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2012-2013 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

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Barbara Cirmo Cutter/Draper

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Jared Hanlin Assistant Professor of Theatre

Jeannie Hill Associate Professor of Dance

Joan Karlen Professor of Dance Dance Program Coordinator

Gregory Kaye Assistant Professor of Theatre

Pamela Luedtke Lecturer of Dance Tyler Marchant

Gary G. Olsen Professor of Theatre Theatre & Dance Department Chair BFA Design Technology Coordinator

Assistant Professor of Theatre

Stephen Trovillion Smith Professor of Theatre **BFA Acting Program Coordinator**

Jeffrey Stephens Assistant Professor of Theatre BA/BS Drama Program Coordinator

> John Strassburg Dance Program Accompanist

Bradley Vieth Assistant Professor of Theatre BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator

> Mike Trudeau Scene Shop Manager Associate Lecturer

Director's Notes

For the final production of this year's season and for my directorial debut as a new musical theatre faculty member at UWSP, I think we've definitely created a show that will go out with a BANG!

The original film of *The Producers* in 1968 marked the directorial debut of Mel Brooks who won an Academy Award for his screenplay. This brilliant satirical dark comedy became a cult classic, thanks to the indelible leading performances of Zero Mostel as the down-on-his-luck slimy lothario Max Bialystock and an especially harried Gene Wilder as the preternaturally nervous accountant Leopold Bloom. Many will remember the tasteless genius of the major production number at the center of the film, "Springtime for Hitler," which helped ensure *The Producers'* lasting impact on American comic cinema.

In 2001, Mel Brooks returned to Broadway for the first time since writing the book for the failed musical *All American* almost forty years earlier. This time he took Broadway by storm. With his musical adaptation of *The Producers*, he expanded his original screenplay with co-writer Thomas Meehan and wrote his own music and lyrics to create a full score with sixteen new songs, inventively staged by director/choreographer Susan Stroman. The show won a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards and received numerous accolades for the pitch-perfect performances of Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick as Max and Leo. I was lucky enough to see the show on opening weekend on Broadway and I don't think I've laughed harder in my life.

The musical version of *The Producers* is really a love letter to Old Broadway—set in 1959, the height of the Golden Age of Musical Theatre, the show feels in almost every way like a throwback to that era, but filtered through Brooks' uniquely warped sense of humor.

What some might forget now is the shock value of a show that contains a musical number titled "Springtime for Hitler." Brooks himself served in World War II, and as a comedian and writer firmly entrenched in the

Borscht Belt Jewish comedy tradition, Hitler is in reality no laughing matter—there is real bite and social commentary underneath the joke.

Brooks said in an interview, "If you stand on a soapbox and trade rhetoric with a dictator you never win. But if you ridicule them, bring them down with laughter—they can't win. You show how crazy they are."

But at its core, the show is an improbable bromance, a sort of love story between two of the unlikeliest of partners who have been beaten down by the world but still dream of seeing their names up in lights—even if it takes the world's craziest scheme to get there.

Bringing this piece to life with our students and faculty collaborators has been a real joy. Rather than trying to reconceptualize or reinvent the show for its own sake, I've worked with the ensemble to answer at every moment one simple guiding question: "What Would Mel Brooks Do?", and I think the results that you see tonight will hopefully bring his strange but loving homage of Old Broadway to thrilling life.

As a musical, *The Producers* is a massive undertaking; it's a "Really Big Shew!" as Ed Sullivan would say. It's been incredibly inspiring to watch every person involved in the production give it their all in making the show happen. From set designer Greg Kaye's gloriously old school-style wagon and drop scenery, to Sandy Childer's glitzy and gritty collection of over 250 costumes, to Gary Olsen's name-in-lights grand lighting design with over 1000 light bulbs, to music director Brad Vieth's deliriously showbizzy music-making with our swinging pit orchestra and sensational singers, and choreographer Jeannie Hill's homages to Busby Berkeley and Fred Astaire in her flashy dances. And last but certainly not least, the performances by our remarkable student cast who have taken on this old fashioned broad musical comedy and gaggle of crazy characters with professional acumen, humor, style, and heart.

Enjoy the show!

-Alan Patrick Kenny

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

Presents

THE PRODUCERS

Music and Lyrics by MEL BROOKS

Book by MEL BROOKS and THOMAS MEEHAN

Original direction and choreography by Susan Stroman

By special arrangement with StudioCanal

THE PRODUCERS

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI

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www.MTIShows.com

Director

Alan Patrick Kenny*

Music Director Bradley Vieth*

Choreographer
Jeannie Hill*

Stage Manager Emily Lowney

Sound Designer Christopher Walls

Properties Designer Hayden Kraus Costume Designer Sandy Childers*

Lighting DesignerGary Olsen*

Scenic Designer Gregory Kaye*

Technical Director Michael Trudeau*

*Denotes Faculty/Staff

THE PRODUCERS

Cast

(In order of appearance)

The Usherettes	Kiah Fischer, Emily Reeves
Max Bialystock	Nick Wheeler
Leo Bloom	John Ford-Dunker
Hold-me Touch-me	Emily Lawrence
Mr. Marks	Carl Swanson
Janitor	Candace Buck
Franz Liebkind	Jordan Krsnak
Carmen Ghia	Erik Schneider
Roger De Bris	Luke Bradt
Bryan	Micah Wallace
Kevin	
Scott	Cole Witter
Shirley	Haley Haupt
Ulla	Katie Bates
Lick-me Bite-me	Elise Lueneburg
Kiss-me Feel-me	Candace Buck
Jack LaPidus	Bryce Dutton
Donald Dinsmore	Stephen Campbell
Jason Green	Cole Witter
Lead Tenor	Micah Wallace
Sergeant	Carl Swanson
O'Rourke	Matt Dominguez
O'Riley	Cole Witter
O'Houllihan	Brandon Bogenschutz
Guard	Tyler Sandblom
Bailiff	Bryce Dutton
Judge	
Foreman of Jury	
Trustee	Carl Swanson

THE ENSEMBLE

Allegra Berglund, Brandon Bogenschutz, Candace Buck, Stephen Campbell, Matt Dominguez, Bryce Dutton, Kiah Fischer, Hanna Gaffney, Haley Haupt, Emily Lawrence, Elise Lueneburg, Tatyana Nahirniak, Emily Reeves, Tyler Sandblom, Sam Skalbeck, Carl Swanson, Micah Wallace, Cole Witter, Kate Vander Velden

UNDERSTUDIES

MAX BIALYSTOCK: Bryce Dutton; LEO BLOOM: Micah Wallace; FRANZ LIEBKIND: Stephen Campbell; CARMEN GHIA: Cole Witter ROGER DE BRIS: Tyler Sandblom; ULLA: Tatyana Nahirniak

The Orchestra

Conductor/Piano	Bradley Vieth
Synthesizer	Luke Talen
Violin	Brittany Musumeci
Flute/Piccalo	Shannon Connors
Clarinet/Saxaphone	Alexander Miller, Katie Van Valen
Trumpet	Alex Shuffield, Michael Dvorak
Trombone	Benjamin Helmrick
Horn	Renee Millar
Bass	Sam Gehrke
Drum Set	Matthew Rhyner
Percussion	Andrew Cameron

Acknowledgements

Sean Connors, Monica Anderson, Patty Holland and the entire faculty of the UWSP Music Department.

The satirical nature of *The Producers* is evident throughout - and the musical numbers offer opportunities to continue and amplify the spectacular and hilarious situations through dance. With a dedicated, willing cast and brilliant team of musical theatre pros the rehearsal process has been a delight. Imagine an assignment that requires an Astaire/Rogers mating dance that escalates into "Make'em Laugh", a German fold dance trio with a pigeon twist, a lively romp for a chorus of vigorous old ladies and the creation of a fantasy tap sequence with accountants and sow girls drinking champagne in one show. Talk about variety! It is a daunting task to refresh a show after Susan Stroman has left her choreographic stamp, but we have had a blast in the rehearsal room creating the dances you'll see tonight.

Jeannie Hill Choreographer

The Producers is a big finish to a big first year as faculty at UWSP for Alan, Sandy and myself! Scenically, The Producers is challenging in how specific and prescriptive some of its many scenic locations are, and then how theatrical and magical others need to be. I think you'll find that our student assistance, designers, artists and technicians all rose to an immense challenge in mounting this production - and even manage to fit it all backstage! Enjoy!

Gregory Kaye Scenic Designer

SCENES

ACT ONE

New York, 1959

Scene 1: Shubert Alley
"Opening Night"The Ensemble
"The King of Broadway"Max & the Ensemble
Scene 2: Max's Office, June 16, 1959
"We Can Do It"Max & Leo
Scene 3: The Chambers Street Offices of Whitehall and Marks
"I Wanna Be a Producer"Leo & the Accountants
Scene 4: Max's Office
"We Can Do It" (Reprise)Max & Leo
Scene 5: Max's Office, early the following morning
Scene 6: The Rooftop of a Greenwich Village Apartment Building
"In Old Bavaria"Franz
"Der Guten Tag Hop Clop"Franz, Max & Leo
Scene 7: Living Room of Renowned Theatrical Director Roger De Bris'
Elegant Upper East Side Townhouse on a Sunny Tuesday
Afternoon in June
"Keep It Gay"Roger, Carmen, Bryan, Kevin
Scott, Shirley, Max & Leo
Scene 8: Max's Office
"When You Got It, Flaunt It"Ulla
Scene 9: Little Old Lady Land
"Along Came Bialy"Max & the Little Old Ladies
"Act One Finale" The Company

ACT TWO

Scene 1: Max's Office, late morning, a few weeks later
"That Face"Leo & Ulla
Scene 2: The Bare Stage of a Broadway Theatre
"Haben Sie Gehoert Das Deutsche Band""Jason, Franz
Scene 3: Shubert Alley
"Opening Night" (Reprise)The Usherettes
"It's Bad Luck to Say 'Good Luck' on Opening Night"Roger,
Carmen, Leo, Franz & Max
Scene 4: The Stage of the Shubert Theatre
"Springtime for Hitler"Lead Tenor, Ulla, Roger & Ensemble
Scene 5: Max's Office, later that night
Scene 6: The Holding Cell of a New York courthouse, ten days later
"Betrayed"Max
Scene 7: A New York Courtroom
"'Til Him"Leo & Max
Scene 8: Sing Sing Correctional Facility
"Prisoners of Love"The Convicts
Scene 9: The Stage of The Shubert Theatre
"Prisoners of Love" (Reprise)Roger, Ulla & the Ensemble
Scene 10: Shubert Alley
"Leo and Max"Leo & Max

Production Staff

Dialect Coach	
Hair/Makeup DesignerEmily Billington	
Assistant DirectorTori Mittelman	
Assistant Choreographer/Dance CaptainAllegra Berglund	
Assistant Technical DirectorEthan Rosing	
Assistant Stage ManagersMarisa Abbot, Emily Kaufman	
Assistant Costume DesignerChristy Siebers	
Associate Lighting DesignerNeal Javenkoski	
Assistant Lighting DesignerAlyssa Janco	
Assistant Sound/MixOriana Dentici	
Assistant Scenic DesignerEmily Lotz	
Scenic ChargeAmanda Martin	
Properties TechnicianCourtney Milkent	
Deck Run CrewBlair Bowman, Robert Goszkowicz, Cece Hill Abbey Immer, Neal Javenkoski, Josie Kirsch Emily Palmer, Christopher Warren	
Costume Run CrewSilvia Bond, Korinne Griffith, Emily Hein Suzanne Jamieson, Alexandria Nosrati, Katie Prosser Robert Soderstrom, Joe Tufte	
Costume Shop ManagerWendy Dolan*	
Cutter/DraperBarbara Cirmo*	
Scene Shop ManagerMichael Trudeau*	
Costume Shop AssistantsMolly Adams, Emily Billington Kiah Fischer, Hanna Gaffney, Sarah Helms, Cece Hill, Emily Lotz Emily Lowney, Amanda Martin, Daniel Rigamer, Christy Siebers	
Scene Shop AssistantsTom 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	
Scene & Costume ShopTheatre & Dance Practicum Students	
Academic Department AssociateRuth Daniels*	
Theatre & Dance Office Student AssistantsAllegra Berglund Kailey Field, Tori Mittelman, Sarah Godlewski	
House ManagersMichelle Gress, Courtney Groves Mark Hanna, Britni Hart, Larissa Petersen	
Public Relations AssistantsTheatre & Dance Practicum Students	
* Denotes Eaculty/Staff	

Meet the Company

- Marisa Abbott (Assistant Stage Manager) Freshman BFA Design Technology major from Oconomowoc, WI. Recipient of the Neale Honors Scholarship.
- **Katie Bates** (*Ulla*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Mequon, WI. Recipient of the Backstage Musical Theatre Scholarship.
- Allegra Berglund (Female Ensemble/Assistant Choreographer/Dance Captain)
 Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Fargo, ND. Recipient of the
 Arlen & Florence West Scholarship.
- Emily Billington (Hair/Makeup Designer) Senior BFA Design Technology major from Waupaca, WI. Recipient of the Mary Lou Holls Costume Scholarship and Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Design Technology.
- Luke Bradt (Roger) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Maplewood, MN.
- **Candace Buck** (Character Woman) Senior BFA Acting and Religious Studies major from Frederic, WI.
- **Andrew Cameron** (*Percussion*) Senior BM Percussion Performance major from Appleton, WI.
- **Stephen Campbell** (Male Ensemble/Understudy for Franz) Freshman BFA Acting major from Cedarburg, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman in Musical Theatre Scholarship.
- Shannon Connors (Flute/Piccolo) Senior BA Music and Elementary Education major from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Chancellor's Leadership Award.
- **Oriana Dentici** (Assistant Sound/Mix) Senior BFA Design Technology major from Milwaukee, WI.
- Matt Dominguez (Character Man) Freshman BFA Acting major from Kenosha, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman in Acting Scholarship.
- **Bryce Dutton** (*Male Ensemble/Understudy for Max*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Detroit Lakes, MN. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman in Musical Theatre Scholarship.
- **Michael Dvorak** (*Trumpet*) Senior BS Mathematics major and Music minor from Cedarburg, WI.
- **Kiah Fischer** (Female Ensemble) Freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Sycamore, IL.
- John Ford-Dunker (Leo) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Fargo, ND.
 Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman in Musical Theatre Scholarship.

Meet the Company (continued)

- **Hanna Gaffney** (Female Ensemble) Junior BFA Acting major from Oconomowoc, WI.
- Sam Gehrke (Bass) Junior BM Jazz Studies major from Milwaukee, WI.
- **Haley Haupt** (*Character Woman*) Freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Brookfield, WI.
- **Benjamin Helmrick** (*Trombone*) Junior BM Music Education major from River Falls, WI.
- **Alyssa Janco** (Assistant Lighting Designer) Freshman BFA Design Technology major from Green Bay, WI.
- **Neal Javenkoski** (Associate Lighting Designer) Junior BFA Acting major from Middleton, WI.
- **Emily Kaufman** (Assistant Stage Manager) Junior BFA Design Technology major from Baraboo, WI.
- **Hayden Kraus** (Properties Designer) Sophomore BFA Design Technology major from Menasha, WI.
- **Jordan Krsnak** (*Franz*) Junior BFA Acting major from Moorhead, MN. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman in Acting Scholarship.
- **Emily Lawrence** (Female Ensemble) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Maplewood, MN. Recipient of the Neale Honors Scholarship and the Backstage Musical Theatre Scholarship.
- **Emily Lowney** (Stage Manager) Sophomore BFA Design Technology major from Neenah, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Arts Award in Technical Theatre.
- **Elise Lueneburg** (Female Ensemble) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Brookfield, WI.
- Renee Millar (Horn) Senior BM Music Education major from Stevens Point, WI.
- **Alexander Miller** (*Saxophone*/*Clarinet*) Senior BM Music Education and Horn Performance major from Birnamwood, WI.
- **Tori Mittelman** (Assistant Director) Junior BFA Acting major from Burke, VA. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Acting.
- Brittany Musumeci (Violin) Junior BM Music major from Madison, WI.

Meet the Company (continued)

- **Tatyana Nahirniak** (Female Ensemble/Understudy for Ulla) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Cottage Grove, WI.
- **Emily Reeves** (Female Ensemble) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Business Administration minor from East Lansing, MI.
- **Ethan Rosing** (Assistant Technical Director) Sophomore BFA Design Technology major from Mequon, WI.
- Matthew Rhyner (Drum Set) Senior BM Jazz Studies major from Wausau, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Wind Band Scholarship, the Dorothy E. Vetter Percussion Scholarship, and the Worth Company Jazz Scholarship.
- **Tyler Sandblom** (Male Ensemble/Understudy for Roger De Bris) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Hubertus, WI.
- **Erik Schneider** (*Carmen*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major, Dance minor from Amherst Junction, WI.
- Alex Shuffield (Trumpet) Senior BM Music Education major from Sparta, WI.
- **Christy Siebers** (Assistant Costume Designer) Junior BFA Design Technology major from Whitefish Bay, WI.
- Sam Skalbeck (Male Ensemble) Freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from Pleasant Prairie, WI.
- Carl Swanson (Character Man) Junior BA Drama major from Hawley, MN.
- **Luke Talen** (Synthesizer) 2010 UW-Stevens Point graduate with a BA Music major and Communication minor from Mosinee, WI.
- **Katie Van Valen** (Saxophone/Clarinet) Senior BM Music Education major from Wisconsin Rapids, WI.
- Kate Vander Velden (Female Ensemble) 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.
- **Micah Wallace** (Male Ensemble/Understudy for Leo) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Brodhead, WI.
- **Nick Wheeler** (*Max*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Moorhead, MN. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Musical Theatre Scholarship.
- **Cole Witter** (Male Ensemble/Understudy for Carmen) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Hector, MN.

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