



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

24/25
SEASON



Elsie C. Brackett Theatre

NOV 22 - DEC 8

NOV 22, 24 & DEC 6, 7 at 8:00 P.M.

NOV 24 & DEC 8 at 3:00 P.M.



Book, Music and Lyrics by **Jonathan Larson**

Directed by **Ashton Byrum**

Musical Direction by **Mandy Jiran**

Choreographed by **Leslie Kraus**

WEITZENHOFFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS FACULTY AND STAFF

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Rothbaum Professor
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Curriculum Coordinator, Theatre Minor Adviser
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Richard L. Sprecker, Associate Professor, Sound Design
Eric Stehl, Electrician, Electrics Supervisor
Dr. Nahuel Telleria, Assistant Professor, Dramaturgy,
Interim Performance Area Coordinator
Jon Young, James Garner Chair, Rothbaum Professor, Scenic Design

UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Mary Margaret Holt, University Theatre Producer
Kasey Allee-Foreman, Associate Producer
Donna Huston, House Manager
Lane Houk, Student Assistant for Social Media



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

and
SCHOOL OF MUSICAL THEATRE
present

RENT

Book, Music & Lyrics by
JONATHAN LARSON

Musical Arrangements
STEVE SKINNER

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics
BILLY ARONSON

Music Supervision and Additional Arrangements
TIM WEIL

Dramaturg
LYNN THOMSON

RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon and New York Theatre Workshop.

Director
ASHTON BYRUM

Music Director
MANDY JIRAN

Choreographer
LESLIE KRAUS

Scenic Designer
ELIZABETH ELLIOTT

Costume Designer
LANDRE SANDERS

Lighting Designer
KELLEN SAPP

Sound Designer
RICHARD L. SPRECKER

Projection Designer
CARA OATES

Assistant Lighting Designer
MICAH DOOLEY

Intimacy Designer
KAREN BOYD BETHEL

Stage Manager
EMILY CASHDOLLAR

Associate Stage Managers
**EMILY MATTHEWS
EMILY MORRIS**

8 P.M. NOVEMBER 22, 24 & DECEMBER 6, 7, 2024

3 P.M. NOVEMBER 24 & DECEMBER 8, 2024

ELSIE C. BRACKETT THEATRE, 563 ELM AVE., NORMAN, OK 73019

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

RENT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

Dear Friends,

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for this special production of RENT! Written by Jonathan Larson and the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical, Rent was “the Hamilton” of its time. An edgy rock opera that dealt with themes of homelessness and AIDS, it changed musical theatre forever and created stars out of the original cast - most notably Idina Menzel (*Wicked* and *Frozen*), Jesse L. Martin (*Law and Order*), Adam Pascal, Anthony Rapp, and Taye Diggs.

For us, this project represents a new level of collaboration around technology and media incorporated into a theatrical production for University Theatre. As a research institution, we’re always exploring - and in our creative activity with our students, we often investigate new ways to make theatre. The use of projections has become a very popular element on Broadway and beyond. The new production of *Sunset Boulevard* and recent revival of *Oklahoma!* incorporate live-action video as an integral part of the story-telling. We’re inspired by these new innovations and with RENT, have discovered an exciting, modern aesthetic when adding camera work and a digital media design to the stage. The ability to have “close-ups” on the large screen at key moments and a moving image as part of the scenic design - lets us experiment with a “hybrid performance style” - acting for the stage AND for film.



The design and production area of the Helmerich School of Drama and the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre are leaders in theatrical training and it’s a pleasure to take artistic risks and collaborate with their faculty, staff, and students on this complex, and important piece. I’m especially grateful to be on a creative team with OU Musical Theatre faculty member, Mandy Jiran (Music Director) and OU School of Dance faculty member, Leslie Krause (Choreographer) and to work with our immensely talented, brave musical theatre students. This has been a labor of love - enjoy!

Ashton Byrum
Director, Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre
University of Oklahoma

Dear University Theatre Friends and Patrons,

It has been our great pleasure to share our fall season with you and never more so than with this production of such a special and iconic musical.

Sharing narrative and musical themes with Pucini's late 19th century masterpiece, La Bohème, RENT grapples with a group of young artists with too few monetary resources and their raw determination to create the life to which they aspire in the time of the HIV epidemic of the 1990s. Ashton Byrum, director of this production, and our team of dauntless creatives bring the production into our time with the incorporation of real time video, insightful designs and projections carefully combined to result in a gripping experience in which the humanity of the show is sensitively supported but never overwhelmed by it's technology.

We bring you this production with every wish for joy and peace shared with those you love during the holiday season and New Year and we look forward to seeing you at Young Choreographers' Showcase in January as the College of Fine Arts begins its second century!

With thanks and best wishes,



Professor Mary Margaret Holt
Dean, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
University of Oklahoma



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

- Membership as of Oct. 24, 2024 -

CENTENNIAL CONTRIBUTORS

*Sandra Carpenter • Jack & Stephanie Chapman • David Hatton
Bette Jo & Frank Hill • Linda & Keith Miller
George Records • A. Max Weitzenhoffer*

DEAN'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

*Dancey Apple • Anne Barker • Denny Bartell • Ed Barth
Marion & Dianne Bauman • Suzanne Baxter • Joy Reed Belt
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Roger Harrison • April Hiemstra • Mr. Louis S. Jackson • Celia Jones
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Nancy Yoch • Linda Young • Carolyn Zachritz*



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 Advancement, OU Foundation, at dbarocio@ou.edu or call (405) 325-7376.

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RENT

CAST

MARK COHEN	Nathaniel Mahone
ROGER DAVIS	Gage Martinez
TOM COLLINS	Myles Sturns-Thomas
BENJAMIN COFFIN, III	Bryce Williams
JOANNE JEFFERSON	Cadence Gates
ANGEL SCHUNARD	Noah Bleasdell
MIMI MARQUEZ	Julia Ferreira
MAUREEN JOHNSON	Halle Ryan Lipton

EMSEMBLE

MARK'S MOM	Ashley Woytal
SOLOIST #1/MRS. JEFFERSON	Anastasia White
ALEXI DARLING/DANCE CAPTAIN	Ellen Pierce
MIMI'S MOM	Myranda Sánchez
WOMAN WITH BAGS/ROGER'S MOM	Amal Ramadan
EMSEMBLE/FILM MAKER	Eunseo Kim
SOLOIST #2/PASTOR	Jonah Taylor
MR. JEFFERSON/THE MAN/MR. GREY	Cameron Majewski
STEVE/MAN WITH SQUEEGEE/WAITER	Ari Barmor
PAUL	Darion Elie
GORDON	Manny Tijerina
EMSEMBLE/FILM MAKER	Federico Hradek
SWINGS	Briggs Blume, Bree Boswell

UNDERSTUDIES

Ari Barmor (MARK); Manny Tijerina (ROGER);
Darion Elie (TOM COLLINS & ANGEL SCHUNARD); Cameron Majewski (BENJAMIN);
Anastasia White (JOANNE); Myranda Sánchez (MIMI); Ashley Woytal (MAUREEN)

Setting: East Village, NYC, 2024 and 1992/93

RENT

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I often hear that we're in midst of the "selfie generation". After all, why do we post and share photos and videos documenting every moment of our lives? How did that start? Ironically, in 1992/93 (the year in which *Rent* is set), MTV premiered *The Real World* bringing what we now recognize as reality TV to the masses by creating a highly curated version of the "real life" of a group of young artists living in Manhattan. The cast of that first season (a dancer, a model, a rocker, a song-writer, an artist, a rapper, and an instructor at NYU) was very similar to the collection of characters in *RENT*. Both groups are obsessed with living authentically and not "selling out". Our lead character, Mark Cohen, is a film-maker - fascinated by his friends and he's inspired to make a film documenting their real lives for one year. "HOW DO YOU DOCUMENT REAL LIFE WHEN REAL LIFE'S GETTING MORE LIKE FICTION EACH DAY?" These lyrics from the title song of *RENT* express the blurred lines of reality and his view of the extremes his community deals with in their daily existence. I find that Mark chooses them as the subject of his film for the same reasons we post selfies - to prove our worth, to prove that we're here and to claim our spot; and perhaps, to show off a little. An artist's existence can be hard, especially in a society that happily consumes art but doesn't always value the choice to be an artist.

I moved to New York in 1994 and in the early 1990s, the city, though still a mecca for artists, presented a rougher exterior. This was before Times Square looked like a shopping mall, and before Disney took over the movie theatres on 42nd street that offered adult entertainment rather than their upcoming family-favorites that consumed Broadway later that decade. While the East Village is quite gentrified today, complete with Lulu Lemon and Starbucks, in the early 1990s the East Village, like many affordable neighborhoods, was a mix of struggling artists and homeless people trying to survive constant police raids. The AIDS epidemic ravaged the gay community and those struggling with drug addiction causing us to lose many of the most successful and influential artists of our time.

In this production, we've challenged ourselves to explore live-action video and projections - not just for the technical adventure, but because these elements allow us to investigate Mark's choice to *film* the important life moments of his friends rather than participating in them, hiding behind his camera, observing instead of connecting - deepening the story of Mark. Our audience will consume the story on stage AND on screen, and experience the tension between the two mediums - reflecting the juxtaposition of performance for the stage and screen, but more importantly, the modern dichotomy of who we are in front of the screen and behind the screen. *The musical will become reality TV.*

Ashton Byrum
Director, Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre

RENT

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Tune Up #1	Mark
Voice Mail #1	Mrs. Cohen
Tune Up #2.....	Mark, Roger, Collins, and Benny
Rent.....	The Company
You Okay, Honey?.....	Angel and Collins
Tune Up #3.....	Mark and Roger
One Song Glory.....	Roger
Light My Candle.....	Roger and Mimi
Voice Mail #2.....	Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson
Today 4 U.....	Mark, Collins, Roger, and Angel
You'll See.....	Benny, Mark, Collins, Roger, and Angel
Tango: Maureen.....	Mark and Joanne
Life Support.....	Paul, Gordon, and the Company
Out Tonight.....	Mimi
Another Day	Roger, Mimi, and the Company
Will I?.....	Steve and the Company
X-Mo Bells #2/Bummer.....	The Company
Santa Fe.....	Collins and the Company
I'll Cover You.....	Angel and Collins
We're Okay.....	Joanne
Christmas Bells.....	The Company
Over the Moon.....	Maureen
La Vie Bohème.....	The Company
I Should Tell You.....	Roger and Mimi
La Vie Bohème B.....	The Company

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Seasons of Love	The Company
Happy New Year.....	Mark, Mimi, Roger, Maureen, Joanne, Collins, and Angel
Voice Mail #3.....	Mrs. Cohen and Alexi Darling
Happy New Year B.....	Maureen, Mark, Joanne, Benny, Roger, Mimi, Angel, Collins, and the Man
Take Me or Leave Me.....	Maureen and Joanne
Seasons of Love B.....	The Company
Without You.....	Roger and Mimi
Voice Mail #4	Alexi Darling
Contact	The Company
I'll Cover You: Reprise.....	Collins and the Company
Halloween.....	Mark
Goodbye, Love.....	Mark, Mimi, Roger, Maureen, Joanne, Collins, and Benny
What You Own.....	Pastor, Mark, Collins, Benny, and Roger
Voice Mail #5.....	Roger's Mom, Mimi's Mom, Mr. Jerfferson, and Mrs. Cohen
Finale A.....	The Company
Your Eyes.....	Roger
Finale B.....	The Company

RENT MUSICIANS

Michael Stafford, Keyboard/Conductor
John Patrick Murphy, Keyboard 2
Justin DuPuis, Guitar
Brian Dailey, Drums
Rebekah Stafford, Bass

Special thanks to Jonathan Hils, professor of contemporary sculpture in the
OU School of Visual Arts, for his expertise in the creation of the
3D printed video cameras that appear in the production.

MEET THE CAST OF RENT



ARI BARMOR



NOAH BLEASDELL



BRIGGS BLUME



BREE BOSWELL



DARION ELIE



JULIA FERREIRA



CADENCE GATES



FEDERICO HRADEK



EUNSEO KIM



HALLE RYAN LIPTON



NATHANIEL MAHONE



CAMERON MAJEWSKI



GAGE MARTINEZ



ELLEN PIERCE



AMAL RAMADAN



MYRANDA SÁNCHEZ

MEET THE CAST OF RENT



MYLES
STURNS-THOMAS



JONAH TAYLOR



MANNY TIJERINA



ANASTASIA WHITE



BRYCE WILLIAMS



ASHLEY WOYTAL



FUN FACT

The faculty-to-student ratio in the School of Musical Theatre is 5:1, allowing for an unmatched level of personalized training.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

ARI BARMOR (Steve/Man with Squeegie/Waiter/Mark understudy) is a musical theatre performance senior from Wichita, KS. Credits: University Theatre: Billy, *Crazy for You*; Phil, (Burrs Understudy), *The Wild Party*, Ensemble, *Pippin*; OUMT Downtown Series, Leon Czolgosz, *Assassins*; Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts: Jetsam, *The Little Mermaid*, Ensemble, *Escape to Margaritaville*, Ensemble, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; The Lexington Theatre Company: Motel, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

NOAH BLEASDELL (Angel) is a musical theatre performance freshman from Acworth, GA. This is their OU University Theatre performance debut.

BRIGGS BLUME (Swing) is a musical theatre performance freshman from San Antonio, TX. Credits: This is his University Theatre performance debut.

BREE BOSWELL (Swing) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Lithonia, GA. This is their OU University Theatre performance debut.

DARION ELIE (Paul/Angel & Tom Collins Understudy) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Shreveport, LA. Credits: Broadway Rose: Drifter, *Beautiful*, *The Carole King Musical*; OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: Derek, *21 Chump Street*; Ensemble, *Songs of Adam Guettel*; StageCenterLA: Lincoln understudy, *Topdog/Underdog*.

JULIA FERREIRA (Mimi) is a musical theatre performance and communications senior from Birmingham, AL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Elaine, *Crazy for You*, Ensemble/Dance Captain, *The Wild Party*; Swing, *Pippin*; Ensemble, (Natasha Understudy), *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; Porthouse Theater: Ensemble, (Maria Understudy), *West Side Story*; Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre: Diane Lorimer, *42nd Street*; Wanda, *Escape to Margaritaville*.

CADENCE GATES (Joanne) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Triangle, VA. Credits: This is their OU University Theatre performance debut.

FEDERICO HRADEK (Ensemble/Film Maker) is a musical theatre performance freshman from Sarasota, FL. Credits: This is their OU University Theatre performance debut.

EUNSEO KIM (Ensemble/Film Maker) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Suwon, South Korea. This is her OU University Theatre performance debut.

HALLE RYAN LIPTON (Maureen) is a musical theatre performance senior from Short Hills, NJ. Credits: OU University Theatre: Patricia, (Irene standby), *Crazy for You*; New Wave Girl, (Heather Duke understudy), *Heathers the Musical*; Parable, (Annas understudy), *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Asbury Park Theatre Company: Woman, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; Whatsername, *American Idiot*.

NATHANIEL MAHONE (Mark) is a musical theatre performance senior from St. Louis, MO. Credits: OU University Theatre: Ensemble, (Bobby Childs understudy), *Crazy for You*; Ensemble, *Heathers*; Roving Oboe, *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*; Oscar, *The Wild Party*. OU Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre Downtown Series: Richard/The Nice Nurse, *A New Brain*. Music Theatre Wichita: Hickory/Tinman, *The Wizard of Oz*. The Munny: Ensemble, *Camelot*; Swing, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; Swing, *Dreamgirls*; Ensemble, *The Little Mermaid*; Swing, *Anything Goes*; Lexington Theatre Company: Barry Belson & others, *Jersey Boys*; OTSL: Nathan, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*.

CAMERON MAJEWSKI (Mr. Jefferson/The Man/Mr. Grey/Benny understudy) is a musical theatre performance junior from Houston, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Jimmy, *Crazy for You*; Paul Kelly, *Heathers*; OU Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre Downtown

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Series: Ensemble/*Caiaphas*; Soloist/*Live in Color. The Perservation Project*. Professional credits include: Queensbury Theatre: Ensemble, *Spring Awakening*; Mad Hatter, *Alice by Heart*; PigPen, *Charlie Brown Christmas*; Ensemble, *Wizard of Oz*.

GAGE MARTINEZ (Roger) is a musical theatre performance senior from Van Alstyne, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Custus/Production Tenor, *Crazy for You*; Somebody, *Everybody*; Swing, (Mr. Black understudy), *The Wild Party*; OU Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre Downtown Series: Charles Guiteau, *Assassins*; Southern Plains Prod.: Gordon, (Mark understudy; Roger understudy), *RENT*; Artists' Gallery at OU Musical Theatre: Director, *21 Chump Street*.

ELLEN PIERCE (Alexi Darling/Dance Captain) is a musical theatre performance junior from Raleigh, NC. Credits: OU University Theatre: Louise, (Polly understudy), *Crazy for You*; Swing, (Ms. Fleming understudy), *Heathers*; Swing/Mae/Nadine Understudies, *The Wild Party*. North Carolina Theatre: Minnie, *West Side Story*; Swing, *Nine to Five*.

AMAL RAMADAN (Woman with Bags/Roger's Mom) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Credits: OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: Serge, *Art*; Woman 1/Soloist, *Music of Adam Guettel*.

MYRANDA SÁNCHEZ (Mimi's Mom/Mimi understudy) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Houston, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Swing, *Crazy for You*; Queensbury Theatre: Ensemble, *Wizard of Oz*; Music Theatre Wichita: Maria, *9 to 5*; Toreadorable, *Gypsy*.

MYLES STURNS-THOMAS (Tom Collins) is a musical theatre performance sophomore with an economics minor from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Moose, *Crazy for You*; Broadway Rose Theatre Co.: Drifter, *Beautiful: A Carole King Musical*.

JONAH TAYLOR (Soloist #2/Pastor) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: Ensemble, *Music of Adam Guettel*; Music Theatre Wichita: Ensemble, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; Ensemble, *Matilda*; Ensemble, *Frozen*. This will be his OU University Theatre debut.

MANNY TIJERINA (Gordon/Roger understudy) is a musical theatre performance junior from Houston, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Mingo, *Crazy for You*; Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre Downtown Series: Parable Quartet, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Guiseppe Zangara, *Assassins*; OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: Justin Laboy, *21 Chump Street*; Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma: Frankie Valli, *Jersey Boys*.

ANASTASIA WHITE (Soloist #1/Mrs. Jefferson/Joanne understudy) is a musical theatre performance junior from Charlotte, NC. Credits: OU University Theatre: Margie, *Crazy for You*; Young Republicanette, (Veronica Understudy), *Heathers*. OU Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre Downtown Series: Simon Zealotes, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Cornwell's Professional Dinner Theatre: Lucy Pevensie, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; Wolf Moon Dance, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*.

BRYCE WILLIAMS (Benny) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Lee's Summit, MO. Credits: OU University Theatre: Everette/Eugene, (Moose understudy), *Crazy for You*; OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: Ensemble, *Music of Adam Guettel*; Broadway Rose Theatre Company: Drifter, *Beautiful: A Carole King Musical*; Shere Kahn, *Jungle Book*; Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma: Daniel, *Once on this Island*.

ASHLEY WOYTAL (Mark's Mom/Maureen understudy) is a musical theatre performance junior from Kalamazoo, MI. Credits: OU University Theatre: Swing, (Martha understudy), *Heathers the Musical*; Ensemble, *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

RENT

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Mary Margaret Holt
Associate Producer	Kasey Allee-Foreman
Assistant Costume Designer	Emily Post
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 the Projections Designer	Uldarico Sarmiento
Faculty Advisor to Stage Management	Christopher Sadler
Design and Production Area Coordinator	Renée Brode
Assistant Director	Liz Lamora
Technical Director	Akari Harada
Production Carpenter	E. Pope
Scenic Charge Artist	Sydney Hagen
Scenic Undergraduate Assistants	Elizabeth Elliott, Cadence Gates, Diego Gonzales Gillian Kelley, Gage Martinez, Hollis Narkiewicz Jenna Norton, Cara Oates, Abigail Pirtle Bronwyn Quinlan, Jalisa Reed, Goldie Snow
Properties Director	Margot Glaser
Properties Lead	Abigail Pirtle
Run Crew	Brody Brugman, Laura Burguete, Braxton Ellsworth Elle Loudermilk, Rylee Luellen, Emma Perdue Tavion Smith, JJ Toly
Electrics Supervisor	Eric Stehl
Lighting Undergraduate Assistants	Micah Dooley, Lauren Foster, Matheiu Gay Madison Heckelsberg, Noah Jittawait Lucas Knapp, Madeline Lewis, Conner Lin Emily Morris, Shay Pool, Ruby Ravsten Kellen Sapp, Sophia Smith
Production Electricians	Noah Jittawait, Madeline Lewis
Light Board Programmer	Conner Lin
Light Board Operator	Paeton Walker
Deck Electricians	Kelsey Barnes, Katy Kendall
Follow Spot Operators	Joshua Faggion, Iker Garcia, Keira Hays
Audio Undergraduate Assistant	Conner Lin
Sound Mixer	Madison Heckelsberg
Sound A2	Goldie Snow
Mic Wranglers	Hannah Haddad, Sam Norris
Projections Engineer	Richard L. Sprecker
Projections Crew	MaxCavallini-Daves, Cannon Simpson
Costume Studio Supervisor	Christina Draper
Cutter/Draper	Ananda Keator
Junior Draper	Chloe Mullin
Lead Stitcher	Amy Kercher
Stitcher	Stephanie Cirar
Costume Undergraduate Assistants	Emily Heskett, Paige Kasulis, Natalie Lane Emily Matthews, Joy Ormeish, Emily Post Landre Sanders, Hunter Sheehan, Samantha Verbsky
Wardrobe Supervisor	Christina Draper
Wardrobe Crew Head	Natalie Lane
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WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

KASEY ALLEE-FOREMAN (Associate Producer) has served as Associate Producer/Production Manager for over 100 productions in the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently the President of 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 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.

KAREN BOYD BETHEL (Intimacy Designer) Before her transition from the stage to the classroom, Karen enjoyed a full career touring, performing, and gigging like all good theatre artists do. Karen is a Lecturer in the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre where she teaches Dance, Theatre Dance, Understanding Musical Theatre, acts as choreographer for University Theatre shows, and serves as the Intimacy Director for the school. University credits include *Carrie, Curtains, Nice Work If You Can Get It, Legally Blonde, Spring Awakening, Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812, and Heathers*. Together with her performance background, she holds a BPA in Dance Performance (Oklahoma City University), an MFA in Modern Dance (The University of Oklahoma), and is a fully qualified Intimacy Choreographer (T.I.E. trained). Karen's creative interests are geared toward storytelling and communication, which makes musical theatre an ideal place to work and create. Additionally, the caliber of talent and inspiration the OUMT students bring to their work makes her job as rewarding as it is fun. Special thanks to her husband Scott, for creating an equitable partnership; her children, for making sure she will never grow up; and Lyn Cramer and Paul Christman, for taking a chance on a wayward dancer 12 years ago.

ASHTON BYRUM (Director) is the Director of the A. Max Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre at The University of Oklahoma. After a long acting career in New York and around the world, he earned his MFA in Directing with an emphasis in Musical Theatre from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). Before joining OU, he coordinated the Musical Theatre Performance program at Columbia College Chicago.

His acting credits include three seasons on Broadway in Susan Stroman's annual *A Christmas Carol* and he was featured in the national touring companies of *The Producers, Fiddler on the Roof, the Tommy Tune revival of Grease!, Will Rogers Follies, and My Fair Lady* (Europe). Professor Byrum has also played roles in many regional and stock theatres around the country including *Titanic* and *The Prom* (Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma), *The Music Man* (Little Theatre on the Square), *The Spitfire Grill* (Idaho Shakespeare Festival and Arkansas Rep.), *Forever Plaid* (Flat Rock Playhouse, NC), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Cats* (Ogunquit Playhouse, ME), *Kingdom* (Denver Center Theatre Company), and *The Secret Garden* (Paper Mill Playhouse).

His directing work has been seen at Theatre Aspen, The Little Theatre on the Square, Open Door Theatre in Chicago, and Wilmette Starlight Theatre; as well as productions at CCM and Columbia College Chicago. He created the OUMT Freshmen Showcase and the OU Musical Theatre Downtown Series. For University Theatre, he's directed *Songs for a New World* and the Oklahoma premiere of *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*. Thanks and love to Gina and Dylan, as always.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

EMILY CASHDOLLAR (Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major with an emphasis in stage management from McKinney, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Associate Stage Manager, *Life is a Dream*; Associate Stage Manager, *Heathers the Musical*; Associate Stage Manager, *Marie Antoinette*; Young Performer's Stage Manager, *The Nutcracker*; Music Masters Company: Stage Manager, *Hope in the Heartland*.

MICAH DOOLEY (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a sophomore theatre major with an emphasis in lighting design from Highland Village, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Lighting Designer, Young Choreographers' Showcase 2024; Lead Electrician, *The Merry Widow*; Lead Electrician, *As You Like It*; Children's Musical Theatre of Bartlesville: Lead Electrician, *Cinderella*.

ELIZABETH ELLIOTT (Scenic Designer) is a junior theatre major with an emphasis in scenic design from St. Louis, MO. Credits: OU University Theatre: Props Lead, *Rita and L'heure espagnole*; Scenic Designer, *Life is a Dream*; Props Lead, *Heathers the Musical*; Props Lead, *Marie Antoinette*. Music Theatre Wichita: Props Artisan, *9 to 5*; Props Artisan, *Frozen*; Props Artisan, *Matilda*, Props Artisan, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

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 and operas and led Oklahoma Festival Ballet on tours to France (six), the Internationale 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 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 Vaganove 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.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

MANDY JIRAN (Music Director) is Associate Professor of Voice in the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre, Mandy Jiran is an active teacher, music director, and performer.

Mandy's professional credits include Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Kansas City Starlight Theatre, Casa Mañana, Great Plains Theatre Festival, and the Main St. Theatre. She is a frequent soloist with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, including co-starring with Tony nominee, Max Von Essen in the Philharmonic's The Christmas Show. Her long relationship with the Philharmonic has afforded her the opportunity to sing under the direction of Maestro Joel Levine, current Maestro Alexander Mickelthwate, and frequent guest conductor, Jack Everly, the Principal Pops conductor of the Baltimore and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

She has worked on new musical theatre works with Adam Gwon, musical theatre writer with works produced Off Broadway, on six continents, and more than half a dozen languages, and Julia Jordan; the late Claibe Richardson, composer of the Broadway score *The Grass Harp*, showcasing legendary Barbara Cook, and Stephen Cole, and Broadway actor and new musical theatre lyricist, Scott Burkell.

Her music director credits include *Legally Blonde* and *A Christmas Carol* at the University of Oklahoma and numerous productions at the Sooner Theatre and Lyric Theatre's Thelma Gaylord Academy. She has presented musical theatre workshops and master classes at the Orange County School of the Arts, Washington Thespians, Moonfiefs, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has served on the faculty at OU since 2005.

LESLIE KRAUS (Choreographer) is a performer, choreographer, and educator based between NYC, Seattle, and Norman, OK. From 2004-2013 Leslie was a principle dancer and soloist for the Kate Weare Company. She danced in over ten of Kate's creations and held the position of Assistant of Director, touring, restaging, and teaching company repertoire across the country. In 2012, she joined the immersive theatre company Punchdrunk in their hit show *Sleep No More*, where she played the role of Lady Macbeth. In 2014 she traveled with Punchdrunk to London to join their show *The Drowned Man*, where she played the lead role of Woycek. Leslie holds an MFA in Dance from the University of Washington, a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University and is also a 500HR trained yoga teacher.

EMILY MATTHEWS (Associate Stage Manager) is a sophomore theatre major with an emphasis in stage management from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Production Assistant, *Heathers the Musical*; Associate Stage Manager, *The Merry Widow*.

EMILY MORRIS (Associate Stage Manager) is a sophomore theatre major with an emphasis in lighting design from Lake Jackson, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Programmer, *As You Like It*; Production Electrician, *Rita* and *L'heure Espagnole*; Production Assistant, *Crazy for You*; Assistant Lighting Designer, *Heathers*; Lighting Designer, YCS '23; Assistant Lighting Designer, *The Merry Widow*.

CARA OATES (Projections Designer) is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in scenic design from Sapulpa, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Scenic Designer, *Rita* and *L'Heure Espagnole*.

LANDRE SANDERS (Costume Designer) is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in costume design from Owasso, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Costume Designer, *Orfeo ed Euridice*; Costume Designer, *Bittersweet Symphony* (DCO '24).

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

KELLEN SAPP (Lighting Designer) is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in lighting design from Columbia, MO. Credits: OU University Theatre: Lighting Designer, Contemporary Dance Oklahoma 2024; Lighting Designer, *Orfeo ed Eurides*; Lighting Designer, *Everybody*, *Serenade*, *Antique Epigraphs*, and *Orphée* OFB '23, *Apotheosis of OCD*; Lighting Designer, *REM*, *Body Language*, and *It's All in the Rhythm* YCS '23; Assistant Lighting Designer, *The Wild Party*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Lighting Designer, *Go. Please.Go.*; Lighting Designer, *Another Revolution*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Marisol*.

RICHARD L. SPRECKER (Sound Designer) holds an MFA from University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is Associate Professor of Sound Design for the OU 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*; and *Carmen in Concert*. Composer and Sound Designer for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Sound Design credits: *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*; and *L'Elisir d'Amore*. Projection Design credits: 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 Centre, Oxford, UK).

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Alan Hiserodt, our dear colleague, friend, and mentor to countless students, passed unexpectedly in June of this year. With respect and affection, we take this opportunity to pay tribute to his memory and celebrate his life.

Alan started his journey at OU in 2007, when he was hired as a Concert Hall Manager. In 2009, he moved to Reynolds Performing Arts Center as the Sound Supervisor for University Theater, Performance Hall Supervisor for the College of Fine Arts, and was an instructor of sound for the School of Drama. He loved his job and always found a way to solve any problem he encountered, often before anyone else knew there was a problem.

With a passion for mentoring and teaching students, Alan's office often served as a lounge where students went to eat lunch, get advice, do homework, or have a good cry. Alan kept cheese sticks and protein bars in his office, checking in with students to make sure they had eaten that day, and that they were taking care of themselves. Alan held himself to very high professional and personal standards and he expected those students to challenge themselves to meet their potential. He considered his colleagues his Fine Arts Family.

Alan learned to love music listening on an RCA Victor Stereo console in his childhood home. He was a drummer dedicated to creating original music and sharing it with others. He could find a way to make interesting sounds with almost anything and was included in a soundscape performance in Pitman Hall, where his original work was played along with other students. Alan played in many bands, starting in high school. He was in the drum line at Memorial High School in Tulsa, attending Rogers State University on a drum scholarship. He moved to Norman, OK in 1989 to attend the University of Oklahoma, becoming a part of the music scene in Norman starting from 1989 until his death. He played Norman Music Festival several times with different bands and played at SXSW in 2006.

Alan met his wife, Stephnee, at OU and graduated with his degree in psychology in 1993. They were married in 1994. Alan had his own sound business in Norman and worked at Goddard Health Center. He started his own record label, Sprockett Records, spent time playing and mixing albums in a friend's studio, and later built his own home studio. Alan served on the board for the Norman Jazz in June Festival starting in 2017 and as board president for two years.

Some of Alan's former students shared his impact on their lives. One student told Alan, "I'll see and hear you on every stage for the rest of my life. Thanks for letting me in.". Another former student shared, "He became family. He was a motivator, a dedicated artist, a leader, a kind heart, and overall, someone you wanted to share stories with and take advice from. Alan was calm and he taught calm. He reminded me that all I had learned built up to this movement and to sit in the calm. I will never forget that lesson as long as I live." Lastly, "Alan only taught one official class, but he taught more than that. He helped make us better people better equipped to handle the world outside the classroom. He was always on the side of the students, keeping an eye on us even after we graduated. He always listened to what we had to say, and his office was a safe space for us to vent our frustration without being judged. He was a role model who embodied the values the university puts forward."

Alan is survived by his wife Stephnee, his sister Laurie, his golden retriever Rosie, and numerous friends, OU family, bandmates, and his Jazz in June family. Stephnee is certain Alan is probably out there somewhere making noises with his former dogs Sprockett, Ruth, Rowdy, and Bert.



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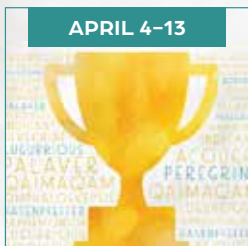
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