NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

2026-2027 Season

http://theatre.niagara.edu | 716.286.8685



A Year With Frog and Toad

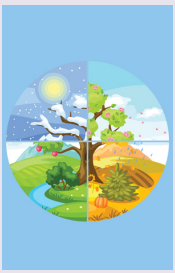
Niagara University Theatre

Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre

2026-2027 Season



Oct. 15-18
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)
by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield



Nov. 5-8
A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD
by Robert Reale and Willie Reale



Dec. 3-6
TRANSCENDING THE VERBAL
Choreographed by NU Faculty



Jan 22-24
SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL
by Various Playwrights
All Student-Directed



Mar. 4-7
ORLANDO
by Sarah Ruhl
Adapted from the book by Virginia Wolf



Apr. 2-4
CANDY & SHELLEY GO TO THE DESERT
by Paula Cizmar
All Student Produced



Apr. 23-May 3
THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin







For further information and tickets:
http://theatre.niagara.edu/ boxoffice@niagra.edu
716.286.8685

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

presents a production of

A Year With Frog and Toad

Directed By
Robyn Lee

Music Director
Bridget Moriarty

Choreographer
Terri Filips Vaughan

Scenic Designer
Darin Keesing

Costume Designer
Hannah LaRuez
Class of ‘27

Lighting Designer
Brittany Konruff
Class of ‘27

Sound Designer
Chris Ballard
Class of ‘08

Hair/Makeup Designer
Maureen Stevens

Props Designer
Grace Gordon
Class of ‘28

Technical Director
Jackie Renaud
Class of ‘24

Stage Manager
Hailey Westendarp
Class of ‘29

Assistant Stage Manager
Ashley Geib
Class of ‘30

Assistant Stage Manager
Tanner Watkeys
Class of ‘29

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

presents a production of

~

A Year With Frog and Toad

Music by
ROBERT REALE

Book and Lyrics by
WILLIE REALE

Based on the books by ARNOLD LOBEL

Originally presented on Broadyway by
Bob Boyett, Adrianne Lobel, Michael Gardner,
Lawrence Horowitz and Roy Furman

World Premiere at The Children's Theatre Company
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Presented in the William P. and Marie Leary Theatre in the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre November 5-8

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

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A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.com

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

presents a production of

A Year With Frog and Toad

Cast

Frog	**Max Brandi**
Toad	**Mitchell Stutz**
Snail and Others	**Jairus Drayton**
Turtle and Others	**Jaden Hanniford**
Mouse and Others	**Paige Tomlinson**

Band

Piano/Conductor	**BRIDGET MORIARTY**
Reed 1	**CARYN GUNDERSON**
Reed 2	**AMANDA BURDICK**
Trumpet	**NATHAN BARNES**
Trombone	**PETER BLACKWELL**
Guitar/Banjo	**MORRIS TUCKER III**
Bass	**MELISSA BENDER**
Drums	**KEVIN STEVENS**

THERE WILL BE A 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Author Bios

Robert Reale (Composer): Musicals-Broadway: A Year With Frog And Toad (Tony nomination). Off-Broadway: Once Around The City (2nd Stage), Quark Victory (Williamstown Theater Festival). Music for plays: Richard Dresser's Rounding Third (directed by John Rando) Diva, (WTF), Salvation s Moon. Film: Ten-13, Passing Over, Wigstock, Dealers Among Dealers, The Victim, others. Television: PrimeTime, 20/20, Inside Edition, Out There (theme), Invent This (theme), Mugshots, Crime Stories, The System, The Mailman and the Pirhana, Case Closed, Beating The Rap, The Royals: Dynasty or Disaster?, others. As composer and record producer he has worked with Julie Andrews, Mel Torme, Sid Caeser and Imogene Coca.

Willie Reale is a free-lance writer, living in New York. He has collaborated with his brother, Robert, on a musical called Once Around The City, which was produced by New York Stage and Film and at the Second Stage Theatre in New York. Quark Victory, another musical written with his brother, was produced by the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Other plays have been produced at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Circle Repertory Company. With his brother he has written A Year With Frog and Toad, which was performed at the Childrens' Theater Company in Minneapolis, the New Victory Theatre and at the Cort Theater on Broadway. Willie received two Tony nominations for his book and lyrics. In 1981, he founded The 52nd Street Project, an organization that brings inner-city children together with professional theater artists to create theater. He served as the theater's artistic director for 18 years. With the Project, he produced hundreds of plays. The programs of The 52nd Street Project are currently being replicated at 12 sites across the country through a series of publications entitled The Kid Theater Kit. For the kit he wrote "52 Pick Up," the Project how-to manual, as well as numerous plays, and the lyrics to hundreds of songs, including two full-length musicals, all of which are available through Dramatists Play Service. In June of 1994, he was awarded a MacArthur in recognition of his ingenuity in creating theater and theater education programs for young people. For television, Mr. Reale has written for the NBC dramas Homicide: Life on the Streets, Deadline and Mr. Sterling. For Fox he has written for Keen Eddie and The Jury. He created a series called Out There for Sesame Workshop and the BBC, which shot in Australia. His work on the show was recognized by an Australian Film Institute Award (The Australian Emmy) and Prix Jeunesse and Writers' Guild of America nominations. He has taught at New York University and the Yale School of Drama. Willie is married to producer Jenny Gersten. They have two children, Augustus and Leonardo.

Scan Here for Our Digital Program with Headshots & Bios!

Musical Theatre International (MTI)

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide.

MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students. Launched in May 2025, MTI's Broadway Senior™ musicals are geared and adapted for adult performers 55 and over.

MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australasia).

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Special Thanks to Matt's Music for the generous instrumental loan for our production!

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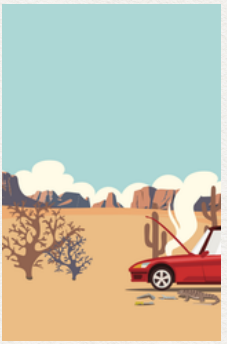
Production

Producing Artistic Director	**Steve Braddock**
Technical Director	**Jackie Renaud**
Assistant Technical Director	**Ella Hartzell**
Costume Design Advisor	**Maureen Stevens**
Head of Costume Production	**Jenna Damberger**
Costume Shop Supervisor	**Yamilex Holguín Pérez**
Draping Advisor	**Marilyn Deighton**
Draper	**Jessica Spengler**
Scene Shop Supervisor	**Jackie Renaud**
Lead Electrician	**Mae MacNeil**
Props Acquisition	**Paige Tomlinson**
Wardrobe Supervisor	**Penny Lane**
Dressers	**Rowan Desautels, Sakura Ryder, McKenna Everson**
Hair and Make-up Supervisor	**Emma Correnti**
Light Board Operator	**Kennedy Bush**
Follow Spot Operator	**Aurora Ullmeyer**
Follow Spot Operator	**Wyatt Thomas**
Sound Engineer A1	**Alex Sylvester**
Sound Board Operator	**Alejandro Perez**
Deck Sound A2	**Christina Asmelash**
Apprentice Charge Artist	**Nadine Ray**
Deck Crew	**Jada Stewart**
Swing Technician	**Warren Adams**
Box Office Supervisor	**Emily Weber**
Box Office Manager	**Marilyn Deighton**
Box Office Personnel	**Emily Conti, Ella Franke, Millie Glamatovic-Mckinstry, Kaelyn Nardi**
Front of House	**Finn Fleury, Landon Bova**
Head Usher	**Chloe Claycomb**
Costume Construction Crew	**Hannah LaRuez, Ray McCarty, Kaelyn Nardi, Nico Scirri**
Costume Shop Assistants	**A'maya Hemphill, Quiana Keno, Leigh Hayden, Jessica Spengler**
Light Crew	**Christina Asmelash, Jacob Beaudoin, Kennedy Bush**
Set Construction Crew	**Nathan Penque**
Work Study Carpenters	**Sara Conrad, Reagan Cutler, Ella Hartzell, Aidan Strack, Wyatt Thomas, Addison Wilson**
Social Media	**Emily Weber**
Graphic Design	**Suzanne Karaszewski**
Production & Headshot Photographer	**Mark Duggan**

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

The Niagara University Players is a student organization that has been in exsistence for over sixty years and organizes social activities (Thanksgiving Dinner, Chirstmas Party, Kris Kringle Gift Exchange, Annual Players Banquest, and more!), fundraisers and community service activities. The NU Players also present an all student-run production once a year. This year's production is:

CANDY & SHELLEY
GO TO THE DESERT
April 2nd - 4th 2027



Any NU student is eligible for membership
contact: nuplayers1964@gmail.com

NU PLAYERS 2026-27 BOARD OF OFFICERS

Senior Co-President	**Briege Lennon**
Junior Co-President	**Grace Gordon**
Vice President	**Jada Stewart**
Senior Treasurer	**Paige Tomlinson**
Co-Treasurers	**Alex Ackroyd & Isabella Hoertz**
Secretary	**Ryan Needham**
Publicity	**Emma Correnti**
Co-Head Events	**Mae MacNeil & Penny Lane**
Co-Apparel	**Hannah LaRuez & Jacob Beaudoin**
Banquet/Soiree	**Emma Lessord**

PLAYERS PRESENTS

Artistic Director	**Max Brandi**
Asst. Artistic Director	**Koral Davis**
Technical Director	**Jacob Beaudoin**

Peer-Elected Student Advocate	**Paige Tomlinson**

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Niagara University acknowledges that we are privileged to gather on the lands of the Seneca and Tuscarora nations and other Indigenous communities who have stewarded this land throughout generations. We honor their sovereignty, demonstrate respect and correct the stories and practices that have erased Indigenous peoples' history and culture by inviting and honoring truth.

As a university striving for Vincentian excellence, we believe that truth and recognition are critical components to building connections across all barriers of heritage and differences. We offer land acknowledgment as part of the conscious effort to affirm our commitment to be better stewards of the land on which we stand and to pledge to work in partnership with a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration. Niagara University appreciates and regards the traditions of our community's diverse cultures.

Department of Theatre & Fine Arts
Academic Year 2026-2027

Theatre

Chris Ballard
(Sound)
Sound Coordinator

Amanda Benzin
(Dance)

Amanda Borowski
Administrative Assistant

Steven Braddock
(Acting)
Artistic Director of NU Theatre

Jayson Clark
(Lighting)
SPF Production Manager

Jenna Damberger
(Costume)

Matthew DiCamillo
(Voice)

Marilyn Deighton
(Costume)

Elizabeth Englert
(Effective Speech)

Yamilex Holguín Pérez
(Costume Shop Supervisor)

Joe Isgar
(Voice)

Darin Keesing
(Scenic/Lighting Design)
Production Manager

Dr. Robyn Lee
(Acting/Directing)

Kate LoConti Alcocer
(Effective Speech)

Kathryn Marzec
(Effective Speech)

Dr. Bridget Moriarty
(Voice)
Music Director

Mara Neimanis
(Physical Theatre)

Dr. Dave Peterson
(Theatre History)

Jackie Renaud
Technical Director

Dr. Kahlil Sarikey
(Music Theory/Guitar)

Maureen Stevens
(Design/Production)
Costume Designer

Amy Teal
(Voice)

Paul Todaro
(Acting/Speech)

Steven Vaughan
(Acting/Stage Combat)

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

Leanne Vida
(Voice)

Phil Wackerfuss
(Dance)

Emily Weber
Administrative Assistant
Box Office Supervisor

Fine Arts

Randy Andropolis
(Music History)

Sophie Barner
(Museum Studies)

Dr. Amelia Gallagher
(Museum Studies)

Cynthia Sanchez
(Drawing)

Amy Baer
(Art History)

Jessica DiPalma
(Art History)

Nancy Knecktel
(Art History)

John Sauter
(Urban Sketching)

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

The Class of 2027

BFA SHOWCASE

Directed by Robyn Lee
Musical Direction by Bridget Moriarty



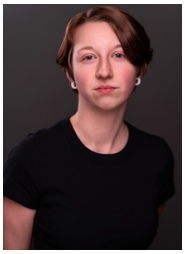
Our Class of 2026 BFA Showcase was a success!

The BFA Performance class of 2027 will again be heading to NYC for an industry showcase with casting directors, agents, and industry professionals. While the BFA Design and Production students will be attending USITT in Baltimore, MD, a conference uniting the people designing, building, and working in live entertainment. These opportunities allow our students to share their talents and secure them post graduate networking opportunities and future employment.

But we can't do it without your help! Your donation helps cover the cost of student travel, housing, and performance venue fees.

https://theatre.niagara.edu/shows/showcase/

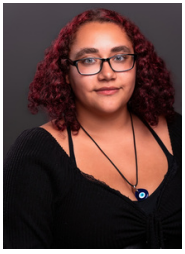
Biographies of Theatre Students, Faculty, Staff & Guest Artists 2026-2027



ALEX ACKROYD, a freshman from Lewiston, NY is pursuing a Theatre Design/Production and English double major. As a previous Tech intern for the Historic Palace Theatre, some recent credits include: The Little Mermaid Jr. (Sound Op), The Prom (Spotlight Op), West Side Story (AMS, Rigging), 1776: In Concert (Lightboard Op), Shrek: The Musical (ASM). They have also worked with Teals Niagara Theatre on Heathers: the Musical (Stage Manager) and Bellissima Productions on Between the Lines (Spotlight Op).



WARREN ADAMS ll, a sophomore from Buffalo NY theatre and fine arts major,. Hometown Buffalo, New York.
Credits. Cinderella (ensemble), Mamma Mia (Sam Carmichael), the Outsiders (Darry), Your A Good Man Charlie Brown (Schroder), Richard lll (Richard) and voice acted in season 3 of sister justine's saints tales



GIAVONNA ADINOLFI, a freshman from Niagara, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major. No NU credits at the moment. Offstage credits: Godspell (Supporting singer), Bone Chiller (Zita Van Zok), You're A Good Man Charlie Brown (Ensemble), Barbecuing Hamlet (Theadora Van Horne), Murder Runs In The Family (Maxine Pallfeather). All done at Cardinal O'Hara Highschool.

CHRISTINA ASMELASH, a freshman from Rochester, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Design and Production major. NU credits: A Year with Frog and Toad (deck sound/A2).

JEREMY BAKER, a freshman from Middletown, NY is pursuing a Theatre Studies major.

CHRIS BALLARD (Adjunct Lecturer, Sound, 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 seasons. 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



SOPHIA BAYRON, a freshman from Tonawanda, NY is pursuing a Theatre Performance major.



JACOB BEAUDOIN, a senior from Canandiauga, NY, is a Theatre Performance Major at Niagara University. NU credits A Dolls House (Torvald), The Loveliest Afternoon (Man), Company (Peter), Witch (Sir Arthur). Other 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).

TALYA BECKER, a freshman from Tonawanda, NY. Is pursuing a Psychology major with a minor in Dance. Outside credits: At Tonawanda High School Mean Girls (Gretchen Wieners), Aladdin Jr. (Begger #3) . Offstage credits: I've danced for 13 years at Tonawanda Dance Arts.



MAX BENZ, a freshman from Amherst, NY, is pursuing a Theater Performance major at Niagara University. Outside Credits: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Naphtali), A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Protean), She Loves Me (Arpad Lazslo), West Side Story (Snowboy), The Prom (Ensemble), Guys & Dolls (Society Max)

AMANDA BENZIN (Adjunct Lecturer, Dance) 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 NU and UB.



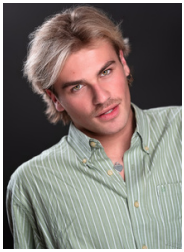
LANDON BOVA, a sophomore from Tonawanda NY , is pursuing a Major in Theatre Performance and minoring in Digital Media Production. Outside NU, his credits on stage include: The Mousetrap (Sgt. Trotter), Noises Off (Garry), Guys and Dolls (Big Jule), Jesus Christ Superstar (Pilate), Hansel and Gretel (Witch), Bless You! (Ross), and various voiceover works. Offstage credits include: Chicago, Sunset Blvd, and La Cage Aux Folles (Spotlight Operator).



AMANDA BOROWSKI, (Administrative Assistant - Academics, Stage Manager) has stage managed Godspell and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare for NU Theatre. Amanda has stage managed for various theaters around Buffalo, NY including; The Kavinoky Theatre, Irish Classical Theatre, Second Generation Theatre, MuscialFare, and for the University at Buffalo . In addition to stage managing, she was also the Production Manager, Technical Director, and Facilities Manager for The Irish Classical Theatre. You can find her currently working as one of the Production Managers for Shea's Performing Arts Center.



STEVEN BRADDOCK (Artistic Director, Acting) has directed over 30 productions for NU Theatre, including Hurricane Diane, Witch, Company, A Doll's House, Rent, Much Ado About Nothing, A Sondheim Tribute, Measure for Measure, Peter & The Starcatcher, Cabaret, An Ideal Husband, Little Shop of Horrors, Chicago, Julius Caesar, Sweeney Todd and Damn Yankees. Prior to coming to NU, 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 Actor's Equity, 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.



MAX BRANDI, a is a junior from Buffalo, NY, and is pursuing their BFA in Theatre Performance with a minor in Dance. NU Credits: Return to the Forbidden Planet (Crewmate), Mothers and Sons (Cal), Re-Invisioning Joan (Various) and Godspell (Herself). Favorite outside credits include Pippin (Player), Kinky Boots (Angel), Young Frankenstein (Ensemble), The Prom (Dance Ensemble) and many more at the Historic Palace Theatre in Lockport, as well as Kinky Boots (Angel) at OFC Creations theatre in Rochester. At The Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, Max's favorite roles include Mean Girls (Aaron Samuels), She Kills Monsters (Kaliope) and Clue (Miss Scarlet). Max is also a model with MMG Models in NYC and Presence Model and Talent in ATL. Max is also a seasoned drag queen performing under the name Britney Blackout. You can follow them both on instagram @max_brandi726 & @msbrinteyblackout



KENNEDY BUSH, a freshman from Lockport, NY pursuing their BFA in Theatre Design/Production with a double majoe in Chemistry.



MATTHEW CASTANON, a freshman from Middleport, NY pursuing a BA in Theatre Studies.



MADELINE CECERE, a freshman from Aurora, OH, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a 4+1 in Theatre Education. Stage Credits: Mean Girls (Cady Heron), Mac:Beth adaptation by Erica Schmidt (Macbeth), Almost Maine (Glory), Hairspray (Ensemble), The Addams Family (Alice), Twelfth Night (Viola), The Odd Couple Female Edition (Florence Unger). Offstage Credits: Matilda Jr. (Choreographer), Alice in Wonderland Jr. (Choreographer), Little Women (Sound Assistant). Madeline also works at the Aurora Community Theater's Children's Summer Workshop.

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.

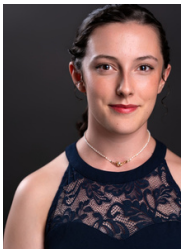


CHLOE CLAYCOMB, a freshman from Magnolia, DE, is pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance. Outside credits: DO OVERS (Joyce), The Play That Goes Wrong (Mary Colleymoore), Fiddler on the Roof (Ensemble), Miracle on 34th street (Shellhammer), Wizard of Oz (Ensemble), Arsenic and Old Lace (Abby Brewster), Man of La Mancha (Maria). She was nominated for the Governers Choice Awards, and was awarded Actor of the year through all her four years of high school.



EMMA CORRENTI a junior from North Tonawanda, NY, is pursuing a Theater Performance major at NU. NU Credits: Hurricane Diane (Beth), The Seagull (Peter Sorin), N.U.R.T 2025 (Ensemble/Purple), N.U.R.T 2026 (Ensemble/Blue), Return to the Forbidden Planet (Assistant Stage Manager), Witch (assistant stage Manager) Company (swing tech). Outside Credits: Mama Mia (Ensemble), Legally Blonde (Aaron Schultz), Almost Maine (Sandrine), Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (Muriel Eubanks), Ranked (Sarah).

JENNA DAMBERGER (Adjunct Lecturer, Costume) is a the Head of Costume Production at Niagara University.



KORAL DAVIS, a Junior from Wareham, Massachusetts, is pursuing a Theater Performance Major, with minors in Dance and Writing Studies. NU Credits: 2025 Short Play Festival's Smile (Woman and A Bottle of Vodka (Judy), Company (April), Witch (Elizabeth Sawyer), 2026 Short Play Festival's Backyard Stonehenge (Kendra), and Godspell ("By My Side") Outside Credits: With Wareham High School, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (Johanna), and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Lucy Van Pelt).



ROWAN DESAUTELS, a freshman from New Bedford, MA, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Dance. Rowan is excited to kickstart her career at the collegiate level. Favorite credits include Hadestown (Persephone), Les Misérables (Fantine), Grease (Sandy), and Mamma Mia! (Sophie), along with seasonal work at King Richard's Faire. She offers heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported her journey so far.

MATTHEW DICAMILLO (Adjunct Lecturer, Voice) is an adjunct private voice lesson instructor at NU.



JAIRUS DRAYTON, is a theatre performance major at NU. He is from Williamsville, NY, and is excited to be performing in his third production at Niagara University. He is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful show and looks forward to sharing it with the audience! NU credits include: Godspell (Light of the World Soloist), Return to the Forbidden Planet (ensemble) Outside credits include: West side story at Historic palace theatre (ensemble). Dreamgirls at Sheas 710 (ensemble), Joshua's Boots at Buffalo Opera House (ensemble).



MCKENNA EVERSON, a freshman from Belmont, OH, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major. Outside Credits: Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey), High School Musical (Sharpay), Bye Bye Birdie (Kim MacAfee), Mary Poppins (Mrs. Banks), Once Upon a Mattress (Lady Larken), Fiddler on the Roof (Golde), and Guys and Dolls (Sarah Brown). McKenna is very excited to be a part of the NU Theatre Program and thanks God and her family for always being a source of strength in this journey.



FINNLEY FLEURY is a junior from Novato, CA, pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Women's Studies. NU Credits: Witch (Cuddy), 2025 Short play Festival's Kill Me, Please! (Stan), Mothers and Sons (Will Ogden), and Company (Spot Op). Outside credits: Young Frankenstein (Bob), Into the Woods (Ensemble), Romeo & Juliet (Nurse/ Romeo Understudy), Cabaret (Victor), Follies (Featured Dancer/ Young Buddy Understudy), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Puck), Seminar (Douglas), Once Upon A Mattress (Ensemble/ Dauntless Understudy), and White Christmas (Ensemble). Offstage credits: Rent (Props Manager), Stupid Fucking Bird (Props Assistant),and God of Carnage (Stage Combat Choreographer).



WYATT FLEURY, a junior from Novato, CA, is pursuing a Theatre Performance and Psychology Major. NU Onstage Credits: 2025 Short Play Festival Foul Territory (Owen), 2026 Short Play Festival A Tall Order (He), 2026 Short Play Festival Palaces (Olga), Ride The Cyclone (Ricky Potts), Godspell (All Good Gifts/Wyatt), A Midsummer Night's Dream London Study Abroad (Demetrius) NU Offstage Credits: Burst (Prop Acquisition), Forbidden Planet (Prop Acquisition), Company (ASM/Waiter), Mothers and Sons (Props Acquisition), Revisioning Joan (Prop Acquisition)



ELIZABETH FLICKINGER, a senior from Northville, NY, is pursuing a Theater Design and Production major as well as a Communications 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), A Doll's House (Props Acquisition), Eight Women and a Murder (Stage Manager), Seagull (Stage Manager), Company (Light Board Operator), Ride the Cyclone (Stage Manager) Godspell (Sound) Outside Credits: At Northville Central School, 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).



ASHLEY GEIB, a freshman from St. Clair Shores, MI is pursuing a Theater Performance major. Her credits include: Head over Heels (Pamela), Frozen (Elsa), Rock of Ages (Lonny), The Little Mermaid (Ursula), Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey 2), and Grease (Frenchy) Offstage Credits: Junglebook Jr (Sound board operator, Assistant Stage manager), Lion King Jr (Stage manager), Annie Jr (Lighting design, Light board operator). She was also a 2026 Sutton Foster Award nominee.



LENA SOPHIA GOETHE, a freshman from Royal Oak, MI and Cologne, Germany, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Psychology through the NU Honors Program. Her Buffalo Seminary credits include the North American premiere of The Physics for Poets Club (Iris), Shakespeare's Henry V (Henry V), and Aristophanes' The Birds (Chorus Leader). Other credits include Almost, Maine (Marvalyn/Gale/Hope) with Canisius High School and The Addams Family (Morticia Addams) with Stagecoach Köln-West, where she was named Student of the Year and participated in showcases throughout Germany. She is thrilled to continue growing as a performer at Niagara University!



GRACE GORDON, a junior from Blasdell, NY, is majoring in Theatre Performance. NU credits: The Seagull (Masha), Company (Props Acquisition) Witch (Swing Technician), Re-Envisioning Joan (Joan/Ensemble), Hurricane Diane (Props Acquisition), Burst (Jennifer Weaver and Props Acquisition), and during the 2026 study abroad in London, A Midsummer Night's Dream (Helena, Peter Quince, Cobweb). Outside credits: Irish Classical Theatre Company's Crocodile Fever (Props Apprentice), and at Springville Center for the Arts, Hadestown (Fate) and Alice by Heart (Alice).



JADEN HANNIFORD, a sophomore from Syracuse, NY, is a Theatre Performance major. NU credits: 2026 Short Play Festival Research Subjects or That Creepy Guy Taping Me in My Sleep (Adina). PSLA @ Fowler Preforming Arts Credits: Cinderella: Enchanted Version (Fairy Godmother), SIX: Teen Edition (Anne Boleyn), The Little Mermaid (Flounder & Chef Louis), Disenchanted the Musical (Cinderella), SpongeBob the Musical (Mr. Krabs), Ranked, A Musical (Jacquie) Moana Jr. (Chief Ancestor #3 & Tamatoa) Offstage credits: The Little Mermaid (Jr. Dance Captain) She is the winner of the Syracuse Youth Advisory Council's Civic Service Project. Jaden has also been recognized by The United States District Courthouse for singing during Naturalization Ceremonies.



ELLA HARTZELL, a junior from Tonawanda, NY, is pursuing a major in Theatre Design/Production with a second major in Communications & Media Studies. NU credits: A Doll's House Part 2 (Assistant Scenic Charge), Seagull (Assistant Scenic Charge). Outside credits: High School Musical (Sound Tech), Leader of the Pack (Sound Tech), Mamma Mia (Stage Manager), Grease (Stage Manager), Crocodile Fever (Carpenter).



LEIGH HAYDEN, a Freshman from Syracuse, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Psychology. Outside Credits: The Curious Savage (Fairy May), Seussical (Jojo), Cinderella's Glass Slipper (Prince), She Kills Monsters (Agnes), Anastasia (Dowager Empress/Student Director), Noises Off (Lloyd/Student Director), Urinetown (Little Sally/Student Director), and Buy One Get Death Free (Auntie Annette/Student Director).



ISABELLA HOERTZ, a freshman from Buffalo, NY, is pursuing a double major in Theatre Performance and Social Work through the NU Honors Program. Credits: Frozen (Ensemble/Choreographer), Chicago (Mary Sunshine/Dance Captain), Hadestown (Persephone/Assistant Choreographer), Les Misérables (Featured Ensemble), Mamma Mia (Specialty Dancer), 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Landscape Coneybear), Anastasia (Specialty Dancer), Beauty and the Beast (Ensemble). Offstage Credits: The Little Mermaid Jr (Choreographer). She has been a dancer for 15 years, 8 of those years spent at Spezio's Dance Dynamics



YAMILEX HOLGUÍN PÉREZ (Costume Shop Supervisor) is a theatre artist from Northern México with an undergraduate degree in Theatre Arts from New Mexico State University. They designed the costumes for NU's The Taming and have performed for various companies in the Buffalo area including a bilingual tour with Shakespeare in Delaware Park and a play with Alleyway Theatre. They were a stitching/wardrobe apprentice for The Santa Fe Opera for two years and became part of the wardrobe staff on her third summer there.

JOSEPH ISGAR (Adjunct Lecturer, Voice) is a Buffalo-based music director, voice coach, and accompanist. Recent credits include Legally Blonde (Musicalfare), Tick, Tick,...Boom! (SGT), Gutenburg! 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.

DARIN KEESING (Assistant Professor of Design) designed scenery for NU's productions of Hurricane Diane and Godspell, and lighting for Re-envisioning Joan and Witch. Upcoming professional productions include The Last Yiddish Speaker and The Soap Myth (Jewish Repertory Theatre) and The Last Wife (Kavinoky). Previous credits include scenery and/or lighting designs for How I Learned to Drive, Angels in America, Part One, Romeo & Juliet, Spring Awakening, Chicago, The Tempest, and Eurydice (Wittenberg University), What the Constitution Means to Me, Falsettos, and Merrily We Roll Along (Available Light Theatre), School Girls; or, the African Mean Girls Play, Mothers and Sons and Master Class (Contemporary Theatre of Ohio), and Little Shop of Horrors (Short North Stage). Darin received an MFA in Stage Design from Northwestern University and a BFA in Lighting Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University.



BRITTANY KONRUFF, is a senior at Niagara University pursuing a BFA in Design/Production with a concentration in Light Design. Most recently, she was an Assistant Stage Manager for Shakespeare in Delaware Park's Pericles. NU credits: Light Designer (Hurricane Diane, Mothers and Sons, Engagements), Assistant Light Designer (Witch, Company), Lead Electrician (Godspell, Re-envisioning Joan, The Seagull, A Doll's House Pt2, Eight Women & a Murder, Return to the Forbidden Planet, A Doll's House), Assistant Lead Electrician (Rent), Light Board Op (Anne Frank, Much Ado About Nothing). Professional credits: Chautauqua Theatre Company – Light Tech/Programmer (The Witnesses, Execution of Justice, The Light and The Dark, Fabulations, Birthday Candles), Irish Classical Theatre Company – Rigger/Programmer (Dracula, Private Lives, The Price).



PENNY LANE, a sophomore from Niagara Falls, NY, is pursuing Theatre Performance major through Niagara University. Outside credits: Frozen jr.(ensemble), Freaky Friday one act edition (ensemble), Back Cover (Madison then), Ranked (Maya), a Charlie Brown Christmas (Sally), 1984 (Julia), Freaky Friday (Ellie), and The Anxiety Project (ensemble). Offstage credits Willy Wonka jr. (stage manager), and Jesus Christ Superstar (stage crew).



ELLIOTT LARSEN, a freshman from Eden, NY pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance. Credits: Hoodie (Jonas, Boy), James and the Giant Peach (worm), Aliens Vs. Cheerleaders (bully one), Curtains (stage crew), Footloose (coach Dunbar), Freaky Friday (Senor O'Brien, officer Kowalski), Grease (Roger)



HANNAH LARUEZ, a senior at Niagara University from Rochester, N.Y. She's pursuing a theatre design/production major, in costume design, and dance minor. NU Credits: Discovering Me, Embracing We (Ensemble Dancer), Engagements (Costume Designer), A Doll' s House (Wardrobe Head), Mothers and Sons (Costume Designer), Hurricane Diane (Costume Designer) and more! Outside School Credits: Crocodile Fever (Wardrobe Supervisor/ASM), Billy Elliot (Dance Captain/Ensemble), Bodyguard The Musical (Costume Designer), Lion King Jr (Build Lead/Costume Design), Golden Girls:Parody Musical (Wardrobe Head), and more! Hannah also works at OFC Creations Theater Center as a Wardrobe Head/Costume Designer.



ROBYN LEE, Ph,D. (Assistant Professor, Acting) 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.



BRIEGE LENNON, a senior 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), Eight Women and a Murder (Augustine), A Doll's House Part 2 (Anne Marie), Company (Props Acquisition), NURT (Pink, Maroon), Re-Envisioning Joan (Stage Manager), Hurricane Diane (Pam) . 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 her final year at Niagara!



KATE LOCONTI-ALCOCER (Faculty Fellow, 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.



EMMA LESSORD is a sophomre from Rochester, NY. pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance. Outside credits: The Addams Family (Wednesday Addams), Mean Girls High School Edition (Janis Sarkisian), Mary Poppins (Ensemble), The SpongeBob Musical (Ensemble/Swing). She has previously attended Geva Summer Academy in Rochester, and has also competed in the NYC Bound competition through Stars of Tomorrow.



EMMA LYNCH a freashmen from Fairport NY, is pursuing a double major in Theatre Performance, and Early Childhood Education. Finding Nemo Junior (Gurgle), Matilda (Tommy, and Mrs. Phelps), You're A Good Man Charlie Brown (Sally), Beetlejuice (Barabra), Legally Blonde (Kate). Offstage Credits: Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast, Moana, Wicked, and Smurfs, Suessical (Backstage help)



MAE MACNEIL, a senior from Niagara Falls, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Design and Production major. NU credits include Lighting Design for Dancing in the Light, Ensemble for Godspell, Props Acquisition for Hurricane Diane, a Director in the 2026 Short Play Festival, ASM for Company, 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), Outside of NU Mae works part time as a cashier for Arby's.



JAMES DAVID MAXIM, a senior from Corning, NY, is happy to be back at NU pursuing his BFA in Theatre Performance with a minor in Theatre Design/Production. At Niagara University Theatre he has performed in Company (Larry), Much Ado About Nothing (Don John), Peter and the Starcatcher (Black Stache), and The Thanksgiving Play (Jaxton). Last summer, James David had the pleasure of working as a Show Operations Intern at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA. In the summers of 2023 and 2024 he worked as a Stage Operations Apprentice at the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY. IG: @j.david_maxim

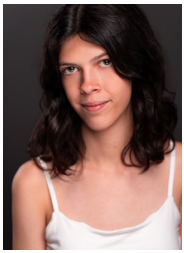
RAY MCCARTY a freshman from Niagara Falls NY, is pursuing their theater design and production degree at Niagara University. No prior record of working on productions as cast or crew.



ZEKIRAH MCDONALD a freshman from Buffalo, NY is pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance.



BRIDGET MORIARTY (Associate Professor, Voice, Music Director), the Sharon Onevelo Watkinson Endowed Professor of Theatre & Vocal Performance, is the full-time music director at Niagara University and coordinator of the vocal curriculum. Recent NU credits include Company, Rent, Fun Home, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, Peter & the Starcatcher, and Cabaret. Other credits include The Fitzgerald's of St. Paul at Irish Classical Theatre Company (Artie Award), Spring Awakening (Syracuse Area Live Theatre Award) and Cabaret with Syracuse Summer Theatre at The Oncenter, La Cage aux Folles (SALT Award), and The Little Mermaid, with Redhouse Arts Center, Hair and Avenue Q (SALT Award) with Covey Theatre Co., and Les Misérables with the Wit's End Players. Bridget also received 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 Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, a Master of Music from Syracuse University, and a Bachelor of Music in music education from The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.



KAELYN NARDI a freshman from Rochester Hills, MI, is pursuing a BFA Performance Major at Niagara University. Avondale High School credits: The Hobbit (Bilbo Baggins), The Little Mermaid (Scuttle), Legally Blonde (Judge/ensemble), Puffs (Ensemble), Little Shop of Horrors (Mrs. Luce), Wyrd Sisters (Death/ensemble/human set), Nevermore (Hannah/Ensemble), AP Theater (Greek Chorus), Beauty and The Beast (Ensemble), Bocon! (Ensemble). Offstage credits: These Shining Lives (Lighting Crew). She was awarded The Kree Award in the Avondale Theatre Company, awarded to two students who represent the spirit of theater.



RYAN NEEDHAM, a junior from Hammond, IN, is pursuing a Dramaturgy major with minors in Design & Production and History. NU credits: Godspell (Ensemble), Burst (Assistant Stage Manager), Witch (Props Curation), Mothers and Sons (Bud), and 8 Women and a Murder (Assistant Stage Manager).



MARA NEIMANIS (Adjunct Lecturer, Physical Theatre) 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.



NATHAN PENQUE a freshman from Niagara Falls, NY is pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance.



DAVE PETERSON, **PhD (**Associate Professor, Theatre History) is an associate 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.



ALEJANDRO PEREZ, a sophomore from Grand Island, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major. NU credits: Godspell (Jesus), Witch (Frank Thorney). Outside credits: West Side Story (Bernardo), Miracle on South Division Street (Stage Manager), Spongebob Squarepants (Patrick Star), and, at Grand Island, Something Rotten (Shakespeare), Cinderella (Jean Michel), High School Musical On Stage! (Troy Bolton), The Wizard of Oz (The Cowardly Lion).



NADINE RAY, a freshman from Oneida, NY, is a Theatre Performance major. Credits: Into The Woods (Milky-White), Merrily We Roll Along (Gussie Carnegie), Murders In The Heir (Mrs. Trent), Chicago (Velma Kelly).



JACKIE RENAUD (Technical Director) graduated from Niagara University with a B.F.A. in Design and Production with a concentration in Technical Direction. Her most recent credits are: Assist. Lighting Supervisor for Chautauqua Theatre Company, Assist. Lighting Designer for Or, (Irish Classical), Assist. Lighting Designer for Crocodile Fever (Irish Classical), Assist. Stage Manager for The Hatmakers' Wife, The Wanderers, Kindertransport, and Tuesdays with Morrie (Jewish Repertory Theatre), Live Audio Mixer and Assist. Lead Electrician for The Fitzgeralds of St. Paul (Irish Classical), Sound Engineer for Dracula: A Comedy of Terror (Irish Classical), Stage Operations Staff for 2024 Season (Glimmerglass Festival).



SAGE RIDGEWAY-JONES a freshman from Buffalo, NY , is pursuing a double-major degree in both Theatre Performance and Communications & Media Studies. Outside credits: The Little Mermaid. Outside credits: at Ujima Company, Characters Behaving Badly (Koi), Love: Who, What, When, (Lilo), at Canisius High School, The Drowsy Chaperone, (Ensemble), The Addams Family, (Victorian Count), at Nardin Academy, Legally Blonde, (Ensemble), at Christian Central Academy, Pilgrim, (Demons), Harvey (Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet), and with Spotlight Performing Artists, Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (Silena Beauregard). Offstage credits: Nardin Academy's The Little Mermaid (Stage crew).



NOVA RUSSELL a freshman from Buffalo, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance and English major through the NU Honors Program. Outside credits: Ujima's Straight White Men (Person In Charge 1), Ujima's And Bid Him Sing and, at Park School Of Buffalo Anastasia (Dimitry), Matilda (Trunchbull), Midsummer Night's Dream (Oberon), Wizard of Oz (Lion), Clue (Colonel Mustard), and Mary Poppins (Bert). Offstage credits: Ujima's Godspell (Deck Crew), and Ujima's An African Company presents Richard III (Assistant Director).



SAKURA RYDER a freshman from Pulaski, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance Major while also dual majoring in Art History and Museum Studies. Outside credits: HADESTOWN (Eurydice), Just Another High School Play (Actor), Beauty and the Beast (La fille de la ville/Silly Girl), Fiddler on The Roof (Shprintze), Murder on the 518 (Ticket Seller), The Princess King (Mother and Director), A Christmas Carol (Scrooge), Wizard of Oz (Mayor of Munchkinland).

KAHLIL SARIKEY (Adjunct Professor, Music Theory/Guitar) 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.



NICO SCIRRI is a senior, double majoring in Theatre Specialization and Communications/Media Studies with a minor in Film Studies. He is originally from Gasport, NY. 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 senior from West Seneca, NY., is pursuing a Theater Design and Production major at Niagara University. NU credits: The Seagull 2025 (Wardrobe head), A Doll’s House Pt.2 2025 (Stitcher), Mothers and Sons 2025 (Wardrobe head), 8 Women and a Murder (Wardrobe crew/Stitcher), Return to the Forbidden Planet (Hair and Makeup Head) 2024, Rent 2024 (Stitcher). Outside credits: College Light Opera Company (CLOC) Summer season 2025 (Costume technician, Wardrobe crew) and MusicalFare Theaters Waitress (Wardrobe head).



JADA STEWART, a junior from Traverse City, MI, is a Theatre Performance Major, as well as an Education major through the University's 4+1 program. NU Credits include: Godspell (Herself), Seagull (Ilya Shamrayev), NU's Short Play Festival 2025/2026, as well as A Doll's House (Assistant Stage Manager). Outside and Offstage Credits include Twelfth Night (Maria), Kiss me, Kate! (Man 2), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Peter Quince), Radium Girls (Kathryn Schaub), and Ark5 (Stage Manager).



MAUREEN T. STEVENS (Associate Professor, 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.



MITCHELL STUTZ, is a Theater Performance and English Education major, Sophomore from Lockport, New York his NU credits consist of Ride the Cyclone (Mischa Bachinski) and Godspell (Assistant Stage Manager) and his outside credits are solely West Side Story (Chino) with hopefully more to come.



ALEX SYLVESTER is an actor and musician from Lancaster, NY and a senior theatre performance major. His favorite credits include Jersey Boys (Joe Pesci/Ens), Tarzan (Terk), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Oberon), Godspell (We Beseech Thee), Heathers (Ram Sweeney), 9 to 5 (Dwayne/Ens), Return To The Forbidden Planet (Captain Tempest), Engagements (Ryan, Asst. Tech Director), Anastasia (Tsar/Male Swing), and Mean Girls (Aaron Samuels). He served as the Production Assistant Intern in the summers of 2025 and 2026 at the Historic Palace Theatre in Lockport, NY. Alex would like to thank Ainsleigh. @talex_syl



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 Tanys 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".



KARVER THOMAS a freshman from Wilson, NY, is pursing a Theatre Performance major with a minor in Film Studies. Outside Credits: 1776 (James Wilson/Rodger Sherman) at Fort Niagara Post Theatre, at Wilson High School, The Little Mermaid(Chef Louise), A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder(Henry D'Ysquith/ Lady Salome),Seussical The Musical(The Cat In The Hat), The Wizard of Oz(Hunk/Scarecrow). Wyatt has performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and is a member of the Starring Buffalo Community Choir.



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 senior from Hamburg, N.Y., is pursuing a Theatre Performance and English double major. NU credits: 2024 Short Play Festival, Rent (Ensemble), Return of the Forbidden Planet (Miranda), Company (Kathy), Witch (Winnifred), Godspell (Day by Day), A Year with Frog and Toad (Mouse/Ensemble), Incident on the Golden Gate Bridge (Director). Outside credits: Alice in Wonderland (Tall Alice) at Mel's School of Music and Theater and A Midsummer Night's Dream Abridged (Hermia) at the Live Literature Company in London. She is excited for her final year at NU!



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 staring 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.



AURORA ULLMEYER, a freshman from Walden, NY, is enrolled in Niagara University under a Theatre Performance major. Outside Credits: At Valley Central High School, Curtains (Ensemble), Grease (Radio Voice), Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella (Marie), Romeo & Juliet (Rosaline & Friar John), The Tempest (Prospero), and Newsies (Kathrine). Offstage credits: Cornerstone Theatre Arts' The Merry Wives of Windsor (Assistant Director) and Valley Central High School's 10 Ways to Survive the End of the World (Light Board Operator).

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.



TANNER WATKEYS, a sophomore from Traverse City, Michigan with a major in Theater Design and Production and no current minor. NU credits: Godspell (light board operator). Outside credits: all at West Senior High: Murder in the House of Horrors (Dan), Wind in the Willows (Don), Lego Batman Keychain (Mikale), Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Willy Wonka), The Curious Savage (Titus), 26 Pebbles (Michael), The Wizard of Oz (Tin Man). Backstage credits: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (lights)

PHIL WACKERFUSS (Adjunct Lecturer, Dance) is an actor, choreographer, teacher, and bodyworker from Chicago, IL. He received his BA in Theatre Arts from Illinois Wesleyan University, graduated from the Chicago School of Massage Therapy, and earned his Masters of Fine Arts in Dance at The University at Buffalo, which focused on research of psychological flow states, ritual dance, and electronic dance art. Phil has performed with various theater and dance companies across the country including First Folio Shakespeare Festival in Chicago, VADCO Modern Dance, INASIDE Chicago Jazz Dance, and LehrerDance. He has been a guest artist in The Nutcracker for the American Academy of Ballet, Neglia Ballet, Configuration Ballet, and Niagara Ballet. Shakespeare in Delaware Park is a favorite performing opportunity where he played Puck in “Midsummer Night’s Dream” and Caliban in “The Tempest”, and Clown in “Winter’s Tale”. You can also see him fire dancing with Pyromancy circus troupe, organizing dance jams with Buffalo Contact Improv, and many creative projects at ArtPark.



EMILY WEBER (Administrative Assistant-Production) is here for her first season with the Niagara University Theatre and Department of Theatre and Fine Arts. She is so excited to be here and share her passion for education in the arts. She received a B.A. in Theatre/Journalism from St. Bonaventure University. Originally from Buffalo, Emily spent the last three years working as a box office representative for Shea's Performing Arts Center. She has also worked with several of the regional theatre companies both as a performer and a teaching artist, including The Lancaster Opera House, Second Generation Theatre, and O'Connell and Company. Additionally, she has been a teacher at Lancaster Dance Center for the past four years teaching varying styles including tap, jazz, modern, hip hop and musical theater. Emily will begin work in the ensemble of White Christmas with MusicalFare this fall. She will also be in O'Connell and Company's production of Curtains this spring.



JOSEPH WENZEL, a freshman from Kenmore, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Performance major, Kenmore West Credits, Though The Looking Glass And What Alice Found There (Crew/Props Table), I Never Saw Another Butterfly (Ensemble), Hadestown (Cree/Fly System), Clue (Ensemble)



HAILEY WESTENDARP, a sophomore from Buffalo, NY, is pursuing a Theatre Design/Technology major at Niagara University. Credits: at Amherst Central Highschool, Like Gravy, the Plot Thickens (Run Crew), Seussical (Run Crew), Les Miserables (Run Crew and Fly Tech), The Play That Goes Wrong (Run Crew). At Niagara University, Re-Envisioning Joan (Sound Board Op.), Ride the Cyclone (Assistant Stage Manager), Burst (Lighting Board Op.), Godspell (Assistant Stage Manager).



JAREESA YOUNG is a senior from Buffalo, NY majoring in Theatre Performance. She is excited by the opportunities offered in the world of theatre. She is thrilled to continue learning and growing as a performer and, while new to the stage, has quickly fallen in love with the creativity, collaboration, and storytelling that theatre brings. She looks forward to developing her craft and being part of many future productions.

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