



Hi-Liners Musical Theatre Presents



# COULD YOU HUG A CACTUS? A NEW MUSICAL

**Director**

Kathleen Edwards

**Music Director**

Frankie Curry- Edwards



Based on the poems of Phillip Van Wagoner  
Book by Jessica Penzias  
Music & Lyrics by Denver Casado



CULTURE

*Could You Hug a Cactus?* is presented through special arrangement with Beat by Beat Press.  
([www.bbbpress.com](http://www.bbbpress.com))



# The Cast

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Ava Marks

Bella Easter

Liliana Pompeo

Lucy Hostetter

Nora Shaw

Norah Walker

Rowan Blacksher

Sam Collins

Syan Koch

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# Musical Numbers

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Fine Place to Start

Buttons

Rodney

Words are Words

Inside

White Belt

I Give My Monster Ice Cream

Fine Place to Start/Building

Do Some

Finale

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# Director's Notes

WE ARE BACK! I am feeling a little shaky, because this return was never guaranteed. It has been a year of following the news, making decisions based on the reports, only to watch those decisions become meaningless days later as the news evolved. We were flexible, and when that wasn't going to be enough, we worked to be more nimble. Eventually we learned to be downright acrobatic. Thanks to a lot of mental and budgetary gymnastics, we are here and we seem to be on our feet. We are determined to stick the landing. We have not done this alone, although we felt very alone for moments at a time. I think everyone did. But, ultimately, it has been the community that has brought us through. You may not even realize your contribution, but you did this, and we will continue to prevail, with your help.

It's a little hard to remember now, but even before the pandemic hit, we lost our rehearsal/performance space at the Annex in January of 2020. We were thrilled to be given a two year stay in studios at the Highline Performing Arts Center, and then, disappointed when those studios at the PAC got absorbed into active use by the builders during reconstruction of the high school. But, who needed studios anyway? Students and cast members joined us online! Of course, as you can imagine, it was only a fraction of the participation that we normally experience. During our monthly Zoom meetings, the Board of Directors stared gloomily at a budget that projected our first deficit since 2009. As we headed into 2021, the possibility of closing the doors by the end of April loomed.

So, how did we make it? Hi-Liners are keeping Hi-Liners going. People sitting in this room donated money every time they could to help sustain us. Some of you brought your kids, or even yourselves, to virtual classes and shows presented in ways we had never imagined. Very brave Hi-Liners joined the board at the most challenging moment in HMT history and brainstormed, strategized, and toiled to keep the doors from closing. Paid positions from video editing to teaching, costuming to stage combat, have been transformed to volunteer roles as artists who believe in the mission of this theatre lend their time and talents so that we can operate on a shoestring. HMT friends found us a stage and studios for the summer theatre camps that will help bring us back. Parents in this room got their young performers to online auditions, pulled costumes out of their closets at home, and then bought tickets to support their growth. You did this. You are doing this.

What happens now? We are determined to present a complete season this year. After consistently producing MainStage since 1994, we have been dark at the PAC for two summers in a row. In order to bring MainStage back, we have kept expenses to a minimum and begun to chip away at the deficit, which has already been reduced by 1/3. We are working on securing a venue for our school year programs and planning an exciting new format for our November fundraiser. We are staying nimble.

But let's focus on what we have already accomplished. As the curtain call happens tonight, give those performers a hand, and then look around and include the entire room in your applause.

Kathleen Edwards  
Artistic Director

# Production Team

Director..... Kathleen Edwards  
Music Director.....Frankie Curry-Edwards  
Assistant Music Director.....Samantha Becker  
Production Stage Manager.....Jaxen Caleb Hedberg  
Set/Props.....Michael and Mata McDuffie  
Costume Coordinator.....Joan Glaman

## HI-LINERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President - Jesse Northrup*

*Vice President - Allison Gobat*

*Secretary - Lisa Finkral*

*Treasurer - Lynn Root*

Krystle Alan, Nancy Becker, Frellie Campos, Joan Glaman,  
Gretchen Handfelt, Diane Kennish, Mata McDuffie, Michael McDuffie

*Past President / Board Advisor - Gerry Gilbert*

*Artistic Director - Kathleen A. Edwards*

*Managing Director - Jaxen Caleb Hedberg*

## HI-LINERS VISION:

*To be the preeminent youth theater organization in South King County delivering  
high quality live musical theatre to our audiences.*

## HI-LINERS MISSION:

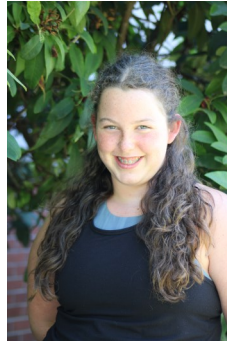
*To preserve and advance the performing arts in the lives of the students in our community.  
To involve young people in the performing arts in order to produce higher levels of achievement and life awareness.  
To achieve these goals while maintaining a reasonable cost structure for both our performers and our audiences.  
The Hi-Liners and our volunteers are dedicated to that end.*

# Cast



Ava Marks

Age 12, 7th Grade  
Glendale Lutheran School



Bella Easter

Age 12, 7th Grade  
Classical Conversations School



Liliana Pompeo

Age 10, 5th grade  
Seattle Christian School



Lucy Hostetter

Age 11, 6th Grade  
Glendale Lutheran School



Nora Shaw

Age 11, 7th Grade  
Homeschool



Norah Walker

Age 10, 5th Grade  
Hilltop Elementary School



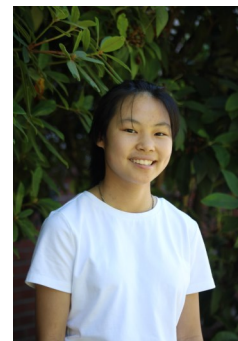
Rowan Blacksher

Age 14, 9th Grade  
Kent Lab Academy



Sam Collins

Age 11, 6th Grade  
Homeschool



Syan Koch

Age 14, 9th Grade  
Chief Sealth High School

# Parent Notes



AVA



We want you to write many poems of your own.  
When you do, the skills you have will be honed.  
Show off your hard work, do it with pride.  
If others don't like it, take it in stride.  
Keep on trying new things every day!  
We'll be right here at the end of the play.

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Harper, and Charles Doggerson

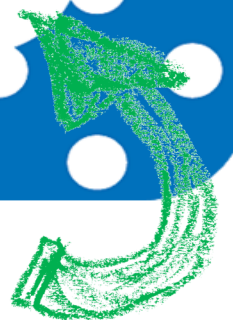


SAM



Sam! Great job on your wonderful show! You have such a great zest for life and we see it in your singing, dancing, acting, and all-around joyful attitude. Keep shining!

We love you!  
Mom and Dad



# Parent Notes



Lili, Your work ethics, drive and determination in ALL you do is inspiring to many. When the “gold snow” (Covid) hit you chose not to let that impede your passion for theatre and singing. You continued to excel in several online courses and productions. We are beyond proud of all you do and can’t wait to see what God has in store for you next.

Keep dreaming BIG little one.

Love you most – Mom, Dad, Bella and Daisy Mae



## NORAH

Congratulations, Norah, on this exciting stage production.

We're so proud of you.

-Mom and Dad.



**~Visit us on Redbubble~**

**You'll find Hi-Liners swag**

<https://www.redbubble.com/people/thehi-liners/explore?page=1&sortOrder=recent>



# Poetry Corner

Little Kitty

Here is my kitty, sitting so pretty,  
Taking a warm fuzzy nap.  
I want to pursue the things I like to do,  
But I can't get her off of my lap!

Nora Shaw

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A KITE.  
I REALLY WANT TO FLY.  
THE ONLY WAY IS FOR WIND TO COME.  
AND THAT HAPPENS ONLY ONCE IN A WHILE.

SYAN KOCH

Listen kids, the road is not for play!  
"Quick, quick, quick! Out of the road," they say.  
The Clumsy Kid didn't listen to that phrase.  
She really should've heeded their ways.

Ava Marks

Oh, the Places I Love

Sometimes I feel like a kite  
Off to see a beautiful sight  
Soaring away to perceive the world  
With a year that is dear  
And a friend with no end  
There are things to speak of  
About the places I love

Bella Easter

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I give my monster ice cream  
Do you do that too?

Liliana Pompeo

IF I WERE A CACTUS  
ALL COVERED IN DOUBT  
I WOULD TRY NOT TO CRY  
AND TRY NOT TO FIGHT.

LUCK HOSTETTER

If I were a cactus  
Who could walk on two legs  
I'd do the first thing a cactus who could walk on two legs would do  
Let the whole world know what it was like to be a cactus  
Let the whole world know what it was like to be excluded  
And made fun of  
And I'd save the challenge for last  
I'd challenge them all with the biggest challenge of all  
Could you give me a hug?

Norah Walker

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
There's a million, billion different rhymes in the world,  
But this time I only chose two.

Rowan Blacksher

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
The sun and stars tower over you.  
You look up to the balls of fire,  
And you wonder, "Could I be higher?"

Sam Collins

# Upcoming Camps



July 19-23

Ages 11+

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a

RAYA'S  
DRAGON CAMP

July 19-23

Ages 7-10

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a

EVERY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
MUSICAL

July 26-30

Ages 7+

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a



July 26-30

Ages 3-6

Monday-Friday 9:30a-11:30a

Hogwarts  
Summer  
Musical

August 2-6

Ages 11+

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a

Hogwarts  
& Prep

August 2-6

Ages 7-10

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a

AMONG US

A Murder Mystery in Space

August 9-13

Ages 7+

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a



August 9-13

Ages 3-6

Monday-Friday 9:30a-11:30a

COMIC  
RELIEF

August 16-20

Ages 11+

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a

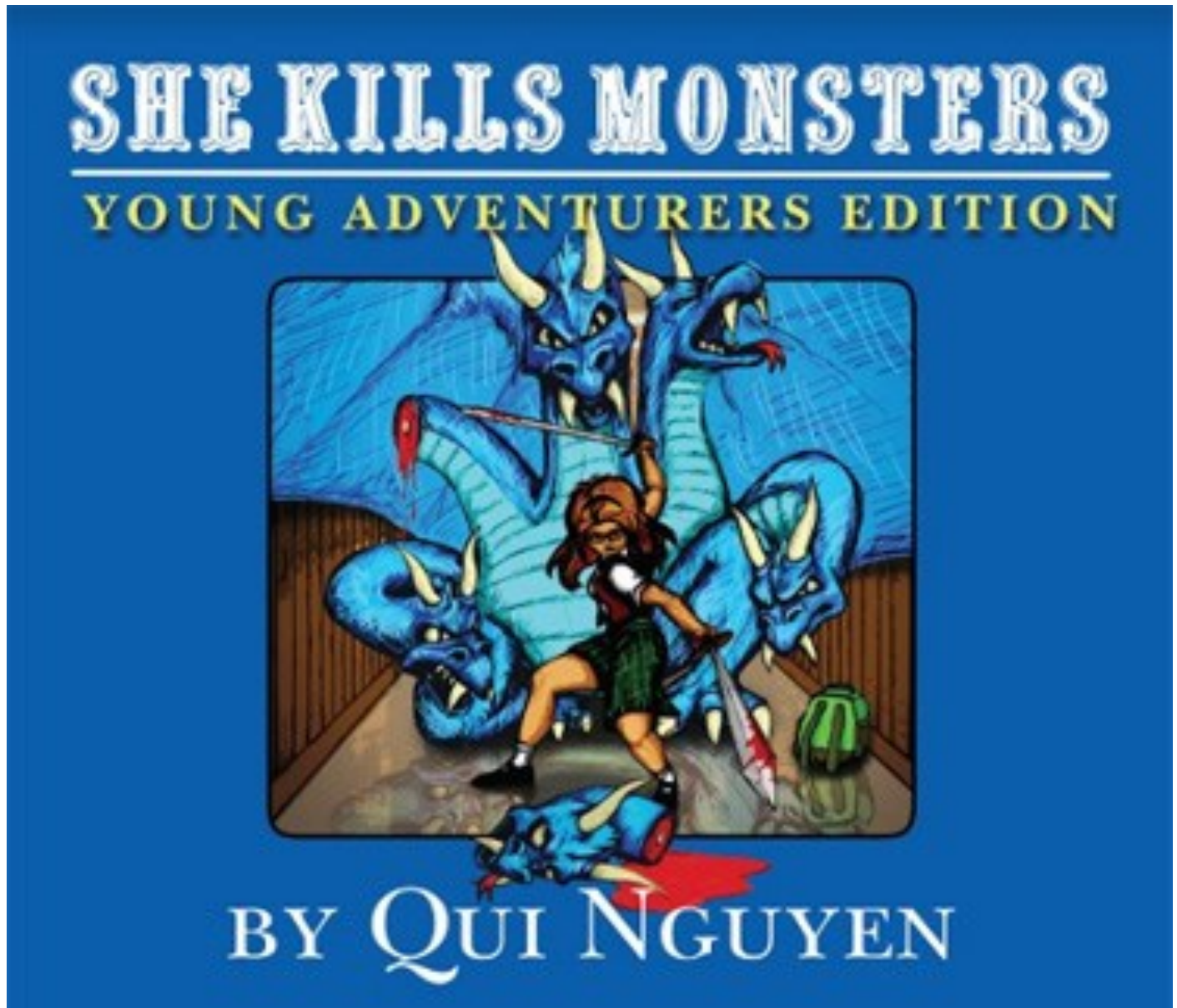
SCOOBY-DOO!  
Mystery Party

August 16-20

Ages 7-10

Monday-Friday 8:30a-11:30a

Coming Next Month!



*She Kills Monsters* tells the story of high schooler Agnes Evans as she deals with the death of her younger sister, Tilly. When Agnes stumbles upon Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in the imaginary world that was her sister's refuge. In this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and '90s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

**Performance Dates**  
August 20-22 and 27-29

Are You Ready?

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***Auditions in September!***

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Support a local Burien business!

# SIDESTREET Kitchen & Bar

July 14-16

15% off your entire order when you show your ticket or program to  
*Could You Hug a Cactus!*

HMT special drinks and entrees for kids and adults!

thank  
you!

*Special Thanks*  
to

Glendale Lutheran  
Jessica Hostetter  
Joan Sandberg

