

Act A Lady

By Jordan Harrison

Directors Note:

Theatre is a strange addiction.

I think Miles discovers that himself in this play. When he starts hearing voices and encountering spirits of characters, he knows he's not doing just some pageant anymore, and he's ready to chuck his livelihood and start a brand-new life, a life in the theatre. If I had a nickel for every time, I watched this happen to someone. Thank God it does and beware, it does.

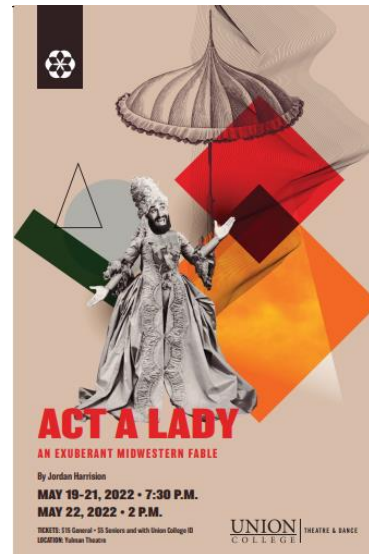
This strange fable is set in the Prohibition era, long before society had had to confront "alternative lifestyles" and the truths of a spectrum of gender expression. Watching Casper's journey makes me reflect on how many moments were stomped out and erased because of this false binary, by external forces to be sure but also interpersonally, because there just weren't words for that impulse to rest your head on someone's shoulder if you both shared the same gender, or if society thought you did. These life impacting moments with no name for them, so you keep them to yourself.

The residents of Wattleburg discover that stepping into the heels of someone else expands their consciousness to the point of realizing that these moments have weight even if they had no name. They live in a fable where active empathy unlocks so much. It's a power that transforms the people around them, too. It's a heady power that began as a joke—men in skirts. As if that itself is a punchline, and not just an indicator of how limited our vision of gender is, or our arrogance that there's only one right way to look at all of it. To experience it.

That kind of consciousness expanding is addictive.

Welcome to Wattleburg. Have a good time.

RW



CAST

Zina.....Mia Villeneuve
Dorothy.....Unglid Paul
True..... Madison Holley
Miles.....Trip Sherwood
Lorna.....Haley Gatley
Casper.....Matthew Parr

UNDERSTUDIES

UnderstudiesHestia Doud, Ben Reggieri, Sarah DeRosa, Delaney Beck

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Mia Villeneuve (They/Them) is a senior theatre and physics major known at Union College for roles of Joy in *The Sex Habits of American Women*, Miss Prism in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Siobhan in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. In addition, Mia ran the lights for Union's Winter Dance Concert *Outbrave* and appeared as Thankful Taylor in Tennessee Stage Company's digital production of *Turpentine*. Thank you so much to the cast and crew of *Act a Lady* for making my last show at Union a great one.

Unglid Paul (She/Her) is a Senior English and French major with a Black Feminist Theory minor from Everett, MA. At Union, Unglid has acted in the student-led productions of *Godspell* (Penny) and *I Put the Fear of México in 'Em* (Juanita). Unglid is incredibly excited to end her Union College journey by joining the cast of *Act a Lady* and playing the role of Dorothy. Thank you to the amazing cast and crew, and everyone else who made this show possible!

Madison Holley (They/Them) is a class of 2022 Political Science and Sociology ID major from Chicago, Illinois (the best city in the world). Coming from an environment that cares deeply about political and ecological issues, Madison loves political and social dialogue, social justice, and working with small organizations to help improve the conditions of underrepresented communities. Madison has been involved in various organizations around Union College, including Black Student Union, Student Forum, Union Men's Rugby team, and others. This is their first production at Union College, and they are very excited to be a part of such a fantastic team and experience! Thank you to the amazing cast and crew, my friends, and my family!

Trip Sherwood (He/Him) is a religion and classics double major from McLean, Virginia. He has acted throughout high school mostly notably playing Seldson in *Noises Off*. Trip has continued acting in college, playing *Grotesque Mind* in *Sam Spade Always Get Her Man*. Huge thanks to the rest of the cast and crew!

Haley Gatley (She/Her) is a first-year neuroscience and theatre double major from Rome, NY. She is so excited and grateful to be playing the role of Lorna and would like to thank everyone involved! This is her second show here at Union with the other being Club Dragonfly (Waiter). Outside of Union she's been heavily involved with theatre as well!

Matthew Parr (He/Him) (Casper) is a first-year music major from South Hamilton, Massachusetts. Matthew is a member of the Union College Choir. He also enjoys watching movies and playing video games. He was in the production of "The Sex Habits of American Women" at Union College. He would like to thank the cast, crew, family, and friends for their support and he is very excited for everyone to see the show.

DIRECTORS and TECHICAL ARTISTS

Director

Randy Wyatt (He/Him) has directed over 70 productions. Recent highlights include *The Trojan Women* and *Disruption* for Union College and *Lungs*, *The Nether*, *Rhinoceros*, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, *A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay about the Death of Walt Disney*, *melancholy play*, *See What I Wanna See*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington*, *Corneille's The Illusion*, *The Moors*, *Equivocation*, *Love and Information*, *Treasure Island*, and *Bethany* elsewhere. Randy is also a playwright with many publishing credits to his name through Smith and Krause, Playscripts Inc, YouthPLAYS Inc, and others. His plays continue to be produced throughout the US and around the world. A member of the Dramatists' Guild and an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).



The Director is an Associate Member of
STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS
SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

Stage Manager

Chloe Savitch (She/Her) is a Senior Theatre and Psychology major with a Sociology minor from Putnam County, NY. At Union, Chloe has worked both on and off stage in many of the departments shows, including *Macbeth* (Witch 1), *Trojan Women* (Cassandra), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (ensemble), *I Put the Fear of Mexico in Em'* (Assistant Director), *Resilience - Dance Concert 2021* (Stage Manager), *Sex Habits of American Women* (Stage Manager). Outside of Union Chloe has performed in many high school productions including *Hello, Dolly* (Dolly) and *Working* (Teacher). Recently she has also worked backstage for Proctors Broadway Camp's production of *RENT* (Intern). Chloe has also gotten into film recently on *Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin* (Extra). Chloe is extremely excited to be a part of this production of *Act A Lady* as the Stage Manager. Break a leg to the entire cast and crew!

Assistant Stage Managers

Ollie Taylor (He/Him) is a sophomore Classics and Computer Science double major and Theatre minor from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. While at Union, Ollie has worked on Trojan Women (Drums/Gamelan) and The Sex Habits of American Women (Crew). Ollie is excited to be one of the Assistant Stage Managers for Act a Lady, and would like to thank everyone who has worked on and is working on Act a Lady.

Charlie Whiteford (They/Them) is a first year Neuroscience major from Raleigh, NC. This is Charlie's first production at Union and Charlie is very excited to part of Act a Lady as an Assistant Stage Manager. Charlie has worked both on and off stage in the past. During high school, Charlie worked on shows including The Young and Fair (Emmy) and Little Women (party dancer and others), as well as co-writing and acting in an original production: Lightbulb (Reyna). Thank you and best of luck to the cast and crew!

Movement Director

Kim Stauffer (she/her) Kim is delighted to return for this collaboration with the Union College Theatre family after previously directing their productions of *American La Ronde*, and *Sex Habits of American Women*. She is a director and actor who specializes in Movement and Intimacy Direction. She has performed in NYC and regional theatres across the country. Previous directing credits include *Intimate Apparel*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Good Kids*, and *Water by the Spoonful* at UAlbany, *Playwright Mentoring Project* at Barrington Stage Company, and *The Kiss* at Berkshire Playwrights Lab. Additional credits include performances with New York Classical Theatre, Kansas City Rep, Barrington Stage Company, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, The Shakespeare Theatre Company in DC, WAM Theatre, and Capital Repertory Theatre. She holds an MFA in Acting from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro and is a member of Actors' Equity Association and the Association of Theatre Movement Educators. She is Head of Acting in the UAlbany Theatre Program.

Technical Director/ Lighting Design

Andrew Bodd (He/Him) comes to us originally from Long Island and most recently from Northern New Jersey, where he was the Technical Director of the Theater Program at the Delbarton School. Prior to Delbarton, Drew has been the Technical Director for Sabbatical Replacement at Ithaca College and was the TD / Production Manager, Props Master, and Set Design faculty at SUNY at Albany. In addition to educational theater, he has been the Technical Director at the Hangar Theater in Ithaca, New York since 2012 and Assistant Technical Director at the Utah Shakespearean Festival in 2010. Drew has also worked as a Theatrical Technician in the New York City area for the past 16 years.

Shop Foreman

Robin M. MacDuffie (He/Him) has been a theatrical technician and manager (Trojan Women), performer, designer, and playwright (Sam Spade Always Gets Her Man) for over 35 years. His theatrical history spans the country, and he stays active in professional, nonprofessional and academic theater. Big shout out of thanks to Deb Miller.

Costume Design

Brittney Belz (She/Her) work has been seen at theatres across the country including Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, and Weston Playhouse Theatre Company. Her local design credits include 5 seasons with Saratoga Shakespeare Company, where her favorite productions include Macbeth, Twelfth Night, and Cyrano; the East Coast premiere of David Mamet's The Christopher Boy's Communion, the world premieres of Lady Randy with WAM Theatre; and Mr. Fullerton with Great Barrington Public Theatre. Prior to designing regionally, she spent 6 seasons constructing costumes for the Glimmerglass (Opera) Festival in Cooperstown, NY. She holds an MFA in Costume Design/Technology from the University of Virginia.

Set Design

Robert Broadfoot (He/Him) Set Design: In 2007, Robert was admitted as a scenic designer to United Scenic Artists I.A.T.S.E. local 829 and worked for a decade as an independent set designer in the San Francisco Bay area theater community, designing professional, regional, and academic projects. He was awarded two Bay Area Theater Critic's Circle awards for excellence in scenic design, and received a national commendation in scenic design from the Kennedy Center in 2011. Robert joined The Art Directors' Guild I.A.T.S.E. local 800 as a set designer in 2017. His diverse television credits include three seasons as senior set designer on *This Is US*, and his designs appeared in the films *Captain Marvel*, *Avengers – Endgame*, *Spider Man – Far From Home*, and *Deadwood*. His most recent projects include the film *Moonshot* and the miniseries *The Offer*. Robert earned his BA in scenic design from Cal State Fullerton and his MFA in scenic design at UC Davis.

PRODUCTION COLLABORATORS

Director	Randy Wyatt
Assistant Director	Delaney Beck
Technical Director/ Lighting Designer	Drew Bodd
Stage Managers	Chloe Savitch
Assistant Stage Managers	Ollie Taylor, Charlie Whiteford
Original Music	Julie Oliver
Set Designer	Robert Broadfoot
Costume Designer	Brittney Belz
Intermission/ Understudy Costume Designer	Lauryn West
Draper	Claudia Grossi
Scene Shop Foreman	Robin MacDuffie
Light Board Operator	Maya Gempler
Sound Board Operator	Armen Simmons
Movement Director	Kim Stauffer
Graphic Designer	Caroline Cahoon
Wardrobe	Caitlin Boice, Isobel MacKinnon, Crystal Flax, Victoria Avon
Makeup	Genesis Gonzalez-Villatoro
Hair/Wig Stylist	Amber Birt (in fulfillment of senior thesis)
Stagehands	Hestia Doud, Ben Reggieri, Sarah DeRosa
Box Office	Paige Curran, Brendan Cullen
House Manager	Jana Davis

Scenery Construction Work Study

Victoria Avon, Augustus D'Amore, Sarah DeRosa, Elaine Du, Maya Gempler, Andrew Nordell, Raya Petrova, Chloe Savitch, Lauryn West, Will Zimmer

Costume Shop Work Study

Caitlin Boice, Mary Darden, Sarah DeRosa, Elaine Du, Crystal Flax, Isobel Mackinnon, Victoria Avon, Chloe Savitch, Lauryn West, Amber Birt, Genesis Gonzalez-Villatoro

Special Thanks

UAlbany
Debarton School
Capital Repertory Theatre
Chelsea Leach
Claudia Grossi
Katelin Ashcraft of Actor's Theater of Louisville and SUNY Albany.
Julie Oliver
Jeff Storer
Lyndon Walters

Arts Department Coordinator

Victoria Rotondi

Office Assistant

Carol Fortsch

Photography and videography are not permitted during this production.



We acknowledge that we live, work, and study at Union College on the traditional homelands that were originally peopled by the Iroquois Confederacy, including the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Haudenosaunee (The People of the Longhouse), and other tribes. What we call Schenectady is a Dutch version of a Mohawk word skahnéhtati, meaning 'The Place Beyond the Pines.' As a College, we honor the land itself with gratitude and acknowledge the people who have stewarded the land throughout the ages.