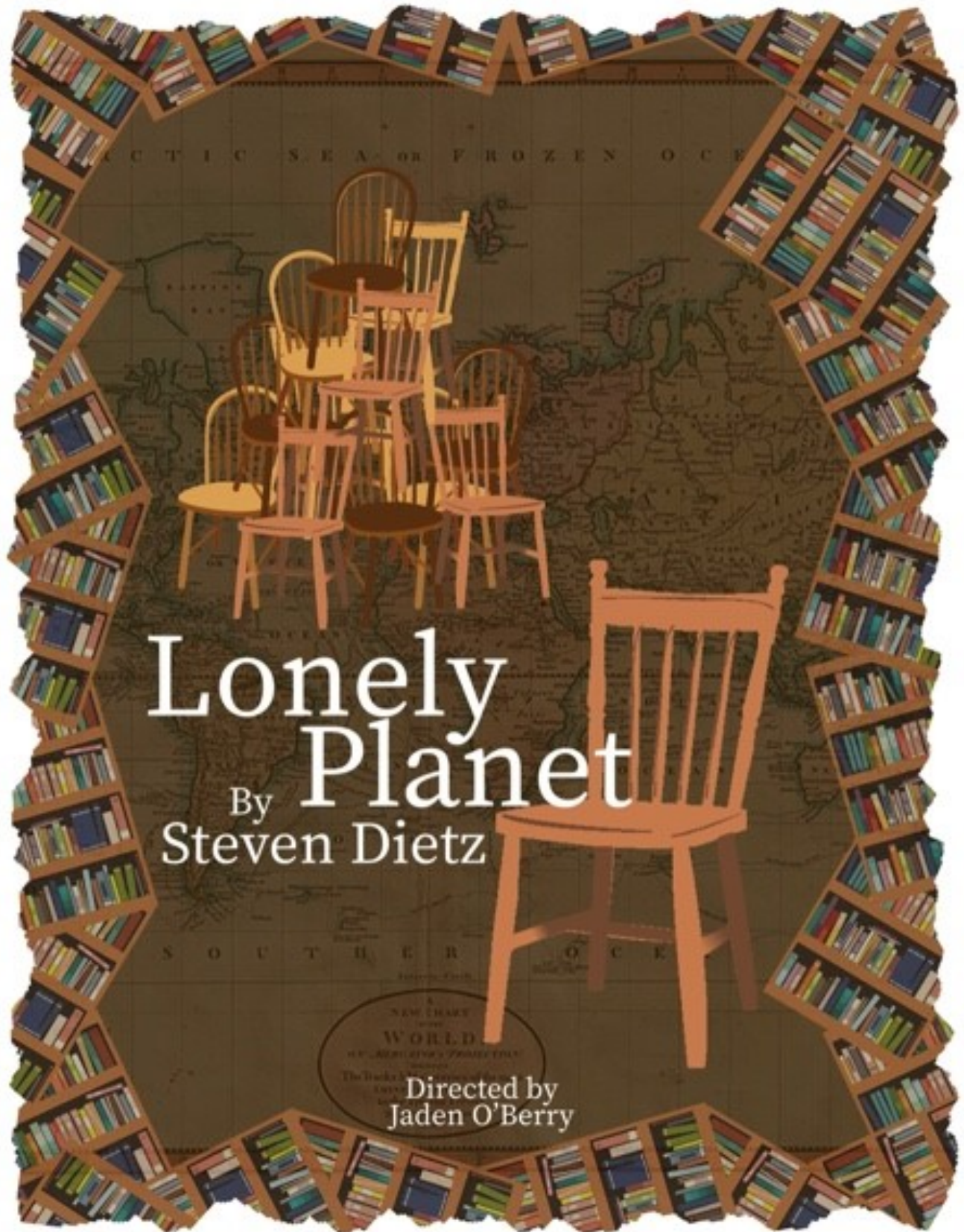


Virtual Show Program

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



Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre's STUDIO XP

PRESENTS

Lonely Planet

Written by Steven Dietz

Starring

Ethan Bach as
Jody

Jared Kaufman* as
Carl

Stage Manager

Lexie Schultz*

Technical Liaison

Holly Houck*

House Manager

Alyssa Yankee*

Scenic Designer

Jerry Dennis

Sound Designer

Lucas Inman*

Lighting Designer

Quinn Nichols

Costume Designer

Olivia Greanias*

*Make-up and Hair
Designer*

Becca Dubs

Prop Designer

Adam Coggins

Dramaturg

Karley Goodman

*Mentor to Student Designers
and Crew*

Peggy Mead-Finizio

*Mentor to Student Director
and Theatre Management*

Tommy Wedge

Featuring her debut as

Director

Jaden O'Berry*



*Denotes an SVSU Theatre Scholarship Student

SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability, or veteran status in the provision of education, employment, and other services.

The actors onstage are unmasked following the university's theatrical COVID protocol. Once they leave the stage, they and everyone not onstage are following the SVSU nest guidelines that requires all individuals to be masked inside regardless of vaccination status.



What is STUDIO XP? STUDIO XP is a production program affording undergraduate, theatre alumni, and faculty directors the opportunity to direct works beyond limitations of classroom presentations.

Staging a full-length play in this manner tasks the director with penetrating the work and the technical liaison with preparing a production plan that translates the playwright's vision from page to stage.

Most vital of all in StudioXP is the creative interface among students. At the very heart of the production should be the peer's work with the comprehension, communication, time, energy, and ensemble artistry essential to the full realization of a work.

Although two faculty members mentor the student director and technical liaison, STUDIO XP is student driven which deepens the experiential learning of this process. Except for Jerry Dennis, our staff Scenic Designer and Technial Director, every thing you see on this stage has been created by students. From the lights and sound, the costumes and makeup, to the acting and staging choices: students led the way. This stands as a testament to the strength, artistry, and dedication of the students in our SVSU Theatre program.

STUDIO XP shows are typically featured in our intimate Black Box Theatre, but in order to facilitate audience social distancing, Lonely Planet is presented to you live in our larger mainstage space: The Malcolm Field Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Cast

Jody
Carl
Jody (Understudy)
Carl (Understudy)

Ethan Bach
Jared Kaufman*
Scott LaMont
Nicholas Bean

Crew

Director
Studio XP Technical Liaison
Dramaturg
Stage Manager
Asst. Stage Manager
Scenic Designer
Asst. to the Scenic Designer
Prop Designer
Prop Run Crew

Lighting Designer
Lead Electrician
Light Board Operator
Sound Designer
Asst. Sound Designer/ Board Operator
Costume Designer
Asst. to the Costume Designer
Costume Crew
Costume Shop Coordinator
Asst. Costume Shop Coordinator
Make-up and Hair Designer
Make-up and Hair Crew
Follow Spot Operator
Stagehands

House Manager
Mentor to Student Designers and Crew
Mentor to Student Director & Theatre
Management

Scene Shop Supervisor
Scene Shop Assistant
Dept. of Theatre Office Worker
Logo Designer

Jaden O'Berry*
Holly Houck*
Karley Goodman
Lexie Schultz*
Caroline Temple
Jerry Dennis
Artemis Teeple
Adam Coggins
Dani Durst
Brielle Myles-Williams
Quinn Nichols
Drea Brown*
Trinity Caldwell
Lucas Inman*
Abbey Kuhns*
Olivia Greanias*
Selena Carranza
Sarah Doran
Dani Durst
Olivia Greanias*
Becca Dubs
Zoe Gilbert
Scout McCulloch*
Brett Greathouse
Drea Brown*
Alyssa Yankee*
Peggy Mead-Finizio
Tommy Wedge

Jerry Dennis
Artemis Teeple
Abbey Kuhns*
Joshua Lloyd

--- A Note from the Director ---

“We will leave some traces, for we are people and not cities.”

The above quote, said by Carl in the final scene of *Lonely Planet*, is originally from *The Chairs* by Eugène Ionesco, a Romanian-French playwright and one of the founders of “The Theatre of the Absurd,” a movement created in response to World War II. A main idea of absurdist theatre was the belief that man's condition in the universe was illogical—beyond human rationality—and therefore, meaningless. Only by committing oneself to a greater good, they thought, could a life have any meaning. To many artists, artists like us in SVSU's theatre program, the “good” we commit ourselves to is that of performance and creation, despite the vulnerability it takes to share what you've made. That is where *Lonely Planet* comes in.

My goal in directing this piece was to remind those involved in the process: the design team, cast, and most importantly, the audience, to view the inevitable tragedies of life through a practical lens in order to better grasp the intangible things we leave behind when pass on; the traces of ourselves that get remembered by our loved ones. *Lonely Planet* is all about these traces. The reward of good art and of challenging what one's own traces will be is what *Lonely Planet* poses to the audience: what will you choose to leave behind?

When I originally applied for Studio XP last winter, I was under the impression that it was going to be a “simple” three-night run in our Black Box Theatre rather than a five-night run here on the mainstage. Boy, was I in for a surprise. With that in mind, the theatre faculty at SVSU have always held me to such high expectations, expectations that have made me a more well-rounded, stronger, and creative theatremaker. With their full confidence, I jumped into the process of *Lonely Planet*, sweaty palms be damned, because I knew if they were willing to entrust this tremendous project to me, I must have been deserving and ready to handle it...nerves aside.

Lonely Planet is a story of tragedy and loss, but also one of love and friendship, specifically between two LGBTQIA+ people. Queer stories have been historically swept under the rug, especially those that were present during the crisis that was the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s. In my experience as a queer woman, the erasure of our stories stems from heteronormative ideology and how the youth of today are improperly exposed to same-sex couples or same-sex education in society through biased media outlets and skewed politicalization of queer existence.

Acknowledging, also, that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a reflection of what society is currently facing through COVID-19, this story is a timely one. Seeing as in a time where touching is not encouraged, agoraphobic anxieties are not something we are unfamiliar with.

Lonely Planet focuses on connection without touching, knowledge without speaking, and faith without fear. When times are especially hard, we turn to our friends, we turn to our families, for hope. Hope, in the darkest of times, is not lost. That is what *Lonely Planet* represents.

Thank you, and welcome to Jody's Maps. We are so happy to have you here.

- Jaden O'Berry
(she/her)

A Note from the Dramaturg

The Center for Disease Control first encountered AIDS in 1981, when researchers at the National Cancer Institute named the disease “Gay-Related Immune Difficiency” (GRID). The CDC first coined the name acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in 1982 when the organization discovered the disease can be transmitted to heterosexual people. In 1983 the National Cancer Institute published a report naming human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV) as the cause of AIDS. In 1985 the first blood test for HIV/AIDS was developed by Abbot and used in hospitals nationwide. Azidothymidine (AZT), a potent drug for AIDS patients, was not approved until 1989. AZT is able to treat HIV and prevent the disease from progressing into AIDS. Today, there are approximately 1.2 million people in the United States living with HIV, and more than 35,000 new cases of HIV have been reported annually in the United States since 1981. The United States Department of Health and Human Services announced a plan in 2020 to use medications such as AZT, early diagnosis, and rapid treatment to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the United States by 75% by 2025 and 90% by 2030.

Steven Dietz was inspired to write *Lonely Planet* from his own experience during the AIDS crisis. Dietz states in an interview, “The emotional side is I was losing friends in our field, and a good college friend. My experience was really in the theatre community. I’m a straight man, I’m not a gay man, but I had teachers who would be sick, and colleagues”.

Lonely Planet explores themes surrounding friendship, mourning, and the fear of being forgotten. The play first premiered in Evanston, Illinois in 1993 at Northlight Theater. Dietz continues to work as a playwright, director, and professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He was named one of the Top 20 Most-Produced Playwrights in 2019 by American Theatre, a publication of theatre communications group.

In *Lonely Planet*, Carl manifests the pain he feels from losing his friends by placing their empty chairs in Jody’s map store. Jody is bothered by the physical space Carl’s mourning is taking up in his shop, and Carl is consumed by the space his mourning is taking up in his mind. The symbolism of chairs is a reference to a play titled *The Chairs* (1952) by Eugene Ionesco. In it, an elderly couple sets up chairs for invisible people so that they may hear the Old Man’s message to the world before he dies. *The Chairs*, like *Lonely Planet*, explores the futility and loneliness of human existence. *Lonely Planet*, however, offers a glimmer of hope that can be found when we make the choice to live fearlessly.

Sometimes the problems we see in our world today seem too massive or too daunting for us to overcome, so we shut ourselves inside our own “map stores” and search for a precise path to clarity. We need people like Carl who are not afraid to engage with all the messiness and hopelessness in the world. We need people to leave their kindness, their ingenuity, and their sense of humor wherever they go. We need you, in all of your messy, imperfect, undeniable goodness. The world needs you.

Production Spotlights



Ethan Bach

Jody: Ethan is a third year Comm/Theatre Education Major and English minor. He was last seen on the SVSU stage in the production of *Proof*. He is indebted to his friends and family for their love and support and would like to thank all those involved in *Lonely Planet* for bringing this ever so significant story to life.



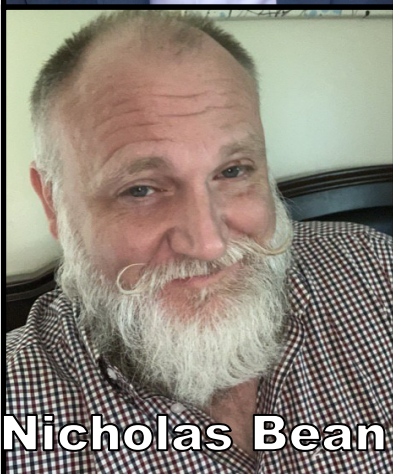
**Jared
Kaufman**

Carl: Jared is a 4th year Communication and Theatre Education Major. He has made many appearances in SVSU productions and is looking forward to his last year performing on this stage. Jared hopes to continue his love for theatre by sharing his passion with his future students. This has been an incredible thought provoking process and he hopes everyone not only enjoys the show, but leaves with a new understanding of LGBTQ+ history.



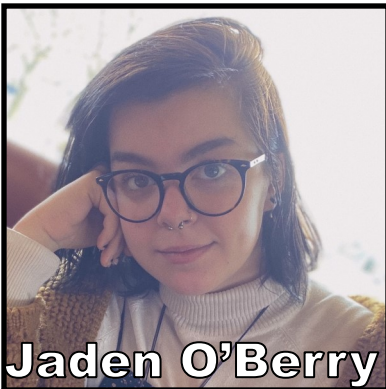
Scott LaMont

Jody (Understudy): Scott LaMont is a second year student here at SVSU. Scott is not a stranger to the SVSU performances spaces, as he was last seen in *Roustabout*. While here at SVSU, Scott will pursuing a degree in Pre-Communication/Theatre Education and a minor in History. He would also like to share his excitement to finally be apart of a live production yet again! Lastly, he would like to thank his friends, family, and the SVSU theatre faculty for their constant support and love!



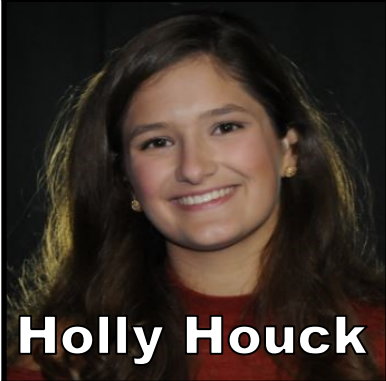
Nicholas Bean

Carl (Understudy): Instead of buying a car for his midlife crises, Nicholas went back to school to further his education. He is honored and thankful to be learning from such amazing young artists. Also big thank you to his rock, Saint David.



Jaden O'Berry

Director: Jaden O'Berry is a graduating Theatre major with an English & Creative Writing minor. She was last seen as the lighting designer for *Joan: The Girl of Arc* & as sound designer for *A Doll House*. Her directing debut is dedicated to the LGBTQIA+ community, her loving parents, who always keep her reaching for more than just stars, and lastly, for Thom, who would've absolutely loved this.



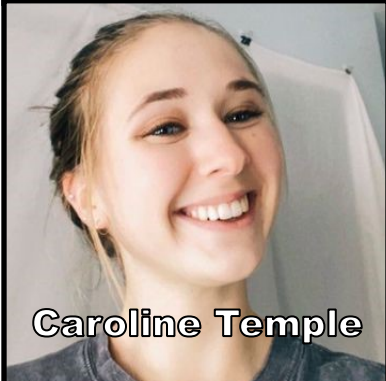
Holly Houck

Studio XP Technical Liaison: Holly Houck is a senior at SVSU majoring in Theatre and International Studies, with a minor in French. For Holly, working on a student-led production has been incredibly fulfilling— especially to be witness to so much growth. She is thrilled for the story of *Lonely Planet* to debut SVSU's return to LIVE theatre!



Lexie Schultz

Stage Manager: Lexie is a third year double major in Music Performance and Theatre with a minor in Musical Theatre at SVSU. She is a regular to the Malcolm Field Stage, although this is her first time Stage Managing. She would like to thank the SVSU Theatre Dept. Faculty, her family, friends, and all involved with the production for all of their support. She hopes you all enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed bringing it to life with the cast and crew.



Caroline Temple

Asst. Stage Manager: Caroline is a 3rd year with senior standing and is pursuing a degree in Communications with a minor in Theatre and Athletic Coaching. She has been involved with theatre since 2015 and joined the SVSU theatre family in 2019. Caroline is so thankful to be a part of this show and has valued the friendships and community that she has gained through this production, as well as learning so much from the fantastic team she has had the honor of working with.



Alyssa Yankee

House Manager: Alyssa is a fourth year Theatre and Marketing major here at SVSU. This is her first time House Managing a show and she is very excited and hopes you enjoy your experience as an audience member. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support over the past four years! Enjoy the show!



Sound Designer: Lucas is in his 4th-year as a Theatre major. He was the sound designer for *Proof*, *Roustabout*, *No. 6*, (SVSU), and *Cabaret* (BCP). He was also LED tape electrician for *Curious Incident...* (SVSU) and *Mamma Mia!* (MCFTA) . He was last seen as lighting designer for SVSU's *A Doll's House*.



Asst. Sound Designer: Abbey is a second year Theatre major and RPW minor. She can often be found working on the upcoming productions or in the office where she recently started as the department's student worker. Abbey would like to thank her family for encouraging her to follow her passions and her *Lonely Planet* friends who have challenged her to support and love people a little more than when she started.



Lighting Designer: Quinn is a senior Theatre major and has worked on shows throughout the last three years at SVSU. Along with lighting design, Quinn stage manages, designs props, acts, and is building a technical fellowship at Pit and Balcony Theatre.



Lead Electrician: Drea is a first year Theatre major. She has been involved in many productions, but is very excited for her first show here! She would like to thank her first director as well as her parents for their support and encouragement over the years.



Light Board Operator: Trinity is a fourth year SVSU Theater major and Spanish minor. Most recently, she was seen as 'Felicia' in the SVSU production of *No.6*. She is very excited to be the light board op for *Lonely Planet* and is grateful to be given this opportunity. She would like to thank her family for being so supportive and loving.



Scout McCulloch

Follow Spot Operator: Scout is majoring in both Theatre and Elementary Education. This is Scout's first show at SVSU. Scout would like to send a quick shout out to her friends and family who encouraged her throughout this process.



Selena Carranza

Asst. to Costume Designer: Selena Carranza is in her third year at SVSU, studying Secondary English Education. This is Selena's first time helping with a production at SVSU.



Brett Greathouse

Stagehand: Brett is a third-year Theatre major. Brett is excited to help present this show as a stagehand and is happy to be a part of the process.



Olivia Greanias

Costume Designer: Olivia is excited to do her first solo costume design! She is a Theatre major, Musical Theatre and Art Minor who has participated in multiple SVSU productions. Olivia would like to thank everyone in the cast and crew, especially Jaden for helping her throughout this process!



Danielle Durst

Costume Shop Coordinator: Dani Durst is a fifth year double major in Theatre and Communication. She has worked on numerous shows during her time at SVSU, both on stage and off. She would like to thank her family for all of their support and love over the years.



Becca Dubs

Make-up and Hair Designer: Becca is a fifth year Secondary English Education major with minors in both Theatre/ Communications Education and Sociology. This will be Becca's fifth show as the Hair & Make-up Designer. Becca will graduate this upcoming December and is very grateful for all of the opportunities she has had to work on these amazing shows with amazing people.



Karley Goodman

Dramaturg: Karley is a third year Theatre major with a double minor in Marketing and Management. She has worked on numerous SVSU productions both on and off the stage. Karley would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support and the SVSU Theatre Department faculty and staff for their dedication to a safe return to live theatre.



Adam Coggins

Prop Designer: Adam is a Senior Theatre Major, he was previously seen as one of the co-dramaturges in *A Doll House* at SVSU. He is very excited to help present *Lonely Planet* to our first in person audience in a year.



Brielle Myles-Williams

Prop Run Crew: Brielle is a senior Theatre and Spanish student here at SVSU. Brielle is excited to work on another SVSU production doing something she has not previously done and gets to have new experiences in the process!



Zoe Gilbert

Make-up and Hair Crew: Zoe Gilbert is excited to be on Makeup and Hair Crew for *Lonely Planet* at SVSU, after years onstage in various projects. She is a first-year Theatre major and was recently seen in Pit and Balcony's production of *Murder On The Orient Express*.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Great Lakes Bay Region is home to numerous organizations that provide resources, education, and so much more. The following organizations provide resources for LGBTQ+, HIV prevention and education, healthcare, crisis services, and more. You can find additional inclusive resources at www.greatlakesbaypride.org.



PFLAG Great Lakes Bay envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

www.pflaggreatlakesbay.com



Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, Inc is dedicated to assisting all people with behavioral health needs, including those with limited means to improve their quality of life.

www.sacredheartcenter.com



SOGI YAC's mission is to identify risks and explore needs for SOGI youth in our community with a focus on collaboration, education, outreach, and support.

www.sogiyac.org



The Hearth Home is Great Lakes Bay Health Center's HIV prevention and outreach center. Services provided include free HIV counseling and testing, safer sex supplies, HIV education, and more.

www.greatlakesbayhealthcenters.org



The Pride Center at Saginaw Valley State University strives to better the lives of individuals who identify as gender/sexual/romantic minorities through education, awareness, advocacy and resources.

www.svsu.edu/msa

National Crisis Resources

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender National Hotline
(888) 843-4564

www.glbthotline.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
(800) 273-8255

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Local Mental Health & Crisis Resources

Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
800-327-4693

Community Mental Health Central MI
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
800-317-0708

Saginaw Community Mental Health
24-Hour Crisis Hotline
(800) 233-0022

Family & Children's Services
(989) 631-5390

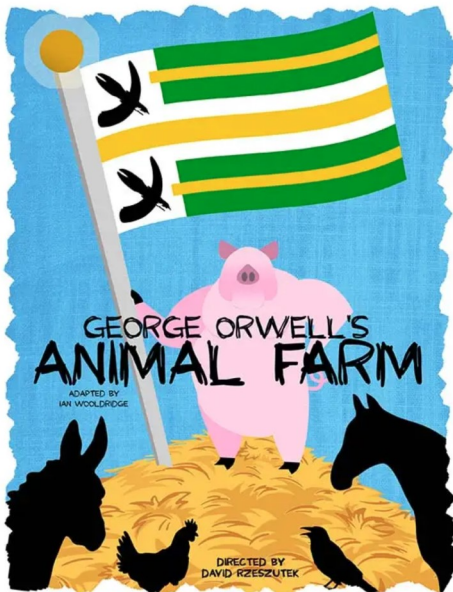
M.P.A. Group
(989) 667-9661



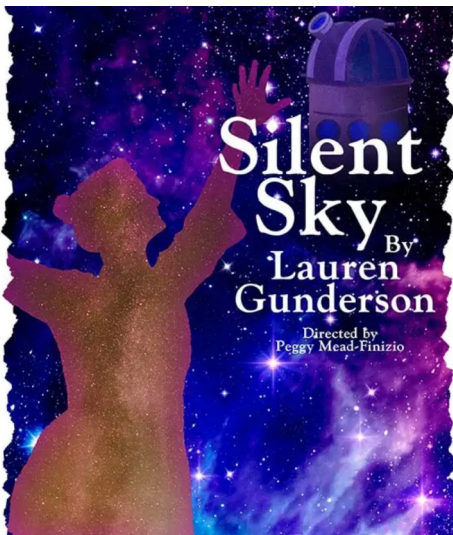
Great Lakes Bay Pride provides inclusive sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE) education, advocacy, networking, and resources to individuals and organizations in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

www.greatlakesbaypride.org

Upcoming Productions



"Some are more equal than others." The animals on a farm drive out their master and take over and run the farm for themselves. The experiment is successful, except that someone has to take the deposed farmer's place. Leadership devolves upon the pigs, which are cleverer than the rest of the animals. Unfortunately, their character is not equal to their intelligence.



The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth.



Marlene has been promoted to managing director of the 'Top Girls' employment agency and is celebrating with some distinguished guests, women in legend or history who offer perspectives on maternity and ambition. In a time warp, these ladies are then transformed into her co-workers, clients, and relatives as we transition to London in the Thatcher years. Marlene, like her famous guests, has had to pay a price to ascend from proletarian roots to the executive suite. She's become, figuratively speaking, a male oppressor: This seminal play of the modern theatre poses complex questions about feminism, power, motherhood, agency, and the meaning of success.

Tickets—\$15

Performance Information:

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Friday, November 19, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, November 20, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, November 21, 2021 @ 3:00pm

Location: Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

Audition Information:

Monday, November 15, 2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Location: Dance Studio (Curtiss 181)

Performance Information:

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, February 24, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Friday, February 25, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, February 26, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, February 27, 2022 @ 3:00pm

Location: Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

Audition Information:

Monday, February 7, 2022

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Location: Dance Studio (Curtiss 181)

Performance Information:

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, April 7, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Friday, April 8, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, April 9, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, April 10, 2022 @ 3:00pm

Location: Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

For updates on our upcoming season or information on how to get involved, check out our social media pages!

[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) [SVSU's Theatre Page](#)

———— Acknowledgements ————

Full Time Faculty

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA

David Rzeszutek, MFA

Tommy Wedge, MFA

The Office of President Dr. Donald Bachand

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

Adjunct Faculty

Dan Gerics, MA

Caleb Knutson, MA

Dakotah Myers, MA

The Office of University Communications

Departments of RPW & Theatre

Administrative Secretary Kelly J. Helmreich

The Conference Center at SVSU

Andy Sharrow, Kellie Lehner, and Julie Eddy

— Special Thanks —

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

Campus Facilities - Maintenance

Office of University Communications

Tim Inman, Director of Marketing Support

Michael Randolph, Marketing Specialist for Videography and Photography

The Pride Center at SVSU

Great Lakes Bay Pride

Scott Ellis, Executive Director





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David M. Rubenstein.

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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.