



# Cardinal Theatre

## News

Clarinda High School  
Fall - 2018



Changes at CHS and Cardinal Theatre

### The Transition Begins

After 42 years of teaching speech and theatre, Mr. Balster has left his classroom. An opportunity to continue his work at CHS in a new way became available. A program was initiated by the state of Iowa a few years ago called TLC or Teacher Leadership Collaboration. The program is in its third year at CHS. The goal of the initiative is to improve student achievement through better teaching. TLC “coaches” work with teachers and administrations to create fresh opportunities and new instructional strategies. TLC leaders also work to create professional development opportunities for the teaching staff, as well as mentor new teachers to the the district. The TLC structure at Clarinda Community Schools has shifted this year to include three instructional coaches—Cassie Eberly at the elementary school, Colleen Comer at the middle school, and Mr. Balster at the high school. Even in his new position, Mr. Balster will continue to direct both mainstage productions and contest speech activities as well.



Taking over Mr. Balster’s classroom is Lawrence Alford. Mr. Alford graduated from CHS in 1988, and was very active in the theatre program. Mr. Alford has worked professionally as an actor, and has taught in two high schools and two colleges in Missouri. He received his Masters Degree from Southern Oregon University. During the past year, he was the technical director and venue manager at Northwest Missouri State University. When the opportunity to come back to CHS was offered, he happily accepted. Mr. Alford’s classes at CHS include Communication, Public Speaking, Stagecraft, Introduction to Theatre, Theatre Production, and Beginning Acting. Mr.

Alford has extensive experience in both technical theatre and performance.

This transition within Cardinal Theatre will ensure that the tradition of excellence will not only continue, but will evolve and grow in the next few years. Mr. Alford’s tenure at CHS and Cardinal Theatre will provide students with continued quality education in the performance arts.

Our Ninth Mainstage Performance

### Iowa Thespian Festival

Cardinal Theatre Thespian Troupe 471 is excited to bring their fall production, *The Triangle Factory Fire Project*, to the 2018 Iowa Thespian Festival. The festival is attended by over 1000 students from across the state, and is held on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. The festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10. This will mark the ninth time CHS has traveled to the festival with a full-length production.

The experience of performing for a student audience is both exciting and daunting. But no matter our reception for the play we are performing, students and adult sponsors and teachers are amazed at the support such a comparatively small school district provides for a theatre program. Our programs at festival are the same we use for our “home” performances, so all can see the names of the individuals, families, and businesses who contribute to our success. CHS students are proud to share their talents and the support we are so lucky to have.



## IOWA THESPIANS™

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Looking forward to 2019

### CHS to Host Speech Contest

In addition to preparing performing groups for the Iowa High School Speech Association Large Group contests, CHS students will also host the first contest of the season. The contest will be held on Saturday, January 19. Over twenty-five schools from the area will bring their performing groups to CHS. As we close out 2018, we’ll be looking for adult volunteers to help us host the contest. We’ll be in touch with you!



Nebraska Shakespeare on Tour

### A Performance of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

On September 25, the entire CHS student body saw a performance of Shakespeare’s fantasy/comedy *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. The company performing is known as Nebraska Shakespeare on Tour, supported by the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

Each year, the company produces one of Shakespeare’s plays and offers the performance to high schools throughout the Midwest region. The company also provides an extensive study guide for teachers and students. It was the first time Nebraska Shakespeare on tour has visited Clarinda. Several years ago, Cardinal Theatre performed *The Three Musketeers* and needed to have a stage combat expert to work with the cast for the many scenes that required sword play. That expert came from the Nebraska Shakespeare company. Also, this was a great year to have the company visit CHS. Their performance helped support the Language Arts curriculum that every student at CHS experiences. One of Shakespeare’s plays is studied at each grade level. Freshman study *Julius Caesar*, Sophomores study *Hamlet*. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is a part of the Junior classes, and Seniors study *Macbeth*. After the performance, the company offered three workshops for students: Acting, Movement, and Text. Cardinal Theatre patron donations helped make Nebraska Shakespeare’s visit possible.



### We’re So Proud of YOU!

Thank you for your continued support of Cardinal Theatre and its students. Send your financial support to Cardinal Theatre, Clarinda High School, 100 N. Cardinal Drive, Clarinda IA 51632. Receiving your donation by October 30 will allow us to place your name in the 2018-19 production programs.