

Department of Theatre and Dance

# 2021 SPRING PERFORMANCES

THE LAST DAYS OF

## JUDAS ISCARIOT

*If Jesus forgave Peter, why not Judas?*

By Stephen Adly Guirgis

Directed by Parke Fech

February 26-28, 2021

\* reading

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## THE MELODY LINGERS ON

The Songs of Irving Berlin

*"Irving Berlin has no place in American music. He is American music."*

(Jerome Kern, Broadway/Hollywood Composer)

Directed by Mark Hanson

April 2-9, 2021

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## Small WONDERS

*A fun evening of short plays, both naughty and nice!*

By Rich Orloff

Directed by Stephen Trovillion Smith

April 23-30, 2021

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## DANSTAGE 2021

*Gorgeous dancing, inspiring premieres!*

May 14-21, 2021



School of Performing Arts  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

## Welcome to the Department of Theatre & Dance 2020-2021 Season!

The UWSP Department of Theatre & Dance is fully accredited by the  
National Association of Schools of Theatre and the  
National Association of Schools of Dance.

Theatre & Dance Department productions are  
partially funded by the Student Government Association.

### 2020-2021 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

#### **Amy Beversdorf**

Associate Lecturer, Dance

#### **Jim O'Connell**

Associate Professor, Arts Management  
Arts Management Program Coordinator

#### **Lisa Baxter**

Academic Department Associate

#### **Sarah Olson**

Assistant Professor, Dance

#### **Michael Estanich**

Professor, Dance  
Dance Program Coordinator  
Theatre and Dance Chair

#### **Gary G. Olsen**

Professor, Theatre  
Theatre Area Coordinator

#### **Parke Fech**

Lecturer, Theatre

#### **Sarah E. Ross**

Assistant Professor, Theatre

#### **Lisa Golda**

Associate Lecturer, Theatre

#### **Stephen Trovillion Smith**

Professor, Theatre

#### **Mark Hanson**

Associate Professor, Theatre  
BFA Musical Theatre Program  
Coordinator

#### **Laurie Schmeling**

Lecturer, Theatre  
BA Drama Program Coordinator

#### **Jeannie Hill**

Professor, Dance

#### **Kristina Sneshkoff**

Assistant Professor, Theatre  
BFA Design and Technology  
Program Coordinator

#### **Pamela Luedtke**

Associate Lecturer, Dance

#### **Sarah Wussow**

Lecturer, Musical Theatre

#### **Tyler Marchant**

Professor, Theatre  
BFA Acting Coordinator

#### **John Strassburg**

Dance Program Accompanist  
Senior Instructional Specialist

#### **Ann Warren**

Technical Director



Advancing Dance Education in the Arts | MUSICAL THEATRE EDUCATORS' ALLIANCE

## Director's Note

"We make all sorts of assumptions because we don't have the courage to ask questions."

-Don Miguel Ruiz

I selected this play because I have always had questions about what is considered historical 'truth' and who determines what that 'truth' is. Our commonly accepted historical truth within our nation is inextricably linked to religious, spiritual, and philosophical ideas. These ideas may differ from community to community, but they are always present.

Napoleon Bonaparte said, "history is a set of lies agreed upon", this is quoted by Cunningham in the play. History is thought of as one undeniable truth, but in reality, is a combination of viewpoints which the majority have agreed upon and therefore dictated as 'truth'. Recently, this concept of history has been called into question. This questioning of our historical assumptions is something this play at its core does. It asks us to consider what is truth, and who created it?

This play has the courage to ask questions that I feel have needed to be asked for some time. Who wrote the history that is commonly accepted without question? What qualifies someone as 'good' or 'bad'? How do we conceptualize Hell or the afterlife? Who gets forgiven and who gets well-deserved justice? This play allows for these questions to be asked without providing definitive answers.

This play is set in 'purgatory' with the characters either trying to prove that Judas should be forgiven or condemned. Within the world of the play, all the saints and residents of 'Heaven' have one thing in common; they have embraced who they are holistically. However, the residents of 'purgatory' and 'Hell' continue to wrangle with their own despair, guilt, pride, desire, or assumptions instead of 'owning up' to their flaws and failings. For our characters, the only way they can truly be redeemed is by acknowledging and confronting their limitations and missteps.

## Director's Note, Cont.

Another aspect of the play that appealed to me was its language. The play also prompts the question - what assumptions do we make about people based on their language and dialect/accents? This play's language allows for a cast made up of multicultural characters, which due to migration, is predominantly found in larger global city centers. The dialects and accents utilized in this play are Arabic (Egyptian), Northern Irish, Slavic (Albanian), Upper Midwestern, African American Vernacular English, New York (Latinx), German (Low), non-rhotic southern, and southern rhotic. By including this range of dialects/accents, our assumptions based on language are brought to the forefront. Once again, the play provides no answers, only questions. What judgments do we as individuals make about others based purely on how they sound and how they choose to express themselves?

The biggest thing a director has to do is casting. This play required a diverse range of characters to be portrayed authentically and with a conviction to their own personal truths. From the moment I cast this group of actors, they have made my job infinitely easier; their dedication and hard work have allowed this story to be told dynamically and clearly. For that, I thank them. Additionally, by surrounding yourself with more knowledgeable others, you set yourself up for success. My technical team (Krissy Sneshkoff, Gary Olsen, Sarah Ross, and Ann Warren), stage manager (Bryn Aehlich), assistant director (Teagan Stager) and dramaturg (Morgan Tillman) are all my more knowledgeable others, enabling me to direct but also to ensure this shows success. I couldn't have done it without them.

Ultimately the themes of this play come down to one word, 'assumptions'. It is up to you, as an audience member, if you choose to question your existing assumptions and belief systems. This may be something you are already actively doing, but by approaching this play with an open mind you might allow yourself to do just that.

-Parke Fech

## Dramaturgs' Note

“An appeal in the case of the apostle who ratted on the messiah in the story of Jesus Christ becomes an electrifying examination of faith and redemption”

-Ray Bennett, The Hollywood Reporter

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot takes place in a realm of Limbo, one closely aligned with Purgatory. It's here, within the walls of a courtroom, that a special case comes to light – the appeal of Judas Iscariot's damnation. Notorious for his role in selling out Jesus Christ to Roman officials, the battle for Judas' fate grows bitter as all sides grapple with the impacts of love, betrayal, and salvation. Through witness testimony and disputes over divine affections, one of the most infamous stories of the Christian New Testament is re-examined, and the question is posed once more: can certain acts determine someone to be irredeemable?

Debuting Off-Broadway at the Public Theatre, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot ran from March 2nd, 2005 through its closure on April 3rd. It was initially set to run until March 20th, 2005, but popularity and audience demand prompted a two-week extension. In 2008, the show moved across the pond and was revived on London's West End. It ran from March 28th through May 10th at the Almeida Theatre. Since then, it has been performed in theatres, both large and small, across the globe.

Stephen Adly Guirgis is a critically acclaimed contemporary playwright. His works have earned countless awards, and have been praised for their sharp dialogue and focus on those traditionally not represented within theatre. Guirgis' plays tend to be thematically religious – a side effect he notes as unintentional. Through the LABYRINTH Theatre Company, Guirgis has brought multiple works to life, each story as complex and compelling as the one before.

-Morgan Tillmann, Dramaturg

**The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
**Department of Theatre & Dance**  
Presents

# THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatist Play Service, Inc., New York.

By Stephen Adly Guirgis

**Directed by**  
Parke Fech\*

**Stage Manager**  
Bryn Aehlich

**Assistant Director**  
Teagan Stager

**Dramaturg**  
Morgan Tillmann

THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT was originally produced by LAByrinth Theater Company, Philip Seymour Hoffman and John Ortiz, Co-Artistic Directors and The Public Theater, Mara Manus, Executive Director; George C. Wolfe, Producer, February 2005.

\*Faculty/Staff

The videotaping or electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited.

# THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

## Cast

<b>Butch Honeywell</b> .....	Seth Barnes
<b>Jesus Christ</b> .....	Nick Baum
<b>Caiaphas</b> .....	Joe Bloom
<b>Cunningham</b> .....	Lily Brenner
<b>Saint Thomas / Mattias of Galilee</b> .....	Zach Dolinar
<b>Loretta</b> .....	Allison Durst
<b>Gloria / Mother Teresa</b> .....	Madison Eddy
<b>Mary Magdalene / Sister Glenna</b> .....	Emily Eidman
<b>Saint Monica / Soldier 3</b> .....	Kaia Fitzgerald
<b>Judas Iscariot</b> .....	Bailee Harper
<b>Satan</b> .....	Emily Holland
<b>Saint Matthew / Sigmund Freud</b> .....	Julian Karagounis
<b>Pilate / Saint Peter / Uncle Pino</b> .....	Joe Kelly
<b>Bailiff / Simon the Zealot</b> .....	Jordan Levene
<b>El-Fayoumy</b> .....	Taye Levin
<b>Henrietta Iscariot</b> .....	Stephanie Lowry-Ortega
<b>Stage Directions</b> .....	Vivian Pruhs
<b>Judge Littlefield</b> .....	Collan Simmons

# THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

## **Program**

### **Prologue**

Stage Directions, Henrietta Iscariot

### **Act 1**

Stage Directions, Gloria, Judge Littlefield, Bailiff, Cunningham, El-Fayoumy, Saint Monica, Loretta, Uncle Pino, Henrietta Iscariot, Judas, Matthias of Galilee, Mother Teresa, Saint Peter, Saint Matthew, Sister Glenna, Simon the Zealot, Satan

### **Act 2**

Stage Directions, Saint Monica, Mary Magdalene, Judge Littlefield, Cunningham, Bailiff, Sigmund Freud, El-Fayoumy, Caiaphas the Elder, Saint Thomas, Soldiers, Pilate, Judas, Satan, Jesus, Butch Honeywell

## Production Staff

**Prop Shop Assistants**.....Kristy LaCount

**Costume Shop Assistants**..... Julia Andres, Jordan Busse,  
Allison Durst, Emmaline Fitzgerald, Marsha Janda,  
Hannah Klingbeil, Christine Latourette,

**Scene Shop Assistants**.....Olivia Bastien, Edgar Berumen,  
Hailey Dononhoue, Graeme Gross,  
Samuel Kuhns, Alex Yeiter

**Academic Department Associate**.....Lisa Baxter\*

**Theatre & Dance Office Student Assistants**.....Aaron Deets,  
Hanna Kiel, Natalie Schlueter, Karlee Weiler

\*Faculty/Staff

## Meet the Company

**Aehlich, Bryn** (*Stage Manager*) Freshman BA Drama major from Kenosha, WI.

**Barnes, Seth** (*Butch Honeywell*) Senior BFA Acting major and Creative Writing minor from Amherst, WI.

**Baum, Nicholas** (*Jesus Christ*) Senior BFA Acting major and Dance minor from Apple Canyon Lake, IL. Recipient of the Baruch-Bridgeman Scholarship and the Pointer Payback Scholarship.

**Bloom, Joe** (*Caiaphis*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Oconomowoc, WI.

**Brenner, Lily** (*Cunningham*) Senior BFA Acting major and BA Spanish major from La Crosse, WI. Recipient of the Spanish Excellence Scholarship.

**Dolinar, Zach** (*Saint Thomas / Mattias of Galilee*) Freshman BFA Acting major from Waukesha, WI.

**Durst, Allison** (*Loretta*) Junior BFA Acting major from DeForest, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award in Acting.

**Eddy, Madison** (*Gloria / Mother Teresa*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Colorado Springs, CO.

**Eidman, Emily** (*Mary Magdalene / Sister Glenna*) Senior BFA Acting major from Suisun City, CA.

**Fitzgerald, Kaia** (*Saint Monica / Soldier 3*) Freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Roseville-St. Paul, MN. Recipient of the Sentry Talent Scholarship.

**Harper, Bailee** (*Judas Iscariot*) Senior BFA Acting major from Green Bay, WI.

**Holland, Emily** (*Satan*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship.

**Karagounis, Julian** (*Saint Matthew / Sigmund Freud*) Junior BFA Acting major from Rochester Hills, MI.

**Kelly, Joe** (*Pilate / Saint Peter / Uncle Pino*) Senior BFA Acting major and Dance minor from Milwaukee, WI.

**Levene, Jordan** (*Bailiff / Simon the Zealot*) Sophomore BFA Acting major and Sociology minor from Waukesha, WI.

**Levin, Taye** (*El-Fayoumy*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from McFarland, WI.

**Lowry-Ortega, Stephanie** (*Henrietta Iscariot*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Stevens Point, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts in Acting Scholarship.

## Meet the Company

**Pruhs, Vivian** (*Stage Directions*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Wauwatosa, WI.

**Simmons, Collan** (*Judge Littlefield*) Senior BFA Acting major and Computer Information Science minor from Fridley, MN. Recipient of the David B. Carter Acting Scholarship.

**Stager, Teagan** (*Assistant Director*) Sophomore BA Drama major and Arts Management minor from Rice Lake, WI. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship.

**Tillmann, Morgan** (*Dramaturg*) Senior BA Drama major and Communications minor from Becker, MN.

## CONTRIBUTE TO BACKSTAGE

The Department of Theatre & Dance welcomes financial support for educational and artistic activities through a variety of programs, including existing scholarships and endowments, special projects support, bequests and planned gifts. For more information about contributing to the Department of Theatre & Dance, please contact Maggie Marquardt, COFAC Director of Development at [mmarquar@uwsp.edu](mailto:mmarquar@uwsp.edu) or 715-346-3056. You may also donate online at <https://give.uwsp.edu/give-backstage>.

Special thanks to our 2020-2021 supporters.

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Patty and John Noel  
Sarah Ross  
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Richard and Carolyn Sommer  
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John and Patty Noel

### **Artistic Director (\$500+)**

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## **BACKSTAGE CONTINUED**

David and Roseann Rosin  
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### **Stage Manager (\$50+)**

Elizabeth and Andrew Felt  
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John Hardy and Sandy Powell  
Michael Scott  
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Kimberly and Jason Shields  
Douglas and Sandra Warner  
Sharon and Kenneth Williams



# University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

**The mission of the Theatre and Dance Department is to serve**

- Its majors and minors through curricular offerings and performance/production activities that heighten intellectual, artistic, cultural, and humane sensitivities.
- The general student population through curricular offerings and stage productions that engender an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and their contribution to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of life.
- The university community and general central Wisconsin population through the production of quality stage performances.

The Department of Theatre and Dance recognizes that we work on the cultural lands originally occupied by the HoChunk and Menominee peoples.



The UW-Stevens Point Theatre and Dance Department's off-campus storage space is funded by the Green Fund. Having this storage space allows us to reuse props and materials; thus, we are able to lessen our environmental impact by decreasing the amount of materials sent to landfills.

The Green Fund's mission is to encourage and fund projects that positively affect the sustainability of the UW-Stevens Point campus community. The fund accomplishes this by investing capital in long-term sustainable projects that affect the way our campus uses energy and our shared natural resources. The Green Fund receives money from student segregated fees that are allocated by a student committee.

While the Department of Theatre & Dance season will look a little different this year, the high-quality, creative, and entertaining experiences you are accustomed to will not! The university has spent the summer months devising safe strategies, recommendations, and plans to welcome students back to campus while also considering ways that UWSP can stay engaged with the community. Throughout this process, the Department of Theatre & Dance has had to pivot in a new direction and reimagine a season that reflects more thoughtfully the changing landscape of our world. The department's faculty and staff are committed to offering a season where our students can share their talents and artistry with audiences. Though our audiences cannot be live this semester due to campus recommendations that prohibit large gatherings, I am thrilled to share that we have a remarkable virtual fall season planned. The projects are timely, personal, and outstanding examples of the creative energy and spirit of our department.

I hope you can join us online for what I am sure will be an exciting and new adventure for everyone!

Michael Estanich, Chair  
Department of Theatre & Dance

## CONTRIBUTE TO BACKSTAGE

Ticket sales are strong, yet cover only a portion of our production costs. Each year we rely on Backstage patrons' support to create exceptional productions and endowments for student scholarships.

In addition, during the 208-2019 season, BACKSTAGE patrons supported:

- BFA Acting and Musical Theatre Senior Showcase travel to New York City
- Students attending the American College Dance Association Conference
- Student scholarships

Thank you to participating businesses for their willingness to match employee contributions. If your employer has a matching gift program, please include their matching gift form with your reply.

Suggested Contribution Levels

Angel	\$ 1000+	Managing Director	\$ 250+
Producer	\$ 750+	Director	\$ 100+
Artistic Director	\$ 500+	Stage Manager	\$ 50+

To contribute, please use the Backstage envelope in your program, or visit

<https://give.uwsp.edu/give-backstage>

To learn more about additional giving opportunities, contact Maggie Marquardt, COFAC Director of Development, at [Maggie.Marquardt@uwsp.edu](mailto:Maggie.Marquardt@uwsp.edu) or 715-346-3056. Your contribution will be acknowledged in each production program, unless you wish to remain anonymous.

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