

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

Department of Theatre

THE LOVE TALKER



artwork by Elijah Mann

Written by **Deborah Pryor**
Directed by **Jeff Casazza**

September 2025

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

presents

THE LOVE TALKER

by
DEBORAH PRYOR

Scenic Designer
ROBERT SHOQUIST

Costume Designer
AUSTIN M. RAUSCH

Lighting Designer
COREY E. LEE

Sound Designer
JEFF CASAZZA

Lighting Shop Supervisor
COREY E. LEE

Technical Director
ROBERT SHOQUIST

Costume Shop Supervisor
JEANNE PENDLETON

Choreographer
EMMA HOUSER

Intimacy Choreographer
MEAGAN VANDERLAAR

Fight Choreographer
CARTER THURNALL

Stage Manager
EMMA CRITES

Directed by
JEFF CASAZZA

*THE LOVE TALKER is presented by special arrangement with
Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.
(www.dramatists.com)*

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Bun..... OLIVIA ALBERTSON
Gowdie KALAM DENNEY
The Red Head.....EMMA HOUSER
The Love Talker..... CARTER THURNALL

**The play takes place somewhere deep in the Appalachian Mountains,
present day, on the longest day of the year.**

This production will be presented without intermission.

Law prohibits the photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theatre without the written permission of the management. Violators may be punished by ejection, and violations may render the offender liable for monetary damages.

Please turn off all cell phones.

As a courtesy to the actors we ask that you remain
in your seat until the curtain call is finished.

This play was selected for its artistic and academic value. The selection
and performance of the play do not constitute an endorsement by Purdue University
Fort Wayne or Purdue University of the viewpoints conveyed by the play.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

OLIVIA ALBERTSON (Bun) is a senior pursuing a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Last seen on stage as Lulu in *Cabaret*, Nathan Wolfe, A Jewish Man in *The Catastrophist*, Toropetzkaya in *Black Snow*, a Spirit in *The Tempest*, Little Sally in *Urinetown*, Jo March in *Little Women: The Broadway Musical*, Sally Perks in *Puffs!* and Molly Aster in *Peter and The Starcatcher*.

KALAM DENNEY (Gowdie) is a junior pursuing a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Denney was previously seen on the PFW stage as a Spirit in *The Tempest*, Dr. Billeaux /One of the Poor in *Urinetown*. Credits from Union City Jr/Sr High School were Matilda in *Matilda the Musical*; Olive Ostrovsky in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Mrs. Peacock in *Clue: The Musical*; Sally Brown in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*; and Princess Elenora in *A Dark and Stormy Knight*.

EMMA HOUSER (The Red Head, Dance Choreographer) is a senior pursuing a B.A. in Theatre. Stage credits include her performances in *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"*, *Hot 'n' Cole*, *The Tempest* and *Urinetown*. Houser was dance captain for *Urinetown*, *Hot 'n' Cole*, and choreographer for *The Tempest*, and *Elephant and Piggie*. She has crewed for *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Little Women*, and *The Catastrophist*. Houser studied dance for 13 years at Fort Wayne School of Dance.

CARTER THURNALL (The Love Talker, Fight Choreographer) is a psychology major in his junior year. Carter has previously worked as the master electrician for *Cabaret* and *The Catastrophist*. His stage credits include Lee Turner in *John Proctor is the Villain*, and Woody in *Six Degrees of Separation* at the FW Civic Theatre, the Ringmaster in *Elephants Graveyard* and Karl in *Big Fish* at the Blackbox Theatre Co.



WHO'S WHO IN THE PRODUCTION STAFF

JEFFREY C. CASAZZA (Director) Last year, Jeff directed *The Catastrophist* at PFW and performed the role of Mark Rothko in *Red* at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art for Civic Theatre. PFW audiences might also remember his recent performance as Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown: The Musical*. He spent the spring and summer completing numerous sabbatical projects including travel to Turkey and Greece to research historical sites related to the Trojan War for a devised production he plans to create at PFW exploring Greek Mythology, *The Illiad*, and other aspects of the lives and loves surrounding the Homeric heroes and Historical events currently titled *Troy: Desire, Decision, Destruction*. He also presented his research and creative endeavor at an international conference, continued work on a chapter for an upcoming book to be published by Routledge exploring the Margolis Method (an internationally renowned contemporary performance method which he uses regularly in classes and rehearsals), completed his level 5 certification in Margolis Method, and trained in a number of areas related to staging theatrical intimacy. Jeff regularly creates productions as a director, deviser, and playwright. His devised productions of *Dracula: An Act of Destruction* and *Frankenstein: An Act of Creation* are part of his devised Gothic Trilogy, to be concluded at some point in the future with *Jekyll: An Act of Transformation*. A few of his other favorite directing projects at PFW include *The Tempest*, *Eleemosynary*, *Puffs*, Sophocles' *Antigone* (which he also wrote), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Jeff is one of about 300 Designated Linklater Teachers in the world and is excited to share this work here and with the Fort Wayne Community. He continues his ongoing research into contemporary performance methods pursuing his level 6 certification in the Margolis Method, and his ongoing certification process in Authentic Voice. Jeff has received numerous awards for his teaching, research, and creative endeavor, some of which include: The Featured Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching (2022), the Friends of the University Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award (2021), The Leepoxy Award for innovative teaching (2013), and two Featured Faculty awards for Research and Creative Endeavor (2014 and 2019).

AUSTIN M. RAUSCH (Costume Designer) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre – Costume Design at Purdue University Fort Wayne. He holds an M.F.A. in Costume Design from The Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. from St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. Notable PFW design credits include *Cabaret*, *The Tempest*, *Urinetown*, and *Little Women: The Musical*. Professionally, he has designed for Bigfork Summer Playhouse (*Something Rotten!*, *Footloose*, *The Addams Family*) and Purdue University West Lafayette (*Dead Man's Cell Phone*). Austin's pedagogical research explores fear and creativity, with

presentations at national conferences and a publication in the *International Journal for Education and the Arts* titled “Fear and How It Inhibits Creativity.” He also recently co-presented “Bridging Creativity and Connection: UDL-Driven Gamification for Powerful Analysis” at the 2025 CELT Fall Teaching Conference. In addition to design and pedagogy, Austin directed *Black Snow* at PFW in April 2023.

COREY E. LEE (Lighting Designer/Lighting Shop Supervisor) is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Theatre for the department and a graduate of Purdue Fort Wayne. Lee holds an M.F.A. in theatre design and production (University of Memphis), a B.A. in theatre, and a B.S. in secondary education with an emphasis in earth/space science (PFW). Before returning to Purdue Fort Wayne, he served as the Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor in Lighting Design for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Ball State University, where his designs included *Gloria*, *Kinky Boots*, and *Groove: Interlocking Cultures Through Movement*. Lee was previously the lighting designer and technical director at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. His designs include *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Matilda*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Disney's Newsies*, *Avenue Q*, and *Memphis*. Previous lighting design credits also include *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Into the Woods*, *The Laramie Project* (PFW), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Arena Dinner Theatre), *Holiday Pops* (Fort Wayne Philharmonic) and *Seussical* (University of Saint Francis). Corey has also worked with Huntington University, Mikautadze Dance Theatre, Fort Wayne Youtheatre, Embassy Theatre, Manchester University, Fort Wayne Ballet, Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre, Summit City Music Theatre, Three Rivers Music Theatre, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, and Northrop High School

ROBERT SHOQUIST (Scenic Designer/Technical Director/Production Coordinator) holds an M.F.A. in stage design (Northwestern University) and a B.A. in directing and design (Boise State University). At Purdue Fort Wayne, Shoquist teaches stagecraft, introduction to stage management and theatre production I and II. His scenic designs include *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"*, *Cabaret*, *Hot 'n' Cole: A Cole Porter Celebration!*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Little Women: the Musical*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Laramie Project*, *Grease*, *Ghetto*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Stupid F*@%ing Bird*. Regional and local credits include *Ghost Girl* (Workshop Theatre, NYC); *Marry Me A Little* (Harbor Lights Theater, NYC); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Nunsense*, *The Honky Tonk Angels* (West Virginia Public Theatre); *My Fair Lady*, *Anything Goes* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Allenberry Playhouse, Penn.); and *Shrek the Musical*, *Les Misérables*, *A Few Good Men*, *Cabaret*, and *Spamalot* (FW Civic Theatre).



JEANNE PENDLETON (Costume Shop Supervisor) graduated with distinction in 2002 from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, with an M.F.A. in costume design. After receiving her degree, she moved to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, to costume shows for Dollywood, as well as create garments for the namesake of the park, Dolly Parton. Prior to her arrival at Purdue Fort Wayne, Pendleton worked at the LORT D Clarence Brown Theatre in residence at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. While there, she supervised the construction of costumes for many professional and regionally known designers. As an active freelance costume designer, she regularly collaborates with Mikautadze Dance Theatre as well as several other area theatre companies.

EMMA CRITES (Stage Manager) is a sophomore pursuing a B.A. in Directing. Emma has worked as the Assistant Stage-Manager for *Cabaret*, *John Proctor is the Villain*, and *Elephant & Piggie's: "We Are in a Play!"*. Emma hails from Prairie Heights and performed as Jane in *Tarzan* and Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*.

MEAGAN VANDERLAAR (Intimacy Choreographer) is an intimacy choreographer, actor, director, and teaching artist with a B.A. in Theatre from Purdue University. She is continuously training with Theatrical Intimacy Education and is thrilled that her first project with the PFW Theatre Department is this haunting production. Past intimacy direction credits include *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Tom Sawyer*.

STAFF FOR *THE LOVE TALKER*

Assistant Stage Manager.....	ARTIE DORRIS
Assistant Costume Designer	VERONICA VAUBEL
Build/Paint Crew	CHASE BILLS, ISAAC DERBYSHIRE, DANNIE EYANSON, LINDSEY FRANKLIN, TAILOR GRANT, GABE HARBART, EMMA HOUSER, LEYNA MACKE, SEREK PALMER, ISABELLE SHENFELD, VERONICA VAUBEL, VANCE WIECHART
Prop Master	ROBERT SHOQUIST
Prop/Deck Crew	CAMERON CROUCH
Electricians	ISAAC DERBYSHIRE, EMMA HOUSER, SEREK PALMER, ATHENA ROBINETTE, ISABELLE SHENFELD, JAMES VANCE, BAILEY WEAVER
Light Board Operator	IZZY KANE
Stitchers.....	OLIVIA ALBERTSON, ARTIE DORRIS, SYDNEY GREEN, MICHAELA MOONEY, SEREK PALMER, NIKOLAS PRATHAFATAKIS, ATHENA ROBINETTE, VERONICA VAUBEL, ANGEL WILT
Wardrobe Crew	ATHENA ROBINETTE, JAMES VANCE
Sound Engineer	ANTHONY KRICK
Sound Board Operator	JULIA GAYER
House Manager	JACK RUMSCHLAG
Box Office Manager	LIANE AMBROSE

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Corrine Reed & Gabe Reed - Prairie Heights High School Dept of Theatre
Fort Wayne Civic Theatre



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

FACULTY AND STAFF

Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts	JOHN O'CONNELL
Chair of the Department of Theatre and Professor, Head of Directing	DR. BEVERLY REDMAN
Professor, Head of Acting, Movement, and Voice.....	JEFFREY C. CASAZZA
Assistant Professor of Costume Design	AUSTIN M. RAUSCH
Assistant Professor-Acting/Musical Theatre	DR. JULIE LYN BARBER
Assistant Clinical Professor, Technical Director/Production Coordinator.....	ROBERT SHOQUIST
Assistant Clinical Professor, Costume Shop Supervisor ..	JEANNE PENDLETON
Assistant Clinical Professor of Theatre, Lighting Design and Lighting Technology	COREY E. LEE
Associate Faculty-Dance.....	BRITTNEY COUGHLIN
Associate Faculty-Dance.....	ELIZABETH MIKAUTADZE
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Fort Wayne Theatre Happenings

Bram Stoker's Dracula

Youtheatre - Canturbury
Fine Arts Center
Oct. 3, 4, 5

The Timekeepers

First Presbyterian Theater
Oct. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

Winnie the Pooh: Homeward Bounce

All for One Productions
Oct. 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

The Mousetrap

Arena Dinner Theatre
Oct. 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 31, Nov. 1

The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong

Fire and Light Productions
Nov. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15

Disney's Frozen

Civic Theatre
Nov. 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Purdue Fort Wayne
Nov. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22



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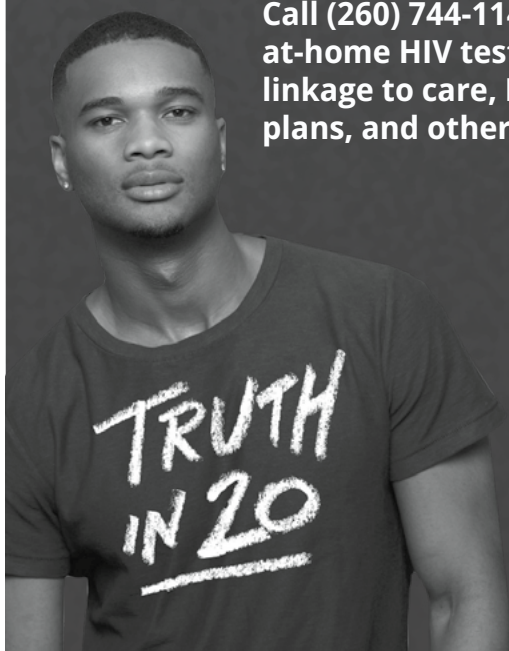


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Evenings:

October 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, & November 1, 2025

Doors Open at 6:15 pm

Dinner Service at 6:45 pm

Performance at 7:30 pm

Matinee:

October 26, 2025

Doors Open at 12:45 pm

Dinner Service at 1:15 pm

Performance at 2:00 pm

The Timekeepers

By Dan Clancy



October 3, 4, 5 and 10, 11, 12
FRI AND SAT @ 8:00PM
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Directed by John Tolley & Chip Davis



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Our students traveled the world this summer, which is something I hold dear to my heart, knowing the transformative power that travel, education, and performance can have on the lives of our students academically, creatively, and in their future careers. We sent a Theatre student to her dream internship in Comedy Studies at The Second City in Chicago, and another to the South Eastern Theatre Conference in Baltimore, where she made invaluable industry contacts and developed audition skills. We sent School of Music students to perform in international music festivals in Italy, Austria, and Chicago, and others to Canada, Detroit, and Berlin to conduct research, just to name a few, and two senior ceramics students enjoyed the adventure of a lifetime at an intensive pottery workshop in Jamaica.

Many of these students receive financial help for this travel from donations by generous people just like you, who believe, as I do, that expanding our students' horizons to include travel experiences is essential to the lifelong value of a strong liberal arts degree.

Please consider continuing your vital support of our students and faculty as they strive to provide the best possible creative and artistic opportunities for all our students. Only with the help of friends like you can we foster the success of our incredible students. Secure gifts can easily be made online at pfw.edu/give.

With sincere appreciation,

John O'Connell, Dean and Professor of Theatre



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The mission of the Department of Theatre is to:

- educate its students within a broad liberal arts framework in the art, craft, and discipline of theatre through programs offering both classroom study and experiential production activities;
- serve the university community through its productions and general education offerings;
- provide culturally enriching activities to greater northeast Indiana.

Values

The Purdue University Fort Wayne Department of Theatre values:

- the pursuit of knowledge in an environment that encourages free and open inquiry, academic achievement, scholarship, and creativity;
- the cultivation of creativity;
- the highest academic, artistic, and ethical standards;
- artistic and scholarly collaboration;
- interdisciplinary inquiry and scholarship;
- the professional commitment, innovations, and accomplishments of faculty and staff;
- partnership with the community to enhance cultural, creative, and intellectual life in the region;
- diversity.

Vision

The Department of Theatre will be a regionally recognized theatre program, known for its regional impact, and:

- the excellence, value, and accessibility of its training programs;
- its exceptional academic curricula and facilities that foster unique teaching, learning, and student environments;
- the scholarly and creative accomplishments of its faculty, students, and staff;
- its contributions to the quality of artistic and creative life of the region.



2025-26 THEATRE SCHOLARSHIPS

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Olivia Albertson	Lindsey Franklin	Leyna Macke
Kyle Barnes	Tailor Grant	Ayden Murphy
Chase Bills	Maxwell Hawn	Serek Palmer
Emmalyn Brockhaus	Emma Houser	Nicholas Prathaftakis
Emma Crites	Izzy Kane	Athena Robinette
Elizabeth Derbyshire	Grace Ludlow	Isabelle Shenfeld
Artie Dorris	Callie McKinney	Bailey Weaver

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Cameron Crouch	Tristan Robinson
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Dan Butler Theatre Scholarship Endowment

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Anne Waterfield Fine Arts Scholarship

Cameron Crouch	Aiden Stubler
Nicholas Garcia	Veronica Vaubel

Stephen and Brenda Fishbaugh Endowment for Theatre Students

Michaela Mooney

Tolan Theatre Scholarship

Kalam Denney

Herbert and Lorraine Weier Theatre Endowed Scholarship

Chase Bills

O. Franklin Kenworthy Memorial Scholarship

Isaac Derbyshire

Rev. Dr. Richard and Sally Frazier Memorial Endowed Scholarship

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Book by
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Conceived by
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Additional Material by
JAY REISS

Originally Directed on Broadway by
JAMES LAPINE



Directed by
BEV REDMAN

Musical Direction by
HOLLY KNOTT

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Department of Theatre

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