

E-52 STUDENT THEATRE

The

Encore

Fall Semester 2023

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HEY EVERYONE!

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Encore!

Hello everyone!

Thank you so much for reading E-52's Fall 2023 Encore Newsletter! My name is Jayden Lesko, I am the current Vice President of E-52 Student Theatre and Principal editor of the Encore.

It has been so much fun creating this semester's Encore and I loved encapsulating all of our wonderful member's hard work and talent!

I'd also like to thank my co-editors and writers for their wonderful additions to this release! If through reading this, you find you would like to be a part of creating future editions like Spring 2024 please reach out!

I think that's all folks, so go on and enjoy!

-Jayden Lesko

THANK YOU AND ENJOY!



SHORT ATTENTION SPAN THEATRE: XX

BACK TO THE SAST



YOU WANT 2 KNOW

Written and directed by Gage
Klaumenzer
Danny: Patrick Williams
Melody: Jessica Brady
Leo: Kedi Gumus
Isaac: Christopher Rasquin

SAST'S YOU BELONG WITH ME

Written and directed by Crimson Ervin
Zoe: Hannah Grube
Kyle: Bradford Morgan
Tiffany: Alyssa Mulhall

SAST TEAM 6

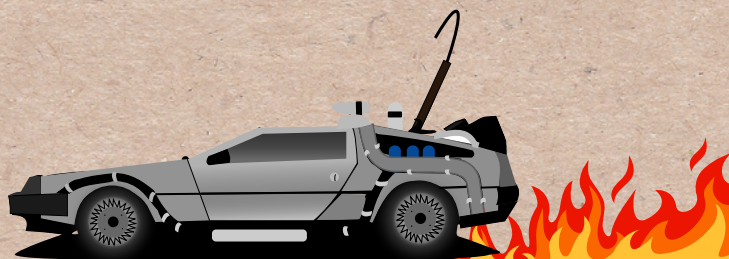
Written by Abigail McGraw
Directed by Amy Deo
Narrator: Alexa Daley
Beatrice: Trinity Hunt
Mr. Spinalzo: Griffin Martinez
The Phantom: Gabriel Fennemore
Little Red Riding Hood: Cassi Daley

THE BONFIRE

Written by Ryan van Hilst
Directed by Sarah Nolt
Spinalzo: Jimmart Amamio
Abby: Olivia Leoniak
Martha: Olivia Disant
Morty: Ryan Wolynetz
Elaine: Jessica Brady
Herman: Nim Wilcock
John: Patrick Williams
Storytellers: Hannah Grube and Hailey
Morath

THE TRIAL OF THE PLASTICS

Written by Olivia Disant and Kedi
Gumus
Directed by Lauren Fogle
Judge Moody: Esther Benitez
Elle: Tori Kimball
Vivian: Cassi Daley
Cady: Gabriel Fennemore
Regina: Avery Bell
Gretchen: Abby Culling
Karen: Hailey Morath



SHORT ATTENTION SPAN THEATRE: XX

BACK TO THE SAST

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager: Gianna Sacca

Stage Manager: Jacob Lieto

Assistant Stage Manager: Nicole
Cuzzolino

Technical Director: Olivia Leoniak

Directors: Sarah Nolt, Amy Deo,
Gage Klaumenzer, Crimson Ervin,
and Lauren Fogle

Writers: Ryan van Hilst, Abigail
McGraw, Gage Klaumenzer, Crimson
Ervin, Kedi Gumus and Olivia Disant
Publicity: Lauren Fogle

Property Managers: Sarah Nolt and
Becca Mello

Lighting Designer: Kelly Ng

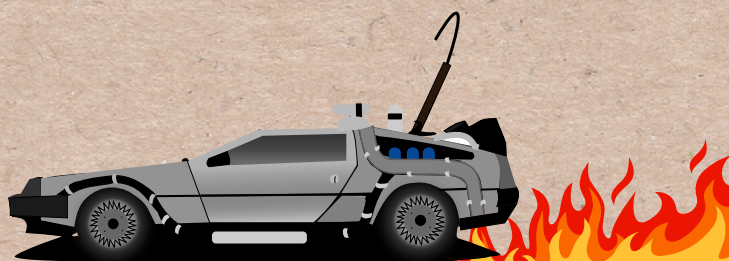
Sound Designer: Allison Kosikowski
and Sydney Holland

Costume Designer: Elizabeth Roth

Hair Designer: Naomi Gayner

Makeup Designer: Olivia Disant

House Designer: Abigail McGraw



THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY

SPELLING BEE

DIRECTED BY RYAN VAN HILST



CAST LIST

CHIP TOLENTINO: NOAH MUMMERT

LEAF CONEBEAR: BEN EVERHART

MARCEY PARK: ANNABELLE BRAME

LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERRE:

MAYA RUMMEL

OLIVE OSTROVSKY: NATALIE WILDER

WILLIAM BARFÉE: PATRICK BARRETT

RONA LISA PERETTI: GIANNA SACCA

VICE PRINCIPAL PANCH: LELIANI ANUPOL

MITCH MAHONEY: MORGAN HARRIS

ENSEMBLE: TORI KIMBALL, LAUREN FOGLE,

ABBY CULLING, AND CHASE O'NEAL

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR: RYAN VAN HILST

PRODUCTION MANAGER: JONAH GARLAND

STAGE MANAGERS: NAT BAUDER AND ELIZABETH ROTH

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: HANNAH GRUBE

MUSIC DIRECTORS: REMUS THUER AND NOAH MUMMERT

CHOREOGRAPHER: NAOMI GAYNER

DANCE CAPTAIN: GIANNA SACCA

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: ABIGAIL MCGRAW

**ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTORS: ALEX CRAWLEY AND OLIVIA
DISANT**

SET DESIGNERS: ARLO AULETA AND KRISTYN WILLIAMS

**PUBLICITY: GIANNA SACCA, NICOLE COZZOLINO, AND
ANNABELLE BRAME**

PROPERTIES MANAGER: NIM WILCOCK

LIGHTING DESIGNERS: BETH WOJCIECHOWSKI AND OLIVIA LEONIAK

SOUND DESIGNERS: GAGE KLAUMENZER AND ANDREW HEIM

COSTUME DESIGNERS: SARAH NOLT AND EMMA ABRAMS

HAIR AND MAKEUP DESIGNER: SARAH KAZNOWSKY

ASST. HAIR AND MAKEUP DESIGNER: AMY DEO

HOUSE DESIGNERS: ANNA RABBIA AND ALEXA DALEY

DRAMATURGE: GIANNA SACCA

RUN CREW: CHINELO KINSALE AND NIM WILCOCK



Love: May I Have a Definition?

By: Tori Kimball

L-o-v-e, love. Four little letters, with momentous meaning behind them. In The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, love is ever-present and ever-changing. Love is complicated and it is confusing. In fact, love is foreign to many of the spellers. In Marcy Park's case, loving herself is much harder than learning six languages. In William Barfee's case, loving spelling is easier than loving another. And in Olive Ostrovsky's case, love is "highly unrealistic and wildly fanciful". Love isn't something she has ever received from her parents, and therefore it is something that she doesn't know how to give herself.

In early rehearsals, I found portraying Olive felt easy because of this self-deprecation. I never learned how to love myself either, but like Olive, the English language helped me heal. Creative writing has always been an ally to me; it's helped me spin sentences for words I will never say. When I first listened to My Friend the Dictionary, I saw myself in her, and I felt ecstatic to play her on opening night.

Though, I quickly realized that portraying Olive made me feel incredibly vulnerable. Because of the lack of love in her life, Olive closes in on herself until the end of the show. Most of the time, she's a soft-spoken rule follower who seems to have lost all of the fight she had in her. To quote her character sheet, "she starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms". As a younger girl, I was also enormously shy, and considering I worked so hard to build confidence in myself, it felt wrong to go back when I had shyly blossomed.

What felt stranger, was that less than 24 hours after playing Olive, I played the person who caused her to wither. To transition musically from a belting lead to a softer supporting role was hard enough, but to transition from the unloved to the lover was insanely difficult. I wanted to show every bit of anguish Olive felt during I Love You like I had the previous night, but I knew my role was to inspire healing. Even though Olive's mom does not have much stake in the bee, I think she's one of the most important roles in relation to the audience. I recognize that many people have parents like Olive's, and the lyrics that Mrs. Ostrovsky sings provide closure that many may never have.

Throughout my experience with both roles, I realized the love I had for Putnam was ever-present and ever-changing, too. It was complicated and confusing, and at times it hurt. There were times that the pressure got to my head, and I would find myself sobbing in a bathroom stall. There were days I wanted to quit, and there were days I found myself in a useless pit of self-comparison. I didn't really sleep or eat all that much. Truthfully, I became an actress first, and a human later.

I tried to pretend like I had it all together during October. I acted like I felt so confident in both of my roles, and while I think I may have fooled some, others saw through my facade. I distinctly remember breaking down over a costume change backstage during tech week, and my director Ryan did everything he could to make the costumes more comfortable for me. Ryan was one of the first people to remind me that I came before the show, and he consistently reminded me of the importance of self-care.

Similarly, Noah, my music director, reminded me that I did have the talent to handle what was on my plate. He said that I had been cast for a reason when I was first learning the music for my roles, which still sticks with me today.

It also goes without saying that my castmates were my rock from start to finish, and each of them stepped up to support me in ways that truly changed my life. I could never thank all of them enough, though I would like to highlight some key players in making sure that I never gave up on myself:

First, Natalie Wilder, the original Olive Ostrovsky, worked tirelessly with me to make sure I understood her role. While balancing marching band, acapella, and her music major, she still found time outside of learning her own blocking to teach me. She was constantly uplifting, and while I was initially afraid that she would be angry with me for “taking” her role, she was never anything but kind.

Secondly, Patrick Barrett, who is now one of my closest friends on this campus, helped me learn every scene with Olive and Barfee. I remember telling Patrick sometime after the show that a lot of our scenes didn’t necessarily feel like I was acting at all, because I felt like I had truly found a friend that I could be unapologetically myself around.

Last but not least, Abby Culling, the love of my life and my future roommate, never failed to put a smile on my face. She was both the Danielle to my Carli and Olive’s Dad, which meant we saw each other constantly, and yet I don’t think I can name one negative experience I ever had with her. I hope everyone finds someone as loveable as Abby in their life. The world would be a much better place.

Because of the love I was given from the people above, I felt loss during Putnam. Saying goodbye to Olive, even though it was much needed, felt like letting go a part of myself after the constant work I had poured into her portrayal. It is an experience I am never going to forget, and I can only hope that I made a good impression on her character.

I felt even more lost when our show closed. After all, I was surrounded by a cast who loved and supported each other in every single endeavor. If I could define love, I would say it’s staying after rehearsals to help someone with blocking. It’s helping someone learn double the music they originally had to. It’s driving someone to Wawa at midnight because you can tell it’s been a rough rehearsal. Love is ever-present and ever changing. It’s confusing and it’s complicated. And without it, I wouldn’t be the person I am today.

ONE-ACT THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG



CAST LIST

ANNIE: FRANCES HILL

TREVOR: NAT BAUDER

CHRIS: SHOMUDRO

SANGEET GUPTA

JONATHAN: NOLAN KEEFE

ROBERT: JACOB LIETO

DENISE: ERIN MUÑOZ

MAX: MATTHEW GUARINI

SANDRA: ELIZABETH ROTH

STAGE CREW: CLAIRE

HIGGINS, OLIVIA DISANT,

ÀINE HORVAT



ONE-ACT THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG



PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR: NAOMI GAYNER

PRODUCTION MANAGER: ABIGAIL MCGRAW

**STAGE MANAGERS: NOAH MUMMERT AND
MAGGIE MILLER**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: KEDI GUMUS

**TECHNICAL DIRECTORS: ABIGAIL MCGRAW
AND NAT BAUDER**

**SET DESIGNERS: ABIGAIL MCGRAW AND NAT
BAUDER**

SCENE PAINTER: RYAN VAN HILST

**FIGHT CAPTAINS: GRIFFIN MARTINEZ AND
ALEXA DALEY**

PUBLICITY: GIANNA SACCA

PROPERTY MANAGER: OLIVIA DISANT

LIGHTING CONSULTANT: JONAH GARLAND

**LIGHTING DESIGNER: BEN JORDAN, KELLY NG,
AND JONAH GARLAND**

**SOUND DESIGNERS: ALLISON KOSIKOWSKI
AND GAGE KLAUMENZER**

**COSTUME DESIGNERS: RYAN VAN HILST AND
NICOLE COZZOLINO**

**ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER: ROSIE
WALSH**

HAIR DESIGNER: CRIMSON ERVIN

**MAKEUP DESIGNER: GIANNA SACCA AND
CRIMSON ERVIN**

**HOUSE DESIGNER: NICOLE COZZOLINO AND
HANNAH GRUBE**

**RUN CREW: CRIMSON ERVIN AND LAUREN
FOGLE**

DRAMATURGE: JOHN DEMKO

E-52 FALL ANNUAL HAYRIDE



100 YEARS OF E-52!

ALUMNI REUNION PARTY

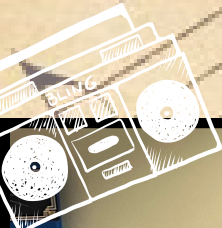


**"IT WAS SO FUN EVEN
HAMLET WOULD CRACK A
SMILE AT THE THOUGHT"**

**"E-52 IS WHERE I'VE MET SOME OF MY FAVORITE
PEOPLE THAT WILL STAY WITH ME FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE. CHERISH YOUR TIME IN E-52 WHILE
YOU HAVE IT, BUT ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO
MAKING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS THAT WILL
STAY WITH YOU LONG AFTER YOU GRADUATE.
LOVE THESE PEOPLE AND THIS ORG SO MUCH!" :)**



Winter 2023 Banquet



THE DIRECTOR'S CUT: THREE E-52 DIRECTOR'S RECAP OF FALL 2023 BY JONAH GARLAND

Fall 2023 — a semester for the ages it was. With three amazing productions, “SAST XX: Back to the SAST,” “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” and “The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong,” E-52 made wonderful memories complete with a Taylor Swift music video parody, six charming Spelling Bee contestants, and a British murder mystery gone wrong. As the semester comes to an end, let’s recap some shows with three of this semester’s directors!

Crimson Ervin

As featured in this year’s SAST, “You Belong With Me,” directed by Crimson Ervin, tells the story of how Zoey realized her feelings for her neighbor’s girlfriend Tiffany, all while addressing important issues like internalized misogyny. For the director, writing and directing the play was very meaningful for them.

“You Belong With Me was very much a journey into my own self-discovery of internalized misogyny and how that affected the world and also kind of my gay awakening.” Ervin said.

The lesbian plot point of the play was initially inspired by a [TikTok video](#) parodying the Taylor Swift song, in which the audio says: “She wears short skirts, I wear T-shirts. She’s really pretty, I kinda wanna kiss her.” After watching that video, Ervin sat down with one

of his hometown friends and discussed the possibility of turning some of those iconic moments from the Taylor Swift music video into a play.

“It was one of the snapshots that I had — if you remember the iconic holding up the notebook and communicating that way in the music video — I was like, ‘I think it'd be really nice.’” He said. “We had all these moments that I ended up just kind of taking a needle on a thread, and I wove them all together.”

Meeting the cast and sitting down with them for the first read-through of the show was especially memorable for Ervin since it was his first time experiencing how other people were going to react to the jokes and the play overall. Before the read-through, Ervin was hoping that the cast would receive it well and that the jokes they wrote would land.

“I remember the first time I gave it to the actors, they were laughing — they were adding in jokes that they thought would be really funny.” He said while smiling. “It’s so rewarding when you’re like, ‘*oh, all this work that I put into this silly little show has really paid off.*’”

As for the wider reception, the audience members seemed to appreciate the comedic aspects of the show as well, as expressed by their laughter with the scenes and lines that mirrored the music video.

According to Ervin, some audience members even came up to him after bows to tell them how much they enjoyed watching the show.

When writing “You Belong With Me,” Ervin hoped that the audience would look inward and recognize the inherent misogyny that’s become so rampant in society today. In characters like Zoey and Tiffany, he aimed to ask questions like ‘Why does society tend to hate on women for nearly everything?’ For women, why does beauty have to equate to a more feminine expression?, and ‘Why do women so often feel the need to change themselves for acceptance of a man?’

“There was an exercise in a feminist class that I took where it was like name one thing that a teenage girl can be a fan of where she won’t be made fun of for it and you could never list a single thing that a teenage girl could do and not be made fun of for it.” He said. “I think a big part of adolescence is looking around at the world around you and trying to figure out why it is the way it is.”

Returning as a director for next semester with “The Game’s Afoot,” Ervin described his excitement for next year.

I have the cast and they are the most — I haven’t done a lot of work with them yet — but they are already the most incredible group of people I’ve ever met and I’m so excited to see the things that they can bring to their characters. I’m really excited to see that.” Ervin said.

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Ryan van Hilst

Immediately following SAST was “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” directed by Ryan van Hilst. This unconventional musical places the audience members in a gymnasium with six spellers who each have their own motivations, goals, and obstacles throughout the Bee.

Though a comedy, this Spelling Bee dealt with themes that anyone who has experienced adolescence may be all too familiar with. Schwarzy feels the pressure of trying to live up to what her moms want her to be. With help from Jesus Christ herself, Marcy reckons with accepting defeat and embracing mistakes. Chip navigates...some really intense emotions...which ultimately become his downfall.

“The experiences of the six unlikely spellers at the Bee weave together in ways that you might not expect at a glance.” van Hilst said. “There is no antagonist in the show except the bell; indeed, the greatest obstacle to each character’s success is often their own individual turmoil.”

For van Hilst, one of the most impactful moments of being the director for Putnam County Spelling Bee was sharing his artistic vision and witnessing the love, commitment and care the cast and crew put into their roles and their performances on stage.

“Everyone was able to contribute their experiences and talent to the production in ways that made the

show E-52's own — not just mine, but everyone's." They said. "I may have had a vision and overseen the learning process, but the most impactful part of being the director was being able to witness the cast take the stories of each individual character and put their hearts into every performance."

The director noted that during the production, the cast formed incredible bonds like none other he'd ever seen. He described that being able to witness these connections was especially beautiful and throughout the production, he was in awe of how quickly the cast became friends and how they always supported each other.

"Whether it was the impromptu cast trip to Wawa after one rehearsal or the times I got to step in and learn choreography for the choreo videos, my favorite memories have consistently been the ones where I felt the most connected to the other talented people who made Spelling Bee possible."

The audience participation in the Spelling Bee proved to be a unique aspect of the musical. One night, E-52 alumnus John Demko even made an appearance on-stage spelling the word "cow," which sent the spellers into a state of extreme pandemonium!

After viewing the show and seeing how each character's experiences brought them to the Bee, van Hilst hoped that the audience would have left Bacchus Theater with a broader understanding of compassion.

If audience members took one message away from the show, I hope they were able to look a little deeper into the virtues and experiences everyone is motivated by." He said. "I hope one person left that show having learned a little more kindness for others, since you never really know what experiences brought them this far."

Naomi Gayner

Concluding the semester, "The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong," directed by Naomi Gayner, featured a murder mystery at the Haversham Manor, and as the name of the show suggests, a few things went a little awry.... As described by Gayner herself, the play stars a theatre troupe of "extremely immature actors led by their fearless director, who puts on a very serious 1920s murder mystery, and in every single place that you think it can go wrong, it goes wrong."

For Gayner, fully grasping the idea of being a director was something that she had to get used to throughout the production. Unlike production management, understanding that she could design and shape the show according to her own artistic vision, rather than ensuring the artistic vision of someone else, was an aspect that took a bit of learning. Though making directing decisions came with a slight challenge, Gayner described the process as "healing."

"There's no way all these people, these eighteen years and older people actually want to listen to me, right? Like this is a big prank." Gayner said. "What it [directing] meant to me is to be able to actually have a real decision in the artistic vision, which is not something I'm used to."

After doing the research and character development of the show, Gayner was most excited to spend time with the cast members to teach them about the lore of every character and to see how each member of the cast would interpret their character.

“Play That Goes Wrong is a really hard show to do in that sense because you don't get so much about the characters' personalities as you do from the TV show that they made for two seasons.” She said. “The fact that they [the cast] were able to do that and I was still able to see those characters and know everything about them, even with only seeing them on stage for seventy-five minutes...They were so talented.”

Another aspect of directing that Gayner sought to achieve in “Play” was creating a humor-filled environment for the audience. For the director, ensuring that the audience were enjoying themselves during the performances was very important.

Additionally, witnessing the cast and crew form friendships and having fun during the rehearsals was an especially memorable experience for Gayner.

“I love that they all hang out after this and the show was able to bring them together...” Gayner said. “From a PM and director perspective who sits in a mid-show and post-show, when you see your cast and crew bonding, you're like, ‘Okay, I don't have to worry about that anymore!’”

One of the more shocking moments for Gayner was the unexpected audience turnout for the show. As the shows went on, the audience peaked at a whopping 177 people on closing night, making “The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong” the most attended show in E-52 history.

Similarly, with auditions, Gayner described that this was the largest auditioning pool she has ever seen. She expressed that it was amazing to see how many people wanted to be a part of the show and how many people who were new to E-52 and new to acting, wanted to be a part of the show.

She credits the efficiency and swiftness of the cast and production staff in making the show the powerhouse it was.

“That goes out to the whole cast and crew like the publicity — the advertising that we all did...” Gayner said. “That was such an efficient booth. I was so proud of everybody who was on the lights and sound team and especially Noah who was up in the booth and who was streamlining the whole thing.”

And that’s a wrap on Fall 2023! This semester’s productions were incredible. So much dedication went into making SAST, Putnam County Spelling Bee, and Play That Goes Wrong such wonderful, entertaining, and heartwarming shows. I absolutely cannot wait to see what next semester has in store.

MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Spotlights!



ANNABELL BRAME



LAUREN FOGLE



**SHOMUDRO
SENGEET GUPTA**



EVAN LEWIS

MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Spotlights!



KELLY NG



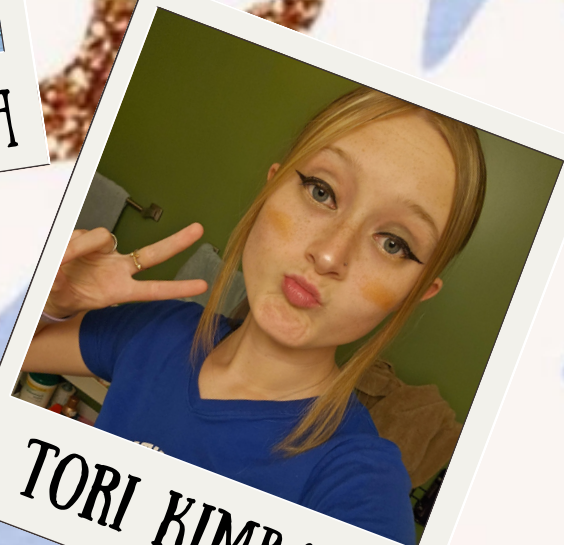
JACOB LIETO



ELIZABETH ROTH



MAGGIE MILLER



TORI KIMBALL

MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Spotlights!



ERIN MUÑOZ



ANDREW HEIM



NICOLE COZZOLINO



CRIMSON ERVIN

Meet The Team!

**Jayden Lesko - Vice
President, Chief Editor**

**Gianna Sacca - President,
Assistant Editor**

Tori Kimball - Writer

Jonah Garland - Writer

