

2018 Narberth Community Theatre Board of Directors Nomination Biographies

President:

Jon Rivkind:

I have been a member of NCT since first taking the stage in the production of *Jesus Chris Superstar* in 2011. I was elected as Member-At-Large the following year and am currently serving as Vice President. I've been involved in numerous productions at NCT, both as an actor and behind the scenes as producer, stage crew, and set construction. There are many items on NCT's agenda that have been initiated this past year. I hope you will support me in my desire to continue serving as a member of the Board and help forward this agenda in order to keep NCT flourishing for another 50 years.

Vice President:

Danny Seifert:

Danny is a Michigan native that has loved calling PA home for the last 19 years. He has been active with various theatres for most of his life, both on and off the stage. Initially, he became a member of NCT when he was cast in the 2016 production of *Tommy*. Since that time, he has been seen on the NCT stage as Abraham Lincoln (*A House Divided*) and John Jasper (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*). Danny has served on the NCT board for the past year as a Member-At-Large, where he has taken on the duties of Volunteer Coordinator and Facilities Manager. He is the proud father of 3 kids: River, Quintin, and Dakota; as well as husband to the beautiful Tiffany.

Treasurer:

Christopher Betzler:

Chris has been involved in NCT for the past two seasons in 5 different productions. Chris has served as a Member-At-Large for the past year on the Board, stepping into the fundraising chair and PRC chair. In college, Chris served as the treasurer of multiple organizations, including his a cappella group, his fraternity, and the student senate. When not at the theatre, Chris works as an operational analyst at SEI. Chris wants to thank Linda Hunt for her constant faith and support over the last 20 years since he first stepped onto the stage at Our Lady of Peace.

Member-At-Large (in alphabetical order):

Todd Barton:

Todd Barton has participated in four shows with NCT in the past four years, beginning with *Aida* and most recently in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Todd is mostly a newcomer to theatre, having had only the briefest flirtations in high school and college (which were quite a while ago), but has been delighted to find joy and a wonderful warm community through his involvement with NCT. Todd has lived in nearby Bala Cynwyd for over two decades while working in West Philadelphia at Penn, and hopes to be

able to encourage both later-life theater participants and community engagement if chosen to serve on the Board.

Cheryl Chewkanes:

Cheryl Chewkanes has been a member of NCT for over 45 years. During that time, she has participated in almost every aspect of theatre. In the early years, she played in the orchestra and was on stage as part of the chorus for several shows. Cheryl then became interested in working behind the scenes with props, set painting, costumes, stage crew and stage managing (her favorite job). She has conducted show orchestras for three musicals and directed five shows. Cheryl was the Coordinator of the NCT 50th Year Anniversary celebration. She did all of the show programs for 10 years and she has been the ticket coordinator for the past six years. Previously, Cheryl has served on the Board as President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member-At-Large. NCT is a very large part of Cheryl's life and she is looking forward to the opportunity to serve again as a Member-At-Large.

Gabriella Grosso:

Gabriella is honored to be nominated for the position of Member-At-Large after participating in two productions during the 2017-2018 Season: *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *A House Divided*. Gabriella is also a member of the St. Francis Players, a small theatre group in Springfield, where she has been participating in productions for three years. She has previous nonprofit experience, most recently as an active member of the Junior League of Philadelphia, an organization that promotes voluntarism and leadership training for women in the Greater Philadelphia Area. She has also served as a board member for Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties. Gabriella is an attorney by trade. She leads the Collections Practice Group of Ahmad Zaffarese, LLC.

Justin Hewitt:

Justin first became involved with NCT in the fall of 2017. NCT was asking for ushers for *Drood* and Justin naturally volunteered to usher at all of the performances. It was during this time that Justin organized and developed a plan for setting up the house prior to the shows. In December, Justin was approached by NCT board members to become the permanent House Manager and he graciously accepted. Justin has been involved in many areas of the theatre; he most recently costumed the musical, *Once Upon a Mattress* at Lansdale Catholic, which consisted of 47 constructed costumes. Justin has had the pleasure of working on several nonprofit organizations serving in such positions as Vice President and regional Member-At-Large for a national nonprofit. He hopes to continue to bring his many talents with him for hair, makeup, and costuming and continue to be an integral part of NCT. Justin sees this position as an opportunity to make NCT a community theatre that people will want to work at both on and off the stage all while maintaining quality theatre experience for audience members.

Faithe Hornung:

Faithe Arana Hornung first joined NCT almost ten years ago. She has put her hand to scenic painting, photography for headshots and PR, and costume design. Her first costume design credit was for *Carousel*, a Victorian Era show. She has also designed and sewn for *Urinetown* (1940's), *Music Man* (Edwardian), *And Then There Were None* (1940's), and *Once Upon a Mattress* (Medieval). She is currently costume designing and sewing for *A House Divided*. Faithe studied costume design at West Chester University, and graduated from Moore College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2D Art. She lives in Narberth with her husband, an electrician and volunteer fire chief. Her daughter is a teacher, and her son is an electrician and part-time lacrosse goalie. Faithe is an avid fan of lacrosse.

Megan Keiser:

Megan Keiser is new to Pennsylvania and has participated in two musicals with NCT over the 2017-2018 season. She has previous community theatre board experience with City Circle Acting Company of Coralville (IA), where she maintained a board position for 3 years. One year as the Artistic Head, responsible for interviewing directors, selecting and scheduling the upcoming season, creating budgets and reading new material for their annual New Play Festival; two additional years as Member-At-Large and served on committees for community outreach, fundraising, and season selection. By day, Megan is a Project Manager for Translational Neuroscience at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she is responsible for creating budgets for pre-clinical gene therapy trials, organizing timelines, writing grants, protocols, and publications, mediating and coordinating with third party vendors and specialists, and also doing hands-on research and data analysis. Megan feels that she has found a home at NCT and she would like to take an active role in making sure that NCT maintains a strong and steady presence in the theatre community.

Danielle Lachall:

Danielle has been in one production at Narberth as well as their first annual cabaret. Danielle is also assisting with *West Side Story* as prop master and general assistant. She has been in theatre in all aspects since she was 10. She knows the ins and outs of production, from acting, backstage, front of house, technical aspects, producing, and even directing. Danielle lives in Drexel Hill which is a hop skip and a jump from Narberth. Danielle is also a member of the Footlighters board and helps assist in many productions. Danielle has the passion to help a theatre succeed and sustain its longevity. She knows theatre is a safe haven for those of us who love the stage and attributes the person she has become to the theatre and the people who love it as much as her. It is an honor to be nominated and to be a part of a great organization she has quickly fallen in love with.

Bob Monroe:

As a husband of 34 years and a father of three (two sons and one daughter), I've volunteered for my community in many ways. I've been active in my church in several capacities (lector, Eucharist Minister, activities committee, etc.). I've enjoyed many years as a Boy Scout leader in Narberth. I also continue to help with home safety improvements and renovations with Habitat for Humanity in West Philadelphia. As for NCT, I've been a member since 2004, having supported many productions as a cast member, set builder, and previously (for three or four years) as a Member-At-Large. While filling seats for quality shows is necessarily important to any theatre company's health, I believe its overall success is further defined and elevated by being fully inclusive of the time, talents and treasures so selflessly and earnestly shared by its members, and by readily supporting one another in an all-volunteer community enterprise. NCT's heritage is great, but its future is even greater. Regardless of who is elected to the board, let's all move forward together and "break some legs." (Whoops! Theatre Dad joke. ;-)

Mike Salmanson:

Although I had been a patron for several years, my first NCT show as a participant was in the 2014 production of *The Music Man*, when I ended up working crew while my son Noah shared the role of Winthrop. While Noah had major roles in *South Pacific* and *Tommy*, I joined the ensembles on stage; an ensemble part in *Drood* followed, and then directing my own show, *A House Divided*. If elected to the Board, my priority will be to try to recapture some of the audience we lost when we moved out of Narberth. I am frequently surprised when, in promoting our shows, people are not aware that we even still exist; they think when the Narberth church was sold, we disappeared as well. As a fairly active resident of Narberth and Lower Merion school district, I want to make it a priority to engage in creative

ways to raise our profile in those respective communities, possibly with new events outside our theatre, as well as to engage as a liaison with the Borough in strategic planning with Borough officials, with whom I have a close relationship, regarding both occasional and potentially more permanent use of both current and future Borough public spaces. Finally, I believe that NCT can benefit from my experience as an active attorney and my prior experience on other not-for-profit boards.

Tiffany Seifert:

Tiffany Seifert is a relative newcomer to the world of community theatre. She was pulled in initially by her family's passion for the art and ended up falling in love herself. Though she has yet to appear on stage she enjoys working behind the scenes, and her friends and family are still holding out hope to get her up there one day. Tiffany has been an active member of NCT since the 2016-2017 season. Since that time, she has spent many hours building, painting, and moving set pieces, sewing costumes, ushering, and applying makeup; not to mention chauffeuring at least one or more family members back and forth to the theatre. She has volunteered her assistance for the productions of *Tommy*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Sister Act*, and *A House Divided*, and plans to continue for upcoming seasons. During the past year, she has also served as the Social Media Coordinator.