

The
PERFORMER

November 2019

Informing The French Woods Community

Happy Thanksgiving!



French Woods
Festival of the Performing Arts



In this Issue: • Staff & Camper News • Ron, Beth & Isaac • Visiting Days • 2020 Show List

The **Performer** is only as good as the contributions we receive from the French Woods community. Let us know what is going on in your life. Your camp friends love to hear what you are doing. Our email address is admin@frenchwoods.com. We love hearing from you.

The Hancock-French Woods Arts Alliance is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit public charity that was formed by the French Woods Festival family to provide encouragement for the arts through education and financial support for children and young adults from low income and culturally diverse areas.

Become a sponsor for the 2020 4k Race for the Arts • Buy a raffle ticket for free tuition • Give the Perfect Gift with Hancock-French Woods Arts Alliance Tribute Cards. www.hftaa.org (607) 637-8404

**Send us news at admin@frenchwoods.com
See yourself in the French Woods Performer.**

800-634-1703 in FL 954-346-7455

French Woods Festival
of the Performing Arts
WINTER OFFICE
PO Box 770100
Coral Springs, Florida 33077

Dear French Woods Families,



Many of our campers will audition for college programs in the performing arts. Because so many of our staff sit on audition panels and teach in popular college programs including UCLA, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, Emerson, University of Kentucky and New World School of the Arts, we are uniquely positioned to help them prepare.

Last year, parents were asked to register interested 15 to 17 year old campers via CampIn Touch for the college prep course that took place in each three-week session last summer. This summer will be no different. Space will be limited and those registered for theater college prep will be asked to choose repertoire prior to the beginning of camp to work on while in class. We know that college applications are looming in student's minds earlier than ever. Brian Kite, Theater Department Chair and Professor at UCLA, says that in his experience French Woods alumni who audition at UCLA often stand out because they understand what to do in an audition room.

With a year of this new program under our belt, we are working on new ways to prepare teens to leave a session at camp with college audition material ready without missing the opportunity to perform in shows and have a French Woods Camp experience at the same time.

Ron

A Note from Ron



Here we go again. 2020 is just around the corner and we've got big plans. 2020 will feature new bunks on both boys and girls campuses, a remodeled cooking room and an expanded canteen.

As far as the shows are concerned, I'll be doing *In The Heights*, *A Chorus Line*, *On The Town*, *On The 20th Century* and *Be More Chill*. We'll wait and see if there are any changes but this is enough to keep me busy. Keep those emails and texts coming.

If any of you are going to be in Florida for Xmas, plan to stop by. We'd love to see you.

Right now we are planning for the Broadway trips for next summer. We tentatively have picked out *Company*, *Jagged Little Pill*, and *Six*. All three involve French Woods alum and we should have major talk backs from each. Check them out.

For those of you in the Pittsburgh area, I will be there at an open house Dec. 15th. Details to follow.

Ron

Staff Needed!

Do you know someone that might make a great staff member at French Woods? We always welcome your recommendations. Especially needed are strong sports and tennis staff, musical directors, instrumental musicians, skilled artists, technical theater staff and doctors and nurses.

Please call us in the winter office at: (800) 634-1703 if you know of anyone, and we will be happy to direct them to the appropriate application information. With many of your favorite staff returning, we are hoping to make the staff of 2020 frenchwoods the best ever.

Visiting Days

In response to the many phone calls we have received, please mark these dates:

Session 1: June 26th and 27th *

Session 2: July 17th and 18th *

Session 3: August 7th and 8th *

Session 4: August 28th & 29th *

Session 5: September 5th (10 am)

*Visiting on the first day begins immediately **after** lunch at 1:30 PM. The second day of visiting begins at 10 AM. Visitors will **NOT** be allowed on the grounds before these times. **Parents/Visitors may NOT bring their pets to camp.** Parents may **NOT** bring picnic dinners or any other food to share with their children at camp. Parents and visitors are welcome to eat in our dining hall, but under no circumstances are campers permitted to leave the grounds.

Should you wish to attend **any other performance** during the summer, please call the camp so that we know you are coming. You must check-in at the main office at 5:45 pm for dinner in the dining hall and to get your ID. Picnics and other food items are **NOT** permitted during ANY visits.

If you are in need of accommodations please check your CampIn Touch dashboard under family forms and documents or visit our website at <http://frenchwoods.com/nearby-accommodations.php> for this info.

Abby Malloy
Addison Rogers
Adelaide Fargo
Adriana Bohm Oliver
Adyson Schwalb
Aidan Kern
Ainsley McNicoll
Akiv Shah
Alaina McCarthy
Alastair Ylvisaker
Alexandra Greenberg
Alexandra Hulnick
Alina Mirman
Alison Silverstein
Amelia Levenson
Andre Orozco
Annalise O'Mary
Annie Benson
Anthony Mazur
Audrey Brda
Audrey Kassewitz
Audrey O'Mary
Ava Gnagy
Ava Lamantia
Ava Tucker
Avery Johnston
Avery Mascott
Beatrice Dirksen
Beau Walt
Ben Gilad

Ben Steinberg
Betlehem Dombrow
Caroline Bassichis
Catherine Zeps
Charlotte Compo
Chelsey Abel
Chloe Connors
Chloe Gabriel
Christina Rego
Claire Cheslock
Claire Kassewitz
Collin Nelson
David Isaak
Delphine D'Hollander
Dylan Russell
Efren Cires
Eli Bomse
Elizabeth Hill
Ella Toppino
Ella Ylvisaker
Elle Miller
Elliot Stack
Elsie Southern
Emilia Morera
Emily Malkan
Emma Lincks
Emma Vicinanza
Eric Schlumberger
Esme Southern
Gerardo Capó

Just Registered! (October 3 - November 6)

Gina Wilson
Gracie Pedini
Grant Herman
Greta Friedman
Hannah Freundel
Hannah Hasselbarth
Hannah Shelton
Har-El Shrem
Harley Schwalb
Harmony Haynes
Hector Fringhian
Isabella Jolicoeur
Isaiah Gabriel
Izzy Cale
Jack McCarthy
Jackson Steinberg
Jacob Morrell
Jacob Myers
Jacob Steinberg
Jadeyn Foster
Jensen Wilson
Jillian Gulbranson
Jimena Cires
John Gnagy
Jordanna Lennon
Josephine Bullock
Joshua Herman
Josie Jones

Julia "Jayc"
Tannenbaum
Julianne Friedson
Justin Gulbranson
Justin Salties
Justine D'Hollander
Kate Jacksoy
Kelly Proctor
Kiera Swingle
Kylan Alvy
Kzreel Pierre
Leah Regan
Leina Goldman
Leopold Smith
Liam Diamond
Lisa Boujnah
Lucas Smith
Lucas Storch
Luke Crater
Luke Dobson
Luke Hill
Macallen Myers
Macallister Morris
Maggie Looby
Maia Wellington
Marcus Nguyen
Maren Alvy
Margaret Waldron

Marina Bohm Oliver
Mark Vrap
Marley Sonke
Mary Ann Wright
Mason Godici
Matteo Salimbeni
Max Guttman
Maya Chachra
Meggie Vilcina
Meredith Levine
Mia Nelson
Micheline Castelli
Mila Valkin
Molly Culot
Nancy Teng
Nathan Kossoy
Nicolas Maglione
Nina Katz
Nova Brown
Olivia Smith
Parker Godici
Paulina Guerra
Petra Romero
Rebecca Fabricant
Rebecca Rosen
Rory Cox
Rose Boujnah
Ruby Glass
Sabine Cale
Sabrina Fabricant
Samantha Lam

Sammy McCarthy
Samuel Pincus
Samuel Sanchez
Sara Shulman
Sarah Rappoport
Sebastian Hennessy
Serena Dugan
Silvana Tedeschi
Skyler Weisenberg
Sophia Dugan
Sophia LaGrua
Sophie Paul
Sophie Ricks
Soren Alvy
Stella Dugan
Stella Felix
Stella Vrap
Stephanie Contreras
Suri Valkin
Susanna Steinberg
Tanner Tierney
Thomas Freilich
Timothy Mazur
Trenton Rothbard
Truman Steinberg
Vivienne Kassewitz
William Habig
Willow Weisenberg
Wyatt Strasburg
Zachary Wellington
Zimu Qiu

November Birthdays

1 Caroline Gerosa
Elizabeth Epstein
Ethan Brandwene
Hunter Phay
Kiran Kamath
Trenton Rothbard
2 Blain Gelhaar
Ellie Keane
Luca O'Kane
Sabina Rosenblum-Solis
Spencer Udin
Stanley Bochar
3 Aditya Shah
Alec Kudler
Benjamin Lawler
Henry Brittan
Henry Walter V
Jordan Silver
Mikayla Pyke-Sharpe
Patrick Farquharson
4 Avery Whitacre
Elliot Stack
Holden Goldberg
Jake Lippmann
Sari Seldman
Taryn Kossover
5 Alexander Green
Amelia Sipkin
Daniella Budoff
Emma Lincks
Isaiah Fanith
Jake Heilbronn
Karly Kriegstein
Katerin Pineda

Luca Favalli
Samantha Semsel
6 Catalina Grieco
Deiliah Belmont
Sophia Thompson
Zachary Asnis
Zaida Whitaker
7 Caroline Funk
Eduardo Lamazares
Eleanor Ryan
Meaghan Wizeman
Rafael Lyrio
Sally Thistle
Sophie Valbrune
William Garrity
8 Amadea Reiss
Annemarie Suarez
Lola Derris
Sofia Davis
Tziah Thomas
Alina Macaulay
Aviva Burch
Benjamin Carroll
Colby Kipnes
Corey Williams
Jason Rapillo
Joey Carroll
Violet Villoch
Wyatt Weppler
Zack Ramsey
10 Alexandra Mestel
Amelia Bornmann
Hong xi Wen
Jack Eilemberg
Joseph Morales
Katherine Marchetti

Matilda Leventhal
Oona Hall
Rose Kotz
Rose Passalacqua
Sara Laduzinski
Sarah Fiely
Wyatt Strasburg
11 Liam Sawyer
Nicholas Tantalean
Zoe Joubert
12 Josephine Suozzo
Kiara Kling
Nicole Alper-Esko
13 Amelie Prevor
Amelie Wilday
Anastasia Brown
Jackson Carney
Jessenia Abrego
Maxx Star
Olivia Gianettino
Treasure Croxton
14 Analyse Armstrong
Annabella Potenza
Chloe Robinson
Eli Sandler
Lea Graves
Nicholas Potenza
Nova Brown
Zeke Hurley
15 Cameron Levesque
Makenzie Williams
Sydney Matlin
16 Alexia Morakis
Luke Flannery
Sebastian Hennessy

Soleil Schriver
17 Lindsay Goldstein
Luz Alvarez de Estrada
Madison Dalewitz
Ronli Chow
Sophie Ricks
18 Avery Schlesinger
Christian McLaughlin
Girardi
Matthew Laskow
Mela Sherman
Rachel Spencer
Sophie Santoriello
William Altman
19 Anna Callender
Anthony Mazur
Charles Petras
Diana McEnroe
Jadyn Jacobson
Juliette McEnroe
Noah Scherzinger
Roman Parshin
20 Brandon Strug
Chiara Wormuth
Dan Ertl
Elias Gitterman
Jaden Moore
Joshua Chernin
Kate Persily
Maya Moreno
Megan Taylor
Riley McManus
Yoonsuh Kim
21 Anne-Marie Dougall

Ava Diamond
Ethan Lafazan
Imogen Notaro
Michaela Scarano
Sean Vinas
22 Adrena Shellhouse
Ava Thompson
Brooke Rubenstein
Chloe Strong
Elle Baylor
Ian Ritter
Jonah Posner
Michaela
Athanasakopoulos
Oriana Fifer
Palmer Kennedy
Ray Kao
Sofia Fernandez
Germani
23 Eliana Singer
Gabriel Prissert
Gemma Singer
Jayden Ellis
Jonah Berlin
Kaia Ross
Madeleine Garcia
Mary Grah
Noah Prissert
Serena Krouk
24 Audrey Schwartz
Cole Danzker
Epstein
Eilean Faltin
Evelyn Walker
Maxime Coulouarn
Nataly Robinson

Sofia Guillen Lopez
Sunomuno Miles
25 Paloma O'Leary
26 Ayala Chocron
David Stearn
Jacob Baker-Spitzer
Justine D'Hollander
Lavinia Capra
Logan Sverdlhoff
Meredith Lee
Silvia Hoylman-Sigal
27 Bianca Ulrich
Eleanor Schlenoff
Ismael Salcedo
Mary Ann Wright
28 Danielle Kobrick
Jonathan Friedman
Luca Monaco
29 Arden Wolfe
Ava Marie Trombino
Max Kaplan
Peyton Riveiro
Zosia Sinton
30 Andrea Sin
Ben Shar
Cameron Ball
Cameron Thomas
Caroline Mignone
Eva Egozi
Eylon Hayner
Fred Faulkon
Joey Verbaro
Julianne Magnus
Michael Smith
Qiara Schwartz

Camper & Staff News

Charlotte Compo is playing the roll of Gynecia in Broadway Workshops *Head Over Heels*.

Josie Bullock recently completed her role as Gladys Herdman in the University School production of *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Additionally she has been cast in the Great Lakes Theater production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Levi Robinovitz was cast as Mr. Greenway & the Manager in the musical *Elf Jr* at Performance Edge 2 Theatre Academy in Boca Raton, FL. The show dates are Dec 15-17.

Earlier this month **Celeste Wilson** played Pepper in the Florida College production of *Annie* and she will play Fritz in Dance Theatre of Tampa's 20th anniversary production of *The Nutcracker* Dec 13-15.

Andrew McCarthy is playing the Narrator/ mysterious man in a production of *Into The Woods*. **Michele Benvenuto** is playing Repunzel's prince in the same production.

Three of our campers are in *Wizard of Oz* in at Convent of the Sacred Heart in NYC. **Aleksa Bazylevsky** as Dorothy, **Gwyneth Giangrande** as the Cowardly Lion, and **Daisy Moriarty** as the Tinman.

Arden Wolfe is in Amazon Prime's new series *Modern Love*.

Brooke Naznitsky was in an SNL skit to open SNL's 45th season and is playing Fan in *A Christmas Carol* this December at Bergen Performing Arts Center.

Collin Nelson played Charlie Brown and **Mia Neslon** plays Sally Brown in their Viewpoint Middle School production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Sabrina Bianco is performing in the role of Kristoff in the Random Farms Fall musical *Frozen* and has been cast in the lead role of Clara in Scarsdale Ballet's annual *Nutcracker* production at SUNY Purchase.

Guarionex Tavares, Christopher LeDoux, Semaj McCoy, Pierce Sparnroft, Aamir Juman, and **Josh Freilich**, coached by **Paul Corn**, played at a benefit for the New York Pops that honored **Ron Schaefer** at 54 Below.

Also at 54 Below, the second annual *54 Celebrates French Woods* featured performances from campers including: **Zach Asnis, Jalen Bunch, Hudson Flynn, Abby Gluck, Tiffany Kumar, Skylar Sherman, Foster Schrader** and Staff and Alumni including **Max Beer, Sarah Boyle, Aaron F. Brateman, Lauryn Ciardullo, Michelle Coben, Ben Edelman, Josh Freilich, Roy George, Lisa Graye, Jordan Hirsch, Madeline Hurley, Lee Kasper, Michael Kushner, Rebecca Kuznick, Jennifer Molson, Rob Morean, Gabrielle Pisapia, Maddison Rotner, Lance Rubin, Adrian Ruz, Lee Slobotkin, Heather Tepe** and **Matthew Wechsler**.

2020 Broadway Trips!

By next month, we will have our Broadway Show Trips selections finalized. Then, registered campers will be able to sign up online for our summer Broadway show trips. It's looking good for the following shows:

Session 1: *Company*



Session 2: *Jagged Little Pill*



Session 3: *Six*



Isaac's Corner



According to the nonprofit organization *Support Music*, children involved in the performing arts develop skills like critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and effective communication. They are less likely to drop out of school, have higher test scores on college entrance exams and have lower instances of using tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

With many schools cutting performing arts programs, parents are finding the best creative outlet for their child is a place like French Woods.

For many campers French Woods is the only place they can go to pursue their passions, take risks, and have the time to actually learn the craft required to be creative and "make art."

When you visit FWF, the differences are the first thing that hit you. There is the intense focus of the campers. Throughout the day, you see children in groups of two or three sitting at picnic tables or walking together. Some are with counselors, others are in peer groups, some may even seem to be alone. They hold books or instruments or paper, they are talking intensely, or declaiming the lines of a play; they're writing or playing the saxophone. Everyone is trying to express themselves, everyone is trying to reach inside to create something: a piece of writing, a dance, the set for a play, a stand-up comedy routine or an animated computer character.

At French Woods we believe in self-expression and self-reflection. Here, the children's interests drive the agenda. Where some camps have a central program with "electives" on the side, everything at FWF is elective. There is no point in forcing musicians to try jewelry-making or field hockey. It won't work. So, the mix of kids and their interests determines what is popular and what is offered.

If you allow children to work in small groups and you give them open-ended time to be together,

something wonderfully unexpected will happen. When it comes to adolescents, that is exactly the thought that typically unnerves parents. Adults don't want the unexpected to happen, because they fear it will be "sex, drugs, and rock and roll." So they — we — tend to keep students in defined classes and periods, like school. We trust children to engage in spontaneous cross-disciplinary activities that will result in a creative product. It may be that some children want art — You can see how committed they are — while others could use more structure, but the camp may not know that in advance. It is hard to separate the art from the freedom of choice. Parents must trust us (and they do) because we base our program on trusting children and their choices.

French Woodites are very proud of how nonconformist and how noncompetitive they are. Many of them went to other camps before coming to us and where they felt bored, became unhappy, or felt out of place. If you asked the kids - the best thing about French Woods is that they are accepted here.

At FWF one can perform in a Broadway show with full orchestra, play another camp in sports, fly on the high trapeze, produce a movie, record original music, make a silk screened shirt, ride a horse, dance in a ballet, play in the symphony orchestra, water ski, play tennis or jam with a rock band and so much more. The enthusiasm for what they love and their willingness to take artistic risks pours out of our campers in this safe and supportive environment.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss our program, just call the office.

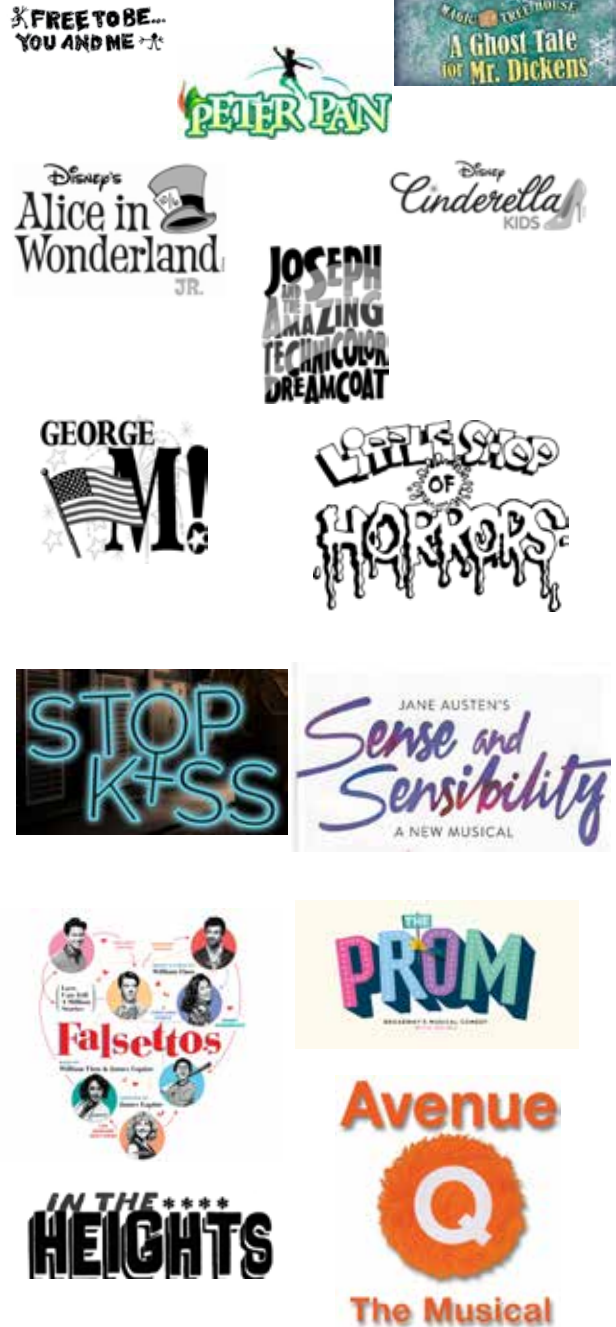
By the way, there are only 205 days left until session 1, and 224 days until session 2, 2020.

See you all soon.

Isaac

French Woods 2020 Proposed Shows*

Session 1



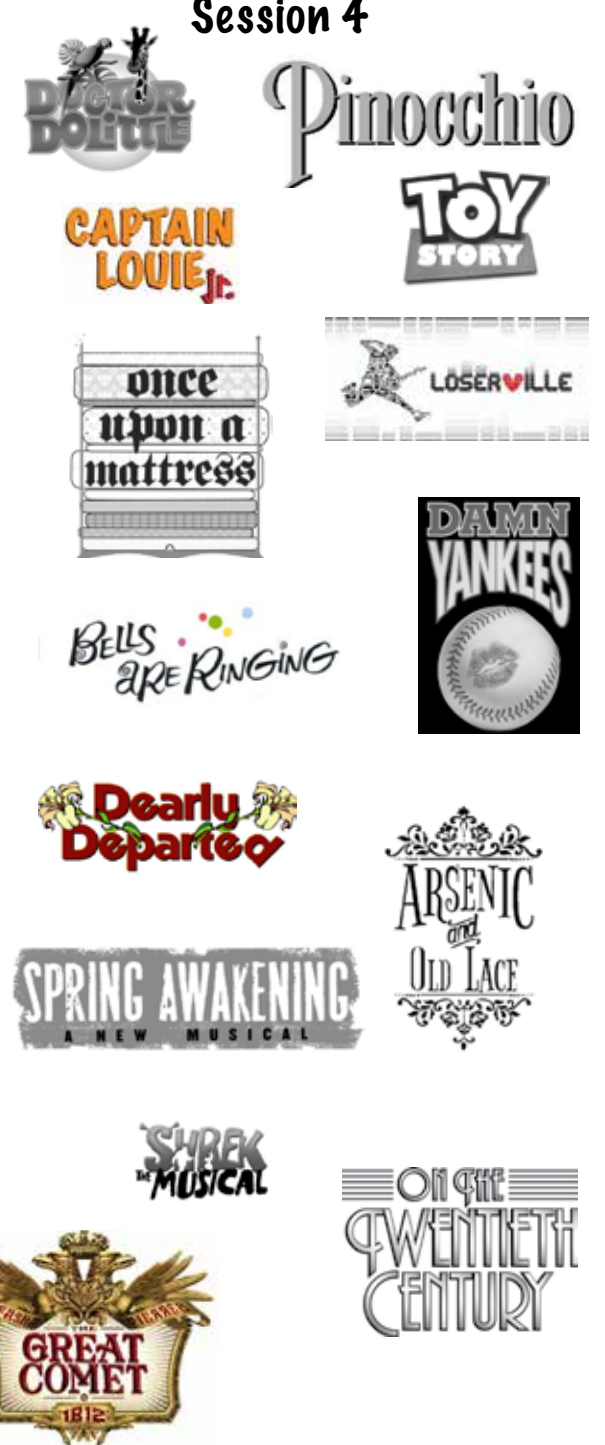
Session 2



Session 3



Session 4



* all shows are subject to change