

# PLAYBILL

panther playhouse

Kirkland Middle School  
**PTSA**

## ALICE'S ADVENTURES ON CUCKOO CLOUD





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



This may be hard to believe after you watch the show, but there was a point to this. Our goal was to record a production that is reflective of the unique world we have been living for the past year: raw, absurd, disjointed, melancholy, and, at times, obtuse. It is a mess of ideas, most of them unfulfilled, coming from numerous different directions that is certain to leave you wondering if there was some deeper meaning you missed along the way. (There is! And isn't!) Which, as it happens, is exactly what I wondered after rereading Lewis Carroll's "Wonderland" this past summer.

If you have not given the book a gander, I recommend doing so. Beyond the joyful foolishness and clever wordplay, there is a compelling undercurrent of longing and hope that permeates the telling. A seven year old girl, following a rabbit in a waistcoat, falls into a world lost in time where she cares for a baby that turns into a pig, is attacked by a bird that thinks she is a serpent, listens to a sobbing turtle sing about "turtle soup", and fights off playing cards trying to chop off her head. Yet, even though she is clueless and confused in a world of her own making, Alice somehow wakes up on the other side wiser than she began.

The Panther Playhouse company (and their director) were in a similar predicament with this cuckoocloud concept. Is this a film, or a play, or just a Teams meeting gone horribly wrong? Is it possible to make a show about everything and nothing at the same time? The current actors (and one former - thank you, Maya) certainly gave it their best shot with ideas for the script, illustrations of the characters, backing music for the scenes, and paintings to replace the green paper backdrops.

As fun as this experience has been, this is the first KiMS show where Irislyn, the actors, and I were relieved to not have to go back into Alice's world again. While we all enjoyed the creative license this nonsensical story presented, our longing to exit the world of the absurd is impossible to ignore.

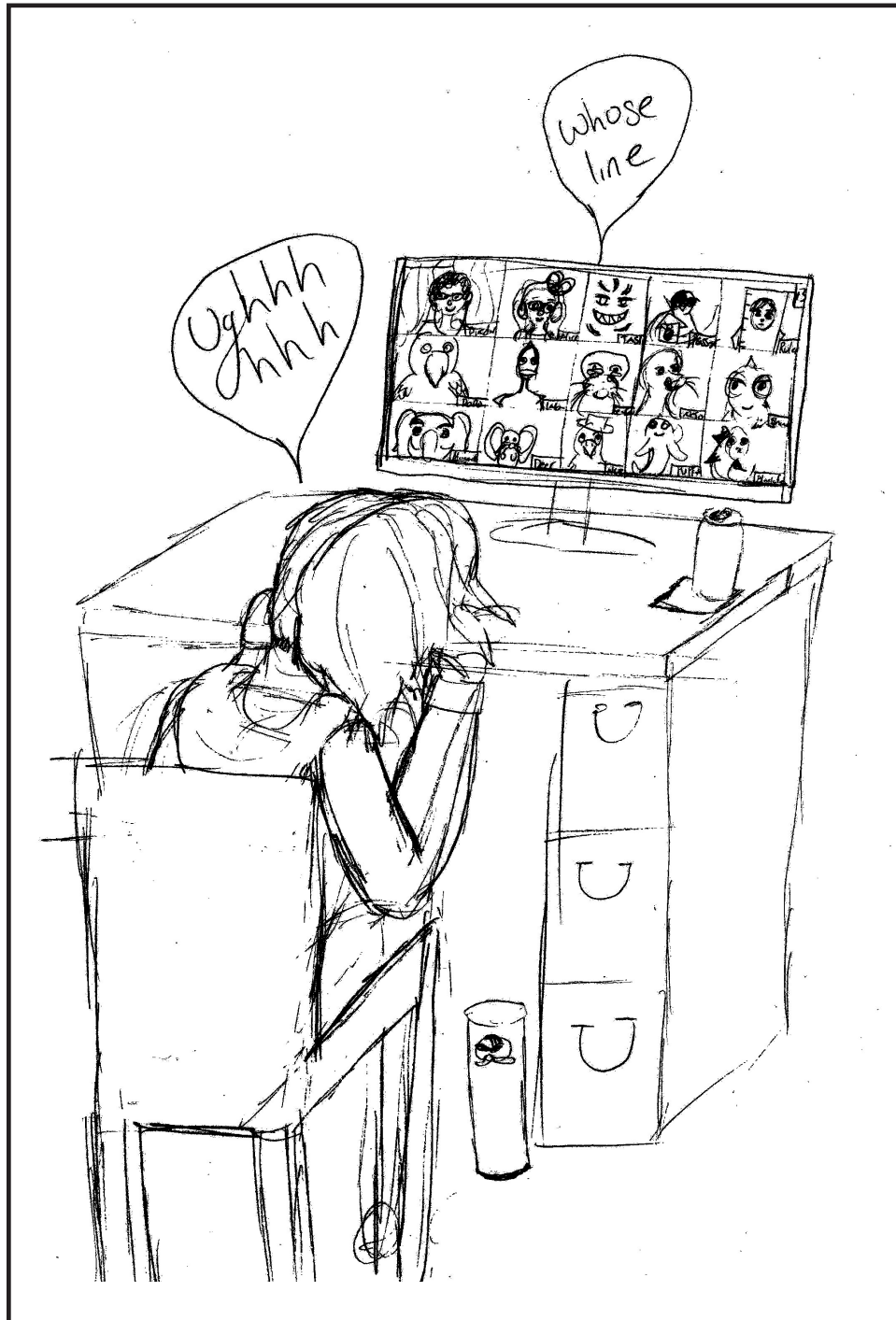
Fortunately, we are almost there.

A cumulonimbus sized "thank you" to my wife (Sherri) for all of her love (and letting me be virtually kidnapped), my daughter (Irislyn) for all your help (and character stuffed animals), Karee Oliver for her astounding costume creations (and keeping me semi-sane), all of the parents for volunteering and your support / hard work, KiMS PTSA for being the bedrock of Panther Playhouse, and Kirkland Middle School staff for putting up with all of this theatrical nonsense for the past 8 years. Oh -- and, I almost forgot to thank the most important person of all: YOU. This could not have happened without you.

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

(cont'd)



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## **ALICE'S ADVENTURES ON CUCKOO CLOUD**

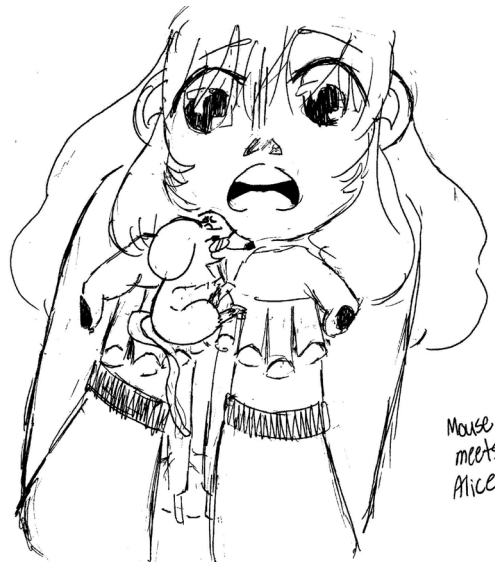
Based on the novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll

### SCENES

1. Out Of The Fog
2. A Fool Upstairs
3. An About Face On Monkey's Tale
4. Alice Goes Eggsploring
5. Proposal From A Pengiun
6. A Tedious Tiger
7. Loony Lavatory
8. The Rulers Found
9. Stellar's Sea Story
10. Dance Of The Departed
11. Who's The Cuckoo
12. Alice Aware

### SONGS

- "Fishy Fishy Fishy"  
Written by Sandi & Stevie
- "Wishing Wife"  
Written by Kate Rusby
- "We Are The Dinosaurs"  
Written by Laurie Berkner



© Pensee Arnan

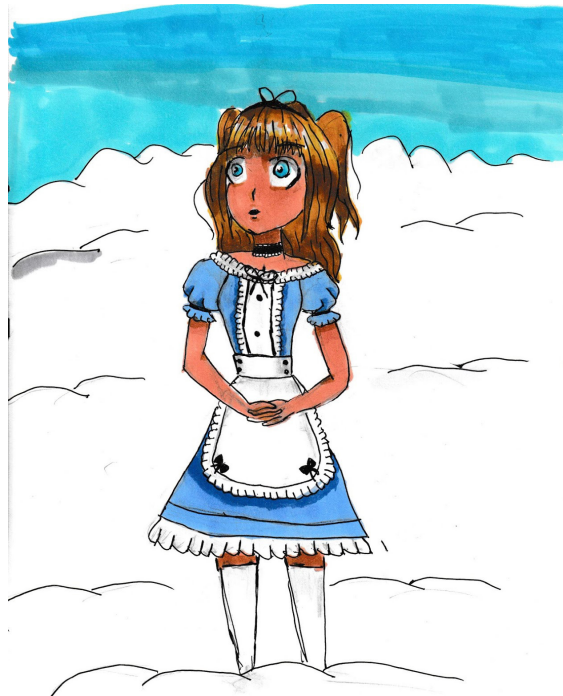
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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(in alphabetical order by first name)*

Earth: Seara, Cloud: Sea Cow.....	ALEXIS GROVES
Earth: Teacher, Cloud: Ruler.....	ANDREW KRUSE
Earth: Cane, Cloud: Toad.....	DASHIELL BENSON
Earth: Mamiko, Cloud: Mammoth.....	ELLA PORCARO
Narrator.....	ELODIE HOLT
Earth: Chorda, Cloud: Shrew.....	GABRIELLE RASCHE
Earth: Fowler, Cloud: Pigeon.....	JOSEPH NIMMER
Earth: Tasi, Cloud: Tiger.....	LAEL RAMERMAN
Earth: Sphen, Cloud: Penguin.....	LEVI MARSHALL
Earth: Raphus, Cloud: Dodo.....	MAX BOWSER
Alice.....	NAOMI BENSON
Earth: Shine, Cloud: Shiner.....	NESE YILDIRIM
Earth: Moushi, Cloud: Mouse.....	PENSEE ARNAN
Earth: Tecopa, Cloud: Pupfish.....	RICHARD WRIGHT
Earth: Hue, Cloud: Parakeet.....	RYAN DEVRIES
Earth: Bill, Cloud: Duck.....	SIDH SRIDHAR
Earth: Fienna, Cloud: Blackfin.....	TALA BIKDASH



© Max Bowser

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## CREW

Stage Manager.....Irislyn Monteith  
Background Artwork.....Nese Yildirim, Tala Bikdash  
Background Music.....Andrew Kruse, Gabrielle Rasche, Levi Marshall,  
Maya Rasche, Nese Yildirim  
Script Concepts.....Alexis Groves, Elodie Holt, Gabrielle Rasche, Max Bowser,  
Pensee Arnan, Tala Bikdash  
Director & Author..... John Michael Monteith  
Costume Design (Lead).....Karee Oliver  
Costume Committee.....Cinda Lavelly, Lale Giray, Meghan Wright, Meredith Rasche  
Playbill.....Jane Ainbinder  
Cast Party (Leads).....Kristine Bikdash, Sujatha Aswath  
Cast Party Committee.....Cindy Kruse, Dianne Ramerman, Lana Narancic



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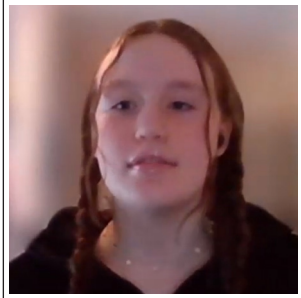


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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

*(in alphabetical order by first name)*



**ALEXIS GROVES** (*Earth: Seara, Cloud: Sea Cow*)

I am 12 years old, in 6th grade and I love acting. I was the lead in my school play last year, and this is my first play since then. I love dancing, FaceTiming my friends and hanging out with my friends and family. I would like to thank my mom and dad for helping with all my acting throughout the years!



**ANDREW KRUSE** (*Teacher, Cloud: Ruler*)

Hi, I'm Andrew Kruse, I am 14 years old and an 8th grader at Kirkland middle school. This show tops off 7 shows that were not canceled due to a certain pandemic. I enjoy skiing, soccer, playing instruments and of course acting. I would like to thank Johnmichael for this great opportunity in the middle of COVID, I would also like to thank my family and my dog Daisy for all the support throughout this hard time.



**DASHIELL BENSON** (*Earth: Cane, Cloud: Toad*)

Hi! Well, my name is Dashiell and I'm a small, innocent 11-year-old sixth grader, graced with not being a hardened, cynical middle-schooler...I mean, at least not yet. I thought that joining Panther Playhouse may be a good idea, so, here I am! A little bit about me is I'm a huge nerd and love math, programming, all that good STEM stuff. I'd like to thank my family for me being here so thank you family.



**ELLA PORCARO** (*Earth: Mamiko, Cloud: Mammoth*)

Hi I'm Ella and I'm in 8th grade also I was in the musical last year.



© Levi Marshall

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(cont'd)



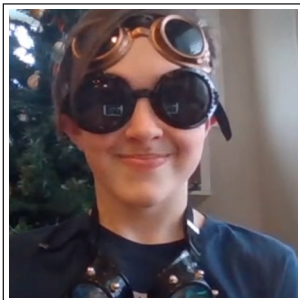
### **ELODIE HOLT** (*Narrator*)

Hi! I am 13 years old, in 7th grade and this is my second Kirkland Middle School Play. I like to bike, read, drink boba tea, watch Netflix and I am an aspiring kazoo player! I am so glad that we got to put on a play despite online school and the pandemic! I would like to thank my parents, my dog and friends for the support.



### **GABRIELLE RASCHE** (*Earth: Chorda, Cloud: Shrew*)

I'm 12 years old, and in 7th grade. I preformed as Sarah in Scuzzy Summer Arts school, and now I'm back as the Shrew here in Alice's wonderland. I enjoy playing clarinet, reading, music, and singing. I would like to thank my mom for her help and support.



### **JOSEPH NIMMER** (*Earth: Fowler, Cloud: Pigeon*)

I am 106 years old, in 7th grade, and clearly not very smart. Considering I'm still in seventh grade after all this time. This is my third / second play after playing both Jafar in Aladdin and dimwit Michael in my school's production of Matilda. I love beating things with a hammer, horseback riding, and strategically eliminating my friends in paintball fights. I would like to thank my dead cat for convincing me to audition. (The cat spoke to me! I swear!)



### **LAEL RAMERMAN** (*Earth: Tasi, Cloud: Tiger*)

I'm 13 years old and in 7th grade. This is my ninth play and I was most recently in Scuzzy Summer Arts School last year. I love acting, art, baking, and softball. I would like to thank my Mom and Dad for their support!



© Ella Porcaro



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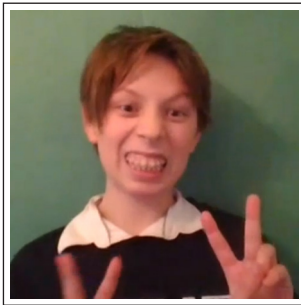
## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

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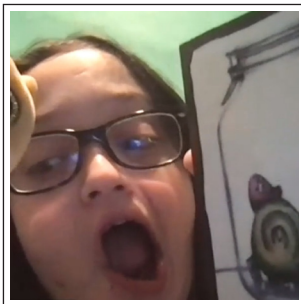
**LEVI MARSHALL** (*Earth: Sphen, Cloud: Penguin*)

I am 14 years old and I am excited to take part as Sphen and the Penguin. This is my fourth time acting with Panther Playhouse. I have three younger siblings and a dog. Thank you for coming and let the show begin!



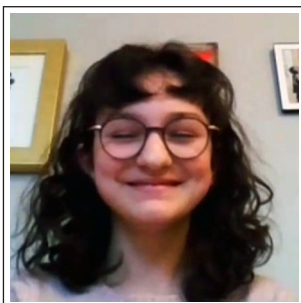
**MAX BOWSER** (*Earth: Raphus, Cloud: Dodo*)

I am (insert age here) old, I go to school in Washington and am really, really, really, funnyish. I LOVE anime and currently my favorite one is The Promised Neverland. I have been acting since I was small and ya. Some of my Favorite foods are Boba, Mocha Frappuccino, and Instant Ramen (Sapporo Ichiban is my fav). I love You Grandma Patsy <3



**NAOMI BENSON** (*Alice*)

Hello, I'm just a little wimpy 6th grader joining Panther Playhouse. I've always loved being dramatic but never actually been in a play. I was stoked when I got Alice in Alice's Adventures on Cuckoocloud!! Covid-19 has been pretty hard for me, so joining Panther Playhouse has been a really happy outlet for me. I like playing my violin, cooking, and learning math. My family has always been so supportive, so thank you family!!



**NEŞE YILDIRIM** (*Earth: Shine, Cloud: Shiner*)

I am a 7th grader here at KiMS and this is my second school play here. Some of what I like to do in my free time is watch anime, play Animal Crossing, and belt Hamilton songs at the top of my lungs. I would like to dedicate this to my Family for always supporting me (even when I find you annoying), my dog, Lokum, who is always there to cheer me up when I'm sad (even when you chew up my things) and my friends for sending me the endless supply of memes and for keeping me (sort of) sane during quarantine. Now stop reading the bios and WATCH OUR SHOW!

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(cont'd)



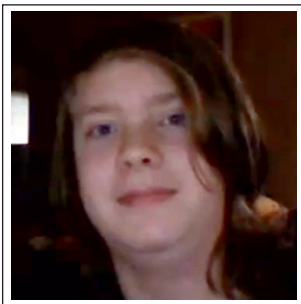
**PENSEE ARNAN** (*Earth: Moushi, Cloud: Mouse*)

I am a twelve year old 7th grade student at KIMS. This is my second play in my entire life, last year I was casted as Honey in Scuzzy Summer Arts School and this year I will be performing as the mouse. In my free time I like to play video games such as Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, Minecraft, and Among Us. I also watch quite a lot of anime. Some would say it is an obsession. Other than that I just lounge around. I would like to thank my marvelous friends for pushing me to join a play in the first place.



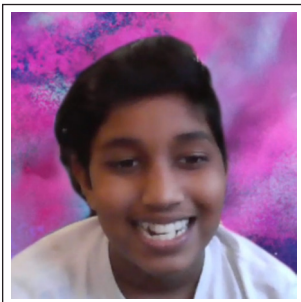
**RICHARD WRIGHT** (*Earth: Tecopa, Cloud: Pufffish*)

I am 11 years old and I like to ride on a scooter, play video games, and read a lot. I have played lots of football and lots of biking/scootering. I don't play any instruments and I have a cream orange bunny named pickles.



**RYAN DEVRIES** (*Earth: Hue, Cloud: Parakeet*)

I am 12 years old and in 7th grade. This is my second year of Panther Playhouse and fourth year of acting. The past plays I have been in are Pirates of the Curry Bean, Pinocchio, and Scuzzy Summer Arts School. I like to play video games, walk my dog, play with my guinea pig and play soccer. I would like to thank my older brothers for getting into acting first which encouraged me to act.



**SIDH SRIDHAR** (*Earth: Bill, Cloud: Duck*)

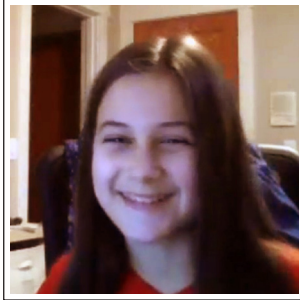
I am 13 years old, and in 7th grade. This is my fourth play, and looking forward to many more. The plays I took part in before were Pirates of the Curry Bean, Pinocchio and Scuzzy Summer Arts School. This play excites me so much because we have to use a different way of acting with only our face and arms. One thing I learnt, is over emphasising which will be useful in many aspects of my life. I like to play basketball, play cello and explore different cuisines. I would like to thank my parents, my brother and my puppy Sukho for all they have helped me with. I could not have done this without them.

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(cont'd)



**TALA BIKDASH** (*Earth: Fienna, Cloud: Blackfin*)

I am 11 years old, in 6th grade, and love the musical, Hamilton. I love soccer, gaming, and piano. I want to thank my parents for being supportive through this play.



**IRISLYN MONTEITH** (*Stage Manager*)

I am currently a college student at Willamette University. This is my 7th year stage managing and I'm really honored that I got to help out this year. I hope you all enjoy the show and remember that it's okay to be Cuckoo sometimes!



© Lael Ramerman

Lael B Ramerman 2021



# REHEARSAL STILLS



© Alexis Groves

© Nese Yildirim

© Gabrielle Rasche

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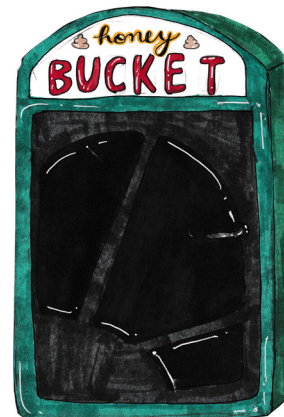
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*and supporters...*



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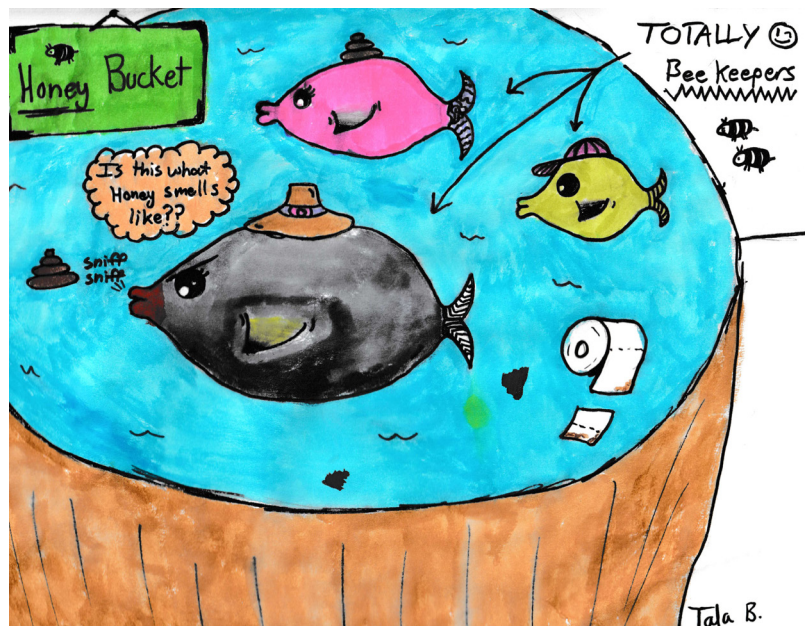


Assisting students in our community boost their creativity and confidence through composition of unique stories for the stage.

*and*



To enhance the education of all students by providing activities and academic support for the Kirkland Middle School community, family involvement, and student and family learning opportunities.



© Tala Bikdash

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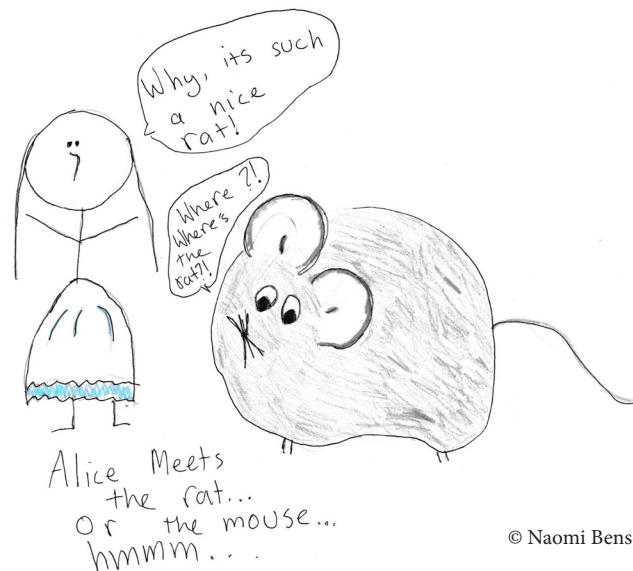
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**This Panther Playhouse video production is provided to our community thanks to the generosity of our production parents, sponsors, Kirkland Middle School, and Kirkland Middle School PTSA.**



**We always welcome your donations of support for this and future artistic creations at [pantherplayhouse.org](http://pantherplayhouse.org) or [kirklandmiddleptsa.org](http://kirklandmiddleptsa.org).**

**Thank you!**



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Look out for the next Panther Playhouse Production  
coming out this spring:



# Two Gentlemen of Corona

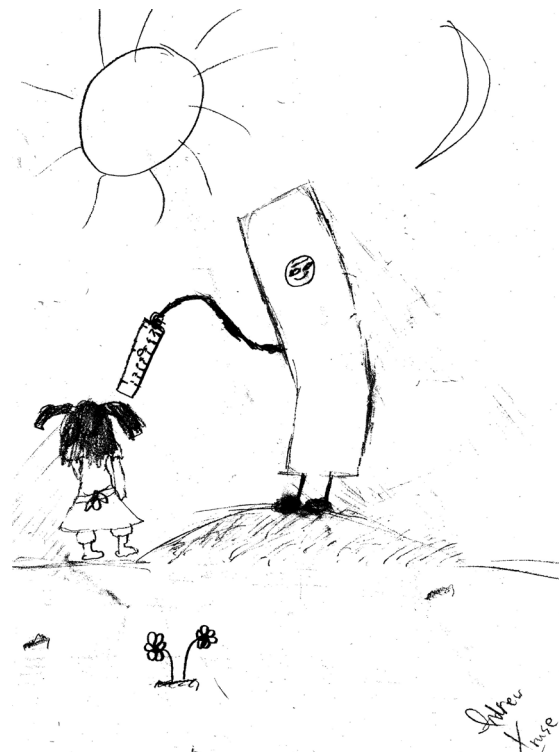
By William Shakespeare  
Verse By Richard Carter



Original Online Adaptation  
Auditions March 31

[PantherPlayhouse.org](http://PantherPlayhouse.org)

# CAST PHOTO



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