

PURDUE UNIVERSITY®
FORT WAYNE

Department of Theatre

THE *Spitfire Grill*



MUSIC & BOOK BY JAMES VALCQ
LYRICS & BOOK BY FRED ALLEY
BASED ON THE FILM BY LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF

DIRECTED BY JULIE LYN BARBER
MUSIC DIRECTED BY ROLIN MAINS

APRIL 2026
WILLIAMS THEATRE

Art by Isaac Burns

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PATTERSON RIEGEL
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PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

presents

THE SPITFIRE GRILL

Music and Book By:
JAMES VALCQ

Lyrics and Book By:
FRED ALLEY

Based on the Film By:
LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF

Director
DR. JULIE LYN BARBER

Music Director
ROLIN MAINS

Stage Manager
EMMA CRITES

Scenic Designer
ROBERT SHOQUIST

Costume Designer
AUSTIN M. RAUSCH

Lighting Designer
COREY E. LEE

Projection Designer
COREY E. LEE

Technical Director &
Production Coordinator
ROBERT SHOQUIST

Costume Shop Supervisor
JEANNE PENDLETON

Lighting Shop Supervisor
COREY E. LEE

*Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of
“The Spitfire Grill” Off-Broadway in 2001.*

*“The Spitfire Grill” received its World Premiere production by the George Street
Playhouse, November 5, 2000, David Saint, Artistic*

Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Percy Talbott	TAILOR GRANT
Sheriff Joe Sutter	LINCOLN EVERETTS
Hannah Ferguson	JULIE DONNELL
The Visitor	BAILEY WEAVER
Caleb Thorpe	AYDEN MURPHY
Effy Krayneck	CALLIE MCKINNEY
Shelby Thorpe	EMMALYN BROCKHAUS

The play takes place in Gilead, Wisconsin, February - October, 1991.

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

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.

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.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

<i>A Ring Around the Moon</i>	Percy
<i>Something's Cooking at the Spitfire Grill</i>	Hannah, Effy, Caleb, Joe, Shelby
<i>Coffee Cups and Gossip</i>	Percy
<i>Hannah Fell Down</i>	Effy
<i>Into the Frying Pan</i>	Percy
<i>When Hope Goes</i>	Shelby
<i>Ice and Snow</i>	Caleb, Joe, Effy
<i>The Colors of Paradise</i>	Shelby, Percy
<i>Digging Stone</i>	Caleb
<i>This Wide Woods</i>	Joe, Percy
<i>Forgotten Lullaby</i>	Hannah
<i>Shoot the Moon</i>	Hannah, Percy, Shelby, Joe, Effy

15-Minute Intermission

Act II

<i>Here's to Us</i>	Hannah, Percy, Shelby
<i>Come Alive Again</i>	Hannah, Percy, Shelby, Effy, Joe, Effy, Caleb
<i>Forest for the Trees</i>	Joe
<i>Wild Bird</i>	Shelby
<i>Shine</i>	Percy
<i>Way Back Home</i>	Hannah
<i>Dear Mrs. Ferguson</i>	Effy, Joe
<i>The Last Letters</i>	Percy, Shelby
<i>Finale</i>	Percy, Shelby, Hannah

ORCHESTRA

ROLIN MAINS

Conductor

Bass	TREVOR PERKINS
Guitar	TYLER CRISP



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

EMMALYN BROCKHAUS (Shelby Thorpe) is a sophomore pursuing a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Seen recently on stage as a Squirrelle in *Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* and as Tribe in Three Rivers Music Theatre's production of *Hair*. Backstage, she served as assistant stage manager for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and a wardrobe crew member for *John Proctor is the Villain*, as well as working in the costume shop for numerous productions.

JULIE DONNELL (Hannah Ferguson) Recently seen on the PFW stage as Mrs. Elizabeth Nicewander/Servant/Nicholas/Pedant in *William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: The March for the Vote* and as Fräulein Schneider in *Cabaret*. She has performed in opera, musicals and theater in the region, appearing as Ouisa in *Six Degrees of Separation* and The Speaker in *Red* at the Fort Wayne Civic Theater. She is the recipient of seven Anthony Awards and a Lifetime Achievement Award. Last summer she appeared at Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts as Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*. She teaches applied voice and diction for singers at Purdue Fort Wayne.

LINCOLN EVERETTS (Sheriff Joe Sutter) is a freshman B.F.A. Musical Theatre student at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Lincoln works with several Fort Wayne theatre companies, including Genesis Outreach Presents (GOP), Indiana Musical Theatre Foundation (IMTF), and Fort Wayne Civic Theatre (FWCT). His notable credits include Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (FWCT), Angel in *Rent* (IMTF), Frankie in *Parade* (GOP), Jack in *Into the Woods* (FWCT), SpongeBob in *The SpongeBob Musical* (FWCT), and Ensemble in *Something Rotten!* (FWCT).

TAILOR GRANT (Percy Talbott) is a junior seeking a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Recently seen on stage as Mrs. Victoria Van Dyne/Petruchio *William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: The March for the Vote*, as Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a Squirrelle in *Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, Nell Shaw in *John Proctor is the Villain* and Texas in *Cabaret*. Formerly a student at Norwell HS, she regularly was cast in theatrical productions and participated in marching band, show choir, and the National Honor Society.

CALLIE MCKINNEY (Effy Krayneck) is a Senior at Purdue Fort Wayne, pursuing a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Her most recent performance was as Antigone in *Antigone Now* at PFW's Black Box Theater. Previous roles that you may have seen her in include Miranda in *The Tempest* and Mrs. Smith in *The Bald Soprano*. Beyond acting on stage, Callie is passionate about theatre production and has contributed behind the scenes to PFW's costume shop.

She is excited to continue growing as a performer and artist during her time at PFW, exploring both onstage and behind-the-scenes opportunities in the vibrant theatre community.

AYDEN MURPHY (Caleb Thorpe) is a junior pursuing a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Recently seen on stage as Vice Principal Patch in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, as Gerald in *Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, Bobby in *Cabaret*, Ayden in *Hot 'n' Cole* and Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown*. Hailing from Northrop High School, where he performed in many roles as well as participated in show choir, which earned him multiple Outstanding Performer awards. Murphy also performed the role of Mr. Pinky in *Hairspray* for the Indiana Music Theater Foundation.

BAILEY WEAVER (The Visitor) is a senior at PFW pursuing a Theatre B.A. in acting. He was last seen on our stage as Jon in *TAPE*, Classroom Student in *John Proctor is the Villain*, and Likospastov in *Black Snow*. Previous stage credits come from his tenure at Elkhart HS. Bailey performed the roles of Sergei in *Matilda: The Musical*, Gilbert Blythe in *Anne of Green Gables*, and Odysseus in *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology*.



WHO'S WHO IN THE PRODUCTION STAFF

JULIE LYN BARBER (Director) is a director, choreographer, music director, actor, singer, playwright who has had the privilege of working with Portland Center Stage, Portland Opera Association, and triangle! theatre productions, while on the West Coast, and numerous companies in the Midwest including Dayton Opera, Round Barn Theatre, and the Bloomington Early Music Festival. At PFW she has directed *Hot & Cole: A Cole Porter Celebration* (2nd Place Winner of the Charles Nelson Reilly Prize from the American Prize), and *Cabaret*. During her tenure at Western Kentucky University, she directed, music directed and choreographed several productions including *Guys and Dolls*, *9 to 5*, *Fools*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Hair*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Recent professional directing credits include *Whodunit: The Musical* for Actors Theatre of Indiana (Carmel, IN) and for Nettle Creek Players (Hagerstown, IN). Recent professional acting credits include “Frau Blücher” in *Young Frankenstein*, and Alice Beane in *Titanic* with Actors Theatre of Indiana; and “Jaques” in *As You Like It* with Richmond Shakespeare Festival (Richmond, IN). She also regularly performs with the Kekionga Early Music Collective (Fort Wayne, IN). Her original musicals have been performed in the U.S. and Canada and she operates an online voice and acting studio offering personalized coaching to students worldwide.

EMMA CRITES (Stage Manager) is a sophomore pursuing a B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in design and technology. Stage Credits include *Cabaret*, *Elephant & Piggie's “We Are in a Play!”*, *The Love Talker*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Behind the scenes Emma was an Assistant Stage Manager for *Cabaret* and *Elephant & Piggie's “We Are in a Play!”*, spotlight operator for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, stage manager for *The Love Talker* and she designed lighting for *We the People*.

LINDSEY FRANKLIN (Assistant Stage Manager) is pursuing a degree in Theatre and is in her junior year. She has been credited for stage managing the play *John Proctor is the Villian* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, assistant stage managing *William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: The March for the Vote*, *Urinetown*, *The Musical*, and *Cabaret*. Her previous stage credits include the Chorus in *Antigone Now* and Eulampia Petrovna and others in *Black Snow*. She looks forward to a professional career in stage management.

DR. MATTHEW GIALONGO (Vocal Coach) has been praised for his “beautiful voice and singing with great depth of feeling.” Equally at home on the operatic and concert stages, he has appeared with Opera Fort Collins, South Bend Lyric Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Actors Theatre of Indiana, and the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra. Favorite roles include Papageno (*Die*

Zauberflöte), Nardo (*La finta giardiniera*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Silvio (*I pagliacci*), and Picasso in Tom Cipullo's *After Life*.

As a teacher and mentor, Dr. Giallongo has guided students to success in competitions, graduate schools, and summer programs across the country. His students have earned admission to institutions such as the University of Michigan, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Indiana University, as well as young artist and training programs that prepare the next generation of professional singers.

Dr. Giallongo's scholarly work focuses on comparative vocal pedagogy, with an emphasis on French methods at the turn of the 20th century. He recently completed the first English translation of Jules Lefort's *Méthode de chant* and published an article in *Inter Nos*, the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) *Inter Nos* titled "Notes in Conflict: The Voice Teacher as Music Director." He is also a frequent presenter at conferences, with upcoming work including a presentation at the National NATS Conference in San Antonio.

He currently serves as Director of Vocal Studies at Purdue University Fort Wayne and has previously held faculty appointments at Eastern New Mexico University, Louisiana Tech University, Grambling State University, and Colorado State University–Pueblo.

Dr. Giallongo holds degrees from Gettysburg College (B.M. in Vocal Performance), Temple University (M.M. in Vocal Performance), and Colorado State University (M.M. in Vocal Pedagogy). He pursued postgraduate study at the University of North Texas before earning his D.M.A. at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he studied with William McGraw.

EMMA HOUSER (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a senior pursuing a B.A. in Theatre. Stage credits include her performances in *William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: The March for the Vote*, *The Love Talker*, *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 choreographed for *The Tempest*, and *Elephant & Piggie's: "We Are in a Play!"*. 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.

COREY E. LEE (Lighting Designer/Lighting Shop Supervisor/Projection Designer) 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 University 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 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.

ROLIN MAINS (Music Director) has worked as a self-employed musician for over 35 years. He has played keyboards on concert tours, recorded as a studio musician, produced award-winning records, and recorded his own record (*A Time To Dance*). He produced concerts for shows at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in NYC, composed and arranged for churches and dance companies, and has conducted and music directed for musical theatre in the Nashville area for over 15 years. He was named “Best Music Director” by the Nashville Scene in 2011. He has underscored live improvised music for theatrical productions including Nashville Shakespeare Festival's *Twelfth Night*, *King Lear*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Tempest*. Mains is the founder of the Nashville Composers Association, dedicated to providing opportunities for composers of all ages. Since moving to Fort Wayne in 2021, he has music directed two shows and teaches at the Academy of Music at Sweetwater and is a full-time Lecturer at PFW.

SEREK PALMER (Assistant to the Director) is currently a sophomore at PFW pursuing a B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Serek has been seen on stage at PFW as Max/Sailor/Customs Officer in *Cabaret*, Orin Scrivello D.D.S in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Gaslight Playhouse, and Oscar Madison in *The Odd Couple* at Gaslight Playhouse. Serek also lends his talents behind the stage in many areas such as a Props Artisan for *John Proctor is the Villain* and *Elephant and Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"*, Stage Manager for *Big Fish* and *Rumors* at Gaslight Playhouse and Lead Carpenter for IMTF's *Sweeny Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

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.

AUSTIN M. RAUSCH (Costume Designer) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Purdue University Fort Wayne. He holds a B.A. in Costume Design from St. Edward's University and an M.F.A. in Costume Design from The Pennsylvania State University. His costume design work at PFW includes *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Love Talker*, *Cabaret*, *Urinetown*, *Little Women*, and *The Tempest*. Austin also designs regularly for the Bigfork Summer Playhouse, where he serves as Costume Shop Manager and Resident Costume Designer, with credits including *Something Rotten!*, *The Addams Family*, *Footloose*, and *Jersey Boys*. Austin also consistently designs and executes make-up, hair, and wigs for both PFW and Bigfork Summer Playhouse. Before relocating to Fort Wayne, he worked in costume crafts with the Los Angeles Opera and taught and designed at the California School for the Arts. An interdisciplinary theatre artist, Austin directed *Black Snow* in 2024, is currently developing a staged reading series, and will direct *Devil Boys from Beyond* for the PFW mainstage in Fall 2026.

ROBERT SHOQUIST (Scenic Designer/Technical Director/Production Coordinator/Prop Coordinator) holds an M.F.A. in stage design (Northwestern University) and a B.A. in directing and design (Boise State University). At Purdue University Fort Wayne, Shoquist teaches stagecraft, introduction to stage management and theatre production I and II. His scenic designs include *William Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew: The March for the Vote*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Love Talker*, *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*, *Blythe Spirit*, and *Stupid F*cking 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).



CARTER THURNALL (Assistant Lighting Designer) 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. He was also the fight choreographer for the production of *The Love Talker*.

NIKOLAS PRATHAFTAKIS (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior studying for a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. His PFW stage credits include Leaf Coneybear/Carl Grubenierre in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Nikolas in *Hot 'n' Cole*, and Billy Boy Bill in *Urinetown*. He comes to us from Rochester Community High School, where he performed several roles. He was a participant in the Indiana Ambassadors of Music European Music Tour in 2023. He was also named a gold medalist in the Solo and Ensemble Regional and State Competition in 2022.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

On the surface, *The Spitfire Grill* is about a stranger who comes to a small town and changes it. But what's stayed with me in working on this piece is how much it's really about the way we see, and how hard it can be to see clearly when we're stuck.

When Percy arrives in Gilead, Wisconsin, she's been given a second chance. She chooses to go somewhere new, somewhere quiet, somewhere surrounded by the beauty of Copper Creek and its changing seasons. She doesn't come with a plan to fix anything. She simply shows up ready to move forward with her life. What she finds is a town that hasn't been able to move forward. The people of Gilead are caught in a familiar rhythm. Unlike Percy's anticipation of the next season, they fall into a kind of habitual complaining. It's become a shared language, their way of connecting. In some ways, it's easier to bond over what isn't working than to risk hoping for something better.

There's also a deep nostalgia running through the town—a longing for “the good old days,” even among those who never lived them. By focusing on what Gilead used to be (or what they imagine it was), they've stopped noticing what it still is: a place of real beauty, community, and possibility. Percy interrupts that cycle simply by seeing things differently, and slowly, the people around her begin to shift. They start to see their town, each other, and finally themselves through new eyes.

For me, this show is about that moment of shift. About what it takes to face your own past, to let go of shame, to offer and accept forgiveness. And maybe most importantly, about choosing to move forward instead of staying stuck in the stories we've always told ourselves. Gilead doesn't magically become a different place. But the people in it begin to change, and that changes everything.

So, welcome! May you leave here looking anew at some of those overlooked places in your own life – places that may hold unexpected beauty if you're willing to see them.

Julie Lyn
(she/her)

Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre & Acting
Head of Musical Theatre



STAFF FOR *THE SPITFIRE GRILL*

Assistant to the Director	SEREK PALMER
Assistant to the Music Director.....	KARI DIEHL
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	EMMA HOUSER, CARTER THURNALL
Assistant Stage Manager.....	LINDSEY FRANKLIN, NIKOLAS PRATHAFTAKIS
Vocal Coach	DR. MATTHEW GIALONGO
Prop Coordinator.....	ROBERT SHOQUIST
Deck/Prop Crew	ALEX BRANT
Deck Electrician	AARON GAERTE
Light Board Operator.....	AYDON GOORHOUSE
Sound Engineer/Sound Board Operator	ANTHONY KRICK
Wardrobe Crew	EMMA GILBERT, NICOLAS GARCIA
Build/Paint Crew	JOSEPH BRANDYBURG, ARTIE DORIS, NICOLAS GARCIA, IZZY KANE, LEYNA MACKE, CLAY OUSLEY, SEREK PALMER, AIDEN STUBLER
Electricians	EMMA CRITES, EMMA HOUSER, ISABELLE SHENFELD, CARTER THURNALL, BAILEY WEAVER
Stitchers.....	EMMALYN BROCKHAUS, ARICA CARLISLE, CAMERON CROUCH, KALAM DENNEY, ELIZABETH DERBYSHIRE, EMMA GILBERT, JASIMINE HANSON, MAX HAWN, MICHAELA MOONEY, AYDEN MURPHY, ELLIS PEDERSON, NIKOLAS PRATHAFTAKIS, ATHENA ROBINETTE, ASHLYN ST JOHN, JAMES VANCE, VERONICA VAUBEL
House Manager	JACK RUMSCHLAG
Box Office Supervisor	LIANE AMBROSE

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Chair of the Department of Theatre and Professor, Head of Directing	DR. BEVERLY REDMAN
Professor, Head of Acting, Movement, and Voice.....	JEFFREY CASAZZA
Assistant Professor of Costume Design	AUSTIN M. RAUSCH
Assistant Professor-Acting and Musical Theatre	DR. JULIE LYN BARBER
Clinical Assistant Professor, Costume Shop Supervisor ..	JEANNE PENDLETON
Clinical Assistant Professor, Technical Director/Production Coordinator.....	ROBERT SHOQUIST
Clinical Assistant Professor, Lighting Designer/Lighting Shop Supervisor	COREY E. LEE
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Guests arrive. Manners depart.

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by Noël Coward

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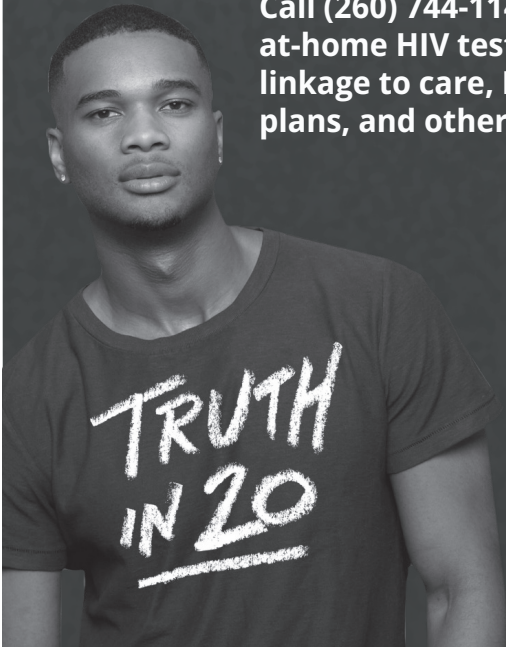
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Fort Wayne Theatre Happenings

Longing for the Light

All for One Productions
at ArtsLab
April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26

Cabin Fever:

A Texas Tragicomedy

Arena Dinner Theatre
April 24, 25, May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9

Corduroy

Youthatre at ACPL
April 25, 26

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

Fire and Light Productions
at ArtsLab
May 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Aida

Civic Theatre
May 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17



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BARRY KORNHAUSER

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Performances: April 25-26, 2026

Location: Allen County Public Library - Main

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TICKETS



CAMPAIGN for the ARTS

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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Helen F. Pyles

Bronze

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Judith Gillman
Tod Kovara
Floyd and Betty Lou Lancia
Brian Marcus
Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
Mark Swaim

Dean's Club

(\$2,000 to \$4,999)

Arts United Of Greater Fort Wayne Inc.
Associated Chamber Music Players
Fort Wayne Children's Choir
Susan Jo Devito
Michael and Emily Elko
Alan and Maureen Grinsfelder
Floyd and Betty Lou Lancia
Irene and Robert Walters

Director's Circle

(\$500 to \$1,999)

Linda Balthaser
Glenn and Janellyn Borden
Debra Boyd
Joan Bryant
Dan Butler
James Campbell
Hans Christensen
Rebecca Coffman
James Edlund
Christina and Eric Egbert
Ben and Sharon Eisbart
Fort Wayne Philharmonic Friends
James Gabbard
Linda Gaff
Karen Griggs
Lois Guess
Leonard Helfrich
Nancy and John Hrehov
Michael Fuller and Jerry Lewis

Director's Circle (cont.)

Karlene and James Krouse
Lincoln Financial Group
Barbara Ann Lloyd
Rob and Marlene Mishler
Susan and Bill Nash
Mason Noble
PI Chapter Psi Iota Xi
William Reitz
Laura and David Reynolds
Janet and John Sanner
Samuel Savage
Tim and Barbara Shambaugh
Whitley County Community
Foundation
John O'Connell and James
Williams
Jean Marie Zimmerman

Patrons

(\$250 to \$499)

Robert Benninghoff
David N. Brumm
Carol and Clarence Casazza
J. Nelson Coats
Eve Colchin
Thomas DeLong
Cynthia Marie Elick
Joe Francis
Leonard Gaff
Daniel and Sara Gebhart
Jan and Tom Gidley
Bruce and Melinda Haines
Dorothy Hendricksen
Indiana Michigan Power Co.

Patrons (cont.)

William and Virginia Johnson
Anthony Lardyell
Louise Larsen
Corey Lee
Catherine Lee
Kimberly Sue McDonald
James and Sondra Mergenthal
John Motz
Mary and Kenneth Ormerod
Michael Parrott
Delmar and Ruth Proctor
Yvonne Ramsey
Ken and Carolyn Rauscher
Manny Rodriguez
Lillian Schulte
Sigma Alpha Iota
Lois Steere
Nancy and David Stewart
Judith and Roger Summers
Terri and Danny Swim
Hamilton Tescarollo
Kirk Tolliver
Cecilia and William Weakley
Cathleen and William
Westrick
Judith Zinn

Century Club

(\$100 to \$249)

Cassie Beer
L. Dianne Bezdon
Denise Buhr
Barbara Jane Bulmahn

Century Club (cont.)

Nathan Buuck
James and Carol Clauser
Barry and Donna Close
Deborah and Richard
Conklin
Tamara and Matthew
Cummins
Susan Domer
Julie Donnell
John Egger
Jeremy Grall
Andy Grinsfelder
Kate Black-Haluska and Bob
Haluska
Alan Hofer
Dee Hoffman
Julia and Larry Hook
Mary and Edward Hutter
Sadruddin and Janet Kamdar
Bruce Kingsbury
Emily and Ryan Keirns
Janet Katz
Dorothy Kometani Kittaka
Connie Kracher
Kyle Kracher
Georgia Kuhns
Sean Patrick Maroney
James and Barbara Mast
Cheryl Mathews
Diane Mcardle
Mitchell McKinney
David and Elizabeth
Mikautadze



Century Club (cont.)

Robert Nance
 Cathy Niemeyer
 James A. O'Connor
 Gregory Harold Otis
 Carolyn Papier
 Ronald Allen Patton
 Ayn Reineke
 Pamela Richmond
 David and Margaret
 Ridderheim
 Masson and Elizabeth
 Robertson
 Carol and James Rorick
 Steven and Janet Sarratore
 Melissa Schenkel
 Robert Scott
 Mary and Robert Short
 Jody Thomas
 Erica Tobolski
 Margaret Vegeler
 Anastasia Volk-Maroney
 Elizabeth Wuthrich

Friends
(\$50 to \$99)

Fran and Irving Adler
 Margaret Ankenbruck
 Cherry Bauer
 Mary Darr
 Kylie Stultz Dessent
 Suining Ding
 Mark Douglass
 Jacques Dupuis

Friends (cont.)

S. Katriina Dygert
 Dennis John Fisher
 Betsy Gephart
 Seth Green
 Helene Helburn
 Thomas and Jane Hoffman
 Patricia Kennedy
 Sherwin and Marilyn Kepes
 Jeffrey Krull
 Maestro Nance, LLC
 Margaret Pachuta
 Martin Pastura
 Craig Reynolds
 Dennis Reynolds
 Teresa Riley
 William Sauerland
 Stephen and Jill Sosenheimer
 Diana Spindler
 John Surbeck Jr.

Contributors

(\$1 to \$49)

Janet Badia
 Javier Bayouth
 Heather Berkshire
 Margaret Bertelsen
 Joseph Bertelsen
 Nancy Bremer
 John Buteyn
 Chip Compton
 Nicole Evans
 Clarissa Fenker

Contributors (cont.)

Kerrie Fineran
 Sara Freedman
 Norman and Ronnie
 Greenberg
 Jessica Hensley
 Michele Hutchek
 Dora Itkin
 James King
 Charles Lang
 Jade Loeffler
 Janet Ormiston
 Naomi Palicte
 Molly Papier
 P.E.O Chapter AN
 of Fort Wayne
 Nicole Pitcher
 Austin Rausch
 Beverly Redman
 Jane Reineke
 Christopher Riley
 Katherine Sider
 Lawrence Shine
 Kent Sommers
 Andrea Spencer
 Dolly Szymanski
 Jacqueline Warfield
 Jack Win
 Jonathan Young
 Kyla Zehr
 Mimi Zelman

Mission Statement

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

Edward D. and Ione Auer Performance Scholarship

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

Ione Auer Arts Scholarship Endowment

Cameron Crouch	Tristan Robinson
Maxwell Hawn	Jake Vance

Dan Butler Theatre Scholarship Endowment

Ayden Murphy

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

O. Franklin Kenworthy Memorial Scholarship

Isaac Derbyshire

Rev. Dr. Richard and Sally Frazier Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Emma Gilbert

Gertrude Weigler Brateman Scholarship

Emma Gilbert

ANNOUNCING THE 2026-2027
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE SEASON

September 2026

DEVIL BOYS
FROM
BEYOND

November 2026

THE
LIGHTNING
THIEF
THE PERCY JACKSON
MUSICAL

February 2027

DEAD MAN'S
CELLPHONE

April 2027

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