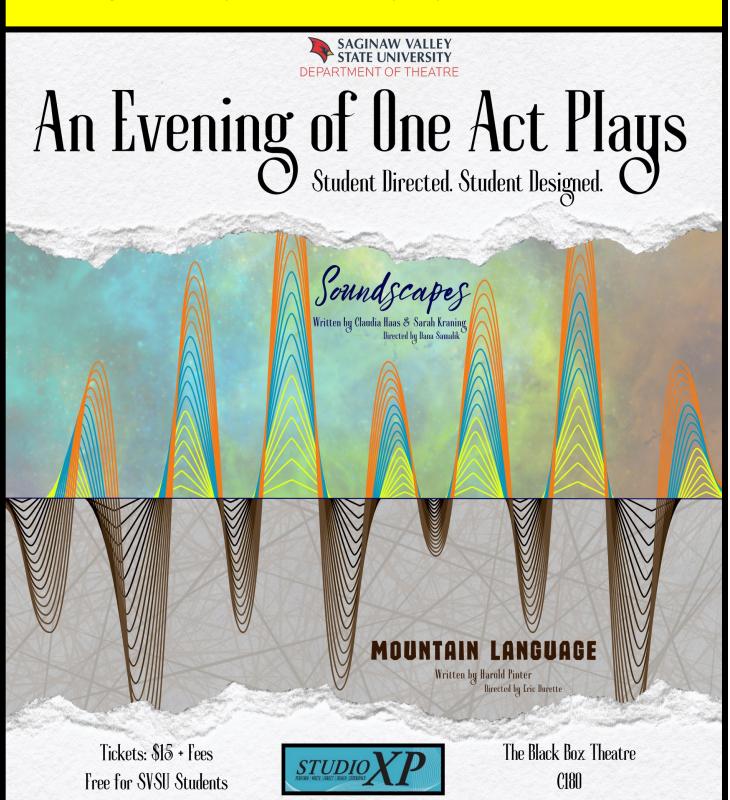
# Virtual Show Program

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre



Saginaw Valley State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. It encourages Diversity and inclusion and provides equal opportunity in education, employment, all of its programs and the use of its facilities. It is committed to protecting the constitutional and statutory civil rights of persons connect with the University, 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, weight, or any other basics protected by state, federal, or other applicable law, and to achieving its objectives in compliance with applicable in the control of the co

### A Note from the Directors

Welcome to An Evening of One Acts: Mountain Language and Soundscapes.

When we began preparing these two vastly different plays, we were struck by how each, in its own way, explores communication: its failures, its power, and its ability to connect or divide. *Mountain Language* by Harold Pinter and *Soundscapes* by Claudia Haas may differ in tone and style, yet they share a common thread: both examine what happens when voices are silenced and what it takes to be heard.

Soundscapes presents communication as something deeply internal and profoundly human. Through Iris, a young girl with synesthesia who sees sound as color, Claudia Haas reminds us that difference is not something to fear, but something to celebrate. Her story radiates empathy and discovery. The concept guiding our production, "Cosmic Expansion Within", reflects how each of us holds a universe of thought, sound, and feeling inside. Like the cosmos, Iris's world expands endlessly, transforming silence and misunderstanding into connection and beauty.

This is contrasted in *Mountain Language* by Pinter, who depicts a totalitarian regime that forbids a minority group from speaking their native language. Inspired by the oppression of the Kurdish people in 1985, his play transcends time and geography, reminding us that the suppression of language; and thus, identity, remains a universal act of control. Our production sets this story in an "Amero-Russo Prison," creating parallels between the gulags of Russia, and the detention centers of modern America. The world Pinter imagines is one where silence is enforced, words become weapons, and humanity struggles to survive in the absence of understanding.

One of the most rewarding, and challenging aspects of this process was the collaboration between our directing teams. Bringing two stylistically opposite plays into one cohesive evening required openness, trust, and curiosity. Through our conversations, rehearsals, and late-night problemsolving, we discovered that our work shared a heartbeat: the tension between isolation and connection. *Mountain Language* shows the devastating failure of communication, while *Soundscapes* celebrates its triumph. Together, they form a dialogue of their own, one that invites the audience to listen deeply, reflect compassionately, and imagine a world where every voice can be heard.

Thank you for joining us tonight. We hope these stories encourage conversation about language, empathy, and the infinite ways we reach toward one another.

Dana Samalik & Eric Durette, Directors





## An Evening of One Act Plays

Presented by StudioXP and the SVSU Department of Theatre

**Scene Shop Supervisor** 

**Technical Liaison** 

**Administrative Secretary** 

Jerry Dennis

Alex Dubowski\*

Kelly Helmreich

**Scene Shop Assistant** 

**Associate Technical Liaison** 

**Dept. of Theatre Office Worker** 

Alex Dubowski\*

Lily Oddo\*

Paige Tuckerman\*

**Costume Shop Supervisor** 

**Publicity Coordinator** 

**Logo Designer** 

Olivia Greanias

Dave Rzeszutek

Paige Tuckerman\*

**Audio Manager** 

**Publicity Manager** 

**House Manager** 

Eric Durette\*

Lydia Bolzman

Kyle Smith

**Lead Electrician** 

**Head of Crew** 

**Wardrobe Crew** 

Alex Dubowski\*

Isaac Pease

Abigail Grifka

Mentor to Student Designers & Crew

Mentor to Student Properties

Designers

Mentor to Student Theatre

Management

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Dave Rzeszutek

**Tommy Wedge** 

**SVSU Department of Theatre Publicity Team:** Elliott Bell, Kalinah Dunn, Samantha Hand, Ella Koenigsknecht\*, Isabel Losa\*, Zoe Piotrowski\*, Faye Randall, Brook Treynor, Paige Tuckerman\*

#### \*Denotes SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient

**Content Warning:** This production includes the use of fog, haze, loud noises, and strobing light effects. "Soundscapes" contains simulated fire alarms and "Mountain Language" includes strong language, depictions of violence, and perceived non-consensual contact.

#### A brief interlude will occur between performances to transition between plays.

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# MMSoundscapes MMMM

#### Written by Claudia Hass & Sarah Kraning

**Stage Manager** 

Rem Ferguson\*

**Director** 

Dana Samalik\*

Choreographer

Lauryn Rousseau

**Associate Stage Manager** 

Maddie Casper

**Associate Director** 

Noah Johnson

**Associate Choreographer** 

Kalinah Dunn

**Scenic Designers** 

Derek Bauer\* & AJ Triantaflos

**Properties Designer** 

Samuel Kreps

**Lighting Designer** 

Alex Dubowski\*

**Sound Designer** 

Elliott Bell

**Media Designer** 

Paige Tuckerman\*

**Costume Designer** 

Cal Baur

**Hair & Makeup Designer** 

Dramaturgs

**Assistant Lighting Designer** 

**Brook Treynor** 

Jaiden Gardner\* & Faye Randall

Leo Schynk

**Light Board Operator** 

Addi Williams

**Sound Board Operator** 

Elliott Bell

**Media Board Operator** 

**Natalie Stevens** 

**Electricians** 

Alex Dubowski\*

Rem Ferguson\*

Zoe Piotrowski\*

**Stagehand** 

Jaiden Gardner\*

**Media Engineers** 

Eric Durette\*

Drea Brown

Paige Tuckerman\*



## A Note from the Director

When I first encountered *Soundscapes* by Claudia Haas, I was struck by its tenderness and honesty. It captures what it means to feel out of step with the world—to carry something extraordinary inside you that others can't quite understand. Iris's story, filled with color, sound, and quiet resilience, reminds us that being different isn't a flaw to fix, it's a light to nurture. Her world is one of constant expansion, where every sound becomes color and every feeling radiates outward.

As I prepare to step into my own career as a drama teacher, *Soundscapes* resonates on a profoundly personal level. I see in Iris the students I hope to reach. The ones who feel misunderstood, who see the world through a different lens, and who carry entire universes inside them. My goal as both a director and educator is to make theatre accessible to everyone. Theatre should be a place where every person, regardless of ability, background, or way of thinking, feels they belong.

The guiding concept for this production, "Cosmic Expansion Within", captures that belief. The phrase reflects how each of us holds an entire cosmos inside, a world of imagination, memory, and potential that continues to expand with every experience and connection. Just as our universe stretches outward, endlessly growing, Iris's inner world bursts beyond the boundaries of her classroom and her diagnosis. Her synesthesia becomes not something to suppress, but something to celebrate: an infinite spectrum of sound and color that mirrors the beauty of human difference.

The biggest honor I have had with this production is the ability to work with my amazingly talented peers. To see them shine both onstage and backstage has been my greatest privilege. I feel so lucky to have been able to work with them in this capacity, it has been my greatest gift. What a wonderful cast and crew to work with for my final production here at SVSU as an undergrad. I would love to give a huge thank you to all the friends I have made along the way, your friendship means the world to me. And another big thank you to all the professors here in the theatre department, you have taught me so much and I am truly grateful for your knowledge and mentorship.

Soundscapes reminds us that discovery is not just about finding answers, but about learning to see the world in new ways. It's about empathy, acceptance, and the courage to express ourselves even when the world asks us to stay small. My hope is that this production invites audiences to listen with their hearts, see with their imaginations, and remember that what makes us different is often what makes us extraordinary. I hope you'll join me in celebrating the infinite worlds that live within each of us, and the power of theatre to make them shine.

Dana Samalik, Director



## <u>A Note from the Dramaturgs</u>

The story of *Soundscapes* comes from Sarah Kraning's own life. She has a condition called synesthesia, where the senses overlap. For her, sound takes on color and movement. Kraning often collaborates with musicians, painting along to the music played onstage. She often uses her artwork to speak on environmental issues and neurodiversity. In an interview on Kraning's work, she states, "Finding community is powerful, and for me, discovering that I was not alone completely changed my life", which is one of the central themes in the show *Soundscapes*<sup>1</sup>. Like the show's main character Iris, Kraning was met with confusion whenever she shared her synesthesia with others, so she was forced to hide her traits at around 9 years old<sup>2</sup>. Co-writer Claudia Haas has spent her career writing for young audiences<sup>3</sup>. Together, they created a story that makes space for how people experience the world in different ways<sup>4</sup>.

Soundscapes is a show that adds to the growing conversation in theatre about neurodiversity and inclusion. In the show, Iris experiences bullying and ostracization due to her synesthesia. Until, with help from a friend, she realizes that her differences only make her stronger as an artist. This message is vital in today's society, where neurodiverse people still experience stigma and bullying due to their differences<sup>5</sup>. The production of Soundscapes shows that difference is not something to fix but something to see and understand. Through Iris, we are reminded that perception is personal and that empathy starts with listening<sup>6</sup>.

Jaiden Gardner and Faye Randall, Dramaturgs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>https://helenjournal.org/august-2024/the-familiar-yet-strange-case-of-neurodiversity-and-bullying</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>ARTIST STATEMENT - Sarah Kraning — Synesthesia Art by Sarah Kraning</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Claudia Haas, Playwright

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> How Sarah is able to see colours in music

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Meet Sarah Kraning – CanvasRebel Magazine

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> <u>Neurodiversity and Bullying Behaviour</u>

### Cast

Iris Ella Koenigsknecht\*

Mother Veronica Vozniak

Mariel Isabel Losa\*

Jessica Zoe Piotrowski\*

Monet Stephanie Crachiolo

**Tony** Cooper Sawyer

Father Lexy Andres

**Psychologist** Zoe Kikstra

**Announcer** Callie Carson

Color Chorus/Classmate Ensemble Alexis Andres

Callie Carson

Zoe Kikstra

Isabel Losa\*

Zoe Piotrowski\*

Veronica Vozniak





# Mountain Language Market Marke

#### Written by Harold Pinter

**Stage Manager** 

Director

**Fight & Intimacy Choreographer** 

Emma Koch

Eric Durette\*

Drea Brown

**Associate Stage Manager** 

Jaiden Gardner\*

**Associate Director** 

Rylee Mecomber

**Dramaturg** 

Drea Brown

**Scenic Designers** 

Derek Bauer\* & AJ Triantaflos

**Properties Designer** 

Stephanie Crachiolo

**Lighting Designer** 

Zoe Piotrowski\*

**Sound Designer** 

Cooper Sawyer

**Media Designer** 

Paige Tuckerman\*

**Costume Designer** 

**Brook Treynor** 

Hair & Makeup Designer

Lily Oddo\*

**Associate Hair & Makeup Designer** 

Lauryn Rousseau

Stagehand

Maddie Casper

Composer

**Keaton Henning** 

**Associate Composer** 

Ryan Wiley

Guitarist

Ryan Wiley

**Light Board Operator** 

Addi Williams

**Sound Board Operator** 

Cooper Sawyer

**Media Board Operator** 

**Natalie Stevens** 

**Electricians** 

Alex Dubowski\*

Rem Ferguson\*

Zoe Piotrowski\*

**Media Engineers** 

Eric Durette\*

Drea Brown

Paige Tuckerman\*

## A Note from the Director

Welcome to our production of *An Evening of One Acts: Mountain Language*.

Mountain Language, written by Harold Pinter, depicts a totalitarian state's oppression through the prohibition of a minority group's native language. When I first read this play I was instantly captivated by the way that Pinter used simplistic language and was still able to write such a complex play that showcased oppression.

Pinter's play continued to captivate my attention the more I read about its creation and meaning. Originally inspired by the suppression of the Kurdish people by the Turkish government in 1985, Pinter wrote a play that transcends time and can constantly be seen throughout history. One of the main goals our production team had was to showcase Pinter's writing and represent how this oppression can be seen everywhere, rather through the gulags of Russia, the internment camps of Germany, and even ICE holding facilities in America today. In order to hold true to this transcendence of time our production tried creating parallels and setting the world inside the bounds of an "Amero-Russo Prison." Through this audience members will see parallels to oppression that happens not only in American facilities, but in Russian gulags of the past. In this production audience members will see more than the words that Pinter wrote, but also the living atmosphere of the prison it takes place in.

Finally, the most interesting aspect of Mountain Language that fully dragged myself into the story, was how similar every character was. Regardless of if someone is a prisoner or a guard everyone appears to speak the same language. However, the guards yell and assault anyone who speaks the "mountain language". Through Pinter's writing he finds a way to express how we are all the same and the idea of restricting the lives of others does not seem to make sense. This play in a short 8 pages is able to show not only the awful effects of oppression, but also question the legitimacy of these oppressive intentions.

I invite you to join us and not just hear what happens, but place yourself in the shoes of the oppressed.

Thank you, and enjoy the show!

Eric Durette, Director



## A Note from the Dramaturg

In the original printing of *Mountain Language*, Harold Pinter wrote a succinct note that said "The play consists of a series of images on the theme of language and oppression." These themes remain resonant throughout everything that has happened since the play was written. Performing this play in the United States today gives it more relevance than ever, in a country being torn apart by political decisions and conflict.

Mountain Language was written as part of Pinter's response to the Turkish response to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, a Marxist/Leninist separatist group. Pinter's own experiences in Turkey gave him an acute sense of the atrocities that the Kurdish minority were experiencing at the hands of the Turkish government. It's clear that Mountain Language is distinctly separate from the horrors of this specific war—even Pinter himself, in a BBC TV interview, said "I'm not writing a play simply about Turkey...in fact the play isn't about Turkey at all. I think the play is very much closer to home and I believe it reflects a great deal what's happening in this country."<sup>2</sup>

Pinter was a prolific political activist, speaking out against a myriad of situations throughout his life. Pinter had a vested interest in the concept of power and powerlessness, fighting throughout his life to tease apart the power structures that are so present in the world. He grew up with a family of Jewish descent in the 1930s—this heavily influenced his worldviews and led to his more radical approach in political theatre. Throughout his career, he found his style of political theatre, culminating in his Nobel Prize lecture.

Political theatre presents an entirely different set of problems. Sermonising has to be avoided at all costs. Objectivity is essential. The characters must be allowed to breathe their own air. The author cannot confine and constrict them to satisfy his own taste or disposition or prejudice. He must be prepared to approach them from a variety of angles, from a full and uninhibited range of perspectives, take them by surprise, perhaps, occasionally, but nevertheless give them the freedom to go which way they will. This does not always work... *Mountain Language* pretends to no such range of operation. It remains brutal, short and ugly... *Mountain Language* lasts only 20 minutes, but it could go on for hour after hour, on and on and on, the same pattern repeated over and over again, on and on, hour after hour.<sup>3</sup>

It's impossible to perform a political play without looking deeply at the world that we exist in today. *Mountain Language* is a stark reminder of what can be, what is, and what has been a reality. The characters beg for hope and find none, they ask for leniency and are met by force. This play asks a lot of its audience—it asks for a connection to the world in a way that non-political plays may not. Thank you for contributing to our connection.

#### Drea Brown, Dramaturg

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Baker, William. *Harold Pinter, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2008.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Baker, William. *Harold Pinter*, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Harold Pinter – Nobel Lecture. NobelPrize.org. Nobel Prize Outreach 2025.

### Cast

Sergeant Kalinah Dunn

Young Woman Isabel Losa\*

Officer Samuel Kreps

Elderly Woman Elliott Bell

**Guard** Leo Schynk

Prisoner Ella Koenigsknecht\*

Second Guard Samantha Hand

Hooded Man Tyler Huskey

Visitor Ensemble Samantha Hand

Faye Randall

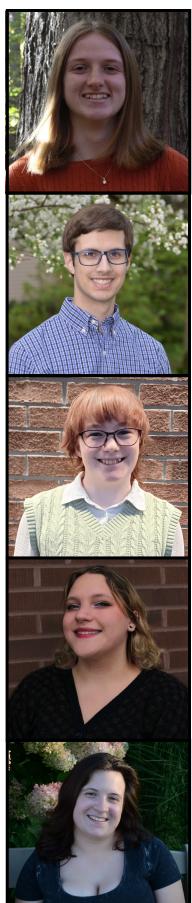
Prisoner Ensemble Abdullah Farooqui

Tyler Huskey

Ella Koenigsknecht\*

Zak Steiner





#### **Lexy Andres:**

Lexy is a first-year double major in environmental science and mathematics, and she is excited to act as Father/Color Chorus in *Soundscapes*. She has never previously acted before, so she is grateful to have the opportunity to expand her skills and learn more about theatre as a whole. Lexy would like to thank the cast and crew for their work on this production, as well as her family and friends for supporting her through this new adventure.

#### Derek Bauer\*:

Derek Bauer is a theatre major with a minor in finance, and he is thrilled to serve as co-scenic designer for both *Soundscapes* and *Mountain Language*. He focuses on the technical aspects of theatre and enjoys using his experience in lighting, sound, and set design to bring creative ideas to life. Most recently, he was the assistant sound designer and audio engineer for *R.U.R* at SVSU. He would like to thank his family for their support, as well as the cast and crew for their dedication and collaboration throughout this production.

#### Cal Baur:

Cal Baur (he/him) is a first-year secondary English education major with a minor in theatre, and he is excited to be the costume designer for *Soundscapes*. He has previously been on the wardrobe crew for *R.U.R:* An AI Musical Melodrama at SVSU. Before SVSU, he had been on stage in productions of *Sense and Sensibility, Alice in Wonderland, The Importance of Being Earnest, Romeo and Juliet*, and *Firebringer*. He would like to thank everyone for coming to the show, as well as the crew and his friends for their help and support throughout the process.

#### **Elliott Bell:**

Elliott Bell, a third-year at SVSU, is working towards teacher certification in social studies and a minor in theatre. They have worked on 16 shows, including assistant sound designing *Women Who Weave*, playing Pilar in SVSU's *Legally Blonde*, and playing Domin in SVSU's *R.U.R!* Elliott is thrilled to be sound designing *Soundscapes* and playing Elderly Woman in *Mountain Language!* They would like to thank their friends, family, and boyfriend for all of their support. Enjoy the show!

#### Lydia Bolzman:

Lydia is a fifth-year communication major with a theatre minor. She has been on the publicity team for two years, and her first publicity manager credit is for Tommy Wedge's *R.U.R: An A.I. Musical Melodrama*. Beyond her publicity involvement, she has also been credited with Prop Design (*Legally Blonde, The Night Witches, Top Girls*) and for a singular role during her freshman year, Baby Horse (*Animal Farm*). She would like to thank her Mama for her unwavering support, her boyfriend Thomas for all of his support/help in pursuing her passions, and all of her theatre friends (both on the crew and her amazing team) for making her work worth it!





<u>Drea</u> is a fifth-year theatre major with a minor in management. She is an active stage manager, designer, and technician. Previous roles at SVSU include Stage Manager/Associate Stage Manager (*Tiny Beautiful Things, Very Berry Dead, Noises Off, The Night Witches, Women Who Weave, Burning Bluebeard, Legally Blonde*), Sound Designer (*Top Girls, columbinus*), Assistant Director (*R.U.R*). Drea is an Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and was the Assistant Fight/Intimacy Director for *Newsies* (MCFTA) and *columbinus* (SVSU) as well as the Intimacy Choreographer for *Legally Blonde* (SVSU).

#### **Callie Carson:**

Callie Carson (she/they) is a first-year rehabilitation medicine major, pursuing a Master's in Occupational Therapy. This is her first time performing at Saginaw Valley State University, though she previously appeared as the Mathletes Moderator in *Mean Girls* at Pinconning Area High School. She is grateful for the opportunity to perform and would like to thank everyone who helped bring this production to life. Callie has always had a passion for the performing arts and is excited to continue exploring theatre.



#### **Maddie Casper:**

Maddie is a second-year social studies for teacher certification major with a minor in theatre. This is Maddie's first show as an associate stage manager, but their third show at SVSU. In previous shows at SVSU, they played the role of Rasia in *The Night Witches* and, more recently, Atropos in *Woman Who Weave*. They are so grateful to be here and are thankful to be given the opportunities they have. They are so lucky to have Rem by their side, along with an amazing cast and crew. They want to thank their friends and family for their support through this process, and the cast for becoming another family to them. They hope you enjoy the show!



#### **Stephanie Crachiolo:**

Stephanie Crachiolo is a fourth-year music major and theatre minor at SVSU with a focus in vocal performance. This is her third production with SVSU's theatre department, having previously played Helena Glory in *R.U.R:* An AI Musical Melodrama and Vivienne Kensington in Legally Blonde. Stephanie has also Vocal Directed Little Women at the BPAC in Frankenmuth and works as a private piano and voice instructor, as well as a vocalist. She would like to thank the cast and crew of both XP productions for making this such a memorable experience and hopes you enjoy the show!



Alex Dubowski is a fourth-year theatre major with a minor in psychology and a focus on lighting design and technologies. He has previously light-designed at SVSU on the productions of Legally Blonde, Women Who Weave, columbinus, and Burning Bluebeard, which earned a Certificate of Merit and an Honorable Mention for Theatrical Excellence in Lighting Design at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. This is his third year serving as the Student Scene Shop Worker. Alex is very excited to share his work as well as the work of the team we built for this production!



#### **Kalinah Dunn:**

Kalinah Dunn (They/Them/Theirs) is a communication major with minors in Spanish and theatre in their third year at SVSU. They are so excited to be on stage again! Recently, they served as the principal photographer for R.U.R: An Al Musical Melodrama at SVSU. They also portrayed Enid Hoopes in Legally Blonde, and Lachesis in Women Who Weave. They would like to thank their family for being so supportive, and the cast and crew of both shows for welcoming them with open arms. They hope you enjoy both shows!



#### **Eric Durette\*:**

Eric Durette is a fourth-year pre-law major. Eric's past directing experience has been assistant directing *Legally Blonde the Musical* with professor Tommy Wedge, and *Burning Bluebeard* with professor Dave Rzeszutek. Eric has also Sound designed *Noises Off!*, Projections designed *Women Who Weave*, and has had some type design or acting role in every show at SVSU since 2022. Eric would like to thank the ENTIRE production team. From the actors for their constant excitement to the designers for the creativity and willingness to try new things! He thanks you all for this amazing opportunity during his last year at SVSU.



#### Abdullah Farooqui:

Abdullah is a pre-med student majoring in cellular & molecular biology with double minors in French and applied mathematics. He is grateful for the opportunity to perform in *Mountain Language*. This production marks his SVSU acting debut, which brings him great excitement. Having lived a globally nomadic life across Asia, Europe, and now the United States, he draws inspiration from the many cultures that have shaped him. He looks forward to collaborating with artists from diverse backgrounds and deepening his understanding of the craft and community of theatre.



#### Rem Ferguson\*:

Rem Ferguson (They/Them) is a second-year theatre major with a minor in management who is extremely excited to be the Stage Manager for *Soundscapes*! Their previous roles in the SVSU Theatre Department include Associate Stage Manager for *R.U.R*, Associate Lighting Designer for *Legally Blonde*, Dramaturg for *Women Who Weave*, Lighting Designer for *The Night Witches*, and Co-Props Designer for *The Miser*. They want to thank their friends and family for their continued support throughout this process!



Jaiden Gardner is a first-year theatre major. He is excited to co-dramaturg *Soundscapes* and Associate Stage Manager for *Mountain Language* for the first time at SVSU. He has previously acted at SVSU as Hermeus in *R.U.R.* Some of his favorite past roles in other theatre programs include Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, Wadsworth in *Clue*, and Adam in *Freaky Friday*. Jaiden is also a performer with The Impromptu Crew, an improv troupe based in Metamora, Michigan. He would like to thank his cast, crew, friends, and family for their love and support!





Samantha Hand (she/her) is a first-year theatre major with a management minor. She is very excited to act as Second Guard and in the visitor ensemble in *Mountain Language*. This is her first show at SVSU, but she could previously be seen as Ms. Meyers in *Freaky Friday*, a jock in *High School Musical*, Windward in *The Little Mermaid*, and Michael Wormwood in *Matilda* at Charlevoix Middle/High School. She can also be seen in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall for the RSO, Encore. Samantha would like to thank her friends and family, as well as the cast and crew, for all of their kindness and support!



#### **Keaton Henning:**

Keaton Henning (he/him) is a junior political science major and philosophy minor with a pre-law focus. He's excited to make his composing debut with this production. Keaton has not previously worked on any SVSU productions but is grateful for the opportunity to work with such a great ensemble. Keaton would like to make a special thanks to associate composer and guitarist Ryan Wiley for being an incredible collaborator.



#### **Tyler Huskey:**

Tyler is a first-year theatre major here at Saginaw Valley State University. He is excited to be in his first production here at SVSU. His most recent role was Busboy in *She Loves Me* at Walled Lake Central High School. Tyler is thrilled to play the Hooded Man in this production of *Mountain Language*. He would like to thank his parents for paying for his tuition and for their support, as well as his friends for always being there for him.



#### **Noah Johnson:**

Noah is a fourth-year political science major, and is excited to join you for his last production as a student at SVSU as the Assistant Director for *Soundscapes*. You may have previously seen him on stage as Warner in *Legally Blonde*, several roles in *Women Who Weave*, Freddie/Philip in *Noises Off!*, Bobby in *Urinetown*, and Sims in *Very Berry Dead*. After graduation, Noah hopes to stay involved in community theatre in the Great Lakes Bay Region!



#### Zoe Kikstra:

Zoe Kikstra is a third-year elementary education major with a minor in theatre, and she is so excited to be playing Psychologist/Color Chorus in *Soundscapes*, a play that is very close to her heart. This is Zoe's fifth show with SVSU Theatre, previous roles include assistant costume designer (*The Night Witches*), Props Designer (*R.U.R*), Messenger/Phaedra/Procne (*Women Who Weave*), and Chutney/Harvard Student (*Legally Blonde*). Zoe would like to thank the cast & crew for bringing this amazing show to life!



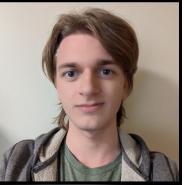
#### **Emma Koch:**

Emma is a fourth-year theatre major with minors in management and sociology. She is a jack of all trades within the theatre department and prior to this production, has been involved as the Stage Manager for *The Miser*, Assistant Director for *The Night Witches*, and as the Associate Stage Manager for *Noises Off!* and *Legally Blonde*. She would like to thank this amazing cast and crew that has worked so hard to make this production what it is!



#### Ella Koenigsknecht\*:

Ella Koenigsknecht is a first-year English language arts for secondary education major with a minor in theatre. She is delighted to participate in *Soundscapes* as Iris, and *Mountain*Language as a Prisoner. She has previously worked on shows as stage manager, makeup and hair designer, dance class leader, and summer class leader for All of Us Express Children's Theatre in East Lansing. She is especially excited for this production, as it will be her first collegiate acting debut. Ella is grateful to be a part of this important story being portrayed and she thanks her friends and family for their constant support.



#### Samuel Kreps:

Samuel Kreps is a third-year student majoring in professional and technical writing with a minor in theatre. He performed at SVSU last semester as Emmett Forrest in *Legally Blonde*, and has performed with other troupes in the past, playing characters like Jeremy Heere in *Be More Chill*, Lefou in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Captain von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. He's delighted to return to the stage with this amazing cast and crew. This is also his first show acting in the capacity of properties designer. Working on this production has deepened Sam's appreciation for art and how it helps us connect with others. Enjoy the show!



#### Isabel Losa\*:

Isabel Losa is a fourth-year theatre major and a sociology minor. She has been on prop-run crew for *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-moon-Marigolds*, and Co-Hair and Makeup Designer for *Women Who Weave*. She has been on stage as Soupy Sue in *Urinetown*, Henry Gilfoil in *Burning Bluebeard*, Selsdon Mowbray in *Noises Off!*, Faith in *columbinus*, Elise in *The Miser*, Polina in *The Night Witches*, Gaelen/Delta Nu in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Pr1mus in *R.U.R: An Al Musical Melodrama*, and U/S for Ma in *Very Berry Dead*. She wants to thank her parents for always supporting her in the audience every night.



Rylee Mecomber is a second-year secondary English education major and minor in theatre, and is so excited to be working on *Mountain Language* as assistant director. This will be her fourth show here at SVSU, most recently performing on stage as Alquist in *R.U.R* and Clotho in *Women Who Weave*. She would love to thank her friends and family for their support, and to the lovely cast and crew for making this such a wonderful experience. Enjoy the show!











#### Lily Oddo\*:

Lily Oddo is a second-year theatre and nursing double major. She is very excited about being an Associate Tech Liaison for Studio XP as well as a Hair and Makeup designer. Her previous roles were Costume Crew (The Miser), Associate Stage Manager (Night Witches, Woman Who Weave, and Legally Blonde), and Stage Manager (R.U.R). This show has been an amazing experience with it being something that she has never worked on before. She is so excited to design for the first time. She would also love to thank her family and friends for all of the support.

#### Zoe Piotrowski\*:

Zoe Piotrowski is a first-year ELA secondary education and theatre double major here at SVSU and is thrilled to be acting as Jessica in Soundscapes and lighting designer for Mountain Lanquage!! This is her second show at SVSU, previously being seen in R.U.R as Busman. She has also been involved in multiple productions at Bay City Central. Some of her favorites include Grease, Urinetown, Mama Mia, The Theory of Relativity, and Hadestown. Zoe is very excited to also be playing Jessica in Soundscapes! She would like to thank her mother as well as all of her fellow castmates for their hard work!!

#### **Faye Randall:**

Faye Randall is a transfer student at SVSU. Their major is theatre, with minors in creative writing as well as communication. Faye is working as a co-dramaturg in the show Soundscapes and is acting in the show Mountain Language. They are focused on becoming a dramaturg, actor, or costume designer post-college. They would like to thank their friends and professors for all their work on the show.

#### Lauryn Rousseau:

Lauryn Rousseau (she/her) is a third-year literature and black studies student here at SVSU, and she is the choreographer for SVSU's Studio XP Production of Soundscapes! Lauryn is a Roberts-Gilbertson Fellow, a Global Foundation Scholar, and has been dancing for over 18 years. She began choreographing dance in the seventh grade and continued to do so throughout middle school, high school, and into college. Lauryn was the Assistant Choreographer for SVSU's production of Legally Blonde: The Musical, the choreographer of SVSU's R.U.R, and is currently the President and Lead Choreographer for SVSU's club dance team, Cardinal Dance.

#### Dana Samalik\*:

Dana Samalik is a fourth-year communications and theatre education major thrilled to direct Soundscapes! She has previously assistant directed musicals at Bay City Central and Garber High School, and directed at Handy Middle School, but is especially excited to make her collegiate directing debut with this production. At SVSU, Dana has performed in Burning Bluebeard as the Faerie Queen, The Miser as Harpagon, and The Night Witches as Serafima—roles that earned her Irene Ryan nominations from the Region 3 Kennedy Center American Theater Festival. Dana is grateful for every SVSU opportunity and for this inspiring cast and creative team.



#### **Cooper Sawyer:**

Cooper Sawyer (he/him) is a second-year secondary education English major with a minor in theatre, and he is excited to act as Tony in *Soundscapes* and Sound Design *Mountain Language*. He's previously acted at SVSU as Meleager/Theseus/Tereus in *Women Who Weave* and as Marius in *R.U.R*; and he's most notably acted in other productions as The Plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*, The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, and Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. He would like to thank all of his family and friends, as well as his co-stars and everyone on the crew.

#### Leo Schynk:

Leo Schynk is a first year theatre major, and is excited about his role as the guard in *Mountain Language*! He is an international student from Germany, where he has been active as a lighting designer for many concerts and shows like, *A Midsummernight's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, A Doll's House* and *The Visit*. He has also acted in *The Visit*, *Puffs*, and *Guys and Dolls*, and in SVSU's production of *R.U.R. An Al Musical Melodrama*.

#### **Kyle Smith:**

Kyle Smith is a third-year secondary ELA education and theatre and communication education major. He is excited to be involved with this year's StudioXP production! This is his fourth production in which he has worked at SVSU's Theatre department. Previous roles include Co-Prop Designer for *The Night Witches*, Assistant Lighting Designer for *Women Who Weave*, and most recently he was a part of the costume and wardrobe crew for *Legally Blonde*. He would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him during his time here.

#### **Zak Steiner:**

Zak Steiner is a first-year theatre major with an undecided minor. He is excited for his first time acting at Saginaw Valley State University, but he could previously be seen as Twobit in *The Outsiders* or Narrator 1 in *The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza* both at Charlton Heston Academy. He was just a spot op in SVSU's *R.U.R.* He would like to thank his friends and family for all the support they have given him and would like to thank his fellow actors and the crew members for all being supportive during this process.

#### **Brook Treynor:**

Brook (they/she/he) is a second year theatre major and criminal justice minor. Brook was most recently Dr. Gall in SVSU's production of *R.U.R.*: An Al Musical Melodrama, and after that experience, Brook was excited to take a backstage role in the hair & makeup process for Soundscapes along with the costume process for Mountain Language. Brook has assisted in costuming in her community theatre for several years, but these are her first head designer position, and they are very excited for you to see her work in this show! Enjoy!





#### AJ Triantaflos:

AJ Triantaflos is a first-year theatre major with a musical theatre minor. She is super excited to co-scenic design her first show at SVSU, and she has learned so much from this experience. She has previously acted at SVSU as Artemus in *R.U.R.* The most recent shows she designed for were *Alice in Wonderland* and *School of Rock the Musical*. AJ would like to thank the cast and crew as well as her family and friends for all of their support and encouragement!



#### Paige Tuckerman\*:

Paige Tuckerman is a fourth-year theatre major working towards her teaching certification in early childhood education. Her media design could be previously seen in SVSU Theatre Department's production of *columbinus;* wherein she and her co-designer received a Certificate of Merit for their work from the Region 3 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Alongside media design, Paige enjoys the art of Stage Management with recent credits including *Legally Blonde: The Musical* and *Burning Bluebeard*. She dedicates her work on this show to her grandfather, whose love is projected on the stage for you tonight.



#### **Veronica Vozniak:**

Veronica Vozniak is a fifth (and a half) year secondary education and mathematics major. She has worked on several shows here as an electrician at SVSU, including Burning Bluebeard, Noises Off!, and The Miser. In addition, she has also been seen on stage as Irina in The Night Witches and the Bookish Client/Court Stenographer in Legally Blonde. She is so excited to continue to share her love and passion of theatre with the audience. She sends all the love to her family and friends for their unwavering support throughout her years here at SVSU, and to the cast and crew of Studio XP for their hard work and perseverance!



#### **Ryan Wiley:**

Ryan is a fourth-year political science major with minors in criminal justice and public law. This is Ryan's first time being involved with SVSU theatre but has had past experience with composing for productions such as *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tullian*. Ryan joins as the guitarist and associate composer, providing insight into music production to his partner Keaton Henning, whom he would like to give a big thanks to for providing him with so much help in the process. He would also like to give thanks to Paige Tuckerman for helping him through his first experience with SVSU theatre, and Eric Durette for giving guidance on his vision of the production.



## -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, scholar-ship, and our commitment to community.

#### Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

#### **Full Time Faculty**

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA David Rzeszutek, MFA Tommy Wedge, MFA

#### **Adjunct Faculty**

Dylan Ratell, MFA

#### **Staff**

Jerry Dennis, Scene Shop Supervisor Kelly J. Helmreich, Administrative Secretary Olivia Greanias, Costume Shop Supervisor

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Alpha Psi Omega 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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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.