

# The Moors

By **Jen Silverman**

Directed by  
**Laurie Schmeling**  
and **Sarah E. Ross**



## Welcome to the Department of Theatre & Dance 2023-2024 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.

### 2023-2024 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

**Amy Beversdorf**

Associate Lecturer, Dance

**Emily Bustamante**

Assistant Professor, Theatre

**Dana Dancho**

Assistant Professor, Theatre

**Michael Estanich**

Professor, Dance

Dept. of Theatre and Dance Chair

**Mark Hanson**

Associate Professor, Theatre

BFA Musical Theatre

Program Coordinator

**Jeannie Hill**

Professor, Dance

**Pamela Luedtke**

Associate Lecturer, Dance

**Tyler Marchant**

Professor, Theatre

BFA Acting Program Coordinator

**Jim O'Connell**

Associate Professor, Arts Mgmt

Arts Management Program

Coordinator

**Sarah Olson**

Assistant Professor, Dance

**Greg Prigel**

Lecturer, Theatre

**Sarah E. Ross**

Assistant Professor, Theatre

BFA Design and Technology

Program Coordinator

**Laurie Schmeling**

Lecturer, Theatre

BA Drama Program Coordinator

**CeCe Sickler**

Costume Shop Manager

**Ann Warren**

Technical Director

**Dani Wyatt**

Administrative Assistant II

School of Performing Arts



## **Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement**

The Department of Theatre and Dance would like to recognize that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point occupies the unceded lands of the Ho Chunk and Menominee people.

Please take a moment to acknowledge and honor this ancestral Ho Chunk and Menominee land, and the sacred lands of all indigenous peoples.

## Director's Note

Jen Silverman's *The Moors* presents a story of women (plus a mastiff and a moor hen) attempting to find their place in an unwelcoming and inhospitable world, seeking connection and belonging in a landscape defined and sustained by separation and distance. Throughout its history, the commercial American theatre has been similarly unwelcoming and inhospitable to playwrights and artists who identify as women, persons of color, or openly queer. From time to time, plays from these communities would find a foothold in the overwhelmingly white and male ecosystem, but they were outliers or novelties in any single theatrical season.

But the theatrical landscape is shifting, both onstage and off. In a media-saturated world, audiences are hungry for new stories and – as the pandemic showed us – for the connections that can only be found through live performance. And previously marginalized artists, especially Black and other artists of color, are leading the way in creating environments hospitable to telling those stories. Theatre is not a lucrative profession – and since the golden age of Greek tragedy, always on its deathbed-- but work is being done across the country and here at UW-Stevens Point to make it a more equitable, sustainable, and genuinely collaborative one for the artists who create it. These were the goals that guided us as a company of rising student artists and educators in creating this production of Jen Silverman's *The Moors* for you.

We hope you enjoy it!

Laurie Schmeling  
Lecturer, Theatre History

## Playwright's Biography

Jen Silverman writes plays, novels, poetry, and screenplays. Silverman studied at Brown University, the University of Iowa, and the Juilliard School, and she's received copious playwriting awards and theatrical fellowships since her professional premiere in 2006. Her plays have been performed all over the world, including *A Play in 5 Betties*, *The Roommate*, *Witch*, and our show, *The Moors*. *The Moors* had its world premiere at Yale Repertory Theatre in March 2016, and its New York premiere at The Duke on 42nd in February 2017. Silverman's voice is influenced by her nomadic and multicultural upbringing, and her works often examine themes surrounding societal views of womanhood, queerness, and connection.

## **Assistant Director/Dramaturg's Note**

The Moors was inspired by the letters of Charlotte Bronte from the late 1840s. Our playwright, Jen Silverman, was captivated by the double life Charlotte's writing created in a period that refused her—an unmarried woman, isolated on the English moors—any true agency or visibility. Our production shows the power of the written word to change one's circumstances, much in the way Charlotte Bronte was liberated by her own written work. However, Charlotte and both her sisters, Emily and Anne, published their work under male pseudonyms to evade social judgment and dismissal.

The Moors explores related layers of identity and obfuscation, especially when applied to women. These characters live in the space between high social formality and visceral danger, governed by the norms of the period and the laws of their environment. The moors force them to contend with essential questions of survival: Is geography destiny? How do we define ourselves, when as Silverman writes, "there is no language for all the things lurking within us"? And within those definitions, what space remains for connection?

These questions are certainly at play today. In a world that endangers and diminishes women as a matter of course, The Moors showcases some ways women have sought the power denied us, from the Brontes' time to now. Our playwright said it best in her opening notes to the script: "This is a play about the present."

Serena Alexander  
BA Drama Major, Class of 2025

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

# The Moors

By Jen Silverman

Directed by  
Laurie Schmeling\* & Sarah E. Ross\*

Off-Broadway premiere produced by The Playwrights Realm  
(Katherine Kovner, Artistic Director; Roberta Pereira, Producing Director) in  
January 2017

World Premiere produced by Yale Repertory Theatre,  
New Haven, Connecticut  
James Bundy, Artistic Director  
Victoria Nolan, Managing Director

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

# The Moors

## Cast

**Agatha**.....Kaia Fitzgerald  
u/s Micah Friedman

**Huldey**.....Jasmine Crosson  
u/s Stephanie Skemp

**Emilie**.....Sophie Pitsch  
u/s Lenna Wren

**Marjory**.....Steph Hogan  
u/s Ariel Zoromski

**Mastiff**.....Sam Calaway  
u/s Aidan Sternberg

**Moor-Hen**.....Evaya Gonzalez  
u/s Emily Odegard

# The Moors

## Creative Team

**Costume Designer**.....Kristy LaCount

**Dramaturg**.....Serena Alexander

**Lighting Designer**.....Isaac Norman

**Music Director**.....Aiden Betorune

**Scenic Designer**.....Sarah E. Ross\*

**Sound Design**.....Rory Eigenberger

**Stage Manager**.....Rachel Weber

**Technical Director**.....Ann Warren\*

\*Denotes UWSP Faculty



## 2023-24 Season Production Staff

<b>Technical Director</b> .....	Ann Warren*
<b>Assistant Stage Managers</b> .....	Cali Grant, Madison Larson
<b>Costume/Hair/Makeup Mentor</b> .....	Emily Bustamante*
<b>Costume Shop Assistants</b> .....	Sam Baxter, Erin Bohn, Madelyn Coles, Tierney Detter, Sarah Dickinson, Clara Douglas, Evaya Gonzalez, Nessa Grant, Steph Hogan, Riley Johnson, Mckenna Johnston, Natalie Leitermann, Ellie McGillivray, Sophie Pitsch, Martha Ruona, Emily Ruth, Natalie Shrock, Aidan Sternberg, Kelli Wonsmos
<b>Deck Run Crew</b> .....	Cali Grant, Nessa Grant, Grace Johnson
<b>Light/Sound Shop Assistants</b> .....	Elliot Cross, Isabel Bauer, Jenny Beck, Luke Calaway, Zoey Davis, Emily Hoepfner, Ryan Matz, Kimberly Schipper
<b>Scenic/Paint/Props Mentor/Prop Shop Manager</b> .....	Sarah E. Ross*
<b>Assistant Scenic Designer</b> .....	Kayla Price
<b>Scene Shop Assistants</b> .....	Serena Alexander, Paul Been, Cali Grant, Mark Radtke, Ike Smith
<b>Properties Artisan</b> .....	Kayla Price
<b>Paint/Prop Shop Assistants</b> .....	Hannah Holterman, Charlie Kauth, Katie Kloth, Nolan Limones, Emily Molloy, Pauline Nikolov, Cody Smogoleski, Maddie Wallace
<b>House Manager</b> .....	Ellie Paynter
<b>Theatre &amp; Dance Student Office Assistants</b> .....	Erin Clementich Ryan Niedenthal, Megan Shields
<b>Wardrobe Crew</b> .....	Ashlee DeGrave, Logan Godfrey, Ivy Welch

## Meet the Company

**Alexander, Serena** (*Dramaturg, She/Her*) Junior Drama and Psychology major, Women's and Gender Studies minor, and a Russian Language Certificate, from Nashville, TN. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Shierl Award and the Stages to Equity Scholarship.

**Betourne, Aiden** (*Music Director, They/He*) Senior Arts Management major from Kenosha, WI.

**Calaway, Sam** (*Mastiff, They/He*) Junior Acting major and Media Studies minor from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship.

**Crosson, Jasmine** (*Huldey, She/Her*) Senior Musical Theatre major from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Backstage Musical Theatre Scholarship and the COFAC Dedication Scholarship.

**Eigenberger, Rory** (*Sound Designer, They/Them*) Sophomore Theatre Design & Technology major from Oconomowoc, WI.

**Fitzgerald, Kaia** (*Agatha, She/Her*) Senior Musical Theatre major from St. Paul, MN. Recipient of the Sentry Talent Scholarship and the Stages to Equity Scholarship.

**Friedman, Micah** (*Agatha Understudy, She/Her*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major and Arts Management minor from Sun Prairie, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Theatre & Dance Talent Award Scholarship and the Arts Bash Scholarship.

**Gonzalez, Evaya** (*Moor-Hen, She/Her*) Senior Acting major and Arts Management minor from Waukesha, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship, the Stages to Equity Scholarship, and the Lawson Grant.

**Hogan, Steph** (*Marjory, She/Her*) Junior Acting major and Media Studies and Arts Management minor from Oconomowoc, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Acting and the After The Flags Theatre Scholarship in Acting.

**LaCount, Kristy** (*Costume Designer, She/Her*) Senior Drama major and Arts Management minor from Verona, WI.

**Larson, Madison** (*Assistant Stage Manager, She/Her*) Fifth-year Drama and Media Studies major from Osseo, MN.

## Meet the Company

**Grant, Cali** (*Assistant Stage Manager, She/Her*) Junior Theatre Design & Technology major and Arts Management minor from Ripon, WI. Recipient of the Theatre & Dance Talent Award.

**Norman, Isaac** (*Lighting Designer, He/Him*) Junior Theatre Design & Technology major with a certificate in Environmental Ethics from Milwaukee, WI.

**Odegard, Emily** (*Moor-Hen Understudy, She/Her*) First-year Musical Theatre and Arts Management major and Media Studies minor from River Falls, WI.

**Pitsch, Sophie** (*Emilie, She/Her*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major and Arts Management minor from Madison, WI. Recipient of the Presidential Purple Scholarship and the Arts Bash Scholarship.

**Price, Kayla** (*Asst. Scenic Designer/Props Artisan, She/They/He*) Junior Theatre Design & Technology major from Sullivan, WI.

**Skemp, Stephanie** (*Huldey Understudy, She/Her*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major and Arts Management and Dance minor from La Crosse, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship and the Presidential Purple Scholarship.

**Sternberg, Aidan** (*Mastiff Understudy, He/Him*) Junior Musical Theatre major from Williams Bay, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship.

**Weber, Rachel** (*Stage Manager, She/Her*) Senior Drama and Professional Communication major and Media Studies minor from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the James Mueller Award and the Presidential Gold Scholarship.

**Wren, Lenna Magdeline** (*Emilie Understudy, She/They*) Junior Acting major and Dance and Peace Studies minor from Chicago, IL. Recipient of the COFAC Dedication Scholarship and the Arts Bash Dedication to the Field Award.

**Zoromski, Ariel** (*Marjory Understudy, She/They*) Senior Acting major from Stevens Point, WI.

# 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 contact Jennifer Tubbs, Major Gifts Officer, at [jtubbs@uwsp.edu](mailto:jtubbs@uwsp.edu) or 715-846-3056. You may also donate online at <https://give.uwsp.edu/give-backstage> or by scanning the QR code found on the bottom of this page.

## 2023 Backstage Donations

### **Angel (\$1000+)**

Valerie C. Cisler  
Susan H. Gingrasso  
Meryl L. Nelson  
Mary Ann Nigbor

### **Artistic Director (\$500+)**

Sentry Insurance Foundation, Inc.

### **Managing Director (\$250+)**

Michael D. Scott

### **Director (\$100+)**

Mark Fredrickson  
Jim & Madeline Haine  
Bruce R. Javenkoski  
Liz Kammer  
Elizabeth C. Parks  
Rachel Pretat  
Kimberly L. Shields



Scan now OR [visit this link](https://give.uwsp.edu/give-backstage)  
to donate! Choose **Theatre/  
Dance - Backstage** from the  
dropdown menu



## Department of Theatre & Dance School of Performing Arts University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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.

## STAGES TO EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP

In an ongoing effort to broaden and enrich our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity practices in the Department of Theatre & Dance, we've established the new *Stages to Equity Scholarship*. This award supports students who come from historically under-represented populations within the theatre, dance, and arts management student body at UW-Stevens Point. This academic year, we hope to grow the Stages to Equity endowment to support two annual scholarships for our students. We hope you might consider a gift to the endowment today! Scan the QR code with your mobile device, or visit [give.uwsp.edu/stages-to-equity](https://give.uwsp.edu/stages-to-equity). If you are interested in receiving more information about the scholarship, you can reach out to Professor Tyler Marchant at [tmarchan@uwsp.edu](mailto:tmarchan@uwsp.edu) or at 715.252.8012 and he will be happy to assist you.



---

## GIVE NOW

---

You are part of what makes the College of Fine Arts and Communication so vibrant and vital. Your generosity elevates our programs and encourages student success, helps attract and retain dedicated faculty members, and enhances the student experience.

[Make a gift to COFAC today!](#)

