

Virtual Show Program

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

SV SAGINAW VALLEY
SU STATE UNIVERSITY

BURNING BLUEBEARD

WRITTEN BY JAY TORRENCE
DIRECTED BY DAVE RZESZUTEK

Produced by special arrangement with the Playwright Jay Torrence
Sound design used by special arrangement with the Playwright Jay Torrence

University & Regional Premiere

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

PRESENTS

BURNING BLUEBEARD

Written by Jay Torrence

Stage Manager

Paige Tuckerman*

Choreographer

Peggy Mead-Finizio

House Manager

Syd Cheney

Scenic Designer

Jerry Dennis

Sound Designer

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Lighting Designer

Alex Dubowski*

Costume Designer

Courtney Kelly

Original Sound Design

Jay Torrence

Hair & Make-Up Designer

Katelynn Bell

**Mentor to Student
Designers and Crew**

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Director

Dave Rzeszutek

**Mentor to Theatre
Management**

Tommy Wedge

*Denotes an SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient

CONTENT WARNING: *Burning Bluebeard includes the use of fog, haze, strobing lights, use of a lighter, and an actor loudly exclaiming "FIRE!"*

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Saginaw Valley State University is committed to providing work and learning opportunities without regard to age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, height, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, weight, or on any other basis protected by state, federal, or other applicable law, and to achieving its objectives in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination.

Cast

Fancy Clown	Sofia Morrone
Faerie Queen	Dana Samalik*
Henry Gilfoil (Bluebeard)	Isabel Losa*
Nellie Reed (Fairy Aerialist)	Emma-Gene Pichan*
Eddie Foy (Sister Anne)	Scout McCulloch*
Robert Murray (Stage Manager)	Tyler Obermiller

Production Team

Director	Dave Rzeszutek
Scenic Designer	Jerry Dennis
Lighting Designer	Alex Dubowski*
Sound Designer	Peggy Mead-Finizio
Original Sound Design	Jay Torrence
Props Team	Jerry Dennis
	Scout McCulloch*
	Peggy Mead-Finizio
	Dave Rzeszutek
	Paige Tuckerman*
	Members of APO
Costume Designer	Courtney Kelly
Choreographer	Peggy Mead-Finizio
Makeup & Hair Designer	Katelynn Bell
Stage Manager	Paige Tuckerman*
House Manager	Syd Cheney
Production Manager	Peggy Mead-Finizio

Sound Design for this production references the original Sound Design by Jay Torrence

Production Staff

Scene Shop Supervisor	Jerry Dennis
Scene Shop Assistant	Alex Dubowski*
Assistant Director	Eric Durette*
Assistant Stage Manager	Drea Brown*
Assistant Costume Designer	Lila Duvendak*
Assistant Hair & Makeup Designer	Rebecca Dubs
Lead Electrician	Emma Koch
Logo Designer	Jules Carvey
Dept. of Theatre Office Worker	Paige Tuckerman*
Administrative Secretary	Kelly Helmreich
Mentor to Student Designers and Crew	Peggy Mead-Finizio
Mentor to Student Theatre Management	Tommy Wedge

Production Crew

Electricians	Veronica Vozniak
	Eric Durette*
	Nick Dungar
Audio Manager	Eric Durette*
Light Board Operator	Emma Koch
Follow Spot Operator	Dilen Phillips
Makeup & Hair Crew	Kylie Sizemore
Stagehand	Dilen Phillips



A Note from the Director

On December 30, 1903, the worst theatrical fire disaster in history occurred. The most technologically advanced, state of the art Theatre in Chicago had become a death trap. The Iroquois Theatre had recently opened and according to the Chicago Tribune “no theatre is handsomer than the Iroquois.” The inaugural production of *Mr. Bluebeard* was a traditional English Christmas pantomime. It had over 400 performers, numerous sets, singing, dancing, and had the fairy tale Mr. Bluebeard as the spine. It was a huge production that had Chicagoland Vaudeville star Eddie Foy in a lead role. On December 30th, over 1600 tickets were sold; the producers continued to sell tickets and oversold the venue. The performance on this day was during Christmas break, a matinee, and primary full of women and children.

During the show, a lighting instrument backstage malfunctioned, sparked, and caught the hanging scenery on fire. It quickly spread, and in 15 minutes, killed over 600 people. Essentially, the theatre was a textbook case of everything that could go wrong in a fire.

According to Jewish tradition everyone dies twice. The first time is when the heart stops beating, and the synapses in the brain shut down, like a city during a blackout. The second time is when the dead person’s name is uttered, read or thought of for the last time. Only then, is the person really gone, erased from life on Earth.

“Speak Their Name”

by Author Unknown

Someone I love has gone away
and life is not the same,
the greatest gift that you can give
is just to speak their name.
I need to hear the stories
and the tales of days gone past,
I need for you to understand
these memories must last.
We’ll never make more memories
since they are no longer here,
so when you say their name to me
it’s music to my ear.

We hope that you enjoy this dark comedy and we hope to tell a story that you will remember. Forever.

- Dave Rzeszutek



Production Spotlights

Fancy Clown:

Sofia is a third-year early college student at SVSU considering majoring in chemistry. She will be playing Fancy Clown in this production. This is her first time acting at SVSU, but she has been performing throughout high school and college. Some of her favorite roles include Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Stagecrafters Youth Theater in Royal Oak, a newsie in Bay City Player's production of *Newsies*, and Ben Gunn in *Treasure Island* at Delta College. Sofia would like to thank the production team and her fellow actors for being so friendly and supportive of her first show at SVSU!

Faerie Queen:

Dana Samalik is a second-year Communications and Theatre Education major. She is so excited to play Faerie Queen in this university premiere of *Burning Bluebeard!* Before this production, Dana performed in SVSU's *Tiny Beautiful Things* as Letter Writer #3, *Very Berry Dead* as J.J., as well as in *Urinetown* as Officer Barrel. She has loved participating in the theatre program at SVSU and has been delighted to work with such a fantastic cast and crew. She would like to thank her friends for always being there for her and her family for their endless support throughout her career, she wouldn't be here without them! Enjoy the show!

Henry Gilfoil (Bluebeard):

Isabel Losa is a second-year Theatre major. She will be playing Henry Gilfoil aka Mr. Bluebeard in this production. This is her sixth production she has been a part of. She was a props helper for *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*. She was the understudy for Ma in the production of *Very Berry Dead* and she acted in the musical, *Urinetown* as Soupy Sue. Isabel would like to thank the Theatre department for giving her this incredible opportunity to be a part of their family and her Mom and Dad for always supporting her no matter what.

Nellie Reed (Fairy Aerialist):

Emma is so excited to be a part of this production! She is a second-year Theatre major, with a focus in directing, and has a triple minoring in musical theatre, creative writing, and sociology! She wants to thank the worlds greatest roommate and friend, Chey for taking care of her Corgi, Maggie-May, while she's been rehearsing for this show! She wants to say how much she loves her support, especially her Dad for being her ultimate theatre buddy (and you can see all their projects at *drumroll* www.pecanfilms.com)! Last but not least she also wants to say how much she loves her amazing boyfriend, Billy, for putting up with her through thick and thin!

Eddie Foy (Sister Anne):

Scout is a third-year Communication & Theatre Education major. She is so beyond thrilled to play Eddie Foy in this university premiere of *Burning Bluebeard!* In the past, Scout had been seen in *Urinetown* as Lockstock, *Very Berry Dead* as Scat, *Tiny Beautiful Things* as Letter Writer #2, & *Top Girls* as Angie. Scout has been beyond blessed to be a part of such a wonderful team of creators to tell this powerful story. Finally, she would like to express her gratitude to her friends, family, and, most importantly, her parents for always supporting her in pursuing her dreams. Enjoy the show!





Tyler Obermiller

Robert Murray (Stage Manager):

Tyler Obermiller is a first-year Theatre major with an English Minor. This is his first play at SVSU but he is excited to explore all the different parts of the theatre department. Tyler is very active on campus with positions in theatre, Student Association, Greek Life, and other organizations. He is super grateful for the *Burning Bluebeard* team from the ensemble to the design teams, our Director Dave, and Stage Manager Paige.



Jay Torrence

Playwright:

He has been writing/performing/directing in Chicago since 2002. His playwriting credits include *Ivywild*, *Burning Bluebeard* and *Roustabout: The Great Circus Train Wreck* (Awarded the John W. Schmid After Dark Award for Outstanding New Work and the After Dark Award for Outstanding Production). Torrence has had the privilege to perform with 500 Clown, The Hypocrites, Redmoon, The Actor's Gymnasium, Chi-Town Clown Review and The Neo-Futurists where he was an ensemble member for twelve years and the former Artistic Director. Torrence earned his MFA in Creative Writing from The University of British Columbia and has studied under master clown Philippe Gaulier. He is a published essayist and the proud recipient of the Prairie Fire Award for Creative Non-Fiction and The Annie Dillard Award for Creative Non-Fiction.



Dave Rzeszutek

Director:

Chair/Professor of Theatre, has taught at SVSU since 2009. He was the Saginaw coordinator of NYC's The Public Theater: Mobile Unit National - *Sweat* project. This community project involved many local partners exploring art through the lens of: identity, race, economy, and humanity. It culminated with a professional production by The Public Theater of the Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Sweat*, by Lynn Nottage, with Ms. Nottage in attendance. He is affiliated with the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and the Michigan Educational Theatre Association. He studied Circus Techniques/ Movement in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Commedia Dell'Arte with Maestro Antonio Fava in Reggio Emilia, Italy. He earned his MFA from Ohio University's Professional Actor Training Program. He is thrilled to direct the University Premiere of *Burning Bluebeard*!



Eric Durette*

Assistant Director:

Eric Durette, second-year Theatre and Criminal Justice major, with a focus on Pre-Law. Eric's past experience past SVSU theatre experience has been Sound Designer for *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Urinetown*, and Co-Sound and Assistant Media for *Very Berry Dead*. Eric would like to thank the department for giving him an opportunity to assistant direct with THE Dave Rzeszutek. Eric hopes that everyone enjoys the show!



Paige Tuckerman*

Stage Manager

Paige is a second-year Theatre and Criminal Justice Double Major, and is so excited to be making her Stage Management Debut with the University Premiere of *Burning Bluebeard*. Paige is passionate about acting and stage management, and has loved getting the opportunity to explore so many facets of theatre during her time at SVSU so far! She could be found on stage last year in SVSU's production of *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, and backstage for her work as Assistant Stage Manager and deck chief of *Urinetown: The Musical*. Paige would like to thank her family for always believing in her and pushing her to do her best and would like to give a huge shout-out to the entire cast and crew of *Burning Bluebeard*. Enjoy the show!



Assistant Stage Manager/Deck Chief:

Drea (she/her) is a stage manager and designer with a vested interest in stage combat. She is pursuing her BA in Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University. Recent theatrical credits include *Footloose* (Assistant Stage Manager) at Midland Center for the Arts, the world premiere of *Very Berry Dead* (Stage Manager) and *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Stage Manager) at SVSU, and *Just Deserts* (Sound Designer) at Santa Cruz Shakespeare. From the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, she received a Certificate of Merit for her work on *Very Berry Dead* and a Meritorious Achievement for First-Time Stage Management for her work on *Tiny Beautiful Things*.



Choreographer/Production Manager/Sound Designer:

Peggy is an active choreographer, dance instructor, theatre designer, arts administrator, technical theatre instructor, and director. She holds MFA degrees in Theatre Arts and Choreography from the University of Iowa and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University and serves as the mainstage season Production Manager. She is a mentor to SVSU student designers and technicians for mainstage and Studio XP productions.



Lighting Designer:

Alex Dubowski is a second-year Theatre major with a minor in Religious Studies. Alex is the Student Scene Shop Worker for the SVSU Theatre Department. This is his first mainstage light design at SVSU. His previous work here has been as a Lead Electrician on all four mainstage shows this previous season. Alex is very excited to debut his first mainstage design and is so thankful for the opportunity to work on the creative team for such an incredible show!





House Manager:

Syd Cheney is a sixth-year Professional & Technical Writing Major with a minor in Theatre. Normally, you can find her in the ushering role, but this time, she's been asked to House Manage (for the first time ever)! She would like to give many shout outs to her dog, Koda, for being the bestest boy, as well as her Dad for watching Koda while she's been working on the show! She extends many, many thanks to Tommy Wedge and the entire Theatre Department for giving her the opportunity to have a larger role within the department this year. Sit back and enjoy *Burning Bluebeard*!



Costume Designer:

Courtney Anderson Kelly (she/hers) is honored to make her debut at SVSU as Costume Designer for *Burning Bluebeard*! Courtney received her MFA in Theatre (Costume Design and Technology) from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2022 and her BA in Theatre, French, and English Education from Northern Michigan University in 2014. Over the past 13 years, she has worked professionally in Costumes in a variety of venues including Off-Broadway, Equity houses, and high school drama programs across the country. Courtney enjoys the challenge of designing for new works and Up-cycling for her designs. She is currently the Costume Shop Coordinator at the Midland Center for the. Courtney would like to give a huge thank you to this special production team for their warm welcome to the theatre department, as well as her beautiful wife and family for all of their support! www.courtneyakelly.com



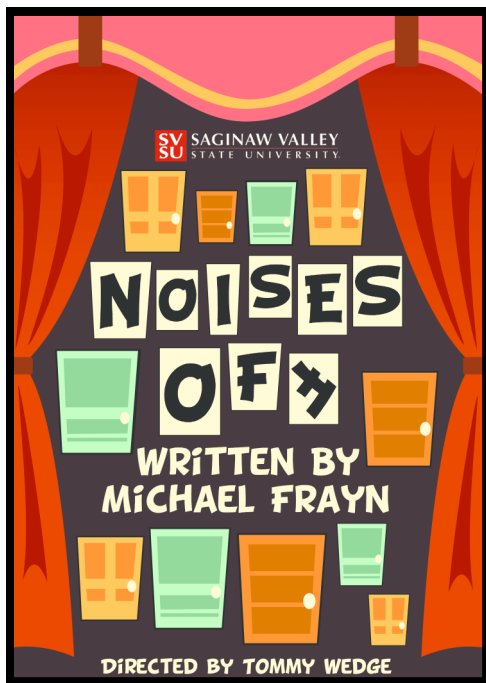
Makeup & Hair Designer:

Katelynn Bell is thrilled to be designing once again for the SVSU Theatre Department, having previously done Hair and Makeup Designs for past productions *Silent Sky*, *Top Girls*, and most recently, *Tiny Beautiful Things*. She is a senior, finishing her degree in Creative Writing with minors in Music and Theatre respectively, and wants to thank her family for encouraging her to pursue her passions wherever they may lead.



Upcoming Productions

[Click Here for Tickets](#)



Noises Off by Michael Frayn

Audition Information:

Monday, October 30, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Performance Information:

Wednesday, February 25, 2024 @ 7:30pm

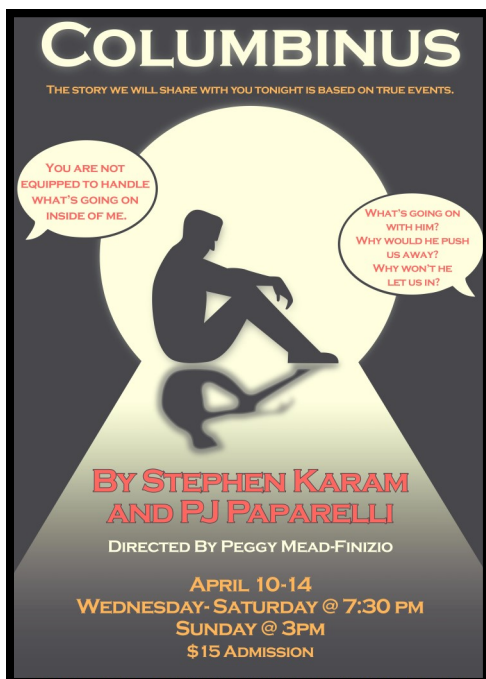
Thursday, February 26, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Friday, February 27, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, February 28, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, February 29, 2024 @ 3:00pm

Noises Off is a theatrical farce by English playwright Michael Frayn. The play is a behind-the-scenes look at a chaotic stage production populated with frenetic and unstable actors, a volatile director, and an overworked and overly emotional stage crew. Interspersed throughout the typical narrative structure of the piece are scenes from the play-within-a-play the group is performing: a tacky sex comedy called *Nothing On*.



columbinus by Stephen Karam and PJ Paparelli

Audition Information:

Monday, November 13, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Performance Information:

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, April 11, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Friday, April 12, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, April 13, 2024 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, April 14, 2024 @ 3:00pm

columbinus, a play sparked by the April 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., is a meeting of fact and fiction that illuminates the realities of adolescent culture by exploring the events surrounding the shootings. The play weaves together excerpts from discussions with parents, survivors and community leaders in Littleton as well as police evidence to bring to light the dark recesses of American adolescence.

Acknowledgements

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

Full Time Faculty

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA

David Rzeszutek, MFA

Tommy Wedge, MFA

Adjunct Faculty

Dakotah Myers, MA

Departments of RPW & Theatre

Administrative Secretary Kelly J. Helmreich

Acknowledgements

The Office of President Dr. George Grant

The Office of Dr. Deborah Huntley,
Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs

The Office of Dr. Marc Peretz,
Dean College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences

The Office of University Communications

For updates on our upcoming season or information on how to get involved, check out our Social Media Pages!

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

Special Thanks

Jay Torrence - Playwright & Dow Visiting Scholar & Artist Fall 2023

SVSU Foundation - For continued support in student success

The Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists Program - For providing hands-on opportunities to
SVSU theatre students

Office of University Communications - Michael Randolph, Marketing Specialist for
Videography and Photography

SVSU ITS Department - For technical support and resources

Campus Facilities - For technical support

Vectorworks - For the donation of software to support SVSU productions and classrooms

Andy Sharrow and The Conference Center Facility Operations - For assistance with HVAC

Mike Holiday and Information Technology Services

Alpha Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega - APO is a National Theatre Honors Society for participants in collegiate theatre with the aim of encouraging dramatic production at every step in a person's academic career.

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Every gift not only lifts SVSU theatre students, providing them opportunities to develop their creative talents, but also enhances the cultural wealth of the community at large. When you make a gift to support a theatre scholarship, you make a meaningful difference in students' lives.

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Stand Out.





The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.