

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

THORNTON WILDER'S

OUR TOWN



DIRECTED BY **WESLEY LONGACRE**

APRIL 19-28, 2024



COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR:



fnbo

The Bank
of CSU



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ 50, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Hilton Worldwide; and Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation.

Education and related artistic programs are made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the 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 1,300 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.

OUR TOWN

BY THORNTON WILDER

DIRECTOR Dr. Wesley Longacre

MUSIC DIRECTOR Isabella Knott

SCENIC DESIGNER Jessica Bilevich

LIGHTING DESIGNER Katie Simonson

COSTUME DESIGNER Erin Carignan

SOUND DESIGNER Joshua Moore

PROPS DESIGNER Avi Miller

STAGE MANAGER Caitlin Wieland

CAST

Zail Acosta Stage Manager

Hollis Andrew George Gibbs

Rei Belmont Music Ensemble

Hannah Bonansinga Lady in the Box, Music Ensemble

Ethan Bowen Simon Simon

Ethan Bowman Mr. Carter, Another Man Among the Dead, Music Ensemble

Ash Campbell Music Ensemble, Mrs. Soames U/S

Ruby Duka Woman Among the Dead, Music Ensemble

Jesus Castro-Gonzalez Joe Stoddard, Doc Gibbs U/S

Jack Ham Man in Auditorium, Baseball Player, Music Ensemble, George U/S

Grace Hellman Another Woman Among the Dead, Music Ensemble, Emily Webb U/S

Kaitlin Thompson-Highsmith Mrs. Gibbs

Courtney LaFontano Mrs. Webb

Samantha Neptune Rebecca Gibbs

Anh Nguyen Professor Willard

Jessi Olson Music Ensemble

Jonathan Paul Howie Newsom

Jorden Pena Wally Webb, Baseball Player

Tessa Snyder Woman in the Balcony, Music Ensemble

Jacob Stoner Farmer McCarty, A Man Among the Dead, Mr. Webb U/S

Ethan Strong— Mr. Webb

Tessa Snyder Woman in Balcony, Music Ensemble, Mrs. Webb U/S

Ryan Terry Joe, Si Crowell

India Thompson Emily Webb

Lori Vildibill Mrs. Soames

Trey Wallen Doc Gibbs

Rebecca Wilson Sam Craig, Mrs. Gibbs U/S

Peter-Manuel Young Constable Warren, Music Ensemble

SONG LISTING AND ARTISTS FEATURED

Freight Train Elizabeth Cotton

Band Jam Isabella Knott

House of My Soul Langhorne Slim

Old Friends Pinegrove

The Breeze Dr. Dog

Come and Play in the Milky Night Stereolab

American Teenager Ethel Cain

Changes Joy Oladokun

We Don't Know That We're Living Lucie Silvas, Brandi Carlisle, Joy Oladokun

Drinking Song Haley Heynderickx

Original Isabella Knott

Not A Lot, Just Forever Adrienne Lenker

DIRECTOR NOTES

In his Pulitzer-Prize winning novel, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, Thornton Wilder wrote, “There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.” And perhaps no other play fully realizes that sentiment than Wilder’s *Our Town*. While writing my dissertation on Wilder’s work, I was constantly taken aback at how we think we know Wilder and his work, especially *Our Town*, yet how often we miss so much of it. Yes, it is a look at an ordinary town, but what I hope you will see is a deeply layered, deeply felt, and deeply insightful look into life. I hope you will find something new and something meaningful no matter how many times you have encountered this work before. There is great beauty and great tragedy at the heart of the play that sometimes gets brushed over in our renderings of it. I hope we have captured both.

I have long held the stance that Wilder does not get enough credit for the way he revolutionized theatre, experimenting with genre and form in a way that few were doing at the time. He took the devices theatre provides us and altered what we thought was possible. The great playwright Paula Vogel once wrote, “For an American dramatist, all roads lead back to Thornton Wilder.” I could not agree more. I hope you enjoy this towering work from one of our most significant playwrights and that you can discover anew all the roads that lead back to Wilder.

— Dr. Wesley Longacre

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Dr. Wesley Longacre (Director)— Wesley is thrilled to direct CSU's production of *Our Town*, a play near and dear to his heart. Dr. Longacre received his PhD in Theatre from the University of Colorado-Boulder, completing his dissertation in the spring of 2017. Wesley was named a Richter Scholar at Wake Forest University where he received his MA in English Literature and holds a BA in Journalism and Political Science from Baylor University. He is an active theater scholar and practitioner, having recently directed university and regional productions of *The Normal Heart*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Our Town*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *Red*. Wesley has also served as a dramaturg and assistant director for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival production of *Wittenberg*. He is currently an Instructor of Theatre at Colorado State University and has previously served as an Instructor of Theatre at the University of Colorado and in CSU's Honors Program. Wesley has previously served as a regular contributor and bibliographer for *The Thornton Wilder Journal* and an editor for *PARTake: The Journal of Performance as Research*. By far, Wesley's greatest joy is living life with Amanda and their kids, Davy, Wilder, and Ellis.

Jessica Bilevich (Scenic Designer)— Jessica is beyond excited to be making her CSU debut as a scenic designer for *Our Town*. She is currently a junior interior design and architecture major as well as studying scenic design for immersive events. She sends her thanks to her boyfriend, her friends and family for their continued support.

Erin Carignan (Costume Designer)— Erin is a versatile costume designer and textile artist who has worked in regional theatre, opera, dance, music videos, and print ads in roles ranging from costume designer, stylist, painter-dyer and breakdown artist, to crafts artisan. She has been a part of over 200 professional productions with several theatre companies, most notably Old Globe Theatre, Los Angeles Opera, La Jolla Playhouse, Pioneer Theatre, and Curious Theatre. Her research centers around her most passionate subjects: costume design, textile surface modification, and wearable art. This research ties in with her own book *Dyeing for Entertainment: Dyeing, Painting, Breakdown, and Special Effects for Costumes* (Focal Press/ Routledge 2023). She is an Assistant Professor of Costume Design at Colorado State University, Fort Collins and the Chair of the KCACTF Design Technology Management Region 7. She is an active member of USITT, Costume Society of America, Society of Dyers and Colourists, and United Scenic Artists 829.

Isabella Knott (Sound Designer, Band Director)— Isabella cannot wait for you to become immersed in Our Town! She previously worked on Silent Sky as Assistant Sound Designer and Composer during her first year as a CSU Theatre Major. She wants to thank her loved ones for their endless support and encouragement and Joshua Moore for being a great partner. Isabella is extremely thankful she gets to do what she loves the most every single day and hopes you enjoy the show!

Avi Miller (Props Designer)— Despite the show being known for its minimal use of props, Avi is thrilled to serve as the Prop Master in Our Town! They are a 4th year theatre major with a general theatre concentration and a minor in American Sign Language. Most recently, they were the Prop Master for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Bets understudy in Fairview, and Henrietta understudy in Silent Sky. Their past credits include being the Prop Master for The Normal Heart and working in the prop shop for Fairview, Silent Sky, Machinal, Spring Awakening, The Wolves, The Rocky Horror Show, Così fan tutte, and She Kills Monsters (CSU). They would like to thank their family, friends, and their cat.

Joshua Moore (Sound Designer)— Joshua is beyond excited for you to hear Our Town! Joshua is a second-year sound designer and has previously worked on The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (CSU), Beauty and the Beast (Town Hall Arts Center), Legally Blonde, and Little Shop of Horrors (Heritage High School). He would like to thank his family and friends for their support of his passion, Isabella Knott for her instrumental role in this design.

Katie Simonson (Lighting Designer)— Katie Simonson is a third-year lighting design student at CSU. She has worked in a design position on previous shows such as Silent Sky, The Tender Land, Spring Awakening, and assorted dance concerts. Next year she will be working as the lighting designer for our Fall production of Into the Woods and hopes you all come to see it. She wants to thank her parents for all of the love and support throughout her college journey. (love you mom and dad!)

Caitlin Wieland (Stage Manager)— Caitlin is a graduating senior at CSU, She has worked on many shows here, starting with Ellen McLaughlin's Lysistrata and most recently, besides Our Town, Lauren Gunderson's Silent Sky. She is so excited to be a part of this production, very eager to graduate and is very thankful for her time spent in this department. Special thanks to her Mom, Dad, all of her amazing friends, and Rigo.

CAST BIOS

Zail Acosta (Stage Manager) Zail is a senior in Journalism and Media Communications at CSU. Our *Town* marks his main-stage theatrical debut! He is honored to take on the role of Stage Manager and accompany you while you witness this telling of Grover's Corners. Zail thanks his family, his loved ones, and the UCA community for the love support as he embarked on this new adventure.

Rei Belmont (Music Ensemble) Rei is thrilled to be adding music to *Our Town*! He is a second-year musical theatre and sound design major. Some of his past credits include Georg in *Spring Awakening* (Colorado State University), Angel in *RENT* (CenterStage Theatre Company), and Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* (Boulder High School). Rei thanks his family and friends for their support.

Hannah Bonansinga (Lady in the Box, Music Ensemble) Hannah is so excited to be in her first show at CSU! She has loved getting to know everyone in the cast— and having an excuse to practice her piano skills. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her, including her family, friends, and roommates.

Ethan Bowman (Mr. Carter, Another Man Among the Dead, Music Ensemble) Ethan is thrilled to be in another production at CSU. He is currently a Junior musical theatre major and has been performing since the age of ten. Some of his past credits include Frank n Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee*, Bruce Niles in *The Normal Heart*, Hanschen in *Spring Awakening*, and more. He wants to thank his friends, family, and teachers who have helped and supported him through this amazing experience.

Ash Campbell (Music Ensemble) Ash is a sophomore majoring in musical theatre, and he is thrilled to participate in his third mainstage production here at CSU! His previous roles at CSU include Jazz Singer in *Machinal*, and Marcy Park U/S in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He would like to thank the lovely cast and crew of *Our Town* for making this production such a wonderful experience.

Jesus Castro-Gonzalez (Joe Stoddard) Jesus is a theater student here at CSU. He is also a DREAMer from Mexico and has participated in local short films and a few plays in Fort Collins including *The Royal Wedding of OZ* and *Native Gardens*. In his free time, he likes to read fantasy books and go on walks.

Jack Ham (Man in Auditorium, Baseball Player, Music Ensemble) Jack is very excited to be in his first CSU. show! He is currently a freshman theater major. Since this is his first show, he is creditless but excited to gain his first of many to come! Thanks to everyone who supported him!

Grace Hellman (Another Woman Among the Dead, Music Ensemble) Grace is incredibly excited to be working on her third show with CSU theatre! Her previous credits include *Machinal*, *Legally Blonde*, *Clue*, and more. Being able to sing in *Our Town* has been an incredible experience. She is very excited for you all to enter *Our Town* and hopes you enjoy the show!

Kaitlin Thompson-Highsmith (Mrs. Gibbs) Kaitlin Thompson-Highsmith or KTH is a junior here at CSU and so excited to be acting on the main stage. She really hopes you enjoy *Our Town*.

Samantha Neptune (Rebecca Gibbs)— Samantha is so excited to be making her CSU debut. She is currently a sophomore double majoring in Theatre and Business. Some of her past credits include Leanne in *Puffs* (Bear Necessity Theatre), Jasmine in *The Staggering Heartbreak of Jasmine Merriwether* (Bear Necessity Theatre), and The Jester in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Bear Necessity Theatre). Thanks to her parents and brothers for all their love and support.

Anh Nguyen (Professor Willard) Anh is very excited to be a part of Our Town. He is currently a senior studying theater performance at CSU. Some of his past credits include Judge (*Machinal*), Boy Hamlet (*The Book of Will*), Polyneices (*These Seven Sicknesses*), and Ensemble (*She Kills Monsters*). Thanks to his parents and friends for their support.

Jessi Olson (Music Ensemble) Jessi is excited to enter the world of theatre with her first ever role in a show. She is a Junior transfer to CSU and a musical theatre major. Jessi has a background in songwriting and vocal performance that has now translated to a love of the theatrical stage. Special thanks go out to Trenton Arias, Sarah Walters, Marshall Schaffer, Kylee Tolman, Sydnee LaVon, and Jessi's family and friends for their unconditional love and support.

Jonathan Paul (Howie Newsom) Jonathan is incredibly excited to be performing for CSU once again. He is a second-year performance and computer science major. His past credits include Mr. Jones in *Machinal* (CSU), Peter Shaw in *Silent Sky* (CSU), and The Narrator in *The Love of Three Oranges* (Skyline High School). He is very excited to be working with such a

large, talented cast full of people he knows and loves on a show with such a rich history and personal meaning to Dr. Wesley Longacre. He would like to give a special thanks to his family, friends, and wonderful partner, Anther for their love and support.

Tessa Snyder (Woman in the Balcony, Music Ensemble) Tessa Snyder is a third-year student at Colorado State University, majoring in Theatre Performance and Sound Design. She is very excited to be a part of *Our Town* and experience this beautiful script with such a knowledgeable director. Tessa has previously been involved in sound design and operation for CSU's productions, including lead designing *Fairview* (2024) *Machinal* (2023), *Spring Awakening* (2022), *The Wolves* (2022), *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (2022) and performing in *Crumbs From The Table of Joy* (2023) as a part of the *On the Brink* reading series. Some of Tessa's favorite roles include performing as Cinderella in *Cinderella*, Lefou in *Beauty and The Beast*, Fairy May in *The Curious Savage*, and many more. She would like to thank her incredible friends and family for their endless love and support. Thank you for supporting CSU Theater and enjoy *Our Town*.

Jacob Stoner (Farmer McCarty, A Man Among the Dead) Jacob is ready and excited to make his acting debut at CSU. Some of his previous work includes Maurice from *Beauty and the Beast* and Dub in *Dearly Beloved*. You can see more of his work at this year's monologue festival. Jacob is currently a Sophomore in theatre performance. He would like to extend his gratitude to his friends and family for attending and supporting his craft, and to his fellow cast and crew members for their work in this production.

Ryan Terry (Joe, Si Crowell) This is Ryan's first show on-stage at CSU, and he is beyond excited for the journey ahead. He is currently a Freshman majoring in musical theatre. Past credits of his includes Gomez in *The Addams Family*, Mr. Green in *Clue: On Stage*, and Sky in *Mamma Mia!* (Highland Park Senior High). A great deal of thanks goes out to his family and friends back in Minnesota for all their love and support.

India Thompson (Emily Webb) India is very excited to be a part of this production with it being her fourth show at CSU. She is currently a 3rd year musical theatre major. Some of her past credits include *Spring Awakening* (CSU Theatre), *Machinal* (CSU Theatre), and *On The Brink's Crumbs From the Table of Joy* (CSU Theatre). Thank you to her mom and friends for always supporting her dreams.

Lori Vildibill (Mrs. Soames)— Lori is a 4th year theatre performance student here at CSU. She has previously worked on *She Kills Minsters* as an ensemble member and *Silent Sky* as an understudy and dramaturg. She is incredibly excited to be performing in *Our Town* with her peers as she gets ready to graduate and head off on a new adventure.

Rebecca Wilson (Sam Craig, Ensemble, Mrs. Gibbs Understudy) This is Rebecca's final production with CSU theater. She is graduating this may with a B.A in Theater Performance, Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts, and a minor in English. Some of her past credits include Assistant Director/Margret Understudy in *Silent Sky*, Belphragia/Spartan Ensemble in *Lysistrata*, Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*, Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*. She is excited to share this meaningful story about the human experience with our community. She wants to thank her mom for her unwavering love and support over these last four years!

Peter-Manuel Young (Constable Warren, Music Ensemble) Peter is from Highlands Ranch, Colorado and this will be his last show at Colorado State University as he graduates this semester. He has been seen here as Ned Weeks in *The Normal Heart*, Moritz in *Spring Awakening* and many other roles. He would like to thank every professor and student who had taught him how to express his artistry in a way he never would have been able to without them. He'd also like to thank his family and friends for their unwavering support.

CSU THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Price Johnston

PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Steven Workman

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER Elise Kulovany

CUTTER/DRAPER Rebecca Evans

MASTER ELECTRICIAN Wes Halloran

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Matt Grevan

SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST Karl Hermanson

HEAD OF PROPS Melissa Centgraf

MASTER CARPENTER Johnie Rankin

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS Catie Harris, Eric Zertuche

ASSOCIATE SCENIC DESIGNER Bridget Poulter

ASSOCIATE COSTUME DESIGNERS Reanna Romero, Chloe Martin

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER Carlos Gutierrez

ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGNER Isabella Knott

STUDENT PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN Zach Taylor

WARDROBE HEAD Annecy Wood

HAIR AND MAKE UP HEAD Britney Juarez

A2 Lana Greeness

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS Theo Kuehn, Alexandra Pruitt

ELECTRICS SHOP TEAM Spencer Ammon, Katherine Barr, Cooper Cox, Dale Kaiser,
Jessie King, Blake Kirkpatrick, Henry Ledbetter, Katie Simonson

PAINT SHOP TEAM Charlotte Daysh, Ruby Duka, Peyton Farnum, Anna Higgins,
Dani Ranisate, India Thompson, Caitlin Wieland

COSTUME SHOP TEAM Hollis Andrew, Brooke Bowman, Charlotte Daysh, Tiana Fuentes,
Maddie Engeman, Annie Hennen, Helen Jewert, Britney Juarez, Lillie Pooler,
Adie Sutherland, Ayumi Yamada

SCENIC SHOP TEAM Nicole Bell, Gabriel Castro, Mason Chamberlain, Tessa Snyder

PROPS TEAM Amber Campbell, Ash Campbell, Jesus Castro Gonzalez, Annie Hennen,
Avi Miller, Bridget Poulter, Rachel Ross, Trey Wallen

AUDIO TEAM Isabella Knott, Audrey McCrea, Samantha Neptune, Tessa Snyder,
David Walters

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR Margot Chupp

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR Haley Casten

WARDROBE CREW DeChi Peterson

WIG/HAIR AND MAKE-UP CREW Libby Williams

DECK CREW Bella Conahan, Will DeJarnette

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE



Theatre

at the highest **STATE**

PERFORMANCE | DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY | MUSICAL THEATRE

At Colorado State University, work alongside dedicated faculty and students to develop the knowledge and skills for excelling in a variety of fields. The world-class University Center for the Arts is located in Fort Collins, consistently ranked as one of America's top cities with a collaborative and thriving arts community.

WE ELEVATE ARTS EDUCATION.

IN-PERSON VISIT DAY NOV. 8, 2024

REGISTRATION: [THEATRE.COLOSTATE.EDU/VISIT-DAY](https://theatre.colostate.edu/visit-day)



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

theatre.colostate.edu #csutheatre



SCAN ME FOR TO VIEW THE
CSU THEATRE DEGREE OVERVIEW

SHOW YOUR CSU RAMS PRIDE.



Your Pride Should Go Where You Do.

Show your pride year-round with our exclusive CSU Visa®

Debit Cards, free with any FNBO Checking Account.

Visit us online, or stop by a branch to open your account today.



The Bank
of CSU

fnbo.com/csu