Virtual Show Program

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

NO EXIT



by Jean-Paul Sartre

Adapted from the French by Paul Bowles

Directed by Dave Rzeszutek

NO EXIT is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. *www.concordtheatricals.com*

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

NO EXIT

Written by Jean-Paul Sartre

Adapted from the French by Paul Bowles

Stage Manager

Lily Oddo*

Director

Dave Rzeszutek

Dramaturg

Faye Randall

Scenic Designer

Jerry Dennis

Lighting Designer

Addi Williams

House Manager

Samantha Hand

Sound Designer

Elliott Bell

Properties Designer

Derek Bauer*

Costume Designer

Ryan Long

Hair & Makeup Designer

Tristan Quinn

Publicity Managers

Lydia Bolzman

Brook Treynor

Production Manager

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Fight and Intimacy Director

Jen Pan

Poster Design

Joy Cheng

*Denotes SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient

Content Warning: ***Please note that this production of No Exit involves mature content of relationships and death***

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Cast

Vincent Cradeau	Owen Kurth*
Inez Serrano	Stephanie Crachiolo
Estelle Delaunay	Madison Clelland
Bellboy	Sam Kreps



Production Team

Director	Dave Rzeszutek
Stage Manager	Lily Oddo*
Scenic Designer	Jerry Dennis
Lighting Designer	Addi Williams
Costume Designer	Ryan Long
Sound Designer	Elliott Bell
Fight and Intimacy Director	Jen Pan
Properties Designer	Derek Bauer*
Hair and Makeup Designer	Tristan Quinn
Head of Wardrobe	Bry Guitar
House Manager	Samantha Hand

Production Staff

Administrative Secretary	Kelly Helmreich
Student Office Worker	Ella Koenigsknecht*
Scene Shop Supervisor	Jerry Dennis
Scene Shop Assistant	Leo Schynk
Costume Shop Supervisor	Bry Guitar
Assistant to the Costume Shop Coordinator	Kyle Smith
Mentor to Properties Designers	Dave Rzeszutek
Mentor to Student Designers and Crew	Peggy Mead-Finizio
Mentor to Student Theatre Management	Tommy Wedge
Publicity Coordinator	Dave Rzeszutek
Publicity Managers	Brook Treynor
	Lydia Bolzman

Publicity

Alayna Foster	Lydia Bolzman	Rebekah Faber	Kameron Tennant
Samantha Hand	Elliott Bell	Rylee Mecomber*	Brook Treynor
Ella Koenigsknecht*	Faye Randall		Zoe Piotrowski*

Production Crew

Production Manager	Peggy Mead-Finizio
Assistant Director	Ella Koenigsknecht*
Associate Stage Managers	Jaiden Gardner*
	Zoe Piotrowski*
Assistant Production Manager	Lily Oddo*
Assistant Sound Designers	Grayson Snyder*
Assistant Hair and Make-Up Design	Alayna Foster
Assistant Head of Wardrobe	Magdalena Lambert
Wardrobe Crew	Amber Wissell
	Abby Grifka
Prop Run Crew	Alivia Coles
Stagehand	Tyler Huskey
Sound Board Operator	AJ Triantaflos*
Light Board Operator	Caden Little
Hair and Makeup Crew	Rowan Nelson
Electricians	Ben Hanson
	Noah Ralph

A Note from the Director

We live in a world where people are constantly concerned with what others think of them. Social media, relationships, peer pressure, and the desire to fit in all play a role in how we see ourselves and how we present ourselves to others. We're all trying to figure out who we are, what we believe, and how we want others to see us. How honest are we with ourselves? How much do we allow others to define us? How often do create a version of ourselves that we want others to believe rather than showing them who we really are?

This story makes us think about the choices we make and whether we are willing to take responsibility for them. For me, this is what makes *No Exit* so compelling. The characters cannot escape the judgment of others, yet they cannot stop seeking their approval. Although the play is more than 80 years old, its themes feel remarkably relevant today. It speaks to something deeply human: our desire to be accepted, our fear of being judged, and the ways we sometimes deceive ourselves in order to be seen in a particular light.

I hope our production of *No Exit* both entertains and challenges you. More importantly, I hope it gives you something to think about—not just as you watch the characters navigate their own personal hell, but as you reflect on the choices you make and the ways you navigate the world around you.

Enjoy,
Dave

A Note from the Dramaturg

No Exit reflects the harsh reality of existence, shaped by Sartre's experience in early- to mid-20th-century France. Jean-Paul Sartre was born on June 21st, 1905, in Paris, France. Raised by his mother in his maternal grandmother's home and graduated from the prestigious École Normale Supérieure in 1929, an elite Parisian school located in Paris.[1] After university, Sartre became a teacher in several secondary schools near Paris, where his career was interrupted twice due to a year of studying abroad, and then again during World War II. In the war, he was drafted into the French military as a meteorologist, but was captured and taken prisoner in 1940 and released in 1941. Beyond No Exit, Sartre produced major works across theatre and philosophy, including the plays The Flies, Dirty Hands, and Lucifer and the Lord, alongside seminal essays like Imagination: A Psychological Critique and Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions. From 1960 to 1971, Sartre worked on a massive, unfinished study of novelist Gustave Flaubert. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1964, which he declined, and died of pulmonary edema in April 1980 at age 74.

Sartre wrote No Exit during the darkest period of World War II in Nazi-occupied Paris. In May of 1940, Nazi forces invaded France, and by June, France had been defeated. Over the course of the war, Paris was occupied by 40,000 German troops, pushing out citizens and straining the French economy. In July of 1940, the Nazi Party formed a special commission to denaturalize French citizens. By the end of the war, over 15,000 citizens were denaturalized, with over 6,500 of them being Jewish. Between six and ten million French civilians fled the country in the weeks before and after the Nazi invasion, but Sartre and his companions chose to stay behind. Artists in the city documented their hardships under occupation in their diaries. They resisted through secret gatherings with loved ones by singing, dancing, and sharing their art, all things prohibited by the Liste Otto, the master index of banned books by the Nazis.

Initially, Sartre wrote the play No Exit as a gift for his friend and fellow writer Albert Camus, who requested a play with a small cast set in a living room. The play was titled Les Autres or "The Others" and was about four characters trapped in a cellar during a bombardment. Knowing his friends, he wanted to keep all the actors onstage for the duration of the play to prevent jealousy amongst them. Sartre's solution was that rather than being trapped in a cellar, the characters could instead be trapped in Hell, which just happens to look like a boutique hotel in SVSU's production. The play premiered in May of 1944 at the Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier in Paris. It was originally met with hostile reviews, with critics calling the work "scandalous" and "rotten"[2].After Paris' liberation in August, the play reopened under French director Raymond Rouleau to a much more positive reception. Paul Bowles translated the play into English in 1946, and it premiered on Broadway at the Biltmore Theater in 1946 and won the New York Drama Critics Circle award for "Best Foreign Play" in 1947.

Today Sartre's scholarship earns him a legacy in French history, and No Exit remains a global phenomenon. The play confronts its audience with an undeniable truth: only we are responsible for our actions, and only we have the power to create change.

-Faye Randall

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[1]Desan, Wilfrid. "Jean-Paul Sartre | Biography, Books, Philosophy, & Facts." Encyclopædia Britannica, 2019, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Paul-Sartre. Accessed 29 Oct. 2026.

[2]Mambrol, Nasrullah. "Analysis of Jean-Paul Sartre's No Exit." Literary Theory and Criticism, 7 Aug. 2020, literariness.org/2020/08/07/analysis-of-jean-paul-sartres-no-exit/.

Production Spotlights



Jen Pan:

Jen Pan (she/they) is a fight and intimacy director, movement teaching artist, actor, and stunt performer. Recent credits include Seattle Children's Theatre, Detroit Public Theatre, Obsidian Theatre Festival, Detroit Opera House, University of Michigan SMTD, Oakland University, The Dio, and Croswell Opera House. They're a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), co-founder and lead instructor of Theatrica Gladiatoria (www.fightglad.com Links to an external site.), and co-coordinator of the annual Mitten Mayhem Stage Combat Workshop (www.mittenmayhem.com Links to an external site.).



Lydia Bolzman:

Lydia is a graduating senior going for her Bachelor of Arts in Communication. She has had quite a few roles across the SVSU Theatre Department, but there is none she is more proud of than her 2 year-long position as the Publicity Manager, ending this semester with this show. As for her other positions, she has done Prop Design (*Legally Blonde, The Night Witches, Top Girls, Cinderella*) and has played one role as "Baby Animal" in the 2021 SVSU production of *Animal Farm*, directed by Dave Rzeszutek. Outside of SVSU, Lydia has done theatrical photography work for 'Delta Drama' at Delta College, 'Vanishing Elephant Players' & 'Bay City Players' in Bay City, and owns her own photography business. She would like to thank her Mama for always supporting her and her boyfriend, Thomas, for constantly pushing her to pursue her passions, and Dave Rzeszutek for mentoring her throughout her entire career in the theatre world. Enjoy the show!



Dave Rzeszutek:

David is a Professor of Theatre and has taught at SVSU since 2009. *No Exit* marks the 30th production he's directed at the University. He's 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.



Derek Bauer*:

Derek Bauer is a third-year Theatre and Finance double major, and he is excited to design props for the first time for *No Exit*. His previous roles in the SVSU theatre department include Assistant Director and Co-Scenic Designer for *A Trip to the Moon*, Co-Scenic Designer for *Soundscapes* and *Mountain Language*, and Lead Electrician for *When She Had Wings* and *Little Women...Now*. He would like to thank everyone who helped bring this show to life, as well as his friends and family for their continued support.



Ella Koenigsknecht*:

Ella Koenigsknecht is a second-year English Language Arts for Secondary Education Major with a minor in theatre. She is ecstatic to participate in *No Exit* by serving as the assistant director. She has previously worked on SVSU shows as Heidi in *What the Constitution Means to Me*, Iris in *Soundscapes*, Prisoner in *Mountain Language*, Amy in *Little Women…Now*, puppet designer for *When She Had Wings*, and the assistant lighting designer and light board operator for *Rossum's Universal Robots*. Ella is grateful to be a part of this incredible show, and she thanks her friends and family for their constant support.

Production Spotlights



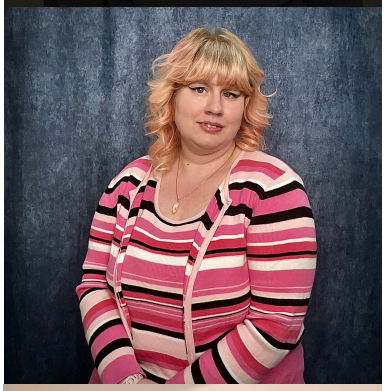
Jaiden Gardner*:

Jaiden Gardner is a second-year Theatre major and Musical Theatre minor. He is excited to be the Associate Stage Manager for the second time. He has previously ASM'd at SVSU in *Mountain Language*. Other behind-the-scenes positions he has held were Stagehand and Co-dramaturg for Studio XP last year. You may have also seen him onstage at SVSU as Legionnaire in *What the Constitution Means to Me*, Laurie in *Little Women... Now*, and Dad/Attendant/Man in *When She Had Wings*. He would also like to thank his cast, crew, friends, and family for their love and support!



Zoe Piotrowski*:

Zoe Piotrowski is a 2nd year ELA Secondary Education and Theatre double major here at SVSU and is so excited to be an Associate Stage Manager for *No Exit*. This is her eighth show at SVSU, previously involved in *RUR*, *When She Had Wings*, *Little Women...Now*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, and Studio XP. She has also been involved in multiple productions at Bay City Central. Some of her favorites include *Urinetown*, *Mamma Mia*, *The Theory of Relativity*, and *Hadestown*. She would like to thank her mother for her endless support and love!



Faye Randall:

Faye Randall (they/them) is a fourth year transfer student, graduating with a Bachelor's in theatre this upcoming May. Currently they are serving as a dramaturg for *No Exit*. They have worked on several shows in their time at SVSU, and have even earned a certificate of merit from the Kennedy Center in 2024 for dramaturgy. They're excited to be a part of the creative team, and can't wait to share the world the team has built with the audience!



Sam Kreps:

Samuel Kreps is a fourth-year Technical Writing major and Theatre minor at Saginaw Valley State University. He is an actor for *No Exit*, which marks his third show at SVSU. He has previously performed with this troupe as Emmett in *Legally Blonde* and as the Captain in *Mountain Language*, and acted as prop designer during *Soundscapes*. He would like to thank the cast, crew, friends, and family for supporting him through each new project.



Tristan Quinn:

Tristan is a first-year Bachelor of Fine Arts Major. Currently she is serving as the Hair and Makeup Designer for *No Exit*. This is her second show here at Saginaw Valley State University. She is so excited to be a part of the creative team behind this production and cant wait to share what we have created with the audience!

Production Spotlights



Madison Clelland:

Madison Clelland is a first-year Pre-Nursing major. She has been fortunate enough to call the stage home from the young age of four-years-old and is beyond excited to be performing for the first time at SVSU. She is so grateful for this journey with *No Exit*, and can't wait to share all the hard work the cast and crew have put into this production. Madison would like to thank her friends, family, cast, and crew for their endless love and support!



Addi Williams:

Addi Williams (she/her) is a fifth-year Cell biology, Molecular biology, and Biomedical sciences major. She is so excited to light design on the Malcom Field stage. This is her first head design position, but she recently assistant lighting designed for *What the Constitution Means to Me*. Addi is looking forward to helping tell the story of *No Exit* through lighting! She would like to thank her electrics team, and Peggy Mead-Finizio for all the help they provided throughout the process.



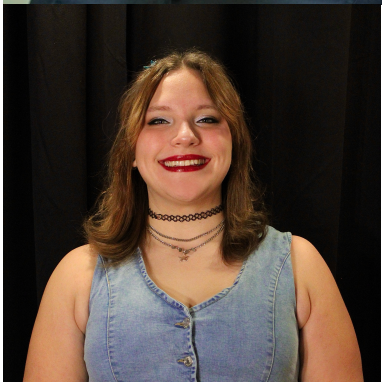
Lily Oddo*:

Lily Oddo is a third year Theatre and Nursing double major. She is very excited to Stage Manage again! Her previous roles were, Stage Manager (R.U.R.), Tech Liaison (Studio XP) Hair and Makeup Designer (Studio XP, *When She Had Wings*, WTCMTM), Assistant Director (*Little Woman...Now*), and Director, Co- Scenic Designer, Production Stage Manager (ATTTM). She is so happy to be able to work on this amazing show with this incredible cast and crew. She would love to thank her family and friends for all of the support and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Owen Kurth*:

Owen is a freshman Theatre and Political Science major. This is his second time acting at Saginaw Valley State University, and he had previously portrayed Man and Randy for *A Trip To The Moon*. Owen would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support and the cast and crew for all their hard work and patience. Enjoy the show!



Elliott Bell:

Elliott Bell, a now 4th-year student at SVSU, is working towards a Secondary Education for Social Studies Major and a Minor in Theatre. They have worked on 20 shows, including sound designing SVSU's *Little Women*, playing ensemble in VEP's *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals,* and sound designing SVSU's *A Trip To The Moon*. Elliott is thrilled to now be sound designing *No Exit*! They would like to thank their friends, family, and boyfriend for all of their support. Enjoy the show!

Production Spotlights



Stephanie Crachiolo:

Stephanie Crachiolo is a Theatre major and Music minor here at SVSU and she is so excited to play Inez in this production! She has previously been involved in several productions at SVSU including Hair and Makeup Designing *A Trip to the Moon*, ASMing *What the Constitution Means to Me* and playing Jo March in *Little Women… Now*, B in *When She Had Wings*, Monet/Mr. Pointy Star in *Soundscapes*, Helena Glory in RUR, and Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde*. She also currently serves as the Vice President of APO. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support!

Production Spotlights

Paul Bowles:

Paul Bowles was an American expatriate composer, author, and translator. Following a cultured middle-class upbringing in New York City, during which he displayed a talent for music and writing, Bowles pursued his education at the University of Virginia before making various trips to Paris in the 1930s. He studied music with Aaron Copland, and in New York wrote music for various theatrical productions, as well as other compositions. He achieved critical and popular success with the publication in 1949 of his first novel "The Sheltering Sky," set in what was known as French North Africa, which he had visited in 1931. In 1947 Bowles settled in Tangier, Morocco, and his wife, Jane Bowles followed in 1948. Except for winters spent in Sri Lanka (then known as Ceylon) during the early 1950s, Tangier was his home for the next fifty-two years, the remainder of his life. In addition to his chamber and stage compositions, Bowles published fourteen short story collections, three volumes of poetry, numerous translations, numerous travel articles, and an autobiography.

Acknowledgements

At Saginaw Valley State University, we recognize that we are located on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Wyandot, and Sauk. We specifically acknowledge the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and the land ceded in the Saginaw Treaty of 1819, on which we reside. We appreciate the importance of preserving and honoring the traditions of Indigenous People who are an integral part of our shared history. As we pledge to serve as responsible stewards of the land, we endeavor for this history to inform our teaching, scholarship, and our commitment to community.

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

Full Time Faculty

Paige Heidrich, DMA
Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA
David Rzeszutek, MFA
Tommy Wedge, MFA

Adjunct Faculty

Destiny Dunn, MFA
Melanie Frasca, MFA
Cass Rivas, MFA
Glecia Tatum, MFA

Staff

Jerry Dennis, Scene Shop Supervisor
Bry Guitar, Costume Shop Supervisor
Kelly J. Helmreich, Administrative Secretary

Acknowledgments

The Office of Dr. George Grant,
President of Saginaw Valley State University

The Office of Dr. Lisa Krissoff Boehm,
Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs

The Office of Dr. Brandon Haskett,
Dean, College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences

The Office of University Communications

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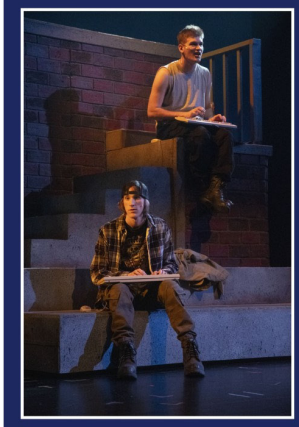













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This production is entered in the **American College Theatre Festival (ACTF)**, a national educational network founded in 1969 to identify, promote, and celebrate college and university theatre production and training.

ACTF seeks to:

- Encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theatre programs;
- Provide opportunities for participants to develop their theatre skills and insight, and achieve professionalism;
- Improve the quality of college and university theatre in the United States; and
- Encourage colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students; the classics, revitalized or newly conceived; and experimental works.

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Additional support for the American College Theatre Festival is provided through national and regional partners committed to advancing excellence in collegiate theatre education.