

THE PALACE CULTURAL ARTS ASSOCIATION

Proudly Presents a Palace Production

THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES

A Life in Revue

Book by Peter Stone Music Composed and Arranged by Cy Coleman
Lyrics by Betty Comden & Adolph Green
Original Choreography by Tommy Tune

Directed by Clare Cooke
Asst. Director/Choreographer: Kristi Wink
Orchestra Conductor: Rick Baird
Vocal Director: Jami Rawlins

AT THE HISTORIC MARION PALACE THEATRE

July 9, 10 and July 15, 16, & 17 2022

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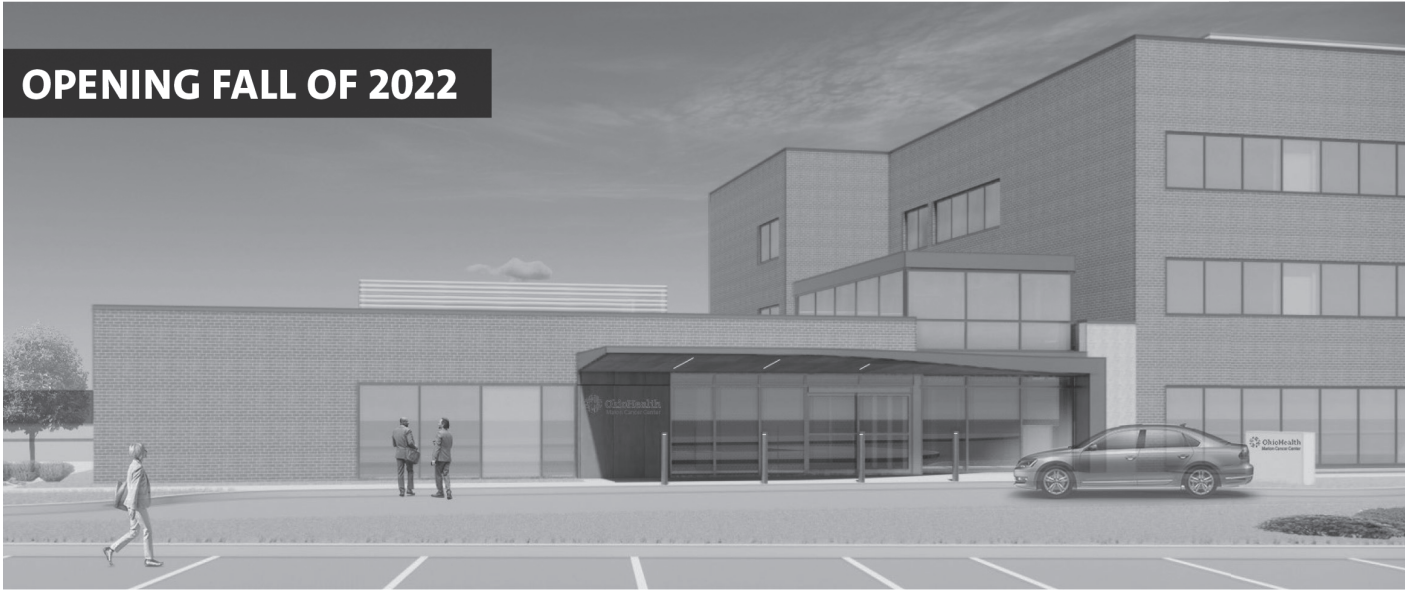
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The Palace Cultural Arts Association
Proudly Present a Palace Production of

THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES

Book, Music and Lyrics by
PETER STONE

Original Choreography by
TOMMY TUNE

Directed by
CLARE COOKE

Vocal Director
JAMI RAWLINS

Music Composed and Arranged by
CY COLEMAN

Costumes Designed by **VINCENT SCASSELLATI**
Costumes Provided by **KANSAS CITY COSTUME COMPANY**

Asst. Director/Choreographer
KRISTI WINK

Orchestra Conductor
RICK BAIRD

JULY 9, 10 and JULY 15, 16 & 17, 2022

Originally produced on Broadway by Pierre Cossette, Martin Richards, Sam Crothers, James M. Nederlander, Stewart F. Lane, and Max Weitzenhofer in Association with Japan Satellite Broadcasting, INC.

THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC

Major Show Sponsor: OhioHealth

Supporting Show Sponsor: Mary H. Hollaway Fund at the
Marion Community Foundation

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Bill & Susan Tabbert, Wilson Bohannon Lock Co., Ray Wink

Cast Hospitality: Howard Foster

Major Set Construction Sponsor: Advanced Smiles Marion

Supporting Set Construction Sponsors: Kathleen E. O'Shea
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Cast Party Sponsor: Mike Watts & Fran Henderson

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The Will Rogers Follies Summer 2022 - 1

THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES

Scenes & Musical Numbers

ACT I

<i>Prelude: "Let's Go Flying"</i>	Wiley Post	
<i>Scene 1: The "Follies"</i>		
<i>"Will-a-Mania"</i>	Ziegfeld's Favorite & Company	
<i>"Never Met a Man I Didn't Like"</i>	Will	
<i>"Give A Man Enough Rope"</i>	Will & The Will Rogers Wranglers	
<i>Scene 2: The Ranch</i>		
<i>"It's a Boy!"</i>	Clem & Will's Sisters	
<i>"So Long Pa"</i>	Will	
<i>Scene 3: The Moon</i>		
<i>"My Unknown Someone"</i>	Betty	
<i>Scene 4: Clem's Return</i>		Clem
<i>Scene 5: The St. Louis Exposition/The Wild West Show</i>		
<i>"The St. Louis World's Fair"</i>	Betty's Sisters	
<i>"We're Heading for a Wedding"</i>	Will & Betty	
<i>Scene 6: Vaudeville</i>		
<i>"The Big Time"</i>	Will, Betty, Will, Jr., James, Mary, Freddy Rogers	
<i>"My Big Mistake"</i>	Betty	
<i>Scene 7: The "Follies"</i>		
<i>The Powder Puff Ballet</i>	The Ziegfeld Follies Girls	
<i>"Marry Me Now/Without You"</i>	Will & Betty	
<i>Wedding Finale</i>	Will, Betty, Children, Z's Fav, Quartet	

There will be a 15 minute intermission between Act One and Act Two.

During this intermission our concessions will be open.

Adult beverages will be available in the May Pavilion (Friday & Saturday only).

THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES

Scenes & Musical Numbers

ACT II

Entr'Acte

Scene 1: The "Follies"

"Look Around".....Will

Scene 2: The Convention

"Our Favorite Son".....Will & Chorus

Scene 3: The Hollywood Ranch

"No Man Left for Me"Betty

"Presents for Mrs. Rogers".....Will & Quartet

Scene 4: The Bare Stage

"Will-a-Mania" (Reprise).....Will & Clem

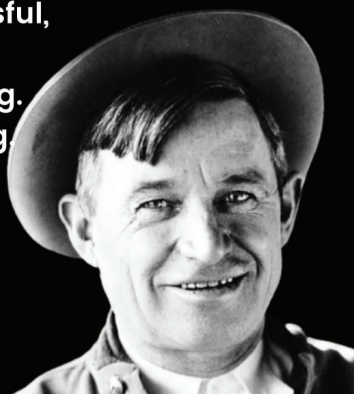
Betty's Goodbye "Without You" (Reprise).....Betty

Scene 5: The Finale

"Never Met a Man I Didn't Like"Will & Company

Bows

"If you want to be successful,
it's just this simple.
Know what you are doing.
Love what you are doing
And believe in
what you are doing."
— Will Rogers



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THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES

Cast of Characters

"Flying" Vocalist.....	John Garnes II
Ziegfeld's Favorite.....	Morgan Schwartz
The Will Rogers Wrangles.....	Justin Adams, Carter Rawlins, Bishop Oldfield, Brady Wink
Indian Sun Goddess.....	Sarah Perkins
Indian Soloist.....	Miranda Werner
Little Fan.....	Madeleine Rawlins
Will Rogers.....	Tanner Wink
Wiley Post.....	John Garnes II
Indian Maiden.....	Hillary Rawlins
Z's Least Favorite.....	Sharon Gale
Clem Rogers/Hastings.....	Dustin Rawlins
Will's Sisters.....	Addy Baird, Sara Grote, Danielle Knight Sarah Perkins, Delaney Tabbert, Sadie Wink
Voice of Florenz Ziegfeld.....	Ron Boose
Mr. Ziegfeld's Stage Manager (Peter).....	Mitchell Hutchman
Off Stage Announcer.....	Bishop Oldfield
Betty Blake.....	Madisen Schenk
Betty's Sisters.....	Addy Baird, Sara Grote, Danielle Knight Sarah Perkins, Delaney Tabbert, Sadie Wink
Will Rogers, Jr.....	Brooklyn Wallace
Mary Rogers.....	Madeleine Rawlins
James Rogers.....	Matthew Stover
Freddy Rogers.....	Oliver Schwartz
Wardrobe People.....	Rhonda Arnold, Peg Baird, Linda Fargo, Judy Little Elizabeth Moore, Heather Shoffner, Roxanne Sullivan Miranda Werner, Susan Wenig, Joy Watkins Jean Yake, Barb Yaksic
The Ziegfeld Ladies.....	Addy Baird, Abigail Bennett, Madi Blankenship Kim Bradshaw, Olivia Brazell, Eliana Bush, Dana Congrove Macyn Danals, Olivia Davis, Sara Grote, Danielle Knight Sarah Perkins, Delaney Tabbert, Kilynn Walter, Ashley Watkins Katelyn Wicker, Sadie Wink, Amanda Zucker
Ensemble.....	Linda Fargo, Sharon Gale, Farrah Gregg, Mitchell Hutchman Judy Little, Elizabeth Moore, Sophia Raimo, Hillary Rawlins Heather Shoffner, Matthew Szuch, Miranda Werner

**"The worst thing that happens to you may be the best thing for you
if you don't let it get the best of you." - Will Rogers**

THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES

Orchestra Personnel

CONDUCTED BY RICK BAIRD

KEYBOARDS

Dee Ehrman (Rehearsal Pianist)
Kathy Hill
Jami Rawlins

TRUMPETS

Jacob Hartman
Bob Walczak
Josh Neff

PERCUSSION

David Johnston
Dennis Witsberger

BASS

Stephen Patterson

FRENCH HORN

John Watkins

GUITAR

Guy Schlichting

REEDS

Bill Swihart
Gary Flach
Beth Cumbie
Steve Cumbie
Lois Lust

TROMBONES

George Schram
Austin Craig
Parker Baird

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cast, crew, orchestra,
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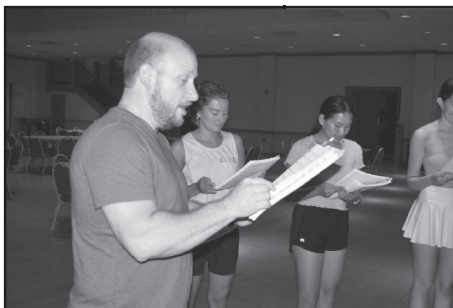
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THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES Cast Hard at Work....



Give
A Man
Enough
Rope!

Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



TANNER WINK
(Will Rogers)

Tanner is thrilled to be back on the Palace stage this summer! His most recent Palace productions include *Happy Days: A New Musical*, *Music Man*, and *Newsies*. He recently graduated from Wright State University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Some Wright State credits include *Spring Awakening*, *Sweet Charity*, *Mamma Mia*, and *Fugitive Songs*. Tanner plans to move to New York in the fall and continue to pursue a career in performing. He would like to thank his family, friends, and Madi for all their continued love and support.



MADISEN SCHENK
(Betty Blake)

Madisen is thrilled to be a part of *The Will Rogers Follies*. Madisen is a sophomore at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City where she is getting a BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in Music Production. She has been a part of productions here at the Palace for many years, most recently in *Happy Days: A New Musical* as Pinky Tuscadero and in *Anastasia* at Harding High School as Anya. Madisen would like to thank the entire cast, crew, her family, and Tanner for all their love and support!



Betty Blake & Will Rogers

Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



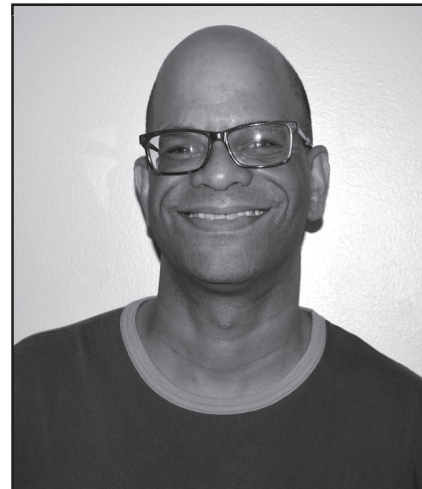
MORGAN SCHWARTZ
(Ziegfeld's Fav)

Morgan is thrilled to be taking the stage once again this summer in *The Will Rogers Follies*. Most recently seen as Miss Scarlett in *Clue on Stage*, some of her other favorite roles include Medda Larkin in *Newsies*, Brooke Wyndham in *Legally Blonde the Musical*, and Eulalie Shinn in *The Music Man*. When not on the Palace stage, Morgan can be found upstairs in the offices as the Palace Volunteer Coordinator. This summer is extra special for Morgan as she shares the stage with her son, Oliver, for his first summer musical. Morgan would like to thank her husband, Caleb, for supporting her each summer as she does what she loves.



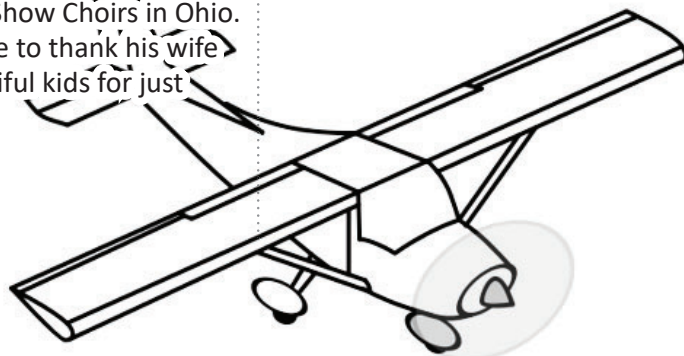
DUSTIN RAWLINS
(Clem Rogers)

Dustin Rawlins attended The Ohio State University where he majored in Vocal Music Education and Vocal Performance. While there he was in the University Chorus, Symphonic Choir, Chorale, the Ohio State University Men's Glee Club, and Men's select group the "Statesmen". In his musical career, Dustin has performed with groups on multiple U.S. and international tours. Most recently, Dustin has played "The UPS Man" in *Legally Blonde* and *Christmas at the Palace*, Marcellus in *The Music Man*, George Banks in *Mary Poppins*, and as Soloist and Director of *Upside Down Broadway*. Rawlins also Directs, Choreographs, and Assists award-winning Show Choirs in Ohio. Dustin would like to thank his wife and three beautiful kids for just being amazing!!



JOHN GARNES, II
(Wiley Post)

John considers it an absolute honor to once again return to the Palace stage to work alongside members of this incredible theatre family. Recent shows include *Christmas at the Palace*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Guard), and *The Music Man* (Mayor Shinn). Many thanks to Clare and Kristi for over 40 years of family and true friendship, this incredible cast and crew, and as always, our dedicated and supportive audience. None of this is possible without you.



Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



JUSTIN ADAMS
(Wrangler)

Justin is a 2016 graduate of Marion Harding High School. While attending, he was involved in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *Hairspray*. Justin went on to graduate from The Ohio

State University with a degree in Psychology and now works as a substitute teacher in Marion City Schools. He recently choreographed the Grant Middle School production of *Annie Jr.* Justin is making his debut at the Palace Theatre this summer, and he would like to thank everyone involved for making this possible and would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him.



CARTER RAWLINS
(Wrangler)

Carter has been highly involved in musical theater since he was a child. Carter is going to be a junior at Marion Harding high school. Carter has most recently been seen in *Children of*

Eden as Abel and Shem, *The SpongeBob Musical* as Patrick Star, and *Christmas at the Palace*. Carter would like to thank his family and directors for always believing in him and supporting his dreams.



BISHOP OLDFIELD
(Wrangler)

Since appearing on the Palace Stage for the first time a decade ago in 2012's production of *Annie*, Bishop has performed in a wide variety of shows, both with the Palace and during his

time at Harding High School. His personal highlights include his roles as JoJo, one of the titular Newsies in the Palace's 2018 production, a brief appearance as a James Dean mirage in last year's *Happy Days: A New Musical*, as well as fellow cowboy Pete in 2016's *Crazy for You*. He would like to thank his parents as well as his three directors, Clare, Kristi, and Jami, for their guidance and encouragement in his musical journey.



BRADY WINK
(Wrangler)

Brady was last seen on the Palace stage as Ralph Malph in *Happy Days: A New Musical*. He is a recent graduate from Harding High School, where he was active in football, tennis, and show

choir. Brady will be attending Capital Univeristy in the fall where he will be a part of the tennis team. He is excited to be back at the Palace sharing the stage with his family. Break a leg cast and crew!



Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



ADDY BAIRD
(Ziegfeld Girl/Waite)

This is Addy's second time performing The Will Rogers Follies on the Palace stage, the first when she was 10 years old. She was most recently seen as Pinkette Tina in *Happy Days: A New*

Musical and Elmer in *Newsies*. A graduate from Kent State University she now spends most of her time at the Palace participating in shows and working full time in the Palace office as the Marketing Manager. Addy would like to thank her friends and family for all their support, and for supporting our beautiful Palace Theatre!



DANIELLE KNIGHT
(Ziegfeld Girl/Zulecki)

Danielle Knight has spent the last couple years living in Missouri, and is SO excited to be back on the Palace stage with some of her favorite people! She got her start at the Palace at the

age of 8, went on to study theater in college, and has been involved in various aspects of theater since then. Some of her favorite shows at the Palace have been *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mary Poppins*, *Crazy For You* and *Newsies*. Her next adventure includes moving to Northern Kentucky with her husband and girls! A big thank you goes to her loving family, her awesome cast mates, and the amazing production team, who make every show at the Palace shine. Enjoy the show!



SARA GROTE
(Ziegfeld Girl/Virginia)

Sara Grote's most memorable role on the Palace stage was the title role in *Mary Poppins*. Some of her favorite performances include Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde the Musical* and

Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray*. Sara's most beloved role is Mommy to her daughters, Makena (5) and Eloise (1). Sara would like to thank Clare, Kristi, and the entire cast and crew for sharing their talents and for their dedication to the theatre! She would also like to thank her husband, Chad, and her family for all their love and support. Enjoy the show!

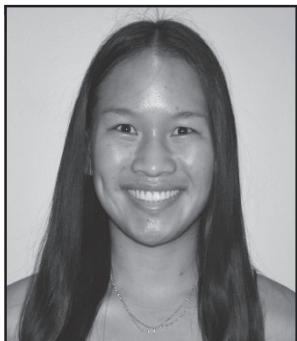


SARAH PERKINS
(Ziegfeld Girl/Cora)

Sarah is so excited to be returning to the Palace stage! She was last seen playing Lisa in Encore's 2019 production of *Mamma Mia!* She has also been very active in previous Palace shows, including *Newsies*, *Crazy For You*, and

multiple productions of *Christmas at the Palace*. Sarah currently attends Columbia College Chicago with a major in Musical Theatre and a minor in ASL Studies. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for making her return to the stage so memorable and for working incredibly hard to create an amazing show. She would also like to thank her parents, friends, and boyfriend for always supporting her. Enjoy the show!

Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



DELANEY TABBERT
(Ziegfeld Girl/Anna)

Delaney Tabbert is a sophomore at The Ohio State University majoring in Biology. Her favorite performances include Joanie in *Happy Days: A New Musical*, Sharpay in *High School Musical*, Smitty

in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Newsies*, and *Mamma Mia*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their continuous love and support!



SADIE WINK
(Ziegfeld Girl/Theda)

Sadie was last seen as Pinkette Lola in *Happy Days: A New Musical* at the Palace. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University and currently works at Mills James. Some favorite performances include Fiona

in *Shrek the Musical*, Eponine in *Les Miserables*, and Finch in *Newsies*. Lots of love goes out to her theatre family. Break a Leg!



ABIGAIL BENNETT
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Abigail has been involved in musicals since the 5th grade. She most recently appeared as Gertrude McFuzz in the River Valley High School production of *Seussical*. Abigail will attend Ohio Wesleyan University

in the fall where she will major in Science Education and Music. She would like to thank everyone who has given her support as she continues to pursue her love of performing.



MADI BLANKENSHIP
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Madi is beyond grateful for the opportunity to be back on the Palace stage! She was last seen in *Little Shop of Horrors* in the role of Audrey. She has also been in several musicals, including *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Little Mermaid*,

Fiddler on the Roof, and multiple productions of *Christmas at the Palace*. Madi is a junior at The Ohio State University and is studying Criminology with a minor in Security Intelligence. Madi is thankful for her supportive family, Clare, Kristi, and anyone who has supported her throughout the years. Enjoy the show!



KIM BRADSHAW
(Ziegfeld Girl)

A regular performer on the Palace stage, dance has also brought Kim to several stages around the country. Having been part of groups winning national titles, performing at Disney World, learning in NYC, and appearances at

the Knights of Sparta Ball in New Orleans, she's truly "at home" when she's dancing. With a large list of choreographer credits to her name as well, Kim's been part of dozens of shows over the years. Her performance highlights include *Crazy For You*, *42nd Street*, *Christmas at the Palace*, and the 2005 Marion Palace edition of *The Will Rogers Follies*. Kim wants to thank Clare and Kristi for her many opportunities they have given her to dance across the historic Palace stage. When not performing or teaching, Kim enjoys spending time with her husband and their two daughters who all enjoy musical theatre!

Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



OLIVIA BRAZELL
(Ziegfeld Girl/Dance Captain)

Olivia grew up in Marion on the Marion Palace Stage and was recently seen in *Mary Poppins*, *Happy Days: A New Musical*, and countless *Christmas at the Palace* productions.

After High School, Olivia attended AMDA College of the Performing Arts in Los Angeles, California, and graduated with a BFA in Performing Arts/ Acting in February of 2020. While the Pandemic sent Olivia back home to Marion, she is currently working at Pleasant Elementary as an Intervention Specialist. Most recently, she directed Pleasant Local School's production of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*. She also choreographed Pleasant's 2021 production of *Mary Poppins* and Assistant Choreographed last year's production of *Christmas at the Palace*. Olivia is also a part of Marion's own improvisation group, Shovel City. Thank you for supporting the Palace and the arts!



ELIANA (ELLIE) BUSH
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Ellie has been involved in musical theatre since she was a kid. Some of her more recent shows are *Elf the Musical*, *Anastasia*, and *The SpongeBob Musical*. Ellie is currently a part of Harding High School's

Show Choir and Marching Band, as well as other aspects of its music department. She would like to thank her supportive family and friends, as well as educated individuals who have helped her get to where she is.



DANA CONGROVE
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Dana was last seen on stage in *Happy Days: A New Musical* here at the Palace, and as Grace Fryer in *Radium Girls*. As she enters her senior year at Cardington-Lincoln High

School, she is actively involved in the Drama Club, National Honor Society, FFA, Track, and Improv. Dana is thrilled to be back on the Palace stage this summer and would like to thank her family for their endless support.



MACYN DANALS
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Macyn has been in numerous shows since a very young age. A few of the most recent shows she has been in are *Happy Days: A New Musical* and *High School Musical on Stage!* Macyn will be a senior

at River Valley High School this coming school year. She would like to thank everyone who has helped deepen her love for the theater!



Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



OLIVIA DAVIS
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Olivia is so excited to be a part of her first summer production at the Palace. While this is her first summer production, she is no stranger to the Palace stage as she's been a member of the women's tap

line in *Christmas at the Palace*. Olivia is a coach and teacher at Marion Harding High School and volunteers her time serving local boards and committees with Marion Technical College, Marion Community Foundation, and MarionMade! Olivia would like to thank the entire cast and crew for welcoming her with open arms and a summer she will never forget!



KILYNN (KI) WALTER
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Ki has been in musical productions since she was in 5th grade. Recently, she was in *The SpongeBob Musical* and *Anastasia* at Harding High School. She was also in the Palace production

of *Disney's Frozen, Jr.* She is currently involved in Harding's Marching Band, Show Choir, and more. Ki would like to thank the entire cast, crew, and her family for this experience.



ASHLEY WATKINS
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Ashley is going into her second year of college at The Ohio State University studying Political Science and World Politics this fall. She has been in summer musicals at the Palace for many years, the most recent

being *Happy Days: A New Musical*. She was also in Elgin High School's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Lucy) last year. She is very excited and very thankful to be part of this show and would like to thank her family and friends for all their support.



KATELYN WICKER
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Katelyn is an 8th grader at Pleasant Middle School. She studies dance and acting at Douce Dance Studio. Some of her previous summer musicals include *Happy Days: A New Musical*, *The*

Wizard of Oz, and Amaryllis in *The Music Man*. Katelyn would like to thank Clare and Kristi for this wonderful opportunity! Break a leg to the cast and crew!



Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



AMANDA ZUCKER
(Ziegfeld Girl)

Amanda Zucker had so much fun being a Follies Girl in 2005 that she has decided to come back and do it again! She has enjoyed roles in Marion, Bucyrus, Upper Sandusky, Tiffin, and Delaware. Some favorites

include The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Morticia in *The Addams Family*, Kitty in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Susan in [title of show], Abby in *Musical of Musicals (The Musical)*, and Irene in *Crazy for You*. Amanda also directs and choreographs for Ridgedale Local Schools. She would like to thank her husband and family for their never-ending support, the cast and crew for their hard work and vision, and the audience for supporting local theatre.



BROOKLYN WALLACE
(Will Rogers Jr.)

Brooklyn has been involved in theater since the age of 7. It was her Palace Theater debut in *James and the Giant Peach* where she fell in love with theater.

Brooklyn has performed in every Palace Theater youth production from 2017-2022, *Christmas at the Palace*, and Marion Palace Theater summer camps/classes. Brooklyn attends Douce Dance Studio for acting classes with instructor Kristi Wink. She was most recently seen in her role of Principle Strictly in *Back to the 80s* and Alex the Lion in *Madagascar, Jr.* Brooklyn will enter the 7th grade at Elgin Middle School this fall. She would like to thank her parents and family for their support. She would like to thank all the past and present mentors she has met through Marion Palace Theater productions for their guidance.



MADELEINE RAWLINS
(Mary Rogers)

Madeleine is excited to be cast in *The Will Rogers Follies*! Madeleine has grown up around music, theater, and dance. She has participated in: *The Music Man*, *Elf the Musical*, *Anastasia* (Young Anastasia),

Madagascar, Jr. (Lew), *Annie, Jr.*, *The Spongebob Musical*, and *Christmas at the Palace* productions. Madeleine would like to thank her family, Clare, and Kristi for this opportunity.



MATTHEW STOVER
(James Rogers)

Matthew Stover has been in a total of 8 musicals and 1 play. Previous performances include *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *Elf the Musical*, Alexi Romanov in *Anastasia*, Little Shrek in *Shrek the Musical*, Bundles McCloskey in

Annie, Jr., and Kevin in *Robin Hood, Jr.* Matthew would like to thank his past directors and his parents for all of their support.



OLIVER SCHWARTZ
(Freddy Rogers)

Oliver is very excited to be participating in his very first summer musical. While Oliver is still fairly new to the Palace stage, he does have a few shows under his belt, most recently seen in *Christmas at the*

Palace and *Madagascar, Jr.* Oliver would like to thank everyone involved in this production for their help and guidance.

Meet **THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES** Cast



MITCHELL HUTCHMAN
(Stage Manager - Peter)

Mitchell is a 2016 graduate of Marion Harding High School. While attending, he was involved in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Les Miserables*, and *Hairspray* as Edna Turnblad.

After graduating, Mitchell became the owner of Fuzzy's Flowers while also staying involved at the Palace Theatre. He has been involved in *The Music Man*, *Newsies*, and *Happy Days: A New Musical*.



MIRANDA WERNER
(Soloist)

This is Miranda's first show on the Marion Palace stage and she is very excited to return to performing this summer. She currently teaches 6-8 grade choir at Grant Middle School. She

graduated from Xavier University in May of 2021 with a Bachelor of Music Education. Miranda directed her first musical *Annie, Jr.* in March 2021 and looks forward to more musical opportunities with the Marion community. She would like to thank all the creative and technical staff for making this show possible and thank her family, friends, and partner, Spencer, for their love and support. Break a leg!



Back Row L-R: Mitchell Hutchman, Amanda Zucker, Olivia Brazell, Carter Rawlins, Judy Little
Middle Row L-R: Ellie Bush, Elizabeth Moore, Linda Fargo, Bishop Oldfield, Justin Adams, Miranda Werner, Farrah Gregg
Front Row L-R: Dana Congrove, Heather Shoffner, Brady Wink, Olivia Davis, Macyn Danals, Madi Blankenship, Matthew Szuch
Not Pictured: Sophia Raimo



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THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES Artistic Team



CLARE COOKE

Director

Clare has been involved in Palace productions for the past 44 years. Most recently, she directed *Happy Days: A New Musical* and *Christmas at the Palace 2021*. Her favorite shows include; *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Hairspray*, *Mary Poppins*, *Oliver!* and *Newsies*. Thank you to the cast, crew, orchestra, Kirk and Palace staff, and all volunteers. Much love and gratitude to Kristi, Tanner, Brady, and Sadie for your devotion and hard work. Clare and John are parents of David (Kim) Cooke and Kristi (Joe) Wink and grandparents to Sadie, Tanner and Brady Wink, and Matthew and Casey Cooke. Break a leg everyone!



KRISTI WINK

Assistant Director/Choreographer

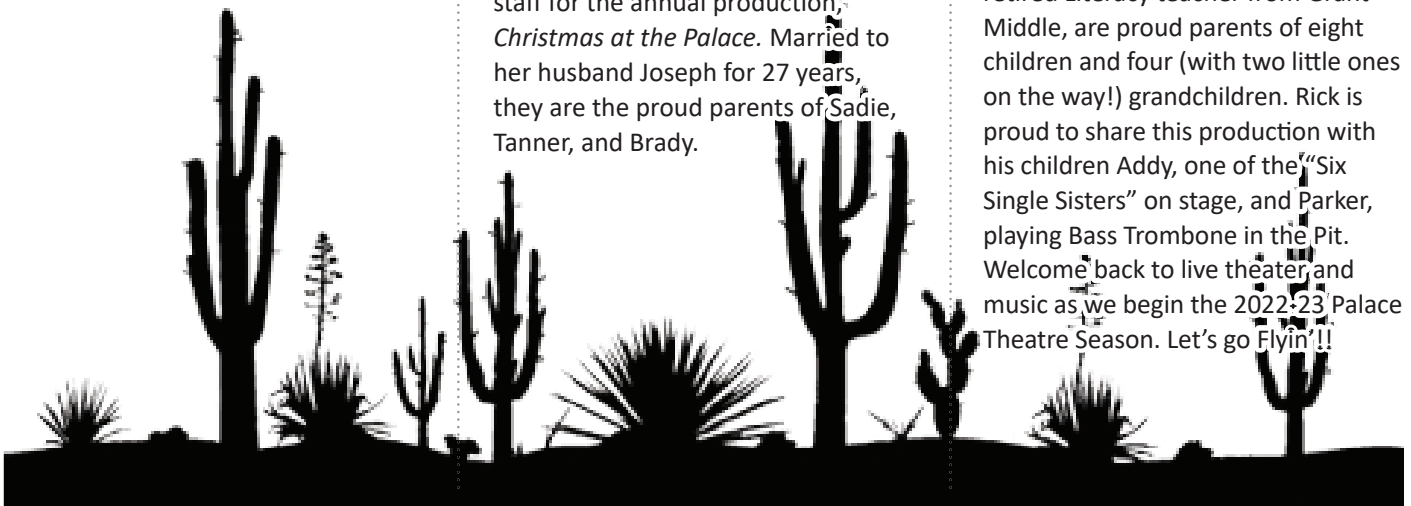
Kristi has been involved at the Palace Theatre for the past 40 years as a performer, choreographer, and director. A graduate of The Ohio State University majoring in theatre, Kristi went on to perform on Broadway in this very show, *The Will Rogers Follies*. She also represented our state holding the title of Miss Ohio in 1991. Kristi just finished up her first year as the new owner/director of the Martha Douce Dance Studio. She is also active at both Harding High School and River Valley High School as the musical choreographer. Next, Kristi will direct *Disney's Moana, Jr.* coming to the Palace in October. In addition, she is also on the artistic staff for the annual production, *Christmas at the Palace*. Married to her husband Joseph for 27 years, they are the proud parents of Sadie, Tanner, and Brady.



RICK BAIRD

Orchestra Director

After a career in Music Education that spanned 43 years, Rick Baird has come "home" to the Palace Theatre. Rick is not only reprising his role as Conductor of our fabulous pit orchestra, but he now serves as the Palace Box Office Coordinator during the work day. Rick's former responsibilities as a teacher included Director of Bands, Coordinator of Music, Harding Stardusters Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, RUFUS/Harding Singers/XTREME Show Choirs, and the Pit Conductor for 24 Marion Harding Musicals. Rick has also tutored young students at St. Mary's School and Grant Middle School in recent years. Rick and Peg, a newly retired Literacy teacher from Grant Middle, are proud parents of eight children and four (with two little ones on the way!) grandchildren. Rick is proud to share this production with his children Addy, one of the "Six Single Sisters" on stage, and Parker, playing Bass Trombone in the Pit. Welcome back to live theater and music as we begin the 2022-23 Palace Theatre Season. Let's go Flyin'!!





JAMI RAWLINS (Vocal Director)

Mrs. Jami R. Rawlins is excited to be assisting as vocal director for The Will Rogers Follies! Jami is a 2001 graduate of Elgin High School and is honored to be giving back the gift of music to her hometown. Mrs. Rawlins is also a PROUD alumna of The Ohio State University where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Music Education with an emphasis in voice. Jami works as the Director of Choirs, Director of Musicals, and Show Choir Director to the award-winning Harding Singers and Singers Xtreme at Harding High School. Her most recent musical productions include: *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Anastasia*, *Elf the Musical*, *Legally Blonde*, and *Westside Story*. She also serves as the District Music Coordinator for grades 6-12. In her free time, she serves as an adjudicator and clinician, guest conductor, private voice teacher for the Palace Academy, and was excited to be involved as the vocal director of *Madagascar, Jr.* this year at the Palace. Jami would like to give a special thank you to her parents: Frank and Tanyce Addison, her husband: Dustin, and their three beautiful children: Carter, Hillary, and Madeleine who support her in all of her personal and professional endeavors!



SUSAN WENIG (Costume Director)

Susan is very happy to be part of *The Will Rogers Follies* this summer. Most recently she costumed *Happy Days: A New Musical*, *Madagascar, Jr.*, and *Christmas at the Palace*. In addition, Susan has been in the cast of Palace Productions of *The Music Man*, *Oliver*, and *Christmas at the Palace*. She is employed at Dostal & Kirk, Inc. Insurance and Financial Services. She is a member of the Chancel Choir at the LaRue United Methodist Church and is a church accompanist. Susan and her husband Doug are the proud parents of two children - Sara Grote (Ziegfeld Follies) and her husband, Chad, and Kevin Wenig and his wife, Jessica. She is also a very blessed grandma to Makena, Eloise, and the newest addition, Maisy.



DEE EHRLMAN (Rehearsal and Orchestra Accompanist)

Dee has enjoyed working with the cast, musicians, and staff of *The Will Rogers Follies*. She has been accompanist for many Palace productions. Dee works with her husband as a dental hygienist and is a pole vault coach at Pleasant Local Schools. Dee and Brian enjoy visiting Jonathan and Elyse in Nashville and Christopher, Andrea, Grayson, and Ella Grace in Louisiana.



BARB YAKSIC (Stage Manager)

Barb is once again thrilled to be a part of the Palace Theatre's summer musical. Barb has been actively involved with Palace productions for over 20 years! She would like to thank her entire family for all their patience and support. She wants to give a special shout out to her favorite Ziegfeld Follie and favorite granddaughter, Katelyn! I'm so proud of you! To the cast and crew, have a wonderful show! You've earned it!



RHONDA ARNOLD (Assistant Stage Manager)

Rhonda has enjoyed being backstage since 2007. She has done many shows here at the Palace and enjoys working with the talented people that have graced its stage. When not here at the Palace, she is working at Mathews Ford of Marion, and helps her husband with his business Nuthin Fancy Signs and Designs. Thanks to my family for their love and support. To the cast and crew BREAK-A-LEG!



Six Single Sisters

Pictured L-R: Danielle Knight, Sara Grote, Sadie Wink, Addy Baird, Sarah Perkins, Delaney Tabbert

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Pictured L-R: Brady Wink, Carter Rawlins, Justin Adams, Bishop Oldfield



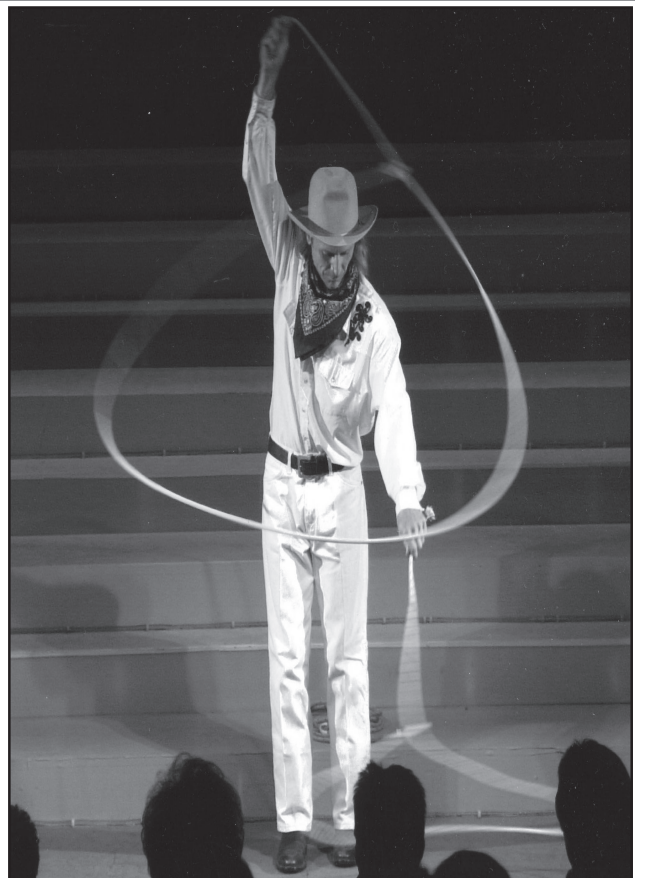
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Savannah, Sally,
Ryan & Matthew



*Congratulations, Sarah!
We are so proud of all
your hard work!
Love, Mom & Dad*



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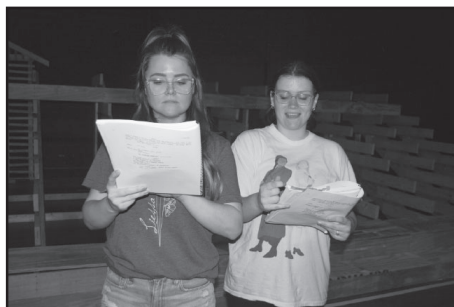
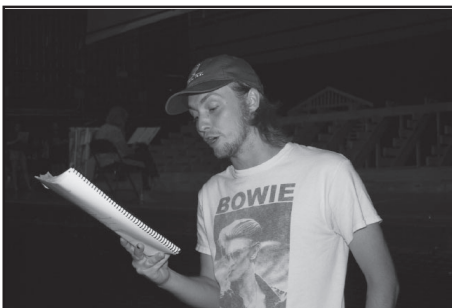
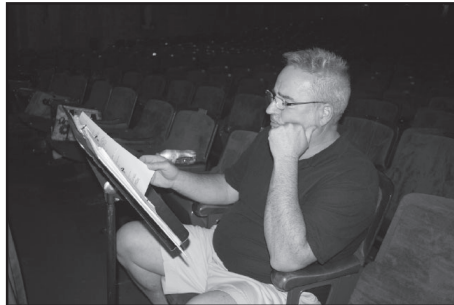
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Rogers Children

Pictured L-R: Madeleine Rawlins, Brooklyn Wallace, Oliver Schwartz

Not Pictured: Matthew Stover

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Follies Girls

Back Row L-R: Macyn Danals, Delaney Tabbert, Ashley Watkins, Amanda Zucker
 Middle Row L-R: Sara Grote, Ki Walter, Olivia Brazell, Danielle Knight, Abigail Bennett, Katelyn Wicker
 Front Row L-R: Ellie Bush, Dana Congrove, Olivia Davis, Sadie Wink, Addy Baird, Sarah Perkins, Madi Blankenship, Kim Bradshaw



Will Rogers



**HOORAY for my FAVORITE
 Ziegfeld Follie, Katelyn!
 You're so full of SPIRIT &
 SPUNK! Keep smiling big &
 keep chasing those dreams!**

**Love,
 Auntie**

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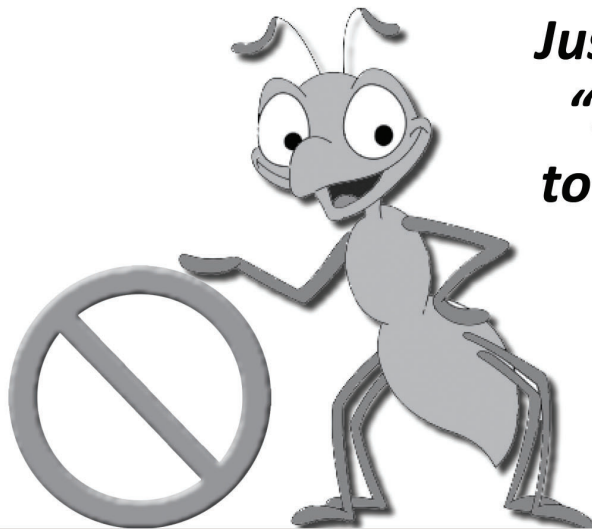
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Director.....	Clare Cooke
Asst. Director/Choreographer.....	Kristi Wink
Vocal Director.....	Jami Rawlins
Orchestra Conductor.....	Rick Baird
Rehearsal & Orchestra Accompanist.....	Dee Ehrman
Dance Captain.....	Olivia Brazell
Costume Director.....	Susan Wenig
Set Construction.....	Mike Andrews Construction Co.
Set Pieces Construction.....	Jimmy Cunningham Mark Watkins, Matt Yaksic
Stage Manager.....	Barb Yaksic
Asst. Stage Manager.....	Rhonda Arnold
Light Design/Sound Design.....	Alex Kerns
Light Design/Operation.....	Kyra Conkright
Spotlight Operators.....	Tom Lowry, Steve Bentley
Sound Assistants.....	Jeff Bowling, Mark Meginness
Pin Rail Operators.....	Jeff Bowling, Mike Kundrat
Photography/Video Support.....	Joe Wink
Props Mistress.....	Joy Watkins
Set Art Work.....	Audrey Watkins, Joy Watkins
Set Painting.....	Joy Watkins, Audrey Watkins, Barb Yaksic, Rhonda Arnold Justin Adams, Mitch Hutchman, Brady Wink Tanner Wink, Dustin Rawlins, Bishop Oldfield
Stage Crew.....	Ralph Hill, Mitchell Hutchman Roxanne Sullivan, Ryan Swartz
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Will Rogers

1879-1935

After performing in Wild West shows as a young man, Will Rogers broke into vaudeville and then Broadway. His folksy wit and common-sense attitude made him one of the most famous actors and authors in the world in the 1920's and '30s.

Rogers was born on November 4, 1879, in present-day Oologah, Oklahoma — then part of Indian territory. Rogers grew up in a ranching family. Himself part Cherokee, Rogers socialized with both Indigenous peoples and Anglo-American settlers in the immediate area. He left Oklahoma as a teenager, eventually finding work in the traveling Wild West shows popular at the time.

In 1905, Rogers began performing a lasso act on the vaudeville circuit. His charm and humor, along with his technical ability, made Rogers a star. Audiences responded with enthusiasm to his off-the-cuff remarks delivered while performing elaborate roping tricks.

Rogers parlayed his vaudeville success into a Broadway career. He debuted in New York in 1916, performing in *The Wall Street Girl*. This led to many more theatrical roles, including headlining appearances in the Ziegfeld Follies. Rogers also brought his act to the burgeoning medium of the moving picture. He appeared in dozens of silent films, often playing a country bumpkin trying to negotiate the modern world.

In addition to acting, Rogers became nationally known as a writer. He penned a column for the *Saturday Evening Post* that ran in newspapers across the country. His column dealt with contemporary issues from a perspective of small-town morality, emphasizing the integrity of working people. It was a viewpoint that resonated in the rapidly industrializing twentieth-century United States. Many of his books, including *The Cowboy Philosopher on Prohibition* and *There's Not a Bathing Suit in Russia*, achieved best-seller status.

Rogers' fame had eclipsed his country bumpkin persona by 1930. No longer believable as an uneducated outsider, he was able to voice his characteristic wit and wisdom while playing a professional. Legendary director John Ford worked with Rogers on three of these later films—*Doctor Bull*, *Judge Priest*, and *The Steamboat Round the Bend*. After filming concluded on the final Ford film, in 1935, Rogers set out on a trip to Alaska. An avid aviation enthusiast, he planned to explore remote stretches by plane as well as on foot.

On August 15, 1935, the plane carrying Rogers crashed in Point Barrow, Alaska. He died on impact. Millions across the country mourned the sudden silencing of a quintessentially American voice.

In 1991, a Broadway show based on Rogers brought renewed attention to his life and humor. *The Will Rogers Follies*, starring Keith Carradine, focused on Rogers' performances as a headliner of the Ziegfeld Follies. The show won several Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Musical Score, and Best Direction.

Article from: Biography.com Editors. (2021, April 19). Will Rogers. Biography.com. Retrieved June 20, 2022, from <https://www.biography.com/performer/will-rogers>

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