

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Department of Theatre and Dance

The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley

By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

DIRECTOR
Mary Trotter

STAGE MANAGER
Sage Goetsch*

★ **SCENIC & LIGHTING
DESIGNER**
Mandy Kolbe

**TECHNICAL
DIRECTOR**
Nate Mohlman

SOUND DESIGNER
Connor Pangburn*

PROPS DESIGNER
Avery Weston*

COSTUME DESIGNER
Anna Wooden

DRAMATURG
Val Fish*

**denotes student designer/manager*

December 5-7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
December 7-8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts

The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley is presented by special arrangement with
Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service Collection.

www.dramatists.com

Cast

Mrs. Reynolds
Paige Verbsky

Brian
Sean Peterson

Cassie
Emma Cartwright

Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy
A. Muma

Mrs. Elizabeth Darcy
Caroline Thompson

George Wickham
Will Nysse

Lydia Wickham
Emma Reinhardt

Production Notes

The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley was commissioned and originally produced by the Jungle Theatre, Minneapolis, MN; Marin Theatre Company, Mill Valley, CA; and Northlight Theatre, Chicago, IL

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Biographies

Emma Cartwright (Cassie)--Emma is thrilled to be in both her second year and second production at UW-La Crosse. She would like to thank her Mom, Dad, little sister Alli, family, friends, and everyone else who has shown her love and support in her educational and theatrical journeys.

Michelle Collyar (Costume Shop Supervisor)--With an MFA in design and technology, Michelle manages the costume shop at UWL and teaches costume technology. She has designed, patterned and constructed costumes and dancewear for regional and academic theatres, and for dance companies and commercial catalogs. She spent some time in Canada working on the set of *Let's Get Physical*, starring Jane Seymour and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, a Canadian mock news series. Michelle recently spent a season on the opera *Carmen* directed by Denyce Graves, an Emmy and Grammy Award-winning vocalist at the Glimmerglass opera company in New York.

Dylan Curvin (Asst. Technical Director/Scene Shop Supervisor)--Dylan is excited to begin his first year with the UWL Department of Theatre and Dance. Dylan is from Piedmont, Alabama and studied at Jacksonville State University where he obtained his B.A. in Integrated Studies with a focus on Theatre. He also has been working professionally in theatre for around 10 years with most recent credits including *Sweeney Todd* and *The Barber of Seville* with Des Moines Metro Opera Theatre, *The Cher Show*, *STOMP*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* Broadway tours.

Val Fish (Dramaturg)--Val is delighted to be the dramaturg for UWL's *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley*! She is a senior Performance major with a Creative Writing minor. Previous UWL dramaturgical endeavors include *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Dragons Love Tacos*, and *Dr. Faustus*, and she will be the dramaturg for the upcoming production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Thanks to Mary and Laurie for this opportunity, her friends and family for supporting this project and all of her theatre projects, and she would like to dedicate her work on this project to Carl, her favorite kitty friend. Enjoy the show!

Sage Goetsch (Stage Manager)--Sage is delighted to be stage managing another UWL production. Sage is a senior Stage Management major with minors in Design/Tech (Sound Design) and Performance. His most recent credits include props designer for *Puffs* and production management apprentice at New York Stage and Film (Poughkeepsie, NY) for the 2024 summer season. Up next, he will be the stage manager for *Cabaret* for his senior capstone. He would like to thank his parents and friends for always supporting him. Finally, he hopes you enjoy the show!

Ryan Hong (Asst. Lighting Designer)--Ryan is an exchange student from Hong Kong, and he is excited to work on this show! He loves learning everything about theatre and hopes everyone enjoys the performance!

Biographies

Laurie Kinckman (Production Manager)--Laurie is Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance where she teaches stage management, arts administration, dramaturgy, and serves as the Production Manager. She has worked professionally in theatre, dance, and opera. Laurie was co-author and projections designer for the department's world premiere of *Severe Clear-September 11 from Memory to History*. Other UWL credits include stage management of *Art in Motion*, and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Big Fish*, and *26 Pebbles*, and dramaturgy for *Doctor Faustus*, *Proof*, and *The Laramie Project*. She is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, the Stage Managers Association, the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, and Actors' Equity Association. Laurie is the author of *The Stage Manager's Toolkit*, published by Routledge Press.

Hailey Kluck (Asst. Stage Manager)--Hailey is a junior double majoring in Theatre Design/Tech and Public Health. Having mainly worked in set construction and run crew, Hailey is excited to join the production of *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley* as an assistant stage manager. Hailey recently was one of the puppet designer for the UWL production of *Puffs*. Enjoy the show.

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

Miranda Logan (Costume Design Assistant)--Logan is delighted to be assistant costume designer on this production of *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley*! This is her first time assisting a show at UWL in this capacity, and also in working with the show's regency era costuming! She sincerely hopes you'll enjoy the show, and that your own holidays are nowhere near as dramatic!

Nate Mohlman (Technical Director)--Nate begins his first year as the Technical Director of the UWL Department of Theatre and Dance. He teaches Theatre Technology, Stagecraft, Drafting, and Theatre Foundations. Nate holds an MFA in Technical Direction from the University of Southern Illinois and specializes in rigging, structural design for the stage, entertainment automation, drafting, and metal fabrication. He has worked professionally as a Technical Director at the La Crosse Community Theatre and as an Assistant Technical Director at both the Des Moines Metro Opera and the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Biographies

A. Muma (Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy)--A. is a junior Performance and Biology double major, excited to take the stage for the seventh time at UWL. Most recently, A. performed in *Puffs, Orlando*, and *Dr. Faustus!* They want to thank their family and friends for all the support, and wishes everyone Happy Holidays!

Will Nysse (George Wickham)--Will is very excited to be playing Wickham in UWL's production of *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley*. He was last seen at UWL as Faustus in *Doctor Faustus* and Strolling Accordion Player in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. He also hopes you enjoy the show!

Connor Pangburn (Sound Designer)--Connor is a junior at UWL and this is his first time sound designing a show. He's super excited to be able to create the soundscape for *Pemberley*!

Sean Peterson (Brian)--Sean is a second year student at UWL and has been performing since he was in elementary school. He is a double major in Communications and Musical Theatre. His most recent performances have been as Ladahlord in *James and the Giant Peach* and as Limping Man in *Fuddy Meers*. He thanks his family for being a major support role in his theatrical and educational endeavors.

Emma Reinhardt (Lydia Wickham)--Emma is ecstatic to be playing Lydia Wickham in *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley*! She has been doing theatre since fourth grade and was most recently seen in UWL's *Art in Motion*. Outside of theater and dance, she enjoys reading, watching movies, and spending time with friends and family.

Caroline Thompson (Mrs. Elizabeth Darcy)--Caroline is a junior student at UWL studying Psychology and Musical Theater. She has previously appeared in other productions at UWL including, most recently, Aunt Sponge in *James and the Giant Peach*. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she loved working on it!

Mary Trotter (Director)--Mary is thrilled to be a part of the UWL Theatre and Dance faculty, teaching acting and musical theatre! She is an actor, director, and intimacy choreographer. Professional credits span the country including Black Hills Playhouse, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Imagination Theater, Missouri Repertory Theatre, and Idaho Repertory Theatre. Locally Mary has served as Intimacy Director for Viterbo University, La Crosse Community Theatre and Grey Area Productions. In addition to receiving her BA from Bradley University and MFA from the University of Idaho, she has extensive training with Patsy Rodenburg, Theatrical Intimacy Education, and the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. Mary has produced and directed theatre outreach programs such as Las Memorias and The Performance Project, focused on defining and sharing individual stories of participants.

Biographies

Paige Verbsky (Mrs. Reynolds)--Paige is a senior this year studying Arts Administration and Theatre Performance. Some of Paige's recent acting credits at UWL include: *The Wolves* (#25), *Secret in the Wings* (Allerleira, et al.), and *Orlando* (Orlando). Paige would like to take this time to thank her professors, family, and friends for supporting her theatre endeavors over the last four years and hopes everyone enjoys getting into the Christmas spirit!

Amanda Visger (Asst. Stage Manager)--Amanda is a junior majoring in Theatre Performance and minoring in Stage Management. This is their first time assistant stage managing. They would like to thank their friends, family, and professors for all of the encouragement and support along the way. Enjoy the show!

Avery Weston (Props Designer)--Avery is a junior Stage Management major with minors in Theater Design/Technology and Arts Administration. Recently, she was the stage manager for *Puffs* and *Orlando*. She is very excited to be the props designer and help decorate for Christmas! They would like to thank their family and friends for all the support. Happy holidays!

Anna Wooden (Costume Designer)--Anna is excited to join the UWL Department of Theater and Dance for her first year as faculty. She teaches Costume Design/History, Costume Crafts, Stage Makeup, and Rendering for the Designer. She received her MFA in Stage Design from Northwestern University. Anna specializes in costume design while also working in props, puppetry, sculpture, illustration, and fabrication. She is an artistic associate of Cloudgate Theatre. Favorite credits include *Get Out Alive* (Haven), *Pinnocchio* (The House), *Footloose* (Marriott Lincolnshire), *Second Skin* (Cloudgate), and *Marys Seacolé* (Griffin). Currently her work can be seen at film festivals in the short musical documentary *Happy Songs About Unhappy Things*.

Upcoming Events

Much Ado About Nothing

Feb. 28-March 1 & 7-8 at 7:30 p.m.

March 2 & 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

Saturday, April 5

9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., & 1:00 p.m.

Cabaret

April 25-26 & May 1-3 at 7:30 p.m.

April 27 & May 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Production Team

Asst. Stage Manager.....Josh Kaiser,
Hailey Kluck, Amanda Visger
Dialect Coach.....Nic Barilar
Fight Choreographer.....Greg Parmeter
Light/Sound Supervisor.....David Harlan
Scene Shop Supervisor.....Dylan Curvin
Costume Shop
Supervisor.....Michelle Collyar
Production Manager.....Laurie Kincman
Sound Board Op.....Nora Svendsen
Light Board Op.....Jeralyn Ree
Costume Shop Staff.....Ella Dummer,
Lillie Helseth, Miranda Logan,
Vienna Tomkalski, Elin Voegeli
Costume Shop Crew.....Grace Feyen,
Megan Gabrielse, Trinity Hobot,
Lauren Maresh, Ella Meyers,
Corin Milne, Ori Vega
Costume Run Crew.....Stella Blum,
Grace Fredricksen, Alissa Jackson (Hair),
Grace Nekola
Light Shop Staff.....Coleman Breedlove,
Sage Goetsch, Amber Meyers
Light Crew.....Ephraim Anglemyer,
Jordan Hurley, Apollo Kasprzyk,
Mazin Khorsed, Caleb Lor, Ava Macintyre,
Aiden Magnusson, Will Meier,
Noah Petrick, Jayden Sayles,
Addison Strauss, Abby Waters
Sound Shop Staff.....Connor Pangburn

Publicity.....Anna Abel,
Naomi Golisch, Paige Latzl
Box Office.....Eva Mason, Ella Mertes,
Morgan Millard, Julia Grace Sanchez
Run Crew.....Sam Anderson, Leah Costello,
Abby Hughes, Burke Piller, Angelina Tomko,
Nikko Vilwock, Suzanne White
Poster Design.....Laurie Kincman
Cast Photos.....David Harlan
Lobby Display.....Val Fish
House Manager.....Makenna Trumm
Front of House.....Cole Larson, Jackson Nekolny,
Addy Nysse, Libby Sondeleski,
Brayden Walters, Rylie Wise
Scene Paint Staff.....Natalie Giddings,
Sage Goetsch, Magdelana Stauffer,
Avery Weston
Scene Paint Crew.....Madeline Borski,
Abby Chalmers
Scene Shop Staff.....Josh Kaiser, Hailey Kluck,
Jezelyn Lorraine, Josie Lucksted,
Michael Muma, River Podjasek,
Caden Prentice, Avery Weston
Scene Shop Crew.....Carly Anderson,
Anna Barganz, Landon Beyer,
Stone Buchanan, Carson Dorn,
Quinten Freiss, Hailey Goemer,
Rachel Hosch, Aiden Johnson,
Charlie Johnson, Christian Jorstad,
Nevin Krause, Nolan Krivos, Brady Kuhn,
Mitchell Lane, Gaven Lange,
Abby Offerdahl, Jake Prestigiacomo,
Olivia Roe, Ty Schneider, Emma Schrimpf,
Elliott Sjoquist, Michael Stadler, Jack Strong,
Anna Vandermause, Alexander Wagner,
Joselyn Ward, Casey Wells, Luke Williams



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Director's Notes

Welcome to Pemberley! If you are a Jane Austin fan, you will recognize some of these beloved characters. But never fear, if you are like me and do not consider yourself a “Jane-ite”, you will still be able to get swept up in the story!

It is December 22nd, roughly two years after *Pride and Prejudice* and playwrights Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon have invited us into the Darcy's famous home, Pemberley, for a follow up. While the year is 1815, these contemporary writers have incorporated a modern feel in theme and character. We have had a lot of fun leaning into that feel with some of our design elements and character work.

Yet some things never change. In 1815, just as in 2024, the holidays can be a stressful time! Love can be in the air alongside divide and conflict. Everything can seem a little more intense. As Lydia says, “I don't know why but the holiday seems to make everyone just a little bit more so than they already are.”

Our story takes place downstairs in the servants' quarters. Through the stress of preparation for Christmas and Boxing Day, we see the Darcy family but also the Pemberley family navigating class divide, love, enemies, friendship, joy, and struggle.

As we are perhaps coming from or going to our holiday celebrations, I hope this story provides a little joy, romance, and perspective on what is important this, and any, time of year. Be they given or chosen, I hope you the best of celebrations with your families!

Happy Holidays!

Mary



Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival



Started in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center's founding chairman, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide which has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. The KCACTF has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where theater departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents.

The goals of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival are: to encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs; to provide opportunities for participants to develop their theater skills and insight; and achieve professionalism; to improve the quality of college and university theater in America; to encourage colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students; the classics, revitalized or newly conceived; and experimental works.

Through state, regional, and national festivals, KCACTF participants celebrate the creative process, see one another's work, and share experiences and insights within the community of theater artists. The KCACTF honors excellence of overall production and offers student artists individual recognition through awards and scholarships in playwriting, acting, criticism, directing, and design.

The KCACTF is a year-round program in eight geographic regions in the United States. Regional activities are coordinated through eight KCACTF regional chairs and eight KCACTF playwriting awards chairs. With funding and administrative support from the Kennedy Center, the regional chair coordinates with the Co-Managers of KCACTF all aspects of the adjudication of productions on the local and regional level and supervises regional-level KCACTF award competitions. The playwriting chair works with schools that have entered new and student-written plays by providing expertise in the development of new scripts--assessment specifically designed for a developing play--and by providing information on the numerous playwriting awards offered.

In January and February of each year, regional festivals showcase the finest of each region's entered productions and offer a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia, and regional-level award programs. Regional festival productions are judged by a panel of three judges selected by the Kennedy Center and the KCACTF national committee. These judges in consultation with the Artistic Director select four to six of the best and most diverse regional festival productions to be showcased in the spring at the annual noncompetitive national festival at the Kennedy Center, all expenses paid.

Since its inception, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theater students the opportunity to have their work critiqued, improve their dramatic skills and receive national recognition for excellence. More than 16 million theatergoers have attended approximately 10,000 festival productions nationwide.

