Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exists upon land inhabited by the original indigenous people of this area, including the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the many other nations and groups that predate colonial borders.

We acknowledge that with colonization Native American people have been dispossessed of their lands and irreparably changed by the actions of individuals and institutions. We acknowledge our responsibility to understand and respond to those actions. In partnership with the Native American Center, we commit to working together to honor the past, be intentional in the present, and to build our future with truth.

Welcome to the Department of Theatre & Dance 2025-2026 Season!

The UWSP Department of Theatre & Dance is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Association of Schools of Dance.

2025-2026 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

Amy Beversdorf
Associate Lecturer
BA Dance

Andrew Brackett
Assistant Professor
BFA Design & Technology
Program Coordinator

Dana Dancho
Assistant Professor
BFA Acting

Michael Estanich
Professor
BA Dance
Dept. of Theatre & Dance Chair

Kate Gomez Moore
Visiting Assistant Professor
BA Dance

Sonia Grimsled
Lecturer
BFA Musical Theatre

Mark Hanson
Professor
BFA Musical Theatre
Program Coordinator

Chris Kaiser
Assistant Professor
BA Dance

Emily Lotz
Assistant Professor
BFA Design & Technology

Pamela Luedtke
Associate Lecturer
BA Dance

Tyler Marchant
Professor
BFA Acting
Program Coordinator

Kyle Norris
Assistant Professor
BFA Musical Theatre

Jim O'Connell
Associate Professor
BA Arts Management
Program Coordinator

Greg Pragel
Lecturer
BFA Acting

Laurie Schmeling
Sr. Lecturer
BA Drama
Program Coordinator

Kristina Sneshkoff
Assistant Professor
BFA Design & Technology

CeCe Sickler
Costume Shop Manager
BFA Design & Technology

Ann Warren
Technical Director
BFA Design & Technology

A Note from the Director

"What is *Ride the Cyclone* about, anyway?"

Good question.

It's about many things: life, death, the choices we make, and the consequences of those choices. But mostly it's about living life without regret.

"Is it funny?"

Yes. Yes it is.

Written and performed in 2009 in a small town in Canada, this "little engine that could" of a show continued to be shaped and refined, finally opening at Chicago Shakespeare Company's 2015 season. It has since been produced Off-Broadway and in regional and college theatres across the country.

I am so please once again have guest choreographer Sarah Hinrichsen joining the production team. Previously, Sarah's work was seen in 2019's Amour and 2022's Amelie. For Ride the Cyclone Sarah has captured the eccentric styles of 80's and 90's music videos and pop-culture references ranging from The Brady Bunch all the way to The Breakfast Club. Her sense of humor is a perfect match for this material.

Welcome to everyone – enjoy the ride!

Mark Hanson
Director, Ride the Cyclone
BFA Musical Theatre Program Coordinator

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Department of Theatre & Dance
Presents

RIDE THE CYCLONE

BOOK, MUSIC, & LYRICS BY JACOB RICHMOND & BROOKE MAXWELL

Directed by Mark Hanson

Assistant Directed by Jordan Linton

Music Directed by Kyle C. Norris

Choreographed by Sarah Hinrichsen

Produced by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing
(www.broadwaylicensing.com)

Ride the Cyclone

Cast

Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg.....Emily Odegard

Mischa Bachinski.....Ryan Bouchard

Noel Gruber.....Zaden Scheer

Ricky Potts.....Sam Thompson

Constance Blackwood.....Amelia Gibbons

Jane Doe.....Olivia Weyenberg

Understudy Ocean.....Harley White

Understudy Mischa.....Jacob Massart, Cody Smogoleski

Understudy Noel.....Jacob Massart

Understudy Ricky.....Cody Smogoleski

Understudy Constance.....Meg Nguyen

Understudy Jane.....Hailey Mueller

Ride the Cyclone

Crew

Director.....Mark Hanson*

Assistant Director.....Jordan Linton***

Music Director.....Kyle C. Norris*

Choreographer.....Sarah Hinrichsen**

Assistant Choreographer.....Marcella Schneider

Head Stage Manager.....Rui Bruhn

Stage Managers.....Hayden Othmer, Isabella Sthokal

Scenic Designer.....Mattie Ruona

Hair/Makeup & Costume Designer.....Nessa Grant

Assistant Costume Designer.....Caitlyn Lahmann

Sound Designer.....Rory Eigenberger

Lighting Designer.....Andrew Brackett*

Assistant Lighting Designer.....Liam Robertson

Projection Designer.....Emily Lotz*

Assistant Projection Designer.....Claire Rode

Properties & Karnak Designer.....Adrian Shrigley

Karnak Puppeteer.....Bastien Howard

Karnak Voice.....Ethan Stokes

Intimacy Coordinator.....Dana Dancho*

UWSP Faculty/Staff
****Guest Artist***
*****2025 UWSP Alum***

Ride the Cyclone

Band

Keyboard/Guitar.....Kyle C. Norris*

Keyboard 2.....Darcy Johnson

Guitar.....Caitlyn Rochester

Electric Bass.....Paul Bannach

Drums.....Cade Shipman

Keyboard Programming.....Kyle C. Norris*

Ride the Cyclone

Musical Numbers

The Uranium Suite
What the World Needs
Noel's Lament
Every Story's Got A Lesson
This Song is Awesome/Talia
Space Age Bachelor Man
The Ballad of Jane Doe
The New Birthday Song
Jawbreaker/Sugarcloud
It's Not A Game/It's Just A Ride

UWSP Faculty/Staff

Guest Artist

Sarah Hinrichsen

Originally from Southern California and now based in New York City, Sarah Hinrichsen has built a multifaceted career as a performer, director, and producer.

As a performer, she toured nationally as Rachel in Jimmy Buffett's *Escape to Margaritaville*. Regional credits include Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Gabrielle in *Cinderella*, Marian in *The Music Man*, Katherine in *Newsies*, among many others. She was also an original cast member of The Imbible Off-Broadway in New York.

As a director, Sarah has worked with Royal Caribbean Entertainment on the original musical *The Effectors* and served on the creative team for the groundbreaking inaugural production aboard the world's largest ship, Icon of the Seas. She currently serves as a Resident Director for Royal Caribbean. She just completed a World Premiere Production of "The Great Emu Wars" At Goodspeed in East Haddam.

As a producer, she collaborates with 10th and Main Productions and Disney Concerts, bringing large-scale concerts to stages around the world, often alongside international symphonies. In New York, she curates and programs performances for The Reverie Room cabaret space. She is currently helping develop a new piece: *The Goose Girl* (Check it out on IG!)

Sarah's family operates the largest costume company on the West Coast, serving productions worldwide. She is thrilled to spend time in Wisconsin and extends her gratitude to Mark, Michael, and the entire UWSP team for the opportunity to bring this production to life.

2025-2026 Season Production Staff

Costume/Hair/Makeup Design Mentor.....Kristina Sneshkoff*

Costume Shop Manager.....Cece Sickler*

Costume Shop Assistants.....Camryn Balk-Yaatenen, Nessa Grant
Addison Hicks, Isaac Lemment
Zon McConnel, Sophie Pitsch
Mattie Ruona, Zaden Scheer

Light/Sound Shop Mentor.....Andrew Brackett*

Light/Sound Shop Assistants.....Rui Bruhn
Trevor Klarer, Ethan Stokes

Scenic/Paint/Props Mentor & Prop Shop Manager.....Emily Lotz*

Paint/Props Shop Assistants.....Pauline Nikolov, Hayden Othmer
Mattie Ruona, Maikla Wilson

Technical Director & Scene Shop Manager.....Ann Warren*

Scene Shop Assistants.....Rui Bruhn, Bastien Howard
Thomas Johnston, Sophia Paulson

House Manager.....Hope Hucek

Social Media Marketing.....Micah Friedman

Student Office Assistants.....Stephanie Skemp, Toni Wuest

UWSP Faculty/Staff

Meet the Company

Bouchard, Ryan *(He/Him, Mischa Bachinski)* Senior BFA Musical Theatre & BA Philosophy major from Pulaski, WI. Recipient of the After the Flags Scholarship in Musical Theatre and the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.

Eigenberger, Rory *(They/Them, Sound Designer)* Senior BFA Design & Technology major from Madison, WI. Recipeint of the Backstage Fund in Design & Technology Scholarship, the Crosby Scholarship in Technical Theatre, and the Jim Hart Memorial Scholarship.

Gibbons, Amelia *(She/Her, Constance Blackwood)* Junior BFA Musical Theatre major and Child, Youth, and Family Studies minor from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the After the Flags Scholarship in Musical Theatre and the Arts Bash Scholarship.

Grant, Nessa *(She/Her, Hair/Makeup & Costume Designer)* Junior BFA Design & Technology major and Arts Management minor from Ripon, WI. Recipient of the Mary Lou Holls Costume Scholarship.

Massart, Jacob *(He/They, Noel/Mischa Understudy)* Senior BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Backstage Fund Scholarship in Musical Theatre and the Theatre in London Scholarship.

Mueller, Hailey *(She/Her, Jane Understudy)* Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major and Arts Management minor from Oswego, IL. Recpient of the Arts Bash Scholarship, Peet-Faust Drama Scholarship, and the Pointer Partnership Grant.

Nguyen, Meg *(She/Her, Constance Understudy)* Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Weston, WI.

Odegard, Emily *(She/Her, Ocean O'Connell-Rosenberg)* Junior BFA Musical Theatre & Arts Management major and Media Studies minor from River Falls, WI. Recipient of the Baruch Bridgeman Award and the Theatre in London Scholarship.

Meet the Company

Othmer, Hayden *(He/They, Stage Manager)* Sophomore BFA Design & Technology major from Reedsburg, WI. Recipient of the After the Flags Scholarship in Design & Technology.

Ruona, Mattie *(They/She, Scenic Designer)* Senior BFA Design & Technology major and Creative Writing minor from Sheboygan, WI. Recipient of the Presidential Purple Scholarship, the Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship, the Jean DeRuyter Memorial Scholarship, the Alice Rabenhorst Memorial Scholarship, the Invest in Your Purpose Scholarship, and the Pointer Incentive Grant.

Scheer, Zaden *(They/Them, Noel Gruber)* Senior BFA Musical Theatre & BA Dance major from Wausau, WI. Recipient of the COFAC Excellence Award.

Shrigley, Adrian *(He/Him, Properties & Karnak Designer)* Senior BA Drama major from Tomahawk, WI. Recipient of the Nigbor Family First Nighters Scholarship.

Smogoleski, Cody *(He/They, Ricky/Mischa Understudy)* Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Two Rivers, WI.

Stokes, Ethan *(He/Him, Karnak Voice)* Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Two Rivers, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship and the James Mueller Award.

Thompson, Sam *(They/Them, Ricky Potts)* Senior BFA Musical Theatre major and Media Studies minor from Marshall, WI.

Weyenberg, Olivia *(She/Her, Jane Doe)* Junior BFA Acting & BA Media Studies major from Green Bay, WI.

White, Harley *(She/Her, Ocean Understudy)* Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Menomonie, WI.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Department of Theatre and Dance is to serve:

- Its majors and minors through curricular offerings and performance/ production activities that heighten intellectual, artistic, cultural, and humane sensitivities.
- The general student population through curricular offerings and stage productions that engender an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and their contribution to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of life.
- The university community and general central Wisconsin population through the production of quality stage performances.

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