

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

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

Small WONDERS

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

By Rich Orloff

Directed by Stephen Trovillion Smith

April 23-30, 2021

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

Lisa Baxter

Academic Department Associate

Michael Estanich

Professor, Dance
Dance Program Coordinator
Theatre and Dance Chair

Parke Fech

Lecturer, Theatre

Lisa Golda

Associate Lecturer, Theatre

Mark Hanson

Associate Professor, Theatre
BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator

Jeannie Hill

Professor, Dance

Pamela Luedtke

Associate Lecturer, Dance

Tyler Marchant

Professor, Theatre
BFA Acting Coordinator

Jim O'Connell

Associate Professor, Arts Management
Arts Management Coordinator

Sarah Olson

Assistant Professor, Dance

Gary G. Olsen

Professor, Theatre
Theatre Area Coordinator

Sarah E. Ross

Assistant Professor, Theatre

Stephen Trovillion Smith

Professor, Theatre

Laurie Schmeling

Lecturer, Theatre
BA Drama Program Coordinator

Kristina Sneshkoff

Assistant Professor, Theatre
BFA Design and Technology
Program Coordinator

Sarah Wussow

Lecturer, Musical Theatre

Ann Warren

Technical Director



Director's Note

For fifteen years, I performed in a short play festival in Miami, Florida. The audiences loved the format and I grew to love it as well. These aren't skits or sketches or vignettes but instead, complete plays that manage to tell a story with a beginning, middle and end – all in anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes. As the publicity material stated (and still does, as the festival continues to this day), "if you don't like this play, wait five minutes and there'll be another one."

The plays are a fun challenge for actors as they are required to create multiple characters that are fully formed and different from each other, all in one evening's performance. The plays are in different styles and tones and demand bold choices. They also require (and the students are getting the chance to practice) immaculate comic timing and well-executed physical business. These skills will come in handy in everything from classical theatre to situation comedy. The actors spent hours rehearsing every moment and I'm proud of all of them. You'll see why when you watch SMALL WONDERS.

One other interesting note: the necessity to film these plays in order to follow appropriate safety protocols mean that the actors and designers are also getting a crash course in acting and designing for the camera.

Speaking of the designers, all of the designers for SMALL WONDERS are students, with generous support and guidance from their faculty/staff mentors. Many of these plays, by a Jewish New York playwright, are in the great tradition of Borscht Belt humor. The Borscht Belt was an area of upstate New York where mostly Jewish residents of New York City stayed at resorts during the summer months in the era before air conditioning and Caribbean cruises (think "Dirty Dancing"). Many famous comedians of the 20th century, from Milton Berle to Jerry Seinfeld, entertained at these resorts. Taking this cultural reference as a jumping off point, our scenic designer has created a setting that melds contemporary forms with mid-century architectural elements. He then added references to current comedy clubs and came up with a set that manages to combine color and form to create a wonderfully versatile arena for plays set all over the world.

Director's Note

You may not know as much about stage managers, but they are the glue that really holds any show together, especially one with this many technical elements. They are also the only people other than the director who are at rehearsal every night. They don't get applause at the end of the performance so I want to take this opportunity to applaud them publicly. We literally could not do this without them.

Lastly, this will be my final show at UWSP. After 21 years, I'm retiring at the end of the semester. It has been a glorious ride, and I will miss the campus, the community and most of all – the students. As the world seems to get darker with each crisis, I encourage you all to continue to support the arts, which represent, as always, a light at the end of the tunnel.

Stay well.

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

Small Wonders

An Evening of Short Plays

By Rick Orloff

Directed by

Stephen Trovillion Smith*

Stage Manager
Alexis Flaten

Lighting Designer
Graeme Gross

Assistant Stage Managers
Byrn Aehlich, Mark Woznicki

Lighting Assistants
Garrick Hartley,
Rowan Krohn Wipperfurth

Costume Designers
Hannah Klingbeil, Corey
Lahr, Kristina Sneshkoff*

Scenic Designer
Evan Johnson

Props Master
Callie Senzig

Lighting / Sound Mentor
Gary G. Olsen*

Sound Designer / Engineer
Kallan Green

Storyboards
Sarah E. Ross*

Flimographer/Editor
Larissa Avelino

**Dialect Coach / Fight
Director**
Parke Fech*

Hair & Makeup Designers
Abby Moyers, Kristina
Sneshkoff*

*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.

Small Wonders

Program

I WAS FINE UNTIL YOU CAME INTO THE ROOM

TIME: Now, and 51 years ago.

PLACE: A banquet hall, and an art gallery.

Old Helen -- Allison Masulis

Old Pete -- Randy Kessenich

Young Helen -- Georgia Mobley

Young Pete -- Kaden Rhodes

NICE TIE

TIME: Evening.

PLACE: A bar.

Man -- Felix Torrez-Ponce

Woman -- Kendra James

THE WOMAN WHO WANTED HER HUSBAND

TIME: Evening.

PLACE: An actress' dressing room.

Actress -- Landen Alft

Wife -- Georgia Mobley

GOOD NEWS FROM ALBERT

TIME: A special day in Einstein's life.

PLACE: The homes of Albert Einstein and his mother.

Albert -- Gavin Borchardt

Mom -- Allison Masulis

Small Wonders

Program, cont.

I WISH THE VOICES IN MY HEAD WOULD STOP YELLING LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SAY "I LOVE YOU"

TIME: An afternoon in Spring.

PLACE: The administrative office of a high school.

Assistant Principal Zaggilplehhh -- Matthew Wautier-Rodriguez

Todd -- Landen Alft

Debby -- Abby Moyers

Blinky -- Gavin Borchardt

MATTERHORN

TIME: A hot Summer day.

PLACE: Disneyland.

Arleen -- Kendra James

Jerry -- Randy Kessenich

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD COOK

TIME: Just after dinner.

PLACE: An urban apartment.

Jerome -- Felix Torres-Ponce

Mark -- Matthew Wautier-Rodriguez

Small Wonders

Program, cont.

THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN OF FORGIVENESS

TIME: Late one night.

PLACE: Their living room.

He -- Kaden Rhodes

She -- Georgia Mobley

BULGARIAN RHAPSODY

TIME: The present.

PLACE: A modest Bulgarian home.

Vasilka -- Allison Masulis

Tatiana -- Abby Moyers

Stanimir -- Matthew Wautier-Rodriguez

Plamen -- Kaden Rhodes

Desislav -- Randy Kessenich

Ken -- Gavin Borchardt

Production Staff

Prop Shop Student Manager	Kristy LaCount
Props Artisan	Emma Deal
Scenic Charge	Sarah E. Ross*
Costume Shop Assistants	Julia Andres, Jordan Busse, Allison Durst, Emmaline Fitzgerald, Alexis Flatten, Angeline Holtzman-Forbes, Hannah Klingbeil, Christine Latourette
Scene Shop Assistants	Olivia Bastien, Edgar Berumen, Hailey Dononhoue, Graeme Gross, Samuel Kuhns, Ben Schroeder, Alex Yeiter
Technical Director	Ann Warren*
Assistant Technical Director	Edgar Berumen
Promotional Video	Bailee Harper
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 (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Freshman BA Drama major from Kenosha, WI.

Alft, Landen (*Actress, Todd*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre and BA Music Education major from Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

Berumen, Edgar (*Assistant Technical Director*) BFA Design and Technology major from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the First Year Theatre and Dance Scholarship.

Borchardt, Gavin (*Albert, Blinky, Ken*) Junior BFA Acting major from Neenah, WI. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship.

Flaten, Alexis (*Stage Manager*) Sophomore BFA Design and Technology major and Arts Management minor from Sun Prairie, WI.

Green, Kallan (*Sound Designer/Engineer*) Sophomore BFA Design and Technology major from Oconomowoc, WI. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship.

Gross, Graeme (*Lighting Designer*) Junior BFA Design and Technology major and German minor from Waterford, WI. Recipient of the Peet-Faust Drama Award, the Peter Kronor Award, the German Consulate Award, and the Joseph and Margaret Schmauss Award.

Hartley, Garrick (*Lighting Assistant*) Sophomore BFA Design and Technology major from Sauk City, WI.

James, Kendra (*Woman, Arlene*) Junior BFA Acting major from Madison, WI. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship.

Johnson, Evan (*Scenic Designer*) Senior BFA Design and Technology major from Neenah, WI. Recipient of the Jeffery Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship, and the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award in Design and Technology.

Kessenich, Randy (*Old Pete, Jerry, Desislav*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Stevens Point, WI.

Klingbeil, Hannah (*Costume Designer*) Senior BFA Design and Technology and BA Philosophy double major from Reedsburg, WI. Recipient of the Mary Lou Halls Costume Scholarship.

Krohn Wipperfurth, Rowan (*Lighting Assistant*) Freshman BFA Musical Theatre major and History minor from Wausau, WI.

Lahr, Corey (*Costume Designer*) Junior BA Drama and Studio Art double major from South Milwaukee, WI.

Masulis, Allison (*Old Helen, Mom, Vasilka*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Psychology minor from St. Charles, IL.

Meet the Company

Mobley, Georgia (*Young Helen, Wife, She*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Greenleaf, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Acting.

Moyers, Abigail (*Ainsley/Rosey Montgomery/Hair & Makeup Designer*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Plainfield, IN.

Rhodes, Kaden (*Young Pete, He, Plamen*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Waukesha, WI. Recipient of the Talent Scholarship and the Academic Scholarship.

Senzig, Callie (*Props Master*) Sophomore BA Drama major from Reedsburg, WI.

Torrez-Ponce, Felix (*Man, Jerome*) Junior BFA Acting major from Green Bay, WI.

Wautier-Rodriguez, Matthew (*Principal Zaggilplehh, Mark, Stanimir*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Political Science minor from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award.

Woznicki, Mark (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Freshman BA Drama and History double major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the Presidential Purple Scholarship and Theatre and Dance Talent Award Scholarship.

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 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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BACKSTAGE CONTINUED

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Stage Manager (\$50+)

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John Hardy and Sandy Powell
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Jan Seiler
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 or 715-346-3056. Your contribution will be acknowledged in each production program, unless you wish to remain anonymous.

tickets.uwsp.edu
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