

KANKAKEE VALLEY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

★ THE ★  
**HELLO GIRLS**  
★ A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL ★



MUSIC AND LYRICS BY:  
**PETER MILLS**

BOOK BY: **PETER MILLS AND CARA REICHEL**

DIRECTED BY:  
**SHARLA RONCHETTO**

**KVTA**

TICKETS  
KVTA.ORG

**JULY 26-28**

KVTA STUDIOS  
1 STUART DRIVE  
KANKAKEE, IL 60901

Illinois  
**ARTS**  
Council

WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE 2018 COMMISSIONED BY PROSPECT THEATRE COMPANY, NEW YORK, NY  
CARA REICHEL, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MELISSA HUBER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Hello Girls is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

# A Note from the Director . . .

Directing *The Hello Girls* has been a true joy and blessing for me. Every night, I am amazed at the talent on this stage. My grateful thanks go out to the cast for sharing their immense talent with all of us.

I would also like to thank the creative team that helped direct this production. Thanks to Rozy for all of her assistance throughout this production - you were my right-hand woman, and your continuous support was truly appreciated. Thanks to Bonnie for taking on such a huge musical challenge - this score is awesome and complex, and you answered the call. Thanks to Jordyn for the choreography and movement – you captured the visual that I wanted!

Thanks go out as well to the production staff: Joel, Art, Erin, Carol, Kayla, Mike, Katrina, and Greg. I am truly thankful for all your help in bringing the authenticity and richness of this production to life on the stage.

Lastly, I would like to thank the audience for attending our production. Theatre is a communal art form, and it is not complete until it is shared with an audience. Thank you for completing our show!

Have faith, my friends!

*Sharla Ronchetto*



# 2024-2025 KVTA Board of Directors

President .....Courtney Stephens

Vice President .....Joel Knapper

Secretary .....Amy Shinabarger

Business Manager .....Paula Sutter

Christine Case, Jordyn Clark, Kimberly Hall,  
Kayla James, Andy Purcell, Sharla Ronchetto,  
Beth Sutter, Nick Troendle, Katie Udstuen, Pat Ward

## KVTA BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.kvta.org](http://www.kvta.org).

For information, please call 815-935-8510.

Kankakee Valley Theatre Association is a not-for-profit organization. Ticket prices cover only a fraction of the cost of each performance. We welcome volunteers and appreciate donations of any size. We invite you to become a member of KVTA. Contact any Board Member for information or visit [www.kvta.org](http://www.kvta.org).

**KVTA is a Proud Member of:**

- Community Arts Council of Kankakee
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- American Association of Community Theatre
- Illinois Theatre Association
- Kankakee Chamber of Commerce
- Manteno Chamber of Commerce

# Scenes and Musical Numbers

## Scene 1: Today

Answer the Call.....Company

## Scene 2: Bell Telephone Offices in NYC, February 1918

Connected.....Grace, Female Company

## Scene 3: The U. S. Army Office Headquarters in NYC, February 1918

We Aren't in the Army.....Female Company

## Scene 4: Riser's Office, later that day / March 1918

Marching Orders.....Riser

## Scene 5: Bar in Hoboken Serving as the Women's Army Billet, Later that night

Je M'en Fiche.....Louise, Suzanne, Grace, Helen, Bertha

## Scene 6: The next morning / The Docks, the next morning

Riser's Reprimand.....Riser

See You On the Other Side.....Company

## Scene 7: A Train from Calais to Paris, April 1918

Hello Girls.....Company

## Scene 8: The Paris Telephone Exchange, April 1918

## Scene 9: Paris, April 1918

Quinze Minutes.....Helen, Bertha, Louise, Suzanne, Grace

## Scene 10: American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters in Chaumont, May 1918

Chaumont.....Grace

## Scene 11: Battle of Cantigny, May 1918

Lives on the Line.....Company

## Act 2

## Scene 12: Chaumont, August 1918

The Front.....Company

## Scene 13: The Chaumont Training Center, September 1918

Switchboard Lessons.....Suzanne, Matterson

Cryptic Triptych.....Company

## Scene 14: Briefing Room, later that day

Twenty.....Grace

## Scene 15: The Women's Billet, later that day

## Scene 16: A Barracks at the Front, September 1918

## Scene 17: The Women's Barracks, September 1918

So Good So Far.....Helen, Bertha, Grace

## Scene 18: Outside the Barracks, September 1918

## Scene 19: The Officers' Mess Hall, October 1918

Lost Battalion.....Riser

## Scene 20: The Front, October-November 1918

The Duration.....Company

## Scene 21: Coblenz, Germany, May 10, 1919

Suzanne's Letter.....Suzanne

## Scene 22: Today

Making History.....Company

# Cast of *The Hello Girls*

\* Denotes first appearance in a Kankakee Valley Theatre Association production.

Grace Banker.....Sarah Sheehan\*  
Suzanne Prevot.....Aisa Rogers  
Helen Hill.....McKenzey Testerman  
Bertha Hunt.....Rachel Tobey-Barrows  
Louise LeBreton.....Izzy Kostbade  
CPT Joseph W Riser.....Dana James  
GEN John Pershing.....Ben Keller  
PVT Eugene Matterson (& Others).....Riley Lingo  
LT Ernest Wessen (& Others).....Jacob Robinson  
PVT Robert Dempsey (& Others).....Bryar Homan  
Mr. Morris (& Others).....Paul Snyder  
Ensemble.....Kayla Connelly  
Amy Shinabarger  
Clare Steffes

Understudy for Grace.....Aisa Rogers  
Understudy for Suzanne and Bertha.....Amy Shinabarger  
Understudy for Louise and Helen.....Clare Steffes  
Understudy for Riser.....Paul Snyder  
Swings.....Kayla Connelly and Bryar Homan



# Production Staff

Director .....	Sharla Ronchetto
Assistant Director .....	Rozy Labriola
Vocal Director.....	Bonnie Brewer
Choreographer .....	Jordyn Clark
Production Coordinator.....	Joel Knapper
Costumer.....	Kayla James Jeanne Brown
Set Builder .....	Art Meyer The Meyer Family, The Cast and Staff of <i>The Hello Girls</i>
Set Decorator.....	Erin Thomas
Properties .....	Carol Snyder
Stage Crew .....	Autumn Regal
Projections.....	Greg Ronchetto Michaela Richey
Box Office .....	Tricia Kohan
House.....	Christine Case
Program.....	Kimberly Hall Courtney Stephens, Sharla Ronchetto
Publicity.....	Sharla Ronchetto Jordyn Clark, Andrew McBurnie, Stephen Menard, Courtney Stephens
Lights.....	Jordyn Clark, Joel Knapper
Light Tech.....	Cole Pilbeam
Sound.....	Main Street Music Production
Sound Tech.....	Madison James

## Musicians

Conductor.....	Mike Snyder
Keyboard.....	Jeanne Benson
Keyboard.....	Katrina Cessna
Guitar.....	Pat Moody
Violin.....	Julie Tomisek
Cello.....	Elizabeth Darin
Bass.....	Andrew Darin
Clarinet.....	Jessie Keller
Trumpet.....	Craig Cahan
Percussion.....	Sarah McDaniel

# Meet the Cast

**Kayla Connelly (Ensemble)** A resident of Morris, Kayla is a freshman at Penn Foster. She was seen on the KVTA stage portraying the role of Beatrice in *The Mystery Of Edwin Drood* in 2024. Kayla states, "Thank you to the whole staff of *The Hello Girls* for giving me the opportunity to be in a show with such amazing people and talent."

**Bryar Homan (PVT Robert Dempsey & Others)** Bryar lives in Bradley and most recently was a member of the Ensemble for *Little Shop of Horrors* with KVTA in 2023.

**Dana James (CPT Joseph Riser)** Dana and his wife Kayla live in Kankakee where he is employed with the Kankakee County Health Department. In 2024, he played the role of General Genghis Khan Schmitz in *Seussical* with KVTA. Dana adds, "Thank you to Sharla and staff for the opportunity to help tell this amazing story. And thank you to the Hello Girls for their pioneering service to the US Army!"

**Ben Keller (GEN John Pershing)** Ben lives with his wife Betsy and children William and Leah in Bourbonnais where he is employed as a Tree Farmer. Ben was most recently seen on the KVTA stage in 2024 as a Who in *Seussical*. Ben states, "Thank you to KVTA and all involved. You add so much to this community. Thank you for doing this important and entertaining show."

**Izzy Kostbade (Louise Le Breton)** A resident of Coal City, Izzy is a student at Millikin University. One of her favorite roles was that of Countess Lily in *Anastasia* in 2023 with Coal City Theatre Department. It was this role in which she was named a IHSMTA Best Actress Nominee with Broadway in Chicago. Izzy exclaims, "I would like to thank the cast and crew for making this a summer I will never forget!"

# Meet the Cast

**Riley Lingo (PVT Eugene Matterson & Others)** A resident of Manteno, Riley is a student at KCC. He was last seen on the KVTA stage in 2023 with *Little Shop of Horrors*.

**Jacob Robinson (LT Ernest Wessen & Others)** Jacob lives in Manteno and is employed as an Associate at Ross. In 2023, Jacob was a part of the cast of *In The Heights* with KVTA.

**Aisa Rogers (Suzanne Prevot)** Aisa lives in Bourbonnais where she is an Aspiring Voice Actress. She has been in multiple shows between 2017 and 2024, and most recently played the role of Mayzie in *Seussical* with KVTA in 2024. Aisa says, "Thanks to all of my family and friends who constantly give me the motivation to keep going! Love y'all"

**Sarah Sheehan (Grace Banker)** A resident of Oak Forest, IL, Sarah is employed as a National Sales Consultant for West Music. A favorite past role is that of Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown* with NTP in 2023. Sarah adds, "Thanks to the KVTA staff for having "la foi" in my portrayal of Grace Banker, my family for their support, and all who ever teased me for taking French."

**Amy Shinabarger (Ensemble)** Amy lives in Bradley with her husband Jonathan and daughter Chloe. She is employed as the Band Director at Bishop McNamara Catholic School. In 2023, Amy was the Vocal Director for *The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition* with KVTA.



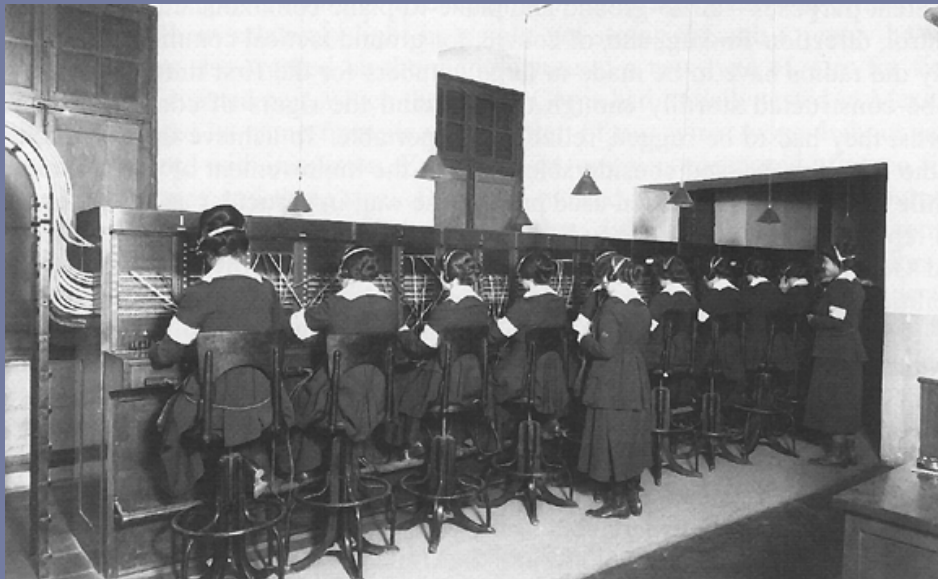
# Meet the Cast

**Paul Snyder (Mr. Morris & Others)** Paul is a resident of Kankakee and is employed at Urban Farmer. You can see Paul again this September portraying Franz Liebkind in KVTA's *The Producers*.

**Clare Steffes (Ensemble)** A resident of Kankakee, Clare is a Junior at Northern Illinois University. In 2022, she played the role of LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast JR* with KVTA. Clare exclaims, "Thank you to everyone who has come out to see this show! We hope you enjoy it!"

**McKenzey Testerman (Helen Hill)** McKenzey lives in Manteno and is employed by Catholic Charities. She recently played Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical* with KVTA in 2024. McKenzey says, "Merci to my family, God, and the real Helen Hill for bravely answering the call on her life. I want to be like you when I grow up."

**Rachel Tobey-Barrows (Bertha Hunt)** Rachel and her husband Brandon Barrows live in Kankakee where she is employed by the I-KAN Regional Office of Education as a Program Coordinator. Most recently, Rachel was a Bird Girl in *Seussical* with KVTA in 2024. Rachel states, "Everyone needs to hear the heroic story of the Hello Girls. I am so honored to be part of this particular retelling!"



# Meet the Production Staff

**Sharla Ronchetto (Director)** Sharla and her husband Greg live in Bourbonnais where they are happily retired. She has had multiple onstage and offstage roles throughout the years and in the spring of 2023 directed *In The Heights* with KVTA. Sharla adds, “Thanks to my husband for all his support.”

**RoseAnn Labriola (Assistant Director)** RoseAnn is a resident of Bourbonnais and is employed as a Support Technician, Crystal Seller, and Apothecary. RoseAnn has many years of experience with KVTA both on and off the stage and celebrated 21 years with KVTA in October of 2023.

**Bonnie Brewer (Vocal Director)** Bonnie and her husband Don live in Kankakee and they have 3 adult children, Barbi, Jay, and Joe. She is a retired teacher. Bonnie most recently portrayed the role of Puffer in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* with KVTA in 2024. Bonnie adds, “It’s an honor to work with this talented cast to tell this inspiring true story.”

**Jordyn Clark (Choreographer)** Jordyn lives in Ashkum with her husband Sam and she is employed by I-KAN. She directed *Little Shop of Horrors* with KVTA in 2023. Jordyn shares, “I would like to thank Sharla for trusting me to be able to do choreography for this wonderful show!”

**Joel Knapper (Production Coordinator)** Joel is a resident of Bourbonnais and is employed at Applied Systems. Joel also serves as the Vice President on the Board of Directors for KVTA. Joel adds, “Thank you to the talented cast and crew for working so hard to make this production so good!”

**Kayla James (Costumer)** Kayla and her husband Dana live in Kankakee with their daughters Kristina, Madison, Lily, Abigail, and Samantha. She has served as the costumer for multiple shows with *Seussical* being the most recent production in 2024. Kayla states, “Thank you to Sharla for asking me to costume. I’m thankful to be involved in another show with my husband.”

# Meet the Production Staff

**Arthur Meyer (Set Builder)** Arthur and his wife Casey live in Kankakee with their children Margie and Artie. He is employed as a Service Advisor for Court Street Ford. Most recently, Arthur was the Set Builder for *Little Shop of Horrors* with KVTA in 2023. Arthur shares, “As a Veteran, and former Telephone Switch Operator in the US Army Signal Corp, I’m so proud to have a role in this production.”

**Greg Ronchetto (Projection Design)** Greg lives in Bourbonnais with his wife Sharla where they both enjoy retirement. He has served backstage for numerous shows with KVTA over the years.

**Carol Snyder (Properties)** Carol and her husband Michael live in Bourbonnais. She is a retired ICU RN. Carol has worked on and offstage since her children started in YPT productions in 1992. Carol states, “I do love working with Sharla, so thank you for asking me to be part of this production!”

**Mike Snyder (Orchestra Conductor)** Mike lives in Bourbonnais with his wife Carol and they have 3 adult children, Beth, Paul, and Joe. He is a retired Band and Chorus Director with the Manteno Schools. Mike has been in many productions with KVTA as a Conductor and Actor since 1983. Mike says, “I didn’t know *The Hello Girls* before I was asked to conduct. This is a well written show with an important message people need to see.”

**Erin Thomas (Set Decorator)** Erin lives in Bourbonnais with her husband Mike and children Vincent and Ezra. She is employed as the Manager of the Kankakee South KOA Holiday. Erin has been the Set Decorator for several KVTA shows, with the most recent being *Seussical*. Erin adds, “Thanks to Sharla and Art for being so great to work with and to my family for holding down the fort when I’m gone.”

# Acknowledgements

I-KAN Regional Office of Education ~ Frank Petkunas, Superintendent ~  
Taylor Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM ~ Taylor Ford of Manteno ~ Sign Here ~  
Pathfinder ~ The Daily Journal ~ Riverside Healthcare ~ FastSigns ~  
Embrace Consignment ~ Jim Rowe, Kankakee County State's Attorney ~  
Matt Waite State Farm Insurance ~ Todd & Tricia Arseneau State Farm Insurance ~  
Milner Broadcasting WVLI, WFAV, WIVR. WYUR ~ Superior Embroidery ~  
Karl's Kreative Fotos ~ Stephen Menard Design ~  
Bradley Mowers ~ Michigan Avenue Storage ~  
Timothy DeBoer, Joliet West High School ~ Beth Sutter

*Special thanks to those who made donations or volunteered after the program was completed.*



**Thank you to our KVTA Season Subscribers.  
We are beyond grateful for your support!  
[Click here to view a list of our subscribers.](#)**

Thank You to  for your support this season!



*This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

# Why Support KVTA?

The vitality of a community is determined by its cultural resources. KVTA strives for excellence. Like all other organizations, KVTA depends on support from the community to achieve this excellence. KVTA is a volunteer, community-driven organization. It takes many volunteers and many, many, man hours to produce one show. In our production season, we stage five regular season shows and more often than not, a summer production or a theatre camp for the local youth.

## How can YOU make a difference?

- **Cash gifts** - every dollar makes a difference, so please give what you can.
- **Matching gifts** - double or triple the value of your gift! Please contact your human resources or corporate giving department to learn about your employer's matching gift policy.
- **Stock gifts** - we gladly accept gifts of appreciated stock, an option that gives you a tax write-off while saving you capital gains tax.
- **Planned giving** - consider remembering KVTA in your will or leave a legacy for the future by including KVTA in an estate plan.



Kankakee Valley Theatre Association  
would like to thank our 2023-2024 Season

## **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

for their support of our organization.



**DAILY  
JOURNAL**

FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1903



**FASTSIGNS**<sup>®</sup>  
*Make Your Statement*<sup>™</sup>



Todd & Tricia Arseneau,  
Agent



**Jim Rowe**  
Kankakee County  
State's Attorney