

# Virtual Show Program

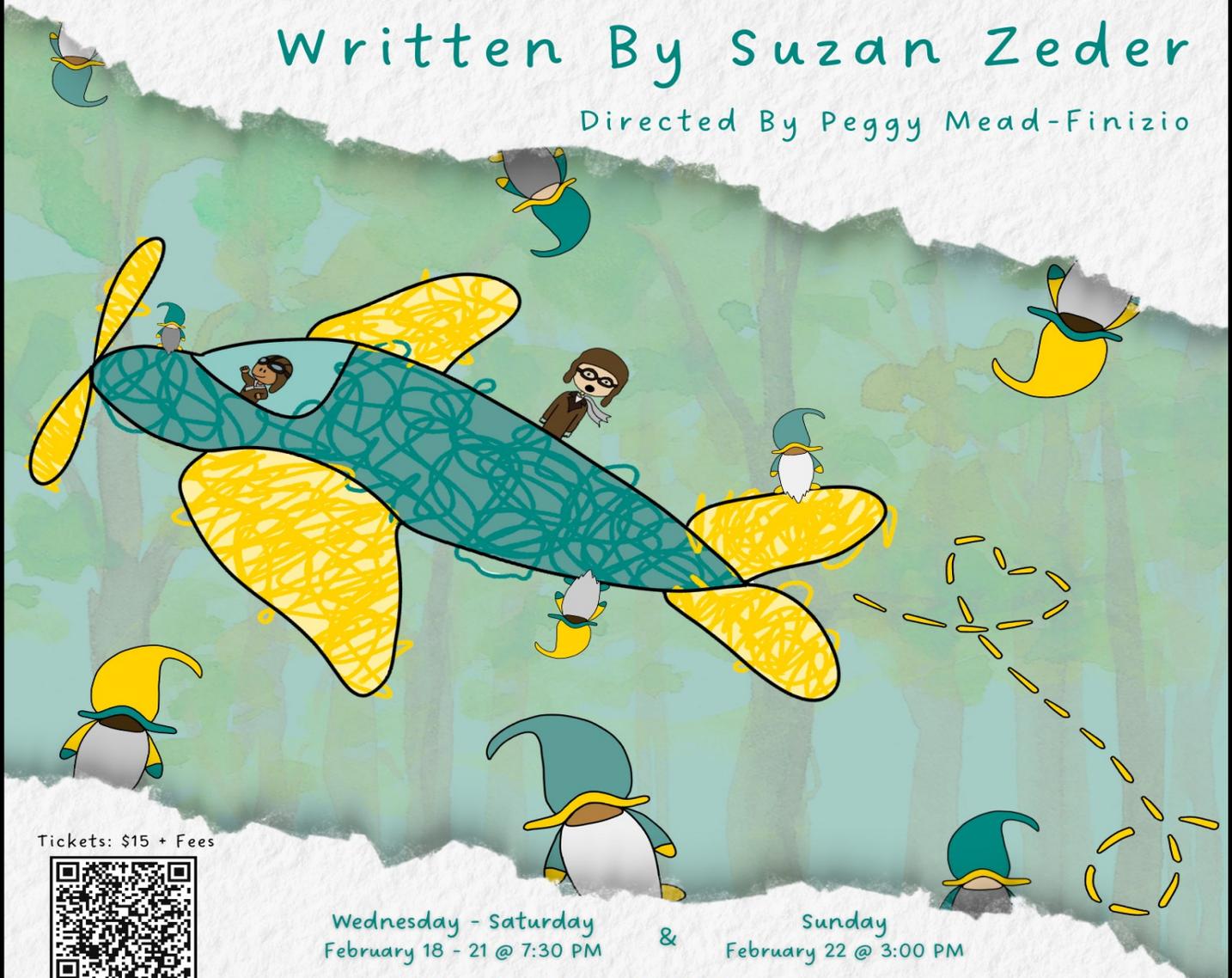
Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

 SAGINAW VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

## When She Had Wings

Written By Suzan Zeder

Directed By Peggy Mead-Finizio



Tickets: \$15 + Fees



Wednesday - Saturday  
February 18 - 21 @ 7:30 PM & Sunday  
February 22 @ 3:00 PM

Free for SVSU Students

Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

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 federal, state, and local laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination.

# When She Had Wings

Written by Suzan Zeder

## Stage Manager

Alex Dubowski\*

## Director

Peggy Mead-Finizio

## Fight Choreographer

Tommy Wedge

## Associate Stage Managers

Rem Ferguson\* &  
Isabel Losa\*

## Associate Director

Paige Tuckerman\*

## Dramaturgs

Rylee Mecomber &  
Zoe Piotrowski\*

## Scenic Designer

Jerry Dennis

## Properties Designer

Cooper Sawyer

## Puppet Designer

Ella Koenigsknecht\*

## Sound Designer

Tyler Obermiller

## Lighting Designer

Kalinah Dunn

## Costume Designer

Olivia Greanias

## Associate Sound Designer

Evelyn Wollesen

## Lighting Mentor

Eric Durette\*

## Associate Costume Designer

Zoe Kikstra

## Sound Board Operator

Lexy Andres

## Light Board Operator

Zoe Piotrowski\*

## Hair & Makeup Designer

Lily Oddo\*

## Live Mix

Evelyn Wollsen

## Lead Electrician

Derek Bauer\*

## Stagehands

Tyler Huskey  
Zain Shores  
Conner Weiland

# When She Had Wings

Presented by the SVSU Department of Theatre

**Scene Shop Supervisor**

Jerry Dennis

**Production Manager**

Peggy Mead-Finizio

**Administrative Secretary**

Kelly Helmreich

**Scene Shop Assistant**

Alex Dubowski\*

**Associate Production Manager**

Conner Wieland

**Dept. of Theatre Office Worker**

Paige Tuckerman\*

**Costume Shop Supervisor**

Olivia Greanias

**Assistant Production Manager**

Alex Dubowski\*

**Logo Designer**

Paige Tuckerman\*

**Wardrobe Crew**

Samantha Hand

Zoe Kikstra

Rylee Mecomber

**Hair & Makeup Crew**

CeCe Goulette

**Electricians**

Zoe Piotrowski\*

Leo Schynk

AJ Triantaflos

**Audio Manager**

Eric Durette\*

**Publicity Manager**

Lydia Bolzman

**House Manager**

Leo Schynk

**Mentor to Student Designers  
& Crew**

Peggy Mead-Finizio

**Mentor to Student Properties  
Designers & Publicity**

Dave Rzeszutek

**Mentor to Student Theatre  
Management**

Tommy Wedge

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

## \*Denotes SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient

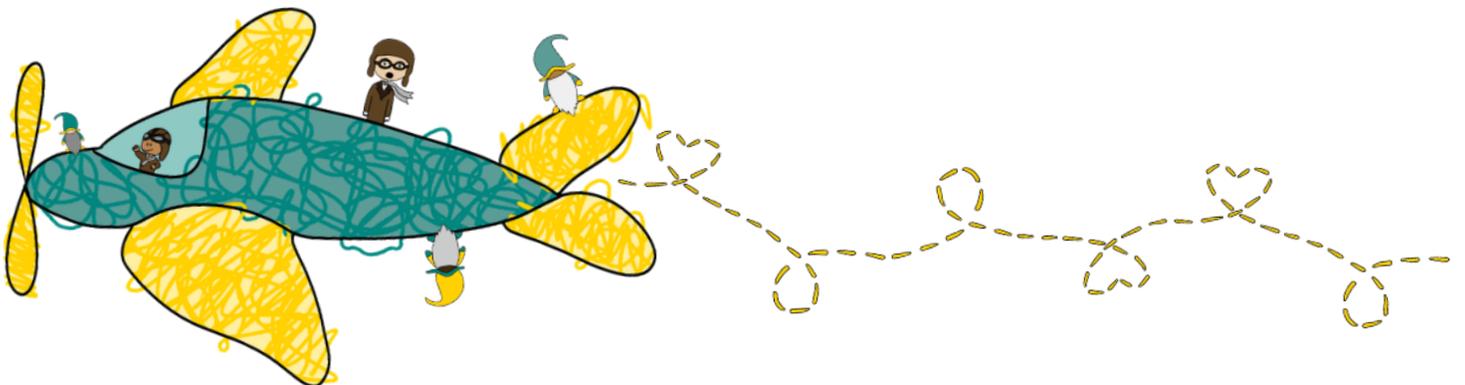
**Content Warning:** *This production includes the use of fog, haze, flashing light effects, simulated thunderstorm effects, and dialogue about body image and divorce.*

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.

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# Cast

<b>B</b>	Stephanie Crachiolo
<b>A</b>	Brook Treynor
<b>Dad/Attendant/Man</b>	Jaiden Gardner*
<b>Wingman</b>	Addi Williams
<b>Sound Op</b>	Tyler Obermiller
<b>Dad/Attendant/Man Understudy</b>	Benjamin Hanson
<b>Flight Crew #1/Fred Noonan</b>	Schmucky the Gnome
<b>Flight Crew #2</b>	Stinky the Gnome
<b>Flight Crew #3</b>	Scruffy the Gnome
<b>Flight Crew Swing</b>	Scuzzy the Gnome



# A Note from the Director

I am so excited to share our production of *When She Had Wings* by Suzan Zeder with you. It is a story that resonates with me, and I hope it touches you as well.

While reading scripts to choose a play to direct for this year, I kept coming back to this one. I knew I wanted to write a Theatre for Young Audiences play with a strong female protagonist, but I was not sure which age group I wanted to aim the story at or what type of story we needed at this time. When I first read this script, I was captivated by the main character and the storytelling style Suzan Zeder asks for in this play. I have not directed a play for elementary-aged audiences in a long while, and this one proved to be the perfect fit.

I began my own theatre “career” in fourth grade, the same age as this play’s protagonist. I attended an assembly at my school where Flint Youth Theatre's touring group, The Ten O’clock Players, performed Mother Goose stories. I sat on the gym floor surrounded by my classmates, mesmerized by what I saw in front of me. I remember how it made me feel and how much it made me want to participate in something just like it. It is one of my core memories. Years later, I was honored to perform in Flint Youth Theatre’s last Ten O’clock Players tour and see the faces of the elementary school children as we performed for them. It was a full-circle moment for me. When reading *When She Had Wings*, I was reminded of this experience I had so long ago. The wants and needs of my fourth-grade self came rushing to me with this story. It became the story I wanted to tell.

We had the luck to connect directly with the playwright of *When She Had Wings* on two occasions during our rehearsal process. We video called with Suzan Zeder twice; once with the Dramaturgs and again with the cast and designers. Being able to ask her questions about the play, hear about its origin stories, and listen to her questions about our production was so special. She spent time with the actors playing A and B, asking them questions about their characters, and offering insights we had not considered in our script analysis. This experience deepened the understanding of our production in countless ways. We are forever grateful to Suzan Zeder for her time with us and for enabling us to tell this story.

I am also forever grateful for the times in my theatre career I have been able to work on Theatre for Young Audiences productions. I have my years with Flint Youth Theatre to thank for a lot of this. TYA is important, and I am glad I am able to share my passion for it with you through this play.

I hope you and your inner fourth grader enjoy the production and find inspiration in its characters and ideas.

- Peggy Mead-Finizio

# A Note from the Dramaturgs

*When She Had Wings* by Suzan Zeder is a Theatre for Young Audiences show told through the lens of a child. It explores taking that giant leap of physical and mental development through the imaginative mind, filled with child-like wonder and creativity.

The dramaturgy team had a wonderful opportunity to meet twice with the playwright, first with the director Peggy Mead-Finizio and again with the cast and stage management team to dig deeper into understanding the show and its developmental process. Zeder remarked that she approached the show with the intention of creating a story that would resonate with the child psyche by including their input and creativity throughout the play's development. The team collaborated with 3rd grade students once a month at Lucy School Elementary in Middleton, Maryland, who were interested in learning about planes and aviation. Zeder shared a story from one of those student sessions about "Riley-she was a wonderful kid. We met at the Aerospace Museum, and we asked what the 'weight, lift, drag, and thrust' meant, and she came running over to us and said, 'Gravity!' and fell to the floor."<sup>1</sup> She explained that she stuck with the idea of gravity for the show, which you may recognize while watching the performance. Zeder felt it was important to include this real-world example of a child's imaginative psyche.

As Zeder attests, *When She Had Wings* is a celebration of a child's imagination and resilience. Dreams and imagination are seen throughout the play, with B's desire for flight and the use of her own wildly creative imagination to make that flight happen, and the unsolved mystery of who exactly A is. It is important to encourage children to dream, as allowing children to dream big gives them purpose by fueling their imagination and motivations.<sup>2</sup> However, this creative spirit shouldn't disappear after childhood. We tend to replace our creative and imaginative way of thinking to be one that is practical and realistic as we get older. As our imagination becomes underutilized, there is an increasing chance to struggle forming new ideas and experiencing social difficulties because of a lack of willingness to be open to new experiences.<sup>3</sup> In this spirit, Suzan Zeder intentionally left the show open-ended. Who is A? What happens to her? Whatever imaginative answer you give-it's correct. That is Zeder encouraging you to dig deep and find your own interpretation of the story by exploring your own unique self, to utilize your imagination again.

As you watch *When She Had Wings*, I encourage you to look into the sky, and dream. In the words of Suzan Zeder, 'fly!'

- Rylee Mecomber  
and Zoë Piotrowski

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<sup>1</sup> Zeder, Suzan. Personal Interview. 2 Feb 2026 and 5 Feb 2026

<sup>2</sup> Len. "Big Dreams, Small Steps: Inspiring Young Hearts." *Children Are Loved*, 11 Oct. 2025. [Link](#).

<sup>3</sup> Jerome, Leigh. "Rediscovering Wonder: How to Spark Adult Imagination." *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, 30 Aug. 2024. [Link](#).

# Production Spotlights



## 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 management credits include Tommy Wedge's *R.U.R.*, as well as student-directed shows (*Soundscapes*; Dana Samalik & *Mountain Language*; Eric Durette) from *An Evening of One Act Plays*. Beyond her publicity involvement, she has also been credited with prop design (*Legally Blonde*, *The Night Witches*, *Top Girls*). She would like to thank her Mama for her unwavering support, her boyfriend Thomas for all of his support in pursuing her passions, and all of her theatre friends (her team, cast, and crew) for making her work worth it!



## Stephanie Crachiolo:

Stephanie Crachiolo is a fourth-year music major and theatre minor at SVSU with a focus in Vocal Performance. She has previously performed on the SVSU stage as Helena Glory in *R.U.R.*, Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde*, and Monet/Mr. Pointy Star in *Soundscapes*. In addition to performing, she has also Vocal Directed *Little Women* at the BPAC, Prop Designed *Mountain Language* and works as a private piano and voice instructor. She would like to thank the cast and crew on this show for making this experience so beyond memorable and her family for their support of her creative endeavors. She hopes you enjoy taking flight with B!



## Jerry Dennis:

Jerry Dennis is an accredited Scenic Designer and is the resident Technical Director and Scene Shop Supervisor for the SVSU Theatre Department. With recent scenic designs including *R.U.R.: An AI Musical Melodrama*, *Legally Blonde*, *Women Who Weave*, *The Miser*, *columbinus*, *Noises Off!*, and *Burning Bluebeard*, Jerry has had so much fun creating the imaginative and playful world of *When She Had Wings*. With inspiration from storybook imagery and Amelia Earhart's planes, Jerry hopes the scenic pieces provide you with a comfortable flight into B's world!



## Kalinah Dunn:

Kalinah is a third-year communication major with minors in Spanish and theatre. They are so excited to be the Lighting Designer for this lovely show! You may have previously seen their work in *Soundscapes* as Assistant Choreographer or in *R.U.R.: An AI Musical Melodrama* as the Principal Photographer. They would like to thank their parents, brother, and wonderful girlfriend for always supporting them and their delusions of grandeur. They hope you enjoy the show!



## Alex Dubowski\*:

[Alex Dubowski](#) is a fourth-year theatre major with a minor in psychology and a focus on lighting design and technologies. This is his first position as a Stage Manager at SVSU! He has previously light-designed at SVSU on the productions of *Soundscapes*, *Legally Blonde*, *Women Who Weave*, *columbinus*, and *Burning Bluebeard*. He is very excited to jump back into the world of management and hopes that you all enjoy the show!

# Production Spotlights



## Rem Ferguson\*:

Rem Ferguson (They/Them) is a second-year theatre major with a minor in management who is extremely excited to be one of the Associate Stage Managers for *When She Had Wings*! Their previous roles in the SVSU theatre department include Stage Manager for *Soundscapes*, 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\*:

Jaiden Gardner is a first-year theatre major. He is excited to play Man/Dad/Attendant in *When She Had Wings* 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!



## Olivia Greanias:

Olivia is a freelance Costume Designer and currently acts as the costume shop coordinator at the Midland Center for the Arts. An alumni of SVSU, she is excited to be back managing the costume shop for this school year. Some of her favorite past designs include *Frozen Jr.* (MCFTA), *Steel Magnolias* (MCFTA), and *Sense and Sensibility* (MCFTA)



## Ella Koenigsknecht\*:

Ella Koenigsknecht is a first-year English language arts for secondary education major with a minor in theatre. She is ecstatic to participate in *When She Had Wings* as the head Puppetry designer. 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 head design position at SVSU. Ella is beyond excited to share this wonderful story with the world and she thanks her friends and family for their constant support.



## Isabel Losa\*:

Isabel Losa is a fourth-year theatre major and sociology minor. This is her first time as an Associate Stage Manager, and she appreciates the experience of leadership that this has given her. 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 with recent roles as Gaelen/Delta Nu in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Pr1mus in *R.U.R.*, Mariel/Young Woman in *An Evening of One Act Plays*, and U/S for Ma in *Very Berry Dead*. Isabel would like to thank her parents for always coming to her shows.

# Production Spotlights



## Peggy Mead-Finizio:

Peggy is an Associate Professor at Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, MI. She is an active director, choreographer, lighting designer, theatre administrator, and dance instructor. Peggy holds two Master of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Iowa: one in Theatre Arts, with a focus on Lighting Design, and one in Choreography. At SVSU, Peggy directs plays and choreographs for the Department of Theatre's main stage, designs lights and sound for some of the main stage productions, mentors student designers and technical crews, and serves as the Department's Production Manager. She also teaches dance classes at the FIM Flint School of Performing Arts.



## Rylee Mecomber:

Rylee Mecomber is a second-year secondary English education major and theatre minor. This is her first time taking on a position in Dramaturgy, however she has been onstage as Alquist in *R.U.R.: An AI Musical Melodrama* and most recently was Assistant Director for *Mountain Language*. She has loved getting to explore and learn more about *When She Had Wings* on a deeper level. She is very excited to have been able to work on this show alongside a dear friend!



## Tyler Obermiller:

Tyler is excited to take the stage as Sound Op and be sound designing *When She Had Wings*! This marks his second production as an actor, following his previous role as Robert Murray in *Burning Bluebeard*, and his fourth sound design with other credits including *The Night Witches*, *Women Who Weave*, and *Legally Blonde*. He is excited to support the storytelling on stage through movement and off stage by inviting the audience to the imagination of B's world. Tyler would like to thank his friends and family, Eric Durette, Evelyn Wollesen, the entire cast and crew, and especially Christopher Blaine - the original sound designer for *When She Had Wings*.



## Lily Oddo\*:

Lily Oddo is a second-year Theatre and Nursing double major. She is very excited about being the Hair and Makeup designer for *When She Had Wings*. Her previous roles were Associate Stage Manager (*Night Witches*, *Woman Who Weave*, and *Legally Blonde*), Stage Manager (*R.U.R.*), and Tech Liaison/Hair and Makeup Designer (*Studio XP*). She is very excited to be able to design again! She would also love to thank her family and friends for all of the support and she hopes you enjoy the show!



## Zoe Piotrowski\*:

Zoe Piotrowski is a first-year ELA secondary education and theatre double major here at SVSU and is so excited to be co-dramaturg for *When She Had Wings*! This is her third show at SVSU, previously being seen in *R.U.R.*, and *An Evening of One Act Plays*. 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 as well as all of her friends in the department for their hard work!!

# Production Spotlights



## Cooper Sawyer

Cooper Sawyer (he/him) is a second-year communication major with minors in theatre and sociology. He is excited to design props for *When She Had Wings*. He has previously acted at SVSU as Meleager/Theseus/Tereus in *Women Who Weave*, Marius in *R.U.R.*, and most notably Tony in *Soundscapes*; he has also performed as The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, and Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. Cooper also sound designed for *Mountain Language*. He would like to thank all of his family and friends, as well as everyone on the cast and crew.



## Leo Schynk:

Leo is a first-year theatre major and communications minor. He has been involved in the productions of *R.U.R.* and *StudioXP* at SVSU, as well as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Doll's House*, *The Visit* and more. He is excited to fill the role of house manager for *When She Had Wings*, and would like to thank all of his friends in the theatre department, and hopes you enjoy the show!



## Brook Treynor:

Brook (they/she) is a second-year theatre major and criminal justice minor. This is her second ever play, but 20th show overall as she typically sticks in the realm of musicals. This is Brook's third show with SVSU, as they have previously costume and makeup designed for *An Evening of One Act Plays*, and was Dr. Gall in *R.U.R.: An A.I Musical Melodrama*. They are Vice President of Back 'n Progress, an on-campus improv club! She wants to thank her cousin, Hannah Mahone, for getting Brook into acting. She really hopes you enjoy the show! AWK!!



## Paige Tuckerman\*:

Paige Tuckerman is a fourth-year theatre major working towards her teaching certification in early childhood education. Alongside her theatrical projects, she works as an assistant preschool teacher and has used her experiences to help her in the process of creating *When She Had Wings*. This is Paige's first time Assistant Directing a production and she is so excited to share this show with the community! Paige dedicates this show to her incredible students. "Everyone has oceans to fly, if they have the heart to do it. Is it reckless? Maybe. But what do dreams know of boundaries?" - Amelia Earhart



## Addi Williams:

Addi Williams (she/her) is a fourth-year cell biology, molecular biology, and biomedical sciences major, on a pre-veterinary track. This is her second show at SVSU, she could previously be seen as Genesis in *R.U.R.: An AI Musical Melodrama*. Addi is very excited for her role of Wingman, sharing the story through movement rather than through spoken word. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being supportive and encouraging. Buckle up for an amazing flight!

# Production Spotlights



## Schmucky the Gnome:

Schmucky the Gnome is a towering force in the theatrical world, don't let his height fool you. With decades of classical training in the art of shrubbery theatre from the Julliard school for the Gnomes, and a resume full of leading role credits including *Gnomeo and Juliette: A Stage Play*, *Little Shop of Gnomes*, *The Gnome of the Opera*, and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Gnome*, Schmucky is exhilarated to lead the gnomes in *When She Had Wings*. He would like to dedicate his performance to his mother and father for never giving up on his acting dreams and for reminding him that height is temporary, but legacy is forever.



## Scruffy the Gnome:

Scruffy the Gnome is revved up for his theatrical debut in *When She Had Wings*! Scruffy can most often be found working on a project around the house or roughhousing with his two boys in the backyard. As a lifelong construction worker, Scruffy brings raw, honest, and unpolished charm to the stage. His larger-than-life presence and no-nonsense attitude prove that talent doesn't always come from training, but from grit, heart, and muddy boots. He says a big hello and "I Love You" to his two kids, Shaggy and Scrappy, who are both turning ten in May!



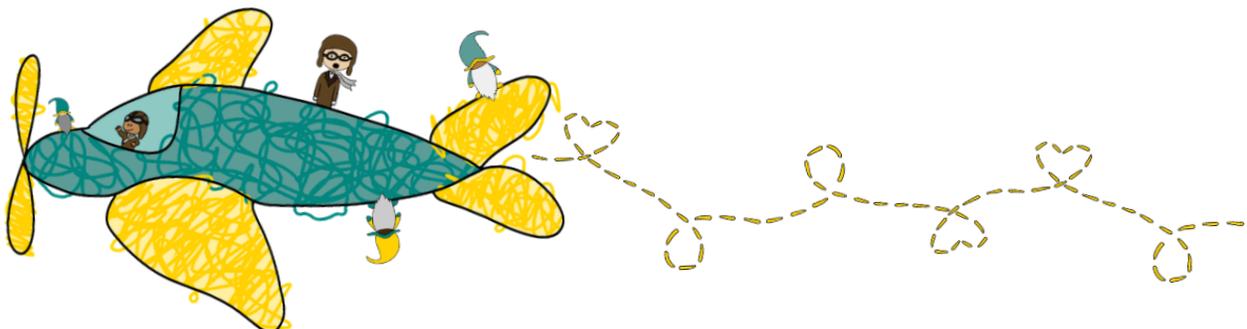
## Stinky the Gnome:

Stinky the Gnome is a devoted cultivator of both gardens and good vibes. With a thumb greener than anyone's and a deep spiritual connection to compost that most will never understand, Stinky brings a unique aroma to the stage—unlike any other. He believes that true art blooms best when presented with peace and love, not soap and water. Stinky has kept his gnome co-stars fed through the rehearsal process with various, sometimes questionable, fruits and veggies grown from his own personal garden. He hopes his performance, or his odor, leave a lasting impression on you tonight!



## Scuzzy the Gnome:

Scuzzy the Gnome is umm....well....just a little bit nervous for his time on stage. Typically found backstage running the spotlights or manning the prop table, Scuzzy loves the art of theatre...even if he'd rather be behind the spotlight than in front of one. When not onstage, Scuzzy enjoys reading alone in his room, in silence, uninterrupted, for hours. He hopes you enjoy his first (and hopefully only) onstage performance, and would like to thank his gnome co-stars for helping him blend into the on-stage environment as much as possible.



# **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**

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA

David Rzeszutek, MFA

Tommy Wedge, MFA

### **Adjunct Faculty**

Melanie Frasca, MFA

Paige Heidrich, MFA

Glecia Tatum, MFA

### **Staff**

Jerry Dennis, Scene Shop Supervisor

Kelly J. Helmreich, Administrative Secretary

Olivia Greanias, Costume Shop Supervisor

### **Acknowledgements**

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

# Special Thanks

**SVSU Foundation** - For continued support in student success

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**Mike Holiday and The SVSU ITS Department** - For technical support and resources

**Campus Facilities** - For technical support

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

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**Midland Center for the Arts Costume Department** - For help with costume rentals

**Alpha Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega** - For overall departmental support

**Suzan Zeder** - For mentorship and creative insight

**Christopher Blaine** - For use of original sound design in pieces of this production

**Lexy Andres, Jerry Dennis, Peggy Mead-Finizio, Dave Rzeszutek, Paige Tuckerman & Dianne Wedge** - For props support

**Mr. Ken Fettig, Vice President for Enrollment Management** - For providing elementary school bussing

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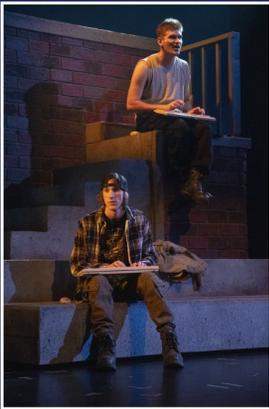
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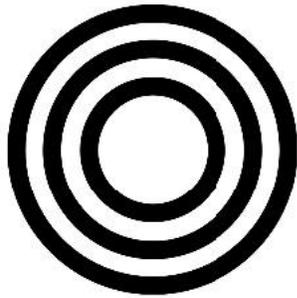
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([pmtucker@svsu.edu](mailto:pmtucker@svsu.edu))



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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.



american college theatre festival

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.

Through ACTF participation, each production is eligible for a response by a regional ACTF representative. Selected students and faculty may also be invited to participate in regional and national ACTF programs, including scholarships, awards, professional development opportunities, and educational initiatives for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers, critics, and arts leadership.

Productions entered at the Participating level are eligible for invitation to a regional ACTF festival and may be considered for regional or national recognition for outstanding achievement in production, design, direction, and performance, in accordance with current program guidelines.

Each year, ACTF engages hundreds of productions and thousands of students nationwide. By entering this production, our theatre department joins a national community committed to artistic rigor, educational excellence, access, and professional development in collegiate theatre.

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