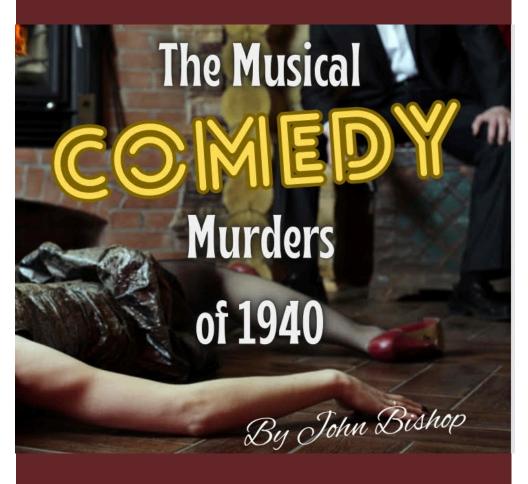
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE



FAU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

June 16th - July 1st, 2023 Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre

FAU BOCA RATON

www.fau.edu/theatre

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

First and foremost, this play is not a musical—And perhaps this is the first of many red-herrings in this farcical and ingenious comic romp, masquerading as a "Whodunit". It is through this lens that we examine a bygone era of glitz and glamour; when technicolor was in its infancy. The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 was written by John Bishop for the Circle Repertory Company and moved to Broadway's Longacre Theatre on April 6, 1987, where it enjoyed a successful three-month run. The play offers corny satire of classic Hollywood thrillers while simultaneously poking fun at show business via the "Great White Way".

Audiences and critics (at least for three months) loved this play and here's what they said: "It's a kind of crossbreeding of Charles Ludlam's *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and Terrence McNally's *It's Only a Play* seasoned with a soupçon of *Noises Off'* -New York Times. "Enormous fun...Its strength comes in part from the sheer diamond wit and diamanté showbiz glitter of Bishop's writing. Even his corn is succulently served"- NY Post. "Murders is the intelligent person's kind of nonsense" - New York Magazine.

More than 80 years have passed since America's involvement in WWII and subsequently becoming the first superpower. It is a world that exists only in memory. Broadway, radio, and the movies provided shelter from the devastation that was the Great Depression at a time when we as a nation desperately needed a place to escape, a place to laugh, and a place to heal. Today, our nation is still coming out of the disorientation of Covid-19 coupled with an ever-changing cultural landscape that is fueled by fear, suspicion, and intolerance. We as a people desperately need a place to heal and to laugh. I believe that through laughter we shall build a better community of acceptance.

Make no mistake, this is blatant escapism—so let us escape freely into the past to build a better community in the present through laughter. I encourage you all to join me in embracing this soupçon of silly and let us escape into this farcical pseudo whodunit that is *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*.

-Lee Soroko

DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE presents

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940

By John Bishop

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY CIRCLE REPERTORY COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY

Music By Jeremy Landiq PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY
Bill Wildin

DIRECTOR Lee Soroko

Scenic Design April Soroko

COSTUME DESIGNDawn Shamburger

LIGHTING DESIGN
Janelle Diaz

Sound Design Hannah Roebuck TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Rebecca Lucatero

STAGE MANAGER
Daniela Supovitz

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York."

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Helsa Wenzel	Cait Siobhan Kiley*+
Elsa Von Grossenkneuten	Ana Calise+
Michael Kelly	Joel Rodriguez+
Patrick O'Reilly	Kyle Smith+
Ken De La Maize	Mitchell Worrell-Olson+
Nikki Crandall	Allie Gladstone
Eddie McCuen	Zach Marullo+
Marjorie Baverstock	Shayna Giberg+
Roger Hopewell	Anthony Blatter+
Bernice Roth	Caitlin Foster+

UNDERSTUDIES

Caroline Slagle, Connor Lee

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director	Lee Soroko
Scenic Designer	April Soroko
Costume Designer	Dawn Shamburger
Lighting Designer	Janelle Diaz
Sound Designer	
Fight Director	Lee Soroko
Music Directors	
Choreographer	Shayna Gilberg+
Dialect Coach	Kathryn L. Johnston
Properties Director	Angelina Zuccarelli
Hair and Makeup Designer	Caroline Slagle
Technical Director	Rebecca Lucatero
Stage Manager	Daniela Supovitz
Fight Director	Lee SorokoAnthony Blatter+, Joel Rodriguez+Shayna Gilberg+Kathryn L. JohnstonAngelina ZuccarelliCaroline SlagleRebecca Lucatero

PRODUCTION CREW

Costume Shop Manager	Tim Bowman
Scene Shop Manager	Matt McCord
Asst. Stage Manager	
Electrician	Jessica Norton,
	Sarah Romeo
Light Board Operator	Sybille Desormes
Sound Engineer	Stephanie Young
Scenic Painter	Ashley Hyde
Carptenter	Emilia Borean
Asst. Properties Director	Elle White
Crew	Elle White, Alen Rosier,
	Morgan Pendleton
Stitcher	Daniella Coby
Junior Draper	Jackie Shelley
Wardrobe Head	Amalia Phend
Dressers	Jorge Pie,
	Kendra Parrish, Idrissa Dial,
	Gabriela Fatta, Emily Schecter
Hair/Makeup Crew	Valeria Illan
Publicity & Graphic Design	.Ana Marie Calise+, Shayna Gilberg+,
	Doriyan De'Angelo Caty
Photography	Morgan Sophia Photography
Program Assistant	Elvira Figueras
Office Assistants	Shayna Gilberg+, Ana Marie Calise+,
	Doriyan De'Angelo Caty
Fight Captain	Caroline Slagle
House Manager	Cassidy Joseph
Ushers	Olivia Beebe, Marybeth Schettler,
	Paula Rodriguez, Monique Abrams,
	Idrissa Dial, Michael Glynn,
	Jaclyn Dills, Geraldine Monsalve,
	Elle Saunders, Tina Daughtry,
	Anaya Horton

SPECIAL THANKS

H. Russ Brown

+ Denotes M.F.A. Graduate Student

* Appears with permission from Actor's Equity Association

Who's Who in our Cast

Cait Siobhan Kiley*+ (Helsa Wenzel) is an actress, writer, singer, and cinnamon roll-enthusiast originally from California and most recently based in New York City. She has worked nationally and internationally as an actress on tour, in regional theaters, and most recently aboard Norwegian Cruise Lines. Cait's original play, Gamma Delta Nasty, premiered at New York Theatre Festival's Winterfest in 2018. BFA University of Arizona, Tucson. Gratitude to family and friends. For Daddoo. CaitKiley.com

Ana Calise+ (Elsa Von Grossenknueten) is originally from Rhode Island. She graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama. Ana spent numerous years after graduation working as an actor, director, and writer. She wrote and starred in the short film A Different Kind of Animal. Ana also narrated the audiobooks for the Lola Dutch book series and directed a production of La Cage Aux Folles at Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket, RI.

Joel Rodriguez+ (Michael Kelly) is a first-year Dominican-American MFA candidate, raised in Kansas City, MO. Just last May, he graduated from the University of Missouri with two Bachelor degrees, Music & Theatre Performance. Joel has worked as a professional actor for several companies in the Midwest. His most recent credits include: D in Polaroid Stories, Franklin Hart Jr. in 9 to 5 The Musical, and The Wiz in The Wiz: A SuperSoul Musical.

Kyle Smith+ (*Patrick O'Reilly*) is a second-year MFA candidate at FAU having received his BFA in Musical Theatre from Ohio Northern University. Favorite roles: Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing* with Vermont Shakespeare Co., Gabe in *Next To Normal* at Midtown Arts Center, and Cliff in *Cabaret* with Sierra Repertory Theatre. At FAU: Monty in *Violet* and Orpheus in *Polaroid Stories*.

Mitchell Worrell-Olson+ (Ken De La Maize) is a graduate student at FAU. He attended CSU, Sacramento, where he graduated with honors. His undergraduate credits include Orcus in She Kills Monsters, Smee in Peter and the Starcatcher, Friar Lawrence in Romeo and Juliet, and Narrator/Eddie/Dr Scott in the Rocky Horror Show. He recently appeared as Father in Violet, G in Polaroid Stories, and Stan in Sweat. He would like to thank his cohort and fiancée Natalie for supporting him.

Allie Gladstone (Nikki Crandall) is currently a junior BFA Acting major at FAU. She has been in several productions including Antigone Now, Lady Windermere's Fan, The Wolves, and Polaroid Stories. Allie is excited to be a part of this incredible cast and looking forward to opening night. She would like to thank her family for their continuous love and support, and all those involved in making this production possible!

Zachary Marullo+ (Eddie McCven) is a current graduate student at Florida Atlantic University. Zach is excited to share this art form to the public. Zach graduated from Sam Houston State University with his BFA in Acting/Directing. His directing credits include Endgame at Sam Houston State University, Peter Pan at Old Town Theatre and The Telephone

at Florida Atlantic University Opera. His acting credits include Jason in *Sweat*, Father Thomas in *Creature*, and Clarence in *Richard* 3.

Shayna Gilberg+ (Marjorie Baverstock) is a first-year MFA Acting Candidate. She is a graduate of the University of Central Florida's BFA Musical Theatre and Dance Minor programs. Recent credits include Shrek the Musical (Princess Fiona) at the Dr. Phillips Center in Orlando, and First Date (Woman 1). She is SAFD certified in Single-Sword and Unarmed Stage Combat. When not acting, she enjoys working in dramaturgy. She would like to thank her boyfriend Forrest, family, and cohort for their love and support. shaynagilberg.com

Anthony Blatter+ (Roger Hopewell) is a first-year MFA candidate at Florida Atlantic University. He recently received his BM in Vocal Performance and a BA in Theatre Performance from The University of Missouri. FAU credits include: Violet (Flick), Sweat (Brucie/Evan). Other credits include: RENT (Tom Collins), A View from the Bridge (Eddie Carbone).

Caitlin Foster+ (Bernice Roth) is a first-year MFA candidate at Florida Atlantic University. She recently received her BFA in Acting from the University of Florida. FAU credits: Violet (Violet), Neighborhood 3 (Gamemaster). Other credits include Hamlet (Horatio), Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (Rosencrantz), and Little Women (Jo March). She is certified by the SAFD in Rapier & Dagger and Unarmed Combat. Thanks to the cast and crew for being lovely to work with.

Caroline Slagle (Female Swing, Fight Captain) is a senior currently pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. Previous credits include Neighborhood 3...(Leslie/Madison), The Wolves (#11), RENT (Maureen U/S), Little Women (Amy March), The Little Mermaid (Ariel), and The Trojan Women (Cassandra). She recently received 3rd place for the NSAL Florida competition in Drama and is certified by the SAFD as an Actor Combatant. Her work has also been seen as a choreographer in productions of Shrek, Stone Soup, and Beauty and the Beast.

Connor Lee (Male Swing) is a third year student at FAU pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. He has acted in shows here such as Neighborhood 3, Richard III, and Lady Windermere's Fan. He was also in Alpha Psi Omega's Wonder of the World. He has crewed The Wolves and Polaroid Stories. He hopes you enjoy the mystery in store for you in The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940!!!

John Bishop (Playwright) originally from Ohio, Bishop studied theatre at Carnegie Mellon University. In 1977, his play The Trip Back Down had a successful run on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre; ten years later, The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 enjoyed a successful four months at the same theatre. Bishop wrote for the screen as well, and served as a script doctor for several popular films, such as Beverly Hills Cop III and Clear and Present Danger.

Take a look at our MFA Theatre Performance Class of 2024!



Ana Marie Calise



ANTHONY BLATTER



CAIT SIOBHAN KILEY



CAITLIN FOSTER



JOEL RODRIGUEZ



KYLE SMITH



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SARAH SUN PARK



SHAYNA GILBERG



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AUBREY KESTELL



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Dalsimer	Arlene Herson	
		BETH K. SCHWARTZ
FRANCESCA DANIELS	JUDITH TELLER KAYE	
		Myrna Gordon
RANDALL ELLIOT,	MAXINE LEINER	Skurnick
Bgen(ret) and Roberta		
PALESTINE, MD	Marilyn Litvak	Teri Wolofsky

For more information about the Ambassador of the Arts program, contact Gail Vorsas at 561-297-2337 or gvorsas@fau.edu

FAU THEATRE AND DANCE

2023-2024 Season











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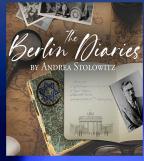
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-	leen Forkas Studio One Theatre	BEE	William Firm and Back at Chaimtin
			Villiam Finn and Rachel Sheinkin
	Friday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.		versity Theatre
	Saturday, Sept. 30th, 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1, 2 p.m.		Friday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.
	·		Saturday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
	Friday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.		Sunday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m.
	Saturday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m.		Friday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.
	Saturday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.		Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m.
	Sunday, Oct. 8, 2 p.m.		Saturday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
			Sunday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m.
9 TO			
	Polly Parton and Patricia Resnick	Twe	LFTH NIGHT
	versity Theatre	by \	Villiam Shakespeare
	Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.	Mai	leen Forkas Studio One Theatre
	Saturday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.		Friday, March 15 ,7 p.m.
	Sunday, Nov. 12, 2 p.m.	_	Saturday, March 16, 7 p.m.
	Friday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.		Sunday, March 17, 2 p.m.
	Saturday, Nov. 18, 2 p.m.		Friday, March 22, 7 p.m.
	Saturday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.		Saturday, March 23, 2 p.m.
	Sunday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m.		Saturday, March 23, 7 p.m.
			Sunday, March 24, 2 p.m.
REP	ertory Theatre Dance Ensemble	_	Suriday, March 2 1, 2 p.m.
(RD	DTE)	ONE	Man, Two Guvnors
FAU	's Repertory Dance Theatre		Richard Bean
Ens	emble	-	leen Forkas Studio One Theatre
Uni	versity Theatre	IMIAI	Friday, April 12 ,7 p.m.
	Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.		Saturday, April 12,7 p.m.
	Saturday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.		Sunday, April 13, 7 p.m.
	Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.		Friday, April 19, 7 p.m.
	, , ,		Saturday, April 20, 2 p.m.
		_	Saturday, April 20, 7 p.m.
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dance shows)		University Theatre	
Theatre Package - \$99 (5 theatre shows)			Friday, April 26, 7 p.m.
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		_	Jataraay, April 27, 7 p.m.
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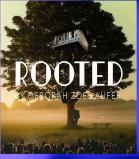
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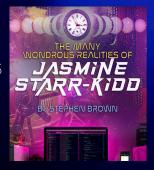


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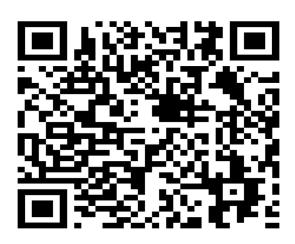
VIRTUAL EXTENDED PLAYBILL

This summer, we have started a new student initiative to create an online version of our playbill with extended information about our cast, crew, and production. This playbill gives us the opportunity to showcase our students beyond the confines of a paper program and highlight their achievements and hard work.

We encourage you to please scan the QR code below to follow a link to our virtual extended playbill on our department website. By doing so, you will join us in celebrating our students and their dedication to our productions.

HOW TO SCAN:

- · Open your phone's camera
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- QR code should appear highlighted with a link available
- Click link and enjoy the online program!





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