

The history of Theatre33 starts in the fall of 1999. Pat Carter had been the director of the WNHS Drama Club, and had decided to step down in the spring of 1999 to allow his assistant, Amy Hague (Dreibelbis) to become the head director and sponsor.

During the summer of 1999 Hague-Dreibelbis cleaned, sorted, purged, organized and prepared for a fresh start. From the very beginning, the sponsor and the students agreed they were more than a Drama Club – we are a Theatre company. Over 50 names were submitted in a contest to name the organization, there was a vote to narrow it down to top 20, and then top 10 and then top three. The winning name, Theatre33 was submitted by one of Hague-Dreibelbis's former high school directors, Cathy Knopp. The name is an allusion to Studio54, a Broadway theatre, and references US Highway 33.

The first production of Theatre33 was “Those Wild West Women” written by Tony Howell, Hague-Dreibelbis's other high school director, and was performed in November 1999. Choral Director Karena Wilkinson came to WNHS in 1999, and Co-Directed “Once Upon a Mattress” in January of 2000 with Dreibelbis.

The third part of the Theatre33 Triad of Directors, Cliff Schwartz, came to WNHS in the fall of 2004 and began co-directing with “M\*A\*S\*H” in February of 2005. The team of Schwartz and Dreibelbis continued to work collaboratively with focus on set design and directing for the former and costumes and publicity for the latter. Schwartz, a Wawasee graduate, moved to Minneapolis, MN in 2015.

In 2013, Megan Murphy was Music Director for “Aida”, and Justin Lortie was music director in 2014 for “Annie” through 2024 with our production “Addams Family.” Music teacher Chris Douglas directed the 2025 musical, “Annie Get Your Gun.” Nic Weimer, a 2015 WNHS and T33 graduate, joined the Dreibelbis Directing team with his debut show, “Little Shop of Horrors.

Then, in 2025, Dreibelbis, much like Pat Carter back in '99, decided that it was time to pursue new and exciting ventures at Central Noble with her old high school Theatre Director, Tony Howell, leaving Theatre33 in the capable hands of a new generation of directors. Nicholas Weimer, formerly Assistant Director, would become the new Head Director of Theatre33, along with two new Assistant Directors. Isaac Porter, a 2020 WNHS and T33 grad, and Madelyn Hosford, who had previously done the choreography for “Annie Get Your Gun,” would be the two new Assistant Directors, forming, along with Weimer, a new Triad of Directors. Along with the new directors T33 would also introduce a new student Production team replacing the old T33 government. And to lead our new production team “Porter” introduced “CORE Production” who would be a team of student directors that work directly with the main directors to develop and create the show. The First members of CORE were Addison Armstrong (Costume Director), Matty Armstrong (Creative Director), Dylan Silva (Tech Director), and Abigail Ruch (Prop Director). Along with these new directors we also introduced our first legitimate Stage Manager Emily Hubart.

Near the end of the 2025-2026 School Year Nic Weimer would step down as Head Director for Theatre33 and would allow former Music Director and Assistant Director Isaac Porter to become Head Director. With this change in guard would also come new changes for Theatre33 as a whole, along with the renovations WNHS admin would also make “Porter” the first Official Theatre33 sponsor in a move that would allow him to have a team of Head Directors while also maintaining operational and creative control of the program. This allows T33 to do more shows and to expand into other forms of theatre and community outreach with less risk. Along with these organizational changes Porter would also hire on more asst. Directors. Joining Porter and Hosford for the 2026-2027 season includes Jeremy and Madison Phillips, former T33 and WN alumni, Madison will serve as asst. Director and help with Choreo, and teaching Stage Management to our new student stage manager. And Jeremy will help coordinate our growing Tech Theatre with Student Tech Director Dylan Silva. And along with these new asst. Directors we also have introduced our first of hopefully many volunteer directors with our first volunteer director being Victoria Storms a 2026 WN grad.

Over the years, the Theatre33 facilities have evolved and grown. In 2007, Theatre33 initiated a renovation of the auditoria by offering to paint the orange and brown striped walls to match the blue curtain. In 2008, WNHS underwent a major addition; the current kitchen was renovated as well as the rest of the walls of the auditoria were refinished. Over spring break of 2008, the old red seats were removed

and new flooring was installed. New blue seats were installed and a new tech booth was built in 2009. New speakers and curtains were acquired in 2009. Theatre33 was gifted funds from the Ligonier and Cromwell Lions as well as WNHS Athletics to help purchase a new sound board in 2024.

Originally, Theatre33 had all of our props and costumes in the current prop room and our tech equipment and furniture in the current marching band storage room. In the fall of 2008, the small closet up stage right became available; Theatre33 acquired this space for hair and make-up supplies as well as breakable props. This room is known as the Annex. The “L” shaped attic storage room over the band room was traded for the smaller aforementioned furniture and tech storage room. This is our current costume room.

After a successful 2025-2026 season T33 began the process of clearing out and sorting around 30 years of props, costumes and material to allow for construction and renovation of our space. Our new updated space includes Dressing Rooms, A Workshop, A Costume Shop, New Storage, an Office, a refinish of the stage and a new lift for not only ADA compliance but for moving heavy set pieces and objects onto stage. During these renovations we also gained a completely new lights and sound system along with an additional tech booth.

The description of Theatre33 is more than a drama club. Theatre33 not only produces plays and musicals each year, but also participates in the school and community in various activities such as but not limited to Homecoming, Stones Trace, Marshmallow Fest, and Cromwell Days, and traveling to see shows at other schools. Past events Theatre33 members enjoyed were babysitting for teachers, Relay for Life, Kid City and car washes.. Theatre33 has taken many different shapes and forms throughout the nearly 3 decades we as a Theatre Company have been running. Who knows what the future will hold but one thing is certain, Theatre33 will be there no matter the director and no matter the students. ***Everyone. All Day. Everyday. All the Time.***