing in productions at a number of Central PA theaters and organizations. He also serves as the Technical Director at the Hershey Area Playhouse and Gretna Theatre! He/him

**TRENT COULON (SOUND)** is excited to work on his third show at the Hershey Area Playhouse! His first experiences with theater were in high school, when he performed in the pit for Dover Area High School’s productions of *Back to the 80’s*, *Les Misérables*, *The Addams Family*, and *The Little Mermaid*. He previously designed sound for *Bandstand*, *9 to 5*, and *First Date* at the Playhouse. Trent is a junior at Lebanon Valley College, currently studying audio and music production. He/him



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Jasmine Ammons Bucher*  
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## UPCOMING SESSIONS

### SPRING SESSION

THEATRE AUDITIONS 101  
MARCH 16, 23, APRIL 6, 13, 20, & 27

GRADES  
7-12

### PERFORMANCE CAMP

GRADES  
1-3

GRADES  
4-6

GRADES  
7-12

JUNE 10-21

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