

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE



APRIL 4-13

Weitzenhoffer Theatre

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WEITZENHOFER FAMILY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
UNIVERSITY THEATRE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

and
SCHOOL OF MUSICAL THEATRE
present

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music & Lyrics by
WILLIAM FINN

Book by
RACHEL SHEINKIN

Conceived by
REBECCA FELDMAN

Additional Material by
JAY REISS

Originally directed on Broadway by
JAMES LAPINE

Originally produced on Broadway by
**DAVID STONE, JAMES L. NEDERLANDER, BARBARA WHITMAN,
PATRICK CATULLO, BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY
SECOND STAGE THEATRE**

Director
LYN CRAMER

Music Director
PAUL CHRISTMAN

Choreographer
MICHELLE RAMBO

Scenic Designer
CARA OATES

Costume Designer
JOY OMIESH

Lighting Designer
NOAH JITTAWAIT

Sound Designer
MADISON HECKELSBURG

Associate Lighting Designer
CONNER LIN

Stage Manager
JENNA NORTON

Associate Stage Manager
PAETON WALKER

This production contains some adult content.

8 P.M. APRIL 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 2025 and 3 P.M. APRIL 6, 13, 2025
ELSIE C. BRACKETT THEATRE, 563 ELM AVE., NORMAN, OK 73019
OU FINE ARTS BOX OFFICE • (405) 325-4101 • THEATRE.OU.EDU

'Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by The Farm

'The Barrington Stage Company workshop of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

Welcome to the Weitzenhoffer Theatre and our OU University Theatre Spring musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. We're so excited to share this wonderful production with you. The student cast and creative team are top notch. Warning: please prepare yourself for much silliness. There are very few things that are funnier than a middle school Spelling Bee. But a middle school Spelling Bee in a musical directed by Lyn Cramer? That is a special treat.

This production is bittersweet for all of us because it's Professor Cramer's last production as a faculty member in the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre. Lyn has been an incredible teacher and theatre maker at OU for over 20 years. Her production work, both academic and professional, is always stellar. And the students that have had the privilege to train with her are better for it. So many of her students have gone on to illustrious theatre careers because of what they've learned from Lyn and the rest of our incredible MT faculty. Working with Lyn has been a joy - and we're all better for it. Please join us as we celebrate Professor Lyn Cramer and her impactful work in the musical theatre art form, especially at the University of Oklahoma.



Enjoy the show!

Ashton Byrum
Director, Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre

Friends and Patrons! Welcome to *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*! It's certain to be a wonderfully entertaining evening of musical theatre replete with a group of often-rowdy teens and all that implies!

Thanks to our creative student designers, you will be transported (by time travel or design travel?) back to your school days and, thanks to our talented Musical Theatre cast, you will share the emotions of the participants in the *Bee*. With as many artists working behind the scenes as on the stage (or in the gym!), the one who deserves special thanks and recognition is the director of this production, Lyn Cramer. We have been fortunate to enjoy and applaud her work as a choreographer and director of a vast array of musicals for over two decades, but we don't often have an opportunity to celebrate her work as a teacher in the studio or a researcher and author. I have peeked in on Lyn's classes and rehearsals for years admiring her intense concentration, her ability to get right to the point of a correction, communicating to the performer with precision. If "the proof is in the pudding" we have only to watch the dancers and "movers" perform in Lyn's musicals to appreciate her talent for coaching that brings out the best in each cast member. The number of current performers Lyn has taught, coached and (even) cajoled who now enjoy professional success is staggering. In a university that values research, it's essential to point out that no creative act occurs without the research that, in musical theatre, makes it authentic. Lyn stretched this theory into reality with her book "Creating Musical Theatre" sensitively interviewing and compiling the perspectives of twelve Broadway directors and choreographers, resulting in a gigantic gift to those who will follow them and, truly, to anyone interested in musical theatre!



Thank you, Lyn, for all you have given your students and all of us. We wish you new adventures, countless trails to hike, your favorite music on every device, and everything you dream of doing with those you love. We're delighted our audience is here to share in this wonderful production as we share our thanks with you!

My best always,

Professor Mary Margaret Holt
Dean, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts



A special thank you to our current Dean's Circle members!

- Membership as of March 5, 2025 -

CENTENNIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Sandra Carpenter • Jack & Stephanie Chapman • David Hatton
Bette Jo & Frank Hill • Linda & Keith Miller • Charles L. Oppenheim
George Records • A. Max Weitzenhoffer

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100% of the funds raised through the OU Dean's Circle membership
go toward providing students in the College of Fine Arts
opportunities off-campus that promote artistic and intellectual development.

Questions? Contact David Barocio, Executive Director of Advancement,
OU Foundation at dbarocio@ou.edu or call (405) 325-7376.

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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

CAST

OLIVE	Anastasia White
SCHWARTZY	Ellen Pierce
MARCY	Bree Boswell
RONA PERETTI	Sofia Macaluso
PANCH	David Prengler
MITCH	Darion Elie
BARFEE	Trace Burchart
LEAF	Jackson Dunlap
CHIP	Manny Tijerina

UNDERSTUDIES

Leah Hughes (OLIVE); Allison Crowe (SCHWARTZY);
Eunseo Kim (MARCY); Cadence Gates (RONA PERETTI);
Joshua Faggion (PANCH); Myles Sturns-Thomas (MITCH); Briggs Blume (BARFEE);
Federico Hradek (LEAF); Jonah Taylor (CHIP)

MUSICIANS

Michael Stafford, Conductor/Piano
JP Murphy, Synthesizer
Davon Carrington, Reeds
Rece Nottingham, Cello
Brian Dailey, Drums/Percussion

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has been a favorite of mine since I first saw the Broadway production in 2005. What makes the *Bee* so special is its ability to encapsulate the joy and heartbreak of middle schoolers thrown prematurely into adulthood. The characters at the Putnam County Bee confront their own notions of change and growth, navigating their own insecurities on stage while reminding us of the struggles of our own childhood. Throughout the Bee, the spellers share their experiences of adolescence and puberty often to awkward, heart wrenching, and hilarious effect. This show addresses helicopter dads, absentee parents, the pressure of trying to be perfect, the heartbreak of being underestimated, the humiliation of puberty and even political action; all encased in witty, comical and often charming song and dance.

Based on the play C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E by Rebecca Feldman, book writer Rachel Sheinkin and lyricist/composer William Finn have crafted a unique evening in the theatre with four audience volunteers joining our spellers onstage to compete in the Bee. This convention allows us to remember the awkwardness of our own adolescence, while also changing the course of each performance, offering many hilarious surprises.

Our talented actors have embraced this show with ingenuity, creativity, humor and wit. Each day of rehearsal they jumped into the deep end of the pool with new and zany ideas to embrace the charm and innocence of these characters. What you see and hear is what they brought to the sandbox. This collaboration has been an undeniable joy, and you will reap the benefit of their hard work and dedication to their craft.

I would like to take this time to thank the entire creative team in the School of Drama led by stage manager Jenna Norton, our choreographer Michelle Rambo, Michael Stafford, our band leader, assistant director Charlotte Kreiger and most especially, music director Paul Christman. Paul and I have been a team for a long time. As I retire from OU, I want to thank him for his friendship and all our cherished memories.

Spelling Bee has been such a fast and fun ride. It continues to entertain and charm audiences, young and old, with every performance. Join us in Putnam County for the 25th Annual Spelling Bee and enjoy the show.

- Lyn Cramer, Director

In memory of
DAVID L. BOREN
1941 - 2025



***Former President, The University of Oklahoma
and enthusiastic supporter of the Fine Arts***

Think about what our University would be like without our incredible programs in Music, Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre, Opera, Visual Arts, and our museums. We would be greatly diminished. Great Universities not only develop the mind and the body, they also enlarge the spirit. Think about our own lives without the Fine Arts. We would be locked within the boundaries of our own narrow life experience, limited by our own imaginations, limited to our own individual creativity. It's the Arts that tear down the limits and open up the boundaries that feed our Souls and speak to those things that are deepest within us. The Arts not only touch us individually, they provide the spark of creativity for our entire society. So Thank You to all of those who work so hard to achieve such incredible excellence at the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts. Thank you for all you do to enlarge the life of The University of Oklahoma.

- David L. Boren



ARTS! ARTS! ARTS!

The Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our
2025 Arts! Arts! Arts! sponsors. Without this critical
support, we would not be able to provide the excellent
educational experiences to our students.

TITLE Chickasaw Nation

PLATINUM
David Hatton
Mr. George J. Records

DIAMOND
Betsy Brackett & Gregg Wadley

CENTENNIAL
Lee Ann Ledbetter Burgess
Herman Curiel

SILVER
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EMERALD
Linda Young • Nancy Yoch • Mary Angus Sherman
Chip Oppenheim • Richard Carlson & Andrew Thompson
Susan & Mike Turpen
Mary Margaret Holt & Andrew Phelan
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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

MEET THE CAST



BRIGGS BLUME



BREE BOSWELL



TRACE BURCHART



ALLISON CROWE



JACKSON DUNLAP



DARION ELIE



JOSHUA FAGGION



CADENCE GATES



FEDERICO HRADEK

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

MEET THE CAST



LEAH HUGHES



EUNSEO KIM



SOFIA MACALUSO



ELLEN PIERCE



DAVID PRENGLER



MYLES
STURNS-THOMAS



JONAH TAYLOR



MANNY TIJERINA



ANASTASIA WHITE

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

BRIGGS BLUME (William Barfee u/s) is a musical theatre performance freshman from San Antonio, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Swing*, *RENT*.

BREE BOSWELL (Marcy Park) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Lithonia, GA. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Swing*, *RENT*. Broadway Rose Theatre Company: *Little Eva/Shirelle*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

TRACE BURCHART (William Barfee) is a musical theatre performance junior from Jenks, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Sam*, *Crazy for You*. OUMT Downtown Series: *Balladeer/Oswald*, *Assassins*. Lyric Theatre of OK: *Bob Gaudio*, *Jersey Boys*. Southern Plains Productions: *Ensemble*, *Rent*. Queensbury Theatre: *March Hare*, *Alice by Heart*. Barn Theatre: *Tin Man*, *Wizard of Oz*.

ALLISON CROWE (Schwartzky u/s) is a musical theatre performance freshman from Dallas, TX. Credits: This is her OU University Theatre performance debut.

JACKSON DUNLAP (Leaf Coneybear) is a musical theatre performance junior from Roswell, GA. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Wyatt*, *Zangler u/s*, *Crazy For You*; *Kurt/Ram u/s*, *Heathers*; *Jackie u/s*, *The Wild Party*. Mountain Theatre Company: *Ensemble*, *Grease/Catch Me if You Can*, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma: *Rolf u/s*, *The Sound of Music*, *Nick*, *The Prom*.

DARION ELIE (Mitch Mahoney) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Shreveport, LA. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Paul/Angel & Tom Collins Understudy*, *RENT*. Broadway Rose: *Drifter*, *Beautiful*, *The Carole King Musical*; OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: *Derek*, *21 Chump Street*; Ensemble, *Songs of Adam Guettel*; StageCenterLA: *Lincoln understudy*, *Topdog/Underdog*.

JOSHUA FAGGION (Douglas Panch u/s) is a musical theatre performance freshman from Clayton, NC. Credits: This is his OU University Theatre performance debut.

CADENCE GATES (Rona Lisa Peretti u/s) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Triangle, VA. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Joanne Jefferson*, *RENT*. OUMT Artists' Gallery: *Naomi Rodriguez*, *21 Chump Street*.

FEDERICO HRADEK (Leaf u/s) is a musical theatre performance freshman from Sarasota, FL. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Ensemble/Filmmaker*, *RENT*. OUMT Artists' Gallery: *Music Director*, *21 Chump Street*; *Lighting Designer*, *Boomer Backwards Cabaret*.

LEAH HUGHES (Olive u/s) is a musical theatre performance freshman from Oklahoma City, OK. Credits: This is her OU University Theatre performance debut.

EUNSEO KIM (Ensemble/Film Maker) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Suwon, South Korea. This is her OU University Theatre performance debut.

SOFIA MACALUSO (Rona Lisa Peretti) is a musical theatre performance junior from Atlanta, GA. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Irene Roth*, *Crazy For You*. OUMT Downtown Series: *Judas Understudy/Priest*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *Emma Goldman*, *Assassins*. Casa Mañana: *Ensemble*, *Bat Boy*.

ELLEN PIERCE (Schwartzky) is a musical theatre performance junior from Raleigh, NC. Credits: OU University Theatre: *Alexi Darling*, *Dance Captain*, *RENT*; *Louise*, (*Polly understudy*), *Crazy for You*; *Swing*, (*Ms. Fleming understudy*), *Heathers*; *Swing/Mae/Nadine Understudies*, *The Wild Party*. North Carolina Theatre: *Minnie*, *West Side Story*; *Swing*, *Nine to Five*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

DAVID PRENGLER (Douglas Panch) is a musical theatre performance junior from Parkland, FL. Credits: OU University Theatre: Bela Zangler in *Crazy for You*. OUMT Downtown Series: John Wilkes Booth, *Assassins*. OUMT Artists' Gallery: Narrator, *21 Chump Street*.

MYLES STURNS-THOMAS (Mitch u/s) is a musical theatre performance sophomore with an economics minor from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Tom Collins, *RENT*; Moose, *Crazy for You*; OUMT The Artists' Gallery: Ensemble, *21 Chump Street*. Broadway Rose Theatre Co.: Drifter, *Beautiful: A Carole King Musical*.

JONAH TAYLOR (Chip Tolentino u/s) is a musical theatre performance sophomore from Dallas, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Soloist, *RENT*. OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: Ensemble, *Music of Adam Guettel*; Music Theatre Wichita: Ensemble, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; Ensemble, *Matilda*; Ensemble, *Frozen*.

MANNY TIJERINA (Chip Tolentino) is a musical theatre performance junior from Spring, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Gordon/Roger u/s, *RENT*; Mingo, *Crazy for You*; Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre Downtown Series: Parable Quartet, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Guiseppe Zangara, *Assassins*; OU Musical Theatre Artists' Gallery: Justin Laboy, *21 Chump Street*; Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma: Frankie Valli, *Jersey Boys*.

ANASTASIA WHITE (Olive/Dance Captain) is a musical theatre performance junior from Charlotte, NC. Credits: OU University Theatre: Soloist, Mrs. Jefferson, and Joanne's Understudy, *RENT*; Margie, *Crazy for You*; YoungRepublicanette, (Veronica Understudy), *Heathers*. OU Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre Downtown Series: Simon Zealotes, *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Cornwell's Professional Dinner Theatre: Lucy Pevensie, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; Wolf Moon Dance, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*.

Thank you to Chelle Elerick Breedlove, Kyle Phillips, and Alcott Middle School for the location assistance during our OUMT photo shoot.

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OU University Theatre

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

KASEY ALLEE-FOREMAN (Associate Producer) has served as Associate Producer/Production Manager for over 100 productions in the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently the President of USITT. A short listing of her professional theatre credits include: SphinxCON, a conference promoting Diversity in the Arts; Canterbury Choral: Bernstein's Mass; Houston Grand Opera: Renée Fleming's premiere *La Traviata* (world premiere); Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston); Houston Shakespeare Festival; Shakespeare Festival at Tulane (New Orleans); Theatre West (Los Angeles). Professional film credits include: *Mystery, Alaska, Lost and Found; Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged Me*. She is proud to have served on the USITT Board of Directors as the VP for Conferences, the VP for Education and Training and as a Director. She has served USITT on the Conference Committee chair and member, IDEAS Committee chair and member, is the co-founder of the Gateway Program, and has been the Co-chair of the Women in Theatre Network. Kasey received her MFA in Costume Design and Technology and Lighting Design and Technology from the University of New Orleans and her BA in Theatre Arts from Furman University.

PAUL CHRISTMAN (music director) is the director and co-writer of Igor Lipinski's Piano Illusions which played the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2021, he received the Irene and Julian J. Rothbaum Professor of Excellence in the Arts Award from the University of Oklahoma. He teaches annually for Høyskolen Kristiania (Oslo, Norway) with additional residencies at Balletakademien (Göteborg, Sweden) the Danish Academy of Musical Theatre (Fredericia), the Joop van den Ende Academy (Hamburg), and the Stage School (Hamburg). He has lectured at the Music in Gotham American Musical Theater Conference (NYC), Song, Stage and Screen Conferences (Winchester and London), Musical Theatre Educators Alliance Conferences (Orlando and NYC) and Putting It Together: Teaching Musical Theatre in U.K. Higher Education (Bath). A graduate of Arizona State University (Tempe) and Wright State University (Dayton), he has also completed acting training with the Michael Chekhov Association. His articles on composer Hugh Martin and the musical *Pal Joey* were published in the journal *Studies in Musical Theatre*. He is also co-editor of the songbook: *The Songs of Hugh Martin: From Broadway to Hollywood and The West End* (Hal Leonard). Paul has worked on musicals across the United States from California to Maine, toured in Germany with Hair, and music directed the Toronto premiere of *A Class Act*. From 1994-2004, he music directed 24 productions for Music Theatre of Wichita and has served on the OU faculty since 1999.

LYN CRAMER (Director and Choreographer) is a Rothbaum and Weitzenhoffer Professor of Musical Theatre Dance. She has been a teacher, director, and choreographer for over 36 years. Recent OU productions include *Crazy for You, The Wild Party, Pippin, Cabaret, Dogfight* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, among the 20 main stage productions Lyn has directed and choreographed for University Theatre. She directed and choreographed the Oklahoma City Philharmonic's annual Christmas spectacular, *The Christmas Show*, for 17 seasons. Chances are you saw her famous tap dancing Santas! Cramer has directed and choreographed for three decades at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma. Additional directing and choreographic credits include Casa Mañana, Music Theatre of Wichita, Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre and eight seasons with the Broadway Rose in Portland, Oregon. Favorite professional stage roles include Narrator in *The Rocky Horror Show* for Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma; Allison Bechdel in *Fun Home*, Sarah Jane Moore in *Assassins*, Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot*, Becky Two Shoes in *Urinetown*, RF Simpson in *Singin' in the Rain*, and Bertha in *Boeing, Boeing*. Cramer's professional acting career began in 1982 and she is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. Lyn received the Irene and Julian J. Rothbaum Presidential Professor of Excellence in the Arts award from the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts and the Artistic Achievement Award from Chicago National Association of Dance Masters. She is featured on dozens of instructional tap and jazz videos for Cathy Roe Productions.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

Cramer is a master teacher throughout the United States, publishing curriculums in jazz and tap pedagogy. She has served as an adjudicator and master teacher in musical theatre dance at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts. She is the author of *Creating Musical Theatre: Conversations with Broadway Directors and Choreographers*.

MADISON HECKELSBURG (Sound Designer/Mixer) is a Criminology junior with a minor in sound design. She is from Bartlesville, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Sound Designer, *Waiting for Lefty*; Sound Operator, *RENT*. Spotlight Acting Academy: Sound Designer/Engineer, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*; Sound Designer/Engineer, *Something Rotten!*; Sound Designer/Engineer, *Shrek the Musical*. Bartlesville Fine Arts: Sound Designer/Engineer, *Anything Goes*.

MARY MARGARET HOLT (Producer) began her early ballet training in Austin, Texas at Austin Civic Ballet, receiving a Ford Foundation scholarship for study with the San Francisco Ballet at the age of 15. Subsequently, she received a Ford Foundation scholarship for study at the School of American Ballet, also appearing with the New York City Ballet. Holt accepted a soloist contract with Houston Ballet upon completing her BFA in Ballet Performance. While a member of Houston Ballet, she danced a wide variety of solo and principal roles in the classical and contemporary repertoire by choreographers including Stevenson, Van Manen, Van Danzig, Petipa, Balanchine, Taras, Dolin, Boris, Clouser, Franklin, Ivanov, de Mille, and O'Donnell. She also performed principal roles in Terekhov's *The Firebird*, *The Snow Maiden*, and *Don Quixote*. She has performed as a guest artist, teacher, and choreographer with ballet and opera companies across the United States.

Holt joined the dance faculty of the University of Oklahoma School of Dance as an assistant professor, following Miguel Terekhov as chair in 1991, and an appointment as director in 1998. As director of Oklahoma Festival Ballet, Holt has choreographed over forty ballets and operas and led Oklahoma Festival Ballet on tours to France (six), the Internationale Haydnstage in Austria (2), Mexico (3), Taiwan, China, and Ecuador. Holt choreography includes the music of Franck, Haydn, The Beatles, Porter, Weill, Mozart, Ginastera, Ikard, Holley, Satie, Bartok, Orff, and Debussy and her ballets have been seen across the U.S. as well as in South America, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Under Holt's leadership, Oklahoma Festival Ballet performed works from the national repertoire by Joffrey and Balanchine as well as de Mille's, *Rodeo*. Her students have performed with Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Ballet Arizona, Ballet Austin, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Orlando Ballet, Oklahoma City Ballet, and Tulsa Ballet, and as finalists and semifinalists in the International Ballet Competition. At the University of Oklahoma, Holt taught every course in the ballet curriculum and her continuing studies in ballet pedagogy include studying Bournonville Technique with Tage Wendt; and Vaganova Technique at the Bolshoi Academy at Vail; and in St. Petersburg and Minsk, Russia.

Holt was an honoree at the second national RDA Festival in Pittsburgh in 2007, and she received the CORPS de Ballet International Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. She has served on the Dance Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts and been a panelist on Women in the Academy at Oxford. She is the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award, the Presidential Professorship, and the Regents' Professorship at OU where she also holds the John and Mary Nichols' Chair in Dance.

NOAH JITTAWAIT (Lighting Designer) is a lighting design junior from Wichita, KS. Credits: Another Doodle (OFB '24); Whereabouts Unknown (OFB '24); Designer, *Rita and L'heure espagnole*; Designer, *Life is a Dream*; Designer, *Therefore I am*; Designer, *Rift*; Designer, *Solstice*; Associate Designer, *Beautiful: the Carole King Musical*. Music Theatre Wichita : Assistant Lighting Designer, *Gypsy*; Assistant Lighting Designer, *Anastasia*; Assistant Lighting Designer, *Rock of Ages*; Designer, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. White Plains Performing Arts Center: Assistant Lighting Designer, *Ragtime*.

WHO'S WHO BEHIND THE SCENES

CONNOR LIN (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a lighting and sound design sophomore from Allen, TX. Credits: OU University Theatre: Assistant Sound Designer, *Crazy For You*; Sound Designer, *As You Like It*; Assistant Lighting Designer, *Rita & L'heure Espangole*; Lighting Designer, *Sensory Memories* (YCS '24); OU Helmerich School of Drama: Lighting Designer, *Inside Siberia*; Sooner Theatre Armstrong Studio Series: Associate Lighting Designer, *A Christmas Story*; Associate Lighting Designer, *Fiddler on the Roof*.

JENNA NORTON (Stage Manager) is a stage management senior from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Credits: OU University Theatre: Co-Stage Manager, Young Choreographers' Showcase; Stage Manager, *As You Like It*; Stage Manager, *The Merry Widow*; Associate Stage Manager, *Orfeo ed Euridice*; Associate Stage Manager, *The Wild Party*; Gilson Lab Theatre: Stage Manager, *The Legacy*; Co.Arts: Stage Manager, *Lascaux*; Cimarron Opera: Stage Manager, *The Gondoliers*.

CARA OATES (Scenic Designer) is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in scenic design from Sapulpa, OK. Credits: OU University Theatre: Properties Lead, *Waiting for Lefty*, *University Theatre*, Projection Designer, *RENT*; Scenic Designer, *Rita* and *L'Heure Espagnole*; Scenic and Projection Designer, *Everybody*; Sound Board Operator, *The Nutcracker*, Properties Lead, *Orfeo Ed Euridice*; Properties Lead, *Marie Antoinette*; Properties Lead, *Radium Girls*. OU UReCA Summer Fellowship: Scenic Designer, *Another Beginning*; Children's Musical Theatre, Bartlesville, Associate Video Designer and Programmer, *Cinderella*; Sound Tech, Classical Ballet Academy Spring Performance. OU Opera: Scenic Designer, *Bremen Town Musicians*. University of Houston: Assistant to the Media Designer, *The Skin of Our Teeth*.

JOY OMIESH (Costume Designer) is a costume design senior from Amman, Jordan. Credits: OU University Theatre: Costume Designer, *Life is A Dream*; Dresser, *The Nutcracker*; Assistant to the Costume Designer, *Radium Girls*. OU Helmerich School of Drama Lab Theatre: Stage Manager, *Mac Beth*.

MICHELLE RAMBO (Choreographer) holds a bachelor's degrees in Fine Arts Dance Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) with a Kinesiology Exercise Science degree from East Central University (ECU). She's on faculty for the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre, The University Oklahoma (OU) and the Artistic Director over the assistant program for the traveling dance intensive, The Dance Effect.

Michelle travels state to state spreading her energy, knowledge and her love for teaching master classes to everyone who appreciates the art of dance. Her high energy teachings have landed at the American College Dance Association at Southeast Missouri State University, Anderson Indiana University, University Central Oklahoma, The Dance Effect intensive and the professional Race Dance Collective located in Oklahoma City. Michelle's teaching continues to Oklahoma City professional NBA O'City Crew, numerous fine arts schools in the Texas and Kansas areas, and for the professional Dallas Black Dance Theatre Summer Intensive in Dallas, Texas.

Michelle's works have been showcased during the pre-game performance for the Oklahoma City Thunder, The Women That Soar awards show, Disney World in Orlando, Florida, Fabletics, The University Oklahoma Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre, Southern Plain Productions and The University of Oklahoma Dance Department, to name a few. Michelle continues to be focused on family, teaching, traveling, judging competitions, and living one day at a time.

PAETON WALKER (Associate Stage Manager) is a stage management freshman from Yukon, OK. Credits: This is her OU University Theatre debut.

A Standing Ovation for **LYN CRAMER**



For more than 20 years, Professor Lyn Cramer has been a guiding force in the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre. Her talents as a director, choreographer, and professor allowed her to create unforgettable experiences for audiences as well as her peers and students, contributing enormously to their future success.

As you retire, Lyn, we thank you for your tireless dedication and the lasting impact you've made on everyone here who was lucky enough to work with you and lucky enough to enjoy every production that benefitted from your talent.

"Lyn's wisdom and generosity have shaped me in ways I carry into every room I am fortunate enough to enter. After all, the magic of theater is nothing without the people we make it with."

Jared Watson '04 & '25 Luminary Award Recipient

In memory of **DR. GREGORY KUNESH**



During his tenure at OU, Dr. Gregory Kunesh served as a faculty member in the School of Drama, director of the School of Drama, and director of the A. Max Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre.

In 1994, Dr. Kunesh, along with Max Weitzenhoffer, founded the then OU Department of Musical Theatre. He served on the OU Fine Arts faculty 1975 to 2005, when he retired as chairman and professor emeritus of the Weitzenhoffer Department of Musical Theatre. In 2009, he came out of retirement to serve as the Interim Director for the School of Musical Theatre until July 2011.

Dr. Kunesh's dedication to the University of Oklahoma and commitment to arts education can be seen on stage and screen through the students he taught.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Mary Margaret Holt
Associate Producer	Kasey Allee-Foreman
Faculty Advisor to the Scenic Designer	Jon Young
Faculty Advisor to the Costume Designer	Lloyd Cracknell
Faculty Advisor to the Lighting Designer	Renée Brode
Guest Advisor to the Sound Designer	Tab Birt
Faculty Advisor to Stage Management	Christopher Sadler
Design and Production Area Coordinator	Renée Brode
Technical Director	Akari Harada
Production Carpenter	E. Pope
Scenic Charge Artist	Sydney Hagen
Scenic Undergraduate Assistants	Elizabeth Elliott, Braxton Ellsworth, Cadence Gates Diego Gonzales, Gillian Kelley, Gage Martinez Michael Millier, Hollis Narkiewicz Jenna Norton, Cara Oates, Abigail Pirtle Bronwyn Quinlan, Jalisa Reed, Goldie Snow
Properties Director	Margot Glaser
Properties Leads	Goldie Snow, Jalisa Reed
Run Crew Heads	Buck Blume, Gillian Kelley
Run Crew	Jake Cook, Shay Pool, Ian Lee
Electrics Supervisor	Eric Stehl
Lighting Undergraduate Assistants	Micah Dooley, Lauren Foster, Matheiu Gay Madison Heckelsberg, Noah Jittawait Lucas Knapp, Madeline Lewis, Conner Lin Lucas Mann, Emily Morris, Shay Pool, Ruby Ravsten Kellen Sapp, Sophia Smith
Production Electricians	Micah Dooley, Lauren Foster
Light Board Programmer	Ruby Ravsten
Light Board Operator	Ericka Dodson
Deck Electricians/Follow Spot Operators	Rhegan Burkart, Luke Hartman Ella Howard, Payton van Poppel
Audio Undergraduate Assistant	Conner Lin
Sound Mixer	Madison Heckelsberg
Sound A2	Larson Frazier
Mic Wranglers	Melanie Jacobs, Bryce Olsen
Costume Studio Supervisor	Christina Draper
Cutter/Draper	Ananda Keator
Junior Draper	Chloe Mullin
Lead Stitcher	Amy Kercher
Stitcher	Stephanie Cirar
Costume Undergraduate Assistants	Emily Heskett, Paige Kasulis, Natalie Lane Emily Matthews, Joy Omeish, Emily Post Landre Sanders, Sydney Tuffnell, Samantha Verbsky
Wardrobe Supervisor	Chloe Mullin
Wardrobe Crew Head	Paige Kasulis
Wardrobe Crew	JJ Toly, Westbrook Hallum, Dalton Parker Ben Nemmers, Larissa Yakunovich
Box Office	Terrye Hudson, Sherri Morgan
House Managers	Donna Huston, Taryn Feheley
Assistant House Managers	Carson Burton, Ripley Cooley, Eli Farney Amelia Hertlein, Lauren Konkol Goldie Snow, Ryan Wallace-Woods
Marketing Assistant	Lane Houk
Production Undergraduate Assistant	McKenna Bowman

IN MEMORIAM

ALAN RAY HISERODT

College of Fine Arts Concert Hall Manager

8/6/1968 - 6/18/2024

Alan Hiserodt, our dear colleague, friend, and mentor to countless students, passed unexpectedly in June of this year. With respect and affection, we take this opportunity to pay tribute to his memory and celebrate his life.



Alan started his journey at OU in 2007, when he was hired as a Concert Hall Manager. In 2009, he moved to Reynolds Performing Arts Center as the Sound Supervisor for University Theater, Performance Hall Supervisor for the College of Fine Arts, and was an instructor of sound for the School of Drama. He loved his job and always found a way to solve any problem he encountered, often before anyone else knew there was a problem.

With a passion for mentoring and teaching students, Alan's office often served as a lounge where students went to eat lunch, get advice, do homework, or have a good cry. Alan kept cheese sticks and protein bars in his office, checking in with students to make sure they had eaten that day, and that they were taking care of themselves. Alan held himself to very high professional and personal standards and he expected those students to challenge themselves to meet their potential. He considered his colleagues his Fine Arts Family.

Alan learned to love music listening on an RCA Victor Stereo console in his childhood home. He was a drummer dedicated to creating original music and sharing it with others. He could find a way to make interesting sounds with almost anything and was included in a soundscape performance in Pitman Hall, where his original work was played along with other students. Alan played in many bands, starting in high school. He was in the drum line at Memorial High School in Tulsa, attending Rogers State University on a drum scholarship. He moved to Norman, OK in 1989 to attend the University of Oklahoma, becoming a part of the music scene in Norman starting from 1989 until his death. He played Norman Music Festival several times with different bands and played at SXSW in 2006.

Alan met his wife, Stephnee, at OU and graduated with his degree in psychology in 1993. They were married in 1994. Alan had his own sound business in Norman and worked at Goddard Health Center. He started his own record label, Sprockett Records, spent time playing and mixing albums in a friend's studio, and later built his own home studio. Alan served on the board for the Norman Jazz in June Festival starting in 2017 and as board president for two years.

Some of Alan's former students shared his impact on their lives. One student told Alan, "I'll see and hear you on every stage for the rest of my life. Thanks for letting me in.". Another former student shared, "He became family. He was a motivator, a dedicated artist, a leader, a kind heart, and overall, someone you wanted to share stories with and take advice from. Alan was calm and he taught calm. He reminded me that all I had learned built up to this movement and to sit in the calm. I will never forget that lesson as long as I live." Lastly, "Alan only taught one official class, but he taught more than that. He helped make us better people better equipped to handle the world outside the classroom. He was always on the side of the students, keeping an eye on us even after we graduated. He always listened to what we had to say, and his office was a safe space for us to vent our frustration without being judged. He was a role model who embodied the values the university puts forward."

Alan is survived by his wife Stephnee, his sister Laurie, his golden retriever Rosie, and numerous friends, OU family, bandmates, and his Jazz in June family. Stephnee is certain Alan is probably out there somewhere making noises with his former dogs Sprockett, Ruth, Rowdy, and Bert.

FUN FACT

Two of our students have recently been recognized by the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) for their amazing works and talent.

Cara Oates, *Spelling Bee* Scenic Designer, was selected from among a competitive group nationwide to exhibit her design work in the Emerging Creatives display at the National USITT Conference.

Jenna Norton, *Spelling Bee* Stage Manager, was invited to participate in the prestigious Stage Management Mentorship Program at the National USITT Conference.

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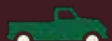
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An endowed scholarship in Lyn Cramer's name ensures student support in perpetuity, much like her instructional influence. Cramer's passion and commitment to excellence in all she does has raised the national profile of the Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre and the University as a whole. The state of Oklahoma is fortunate to have had such an important figure as Cramer in performing arts education.

A gift to this endowed fund creates further opportunity for promising and talented students who attend OU to hone their skills under renowned instructors like Cramer, which positions them professionally for high caliber performing opportunities.



For questions or more information, contact David Barocio,
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