

# CENTER STAGE 2021-2022 SEASON

Lower Columbia College Department of Drama  
*Presents*



## The Underpants

**by Steve Martin**

adapted from a play by Carl Sternheim

**May 27, 28, June 2, 3, 4 at 7:30 p.m.  
June 5 at 2 p.m.**

*Director ~ Elizabeth Richard*

*Scenic, Lighting, & Sound Design ~ Robert Cochran*

*Costume Design ~ Abby Vaughan*

*Graphic Design ~ Maya Muller*

## Time & Place

Dusseldorf

March, 1910

Scene One: Friday Afternoon

Scene Two: Saturday Morning

Scene Three: Saturday Evening

Scene Four: Sunday Morning

Scene Five: Monday Morning

*There will be no intermission*

## Cast

Theo Maske	Francisco Santana
Louise Maske	Aria Larsen
Gertrude Deuter	J. Haynes-Hughes
Frank Versati	Andrew Gomes*
Benjamin Cohen	Davey Flock
Klingelhoff	Lucas Boursaw*
The King	Nick Tinoco

## Crew

Stage Manager	Emily Wood
Assistant Stage Manager	Kaitlin Sexton
Scenic Construction/Light-Board Operator	Gillian Madden*
Scenic Construction/Sound-Board Operator	Ariel Alvarez-Moreno*
Properties	Andrew Gomes*, Karin Sekiguchi
Costume Assistant	Gillian Madden*
RCA Lead Stage Technician	Kris Landers
Scenic Construction	Ariel Alvarez-Moreno*, Gillian Madden*, Andrew Gomes*, Lucas Boursaw*, Karin Sekiguchi, Angelina Schnitger
House Management	Annika Hartley

\* Reiniger Scholarship Recipient

## Director's Notes

Steve Martin's adaptation of Carl Sternheim's play, *The Underpants*, moves the play's backdrop away from the political concerns that Germans would have recognized in 1910 and provides us instead with the whims of instant fame and its consequences. Sternheim's critique of the bourgeoisie remains with the emphasis shifted to more contemporary gender and cultural politics. Through it all Martin infuses Sternheim's original verbal oddities with his own turns of phrases, humor, and "wild & crazy" nuttiness. Our heroine, Louise, is sympathetically brought to the forefront. Martin gives voice to her dilemma of being a "little housewife who yearns for more" even as her brush with fame briefly shows her the power that notoriety offers. Most importantly, both authors encourage us to join in a ridiculous comic romp offering good fun and a joyful evening in the theatre. Farce cannot solve the complex issues of our world, but it can offer us a chance to take ourselves less seriously. I encourage you to let comic timing and silly jokes do their work. If theatre does nothing else, it enlarges hearts and brings us together with the joy of laughter for an evening. Let yourself go: laugh at life. There is time enough in the morning to squarely secure your underpants and tackle the challenges of the day!

### **A word about Sternheim and the original work, *Die Hose***

Carl Sternheim, born in 1878, was the son of a Jewish middle-class banker and a Lutheran working-class mother. A writer of short stories, books, plays, and essays, he is best known for his satiric comedies making fun of the values and aspirations of the emerging German middle class. *The Underpants* centers on one couple, Theo and Louise Maske. Sternheim followed this play with three more about the Maske family, ironically subtitled the group of plays, "Scenes from the Heroic Life of the Middle Class." These plays follow the descendants of Theo and Louise, while they pursue their middle-class preoccupations even as Germany moves slowly towards fascism.

The political context of pre-World War I Germany provides the background for outlandish characters with their own odd comic ways of speaking who find themselves in ridiculous situations. *Die Hose's* comic, but critical and mocking commentary on the German middle class was so savage that it managed to clear the censor's office only by changing its title to *Der Riese*, or *The Giant* in English. Nazi authorities would later ban Sternheim's work altogether, not only because of his Jewish descent, but also because of his biting satire.

Although Sternheim and his family fled to Switzerland during the First World War, his daughter Dorothea was a resistance fighter during the Second World War and was sent by the Nazis to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. Dorothea survived her internment. Sternheim died in Brussels during the war.

### **A word about the adaptation and the author, Steve Martin**

Steve Martin is most widely known for his work as an actor and stand up comedian, but he is also recognized as a writer of adaptations for the screen, several essays, novels, and three original works for the stage. In early 2000, with the encouragement and support of NYC's Classic Stage Company, Martin turned his efforts to *Die Hose*, Carl Sternheim's 1910 German farce.

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Creating a new adaptation of a 100-year-old play, particularly one not originally written in English, requires years of work. In this case it began with a literal line by line translation of Sternheim's play prepared by Peter John Still. Working through this clunky but valuable translation of the original German took over two years of drafts, staged readings, and initial productions to perfect the final version: a brand new creation with Steve Martin as the midwife.

Martin, already an experienced adaptor most famously with his screenplay of the film *Roxanne*, an adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, notes in his preface to the play:

"I have come to understand that however true I intend to remain to the original text, the adaptation is continuously influenced, altered, and redefined by modern times... The job seems easy at first. It feels as though all one has to do is update a few sentences, modernize a few references, and one is finished. But a nasty thing happens. One's own inherent presence in the current age intrudes. In a sociopolitical play like Sternheim's *The Underpants*, meanings change through time. What was relevant then is historical now. And what was tangential then can become central. I chose not to present the play as historical artifact. I decided to uncork the genie that Sternheim had placed in the bottle—the genie that makes the play relevant to our age. In doing so, I have had to subordinate some themes in the original, and emphasize others that, like Sternheim's sea serpent, lurked under the surface. Sternheim's play is ribald, satirical, self-referential, and quirky. I hope I have retained those elements and assured my place in heaven—I mean, served the playwright's intentions."

## Cast and Production Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

**Ariel Alvarez-Moreno (Scenic Construction, Sound-Board Operator)** is a Reiniger Scholarship Recipient at LCC and is taking a break from onstage to work backstage. You may have seen her this past year as Rachel in *The Baby Dance* and Lisa in *Private Eyes*. She has previously performed in the Dana Brown Mainstage theater at R.A. Long working in plays like *Seussical the Musical*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Music Man*, and *Mama Mia*. She is excited to explore a different aspect of theatre, to meet new people, and to make lots of great memories.

**Lucas Boursaw (Klingelhoff)** is a Reiniger Scholarship Recipient at LCC and will graduate in December with his Business DTA/MRP. He lives in Rainier, Oregon with his sister, mother, and father. Lucas has been involved in theatre since he was a freshman in high school. Lucas has a lot of interests, including: theatre, writing, and welding. *The Underpants* is Lucas's third production at Lower Columbia College. This is his first acting role in Center Stage Theatre. He is very excited to be a part of the production and the Center Stage Theatre family.

**Andrew Gomes (Frank Versati)** is a Reiniger Scholarship Recipient at LCC, will graduate in June with his AA-DTA/MRP in Music, and will be attending CWU in the fall. He has worked with Center Stage since Winter Quarter 2020, where he was able to perform as Samuel in *Number the Stars* before the pandemic hit. Since then, he has performed in our film production *The Story About the Tattoo* in Fall 2021, and *The Baby Dance* as Richard Leiberman in Winter 2022. He also wrote *Blue Collar Anonymous*, which was filmed in

Winter 2021, and worked as Assistant Stage Manager in the Fall 2021 performance of *Private Eyes*. This is his last quarter at LCC, and he is grateful to be a part of this production, both to cause some laughs and say farewell to the theatre and the people that have allowed him to explore the joys of theatre in a safe and caring environment.

**J Haynes-Hughes (Gertrude Deuter)** is thrilled to be playing Gertrude in her farewell performance at the LCC Center Stage Theatre! Previous roles include Lois/Ethel in *Ruby Sunrise*, Mom in *True West*, and Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. J would like to thank Betsy for every last note, critique, and suggestion; Don for always supporting her despite the many hours away from home; Rich and Rachel for cheering her on; and all her friends and colleagues at LCC who have supported her throughout the years. Thank you all.

**Annika Hartley (House Manager)** is an LCC Alumni who has always found a home in the performing arts. She has been onstage for 9 Center Stage productions, offstage for 3, and now works fully behind the scenes as the Rose Center's House Manager. Enjoy the show!"

**Kris Landers (Lead Stage Technician)** started her involvement in LCC Theatre by taking Stage Crafts class and then became the work-study student for The Rose Center for the Arts. Kris now serves as Lead Stage Technician. Her favorite stage production is *Puff's*, a play about a certain unnamed magical school.

**Aria Larsen (Louise Maske)** a sophomore at LCC, is working towards her AA-DTA. She has played Marci in *Almost Maine* and Marion Jay in *Trap* at Kelso High School, and as Wanda in *The Baby Dance* at LCC. This is her second play at LCC. Aria is an aspiring stand-up comedian. In her free time she enjoys pottery and gardening. She is looking forward to being able to do more plays at LCC and try an open mic night in the future.

**Gillian Madden (Scenic Construction, Costume Assistant, Light-Board Operator)** is a second-year student at Lower Columbia College and will complete her AA-DTA degree in June. This will be her second and last time helping backstage with an LCC production as she will be attending Central Washington University in the fall. She plans to stick with scenic construction and the technical side of backstage theater. Outside of school, she works in retail and enjoys road trips, music, and photography in her free time. She takes pride in being a daughter, granddaughter and sister to her loving, supportive family.

**Francisco Santana (Theo Maske)** has been a student at Lower Columbia College working towards his transfer degree in acting. This will be his fourth time performing in an in-person production at Center Stage having appeared previously as Peter in *Number the Stars*, Frank in *Private Eyes*, and Ron in *The Baby Dance*. Over the last two years, he performed in the Drama Department's film and audio productions. During his time away from the theater Francisco enjoys spending time with family. He is thrilled to be back once more and hopes you all enjoy the show!

**Karin Sekiguchi (Scenic Construction/Props)** is an international student from Japan at LCC. She lives in an LCC apartment for international students located a 3-minute walk from LCC with two Korean roommates. She came here last September, so she has been staying here for about 7 months. Her favorite things to do are watching movies, listening to music, and playing instruments. She had no acting experience, but she joined the audition. This is because she was getting interested in acting while taking ESL listening and speaking classes.

**Nick Tinoco (The King)** is in Running Start going for his AA-DTA degree. This is Nick's first play in the LCC Center Stage Theater. Some things Nick likes to do is in his free time are making videos with friends and making animations. Nick's career goal is to become a 3D animator.

**Emily Wood (Stage Manager)** is the Stage Manager for Spring Quarter at LCC. While this is her first time working with Center Stage, Emily has been involved with theater since she was four years old. She spent much of her time working with Brush Creek Playhouse in Silverton, OR. There she performed in over 20 productions including *Accidentally Yours*, *I Ought to Be In Pictures*, and *Christmas at the Blizzard*. After spending 10 years in their annual youth shows, Emily worked as assistant director for the next several youth shows. On top of backstage and acting experience, Emily also has written multiple productions with her father. Emily is excited to join Center Stage and is thrilled to be involved in a production once again.

## Artistic Staff Biographies

**Elizabeth Richard (Director)** is so happy to be back on campus and in the theatre teaching and directing live at LCC! Elizabeth holds a BA from CUNY, an Acting Certificate from The National Shakespeare Conservatory, and an MA from Eastern Michigan University. She has worked at the Portland Actors Conservatory, Artists Repertory Theatre, Oregon Children's Theatre, Lakewood Theatre, Portland Accessible Theatre, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Elizabeth's passion for Theatre for Social Justice has led to work with Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Planned Parenthood, and others. Prior to LCC, Elizabeth taught and directed at Central Michigan University, and acted for many years in NYC. Favorite directing projects outside of LCC include *Ramona Quimby* (OCT), *Willy Wonka* (Midland Center for the Arts, MI), and *Race: How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession* at CMU, which also toured Metro Detroit.

**Robert Cochran (Scenic/Lighting/Sound Design)** has held the role of technical director of the Rose Center for the Arts since its opening in 2008. He also serves as the instructor of the stage crafts class for the drama program. A Kelso native, Robert graduated from LCC then transferred to the University of Washington School of Drama. He has worked as a scenic and Lighting Designer and served in a multitude of backstage roles including Technical Director at Arts West, Lakeside, Mercer Island High, and Okoboji Summer Theatre at Stevens College. In his free time he enjoys biking, kayaking, and making ice cream.

**Abby Vaughan (Costume Design)** is a costume designer and visual artist living and working in Portland Oregon. She is the Costume Design instructor at Clackamas Community College and truly loves working with students and encouraging their blossoming passion for theater. An alumna of Portland State University, Abby has had the privilege of working locally as a designer and maker with many Portland theaters, independent film makers, local musicians, and the vibrant Portland drag community. She is excited to be part of Lower Columbia College's production of *The Underpants* and looks forward to more collaborations in the future.

*If you are interested in joining the volunteer community here at the Rose Center, please call 360.442.2512 or email at [ahartley@lowercolumbia.edu](mailto:ahartley@lowercolumbia.edu)*



**LCC Symphonic Band**

*Arioso*  
featuring Brad Dutz,  
percussion

**Friday, June 3**  
**7:30 p.m.**



[lowercolumbia.edu/music](http://lowercolumbia.edu/music)

**LCC Jazz Ensemble**

**Spring Concert**

**Tuesday, June 7**  
**7:30 p.m.**



[lowercolumbia.edu/music](http://lowercolumbia.edu/music)



LCC Choir presents

*Mozart's Requiem*



**Friday, June 10**  
**7:30 p.m.**

[lowercolumbia.edu/music](http://lowercolumbia.edu/music)



**Spring 2022 Student Recital**

**Wednesday, June 15**  
**5:30 & 8 p.m.**

[lowercolumbia.edu/music](http://lowercolumbia.edu/music)

**Acknowledgments**

The Drama Department is indebted to the following for their contributions to this production and to our academic program:

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|--|---|--|
| Safety and Security Services: Jason<br>Arrowsmith ~ Director, Rhea Rukkila<br>and the entire staff | Kristen Finnel, Vice President of Instruction<br>Nolan Wheeler, Vice President of<br>Administration | Jennie Castle, Gallery and Programs Director<br>Minel Slabu and the LCC Print Shop<br>LCC Foundation |
| Janel Skreen, Director of Environmental<br>Safety and Security                                     | Richard Hamilton, Director of Campus<br>Services  | Nicole Boyer Cochran, James Eikrem & the<br>Friends and Family of the Cast and Crew                  |
| Act One Drama Club Members   | Brandon Ray, Director of IT Services  | Clackamas Community College Theatre<br>Department  |
| Associated Students of LCC   | Stefanie Gilberti, Dean of Instruction and<br>Learning Resources                                    |  |
| Richard Arquette, Director of Student<br>Programs and Student Housing                              | Tamara Boyco, Administrative Assistant  |  |

*The Theatre Department extends its deepest gratitude to the LCC Community and the Longview area senior citizen groups and individuals who have honored our drama program and plays with their loyal attendance. We look forward to continuing this relationship and we thank you for your continued support!*

# Theatre Arts Classes and Opportunities ~ Fall 2022

## All Drama Classes will be offered fully face to face!

### Behind the Scenes and Onstage

**Introduction to Theatre DRMA 101** is a college transfer course that studies the history, development, and the many areas of theatre required to produce a play. In addition to directing, acting, and playwriting, students will learn about set, light, and costume design through the study of the current Center Stage play and other plays from various periods of history. Taught by Betsy Richard.

**Acting DRMA 106 and 206** are college transfer classes that study the methods, techniques, and theories of acting as an art form. Taught by Betsy Richard in Center Stage Theater. This course is offered every quarter as DRMA 106/206, 107/207, 108/208 and each quarter focuses on a unique aspect of Acting. The course does not have to be taken in sequence.

**Stagecraft DRMA 116/117/118** are college transfer courses that teach the basic principles of stage design, lighting, and construction of sets for our productions! Enjoy fun, hands-on education taught by our expert technical theatre instructor Robert Cochran. This course does not need to be taken in sequence and is offered every quarter.

**Theatre Rehearsal and Performance DRMA 198/298** is a college transfer course that invites you to work on a Center Stage production! Each term LCC does a fully produced, **fully face to face**, full-length play. Auditions are the first week of each term, and you can earn credits by working on stage or off stage in the beautiful Center Stage Theatre. Fall 2022's production is **Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare**. Instructor permission required. Betsy Richard directs.

**Act One Drama Club** produces each quarter's play selection, participates in Campus Culture, and takes field trips to Seattle and Portland to see plays and tour theatres! Become a part of the teamwork and fun. From backstage to onstage this group creates community benefitting its members and the entire LCC Campus! Contact Betsy Richard for more information (brichard@lowercolumbia.edu).

Visit us at [lowercolumbia.edu/drama](https://lowercolumbia.edu/drama)  
to learn more about LCC's Drama Program

#### LCC Drama Department Fall Play, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

The Montague and Capulet families are at war. When Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet meet by chance, the two lovers defy their entire world to be together. Contact B. Richard (brichard@lowercolumbia.edu) for more information.

- **Auditions 9/21 & 9/22 3-6 p.m. in Center Stage Theatre**
- **Performance:** November 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m. and November 13, 20 at 2 p.m.