

CAST BIOS

Grayson Bell (TOWN BULLY)

Savannah Bell (O CHRISTMAS TREE SOLOIST/NARRATOR)

Kamber Bowyer (TOWN BULLY)

Eve Espericueta (TOWNSPERSON)

Collette Etchamendy (STILL, STILL, STILL SOLOIST/NARRATOR) has been

with Places! for 5 years and has been a vocal student with Mrs. Zuccaro for as many years. She has had the honor of being in *The Happiest Place on*

Earth (Little Anna), *We Will Rock You* (Bruce), *Pinkalicious* (Dr. Wink), *Beauty and the Beast* (Ensemble). Collette thanks all of her family and friends for coming to see her in *The Little Match Girl*.

Sonya Etchamendy

(GRANDMA/NARRATOR/DECK THE HALLS SOLOIST) *Little Match Girl* is the first musical she has ever been in. She thanks Mrs. Zuccaro for helping her learn how to sing this past year and David for the honor of being part of this amazing and talented cast. It is never too late in life to try something new.

Lindsay French (LITTLE MATCH GIRL FUTURE/NARRATOR/MIDNIGHT CLEAR

SOLOIST) is 14 years old and in 9th grade at Higley High School. Her favorite roles include Mayzie LaBird in *Seussical Jr.* (LFPA), Britney Spears in *We Will Rock You* (Places! Productions), and Iris Kelly in *Fame Jr* (AYT). In her free time she enjoys dance and being part of her school pom team. She would like to thank Allison and David for giving her this opportunity in the casts.



Abby Gordon (GOOSE/NARRATOR/SILENT NIGHT SOLOIST) is thrilled to return to the stage with Places! as The Goose! Her favorite past roles include Mary Bailey (*It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*), Mary Warren (*The Crucible*), and Meg March (*Little Women*). Abby also directed *Rock and Roll Forever* earlier this year and has assistant directed Places! productions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Our Originals*. She thanks David, Juli, Rachel, and the whole cast and crew of *The Little Match Girl* for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing show!



first show with Places!

Abby Kesner (NARRATOR) Abby Kesner is excited to be in *The Little Match Girl*. When she grows up, she wants to be a dog groomer. Abby, who is thirteen, enjoys art, swimming, reading, skateboarding, going on trips, homeschooling, having fun with her family, and surfing. Abby was delighted to be in *We Will Rock You*, *Velveteen Rabbit*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, which was her first show with Places! Productions. Abby would like to thank the directors, David and Juli, her family for all their support, and all the people who made this show possible.



Eddie Kesner (STOVE/NARRATOR) is thrilled to be performing again alongside his wonderful daughters with Places! Productions. Eddie enjoys trail running, surfing, board gaming, playing the banjo, and spending time with his amazing wife. A heartfelt thank you to directors David and Juli for their impressive directing skills, approachableness and willingness to share their fantastic acting knowledge! He would like to thank his wife, Jennifer, for her selfless love and sacrifice and his five daughters, who daily inspire him to choose Joy!

Chloe Kesner (ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH SOLOIST/NARRATOR), a twelve year old actress, loves to sing and dance. Chloe is ecstatic to be in this production of *The Little Match Girl*. When she's not practicing for shows or choral performances, Chloe is passionate about cleaning, biking, swimming, skateboarding, shopping, and hanging out with friends. Chloe is also always looking for ways to help people and make people smile. Chloe wants to give a



special thanks to David, Rachel, Allison, and Juli for making this show possible.



Molly Kesner (LITTLE MATCH GIRL PRESENT), a sophomore, is so excited to perform in *Little Match Girl!* Molly enjoys being a part of Places! Productions. She is constantly challenged to learn new things and appreciates the fun work environment. Molly wants to thank Juli and David as they've helped her grow during these past few months. Molly loves to sing at church and is always looking for ways to brighten someone's day. She would also like to thank Ms. Allison and everyone else that made this show possible.

Olivia Kesner (LITTLE MATCH GIRL PAST) is thrilled to be a part of *The Little Match Girl* cast. Olivia, a freshman, loves participating in homeschool. She has previously been in *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *We Will Rock You*, and *Rock and Roll Forever*. When she's not onstage, Olivia enjoys dancing, skateboarding, surfing, joking around, hanging with her pup, attending church events, and having fun. Olivia would like to give a special thanks to Rachel, the choreographer; the directors, David and Juli; the music director, Ms. Allison; the costume designer, Susan; and her family and friends for all their support.



Kennedy Kirkpatrick (TOWNSPERSON) is thrilled to be on her 2nd performance with Places! Productions. In her free time, she likes to play with her Barbies, play in her kitchen, and swim. She loves to sing and dance and perform! She is excited for future performances with Places Productions!

Luke Kirkpatrick (TOWN BULLY) is happy to be on his 2nd performance with Places! Productions. In his free time, he likes to play video games and be with his animals. He loves his chickens and his dog, Bella. He also loves to create and build things. Luke has loved his time so far with Places! Productions!



Neelan Kumar (SILENT NIGHT SOLIST/NARRATOR) was born in 2009 in Gilbert, Arizona. She has lived in Mesa her whole life. She started taking voice lessons in August of 2017, and continued for 4 years. She also became interested in taking piano lessons in 2018, and also continued until 2021. Neelan is a student in BASIS Mesa. She is currently in band playing saxophone. At school, she has been awarded the citizenship, friendship and kindness awards. Neelan is also an honor student. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She likes hiking and target shooting. Neelan has traveled to many countries such as Italy, Switzerland, India, France and Iran. She is an amazing, kind hearted and intelligent young lady.



family, friends, and the whole cast and crew of Places! Enjoy the show!!

Brittany Nixon (TREE/NARRATOR/BLEAK MIDWINTER SOLOIST) is loving this opportunity to perform with her children in *The Little Match Girl*. Many moons ago, she was a performer in NYC and abroad and made great memories touring and teaching overseas, but now her greatest JOY is seeing the delight that being a part of theatre brings to her children. Places! Productions is a true community theatre, and Brittany is so appreciative to be a part of it all!



June Nixon (TOWNSPERSON) is having the time of her life being a part of *The Little Match Girl*! She is very grateful for the opportunity to perform. When she's not on stage, she can be found acting out entire musicals at home alongside her siblings. June also performs with Places Productions show choir, Ping.



Mateo Nixon (TOWNSPERSON) is so enjoying being a part of *The Little Match Girl* alongside his two sisters and Mom! Thank you Places! Productions for providing a space for even the youngest of performers to blossom and shine!



Schotia Nixon (LITTLE MATCH GIRL PRESENT), age 9, loves to perform and is absolutely delighted to be playing the title role in *The Little Match Girl*, as well as performing in *Les Mis*. Thank you to Allison, David and Juli for allowing her this opportunity. She has loved being a part of everything that Places! Productions produces, including their past production of *Pinkalicious* and performing alongside her siblings in Ping Show Choir!

Jennifer Parent (SILENT NIGHT SOLIST/NARRATOR)

Kasey Ray (FATHER/NARRATOR) is grateful for the opportunity to return to the Places! stage in *Little Match Girl*. He has previously appeared in *Little Women*, *The Crucible*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Shrek the Musical* with Places Productions. Much gratitude to David

for his patient direction and boundless positivity. Thanks to Allison and my love to Alyssa. Enjoy the show!

Audra South (LITTLE MATCH GIRL PAST) is a 5th grader at Weinberg Gifted Academy in the Chandler Unified School District. Audra is a trained competitive dancer at Artistic Motion Dance in Gilbert. Her main love is singing and performing in musicals. Some of her favorite past roles have been ensemble in *Newsies*, Jojo in *Seussical Jr.*, Cat in *Honk! Jr.*, and Matilda in *Matilda*. She is very excited to do her first shows with Places!.

Maria Stallings (NARRATOR) This is Maria's 4th play and 3rd with Places! Productions. Maria will also be performing as Anna this winter in a school play version of Disney's *Frozen*. Maria also spends time taking voice lessons in Gilbert with her voice coach to assist her with her love of singing and performing. Maria balances performing with school and is regularly on the Legacy Traditional School's honor roll. Maria would like to acknowledge and thank her parents, Laura and Sean as well as her big sister, Samara for their love and support.





Brooklin Tinsley (NARRATOR) is currently 11 years old and started with Places! Productions in 2021. This is her fourth show. “It’s so fun to learn new things, explore new roles, and make new friends!”

Margie Zuccaro (GRANDMA/NARRATOR) also performed in *The Crucible* as Sara Good, Martha, and Choir. She works at Chandler Gilbert Community College.



PRODUCTION BIOS

Juli Buehrle (assistant director) has absolutely loved collaborating with her wonderful husband on this beautiful and tragic show. Everyone in the cast has worked so hard and it has resulted in amazing performances all around. We hope you enjoy the show and hope you brought tissues!

Rachel Espericueta (Choreographer) recently choreographed Places! Productions’ *Legally Blonde*, *We Will Rock You* and *Little Women*. She was last seen on stage as Abigail Williams in Places! Productions’ *The Crucible*. Rachel has choreographed for Presto and Ping, along with *At the*

Bandstand and *The Happiest Place on Earth*, a musical revue. She would like to thank her family for all their love and support, along with the *Little Match Girl* cast and crew.

Allison Zuccaro (Music Director) is the Founding Artistic Director of Places! Productions. She graduated from ASU in 2012 with a BM in Music Theatre and Minor in Justice Studies and performed as a member of Actors' Equity Association before deciding her heart was truly in teaching and directing. Over the last 20 years, she performed in over 30 productions and has now directed nearly as many. She is currently the performing arts instructor at East Valley High School and runs a private voice studio in Queen Creek. She thanks the amazingly talented *Little Match Girl* cast and crew, under the amazing leadership of David, Rachel, and Juli, the Places! Board, all of our incredible volunteers, her brilliant parents, her supportive husband John, YOU for supporting the arts, and Liz Rhodes, who, for the last 15 years, encouraged Allison to pursue her dreams and believed in her more than she ever believed in herself.