

The Kennedy Center American College Theater 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.

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Department of Theatre Arts

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

**BASED ON THE MOTION PICTURE BY
FRANK CAPRA
ADAPTED BY JOE LANDRY**

Director	Karen M. Dabney
Scenic Designer	Mandy Kolbe
Costume & Makeup Designers	Joe Anderson & Michelle Collyar
Lighting Designer	Ben Golden
Sound Designers	Nathan Literski*
Technical Director	Megan Morey
Stage Manager	Grace Happe*

December 4-6 & 10-13, 2020

**Produced by special arrangement with
Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)**

**Livestream produced by special arrangement
with Broadway Licensing/Playscripts.**

*** Indicates Student Designer/Manager**

Cast

Jake Laurents.....**Evan Medd**
Lana Sherwood.....**Emily Babcock**
Harry Haywood.....**Alec Berchem**
Sally Applewhite.....**Nina Fredrickson**
Freddie Filmore.....**Wriley Hoffner**

Foley Artists

Charles Denton.....**Adam Bloom**
Clara Concord.....**Danielle Hoffman**

Biographies

Joe Anderson (Costume Designer)—Joe has been at UWL since 1991 and has served as the Costume/Makeup Design faculty that entire time. He has served as Chair of the department since 2011. In his time here Joe has designed costumes and makeup for over 150 productions including productions for Shawn McConneloug and Her Orchestra and the American University in Cairo, Egypt among others.

Emily Babcock (Lana Sherwood)—Emily is a first-year student at UW-La Crosse majoring in Musical Theatre. She is very excited to be in this production of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Emily has been involved with the theatre throughout her whole life including productions of *White Christmas*, *42nd Street*, and *Chaplin*. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Alec Berchem (Harry Haywood)—Alec is jazzed to be a part of this production! This is Alec's final show at UWL as he's graduating this fall. It's really been a wonderful life (ba dum tsss) performing for UWL these past few years. Alec looks forward to performing and creating art wherever life takes him.

Adam Bloom (Foley Artist)—Beginning his sophomore year, Adam is happy to be part of the foley crew! Last seen in *Little Women* and *Middletown*, he is excited to take on this new work. He would like to thank his family and friends and say enjoy the show to you all!

Michelle Collyar (Costume Shop Supervisor)—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 Canadian television series: *Let's Get Physical* and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.

Karen M. Dabney (Director)—Karen completed her Ph.D. in Theatre at the University of Colorado – Boulder, her MFA in Directing at the New School for Drama in New York City, and her BA in Women's Studies at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Research interests include military theater, theater for social change, and new work development. Her favorite directing credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Ghosts*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Three Sisters*, *suburbia*, *A Stall of One's Own*, *Lysistrata*, and *sick*. Karen is excited and honored to join the UWL Theatre Arts Department. She thanks her delightful cast and crew for their hard work during this unusual of all production seasons.

Camille Foss (Asst. Stage Manager)—Camille is a junior with a major in Lighting Design and a minor in Stage Management. She feels very fortunate to be a part of a theatre production during these weird times. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her.

Nina Fredrickson (Sally Applewhite)—Nina is a third year Musical Theatre major at UW-La Crosse. She is thrilled to be part of the masterpiece that is *It's a Wonderful Life*. Nina was last seen as “Hag” in UWL's *Little Women* and is excited to work on such a classic, meaningful piece of art.

Ben Golden (Lighting Design/Sound Engineer)—Ben is the Lighting and Sound Supervisor for the Theatre 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, and Cardinal Stritch University, among others. He holds a BA from St. Olaf College and an MFA from UW Madison.

Grace Happe (Stage Manager)—Grace is a junior at UWL, pursuing a BA in Stage Management. She has a double minor in Arts Administration and Religious Studies. Past stage management credits include *The Addams Family*, *The Country Wife*,

Romeo & Juliet, *Pippin*, and many more. Grace holds two awards in Outstanding Technical Leadership from the Hennepin Theatre Trust in Minneapolis, MN and a Certificate of Merit from the American College Theatre Festival.

Danielle Hoffman (Foley Artist)—Danielle is a junior and one of the foley artists for the show. This is her second show at UWL, and she's excited for this unique creative opportunity within a play. She thanks her fellow foley artist Adam, everyone in the production, and those supporting theatre arts during this time.

Wriley Hoffner (Freddie)—Wriley is very excited to try his hand in voice acting and bring a bit of joy to winter in this pandemic season.

Laurie Kinckman (Production Manager)—Laurie is an Associate Professor at UWL where she heads the Theatre's Stage Management and Arts Administration emphases and serves as the Production Manager. She has worked professionally in theatre, dance, and opera. Laurie's UWL credits include stage management of *26 Pebbles*, *Big Fish*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Spring Awakening*, and dramaturgy for *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Laramie Project*. Laurie is the author of *The Stage Manager's Toolkit*, published by Routledge Press.

Mandy Kolbe (Scenic & Lighting 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.

Carson Kreger (Asst. Stage Manager)—Carson is a second-year Stage Management major. This is the second show she has assistant stage managed for and has previously worked on *Middletown*. She's excited to be back in the theatre doing what she loves. She would like to thank her friends, her cat Buddy, and family for always supporting her.

Katie Link (Asst. Technical Director)—Katie completed her MFA degree in Scenic Design at Wayne State University. She is the Assistant Technical Director at UWL and supervises the scene shop. Katie has worked at several theatres, including The Stage at Island Park, Summer Arts Intensive,

and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. Technical Direction and Design work on some of her favorite shows include: *Cabaret*, *The Addams Family*, *Fiddler on The Roof*, and *By the Way Meet Vera Stark*.

Emily Ludewig (Sound Engineer)—Emily is a senior Design/Technical Theatre major with a Performance minor. She most recently was the foley artist for *War of the Worlds*. Other recent credits at UWL include performance in *Cat in the Hat* and various technical roles in *Urinetown* and *Middletown*. She would like to thank Megan, Ben, Sydney, and her family for their never-ending support and love. Enjoy the show!

Evan Medd (Jake Laurents)—Evan is proud to be a part of such a lovable classic as *It's a Wonderful Life*. It is a story that is very near and dear to his heart. Evan's recent credits include Mr. Smith in *The Bald Soprano* and the Mechanic in *Middletown*. He hopes you enjoy *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Megan Morey (Technical Director)—Originally from Missoula, MT, Megan holds a BA in Design/Technical Theatre (Scenic and Costume Design) from Washington University in St. Louis, and an MFA in Technical Direction from the University of Nevada – Las Vegas. She worked professionally as the Technical Director for the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, MN for 7 years.

Upcoming Event

Senior Performance Recitals will be available virtually in early/mid-December. Please check the UWL Theatre webpage for more information.

Performances by Alec Berchem, Delaney Scudella, Alexis Cimoch, Lauren Hanson, Peter Lee, Lex Violette, Evan Medd, and Richard Klinge.

Special Thanks

Jeff Kerkman
Academic Technology Services/ITS
Great River Shakespeare Festival
Viterbo University Department of Theatre

Production Team

Asst. Director/Dramaturg.... Delaney Scudella
Asst. Stage Managers Camille Foss,
..... Carson Kreger
Assistant Technical Director Katie Link
Sound Engineer Emily Ludewig
Foley Supervisor Adam Bloom
Scenic Artists..... Camille Foss, Lucas Kolbe,
..... Jessica Miller, Trisha Moore
Production Manager..... Laurie Kinckman
Lighting and Sound Supervisor Ben Golden
Master Electrician Ben Golden
Costume Shop Manager..... Michelle Collyar
Scene Shop Supervisor Katie Link
Video Producer/Editor Jeff Kerkman
Video Captioning Noah Mastaglio,
..... Talia Mentjes, Sydney Smith
Camera Operators..... Carlos Esparza,
..... Jaden Gallardo, Brandon Harris,
..... Thomas Pfaff
Video Production Crew..... Casey Ingvallson,
..... Peter Sedivy, Mark Valenti
Light Board Operator Ryan Hustedt
Sound Board Operator..... Brodyn Byington
Run Crew Cameron Cavauiolo,
..... Anna Halverson
Costume Run Crew Emily Rux,
..... Mira Viner, Grace Will
Light/Sound Shop Staff..... Camille Foss,
..... Sydney Smith
Light Crew Bryce Miller, Adam Whitney
Publicity Supervisor Krista Shulka
Publicity Assistant..... Lauren Dochnahl
Publicity Crew Katie Bak,
..... Cassie Davis, Shane Flaningam
Poster Design Joe Anderson
Props/Paint Crew Camille Foss,
..... Talia Mentjes, Jessica Miller
Scene Shop Staff Jacob Cramlet,
..... Emily Ludewig, Elizabeth Mackey,
..... Joseph Markey, Addison Skeels, Lex Violette
Scene Shop Crew..... Mykal Lake,
..... Wyatt Molling
Costume Shop Staff..... Elizabeth Jacobsen,
..... Delaney Scudella, Irene Swain

Land Recognition

We would like to recognize that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse occupies the land of the Ho-Chunk people. We celebrate and honor this ancestral Ho-Chunk land and the sacred lands of all indigenous people.

Livestream Info

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