

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER

ADAPTED BY **RICK ELICE**

BOOK BY **DAVE BARRY** AND **RIDLEY PEARSON**

DIRECTED BY **WESLEY LONGACRE**

MARCH 7-14, 2025



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Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theatre department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

BY RICK ELICE

BASED ON A NOVEL BY DAVE BARRY AND RIDLEY PEARSON

MUSIC BY WAYNE BARKER

DIRECTOR Dr. Wesley Longacre

MUSIC DIRECTOR Hannah Swanson

SCENIC DESIGNER Terran Flynn

LIGHTING DESIGNER Meredith Hendrix

COSTUME DESIGNER Annecy Wood

SOUND DESIGNER Chandler Webb

PROPS DESIGNER Bridget Poulter

STAGE MANAGER Alexandra Pruitt

CAST

Nathan Adams Ted

Ash Campbell Molly

Avery Egan Captain Scott

Lana Greeness Smee

Willow Hanff Sanchez, Mac

Anna Higgins Alf, Fight Captain

David Klimiuk Boy, Peter

Jacob Maddock Lord Aster

Ember Nichols Dewey Prentiss

Jonathan Paul Black Stache

Justin Simental Gremppkin, Fighting Prawn

Jack Slaughter Slank, Hawking Clam

Aaydin Underwood Mrs. Bumbrake, Teacher

ORCHESTRA

Hannah Swanson Piano

Lucille Harlow Percussion

DIRECTOR NOTE

“If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don’t hesitate. Give in to it...Joy is not made to be a crumb.”

Mary Oliver, as she often does, puts things in a way that so few of us can. These two thoughts come at the beginning and the end of her poem “Don’t Hesitate”. These words have always moved me deeply because of its exhortation to take hold of the magnitude of joy right in front of us. But what she also discusses in this poem is the reality that there are “plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be.” The human capacity for destruction has always been a harrowing reality of life, and this play doesn’t shy away from pointing at and parodying the good *and* the bad in our human nature, as well as the complicated and traumatic history of imperialistic desires.

Yet the human ability to move towards resilience, love, joy, and hope keeps us going. And this little play, *Peter and the Starcatcher*—although I keep joking that it is a HUGE show that masquerades as a small piece of theatre—so deftly and wittily captures the joy available to us in any given moment. It takes the well-known story of *Peter Pan* and poignantly and hilariously gives us his possible origins. It connects us back to the sense of wonder and imagination so available to us in our childhood. But it also speaks to the complicated reality and grief associated with our mortality.

When things get hard and we can’t find our way forward, we have others around us to help us through. If we need family, it is right there for us to choose. While it may not be what we originally thought or wanted, there is a depth of friendship and love that can create a new, chosen family. We are able to do things against “impossible odds”, just like Peter and Molly do. We can laugh and hope and persevere toward whatever might be next, even when facing the ticking crocodile or our worst enemies. There is always hope. There is always joy. There is always life. When we need to escape from the gravity of life, theatre can provide that reprieve. And *my* hope is that this production might provide those things to you as you encounter this story and experience joy, humor, and beauty from this team of actors, directors, designers, and crew telling this story. It has been one of the most delightful and heartfelt productions I have ever had the pleasure of being a part of, and I hope it brings you something good and true as well.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Wesley Longacre (Director) Directing *Peter and the Starcatcher* has been one of the most joy-filled experiences of Wesley's life. 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 productions of *Our Town*, *The Normal Heart*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *Red*. Wesley has also served as a dramaturg and assistant director for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (*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.

Terran Flynn (Set Designer) Terran is currently a fourth year in the theater program, and she is excited to see her first lead design at CSU come to fruition. Previously, Terran has worked on shows both on stage and backstage. These include working props, costumes, and acting for the Lakewood High School Theater Company. In college, they've been building sets for the CSU shows for the last two years. Previous to this show, she's been collecting design experience in classes, and she assisted in the design for Jackie Sibblies Drury's *Fairview* (designed by Roger Hanna). Thanks to her assistant designer Phoebe Williams for helping with this design, as well as her parents, grandparents, and friends for supporting her.

Lucille Harlow (Percussion) Lucille was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 2004 and moved to Colorado in 2008. She fell in love with drumming at a young age by playing *Rock Band 2* and would spend countless hours trying to beat her high score. In fifth grade, she received the opportunity to play real percussion instruments, which she eagerly accepted. In middle school, she began to develop a passion for mallet percussion instruments, especially the marimba. She honed her skills in high school via marching band, concert band, jazz band, and orchestra. Starting at the age of 16, she began touring the country as a mallet player. Since starting her studies at Colorado State University, she has performed numerous works by reputable composers such as Philip Glass, Eric Ewazen, Keiko Abe, John Psathas, and Andy Akiho, among many others. During her sophomore year, she was one of the Colorado State University Concerto Competition winners, and in the spring of 2024, she performed Keiko Abe's *Prism Rhapsody* with the CSU Orchestra. She will graduate in the spring of 2026; afterward, she aspires to pursue a master's degree in music.

Meredith Hendrix (Lighting Designer) Meredith is a senior lighting design major at CSU and is excited to design for *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Her past credits at CSU include Assistant Lighting Designer for *Into the Woods* and Lighting Designer for *Body Speak Dance Concert* (2024). Outside of CSU, Meredith designed *AIRNESS* at Bas Bleu Theatre Company in Fort Collins, CO and worked as a Stagehand at the Aspen Music Festival during the summer of 2024. She would like to thank her family, friends, and mentor, Price Johnston, for their continuous support and encouragement.

Bridget Poulter (Prop Master) Bridget is a fourth year Set Design student who is also minoring in film studies. This is her first prop role for CSU, and she has previously worked as the scenic designer for *Into the Woods* (CSU), the associate scenic designer on *Our Town* (CSU), a scenic carpenter/painter for the Aspen Music Festival and School, and a property master for *Waiting for Godot* (Bas Bleu Theatre Company). Bridget would like to extend her thanks to her family and the staff/faculty of CSU for always pushing her to pursue her passion for design. This is Bridget's last show at CSU as she is set to graduate in May of 2025, and she will greatly miss both the community and friends this major has given her.

Alexandra Pruitt (Stage Manager) Alex is currently a junior studying Theatre: Design and Technology and English: Literature. She is thrilled to be doing her fourth production with Colorado State University. Alex has been an Assistant Stage Manager with a focus in Costumes for *the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, an Assistant Stage Manager with a focus in Props for *Our Town*, and the Stage Manager for *Fall Dance 2024* here at CSU. She would like to thank her friends in the department for helping her through the process, her Assistant Stage Manager Theo for being an incredibly talented and strong figure in this production, and her partner Mason for being supportive and involved from start to finish. Alex would like to thank her parents for supporting her passion and making the trek to see the show.

Chandler Webb (Sound Design) Chandler is a third-year Sound Design student, excited to make her debut as a lead designer. Her previous experience includes serving as an associate designer for *Into the Woods* (CSU), assistant designer for *Fairview* (CSU), and sound board operator for *Native Gardens* (Bas Bleu Theatre Company). She is incredibly grateful for the constant support of her family and friends. Chandler also extends her heartfelt thanks to her assistant, Jack Gonyou, and the entire sound shop team for their dedication and hard work throughout the design process.

Hannah Mae Swanson (Music Director) Hannah is a music director, collaborative pianist, educator, and organist. She is theatre and music faculty at Colorado State University, where she music directs for the theatre area and does collaborative piano work for theatre classes, lessons, and auditions. Hannah has greatly enjoyed music directing *Peter and the Starcatcher* and is grateful for the opportunity to get to know this amazing cast.

Hannah loves music directing and the world of theatre. She has experience music directing ages five to adult. In addition to music directing *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Hannah music directed *Into the Woods* in Fall 2024 and assistant music directed *Spring Awakening* in Fall 2022, both at Colorado State University. She has co-directed four grades K-2 musicals and two grades 3-4 musicals at Trollwood Performing Arts School. She has also taught and accompanied musical theatre courses at Trollwood and Lundstrum Performing Arts. In addition to her work in theatre, Hannah works as a collaborative pianist and private piano instructor. She also serves on the Bemidji MuisCamp board of directors. Hannah is based in Fort Collins and splits her time between her adventures in the realms of music and theatre and spending quality time with her cat Cosmos.

Anney Wood (Costume Designer) Anney Wood is a 3rd year student working in costume design and is excited to be working on his 7th show in CSU theatre, with *Peter and the Starcatcher* being his first as a lead costume designer. Some of his favorite past productions include doing wardrobe for *Into the Woods*, *Silent Sky*, and *Our Town*. He is incredibly excited for you to see his hard work and love of costumes come to life in this show. He would like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him through the late nights, stressful days and constant talking their ears off.

CAST BIOS

Nathan Adams (Ted) Nathan is overjoyed to be making his CSU debut. He is currently a Freshman Psychology and Journalism double major. Some of his past credits include Gomez from *The Addams Family*, Audrey II from *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Wadsworth in *Clue! On Stage*. Nathan wants to thank his family, as well as all his friends that have helped throughout this process!

Ash Campbell (Molly Aster) Ash is thrilled to return to the CSU stage! He is a junior musical theatre major, with some of his past credits including Jazz Singer in *Machinal*, Marcy Park U/S in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods*. He would like to give thanks to the cast and crew of *Peter and the Starcatcher* for their hard work and dedication.

Avery Egan (Captain Scott) Avery is so excited to be making her CSU debut in this marvelous show! Avery is currently a freshman theatre performance major. A few of her past credits include Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten* (Wolfe Theatre Academy), Juror Three in *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Thunder Ridge High School), and Principal Duvall in *Mean Girls* (Thunder Ridge High School). Enormous thanks to her family and friends for their constant support throughout her theatre career, she cannot wait to make you guys proud.

Lana Greeness (Smee) Lana is ecstatic to have the opportunity of returning to the CSU stage. She is currently a third-year theater major with a concentration in performance. Her previous credits include Milky White in *Into the Woods* (CSU Theatre), being a part of the ensemble in *Native Gardens* (Bas Bleu Theatre), and Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Randolph Theatre). Much love and thanks to her dad, for all his incredible support.

Willow Hanff (Mack/Sanchez) Willow is excited to bring the world of *Peter and the Starcatcher* to life! Willow is a sophomore in the theatre program and has previously been an actor for CSU's Ten-Minute Play festival, in which she played Mary Jo in *Peace and Love, Mary Jo*. Other credits include Fata Morgana in *The Love of Three Oranges*, and Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical* (Skyline High School). She would like to thank her family, friends, and professors for their endless support.

Anna Higgins (Alf, Fight Captain) Anna is so excited to be a part of this production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* as her first performance at Colorado State University. She is currently a 4th year pursuing a double major in Musical Theatre and International Studies. Many thanks to her parents and friends for their continuous support and love.

David Klimiuk (Boy/Peter) David is a first-year Theatre Performance major at CSU, which makes *Peter and the Starcatcher* his collegiate debut. He is also a bass in CSU's Concert Choir. Some of his favorite past credits include Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Sid and Agate in *Waiting for Lefty*, Jimmy in *Almost, Maine*, Chris/Inspector Carter in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and

Nephew Fred in *A Christmas Carol*. He is very excited to perform in the extremely creative and welcoming community that is CSU Theatre. He would like to thank all of his friends and family for their unwavering support.

Jacob Maddock (Lord Aster) Jacob is very excited for his role in *Peter and the Starcatcher!* A second year at CSU, this will be Jacob's third show in the CSU theater department, following On The Brink's *Gamerz* and *Intimate Apparel*. He'd like to thank his fellow castmates, Dr. Wesley Longacre for directing, the awesome crew, and Isaac Greenland. Enjoy the show!

Ember Nichols-Dewey (Prentiss) Ember is very excited to perform in his first CSU production. He is currently a freshman theater major. Some of his past roles include Greg Pierotti in *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* (Jeffco Open), the Foreman in *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Jeffco Open), and the Escapologist in *Matilda: the Musical* (Jeffco Open). Ember would like to thank his parents for their support and Thomas Sheridan for his guidance.

Jonathan Paul (Black Stache) Jonathan is so excited for his fifth CSU show! He is a third-year performance and computer science major. His past credits include Somebody in *Everybody* (CSU), Peter Shaw in *Silent Sky* (CSU), and Mr. Jones in *Machinal* (CSU). Jonathan is thrilled to present such an exciting, whimsical, and touching piece alongside so many wonderful creators, and would like to thank his partner, Anther, his friends and family, and the rest of the CSU community for their overwhelming support.

Justin Simental (Gremplin/Fighting Prawn) This is Justin's first show at CSU. He has had a passion for the performing arts ever since he was a kid, and CSU has allowed him to discover a whole new version of himself. Pushing his talent to the next level, Justin is also minoring in stage/film production as he has a love for bringing stories to life on the screen. He enjoys creating short films with his friends and hopes to someday see his stories on the big screen. Justin thanks his family and friends for everything they have done to shape him into the person he is today.

Jack Slaughter (Slank/Hawking Cam) Jack has been studying in the performance concentration since 2021 but has carried a passion for bringing stories to life since long before. While at CSU he's participated in playwriting workshops with Dr. Javier Jurado, as well as monologue festivals and performance workshops with Debbie Swann, Dr. Wesley Longacre and Saffron Henke, including the *Gamerz* reading featuring work by Zach Helm. Jack's a lover of cats, dogs, good jokes, bad jokes, and the absurd. Graduating this Spring, Jack hopes to find success acting and writing.

Aaydin Underwood (Betty Bumblebee) — Aaydin is ecstatic to make his debut in CSU Theatre during his first year. He is an actor, independent musician, and a photo/video editor. Used to dramatic styles of acting, he is excited to take on a comedic and lighthearted character. Aaydin extends sincere gratitude to everyone who keeps him going, including his parents, sisters, and friends.

CSU THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Saffron Henke

PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Steven Workman

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER Elise Kulovany

CUTTER/DRAPER Rebecca Evans

COSTUME STAFF Steph Nguyen

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR Tate Sanders

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Matt Grevan

SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST Karl Hermanson

HEAD OF PROPS Melissa Centgraf

SCENE SHOP FOREMAN Johnie Rankin

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS Tiana Fuentes, Grace Hellman

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER Phoebe Williams

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER Savannah Sand

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER Ava Barbieri

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER Margo Chupp

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER Jack Gonyou

STUDENT MASTER ELECTRICIAN Ayden Edgar

ASSISTANT MASTER ELECTRICIAN Cooper Cox

WARDROBE HEAD Emily Mastalerz

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Theo Kuehn

ELECTRICS SHOP TEAM Katherine Barr, Sydney Berkland, Margot Chupp, Ayden Edgar, Will Haskins, Jessie King, Jackson Looney, Kat Mahler, Jordan Pena

PAINT SHOP TEAM Kendal Condon, Johnathan Paul, Julia Slagle

COSTUME SHOP TEAM Molly Arndt, Brooke Bowman, Jake Braun, Charlotte Daysh, Eliza Domingos, Anna DeFrees, Helen Jewart, Abbey Ledesma, Chloe Martin, Cecily Mash, Zoey Riescher, Maya Ross, Briana Wheeler, Ayumi Yamada

SCENIC SHOP TEAM Mackenzie Abbott, Bryce Clampitt, Terran Flynn, Meredith Hendrix, Savannah Jackson, Rene Padilla, Caitlynn Stewart, Jacob Stoner, Phoebe Williams

PROPS TEAM Nick Appl, Willow Hanff, Kylie Heimlich, Charlotte Hildreth, Bridget Poulter, Bolu Saliu, Abby Sumner, Ver Thompson

AUDIO TEAM Avery Egan, Abby Holm, Roman Ramirez

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR Jack Ham

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR Valeria Reyes

A1 Kai Pauer

WARDROBE CREW Jenna Springer-Reece, Briana Wheeler

DECK CREW Kimberly Luna, Caitlynn Stewart

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