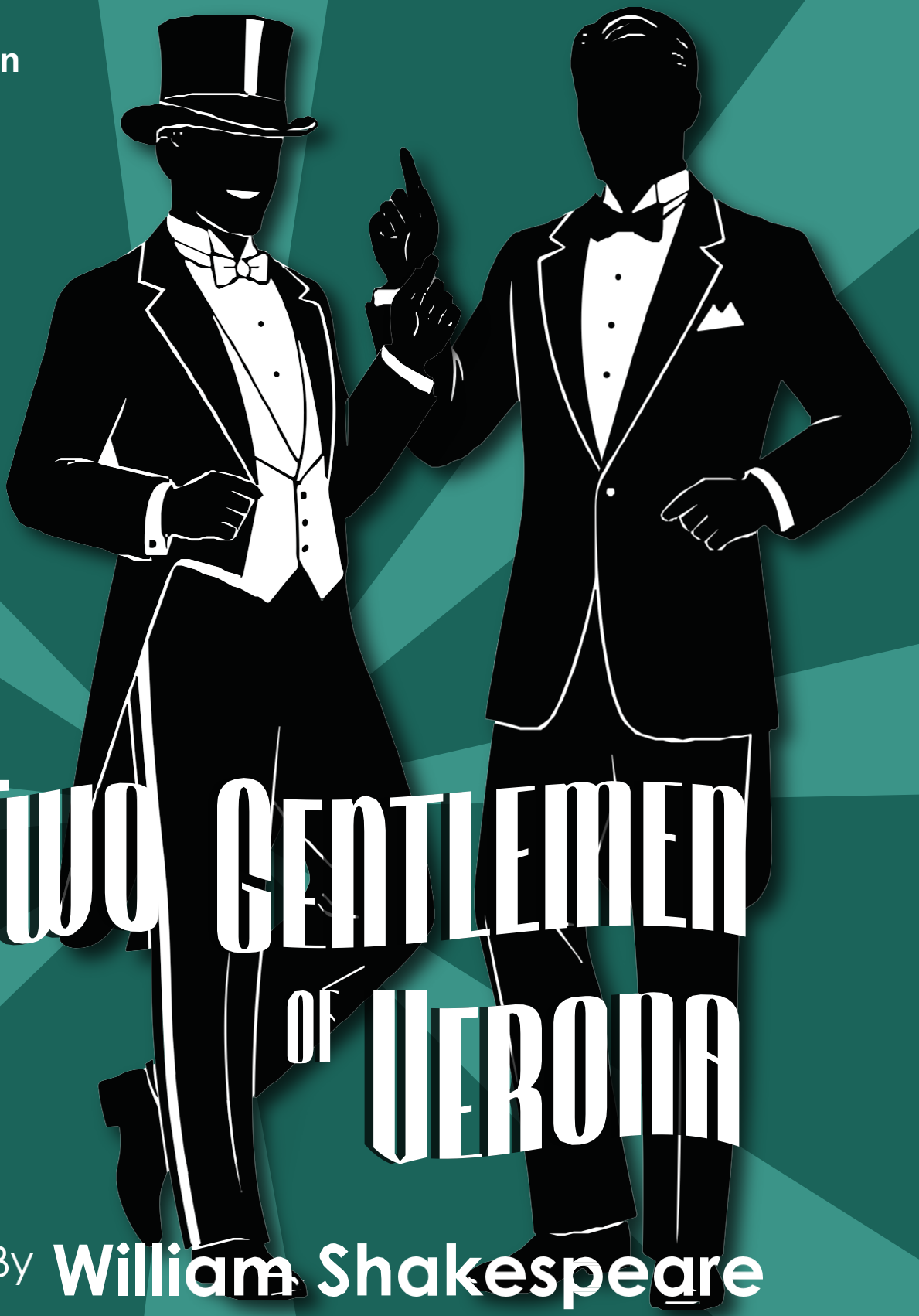
SIMPSON Productions

2026-27 Season



The Two Gentlemen of Verona

By William Shakespeare

SIMPSON COLLEGE

Nov. 20-23, 2026

In conjunction with the 29th annual High School Theatre Festival

Blank Performing Arts Center

Pote Theatre

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

By William Shakepeare

adapted by Jennifer Ross Nostrala

November 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m.

November 22 at 2 p.m.

November 23 in conjunction with the
29th annual High School Theatre Festival

Blank Performing Arts Center

Pote Theatre



SIMPSON Productions

WELCOME to ***The Two Gentlemen of Verona***,
our second production of the 2026-27 Season!

The Two Gentlemen of Verona is a play about friendship, betrayal, and love, but it is also about the challenges of moving into adulthood. Think of it as more of a coming-of-age story rather than a romantic comedy. The characters embark on a journey to the city where they must learn the consequences of their choices.

Our production is set in Chicago in 1919: the jazz scene is bustling, the threat of prohibition is looming, and women's rights are pushing new boundaries. Rather than "gentlemen" in the Elizabethan sense, our characters are musicians. They are traveling to the city to make their mark and rise to the top of the music scene. The Duke owns a club, The Imperial Court. It is a hopping scene, and Valentine has become one of the club's primary performers. Sylvia is a singer, which is how the two meet. The text already includes one song, "Who is Sylvia," and we have incorporated other songs into the production.

We hope you enjoy the performance!

Jennifer Ross Nostrala, Director

Director

Jennifer Ross Nostrala

Scenic Designer

Natalie Hining-Bruce

Lighting Designer

Rick Goetz

Costume/Hair & Make-up Designer

Caroline Frias

Sound Designer

Bekah Geerdes

Props Designer

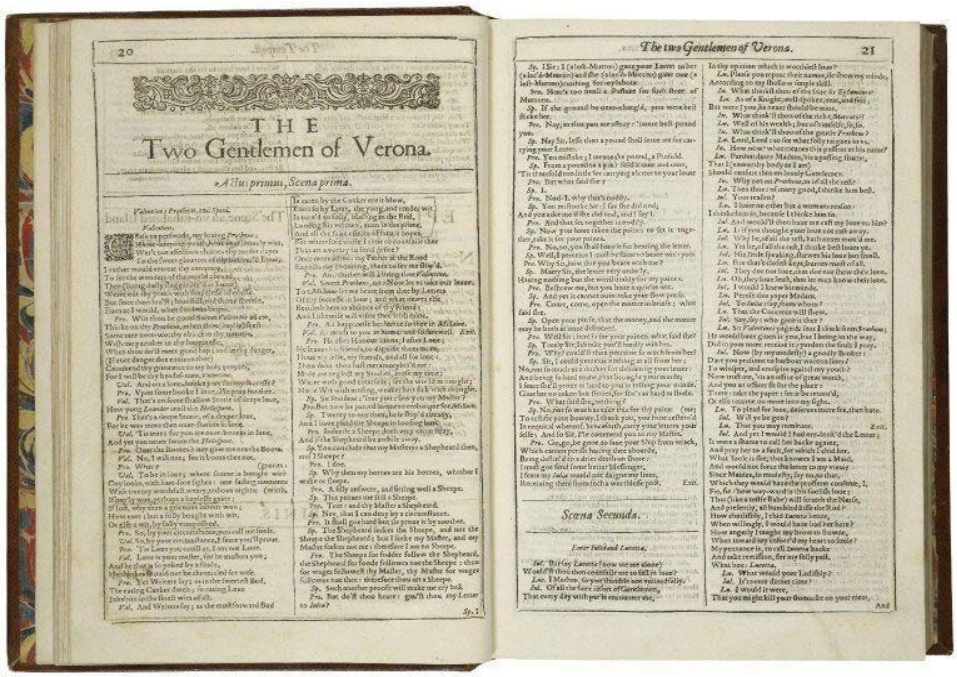
Lola Vincent

Dramaturg

Hannah Larsen

Stage Manager

Lupe Contreras



Cast

Valentine…….……Uraia Nawaqa

Speed……Paisha Goodrich

Proteus……..Diego Solorio

Launce……Elizabeth Winters

Antonio/Ensemble…….Keeley Johnson

Pantino/Ensemble……..Mark Feikert

Julia……Naomi Graves

Lucetta……Piper Jackman

Sylvia…….Jules Low

Duke……Ben Hodges

Thurio…….……Michael Thacker

Eglamour……Lizzy Sprague

Hostess/Ensemble……...Robyn Aguilar

Outlaws/Ensemble…….....Brynn Almond,Charlotte Latch,
Summer Minor

Crab……..Rowlf

< There will be one 10-minute intermission >

Please make sure cell phones and alarms are turned off; and please no text messaging during the performance.

Restrooms are located on the main and upper lobby levels

Production Staff

Technical Director .....Natalie Hining-Bruce
Sound Director……Rick Goetz
Intimacy Coordinator .....Stephanie Schneider
Assistant Stage Manager… .....Savannah Jaques
Assistant Stage Manager… .....Lily Benham
Prop & Deck Crew Head……..Arseydia Rodriguez
Prop & Deck Crew….....Hannah Dank, Dannin Hintz, Aniah Morse
Wardrobe Crew Head… ..... Brooklyn Mastin
Wardrobe Crew….....Kaeding Phillips, Callie Watrous Alexa Meija-Martinez
Light Board Operator .... McFarland
Sound Board Operator… .....Reggie Wearmouth-Gweah
Rowlf Wrangler. .....Chessa Strauser
Box Office Manager… .....Sierra Wood
House Manager….....Hannah Larsen
Front of House…….....Simeon Claussen, Bekah Geerdes, Grace Hintz, Tye Landrum, Lola Vincent
Poster Design……..... Jade Sprague

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, Ale Salazar-Campos
Set Construction Crew: Chessa Strauser [UGA], Uraia Nawaqa, Mark Feikert, BreAnn Gonzalez, Naomi Graves, 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
Lily Benham
Simeon Claussen
Hannah Dank
Mark Feikert
Bekah Geerdes
Paisha Goodrich
Naomi Graves
Dannin Hintz
Grace Hintz
Ben Hodges
Piper Jackman
Savannah Jaques
Keeley Johnson
Tye Landrum
Hannah Larsen
Charlotte Latch
Jules Low
Brooklyn Mastin
Summer Minor
Uraia Nawaqa
Aniah Morse
Kaeding Phillips
Arseydia Rodriguez
Diego Solorio
Lizzy Sprague
Chessa Strauser
Michael Thacker
Callie Watrous

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
Costumes—Piper Jackman
Production Assistant--Hannah Larsen
Marketing –Jules Low
Audience Services—Sydney Meierotto

Meet the Simpson Productions Student Company

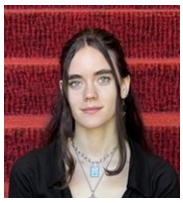
Students involved in Simpson Productions come from a variety of disciplines across campus. Many of the students working on productions are theatre majors and minors, however, we also have criminal justice, math, communications, music and other majors working on the shows. We have some students who may not be in a production, but they do have a workstudy position in the department. The theatre department employs over 25 students in lighting, costumes, and the scene shop. Simpson Productions couldn't produce our shows without *all* these students.



Robyn Aguilar, Actor
Senior, Urbandale, IA
Majors: Theatre, Environmental Science
Activities: Theatre Club, Latinos Unidos, PRIDE



Brynn Almond, Actor
1st Year, Roland, IA
Major: Undecided
Minor: Theatre
Activities: Choir, PRIDE, Chamber Singers, Latinos Unidos, Theatre Club



Lily Benham, Asst. Stage Manager
1st Year, Adel, IA
Major: Forensic Science
Activities: Band, Choir, Theatre Club, Music Club, PRIDE, TRIO



Simeon Claussen, Front of House
1st Year, Pleasantville, IA
Major: Music Education
Activities: Band, Jazz Band, Choir, Chamber Singers, Cheer



Lupe Contreras, Stage Manager
Senior, Ottumwa, IA
Major: Multimedia Journalism
Minors: Marketing Communication, Entrepreneurship
Activities: Choir, Latinos Unidos, Student Media, and Community Advisor



Hannah Dank, Deck Crew
Sophomore, Des Moines, IA
Majors: Theatre, Psychology



Mark Feikert, Actor
1st Year, Ottumwa, IA
Majors: Biology, Spanish
Activities: Spanish Club, Choir, Latinos Unidos



Bekah Geerdes, Sound Designer
Junior, Des Moines, IA
Majors: Theatre, Education
Activities: Theatre Club



Paisha Goodrich, Actor
Junior, Des Moines, IA
Majors: Theater, Multimedia Journalism
Activities: Tri Delta Sorority



Naomi Graves, Actor
Sophomore, Des Moines, IA
Major: Theater
Minor: Graphic Design



Dannin Hintz, Deck Crew
Sophomore, Pleasantville, IA
Major: Human Services
Minor: English
Activities: Cheer, Tri-Delta, Theatre Club



Grace Hintz, Front of House
1st year, Pleasantville, IA
Major: Elementary Ed
Activities: Cheer, Theatre



Ben Hodges, Actor Sophomore, Urbandale, IA
Majors: Theatre, Social Justice Studies
Minor: Arts Management
Activities: Theatre Club



Piper Jackman, Actor
Senior, Cedar Rapids, IA
Major: Computer Information Systems
Minor: Theater
Activities: Choir, Theatre Club



Savannah Jaques, Asst. Stage Manager
1st Year, Creston, IA
Majors: Healthcare Administration, Human Services
Minor: English
Activities: Student Government, Theatre



Keeley Johnson, Actor
1st Year, Prole, IA
Major: Graphic Design
Minor: Business Analytics
Activities: KOY Fraternity, Theatre Club, Choir



Tye Landrum, Front of House
Sophomore, Ankeny, IA
Majors: Sociology, English
Minor: Theatre
Activities: TRIO, Kappa Theta Psi Fraternity



Hannah Larsen, Dramaturg, House Manager
Senior, Norwalk, IA
Majors: Theatre, Education

Activities: ODK, Campus Fellowship, Choir, ResLife, Theatre Club



Charlotte Latch, Actor
1st Year, Pleasantville, IA
Major: Secondary education w/ English
Activities: Theatre



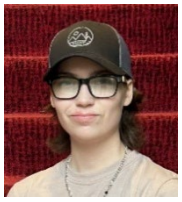
Jules Low, Actor
Sophomore, Portland, OR
Majors: Theatre, Graphic Design
Minor: Spanish

Activities: Choir, Music Dept.Social Media Student Manager



Brooklyn Mastin, Wardrobe Crew Head
Sophomore, Derby, IA
Majors: Human Services, Psychology
Minor: Political Science

Activities: Theatre Club, TRIO, Psych Club, Wesley Service Scholar, Storm Service



McFarland, Light Board Op
Senior Carroll, IA
Major: Political Science
Minor: History
Activities: Mock Trial, Band



Alexa Meija-Martinez, Wardrobe Crew
1st year, Sibley, IA
Major: Elementary Education
Minor: Spanish

Activities:TRIO, KKG, Latinos Unidos



Summer Minor, Actor
1st Year, Indianola, IA
Major: Computer Information Systems
Minor: Business Analytics

Activities: TRIO, Theater Club, Spanish Club, Diversity in STEM



Anaiah Morse, Deck Crew
1st Year, Marengo, IA
Major: Criminal Justice
Minor: Spanish
Activities: Choir, Esports



Uraia Nawaqa, Actor
1st year, Des Moines, IA
Majors: Music Performance, Theatre
Activities: Choir, Theatre



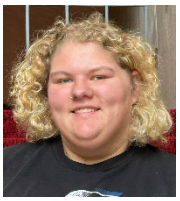
Kaeding Phillips, Wardrobe Crew
Sophomore, Knoxville, IA
Major: Theatre
Minor: Arts Management
Activities: Choir, Band



Arseydia Rodriguez, Deck Crew Head
Junior, Indianola, IA
Major: Criminal Justice
Minor: Spanish
Activities: Theatre



Diego Solorio, Actor
Senior, Irvine, CA
Major: Theater
Activities: Theater Club



Lizzy Sprague, Actor
1st year, Creston, IA
Majors: English, Theater, Education
Activities: TRIO, Choir



Chessa Strauser, Dog Wrangler
Sophomore, Des Moines, IA
Major: Theatre
Minor: Human Services
Activities: TRIO, Theatre Club



Michael Thacker, Actor
Sophomore, Des Moines, IA
Major: Theatre
Minors: Music, Arts Management
Activities: KOY Fraternity, Band, Choir, Chamber Singers, Theatre Club, E-Sports



Lola Vincent, Props Designer
Sophomore, Des Moines, IA
Major: Music Education
Activities: Chamber Singers, Choir, Theater Club



Callie Watrous, Wardrobe Crew
1st Year, Norwalk
Majors: Criminal Justice, Biochemistry
Activities: Theatre, Speech & Debate



Reggie Wearmouth-Gweah, Sound Board Op
Senior, Des Moines, IA
Major: Music
Activities: KOY Fraternity, Band, Choir



Elizabeth Winters, Actor
1st Year, Norwalk, IA
Major: Neuroscience
Activities: Band, Orchestra



Sierra Wood, Box Office Manager
Junior, Ankeny, IA
Majors: Psychology
Minor: Theatre
Activities: Theatre

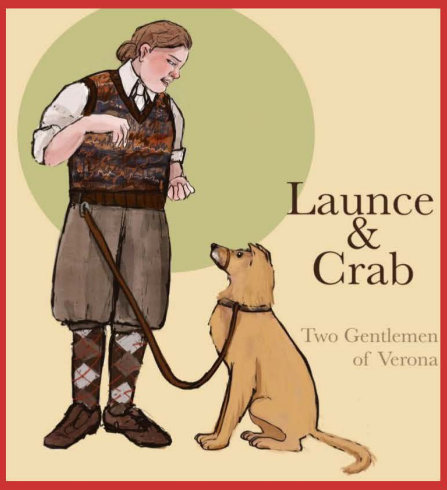


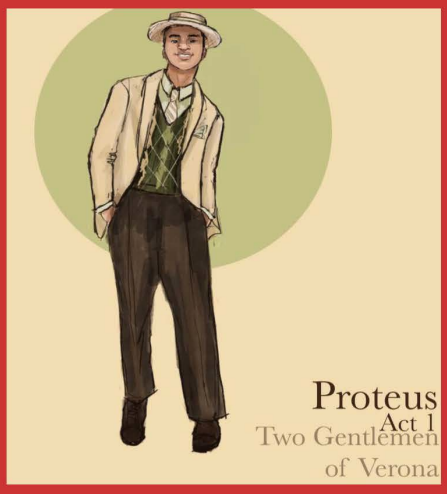
Rowlf, Actor
1st Year, Indianola, IA
Activities: Watching Bluey, Playing fetch, Learning tricks

COSTUME DESIGN

Design Sketches by Costume Designer, Caroline Frias





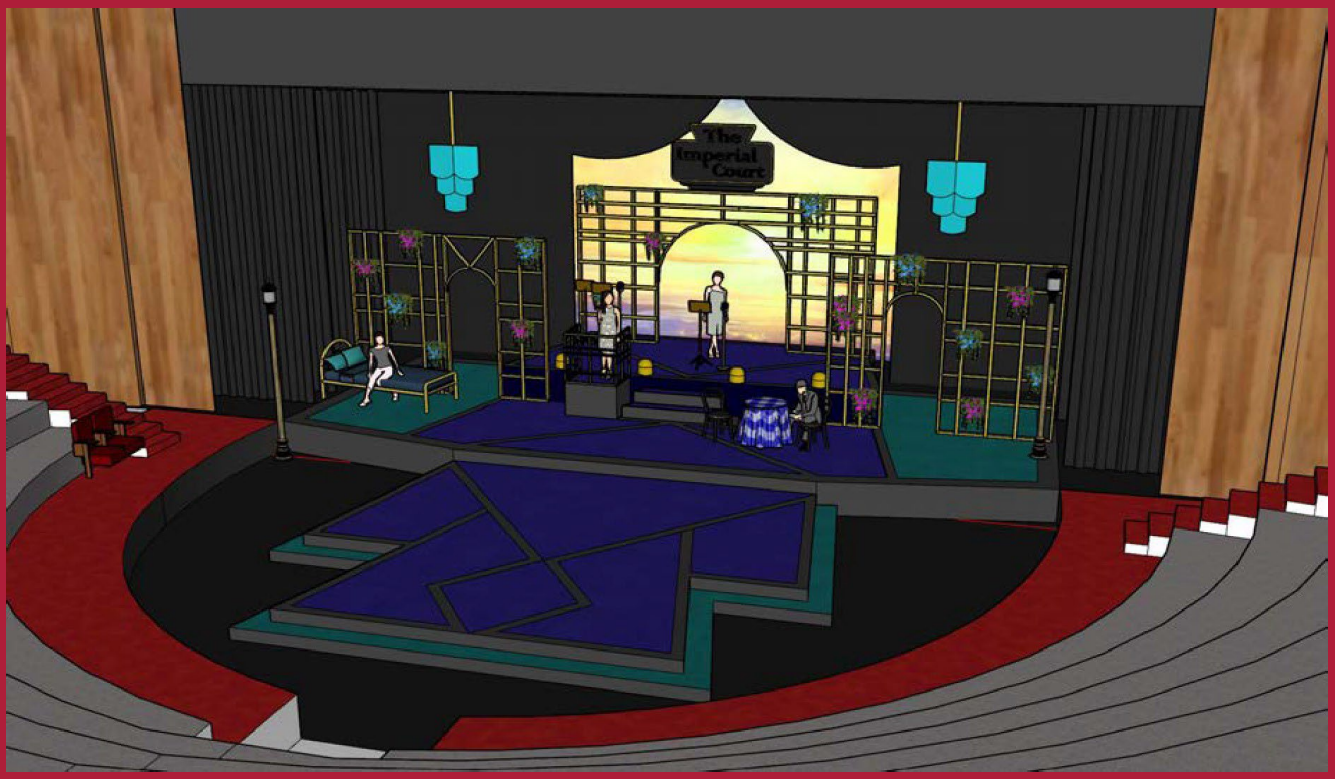








SCENIC DESIGN



Design Sketch. Scenic Designer Natalie Hining-Bruce

Simpson Productions Would Like To Thank:

Josh Jepson
Chris Williams
Dr. Damon Stevens for his assistance with the singers

The Keegan Tilley Sextet

Alto Saxophone- Kaylee Dejong
Trumpet- Rey Notarte
Guitar- Keegan Tilley
Piano- Lewis Durkin
Bass- Simon Gilfanov
Drums- Mason Anderson

Want to hear more about our upcoming shows?

Follow Us!

ON FACEBOOK

Simpson Productions

ON INSTAGRAM:

Simpson_productions

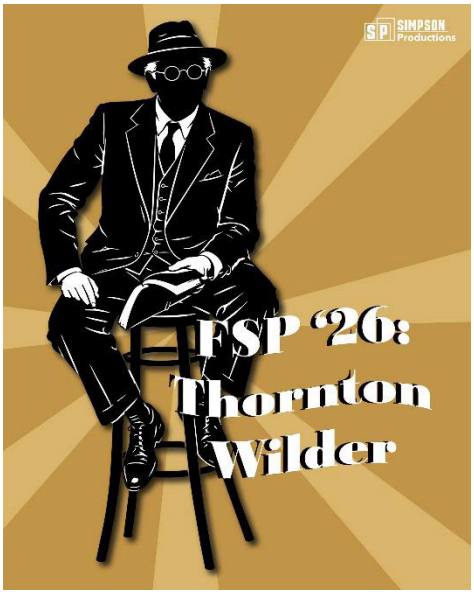
ON TIK TOK

:*www.tiktok.com/@simpsonproductions*

ON BLUESKY:

@simpsonproductions.bsky.social

Upcoming Productions



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.



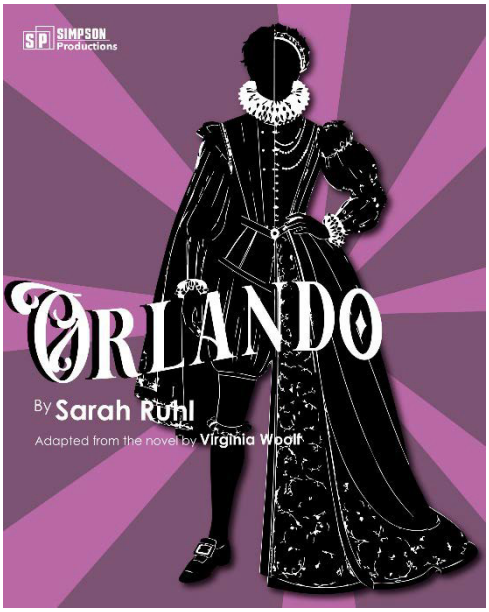
The Long Christmas Dinner

by Thornton Wilder

Barnum Studio Theatre
December 11, 7:30 pm
Tickets are free, but reservations recommended

Before he penned *Our Town*, Thornton Wilder wrote this holiday masterpiece in which audiences, over 40 minutes, get to watch four generations of a family come and go, discovering which traditions endure, and leaving the theater seeing themselves and their own families more clearly.
Join us for a reading of this holiday story, sponsored by the Simpson College Theatre Club, Simpson Productions, and the Theatre Seminar class.
The Long Christmas Dinner is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

Reserve tickets through Humanitix
or by contacting the Simpson Productions Box Office: 515-961-1601
bpacboxoffice@simpson.edu



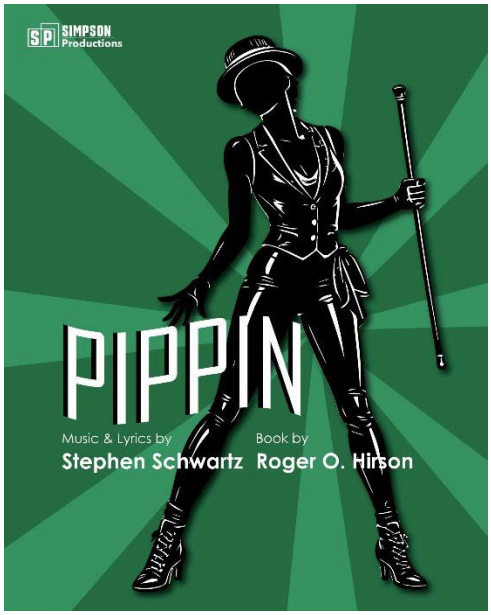
Orlando

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.

Audition information for *Orlando* and *Pippin* can be found here.

Reserve tickets through Humanitix
or by contacting the Simpson Productions Box Office: 515-961-1601
bpacboxoffice@simpson.edu

SIMPSON Productions

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