

SP **SIMPSON**
Productions

2026-27 Season



By **Seymour Barab**

Little Red Riding Hood

Barab's LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD is performed by arrangement with B&H Music Publishing Inc. d/b/a Boosey & Hawkes, publisher and copyright owner.

SIMPSON COLLEGE

Oct. 10-11, 2026

Blank Performing Arts Center
Barnum Studio Theatre



WELCOME to *Little Red Riding Hood*, our first production of the 2026-27 Season!

Follow young Red as she journeys through the forest to visit her grandmother and meets a sly Wolf along the way. Seymour Barab's libretto stays close to the familiar story while adding humorous twists: a wolf with a sensitive stomach, a grandmother who outsmarts danger, and a finale where courage and quick thinking win the day. With its tuneful score, small cast, and playful storytelling, the opera is an ideal introduction to the stage for young audiences.

Simpson Productions is proud to partner with the After School Arts Program (ASAP). ASAP is a nonprofit arts education organization that provides access to the arts for young people throughout greater Des Moines. With Executive Director, Michelle Bolton King's help, we have the pleasure of performing the opera, at four different Des Moines elementary schools Oct 5-8 as part of this outstanding program.

Music Director/Keyboardist
Damon Stevens

Director
Ann Woldt

Scenic & Props Designer
Natalie Hining-Bruce

Lighting Designer
Hannah Dank

Make-Up & Hair Designer
Piper Jackman

Costume Designer
Caroline Frias

Stage Manager
Tye Landrum



Engraving by Gustave Doré of Little Red Riding Hood, 1860

Cast

Little Red.....Terra Hamilton, Lola Vincent
Wolf/Woodsman.....Maxwell Wearmouth-Gweah
Mother/Grandmother.....Hannah Larsen

There will be no intermission



Illustration by J. W. Smith

Please make sure cell phones and alarms are turned off.
Please no text messaging during the performance.
Restrooms are located on the main and upper lobby levels

Production Staff

Technical Director.....Natalie Hining-Bruce
Asst. Scenery & Props Design.....Chessa Strauser
Asst. Stage Manager.....Callie Watrous
Deck/Prop Crew Heads.....Kaeding Phillips, Naomi Graves
Deck/Prop Crew.....Lily Benham, Mark Feikert,
Paisha Goodrich, Savannah Jacques, Keeley Johnson, Brooklyn Mastin,
Sierra Wood
Wardrobe Crew Head.....Robyn Aguilar
Wardrobe Crew.....Bekah Geerdes, Dannin Hintz,
Jules Low, Aniah Morse, Lizzy Sprague
Lightboard Operator.....Charlotte Latch
Band Technicians.....Uraia Nawaqa,
Reggie Wearmouth-Gweah, Elizabeth Winters
Box Office Manager.....Arseydia Rodriguez
House Manager.....Diego Solorio
Front of House.....Brynn Almond, Simeon Claussen,
Reece Day, Grace Hintz, Ben Hodges, Loli Lonyome, Alexa
Meja-Martinez, Summer Minor, Michael Thacker
Poster Design.....Jade Sprague
Study Guide Design.....SC 101Q Foundations I

Production Crew

Scene Shop Supervisor: Natalie Hining-Bruce

Lighting and Sound Supervisor: Rick Goetz

Costume Shop Supervisor: Caroline Frias

Costume Construction Crew: Piper Jackman^{UGA}, Robyn Aguilar, Jamilia Artis, Bella Ashford, Pam Duarte, Grace Hintz, Aniah Morse, Ale Salazar-Campos

Set Construction Crew: Chessa Strauser^{UGA}, Wreilaini Betermi, Mark Feikert, BreAnn Gonzalez, Naomi Graves, Uraia Nawaqa, Graham Sevde, Diego Solorio

Lighting Crew: Hannah Dank^{UGA}, Charlotte Latch, McFarland, Kaeding Phillips, Sierra Sammons, Maxwell Wearmouth-Gweah

Sound : Bekah Geerdes^{UGA}

Simpson Productions:

Production Assistant: Hannah Larsen^{UGA}

Marketing: Jules Low^{UGA}

Faculty Supervisor of Marketing: Jennifer Nostrala

Audience Services: Sydney Meierotto^{UGA}

Faculty Supervisor for Audience Services: Kara Raphaeli

*UGA-Undergraduate Assistant

Simpson Productions Student Leadership

Simpson Productions Scholarship Students

Scholarship recipients hold theatre as an essential part of their lives and are an integral part of the Simpson Productions company.

Robyn Aguilar
Brynn Almond
Bekah Geerdes
Paisha Goodrich
Naomi Graves
Dannin Hintz
Grace Hintz
Ben Hodges
Piper Jackman
Savannah Jacques
Keeley Johnson

Lily Benham
Simeon Claussen
Reece Day
Tye Landrum
Hannah Larsen
Charlotte Latch
Loli Lonyome
Jules Low
Brooklyn Mastin
Summer Minor
Uraia Nawaqa
Aniah Morse

Hannah Dank
Mark Feikert
Kaeding Phillips
Arseydia Rodriguez
Diego Solorio
Lizzy Sprague
Chessa Strauser
Michael Thacker
Callie Watrous
Reggie Wearmouth-Gweah

UGA-Undergraduate Assistants

Undergraduate Assistants are positions across campus that are designed to offer students the opportunity to gain practical, in-depth experience complementing their formal education.

2026-2027 UGAs

Sound—Bekah Geerdes
Lighting—Hannah Dank
Tech Assistant—Chessa Strauser
Production Assistant--Hannah Larsen

Marketing –Jules Low
Audience Services—Sydney Meierotto



Seymour Barab was an American cellist and composer, best known for his light-hearted one-act operas for children, including *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Cinderella*, and *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*.

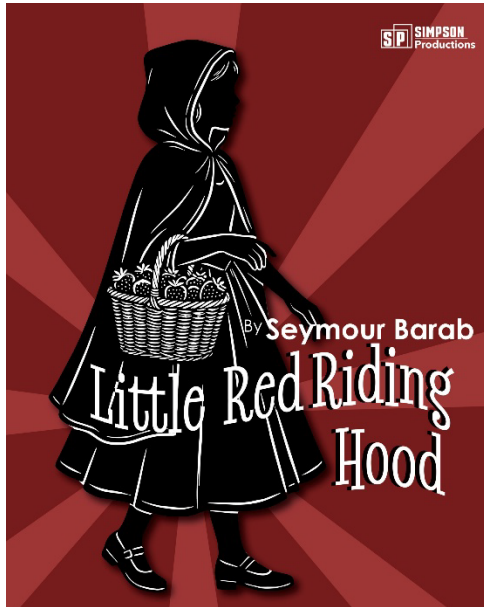
Born on January 9, 1921 in Chicago, Illinois to first-generation American parents, Barab began his studies early on in piano and cello and quickly realized he had a passion for performing the unplayed work of talented contemporary composers. He became an important member of the new music scene in New York, learning and performing other composers' works, as well as writing his own. *Little Red Riding Hood* had its world premiere on October 13, 1963, in New York City performed by the Music Theatre for Children and remains his most popular.

www.Calgaryopera.com

Simpson Productions would like to thank

Michelle Bolton King
ASAP

Simpson Productions 2026-2027 Season

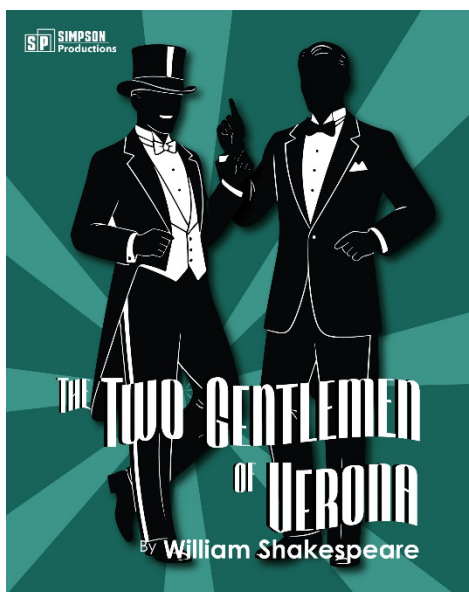


Little Red Riding Hood ***a children's opera in one act*** **By Seymour Barab**

Music Director, Damon Stevens
Director, Ann Woldt
Barnum Studio Theatre
Oct. 10 & 11 at 2:00 pm

Seymour Barab's *Little Red Riding Hood* is a charming, family-friendly one-act opera that brings the classic fairy tale to life with wit and warmth. First premiered in 1963, this 50-minute work follows young Red as she journeys through the forest to visit her grandmother, meeting a sly

Wolf along the way. Barab's libretto stays close to the familiar story while adding humorous twists: a wolf with a sensitive stomach, a grandmother who outsmarts danger, and a finale where courage and quick thinking win the day. With its tuneful score, small cast, and playful storytelling, the opera is an ideal introduction to the stage for young audiences.

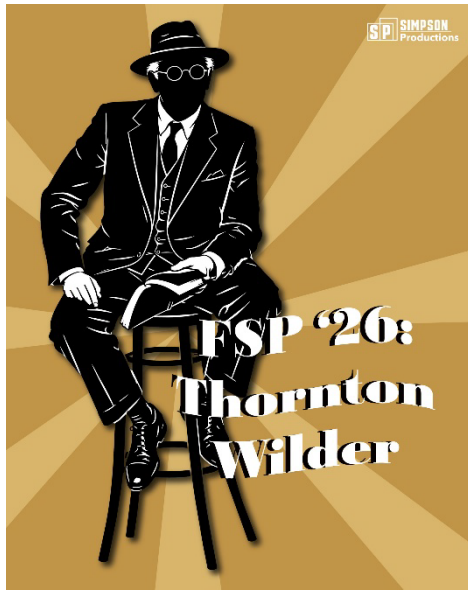


The Two Gentlemen of Verona **By William Shakespeare**

Director Jennifer Nostrala
Pote Theatre
Nov. 20-21 at 7:30 pm, Nov. 22 at 2:00 pm
In conjunction with the 29th annual High School Theatre Festival

Two best friends, Valentine and Proteus, leave home to chase opportunity and love. Valentine falls for Silvia—but when Proteus arrives, he betrays his friend by also pursuing her, despite already being in love with Julia back home. Disguises, mixed loyalties, and a band of outlaws complicate everything until the truth comes out. In the end,

friendships are (somewhat abruptly) repaired, lovers are reunited, and everyone heads toward a hopeful resolution. And there is a dog.



The Festival of Short Plays: Thornton Wilder

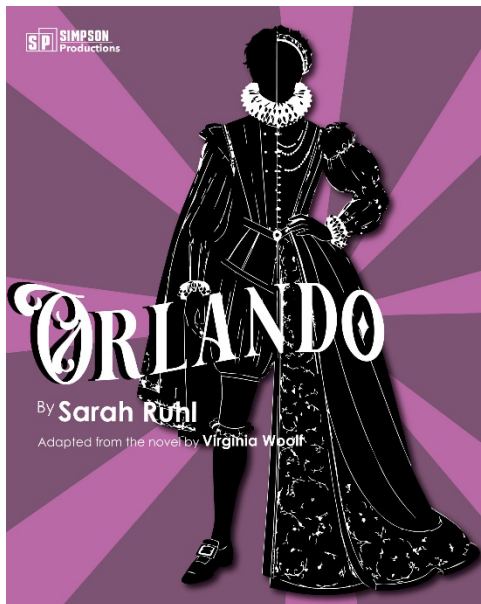
Producer Jennifer Nostrala

Featuring the work of students in Theatre Seminar

Barnum Studio Theatre

Dec. 4-5 at 7:30 pm

Thornton Wilder spent his career turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. One of the great American voices of the twentieth century, his work captures the rhythms of everyday American life. This festival highlights the work of our student company for a single unmissable evening. Expect the unexpected: Wilder's world is full of surprises.



Orlando

By Sarah Ruhl

Director Kara Raphaeli

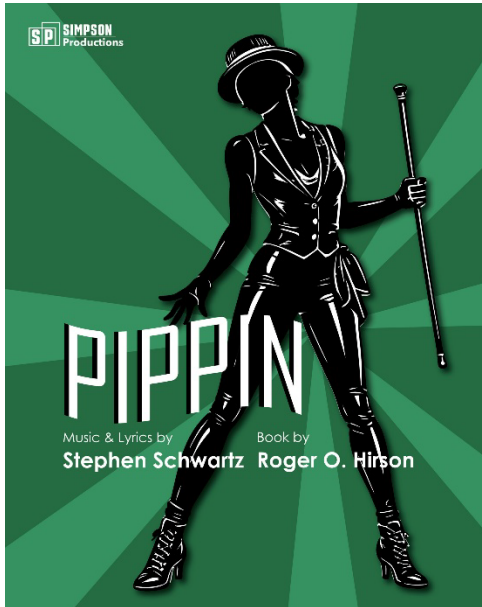
Barnum Studio Theatre

Feb. 19-20 at 7:30 pm and Feb. 21 at 2:00 pm

Orlando by Sarah Ruhl is based on the novel of the same name by Virginia Woolf.

Orlando lives the first 30 years of his life as a man, then one morning wakes up as a woman. Orlando then starts to understand the constraints put on women by society - this is the 1600s after all! 300 years pass, but Orlando doesn't

age. The play follows Orlando's adventures through time and gender, concluding that even though the physical appearance changes, Orlando is still Orlando.



Pippin

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Book by Roger O. Hirson

Director Jennifer Nostrala

Music Director Damon Stevens

Pote Theatre

April 9-10 at 7:30 pm and April 11 at 2:00 pm

Pippin is a dazzling, meta-theatrical musical about a young prince searching for meaning, purpose, and his own "corner of the sky." In our production, the story is set in a youth shelter, where a group of young people — navigating their own uncertainties and struggles — are drawn into putting on a play. Theatre becomes their

escape, their language, and ultimately their way of making sense of the world.

Guided by the charismatic Leading Player and a troupe of performers, Pippin tries everything from war and revolution to romance and domestic life in his quest for fulfillment. With a beloved score by Stephen Schwartz and staging that plays with theatrical form, the show blends dark comedy with heartfelt storytelling. Its playful fourth-wall breaks and exploration of identity make it a visually rich and emotionally resonant experience.

**Reserve tickets through [Humanitix](#)
or by contacting the Simpson Productions Box Office:**

515-961-1601

bpacboxoffice@simpson.edu



Caroline Frias	Costume Designer; Costume Shop Supervisor; Courses in Design and Tech
Rick Goetz	Lighting and Sound Designer; Lighting and Sound Supervisor Courses in Design and Tech
Natalie Hining-Bruce	Scene Designer; Technical Director; Scene Shop Supervisor; Courses in Design and Tech
Jennifer Ross Nostrala	Simpson Productions Producer; Courses in Directing, Acting, Literature, Script Analysis; Director
Kara Raphaeli	Assistant Professor; Courses in Directing, Plays and Performances, Script Analysis, World Theatre; Director
Damon Stevens	G. Dewey and M. Maine Larsen Chair in Opera; Courses in Music History, Ensembles, Collaborative Piano, Opera; Conductor
Ann Woldt	Theatre Department Chair; Recruitment & Outreach Coordinator; Courses in Acting, Voice, Script Analysis, Interpretation; Director