



WEITZENHOFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

2023-2024 UNIVERSITY THEATRE SEASON



LIFE IS A DREAM

WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS FACULTY AND STAFF

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Curriculum Coordinator, Theatre Minor Adviser
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Kasey Allee-Foreman, Associate Producer
Alan Hiserodt, Performance Hall Supervisor, Sound Supervisor
Donna Huston, House Manager
Gabrielle Williams, Social Media Graduate Assistant



WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

and

HELMERICH SCHOOL OF DRAMA
present

LIFE IS A DREAM

By

Pedro Calderón de la Barca

Translated and Adapted by
NILO CRUZ

Director

JULIA ROSA SOSA CHAPARRO

Scenic Designer
ELIZABETH ELLIOTT

Costume Designer
JOY OMIESH

Lighting Designer
NOAH JITTAWAIT

Sound Designer
RICHARD SPRECKER

Projection Designer
ULDARICO SARMIENTO

Intimacy & Fight Designer
ELI FARNEY

Production Dramaturg
P.K. KAYA

Stage Manager
MELODY RUTHERFORD

Associate Stage Manager
EMILY CASHDOLLAR

This production contains adult themes.

8 P.M. MARCH 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
3 P.M. MARCH 3, 10

A. MAX WEITZENHOFFER THEATRE 563 ELM AVE., NORMAN, OK 73019

OU FINE ARTS BOX OFFICE • (405) 325-4101 • THEATRE.OU.EDU

LIFE IS A DREAM is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

Dear Friends and Patrons:

Welcome to the University Theatre production of *Life is a Dream*! I want to thank you, the audience, for being an integral part of the success of our production season! I also want to thank the Theatre Guild for their unwavering support for the School of Drama and our students' education! The community's participation makes what we do much more thrilling and rewarding!

Life is a Dream is a Spanish Golden Age drama written by Pedro Calderón de la Barca around 1630. It is considered as Calderón's most famous play. We are very fortunate to have Julia Rosa Sosa Chaparro as the guest artist to direct the production. Julia is a young, passionate, and upcoming director. She has brought so much energy and unique perspectives into the project. She has inspired openness and creativity. She and every aspect of the production team have been working hard to bring this piece to the stage, especially the students who participated in various capacities. The production is where they put classroom learning into real-world practice. The faculty and staff are so proud of what they have accomplished! This production will bring the audience a wonderful story and a feast to the eye!

It is my first year at OU as the Director of Helmerich School of Drama. I am honored to have this opportunity to be part of the students' journey of their college education and the continuing advancement of the School of Drama and the College of Fine Arts.

Enjoy the show!

Yuanting Zhao
Director, Helmerich School of Drama
University of Oklahoma

Dear Friends and University Theatre Patrons,

Welcome to *Life Is a Dream*, the second Helmerich School of Drama offering in our 2023-2024 season!

"Be Swept Away" our tagline for this season, seems especially appropriate for this production. Calderon's play, in which the central character is swept from imprisonment to an environment of opulence and nobility, comes to us from the 17th century in an adaptation by Nilo Cruz. Written in the Spanish Golden Age only a few decades after Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, *Life Is a Dream* emerges from a series of contrasts—familial, societal, personal, emotional. We're delighted to welcome production director Julia Rosa Sosa Chaparro to University Theatre who, along with an imaginative team of designers, have breathed life, sensitivity, and passion into the production. There are always at least as many collaborators backstage as onstage, so we gratefully recognize our faculty mentors, technicians, professional staff, stage managers, house management team, and all who have contributed their talents to the realization of this unique production.

It is always a pleasure to bring the arts to our OU community and our gratitude certainly extends to you, our audience, as we celebrate the centennial of the Weitzenhoffer College of Fine Arts. Thank you for celebrating with us through your presence. We look forward to seeing you at our next two productions: *Crazy for You* and Contemporary Dance Oklahoma. The celebration continues, but it could not happen without your devotion and support. Please accept our thanks and enjoy the performance!

Warm regards,

Professor Mary Margaret Holt
Dean, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
Nichols' Chair, Regents' Professor, and
Presidential Professor
University of Oklahoma

University of Oklahoma Land Acknowledgement

Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the "Hasinai's" Caddo Nation and "Kirikiri's" Wichita & Affiliated Tribes.

We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa, and Osage nations.

Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people.

The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor, and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma's 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university's core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture, and history that make up our entire OU Community.



Masks are optional for audience members.

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
The use of cameras or any recording devices is prohibited by law.

There is no tobacco use on The University of Oklahoma campus.

LIFE IS A DREAM

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Julia Rosa Sosa Chaparro

My focus on *Life is a Dream* has been on creating a world from the outlook of our main character, Segismundo, and his new path into duty in this dream-like world. The classic nature of the play gives us ample room for creativity, exploration, and transformability. *Life is a Dream* has been staged countless times; and yet with the adaptation and translation by Nilo Cruz, we have gained plenty of room for playful interpretation and we will take it.

Segismundo is controlled by his crafted circumstances, embarking on a journey to discover who he is and what his role in the world is. He has lived a life of imprisonment, a life that he had no control over; then he found himself in the strange world of nobility and their bizarrely ornamented excesses. We can see the historical leftovers of opulence through palaces, buildings, and in museums. And we can see now how living in excess looked. We also have a plenitude of examples, if not just our own, of how struggling in our socio-economic circumstances looks like. Segismundo does not know of those examples. Just like that, Segismundo went from being imprisoned to being in a palace. How disorienting that can be? What would it feel to be uprooted and thrown into another constructed reality?

A particular focus of mine in this production has been the portrayal of the townsfolk, Clarin and Rosara. These characters are trying to figure out better ways to get rid of these political and gender strings that have been maneuvering them, and they're trying their solutions even if they're flawed. We are discussing politics in a kingdom that rules over the population, and I wanted to give more voice to the population.

I aim to foster a world that truly draws you in, a place capable of transforming into many forms. I encouraged all designers and actors to be playful, to explore, and to capture the beauty of a place that makes us contemplate dreams and their reality. My most significant inspiration comes from Remedios Varo, a renowned Spanish surrealist painter who depicts the world with intricate details and textures. We are bringing a classical piece from the Spanish Golden Age, with circumstances that may be challenging for modern audiences to understand. However, if I tell you that we are in a painting, a surrealist painting, it might feel a bit more believable.

LIFE IS A DREAM

by Pedro Calderón de la Barca
Translated and Adapted by Nilo Cruz

CAST

SEGISMUNDO	Xavier Gutierrez
ROSAURA	Sydney Bartolome
CLARIN	Noah Slicer
CLOTALDO	Aubrey Miller
ESTRELLA	Kristen Dickey
BASILIO	Eli Farney
ASTOLFO	Cooper Smith
GUARD 1/UNDERSTUDY ROSAURA	Izzy Richichi
GUARD 2/SWING	Sam Norris
SOLDIER 2/UNDERSTUDY SEGISMUNDO	Maxine Cavallini
SOLDIER 1/UNDERSTUDY CLARIN	Desmond Pouncil
SERVANT 2/UNDERSTUDY ASTOLFO	Diego Salas
SERVANT 1/UNDERSTUDY ESTRELLA	Hannah Haddad
ASTROLOGER 1/UNDERSTUDY GUARD 1	Kinzey Shirazi
ASTROLOGER 2/UNDERSTUDY SERVANT 1 AND UNDERSTUDY SOLDIER 1	Laura Burguete
TOWNSPERSON/UNDERSTUDY SOLDIERS AND ASTROLOGERS	Arianna Matthews
TOWNSPERSON/UNDERSTUDY GUARD 2 AND SOLDIER 2	Claire Suyat
UNDERSTUDY BASILLO AND CLOTALDO	Kamran Akhtar



A special thank you to our current Dean's Circle members!

- Membership as of Feb. 19, 2024 -

CENTENNIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Sandra Carpenter, Phillip and Nancy Estes, Fred and Lynda Gipson,
Charles Oppenheim, Simmons Family, A. Max Weitzenhoffer

DEAN'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

Marion and Dianne Bauman, Suzanne Baxter, Paul and Terry Bell,
Joy Reed Belt, Erica Bird, Britani Bowman, Taylor Boyd, James Bratton,
Brian and Alicia Britt, Rikki Bryant, Wayne Buchman,
Mary Ann and Jim Burdett, Virginia D. Calame, Susan Caldwell, Fred and Meg Carr,
Jack and Stephanie Chapman, Shawn Churchman and Tom Spector,
Orville and Teresa Collins, Gregory Coolidge, Stephanie Deatherage,
Susan DeShane, Claude and Helen Duchon,
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100% of the funds raised through the OU Dean's Circle membership
go toward providing students in the College of Fine Arts
opportunities off-campus that promote artistic and intellectual development.

Questions? Contact David Barocio, Executive Director of Development,
OU Foundation, at dbarocio@ou.edu or call (405) 325-7376.

BE A PART OF THE CIRCLE

Visit ou.edu/finearts/support to join today!

LIFE IS A DREAM

A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCTION DRAMTURG
P.K. Kaya

"In this life, everyone is dreaming..."

When Spanish playwright Pedro Calderón de la Barca published the original script of *Life Is a Dream* in 1636, his work embodied timely Catholic beliefs about reality, fate, and the role of human life in a divinely ordained universe. In early modern Spain, dialogue proclaiming that "in this life, everyone is dreaming" was understood to be a reference to the afterlife and a soul's perilous journey toward redemption; thus, the play's "reality versus dream" debate concludes with the proclamation that the human, material world is but a trial to undergo before achieving true existence with the Creator in Heaven. To Calderón de la Barca and his audience, the time spent in the "dream" we call life was but a stepping stone to the eternal safety of Paradise.

Today, twenty-first-century audiences grapple daily with their own secular versions of the "reality versus dream" debate in the form of their most utilized tool: the Internet. In a fast-paced world where online social interactions have become necessary to the operation of daily life—where the average American spends nearly five hours or more a day on their devices and prefers the notes app to a paper notebook—what real ground have we ceded to our digital dreaming? To what extent does online interaction shape our physical reality? How many minutes of our lives are lived online? And what percentages of human care, attention, and focus are dedicated wholly to a digital space—a newfound false reality of our own design?

As *Life Is a Dream* hits the University of Oklahoma stage nearly four-hundred years after its conception, modern audiences must confront the same mirrors of reality faced by their seventeenth century counterparts. However, where early modern spectators stared into Calderón's poetic allegory and perceived the promise of an afterlife opposing the falsehoods of earth's dream, modern audiences may find something wholly different. As first-generation scouts of Apple, AI, and Samsung's digital realities, how do Calderón's observations about power, honor, and reality live within us? When we reflect on our own false realities—as we close our old browsers and shut off new phones—what awaits us on the other side?

In this life, everyone is dreaming, but this play asks you to wake up.

APRIL 5-14



CRAZY FOR YOU

Music & Lyrics by **George Gershwin & Ira Gershwin**

Book by **Ken Ludwig**

Lyn Cramer, Director

April 5, 6, 12, 13 at 8 p.m.

April 7, 14 at 3 p.m.

Elsie C. Brackett Theatre

A city slicker falls for a hometown girl in this ebullient romantic comedy. This winner of three Tony Awards features cowboys, showgirls, exhilarating tap dancing, and a glorious score from George and Ira Gershwin.
This production is suitable for all audiences.

LIFE IS A DREAM

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Mary Margaret Holt
Associate Producer	Kasey Allee-Foreman
Voice & Diction Coach	Dr. Joe Alberti
Assistant Director	Ella Partanen
Assistant Lighting Designer	Ruby Ravsten
Assistant Sound Designer	Connor Lin
Assistant Projections Designer	Lucas Knapp
Music Captain	Desmond Pouncil
Fight & Intimacy Captain	Eli Farney
Production Assistant	Cadence Gates
Shadow Dramaturgs	Caylor Peterson, Isabella Woodson
Faculty Advisor to the Scenic Designer	Jon Young
Faculty Advisor to the Costume Designer	Lloyd Cracknell
Faculty Advisor to the Lighting Designer	Renée Brode
Faculty Advisor to Stage Management	Christopher Sadler
Faculty Advisor to the Dramaturg	Nahuel Tellaria
Design and Production Area Coordinator	Renée Brode
Production Carpenter	E. Pope
Scenic Undergraduate Assistants	Elizabeth Elliott, Cadence Gates, Diego Gonzales Kay Bailey Hall, Gillian Kelley, Abby Knauber Gage Martinez, Hollis Narkiewicz Jenna Norton, Cara Oates, Abigail Pirtle Erasmio Salinas, Goldie Snow, Ethan Walker
Properties Director	Margot Glaser
Properties Lead	Gage Martinez
Run Crew Heads	Autumn Carman, Delaney Gondo
Run Crew	Micah Dooley, Keira Hays Emily Morris, Emily Post
Electrics Supervisor	Eric Stehl
Lighting Undergraduate Assistants	Micah Dooley, Lauren Foster Madison Heckelsberg, Connor Lin, Lucas Knapp Emily Morris, Ruby Ravsten, Kellen Sapp Sophia Smith, Kait Stapp, Trey Wilson
Production Electricians	Kellen Stapp, Lauren Foster
Light Board Programmer	Micah Dooley
Light Board Operator	Natalie Lane
Streaming Operator	Miriam Worley
Projections Engineer	Richard Sprecker
Audio Supervisor	Alan Hiserodt
Audio Undergraduate Assistant	Kait Stapp
Sound Board Operator	Anna Halza
Costume Studio Supervisor	Christina Draper
Lead Stitcher	Amy Kercher
Stitcher	Stephanie Cirar
Costume Undergraduate Assistants	Jodie Cone, Emily Heskett, Jylian Humber Paige Kasulis, Natalie Lane, Joy Omiesh Emily Post, Landre Sanders, Hunter Sheehan Brooke Strachan, Samantha Verbsky
Wardrobe Supervisor	Amy Kercherr
Wardrobe Crew	Isabella Kupec, Ian Lee Trisha Parelzs, Cannon Simpson
Box Office	Terrye Hudson, Sherri Morgan
House Manager	Donna Huston
Assistant House Managers	Carolyn Ansinn, Alexa Babler, Sydney Bartolome Lydia Bloomfield, Ella Bush, Joy Omiesh, Abby Vitt
Production Undergraduate Assistant	McKenna Bowman

MEET THE LIFE IS A DREAM CAST



KAMRAN AKHTAR



SYDNEY
BARTOLOME



LAURA
BURGUETE



MAXINE CAVALLINI



KRISTEN DICKEY



ELI FARNEY



XAVIER
GUTIERREZ



HANNAH
HADDAD



ARIANNA
MATTHEWS



AUBREY MILLER



SAM NORRIS



DESMOND POUNCIL



IZZY RICHICHI



DIEGO SALAS



KINZEY SHIRAZI



NOAH SLICER



COOPER SMITH



CLAIRE SUYAT

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

KAMRAN AKHTAR (Bastillo Understudy/Clotaldo Understudy) is an organizing leadership senior from Tuttle, OK. This is his OU University Theatre debut. Credits: Dale S. Lewis (SAG-AFTRA): Supporting, *Incision*. Capernaum Studios: Supporting, *Kingdom Come*. Infinity Entertainment: Series Regular, *Web of Spider-Man*. Elijah Felkins: Lead, *The Writer*. OKC Improv: Troupe Improv, *Honor Roll*. OU Athletics: Mascot Boomer, Sooner, Top Daug. Greenlight Productions: Supporting, *A Post Production*. Charles Lujan: Supporting, *Wes & Jules: Party Crashers*. Autumn Hudgins: Supporting, *The Colors of Affection*.

SYDNEY BARTOLOME (Rosaura) is a drama performance sophomore from Dallas, TX. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Trina, *Oh To Be Pure Again*; Ensemble, *Revolt She Said Revolt Again*. North Texas Performing Arts: Sandy Cheeks, *SpongeBob the Musical*. Richardson High School: Woman 2, *Songs for a New World*. Friehofer Casting: Background/Extra, *Fairwood Season 2*. Interlochen Center for the Arts.

LAURA BURGUETE (Astrologer2/Servant 1 Understudy/Soldier 1 Understudy) is a drama performance freshman from San Antonio, TX. Credits: OU Student Council Theatre: Beauty, *Smokefall*.

MAXINE CAVALLINI (Soldier 2/Segismundo Understudy) is a drama performance and dramaturgy major freshman from Norman, OK. Credits: OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Mac Beth Understudy, *Mac Beth*.

KRISTEN DICKEY (Estrella) is a drama performance junior from Suwanee, GA. Credits: OU Helmerich OU School of Drama Lab Theatre: Autumn, *Oh To Be Pure Again*; Giselle, *Rhapsody* (staged reading). The Studio: Billie, *A Funny Circumstance* (staged reading).

ELI FARNEY (Basilio/Fight & Intimacy Designer) is a drama performance junior from Wichita, KS. Credits: OU University Theatre: Guard, *Marie Antoinette*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Undergraduate Directed Production: Understudy, *Marisol*.

XAVIER GUTIERREZ (Segismundo) is a drama performance junior from Houston, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Dr. Knef/Reporter, *Radium Girls*. San Jacinto Community College: Mel, *Prisoner of Second Avenue*; El Coyote, *Augusta and Noble*.

HANNAH HADDAD (Servant 1/Estrella Understudy) is a drama performance freshman from McKinney, TX. OU Helmerich School of Drama Undergraduate Directed Production: Claire, *The Maids*.

ARIANNA MATTHEWS (Townsperson/Soldiers and Astrologers Understudy) is a drama performance sophomore from Stigler, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Death Understudy, *Everybody*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Student Writing Festival: Stage Director, *Rhapsody*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Ensemble, *Red Bike*.

AUBREY MILLER (Clotaldo) is a drama performance junior from Edmond, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Swing/Sheep Understudy, *Marie Antoinette*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Ensemble/Understudy, *Revolt She Said Revolt Again*. OU Student Council Theatre: Damir, *be mean to me*.

SAM NORRIS (Guard 2/ Swing) is a drama performance freshman from Fort Worth, TX. This is his OU University Theatre debut.

DESMOND POUNCIL (Soldier 1/Clarín Understudy) is a drama performance sophomore from Gainesville, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Love, *Everybody*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

A. Max Weitzenhoffer Musical Theatre: Ensemble, *Jesus Christ Superstar*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Ensemble, *Red Bike*. North Central Texas College: Spongebob, *Spongebob the Musical*.

IZZY RICHICHI (Guard 1/Rosaura Understudy) is a drama performance and dramaturgy sophomore from Norman, OK. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Ensemble, *Revolt She Said Revolt Again*; Macduff Understudy, *Mac Beth*.

DIEGO SALAS (Servant 2/Astolfo Understudy) is a drama performance freshman from Marietta, OK. This is his OU University Theatre debut.

KINZEY SHIRAZI (Astrologer 1/Guard 1 Understudy) is a drama performance freshman from Edmond, OK. This is her OU University Theatre debut.

NOAH SLICER (Clarin) is a drama performance sophomore from Lyndonville, VT. Credits: OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Banquo Understudy, *Mac Beth*.

COOPER SMITH (Astolfo) is a drama performance freshman from Prosper, TX. This is his OU University Theatre debut.

CLAIRE SUYAT (Townsperson/Guard 2 Understudy/Soldier2 Understudy) is a drama performance freshman from Denver, CO. This is her OU University of Theatre debut.



FUN FACT

The Peggy V. Dow Helmerich School of Drama is the second oldest university dramatic training institution in the nation.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

KASEY ALLEE-FOREMAN has served as Associate Producer/Production Manager for over 90 productions in the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently the VP for Conferences for USITT. A short listing of her professional theatre credits include: SphinxCON, a conference promoting Diversity in the Arts; Canterbury Choral: Bernstein's Mass; Houston Grand Opera: Renée Fleming's premiere *La Traviata* (world premiere); Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston); Houston Shakespeare Festival; Shakespeare Festival at Tulane (New Orleans); Theatre West (Los Angeles). Professional film credits include: *Mystery, Alaska, Lost and Found; Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged Me*. She is proud to have served on the USITT Board of Directors as the VP for Conferences, the VP for Education and Training and as a Director. She has served as USITT on the Conference Committee chair and member, IDEAS Committee chair and member, is the co-founder of the Gateway Program, and has been the Co-chair of the Women in Theatre Network. Kasey received her MFA in Costume Design and Technology and Lighting Design and Technology from the University of New Orleans and her BA in Theatre Arts from Furman University.

EMILY CASHDOLLAR (Associate Stage Manager) is a drama stage management sophomore from McKinney, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Young Company Stage Manager, *Nutcracker*; Associate Stage Manager, *Heathers*; Associate Stage Manager, *Marie Antoinette*; Young Actor Supervisor, *Susannah*. Shakespeare in the Park McKinney: Director, *The Tempest*. Music Masters Company: Stage Manager, *Hope in the Heartland*. Ovation Conservatory: Stage Manager, *The Lightning Thief*.

JULIA ROSA SOSA CHAPARRO (Director) is a director, storyteller, and performing artist, whose artistic journey is characterized by a profound commitment to community engagement and innovation. Originally from the region of Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, Texas, she is an alumna of the University of Texas at El Paso, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Sociology and Theatre Arts with a concentration in performance.

As a Theatre Director, Julia has worked on a variety of productions, from *A Christmas in Ochopee* at New Native Theatre to *Arrivals & Salidas* at Latinx Theatre Project, as well as *Native Gardens* at Creed Repertory Theatre, among others. She has also been an Assistant Director on productions like *Antigone* at Cleveland Play House and *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Julia's dedication to storytelling extends to her musical project, Lúnatic, where she is the songwriter and vocalist. Collaborating with Maic Corral, they have successfully blended visual arts, music, and technology in the digital age. She is currently working on her first musical, *El Romantico*, with support from the Creative Impact Fund.

In 2019, Julia made her playwriting debut with *En Últimas Noticias* for *El Paso Strong: an Evening of Short Plays by El Paso Playwrights*, at The Plaza Theatre in El Paso, Texas, which honored the Walmart shooting victims and strengthened the bonds between sister cities. In 2020, her TYA piece, *El Toro y la Niña Radio*, was the winning selection for the ReUnion rEvolución A Latinx New Works Festival and was performed on the local El Paso NPR station.

Beyond her work on the stage, Julia is dedicated to teaching and community engagement, serving as a teaching artist and workshop facilitator in various educational settings. She has enriched her professional journey with Directors Labs, Observerships, Intimacy work, and workshops.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

Julia's impact in the arts has been further supported by grants, including the Julia de Burgos Cultural Art Center and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture In-house Residency, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Learning Lab, a Red Bull Arts Cleveland Microgrant, and the Creative Impact Fund.

ELIZABETH ELLIOTT (Scenic Designer) is a scenic design sophomore from St. Louis, MO. Credits: OU University Theatre: Props Lead, *Marie Antoinette*; Props Lead, *Heathers*.

MARY MARGARET HOLT (Producer) began her early ballet training in Austin, Texas at Austin Civic Ballet, receiving a Ford Foundation scholarship for study with the San Francisco Ballet at the age of 15. Subsequently, she received a Ford Foundation scholarship for study at the School of American Ballet, also appearing with the New York City Ballet. Holt accepted a soloist contract with Houston Ballet upon completing her BFA in Ballet Performance. While a member of Houston Ballet, she danced a wide variety of solo and principal roles in the classical and contemporary repertoire by choreographers including Stevenson, Van Manen, Van Danzig, Petipa, Balanchine, Taras, Dolin, Boris, Clouser, Franklin, Ivanov, de Mille, and O'Donnell. She also performed principal roles in Terekhov's *The Firebird*, *The Snow Maiden*, and *Don Quixote*. She has performed as a guest artist, teacher, and choreographer with ballet and opera companies across the United States.

Holt joined the dance faculty of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance as an assistant professor, following Miguel Terekhov as chair in 1991, and an appointment as director in 1998. As director of Oklahoma Festival Ballet, Holt has choreographed over forty ballets Haydnstage in Austria (2), Mexico (3), Taiwan, China, and Ecuador. Holt choreography includes the music of Franck, Haydn, The Beatles, Porter, Weill, Mozart, Ginastera, Ikard, Holley, Satie, Bartok, Orff, and Debussy and her ballets have been seen across the U.S. as well as in South America, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Under Holt's leadership, Oklahoma Festival Ballet performed works from the national repertoire by Joffrey and includes the music of Franck, Haydn, The Beatles, Porter, Weill, Mozart, Ginastera, Ikard, Holley, Satie, Bartok, Orff, and Debussy and her ballets have been seen across the U.S. as well as in South America, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Under Holt's leadership, Oklahoma Festival Ballet performed works from the national repertoire by Joffrey and Balanchine as well as de Mille's *Rodeo*. Her students have performed with Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Ballet Austin, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Orlando Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, and Tulsa Ballet, and as finalists and semifinalists in the International Ballet Competition. At the University of Oklahoma, Holt taught every course in the ballet curriculum and her continuing studies in ballet pedagogy include studying Bournonville Technique with Tage Wendt; and Vaganova Technique at the Bolshoi Academy at Vail; and in St. Petersburg and Minsk, Russia.

Holt was an honoree at the second national RDA Festival in Pittsburgh in 2007, and she received the CORPS de Ballet International Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. She has served on the Dance Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts and been a panelist on Women in the Academy at Oxford. She is the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award, the Presidential Professorship, and the Regents' Professorship at OU where she also holds the John and Mary Nichols' Chair in Dance.

NOAH JITTAWAIT (Lighting Designer) is a lighting design sophomore from Wichita, KS. Credits: OU University Theatre: Lighting Designer, *Rift* (YCS '24); *Therefore I am* (YCS '24); Lighting Designer, *Solstice* (YCS '23). White Plains Performing Arts Center: Assistant Lighting Designer, *Anastasia*. Music Theatre Wichita: Assistant Lighting Designer, *Ragtime*; *Rock of Ages*.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

P. K. KAYA (Production Dramaturg) is a dramaturgy junior from Kingfisher, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Production Dramaturg, *Marie Antoinette*; Understanding/God, *Everybody*; Tom Snout, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Undergraduate Directed Production: Sagredo/Little Monk, *Life of Galileo*. OU Student Theatre Council: Production Dramaturg, *Tick, Tick, Boom!*; Devising Playwright/Performer, *30 Second Plays*. The Co.Arts Puppet Circus for Oklahoma: Devising Playwright/Performer, *The Battle of Cable Street*. Oklahoma Theatre Crude: Ensemble Storyteller, *The Battle of Cable Street*.

JOY OMIESH (Costume Designer) is a costume design junior from Amman, Jordan. Credits: OU University Theatre: Assistant Designer, *Radium Girls*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Stage Manager, *Mac Beth*.

ELLA PARTANEN (Assistant Director) is a drama performance senior from Kempele, Finland. This is her OU University Theatre directing debut. Credits: OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Bessie, *Drowning Girls*; Witch 2, *Mac Beth*; Ensemble, *Red Bike*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Student Writing Festival: Ensemble.

MELODY RUTHERFORD (Stage Manager) is a stage management senior from Gainesville, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Stage Manager, *Orfeo Ed Euridice*; Co-Stage Manager, OFB '23; Co-Stage Manager, YCS '23; Associate Stage Manager, *Radium Girls*; Associate Stage Manager, *Pippin*; Stage Manager, *She Loves Me*. OU Musical Theatre Downtown Series: Stage Manager, *White Christmas*.

RICHARD SPRECKER (Sound Designer) holds an MFA from University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is Associate Professor of Sound Design for the Helmerich School of Drama. Lighting Design credits for OU University Theatre include: *Così fan tutte*; YCS '20; *The Nutcracker* (OFB '19); *The Golden Cockerel*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Nice Work If You Can Get It*; *Hansel and Gretel*; *The Nutcracker* (OFB '15); *Ragtime*; *Carmen In Concert*. Composer and Sound Design credits: *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Sound Design credits: *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; *Pippin*; *She Loves Me*; *Spring Awakening*; *Twelfth Night*; *Noises Off*; *Curtains*; *Little Women*; *Suite From There Is A Time* (CDO '14); *The Cherry Orchard*; *Coram Boy*; *L'Elisir d'Amore*. Projection Design credits include: CDO '14. Other design credits include: *Les Dialogues des Carmelites* (UMKC Conservatory); *Carmina Burana* (UMKC Dance); *Comedy of Asses*; *Oh What a Lovely War*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (UMKC Theatre); *Spooky Dog* (Coterie Theatre/UMKC Theatre); *Dead On Her Feet* (North Wall Arts, Oxford, UK).

ULDARICO SARMIENTO (Projections Designer) is an Associate Professor of Design and Digital Media at the University of Oklahoma Helmerich School of Drama. His Scenic Design credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest* (Shakespeare Dallas); *Guadalupe in the Guest Room* (Creede Repertory Theatre); *Concerto, Ain't Misbehavin', Master Class, Singin' in the Rain, Crowns, Rock of Ages, The Fantasticks* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Reduxion Theatre); *Journey's End* (Kansas City Actors Theatre); *Number the Stars* (Coterie Theatre); *The Nutcracker*, *Susannah*, *Pippin*, *Blood Wedding*, *Scapino!*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Trojan Women*, *Let The Right One In* (OU University Theatre). Scenic Design and Projections for *Ragtime* (OU University Theatre). His Digital Media Design credits include: *Mary Poppins*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Billy Elliot the Musical* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma); *Don Pasquale* (OU University Theatre). Film and TV credits include Set Designer for Nick Cassavetes' *Yellow*; Set Designer for the film adaptation of *August: Osage County*; Set Design and Graphics for *Gotti*, starring John Travolta; and most recently Design Assistant for *The Haunting of Hill House* on Netflix.

A close-up, high-angle shot of a clarinet, showing the keys and the body of the instrument. The clarinet is dark with silver-colored keys and rings. The background is dark and out of focus.

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Mark Humphries, Jerry Lessley

DESIGNER

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Janet Gorton, Darleene Harris, Katherine Kemmet, Lori Kemmet
Stephanie Marfurt, Rachael Niederhauser, Kelly Reece
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