

THE ILLINOIS WESLEYAN SCHOOL OF THEATRE ARTS PRESENTS

SHINE LIKE THE SUN

FEATURING THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2021



APRIL 2021



Filmed by **KATIE WESTON, CURTIS KELCH, DAVID O'NEAL, & JUSTIN PIOTROWSKI**
Program Photography by **MEGAN CHRISTOFERSON, PETE GUITHER, & ANGIE CORNWELL**
Graphic Design by **ANGIE CORNWELL**
Produced by **SCOTT SUSONG**
Edited by **ANGIE CORNWELL**
Choreographed by **JESSICA RISS-WALTRIP**
Music Directed by **CHARLIE BERGGREN**
Instructed/Directed by **NOLE JONES**



OPENING

"SUN'S GONNA SHINE" from *Bright Star* by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell

CHERON

"ONCE MORE I CAN SEE" from *Wonderland* by Frank Wildhorn
"GOOD GIRL" by Chris DeStefano, Ashley Gorley, and Carrie Underwood

ANGIE

"TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS" from *Far from Heaven* by Scott Frankel and Michael Korie
"HERE I AM" from *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* by David Yazbek

CIARA

O Beautiful by Theresa Rebeck
jellyfish pine by Michael Yichao

MATTHEW

"THIS IS NOT OVER YET" from *Parade* by Jason Robert Brown
"VIENNA" by Billy Joel

JAZZ DANCE

"YOU DESERVE IT" from *Bandstand* by Richard Oberacker and Robert Taylor

KIERAN

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Simon Stephens
Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

PEARLIE

"It's A Perfect Relationship" from *Bells Are Ringing* by Jule Styne, Betty Comden, & Adolph Green
A Moon for the Misbegotten by Eugene O'Neill

J.

"YOUR TRUE LOVE" by Andrew Lipka
"A NEW TOWN IS A BLUE TOWN" from *The Pajama Game* by Richard Adler & Jerry Ross

SLOANE

Bad Jews by Joshua Harmon
4000 Miles by Amy Herzog

TAP DANCE

"DANCING IN THE DARK" by Bruce Springsteen, arr. Scott Bradlee

TREY

"IN LOVE WITH YOU" from *First Date* by Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner
"FAVORITE PLACES" from *Ordinary Days* by Adam Gwon

LILI

Kentucky by Leah Nanako Winkler
Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare

ANDY

"STRANGER IN THE WORLD" from *Taboo* by Boy George
"AND THEY'RE OFF" from *A New Brain* by William Finn

LIZZIE

"ON MONDAY" from *35MM* by Ryan Scott Oliver
"A NEW LIFE" from *Jekyll & Hyde* by Frank Wildhorn

CLOSING

"SHINE LIKE THE SUN" from *9 to 5* by Dolly Parton



Acting

PERFORMERS



CIARA BATES

from Edwards, New York, is receiving her BFA in Acting with a minor in Film Studies. Previous IWU credits include Mary Jane in *Mary Jane* in the EMJK Lab Theatre, and Mrs. Shaw/Ellen Fenwick in *Stage Door*, Daisy in *My Favorite Year*, Kate in *King Charles III*, Wardrobe Head of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Wardrobe Crew of *Xanadu*, and Wardrobe Crew of *Rhinoceros* in the Jerome Mirza Theatre. She was also in a staged reading of *Otho the Great: A Tragedy of Five Arts* as Albert in the Phoenix Theatre, and in the Music Theatre Society's Productions of *Crybaby: The Musical* as a Square and *Applause* as Ensemble. Ciara would like to thank her friends and family for their endless love and support. She would also like to take the time to thank the faculty for pushing her to step out of her comfort zone and encouraging her to always strive for further growth. You can contact her at ciaramariebates@gmail.com

PEARLIE BLUE LEAF

from New Orleans, Louisiana, is receiving her BFA in Acting with a minor in Dance. Previous IWU credits include Mrs. Orcutt in *Stage Door*, Billy in *Wilderness*, Aunt Sadie in *My Favorite Year*, and Mustardseed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Jerome Mirza Theatre, as well as Christine in *Miss Julie* in the EMJK Laboratory Theatre. She has participated in the Student Choreographed Dance Concert, performed as Abby in the One Act Play Festival's *Einstein and the Angels*, and performed as Barbara in The Phoenix Theatre's production of *Painted Rain*. Pearlie has also worked as the dialect coach for *Stage Door* and the assistant dialect coach on *My Favorite Year* and *King Charles III*, and as a choreographer (*Stage Door*, *Cohesion Dance Company*). Last summer, Pearlie appeared in various roles in Phoenix Rising Theatre's production of *Turn That Thing Around*. She would like to thank her friends and family back home in New Orleans as well as Illinois, Tom Quinn, and the rest of the IWU faculty for believing in her and shaping her into the artist she is today. You can contact her at pearlieblueleaf@gmail.com or through her website, <https://pearlieblueleaf.wixsite.com/site>.



LILI MOLDOVANSKA

from Atlanta, Georgia, is receiving her BFA in Acting. Previous IWU credits include Bobby in *Stage Door*, Elizabeth in *Wilderness*, and Snout in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Crew credits include scenic artist for *Stop Kiss*, run crew for *Rhinoceros*, fly crew for *South Pacific*, and light board operator for *Monoliths*. In the IWU Phoenix Theatre, she has appeared in the directing class's One-Act Play Festival for the past two years, the 24 Hour Play Festival, Dr. Marcos/Nurse in *The Skyscraper Perspective*, and Cashier/Little Girl in *Weight for It*. She spent the Fall of 2019 studying at the Gaiety School of Acting in Ireland. Lili would like to thank the IWU faculty and staff for training and challenging her to always work hard and improve her skills in this field as well as her friends and family for the constant love and support. You can contact her at lili.m1298@gmail.com or through her website at <https://lilimoldovanska.wixsite.com/lili>.

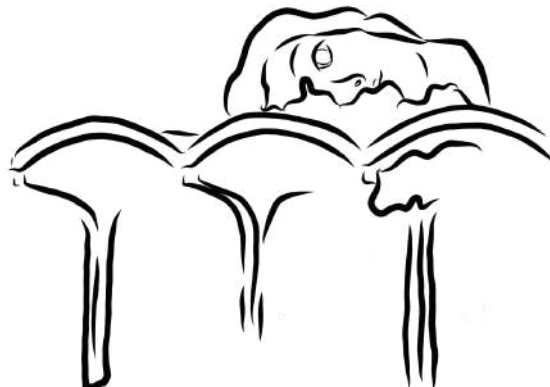


KIERAN O'CONNOR

from Chicago, Illinois, is receiving his BFA in Acting. Previous IWU credits include Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Fred Powell/Larry Westcott in *Stage Door*, Corey/Dylan's Dad in *Wilderness*, Prince Harry in *King Charles III*, Peter in *Stop Kiss*, and Asst. to Lighting Designer for *Rhinoceros* in the Jerome Mirza Theatre. He has also performed as Tony in *The Holding* and in the Ensemble as *Weight for It* in the Phoenix Theatre and directed *Gone* in the Fall of 2020 for IWU's One-Act Play Festival. Kieran has been President of Masquers (the philanthropic and fundraising theatre student group) for two years and has been involved with Quickies! (the sketch comedy group) for three years. Professional credits include *By the Bog of Cats* (Joseph Swane) and *Macbeth* (understudy), both at The Artistic Home in Chicago. This summer he will perform in the *Snake River Expedition* at Cedar Point Amusement Park. Kieran would like to thank Cassie Dawe, Catherine Smitko, the ChiArts and Illinois Wesleyan theatre departments, and his loving family for supporting him throughout his journey. You can contact him at koconno2@iwu.edu.

SLOANE POLISNER

from Deerfield, Illinois, is receiving her BFA in Acting with a minor in Film Studies. Previous IWU credits include Linda in *Stage Door*, Chloe in *Wilderness*, Servant/Ensemble in *King Charles III*, and Asst. Stage Manager of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Jerome Mirza Theatre, as well as Matilda in *Indoor/Outdoor* and Woman in *Monolith* in the EMJK Lab Theater. Before transferring to IWU, she appeared as Brenda in *The Fourth Graders Present An Unnamed Love-Suicide* and the Nurse in Larry David's *Fish in the Dark* at Western Michigan University. Sloane would like to thank Carole Dibo, Mary Hollis-Inboden, Stacey Flaster, and her parents for their unconditional love and support throughout her journey so far. You can contact her at <https://sloanepolisner.wixsite.com/mysite>



Acting



Top: Left *Mary Jane* Fall 2020, Right *Miss Julie* Fall 2019

Bottom from Left to Right: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Spring 2019, *Stop Kiss* Fall 2018, *Wilderness* Fall 2020.



Music Theatre

PERFORMERS



ANGIE CORNWELL

from Palatine, Illinois, is receiving her BFA in Music Theatre with a minor in English. Previous IWU credits include Woman 1 in *Songs For A New World*, the two-person Stephen Sondheim revue *Marry Me a Little*, Heidi in [title of show], Cindy Lou in *The Marvelous Wonderettes...*, Ensemble (Assistant Director) of *Chess*, Joanne in the MT Workshop of *The Single Girls Guide*, the Princess (Dance Captain) in *My Favorite Year*, Princess Diana in *King Charles III*, Moth in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Jane in *Curtains*. She is also the Co-President of the Jm7* Improv Troupe and President of SoTA Bible Study. Professional credits include Dunlap in *A Christmas Carol* at Metropolis Performing Arts Center and in *Lost and Found* with Four Chairs Theatre. She has also served as a graphic designer & photographer for the School of Theatre Arts and the University at large, has done wig/hair design for multiple shows, drinks lots of coffee, and sings on the worship team at Vale Church. After graduating, she is looking forward to performing in *Forbidden Frontier: Adventure Island* at Cedar Point this summer. She would like to thank her classmates, Alex & Johnny Kent, Isaiah Rosales, Josiah Tennent, Nole Jones, her incredible family for their unending support, Laurel Beard for hours of tears, laughter, wisdom, and music, and Scott Susong for being a constant source of wisdom, encouragement, and inspiration in her life. Lam. 3:22-23. You can reach her at acornwel@iwu.edu or through her website angiecornwell.wixsite.com/home

TREY EHRHART

from Quincy, Illinois, is receiving his BFA in Music Theatre. Previous IWU credits include Man 3 in *Songs For A New World*, Gregor in *Chess*, Martin in the MT Workshop of *The Single Girls Guide*, Danny Trimble in *The Shout*, Bobby in *The Life*, Starveling in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Detective O'Farrell in *Curtains*. He has also performed as Greg in [title of show], Dustin in *Painted Rain*, Young Jacob in the original musical *Dust*, and the One-Act Play Festival all in the Phoenix Theatre and performed in two Music Theatre Society shows as Judge Stone in *Cry-Baby the Musical* and ensemble in *Leader of The Pack*. He is a member of Jm7*, Illinois Wesleyan's Improv Troupe, and was a member of Silence Interrupted a cappella group for two years. Trey was also one of the founding curators of the William Sheffler Teaching Collection. He would like to thank friends, family, educators, and brothers of Phi Gamma Delta for supporting me throughout the past four years. You can contact him at rehrhart@iwu.edu



MATTHEW FECKO

from Arlington Heights, Illinois, is receiving his BFA in Music Theatre. Previous IWU credits include Anatoly in *Chess*, FCDC: *Simpler Times*, Oscar in *Indoor/Outdoor*, Fleetwood in *The Life*, FCDC: *Origins*, and Brick in *Curtains*. He is also the president of the Music Theatre Society. Professionally, Matthew has performed as Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Nick Piazza in *Fame*, and in the ensemble of *42nd Street*. Last summer, he was a company member at Bigfork Summer Playhouse where he performed as Shakespeare in *Something Rotten!*, Saint Aphrodisius in *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Romeo in *Newsies*, and in the ensemble of *Sister Act*. Matthew would like to thank the staff and his classmates at Illinois Wesleyan for making him feel at home for the last four years. Also his family for constantly giving him the courage to pursue this career. You can contact him at mjfecko@gmail.com.

PERFORMERS



ANDY JUMP

from Denver, Colorado, is receiving his BFA in Music Theatre. Previous IWU credits in the Jerome Mirza Theatre include Freddie in *Chess*, Truman Capote (and Choreographer) in the MT Workshop production of *The Single Girls Guide*, *FCDC: Simpler Times*, Shatellia in *The Life*, *FCDC: Origins*, and Ronnie Driscoll in *Curtains*. He also performed as Hunter in the Phoenix Theatre's production of [title of show]. As a Representative in the Music Theatre Society, Andy directed their production of *Cry-Baby: The Musical* and assistant directed *Applause*. He also directed *The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns* this spring with the Phoenix Theatre. Andy's professional experience includes working at Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre as an Asst. Stage Manager and Props Master. He would like to thank his friends, family, and all of the teachers that supported him through his time here. You can contact him at theandyjump.com

LIZZIE MAGUIRE

from Oak Park, Illinois, is receiving her BFA in Music Theatre. Previous IWU credits include Florence in *Chess*, *FCDC: Simpler Times*, Ensemble in *My Favorite Year*, Joanne Reiss in *King Charles III*, *FCDC: Origins*, and Peg Prentice in *Curtains* in the Jerome Mirza Theatre. She also performed in the Student Choreographed Dance Concert and in Phoenix Theatre's productions of [title of show] as Susan and *Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns* as Betty Jean. She is also a member of the Music Theatre Society where she appeared in their productions of *Applause* as Margo Channing and *Leader of the Pack* in the ensemble and Assistant Directed *Cry-Baby: The Musical*. She would like to thank her entire family, specifically her parents, her two brothers, her grandparents, and her golden retriever Harry for their endless love and unconditional support, particularly over the last four years. She would like to thank Jim for always, always being her rock and best friend even through the craziness of her senior year. And lastly, she would like to thank her classmates and faculty, who have shaped her years at IWU and made this place her home, and who will no doubt continue to shape her life in the coming years. She loves you like family, with all her heart. You can contact her at lizzjm23@gmail.com.



J. NATHANIEL

from Gurnee, Illinois, is receiving his BFA in Music Theatre. Previous IWU credits include *FCDC: Simpler Times*, Harold in *Chess*, Pontius Pilate/Uncle Pino in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Elton in the MT Workshop production of *The Single Girls Guide*, Silky in *The Life*, and Harv Fremont in *Curtains* in the Jerome Mirza Theatre, as well as Flick in *Violet* in the EMJK Laboratory Theatre. He is also the President of the Shringara Multicultural Theatre Company. Professionally, J. has been seen as Rapunzel's Prince/Wolf in *Into The Woods*, Jigger in *Carousel* and Pepper in *Mamma Mia!* at Thunderbay Theatre. He would like to thank his family, friends, and teachers who have supported him so much along the way. You can contact him at jgarner1@iwu.edu.

CHERON WHITTLEY

from Minneapolis, Minnesota, is receiving her BFA in Music Theatre. Previous IWU credits include Svetlana in *Chess*, *FCDC: Simpler Times*, Street Evangelist in *The Life*, and Marjorie Cook in *Curtains* in the Jerome Mirza Theatre, and Harriet in the MT Workshop of *The Single Girl's Guide*, Music Hall Singer/Bus Passenger in *Violet*, and Erica Felson in *The Shout* in the EMJK Laboratory Theatre. She also appeared in the company of the Phoenix Theatre production of *Godzilla the Musical*, played Wanda in the Music Theatre Society's production of *Cry-Baby: The Musical*, and is the president of the Student-Choreographed Dance Concert. Last summer, Cheron worked at The National Theatre for Children (performer). She would like to thank the faculty and friends for being such a great family to her all of these years. She would like to thank her family for being such an amazing support system. You can contact her at Chero291@gmail.com.





Top Left to Right: *Songs For A New World* Spring 2021, *Songs For A New World* Spring 2021, *The Life* Fall 2019
Bottom Left to Right: *FCDC: Origins* Spring 2019, *Chess* Fall 2020, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* Spring 2020, *Violet* Spring 2019



The Music Theatre Class of 2021 after the closing night of *Chess*

Theatre Design and Technology

PRESENTERS



HAYLIE AESCHLIMAN

from Elwood, Illinois, is receiving her BFA in Theatre Design and Technology. Her previous IWU credits include Scenic Designer for *Stage Door*, a Costume Designer for *FCDC: Simpler Times*, Charge Artist for *Chess*, Scenic Designer for *Mary Jane*, Assistant Scenic Designer for *My Favorite Year*, Assistant Scenic Designer for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Assistant Scenic Designer for *King Charles III*, Wardrobe Head for *Violet*, Properties Head for *Curtains*, Co-Sound Designer for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Assistant Sound Designer for *Rhinoceros*, and Assistant Stage Manager for *Stop Kiss*. Professionally she has worked as a Production Assistant at Collaboraction in Chicago, an Administrative Assistant at The Space Theatre in London, England and was the Sound Designer and a Production Assistant for *The Madness of George III* and Assistant Sound Designer for *The Open* both at The Space Theatre. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support as well as all the wonderful theatre artists that she has had the pleasure of collaborating with throughout her career—you all continually inspire her! You can contact her at haeschliman@gmail.com or through her website: www.hmadesigntheater.org



Left: A photo of Haylie's scenic design for *Stage Door*, Spring 2020 Right: The model of her scenic design



Above: Three images from Haylie's scenic design for *Mary Jane* Fall 2020 along with her renderings

TheatreArts



JACKSON BETTIS

From Bloomington, Illinois is receiving his B.A. in Theatre Arts with a Creative Writing and Film Studies double minor. Previous credits at IWU include Assistant Director for *The Lesson*, Assistant Sound Designer for *Stage Door*, Light Board Op. for *The Life*, Sound Designer for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Master Electrician and Camera Op for *Wilderness*, Electrician for *King Charles III*, Master Electrician for *Violet*, and Assistant Stage Manager for *Monoliths*. Off the main stage, he has served as the Lighting Designer for the Student Choreographed Dance Concert, *Dear Me: A Cabaret*, *The Woman I Am and the Woman I'd Like to Be*, and *The Seventeenth of June* for which he was also the Sound Designer. Professionally, Jackson has worked at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival (scenic carpentry intern, run crew, and changeover crew member). He would like to thank his family, his friends, his childhood mail carrier, his second-grade economics teacher, the 1965 Pepsi marketing campaign, Walter Sobchak, the topography of Utah, clouds resembling a Bengal Bustard, Harold and his Giant Purple Crayon, and Billy Shears. You can contact him at jbettis@iwu.edu

Theatre Arts PRESENTERS



ANNA SCHULTZ-BREEF

from Joliet, Illinois, is receiving her B.A. in Theatre Arts with a double minor in Asian Studies and Theatre Design and Technology. Previous IWU credits include Stage Manager on *Songs for a New World*, a Lighting Designer for *FCDC: Simpler Times*, Co-Lighting Designer for *Wilderness*, Stage Manager for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, Properties Master for *The Life*, Stage Manager for *King Charles III*, Stage Manager for *FCDC: Origins*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Curtains*, and Master Carpenter for *Stop Kiss*. She was also a Teacher's Assistant for Stagecraft THEA 110 and is currently the Lead Stage Manager and Facilities Manager for The School of Theatre Arts. Outside of SoTA, she has worked extensively with IWU's Office of Residential Life starting off as The Rainbow Floor RA, then the RCA of Pfeiffer Hall, and now acts as the Lead RCA. In 2019 Anna was one of two recipients of the IWU Technos Scholarship and traveled to Japan as a representative of IWU. Anna would like to thank Armie Thompson and Julie E. Ballard for their guidance, support, and trust over the years. Anna would also like to thank her family, especially her Mom who is always by her side. You can contact her at AnnaSBDesign@gmail.com.



Jackson operating the Sound Board for *Stage Door*



Left to Right: Anna working *Wilderness*, repping IWU Stage Managers, and focusing lights for *Wilderness*

CAL USSERY

Originally from Austin, Texas, Cal is receiving his BA in Theatre Arts with a double major in Physics. At IWU, credits include lighting design for *Miss Julie*, *Stage Door*, and the Faculty Choreographed Dance Concert, as well as costume design for *FCDC*. He has also served as Master Electrician, board op, and wardrobe crew, in addition to working in the scene shop, costume shop, light shop, and as a Physics TA. He has performed in *monoliths* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at IWU, as well as professionally with Austin Shakespeare, Pursued by a Bear Productions, and ZACH theatre, where he worked as a teaching artist. You can find him on LinkedIn, or contact him at cussery@iwu.edu.



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faculty and staff

of the Illinois Wesleyan School of Theatre Arts

FULL-TIME FACULTY AND STAFF

Jean MacFarland Kerr	Associate Professor/ Director of the School of Theatre Arts
Nancy B. Loitz	Professor of Theatre Arts
Curtis C. Trout	Professor of Theatre Arts
Scott Susong	Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
Thomas Quinn	Associate Professor of Theatre Arts
Julie E. Ballard	Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts
Dr. Michelle Gibbs	Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts

ADJUNCT FACULTY AND STAFF

Brittany Ambler	Dance
Laurel Beard	Music Theatre Voice
Amanda M. Bedker	Costume Tech
Charles Berggren	Music Director/Accompanist
Eka Bezirgani	Dance
Chris Connelly	Theatre Studies, Shakespeare
Maggie Cornyn	Dance
Paul Dennhardt	Stage Combat
Sammi Grant	Stage Voice
Susan L. High	Costume Shop Supervisor
Nole Jones	Music Theatre Voice
Julie Kasa	Music Theatre Accompanist
Lyuda Kizer	Acting
Jorge Laico	Dance
Rick Lunn	Videography
Sheri Marley	Dance
Saul Nache	Music Theatre Voice
Andrew Nunley	Scene Shop Supervisor
Kyle Pingel	Costume Production Coordinator
Kaley Pruitt	Dance
Jessica Riss Waltrip	Dance
Jo Lynn Robinson	Music Theatre Accompanist
Armie Thompson	Technical Director/Production Manager
Kelly J. Ullom	Theatre Operations Specialist
Joe Vitti	Staff Electrician
Lauren Warnecke	Theatre Recruiter

I won't be at your mercy no more. I'm taking what's mine, I'll be fine, I am second to none.
When the losing's all done, I'm gonna shine like the sun, I shine like the sun...
I shine like the sun when these clouds roll away from my door. When it's all said and done,
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Shine like the Sun

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