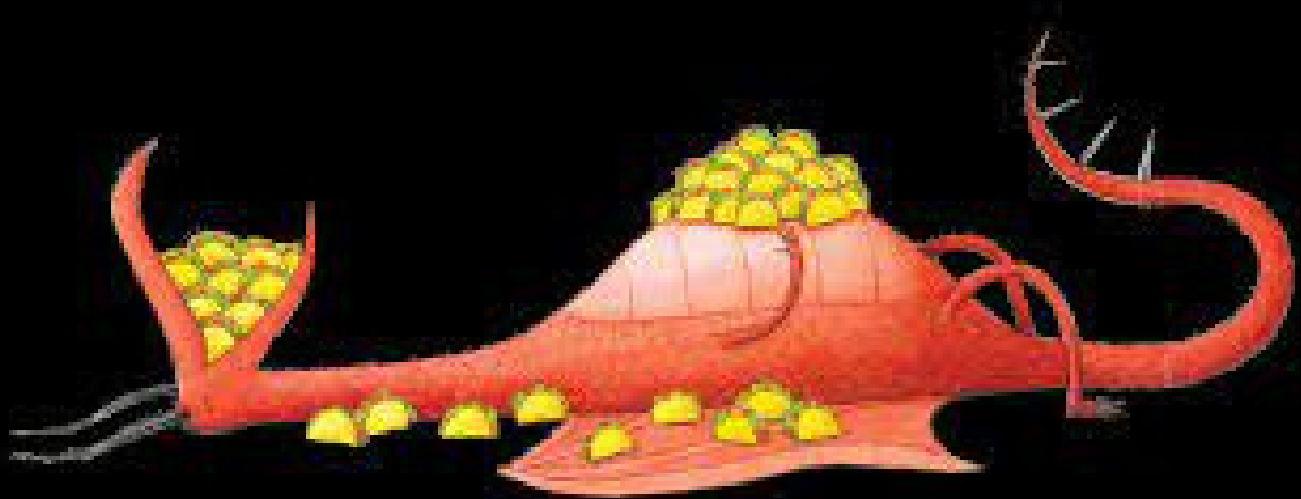


University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Department of Theatre and Dance

Dragons Love Tacos

By Ernie Nolan

Based on the book by Adam Rubin;
Illustrations by Daniel Salmieri



Saturday, April 1, 2023 at
9:00a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m.
Frederick Theatre, Moris Hall

Published by Penguin Books. Produced by special
arrangement with Plays for New Audiences.

Creative Team

Director.....Nic Barilar
Stage Manager.....Sage Goetsch*
Scenic Designers.....Mandy Kolbe,
Jess Miller*
Lighting Designer.....Kevin Amerling*
Sound Designer.....Ben Golden
and the THA 342 Sound Design class
Costume Designer.....Michelle Collyar
Technical Director.....Sam Kallis*
Props Designer.....Mandy Kolbe

*indicates student designer/manager



Cast

Boy.....Anna Halvorsen
Leroy, the Dog.....Cameron Cavaiuolo
Man in Suit.....Nicholas Bilyeu
Red Dragon.....Abby Muma
Blue Dragon.....Val Fish
White Dragon.....Kira Hirsch
Yellow Dragon.....Paige Huling

Biographies

Kevin Amerling (Lighting Designer)-
-Kevin is excited to be the Lighting Designer for the first time. He is a Business Management and Administration major with a minor in Theater Technical Design. Previous productions include *Little Women* (lighting crew), *The Revolutionists* (Master Electrician), *Spotlight* (Sound Board Op), and *Murder on the Orient Express* (Assistant Lighting Designer).

Ellie Augustine (Asst. Props Designer)--Ellie has been performing since 5th grade, when she did her very first musical *The Jungle Book* and fell in love with the performing arts. She recently appeared as Fred's Wife in *A Christmas Carol* and Marie Antoinette in *The Revolutionists*.

Nic Barilar (Director)--Nic is new to UWL this year and is excited to get to work teaching UWL's students! Nic is a theatre historian and artist specializing in Irish theatre and drama, censorship history, and performance theory and practices. A proud member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), Nic has also worked as an actor and singer at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, the Pittsburgh Festival Opera, the Virginia Samford Theatre, and the Barn Theatre.

Nicholas Bilyeu (Man in Suit)--Nick is excited for his first production in the Frederick Theatre! You may have last seen him in UWL's *A Christmas Carol* (Joe the Beetler) or *Severe Clear* (Narrator). He'd like to thank his friends, family, and Alé for all their support. Enjoy the show!

Cameron Cavaiuolo (Leroy the Dog)-
-Cameron is a junior who is super excited to be performing in his first ever kids theatre show. Cameron recently performed as Marley in *A Christmas Carol*. He would like to give a big THANK YOU to his friends and family who continuously supported him throughout his adventure in the acting world.

Michelle Collyar (Costume Designer)--With an MFA in design, Michelle manages the costume shop and teaches costume technology. Having designed/constructed costumes and dancewear for regional and academic theatres, Michelle recently worked on two television series filmed in Canada: *Let's Get Physical* starring Jane Seymour and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, a Canadian mock news series.

Val Fish (Blue Dragon/Dramaturg)--Val is thrilled to pieces to be the Blue Dragon! She is a sophomore Performance major who has previously appeared in *Edward Tulane* and *A Christmas Carol*. Thanks to Mom and Dad and shout out to brothers Nate and Davey, who love this book :)

Sage Goetsch (Stage Manager)--Sage is thrilled to be stage managing his first production at UWL! He was recently an assistant stage manager for *Murder on the Orient Express* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. He would like to thank his friends and partners for always being there to support him. Enjoy the show!

Ben Golden (Sound Designer/Master Electrician)-Ben is the Lighting and Sound Supervisor for the department. His work has been seen at theatres across the Midwest, including Great River Shakespeare Festival, Children's Theatre of Madison, Madison Opera, Music Theatre of Madison, Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, Viterbo University and Cardinal Stritch University.

Anna Halvorsen (Boy)--Anna is ecstatic to be performing in *Dragons Love Tacos*. She is a junior majoring in Performance and minoring in Stage Management. Previous acting credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Edward Tulane*, and *Severe Clear*. Previous production team credits include *Secret In The Wings* (Dramaturg) and *Murder on the Orient Express* (Assistant Stage Manager). She thanks her friends and family for their support and the cast and crew for being a wonderful community!

Kira Hirsch (White Dragon)--Kira is a freshman at UW-La Crosse. She is very excited to be a part of her second college show as the White Dragon. Her first performance at UWL was as Belinda in *A Christmas Carol*. Kira hopes you enjoy the show!



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Paige Huling (Yellow Dragon)--Paige is so excited to be in her third production at UWL. She is a first year Theatre Performance major. Having just previously been in *A Christmas Carol* as Beggar and *Murder on the Orient Express* as Michel, she is very grateful for all of the lessons and opportunities she's learned from her directors and fellow actors. She hopes you enjoy this terrific show!

August Jennings (Asst. Costume Designer)--August is a third-year Theatre Design/Tech and 3D Art student. This is his first costume design at UWL! He was previously the scenic designer for *Shrek the Musical* and the headress designer for *Xanadu* at Broadway Theatre. He is also a member of the UWL scene shop staff. He would like to thank his best friend, Laura, and his partner, Madyn, for always supporting his art and antics.

Sam Kallis (Technical Director)--Sam is a 4th year student at UWL. He has been working in the scene shop as either a volunteer or staff member since his freshman year. He is excited to see what this year and show has in store for him.



Mandy Kolbe (Scenic/Props Designer)--Mandy earned her MFA in scenic and lighting design from Ohio State University. She has designed over 50 shows at UWL including *A Christmas Carol*, *Eleemosynary*, *26 Pebbles*, *Hair*, *Twelfth Night*, *Urinetown*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and many more. She has also designed for the Ashland Theatre, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, The Brick, and the Hudson Guild.

Katie Krueger (Asst. Stage Manager)--Katie is so excited to be a part of the stage management team for this production. Katie has previously worked as an ASM on *A Christmas Carol*. She is a double major in Marketing and Finance, with a minor in Stage Management. Katie would like to thank her family and friends for the support. Enjoy the show!

Katie Last (Asst. Stage Manager)--Katie is a freshman double majoring in Sociology and Stage Management. She is thrilled to have her first assistant stage management opportunity in the department, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Jess Miller (Scenic Designer)--Jess is a junior majoring in Theatre Design and Marketing. She has been a part of several productions with the university in the paint and props department. and is very excited to work on this show. Jess would like to thank all the cast and crew for their hard work.

Abby Muma (Red Dragon)--Abby is all "fired up" to be playing the Red Dragon in their third production at UWL! They've previously performed in UWL's *Murder on the Orient Express* and *A Christmas Carol*. They want to thank their family for their support with theater, and hope you enjoy the show!

Elin Voegeli (Asst. Costume Designer)--Elin is a first-year Theatre Design major with a minor in French. They are thrilled to be an assistant designer for *Dragons Love Tacos*. Elin has been involved in theatre for eight years and participated in over 35 productions. Elin was honored to be the costume run crew head for *A Christmas Carol* last semester. They enjoy their job working in the costume shop and are grateful for all the opportunities that Joe and Michelle have provided for them.

Special Thanks

Jason Underferth



Director's Notes

Children's theatre sometimes gets a bad rep. "Serious" artists turn up their noses and roll their eyes. Yet producing theatre for young audiences can be just as artful an experience as plays by Shakespeare or Samuel Beckett and, in many ways, can be more impactful. Just as most Americans today can name their favorite movies and TV shows from their childhood – from *Mr. Rodgers' Neighborhood*, *Sesame Street*, and *Captain Kangaroo* to today's *Bluey* and *Paw Patrol*, to speak nothing of Disney, Pixar, and Dreamworks animation films – most theatre artists can name some of their first theatrical experiences.

Disney's leap to the Broadway stage with *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King* (among others) followed a long tradition of children's theatre on this nation's most prestigious stages, including *Peter Pan* (1954) and *Babes in Toyland* (1903) among many, many others.

So: children's theatre not only has a long artistic heritage but can introduce and, indeed, shape the next generation of theatregoers and artists! It also teaches lessons and provides a space for laughter, joy, imagination, and play. What I've found about *Dragons Love Tacos* is that it is precisely about the value of play and imagination for children, yes, but adults, too. I've grown through it, as have the students working on it, and so will our young audiences. Play is vital – and therefore (if I may), plays are vital. I hope you enjoy our play!

Production Team

Asst. Stage Managers.....Katie Krueger,
Katie Last

Asst. Props Designer.....Ellie Augustine

Asst. Costume Designer.....August Jennings,
Elin Voegeli

Choreographer.....Ashley Dobrogosz

Dramaturg.....Val Fish

Scene Shop Supervisor.....Megan Morey

Lighting/Sound Supervisor.....Ben Golden

Production Manager.....Laurie Kinckman

Costume Shop Manager.....Michelle Collyar

Light Board Operator.....Ellie Burns

Sound Board Operator.....Ella Mertes

Run Crew.....Garrett Anderson,
Preston Mathews, Hannah Suarez,
Makayla Ullman

Costume Run Crew.....Abby Erickson,
Abigale Hartwig

Props/Paint Staff.....Laura Felde,
Kaj Jensen, Carson Kreger,
Talia Mentjes, Jess Miller

Props/Paint Crew.....Esther Hammen

Front of House Manager.....Paige Verbsky

Box Office.....Caitlin Elenteny, Chloe Hart,
Emma Kohl

Costume Shop Staff.....Sage Goetsch,
August Jennings, Linnea Lerwick,
Talia Mentjes, Irene Swain, Elin Voegeli

Costume Shop Crew.....Serena Fincher,
Martha Franke, Molly Friday,
Riley Fredrichsdorf, Katie Glazer,
Joaris Guzman Rivas, Kelly Heinzen,
Maria Lanham, Alayna Litz, Julia Maynard,
Cecilia Rice, Avery Romann, Rachel Steffen,
Gabriela Wooldridge

Poster Design/Cast Photos.....Joe Anderson

Lobby Display.....Carson Kreger

Sound Designers.....Brodyn Byington (TA),
Leo Chavolla, Sage Goetsch,
Anna Halvorsen, Tracy Joe,
Amber Meyers, Julia Milne,
Connor Pangburn

Scene Shop Staff.....Adam Bloom,
Brodyn Byington, August Jennings,
Tracy Joe, Sam Kallis

Scene Shop Crew.....Landin Ahrenholz,
Olivia Ahrends, Katelyn Babcock,
Julia Broadrick, Hailey Cole,
Carmen Crandall, Sara Duffy, Charlie Dyar,
Laura Flaherty, Logan Felker,
Nathan Fremgen, Kylee Goodrich,
Emma Heinert, Ryan Holmstrom,
Kaj Jensen, Auna Johnson, Kieran Keller,
Hailey Kluck, Kennedy Kopcha,
Sutton Krug, Jaiden Lauer, Laurie Leick,
Kaden Leonard, Ryan Lisota, Chloe Lor,
Naomi Meek, Andrew Momsen,
Janessa Olson, Julia Panfil, Stella Patton,
Ava Pleshek, River Podjasek, Gus Richter,
Madelyn Robel, Kalia Rude, Olivia Sampson,
Morgan Schmidt, Taylor Skinner,
Sera Speltz, Carlie Tesch, Will Vaillant,
Jordan Walsh, Wyatt Wilken

Light/Sound Shop Staff.....Brodyn Byington,
Leo Chavolla, Tracy Joe, Linnea Lerwick

Light Crew.....MJ Baumann,
Dylan Boerner, Payton Carothers,
Matt Chavez, Kasey Hammill,
Ariel Hartleben, Angela Heck,
Daniel Kelly Jr., Brooks Kraus,
Daniel Krause, Connor Pangburn,
Finley Richgels, Nick Wenger



Upcoming Events

Senior Acting Recital

Linnea Lerwick

April 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall

Directing Scenes

May 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall

Student directed 10-minutes scenes

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

April 21-22 & 27-29, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

April 23 & 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Toland Theatre, Center for the Arts

Dance Showcase

May 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Dance Studio, 103 Mitchell Hall

Open Auditions

SummerStage 2023

Cinderella

Monday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Please prepare 32-bars in a similar style

Song/Dance audition--come prepared to move

Callbacks: Wednesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Song/Scene callbacks; additional dance as needed

Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts

<http://websites.uwlax.edu/theatrecallboard/>