

Department of
THEATRE and **PERFORMANCE STUDIES**

The Spitfire Grill

Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff
Music and Book by James Valcq
Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley

NOV. 16-20

Tuesday - Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, 8 p.m.
Saturday, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Onyx Theater

arts.kennesaw.edu/theatre



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

GREAT *stories* told here

WELCOME TO OUR 2021-2022 THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES SEASON, "INSPIRED BY THE PAST AND RESPONDING TO THE PRESENT."

We are thrilled to return to a full season of live performances this year. Amidst the uncertainty of the continuing pandemic, our students, faculty, and staff are embracing the joy of creating live theatre in person, and we look forward to sharing our performance spaces with you. This year's array of stories on our stages draws inspiration from the past, but captures, with immediacy, the community, optimism, and inspiration we seek in the present.

Our mainstage season begins with *Wondrous Strange*, a compilation of ghost stories, where we invite you to submerge yourselves in wildly different paranormal experiences; our production of *Everybody* contemplates—in uproarious fashion—how the presence of death motivates us to ponder what is most important in life. *The Spitfire Grill* is an intimate musical about starting life anew and building a supportive community; *Mother Road*, inspired John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, affirms that America's strength lies in its diverse cultures; and *The SpongeBob* musical is an irresistible and inventive reminder of resilience, optimism, and the joy of untapped human potential.

Above all, our productions feature our students. And we strive to offer opportunities where they can thrive as actors, directors, dramaturgs, designers, stage managers, and technicians. In addition to our mainstage productions, this year's season features our largest number of student-led projects to date, an area of growth that supports their development as theatre makers and entrepreneurs. Please join us, and join us often to celebrate their insights, their talents, and their artistry.

Great stories told here!

Chuck Meacham
TPS Chair

Karen Robinson
Artistic Director

College of the Arts

Harrison Long, Interim Dean

Dr. Peter Fielding, Associate Dean

Dr. Leslie Blackwell, Interim Associate Dean

Prof. Geo Sipp, Director, School of Art & Design

Prof. Marsha Barsky, Chair, Department of Dance

Dr. Jesus Castro-Balbi, Director, School of Music

KSU Department of Theatre and Performance Studies Presents

The Spitfire Grill

Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff
Music and Book by James Valcq
Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley

November 16 - November 20, 2021

Onyx Theater | 15-minute intermission

DIRECTION

Timothy Ellis

MUSIC DIRECTION

Amanda Wansa Morgan

SCENIC DESIGN

Stephanie Polhemus

COSTUME DESIGN

Sophie Gordon

LIGHTING DESIGN

Toni Sterling

SOUND DESIGN

Mikaela Fraser

**PROPERTIES
MANAGER**

Parker Ossmann

STAGE MANAGER

Eliza Craft

*THE SPITFIRE GRILL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
concordtheatricals.com*

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of "The Spitfire Grill" Off-Broadway in 2001. "The Spitfire Grill" received its World Premiere production by the George Street Playhouse, November 5, 2000, David Saint, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director.

The College of the Arts at Kennesaw State University supports, defends, and promotes academic freedom of artistic expression as outlined by the American Association of University Professors and diversity of all kinds as outlined by the University's Human Relations.

The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What is it that keeps us from finding true contentment? We may present the world with one version of ourselves while, inside, we're living a different story. As I began working on this show, my immediate thought was, "We all have our own prison." It may seem a dramatic viewpoint to have, but then we must ask ourselves how our own prison is represented. At face value, we follow Percy's want to alter her life journey, perhaps find peace, perhaps discover happiness. But I encourage each of the actors to find focus in the journey of their character. As in life, what affects each individual, bringing about what is presented to the world? How does acknowledging our own 'prison' release us from life's constraints?

Oftentimes, finding kindred spirits or simply discovering love through friendship or kindness helps us release that which keeps us from 'letting go.'

-Timothy Ellis

SETTING

Gilead, Wisconsin, 1990

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1. "A Ring Around the Moon" - Percy
2. "Something's Cooking" - Company
3. "Coffee Cups and Gossip" - Percy
4. "Out of the Frying Pan" - Percy
5. "When Hope Goes" - Shelby
6. "Ice and Snow" - Caleb, Joe, and Effy
7. "The Colors of Paradise" - Percy and Shelby
8. "Digging Stone" - Caleb
9. "This Wide Woods" - Joe and Percy
10. "Forgotten Lullaby" - Hannah
11. "Shoot the Moon" - Hannah and Company

ACT II

1. "Come Alive Again" - Hannah and Company
2. "Forest For the Trees" - Joe
3. "Wild Bird" - Shelby
4. "Shine" - Percy
5. "Way Back Home" - Hannah
6. "Finale" - Company

CAST

PERCY	Erin North
SHELBY	Ra'Mya Aikens
HANNAH	Ebony Golden
EFFY	Alex Osborne
SHERIFF JOE	Nicholas Gilomen
CALEB	Shane Byous
VISITOR	Eon Jones
UNDERSTUDY	Stella Gainsford
UNDERSTUDY	Kayla Green
UNDERSTUDY	Eon Jones

MUSICIANS

CONDUCTOR/PIANO	Amanda Wansa Morgan
KEYBOARD 2	JT Butler
GUITAR	Daniel Melton
VIOLIN	Tyler Lovelace
CELLO	Jair Griffin

PRODUCTION & DESIGN SUPPORT

Production Manager | Trevor Carrier

Assistant Stage Manager | Peyton Murphy
Show Crew | Micah Martin

Assistant Director | Savannah Peeples
Assistant Music Director | Abigail Folds

Technical Director | Daniel Terry
Scenic Charge | Jess Ford
Scene Shop Production Assistants | Macy Gallagher, Ameer Hashem, Caro Kok,
Ben Holmes, Mackenzie Scales, Riley Tagliatela

Costume Shop Manager | Brittany Johnson
Faculty Costume Design Mentor | Summer Lee Jack
Draper | Andrew Hobson
Costume Shop Production Assistants | Emily Denovich, Sophie Gordon,
Michelle Lee, Brisa Mendez, Z Polk
Wardrobe Crew | Sierra Benning, Tai Cossier, Ben Holmes

Lighting Supervisor | Steven Love
Assistant Lighting Designer | Kiara McKay
Lead Electrician | Nathan Peters
Lighting Programmer | Parker Rawson
Lighting Production Assistant | Nathan Peters
Light Board Operator | Emily Denovich
Follow Spot Operators | Adeola Adewuyi, Ryan Pluta

Assistant Sound Designer | Jade Roman
Audio Engineer | Winston Johnson
Sound Apprentice | Bailey Gafeney

Dramaturg | Tom Fish
Lead Dramaturgs | Katie Nelson, Savannah Peeples
Assistant Dramaturgs | Adrien Kay, Veronica Sanders, Jacob Segura, Issa Solís,
Zachari Tellez

PRODUCTION & DESIGN SUPPORT (cont.)

Production Shop — TPS 2713

Scene Shop

Students | John Brooks, Christopher Cohorst, Rich Gibson, Lauren Lee,
Trenton Mashburn, Kiara McKay, Kourtney Price, Jacob Segura.

Costume Shop

Costume Production Lab Supervisor | Christie Jo Mayo

Students | Jordan Adams, Amani Clanton, Lauren Campbell, Abby Folds,
Syrus Henry, Natalie Ober, Nornu Ken-Piara, Mercy Mondt,
Danielle Montgomery, Coriana Raynor, Jade Roman.

BIOGRAPHIES

CREATIVE

TIMOTHY ELLIS (Director)

Timothy is a Lecturer of Musical Theatre, teaching Private Voice, Acting in Musical Theatre, Musical Theatre Dance Workshop, and other courses. He is also the Faculty Advisor for the Student Company for Musical Theatre. He served as Choreographer for KSU's production of *Bring it On!*. A few other shows Timothy has Directed and/or Choreographed: *Camelot* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Rocky Horror Show* (Dad's Garage), *Show Boat* (Alhambra Theatre), *A Chorus Line* (LaGrange College), *West Side Story* (University of Central Florida). He appeared on Broadway in the 1998 revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*, the national tours of *Show Boat* and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, a European tour of *Evita*, and on the stages of regional theatres across the country.

MIKAELA FRASER (Sound Designer)

Mikaela Fraser (She/Her) is a Sound Designer and Sound Engineer based in Atlanta, GA. She is a Kennesaw State University Alum. Her previous work is *Red Speedo* at Actor's Express; *Once* at Horizon Theatre; *Drowsy Chaperone* and *Addam's Family* at Atlanta Lyric Theatre; *Ella Enchanted* and *The Bluest Eye* at Synchronicity Theatre; *Stew and Fires in the Mirror* at Theatrical Outfit; *Good Bad People* at True Colors Theatre; *Bring it On: The Musical*; *Grace, or the Art of Climbing*; *Water by the Spoonful*; and *Thumbelina* at Kennesaw State University. She is one of the Co-founders of Multiband Studios. multibandstudios.com

SOPHIE GORDON (Costume Designer)

Sophie Gordon is delighted to be costume designing her first production at KSU. She is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Her recent credits include assistant costume designing *Grace, or the Art of Climbing* and *Thumbelina* at KSU and *Fires in the Mirror* at Theatrical Outfit. She is grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to what the future holds!

BIOGRAPHIES (Continued)

AMANDA WANSA MORGAN (Music Director)

Amanda Wansa Morgan serves as Coordinator of Musical Theatre & Associate Professor at Kennesaw State University, where she teaches classes in musical theatre performance, voice, acting, and MT history and literature. She has music directed KSU's productions of *Bring it On* (2020) and *Thumbelina* (2021), and directed KSU's productions of *Ragtime* (2019), *Heathers* (2017), and *A Man of No Importance* (2016), in addition to co-coordinating the yearly Musical Theatre Showcase. She will be directing KSU's production of *The SpongeBob Musical* in Spring 2022. Amanda would like to give a shout out to her amazing colleague Tim for his directing debut at KSU, and for being such a wonderful collaborator. Also, huge credit and kudos to the hard-working students on the creative team—Sophie Gordon as Costume Designer, Savannah Peebles as Assistant Director, Abby Folds as Assistant MD, the wonderful stage management team of Eliza Craft and Peyton Murphy, and the many student design assistants and crew members—Thank you for your work, poise, and professionalism! Amanda is a professional music director, director, composer, and actor – you can read more about her professional work at amandawansamorgan.com.

STEPHANIE POLHEMUS (Scenic Designer)

Stephanie Polhemus is thrilled to be designing an in-person show at KSU after designing virtually for *Water by the Spoonful* last year. She is also the Company Manager at Atlanta Lyric Theatre. Credits include: *Drowsy Chaperone*, *War Paint* (Atlanta Lyric); *Leading Ladies*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *9 to 5*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti*, *Having Our Say*, *My Fair Lady*, *Calendar Girls*, *Homers*, *Almost Heaven*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Ring of Fire*, and *Tokens of Affection* (Georgia Ensemble Theatre); *Spring Awakening*, *Once on This Island*, *Big Bad Musical* (University of West Georgia); *Safety Net* (Theatrical Outfit). She received the 2018 University of West Georgia Alumni Achievement Award for the College of Arts and Humanities. BA Theatre: University of West Georgia, MFA Scenic Design: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. stephaniepolhemusdesign.com

TONI STERLING (Lighting Designer)

Toni Sterling is a freelance lighting designer in Atlanta, GA. She received her MFA in Lighting Design at the University of Connecticut, May 2020, and is happy to be back in Atlanta freelancing again. A few of her favorite designs were for *The Nether*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Good Children*, *Dido and Aeneas*, and *Once on This Island*. She loves to go wherever light takes her. tonisterling.com

BIOGRAPHIES (Continued)

PRODUCTION & DESIGN SUPPORT

ELIZA CRAFT (Stage Manager)

Eliza Craft is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Design and Technology. She has previously worked on *Thumbelina* as an assistant stage manager before the Covid-19 shutdown. She is thrilled and grateful for the opportunity to be stage manager for *The Spitfire Grill*. Eliza would like to thank her faculty mentors and her family for supporting her in her stage management ambitions.

ABIGAIL FOLDS (Asst. Music Director)

Abigail Folds is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. This is her first time as an Assistant Music Director and thanks to Amanda's guidance and knowledge, this has been a truly fortifying experience. Please enjoy this beautiful show!

JESS FORD (Scenic Charge)

Jess is a Class of 2021 alumni of Kennesaw State university. They are so pleased to be hired back once again to wreak havoc on the floors and walls of the theatre.

PEYTON MURPHY (Asst. Stage Manager)

Peyton Murphy is very excited to be a part of her first show at Kennesaw State. She is a freshman Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Design and Technology. Peyton's previous show credits include assistant stage managing *Spamalot* and *Akeelah and the Bee* at the Springer Opera House. She is glad to be a part of this production and would like to thank her friends and family for helping her achieve her goals.

SAVANNAH PEEBLES (Asst. Director)

Savannah is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. At Kennesaw State University, she has had the wonderful opportunity to not only assistant direct on *The Genesis Project*, *Thumbelina*, and *The Spitfire Grill*, but was able to create S.C.M.T (Student Company for Musical Theatre) to give musical theatre performance opportunities to her fellow students. Savannah is looking forward to graduating this December, then going on to continuing her career in Musical Theatre and teaching the next generation of performers.

PARKER RAWSON (Lighting Programmer)

Parker is very excited to be a part of his first show at Kennesaw State. He got involved with lighting through theatre in eighth grade and has loved doing it ever since. Now he has the chance to study theatre and lighting at Kennesaw State. Parker would like to thank his friends and family for helping him to get to where he is today.

BIOGRAPHIES (Continued)

CAST

RA'MYA AIKENS (Shelby)

Ra'Mya Aikens is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Her TPS credits include *The Our Town Collision Project*, the 2019 *10-Minute PlayFest*, *Bring It On: The Musical*, and *Thumbelina*. She is excited to be a part of this story and can't wait to share it with you!

SHANE BYOUS (Caleb)

Shane Byous is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. He is thrilled to be playing Caleb in his first musical at KSU. While at KSU he has also participated in the *24-Hour Play Festival* as an actor, *The Odyssey Project*, and the KSU School of Music's production of *Light in the Piazza* before it was cancelled due to the pandemic. He has received awards for his performances as Sid Sorokin in *The Pajama Game* and Franklin Hart, Jr. in *9 to 5: The Musical*. Love to Lindsey and June for being his constant companions.

STELLA GAINSFORD (Understudy Percy/Shelby)

Stella Gainsford is a junior dual major in Psychology and Theatre and Performance Studies with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Her past credits at KSU include the *24 Hour Play Festival (Actor)*, the *7th and 8th Annual Coming Out Monologues (Performer)*, and most recently *Ex Nihilio (Puppeteer)*. She is grateful to have had this opportunity to work with this amazing cast and crew and to be back in the theater in person.

NICHOLAS GILOMEN (Joe)

Nicholas Gilomen is a senior at Kennesaw State University pursuing a degree in Theatre and Performance Studies with a concentration in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. Recently, he has assistant directed for *Water by the Spoonful (KSU)*, directed in two *24-hour Play Festivals (KSU)*, and assistant directed *Romeo and Juliet (CAPS)*. He has also performed as a Male swing and Steven u/s in *Bring It On: The Musical (KSU)*, and he will be performing in the ensemble and as an Electric Skate in *The SpongeBob Musical (KSU)* later this season. Among these credits he has also dabbled in playwriting, stage management, and dramaturgy across the past few seasons here at KSU. He was extremely honored to work with this brilliant cast and hopes you enjoy the show.

EBONY GOLDEN (Hannah)

Ebony Golden (she/her) is a first-year Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Acting. She has been acting for 5 years with theatre companies in Atlanta and her Performing Arts high school. Ebony recently worked with the Alliance Theatre on their 2020 19th *Palefsky Collision Project* and was a part of the True Colors Annual August Wilson Monologue Contest. Later this year, she will be part of the show *Mother Road* at KSU. She is thrilled to be a part of a talented group of individuals to work on this production.

BIOGRAPHIES (Continued)

KAYLA GREEN (Understudy Hannah/Effy)

Kayla Green is a Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Musical Theatre Concentration. This is her first production at KSU, and she is happy to be part of *The Spitfire Grill*! She would like to thank her mom for always being supportive of her and making the journey to come see her shows.

EON JONES (Eli, Understudy Joe/Caleb)

Eon Jones is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Favorite credits include *Matilda* (Bruce), *Ragtime* (Little Boy), *The Giver* (Jonas), and *High School Musical* (Ryan).

ERIN NORTH (Percy)

Erin is beyond grateful and excited to be a part of her first TPS production! Erin is a KSU transfer and is a senior TPS major with a concentration in Acting and a minor in Dance. Other credits include: Candy in *Zombie Prom* (Marietta Theatre Company), Judas in *Godspell*, Marie Leroux in *Is He Dead?*, Julie in *Theory of Relativity* (Theatre Arts Guild). Erin would like to send her utmost gratitude and love to her supportive family & to the cast and crew of *The Spitfire Grill*. Follow her journey:

Instagram: @erin.nrth

ALEX OSBORNE (Effy)

Alex is in her final semester here at KSU. Some of her credits include *Polaroid Stories* (Ariadne), *Thumbelina* (Music Asst.), and *The Normal Heart* (ASM). She would like to thank everyone who has ever encouraged her in pursuing the arts and those who have helped refine her skills in theatre. As this is her last production as a Kennesaw student, she hopes you enjoy the show!

Department of

Theatre and Performance Studies

2021-2022 SEASON

FALL 2021

KSU TELLERS SHOWCASE | DEC. 2-3

Join the KSU Tellers as they present their best solo performances from the fall semester.

SPRING 2022

AND SO WE WALKED: AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY ALONG THE TRAIL OF TEARS | FEB. 9-12

Frank, heartwarming, and inspiring, And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears is a story about a contemporary Cherokee woman and her father who embark on an incredible 900-mile journey along the Trail of Tears to truly understand her own identity and the conflicts of her nation.

MOTHER ROAD | FEB. 22-27

Inspired by The Grapes of Wrath, this modern epic picks up generations later when William Joad must find a blood relative to inherit the family land in Oklahoma that was abandoned in Steinbeck's novel.

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL | APR. 7-17

Adapted from the beloved animated series SpongeBob SquarePants, this colorful and vibrant musical is an uplifting tale of overcoming the odds and celebrating the joy of life.

GENESIS REDUX | APR. 21-23

Genesis Redux reimagines the first stories in the book of Genesis through a script devised from research, improvisation, and movement by students in spring of 2020.