





PLEASE KEEP ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS TURNED  
OFF WHEN IN THE THEATRE. THANK YOU.

### Please Note

- Food and drink must not be brought into the theatre
- The use of cameras or recording devices is strictly prohibited
- Smoking is not permitted in the Noel Fine Arts Center
- In the case of an emergency, ushers will assist audience members at each exit

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

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.

### 2012-2013 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

Jim Carpenter Associate Lecturer, Theatre	Alan Patrick Kenny Assistant Professor of Theatre
Sandy Childers Assistant Professor of Theatre	Pamela Luedtke Lecturer, Dance
Barbara Cirno Cutter/Draper	Tyler Marchant Assistant Professor of Theatre
Ruth Daniels Academic Department Associate	Gary G. Olsen Professor of Theatre Theatre & Dance Department Chair BFA Design/Tech Program Coordinator
Wendy Dolan Costume Shop Manager Associate Instruction Specialist	Stephen Trovillion Smith Professor of Theatre BFA Acting Program Coordinator
Michael Estanich Associate Professor of Dance	Jeffrey Stephens Assistant Professor of Theatre BA/BS Drama Program Coordinator
Jared Hanlin Assistant Professor of Theatre	John Strassburg Dance Program Accompanist
Jeannie Hill Associate Professor of Dance	Michael Trudeau Technical Director/Scene Shop Manager
Joan Karlen Professor of Dance Dance Program Coordinator	Bradley Vieth Assistant Professor of Theatre BFA Musical Theatre Program Coordinator
Gregory Kaye Assistant Professor of Theatre	

## Dramaturg Notes

*“I want to seduce the audience. If they can go along for a ride they wouldn’t ordinarily take . . . then they might see highly charged political issues in a new and unexpected way.”*

*-- Paula Vogel*

Paula Vogel’s *How I Learned to Drive* is an intentionally discomfiting play. Through a series of scenes flashing back and forth in time, Li’l Bit recalls and reveals the nature of her relationship with Peck, her uncle by marriage. Vogel has described it as a play about “the gifts we receive from the people who hurt us.” That is, as Mary-Louise Parker, the actress who originated the role of Li’l Bit has observed, “an impossibly fair and positive sentiment.” It’s also one that the audience may have difficulty embracing.

*“To be political means to open up a dialogue, not to be ‘correct.’”*

*-- Paula Vogel*

The structure of the play is disorienting by design. Sad, irreverent, provocative, and often surprisingly funny, it repeatedly wrong-foots the audience emotionally as it presents what appears to be an even-handed and sympathetic portrayal of both the abused and her abuser. In the process, Vogel seduces us into riding along, taking a journey we “wouldn’t ordinarily take.” One of the truths we confront along the way, one we would much rather ignore, is the way our popular culture frequently eroticizes young children, especially girls. Uncle Peck’s behavior is heinous, but it doesn’t exist in a vacuum. By refusing to demonize Peck, Vogel doesn’t condone or excuse his behavior, but she does make it more difficult for us to distance ourselves from the events unfolding onstage. Deprived of that distance, we’re compelled to really hear Li’l Bit’s anger, pain, guilt, and confusion.

*“The past beats inside me like a second heart.”* -- John Banville

*How I Learned to Drive* is Li’l Bit’s story, not Uncle Peck’s. In its telling, she begins to heal, to forgive, and to move on. To forgive, Vogel asserts, is empowering because it offers a route out of the trauma of victimization.

Impossibly fair and positive? Let’s talk.

PAULA VOGEL, a productive playwright since the late 1970s, first came to national prominence with *The Baltimore Waltz* which won the Obie award for Best Play in 1992. She is best known for *How I Learned To Drive* (1998), which examines the impact and echoes of child sexual abuse and incest. Other notable plays include *Desdemona, A Play About A Handkerchief* (1979); *The Oldest Profession* (1981); *And Baby Makes Seven* (1984); *Hot 'N Throbbing* (1994); *The Mineola Twins* (1996) and *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (2006).

During her two decades leading the graduate playwriting program and new play festival at Brown University, Vogel helped develop a nationally recognized center for educational theatre, culminating in the creation of the Brown/Trinity Repertory Company Consortium with Oskar Eustis, then Trinity's artistic director, in 2002. She left Brown in 2008 to assume her current posts as adjunct professor and the Chair of the playwriting department at the Yale School of Drama, and the Playwright-in-Residence at Yale Repertory Theatre.

“Well, the story of the play - well, it’s - I guess - a walk down memory lane as we say in one scene. It’s - in many ways it’s a love story between Little Bit and her uncle, Uncle Peck, and it’s also, I think, a play about healing, forgiving and moving on. And I should also add it’s a comedy in places.”

--Paula Vogel, Playwright

“In the 5th Century B.C. in Athens, citizens were required to go to the theatre. It was a requirement of all citizens because we come together as people and we go through a communal experience, a journey, and to me a good play does not give a message or give just one point of view. It should be a dialogue. And, to me, if there are 200 people in the theatre, there will be 200 plays that the audience sees, each one for themselves, that night.”

--Paula Vogel, Playwright

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

Presents

# How I Learned to Drive

by

**Paula Vogel**

**Pulitzer Prize Play 1998**

**Director**

Jeffrey Stephens\*

**Assistant Director**

Jacob Gerard

**Dramaturg**

Laurie Schmeling

**Stage Manager**

Caitlin Robb

**Scenic Designer**

Nicholas J Reising

**Lighting Designer**

Nicole Card

**Costume Designer**

Amanda Martin

**Properties Designer**

John Laedtke

**Technical Director**

Michael Trudeau

**Sound Designer**

Tyler Turinske

\*Denotes Faculty/Staff

# **How I Learned to Drive**

## **Cast**

### ***Li'l Bit***

Kate Vander Velden

### ***Uncle Peck***

Jordan Krsnak

### ***Female Greek Chorus***

Krystina Hawkinson

### ***Male Greek Chorus***

Neal Javenkoski

### ***Teenage Greek Chorus***

Emily Lawrence

***The play is performed without an intermission***

## Production Staff

<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b> .....	Susan Nagrant, Sarah Shirley
<b>Assistant Lighting Designer</b> .....	Marisa Abbott
<b>Projections</b> .....	Ethan Rosing
<b>Properties Technicians</b> .....	Ashley Stock
<b>Costume Run Crew</b> .....	Blair Bowman
<b>Deck Run Crew</b> .....	Lauren Hurtis, Elise Luenburg Daniel Rigamer, Carl Swanson
<b>Costume Shop Manager</b> .....	Wendy Dolan*
<b>Cutter/Draper</b> .....	Barbara Cirno*
<b>Scene Shop Manager</b> .....	Michael Trudeau*
<b>Costume Shop Assistants</b> .....	Molly Adams, Emily Billington Hanna Gaffney, Cecelia Hill, Amanda Martin Daniel Rigamer, Christy Siebers, Micah Wallace
<b>Scene Shop Assistants</b> .....	Tom Bebeau, Nicole Card, Oriana Dentici Ryan Eggers, John Ford-Dunker, Alex Gudding, Abbey Immer Hayden Kraus, Jordan Krsnak, Brandon Mix, Ashley Stock Carl Swanson, Joseph Tufte
<b>Scene &amp; Costume Shop</b> .....	Theatre & Dance Practicum Students
<b>Academic Department Associate</b> .....	Ruth Daniels*
<b>Theatre &amp; Dance Office Student Assistants</b> .....	Allegra Berglund Kailey Field, Tori Mittelman
<b>House Managers</b> .....	Michelle Gress, Courtney Groves, Mark Hanna Britni Hart, Larissa Petersen
<b>Public Relations Assistants</b> .....	Theatre & Dance Practicum Students

\* Denotes Faculty/Staff

## Meet the Company

- Abbott, Marisa** (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) Freshman BFA Design Technology major from Oconomowoc, WI. Recipient of the Neale Honors Scholarship.
- Card, Nicole** (*Lighting Designer*) Senior, BFA Design Technology major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman Award in Design Technology.
- Gerard, Jacob** (*Assistant Director*) Junior BA Drama major and History minor from Watertown, WI.
- Hawkinson, Krystina** (*Female Greek Chorus*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Sun Prairie, WI.
- Javenkoski, Neal** (*Male Greek Chorus*) Junior BFA Acting major from Middleton, WI.
- Krsnak, Jordan** (*Uncle Peck*) Junior BFA Acting and Political Science major from Moorhead, MN. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman Award in Acting.
- Laedtke, John** (*Properties Designer*) Senior BA Drama major from Waupaca, WI.
- Lawrence, Emily** (*Teenage Greek Chorus*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Maplewood, MN. Recipient of the Neale Alumni Scholarship and the Backstage Musical Theatre Scholarship.
- Martin, Amanda** (*Costume Designer*) Senior BFA Design Technology major and Business Administration major from Plover, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman Award in Design Technology.
- Nagrant, Susan** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Senior BA Drama major and Communications minor from Shawano, WI.
- Reising, Nicholas J.** (*Scenic Designer*) Senior BFA Design Technology and Business Administration major from Potosi, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman in Design Technology Award, Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Design Technology, UWSP Leadership Award and the Sentry Insurance Scholarship.

## Meet the Company (continued)

**Robb, Caitlin** (*Stage Manager*) Senior BA Drama, International Studies and Spanish major from McFarland, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Drama.

**Rosing, Ethan** (*Projections*) Sophomore BFA Design Technology major from Mequon, WI.

**Shirley, Sarah** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Sophomore BA Drama major from Wisconsin Dells, WI.

**Stock, Ashley** (*Properties Technician*) Junior BFA Design Technology major and BA German major from Appleton, WI.

**Turinske, Tyler** (*Sound Designer*) Junior BFA Design Technology major from Waukesha, WI.

**Vander Velden, Kate** (*Li'l Bit*) Senior BFA Acting and BS Psychology major from Random Lake, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Acting and the Kassi Dahlmann Memorial Scholarship.

Thank you to *The Coffee Studio* for their generous donation of the delicious cookies. Proceeds for the cookie sales benefit the Players Student Organization



1100 Main Street Stevens Point, Wisconsin (715) 341-3088

## BACKSTAGE

The Department of Theatre & Dance welcomes support for our 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 refer to the enclosed Backstage envelope, or contact Tricia Lee at 715-346-3056.

A special thank you to our 2012-2013 Backstage supporters!  
*Donations received 1/1/12 - 1/24/13*

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David Worth & Cindy Schultz-Worth

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## Backstage (continued)

### Director (\$100-\$249)

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## **Backstage (continued)**

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Anonymous	Lynn & John Meyer
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