

Director: Tom Smith and Parker Brown ('25)

Music Director: Amy Boers

Choreographer: Taya Lovejoy ('25)

The Great American Songbook:

A MUSICAL REVUE

Karen Hille Phillips Center for the Performing Arts - Eastvold Auditorium

PIU | SCHOOL OF
MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR/PROPS/SOUND DESIGN.....	Tom Smith
DIRECTOR.....	Parker Brown*
MUSIC DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD.....	Amy Boers
PERCUSSION.....	Ben Hegge
CHOREOGRAPHER.....	Taya Lovejoy*
SCENIC DESIGNER.....	Amanda Sweger
COSTUME DESIGNER/COSTUME SHOP MANAGER...	Kathleen Anderson*
LIGHTING DESIGNERS.....	Marley Bjornstad*, Glen Fritz*, Jacob Viramontes*
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	Keenan Minogue
STAGE MANAGER.....	Kyla Rivera

SONGS

“Singin’ in the Rain” from *Singin’ in the Rain*, music by Nacio Herb Brown, lyrics by Arthur Freed

Soloists: **Joel Barkman, Erika LeBlanc***

Featured Dancers: **Vanessa Bassi, Presley Clark*, Jaclyn Davis, Samantha Katz***

Ensemble: **Kiana Kendall*, Joaquin Makinster, Ashley Midlo***

“All the Things You Are” from *Very Warm for May*, music by Oscar Hammerstein II, lyrics by Jerome Kern

Amy Boers

“Something to Live For”, music and lyrics by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn

Vanessa Bassi*

“Fly Me to the Moon”, music and lyrics by Bart Howard

Lillian Gundersen

“Shopping Around” from *Wish You Were Here*, music and lyrics by Harold Rome

Jaclyn Davis

“Tutti Frutti”, music and lyrics by Richard Wayne Penniman (Little Richard), lyrics by Dorothy LaBostrie

Soloist: **Joaquin Makinster**

Dancers: **Vanessa Bassi, Samantha Katz*, Ashley Midlo***

“Twistin’ the Night Away”, music and lyrics by Sam Cooke

Joaquin Makinster

SONGS

"Them There Eyes", music by Maceo Pinkard and Doris Tauber, lyrics by William Tracey

Ashley Midlo*

"Lucky to Be Me" from *On The Town*, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

Soloist: **Dominic Walker**

Dancer: **Presley Clark***

Ensemble: **Full cast**

"Unforgettable", music and lyrics by Irving Gordon

Joel Barkman, Kiana Kendall*

"La Vie en rose", music by Louiguy, lyrics by Edith Piaf, English lyrics by Mack David

Presley Clark*

****10-minute intermission****

"What a Diff'rence a Day Made (Cuando vuelva a tu lado)", music and lyrics by Maria Grever, English lyrics by Stanley Adams

Jaclyn Davis

"A Fine Romance" from *Swing Time*, music by Jerome Kern, lyrics by Dorothy Fields

Madison Ashley*

"Tennessee Waltz", music by Pee Wee King, lyrics by Redd Stewart

Ashley Midlo*

"Blame It on My Youth", music by Oscar Levant, lyrics by Edward Heyman

Kiana Kendall*

"Don't Smoke in Bed", music and lyrics by Willard Robinson

Kyra McCloud*

"Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye", music and lyrics by Cole Porter

Vanessa Bassi*

"We'll Meet Again", music and lyrics by Hughie Charles and Ross Parker

Lillian Gundersen, Madison Ashley*, Kyra McCloud*

"Dream a Little Dream of Me", music by Fabian Andre and Wilbur Schwandt, lyrics by Gus Khan

Erika LeBlanc*

* Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ), National Theater Honor Society

PRODUCTION CREW

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER.....Lauren Rigby
ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER.....Evergreen Burling*
ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER.....Addy Keller*
ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY.....Parker Brown*
TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS.....Lucille Bell, Marley Bjornstad*,
David Cope-Powell, Glen Fritz*, Alonna Hall*, Addy Keller*,
Teghan Kelley, Dorothea Koetje*, Stephania Lara, Braeden Linkenback*,
Alexander Mackenzie, Cooper Perez, Edan Reitan, Beno Sher, and the Fall
2024 Theatrical Production Class
LEAD ELECTRICIAN/LIGHTING ADVISOR.....Amanda Sweger
ELECTRICIANS.....Bailey DeLozier*, Alonna Hall*,
Dorothea Koetje*, Braeden Linkenback*, Jeremy McCarter,
Cooper Perez, Edan Reitan, Cordelia Seil*, Kody Smith*
COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANTS.....Samael Blacknell, Evergreen Burling*,
Dorothea Koetje*, Clover Laguz*, Nix Leiseth, Zivia Rich*, Beno Sher,
Monroe Torkelson*

RUNNING CREW

ASSISTANT HOUSE MANAGER.....Kody Smith*
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....Edan Reitan
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR/MIXING.....Isaac Larson
SOUND ASSISTANT.....Jeremy McCarter
SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS.....Alyssa Ketchum, Braeden Linkenback*
STAGE CREW/USHERS.....Ashton Allen, Josiah Rodriguez
WARDROBE/COSTUME CREW.....Kay Fitton*, Clover Laguz*, Beno Sher
VIDEOGRAPHER.....Marley Bjornstad*

SPECIAL THANKS...

Cameron Bennett, Dean of the College of Professional Studies;
Associate Dean Brian Galante and the School of Music,
Theatre & Dance; Patrick Brockwell; Art Giddings;
Travis Pagel; Melanie Ransom and Harlequin Productions

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

Singin' in the Rain

Nacio Herb Brown (music) was one of the most popular 1920s and 1930s film composers, known for his work in *Temptation*, *A New Moon Is Over My Shoulder*, and *Broadway Melody*. His greatest success, however, was *Singin' in the Rain* with his partner Arthur Freed.

Arthur Freed (lyrics) was a composer and famous Hollywood producer of nearly 50 films. Some of his famous pieces include "Make 'em Laugh," "All I Do Is Dream of You," and "Alone."

All the Things You Are

Jerome Kern (music) is considered one of the most important composers of musical theatre and popular music of the early twentieth century, having written more than 700 songs, including "Ol' Man River," "A Fine Romance," and "The Way You Look Tonight" among others.

Oscar Hammerstein II (lyrics) won eight Tony Awards and two Academy Awards for his music. He is best known for his collaborations with Richard Rodgers; as a duo, they wrote *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*.

Something to Live For

Duke Ellington (music and lyrics) was an American jazz pianist, composer, and leader of his jazz orchestra from 1923 through the rest of his life. At the end of the 1930s, Ellington began a nearly thirty-year collaboration with composer-arranger-pianist Billy Strayhorn, whom he called his writing and arranging companion. He was awarded a posthumous Pulitzer Prize Special Award for music in 1999.

Billy Strayhorn (music and lyrics) was an American jazz composer, pianist, lyricist, and arranger who collaborated with bandleader and composer Duke Ellington for nearly three decades. His compositions include "Take the 'A' Train", "Chelsea Bridge", "A Flower Is a Lovesome Thing", and "Lush Life".

Fly Me to the Moon

Bart Howard (music and lyrics) was an American composer and songwriter, most notably of the jazz standard "Fly Me to the Moon", which has been performed by Kaye Ballard, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson, Della Reese, Diana Krall, Paul Anka, Brenda Lee, Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee, Sia and Lady Gaga among others.

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

Shopping Around

Harold Rome (music and lyrics) was an American composer, lyricist, and writer for musical theatre whose work includes *Fanny*, *Destry Rides Again*, and *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*, in which Barbra Streisand made her Broadway debut. In 1991, Rome was presented with a special Drama Desk Award for his “distinctive contribution to musical theater”. Later that same year, he was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame.

Tutti Frutti

Richard Wayne Penniman (Little Richard) (music and lyrics), known more for his career as a singer, was a defining figure in popular music for decades. Some of his hit songs include “Long Tall Sally,” “Rip It Up,” and “Good Golly, Miss Molly.”

Dorothy LaBostrie (lyrics), best known for co-writing “Tutti Frutti,” re-wrote the song due to the original being deemed too provocative in 1955 and transformed it into a defining Rock and Roll song. Her other works include “Rich Woman,” “I Won’t Cry,” and “You Can Have My Husband But Please Don’t Mess With My Man.”

Twistin’ the Night Away

Sam Cooke (music and lyrics), one of the most influential Soul artists, found acclaim for his R&B, Gospel, and of course, Soul music. Some of his hits include “Another Saturday Night,” “Cupid,” and “A Change Is Gonna Come.”

Them There Eyes

Maceo Pinkard (music), a music publisher and composer, had various hits and popularity during the 1920s. Some of his songs include “Sugar,” “Gimmie a Little Kiss, Will Ya Huh?” and “At Twilight.”

Doris Tauber (music), a composer, along with vocalist, pianist, and arranger, was famous for her work in both “Them There Eyes” and “Drinking Again.”

William Tracey (lyrics) started his career as a staffer for publishing companies, and eventually through his work with composers became a lyricist. Some of his popular works include “I’m Walkin’ On Air,” “At Twilight,” and “It’s Too Late Now.”

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

Lucky to Be Me

Leonard Bernstein (music) was an American conductor, composer, pianist, music educator, and author. Considered to be one of the most important conductors of his time, he was the first American-born conductor to receive international acclaim. His work includes *West Side Story*, *On the Town* and *Candide*.

Betty Comden (lyrics) was an American lyricist, playwright, and screenwriter who contributed to numerous Hollywood musicals and Broadway shows of the mid-20th century. Her writing partnership with Adolph Green spanned six decades: the longest running creative partnership in theatre history.

Adolph Green (lyrics) was an American lyricist and playwright who, with long-time collaborator Betty Comden, penned the screenplays and songs for musicals on Broadway and in Hollywood including *Peter Pan*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, and *Bells are Ringing*.

Unforgettable

Irving Gordon (music and lyrics) was a renowned composer who won a Grammy Award when Natalie Cole re-recorded her father Nat King Cole's rendition of "Unforgettable." His other works include "Mama from the Train," "Allentown Jail," and "Two Brothers."

La Vie en rose

Louiguy (music), a pen name for Louis Guglielmi, was a Spanish-born French musician of Italian descent. He studied music at the Conservatoire de Paris and created almost three dozen scores for films such as *City of Hope*, *Toâ*, and *Verdict*.

Édith Piaf (lyrics) was a French entertainer best known for performing songs in the cabaret and modern chanson genres. She is widely regarded as France's greatest popular singer and one of the most celebrated performers of the 20th century.

Mack David (English lyrics) was an American lyricist and songwriter, best known for his work in film and television, and credited with writing lyrics or music or both for over one thousand songs. He was particularly well known for his work on the Disney films *Cinderella* and *Alice in Wonderland*.

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

What a Diff'rence a Day Made (Cuando vuelva a tu lado)

Maria Grever (music and lyrics) was the first Mexican woman composer to achieve international acclaim. She studied music in France, with Claude Debussy and Franz Lenhard among her teachers, and wrote more than 1000 songs. She once said: "I had to leave my country, and now in New York, I am interested in Jazz and Modern Rhythms, but above all, in Mexican Music... there is such a cultural richness in Mexican Music where melody and rhythm merge."

Stanley Adams (English lyrics) was an American lyricist and songwriter. He wrote the English lyrics for "What a Diff'rence a Day Made" (sometimes sung as "What a Diff'rence a Day Makes") and for "La Cucaracha." Adams was the president of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) between 1953-1956 and again from 1959 until 1980.

A Fine Romance

Jerome Kern (music) is considered one of the most important composers of musical theatre and popular music of the early twentieth century, having written more than 700 songs including "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "Long Ago (and Far Away)," and "The Song is You" among others.

Dorothy Fields (lyrics) is a lyricist and librettist who was among Tin Pan Alley and Hollywood's most successful female songwriters. Her songs include "I'm in the Mood for Love," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," and "Big Spender."

Tennessee Waltz

Pee Wee King (music) was a songwriter who served on the board of the Country Music Hall of Fame and is credited with bringing the musicians union to the Grand Ole Opry. He wrote or co-wrote more than 400 songs and became one of the charter members of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Redd Stewart (lyrics) was a songwriter who collaborated with Pee Wee King to write many top 10 country music hits including "When Love Dies Where Does it Go," "You Belong to Me" and "Tennessee Waltz," which was proclaimed by Governor Frank Clement in 1965 as the Tennessee state song.

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

Blame it on my Youth

Oscar Levant (music) was an American concert pianist, composer, conductor, author, radio game show panelist, television talk show host, comedian, and actor. A play about his life, *Good Night, Oscar*, appeared on Broadway in 2023.

Edward Heyman (lyrics) was a lyricist and producer, best known for his lyrics to "Body and Soul", "When I Fall in Love", and "For Sentimental Reasons". In 1975, he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1975.

Don't Smoke in Bed

Willard Robison (music and lyrics) was an American vocalist, pianist, and composer of popular songs, including "A Cottage for Sale", "Round My Old Deserted Farm", "Don't Smoke in Bed", "Taint So, Honey, 'Taint So" and "Old Folks". In 1926-27, he recorded a series of eight jazz songs under the name "American Suite."

Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye

Cole Porter (music and lyrics) was an American composer and songwriter. His songs were noted for their witty, urbane lyrics, and many of his scores found success on Broadway and in Hollywood films, including "Night and Day," "I Get a Kick Out of You," and "In the Still of the Night."

We'll Meet Again

Ross Parker (music and lyrics) was considered one of England's top songwriters in 1938, with his pieces hitting top 15 on the Billboard charts. Some of his hits include "There'll Always Be an England," "The Girl In The Blue Bonnet," and "I Won't Tell A Soul (I Love You)."

Hughie Charles (music and lyrics), a musical theatre producer and composer, is perhaps best known for his work with Ross Parker on "We'll Meet Again," and "There'll Always Be an England." His other works includes "Russian Rose," "A Little King Without A Crown," and "The King Is Still In London."

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

Dream a Little Dream of Me

Fabian Andre (music) was a composer and orchestra leader. He released an album of rumbas and had a hit with the song “Dance of an Ear of Corn.” News of his death in 1960 prompted Michelle Phillips, who met Andre as a child, to re-record “Dream a Little Dream of Me” with her band, The Mamas and the Papas.

Wilbur Schwandt (music) was an arranger for various big bands, including comedian Bob Hope’s touring show. In 1940, he became an arranger for Xavier Cugat’s orchestra; he later became an arranger and composer for Latin lounge musicians such as Skinnay Ennis and Freddy Martin as well as Latin dance musicians such as Perez Prado and Desi Arnaz.

Gus Kahn (lyrics) contributed a number of songs to the Great American Songbook, including “Ain’t We Got Fun?”, “Toot, Toot, Tootsie (Goo’ Bye!)”, “It Had to Be You”, “Yes Sir, That’s My Baby”, and “Makin’ Whoopee”. His papers are housed at the Great American Songbook Foundation.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Madison Ashley is a PLUS year musical theatre major from Redmond, OR whose recent credits include Ensemble in *Mamma Mia!* and Maureen in *RENT* through Bend Theatre in the Park, and Gentlewoman in *Macbeth* (PLU). She would like to thank her parents for being her biggest fans and her best friend and roommate Samantha.



Joel Barkman is a senior music major whose recent credits include Virgil in *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU), Ensemble in *Off-Broadway: a musical revue* (PLU), and Ensemble in *HMS Pinafore* (PLU Opera). He would like to thank his family and friends for continuing to encourage his involvement in theatre.



Vanessa Bassi is a a third-year transfer musical theatre major from Everett, WA whose recent credits include Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*, Ronette in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Gremppkin/Teacher in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (PLU). She would like to thank her mom, her sisters Jayla and Kiana, and her best friend Windsor.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Presley Clark is a fourth-year musical theatre and studio art double major from San Juan Island, WA, whose recent credits include APO's 2024 *One Acts Festival* (PLU) Ensemble in *Off Broadway: a musical revue* (PLU) and Georgette in *Amélie* (PLU). She would like to thank her family, friends, boyfriend, and fantastic cast and crew for their ongoing love and support.



Jaclyn Davis is a PLUS year elementary education major with minors in sociology and theatre. Her recent credits include Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (PLU), Hathaway in *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU), and Philomene in *Amélie* (PLU). She is grateful for her friends and family for their endless support and love.



Lillian Gundersen is a fourth-year vocal performance major from Olympia, WA whose recent credits include Chorus in Vashon Opera's recent productions of both *Otello* and *Romeo et Juliette*. She would like to thank Dominic for auditioning for the show with her and Amy Boers for consistently being such an incredible music director.



Samantha Katz is a PLUS year musical theatre major whose recent credits include Murderer 1 in *Macbeth* (PLU), Young Amélie in *Amélie* (PLU), and Dolly Levi in *The Matchmaker* (PLU). She would like to thank her best friend, Madison Ashley and her parents for always supporting her and Tom Smith, Amy Boers, and Taya Lovejoy the opportunity to perform in her last fall revue at PLU.



Kiana Kendall is a third-year musical theatre major from Sultan, WA, whose recent credits include Ammut in *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU) and Ensemble in *Off Broadway: a musical revue* (PLU). She extends her gratitude to her directors, castmates, and family, especially her parents Janos and Quamy, for their unwavering support.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Erika LeBlanc is a third-year musical theatre and political science double major from British Columbia, Canada whose recent credits include Lethe Girl/Ensemble in *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU), Torrey in *Freaky Friday the Musical* (Northwest Theatre Lab), and Ensemble in *Off Broadway: a musical revue* (PLU). She would like to thank this amazing cast and her family. Enjoy the show!



Joaquin Makinster is a sophomore music education major. This is his first PLU production! He was most recently seen as Lord Pinkleton in *Cinderella* (Manestage Theater). He would like to thank all his amazing friends and family for their constant support. Go Lutes!



Kyra McCloud is third-year musical theatre major from Gresham, OR whose recent credits include Persephone in *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU), Lady MacDuff in *Macbeth* (PLU), and Gina in *Amélie* (PLU). She would like to thank her friends and family and her wonderful dog Opal for supporting her, as well as the cast and crew of the show for this opportunity.



Ashley Midlo is a second-year musical theatre and business double major. Her most recent credits include Hawking Clam in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (PLU) and Katherine Plumber in *Newsies* (Sitka Fine Arts), as well as assistant lighting designer for *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU). She would like to thank her mom and all of her supporters in the audience tonight. This performance is for them!



Dominic Walker is a fourth-year vocal performance major from Walla Walla, WA whose recent credits include Captain Corcoran in *H.M.S. Pinafore* (PLU Opera), Falke in *Die Fledermaus* (PLU Opera), and Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* (PLU Opera). He would like to thank the music faculty at PLU and his friend Lillian for giving him the strength to persist as a musician.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Kathleen Anderson (Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager) has an MFA in Costume and Set Design from Northwestern University. Her favorite designs for PLU Theatre include costume and set designs for *Twelfth Night* and *The Spitfire Grill*, costume design for *Cabaret*, *A Dream Play*, and *The Fantasticks*, and puppet and costume design for *The Floating World*. She has also designed extensively for Tacoma Opera and Harlequin Productions in Olympia.

Marley Bjornstad (Lighting Designer) is a senior design/tech major whose recent lighting design credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (PLU), second assistant lighting designer for *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU), and "Dance the Night" for the *2023 Dance Team Winter Showcase* (PLU). He would like to thank Glen, Professor Sweger and Monty for being awesome.

Amy E. Boers (Music Director/Accompanist) is one of the region's most sought-after collaborative artists. As such she is well known as a pianist, coach, teacher, and music director. Amy's work as conductor, director, and pianist ranges from musical theater, church, ACDA regional honor choirs, to choral organizations throughout the Puget Sound. She is currently serving as collaborative pianist with numerous local ensembles, Director of Music at Mountain View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, staff pianist at Pacific Lutheran University, and accompanist with Symphony Tacoma Chorus. Most recently, Amy has been named resident Music Director in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at PLU, where she has been involved in numerous productions including *When you Wish upon a Star: a musical revue*, *Amélie*, *Off Broadway: a musical revue*, and *Jasper In Deadland*. She loves working with the amazing students and colleagues!

Parker Brown (Director) is a fourth year acting/directing major with minors in dance and writing from Vancouver, WA, whose recent performance credits include Improviser in *Legend of Crow* (PLU), and Malcolm in *Macbeth* (PLU). He would like to thank his mom and dad for everything. He wouldn't be where he is without them. Also his dog Anna!

Evergreen Burling (Assistant Costume Designer) is a fourth-year English and theatre double major from Kenosha, WI. Their recent credits include assistant costume designer for *Macbeth* (PLU) and costume manager for *Dance 2023* (PLU). They would like to thank Kathy for the opportunity to work with her again and their family for supporting them.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Glen Fritz (Lighting Designer) is a PLUS year design/tech and musical theatre double major from Poulsbo, WA whose recent credits include lighting designing for the Federal Way Youth Symphony, lighting designing for the INBF WA State Championships, as well as performing as Mr. Lethe in *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU). He would like to thank the incredible lighting team, and Anna Van Vleet for being such an inspiration while killing it in grad school!

Addy Keller (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a junior design/tech theatre major and with minors in dance and studio arts from Sammamish, WA. Some of her recent credits include assistant lighting designing for *Jasper In Deadland* (PLU) and the 2022 and 2023 PLU Christmas Concerts. She would like to thank everyone involved for all of the hard work they have put into this production.

Taya Lovejoy (Choreographer) is a PLUS year acting/directing and dance double major from Walla Walla, WA. Her recent choreographic credits include "Being Unknown" for *Dance 2024* (PLU), *Off-Broadway: a musical revue* (PLU), and "Motion Sickness" for *Dance 2023* (PLU). She would like to thank the directors for being wonderful to work with and the cast for their dedication. She would also like to thank Jaqui, her roommates, and her parents for their continued support.

Keenan Minogue (Technical Director) is Resident Assistant Professor of Theatre. Keenan has broad expertise in all aspects of live production, and has been afforded the opportunity to practice his craft across the nation, with projects numbering in the hundreds. Previously, he designed props for the world premiere of Theresa Rebeck's *Downstairs*, built and painted sets for the many theaters of Chicago, and collaborated on projects within the live events industry at large. Keenan Received his BFA from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and MFA in Theatrical Design and Production Technology from the University of Memphis.

Lauren Rigby (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first year theatre major from Bremerton, WA. This is her first show at PLU, but she stage managed a production of *The Addams Family* (Bremerton High School), as well as Peninsula Dance Theater's 2022 and 2023 productions of *The Nutcracker*. She would like to thank her parents and the cast and crew of the revue for this opportunity and experience.

Kyla Rivera (Stage Manager) is a senior music education major and theatre minor from Spanaway, WA whose recent stage management credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (PLU) and *L'Elisir d'Amore* (PLU Opera). They would like to thank their friends, family and partner AJ, as well as Tom and Amy for this opportunity!

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Tom Smith (Director/Props/Sound Designer) is a Professor of Theatre whose previous productions at PLU include *Jasper In Deadland*, *Off Broadway: a musical revue*, *When You Wish Upon a Star: a musical revue*, *Miranda's Cafe*, *Reckless*, *The Last Five Years*, *Broadway at the Movies*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Broadway Today!*, *The Shape of Things*, *Aunt Raini* (regional premiere), and *Moon Over Buffalo*. He is a proud member of Dramatists Guild.

Amanda Sweger (Scenic Designer) is Chair of Theatre and Dance and a lighting and scenic designer who has freelanced in Seattle, Chicago, Nashville, and Philadelphia. She received an MFA from Northwestern University in 2011 and is now a tenured professor at Pacific Lutheran University. She is proud to have designed with companies such as The Second City, TimeLine Theatre, the Seattle Theatre Group, and Taproot Theatre Company.

Jacob Viramontes (Lighting Designer) graduated from PLU in 2017 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting and directing. Since graduating, he has been working in the Seattle/Tacoma area as a lighting designer. Select lighting design credits include: *The Hatmaker's Wife* (Drama Dock); *Damn Yankees*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Reboot Theatre Company); *Come On Get Tappy!* (Outrage Onstage/SecondStory Repertory); *53% Of* (Sound Theatre Company); *10 Acrobats in an Amazing Leap of Faith* (Centerstage Theatre); *Red*, and *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Burien Actors Theatre); *Danceblast 2024* (Curtis High School); *The Marriage of Figaro* (Pacific Northwest Opera); *Carmen*, and *Tacoma Method* (Tacoma Opera); *Rudolf the Rednosed Reindeer* (Tacoma Little Theatre); *Thrice*, *Ballabhpur Ki Roopkatha*, and *Two Minutes of Your Time* (Pradithwani).

Coming Next...

Native Gardens

Nov. 7-9 @ 7:30 pm, Nov. 10 @ 2 pm;
Studio Theatre

PLU Dance Team presents ***Dance Team Winter Showcase***

Nov. 15-16 @ 7:30 pm;
Eastvold Auditorium

Alpha Psi Omega presents
Antigone translated by Ian Johnston from Sophocles
Dec. 5-7 @ 7:30 pm;
Studio Theatre

Scan this QR code to see the Theatre and Dance season calendar and purchase tickets to future shows!



DIRECTORS' NOTES

Beginning in the early 1900s, an exceptionally talented group of songwriters working mainly from the recording studios of New York's Tin Pan Alley began churning out hundreds of songs. This happened in Manhattan's flower district, where overlapping blues, jazz, ragtime, ballad, anthem, and uptempo dance numbers spilled out onto the street, creating a sound that some said sounded like tin pans being beaten together.

These tunes were often sold as sheet music so that families could play them at home on a piano. Together, they formed the great American Songbook, which isn't a physical book, but more of an idea: an enduring collection of popular jazz standards and show tunes from the 1920s to the early 1960s.

This explosion of music happened at a time when millions of Americans had been plunged into poverty as a result of World War One and the Great Depression, and these songs changed the face of American music. Many were written by women, composers of color, queer composers, and Jewish composers escaping persecution in Europe—all of whom are heavily represented in tonight's performance. The great American Songbook celebrates the voices and stories of America itself.

These are storytelling songs first and foremost: each singer sharing stories of longing for love, finding love, losing love, dancing the night away, or striving for a better, easier life than the one they are currently living.

We are so pleased to share this production with you tonight—and a special welcome to our PLU alumni celebrating Homecoming with us!

–Tom Smith and Parker Brown ('25), directors



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