

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
Department of Theatre and Dance



# PUFFS

or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years  
at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

By Matt Cox

October 11-13 & 17-20, 2024

Toland Theatre

Lowe Center for the Arts

**Director**

Nic Barilar

**Scenic Designer**

Mandy Kolbe

**Stage Manager**

Avery Weston\*

**Costume & Makeup Designer**

Michelle Collyar

**Lighting Designer**

Amber Meyers\*

**Sound Designer & Original**

**Music Composition**

David Harlan

**Dramaturg**

Amanda Visger\*

**Puppet Designers**

Ozzy Glazer\*, Hailey Kluck\*, &  
Miranda Logan\*

**Props Designer**

Sage Goetsch\*

*\*denotes student design/management*

**Technical Director**

Nate Mohlman

October 11-12 & 17-19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

October 13 & 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Toland Theatre, Lowe Center for the Arts

*Puffs (Two Act Edition)* is presented by arrangement with Concord  
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# CAST

Wayne Hopkins  
Joshua Kaiser

Narrator/Wayne Rivers-Jones  
Jack Augustine

Cedric  
A. Muma

Oliver Rivers  
Matthew Tollefson

Megan Jones  
Alyssa Meissner

Very Tall Man, Goyle, Fat Friar, Soul-Sucking  
Security Guard, Sal, Viktor, Mister Voldy  
Julian Goldstein

1st Headmaster, Hannah, Professor Lanny,  
Runes Teach, Ms. Babble, Frenchy  
Anna Montgomery

Uncle Dave, Ernie Mac, Professor Turban,  
Colin, The Real Mr. Moody, Death Buddy 1  
Nicholas Bilyeu

Professor McG, Sorter Hat, Xavia Jones,  
Helga, Dragon  
Paige Huling

Seamus Finnegan, Leanne, Ghost History  
Teacher, Death Buddy 2  
Val Fish

Anthony Goldstein, Professor Sprouty, Ginny,  
Soul-Sucking Security Guard, Rita Scooter,  
Death Buddy 3, Bippy  
Amanda Visger

Harry, Hermeoone 2, Rowena  
Kira Hirsch

J. Finch, Clumsy Longbottom, 2nd  
Headmaster  
Gavin Muller

Susie Bones, Hermeoone 1, Myrtle, Death  
Buddy 4  
Mia Bondy

Sally Perks, Blondo Malfoy, Mr. Nick  
Paige Edge

A Certain Potions Professor, Professor Locky,  
Hermeoone 3, Ric Gryff, Mr. Bagman, Zach  
Smith, Scorpy  
Aidan Tucker

*Puffs* was originally produced Off  
Broadway by Tilted Windmills  
Theatricals (John Arthur Pinckard/David  
Carpenter).

*Puffs* was developed in part during a  
residency with the University of Florida  
School of Theatre & Dance, Jerry Dickey,  
School Director.

Originally produced Off-Off Broadway  
by Stephen Stout and Colin Waitt.

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# SPECIAL THANKS

The Rivoli Theatre

# BIOGRAPHIES

**Jack Augustine (Narrator, Wayne Rivers-Jones)**--Jack is a first year Musical Theatre major and is thrilled to be part of his first production at UWL! He would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support as he pursues his dreams.

**Nic Barilar (Director)**--Nic teaches theatre history, dramatic literature, and directing for UWL Theatre and Dance. Previous UWL credits include directing *Last Train to Nibroc*, *Dragons Love Tacos*, and the KC/ACTF award-winning productions of *Dr. Faustus* and Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. Nic received his PhD in theatre and performance studies from the University of Pittsburgh. His research has been published in the books *Beckett Beyond the Normal* and *The Routledge Companion to Absurdist Literature* and is forthcoming in *The Palgrave Handbook of Theatre Censorship*. A proud member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), Nic has also performed professionally at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center (Midland, PA), the Pittsburgh Festival Opera (Pittsburgh, PA), the Virginia Samford Theatre (Birmingham, AL), and the Barn Theatre (Augusta, MI).

**Nicholas Bilyeu (Uncle Dave, Ernie Mac, Professor Turban, etc.)**--Nick is very excited to be back on the Toland stage! You may have seen him in his last production at UWL, *Dr. Faustus* (Wagner/Pride/ Frederick). He is very grateful for all the cast, crew, and production wizards who worked on *Puffs*. He'd like to thank his family, friends, and Alé for always supporting him. Enjoy the show!

**Mia Bondy (Susie Bones, Hermeoone 1, Death Buddy 3)**--Mia is a junior Theatre Performance major with a Creative Writing minor. This is her first time performing on the UWL stage. She is excited for you to watch the show. Her favorite character she's played is Hellen Keller in a scene from *The Miracle Worker*.

**Coleman Breedlove (Asst. Sound Designer)**--Coleman is a sophomore Theatre Design and Technology major. Coleman is thankful to have the opportunity to learn and to assist with the sound on this production. Coleman would like to thank everyone for coming to the show and hopes you enjoy it!

**Ellie Burns (Asst. Lighting Designer)**--Ellie is a senior Art major with a minor in Theatre Design/Tech. They are very excited to be assistant lighting designing this show after also working on *Orlando* last spring. Enjoy the show!

**Michelle Collyar (Costume Designer)**--With an MFA in design and technology, Michelle manages the costume shop at UWL and teaches costume technology. She has designed, patterned and constructed costumes and dancewear for regional and academic theatres, and for dance companies and commercial catalogs. She spent some time in Canada working on the set of *Let's Get Physical*, starring Jane Seymour and *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, a Canadian mock news series. Michelle recently spent a season on the opera *Carmen*, directed by Denyce Graves, an Emmy and Grammy Award-winning vocalist, at the Glimmerglass Opera Company in New York.

**Dylan Curvin (Scene Shop Supervisor/Asst. Technical Director)**--Dylan is excited to begin his first year with the UWL Department of Theatre and Dance. Dylan is from Piedmont, Alabama, and studied at Jacksonville State University where he obtained his B.A. in Integrated Studies with a focus on Theatre. He also has been working professionally in theatre for around 10 years with most recent credits including *Sweeney Todd* and *The Barber of Seville* with Des Moines Metro Opera Theatre, *The Cher Show*, *STOMP*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* Broadway tours.

**Paige Edge (Sally Perks, Blondo Malfoy, Mr. Nick)**--Paige is a junior Elementary and Middle School Education major with a Theater Performance minor. As a lifelong fan of the franchise-that-shall-not-be-named, she is thrilled to be a part of *Puffs* this semester. Her theater experience at UWL includes playing Claire in *Fuddy Meers* and being a part of the ensemble in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. She would like to thank her family and her friends for always supporting her in her dreams, no matter how wacky and magical they may sound.

**Val Fish (Seamus Finnegan, Leanne, etc.)**--Val is beyond ecstatic to be appearing in *Puffs*! She is a senior Theatre Performance major with a Creative Writing minor and has previously been seen as #13 in *The Wolves* and Blue Dragon in *Dragons Love Tacos*. Val would like to thank her friends and family for being so supportive of her theatrical endeavors and would like to dedicate her performance in this show to her favorite Puff, Grandma McCouloff. Enjoy the show!

**Ozzy Glazer (Puppet Designer)**--Ozzy is thrilled to work on the first show of the season! They are currently a third-year Theatre Design/Tech student who has been able to work with puppets. Ozzy's work with making puppets could previously be seen in UWL's productions of *Fuddy Meers* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Enjoy the show!

**Sage Goetsch (Props Designer)**--Sage is a senior Stage Management major with minors in Design/Tech and Performance. This summer, Sage worked as the Production Management and Audio Apprentice at New York Stage and Film. At UWL, he was the sound designer for *Orlando* and the stage manager for *Dr. Faustus*. Up next, he will be the stage manager for *The Wickhams Christmas at Pemberley*. He would like to thank his partner, friends, and family for their continued support, and hopes you enjoy the show!

# BIOGRAPHIES

**Julian Goldstein (Very Tall Man, Goyle, Fat Friar, etc.)**--Julian is an Exercise Sport Science Pre-Professional major with a Theater Performance minor and is in his final semester. He has performed in *Dr. Faustus* and two other student-made productions while at UWL. He has a passion for exercise and for entertaining others through acting.

**Thomas Hall (Asst. Stage Manager)**--Thomas is a third-year student at UWL majoring in Sports Management and minoring in Theatre and Business Administration. This will be his fourth production at UWL. Thomas appreciates all the support from his family and friends. He is excited to make the magic happen!

**David Harlan (Sound Designer)**--David is in his first year with UWL Department of Theatre and Dance as faculty Sound Designer and Sound/Lighting Supervisor. He has an MFA in theatre from the University of Idaho and worked for UI, Idaho Repertory Theatre and his own theatre company - Moscow Art Theatre (Too) - as an actor, director, designer and technician for the past 17 years.

**Dawn Havican (Asst. Props Designer)**--Dawn is a second year arts admin major. She'd like to thank her husband, Darryn, for all his support.

**Ellie Hemming (Asst. Stage Manager)**--Ellie is super excited to be a part of the *Puffs* team! This is her second time as an assistant stage manager, but her seventh production at UWL. She appreciates every opportunity she has been given through this department. She hopes you enjoy the magic that is *Puffs*!

**Kira Hirsch (Harry, Hermoone 2, Rowena)**--Kira is a junior Theatre Performance major, and this will be her fourth time on stage at UWL, with her previous shows being *A Christmas Carol*, *Dragons Love Tacos*, and *Orlando*. She is thrilled to be part of this production and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Paige Huling (Professor McG, Sorter Hat, Xavia Jones, etc.)**--Paige is so excited to be performing in her sixth production at UWL! Paige is a third-year student and some of her recent roles include Heidi in *Fuddy Meers* and Spiker in *James and the Giant Peach*. She is thankful and thrilled to be along on this magical journey!

**Josh Kaiser (Wayne Hopkins)**--Josh is so excited to return to the Toland stage for his fourth year and live out his childhood dream of being a wizard! You may have seen him previously in productions such as *James and the Giant Peach* and *Dr. Faustus*. He would like to thank his family for supporting him, his teachers for encouraging him, and his friends for inspiring him. Third or nothing!!

**Laurie Kinckman (Production Manager)**--Laurie is Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance where she teaches stage management, arts administration, dramaturgy, and serves as the Production Manager. She has worked professionally in theatre, dance, and opera. Laurie was co-author and projections designer for the department's world premiere of *Severe Clear- September 11 from Memory to History*. Other UWL credits include stage management of *Art in Motion*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Big Fish*, and *26 Pebbles*, and dramaturgy for *Doctor Faustus*, *Proof*, and *The Laramie Project*. She is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, the Stage Managers Association, the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas, and Actors' Equity Association. Laurie is the author of *The Stage Manager's Toolkit*, published by Routledge Press.

**Hailey Kluck (Puppet Designer)**--Having mainly worked in set construction and run crew, Hailey is excited to join the production of *Puffs* with their first official props design. Hailey is a junior double majoring in Theatre Design/Tech and Public Health. Enjoy the show.

**Mandy Kolbe (Scenic Designer)**--Mandy earned their MFA in scenic and lighting design from Ohio State University. Mandy has designed over 50 shows at UWL including *A Christmas Carol*, *Eleemosynary*, *26 Pebbles*, *Hair*, *Twelfth Night*, *Urinetown*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and many more. Mandy has also designed for the Ashland Theatre, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, The Brick, and the Hudson Guild.

**Miranda Logan (Puppet Designer)**--Logan is delighted to return to a production of *Puffs* on the puppet crew! The first time around she did costumes and is excited to get to work on the show's more magical inhabitants this time around. She hopes you enjoy the mini-menagerie of mythical creatures to be brought to life onstage tonight!

# BIOGRAPHIES

**Alyssa Meissner (Megan Jones)**--Alyssa is thrilled to be part of UWL's *Puffs*! She is a senior Musical Theatre major with a Dance minor. Most recently, Alyssa performed in UWL's *James and The Giant Peach* and *The Wolves*. She would like to thank her director, stage management team, cast mates, and everyone who has put time and effort into this magical show. She would like to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support! Enjoy the show!

**Amber Meyers (Lighting Designer)**--Amber is a third year Theatre Design and Technical major with a Stage Management minor at UWL and is excited to be working on this production as the lighting designer. She would like to thank the people who helped get her here, as she is thankful for all of the new opportunities. She is excited for you all to watch, and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Nate Mohlman (Technical Director)**--Nate begins his first year as the Technical Director of the UWL Department of Theatre and Dance. He teaches Theatre Technology, Stagecraft, Drafting, and Theatre Foundations. Nate holds an MFA in Technical Direction from the University of Southern Illinois and specializes in rigging, structural design for the stage, entertainment automation, drafting, and metal fabrication. He has worked professionally as a technical director at the La Crosse Community Theatre and as an assistant technical director at the Des Moines Metro Opera and the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

**Anna Montgomery (1st Headmaster, Hannah, Professor Lanny, etc.)**--Anna is so excited to be a part of *Puffs*! As a senior Musical Theatre major, she has been involved in many productions including *Cinderella* as Cinderella, *Art in Motion: A Concert of Dance* as a student choreographer/dancer, and *The Wolves* as #11. She would like to thank her friends, family, and the UWL faculty for their constant support and guidance. Enjoy the show!

**Gavin Muller (J. Finch, Clumsy Longbottom, 2nd Headmaster)**--Gavin is a third-year Theatre Performance major with a Stage Management minor. He has been in several shows including *A Christmas Carol*, *Secret in the Wings*, *Dr. Faustus*, and *Orlando*. He thanks his friends and family for the constant love and support. Enjoy the show! #JFinchApproved

**A. Muma (Cedric)**--A. is a junior Performance and Biology double major, excited to take the stage for the sixth time at UWL. Most recently, A. performed in *Orlando* and *Dr. Faustus*! They want to thank their family and friends for all the support, and they hope you have a magical time at *Puffs*!

**River Podjasek (Asst. Stage Manager)**--River currently a junior at UWL. He has worked on 6 shows at UWL in various production positions, and this is his second show as assistant stage manager! Previous credits include serving as assistant stage manager for *Doctor Faustus* and as assistant technical director for *James and the Giant Peach*. He'd like to thank his family, friends, and partner for their endless support in all of his endeavors.

**Matthew Tollefson (Oliver Rivers)**--Matthew is a freshman majoring in Musical Theater and minoring in Sound Design. This is Matthew's first show on the UWL stage. Matthew is originally from Rochester, MN where you might have seen him as Henry Higgins (*My Fair Lady*), The Major General (*Pirates of Penzance*), or Jay Gatsby (*The Great Gatsby*). Matthew would like to thank his parents for all of the support they've given him, but he solemnly swears that he is up to no good.

**Aidan Tucker (A Certain Potions Professor, Professor Locky, Hermeoone 3, etc.)**--Aidan is a sophomore Business Marketing major, and this will be his first time on stage at UWL. He would like to thank all his friends at UWL for not only supporting him but encouraging him to try out in the first place. He is super excited for everyone to see the show and hopes you enjoy!

**Amanda Visger (Dramaturg/Anthony Goldstein, Professor Sprouty, Ginny, etc.)**--Amanda is a junior majoring in Theatre Performance and minoring in Stage Management. This is their second show performing and first time as a dramaturg for UWL. They would like to thank their friends, family, and professors for all of the encouragement and support along the way. Enjoy the show!

**Avery Weston (Stage Manager)**--Avery is a third-year Stage Management major with minors in Theater Design/Technology and Arts Administration. Most recently she was the stage manager for *Orlando* and assistant stage manager for *Fuddy Meers*. They would like to thank their family and friends for all the love and support throughout the years. Enjoy the show!

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Asst. Stage Managers.....Thomas Hall,  
Ellie Hemming, River Podjasek  
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Ellie Burns  
Assistant Sound Designer.....Coleman Breedlove  
Dramaturg.....Amanda Visger  
Puppet/Millinery Supervisor.....Anna Wooden  
Light/Sound Supervisor.....David Harlan  
Scene Shop Supervisor.....Dylan Curvin  
Costume Shop  
Supervisor.....Michelle Collyar  
Production Manager.....Laurie Kinckman  
Sound Board Op.....Alex Haaland  
Light Board Op.....August Jennings  
Costume Shop Staff.....Ella Dummer,  
Lillie Helseth, Miranda Logan,  
Vienna Tomkalski, Elin Voegeli, Emily Winter  
Costume Shop Crew.....Sophie Bishop,  
Alexis Ellefson, CC Harris, Trinity Hobot,  
Tiana Loynes, William Sivula,  
Costume Run Crew.....Blake Eder,  
Alec Hoang, Jaydan Hostettler, Abigail Huser,  
Matthea Jones, Elle Kernan, Elissa Wrenn  
Light Shop Staff.....Coleman Breedlove,  
Sage Goetsch, Amber Meyers  
Light Crew.....Ephraim Anglemeyer,  
Jordan Hurley, Apollo Kasprzyk, Mazin Khorsed,  
Caleb Lor, Ava Macintyre, Aiden Magnusson,  
Will Meier, Noah Petrick, Jayden Sayles,  
Addison Strauss, Abby Waters  
Sound Shop Staff.....Connor Pangburn

Publicity.....Anna Abel,  
Naomi Golisch, Paige Latzl  
Box Office.....Eva Mason, Morgan Millard  
Run Crew.....Sophie Buel, Lucas Dhein,  
Kaylee Hague, Victoria Handel,  
Ryan Hong, Julia Grace Sanchez  
Poster Design.....Laurie Kinckman  
Cast Photos.....David Harlan  
Lobby Display.....Sean Peterson, Amanda Visger  
House Manager.....Natalie Giddings  
Front of House.....Rylan Bahr, Sydney Greenfield,  
Jackson Nekolny, Addy Nysse, Maiya Stone,  
Henry Tranel, Brayden Watlers, Rylie Wise  
Scene Paint Staff.....Natalie Giddings, Sage Goetsch,  
Magdalena Stauffer, Avery Weston  
Scene Paint Crew.....Madeline Borski, Abby Chalmers  
Scene Shop Staff.....Josh Kaiser, Hailey Kluck,  
Josie Lucksted, Michael Muma, River Podjasek,  
Caden Prentice, Avery Weston  
Scene Shop Crew.....Henry Allard, Elena Altfillisch,  
Jackson Bartol, Keira Bloom, Tyler Charnholm,  
Lance Cherovsky, Kaitlyn Demler, Dawson Ekern,  
Sydni Ellis, Abby Galvin, Isabella Graetz,  
Lily Higgins, Aiden Johnson, Natasha Johnson,  
Katelyn Kleinschmidt, Sieana Lauritzen,  
Ella Lemke, Jezelyn Lorraine, Anna Neuenfeldt,  
Gabe Olsen, Harper Patenaude, Ashley Rechtzigel,  
Jack Sabatke, Ayla Schmidt, Ava Sherman,  
Katherine Terry, Kass Tregoning, Madison Uelmen,  
Elle Wollersheim

# THE KENNEDY CENTER

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.