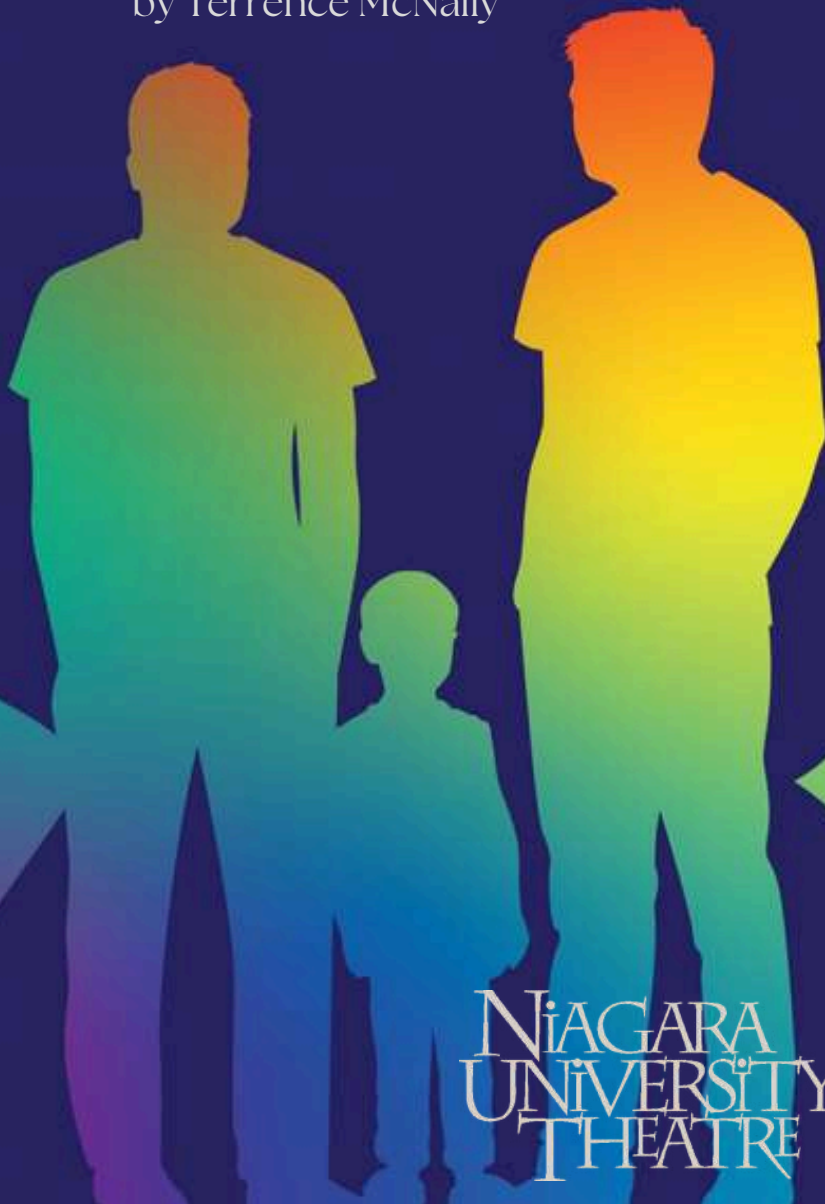


mothers *and* sons

by Terrence McNally



NIAGARA
UNIVERSITY
THEATRE

Niagara University Players

PRESENTS

Mothers and Sons

by Terrence McNally

The Niagara University Players is a student theatre organization that has been in existence for over sixty years and organizes social activities, fundraisers, and community service activities. The NU Players also present an all-student production once a year. Any NU student is eligible for membership (contact:nuplayers@niagara.edu)

Director

GRACE VENTURA
(Class of 2025)

Scenic Design

SOPHIE CHANEY
(Class of 2026)

Costume Design

HANNAH LARUEZ
(Class of 2027)

Lighting/Projection Design

**BRITTANY
KONRUFF**
(Class of 2026)

Sound Design

MARY DUGAN
(Class of 2025)
BAYLEIGH CLARK
(Class of 2025)

Stage Manager

**MIGUEL
CASTANEDA**
(Class of 2026)

Assistant Stage Manager

CHRIS COOPER
(Class of 2027)

Assistant Stage Manager

KATE E THOMPSON
(Class of 2026)

Presented in the William P. and Marie Leary Theatre in the Elizabeth Ann
Clune Center for Theatre February 28th - March 2nd

Any video and/or audio recording of this production
is strictly prohibited.

Cast

KATHERINE GERARD **ELIZABETH WHIPPLE**
(Class of 2028)

CAL PORTER **MAX DECKER**
(Class of 2028)

WILL OGDEN **FINN FLEURY**
(Class of 2028)

BUD OGDEN-PORTER **RYAN NEEDHAM**
(Class of 2028)

Niagara University Players Board Heads

Co-presidents: **Adelaide Hawkins, Sam Prezioso**

Vice President: **Jamarion Evans**

Treasurer: **Bayleigh Clark**

Secretary: **Lauren Farrow**

Publicity: **Brianna Garcia**

Banquet/Soirée: **Grace Ventura**

Community Service: **Danielle Becht**

Apparel: **Hannah LaRuez**

Events: **Alex Sylvester**

Artistic Director: **Kale Kurek**

Asst. Artistic Director: **Lillian Jarzabek**

Technical Director: **Sam Prezioso**

Asst. Technical Directors: **Jake Beaudoin, Alex Sylvester**

Director's Note



Grace Ventura - Class of 2025

The opportunity to direct Mothers and Sons was one I knew I couldn't pass up. I have been involved in The NU Players production in some way, shape, or form since my freshman year. Each and every show in the past four years has allowed students such as myself to create and share the stories we find important and worthwhile, Mothers and Sons is no different. The play is grounded in two of my favorite things, history and art. After my first read of the script, I was immediately struck by the humanity of the piece. It represents years of perseverance in the LGBTQIA+ community. The characters are beautifully flawed and reluctantly relatable. I knew I wanted to be a part of something that not only gave voice to such important struggles but allowed students to share those stories with you. I hope you enjoy this student run production that has our laughter, tears, joy, exhaustion, and pure exhilaration embedded in every second.

Thank you, thank you,
Grace Ventura

Production

NU Players Faculty Advisor.....Dave Peterson, Keirsten Thomas
Faculty Technical Advisor.....Primo Thomas
Hair and Makeup Head.....Brianna Garcia
Wardrobe Head.....Jess Spengler
Sound Board Operator.....Chis Cooper
Light Board Operator.....Miguel Castaneda
Props Acquisition.....Wyatt Fleury
House Manager.....Lex Cueva
Head Usher.....Elizabeth Flickinger
Box Office Supervisor.....Keirsten Thomas
Photography.....Mark Duggan
PlaybillLillian Jarzabek

Special thanks

Build Crew and Load-In volunteers
MaryGrace Mancini

THE VIDEO RECORDING OR OTHER
VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS
PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY
PROHIBITED.

Charity Information

Every year, Players Presents chooses a local charity to give to, using our annual basket raffle as a fundraiser for donations. This year, we have selected Evergreen Health. Evergreen Health is a community health program which offers a variety of services, including (but not limited to) primary care, HIV testing and treatment, and mental health/substance use services.

Founded in 1983, Evergreen Health is committed to providing the Western New York area with affordable, inclusive, and judgement-free healthcare.

Players Presents is grateful for their service to our community, and we are incredibly excited to be working with them for our production of *Mothers and Sons*.

More information about Evergreen Health and their contributions to our communities can be found at evergreenhs.org



EvergreenHealth
UNCONDITIONAL.

EvergreenHS.org

NU Theatre invites you to return for our upcoming productions of:



Seagull

by Anton Chekhov
Translated by Curt Columbus

Mar. 27th - Mar. 30th

Company

by Stephen Sondheim and
George Furth

**Apr. 24th - Apr. 27th &
May 1st - May 4th**



For information on our full season lineup, and to reserve tickets, please visit our website:

<https://theatre.niagara.edu/>

or contact our box office:

Ph: (716) 286-8685

Email: **boxoffice@niagara.edu**

Players Presents

Retrospective

2024: Engagements

2023: ART

2022: girl.

2021: Independence

2020: Sylvia

2019: Some Girls

2018: Recent Tragic Events

2017: The Effect of Gamma
Rays on Man- in- the-Moon
Marigolds

2016: Extremities

2015: Love Song

2014: The Shape of Things

2013: Time Stands Still

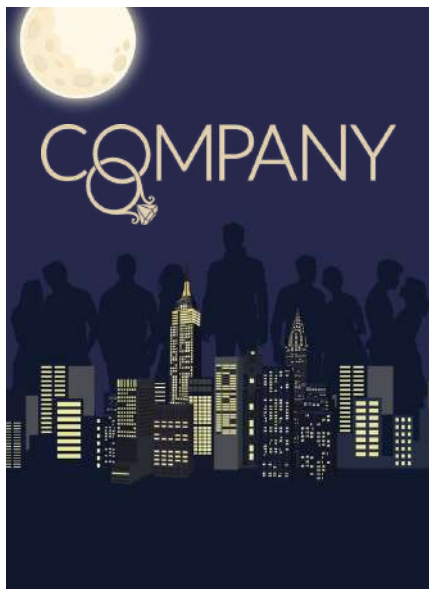
2012: The Twilight of the Golds

2011: How I Learned to Drive

2010: Proof

2009: Fat Pig

2007: Five Women Wearing
the Same Dress



COME CELEBRATE

NU THEATRE'S 61ST
SEASON
AT THE
**FRIENDS OF
NU THEATRE GALA!**
Sat. May 3, 2025

Your ticket
includes:

Winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score, Best Lyrics and Best Book *Company* is largely regarded as a trailblazer of the dark-comedy, modern-musical genre. The revival in 2022 garnered an additional five Tonys.

On the night of his 35th birthday, confirmed bachelor Bobby contemplates his unmarried state. Over the course of a series of dinners, drinks and even a wedding, his friends – "those good and crazy people [his] married friends" – enlighten Bobby about the pros and cons of taking on a spouse. The habitually single Robert is forced to question his unyielding hold on bachelorhood through a hilarious array of exchanges with his friends.

Please join us for a wonderful evening of theatre, food and friendship at the Friends of NU Theatre Gala!

4:00pm Musical Matinee,

COMPANY

at NU's Leary Theatre

Followed by cocktail hour,
silent & live auctions and
dinner at
**NU's Russell J. Salvatore
Banquet Room**

For tickets & information:
Contact Keirsten Thomas
(716) 286-8483 /
kthomas@niagara.edu



The Friends of Niagara University Theatre, incorporated in 1986, help raise awareness and develop support for the theatre department and its students.

You, too, can join us in our efforts to help ensure the future of one of the oldest professional theatre training programs in the region, and provide invaluable opportunities for future generations of theatre artists.



BECOME A
FRIEND *Today.*
TO HELP BUILD FOR
Tomorrow ✨

Department of Theatre & Fine Arts

Academic Year 2024-2025

Theatre

Chris Ballard
(Sound)
Sound Coordinator

Amanda Benzin
(Dance)

Steven Braddock
(Acting)
Artistic Director of NU Theatre

Jayson Clark
(Lighting)
SPF Production Manager

Jenna Damburger
(Costume)

Aurora Deeds
(Voice)

Marilyn Deighton
(Costume)

Matt Divita
Guest Lighting Designer

Teodoro Dragonieri
(Physical Theatre)

Adriano Gatto
(Stage Combat)
Artist-in-Residence
Recruitment

Robyn Horn
(Acting/Directing)

Yamilex Holguín Pérez
(Costume Shop Supervisor)

Joe Isgar
(Voice)

Kate LoConti Alcocer
(Effective Speech)

Gary Marino
(Dance)

Natasha McCandless
(Dance)

Dr. Bridget Moriarty
(Voice)
Music Director

Mara Neimanis
(Physical Theatre)

Kim Neiss
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Dave Peterson
(Theatre History)

Nick Quinn
(Design/Production)

Tony Rajewski
Guest Lighting Designer

Patty Rihn
Guest Lighting Designer

Dr. Kahlil Sarikey
(Music Theory)

Salvatore Scamacca
(Voice)

Amanda Sharpe
(Speech)

Kyler Sterner
Guest Scenic Designer

Maureen Stevens
(Design/Production)
Costume Designer

Amy Teal
(Voice)

Keirsten Thomas
Administrative Assistant
Box Office Supervisor

Primo Thomas
Technical Director

Paul Todaro
(Acting)

Steven Vaughan
(Acting)

Terri Filips Vaughan
(Dance)
Chair, Dept. of Theatre & Fine Arts

Leanne Vida
(Voice)

Fine Arts

Darren Adair
(Water Media)

Randy Andropolis
(Music History)

Sonya DeLazzer
(Art History)

Jessica DiPalma
(Art History/Museum Studies)
Director of Museum Studies

Nancy Knechtel
(Art History)

Alison Lytle
(Drawing/Painting)

Ed Millar
(Museum Studies)

Ellen Owens
(Museum Studies)

John Sauter
(Urban Sketching)

Biographies of Theatre Students, Faculty, Staff & Guest Artists 2024-2025

CHRIS BALLARD (Sound Designer) is an '09 Graduate of NU Theatre with a BFA in Design Technology. After graduation Chris served as the Audio Coordinator at Shakespeare In Delaware Park for 14 season. He also spent 8 years as an Audio Engineer at the Seneca Niagara Casino. He has also been a Stagehand and Audio Engineer at UB Center for the Arts, IATSE 121, BAV Services, and a number of other theatres and production companies around the Buffalo Region. He is currently working as an AV Specialist for M&T Tech in downtown Buffalo. Chris has also designed sound for Road Less Traveled Productions, Iroquois High School and Grand Island High School. He is extremely excited to be back at Niagara as the Sound Designer, Coordinator and Adjunct Professor.



JACOB BEAUDOIN, a junior transfer student from Canandaigua, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Business. Collegiate credits: Eurydice (Interesting Nasty Man/Lord of the Underworld), Machinal (Doctor, Judge, Priest). Outside Credits: Bad Auditions on Camera (Casting Director) and, at Canandaigua Academy The Spongebob Musical (Mr. Krabs), The Laramie Project (Dr. Cantway, Rob Debree), Mamma Mia (Father Alexandrios), Almost Maine (Pete), All Shook Up (Ensemble). Offstage credits: Allegheny College Playshop Head Over Heels (QLab Operator).



DANIELLE BECHT, a senior from Morristown, NJ, is pursuing a BFA Performance degree with a minor in ASL & Deaf Culture studies. NU Credits: Diary of Anne Frank (Anne Frank), Fun Home (Christian), and Moving Back Home (Dance Ensemble). Some offstage credits at NU include House Manager (Measure for Measure, Art), Turntable Operator (Much Ado About Nothing), Co-props acquisition (Rent), and Wardrobe Crew (Us and Them: Ariel Investigations). You also could've found her this summer working in NJ as a lighting designer at Rising Star (Into the Woods, Wizard of Oz) and ASM at Light Opera of NJ (Seussical).

AMANDA BENZIN (Dance Adjunct) is a somatically conscious, rhythmically and passionately driven educator, Emmy-Award-winning performer, choreographer, scholar-artist, and administrator originally from Buffalo, New York. She holds an MFA in Dance from CU Boulder with concentrations in performance, choreography, somatics, women and gender studies and pedagogy. She graduated summa cum laude from the University at Buffalo with a BFA in Dance and minor in Business Administration. Her research and choreography have recently been

presented at ACDA, Alma College, DSA's Conference at University of Malta, Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Life in Motion Film Festival, and BMCA's Conferences at Smith College, Texas State University, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Denison University. Most recently Benzin served as Assistant Professor of Dance and Dance Program Coordinator at Colorado Mesa University. She is currently the Assistant Director of The Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy at the University at Buffalo School of Law as well as an Adjunct Instructor at Niagara University and UB.



STEVEN BRADDOCK (Artistic Director, Acting) has directed over 20 productions for NU Theatre, including *Rent*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Measure for Measure*, *Peter & The Starcatcher*, *Cabaret*, *Jane Austen's Emma*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Legally Blonde*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Chicago*, *Julius Caesar*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Damn Yankees*. He served for eleven years as the Artistic Director of the Gifford Family Theatre, a professional Theatre for Young Audiences in Syracuse. He has worked as Director of Education for Syracuse Stage and Asst. Director of Education at the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston. Mr. Braddock has taught acting at Le Moyne College, Syracuse University, Anna Maria College and Worcester (MA) State College. A member of Actor's Equity, Steve has been seen locally at Shakespeare in Delaware Park, and regionally at theatres throughout the northeast. He has also appeared in numerous commercials as well as voiced characters in multiple audiobooks. Mr. Braddock's professional affiliations include A.E.A, Theatre for Young Audiences USA, American Association of Theatre & Education, Theatre Communications Group and U.S.I.T.T. Steve received his M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Southern California.



HAYDEN CARR is a senior from Grand Island, NY, pursuing a BFA in Theater Performance. Theater Experience: Niagara University Theatre: *Rent* (Mark), *Fun Home* (Bruce Bechdel), TYA Schoolhouse Rock Live (George), *It's A Wonderful Life* Radio Play (George Bailey), Short Play Festival's *The Knife* (Andrew), *Smart Bra* (John), and *Hate the Loser Inside* (Director), *Sondheim Tribute Revue* (Ensemble), NURT 2023/2024, *A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder* (Featured Ensemble), *Cabaret* (Hans/Max/ Heir Schultz Understudy). Outside Credits: at the Historic Palace Theatre. *Jersey Boys* (Bob Gaudio) At St Stephen's Parish Players, *Mary Poppins* (Bert), *Hello Dolly* (Ensemble). @Haydencarr813



MIGUEL CASTAÑEDA is a junior from the Philippines pursuing a Theatre Performance major and an English minor through the NU Honors Program. NU Onstage Credits: *Rent* (Ensemble), 2024 Short Play Festival's *Pass Go: A Monopoly Play* (Zach), *It's A Wonderful Life: The Radio Play* (Joe/Marty/Mr. Carter). Back at home, he has been greatly involved with the Broadway Theatre Troupe of Ateneo: *Between Lands* (Co-director/Jheme), *Broadway on Shuffle: Vol. 3* (Music Director) and Repertory Philippines' Workshop for the Performing Arts: *Spelling Bee* (Barfée), *The Emoji Musical* (Assistant Stage Manager/Production Intern). Sending much love back home. Lipad!

SOPHIE CHANEY, a senior from Erie, PA, is pursuing a Theatre Design and Production major. They also work in the NU Theater Scene Shop and assist with all show builds. NU credits: 2022 Short Play Festival's After You (Stage Manager), Thanksgiving Play (Props Acquisition), Cabaret (Assistant Technical Director), Measure For Measure (Assistant Charge Artist), Peter and the Starcatcher (Assistant Scenic Design), Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley (Assistant Charge Artist), Art (Stage Manager), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Assistant Scenic Design), NURT-A Sondheim Review (Charge Artist), Fun Home (Assistant Charge Artist), Much Ado About Nothing (Assistant Scenic Design and Prop Acquisition), 2024 Short Play Festival's 10,000 Cigarettes (Director), Anne Frank (Charge Artist and Assistant Props Acquisition), and Rent (Assistant Scenic Design). Outside Credits: Shea's 710's Newsies (Charge Artist).



JULIA CIANFRINI, a junior from Lancaster, NY, is currently studying Theatre Performance with minors in ASL and Theatre Design and Production. NU credits: Rent (Maureen), Much Ado About Nothing (Dogberry), Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley (Jane), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Evangeline/Ensemble), N.U.R.T. 2023 (Ensemble), Sondheim Tribute Revue (Ensemble), NU Short Play Festival 2024 (Wardrobe Head + Swing Tech), Us & Them: Aerial Investigations (Head Usher), Art (Assistant Stage Manager). Recent outside credits: SDP The Comedy of Errors (Luciana) & Art Park Fairy Festival 2023 (Ensemble).



BAYLEIGH CLARK, a junior from Jordan-Elbridge, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with minors in Dance, Design/Production, and Spanish through the Honors Program. NU credits: Much Ado About Nothing (Antonia), Short Play Festival's Winter Games (Mary) and The Lovers (Mrs. H), The Diary of Anne Frank (Stage Manager), Measure for Measure (Assistant Stage Manager/Sound Board Operator). French Woods Festival: Assistant Director (Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night: The Musical, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, All Shook Up). Outside credits: Jesus Christ Superstar (Universal Swing) at CNY Playhouse, and at Jordan-Elbridge High School, The Wedding Singer (Julia Sullivan), Clue: The Play (Mrs. Peacock).

JAYSON D. CLARK (Guest Lighting Designer/Adjunct Production Manager), a 2012 graduate of NU, has professionally designed lighting for over 25 productions, including NU Theatre's *The Pajama Game*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Wrestling Season*, *Bat Boy: the Musical*, *Urinetown the Musical*, and the Short Play Festivals 2013 through present. Other recent design credits include *Detour*, *Uncle Vanya* and *He Who Gets Slapped* (Torn Space Theatre), *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Subversive Theatre), and *Hamlet* (BAVPA). Jayson also served as a technician for *A More Perfect Union* performed off-Broadway. As a sound technician, Jayson has worked for numerous local and national bands, including The Steve Miller Band, Cute is What We Aim For, Alice Cooper, We the Kings, Ethnic

Heritage Ensemble, OAR, and Grammy Award Winner Walt Whitman Jr. Jayson is the Technical Director in residence for Torn Space Theatre, specializing in site-specific installation theater. He is also a multi-instrumentalist musician, who has recently appeared on stage in *Once* and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at MusicalFare Theatre, as well as appearing in several local musical groups, including the bluegrass band The Rear View Ramblers and Erie Lackawanna Railroad.



LOGAN COMSTOCK, a senior from Bellows Falls, VT, is pursuing a BFA in Theater performance and a minor in American Sign Language and Deaf Studies. NU Credits: Shakespeare Recital (London Study Abroad: Henry V, Leontes, Polonius, and Fairy), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mr. Van Daan), NU Repertory Theatre 2023 & 2024 (Ensemble), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Ted), *Decision Heights* and *Machinal* (Prop Runner), *Miss Bennett Christmas* at Pemberley (Props Acquisition), *The Short Play Festival*, *Measure for Measure*, *Art*, and *RENT* (Head Usher), *Sondheim Review 2023* (ASM/Deck crew), *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* (Stage Management). Offstage credits: *Sweet Charity* (Charlie/Ensemble)- OFC Creations Theater Center.

CHRISTOPHER COOPER, a sophomore, straight out of Buffalo, NY, is excited to be continuing his theatre production career at Niagara University as a Theatre Design and Production major. NU Credits: *Diary of Anne Frank* (Props Acquisition), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Run Crew), *Engagements* (Run Crew), *Fun Home* (Props Run Crew). Outside credits: *Under Milkwood* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Snow* (Rollark, Guard 1), *The Still Life of Iris* (Prop Design and Build), *Illustrated Bradbury* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Eurydice* (Poster Design), *Museum* (Poster Design), *Twelve Night* (Assistant Stage Manager and Prop Design and Build)



EMMA CORRENTI, a freshman from North Tonawanda, NY, is perusing a theater performance major at NU. Outside credits: *Mama Mia* (Ensemble), *Legally Blonde* (Aaron sholtz), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Muriel Eubanks), and *Ranked* (Sarah).



LEX CUEVA is happy to be back at NU after spending this summer in the Powerhouse Theatre Training Company where they appeared in more than five shows, including *The Taming of the Shrew* playing the part of Petruchio! NU credits: *Fun Home* (Joan), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Margot Frank) and *Short Play Festival 23-24*. Other credits include: *First Date* (Casey), *Almost, Maine* (Marvalyn/Ginette), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Eunice), and *I Hate Hamlet* (Felicia), *Matilda the Musical* (Ensemble), and *Road Less Traveled Productions' Hand to God* (Assistant Stage Manager). Thank you for supporting live theatre! IG: @alexiscueva



BRIAN CUNNINGHAM is a junior from Lyndonville, NY. Brian has recently been seen in Buffalo as Dormouse (Alice by Heart) with Bellissima Productions and most recently, at Niagara, as Man #3 (The Diary of Anne Frank). Other College/Educational credits include Macbeth (Macbeth), Aaron (First Date: The Musical), Fat/Fayette/Grady (Waiting for Lefty), East/Dave (Almost, Maine), George Spelvin (The Actor's Nightmare), Laure (Little Women: The Musical), Harry (Mamma Mia), TJ (Sister Act), Pugsley (The Addams Family), Lefou (Beauty and the Beast), and Big Julie (Guys and Dolls). Community credits include Oklahoma! and It's a Wonderful Life: The Musical (Lake Plaines Players). Brian would like to thank his family and friends for their unwavering support.

JENNA DAMBURGER is a Costume Technologist at Niagara University.



KORAL DAVIS, a freshman from Wareham, MA, is pursuing a Theater Performance Major, with minors in Dance and Writing Studies . Outside Credits: With Wareham High, Alice in Wonderland (Queen of Hearts), Heathers: The Musical (Veronica Sawyer), She Kills Monsters (Miles), An Experiment ("Courageous"), Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (Johanna), and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Lucy Van Pelt). Off Stage: The Death and Life of Larry Benson (Stage Crew). She was Production Head for several of the aforementioned performances, and was awarded for her performance in An Experiment by the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild.



MAX DECKER, a freshman from Buffalo, NY is a Theatre Performance major at NU. Outside Credits: Historic Palace Theater's Pippin (Player/Lyra), Young Frankenstein (Featured Dancer), Sister Act (Ensemble/Nun), and White Christmas (Dance Ensemble). At OFC Creations Theatre, Kinky Boots (Angel). At the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, Mean Girls (Aaron Samuels), Clue (Miss Scarlett), She Kills Monsters (Kaliopé), and 12 Angry Men (Juror 1). Max is also a model with MMG in New York and was featured in the Nutcracker Ballet at Shea's Performing Arts Center.

AURORA DEEDS is an adjunct private voice lesson instructor at NU.



MARILYN DEIGHTON (Associate Professor, Design/Tech, and Costume Technologist) holds an MFA in costume technology from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Currently, she teaches stagecraft, costume construction, pattern drafting, corsetry, dancewear, supervises the student workforce in the costume shop and is the Draper/Tailor for all of the theater department's productions. Previously, she was a lecturer and Draper/Tailor at the University of Maryland – College Park and an Assistant Professor of Costume Technology at the University of Mississippi. Professionally, Marilyn has been the Costume Shop Director for Paper Mill Playhouse in their New York City Costume Shop, Costume Director for Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Costume Shop Manager for North Carolina's Shakespeare

Festival and a freelance Men's Tailor for The Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage and Wolf Trap Opera in the Washington, D.C. area. In addition, she was a tailor for the Broadway version of Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk designed by Paul Taswell and a draper for the Robert Altman film "Cookie's Fortune" starring Glenn Close and Julianne Moore. She has designed and built over 200 productions in the Florida Tampa Bay area for various Dinner Theatres and community theatres. In 2011, she created the costumes and unique lightweight fat suits for the French-language touring company Le Theatre de la Chandelle Verte's production of La Farce de Maitre Pathelin. Marilyn has designed and built the costumes for 1776 that was performed with the Eight O'clock Theatre at the Largo Performing Arts Center in Largo, Florida.



MATT DENMAN, a freshman from Amherst, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major through the NU Theatre BFA Performance program. Outside Credits: Sacred Heart Academy's Grease (Roger), and at Sweet Home, Beauty And The Beast Junior (Bookseller), Mary Poppins Junior (Von Hussler), Shrek The Musical Junior (Big Bad Wolf), The Wizard Of Oz (Emerald City Guard), Anything Goes (Captain), Grease (Greaser) and The Addams Family (Uncle Fester).



JESSICA DIPALMA is the Faculty Fellow and Director of the Art History with Museum Studies Program at Niagara University. Previously, she spent a decade working in the museum field in numerous roles, including curator of education and community engagement at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum. An art historian and freelance writer, Ms. DiPalma has written an lectured extensively on art topics and is currently a contributing writer for the New York City based The Art Story Foundation. She is also the author of the novel Pride, Prejudice and Paintings and the middle grade novel series The Jump.

MATT DIVITA is an adjunct lighting designer at NU.



TEODORO DRAGONIERI is a multi-disciplinary artist and educator who has developed acclaimed programs for all levels of education. He has worked with arts organizations, cultural institutions, theatre companies, and museums. Teodoro has served Indigenous communities, individuals with special needs, LGBTQ, at-risk, and street-cultured youth. He has led workshops, presented lectures, performed, and shown his artwork internationally. He is the artistic director of Zanni Arte, a company dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary arts initiatives and fostering the use of masks, in theatre and education. The recipient of several Exemplary Practices Awards for arts programming, the Theatre Ontario Michael Spence Award, and The Harold Award (from Toronto's Independent Theatre and Dance communities.)



JAIRUS DRAYTON, a freshman from Williamsville, NY, is pursuing a degree in Theatre Performance and Music Education. Jairus Drayton has been in the following 3 shows at Williamsville North: *Legally Blonde* (Warner), *Mamma Mia* (Pepper), *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Judah). Jairus also starred in a spring medley for Williamsville North where he sang Hamilton's "Non-Stop" (Aaron Burr). In the Academy of Theater Arts, Jairus has been in *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Orin) and *Tarzan* (Tarzan). The Stage play *Queens* (King Henry). Jairus has also been in "Toy Story Play" at Evangel Kids Camp (Slinky Dog) as well doing a *Frozen* play (Olaf). In 2023, Jairus Music Directed and Co-Choreographed A *Michael Jackson Tribute* at Williamsville North playing the role of Michael.



MARY CLAIRE DUGAN, a senior from Rochester, NY is pursuing a BFA Theatre Design & Production. NU Credits: *RENT* (Stage Manager), *The Taming* (Prop Accusitioniar), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Swing Tech), *Discovering Me Embracing We* (Stage Manager), *NURT* (Stage Manager), *Everybody* (Stage Manager), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Stage Manager), *Cabaret* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Jane Austen's Emma* (Assistant Stage Manager/maid).



JAMARION EVANS is a Senior Theatre Performance major with a minor in Theatre Design and Production from Hammond IN, (about 20 minutes from Chicago). Previous Shows at NU: *Emma The Musical* (Robert Martin); *Machinal* (ASM); *Us & Them: Aerial Investigation* (Ensemble); *Measure for Measure* (SM); *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Investigator & Ensemble); *Sondheim Review* (Ensemble); *Discover Me, Embracing We* (Dancer); *Much Ado about Nothing* (SM); *Rent* (Angel). Outside of NU: *The Little Mermaid* (Ursula); *We Will Rock You* (Galileo); *The Tempest* (Ceres & Ensemble); *Sister Act* (TJ); *The 25 annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Male Understudy); *Sweet Charity* (Ensemble)



LAUREN FARROW could not be more grateful to be back on the Niagara University stage! A senior from Rochester, NY, Lauren is pursuing her Theatre Performance BFA with a minor in Design and Production. Her favorite and most recent credits include: *RENT* (Joanne), *Fun Home* (Alison), *Macbeth* (Macduff) *Powerhouse Theatre*, *ART* (Serge), and directing the *Players* show, *Engagements*, last season! Lauren would like to give a special thanks to her parents for always supporting her crazy endeavors. Find her on Instagram at @laurenfarrow313



FINNLEY FLEURY, a freshman from Novato, CA, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in French. Outside credits: Young Frankenstein (Bob and Ensemble), Into the Woods (Ensemble), Romeo & Juliet (Nurse and Romeo Understudy), Cabaret (Victor), Follies (Featured Dancer and Young Buddy Understudy), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Puck), Seminar (Douglas), and Once Upon A Mattress (Ensemble and Dauntless Understudy). Offstage credits: Rent (Backstage Crew and Props Manager), Stupid Fucking Bird (Props Assistant), Follies (Props Assistant), and Into the Woods (Props Assistant). He also writes plays and enjoys cooking.



WYATT FLEURY, a freshman from Novato, CA, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major and Psychology major. Outside credits: Young Frankenstein (Ensemble/Igor u/s), Romeo and Juliet (Benvolio), Into the Woods (Ensemble), Stupid F***ing Bird (Conrad u/s, Prop Designer), Cabaret (Bobby), Follies (Ensemble), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Nick Bottom), Once Upon a Mattress (Minstrel) Offstage credits: Follies (Assistant Director/Prop Manager), Seminar (Intimacy Coordinator/Assistant Director), Rent (Backstage Crew/Prop Manager/Alt Spotlight Operator)



ELIZABETH FLICKINGER, a sophomore from Northville, NY, is a theater design and production major at Niagara University. NU credits: Discovering Me, Embracing We (Assistant Stage Manager), Fun Home (Light Board Operator), The Taming (Sound Tech), RENT (Assistant Stage Manager) Outside Credits: At Northville Central School, Beauty and the Beast (Crew), The Little Mermaid (Crew), Little Women (Stage Manager), 101 Dalmatians Kids (Student Director), Guys and Dolls Jr. (Stage Manager), Frozen Kids (Student Director), Lion King Kids (Student Director), and Footloose (Stage Manager).



BRIANNA GARCIA, a sophomore from Lockport, NY, is pursuing a double major in Theatre Performance and Psychology, with a minor in Spanish through the NU Honors Program. Outside credits; The Great Gatsby (Daisy Buchanan), 42nd Street, Young Frankenstein, Joseph... Dreamcoat at the Historic Palace Theatre. Other; Into the Woods (Baker's Wife), Radium Girls (Kathryn Schaub), Godspell (Turn Back O' Man), Hello Dolly! (Minnie Fay), CLUE (Yvette). Previous summer; Lake Plain's Players "The State of the Arts Cabaret", and Starring Buffalo's Hello Dolly. Brianna attended NYSSMA Conference All State Vocal Jazz and NYSSSA's Drama Program, and was nominated for a Kenny.



ADRIANO GATTO (Artist in Residence, Recruitment) As an internationally Certified Fight Instructor with the Academy of Fight Directors Canada, Adriano's work as a Fight Director has been seen in over 100 productions including: the world premieres of Revival: The Resurrection of Son House and Heartland (Geva Theatre Center); One Man, Two Guvnors, Into the Breeches! (Chautauqua Theatre Company); Tis Pity She's a Whore, and the world premiere of The Onion Game (Irish Classical Theatre Company); Carmen (RPO); Don Giovanni, Out of Darkness/Into the Fire (Eastman Opera Theatre), among others. For NU Theatre, Adriano has served as the Fight

Director on over 30 productions and also directed *The Wolves*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Eurydice*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Comedy of Errors* (Best Director of a Play - BroadwayWorld Buffalo Theatre Awards). Professional acting credits include productions with Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Round House Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and Olney Theatre Center, along with many award winning theatre companies here in Buffalo. He is a proud member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA, SDC, and FDC.



GRACE GORDON, a freshman from Blasdell, NY, is pursuing a major in Theatre Performance. Outside credits: *Heathers*, High School Edition (Martha Dunnstock), *Company* (Amy), *The Prom* (Dee Dee Allen), *Little Mermaid Jr.* (Ariel), *Hadestown: Teen Edition* (Fate 1), and more. Offstage credits: MEL's School of Music and Theatre's *Frozen Jr.*, *Annie Kids*, and *Winnie the Pooh* (Assistant Director) and *The Rodent* short film (Casting Assistant).



RYAN ALEXANDER, a senior from Cleveland, OH, is in his final year of pursuing his BFA in Performance! NU Credits: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Borachio), *SPF 2023's The Open Door & This is Not a Play* (Sir Geoffrey Transom & A), *A Gentleman's Guide* (Tour Guide/Ensemble), *Us & Them* (Clown). Outside Credits: NYC: *The Comeback Cabaret* (Vocalist 8/6/23 & 1/8/24), Fine Arts Association: *Footloose* (Cowboy Bob), *Rabbit Run Theatre: Newsies* (Crutchie/Fight Captain) & *Anything Goes* (Dippy). Ryan is thrilled to be finishing his final year here at NU & is honored to be a part of this wonderful department, enjoy the show!!!



ADELAIDE HAWKINS, a senior from Killingworth, CT is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Dance. NU credits: *RENT* (Ensemble and Assistant Technical Director), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Assistant Technical Director), *Discovering Me*, *Embracing We* (Ensemble) *Everybody* (Child/Time), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Moving Back Home*, *Decision Height*, and *Emma* (Lighting Crew), *Machinal* (Lightboard Operator). Outside credits: Live Literature Company's *Shakespeare's Kings and Queens*; *Princes and Princesses* (Hermione, Gertrude, and Titana) and *Blue Fire Stage Company's Freaky Friday* (Gretchen) Offstage Credits: *Blue Fire Stage Company's The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Assistant Director) and Connecticut Performing Arts Center (CTPAC) *Seussical Jr.* (Assistant Choreographer).



ISAAC HOHL, a junior from Kennesaw, GA, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a Dance minor. NU credits: RENT (Benny), Discovering Me, Embracing We (Dancer), Much Ado About Nothing (Wardrobe Crew) Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Ensemble), Christmas at Pemberley (Wardrobe Crew). Outside credits: Roger and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Sebastian), Peter Pan (John Darling), Into the Woods (Wolf/Mysterious Man), and The Little Mermaid (Chef Louis/Ensemble).



ROBYN LEE HORN moved to Buffalo in 2018 after two decades of working as a professional actor and director in NYC and regional theatre and six years teaching theatre at a performing arts high school in New Jersey. Locally, she has taught theatre courses at Niagara and UB, served as Managing Director of Alleyway Theatre, and has continued to work professionally as an actor and director, earning Artie Award nominations for Best Actress in a Musical (Adult Alison in Fun Home at MusicalFare/ Shea's 710) and Best Director (Berserker at Alleyway Theatre). Robyn contributed a chapter to the edited volume, Theatre and the Macabre, published in 2022 by the University of Wales Press and she is currently completing her doctoral dissertation in Theatre and Performance at UB. Last spring, Robyn directed NU's production of The Thanksgiving Play by Larisa Fasthorse. She is delighted to bring Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley to the Leary Theatre stage in collaboration with the wonderful Theatre and Fine Arts students and faculty.



GRACE HOWARD, a freshman from Rochester, NY, is pursuing a major in Theatre Performance. Previous credits include: Sweeney Todd (Beggar Woman) 9 to 5 (Judy) Firebringer (Emberly) Head Over Heels (Mopsa) and most recently (Connie) in Roc City Singers' A Chorus Line

JOSEPH ISGAR is a Buffalo-based music director, voice coach, and accompanist. Recent credits include Legally Blonde (Musicalfare), Tick, Tick,...Boom! (SGT), Gutenberg! The Musical (D'Youville Kavinoky), Murder Ballad (RLTP), Reefer Madness (O'Connell and Company), The Addams Family (O'Connell and Company), and Beauty and the Beast (TOY). He is also an in-class accompanist for UB Music Theatre and West Seneca East High School. Joe works frequently with WNY high school students on their spring musicals, including schools in Lancaster, West Seneca, Lockport, and Williamsville. This season, he will be working on Charmagne Chi's Blue XMas and Sweet Charity at the D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre Crazy For You at the Lancaster Opera House. Many thanks to the students at staff at Niagara University for all their support and assistance.



PAIGE JANES, a senior from Ashland, VA, is pursuing a Theatre Performance Major, along with continuing her education with the Theatre Education 4+1 Program. High School Credits: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Lucy), Anne of Green Gables (Ensemble), The Wizard of Oz (Aunt Em, Glinda, Jitterbug), Tarzan (Ensemble), Frozen (Ensemble), Seussical (Ensemble), and Girl of La Mancha (Donna Quixote). NU Credits: A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Ensemble), Sondheim Tribute Revue (Ensemble), Fun Home (Small Alison), and Schoolhouse Rock Live! (Dina). She has also directed in Niagara University's Short Play Festivals, directing the short play "Husbandry" by Don Nigro.



LILLIAN JARZABEK, a junior from Conesus, NY, is currently pursuing a theatre performance major and a dance minor. NU credits: Rent (Ensemble), Discovering Me, Embracing We (company member), Art (Marc), 2023 and 2024 Short Play Festivals, Dancing in the Light Showcase (choreographer), Much Ado About Nothing (assistant stage manager), Us & Them: Aerial Investigations (prop runner), Everybody (prop runner). Outside credits: OFC Creations; Sweet Charity (Rosie), Into the Woods (The Witch), JCC CenterStage; A Chorus Line (Ensemble, Kristine U/S). Lillian has also been a vocal director for OFC Creations summer theatre experiences (Descendants, Seussical Jr.).



DEVIN KLUMPP is a senior Theatre Performance major with a Dance and Design Minor. He is so excited to be finishing up his final year at Niagara. Recent credits include: NURT (Maroon), School House Rock Live (Joe), Shakespeare's Kings and Queens at Fordham London (Hamlet and Oberon), Diary of Anne Frank (Peter), Much Ado About Nothing (Don Pedro). He also has worked professionally as a actor, designer, and crew member working with companies such as: Bellissima Productions, O'Connell and Company, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Theatre of Youth, The Kavinoki, and OFC Productions. He is grateful for the opportunities he has received and wants to thank everyone who has helped him on his path towards becoming a full working professional.



BRITTANY KONRUFF, a Junior from Cincinnati, OH, is pursuing a BFA in Design and Production. NU credits: Lighting Designer (Engagements), Assistant Lead Electrician (Rent), Light Board Op (Anne Frank, Much Ado About Nothing), Assistant Stage Manager (Art), Light Crew (Rent, Anne Frank, The Taming, Much ado about Nothing, Fun Home, Measure for Measure, Everybody), Build Crew (Peter and the Starcatcher, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, Measure for Measure, Everybody, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder). Professional credits: Chautauqua Theatre Company - Light Tech/Board Op (The Light and The Dark, Fabulations, Birthday Candles), Irish Classical Theatre Company - Rigger/Programmer (Private Lives, The Price).



KAYLA (KALE) KUREK, more commonly known as Kale, is a Junior Theater Performance Major with minors in Design and Production and ASL and Deaf Studies from Hamburg, NY. Kale is also the Artistic Director for the NU Players. NU Credits: Fun Home (John), Short Play Festival 2024, The Taming (Patricia), Short Play Festival 2023, Art (Yvan), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Head Usher), Much Ado About Nothing (House Manager), The Diary of Anne Frank (Sound Board Operator). Outside Performance Credits Include: Company (Bobby), Little Shop of Horrors (Chiffon), Heathers the Musical (Martha), Almost, Maine (Marvelyn, Marcy, Rhonda).



LAUREN LAMPE, a sophomore from Rochester, NY, is pursuing a major in Theater Performance through Niagara University. Outside credits include: Bare: A Pop Opera (Nadia McConnell), The Prom (Dee Dee Allen), Ride The Cyclone (Jane Doe), Sweet Charity (Ensemble), Rent (Ensemble). Off Stage credits include, Golden Girls: A Christmas Carol (Crew), Beauty and The Beast (Assistant Stage Manager)



HANNAH LARUEZ, a sophomore from Rochester, NY. She is pursuing theatre design/technology major with a concentration on costume design and a minor in dance. NU Credits: Discovering Me, Embracing We (Ensemble Dancer), Rent(Assistant Stage Manager), Engagements(Costume Designer), 2024 Short Play Festival(Stage Manager) and Much Ado About Nothing(Dresser). Outside credits: Legally Blonde(Brooke Wyndham), The Prom!(Kaylee/Dance Captain), A Chorus Line(Lori/Dance Captain), Wedding Singer(Wardrobe Head), Oliver!(Wardrobe Head), Descendants Jr(Costume Designer), and more! Hannah also works at OFC Creations Theater Center as a Wardrobe Head, Production Assistant and Costume Designer.



BRIEGHE LENNON, a sophomore from Buffalo, NY, is pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance and a BA in English through the Niagara University Honors Program. NU Credits: Much Ado About Nothing (Oatcake), The Diary of Anne Frank (Assistant Stage Manager). Outside credits: The Winter's Tale (Emilia/Mopsa), Romeo and Juliet (Sound Playback), As You Like It (Apprentice) at Shakespeare in Delaware Park. She is thrilled for another year at Niagara!



KATE LOCONTI-ALCOCER (Effective Speech) has been a Theatre Educator and Artist for over thirty years with focuses in: Acting, Directing, Classical Text, and Oral Communication. Prior to joining the Faculty of NU, Kate held the positions of Executive Artistic Director of Irish Classical Theatre Company (ICTC), and Theatre Arts Program Coordinator for SUNY Niagara. Kate has had the great fortune of performing internationally in Spain, London, and Venezuela, as well as nationally with Classic Stage Company, The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare, and Shattered Globe. Locally, she has worked with many prestigious theatre companies, and has been a voice-over-

artist for over two decades. Her work has been awarded by the Buffalo | Toronto Public Media Artie Awards (4 nominations, 2 Outstanding Leading Actress Awards, and the Katharine Cornell Award), Buffalo Spree Magazine (Best Production of a Play), and Blue Dog Press (Best in Show). During her tenure at Irish Classical, the Company was awarded Buffalo Business First's IDEA Award, Deaf Access Services' Language Access Award, and an American Advertising Award for Excellence in Cinematography (Production Trailers). Ms. LoConti Alcocer holds an MFA in Acting with Honors from Columbia University, where she received the Bob Hope Fellowship.



AYDEN MACNEIL, a sophomore from Niagara Falls, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Theater Design and Production. NU credits include light crew for Much Ado About Nothing, Fun Home, Rent, Diary of Anne Frank, NU Dance Theatre: Discovering Me, Embracing We and The Taming. Outside Credits include Grease: Kenickie (NFHS), Clue: Mr.Green (NFHS), Brighton Beach Memoirs: Eugene (NFHS), Beauty and the Beast: Ensemble (Theatre in the Mist), At The Bandstand: Carl St. Clair (Harry F. Abate) and Dig It!: Tomb Solist (Harry F. Abate). Outside of NU, Ayden works part time as a cashier for Arby's.



CALLIE MADDOX, a sophomore from Sanborn, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance Major. NU Credits: It's A Wonderful Life The Radio Play (Young Mary Hatch, Janie Bailey, Helen), 2024 Short Play Festival's Outcomes (Bob). Outside Credits: Teal's Niagara Theatre, The Little Mermaid (Ensemble), Rock Of Ages (Lead Band Member), Willy Wonka (Oompa Loompa), Bring It On (Ensemble), Annie (Dog Catcher) and, At Starpoint High School The Little Mermaid (Ensemble), Newsies (Ensemble), The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow (Mrs. Irving), Something Rotten (Nostradamus).



GARY MARINO (Lecturer, Ballet, and Choreographer) Gary began his formal training in the music department of SUNY at Albany, then went on to study dance with Melissa Hayden, Elizabeth Carroll, Edward Vilella, Kay Mazzo and Peter Martins at Skidmore College. He also studied jazz with Rhett Dennis at the Luigi School in New York as well as modern with Ethel Winter of the Martha Graham School. Mr. Marino began performing with the Skidmore Dancers, Saratoga Ballet Company, Schenectady Civic Ballet, Buffalo Repertory Ballet Co. and Camelon Dancers. At Artpark he choreographed and appeared in La Traviata and Rigoletto. His choreographic experience also includes numerous ballets for the Buffalo Repertory Ballet Co. Previous teaching experience includes Skidmore College, New York State Summer School of the Arts, Darlene Ciglia Dance Project, Royal Academy of Ballet, Union College, Steppin Out Dance Academy, Performing Arts, Lockport City Ballet, Classical Ballet of Western New York, Dawn Marie's Dance Works, Dance Spectrum, Ballet Regent School, David DeMarie's and Mary Alice's Dance Studio in Orchard Park and SUNY at Albany and Buffalo, among others. Currently, Mr. Marino is also on faculty at American Academy of Ballet, Spezio's Dance Dynamics, and Niagara University. In addition, he has judged numerous dance competitions in the U.S. and Canada including

Cutting Edge, Dance Masters of America, and Western New York Dance Championships. Recently he has performed with Configuration Dance Theater in Michael Shannons ballet "Been there Done That" and as the Merlin character in "Arthur". In addition, he has created a new ballet in collaboration with Peter Bennett on Jackie Gleasons "Gigot" performed at Niagara University. Many of his students have gone on to join ballet companies and touring companies. In addition to teaching classical Vaganova technique in ballet, he has coached both figure skating for the Buffalo Skating Club and gymnastics at Gleasons Gymnastics. Most recently he will be appearing on the new season of Dance Twins to air on the lifetime network this fall. Other talents involve composing music for dance and has produced a ballet class recording with pianist Guy Boleri.



EMILY MCDONNELL, a senior from Middleport, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Costume Technology. NU credits: The Diary of Anne Frank (Mrs. Van Daan), Much Ado About Nothing (Verges), NU Dance Theatre: Finding Me, Embracing We (Wardrobe Lead), NU Player's Art (Sound board op), 2023 Short Play Festival's The Faint Taste of Catfood and Sour Milk (Stage manager), Us and Them (Ensemble), Cabaret (Wardrobe crew), 2021 Short Play Festival's Nightswim (Rosie). NU Study Abroad: Live Literature Company's As You Like It (Touchstone).

NATASHA MCCANDLESS is an educator, choreographer, and performer based in Buffalo, NY. She earned her MFA in Dance from the University at Buffalo, and works as an adjunct faculty member at Niagara University, D'Youville University, and SUNY Fredonia. Her research focuses on the choreographic values of storytelling and worldbuilding, as well as on theories of affect, embodiment, and care with a goal of fostering wellness for dancers in pedagogical spaces across classroom and rehearsal contexts. During her time at UB, she was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching Assistants. Her work is garnering recognition beyond the Buffalo community: she was awarded a Public Humanities Grant through Humanities New York, presented at the national Association for Theatre in Higher Education conference in 2023, and looks forward to her first publication in the inaugural Music Theatre Dance Journal this winter.



PARIS MOFFITT is a junior from Gasport, NY. She is pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts & Performance with a focus in Stage Management. NU Credits: Peter and the Starcatcher (Smee), Short Play Festival '23, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Ensemble), N.U.R.T '23 ("Pink" Ensemble), A Sondheim Review (Ensemble/Assistant Stage Manager), Fun Home\ (Assistant Stage Manager), Short Play Festival '24, The Taming (Stage Manager), RENT (Mrs.Cohen/Ensemble), N.U.R.T '24 ("Light Blue" Ensemble), Schoolhouse Rock Live! (Dori). Outside Credits: At the Lockport Palace Theatre, Scrooge The Musical (Ensemble & Cratchit Child), Suessical The Musical (Ensemble), The Wizard of Oz (Munchkin & Ensemble), Joseph And The Technicolor Dreamcoat (Ensemble), The Little Mermaid, Jr. (Ursula), and at Barker, Jr/Sr High School, Mary Poppins (Ensemble), Mamma Mia! (Ali), Addams Family (Grandma Addams), Little Women (Marmee). Paris was nominated for a Kenny Award for Outstanding Dramatic Performance for Marmee.
@paris.moffitt



BRIDGET MORIARTY (Assistant Professor, Voice, Music Director), Bridget Moriarty is the full-time music director at Niagara University, recent NU credits include *Freaky Friday*, *Legally Blonde*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *She Loves Me* and *Chicago*. Other credits include *First Lady Suite* at Syracuse University, *Spring Awakening* and *Cabaret* with Syracuse Summer Theatre at The Oncenter, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *The Little Mermaid*, with Redhouse Arts Center, *Hair* and *Avenue Q* with Covey Theatre Co., and *Les Misérables* with the Wit's End Players. In 2018 Bridget was awarded the Syracuse Area Live Theater (SALT) Award for Best Musical Director, an honor she also received in 2017, 2012 and 2010, when she won the SALT Award for Lead Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Lucille Frank in *Parade*. In 2016 Bridget was a national finalist in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award competition. Bridget received a doctorate of musical arts from the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

RYAN NEEDHAM, a freshman from Hammond IN, is pursuing a Theater Specializations major. Outside credits: *Seussical Jr.* (Cat in the Hat), *The Spongebob Musical* (Spongebob), *12 Angry Men* (Foreman), *The Lion King Jr.* (Timon), *Matilda* (Nigel), *Frozen Jr.* (Sven). Offstage credits: *Annie Jr.* (Stage Manager).



MARA NEIMANIS creates a signature style of Apparatus Based Theatre using mounted and suspended steel sculpture with 5 published aerial plays and tours. Mara has performed, toured, taught and collaborated with a variety of institutions and theatre companies here and abroad including Pixar (Richmond CA), Dell'Arte International (Blue Lake CA) Teatro Abya Yala (San Jose, Costa Rica) The New Market Theatre (Brighton England) as well as Artpark, Cal Arts, MICA. She has received grants and commissions from The Studios of Key West, The Cherry Arts Space, Ithaca, The Robert W Deutsch Foundation, Rhodes Ellis Rabb Visiting Artist Initiative, The Native Cultures Fund and Ink People of Northern California to name a few. She has received 2 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Awards for both her plays, *Air Heart* and *Naomi's Flight*. Presently, Mara is on the Mid Atlantic Arts Touring Arts Roster selection of 6 artists to tour the East Coast and is being commissioned by The Cherry Arts Space to create a new aerial piece which will be performed in the summer of 2025. Mara has just signed a proposal in collaboration with Rutledge Press, London on a new book about gravity, clown, aerials and creating identity. Mara is a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner and combines the method with aerial skills.



KIM NEISS (Administrative Assistant-Theatre & Fine Arts) graduated from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, with a bachelor's degree in Multimedia Production/Journalism. Right after college, Kimberly found a love and passion for working in live theatre. She moved here from Dallas, TX, where she was privileged to work as a Production Manager at a Small Professional Theatre. Kimberly has worked as a stage manager/production manager in over 30 productions, including the Off-Broadway run of *The Life & Slimes of Marc Summers*. She is currently stage managing shows at The Alleyway Theatre. She is excited to support the NUTS during this season and can't wait to watch the stories come to life on stage.



SEBASTIAN NEWELL is a senior from East Aurora, NY. He is pursuing dual degrees through the Honors Program in Theatre Design/Production and Art History/Museum Studies with a minor in ASL/Deaf Studies. He specializes in Costume Technology and Wardrobe, and spent the 2023 summer season as a dressing apprentice at Santa Fe Opera. In 2024, he attended the Cirque du Soleil Training Ground program in Las Vegas. sebastiannewell.com



SAM OLSZEWSKI, a sophomore from Lancaster, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a Dance minor. NU credits: Engagements (Mark), and 2024 Short Play Festival's The Morning After (Matt). Outside credits: Oklahoma at O'Connell and Company (Mike), A Charlie Brown Christmas at the Niagara Arts And Cultural Center (Linus), Grease at Music Academy of Western New York (Danny), and at Lancaster High School, Beauty and the Beast (Gaston), and Catch me if you Can (Frank Sr.) At Sweet Home High School Wizard of Oz (Wizard), At Lancaster Youth Bureau Newsies (Albert and Bunson), and Mama Mia (Bill).



DAVE PETERSON PhD is an assistant professor of theatre at Niagara University, having joined the faculty in the Fall 2020. Dave teaches courses in theatre history and theory, in addition to directing in the NU theatre season. Recent works including Fun Home, Everybody, Machinal, and Good Kids. He currently serves as a co-advisor for the undergraduate theatre group, the NU Players, and has directed NU's professional summer youth theatre touring ensemble, Niagara University Repertory Theatre. Dave's recent scholarly work has focused on the American playwright Lorraine Hansberry with an essay in Comedy Studies and a production review in the Black Theatre Review. Previous publications include work on clowning and Shakespeare in journals such as Comparative Drama and Contemporary Theatre Review. Dave has presented work at conferences such as the Mid America Theatre Conference, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and the American Society for Theatre research. He holds a PhD in Theatre History and Performance Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, an MA in Theatre from Michigan State University, and a BA in History and Theatre from the University of Michigan.



SAM PREZIOSO, a junior from Montgomery, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Design & Production. NU credits: Everybody (Stuff, Five Senses), RENT (Ensemble), Much Ado About Nothing (Balthasar), the 2023 & 2024 Short Play Festivals, The Taming (Assistant Stage Manager), A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder (Projections), Engagements (Assistant Technical Director), Work Study Carpenter 2022 - Present. Outside credits: At Valley Central, The Wizard of Oz (Tinman), If Sherlock Holmes Were a Woman (Mrs. Hudson). Offstage credits: Shea's 710 Newsies (Build Crew).



NICHOLAS QUINN is a Visiting Assistant Professor and Production Manger for Niagara University Theatre. He received his BA from Slippery Rock University and his MFA from Ohio University. Nicholas has been working in higher education for more than 10 years. In that time, he has mentored many young designers who have gone on to win awards with organizations such as the Kennedy Center and the Stagehands Institute. As an active freelance designer, Nicholas has worked nationally at places such as the Public Theater and Baryshnikov Arts Center in Manhattan, and the Smithsonian African American Museum in DC. Nicholas is also involved with many local theaters. Most recently, he was named a company member for Road Less Traveled Productions in 2023. Nicholas looks forward to incorporating his years of teaching and freelance experience to the University at Buffalo to help students get a start in the industry.

TONY RAJEWSKI is an adjunct lighting designer for NU.

PATTY RIHN (Guest Lighting Designer) is a graduate of Binghamton University, where she received her BA in Theatrical Design as well as French Language and Literature. Since 2005, she has worked with a number of production companies and theatres in Western New York. Her full-time job is at the University at Buffalo's Center for the Arts, where she works as head electrician. Patty has had the privilege of working with the wonderful NU staff and students for nine seasons and counting as a guest lighting designer. She has lit 16 shows, starting with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the spring of 2012, and most recently *The Machinal* last spring, after a pandemic-induced hiatus. She is thrilled to be rejoining the NU Theatre family for a tenth season.



HAYLEE SALMONSEN, a junior from Syracuse, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Communications. NU Offstage credits: *Fun Home* (Stage Manager), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Assistant Stage Manager). Outside credits: *Hamlet* (Stage Manager/Sound, Paid) with Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park (2024), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Stage Manager, Paid) with Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park (2024).



ELENA MICHELE, a senior from Syracuse, NY, is pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance with a minor in Inequality, Race, & Justice. NU credits: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *Engagements* (Allison), *Decision Height* (Ensemble/ASM). International Credit: *As You Like It* (Silvius) London, UK. Other credits: *Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker* (multiple roles), *Legally Blonde* (Paulette Bonafonte), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mae Peterson), *Annie* (Pepper). Elena hopes to pursue a Masters degree in Acting/Film abroad. Instagram: @itselenamichele

KAHLIL SARIKEY (Adjunct Professor) joined the Theatre Department faculty as the theory/musicianship instructor. He also holds a position at Buffalo State College as instructor for guitar lessons, guitar ensemble, music theory, and aural skills. While recently completing his Doctor of Musical Arts in Guitar Performance and Literature with a music theory minor at the Eastman School of Music, Dr. Sarikey was awarded a teaching assistantship. His educational credits also include a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Buffalo State College and a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. He was awarded a performers certificate while attending Eastman, a prestigious award given to those who exemplify the highest levels of performance. Mr. Sarikey has performed in several competitions taking first prize in the Eastman Guitar Concerto competition and second prize in the Great Lakes Guitar Society competition. He has participated in master classes with world-renowned artists such as Roland Dyens, Roberto Aussell, and Eliot Fisk.

SAM SCAMACCA is an adjunct private voice lesson instructor at NU.



NICO V. SCIRRI is a freshmen from Gasport, NY, majoring in Theatre Performance and Communications/Media Studies, and minoring in Film Studies. Credits include The Wizard of Oz (Stage Crew), The Lion King (Stage Crew), Tune into Murder (Stage Crew), Mulan (Stage Crew), The Legend of Robin Hood... Sort Of (The "Thin Friar").

JESSICA SPENGLER, a junior from West Seneca, NY, is pursuing a Theater Design and Production major. NU credits: 2023 short play festival (Deck crew), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Wardrobe crew), 2024 short play festival (Deck manager), RENT (Turntable operator). Outside credits: Adams family values (ghost maid) at West Seneca East Senior, Mamma Mia (bridesmaid/Sophie's friend), Grease (deck crew).



AMANDA LYTLE SHARPE (Adjunct Professor, Speech, Guest Director) received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting with honors from the University of Florida, and her Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She worked professionally with the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival and the North Carolina Theatre for Youth. Amanda also attended the British American Drama Academy at Stanford University to study acting. She has been an Adjunct Professor at Niagara University for 18 years having taught acting, speech and dialects. A few Niagara University directorial credits include: the 2010-2018 N.U.R.T., The House of Bernarda Alba, Stage Door, 9 to 5: The Musical, The Wrestling Season, A Piece of My Heart, The Secret Life of Girls, Rumors, The Women of Lockerbie, The Pirates of Penzance, Wonder of the World, The Dearest of Friends, Spring Dance, The Underpants and The Princess and the Pea. In addition to serving as Dialect Coach for many NU Theatre productions, Amanda has worked as the professional dialect coach at SUNY Brockport, MusicalFare, Irish Classical Theatre and The Kavinoky Theatre. She also works in conjunction with the Castellani Art Museum as the Director for the Kids 'n Art Summer Program.



MAUREEN T. STEVENS (Associate Professor of Design and Production, Costume, Hair & Make-Up Designer) received her B.S. from Buffalo State College in Apparel and Textile Technology and her M.F.A. in Theatre with an emphasis in Costume Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Previous to joining the faculty at Niagara University, her career has spanned many facets of costuming and areas of the country including: Assistant to the Operational Costume Coordinator for the Walt Disney World Company in Orlando, Florida. At Niagara, Ms. Stevens has designed or coordinated more than 100 productions. Professional design credits include: The Strudel Lady and The Whipping Man at the Jewish Repertory Theatre, the premiere of Over the Tavern at Studio Arena Theatre, The Taming of the Shrew and Two Gentlemen of Verona at The Colorado Shakespeare Festival in Boulder, CO, and It's a Wonderful Life – the Radio Play at Buffalo's Kavinoky Theatre.



JADA STEWART, a freshman from Traverse City, MI, is pursuing a major in Theatre Performance as well as a Spanish Minor. Outside credits: Twelfth Night (Maria), Guys and Dolls (Arvide Abernathy), Kiss Me, Kate! (Man 2), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Peter Quince), Mamma Mia! (Ensemble), and Radium Girls (Katherine Shaub). Offstage Credits: Elephant's Graveyard (Co-Director), Ark5 (Stage Manager), Frozen Jr. (Stage Manager).



ALEX SYLVESTER is a sophomore from Lancaster, NY pursuing a Theatre Performance major. NU credits: Engagements (Ryan, Asst. Tech Director). Outside credits: with Historic Palace Theatre; Jersey Boys (Joe Pesci/Ens). With Lancaster Youth Bureau; All Shook Up (Jim Haller), Newsies (Pulitzer), Mamma Mia! (Harry Bright). With Performing Arts Music; Mean Girls (Aaron Samuels), Anastasia (Tsar Nicholas/Male Swing). At St Mary's High School; The Wizard of Oz (Tinman), Little Shop of Horrors (Orin), Blithe Spirit (Dr. Bradman). With Music Academy of WNY; RENT (Benjamin Coffin III). Alex would like to thank Amazon Prime Day for the discounted TV.



AMY TEAL, (Senior Lecturer, Voice) a senior lecturer in the theatre department, teaches vocal performance classes to the juniors and freshman, as well as private voice students. She enjoys a busy and diverse teaching and performing career in the WNY region and is the proud owner of her own children's theatre and music academy in Niagara Falls, Teal's Niagara Theatre & Music, in residence at the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center. Ms. Teal has performed as a classical artist, with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera Lytes, Opera Sacra, Cheektowaga Symphony, Amherst Chamber Ensemble, Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus, Erwin H. Johnson and Buffalo Opera Unlimited. A crossover artist, equally at home on the musical theatre stage, amy has performed roles with many Buffalo theaters and at ArtPark and is the proud recipient of a Tany's Award for Outstanding Vocal Performance as the narrator in Joseph with TITM. A passionate educator, Amy believes in creating strong relationships with her students and she was honored to be included in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers", as a "teacher who made a difference".



KEIRSTEN THOMAS (Administrative Assistant/Box Office Supervisor/ FNU T Liaison) received her BFA in theatre performance with a fine arts minor in costume design and construction from Niagara University in 2013. Since graduation, she has been fortunate to continue her work in theatre, from The Entertainment Department of Walt Disney World in Florida, to the Gate Hill Players in the Hudson Valley. Select WNY credits include: Into The Woods (Director/Costume Designer & Supervisor), Godspell (Director/Costume Designer) at NCCC; King John (Costume Designer) at The New Phoenix Theatre; the original and revival productions of It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (Costume Designer) at 13 Players. Keirsten is a Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of 13 Players, a professional theatre company in the Niagara Falls area. She is honored to once again be a part of the NU Theatre family and looks forward to supporting the NUTS in their many productions alongside her creative husband Primo, and their two daughters Penny & Freya.



PRIMO THOMAS (Technical Director) is a proud alumnus of Niagara University's theatre department, graduating in 2013 with a BFA in theatre studies design technology with a concentration in scenic design. Primo is an active designer and technical director in the Buffalo Theatre community. His past scenic design credits include: A Child's Christmas in Wales (Irish Classical Theatre Company), Go, Dog, Go! (NURT), Angels in America (Second Generation Theatre), Annapurna (New Phoenix Theatre), My Three Angels (New Phoenix Theatre), Into the Woods (NCCC), Godspell (NCCC), and A Midsummer Night's Dream (NCCC). He is a Co-Founder and the Technical Director of 13 Players, a professional theatre company in the Niagara Region. He is incredibly dedicated to sharing the love of his craft with the next generation of NU theatre students.



KATE E. THOMPSON, a senior from Bradford, PA, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in ASL & Deaf Studies. NU credits: RENT (Ensemble). Outside credits: Bradford Area High School's Offerings (Kate), The Sound of Music (Nun & Mother Abbess U/S), Mame (Ensemble & Agnes Gooch U/S), and Bradford Little Theatre's Frozen Jr. (Middle Elsa & Ensemble). Offstage credits: NU's The Taming (Props Run), Much Ado About Nothing (Swing Crew), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Spot Op), Peter and the Starcatcher (Wardrobe Crew), Cabaret (Spot Op). She also works in NU's Costume Shop.



PAUL TODARO (Adjunct Professor, Acting) graduated from Niagara University's Theatre program in 1987 and moved to New York where he worked with the Independent Theatre Company at House of Candles Theatre on Manhattan's lower east side. Paul acted and directed the plays of Shakespeare, Beckett, Brecht, Pinter, Strindberg and, in 1992, became the Artistic Director of the company. In 1993, House of Candles was named the Best Off-Off Broadway Theatre Company by the New York Press. In 1997 Paul returned to Buffalo and began teaching acting at NU. Locally he has worked as an actor and director at Studio Arena, Artpark, The Kavinoky Theatre, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, and for several years, he was an artist in residence for the Irish Classical Theatre. Paul has also appeared as a guest artist on the NU stage as Grandpere in The Happy Time and Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof. He appeared in The Sound of Music at Artpark during the summer of 2012, and was in Red for 710 Main Theatre.



PAIGE TOMLINSON, a sophomore from Hamburg, NY., is pursuing a Theatre Performance major through the 4 plus 1 Theatre Education program. NU credits: 2024 Short Play Festival and Rent (Ensemble). Outside credits: Alice in Wonderland (Tall Alice) and, at Frontier High School, Mamma Mia (Ensemble), A Killer Party (Lily Wright), Sister Act (Tina/Featured Nun), Clue: On Stage (Miss Scarlet), and Beauty and the Beast (Silly Girl/Belle Understudy).



TERRI FILIPS VAUGHAN (Chair, Professor, Dance, and Choreographer) has choreographed over 45 musicals and 20 concert works at Niagara University. During this time, she had the privilege of working alongside the great musical team of John Kander and the late Fred Ebb. Terri has worked as a freelance teacher, choreographer and theatre director for numerous schools, community groups, studios and professional companies. She has choreographed numerous musicals professionally, working at such places as; Artpark, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Jewish Repertory Theatre, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre and the Rochester Association of Performing Arts (RAPA), OFC/Rochester Lyric Theatre and O'Connell and Company. Highlights include South Pacific at Artpark starring Tony Award winner Mark Jacoby and choreographing world premiere musical Two Tickets to Paradise written by and starring rocker Eddie Money at RAPA. She has set concert choreography at SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Fredonia, Texas Woman's University, Grand Valley State College and Hope College. She was the co-founder of InSync Dance Theatre, a professional tap and jazz company based in Michigan for which she choreographed and performed. She has also worked professionally as a director for musical theatre and theatre for young audiences. She graduated summa cum laude with an MFA in dance from the Texas Woman's University and cum laude with a BA from Hope College. Terri also served as a judge for the Cutting Edge Dance Competitions around the United States. Terri has taught dance educator at numerous National Dance Education Organization Conferences across the U. S. in both tap and musical theatre.

STEPHEN VAUGHAN (Adjunct Professor, Acting) Steve's Directing credits include Geneva Light Opera, Nickel City Opera, Eastman School of Music, and the Lyric Opera Theater of Rochester. At Shakespeare in Delaware Park his credits include: Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night, Comedy of Errors, As You Like It, Julius Caesar, Merry Wives of Windsor, Love's Labors Lost and King Lear. He has also directed Blithe Spirit at the Irish Classical Theater, and Tally's Folly, Visiting Mr. Green, Bad Jews, Holiday Shorts and The Beau Jest at Jewish Repertory Theater of Buffalo. Recently Steve directed an all-female version of 1776 and Glorious for O'Connell and Company. Steve has directed numerous productions at the University level including Niagara University, Genesee Community College and Niagara Community College. Additionally, Steve is a freelance stunt coordinator and fight director with over a thousand theater, film, opera and TV credits. He teaches theater at SUNY Fredonia, and Acting for the Camera at Niagara University.



GRACE VENTURA is an incoming senior from Olean, New York majoring in Theatre Performance and English. Grace's theatre experience includes stage managing, acting, and directing. Her Niagara University Theatre Credits include Engagements (stage Manager), Fun Home (Assistant Director), A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder (Ensemble) and Girl. (Lucy)

LEANNE VIDA (Adjunct Professor, Voice) is thrilled to be back at NU for another season of voice lessons! Upon completion of an Honours Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at Brock University, she attended Western University Canada to complete two graduate degrees: a Master of Music in Voice Performance and Literature, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance. Leanne has extensive operatic, music theatre, and recording credits, and has performed throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. In addition to her teaching studio at Niagara University, she is also the adjunct professor of voice at Brock University, a music instructor at Ridley College, and maintains a small home teaching studio. An active performer, Leanne sings in 2 choirs (Avanti Chamber Singers, The Edison Singers), 3 bands (High Fidelity, Temple of Night, Minuscule), and frequently performs as a soprano soloist and session musician. Recent research projects include a curriculum of Canadian Art Song, and the development of a meditation technique for singers and performers. When not making music, Leanne can be found at her local yoga studio, cultivating her wild perennial garden, or immersed in a Dungeons and Dragons campaign.



JAREESA YOUNG is a sophomore majoring in Theatre Performance from Buffalo, NY.

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