

EMMA

by Kate Hamill
based on the novel by **Jane Austen**

February 20 - March 8, 2026

TWIN CITY  **PLAYERS**

600 W. GLENLORD RD., ST. JOSEPH, MI
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EMMA

by Kate Hamill

based on the novel by **Jane Austen**

*Originally commissioned and produced by
Guthrie Theater, Joseph Haj, Director*

*Emma is presented through special arrangement with
TRW PLAYS 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640,
New York, NY 10036*

**A Two-Act Play
with 15-minute Intermission**

Settings / Time

*Hartfield (the home of Emma Woodhouse and her father),
a country estate, a ballroom, and the Bates's chintzy apartment*

Highbury, England, in the early 19th Century

And also here, at Twin City Players, right now, today

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Jane Austen's *Emma* is a clever comedy about manners, matchmaking, and misunderstandings. This adaptation of *Emma*, written by playwright Kate Hamill, maintains the heart of Austen's story while supercharging its silliness. The jokes are big, the mistakes are bigger, and the chaos is part of the fun.

This production resides in the Regency era with period-appropriate costumes, settings, and ballroom dancing. However, the story is updated through its language, current ideas, breaking of the fourth wall, and playful anachronisms. Watch closely and you may see a Red Solo Cup at a party, a lady wearing sneakers under her dress, or a ballroom dance that includes the Dougie.

Our goal was to pay homage to the source material while also illustrating that, 211 years after the eponymous novel was first released, love still has its own agenda. The themes of this script and the feelings of these characters are still relevant and relatable today.

Whether you're an Austen aficionado or a novice to her novels, it is our hope that this performance pulls at your heartstrings and tickles your funny bone.

I'd like to thank the Board of Directors at Twin City Players for employing their own matchmaking skills, which paired our first-time directing team with this production. I must also recognize the talented, dedicated, and fun individuals that brought this show to life onstage and off. Working with them has been a great privilege. To paraphrase a quote from our titular character, "If I loved them less, I might be able to talk about it more."

Director Joe Daniel

CAST

EMMA WOODHOUSE.....	Caitlin Sampsell
FRANK CHURCHILL/ROBERT MARTIN.....	Jorin Tabbert
GEORGE KNIGHTLEY.....	Allen Pille
HARRIET SMITH.....	Kelsey Trux
JANE FAIRFAX.....	Katrina Wentzel
MISS BATES.....	Christy Sloan
MR. ELTON.....	Kyle Kringle
MR. WESTON.....	William Voit
MR. WOODHOUSE.....	Pete Thomasson
MRS. BATES.....	Peggy Harrington
MRS. ELTON.....	Nicole Kaminski-Phillips
MRS. WESTON.....	Cassidy Vlietstra

CREW

DIRECTOR.....	Joe Daniel
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/PROPS.....	Kaley Schmidt
TECH DIRECTOR.....	Scott Bradford
COSTUMERS.....	Barb Stepka, Reta Trux
STAGE MANAGER.....	Anastasia Field
CHOREOGRAPHER.....	Avery Saylor
STAGE CREW.....	Mikayla Mennito
SOUND TECH.....	Liam Diefenbach
INTIMACY COORDINATOR.....	Cassidy Vlietstra
LEAD SET BUILD.....	John Taylor
SET BUILD.....	Aaron Rennhack
SET PAINTER.....	Cindy Jakeway
PROMPTER.....	Johnna Bither
LOBBY BOARD.....	Kaley Schmidt
MARKETING.....	Kim Kidd
SPECIAL THANKS.....	Della Sampsell, Graham Sampsell, Alex Schmidt, Chris Schmidt, Loralie Schmidt, Maikaila Schmidt, Oliver Trux

AUTHOR

Kate Hamill is an actor & playwright. Kate has been one of the most-produced playwrights in America from 2017-2023 and is the most-produced playwright in the country for 2024/25 (tied with Rajiv Joseph). Wall Street Journal Playwright of the Year, 2017; Einhorn Award, 2023. Plays include *Pride & Prejudice* at Primary Stages / HVSF (originated role of Lizzy; nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award), *Sense & Sensibility* at Bedlam (originated role of Marianne; winner, Off-Broadway Alliance Award; nominee, Drama League Award); *Vanity Fair* at the Pearl (originated Becky; nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award), *The Light and the Dark* (the Life and Times of Artemisia Gentileschi) at CTC / Primary Stages (originated Artemisia), *The Odyssey* at A.R.T., Mansfield Park at Northlight, *Little Women* at Primary Stages & the Jungle, *Dracula* at Classic Stage Company (originated Renfield), *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson* – Apt. 2B at KCRep, *The Little Fellow* (or: the Queen of Tarts Tells All) at Cygnet Theatre, *Emma* at the Guthrie; *BadAssGalBoss* at Primary Stages; *The Scarlet Letter* at Two River. Other plays include *Scrooge* for Senate; *The Piper* (O'Neill Finalist, PlayPenn Fellow), *In the Mines* (Sundance Finalist), and *Murder Play* (or: *The Aristocrats!*). www.kate-hamill.com

HOME,
I'M DARLING
BY LAURA WADE

APRIL 17 - MAY 3, 2026

Cast & Crew Bios

Anastasia Field (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be stage manager for this production! This is her fifth production as SM and sixth show in total at TCP. She is grateful to Joe and Kaley for the chance to work with them and this amazing cast and crew! She sends her love and thanks to her family for letting her have the time away from them to do what she loves and to friends for coming to see the show!

Peggy Harrington (Mrs. Bates) MARR MARR! You've seen me wearing the director's hat or playing the boot-wearing calf-roping Jimmy Wy in *Red Velvet Cake Wars*. Now, she's finally playing herself, an old lady who just doesn't give a darn! Thanks Joe and Kaley for letting me be a part of this fun show.

Nicole Kaminski-Phillips (Mrs. Elton) is delighted to return to the TCP stage as the insufferable Mrs. Elton. After recent performances in *Something Rotten!* and *Anastasia*, she is excited for her first non-musical performance on stage. Huge thanks to her friends and family - especially her husband, Michael - for supporting her and to the audience for indulging her cackles!

Allen Pille (George Knightley) is back in his element playing a man with a British accent. It has been over a year since he played Giles in *The Mousetrap*. This is his second time playing a Jane Austen character having played Mr. Bingley in *Christmas at Pemberley*. He has had a great time working with this cast and crew to put on such a fun and witty show.

Caitlin Sampsell (Emma Woodhouse) is ecstatic to be back on stage at TCP as Emma after multiple years behind the scenes and in the tech booth. She was most recently seen on stage as a Phantom/Transylvanian in *Rocky Horror* at GhostLight; other past roles include Mona Lipschitz (*Chicago*) and Annie Jump Cannon (*Silent Sky*) at TCP. Caitlin loves the magic and connection of theatre. Special thanks to her husband and kiddos for allowing mom to be at the theatre so much.

Kaley Schmidt (Assistant Director/Props) says being a first time AD for Emma has been the utmost honor and privilege. Kindness, hilarity, and sobering awe describe not only this transcendent cast, but also her partner in crime, Mr. Director Joe Daniel. Kaley could never express - at least not within her word limit - everything the TCP community gives her, but good luck getting rid of her now! Endless thanks to her Honey Buns and borderline feral children, Alex, Makaila, Loralie, and her most favorite child, Rori. SSDGM.

Cast & Crew Bios *cont.*

Christine Sloan (Miss Bates) is delighted to be playing the role of Miss Bates. When not on stage, she works at Lakeshore High School as an English teacher, so an Austen adaptation was irresistible. Thanks to an amazing, hilarious cast, our talented crew, and everyone behind the scenes who make TCP such a great place to be. She is grateful to Lloyd and their fur babies for their patience with all the missed walks and dinners.

Jorin Tabbert (Frank Churchill/Robert Martin) is a senior at Lakeshore High School and just finished his final HS production. You've probably seen him in TCP and GhostLight productions like *Baskerville*, *Young Frankenstein*, *RENT*, and *A Measure of Cruelty* among others. He would like to thank everyone for their support, especially his parents, the Blakes, and his friends who have helped him through this game of life. He hopes you enjoy the show, the dancing, and the wonderful cast and crew of *Emma*.

Pete Thomasson (Mr. Woodhouse) is delighted to make his first appearance with the Twin City Players, having recently relocated here from Asheville, N.C., where he performed with the Autumn Players in staged readings such as *The Birds*, *God's Favorite*, *Last Night at Ballyhoo*, *My Three Angels*, and Canadian playwright Norm Foster's *Office Hours*. He also directed *Morning's at Seven* and Norm's new comedy, *Bridge Narrows*. Thanks, Joe & Kaley!

Cassidy Vlietstra (Mrs. Weston) is thrilled to be performing in *Emma*! Although usually seen on the directing team at TCP (Director of *Anastasia!*, AD for *Something Rotten!*), she also appeared in *Red Velvet Cake Wars*. When not at TCP, Cassidy works at The Drama Spot and Fusion Center for Dance - the arts are her life! She would like to thank her husband, Camden, for supporting her passions and her daughter, Quinn, for listening to her practice her British accent and being her inspiration. Enjoy the show!

William Voit (Mr. Weston) began his theatre journey as a stagehand for *Chicago* (2017) before portraying Ben Weatherstaff in *The Secret Garden* (2018) at Southwestern Michigan College. In 2025, he appeared as Speed in *The Odd Couple* and Pierre Marceau in *Murdered to Death* at the Beckwith Theatre. He's delighted to be debuting at TCP as Mr. Weston, and thanks the Director, Assistant Director, cast, crew, and family, believing that good company and a steadfast heart keep us On the Sunny Side of the Street.

Katrina Wentzel (Jane Fairfax) This is Katrina's third production with TCP, having previously played Eleanor in *Sense and Sensibility* and the Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol*. She is thankful to Kristine Angers for encouraging her to audition. She is grateful to everyone who helped with rides to and from practices due to the weather and flat tires.

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