

STUDIO THEATRE / UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

DIRECTED BY **DEBBIE SWANN**

A black and white photograph of a woman in a car, looking into the rearview mirror. The image is overlaid with a halftone dot pattern and three vertical yellow bars. The text 'HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE' is superimposed in large, bold, white letters with a distressed texture.

**HOW
I
LEARNED
TO DRIVE**

BY **PAULA VOGEL**

Colorado State University

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE



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.

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE received its world premiere at the Vineyard Theatre, New York City.

Off-Broadway production produced by the Vineyard Theatre in association with Daryl Roth and Roy Gabay.

This play was made possible by generous support from the Pew Charitable Trust and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

It was written and developed at the Perseverance Theatre, Juneau, Alaska, Molly Smith, Artistic Director.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR SMART PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE TURNED OFF DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE

BY PAULA VOGEL

DIRECTED BY DEBBIE SWANN
SCENIC DESIGNER LUKAS G. WHITE
COSTUME DESIGNER RO MAZON
PROPS MASTER MICHAEL DOLD
LIGHTING DESIGNER OLIVIA PARKER
SOUND DESIGNER CHRISTINE BURQUEST
PROJECTIONS DESIGNER PRICE JOHNSTON
STAGE MANAGER LAUREN BOESCH

CAST

LI'L BIT MAGGIE ALBANESE
UNCLE PECK RYAN VOLKERT
FEMALE GREEK CHORUS HOLLY WEDGEWORTH
TEENAGE GREEK CHORUS KATHLEEN WRIGHT
MALE GREEK CHORUS RYAN WILKE-BRAUN

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When the department decided to take on this piece, I wondered how I would make this story relevant in 2020. Then #MeToo happened. And then, sexual harassment complaints in the workplace rose almost 14% while the overall rate of workplace complaints fell. The Larry Nassar story broke, revealing the horrible secret behind USA Gymnastics. And the Jeffrey Epstein story broke this past summer. And the Harvey Weinstein trial began about a month ago. There is power in the sharing of these stories. There is momentum behind the women who speak up and inspire us to speak up too. They push us to rethink our cultural and societal structures and demand more from them.

In 1998, Paula Vogel became the 10th female playwright to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *How I Learned to Drive*. To put that in perspective, the first award was given in 1918. Since Vogel, eight more women have won, bringing the total to 18 women in 101 years. Similar trends can be seen when analyzing playwrights of color, too. Representation matters. We continue to expand the artistic landscape to include more women and minorities. And there is healing in the process.

It takes courage to be one of the first, sharing a story that others would rather not hear. These groundbreakers pave the way for the rest of us. We continue to share our stories; we continue to move forward; we continue to demand better. #MeToo

Need Help?

Sexual Assault Victim Advocate (SAVA) Center's 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (970) 472 4200

Main Office: (970) 472 4204

Women and Gender Advocacy Center (WGAC): 24-Hour Hotline: (970) 492 4242

Get Involved: 970-491-6384 or wgac@colostate.edu

CREATIVE TEAM

DEBBIE SWANN (DIRECTOR) graduated from Kansas State University with a B.A. in Theatre and English. From there, she earned her Master's in Theatre from Texas State University. She has trained in England at The Shakespeare Center, The Academy of Dramatic Art and The Royal Shakespeare Company. Before moving to Colorado, she taught, designed and directed theatre at Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska. Some of her favorite directing credits include *Rumors*, *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, and *Godspell*. Debbie joined CSU in 2013 and teaches acting as well as Introduction to Theatre. In 2018 her publication, *The Art of Entertainment*, became the textbook for Introduction to Theatre. In partnership with CSU and Kaiser Permanente, Debbie directed *The Amazing Food Detective*, which toured elementary schools around Northern Colorado in 2017 & 2018. Debbie can frequently be seen directing and performing with OpenStage Theatre and Company in Fort Collins. Some of her favorite projects with the company include directing *Steel Magnolias* and appearing in *Spring Awakening* (OPUS Award), the Henry Award-nominated *Don't Dress for Dinner* and most recently *Avenue Q*. Debbie is also the faculty director of the department's summer theatre program for children, Kids Do It All.

LAUREN BOESCH (STAGE MANAGER) Lauren is currently a sophomore studying Theatrical Technology and Design with an emphasis in Stage Management. Her past credits include Fall 2019 Dance Capstone *Compass* (Stage Manager), Fall 2019 Dance Concert (Assistant Stage Manager), *L'Enfant et les Sorcières* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *A Man of No Importance* (Assistant Stage Manager). She'd like to extend a huge thank you to her parents, siblings, friends, ASM Anthony DeCosmo, assistants to the stage manager Katie Strickland and Whitney Roy, and mentor Matt Grevan for the massive amount of support.

CHRISTINE BURQUEST (SOUND DESIGNER) Christine is a senior in CSU's Technical Theatre program. This is her second main-stage sound design at CSU, her first having been the Spring 2019 musical *A Man of No Importance*. She's also worked more recently as Associate Scenic Designer for *Cabaret* and as the Lead Scenic Designer for CSU's upcoming production of *Pirates of Penzance*. She is so excited to finally be presenting you *How I Learned to Drive*. This show is deeply meaningful for her and she hopes you find it as impactful as she does!

ALANA CORRIGAN (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/DRAMATURG) Alana is very honored and excited to be a part of the *How I Learned to Drive* team! Previously, Alana has worked on *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Beckett Experience*. This is her last show at CSU and she feels so lucky to share this story with her cast and crew. Alana plans on going to graduate school to study theatre next fall while being a ghost tour guide in Salem and will be directing her play *Patria del Cuore* this spring! She thanks her amazing cast and crew, designers, Debbie, her friends, and loved ones for their support, empathy, and respectfulness on this show.

PRICE JOHNSTON (PROJECTIONS DESIGNER) - Price Johnston's recent credits include the World Premiere of Jomandi Productions: *Lavender Lizards Lilac Land-mines: Layla's Dream* by Obie Award Winning playwright Ntozake Shange (14th Street Playhouse – Atlanta, GA), *Two Rooms* (Trilogy Theatre - Off-Broadway - New York, NY), Arena Theatre Productions *Guys & Dolls* (UK Tour - 2000), Shapiro and Smith's *Never Enough* (Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – Washington DC), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Moscow Cosmos Theatre/St. Petersburg Music Hall – Russia), Janis Brenner's Dance Company's *Lost/Found/Lost* (Isadora Duncan International Dance Festival – Kransnoyarsk, Russia), Chicago Jeff Award Winning Production of *1776* (Chopin Theatre – Chicago), *Passiones* (Athenaeum Theatre – Chicago, IL), The Chicago Premiere of *I Sing!* (Playwrights Theatre - Chicago), Lighting Director/Video Supervisor for David Dorfman Dance Company's: *Underground*, *The Pee-Wee Herman Show* (Club Nokia Theatre - Los Angeles), *Bengal Tiger at the Bagdad Zoo* (Edge Theatre Company - Denver), 2015 Drama Desk Award Nominee: Best Projections - *Donogoo* (The Mint Theatre - Off-Broadway - New York, NY) and The Pee-Wee Herman Show on Broadway (Stephen Sondheim Theatre - Broadway - New York, NY).

RO MAZON (COSTUME DESIGNER) Ro Mazón is a senior Theatre major at CSU and they're elated to debut as costume designer for this production. Ro's previous experience includes CSU's productions of *Cabaret* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as assistant costume designer, as well as performing credits in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Tom Snout) and CSU's upcoming *She Kills Monsters* (Orcus/Ronnie). Ro would like to commend the creative team behind this production for their talent, their grit, and their hard work.

OLIVIA PARKER (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a dedicated senior Design and Technology Theatre major concentrating in lighting and scenic design with a Business Minor. This is her fourth production as lead Lighting Designer at CSU; the first two being the opera *The Myth of Orpheus* (*Orfeo ed Euridice*) and the Holiday Spectacular concert in 2018 and her most recent being *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this past fall. She also served as Assistant Lighting Designer for *One Man, Two Guvnors* last spring and featured her first scenic design this past fall with the opera *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and professors for their guidance, patience, and support over the years and hopes everybody enjoys the show!

LUKAS G. WHITE (SET DESIGNER): Lukas is a third-year Theater major. He has previously designed, written, and art assisted on short films such as *A Live Broadcast* (2018) and *Bottled Up* (2018). At CSU he was the associate set designer for *The Beckett Experience* (2019). He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

CAST

MAGGIE ALBANESE (LI'L BIT) Maggie is a third-year Theatre Performance major with a minor in History. Her recent roles at CSU include Dolly in *One Man Two Guvnors* and Veronica in the student produced *God of Carnage*. She is incredibly thankful for the supportive community she has found in the theatre department and wishes the best for her fellow cast members.

RYAN VOLKERT (PECK) Ryan is thrilled to be in his tenth show at CSU. He is a senior studying Theatre, Data Science, and Economics. His credits at CSU include *The Beckett Experience* (Man, in *Play*), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon), *A Man of No Importance* (Carney/Oscar Wilde), and *Big Love* (Nikos). He thanks his family and friends for their support and Dr. Prince for the wonderful opportunities. He hopes you enjoy the show!

HOLLY WEDGEWORTH (FEMALE GREEK CHORUS) Holly is a senior Theatre Performance major. She is incredibly pleased to perform with this cast, crew, and director as her last show at CSU. She was recently in *One Man, Two Guvnors* as Rachel (CSU), *Big Love* as Lydia (CSU), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Titania, wrote and directed a feminist play, *Fire Drill*, among other shows in past years. She wants to thank her loving friends for the endless support.

RYAN WILKE-BRAUN (MALE GREEK CHORUS) Ryan is a senior Theatre major with a Performance concentration and a minor in Music. This is Ryan's 6th and last show with CSU. His previous credits include Ernst Ludwig in *Cabaret*, Baldy in *A Man of No Importance*, Piero in *Big Love*, Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown* and Fedotik in *Three Sisters*. Ryan can also be seen performing with CSU's Concert Choir and Mainstreet Acapella. He would like to thank his family for funding his college experience emotionally and fiscally. He would also like to thank all of the friends he has made at CSU that continue to push him to be a better artist and person.

KATHLEEN WRIGHT (TEENAGE GREEK CHORUS) A senior in CSU's Theatre program, double majoring in HDFS, Kathleen has had the honor to have been cast in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Love and Information*, *Urinetown*, *Big Love*, and *Fire Drill*, all with CSU, as well as the role of Annelle in *Steel Magnolias* with Open Stage Theater Company. With the steadfast encouragement from many great friends, loving family, and talented staff, Kathleen has grown so much in her craft and she thanks you all for it!

PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER	Price Johnston
PRODUCTION MANAGER / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Steven Workman
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER	Elise Kulovany
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER	Matt Grevan
MASTER ELECTRICIAN	Dan Minzer
ASST. MASTER ELECTRICIAN	Cooper Adams
PROPERTIES DIRECTOR	Michael Dold
SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST	Heidi Larson
ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	David Ash
MASTER CARPENTER	Johnie Rankin
AUDIO ENGINEER	Chris Carignan
ASST. DIRECTOR	Alana Corrigan
ASSOCIATE SET DESIGNER	Lauren Boesch
ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER	Lorna Stephens
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Anthony DeCosmo
CREW CHIEF	Kiva Brearton
ASST. TO THE STAGE MANAGER	Whitney Roy, Katie Strickland

ELECTRICS SHOP – Anthony DeCosmo, Lachlan Fordyce, Lorna Stephens, Katie Strickland, Lukas White

PAINT SHOP – Sarah Le Piere, Fantasia Zacchini, Kiva Brearton, Hayley Billiot, Jenna Szczech, Yasmin Sethna

COSTUME SHOP – Abby Allison, Victoria Cline, Frances Fedele, Jess Kroupa, Kalie Lanik, Niqui Mickelson, Laura Myers, Tara Spencer, Marin Stumpf, Ryan Wilke-Braun

SCENIC SHOP – Bennet Berkower, Kelsey Shell, Duncan Port, Katie Strickland, Logan Volkert, Ryan Volkert

PROP SHOP – Tre'vonne Coleman, Daphne Orenstein

AUDIO SHOP – Ashley Schountz, Mitch Wilson

WARDROBE CREW – Sierra Bartt, Kiva Brearton

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR – Doster Chastain

SOUND BOARD / PROJECTIONS OPERATOR – Ashley Schountz

DECK CREW – Danielle Bonesteel, Joshua Lapp

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

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BY QUI NGUYEN



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DIRECTED BY
GARRETT AYERS



U P C O M I N G P E R F O R M A N C E S

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Classical Convergence Concert / Passion for Bach and Coltrane	March 12, 7:30 p.m.	LC
Guest Artist Concert / Jungwoo Kim, Baritone; Mutsumi Moteki, Piano / FREE	March 23, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
Harmony Outreach Competition Concert / FREE	March 28, 2 p.m.	ORH
Virtuoso Series Concert / Drew Leslie, Trombone	March 30, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
University Chorus Concert / FREE	March 31, 7:30 p.m.	ORH

RALPH OPERA PROGRAM PERFORMANCES

<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> by Gilbert and Sullivan	April 2, 3, 4, 7:30 p.m.	GCH
<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> by Gilbert and Sullivan	April 5, 2 p.m.	GCH

DANCE PERFORMANCES

Spring Dance Concert	April 17, 18, 7:30 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Concert	April 18, 2 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Capstone	May 8, 9, 7:30 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Capstone	May 9, 2 p.m.	UDT

THEATRE PERFORMANCES

<i>How I Learned to Drive</i> , by Paula Vogel	March 11, 12, 13, 26, 27, 28 7:30 p.m.	ST
<i>How I Learned to Drive</i> , by Paula Vogel	March 29, 2 p.m.	ST
<i>She Kills Monsters</i> by Qui Nguyen	April 24, 25, 30, May 1, 2, 7:30 p.m.	UT
<i>She Kills Monsters</i> by Qui Nguyen	April 26, May 3, 2 p.m.	UT

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