



BYU Department of
Theatre and Media Arts

The World's Strongest Librarian

Book By Josh Hanagarne

Adapted By
Jeff Gottesfeld &
Elizabeth Wong

Young
Company



BYU COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND MEDIA ARTS
YOUNG COMPANY

THE WORLD'S STRONGEST LIBRARIAN

Based on the book by

Josh Hanagarne

Adapted by

Jeff Gottesfeld and Elizabeth Wong

Scenic Design
Jennifer Reed

Costume, Makeup & Hair Design
Dennis Wright

Dramaturgy
Greta Gebhard

Production Stage Management
Taylor Ballard

Directed By

Adam Houghton

Sept. 28–29, Oct. 4–5 & 10–13, 2018
Nelke Theatre

Please join our cast and dramaturg to briefly meet the company
immediately following each performance.

Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices.
Photography, video and/or audio recording, and texting are forbidden during the performance.

CHARACTER & CAST LIST (in order of appearance)

Josh

Tommy Kindall

Peyton

Natalie Herbst

Bobby

Ty Hawton

Quintessence

Martha Harris

Miss Garcia

Michelle Adams

Bruce

Daniel Barton



STAFF FOR *THE WORLD'S STRONGEST LIBRARIAN*

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 Artistic Director Megan Sanborn Jones
 Design and Technology Area Head Michael S. Kraczek
 Theatre Production Manager Jennifer Reed

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 Creative Services Manager Ty Davis
 Poster Designer Nick Mendoza
 Program Designer Avia Lewis

MEET THE CAST

Michelle Adams
Miss Garcia

From Pasco, Washington, Michelle is a junior studying theatre with a minor in psychology. Recent credits include Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*. Her free time is filled with singing and reading piles of books.

Daniel Barton
Bruce

From Syracuse, Utah, Daniel is a senior studying theatre education. Recent credits include lighting designer for *Romeo y Julieta* and master electrician for *Into the Woods*, *Argonautika*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Charlotte's Web*. He was also recently seen as The Boy/puppeteer in *One Dark Night* and the fox puppeteer in *The Ice Bear* for the BYU Mask Club Series. He's excited to be playing a real boy now... sort of.

Martha Harris
Quintessence

From Portland, Oregon, Martha is a sophomore in the pre-acting program. Recent credits include The Doctor in *Middletown* at the Oregon State Thespian Festival and Cassandra in *Agamemnon* at Sunset High. She was a showcase finalist for the Oregon Acting Competition and a select playwright for the Portland Center Stage Visions and Voice's Showcase. She is excited to be making her mainstage debut at BYU in this production.

Ty Hawton
Bobby

From Roseville, Minnesota, Ty Hawton is a sophomore who is still deciding what to study. Recent credits include Henner in a BYU Mask Club production of *The Snow Queen* and Teen Ensemble in *Bye Bye Birdie* at the Scera Shell Theater. He never participated in theater in high school but fell in love with it after taking an introduction to theater class at BYU.

Natalie Herbst
Peyton

From Charlotte, North Carolina, Natalie Herbst is a sophomore pursuing a career in acting. Some of her favorite past roles include Urleen in *Footloose* and Clairee Belcher in *Steel Magnolias*, both at Weddington High School. She is thrilled to be making her BYU debut in *The World's Strongest Librarian*.

Tommy Kindall
Josh Hanagarne

From Ellington, Connecticut, Tommy is a senior studying psychology with a minor in theatre arts studies. Recent credits include Hercules/King Aetetes in *Argonautika* and King Duncan in *Macbeth* at BYU. He has been changed forever by *The World's Strongest Librarian* because it emphasizes his love of books and his discovery of physical fitness; he is really inspired by Josh Hanagarne and is honored to play him on stage. Tommy loves his family very much and hopes to make them proud.

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Julia Ashworth
**Young Company
Artistic Director**

Julia Ashworth is an associate teaching professor in the Theatre and Media Arts Department at BYU. Her duties at BYU include serving as artistic director for Young Company (BYU's theatre for young audiences touring group) and acting as area head for the Theatre Arts Education K-12 program. Recent directing credits include *The Taste of Sunrise*, for which she was awarded the 2017 Good Samaritan Grant from BYU's University Accessibility Center, and last year's *Romeo Y Julieta* for Young Company.

Taylor Ballard
**Production Stage
Manager**

From Brandon, Mississippi, Taylor Ballard is a junior studying theatre arts studies. Recent credits include assistant stage manager for *Living On Love* at Peninsula Players, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, and *Miracle On 34th Street* at The SCERA. Her BYU credits include assistant stage manager for the 2017 fall opera and for the upcoming production of *Wonderland*. This is her first show as production stage manager at BYU and she is looking forward to touring for the first time.

Greta Gebhard
Dramaturg

From Grand Junction, Colorado, Greta is a senior studying dramaturgy with a double major in German studies. Recent dramaturgy credits include *Scotch & Soda* at the CHAMÅLEON Theatre in Berlin, *Mary Stuart* at BYU, and *The Nerd* at the Covey Center for the Arts.

Adam Houghton
Director

Adam joined the faculty at BYU in 2016 after teaching at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University for thirteen years. Last summer he and a group of students traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to present the play *Legend for Witkacy* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The play was created in response to the writings of Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, and it was a significant experience of research and creative work. On BYU campus, Adam directed *The Mill on the Floss* by Helen Edmundson, adapted from the novel by George Eliot, which played in November 2017. Adam had many life-changing experiences as an undergraduate student at BYU, and he is grateful now to be part of those kinds of experiences in the lives of his students.

Jennifer Reed
Set Designer

Jennifer is the Production Manager for BYU Theatre and also teaches stage management in the Theatre and Media Arts Department. In her spare time, she likes to design small sets and has done work as a stylist for commercials and print. The last set she designed for BYU was the Young Company's *Water Sings Blue*.

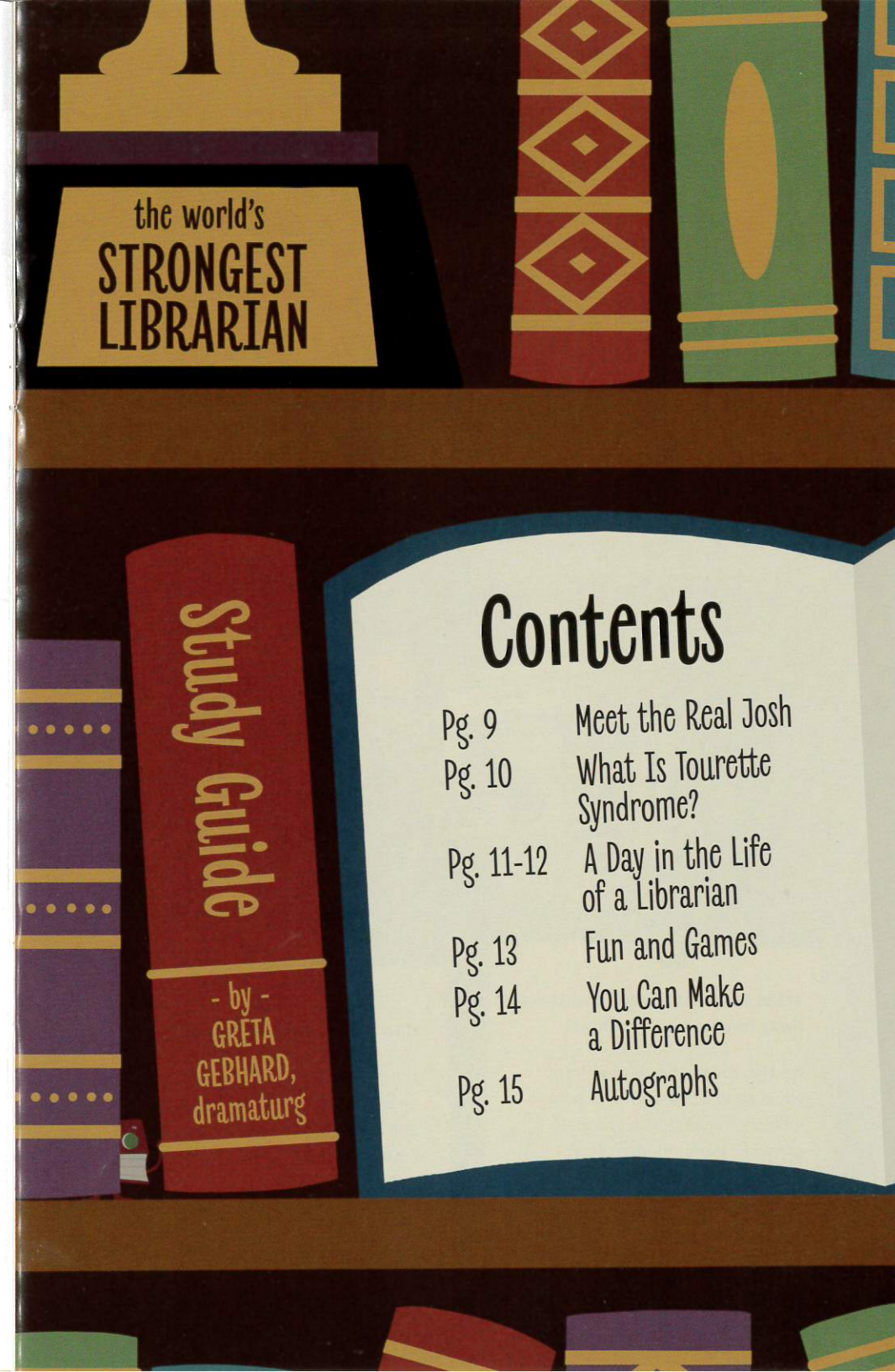
MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM, CONT.

Rebeca Wallin
Young Company
Manager

From Orem, Utah, Rebeca enjoys her work as managing director of Young Company and has fun with her husband, Joel, running a "Shakespeare for Kids" program during the summer at the Orem Library. She has three children who are growing up on Young Company theatre.

Dennis Wright
Costume Designer

A Provo native, Dennis is starting his third year as a professor in the Theatre and Media Arts Department. He holds a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in clothing and textiles with a minor in theatre arts. Dennis also earned a master of fine arts degree from Boston University in theatrical costume design. He spent ten years as a costumer, costume designer, and project manager with Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. While there he designed character costumes, attraction uniforms, and contributed to multiple live stage productions. Recent credits include BYU productions of *Chariots of Fire* and *Into the Woods* as well as Sundance Summer Theatre's production of *Oklahoma!* Dennis has designed costumes for productions at Pioneer Theater Company, Jackson Hole Playhouse, American Repertory Theatre, The Barn Theater, The Scera Shell, and Signature Productions in Las Vegas.



Meet the Real Josh

An interview with
dramaturg Greta Gebhard

Josh Hanagarne is a father, librarian, author, and weight lifter currently living and working in Salt Lake City. His memoir, *The World's Strongest Librarian*, was the inspiration material for this new play written by Jeff Gottesfeld and Elizabeth Wong.

How do you feel about having your book be an inspiration for a play?

That's a great question that I still don't know how to answer. Ask me again after I see it!

What is your favorite part about being a librarian?

I love that I can learn something new every day. The job is constantly surprising.



What do you hope people will take away from seeing this show?

It's the same hope I always have when people engage with a book, a film, a conversation, or a piece of music: I want them to have something new to think about and new questions to ask.

How did you come to be a librarian?

I chose to work in libraries because I knew it would be a pressure cooker and a test for someone with Tourette's. I was right, but it's still one of the best choices I ever made.

What Is Tourette Syndrome?

This play introduces a character, Bruce, who has what's called Tourette Syndrome. It's also commonly known as Tourette's. According to the Mayo Clinic, "Tourette (too-RET) syndrome is a disorder that involves repetitive movements or unwanted sounds (tics) that can't be easily controlled. For instance, you might repeatedly blink your eyes, shrug your shoulders or blurt out unusual sounds." This disorder can make it hard to do things like sitting still or paying attention. All of these are things that Bruce struggles with in the play, and Josh tries to help him better understand Tourette's and how to work with it.

Just like this character, we all have pieces of ourselves that make life more difficult. Some people struggle with feeling sad all the time. Other people get really nervous when they're around big groups of people. Some people have a hard time motivating themselves to get things done. Whatever the case may be, these are all things that we can improve on, working with others and supporting each other.

What are things that you have been able to overcome in the past?

A Day in the Life of a Librarian

This is Joella! She works as a librarian at the Provo City Library, and she's going to show us a day at the library.

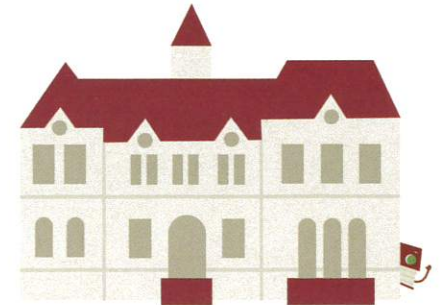
The first thing I do at the library is check my email—there's always so much to organize.

Then I get to go to my favorite section of the library—the picture book section. There are just so many good books there! This is where I find my current favorite book: *After the Fall* by Dan Santat.

My favorite part of working at the library is helping children find a new favorite book that they are excited to read. But it can be difficult to remember all of the books I could recommend when I'm put on the spot.



The library is a place that I love. I want everyone to come here and feel safe and free to explore whatever interests them!



Every spring, we have a special event called the Children's Book Festival, and we take the opportunity to celebrate all the books and authors that children like. We sometimes even get the authors to come visit our library!

Our library has a lot of reading programs like the Fairy Tea Party, Big Guy Little Guy, and the NEW Tween Academy. All of these are great ways for kids to get involved in reading.



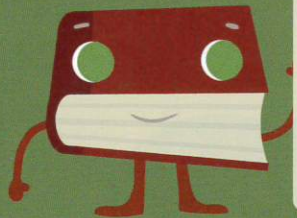
Fun and Games

This word search contains many famous children's book titles and favorite books of our cast members. Perhaps you have even read some of them. The word bank lists 15 of the book titles, but there are 7 bonus books not listed. Find as many as you can and maybe get some inspiration for your next visit the to library!

D O C R G T M M A T I L D A C Q S C
O C X R N O G A R E R E G W L P H W
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WORD BANK:

BUD NOT BUDDY
BUNNICULA
ENDER'S GAME
ERAGON
ESPERANZA RISING
FABLEHAVEN
HOLES
JUNIE B JONES
LOVE RUBY LAVENDER
MAGIC TREE HOUSE
MANIAC MAGEE
RETURN TO SENDER
SHOOTING KABUL
STUART LITTLE
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
WALK TWO MOONS



BOOKS TO READ:

Hi kids! I'm Bobby Bookworm, and I've been hiding on every page of the study guide. Bet you can't find me! Use this space to write down the books you've read from the word search or books you might want to read in the future.

You Can Make a Difference



Kids all over the world are doing things to help their communities come together.

CNN recently posted a story about a group of kids aiming to change the name of a flavor of ice cream in order to make it more inclusive. Read more about their story here (<https://cnn.it/2M6PG6i>).

Other examples include kids starting food drives, visiting people in the hospital, and helping raise awareness of issues in their community (<https://bit.ly/2OxYZxK>).

You can even make a difference with small acts. Here are three simple ways that you can make a difference in your life and in the lives of the people around you.

1. **Read!** Reading gives you the chance to step into someone else's life and empathize with their experiences.
2. **Serve!** There's always someone around you who could use a smile or a kind word, and your small action could make the biggest difference for them.
3. **Listen!** You change the world when you change your mind and discover new ideas.

I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.
-J. K. Rowling



Autographs!

Come meet the cast after the show and get their autographs!
You can even tell them your favorite book!

The World's Strongest Librarian

by Josh Hanagarne



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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College Theater Festival™ 49

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Education and related artistic programs are made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants, and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction, and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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