

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

Presents

THE SPITFIRE GRILL

Music and Book by James Valq

Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley

Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York
Premiere of “The Spitfire Grill” Off-Broadway in 2001.

“The Spitfire Grill” received its World Premiere production by the George
Street Playhouse, November 5, 2000, David Saint, Artistic
Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director.

“The Spitfire Grill” is presented by speical arrangement with Samuel
French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

Director

Mark Hanson*

Music Director

Sarah Wussow*

Stage Manager

Renee Wagner

Assistant Music Director

Lisa Golda*

Scenic Designer

Alexandra Pio

Costume Designer

Serena Abel

Properties Master

Olivia Bastien

Sound Designer/Engineer

Corey Lahr

Lighting Designer

Mark Dulac

Technical Director

Elizabeth Ahles

*Faculty/Staff

*Please note: the audience is asked to silence cell phones and refrain from using
electronic devices in any way during the performance. The video and/or audio
recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.*

Welcome to the Department of Theatre & Dance 2019-2020 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.

Theatre & Dance Department productions are
partially funded by the Student Government Association.

2019-2020 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

Amy Beversdorf

Associate Lecturer, Dance

Lisa Baxter

Academic Department Associate

Michael Estanich

Professor, Dance

Lisa Golda

Associate Lecturer, Theatre

Jared Hanlin

Associate Professor, Theatre
BFA Acting Coordinator

Mark Hanson

Associate Professor, Theatre
BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator

Cecelia Hill

Costume Shop Manager
Associate Instructional Specialist

Jeannie Hill

Professor, Dance

Joan Karlen

Professor, Dance
Dance Program Coordinator
Theatre and Dance Chair

Pamela Luedtke

Associate Lecturer, Dance

Tyler Marchant

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Gary G. Olsen

Professor, Theatre
Theatre Area Coordinator

Sarah E. Ross

Assistant Professor, Theatre

Sarah Rudolph

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Stephen Trovillion Smith

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Laurie Schmeling

Associate Lecturer, Theatre
BA Drama Program Coordinator

Kristina Sneshkoff

Assistant Professor, Theatre
BFA Design and Technology
Program Coordinator

Sarah Wussow

Lecturer, Musical Theatre

John Strassburg

Dance Program Accompanist
Senior Instructional Specialist

Ann Warren

Associate Artist
Technical Director



MUSICAL THEATRE EDUCATORS' ALLIANCE



The Kennedy Center

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein**.*

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Director's Note

In 1996 I remember hitting a matinee of the film *The Spitfire Grill* in San Francisco, California. I went alone and sat in the dark, transfixed by the stunning cinematography of the rural Maine woods. The script was not well received by the critics and audiences, who thought it was too similar to many other films that came before. I had virtually forgotten the movie until a friend of mine gave me a copy of the Cast Recording from the 2001 Playwrights Horizons production of the musical version. I found the songs to be hauntingly beautiful and ear catching and my curiosity was peaked. Besides, the original cast included one of my favorite musical theatre voices: Liz Callaway. I found a copy of the script and read it and quickly filed it in my "to do someday" folder.

Last year, when thinking of a smaller musical to present in the Studio Theatre, my mind jumped to this script and score and I pulled out my copy of the recording and re-discovered this musical theatre gem. Further research took me to the official website of the show where the list of productions around the world gets longer each year. I am thrilled that UWSP will finally have a spot on that list.

Our production boasts impressive design work by UWSP student designers, bringing their imagination and style into the set, costume, lighting, prop and sound designs you will see tonight. I am always fortunate to get to work with these young designers, who inspire me to bring my best work into the process with them. Our cast included students in the BFA Musical Theatre and BFA Acting programs, representing all the classes from first years through seniors. These young actors bring such a love and passion for what they do that our rehearsals are the most fun part of the process for me.

I hope that this story of friendship and redemption moves you as much as it does me every time I watch the show. I think there is some part of all of us in these characters and we can't help but be transformed along with them as their story unfolds.

Mark Hanson

Director, *The Spitfire Grill*

THE SPITFIRE GRILL

Cast

Percy Talbott.....Abigail Moyers

Joe Sutter.....Andryi Nahirniak

Hannah Ferguson.....Allison Masulis

Effy Krayneck.....Tess Bents

Caleb Thorpe.....Colin Sullivan

Shelby Thorpe.....Grace Pichler

The Visitor.....Samuel Kuhns

Orchestra

Conducted by Sarah Wussow*

Piano (Acoustic).....Sarah Wussow*

Violin.....Jesse Hansen

Keyboard (Cello).....Lisa Golda*

Accordion.....Mark Heinz

Guitar/Mandolin.....Alex Turicik

Time

February through October

Place

The Town of Gilead, Wisconsin

The performance will run approximately two hours and five minutes including a fifteen-minute intermission.

* Faculty/Staff

Synopsis of Scenes and Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

**Scene 1: Taycheedah Prison/Trailways Bus/Town of Gilead/
The Spitfire Grill – February**
Ring Around the Moon – Percy

Scene 2: The Grill – the next morning
Something's Cookin' at the Spitfire Grill – Company

Scene 3: The Grill – 11 days later
Coffee Cups and Gossip – Percy and Effy
Out of the Fryin' Pan – Percy

Scene 4: The Grill – morning, 1 week later
When Hope Goes – Shelby

Scene 5: Town of Gilead/The Grill – early March to early April
Ice and Snow – Caleb, Effy and Joe
The Colors of Paradise – Percy and Shelby

Scene 6: The Grill – April, 3 weeks later
Diggin' Stone – Caleb

Scene 7: The Grill – morning, early May
This Wide Woods – Joe and Percy

Scene 8: The Grill – mid-May
Forgotten Lullaby – Hannah

Scene 9: The Grill – late May through late June
Shoot the Moon – Company

Synopsis of Scenes and Musical Numbers

ACT TWO

Scene 1: The Grill/Town of Gilead – July through September

Come Alive Again – Company

Scene 2: The Grill – evening, October

Forest From the Trees – Joe

Wild Bird – Shelby

Scene 3: The Grill – later that night

Scene 4: The Grill/The Woods – next morning, just before dawn

Shine – Percy

Scene 5: Town of Gilead – later that morning

Scene 6: The Grill – later that day

Way Back Home – Hannah

Scene 7: Town of Gilead/The Grill – several days later

Colors of Paradise (Reprise) – Percy, Shelby and Hannah

Production Staff

Assistant Stage Managers.....Brenton Kniess, Morgan Tillmann

Assistant Costume Design.....Danielle Wyatt

Lighting Assistant.....Gina Bevilacqua, Justin Kempinger

Sound Assistant.....Kallan Green

Properties Assistant.....Alexis Flaten

Scenic Charge.....Ashley Westerlund

Wardrobe Supervisor.....Anne Dwyer

House Manager.....Madeline Van De Hey

Wardrobe Crew.....Richard Atkinson, Ciara Hart,
Julian Karagounis

Deck Run Crew.....Landen Alft, Spencer Blohm,
Arista Detter, Tyler Dollevoet, Kianna Fiedler,
Stephanie Lowry-Ortega, Mandy Mathews,
Brett Miller, Vivian Pruhs, Genevieve Weaver,
Theresa Yonash

Costume Shop Manager.....Cecelia Hill*

Scene Shop Manager.....Ann Warren*

Prop Shop Manager.....Sarah E. Ross*

Prop Shop Assistants.....Hannah Clark, Verity Neely,
Alexandra Pio

Costume Shop Assistants.....Serena Abel, McKenzie Alosi,
Elena Cramer, Carolyn Doerr, Allison Durst,
Anne Dwyer, Emmaline Fitzgerald, Katie Kallaus,
Hannah Klingbeil, Christine Latourette

* Faculty/Staff

Production Staff

Scene Shop Assistants.....Elizabeth Ahles, Mark Dulac,
Graeme Gross, Evan Johnson,
Sam Kuhns, Camille Nierengarten,
Brenda Smoot, Ashley Westerlund

Scene & Costume Shop.....Theatre & Dance Practicum Students

Academic Department Associate.....Lisa Baxter*

Theatre & Dance Office Student Assistants.....Joseph Krasovich,
Sophie McIntosh, Natalie Schlueter,
Karlee Weiler

Public Relations Assistants.....Theatre & Dance Practicum Students

* Faculty/Staff

Meet the Company

Abel, Serena (*Costume Designer*) Senior BFA Design and Technology major from Oconomowoc, WI.

Ahles, Elizabeth (*Technical Director*) Senior BFA Design and Technology major from Neenah, WI. Recipient of the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship and the Pointer Payback scholarship.

Olivia Bastien (*Properties Master*) Sophomore BFA Design and Technology major from Hartland, WI. Recipient of the First Year Theatre and Dance Scholarship.

Bents, Tess (*Effy Krayneck*) Senior BFA Acting major and Arts Management minor from River Falls, WI. Recipient of the David B. Carter Acting Scholarship.

Bevilacqua, Gina (*Lighting Assistant*) Junior BA Drama major from Franklin, WI.

Dulac, Mark (*Lighting Designer*) Junior BFA Design and Technology major from Eagan, MN.

Dwyer, Anne (*Wardrobe Supervisor*) Senior BFA Design and Technology major from West Bend, WI. Recipient of the David B. Carter Scholarship in Design and Technology.

Flaten, Alexis (*Props Assistant*) Freshman BFA Design and Technology major from Sun Prairie, WI. Recipient of the French Family Scholarship.

Green, Kallan (*Sound Assistant*) Freshman BFA Design and Technology major from Oconomowoc, WI. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship and the Oconomowoc Rotary Scholarship.

Hansen, Jesse (*Orchestra: Violin*) Junior BS Biology major with a certificate in Music Performance from Denton, Nebraska.

Heinz, Mark (*Orchestra: Accordion*) Graduate of UW-Green Bay and University of Northern Iowa, where he earned a degree in accounting. From Wausau, WI.

Kempinger, Justin (*Lighting Assistant*) Freshman BFA Design and Technology major from Arbor Vitae, WI.

Kniess, Brenton (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Freshman BA Drama major from Wausau, WI.

Meet the Company

- Kuhns, Samuel** (*The Visitor*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from North Ferrisburgh, VT.
- Lahr, Corey** (*Sound Designer/Engineer*) Sophomore BFA Design and Technology and BFA Graphic Design major from South Milwaukee, WI.
- Masulis, Allison** (*Hannah Ferguson*) Freshman BFA Musical Theatre major from St. Charles, IL.
- Moyers, Abigail** (*Percy Talbott*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Plainfield, IN.
- Nahirniak, Andryi** (*Joe Sutter*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Cottage Grove, WI.
- Pichler, Grace** (*Shelby Thorpe*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major from Mondovi, WI.
- Pio, Alexandra** (*Scenic Designer*) Senior BFA Design and Technology major and Arts Management minor from Nekoosa, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Design and Technology.
- Sullivan, Colin** (*Caleb Thorpe*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Oshkosh, WI. Recipient of the US Bank SGA Scholarship, the David B. Carter Musical Theatre Scholarship, and the Pointer Incentive Grant.
- Tillmann, Morgan** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Junior BA Drama major and Communication minor from Becker, MN. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship.
- Turicik, Alex** (*Orchestra: Guitar*) 2019 Plymouth High School graduate from Plymouth, WI.
- Varian, Maile** (*Scenic Artist*) Senior BFA Design and Technology major from Madison, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Design and Technology.
- Wagner, Renee** (*Stage Manager*) Sophomore BFA Design and Technology major from Slinger, WI.
- Westerlund, Ashley** (*Scenic Charge*) Senior BFA Design and Technology major and History minor from Lake Geneva, WI.

Meet the Company

Wyatt, Danielle (*Assistant Costume Designer*) Junior BA Drama and BA Arts Management major and Communication minor from De Pere, WI.

Van de Hey, Madeline (*House Manager*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from De Pere, WI. Recipient of the Pointer Payback Scholarship and the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Acting.

CONTRIBUTE TO BACKSTAGE

The Department of Theatre & Dance welcomes financial support for educational and artistic activities through a variety of programs, including existing scholarships and endowments, special projects support, bequests and planned gifts. For more information about contributing to the Department of Theatre & Dance, please refer to the enclosed Backstage envelope or contact Maggie Marquardt, COFAC Director of Development at mmarquar@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3056. You may also donate online at <https://give.uwsp.edu/give-backstage>.

Special thanks to our 2019-2020 Backstage supporters.

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(matching gift from Sentry Insurance)

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University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

The mission of the Theatre and Dance Department 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.



The UW-Stevens Point Theatre and Dance Department's off-campus storage space is funded by the Green Fund. Having this storage space allows us to reuse props and materials; thus, we are able to lessen our environmental impact by decreasing the amount of materials sent to landfills.

The Green Fund's mission is to encourage and fund projects that positively affect the sustainability of the UW-Stevens Point campus community. The fund accomplishes this by investing capital in long-term sustainable projects that affect the way our campus uses energy and our shared natural resources. The Green Fund receives money from student segregated fees that are allocated by a student committee.