

ENRICHMENT GUIDE

Prepared by OLIVIA GORDEN, MIKALA CLARK & DAVID A. VANCEAVE

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical™



DM **YOUNG**
ARTISTS
THEATRE

Dear Parent,

Thank you for taking your student to see our production of *Legally Blonde Jr.*, sponsored by Bankers Trust. We know that Des Moines is rich enough to have plenty of theatre options for families. We appreciate your decision to support us and the 30+ students involved in this production.

This guide contains related information to what you have experienced or will experience in *Legally Blonde Jr.* Whether you're reading this guide before or after the performance, we hope your family enjoys taking the audience experience further with our theme explorations, curriculum connections, history, games and more.

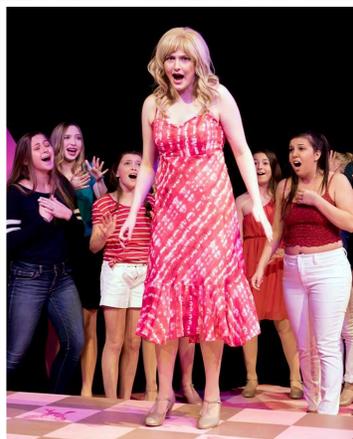
We do want to acknowledge that our audiences come in all ages. It's a beautiful thing and we're thankful for each and every one. However, when writing an educational guide like this, it can be tricky. While none of the information included is inappropriate for younger students, we always encourage parents read through the material before passing it along to the younger ones. That way, you'll be prepared should your student have questions or you find an opportunity to engage meaningful conversations.

Thank you again for choosing to support Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre and the next generation of great theatre artists. We hope the production and this enrichment guide inspire you and your family to be the best versions of yourselves, to fall in love, to dream big and, most importantly, to love yourself in a way that'd make Elle Woods proud.

Sincerely,

David A. VanCleave
Executive Artistic Director

Olivia Gorden & Mikala Clark
Dramaturgs



Synopsis

from
MTIShows.com

ACT ONE

At the Delta Nu sorority house, word is out that Elle Woods is going to dinner to get engaged to her beau, Warner Huntington III ("**Omigod You Guys**"). Margot, Serena and Pilar lead the other Delta Nus to the mall, where Elle is having trouble choosing the right dress for the occasion. Later at dinner, just when Elle is sure Warner is going to propose, he breaks up with her, explaining that, with his departure for Harvard Law School, it's time to get serious ("**Serious**"). Devastated, Elle locks herself in her room. Twelve days later, the Delta Nus finally get Elle to emerge ("**Daughter of Delta Nu**"). Elle realizes the only solution to her heartache is to get into Harvard Law and prove to Warner she's serious enough for him ("**What You Want**"). Sorority sister, Kate, helps Elle study for the LSAT and, after several attempts and a lot of hard work, Elle's application comes before Harvard Admissions. Lowell, Winthrop and Pforzheimer, three Harvard admissions coordinators, decide to admit Elle after a very extravagant song and dance (which she submits in lieu of a personal essay), citing love as her main motivation.

On the first day of class, Elle meets her fellow first-year law classmates, Aaron, Padamadan and Enid, as well as Warner, who is shocked to see her on campus. Callahan (the most feared teacher at Harvard) kicks Elle out of class for being unprepared at the suggestion of classmate, Vivienne Kensington. Callahan's TA, Emmett, tries to console Elle, but her mood only worsens when Warner confesses to Elle that Vivienne is his new girlfriend. Elle finds the nearest salon, The Hair Affair, and meets Paulette, who commiserates with her situation ("**Ireland**").

While at The Hair Affair, Elle runs into Vivienne, who invites her to a costume party. Elle attends, hoping to see Warner, but is dismayed to discover she is the only one who wore a costume – much to Vivienne's delight. On the way home, Elle meets Emmett, who tells Elle how hard he's worked to get where he is and encourages her to do the same ("**Chip on My Shoulder**").

Time is passing quickly at law school, and Elle is working harder than ever, eventually winning her first court case in class and receiving a recommendation to apply for Callahan's internship. With her newfound confidence, Elle helps Paulette win her dog back from her estranged boyfriend, Dewey.

Back at Harvard, Warner and Vivienne win two of Callahan's coveted internship positions, and Warner proposes to Vivienne on the spot, right in front of Elle. Before her heart can break, Emmett shows her the internship list, and Elle is ecstatic to discover her name is on it as well ("**So Much Better**").

ACT TWO

The interns quickly jump into the case of fitness video guru, Brooke Wyndham, who is accused of killing her wealthy husband. After watching her fitness video ("**Whipped into Shape**"), the interns meet her at a correctional facility, where she refuses to give her alibi to anyone but Elle, thanks to their Delta Nu sisterhood ("**Delta Nu Nu Nu**"). In confidence, Brooke shares with Elle that she was getting liposuction the day her husband was killed, so there is no way she could be guilty, but no one can know because her fitness empire would be destroyed. The other interns demand that Elle give up Brooke's alibi, but Elle refuses to go against her Delta Nu pledge.

Back at the salon, Paulette has eyes for the UPS delivery man, Kyle, but isn't confident enough to go after him. Elle teaches her a guaranteed move to win any guy's affections – the Bend and Snap ("**Bend and Snap**"), but when Paulette tries it, she accidentally breaks Kyle's nose.

Elle returns to the case, but Callahan has a different agenda and tries to kiss her... just as Vivienne returns, unnoticed. Elle rejects Callahan's advances and is fired. Defeated, she prepares to go home, convinced she was only ever seen as a joke, even though Emmett asks her to stay, finally realizing that he is in love with her ("**Legally Blonde**"). Elle stops by the salon to say goodbye to Paulette, but Vivienne – who witnessed what happened to Elle in Callahan's office and finally understands her – convinces her to keep fighting. The entire salon rallies behind Elle as she heads back to the courtroom ("**Legally Blonde – Remix**"), where Brooke fires Callahan and hires Elle to continue her defense.

Everyone is present to witness Elle's first day in court, including Paulette and Kyle (now a couple), Margot, Serena, Pilar and the other Delta Nus. Brooke's stepdaughter, Chutney, takes the stand to testify that, when she got out of the shower, she witnessed Brooke standing over her father's body, covered in blood. When asked what she had been doing earlier that day, Chutney reveals she had gotten a perm, and Elle realizes a flaw in Chutney's alibi – she couldn't possibly have showered the same day as receiving a perm, or her hair would be flattened. Since her perm is still intact, she has obviously lied about her alibi. Under some intense questioning from Elle, Chutney accidentally reveals that she killed her father, mistaking him for Brooke. Elle wins the case, and Brooke is set free. Warner tries to propose to Elle, but she gently refuses, having gained her independence and a desire to be the best she can be ("**Find My Way**").

Three years later, Elle is made valedictorian of her class and, in her commencement speech, she proposes to Emmett, who accepts. Everyone celebrates their legally blonde friend and heroine, Elle Woods ("**Finale**").

ABOUT THE AUTHOR *Amanda Brown*

written by **DAVID A. VANCELEAVE**



Jack Brown was a celebrated lawyer who founded Brown and Bain law firm and helped establish intellectual-property law in the United States with high-profile cases defending IBM and Apple. Suzanne Brown was known as the Queen of Contemporary Art in Arizona. She was a critic, curator, and artist and opened the first contemporary art gallery in Scottsdale. It should be no surprise that their daughter, **Amanda Brown**, is responsible for giving us Elle Woods in her 2001 debut novel, *Legally Blonde*.

Amanda graduated from Arcadia High School in Arizona, which she says was one of the friendliest places she'd ever been. She started her college studies at University of Southern California but dropped out when they changed her math requirements. She eventually enrolled at Arizona State University, where she would "shop around" for the easiest math class, dropping a new one each semester until finally graduating

You can imagine her parents and friends' surprise when Amanda announced she wanted to go to law school. They all tried to dissuade her, but this only motivated her more. She studied hard, received incredibly high LSAT scores and multiple admissions offers—no song and dance needed. While visiting schools, she fell in love with the Stanford Shopping Center at Stanford University and was soon packing up her Bichon, Underdog, and moving to California.

During her first week, however, she realized she didn't belong. She saw a flyer for a "Women of Stanford" group and was thrilled to attend and meet her peers. Unfortunately, she kept laughing at issues the other women were taking very seriously. "These were really angry people," Brown recalls. "The school wasn't hard at all. It was the people—the most loathsome dose of antisocial disorder. It was like an anthropological study of the law school species." It was such a far cry from the sunny disposition found at Arcadia and after laughing throughout that first party, nobody talked to her! In an effort to remain positive, she started writing letters to friends and family (on hot pink paper with her pink pen). The letters were an instant hit and were soon in high demand. Her friend Serena even planned parties centered around the arrival of new letters. She wrote over 300 pages worth of letters in her first semester alone and soon started adapting them into a novel—once again, on pink paper.

No publisher was interested. Most of them wouldn't even read the pink paper manuscripts. It wasn't until MGM picked up the movie rights that a publisher showed interest and just months before the cult-classic Reese Witherspoon movie opened, the novel was released.

Since 2001, Elle Woods has starred in two films, an international smash hit musical, a groundbreaking MTV Special Event and reality television series, a young adult novel series and has a third film on the way (once again starring Reese Witherspoon). Brown wrote two other novels that were being developed for film prior to their release. Unfortunately, *Family Trust* starring Hilary Swank and *School of Fortune* starring Julie Andrews and Ashley Tisdale never made it to the screen.

Oh! Did she ever graduate from Stanford? "On my last day, I went in and said I wanted to quit. The woman told me, 'You can't just quit. You have to fill out a form.'" Brown recalls. "I said I was done filling out forms. So it *is* possible I'm still enrolled."

"ELLE IS SOMEONE WHO REALLY BELIEVES THAT

The World is Great.

NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE THAT."

HERSTORY: Women at Harvard

written by **MIKALA CLARK**

Just as Elle fought her way into law school, the right for women to attend Harvard University was a long battle. Striving for their admission, women created a program titled the "Harvard Annex" where Harvard professors were paid exorbitant amounts of money to teach these women the same lessons that the men at Harvard were receiving in hopes of gaining admittance.

Though this didn't work as hoped, it led to the creation of Radcliffe College--a female liberal arts college and counterpart to Harvard. A current Professor of History at Harvard, Drew Faust, called Radcliffe a "compromise between what women wanted and what Harvard would give them." It should be no surprise that women never gave up and, after over a hundred years, Harvard became entirely co-ed and merged officially with Radcliffe College in 1999.

TIMELINE



ELIZABETH AGASSIZ



RADCLIFFE COLLEGE

1663: Harvard was established, named after John Harvard a donor from University of Cambridge

1847: First woman applies, and is rejected, from Harvard.

1871: Women begin petitioning for admittance into Harvard Law School.

1872: Elizabeth Agassiz founded the Women's Education Association of Boston, hoping to gain acceptance of women into Harvard, and met with resistance.

1879: The "Harvard Annex" was created in the hopes of providing women the same education.

1894: The "Harvard Annex" evolved into Radcliffe College, a female counterpart to Harvard.

1920: Harvard Graduate School of education admits women in 1920.

1945: Harvard Medical School accepts its first female enrollees in 1945.

1950: Harvard Law School opens acceptance to women, which is 20 years later than most other law schools in the country.

1963: Harvard degrees are first awarded to Radcliffe students

1967: Harvard's Library, Lamont Library, allows women access.

1975: Harvard and Radcliffe merge admissions.

1999: Radcliffe and Harvard officially merged, making Radcliffe co-ed branch of Harvard for advanced study.

WHO HELPED US Find Our Way

written by **MIKALA CLARK**

One of the pioneering women that revolutionized Harvard and its rules against women was Fe del Mundo. After the death of her older sister, del Mundo felt her calling was to become a doctor for the poor and attended the University of the Philippines, Manila. Graduating as valedictorian, she was offered a full scholarship to any United States school by the President of the Philippines, choosing to attend Harvard Medical program. She was accepted...accidentally.

With her exceptional record and recommendations, the admission board, not realizing her gender, only saw reasons to accept her admission. It wasn't until turning up at the then all-male dorms that anyone knew; the head of her department, pediatrics, stated there was no reason to send her away, since she had already been admitted making her the first woman ever accepted into Harvard Medical program. She was admitted to the school in 1936: Harvard didn't begin to accept women in their program until 1945.

Upon graduation from Harvard, del Mundo worked at multiple hospitals in the United States before returning to the Philippines and opening the first pediatric hospital in the country. She remained there working at the hospital every day until passing away at the age of 99. She was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani cemetery, a resting place for presidents, patriots, and national heroes.

FE DEL MUNDO



HARRIOT KEZIA HUNT

A woman ahead of her time, Harriot Kezia Hunt applied to Harvard Medical School in 1847, a whopping 98 years before Harvard opened its admissions to girls, she became the first woman to ever apply to Harvard. Though she was denied admission twice, they agreed to allow her to attend medical lectures with four African-American applicants who were also denied acceptance. Ultimately, medical students protested their presence and blocked Hunt and the four other applicants from attending. After learning so much from the lectures before being kicked out, Hunt received an honorary medical degree from the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1853 and practiced medicine in Boston until she passed in 1875.

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

written by **OLIVIA GORDEN**



**"THE POWER I
EXERT ON THE
COURT DEPENDS
ON THE POWER OF
MY ARGUMENTS,
NOT ON MY
GENDER"**

Sandra Day O'Connor was a moderate Republican judge, who became the first female to serve on the Supreme Court.

Born on March 26, 1930, O'Connor was born in El Paso, Texas. As a young child she was moved to Arizona and grew up on a cattle farm in the middle of nowhere. She hunted, fixed cars, and attended a private all girls school. After graduating high school, O'Connor attended Stanford University for a B.A in economics in the year 1950, going on to get her law degree in 1952.

Two years after graduating, she got married to a fellow Stanford graduate, John O'Connor. After her husband was drafted to Germany, she followed him and took up a job as a civilian attorney for the Army's Quartermaster corps. They remained there for three years, until they moved back to Arizona's attorney general until four years later when she was appointed to the Arizona Senate. She became the first woman to serve as Arizona's or any states majority leader. It was here she started her lifelong journey of setting firsts for women in the field of law. After two full terms in the senate, she decided to leave.

On July 7, 1981, Ronald Reagan announced he would appoint O'Connor as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court to retire previous justice, Potter Stewart. The flak for her nomination was outrageous, largely from a number of religious and pro-life groups. Their efforts to deter her career failed and on September 21, 1981, Sanda Day O'Connor was confirmed. This was a new beginning and a symbol of hope for women everywhere.

In 2005, she announced her intent to retire, to spend more time with her husband, who was suffering from Alzheimer's. She continues to work, substituting for judges on several occasions. She has also written the book *Out of Order: Stories of the Supreme Court* and taught a two week course at Arizona State.

**"DO THE BEST YOU CAN IN EVERY TASK,
NO MATTER HOW UNIMPORTANT IT MAY SEEM AT THE TIME.
NO ONE LEARNS MORE ABOUT A PROBLEM THAN
THE PERSON AT THE BOTTOM."**

Haley Metz

AN INTERVIEW WITH
director & choreographer

The final song in *Legally Blonde* is called "Find My Way." Tell us about the theatre experiences that have helped you find your way to directing this production.

When I was in junior high and high school I was heavily involved in the theatre departments. I was in many plays and different IHSSA (Iowa High School Speech Association) groups, making it to All State all four years. I have also acted in a few short films, both for 48 Hour and at my college, as well as acting in promo videos for ISTEP. Of course, my most recent experiences have been assisting with *Bring It On* and *School of Rock* at DMYAT! I have experience coaching events for IHSSA and assisting with various productions, but this is my first time directing a full production!

What made you want to become involved in *Legally Blonde Jr.*?

I think that *Legally Blonde* is such a timeless musical that will continue to be a widespread favorite. I would be crazy to not jump at an opportunity to work on this show! I love the message and the story, and I love working with DMYAT, so it was a perfect fit! I think Elle teaches us a lot of lessons, and it is especially important that girls today have a role model for empowerment. Girls need to know that they are capable and destined to do amazing things, and Elle is able to teach us that in such a compelling way. Everyone should come see the show, but I think it is *especially* important that young women come see it: You are enough. Put yourself out there, be brave, and show the world what amazing things you are capable of.

How does this musical compare to other shows you've worked on in the past?

Every show I have worked on holds a special place in my heart. This show is no different. What I specifically love about this show is how woman focused it is. We have so many amazing and strong female leads, a script that supports women, and an atmosphere that lifts our women up. Thanks to all our amazing artists—of all genders—who are constantly encouraging each other.

What is your favorite song/scene of this show?

My favorite scene is when Elle sees her name on the list of interns. It is such a pivotal moment in Elle's story, and I love that you finally see her do something out of love for *herself*. My favorite song is "Legally Blonde Remix." We have so many amazing vocalists that are featured in this number, making it really beautiful. It is also such a fun number, and I have loved choreographing it!

How will this production be different than others? How is it uniquely DMYAT?

Some of the smaller aspects that I am most excited for are the individual characterization choices that are not usually made. For example, Elle Woods is not as ditzy as people think. She is smart, and strong, and brave. Vivienne Kensington is not a villain. She is also smart and strong, and is just doing what she thinks is best for her future. I think these choices may seem small, but will give the show a whole new feel.

This interview with Haley was conducted by our dramaturg, Olivia Gorden. If you were interviewing Haley, what questions would you ask?

We'd love to hear your questions! Send them to us at: info@dmyat.org or mail them to 4801 Franklin Avenue, Suite 1166, Des Moines, IA 50310. Who knows? You might get an answer!

**YOUR
TURN!**

UNDERSTANDING Empowerment

written by **MIKALA CLARK**

em • pow • er • ment
noun

Authority or power given to someone to do something.

- The process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

Gretchen M. Spreitzer, a professor at the University of Michigan, broke down the concept of *psychological empowerment* in organizations into four cognitions: meaning, self-determination, competence, and impact. Psychological empowerment is defined as “intrinsic task motivation reflecting a sense of self-control in relation to one’s work and an active involvement with one’s work role” (Seibert). Using Spreitzer’s components of psychological empowerment, Elle’s moments of empowerment, and the moments she is lacking it, can be easily broken down and understood.

At the start of the musical, Elle struggles with finding self-determination, feeling at a loss of what to do. Self-determination is defined as “an individual’s sense of autonomy or control concerning the initiation or regulation of one’s actions” meaning that Elle feels most empowered when she feels in control of situations and how she reacts to them (Seibert). Throughout the musical, she learns, and shows audiences, how individuals are in control of their actions and how they react to situations. Rejected by her boyfriend, who she assumed was proposing, Elle’s level of self-value takes a sharp downfall in the beginning of the show, and she copes by eating candy and hiding away in her room for twelve days afterwards. Crushed by her inability to control the outcome of her relationship, Elle spirals into sporadic behavior, which she also feels she has no control over, making empowerment impossible at this moment.

However, when Elle decides she’s going to make it into Harvard Law School and makes conscious decisions over her actions—skipping parties, studying each night, et cetera— just to achieve her goal, she once again returns to a place of empowerment. After feeling disempowered by her professor and boss, Callahan, trying to kiss her, she is ready to leave until confronted by Vivienne and Paulette inspiring her to stay. This is a defining moment for her, where she realizes that she has control of her own actions and doesn’t have to flee, but instead can go back to the court and face Callahan, saying:

“it’s a fact; when you’re attacked, you’ve got to respond.”

While self-determination is a big part of Elle’s journey for empowerment, there are also moments throughout the show that she struggles because of **meaning**. Meaning refers to the “alignment between one’s role and one’s own beliefs, values, and standards” (Seibert). Elle proves that even if standing alone, when a person sticks to their belief, they will have a higher sense of their own self-worth. This is revealed as a point of conflict between Elle and the other interns in the show, when they are all frustrated with her for not wanting to give up Brooke’s alibi. Even if it meant that their team could easily win the case, Elle values loyalty and trust in her client over an easy win. When everyone continues pushing for their alibi, she defers them stating how she “gave Brooke [her] word.” While it seems like everyone’s lack of support would really get Elle down in this situation, she powers through, sticking steadfast to her morals.

This moment reflects how empowerment on an individual level is something that results from personal perspective. While Vivienne is particularly against her in this situation, when introducing Elle during graduation, she quotes Shakespeare saying: “To thine own self be true,” and statement which she feels like best describes Elle. Despite no one being on her side at that one moment, Elle’s adherence to her own beliefs and feeling of control over the situation provides her with all the support she needs, and others respect her later on for that decision.

UNDERSTANDING

Empowerment

written by **MIKALA CLARK**

Sticking to individual beliefs is a strong way to remain feeling empowered, but without a feeling of competence, it would be hard to achieve. **Competence** is “the belief in one’s capability to successfully perform activities” (Seibert). Examining Elle’s actions through this cognition, it shows how empowerment isn’t a choice made, then always there, but rather something that has to be fought for and can be changed. Feeling low after Warner dumped her, Elle manages to work extremely hard to earn a 175 on her Law School Admissions Test, commonly known as the LSAT, which is a graded on a point scale of 120 to 180. Hard work paying off, Elle feels confident in her abilities, until she gets kicked out of class for lack of preparation. This instantly provides humiliation and also separates her from Warner, her ex-beau and the reason she came to Harvard anyway. Elle regains her feeling of empowerment after using her knowledge of law to help Paulette, a stylist at the local salon, get back her dog. Her sense of self-worth doesn’t last too long though as Callahan tries to kiss her and, when she rebuffs him, proceeds to fire her. This action makes it seem like all of her effort that had been put towards the class wasn’t what got her to the place she is now but rather just because the professor thought she was pretty. Facing this harsh blow, she is ready to head back to California and completely give up on what she has worked towards, with all of her accomplishments ripped out from underneath her. Supported by Paulette and Vivienne, Elle manages to make her way back to the trial and prove her client’s innocence, all without needing to rely on people like Callahan. Elle’s journey shows that empowerment is a fight. It’s going to be full of ups and downs, where some days will be more empowering than others. It’s a fight to be the best version of someone that they can be and for them to acknowledge it, too. While Paulette and Vivienne did help inspire Elle towards acknowledging her own worth, if she wasn’t able to view herself that way and see all the things that she was able to do, then Elle wouldn’t have reached the empowerment necessary to go back into the courtroom and win the case.

Empowerment isn’t gained or defined just by the individual choices a person makes, but also the impact on others around them. While one person can *inspire* another they cannot *empower* them. Each person has to resolve in their own heart to be empowered.

Impact is “the belief that one can make a difference” (Seibert). Elle shows that, when empowered, it is important to inspire others to your level. Others up to your level. This also helps provide positive feelings for the empowered individual. After helping Paulette get her dog back, Elle is left “feeling kind of high.” This may sound exaggerated, but Dr. Dacher Keltner, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, said that “performing acts of kindness can activate the release of dopamine, a feel-good neurotransmitter, in the brain—and it can lead to [people] feeling like [they’re] serving something larger than the self.” So while impacting others is imperative to feeling empowered, the individual’s feelings of self-worth are also bolstered to a higher level.

Finally acknowledging the purpose of law, Elle continues to impact and inspire the people around her as she helps free Brooke from her wrongful conviction. But while helping others may be helping Elle too, she takes her empowerment a step further and uses it to bring other women up to her level with Brooke, Vivienne, and Paulette citing Elle as the reason that they’re “standing here today”.

Looking through a psychological lense, it is easy to see the motivation behind the choices that Elle makes through her life. However, empowerment isn’t something that exclusively belongs to Elle, it’s something that every person in their life is, or should be, striving towards. Everyone doesn’t need to go through all the same struggles that Elle did. By acknowledging that everyone is in control of their own actions, people need to stay true to their own beliefs, empowerment is a struggle that can be triumphed, and that empowerment should be used to help bring others up, everyone can take the steps necessary to work towards their own empowerment.

UNDERSTANDING

Pre-Conceived Notions

written by **OLIVIA GORDEN**

When we first meet someone, we judge them. Everyone does this, whether they realize it or not. In *Legally Blonde Jr.*, judging someone before you know them is a large problem that creates friction between many characters.

A **preconceived notion** is a negative snap decision of the brain that keeps people from learning the truth and truly understanding others, a large problem we have in society that we must overcome. The main character, Elle Woods, shows up to Harvard, chasing her ex-beau Warner. Vivienne, Warner's new girlfriend, sees Elle as nothing more than a dumb blonde that is trying to steal her boyfriend, that lives off of her parents money. Elle views Vivienne as a mean girl that is nothing but a bully trying to keep her from her last hope of love.

Throughout the whole show there is an underlying distrust between the two. With Vivienne getting Elle kicked out of class and inviting her to a "costume party", and Elle constantly trying to win back Warner's affection, they dislike one another. In the end, they are both proved wrong. Elle, starts to focus on herself and her career instead of a boy. She proves her brain with winning a murder case as a freshmen law student and even became the valedictorian of her class, showing she is more than her bloneness and money. Vivienne comes to the conclusion that she was just threatened by Elle. As Vivienne says in the song *Legally Blonde*, "I use to pray for the day you leave. Swore up and down you did not belong, but when I'm wrong, and I say I'm wrong, and I was wrong about you." It is important that Vivienne and Elle understood that they acted in haste and were able to admit their wrongs.

At the end they both come to an understanding, even becoming good friends, reminding us that people can be wrong, and not everything is the same as we first believe.

Judging someone without knowing them has always been an issue, but has been made worse by the media and social media. Can you think of some examples? They can be from personal experience or celebrities or other public figures. Write about them below:

Hopefully, *Legally Blonde Jr.* brings this problem to light. Through Elle and Vivienne's friendship, the audience learns that the quick to judgment opinion is not always the truth. Like the old saying goes, **"Don't judge a book by it's cover."**

ASK THE ACTORS: WHO EMPOWERS YOU?



MORGAN ALAIMO
Elle Woods

My sister. She's a nurse at Mayo Clinic and she empowers me because she has been through so much and she's so strong.

MIKALA CLARK
Pilar

My former English teacher, Mr. Werley. He never asks students to work on things if he isn't willing to do the same. He cares about every student for who they are as a person, not student.



JOSEPHINE AMICK
Whitney

My family. They've all been through a lot and have worked so hard for everything they have.

CAELEY COADY
Stylist & Others

My grandpa. He does everything for me from paying for voice lessons, giving me rides, and always informing me of opportunities. Love you, Grandpa!



MADELINE BART
Sabrina

Probably my mom or dad because they always help me and support me in *everything*.

CAITLIN COMO
Store Manager & Others

I look up to all my past directors and cast members because they help me be my best me and help me reach my goals and grow.



SYDNEY BERGER
Cashier & Others

My mom. She's a hard worked and has taught me to work hard to reach me goals.

ELLERY CONRAD
Gaelen

My cousin, Maddie Ripperger, because she is a successful actor and wonderful singer. She works very hard to achieve her goals.



DRAKE CARNEY
Winthrop & Dewey

My grandma. She is outgoing, fun, and has good values. She is my only grandparent left, so she holds a special place in my heart.

ANASTASIA DEACE
Paulette

The person who encourages me the most is David A. VanCleave. Any time I need someone to uplift me, David's always there.



ASK THE ACTORS: WHO EMPOWERS YOU?



BAILEY DORR
Kate

My mom. She is the strongest yet kindest person I know. She is always there for me and helps me through everything.

OWEN NICOLINO
Aaron

My hero is Chris Pratt. He is a great actor and he is funny. He taught me to follow my dreams no matter what and to stay strong.



CARSON DOSS
Warner Huntington III

My mom. She is the strongest yet kindest person I know. She is always there for me and helps me through everything.

CALEB OLSON-DANIEL
Guard

My parents.



KHLOE GRASMICK
Enid

My hero is Gerard Way.

CLARA RADCLIFFE
Kiki

My older sister Addison. She isn't afraid to try new things and enjoy everything she's given.



ELIZABETH JAMES
Serena

My aunt Marilyn inspires me. Like Elle, she is strong and kind. My aunt will always stand up for what is right. She loves my sisters and me fiercely, and is a positive force to those around her.

KAYLEE REININGA
Vivienne

My choir director, Mr. Steve. He always helps me be my best and has helped me become the person I am today.



PIERCE MILLER
Lowell

My dad.

SOFIAN RASSIM SABIC
Sundeep Padamadan

Uncle Jamel Benada because he encourages me to follow my acting dreams.



ASK THE ACTORS: WHO EMPOWERS YOU?



GABE SCHEBEL
Callahan

Neil deGrasse Tyson. He not only is a very successful scientist, but he inspired another generation with the cosmos. I look up to him a lot.

CARI WALTON
Margot

I dream of singing with Kristen Chenoweth!



ADAM SNOWDEN
Kyle

My papa Jim is someone I look up to and who inspires me. My hero is Jim Carey.

STELLA WEBSTER
Brooke

My little brother encourages me to be my best. He reminds me to use imagination. He can make any situation fun and light-hearted.



HENRY VERMEER
Emmett

My choir teachers, Ms. Dino and Mr. Steve, my theatre director Mr. Davenport, and my voice teacher Rebecca Gruber.

ALAYNA WILBER
Courtney & Chutney

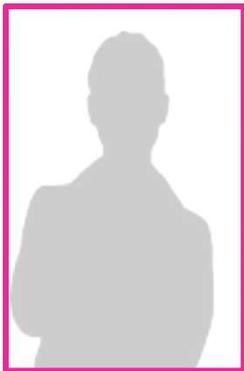
My best friend, Heather. She is an incredibly hard worker as well as a reliable person. She motivates me every day and I am so grateful for her.



J. BEATRICE VERMEER
Pforzheimer

Henry Vermeer.

Who empowers you? Who motivates you to be the best version of yourself? Who encourages you to believe in yourself? To take chances, dream big, and reach for the stars? Write it down in the space below!



NAME: _____

Tell us a little bit about your journey in theatre. What led you to *Legally Blonde Jr.* with DMYAT?

I started performing in theatre around five years old and got into the technical side of things around high school. In fact, I was in *Legally Blonde* at The Playhouse, which was one of my favorite experiences. It's so high energy and has great music and dance numbers! I then studied theatrical design and technology in college, so I have some experience with most of the different avenues of theatre. I designed the set for DMYAT's *High School Musical Jr.* while in college and am excited to be working with DMYAT again!

What is your creative process?

You should always start by reading the script, obviously. Even though I've been in this show before, it was important to read the *Junior* version. After that, I start by looking on Pinterest, because it's honestly such a great resource for costume, set, and color inspiration. I pick a few key ideas and roll with what materials I already have so I can do my best to stay under budget. Whenever you have a large cast or several locations, it's important to be resourceful, but also not to muck up the space with too much scenery.

Since this show does have a lot of different locations, I knew it'd be best to have the basic look of the show be non-descript so it could work as Harvard, the Delta Nu sorority house, a restaurant, the mall, a courtroom and Hair Affair. What we ended up going with was a representation of Delta Nu—the pink triangle hanging from upstage is the symbol for Delta and the floor and runway platform form the N for Nu.

What's the most challenging part about designing both the set and the costumes?

Keeping a timeline, managing your stress, and sticking to your goals. Working a full-time job, a part-time job, and being the primary builder of the set has really forced me to look at whether or not I'm taking care of myself and doing everything I can during the day.

For costumes, the hardest part was just keeping track of everyone's sizes! We have actors of all shapes and sizes, which is something we celebrate and are so thankful. This show is about empowerment, after all. That said...there's also 30 of them! I get a little mixed up about who's who sometimes when I'm out shopping.

I'm lucky to have two really wonderful assistants (Avery Lauer as assistant costume designer and Daphne Bailey as assistant scenic designer) and several faithful volunteers. That always helps!



DELTA can be used in many different ways. It is the name of the 6th letter in the Greek alphabet and is also used in geography. In mathematics, **delta** means *difference*.

NU has several meanings, especially in our modern age. It is often used to mean *new* or as an acronym for *New User*. Some use it to mean *no*.

GLOSSARY

CARAT

a unit of weight for precious gems

CHUM

chopped fish parts thrown overboard and used as bait to attract sharks

CLIENTELE

all of the customers of a shop

COGNIZANT

aware

COMMISSION

an amount of money, usually a percent of the retail price, paid to the salesperson as a reward for the sale

COUP

a notable or successful strategic move

COUP D'ETAT

a sudden, violent, and illegal overthrow of governmental power

FASHION MERCHANDISING

a career that involves the promotion of clothing sales and all the tasks necessary to meet the needs of customers and designers

FATIGUE

loose-fitting clothing, often olive, khaki, or otherwise camouflaged in color, worn by soldiers

FULBRIGHT

a highly competitive merit-based grant that a student can receive

HALLOWED

respected, revered

INSIPID

lacking vigor or interest; boring

IRONIC

happening the opposite way to what was expected

IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL

one of several college in the eastern United States that high academic and social prestige; including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, Cornell, Brown, and the University of Pennsylvania

KARMA

destiny or fate, based on one's previous actions

LIPOSUCTION

a cosmetic surgery for fat removal

LSAT

abbreviation for "Law School Admission Test"

MALIBU

a resort community on the Pacific Coast of California, west of Los Angeles; home to many movie stars

MAZEL TOV

a Jewish phrase expressing congratulations or wishing good luck

MILAN

a city in northwestern Italy, recognized as one of the world's most important fashion capitals due to its long history in the textile (fabric) industry

MUSE

the source of creative inspiration for another; based on the muses of Greek mythology, who were goddesses that inspired men to create in the arts and sciences

PATRIARCHAL

relating to a government or society controlled by men

PEACE CORPS

An organization that sends young people to work in developing countries

PLEA BARGAIN

An arrangement in which the defendant pleads guilty to a lesser charge

POTSTICKERS

Filled Chinese dumplings, stuffed with meat and seared

PRINCESS CUT

Popular cut shape for diamonds

RIVERDANCE

A theatrical show that uses traditional Irish step dancing

RHODES SCHOLAR

Prestigious scholarship from Oxford for International students

RICHARD SIMMONS

fitness and weight loss icon from the 80's

ROXBURY

neighborhood in Boston

SNAPS

A word that expresses general excitement or dismay

STYLUS

a writing tool used for signatures on electronic pads

TALBOTS

a women's clothing company known for their classy looks

TWEEDY

Of a refined, upscale, or academic character

UNDERDOG

A competitor who is thought to have little chance of winning

VALEDICTORIAN

A student who has the highest academic achievements of their class