

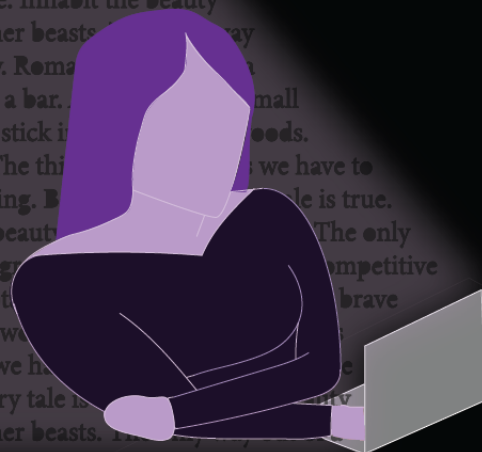
Virtual Show Program

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

Tiny Beautiful Things

Based on the book by Cheryl Strayed
Adapted for the stage by Nia Vardolos
Co-Conceived by Marshall Heyman,
Thomas Kail, and Nia Vardolos

Directed by Dave Rzesutek



Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

PRESENTS

TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Based on the book by Cheryl Strayed

Adapted for the Stage by Nia Vardalos

Co-conceived by Marshall Heyman, Thomas Kail, and Nia Vardalos

Sugar

Lexie Schultz*

Letter Writer #1

Briellé Myles-Williams

Letter Writer #2

Scout McCulloch*

Letter Writer #3

Dana Samalik*

Stage Manager

Drea Brown*

Scenic Designer

Jerry Dennis

House Manager

Zoe Gilbert*

Projections Designer

Abbey Kuhns*

Sound Designer

Eric Durette*

Lighting Designer

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Costume Designer

Jen Lothian

Make-up & Hair Designer

Katelynn Bell

Props Designer

Lila Duvendack*

Mentor to Student

Designers and Crew

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Director

Dave Rzeszutek

Mentor to Theatre

Management

Tommy Wedge

*Denotes an SVSU Theatre Scholarship

CONTENT WARNING: Please be advised that *Tiny Beautiful Things* has mature language and discusses the themes of depression, drug abuse, sexual assault, and physical abuse.

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 connected 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 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

Sugar

Lexie Schultz*

Letter Writer #1

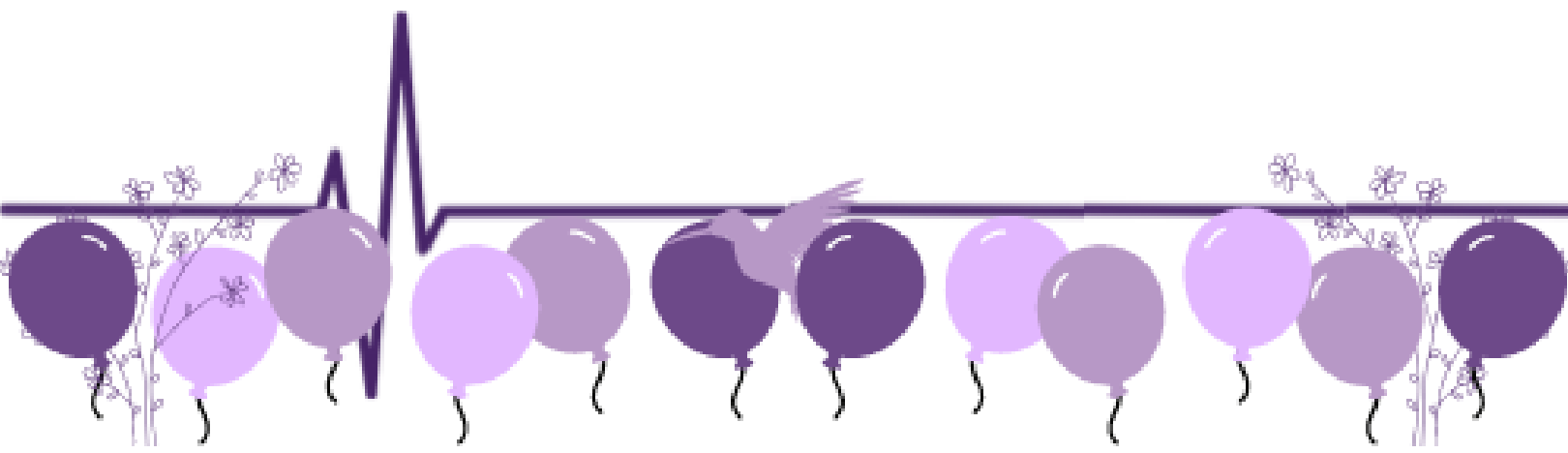
Briellé Myles-Williams

Letter Writer #2

Scout McCulloch*

Letter Writer #3

Dana Samalik*



Production Team

Director
Scenic Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Projection Designer
Prop Designer
Costume Designer
Make-up and Hair Designer
Stage Manager
House Manager/Publicity
Production Manager

Dave Rzeszutek
Jerry Dennis
Peggy Mead-Finizio
Eric Durette*
Abbey Kuhns*
Lila Duvendack*
Jen Lothian
Katelynn Bell
Drea Brown*
Zoe Gilbert*
Peggy Mead-Finizio

Production Staff

Scene Shop Supervisor
Scene Shop Assistant
Assistant Production Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Costume Designer
Assistant Sound Designer
Assistant Prop Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Lead Electrician
Associate Dramaturg
Logo Designer
Dept. of Theatre Office Worker
Administrative Secretary
Mentor to Student Designers and Crew
Mentor to Student Theatre Management

Jerry Dennis
Lucas Inman*
Lucas Inman*
Brett Greathouse
Cat Saylor
Trinity Caldwell
CC LaVasseur
Alex Dubowski*
Alex Dubowski*
Wendy Gonzalez
Abbey Kuhns*
Abbey Kuhns*
Kelly Helmreich
Peggy Mead-Finizio
Tommy Wedge

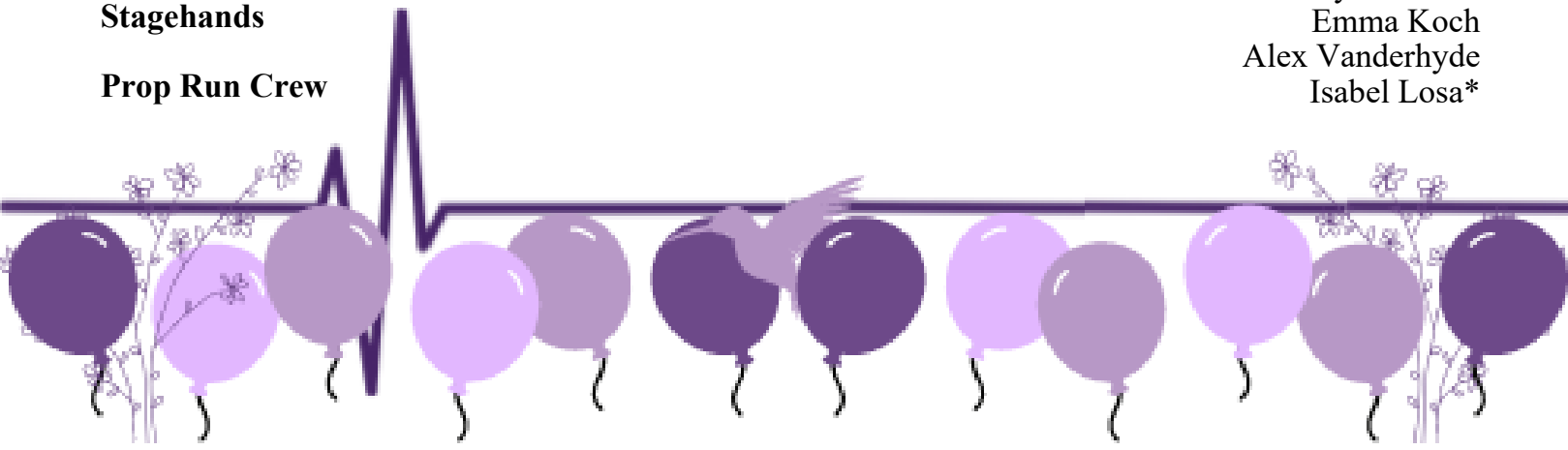
Production Crew

Electricians

Zoe Gilbert*
Paige Tuckerman
Emma Koch
Drea Brown*
Hailie Austin
Paige Tuckerman
Trinity Caldwell
Emma Koch
Alex Vanderhyde
Isabel Losa*

Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Stagehands

Prop Run Crew



A Note from the Director

The ephemeral aspect of theatre has always intrigued me; for a brief time the world of the play is there, and then it's gone, the stage is an empty space again – you have to be in the room to be part of a theatrical community. While you're in that room, there might be a moment or image onstage that impacts you and stays with you for years.

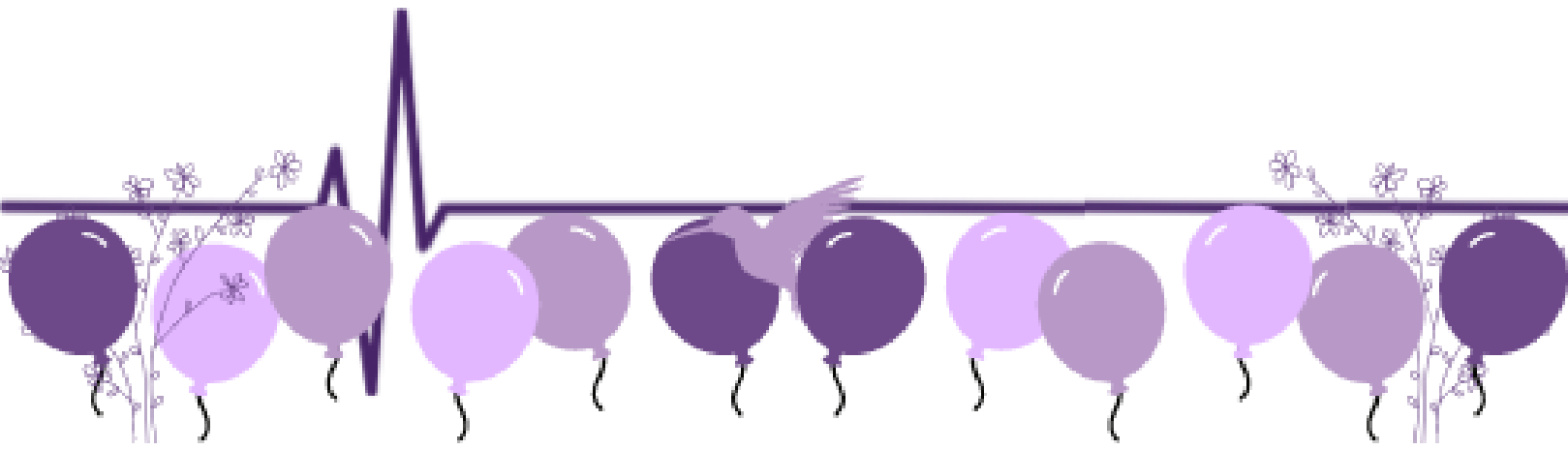
One moment can change your life, especially in the real world. The honesty from the various writers and columnist in this story are attractive because the real letters shared in this play express complete anonymous vulnerability. The empathetic responses and radical sincerity from “Sugar” are inspiring - not only for her answers, but the raw examples of true moments shared from her life. Someone in our audience might need to hear these words; who knows, that someone might be you. We all carry baggage that we are hesitant to share with others. I hope this production helps those who need to hear that they are not alone and that they are loved. Welcome to the first production in our SVSU theatrical season; we're happy you're in the room.

“Never give in. Never, never, never.” Winston Churchill

“If your nerve denies you, go above your nerve” Emily Dickenson

“There's no way to know what makes one thing happen and not another. What leads to what, what destroys what, what causes what to flourish or die, or take another course”.
Cheryl Strayed, *Wild*

‘Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?’ Mary Oliver,
The Summer Day



About the Creators



Cheryl Strayed is the author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir *Wild*, the New York Times bestsellers *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Brave Enough*, and the novel *Torch*. *Wild* was chosen by Oprah Winfrey as her first selection for Oprah's Book Club 2.0.

Strayed's books have been translated into nearly forty languages around the world and have been adapted for both the screen and the stage.

Strayed's essays have been published in *The Best American Essays*, the New York Times, the Washington Post Magazine, Vogue, Salon, The Sun, Tin House, The New York Times Book Review, and elsewhere. Strayed was the co-host of the New York Times/WBUR podcast *Dear Sugars*, which originated with her popular Dear Sugar advice column on The Rumpus, and she co-authored, along with Steve Almond, The Sweet Spot advice column in the New York Times Thursday Styles section. Strayed holds an MFA in fiction writing from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota. She lives in Portland, Oregon.



Nia Vardalos wrote and starred in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* which earned her an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay, a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Musical or Comedy, and an Independent Spirit Award and People's Choice Award. Stage credits include originating the role of Sugar in The Public Theater's *Tiny Beautiful Things*, directed by

Thomas Kail, Jennie in Theatre20's *Company*, directed by Gary Griffin, and writer and actor of twelve The Second City's revues (Chicago's Jeff Award winner, Best Actress.) Writing and acting film and television credits include *Helicopter Mom*, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*, *Larry Crowne*, *Connie and Carla*, *I Hate Valentine's Day*, *My Life in Ruins*, *Jane the Virgin*, *Law and Order: SVU*, and *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. Vardalos is the New York Times bestselling author of *Instant Mom*, the story of adopting her daughter via foster care, and all proceeds are donated to adoption groups.

Production Spotlights



Lexie Schultz

Sugar: (she/her/hers) Lexie is a fourth year double major in Music and Theatre here at SVSU. She is so excited to be back on the Malcolm Field stage for *Tiny Beautiful Things*! She was recently seen in the Open Jar Institute's College Showcase in New York City, *Top Girls*, *Silent Sky*, as well as many others here at SVSU. She would like to thank the entire cast, crew, production team as well as her friends and (most importantly) her family for their unconditional, earth-shattering love and support.
"we're all just walking each other home" - Ram Dass



Briellé Myles-Williams

Letter Writer #1: Briellé is a senior Theatre and Spanish double major. She is excited to be acting in this beautiful production of *Tiny Beautiful Things* at SVSU. In years prior she has been seen both on stage in *Top Girls* and *Animal Farm*, as well as stage managing backstage for *Silent Sky* and being involved in many other productions here at SVSU. She couldn't be more grateful for all of the support and love she has in her life, including this amazing cast and crew, her wonderful friends, and her beautiful family!



Scout McCulloch

Letter Writer #2: Scout is a second-year Theatre and Secondary Education major. She is so excited to be back acting on the Malcolm Field Theatre Stage for *Tiny Beautiful Things*! She has previously been seen in SVSU's production of *Top Girls* and *Animal Farm*, as well as working backstage for other shows. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew, her friends, and family for their continuous support and encouragement throughout this whole process!



Dana Samalik

Letter Writer #3: Dana is a first-year Communication and Theatre Education major. She is excited to perform her first SVSU production for everyone! She is thrilled to be working with such a wonderful cast and crew who have made her college experience so far, a great one! She would also like to thank her friends and family for the endless love and support they have given her throughout her years of performing onstage.
Enjoy the show! Yours, Dana.



Dave Rzeszutek

Director: Dave, Chair/Professor of Theatre, has taught at SVSU since 2009. He was the Saginaw coordinator of NYC's The Public Theater Mobile Unit: National's "Sweat" project. He is affiliated with the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, Michigan Educational Theatre Association, and is a member of the professional actor unions: AEA & SAG-AFTRA. 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.



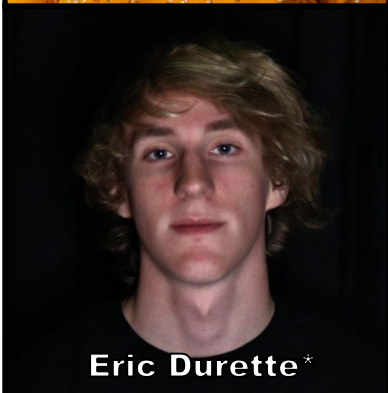
Drea Brown*

Stage Manager: Drea is a second-year Theatre major with a focus in design and tech. She is so excited to be making her stage management debut with *Tiny Beautiful Things*! She has worked with Santa Cruz Shakespeare and Pit & Balcony as a sound designer, engineer, and technician. At SVSU, she has sound designed (*Top Girls*) as well as working as a tech assistant (*Silent Sky*) and electrician. She would like to extend her gratitude to the department for their wonderful support, especially all of the people that have helped to mentor her throughout this new process.



Peggy Mead-Finizio

Lighting Designer: Peggy is an active director, theatre designer, technical theatre instructor, choreographer, dance instructor, and arts administrator. She holds MFA degrees in Theatre Arts and Choreography from the University of Iowa and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University. When she is not directing, she is one of the designers for lights and sound for the SVSU main stage productions and is a mentor to student designers and technicians. Her most recent lighting design was for the Bay City Players production of *Portraits*. Peggy also teaches the Musical Theatre Dance classes for the Department of Theatre. She is a certified teacher Primary - Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum and teaches dance classes at the Flint School of Performing Arts in Flint, MI. Her most recent choreography was a collaborative choreographic project with Flint Youth Ballet and The Flint Rep Education program for *Global Water Dances* which was performed downtown Flint in June 2021.



Eric Durette*

Sound Designer: Eric is a first-year Chemistry and Theatre major with a focus in Sound Designing. Eric is excited to be the sound designer of his first production at SVSU. In Eric's past productions he was the sound designer for Marine City High School. Eric would like to thank Peggy for giving him a chance with the SVSU Designing team! Eric would also like to thank the entire SVSU Theater Department for being so welcoming.



Jen Lothian

Costume Designer: Jennifer is an Adjunct Professor of Theatre, Costume Designer, Milliner, Collage Artist, and Costume Crafts Artisan from Linwood, MI. Jennifer holds an MFA in Production Design and Technology with an emphasis in Costume Design from Ohio University, and a BA in Theatre and Communication Education from SVSU. Some of Jennifer's favorite theatrical pieces she has worked on include *Summer and Smoke*, *People, Places, and Things* (Ohio University), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Rebel Theatre Company), *She Kills Monsters*, *Assassins*, and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (SVSU).



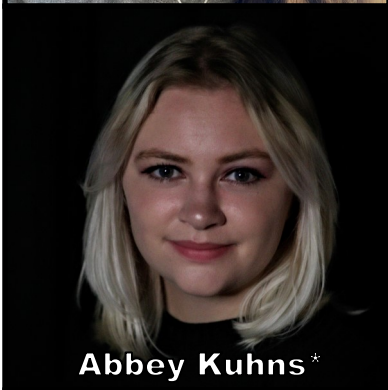
Lila Duvendack*

Prop Designer: Lila is a freshman Theatre and Psychology major. She is ecstatic to help in her first production with SVSU Theatre as prop designer! She had formerly been involved in acting with STCS Drama, and hopes to be just as involved all around here. They would like to send their full support and gratitude to the rest of the cast and crew of this beautiful show.



Katelynn Bell

Make-up and Hair Designer: Katelynn is looking forward to another beautiful production with the SVSU Theatre department. She is a Creative Writing major and a Music minor, but spends her time learning skills like current hair and makeup design, as well as some acting last season. She is excited to see the hard work of all her fellow designers and the actors come to life for you to enjoy!



Abbey Kuhns*

Projections Designer: Abbey is a senior Theatre major with a focus in media design and direction. Her previous direction work includes *No.6*, *A Doll House*, and *Top Girls*. Previously seen as the projections designer for *Silent Sky*, Abbey is excited to be designing again with this amazing team.



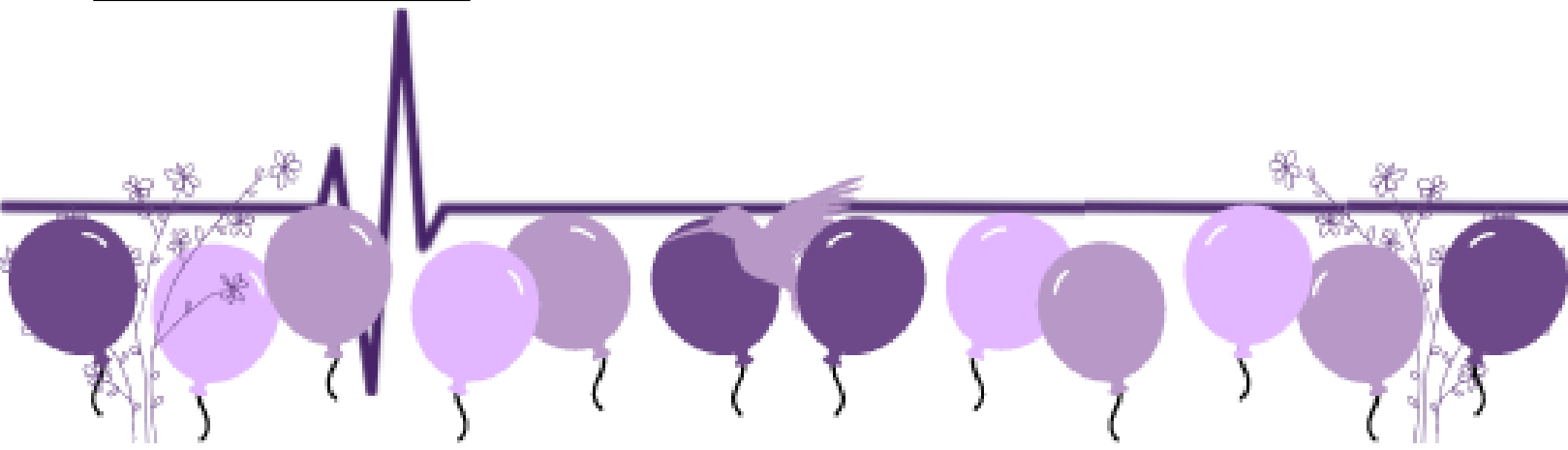
Zoe Gilbert

House Manager/Publicity: Zoe Gilbert is a second year Theatre Major, with a minor in Communications. She most recently worked on SVSU Theatre's production of *Top Girls* as Assistant Sound Designer and Camera Operator. She serves on the executive boards of Alpha Psi Omega and Alpha Sigma Alpha. She would like to thank her Mom for her never-ending support, as well as Dave, Peggy, and Tommy for their mentorship throughout this production. She hopes you all enjoy the show!



Wendy Gonzalez

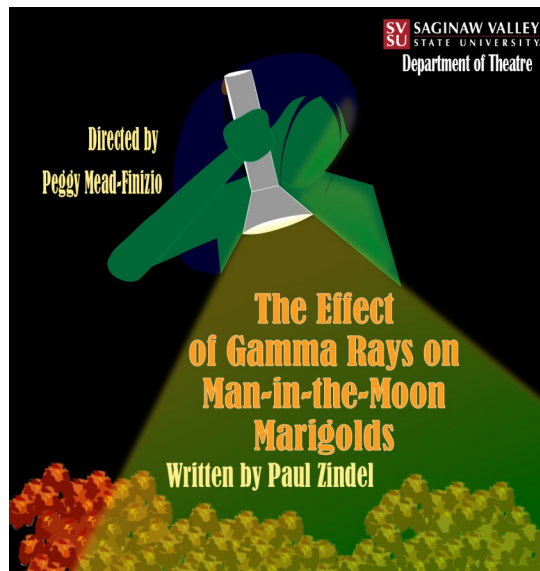
Associate Dramaturg: Wendy is a third-year double major in Theatre and Creative Writing student at SVSU who loves to work on stage as well as behind it. As someone who loves to sing and write she hopes to bring her own work onto the stage one day.



Upcoming Productions

Tickets—\$15

Supporting herself and her two daughters, acid-tongued Beatrice wreaks a petty vengeance on everyone around her. Her older daughter, Ruth, is a pretty but highly strung girl subject to convulsions, while her younger girl, Tillie demonstrates an intuitive gift for science. Encouraged by her teacher, Tillie conducts a botanical experiment, winning a prize at her high school. Proud but jealous, Beatrice can only maim when she needs to love and deride when she intends to praise. Yet, as Tillie's experiment proves, something beautiful and full of promise can emerge from even the most barren, afflicted soil.



Performance Information:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, November 17, 2022 @ 7:30pm

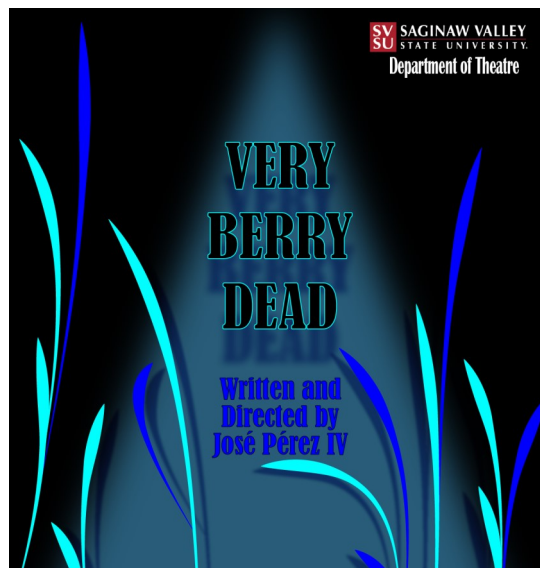
Friday, November 18, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, November 19, 2022 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, November 20, 2022 @ 3:00pm

Location: Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

The tragic loss of multiple family members brings those remaining back to the farm to bury the dead in the ancestral cemetery. However, Vermont state burial laws turn out to be a bit more strict than imagined, and space is getting tight in the old family graveyard. Who gets in, and who gets ditched? That's left up to the head of the family, the two feuding grown children, a rancher, a pagan, a visitor, and the town health officer who was not prepared for this kind of circus.



Audition Information:

Monday, November 28, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 @ 7:00pm

Performance Information:

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, February 16, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Friday, February 17, 2023 @ 7:30pm

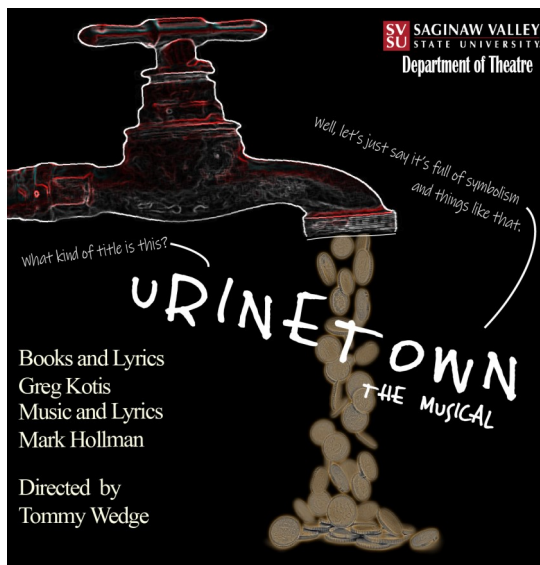
Saturday, February 18, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, February 19, 2023 @ 3:00pm

Location: Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

A 20-year drought has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, *Urinetown* is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theatre itself!



Audition Information:

Monday, January 23, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Performance Information:

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Thursday, April 13, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Friday, April 14, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Saturday, April 15, 2023 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, April 16, 2023 @ 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

Adjunct Faculty

Sherri Angelloti, MSE
Dan Gerics, MA
Caleb Knutson, MA
Jennifer Lothian, MFA
Dakotah Myers, MA

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

The Office of University Communications

Departments of RPW & Theatre

Administrative Secretary Kelly J. Helmreich

— Special Thanks —

Office of University Communications

Tim Inman, Director of Marketing Support

Michael Randolph, Marketing Specialist for Videography and Photography

The SVSU Medical Simulation Lab

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

Campus Facilities - for technical support

SVSU IT Department - for technical support and resources

Mike Holiday and Information Technology Services

Andy Sharrow and The Conference and Event Center

Facility Operations - for assistance with the HVAC





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.