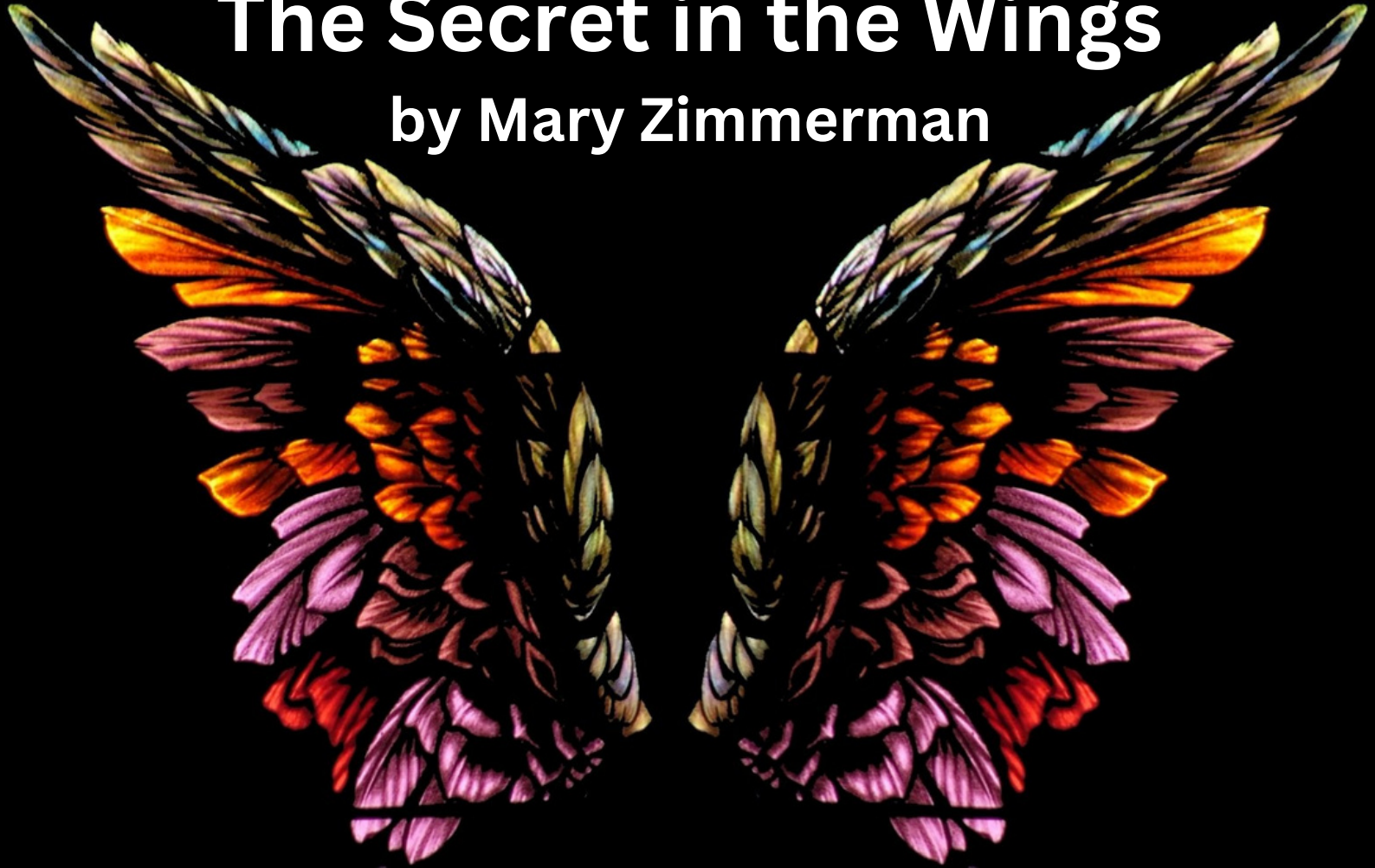


University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
Department of Theatre and Dance

# **The Secret in the Wings**

**by Mary Zimmerman**



February 24-25 & March 2-4, 2023  
February 26 & March 5, 2023  
Toland Theatre, Center for the Arts

THE SECRET IN THE WINGS is produced by special arrangement with BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036. [www.bretadamsltd.net](http://www.bretadamsltd.net)

THE SECRET IN THE WINGS was originally written and directed by Mary Zimmerman for the Lookingglass Theatre Company.



# Creative Team

Director  
Greg Parmeter

Asst. Director  
Grace Happe\*

Stage Manager  
Julia Milne\*

Lighting Designer  
Ben Golden

Scenic Designer  
Talia Mentjes\*

Sound Designer  
Laura Felde\*

Props Designer  
Carson Kreger\*

Technical Director  
Brodyn Byington\*

Dramaturg  
Louden Ferguson\*  
Anna Halvorsen\*

Costume & Makeup  
Designer  
Joe Anderson

*"Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are princesses who are only waiting to see us act, just once, with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything that frightens us is, in its deepest essence, something helpless that wants our love."  
~ Rainer Maria Rilke ~*



\*denotes student designer/manager

# Cast

## **Actor One: Paige Verbsky**

Mother, First Blind Queen, Lady-in-Waiting, Singer, Allerleira, Son, Evil Mother, Child, First Parent

## **Actor Two: Bao Xiong**

Heidi, Nursemaid, Child from the crawl space, Lady-in-Waiting, Snake Leaves Princess, Allerleira's Companion, Son

## **Actor Three: Caitlin Elenteny**

Second Blind Queen, First Lady-in-Waiting, Singer, Allerleira's Companion, Daughter, Laura, Child

## **Actor Four: Linnea Lerwick**

Third Blind Queen, Princess Who Won't Laugh, Allerleira's Companion, Son, Louise, Mama

## **Actor Five: Julia Maynard**

Third Prince, Sir Andrew, Boy, Andrew, Child, Son of the Third Blind Queen

## **Actor Six: Gavin Muller**

Father, Ambassador, Father of the Princess, Boy's Servant, Son, King, Second King, Child

## **Actor Seven: Ryan Hustedt**

Mr. Fitzpatrick, Father of Seven Sons

## **Actor Eight: Eddie Doerr**

Second Prince, Suitor Number Two, Herr Schmidt, Sea Captain, Allerleira's Father

## **Actor Nine: Jake Gesteland**

First Prince, Suitor Number Five Hundred Sixty-Eight, Allerleira's Father's Attendance, Son, Papa

# Scenes

## **Opening: Left in the Forest**

Mother, Father, Heidi, Mr. Fitzpatrick

## **The Three Blind Queens**

Three Princes, Three Queens, Ambassador, Nursemaid, Son of the Third Blind Queen

## **Stolen Pennies**

Child, Papa, Mama, Other Children, Stranger

## **The Princess Who Wouldn't Laugh**

Royal Dancing Couple, Prince Who Wouldn't Laugh, Father of the Princess, Three Suitors, Three Ladies-in-Waiting

## **The Three Snake Leaves**

Snake-Leaves Princess, Three Singers, Boy, Sea Captain, Boy's Servant, Father of Snake-Leaves Princess

## **Allerleira**

Two Men, Allerleira, Allerleira's Companions (Laura, Louise, and Heidi), Allerleira's Father, Allerleira's Father's Attendant, King, Second King, King's Attendant

## **Seven Swans, or Silent for Seven Years**

Father of Seven Sons, Sons, Daughter, Andrew, King of Silent for Seven Years, Evil Mother



# Biographies

**Joe Anderson** (Costume/Makeup Designer)--Joe has been at UWL since 1991 and has served as the Costume/Makeup Designer and department chair (2011-2022). At UWL, Joe has designed costumes and makeup for over 150 productions as well as for Shawn McConneloug and Her Orchestra and the American University in Cairo, Egypt. He's proud to say that his students have gone off to do great things within the world of theatre and within the world in general.

**Adam Bloom** (Asst. Stage Manager)--Adam is excited to be part of the stage management team for the first time for this show! Usually, Adam is an actor in these shows, but he is furthering his stage management minor with this amazing experience! Hoping everything goes smoothly, he invites you enjoy the show!!

**Brodyn Byington** (Technical Director)--Brodyn is a junior with a Design/Tech emphasis and is excited to have his first full Technical Direction assignment on *The Secret in the Wings*! He has recently been the Sound Designer for *Murder on the Orient Express* and the Lighting Designer for *A Christmas Carol* at UWL and has worked for the La Crosse Community Theatre as a Lighting Designer for various shows including *Avenue Q* and *The Laramie Project*. He would like to thank his family, friends, and advisors for their constant support.

**Michelle Collyar** (Costume Shop Supervisor)--With an MFA in design, Michelle manages the costume shop and teaches costume technology. Having designed/constructed costumes and dancewear for regional and academic theatres, this past summer, Michelle worked at Glimmerglass Opera in the costume department. Michelle has also worked on two Canadian television series: *Let's Get Physical* starring Jane Seymour and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, a Canadian mock news series.

**Eddie Doerr (Actor Eight)**--This is Eddie's 2nd production at UWL but his 11th overall. Eddie is a Musical Theatre major and is very excited to be a part of this show. Enjoy this chaotic masterpiece!

**Caitlin Elenteny** (Actor Three)--Caitlin is a junior performance major and is thrilled to be a part of this show. She was last seen as Mrs. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*. She wants to thank everyone involved in bringing this production to life and for making it such a fun experience.

**Laura Felde** (Sound Designer)--Laura is in her final semester as a Business Management and Stage Management double major. She was most recently the Sound Engineer for *A Christmas Carol*, and Stage Manager for *Murder on the Orient Express*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their continued support and hopes you enjoy the show!





**Louden Ferguson** (Dramaturg)--Louden is a senior Theatre Performance and Archaeology double major. They are excited to combine their love of research and theatre as the dramaturg for the show. They hope you enjoy the show!

**Jake Gesteland** (Actor Nine)--Jake is a third year Musical Theatre major with a minor in Psychology, and he is very excited to be a part of this show! This is Jake's sixth show at UWL. Jake would like to thank his family for their love and support. You can see him in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* later this semester!

**Ben Golden** (Lighting Designer)--Ben is the Lighting and Sound Supervisor for the Department of Theatre and Dance. His work has been seen at theatres across the Midwest, including: Great River Shakespeare Festival, Children's Theatre of Madison, Madison Opera, Music Theatre of Madison, Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, Viterbo University and Cardinal Stritch University among others. He holds a BA from St. Olaf College and an MFA from UW Madison.

**Anna Halvorsen** (Dramaturg)--Anna is super excited to be a dramaturg for the first time! She is a junior majoring in Performance and minoring in Stage Management. Previous acting credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Edward Tulane*, and *Severe Clear*. She thanks her friends and family for their continued support and the cast and crew for being such a wonderful community!



**Grace Happe** (Asst. Director)--Grace is completing her final semester at UWL, after interning in London last fall. At UWL she has recently stage managed *She Loves Me* and *The Revolutionists*. Grace would like to extend her utmost gratitude to the theatre faculty, (especially Laurie Kinckman) for all the guidance, support and training she has received in the last five years. "I will make you proud!"

**Ryan Hustedt** (Actor Seven)--Thrilled to be playing such an exciting, eerie, and just an overall different role than usual, Ryan is a junior double majors in English Education and Musical Theatre! He enjoys writing novels and plays, watching "I Love Lucy" and "The Dick Van Dyke Show", and being with his Roncalli Newman family.

**Tracy Joe** (Asst. Stage Manager/Master Electrician)--Tracy is a senior double majoring in Theatre Design/Tech and Biology. She is ecstatic to be working on *The Secret in the Wings* as an assistant stage manager for the first time! She would like to thank the rest of the stage management team and her family and friends for their endless love and support. Enjoy the show!

**Carson Kreger** (Props Designer)--Carson is so excited to be designing their first show at UWL! They are thrilled to have a creative part in the production experience. They are a 4th year Stage Management major and was last seen stage managing *A Christmas Carol*. Carson would like to thank their friends, family, Ronny, and Buddy the cat for all of their love and support. Enjoy the show!

**Linnea Lerwick** (Actor Four)--Linnea is a senior Psychology major and Theater Performance minor. She is excited to be in such a unique, collaborative show with such a wonderful cast and crew. Her UWL credits include Mrs. Dickens in *A Christmas Carol* and Abilene in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, and she is grateful for the opportunity to perform once again.

**Julia Maynard** (Actor Five)--Julia is a junior Theatre Performance major and is excited to take the stage again in her second UWL performance. She was last seen on stage in *A Christmas Carol* last semester. Julia would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support of her theatre endeavors.

**Talia Mentjes** (Scenic Designer)--Talia is currently completing their senior year as a double major in Theatre Design and Visual Art. They have recently gotten the opportunity to work on several UWL shows including *Love/Sick* as the head costume designer and *Murder on the Orient Express* as a scenic design assistant. They are delighted to have been a designer for this magical show and want to personally thank their family and friends for supporting them and pushing them to pursue their dreams.

**Julia Milne** (Stage Manager)--Julia is a junior Stage Management major with a double minor in Arts Administration and Theatre Design/Tech. She has thoroughly enjoyed working on *The Secret in the Wings* and hopes you all enjoy it! Previous UWL productions Julia has worked on include *A Christmas Carol*, *Severe Clear*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *Songs for a New World*. Julia would like to thank the UWL faculty, her friends, family, and her partner Josh for their continued love and support!

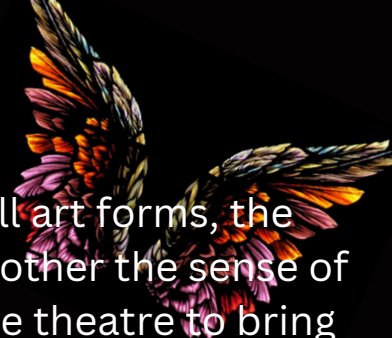
**Gavin Muller** (Actor Six)--Gavin is a freshman this year at UW-La Crosse majoring in Theatre Performance and minoring in Stage Management. *The Secret in the Wings* is Gavin's second show at UWL, his first being *A Christmas Carol*. Gavin is very excited to pursue his love of acting and would love to thank his friends and family for all their love and support.

**Greg Parmeter** (Director)--Greg teaches voice, movement, and acting at UWL. He earned his MFA in Acting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and spent seasons with the Nebraska Rep, Virginia Shakespeare Festival, Hampstead Stage Company, and Northern Fort Repertory. Greg was the Artistic Director at La Crosse Community Theatre where he directed the regional premiers of *Les Miserables* and *Mary Poppins* as well as the national community theatre premiere of *Billy Elliot the Musical*.

**Paige Verbsky** (Actor One)--Paige is a sophomore in the UWL Theatre program studying Arts Administration and Performance. Previously Paige has been in two shows at UWL and looks forward to what is to come next. She has enjoyed her cast mates, team, and the creative process behind the making of this show and is ecstatic to see what everyone thinks!

**Bao Xiong** (Actor Two)--Bao is a junior pursuing a double major in Theatre Performance and English-Writing & Rhetoric. She is passionate about storytelling, dark genre stories, and family. She enjoys cooking, a thrilling book or film, and daydreaming. In the near future, Bao hopes to pursue careers in literature and film.

# Director's Notes



Oscar Wilde once said “I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” Therefore, it makes sense to use theatre to bring folk tales to life. Folk tales are, after all, the story of who we are, where we’ve been, and what we have believed through time. They are a reflection of humanity’s shared experience, our cultural mirror. That the image we see is often ugly, scary, or confusing is merely part of our identity. Other times, the image is one of breathtaking beauty. This too, is part of our identity. Where better to examine these identities than on a stage?

Theatre is the quintessential communal act. It is an event where people of all races, creeds, and cultures gather to share a story. And we are more than passive observers to this event. We experience and, even more, create the story. Like the actors on the stage, each of us has our own role to play in this communal act: we are witnesses, there to see and hear and judge. And we, as witnesses, have the overwhelming power to influence the proceedings. (Just ask any actor about the energy a live audience brings to their performance.) The illusion the actor weaves on the stage is nothing without the collective imagination of the audience to make it real. And it is real; as real as if we had lived it, because for that moment in the communal act, we feel the truth. There is authenticity beneath the illusion. And then the lights go, the curtain comes down, and the spell is broken, but we remain changed; we are no longer who we were. We have experienced something; something like an adventure. We have dreamed, and laughed, and fought, and danced, and wept, and learned about who we are. And we shared that journey with one another.

In the theatre, we gather together to share our sense of what it is to be a human being. Though the conversation comes to a close when the lights go down, the communication continues long after the lights come back up. In the end, the stories we tell, the folk tales, are us.





# Production Team

**Asst. Stage Managers**.....Adam Bloom,  
Tracy Joe  
**Music Director**.....Kathryn Moran  
**Scene Shop Supervisor**.....Megan Morey  
**Scenic Design Supervisor**.....Mandy Kolbe  
**Lighting/Sound Supervisor**.....Ben Golden  
**Production Manager**.....Laurie Kinckman  
**Costume Shop Manager**.....Michelle Collyar  
**Crown Creators**.....August Jennings,  
Carson Kreger, Talia Mentjes  
**Light Board Operator**.....Thomas Hall  
**Sound Board Operator**.....Jess Miller  
**Run Crew**.....Julian Goldstein,  
Katie Gruber, Rhyen Larson, Amanda Limoni  
**Costume Run Crew**.....Addie Carlson,  
Milia Ismilova, Josephine Rush, Kalia Xiong  
**Scene Shop Staff**.....Adam Bloom,  
Brodyn Byington, August Jennings,  
Tracy Joe, Sam Kallis  
**Scene Shop Crew**.....Landin Ahrenholz,  
Olivia Ahrends, Carmen Crandall,  
Sara Duffy, Charlie Dyar, Logan Felker,  
Kaj Jensen, Hailey Kluck, Kennedy Kopcha,  
Sutton Krug, Kaden Leonard, Ryan Lisota,  
Naomi Meek, Andrew Momsen,  
Janessa Olson, Julia Panfil, Stella Patton,  
Ava Pleshek, River Podjasek,  
Kalia Rude, Olivia Sampson,  
Morgan Schmidt, Taylor Skinner,  
Sera Speltz, Will Vaillant, Wyatt Wilken  
**Props/Paint Staff**.....Laura Felde,  
Kaj Jensen, Carson Kreger,  
Talia Mentjes, Jess Miller  
**Props/Paint Crew**.....Esther Hammen

**Costume Shop Staff**.....Sage Goetsch,  
August Jennings, Linnea Lerwick,  
Talia Mentjes, Irene Swain, Elin Voegeli  
**Costume Shop Crew**.....Molly Friday,  
Riley Fredrichsdorf, Katie Glazer,  
Joaris Guzman Rivas,  
Maria Lanham, Julia Maynard,  
Cecilia Rice, Avery Romann  
**Light/Sound Shop Staff**.....Brodyn Byington,  
Leo Chavolla, Tracy Joe, Linnea Lerwick  
**Light Crew**.....MJ Baumann,  
Dylan Boerner, Payton Carothers,  
Matt Chavez, Kasey Hammill,  
Ariel Hartleben, Angela Heck,  
Daniel Kelly Jr., Brooks Kraus,  
Daniel Krause, Connor Pangburn,  
Finley Richgels, Nick Wenger,  
Gabby Zinnel  
**Publicity Crew**.....Alexis Miller,  
Alec Taylor, Tyler Zdziarski  
**Front of House Manager**.....Amanda Visger  
**Front of House**.....Hayley Bach,  
Avery Johnson, Eva Johnson,  
Al McKarns, Alivia Mendez,  
Keyara Perkins, Julia Schmit  
**Box Office**.....Caitlin Elenteny, Chloe Hart,  
Emma Kohl  
**Poster Design/Cast Photos**.....Joe Anderson  
**Lobby Display**.....Louden Ferguson,  
Anna Halvorsen



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# Upcoming Events

## Senior Acting Performance

Linnea Lerwick

April 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Frederick Theatre,  
Morris Hall

## *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

April 21-22 & 27-29  
at 7:30 p.m.

April 23 & 30 at 2:00 p.m.

Toland Theatre,  
Center for the Arts

## Directing Scenes

May 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Frederick Theatre,  
Morris Hall

## Dance Showcase

May 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Dance Studio,  
103 Mitchell Hall



## The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF)

Started in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center's founding chairman, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide which has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. The KCACTF has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where theater departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents.

The goals of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival are: to encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs; to provide opportunities for participants to develop their theater skills and insight; and achieve professionalism; to improve the quality of college and university theater in America; to 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 state, regional, and national festivals, KCACTF participants celebrate the creative process, see one another's work, and share experiences and insights within the community of theater artists. The KCACTF honors excellence of overall production and offers student artists individual recognition through awards and scholarships in playwriting, acting, criticism, directing, and design.

The KCACTF is a year-round program in eight geographic regions in the United States. Regional activities are coordinated through eight KCACTF regional chairs and eight KCACTF playwriting awards chairs. With funding and administrative support from the Kennedy Center, the regional chair coordinates with the Co-Managers of KCACTF all aspects of the adjudication of productions on the local and regional level and supervises regional-level KCACTF award competitions. The playwriting chair works with schools that have entered new and student-written plays by providing expertise in the development of new scripts--assessment specifically designed for a developing play--and by providing information on the numerous playwriting awards offered.

In January and February of each year, regional festivals showcase the finest of each region's entered productions and offer a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia, and regional-level award programs. Regional festival productions are judged by a panel of three judges selected by the Kennedy Center and the KCACTF national committee. These judges in consultation with the Artistic Director select four to six of the best and most diverse regional festival productions to be showcased in the spring at the annual noncompetitive national festival at the Kennedy Center, all expenses paid.

Since its inception, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theater students the opportunity to have their work critiqued, improve their dramatic skills and receive national recognition for excellence. More than 16 million theatergoers have attended approximately 10,000 festival productions nationwide.