

wwudrama presents

*The Festival of*



*Shorts*

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WWUDRAMA PRESENTS

# *The Festival of Shorts*

## **ABOUT WWUDRAMA**

wwudrama is a Theatre Arts program on the Walla Walla University Campus. We are dedicated to creating uplifting, creative and professional theatre for the community.

Beginning in 1961 Mrs. Donnie Rigby directed a stage play for the Walla Walla College women's club weekend. From this beginning, drama offerings expanded to a fully staged play being produced at least once a year. The rich tradition continues today, growing into two facilities and a full season, including two main stage productions, and an annual student-directed Festival of Shorts. This festival began as the "Play Direction Class" productions May 13, 1973. It has been running most years since then and we are so excited to bring it to you again.

**Thank you for your support of wwudrama!**

## Producer's Note

This festival means a lot to me. Over my years here both as the director of the program and as a student, I have seen a multitude of beautiful shows created by passionate student directors.

The Festival began with the "Play Direction Class" in 1973 and is still going. I believe that is because the experience of selecting, casting, directing, and presenting a work of theatre is unique. It requires a person to be in touch with their own emotional core as well as those of their actor's and audience. It requires a deep consideration of audience, purpose, and message. It requires a consideration of this university and its mission.

This show begins in a directing class fall quarter. There the students study the art and craft of storytelling. Then, they learn the techniques involved in communicating to another human the very specific emotions that make a narrative a powerful experience. Finally, they select scripts they believe in; Scripts they wish to present to you. This last step is a big one. You are a real audience. That is scary. But these students have worked hard and put their heart into making something they believe in. Something we hope will speak to you.

Thank you for being here. Thank you to the multitude of businesses that allowed the students to film. And thank you to the directors for stepping out in faith.

—David Crawford

## Voting

This is a festival in which you get to vote for your favorite film and play. Please take the time to vote at the end. The winning director will receive the "Audience Favorite" award at the end of the run.

# *Up to Date*

Screenwriter: Stephen Hoover and L.A. Laird

Directed by Sam Mattson

Blind date gone wrong.

## *Cast & Crew*

Dave Marr.....Neal  
Jocelynn Rupp.....Amy  
Megan McPherson.....Mother Nature  
Sam Mattson.....Director  
Micah Hall.....Cinematographer  
Bri Sumerlin.....Production Assistant  
Auri Yates.....Audio

## *Director's Note*

I was really drawn to direct *Up to Date*, because I've been on more than my fair share of awkward dates. But Neal and Amy's blind date takes the cake on unfortunate situations, and although it makes for a very humorous film, it also shows that when bad things come along we must learn to make the best of them. I hope you enjoy this humorous short and thank your lucky stars that you'll probably never be put in this situation.

# *Playwriting 101:*

## *The Rooftop Lesson*

Playwright: Rich Orloff  
Directed by Abigail Wissink

A worried husband confronts his wife about her recent odd behavior.

### *Cast & Setting*

The rooftop of a large urban building, Present Day

Cougar Henderson.....The Good Samaritan  
Brennan Hoenes.....The Jumper  
Katie Johnston.....The Teacher

### *Director's Note*

This play tells a story we've all heard before. A man is standing on a roof, preparing to jump. A Good Samaritan rushes in and convinces him not to do so. While this plot feels overused, it in no way means that we can't enjoy a new take on it.

Playwriting 101: The Rooftop Lesson tells the story of how to tell a good story. This show was chosen in hopes of giving you a good laugh, but also giving you a bit of insight into the "remarkable art form known as playwriting." Having the opportunity to work on this project has been an enlightening one, and being able to do so with my friends is something for which I will be forever grateful.

# *The Last Dance*

Screenwriter: Rick Hansberry  
Directed by Megan McPherson

Blind date gone wrong.

## *Cast & Crew*

Grant Parfitt.....	John Corbet
Lindsay Armstrong.....	Sara
Tyler Masden.....	Chuck
Mackenzie Wood.....	Jessica
Megan McPherson.....	Director/Camera Operator
Morgan Sanker/Micah Hall.....	Camera Operator
Johanna Chevrier/Melissa Guzman/Sam Mattson.....	Production Assistant
Bri Sumerlin.....	Sound Technician

## *Director's Note*

I want to tell the story of a man at a crossroads. His life is a series of countdowns and he must make a choice between his work and the one that is getting away, all while the minutes are ticking down. In the midst of his colorful world of weddings and parties there is inner turmoil. I am telling this story because most of us can relate to thinking we have all the time in the world, but sometimes opportunities are missed, time eventually runs out, and it is too late.

# Look B4 U Leap

Screenwriter: Anthony Cawood

Directed by Micah Hall

Two people work together in an attempt to go back in time.

## Cast & Crew

Dave Marr.....Gaz  
Kaitlyn Johnston.....Pippa  
Micah Hall.....Director

## Director's Note

Ideally, most of what I direct should be relatable to a large audience. That is what I wanted to achieve with Look B4 U Leap. It is a short film about two people on a date. This is the first concept I have worked on that I am certain almost anyone can connect with.

If you haven't eaten a potentially romantic dinner with someone you care about, then you are missing out on an incredible experience. In fact, if you haven't done this, I strongly urge you to do so as soon as you exit the theatre. I promise it won't disappoint.

Thank you for experiencing this with me and a special thanks to all the actors, crew, and instructors who helped make this possible.



# *The Still Alarm*

Playwright: George Kaufman  
Directed by Brandon Pierce

## *Cast & Setting*

A hotel room, Present day

Jonathan Stephan.....	Bob
Tyler Masden.....	Ed
Amelia Pekar.....	Bellhop
Meghann Heinrich.....	First Fireman
Joshua Ballance.....	Second Fireman

## *Director's Note*

I came across *The Still Alarm* while sitting on the floor of a bookstore and I was immediately drawn in by the absurdity of the scene: two people enjoying one another's company until the hotel catches on fire. Whether through bravery, a "stiff upper lip", or sheer stupidity, these characters take this information in stride and continue as if it were nothing more than a minor inconvenience. I like the disconnect between the characters and the plot in this play, because in some small way, I feel I can relate to their disconnect of their situation and the ultimate absurdity of the premise. Comedy is my favorite genre, and nothing says comedic to me quite like the absurd.

I hope you see, appreciate, and enjoy the absurdity of this story as much as I do, and to find and appreciate the absurdity of your own life as I have come to appreciate it in mine.

# Taste

Screenwriter: Robert J. Lee  
Directed by Rebecca Hoppen

A patisserie attracts interesting customers as its baked goods are embedded with magical powers.

## Cast & Crew

Raiah Granchukoff.....Dulci  
Sean Cash.....Vincent  
Mark Vuchetich.....Dan  
Jessica Wilson.....Kate  
Rebecca Hoppen.....Director/Producer/Editor  
Jessica Wilson.....Assistant Producer  
Jedidiah Maynes.....Sound Design

## Director's Note

When reading "Taste", I saw it in my mind- a little shop where a bit of magic happens, or should I say, just a bite of magic. The cast came together almost supernaturally and the crew seemed to be divinely orchestrated as well. Make sure to enjoy "Taste" and possibly sweet treats in your near future...

# *The Pixie Girl League*

Screenwriter: Robert Turnage  
Directed by Auriyhani Yates

A shy, awkward, nerdy guy and a manic Pixie Girl discuss the Internet, video games, and how to meet attractive women. What could possibly go wrong with that?

## *Cast & Crew*

Lindsey Luna.....The Pixie Girl  
Cougar Henderson.....Jeffery  
Nichole Briones.....The Real Natalie  
Auriyhani Yates.....Director  
Bri Sumerlin.....Production Assistant  
Micah Hall.....Audio Recordist/Boom Operator  
Sam Mattson.....Cinematographer

## *Director's Note*

When I first began this journey of directing, I was nervous. Directing is not something that I was used to doing and even after directing *The Pixie Girl League*, I still have more to learn. But what I appreciate and consider beautiful, is the process of collaborating with actors to create something we can both be happy about.

The reason I chose this piece is because I resonate with both characters. I think it is important to go after what we want and to be confident about it, which is what I do, but I am usually a bit clumsy and awkward along the way. And the main point that I believe the script is trying to make is that it is important that we all embrace life, and I hope that is the understanding that you take from this short film.

# *Sure Thing*

Playwright: David Ives  
Directed by Shannon Pierce

## *Cast & Setting*

Café, 1980s

Caleb Bibb.....Bill  
Nicole Griggs.....Betty

## *Director's Note*

Do you ever wish you could stop words from flowing out of your mouth? Or have a second chance at making an impression? I chose to direct this play because of the awkward and comedic qualities that are presented with a first meeting. The characters find themselves in amusing situations, searching for a way to keep the conversation going, of course with qualities they would like to see in the other. With a ding, the slate is wiped free and there is yet another chance to make sure to get it right. The idea of being in control of our own destiny and being able to reset a situation is almost exhilarating. Would we be able to achieve the man or woman of our dreams? Or would we find life incredibly dull knowing the idea of spontaneity is gone?

# *The Painful Side of the Pillow*

Screenwriter: Jason K. Allen

Directed by Morgan Clae Sanker

A modern-day suburban super hero rises to battle everyday injustices of theft, ingratitude, litter, and childhood rivalries and inspires a new generation to take her place.

## *Cast & Crew*

Makenzie Wood.....	Pillow Girl
Cassisi Sandefur.....	Older Susie
Lauren Craig.....	Tabitha
Raegan Bryant.....	Young Susie
Mica Hartman.....	Molly
Sonja Gourley.....	Old Lady
Tyler Masden.....	Thief
Michael Smith.....	Husband
Megan McPherson.....	Wife
Johanna Chevrier.....	Drive
Tristan Winkle.....	Security Guard
Ansel Weber.....	Onlooker #1
Daniel Hincapie.....	Onlooker #2
Daniel Craig.....	Onlooker #3
Jackson Bryant.....	Onlooker #4
Aidan Hartman.....	Bobby
Aylin Sotelo-Leon.....	Assistant Director
Melissa Vickroy.....	Production Assistant
Jeremey Reed.....	Fight Scene Choreographer
Austin Greer.....	Cinematography
Micah Hall.....	Cinematography

Austin Mock.....	Cinematography
Tommy Moen.....	Cinematography
Spence Sherwin.....	Cinematography
Joel Wagness.....	Cinematography
Alex Bauer.....	Audio
Melissa Guzman.....	Audio
Megan McPherson.....	Audio
Auri Yates.....	Audio

## *Director's Note*

"Film truly is the ultimate collaborative art," Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparan, Director of the Los Angeles Film Studies Center, told me while visiting their internship program in the spring of 2015. At the time, I was in the middle of my first, "real" short film while heavily entrenched in my own mental dialogue, consisting of one recurring question: "is this enough?"

Everyday I learn, I practice, I grow, I push myself in this "ultimate collaborative art." There is writing, acting, editing and teamwork that creates family. During this project, I have had the privilege and honor of working with over 30 different cast and crew members, parents of child actors, gracious companies and sponsors who have donated their time and locations for this production, and for the fantastic script by Jason K. Allen. Without him, this film would not exist. In addition, a very special thanks to David Crawford and Jerry Hartman for their continued and constant support for every film and theater student. You both are truly committed to our success.

I have come to realize that it should never be a matter of "enough". This is my art, my passion, my very best. So in giving my best, I have found success. Though I will look back and think of things that could have been better, I stand by my work, proud to call it my own.

With that, I hope you enjoy *The Painful Side of the Pillow*.

# Festival of Shorts Crew

David Crawford.....Producer  
Jeremy Reed .....Technical Director  
Kyle Lambert .....Technical Director/Lighting  
Kat Underhill.....Stage Manager  
Greg Birge.....Lighting Board  
Bri Sumerlin.....Sound  
Micah Hall.....Projection  
Annaliese Hottal.....Costumes  
Britnee Van Vyve.....Hair/Makeup  
Taylor Olson.....Graphic Design

# Biographies

**Abigail Wissink** is a senior humanities and music major and drama minor. This is her tenth time writing a bio for a wwudrama production, and she has never thought they were funny enough. Although she has written many bios, this is her first time being in charge of making sure other people write theirs on time (looking at you, Cougar). She enjoys cats, books, crocheting, and being a living stereotype.

**Amelia Pekar**, an undecided freshman, is currently in the planning stages of a top secret mission to make Peterson Memorial Library her second home. For her first role on the WWU stage, she's proud to represent female bellhops everywhere in *The Still Alarm*.

**Auriyhani Yates** is a junior Film major with a minor in English. She last made *The Hour Glass* and helped with several other productions. And she was last seen in "Katrina: The K Word". She loves to create film and really enjoys the color Burgundy.

**Austin Thomson** is a Sophomore Psychology major at WWU. He has been in a number of university productions including "These Shining Lives" and "Emma", and is happy to be performing for you once again.

**Brandon Pierce** is a fourth year humanities major and is excited to be making his directorial debut after being involved onstage with wwudrama for a number of years. He hopes you both enjoy the show and politely applaud at the end if you feel so moved.

**Brennan Hoenes** is a senior humanities major who dabbles in philosophy and debate. When not concerned with school, he splits his time between his two loves - the culinary arts and things with engines. This is Brennan's debut performance on this Walla Walla stage, but he has not-so-recently starred in things you've never heard of as a vocalist.



# Biographies

**Bri Sumerlin** is a senior film major with a drama minor. Her last short film was Reflections.

**Caleb Bibb** is a junior with a Mathematics major and a triple minor in Religion, Chemistry, and Education. He enjoys hiking, biking, and rock climbing. This is his first performance at Walla Walla University.

**Cassidi Sandefur** is from Medford, Oregon. She is a Sophomore History major and Business minor. She was last seen in 10 Pages About You, a short film from last year's Festival of Shorts.

**Cougar Henderson** is rather pleased, for the first time, to be involved with a Walla Walla University production. (For clarification: he is involved with the Festival of Shorts for the first time, not that this is his first time being pleased.) Cougar has been fortunate to perform on many stages in the Walla Walla Valley. Thankfulness flows from his heart to you for coming out to the show today.

**Dave Marr** graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Performance from the University of Arizona in December 2015. His favorite university credits include Psycho Beach Party (Chicklet), The Medium and The Fantasticks.

**Grant Parfitt** is a community member and a volunteer at the College Place fire department. He was last seen in After Magritte and loves getting involved with the theater community whenever he can.

**Jeremy Reed** has his degree in theatre and started his theatrical career here at WWU. Having done several shows on stage and behind the scenes, he's thrilled to be working with the WWU stage once again.

**Jocelynn Rupp** is a junior nursing student. She was last seen in a film when she was a child.

# Biographies

**Jonathan Stephan** is a graduating Theology major who doesn't really want to leave. He likes making a fool of himself on stages in a wide variety of ways, and is ecstatic to be part of this particular show. Also, penguins are cool. That's relevant.

**Joshua Ballance** is a first year forensic psychology major. He really enjoys acting and looks forward to this presentation of The Still Alarm.

**Kaite Johnston** is a junior English major, journalism and drama minor. A few of her favorite things include grammar puns, Gilmore Girls references, winning arguments, and reusing bios. She has recently been seen as Vivie in Katrina: The K Word and Emma Woodhouse in Emma. She is very excited to be back on stage.

**Lindsay Armstrong** is a senior voice performance major. She has always loved watching theatre in any form and is excited to be part of the action this quarter.

**Lindsey Luna** is a freshman Psychology major with a minor in Drama. She took acting class last quarter and fell in love with it. This is her first time being in a film. Her hobbies include violin, singing and learning accents.

**Mackenzie Wood** is from Battle Ground, Washington and is a second year student at Walla Walla University, enrolled in the Nursing program (and nursing club for that matter). She has previously starred in Roger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella (as the Fairy Godmother), Romeo and Juliet (as Juliet), and The Sound of Music (as Maria). She has also taken some minor roles in Sarah Plain and Tall, and was in the Short Film Festival of 2015.

# Biographies

**Micah Hall** is like Ben Affleck, both a director and an actor. You may have seen him in Katrina: the K Word where he played the role of a man who lived near New Orleans. Micah is a good listener and his weekends are generally wide open for outside engagements.

**Megan McPherson** is a senior communications major at Walla Walla University. This is the second film she has directed during her time here. She likes long walks on the beach and frozen cake.

**Meghann Heinrich** is a sophomore studying communications and drama. She has been in a number of plays on the WWU stage as well as a few musical productions outside of WWU. She is a champion and so are you.

**Nichole Briones** is a senior Graphics design, Pre-Med major. This is her first time being in a film, and she was last seen in a few high school and middle school plays for senior recognition.

**Nicole Griggs** is a freshman Mathematics major. She enjoys performing in music ensembles as well as in theatre. This is her first performance at Walla Walla University.

**Raiah Granchukoff** is currently not attending school, but rather living with and serving The Lord along side some of her best friends. Her proudest acting accomplishment was Flowers for Algernon at Wa-Hi. She recently performed in "Stars! A musical revue" and "Shakespeare under the stars". She hopes you enjoy tonight's films!

**Sam Mattson** is a senior journalism major with a minor in film production. She was last seen in nothing, as she is invisible.

**Sean Cash works** at College Place Fire Department and Home Depot. He is a former aviation student at WWU. He loves working on cars, shooting, singing, playing guitar, and writing music. This is his first experience on camera and he hopes you enjoy the show.

# Biographies

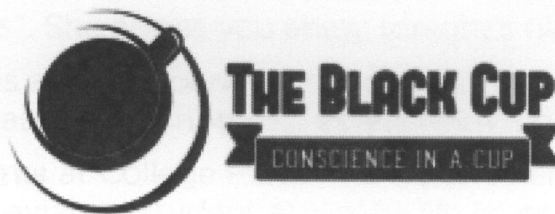
**Shannon Pierce** is a senior communications major with a double minor in French and drama. She was last seen in Katrina: the K Word. This is her first time directing, but is no stranger to being behind the scenes. She loves being a part of theatre whether it's as an audience member, backstage, or onstage. She hopes you enjoy the hilarity of an awkward meeting that could end up as a sure thing.

**Tyler Masden** is a major in biochemistry who one day plans on being a missionary doctor. Though uncorrelated, he has a passion for drama. He was last seen in Aria de Capo acting as Corydon in last year's Festival of Shorts. He hopes to continue his love for acting for many years to come.

# Special Thanks

The Black Cup  
The Department of Communications and Languages  
Jerry Hartman  
The Atlas  
Havstad Alumni Center  
The Colville Street Patisserie  
Olive  
The Bryants  
The Craigs  
ASWWU video  
Meghan McPherson  
Sam Mattson  
Extras for The Last Dance:  
Sarah Anderson  
Kate Beckner  
Austin Beckner  
Nic Chebeleu  
Chandler Edmister

Mayson Ellis  
Micah Hall  
William Johnson  
Taylor Kelln  
Alex Knopp  
Sofie Ladopoulos  
Nicole Leach  
Kisa McClosky  
Amalia McKenzie  
Michael Moores  
Daphne Novak  
Kendrick Rady  
Kathryn Smith  
Brandon Sumerlin  
Sasha Swensen  
Evan Thompson  
Auri Yates  
T Maccarone's



*Upcoming*

William Shakespeare

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*The Merchant of Venice*

**AUDITIONS** | March 28 & 29

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*7-9pm in Village Hall*

