

the  
**THANKSGIVING  
PLAY**



Niagara  
UNIVERSITY  
THEATRE

# NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre

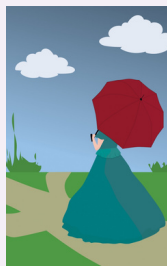
## 2021-2022 Season



Oct 14-18  
**MOVING BACK HOME: NU  
DANCE THEATRE**  
Original NU Production



Nov 4-8  
**DECISION HEIGHT**  
by Meredith Dayna Levy



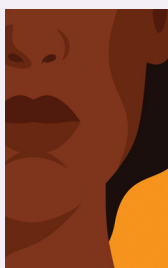
Dec 2-12  
**Jane Austen's EMMA**  
Book, Music & Lyrics by  
Paul Gordon



Jan 21-29  
**SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL**  
by Various Playwrights  
All Student-Directed



Feb 24-27  
**THE THANKSGIVING PLAY**  
by Larissa FastHorse



Mar 4-6  
**GIRL.**  
by Megan Mostyn-Brown



Mar 31-Apr 4  
**MACHINAL**  
by Sophie Treadwell



Apr 28-May 8  
**CABARET**  
Book by Joe Masteroff  
Music by John Kander  
Lyrics by Fred Ebb



For further information and tickets:

<http://theatre.niagara.edu/> • [boxoffice@niagara.edu](mailto:boxoffice@niagara.edu) • 716.286.8685

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

presents

the  
**THANKSGIVING  
PLAY**

by **LARISSA FASTHORSE**

Directed by  
**ROBYN HORN**

Costume Design  
**AMAYA MACK**  
Class of '23

Set Design  
**DAVID DWYER**

Light Design  
**PRIMO THOMAS**

Sound Design  
**ROBYN HORN**

Stage Manager  
**EMILY PALMERCHUCK**  
Class of '23

“**The Thanksgiving Play**” is presented by arrangement with Concord  
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of “THE  
THANKSGIVING PLAY” in 2018

“THE THANKSGIVING PLAY” was commissioned and originally produced by  
Artists Repertory Theatre, Damaso Rodriguez, Artistic Director Sarah Horton,  
Managing Director Portland, Oregon”

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Presented in the Acting Studio, Clet Hall Room 101, in the Elizabeth  
Ann Clune Center for Theatre  
February 24 - 27, 2022

# Director's Note



You're not going to learn the "real" story of Thanksgiving at this performance.

However, you might recognize similarities to the ways you were taught the Thanksgiving myth in school—holding a mirror up to the audience is part of what this play does so skillfully. Playwright Larissa FastHorse also hopes that you might see some elements of your friends, or even yourself, in the characters you will meet tonight.

For the characters in *The Thanksgiving Play*, and for many well-meaning theatre artists the playwright has known, "[o]ver-striving to do the right thing and not screw up and not make mistakes creates this weird paralysis where real change doesn't actually happen," FastHorse said in an interview with HowlRound Theatre Commons. "Real change is messy and difficult, and has all kinds of mistakes and all kinds of problems and hurts feelings. And then we find our way through it."

Plan for things to get messy at this performance! *The Thanksgiving Play* addresses serious issues through satire, so give yourself permission to laugh. Then, after you leave the theatre, we hope the play will spark dialogue about privilege, Indigenous erasure, and white fragility that, as a community, we can work through together.

A note about staging: All of the "lessons" and moments of "improvisation" with props were collaboratively created by the cast. The stage management team also contributed to the devised elements, the conversations that informed our process, and much more.

**Robyn Horn**  
she/her/hers

# Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which Niagara University stands is the home of the Haudenosaunee/Six Nations Confederacy, one of the first and longest-lasting participatory democracies in the world. This territory is covered by The Dish with One Spoon Treaty of Peace and Friendship, a pledge to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. The electricity that helps power this campus comes in part from the Robert Moses Power Plant, which was built on land seized from the Tuscarora people in 1958. Today, this region is still the home to the Haudenosaunee people, and Lewiston NY is home to the Tuscarora Reservation. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and share ideas in this territory.

## Playwrights Horizons

Playwrights Horizons is dedicated to cultivating the most important American playwrights, composers, and lyricists, as well as developing and producing their bold new plays and musicals. Tim Sanford became Artistic Director in 1996 and Leslie Marcus has been Managing Director since 1993. Under their decades of leadership, Playwrights builds upon its diverse and renowned body of work, counting 400 writers among its artistic roster. In addition to its onstage work each season, Playwrights' singular commitment to nurturing American theater artists guides all of the institution's multifaceted initiatives: our acclaimed New Works Lab, a robust commissioning program, an innovative curriculum at its Theater School, and more. Robert Moss founded Playwrights in 1971 and cemented the mission that continues to guide the institution today. André Bishop served as Artistic Director from 1981-1992. Don Scardino succeeded him and served until 1996. Over its 47-year history, Playwrights has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including six Pulitzer Prizes, 13 Tony Awards, and 39 Obie Awards.



# Cast

Logan	<b>TAYLOR GROSSKOPF</b>
Caden	<b>BEN HAYES</b>
Jaxton	<b>JAMES DAVID MAXIM</b>
Alicia	<b>ISABEL MERKEL</b>

# Place

Here

# Time

Now

# Special Thanks

Monty Hill  
Sebastian Newell  
Peter Horn

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<https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists>

# Production

Producing Artistic Director	<b>Steve Braddock</b>
Technical Director	<b>Primo Thomas</b>
Costume Shop Director	<b>Marilyn S. Deighton</b>
Costume Shop Supervisor	<b>Kari Drozd</b>
Fight Choreographer	<b>Adriano Gatto</b>
Master Electrician	<b>Julia Miskines</b>
Box Office Supervisor	<b>Keirsten Thomas</b>
Box Office Manager	<b>Marley Judd</b>
Box Office Personnel	<b>Matthew Catani, SGB, Christian Hines, Tricia Lazatin, Morgan Mincer</b>
House Managers	<b>Elena Barker, Paige Janes</b>
Head Usher	<b>Marty Love</b>
Fight Captain	<b>Emily Palmerchuck</b>
Sound Coordinator	<b>Spencer Dick</b>
Prop Acquisition	<b>Sophia Chaney</b>
Wardrobe/Hair & Makeup	<b>Emily Augello, Samantha Campbell</b>
Costume Construction Crew	<b>Matthew Ball, Sariah Call, Alyssa Garmone, Michelina Haralson, Morgan Hilliker, Abigail Mylock, Zachary Murphy, Rylie Randall, Randi Sykes, Jeremy Vicario</b>
Costume Load-In Crew	<b>Emily Augello, Samantha Campbell</b>
Costume Shop Assistants	<b>Chloe Diebold, Tricia Lazatin, Emily Palmerchuck, Emma Viggiani</b>
Set Construction Crew	<b>Katrina Copeland, Mary Dugan, Julia Hartloff, Justin Kochetta, Morgan Mincer, Tyler Olson, Jacqueline Renaud, Shyhiem Rodriguez</b>
Set Load-In Crew	<b>Hayden Carr, Julia Hartloff, Morgan Mincer, Zachary Murphy</b>
Scene Shop Assistants	<b>Sophia Chaney, Spencer Dick, Ben Sylvester</b>
Light Hang Crew	<b>Spencer Dick, Devin Klumpp, Julia Miskines, Ben Sylvester</b>
Publicity/Playbill coordination	<b>Derek Moran</b>
Social Media	<b>Keirsten Thomas</b>
Graphic Design	<b>Suzanne Karaszewski</b>
Production Photographer	<b>Mark Duggan</b>
Headshot Photographer	<b>Brian Rock</b>

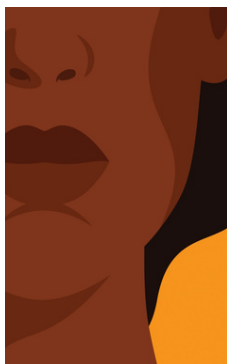
# NIAGARA UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

The Niagara University Players is a student theatre organization that has been in existence for over sixty years and organizes social activities (Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas party, Kris Kringle gift exchange, annual Players Banquet and more), fundraisers and community service activities. The NU Players also present an all-student-run production once a year. Join us this year for our production of:

***girl.***

by Megan Mostyn-Brown

**March 4 - 6, 2022**



Any NU student is eligible for membership.  
contact: [nuplayers1964@gmail.com](mailto:nuplayers1964@gmail.com)

## NU PLAYERS 2021-22 BOARD OF OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	<b>Taylor Grosskopf, Isabel Merkel</b>
VP/Concessions	<b>Ben Hayes</b>
Co-Treasurers	<b>Ryan Henneberger, Julia Miskines</b>
Secretary	<b>Julia Hartloff</b>
Publicity	<b>Morgan Hilliker</b>
Banquet	<b>Alyssa Garmone</b>
Community Service	<b>Gabriella Galante</b>
Co-Heads Apparel	<b>Austin Marshall, Jeremy Vicario</b>
Co-Head Events	<b>Austin Marshall, Nefantee Mayers</b>
Diversity & Inclusion Chair	<b>Nefantee Mayers</b>

## PLAYERS PRESENTS

Artistic Director	<b>Tricia Lazatin</b>
Asst Artistic Director	<b>Julia Hartloff</b>
Technical Director	<b>Spencer Dick</b>



NU Theatre invites you to return for our upcoming production of:

# **MACHINAL**

by Sophie Treadwell

**Mar 31 - Apr 4**

For information on our full season lineup, and to reserve tickets, please visit our website:

**<https://theatre.niagara.edu/>**

or contact our box office:

**Ph: (716) 286-8685**

**Email: [boxoffice@niagara.edu](mailto:boxoffice@niagara.edu)**



The Friends of Niagara University Theatre, incorporated in 1986, help raise awareness and develop support for the theatre department and its students.

You, too, can join us in our efforts to help ensure the future of one of the oldest professional theatre training programs in the region, and provide invaluable opportunities for future generations of theatre artists.

**BECOME A  
FRIEND Today  
TO HELP BUILD FOR  
Tomorrow** ✨



Willkommen!

Sitting alone in your room?  
Then come hear the music  
play...in the legendary Kit Kat  
Klub!

Featuring the enduring songs of  
long-time friends of NU Theatre,  
John Kander and Fred Ebb, this  
smart, sexy musical explores the  
dark, intoxicating and tumultuous  
life of Berlin's natives and  
expatriates as Germany slowly  
yields to the emerging Third  
Reich.

Winner of twelve Tony Awards  
('67 & '98), discover the power of  
art to reflect truth in dangerous  
times.

**Please join us for a wonderful  
evening of theatre, food and  
friendship at the Friends of  
NU Theatre Gala!**

# COME CELEBRATE

NU THEATRE'S 58TH  
SEASON  
AT THE  
FRIENDS OF  
NU THEATRE GALA!  
Sat. April 30, 2022

Your ticket includes:

4:00pm Musical Matinee,

## ***CABARET***

at NU's Leary Theatre

Followed by cocktail hour, silent  
& live auctions and dinner at  
**NU's Russell J. Salvatore  
Banquet Room**

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For tickets & information:  
Contact Keirsten Thomas  
(716) 286-8483 /  
kthomas@niagara.edu

# Department of Theatre & Fine Arts

## Academic Year 2021-2022

### Theatre

**Glenn Bernardis**  
(Sound)  
Sound Coordinator

**Steven Braddock**  
(Acting)  
Director of NU Theatre

**Jayson Clark**  
(Lighting)  
SPF Production Manager

**Karen D'Angelo**  
(Voice)

**Marilyn Deighton**  
(Design/Production)  
Costume Technologist

**Josie DiVincenzo**  
(Acting)

**Teodoro Dragonieri**  
(Physical Theatre)

**Kari Drod**  
Costume Shop Supervisor

**David Dwyer**  
(Design/Production)  
Scenic Designer  
Production Manager

**Adriano Gatto**  
(Stage Combat)  
Artist-in-Residence  
Recruitment

**Briana Kelly**  
(Dance)

**Mary Kofahl**  
(Voice)

**Paul LaDuca**  
(Voice)

**Gary Marino**  
(Dance)

**Derek Moran**  
Administrative Assistant

**Dr. Bridget Moriarty**  
(Voice)  
Music Director

**Mara Neimanis**  
(Physical Theatre)

**Dr. Dave Peterson**  
(Theatre History)

**Dr. Kahlil Sarikey**  
(Music Theory)

**Amanda Sharpe**  
(Speech)

**Natalie Slipko**  
(Dance)

**Maureen Stevens**  
(Design/Production)  
Costume Designer

**Amy Teal**  
(Voice)

**Keirsten Thomas**  
Administrative Assistant  
Box Office Supervisor

**Primo Thomas**  
Technical Director

**Paul Todaro**  
(Acting)

**Terri Filips Vaughan**  
(Dance)  
Chair, Dept. of Theatre & Fine  
Arts  
Choreographer

**Leanne Vida**  
(Voice)

**Kim Vincent**  
(Dance)

**Leah Wietig**  
(Voice)

**Doug Zschiegner**  
(Acting)  
Associate Director of NU Theatre

### Fine Arts

**Randy Andropolis**  
(Music History)

**Sonya DeLazzer**  
(Art History)

**Marian Granfield**  
(Art History/Museum Studies)  
Director of Museum Studies

**Nancy Knechtel**  
(Art History)

**Alison Lytle**  
(Drawing/Painting)

**Ed Millar**  
(Museum Studies)

**John Sauter**  
(Urban Sketching)

**Eileen Sullivan**  
(Art History)

# Biographies of Theatre Students, Faculty, Staff & Guest Artists 2021-2022



**EMILY AUGELLO** of Syracuse, NY, is a senior theatre performance major. Niagara University credits: *The Wolves (25)*, *Legally Blonde* (Ensemble), *The Firebugs* (The Chorus), *Good Kids* (Skyler), *Vital Signs* (Woman) and in the 2019 and 2020 Short Play Festivals: *So Tell Me About This Guy* (Marla) and *The Woods are for Suckers and Chumps* (Manda). Outside credits: *Hairspray* (Tammy/Featured Dancer) with the Baldwinsville Theatre Guild, *Troilus and Cressida* (Helen) and *Comedy of Errors* (Luciana) with Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park. Additionally, she performed with the Johnston School of Irish Dance for 12 years.



**SGB** is a junior theatre specialization major from Lancaster, NY, focusing in directing. They have been involved on stage and off stage at Niagara University, acting as Tom/Phyllis/Leslie in *Sylvia*, Bill in *Ushers Through Intermission*, Addison in *Taking Sum Lumps*, and they played a role in *Good Kids*. They were the Assistant Stage Manager for *Decision Height*, Audio Crew for *An Ideal Husband*, Audio Crew for *Songs For A New World*, Swing Tech for *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Light Board Operator for *Freaky Friday*. SGB has been involved with a number of directing projects, including directing *I'm Only Sleeping* for Niagara University Theatre's Short Play Festival 2022, and co-directing productions of *Talk About A Murder!* and *Stay As Dead As You Are*. SGB has also had the opportunity to work with local theatre groups, such as the Lancaster Youth Bureau. Off the stage, SGB is an active member of the NU Players board and a member of the NU Esports SSBU team.



**MATTHEW BALL**, a sophomore from Hammond, Ind., is pursuing a theatre performance degree with a minor in dance. NU credits: *She Kills Monsters* (Chuck), *Songs for a new World* (Ensemble).



**LAURA BARCOMB** is a sophomore from Williamsville, NY. She is double majoring in theatre (with a specialization in directing) and history. NU credits: *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (Hermione/Katherine). At Mount Saint Mary Academy: *42nd Street* (Dancer), *Peter Pan* (Liza), *High School Musical* (Dancer), *Mamma Mia!* (Dancer), and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Director).



**DANIELLE BECHT**, a freshman from Morristown, NJ, is pursuing a theatre performance major. NYC Credits: *A Doll's House* (Emmy), *Dream Street* (Featured Ensemble), *Madeline's Christmas* (Juliette). NJ Onstage Credits: *The Miracle Worker* (Jimmie Sullivan), *Working* (Sharon Atkins), *Shrek* (Farquad), *Big Fish* (Ensemble), *Love and Information* (Ensemble), *Grease* (Ensemble). Offstage Credits: *Merrily We Roll Along* (Assistant Technical Director), Kids Cabaret 2018 (Co-director), *Our Town* (Assistant Director), *This is Our Story* (Run Crew), *The Addams Family* (Sound Crew). She has completed multiple theatre internships at Surflight Theatre and at the Oskar Schindler Performing Arts Center.

**GLENN BERNARDIS** (Audio / Guest Sound Designer), holds a degree in audio production, electronic music and computer music systems from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Glenn is owner and chief engineer of GB Audio, a full-service recording, production and consulting facility. Production credits include: David Shire, Vocalis Chamber Choir, Babik, The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, The American Choral Directors Association The New York State Theatre Education Association, The New York State School Music Association, as well as international classical music ensembles, contemporary jazz artists and numerous professional and school groups. ([www.gbaudioonline.com](http://www.gbaudioonline.com)) Glenn is a member of the Erie County Music Educators Association and currently is an adjunct professor of theatre at Niagara University and teaches sound design and audio technology in multiple school settings throughout Western New York, also serving as sound designer for over 50 theatrical productions per year. He has recorded, produced and performed on nationally released music projects including CDs with bass legend Tony Levin and jazz saxophonist Jack Prybylski. Glenn is a composer, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who currently performs with the award-winning progressive Celtic/world music group Stone Row. ([www.stonerow.com](http://www.stonerow.com)). Glenn is currently recording an album of original material.



**STEVEN BRADDOCK** (Director of NU Theatre, Acting) has directed 18 productions for NU Theatre, including *Legally Blonde*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Chicago*, *Julius Caesar*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Urinetown*, and *Damn Yankees*. He served for eleven years as the Artistic Director of the Gifford Family Theatre, a professional Theatre for Young Audiences in Syracuse. He has worked as Director of Education for Syracuse Stage and Asst. Director of Education at the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston. Mr. Braddock has taught acting at Le Moyne College, Syracuse University, Anna Maria College and Worcester State College. A member of Actor's Equity, Steve has appeared at Shakespeare in Delaware Park, as well as in numerous commercials and multiple audiobooks. Steve received his M.F.A. in Acting from the University of Southern California.



**KAI BROWN**, of Binghamton, NY, is a freshman theatre performance major.



**SARIAH CALL**, a senior from Poughkeepsie NY, is pursuing a major in Theatre Design and Production with a focus in costume design. NU Acting Credits: *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (Marina and Cordelia).



**SAMANTHA CAMPBELL**, a junior from Niagara Falls, NY, is studying for a BFA in theatre performance with minors in dance and theatre design/production. NU Credits: *Vital Signs* (Woman), *She Kills Monsters* (Lilith), *Pippin* (Player), 2020 Short Play Festival's *Cha-Cha-Cha* (Sheila), 2021 Short Play Festival's *Prize Inside* (Leila), & *Love. Mom.* (Megan). Outside Credits: *Once On This Island* (Ti Moune), *A Chorus Line* (Laura/Asst. Choreographer), *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser), *The Addams Family* (Morticia), *High School Musical* (Sharpay), *Schoolhouse Rock* (Dori), *Beauty & the Beast* (Babette), *The Wizard of Oz* (Ensemble/Dance Captain), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Disciple). Instagram@lifewithsamcampbell & Facebook@ Samantha Campbell.



**HAYDEN CARR**, a freshman from Grand Island, NY, is pursuing a BFA in theater performance. Theater Experience: St. Stephen's Parish Players: *Frozen* (Hans), *Mary Poppins* (Bert), *Hello Dolly* (ensemble), *Lion King Jr.* (Adult Simba), *The Wizard of Oz* (ensemble), *Shrek Jr.* (Lord Farquard), *Beauty and the Beast* (ensemble). Offstage Experience: Miss Cathy's Dance Academy: Tap, Jazz, Musical Theater, Hip Hop; Shea's Camp: Broadway The Next Step.



**XACHARY CARR** is a sophomore theatre performance major.



**KYLEE CIRIGLIANO** is a freshman theatre performance major.



**JAYSON D. CLARK** (Guest Lighting Designer/Adjunct Production Manager), a 2012 graduate of NU, has professionally designed lighting for over 25 productions, including NU Theatre's *The Pajama Game*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Wrestling Season*, *Bat Boy: the Musical*, *Urinetown the Musical*, and the Short Play Festivals 2013 through present. Other recent design credits include *Detour*, *Uncle Vanya* and *He Who Gets Slapped* (Torn Space Theatre), *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Subversive Theatre), and *Hamlet* (BAVPA). Jayson also served as a technician for *A More Perfect Union* performed off-Broadway. As a sound technician, Jayson has worked for numerous local and national bands, including The Steve Miller Band, Cute is What We Aim For, Alice Cooper, We the Kings, Ethnic Heritage Ensemble, OAR, and Grammy Award Winner Walt Whitman Jr. Jayson is the Technical Director in residence for Torn Space Theatre, specializing in site-specific installation theater. He is also a multi-instrumentalist musician, who has recently appeared on stage in *Once* and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at MusicalFare Theatre, as well as appearing in several local musical groups, including the bluegrass band The Rear View Ramblers and Erie Lackawanna Railroad.



**LOGAN COMSTOCK**, a freshman from Bellows Falls, VT, is pursuing a theater performance major. Offstage credits: *Mary Poppins* (George Banks), *Mamma Mia!* (Harry Bright), *The Curse of the Hopeless Diamond* (Basil Benchley). He was awarded Best Serious Actor by peers for the role of George Banks in *Mary Poppins*.



**KATRINA COPELAND** of Youngstown, NY, is a senior theatre performance and theatre education major, minoring in dance. She has been figure skating for 20 years and dancing for 15 years. She recently competed in the State Games of America, receiving 5 gold medals in 5 disciplines of Figure Skating. She is classical trained in the Cecchetti style of ballet under the instruction of Beverly Feder at The Greater Niagara Ballet Company, and has been in 10+ ballets. Theatre Credits: *Songs For A New World* (Dancer), *Good Kids* (Amber), *Pippin* (Fastrada/player), Shakespeare in Delaware Park- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Fairy), The Short Play Festival- *Grunge Is Dead* (Tessa), *Freaky Friday* (Laurel/ensemble), *Legally Blonde* (Stenographer/Laker Girl/ensemble), *Nuncrackers* (Sister Amnesia/Choreographer), *Guys And Dolls* (General Cartwright/featured dancer), *Beauty and the Beast* (Napkin/soloist), *Into The Woods* (Rapunzel), and *Mary Poppins* (Ensemble), Youngstown Library Theatre Camp (Counselor/Choreographer).

**KAREN D'ANGELO** is thrilled to be part of the adjunct vocal faculty at Niagara University. Karen has a degree in Vocal Performance and Music Education from SUNY Fredonia and a Master's Degree in Music Education from the State University at Buffalo. Karen is a full-time public music teacher in the city of Lockport and she also teaches private voice in her home studio. Karen is recognized as a distinguished and aspiring operatic performer in the Western New York area. Her recent operatic credits include Adina *L'elisir d'amore*, Faerie *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Queen of the Night *The Magic Flute*, Dew Fairy *Hansel and Gretel*, and

Madame Heartmelt *The Impresario*. Karen has performed as a professional soloist throughout Western New York for over 20 years with professional musicians such as the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Ars Nova Musicians, the Camerata di Sant'Antonio Chamber Orchestra, the Buffalo Chamber Players, Opera Sacra, Greater Buffalo Opera, Rochester Lyric Opera, Vocalis Chamber Choir and Harmonia Chamber Singers.

**EMILY DAVIDHEISER** is a freshman theatre design/production major.



**MCKENZIE DAVIS** is a freshman at Niagara University. McKenzie has been seen in Niagara Falls High School's productions of *Once on This Island*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Wiz*. She was last seen in STAGES productions of *Mamma Mia!* and *Godspell*. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their endless support.



**MARILYN S. DEIGHTON** (Associate Professor, Design/Tech, and Costume Technologist) holds an MFA in costume technology from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Currently, she teaches stagecraft, costume construction, pattern drafting, corsetry, dancewear, supervises the student workforce in the costume shop and is the Draper/Tailor for all of the theater department's productions. Previously, she was a lecturer and Draper/Tailor at the University of Maryland – College Park and an Assistant Professor of Costume Technology at the University of Mississippi. Professionally, Marilyn has been the Costume Shop Director for Paper Mill Playhouse in their New York City Costume Shop, Costume Director for Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Costume Shop Manager for North Carolina's Shakespeare Festival and a freelance Men's Tailor for The Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage and Wolf Trap Opera in the Washington, D.C. area. In addition, she was a tailor for the Broadway version of *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk* designed by Paul Taswell and a draper for the Robert Altman film "Cookie's Fortune" starring Glenn Close and Julianne Moore. She has designed and built over 200 productions in the Florida Tampa Bay area for various Dinner Theatres and community theatres. In 2011, she created the costumes and unique lightweight fat suits for the French-language touring company Le Theatre de la Chandelle Verte's production of *La Farce de Maitre Pathelin*. Marilyn has designed and built the costumes for *1776* that was performed with the Eight O'clock Theatre at the Largo Performing Arts Center in Largo, Florida.



**SAM DELL'ACQUA**, from Albany, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major. NU Credits: *Independence* (Jo). Outside Credits: *Moon Over Buffalo* (Eileen), *Les Miserables* (Ensemble), *Almost, Maine* (Glory), *The Music Man* (Ensemble), *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday* (Gillian), *Speak to Us Of...* (Featured Player). Offstage: *Songs For A New World* (Video Technician), *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (Video Technician), *The Cat in The Hat* (Props Master).





**KYLE DEMPSEY** is a sophomore theatre performance major.



**AIDAN DEYELL** is a freshman theatre design/production major

**SPENCER DICK** of Lockport, NY, is a senior theatre production and design major pursuing minors in fine arts and communications. His NU positions are *Little Shop of Horrors* (Props Acquisition), *Pygmalion* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Legally Blonde* (Sound Technician), N.U.R.T. 2019 (Stage Manager), *Go Dog Go* (Stage Manager), *Freaky Friday* (Props Acquisition), Short Play Festival 2020 (Sound Coordinator), *Sylvia* (Set Designer), *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (Video Tech), *She Kills Monsters* (Video Tech), *Independence* (Set, Sound and Video Designer) and *Songs for a New World* (Sound Technician). His outside involvement includes *Bye Bye Birdy* (Scenic Designer) and *Frozen Jr.* (Assistant Stage Manager).



**ASHLEY PEARL DIPASQUALE**, a sophomore from Lockport, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major and a minor in American Sign Language. Niagara County Community College credits include *Love Doctor* (Martine), *Romeo and Juliet* (Lady Capulet), *Into the Woods* (Florinda), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne), and *I Hate Hamlet* (Lillian). Outside Credits include Patchwork's production of *A Shadow Over Insmouth* (Anne), *First Date* (Reggie and others), and *Kayfabe* (Wendy). Offstage roles include Patchwork's *Nevermore* (Stage manager), and NCCC production *I Hate Hamlet* (Costume assistant).



**JOSIE DIVINCENZO** Josie returned to her hometown of Buffalo in 2010 after a successful career in Los Angeles in theater, TV and film, and joined the faculty of NU almost immediately, teaching Freshman and then eventually Sophomore acting classes. She teaches Acting Styles for the camera, Chekhov, and her favorite, Shakespeare. Josie also performs frequently in theaters in Buffalo and Western NY. Most recent roles were in the acclaimed productions of *God of Carnage* at The Redhouse Arts Center in Syracuse, NY and *What I Thought I Knew* at the Jewish Repertory Theatre of WNY. Josie is recipient of Outstanding Actress awards (Arties, The Best of WNY, and Best Actress for the Buffalo 48hr. Film Festival.) She's also been seen at Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Shea's Smith Theatre, Rochester's DCT, The Kavinoky Theatre, Buffalo Laboratory Theatre, The Lancaster Opera House, and The Irish Classical Theatre Co. Her film and TV credits include guest stars on many prime time shows (Friends, e.r., Becker, Beverly Hills, 90210, Weeds, CSI:NY, 24 and the films Daredevil, Marshall, and Bashira to name a few.) Josie has also taught in LA at The Actor's Bootcamp, and in NYC at NYU's Stonestreet Studios. She's also a private acting coach and a proficient scenic painter coast to coast including films on location and theaters in Buffalo and at NU.



**TEODORO DRAGONIERI** A multi-disciplinary artist and educator who has developed acclaimed programs for all levels of education. He has worked with arts organizations, cultural institutions, museums and theatre companies. Teodoro has served Indigenous communities, individuals with special-needs, LGBTQ, at-risk and street-cultured youth. He has led workshops, lectured, performed and shown his artwork internationally. He is artistic director of Zanni Arte, a company dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary arts and fostering the use of masks, in theatre and education. Teodoro is currently part-time faculty/visiting artist in the theatre programs of University of Toronto Erindale Program, University of Waterloo, Sheridan, Humber and Centennial Colleges. He has worked for the National Arts Centre, Theatre Ontario, Soulpepper Theatre Company, Tarragon Theatre, Second City and the Art Gallery of Ontario. Teodoro is the recipient of several Exemplary Practices Awards for arts programming, the Theatre Ontario Michael Spence Award and The Harold Award (from Toronto's Independent Theatre and Dance Communities).

**KARI DROZD** (Costume Shop Floor Supervisor) is also the resident costume designer at MusicalFare with her recent designs including *In the Heights*, *Carousel*, *The Buddy Holly Story*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Lombardi*, *Red*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, *Adrift in Macao*, *Tommy*, *Master Class*, *Rent*, *33 Variations*, *The Music Man*, *Hair*, *Avenue Q*, *Oliver*, *Title of Show* and *My Fair Lady*. She has also designed for: The Jewish Repertory Theatre Company, The Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society's Exhibit, "Fact, Fiction & Spectacle: The Trial of Red Jacket", Art Park's productions of *Peter Pan*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Sound of Music* and *Cinderella* and *Irish Classical Theatre Company's productions including: Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, *American Buffalo*, *Being Behan*, *Joycity*, *The Dead*, *Intimate Exchanges*, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* and *Lovers*. Kari also designs for two local high schools. For a sneak peek at some of Kari's projects in progress, she can be found on Instagram @TrixieandBubbles. Outside of designing, Kari holds a degree in History and Pre-Medicine from the University at Buffalo.



**MARY DUGAN** is a freshman theatre design/production major.



**DAVID DWYER** (Associate Professor, Design/Tech, and Scenic Designer/Production Manager) holds a Master of Fine Arts in production design from Michigan State University, a Bachelor's degree in theatre, and an Oral Communication Certificate with distinction from Marietta College. As a freelance scenic designer he has over two hundred designs to his credit throughout the Eastern United States. Some of his favorite designs include: *Tally's Folly* at The Jewish Repertory Theatre, *Deathtrap* at the Lancaster Opera House, *Tartuffe* at LiveArts Theatre, *Blood Brothers* and *The Full Monty* at The Mount Washington Valley Theatre Company, *Pumpboys and Dinettes* and *Tuesdays with Morrie* at The Mountain

Playhouse, *Equus*, *The Liar* and *After Miss Julie* at *The Irish Classical Theatre Company*, *Avenue Q* and *Mauritius* at *SUNY Brockport*, *King Lear*, and *Love's Labour's Lost* at *Shakespeare in Delaware Park*, and *The Conversion of Ka'ahumanu* at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. He was also production designer of a film adaptation of *King Lear* filmed in Washington DC. and the Amazon web series: *Diary of a Lunatic*. At Niagara University he is the principal Scenic Designer and teaches courses in theatre design and technology. Some of his favorite designs at Niagara include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Urinetown the Musical*, *The Learned Ladies*, *Into the Woods*, *Bat Boy*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Mother Hicks*, *Chicago*, and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. See his work at: [www.dwyerdesignstudio.com](http://www.dwyerdesignstudio.com)



**JAMARION EVANS** is a freshman theatre performance major.



**LAUREN FARROW**, a freshman from Webster, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major. Outside credits: *The Wizard of Oz* (AuntEm), *Les Miserables* (Featured Dancer), *Anything Goes* (Charity), *Chicago* (Featured Dancer), *The Addams Family* (Morticia Addams).

**ALEXANDER FERRARO**, a freshman from Tonawanda, NY, graduated from Kenmore West High School and is a theater performance major. During his time at West he has been a part of eight productions: *A Christmas Carol* (Orson/Ignorance), *Legally Blonde* (Sundeep Agrawal Padamadan, Stage Crew), *Les Misérables* (Jean Prouvaire, an ABC Student, Stage Crew), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Ensemble), *Mary Page Marlowe* (Louis Gilbert), *The 24 Hour Plays* (Cotton Mather, James/Dad), *The One Acts- 1-900-DESPERATE* (Scuzzy) and *Band Against Bullying* (Ensemble).



**GABRIELLA GALANTE** is a sophomore from Wheatfield, NY, who is pursuing a theatre performance and marketing dual degree. NU Productions: *Good Kids* (Kylie), 2021 Short Play Festival's *Let Me In: A Conference Call Play* (Phantom), *Just A Game* (Stage Manager), and *Rules of Comedy* (Stage Manager). Outside Productions: *Legally Blonde* (Enid), *42nd Street* (Ethel), *Mary Poppins* (Fannie). She performed as a soloist in Staring Buffalo's MusicalFare in 2019, was a part of the SJCI Swing Choir from 2017 to 2020, and participated in NYSSMA All-State in 2018 and 2019 and NAFME All-Eastern in 2019 as a chorus member.



**ALYSSA GARMONE**, of Lancaster, NY, is a senior pursuing a BFA in theatre performance with minors in dance and writing studies. Her Niagara University credits include *Songs For a New World* (singer), *The Laramie Project* (Romaine Patterson & others), *Legally Blonde* (Pilar), *Freaky Friday* (Hannah), N.U.R.T 2019 and the TYA production of *Go, Dog, Go!* (Blue Dog), and in the 2020 Short Play Festival, *Canker Sores and Other Distractions* (Midge).



**ADRIANO GATTO** (Artist in Residence, Recruitment) As an internationally Certified Fight Instructor with the Academy of Fight Directors Canada, Adriano's work as a Fight Director has been seen in over 100 productions including: the world premieres of *Revival: The Resurrection of Son House and Heartland* (Geva Theatre Center); *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Into the Breeches!* (Chautauqua Theatre Company); *Tis Pity She's a Whore*, and the world premiere of *The Onion Game* (Irish Classical Theatre Company); *Carmen* (RPO); *Don Giovanni*, *Out of Darkness/Into the Fire* (Eastman Opera Theatre), among others. For NU Theatre, Adriano has served as the Fight Director on over 30 productions and also directed *The Wolves*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Eurydice*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Comedy of Errors* (Best Director of a Play - BroadwayWorld Buffalo Theatre Awards). Professional acting credits include productions with Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Shakespeare Theatre, Round House Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and Olney Theatre Center, along with many award winning theatre companies here in Buffalo. He is a proud member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA, SDC, and FDC.



**TAYLOR GROSSKOPF**, a junior from North Tonawanda, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major as well as minors in English and ASL. NU credits: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Laramie Project* (Reggie Fluty and others), Short Play Festival (2021), and *Independence* (Evelyn). Outside credits: At Ghostlight Theatre: *The Silver Lady* (Raven), *A Night of Dark Intent* (Wilma), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Ensemble/Set Manager). At NTHS: *Xanadu* (Erato), *Bye Bye Birdie* (MaePeterson), and *Shrek: The Musical* (Dragon, Mama Ogre and Rat Tapper). She loves being on stage, as well as learning about all the different aspects that go into a production.



**MICHELINA HARALSON** is a senior from San Antonio, Texas. She is very excited to be continuing her exploration into the world of theatre here at Niagara University in their BFA program. Her current NU credits include *The Wolves* (#8), *So Tell Me About This Guy* (Angie), *The Firebugs* (Greek Chorus), *Some Girl(s)* (Bobby), *She Kills Monsters* (Vera), and *Love. Mom.* (Director). Two of her favorite credits from her High School theatre program include *Mr Burns: A Post Electric Play* (Colleen/Marge), and *The Yellow Boat* (Director). Michelina also partakes in the community theatre scene at Zion Theatre Group; she has been seen in pieces there such as *Guys and Dolls*.



**RYAN HARBAUGH**, a freshman from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, is pursuing a BFA in performance. Outside credits include: Ohio Premiere of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Grover Underwood), *She Loves Me* (Ladislav Sipos), *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Cripple Billy), *Catch Me If You Can* (Carl Hanratty), *Guys and Dolls* (Harry the Horse/Crapshoot Dancer). Offstage credits include: *Silent Sky* (Assistant Stage Manager). This summer, Ryan filmed a tv pilot which is still in production. He was part of The Academy for the Performing Arts.



**JULIA HARTLOFF**, a junior from East Aurora, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major with minors in communications, ASL and deaf studies. NU Credits: *Anton in Show Business* (Joby), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Messenger/Sexton), *Good Kids* (Madison), 2021 Virtual Short Play Festival's *Once in a Blue Moon* (Valentine Grace), and *An Ideal Husband* (Mabel Chiltern). Outside Credits at St. Mary's High School, Lancaster, NY: *Is There a Comic in the House* (Shotzie Starr), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Officer Klein), *Clockwork* (Deputy Constable Crow), *The Addams Family Musical* (Uncle Fester), *Seussical* (Ensemble) and *Fame* (Ensemble).



**ADELAIDE HAWKINS**, a freshman from Killingworth, CT, is pursuing a theatre performance major. At Haddam-Killingworth High School, *Bye-Bye Birdie* (Featured Ensemble), *It's A Wonderful Life* (Hair and Makeup), *Small Actors* (Emily), *The Wizard of Oz* (Featured Ensemble), *A Christmas Carol* (Lighting Director), *One Act Play Disaster* (Elise), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Do Wop Girl), *It's A Virtual Murder Mystery* (Addy), *Check Please* (Director), *Working* (Dolores Dante). She is excited about the new things she will learn and to have new opportunities and challenges.



**BENJAMIN HAYES**, is a senior theatre performance major and history minor. His hometown is Syracuse, NY, and he has been a part of various NU Theatre shows throughout his 3 years in the department. Ben's notable credits include: *Laramie Project* (Jonas Slonaker and others), *An Ideal Husband* (Mason), and *Pygmalion* (Freddy Eynsford-Hill). He also has some notable production crew credits which entail: Stage Manager for *Sylvia*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Freaky Friday*, and Assistant Stage Manager for *An Ideal Husband*. Ben wants to thank everyone in the theatre department for a wonderful experience so far and looks forward to Senior Year!!



**RYAN HENNEBERGER**, a junior from Kenmore, NY, is pursuing a double major in psychology and theatre performance with a minor in writing studies. NU credits: 2019 Short Play Festival's *Attorney to the Stars* (Gerald), 2020 Short Play Festival's *The Big Ride* (Man) and *Crooked Fork* (Chet). Outside credits: Dir. William Fichtner's *Cold Brook* (Timmy), SIDP's *Macbeth* (Ensemble), 716 Studios' *Drunk Literature* (various), and, at Kenmore West High School, *Argonautika* (Idmon), *Les Miserables* (Bishop), *33 Variations* (Mike), *Legally Blonde* (Aaron), and *A Christmas Carol* (Young Scrooge). He was also a performer at Fantasy Island, performing skits, stunts, puppet shows, and music shows.



**AARON HERON**, a junior from Amherst, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major with a minor in ASL. NU credits: *Freaky Friday* (Mrs. Myers and Officer Sitz), 2019 Short Play Festival's *The Big Ride* (Director), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Verges). Outside credits: NCCC's Tanzen Dance Company 2017-2018 (Dancer), NCCC's *Romeo and Juliet* (Benvolio), NCCC's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Nick Bottom), NCCC's *Pippin* (Leading Player), NCCC's *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney), ArtPark's *The Odyssey* (Odysseus's Men).



**MORGAN HILLIKER** is a senior from Niagara Falls, Canada, obtaining her BFA in Theatre Performance while double majoring in Gerontology. She is a member of the President's Honor Society and Delta Epsilon Sigma Honor Society. NU credits: *Vital Signs* (Ensemble), *Good Kids* (Chloe), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *Freaky Friday* (Savannah), *Legally Blonde* (Ensemble). Oh Canada Eh? Dinner Theatre: (Anne/Rose/Swing). Linus Hand Productions credits include: *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy), *Grease* (Sandy). The Shaw Festival credits: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Dixie), *Ragtime* (Little Girl). Film credits include: *Reign*, and Disney's *American Girl Isabel*. Morgan is grateful for her family and friends for their support and love.



**CHRISTIAN HINES**, of Buffalo, NY, is a junior theatre performance major at Niagara University. Outside credits include Shakespeare in Delaware Park's *The Dream Experience* (Demetrius) and *The Reckoning* (Howard), a Leaves are Falling Fast production. College credits include NU's *She Kills Monsters* (Miles), *An Ideal Husband* (Vicomte), *Freaky Friday* (Ensemble) and NCCC's *What Where* (Bim). His high school roles include *Shrek The Musical* (Ensemble), *The Little Mermaid* (Ensemble). He also co-wrote a radio play *It's All About Time* for Buffalo Rises 2.0 at Road Less Traveled Productions. He extends his love and heartfelt gratitude to his professors, family, and friends who have supported him in every creative achievement.



**PAIGE JANES**, a freshman from Ashland, VA, is pursuing a theater performance major. Credits: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Lucy), *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda, Aunt Em, Jitterbug), *Girl of La Mancha* (Donna Bixxote), *Anne of Green Gables* (Ensemble), *The Wizard of Oz* (Ensemble), *Tarzan* (Ensemble), *Frozen* (Ensemble), and *Seussical* (Ensemble).



**OLIVIA KANE**, of Wilson, NY, is a sophomore theatre performance major. Her roles in high school included *Guys and Dolls* (Mission Band/Agatha), *Legally Blonde* (Serena), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Nancy/Mrs. McAfee), *Beehive: The 60s Musical* (Wanda) and *An Ideal Husband* (Mrs. Marchmont). Offstage credits: *An Ideal Husband* (Dramaturg).



**BRIANA BLAIR KELLY** is a multidisciplinary artist and dance educator in Rochester, NY. She holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from SUNY Fredonia and an MFA in Choreography and Performance from SUNY Brockport. Kelly is a Lecturer in jazz dance at Niagara University and the Director of the Main St. 56 Dance Company where she teaches tap, theater dance, Irish dance, and contemporary. Kelly is a substitute teacher for the Rochester City School District and The Aquinas Institute, and is a Dance Adjudicator for the Rochester Broadway Theatre League's *Stars of Tomorrow*. She is the choreographer for Monroe Community College, Main St. 56 Theater, School of the Arts and Palmyra-Macedon High School. Kelly has recently presented work at the Rochester Fringe Festival, Salt City Dance Festival, and the Bill Evan's Somatic Dance Conference. She is the Founder/Director of ROCeltic, a Rochester based performance company. [www.brianablairkelly.com](http://www.brianablairkelly.com)



**MAYSIE KILGORE** is an incoming freshman pursuing a theatre performance major. Credits from her hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico, include *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo), *The Wizard of Oz* (the Cowardly Lion), and *Carrie* (Carrie). Offstage credits: *4 AM* (Director) and *Nutcracker on the Rocks* (Stage Crew). She was an Enchantment Awards Best Actress Nominee, and a participant in the Directors Choice Chorus in the past. Maysie is also the second placed Youth Poet in the state of New Mexico.



**ZACHARY KING**, a senior theatre performance major.



**DEVIN KLUMPP**, a freshman from Amherst, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major. NU Credits: *Bugsy Malone Jr* (Ritzzy), *Hairspray Jr* (Link Larkin), *Almost, Maine* (The Man/Randy), *Mamma Mia!* (Eddie), *Dear Evan Hansen* Shea's Program, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Brain/Bun Foo), *High School Musical 2* (Zeke), *The Wizard of Oz* (Tin Man/Hickory).



**JUSTIN KOCHETTA** is a junior from Montgomery, NY, pursuing a major in theatre performance.



**MARY KOFAHL** is happy to be in her second year as a member of the voice faculty of Niagara University's theater department. Mary studied voice at Houghton College with Kelley Hijleh and graduated with a Music Education degree. She also holds a Master's in Music Education from University at Buffalo and is currently teaching vocal music at Lockport City School District. Mary regularly performs locally and has performed with the American Legion Band of the Tonawandas since 2013.



**EMILY KUSTER**, from Eden, NY, is a junior currently pursuing a theatre performance major at Niagara University and has an associate degree in liberal arts from Erie Community College. NU credits include: *Independence* (Sherry Briggs), *She Kills Monsters* (Video Technician), and *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (Video Technician). Outside credits include: *42nd Street* (Costume Director), *The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), and *Catch Me If You Can* (Carol Strong). Emily won the Blossom Cohan Award at the Kenny Awards for playing Carol Strong in *Catch Me If You Can* during her junior year of high school. She was also an active participant in the cast, student costume construction, and student set construction for her school musicals since 5th grade.



**PAUL LADUCA** is very excited to be joining the Niagara University Theatre/Arts program as a Voice Teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Music (SUNY at Potsdam) and a Masters of Music (UB). He just finished a 30 year career as the High School Choral Director at Kenmore West with countless Vocal Solos Concerts accompanied at the Grand Piano. He was also Music Director/Pianist for 30 different Musicals including favorites like: *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Les Miserables*, *Legally Blonde*, *Evita*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Funny Girl*, *Into the Woods*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Titanic*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Crazy for You*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Pippin*. His most recent Acting Credit (2020) was in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey II - Voice of the Plant) as well as performing with BUA, Kavinoky, Summerfare, and ArtPark. He danced with Zodiaque Dance Company (UB), and did Summer Stock at Hershey Park, and New London Barn PlayHouse.



**JAMESHIA LASHLEY-CHILDS** is a freshman theatre specialization major.



**TRICIA LAZATIN**, of Niagara Falls, NY, is a senior double major in marketing and theatre specialization. Onstage credits at NU include: *Songs For A New World* (Dancer), *The Laramie Project* (Zubaida Ula), 2020 Short Play Festival, *Goat* (Lil), *Dancing in the Light* (Dancer), and *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Bookish Client/Ensemble). Offstage credits at NU include: *Independence* (Assistant Artistic Director), *Vital Signs* (Stage Manager), 2021 Short Play Festival, *A Harmony of Both* (Director), *The Laramie Project* (Stage Manager), *Sylvia* (Assistant Stage Manager) and *Anton in Show Business* (Assistant Stage Manager/Stage Crew



Ensemble). Tricia also worked as part of costume crew and scene shop crew for the 2018-2019 Season. Her past theatre credits include: *The Addams Family* (Ancestor), *Shrek the Musical* (Duloc Dancer/Dance Captain), *Hairspray* (LouAnn/Dance Captain), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Bielke/Russian Dancer/Dance Captain). Additionally, she performed and danced with Niagara Dance Centre for 10 years.

**MARTY LOVE** is a junior theatre performance major.



**AMAYA MACK**, a junior from East Amherst, NY, is pursuing a theatre design/production major with minors in fine arts and dance. Niagara University credits: *Independence* (Costume Designer), *An Ideal Husband* (Costume Conception/Illustration), *Sylvia* (Wardrobe head), NU Costume Shop Assistant, 2019 Short Play Festival's *Canker Sores and Other Distractions* and *Green Dating* (Stage Manager), *Freaky Friday* (Assistant Stage Manager). At Williamsville North High School: *The Addams Family* (Ensemble), *The True Story of Cinderella* (Deckhand), *Seussical* (Prop Crew).



**GARY MARINO** (Lecturer, Ballet, and Choreographer) Gary began his formal training in the music department of SUNY at Albany, then went on to study dance with Melissa Hayden, Elizabeth Carroll, Edward Vilella, Kay Mazzo and Peter Martins at Skidmore College. He also studied jazz with Rhett Dennis at the Luigi School in New York as well as modern with Ethel Winter of the Martha Graham School. Mr. Marino began performing with the Skidmore Dancers, Saratoga Ballet Company, Schenectady Civic Ballet, Buffalo Repertory Ballet Co. and Camelot Dancers. At Artpark he choreographed and appeared in *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto*. His choreographic experience also includes numerous ballets for the Buffalo Repertory Ballet Co. Previous teaching experience includes Skidmore College, New York State Summer School of the Arts, Darlene Ciglia Dance Project, Royal Academy of Ballet, Union College, Steppin Out Dance Academy, Performing Arts, Lockport City Ballet, Classical Ballet of Western New York, Dawn Marie's Dance Works, Dance Spectrum, Ballet Regent School, David DeMarie's and Mary Alice's Dance Studio in Orchard Park and SUNY at Albany and Buffalo, among others. Currently, Mr. Marino is also on faculty at American Academy of Ballet, Spezio's Dance Dynamics, and Niagara University. In addition, he has judged numerous dance competitions in the U.S. and Canada including Cutting Edge, Dance Masters of America, and Western New York Dance Championships. Recently he has performed with Configuration Dance Theater in Michael Shannons ballet "Been there Done That" and as the Merlin character in "Arthur". In addition, he has created a new ballet in collaboration with Peter Bennett on Jackie Gleasons "Gigot" performed at Niagara University. Many of his students have gone on to join ballet companies and touring companies. In addition to teaching classical Vaganova technique in ballet, he has coached both figure skating for the Buffalo Skating Club and gymnastics at Gleasons Gymnastics. Most recently he will be appearing on the new season of Dance Twins to air on the lifetime network this fall. Other talents involve composing music for dance and has produced a ballet class recording with pianist Guy Boleri.



**AUSTIN MARSHALL**, a sophomore from Buffalo, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major with a minor in dance. NU credits: *Songs for a New World* (Man #1), 2021 Short Play Festival's *Drinks Before Flight* (Lucas), and *Going Viral* (Paranoid Humanoid), and *Good Kids* (Landon). Outside credits: at Nardin Academy: *The Wiz* (Tinman), *The King and I* (The King), *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Collins), *The Addams Family* (Fester Addams), *Pippin* (King Charlemagne). At Canisius High School: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey II).



**JAMES DAVID MAXIM III**, a freshman from Corning, NY, is pursuing a BFA in theatre performance. High School Credits: *Dracula* (Dracula), *The Addams Family Musical* (Lurch), *Our Town* (Stage Manager), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), and *Clue* (Wadsworth). Community Credits: *Lion King Jr.* (Simba), *Pirates of Penzance Jr.* (Sergeant of Police), *Singing in the Rain Jr.* (Cosmo Brown).



**NEFANTEE MAYERS**, of Rochester, NY, is a junior theatre specialization major who has assistant directed two of her high school plays *Eurydice* and *Peter and The Starcatcher*. Also, in her senior year she chose and directed her school's spring play *Almost, Maine*. She was also on wardrobe for *Anton and Show Business* at NU.



**SHELBY MCNULTY**, senior from Greenville, South Carolina, is pursuing her theatre performance major, with a minor in ASL and deaf culture. N.U. credits: Short Play Festival: *Brushstroke* (Stage Manager), *Legally Blonde* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Dancing in the Light* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Firebugs* (Fireman/Mrs. Ketchling), Short Play Festival: *Electric Roses* (Sara), *On The Verge, or The Geography of Yearning* (Fanny Cranberry), *Good Kids* (Deirdre), Short Play Festival: *Ushers Through Intermission or UTI* (Director), *Vital Signs* (ensemble/monologist), and *Songs For A New World* (Assistant Stage Manager). Shelby is ecstatic to entertain and connect through theatre again!



**ISABEL MERKEL**, of Ashland, Ohio, is a senior theatre performance major with minors in dance and communications. NU credits: *Anton In Show Business* (Kate, Ben, Jackey), *Sylvia* (Kate), *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (Gertrude, Richard II), *Songs for a New World* (Singer) and both 2019 & 2020 Short Play Festivals.



**ELENA MICHELE**, a freshman from Syracuse, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major, with minors in Italian studies and film studies. In the past she has performed in *Legally Blonde* (Paulette Bonafonte), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mae Peterson), *Annie* (Pepper), Moscow Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (Party Child/Mouse/Snowflake), *Into The Woods* (Ballroom Dancer), and *A Chorus Line* (ensemble). Elena hopes to study abroad in Italy and be involved in the film industry after college. She plays piano, guitar and ukulele in her free time.



**MORGAN MINCER**, a junior from Clarence, NY, is majoring in theatre performance with a minor in dance. Her NU credits include: *Anton in Show Business* (Lisabette Cartwright), *On the Verge, or the Geography of Yearning* (Alex), *The Laramie Project* (Catharine Connolly & others), *An Ideal Husband* (Mrs. Cheveley). Outside credits: Shakespeare in Delaware Park's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Fairy Mustardseed), Geneseo Community Players' *The Music Man* (Zaneeta Shinn), Family Life Network's *White Christmas* (Ensemble, Dance Captain), Spotlight Art Theatre's *Peter Pan* (Peter Pan), *Arise Sweet Sarah* movie ballet (Protestor).



**JULIA MISKINES**, of North Tonawanda, NY, is a senior theatre performance major with a minor in design & production. She is also pursuing her masters in theatre education. While in high school, Julia performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, participated in Shea's performing arts classes, and attended the NYS Theatre Education (NYSTEA) conference. She is also a graduated member of the Matt's Music Vocal performance team. Her high school roles include *Cinderella* (Ella), *Shrek* (Teen Fiona), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (ensemble). Her Niagara credits include: *The Wolves* (#14), *The Firebugs* (chorus member), and *Sylvia* (Sylvia).

**DEREK MORAN** is an administrative assistant in the theatre department.



**BRIDGET MORIARTY** (Assistant Professor, Voice, Music Director), Bridget Moriarty is the full-time music director at Niagara University, recent NU credits include *Freaky Friday*, *Legally Blonde*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *She Loves Me* and *Chicago*. Other credits include *First Lady Suite* at Syracuse University, *Spring Awakening* and *Cabaret* with Syracuse Summer Theatre at The Oncenter, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *The Little Mermaid*, with Redhouse Arts Center, *Hair* and *Avenue Q* with Covey Theatre Co., and *Les Misérables* with the Wit's End Players. In 2018 Bridget was awarded the Syracuse Area Live Theater (SALT) Award for Best Musical Director, an honor she also received in 2017, 2012 and 2010, when she won the SALT Award for Lead Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Lucille Frank in *Parade*. In 2016 Bridget was a national finalist in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award competition. Bridget received a doctorate of musical arts from the University of North Carolina Greensboro.



**ZACH MURPHY** is a junior theater performance major from Marilla, NY, with minors in ASL & deaf studies and dance. NU credits include: *Vital Signs* (Jay and Others), *Pippin* (Ensemble), *Sylvia* (Deck Crew), Niagara University Short Play Festival 2020 (Deck Crew). Credits at Iroquois High School: *Godspell* (Lamar), *Peter/ Wendy* (Peter Pan), Lancaster Youth Bureau productions: *Oklahoma* (Andrew Carnes), *Anything Goes* (Bishop Henry T. Dobson/Ensemble). Over the summer Zach works in the stage crew of the Chautauqua Institutions Entertainment Department.



**CAITLIN MUSSLER** of East Aurora, NY, is a junior theatre performance major. Her high school roles include *Mary Poppins* (ensemble), *Guys & Dolls* (ensemble), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (ensemble) and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Phyllis/ensemble).



**ABIGAIL MYLOCK**, a sophomore from Dover Plains, NY, is pursuing a double major in theatre performance and communications with a minor in dance. NU credits: *She Kills Monsters* (Evil Gabby), and Short Play Festival's *Drinks before Flights* (Stage Manager). Outside Credits: NYSTEA play festival *Grandmas Song* (Ali), Dover High School's *Into The Woods* (Lucinda), *The Music Man* (Marian Paroo), *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie), and *Crazy For You* (Irene). Along with these shows she also participated in showcases at her high school for Broadway Cares Fights Against Aids where she performed a monologue and various solo songs.



**MARA NEIMANIS** devises theatre using standing and suspended steel sculpture. Her work has been described; "Neimanis makes the impossible look supremely easy" –The Washington Post, She has created 6 aerial plays, invented 4 site specific aerial installations, and served as a coach and collaborator on theater projects with companies in DC, NYC and in Costa Rica. Commissions include; Center Stage Endowment for New Works, The Native Cultures Grant of California, The Robert W Deutsch Foundation, to name a few. Mara is a 1985 graduate of the N.U Theatre Program under Bro Augustine Towey, holds an MFA in Theater from Towson University 2006, and is a graduate of The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater in Blue Lake California where she served as an instructor and company member from 1993-2000. Aerial training includes The San Francisco School of Circus Arts, and the late great aerial pioneer, Terry Sendgraft. Mara founded In-Flight Theater in 2006-2017 and has been a resident teaching artist at The Baltimore Theater Project, The Round House Theater DC, Center Stage VA, The New Market Theater, Brighton England, The Tennessee Williams Theater, Key West, Rhodes College, The University of San Jose, Costa Rica, Cal Arts department for Theater and Video CA, University of Missouri Graduate Theater Program Kansas City, Maryland Institute College of Art, The Studios of Key West.



**SEBASTIAN NEWELL**, a freshman from East Aurora, NY, is pursuing a theater design/production degree with minors in American sign language and social work. Offstage Credits: *Wizard of Oz* (Stage Manager), *Twelfth Night* (Student Producer), *Queen City Strikers* (Soundboard Operator), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Student Producer), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Soundboard Operator), and, at Chautauqua Theatre Company, *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Production Assistant), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Production Assistant).



**MEGHAN O'CONNOR** is a sophomore double major in communication studies and theatre performance. Her favorite roles include Netti Lande in a feminist rendition of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* and Susan in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Her favorite production was *Almost, Maine*, in which she played all the female roles.



**TYLER OLSON** is a senior theatre performance major.



**EMILY PALMERCHUCK**, a junior from St. Thomas, PA, is pursuing a theatre performance major with minors in theatre design/production, dance, and film. NU credits: *Songs for a New World* (Woman), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Friar Francis), *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (Stage Manager), *Anton in Show Business* ("StageHand"). Outside credits: *She Loves Me* (Amalia), *Titanic: The Musical* (Alice), *Is He Dead?* (Madame Caron), *Seussical* (Mrs. Mayor), *Jekyll and Hyde* (Ensemble). Emily also works in the NU Costume Shop.



**NATHAN PARK** is a freshman from Willoughby, Ohio, where he attended South High School and The Academy for the Performing Arts at Chagrin Falls High School. He is a theatre performance major with a minor in film studies. His inaugural NU performance was in *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens* (King Leontes and The Groom). Some of his outside credits include *She Loves Me* (Georg Nowack), *Into The Woods* (The Baker), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Charlie Davenport) for which he earned a Playhouse Square Dazzle Award nomination, *Young Frankenstein* (Inspector Hans Kemp), and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Babbybobby Bennett).



**DAVE PETERSON** (Assistant Professor of Theatre) has taught and directed in higher education for over a decade and is truly excited to join NU in the Fall. His directing credits include Anne Carson's *Antigone*, *Harvey*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Late: A Cowboy Song*, *A Servant Of Two Masters*, and others. He has published articles and reviews on contemporary clowning practice, Shakespeare, and puppetry. He has taught classes in theatre history, script analysis, dramatic literature, acting, directing, improvisation, and other areas. Dave has also served as a dramaturg on productions including *The Flick*, *Mosque Alert*, and *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*. Dave holds a PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, an MA from Michigan State University, and a BA from the University of Michigan.



**ALIDA PIRACCI** is a sophomore theatre performance major.



**JENNIKA RAMOS** is a freshman theatre performance major.



**RYLIE RANDALL** is a theatre performance major from Avon, NY, with a minor in dance. NU credits: 2021 Short Play Festival's *Just a Game* (Mel). Offstage credits: A Magical Journey Through Stage's *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), Livonia Community Players' *Grease* (Rizzo), Avon High School's (AHS) *Guys and Dolls* (Adelaide), and AHS's *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Baroness) where she won "Outstanding Supporting Actress" through Rochester's 2019 Stars of Tomorrow Gala. She has performed in multiple holiday chorales with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and she participated in a Beetlejuice Broadway Intensive through the "WERK WITH BWAY" organization.

**SHYHIEM RODRIGUEZ** is a sophomore theatre performance major.



**MIRANDA SCHALBERG**, a sophomore from Newfane, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major with a minor in dance. NU credits: *A Harmony of Both* (Emily), and *In a Manner of Speaking* (Stage Manager). Outside credits: Newfane High School's *Legally Blonde* (Serena), R&H's *Cinderella* (Fairy Godmother), and Historic Palace Theatre's *Scrooge: The Musical* (Belle).



**ANTHONY SCIME**, a freshman from Kenmore, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major at Niagara University. Outside credits: *Fantasy Island* (Performer), 2021 Kenny Award Winner (Outstanding Acting Performance), and at Kenmore West High school: *She Kills Monsters* (Chuck), *Love/Sick* (Man, Scene 1), *Roy G. Biv* (Peter), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Black Stache), *Marry Page Marlowe* (Ben), *24-hour plays* (Angel), *One Acts* (Dunham).



**NYAH SEARLES**, a sophomore from London, UK, is pursuing a theatre performance major through NU. NU credits: *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (Kaliopo), 2021 Short Play Festival's *Last Call* (Wendy), and *Let Me In* (Sonia). Outside Credits: Ensemble/Multiple Roles in *Les Miserables*, *High School Musical*, Stagecoach Showcase, *Elf the Musical* and *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Offstage Credits: *Mary Poppins Jr* (Hair and makeup artist). Nyah has also taught the early stages (ages 4-6) at her Stagecoach in Oakville, Ontario, for two years.



**AMANDA LYTLE SHARPE** (Adjunct Professor, Speech, Guest Director) received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting with honors from the University of Florida, and her Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She worked professionally with the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival and the North Carolina Theatre for Youth. Amanda also attended the British American Drama Academy at Stanford University to study acting. She has been an Adjunct Professor at Niagara University for 17 years having taught acting, speech and dialects. A few Niagara University directorial credits include: the 2010-2018 N.U.R.T., *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Stage Door*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, *The Wrestling Season*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *The Secret Life of Girls*, *Rumors*, *The Women of Lockerbie*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Wonder of the World*, *The Dearest of Friends*, *Spring Dance*, *The Underpants* and *The Princess and the Pea*. In addition to serving as Dialect Coach for many NU Theatre productions, Amanda has worked as the professional dialect coach at SUNY Brockport, MusicalFare, Irish Classical Theatre and The Kavinoky Theatre. She also works in conjunction with the Castellani Art Museum as the Director for the Kids 'n Art Summer Program and will be Director for her Alma Mater's production of *The Addams Family* at Lewiston-Porter High School in 2019.



**NATALIE SLIPKO** (Adjunct Faculty, Dance) graduated summa cum laude from Niagara University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and Departmental Honors. On a full assistantship and in one year, she completed a Master of Arts degree in Theatre at Bowling Green State University graduating summa cum laude. Natalie has studied tap, jazz, and ballet with Beverly Fletcher, Bambi Bellegia-Feuz, Sam Viverito, Germaine Salsberg, Randy Skinner, and Rich Rizzo. Natalie choreographed what was to be Niagara's spring, 2020 gala musical, *Pippin*. Most recently, she choreographed N.U.'s musical, *Chicago* and was the Assistant Choreographer for the musical, *The Pajama Game*. Invited back by the late, Brother Augustine, Natalie choreographed Niagara's musical, *Chess in Concert* which led to an extended run at Buffalo's Pfeifer Theatre. She loved being back on stage at the Kavinoky Theatre in *Hairspray* (Velma Von Tussle). Some of her favorite credits include: the National Tour of *42nd Street* (Anytime Annie & Dorothy; Maggie understudy), *Singin' in the Rain* (Lina Lamont), *Showboat* (Ellie), *Dames at Sea* (Ruby), *Copacabana* (Gladys), *Nunsense* (Sister Hubert), *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Linda Lou, Imogene Charlene), *Guys & Dolls* (Hot Box Girl), *42nd Street* (Phyllis), *George M!*, *Mack & Mabel*, *High Society*, *Evita*, *Damn Yankees*, *Phantom*, *Me and My Girl*, and *Anything Goes*. Regionally she has performed at Artpark, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Ogunquit Playhouse, New Harmony Theatre, Westchester Broadway Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, & Media Theatre to name a few. She wrote, produced, choreographed and performed her own comedy cabaret show, *Makeup Your Mind! Tales of a Beauty Consultant* at Don't Tell Mama in NYC. Natalie's film and

television credits include: *Nightmare Alley*, *Saturday Night Live*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Nurse Jackie*, *As the World Turns*, *Ellen*, *Sex and the City*, *Glow*, *Extra*, *Ready, Set, Cook!*, *Celebrity*, *The Last Days of Disco*, and *Sabrina*. You may've seen her on QVC, HSN, and TSC as an On Air Guest Host where she has represented brands like SPANX, Dr Brandt, & Bliss. She was the lead Automotive Product Specialist/Supervisor for Infiniti at nationwide auto shows, events, and is featured in their media videos on YouTube. She's thankful to be at her alma mater teaching and sharing her love of dance and theatre. Her published theses can be read at both, N.U. and B.G.S.U. and her website is: [www.natalieslipko.com](http://www.natalieslipko.com).



**MAUREEN T. STEVENS** (Associate Professor of Design and Production, Costume, Hair & Make-Up Designer) received her B.S. from Buffalo State College in Apparel and Textile Technology and her M.F.A. in Theatre with an emphasis in Costume Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Previous to joining the faculty at Niagara University, her career has spanned many facets of costuming and areas of the country including: Assistant to the Operational Costume Coordinator for the Walt Disney World Company in Orlando, Florida. At Niagara, Ms. Stevens has designed or coordinated more than 100 productions. Professional design credits include: *The Strudel Lady* and *The Whipping Man* at the Jewish Repertory Theatre, the premiere of *Over the Tavern* at Studio Arena Theatre, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at The Colorado Shakespeare Festival in Boulder, CO, and *It's a Wonderful Life – the Radio Play* at Buffalo's Kavinoky Theatre.



**BRADY STEWART** is a freshman theatre performance major.



**RANDI SYKES** of Pendleton, NY, is a senior theatre performance major and dance minor. Some of her past roles at NU include *An Ideal Husband* (Lady Markby), *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens: A Family Drama* (Alice/Fool), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ursula) and she directed *Let Me In: A Conference call Play* in the 2021 Virtual Short Play Festival.



**BEN SYLVESTER**, a freshman from Chicago, Ill., is pursuing a theatre performance major. Outside credits: At Putnam High School, *Rumors* (Glenn), *Beauty and the Beast* (Gaston), *Diary of Anne Frank* (Peter), *Loserville* (Eddie), *The Addams Family* (Gomez); at Hinsdale Central, *It's a Wonderful Life* (Freddy Filmore), *The Theory of Relativity* (Anthony); at BAM Theatre, *Mamma Mia!* (Bill). Offstage credits: BAM Theatre's *High School Musical Jr.* (Directing Intern/Sound Tech).





**SEAN TAYLOR**, is a junior theatre performance major from North Tonawanda, NY, and is also a triple minor in design/production, dance, and film studies. NU onstage credits include *Vital Signs* (Carl/Others) and *Good Kids* (Tanner), and backstage credits include *Independence* (Set Up Crew), *Vital Signs* (Assistant Stage Manager), 2021 Short Play Festival: *Let Me In* (Stage Manager) and *The Laramie Project* (Props Acquisition). A transfer from NCCC, his credits there include *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mr. Van Dann), *Into the Woods* (Deck Crew Head, Build Crew, and Lighting Crew), *Godspell* (Assistant Stage Manager and Build Crew), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Deck Crew), Tanzen Dance Company Spring & Fall 2019 (Assistant Stage Manager).



**AMY TEAL** teaches both private voice lessons and the Sophomore and Junior voice classes at Niagara University. She earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Master of Music in Music Education with NY Teaching Certification from The Eastman School Of Music. Amy enjoys a busy and diverse teaching and performing career in the WNY region.

As a performer, she has been described as "delightful in her absolutely-rock-solid performance" (Buffalo Rising), and "perfect in voice and comic timing." (Buffalo News). As a classical artist, Professor Teal has performed with The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera Lytes, Opera Sacra, Cheektowaga Symphony, Amherst Chamber Ensemble, Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus, Erwin H. Johnson Memorial Fund Concert Series, Opera Buffs Concert Series, and Buffalo Opera Unlimited. Some of her operatic roles include Despina in *Così Fan Tutte*, Madame Warblewell in *The Impresario*, Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Gianetta in *The Elixir of Love*, and Cunnegonde in *Candide*. A crossover artist, equally at home on the musical theatre stage, she has performed roles at Art Park, The Riviera, Lancaster Opera House, & O'Connell & Company. As an educator, she believes in creating strong relationships with her students and in fostering mutual respect. She was honored to be nominated by a student and included in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" Music Honors Edition, as a "teacher who made a difference". Her students have won contests, and placed in competitions such as, Classical Singer Magazine, Golden Voices of America, BPO Idol, The 10,000 Maniacs tour and NBC's The Voice. In addition to her work at NU, Amy directs plays and musicals for Lewiston Porter School District and owns and operates Teals Niagara Theatre & Music at The Niagara Arts & Cultural Center in Niagara Falls.



**KEIRSTEN THOMAS** (Administrative Assistant/Box Office Supervisor/ FNUT Liaison) received her BFA in theatre performance with a fine arts minor in costume design and construction from Niagara University in 2013. Since graduation, she has been fortunate to continue her work in theatre, from The Entertainment Department of Walt Disney World in Florida, to the Gate Hill Players in the Hudson Valley. Select WNY credits include: *Into The Woods* (Director/Costume Designer & Supervisor), *Godspell* (Director/Costume Designer) at NCCC; *King John* (Costume Designer) at The New Phoenix Theatre; the original and revival productions of *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Costume Designer) at 13 Players. Keirsten is a Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of 13 Players, a professional theatre company in the Niagara Falls area. She is honored to once again be a part of the NU Theatre family, and looks forward to supporting the NUTS in their many productions alongside her creative husband Primo, and their two daughters Penny & Freya.



**PRIMO THOMAS** (Technical Director) is a proud alumnus of Niagara University's theatre department, graduating in 2013 with a BFA in theatre studies design technology with a concentration in scenic design. Primo is an active designer and technical director in the Buffalo Theatre community. His past scenic design credits include: *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Irish Classical Theatre Company), *Go, Dog. Go!* (NURT), *Angels in America* (Second Generation Theatre), *Annapurna* (New Phoenix Theatre), *My Three Angels* (New Phoenix Theatre), *Into the Woods* (NCCC), *Godspell* (NCCC), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (NCCC). He is a Co-Founder and the Technical Director of 13 Players, a professional theatre company in the Niagara Region. He is incredibly dedicated to sharing the love of his craft with the next generation of NU theatre students.



**KATIE THOMPSON**, a freshman from Bradford, PA., is pursuing a theatre performance major. Onstage Credits: *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* (March Hare), *Mame* (Ensemble & Agnes Gooch Understudy), *The Sound of Music* (Ensemble & Mother Abbess Understudy), *Frozen Jr.* (Middle Elsa & Ensemble), *Guys and Dolls* (Save-a-Soul Mission Member & Gen. Cartwright Understudy), *Offerings* (Kate). Offstage Credits: *Guys and Dolls* (Stagecraft).



**PAUL TODARO** (Adjunct Professor, Acting) graduated from Niagara University's Theatre program in 1987 and moved to New York where he worked with the Independent Theatre Company at House of Candles Theatre on Manhattan's lower east side. Paul acted and directed the plays of Shakespeare, Beckett, Brecht, Pinter, Strindberg and, in 1992, became the Artistic Director of the company. In 1993, House of Candles was named the Best Off-Off Broadway Theatre Company by the New York Press. In 1997 Paul returned to Buffalo and began teaching acting at NU. Locally he has worked as an actor and director at Studio Arena, Artpark, The Kavinoky Theatre, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, and for several years, he was an artist in residence for the Irish Classical Theatre. Paul has also appeared as a guest artist on the NU stage as Grandpere in *The Happy Time* and Tevey in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He appeared in *The Sound of Music* at Artpark during the summer of 2012, and was in *Red* for 710 Main Theatre.



**TERRI FILIPS VAUGHAN** (Chair, Professor, Dance, and Choreographer) has choreographed over 45 musicals and 20 concert works at Niagara University. During this time, she had the privilege of working alongside the great musical team of John Kander and the late Fred Ebb. Terri has worked as a freelance teacher, choreographer and theatre director for numerous schools, community groups, studios and professional companies. She has choreographed numerous musicals professionally, working at such places as; Artpark, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Jewish Repertory Theatre, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre and the Rochester Association of Performing Arts (RAPA), OFC/Rochester Lyric Theatre and O'Connell and Company. Highlights include *South Pacific* at Artpark starring Tony Award winner Mark Jacoby and choreographing world premiere musical *Two Tickets to Paradise* written by and starring rocker Eddie Money at RAPA. She has set concert choreography at SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Fredonia, Texas Woman's University, Grand Valley State College and Hope College. She was the co-founder of InSync Dance Theatre, a professional tap and jazz company based in Michigan

for which she choreographed and performed. She has also worked professionally as a director for musical theatre and theatre for young audiences. She graduated summa cum laude with an MFA in dance from the Texas Woman's University and cum laude with a BA from Hope College. Terri also served as a judge for the Cutting Edge Dance Competitions around the United States. Terri has taught dance educator at numerous National Dance Education Organization Conferences across the U. S. in both tap and musical theatre.



**FELICITA E. R. VELEZ**, junior from Hammond, Ind., is a theatre performance major with minors in dance and ASL. NU credits include: *Freaky Friday* (Gretchen), 2020 Short Play Festival, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Oatcake), and *Vital Signs*. Offstage credits: *The Laramie Project* (Props Acquisition). Past productions: *Songs for a New World* (Woman 2), *Cinderella* (Ensemble), *Scrooge* (T. Jenkins), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Gladys Antrobus), *25th APCS* (Mary Park), *Sister Act* (Deloris), and *We Will Rock You* (Khashoggi). She aspires to be a dance teacher within the Hammond Academy Program that started it all.



**GRACE VENTURA** is a freshman from Olean, NY, pursuing a BFA in performance on a pre-law track. Her past credits include *Little Women* (Amy March), *Into The Woods* (Baker's Wife), *Fiddler On The Roof* (Yente), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Simon Zealot). Grace also attended the New York State Summer School of the Arts and was part of the School of Theatre's class of 2019.



**JEREMY VICARIO**, of Amherst, NY, is a sophomore double major in theatre performance and political science with a focus in pre-law. He has performed in both high school shows at Sweet Home High School and Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart along with The Lockport palace theatre. Some of his favorite roles include Ms. Trunchbull in *Matilda*, Bill Anderson in *Mamma Mia!* and Monsignor O'Hara in *Sister Act*. He also enjoyed choreographing *Heathers* this summer.

**KIM VINCENT** (Adjunct Instructor, Director and Choreographer). Ms. Vincent is an adjunct instructor at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) teaching dance in various styles along with co-directing and choreographing for musicals. Ms. Vincent has recently joined the faculty at Niagara University teaching modern and ballet for the dance minor. Ms. Vincent has performed professionally with Buffalo Contemporary Dance and Mone Dance Company. Ms. Vincent has also performed at the International Dance Festival held in NYC. Ms. Vincent holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Masters in Fine Arts in dance choreography and performance from SUNY Brockport. Ms. Vincent has a philosophy of giving her students the best education she can by helping them find their creative voice including the opportunities to work with other professionals in the field of dance, to grow and evolve as artists.



**KRISTA WANDER**, a junior from Lockport, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major and a theatre education masters, with minors in dance and theatre design/production. NU credits: *Pippin* (Bolero Dancer, Catherine's Backup Singer and others), 2020 Short Play Festival's *The Big Ride* (Helena) and *The Woods Are For Suckers and Chumps* (Zoe), *Legally Blonde* (Elle's Mom, D.A. Joyce Riley, and others), 2019 Short Play Festival's *Bee* (Shi57), TYA's *Go Dog Go* (Red Dog) and 2019 NURT.



**SHARON ONEVELO WATKINSON** (Professor Emeritus, Founder) earned her Ph.D. from New York University, and MA from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Here at NU, Dr. Watkinson has directed many productions including the Focus Award-winning *J.B.* and *Good Woman of Setzuan*. She has acted frequently in local and university theatre productions including *Women Times Women*, the title role in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Madame Ranevsky in *The Cherry Orchard*, Helene Hanft in *84 Charing Cross Road* with Buffalo Ensemble Theatre, Melissa in *Love Letters*, the Princess Kosmonopolis in *Sweet Bird of Youth* and General Cartwright in *Guys and Dolls* at Artpark. Seven years ago, she returned to the stage in a production of *Twelve Angry Jurors* with the St. Stephen's Parish Players. Six years ago at Niagara, she performed the role of the Narrator in *Into the Woods*. Dr. Watkinson has made TV and radio commercials for local agencies and for ten years (1984-1994) produced and hosted "P.S. Niagara U.," a cable television program that aired in the Western New York area. A recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences "Outstanding Teacher Award," she also received the first Joseph P. Ganley, C.M. Award for her contributions to theatre both at the university and in the community. In 1997, she was the recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences' "Excellence in Service Award." In 1999, she received a special commendation from the Eugene O'Neill Society for her efforts in successfully organizing the first international conference on Eugene O'Neill held in Hamilton, Bermuda. In January 2005, she was honored by the university with the Vincentian Mission Award. In October 2018, she was awarded the "Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award" at the University's Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend. And in May of 2019, she was presented with the Spirit of N.U. Theatre Award at the 34th Annual Friends of Niagara University Theatre Gala. Simultaneously that same evening, Reverend James Maher, Niagara's President, announced the first endowed Professorship of Theatre and Vocal Performance in the name of Sharon Onevelo Watkinson for her outstanding contributions to the University and the Theatre Department. Dr. Watkinson's most recent accomplishment has been the successful implementation of a London, England Theatre Study Abroad Program for NU theatre majors, now in its twentieth year. Currently an Adjunct Professor, Dr. Watkinson served as Chair of the Department of Theatre and Fine Arts from 1990 to 2018.



**RYLEE WATSON**, a senior from Kenmore, NY, is pursuing a design and production major with a minor in women's studies. Rylee's recent works at NU include *Songs For a New World* (Lighting Designer), *Vital Signs* (Video Production Designer), *Good Kids* (Video Technician), *The Laramie Project* (Video Technician), *Sylvia* (Lighting Designer), 2020 Short Play Festival (Board Op), *Anton In Show Business* (Asst. Master Electrician), *The Firebugs* (Props. acquisition), *Legally Blonde* (Asst. Master Electrician), *Pygmalion* (Asst. Stage Manager), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Sound Technician), and *The Wolves* (Lighting Crew). Outside credits include the production of *Cookin' At The Cookery* at MusicalFare Theatre (Asst. Stage Manager).

**LEAH WIETIG** has gained a reputation as a versatile performer and educator throughout the Western New York cultural community and beyond. Ms. Wietig made her solo debut in 2007 singing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in *Hansel and Gretel* and has returned to the BPO as a guest soloist for various engagements including the concert; *Poulenc to Puccini* conducted by Doreen Rao and excerpts from the opera, *Faust* at Shea's Performing Arts Center. In the summer of 2011, Ms. Wietig performed with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra singing the soprano solo in Bach's *Magnificat* paired with Bernstein's Mass. She returned to the Chautauqua Symphony in 2015 as the Soprano soloist in a staged production series of Orff's *Carmina Burana*. She performs regularly with the BPO as a soloist/narrator for their education program including performances of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. Ms. Wietig has remained their featured educational performing artist for eight seasons and has worked with conductors Matthew Kraemer, Stefan Sanders, Todd Craven and Jaman E. Dunn. Ms. Wietig has also performed as a soloist with the Erie Chamber Orchestra and the Butler County Symphony Orchestra. In Buffalo, Ms. Wietig has performed with O'Connell and Company, Alleyway Theater, in the world premiere of the original musical, *Italian Serenade* and Opera Sacra in their production of *Suor Angelica*. Leah has competed in various singing competitions including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Rochester's Classical Idol. Along with performing regularly she teaches and manages a private music education studio, Main Stage Studios with locations in East Aurora and Buffalo, NY. Main Stage Studios offers private, customized lessons in voice, acting, piano and guitar. Ms. Wietig has taught for Camp Broadway, The Academy of Theatre Arts, Arts in Education Institute, Nardin Academy, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart and Shea's Performing Arts Center. She serves as Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions- Buffalo/Toronto District, a non-profit organization that helps aspiring opera singers.



**GABRIANNA WOS** is a junior theater performance major with a minor in American sign language from Findlay, Ohio. Her favorite productions have been *Oklahoma*, *Fools*, and *The Election*. She has also been involved in multiple choirs, voice lessons, and stage crew. While at Niagara, she has been cast in *The Firebugs*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Vital Signs* and been assistant hair and makeup specialist for *Shakespeare Unwrapped: Shakespeare's Kings & Queens: A Family Drama*. She loves to sing and perform and aspires to be a makeup artist for film work.



**ISABELLE WRAY**, a freshman from Eden, NY, is pursuing a theatre performance major with a minor in dance. At Mel's School of Theater and Arts: *Les Miserables* (Eponine), *Heathers* (Veronica), and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Assistant Director). At Springville Center for the Arts: *American Idiot* (Alesha) and *Carrie* (Margaret). At Eden High School: *The Little Mermaid* (Aquata/Ariel U.S.), *42nd Street* (Maggie Jones), and *Something Rotten* (Bea Bottom). She was also nominated for Overall Vocal Performance for the Kenny's in 2021.



**DOUG ZSCHIEGNER** (Associate Director, Associate Professor Acting/Directing) directed NU's *Company*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Real Thing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Into the Woods*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *She Loves Me*. Besides teaching acting, directing and contemporary theatre history here, he's tried his hand at adapting classic texts with *CyranA*, *The Macbeth Insurgency* and *Pygmalion*. As Associate Director at The Kavinsky Theatre he directed *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Secret Order* and *Rock 'n' Roll*. He's also a member of Road Less Traveled Production's Resident Ensemble, directing premieres of *Insidious*, *Very Fine Use of a Grenade*, two *Buffalo Stories* events plus many new play readings. Doug directed over thirty shows and ran Education and Outreach for eight years as Resident Director of Mill Mountain Theatre, an Equity company in Roanoke, VA. Acting credits include *Race* at RLTP, *Atticus Finch* at Studio Arena, *Brutus* with Shakespeare in Delaware Park, narration with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the feature film *Marshall*, plus over three-dozen roles by Shakespeare around the country. Doug has guest directed and/or taught at Virginia Tech, Franklin & Marshall and Dickinson universities and Walnut Street, McCarter, First Stage, Roanoke Children's Theatre, Indiana Rep and Geva theatre companies. His MFA is from U of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program. Doug has the wonderful opportunity to finish directing last spring's interrupted *Pippin*, now running in November 2020. As Assistant Director, he contributes to the development of our programs and production. That last name is pronounced *CHEEG-ner*.



**REAGAN ZUBER**, a junior from Williamsville, NY, is a theatre performance major with minors in dance and ASL, and is enrolled in the 4+1 program M.S. in theatre education. NU Credits: *Songs for a New World* (Assistant Choreographer), *The Laramie Project* (Marge Murray & Others), *Let Me In*, *A Conference Call Play* (Traci), *grunge is dead*. (Stage Manager) and cast in *Pippin* (Player). Outside credits: *A Midsummer's Night Walk* (Peasblossom) at Shakespeare in Delaware Park, *Buffalo Rises 2.0: It's All About Time* (Kate) at Road Less Traveled Productions, and *The Night Before Christmas* (Vixen) at Lancaster Opera House.

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Required for all prospective BFA students.