



## Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre

David VanCleave, Executive Artistic Director  
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**Kill Date: April 28, 2018**

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### [Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre presents \*Treasure Island\* with All-Female Design Team](#)

DES MOINES- 'Twas a dark and stormy night. The stars are out. Jimima Hawkins, the inn-keeper's granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger. At the old sailor's feet sits a huge sea-chest, full of secrets. Jim invites him in...and her dangerous voyage begins.

Since its original publication over 135 years ago, *Treasure Island* has been known as "the adventure for boys." Now, in this thrilling adaptation by Bryony Lavery coming to the Stoner Theater, audiences are reminded that "girls need adventures too." And for Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, that means more than just center stage. For what may be the first time in central Iowa, DMYAT has assembled an all-female design team.

Director Susanna Douthit leads the team that includes Claire Guderjahn (Assistant Director), Josie Gerrietts (Stage Manager), Amanda Pichler (Scenic Designer), Stephanie Wilber (Costume Designer), Rachel Trimble (Lighting Designer), Meredith Toebben (Sound Designer / Composer), Chae Wall (Props Designer), Susan Irish (Dialect Coach), and Olivia Gorden (Dramaturg).

[For high-resolution photos and additional information. click here.](#)

Ollie Smith stars as Jim Hawkins with Spencer Gilbert as Long John Silver, Jenna Darsee as Dr. Livesey, and Shari Hrdina as Grandma Hawkins. The cast of 22 also includes Daphne Bailey (Shanty Band Man), Wayne Black (Captain Smollett), Hailie Zahra Bonz (Captain Flint), Isaiah Dale (Black Dog), Riley Devick (Mrs. Crossley), Rusk Dorsett (Squire Trelawney), Aidan Farrell (Bill Bones), Abigail Imm (Grey), Aryanna M. Marquez-Acevedo (Israel Hands), Quinn Matzen (Killigrew the Kind), Michael Meggison (Badger), Tess Meggison (Lucky Micky), Brady Meyers (Ben Gunn), Owen Nicolino (Job Anderson), Greta Paulsen (Joan the Goat), Jackson Ransom (Dick the Dandy) and Alayna Wilber (Red Ruth).

Eleven local female-owned businesses have sponsored DMYAT's production: Sarah Noll Wilson, Cuvaj-Se, Schebel Environmental PLC, Affordable Drain Service Jet Surge of Iowa, TigerLily STEM, Party On Des Moines, Noce, ISFIS Inc., Kelsi Ziemann Artistry, Dairy Zone and Weekend Jam Sessions.

**Tickets are \$18-23** and are available through the Des Moines Performing Arts ticket office, website ([www.DMPA.org](http://www.DMPA.org)), or by phone (515.246.2300).

#### ***Treasure Island* Performance Schedule:**

Friday, April 19, 7:30 PM  
Saturday, April 20, 2:00 PM  
Saturday, April 20, 7:30 PM  
Sunday, April 21, 2:00 PM

Thursday, April 25, 7:30 PM  
Friday, April 26, 7:30 PM  
Saturday, April 27, 2:00 PM  
Saturday, April 27, 7:30 PM  
Sunday, April 28, 2:00 PM

**Performances will be held at the Stoner Theater, 221 Walnut Street.**

## **ABOUT DES MOINES YOUNG ARTISTS' THEATRE**

**Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre** is a nonprofit organization committed to introducing students and their families to the transformative power of live theatre and the arts. Last season provided performance, directorial and design opportunities to over 200 students from across the Des Moines metro and surrounding areas, including Altoona, Ames, Ankeny, Baxter, Clive, Colfax, Dallas Center-Grimes, Indianola, Johnston, Knoxville, Pleasantville, Prairie City, Meter, Waukee, West Des Moines and more. DMYAT is committed to training young performers in all areas of theatre and nurturing the next generation to create thought-provoking and challenging works of art to promote social change.