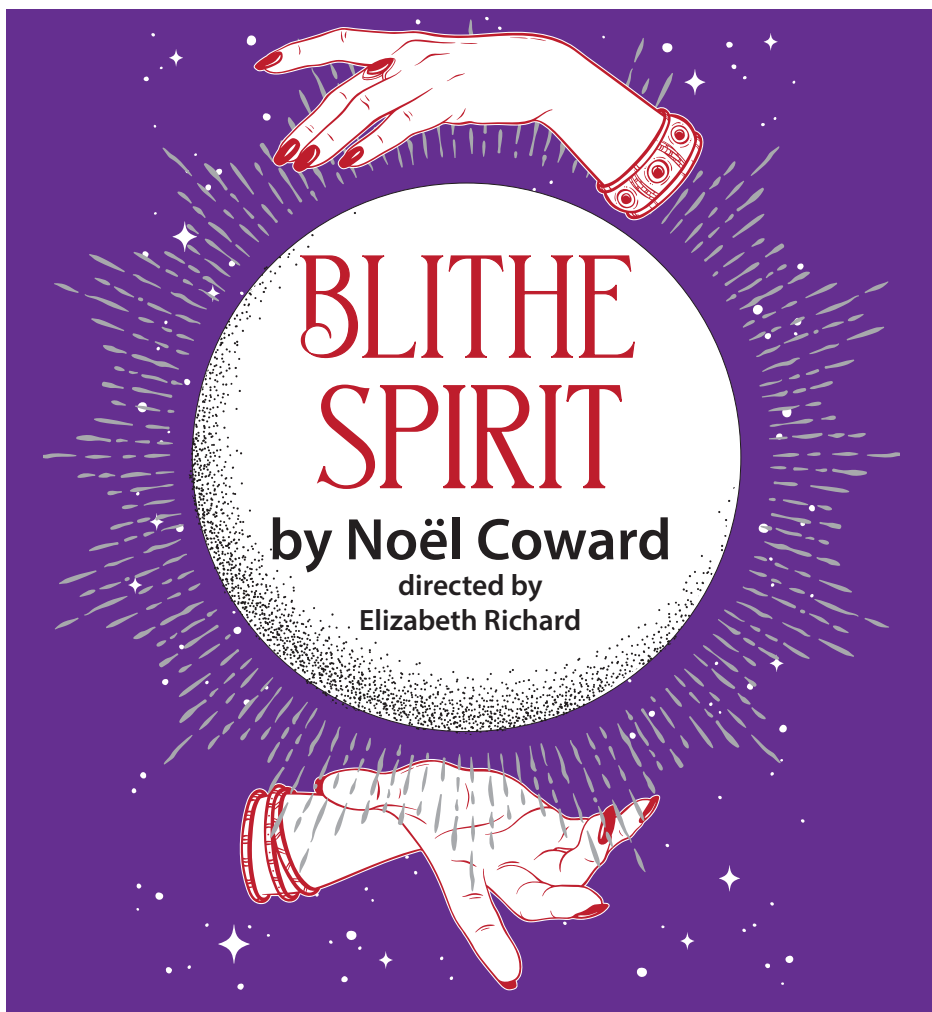


CENTER STAGE 2024-2025 SEASON

Lower Columbia College Department of Drama Presents



Performance Dates:

February 28, March 1,

6 & 8 at 7:30 pm;

March 2 at 2 pm;

March 7 at 11am

Director ~ Elizabeth Richard

*Scenic & Sound Design ~
Robert Cochran*

Costume Design ~ Quinn Perry

Lighting Design ~ Joe Griffith

Graphic Design ~ Maya Muller

Accent Coach ~ James Eikrem

Time & Place

The living room of the Condomine's house in Kent, England; 1941.

Act I

Scene One: Before dinner on a summer evening.

Scene Two: After dinner.

Act II

Scene One: The next morning.

Scene Two: Late the following afternoon.

Scene Three: Early Evening. A few days later.

Act III

Scene One: After dinner. A few days later.

Scene Two: Several hours later.

There will be one 10 minute intermission

Director's Notes

So much has been written by and about English playwright, composer, director, actor, singer, and would-be WWII spy Sir Noël Coward, that my notes here seem hopelessly insufficient. His professional career began on stage at the tender age of 11 and ended 58 years later when he acted in the film, *The Italian Job*. While friends knew Coward was gay, it was impossible to be publicly out for most of his career: homosexuality was illegal in Britain until five years before his death in 1973. Coward's distinctly British, witty, and flamboyant public image defined an era of dry sophistication. Time Magazine characterized him as "a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise." *Blithe Spirit*, acknowledged as the best of his 50 plays, was famously written in five days during the German Blitz on London. Coward somehow managed to craft a comedy about death in the midst of death that resonated with his resolute audience. *Blithe Spirit* broke box-office records with Coward remarking of opening night, "The audience had to walk across planks laid over the rubble caused by a recent air raid to see a light comedy about death. They enjoyed it, I am glad to say, and it ran from that sunny summer evening through the remainder of the war and out the other side."

We invite you to enjoy the sparkling wit and fun of *Blithe Spirit*. In dialogue with *Rhinoceros*, our fall production of Ionesco's look at the rise of Fascism and WWII, Coward's play offers a brilliant diversion from the war.

Cast

Edith	Morgan Nutter
Ruth	Remy Viveiros*
Charles Condomine	Finnegan Callens
Dr. George Bradman	Jordan Ramshaw
Mrs. Violet Bradman	Logan Clark
Elvira	Quinnlan Hemrich
Madame Arcati	Felicity Forero

Crew

Stage Manager	Olivia Blunt*
Assistant Stage Manager	Matthew Crowe
Costume Crew	Estella Hamilton, Emily Higbee
Light-Board Operator	Lucas Boursaw
Sound-Board Operator	Jakob Burseson
Storm Design/Construction Properties	Aqua Abel (thunder sheets, wind & rain machines) Aqua Abel, Anna Farnham, Emma Larsen, Bran Micheletto, Olivia Patterson, Bergen Whitney
RCA Lead Stage Technician	Francisco Santana
Running Crew	Aqua Abel, Emma Larsen, Bran Micheletto, Bergen Whitney
Scenic Construction	Olivia Blunt*, Remy Viveiros*, Aqua Abel, Finnegan Callens, Matthew Crowe, Anna Farnham, Felicity Forero, Estella Hamilton, Olivia Patterson, Francisco Santana, Joe Griffith, Robert Cochran
House Management	Allegra Taft

*Terry Reiniger Drama Scholarship Recipient

Acknowledgments

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

Act One Drama Club Members	Minel Slabu and the LCC Print Shop
The families of the Cast and Crew	Kristen Finnel, Vice President of Instruction
Stefanie Gilberti, Dean of Instruction and Learning Resources	Safety and Security Services: Jason Arrowsmith, Director, Rhea Rukkila and the entire staff
Tamara Boyco, Administrative Assistant	Nolan Wheeler, Vice President of Administration
Alyssa Milano-Hightower, Gallery and Programs Director	Richard Hamilton, Director of Campus Services
Associated Students of Lower Columbia College	David Wallis, Director of IT Services
Richard Arquette, Director of Student Programs and Student Housing	The LCC Foundation

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!

Cast, Crew, and Production Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Aqua Abel (Running Crew, Props) is pursuing her BAS in Organizational Leadership and Technical Management at Lower Columbia College. A transgender artist who enjoys cooking and business, Aqua is happy to be bringing her talents to the drama department as she creates some of the specialty props this show requires (think wind machine). Aqua is also a member of the RCA Box Office and RCA Support Team, keeping her busy with the arts in multiple ways!

Olivia Blunt (Stage Manager) is 19 years old and lives in Vancouver with her husband. This is her third production at LCC, including her role as Assistant Stage Manager for *Stop Kiss* last spring and her acting role of Daisy in *Rhinoceros*. She participated in the drama program at Goldendale High School for two years, where she played Annie in the 2022 production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, as well as managing props backstage. She also co-directed and starred as Karen Andre in the 2023 production *Night of January 16*. She loves watching movies, acting, and reading. Olivia is working on getting her Associate Degree in Drama and plans on transferring to WSU-V next fall, where she will miss theater very much!

Lucas Boursaw (Light Board Operator) is a resident of Rainier, Oregon. Lucas lives with his mother and father. He has been involved in theatre in some way or another for eight years. Lucas is no stranger to the Center Stage Theatre. In fact, *Blithe Spirit* is Lucas's eleventh production at Lower Columbia College. Now an alumnus of the college, he is elated to be back as a community volunteer and hopes to keep being in productions as long as possible.

Jakob Burleson (Sound Board Operator) is a recent graduate of LCC and is now pursuing his BA at WSU-Vancouver. Though he only recently got into theater, he loves doing it, along with writing, reading, and occasionally drawing. He appeared in the Spring Quarter '24 production of *Stop Kiss* as Peter and ran the light board for *Rhinoceros* this past fall. Jakob is both very proud, and very excited to be a part of this production for the community.

Finnegan Callens (Charles Condomine) is a freshman at Lower Columbia College pursuing a degree in Psychology. While this is the first show Finn has participated in 10 years, he was very active in the fine arts throughout his childhood and teenage years. He was an active member of marching, jazz, and symphonic bands throughout high school and worked as an intern for a small community theater for 3 years. He is very excited to have been allowed to work with such amazing individuals to create a wonderful show.

Logan Clark (Mrs. Violet Bradman) is a student at LCC. She loves video games and theater! She has appeared in Castle Rock high school performances such as *The Stranger in Alibis* and as Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*. At Lower Columbia College, she played Mr. Papillon in *Rhinoceros*. This is her Second performance at the LCC and she is very excited to be a part of the production.

Matthew Crowe (Assistant Stage Manager) is the Assistant Stage Manager for LCC's 2025 Winter quarter show. This is his first show with Center Stage, and his first time assistant stage managing. Matthew is excited for this new experience and to be a part of the crew! Before attending LCC he was a part of nine shows at Kelso High School, acting in eight of them. A couple of the roles Matthew performed were Lucas in *The Addams Family*, Reverend John Hale in *The Crucible*, and Roger in *Grease*. This is his third term at LCC since graduating high school last June. Matthew is so grateful to be able to continue working on shows with Center Stage while he attends LCC.

Felicity Forero (Madame Arcati) is making her debut at Center Stage Theater as Madame Arcati. Felicity has enjoyed every step of the rehearsal process and couldn't be more grateful for all of those in the production. From the director, to her cast members, and the technical crew, everyone is firing on all cylinders. Together they have created a fantastic, gut-splitting, soul-snatching show full of all the love and dedication a production could give. She hopes you enjoy the performance!

Estella Hamilton (Costume Crew) is a current 1st year student at LCC working on her general credits. She is assisting with costuming and prep work during this production and is looking forward to studying and helping with costuming further in the future. In addition to costuming, Estella has also performed in several plays and musicals, as well as choir performances, at Clatskanie Middle/High School. She enjoys working on her various hobbies in her free time, such as music, writing, and fiber arts, and she is a member of LCC's fencing club.

Quinnlan Hemrich (Elvira) is working on his second show here at LCC. Quinn lives in Longview and began his theatre journey in 4th grade, taking classes and working in shows at the Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts. Quinn trained and participated in 8 shows at Ridgefield High School and was an inducted member in the International Thespian Society. Over the years Quinn has worked on 17 different productions, growing his skills onstage, in set production, stage management, and lighting. He is enthused to continue working in the 4th theatre of his acting journey.

Bran Micheletto-Struble (Running Crew) is a current Lower Columbia College student earning an associate degree in medical assisting. He recently took his first acting role at Center Stage as Berenger in *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco. Previously, he has stage-managed, assistant stage-managed, and been a part of the backstage crew. This summer Bran will be playing euphonium for the Columbians Drum and Bugle Corps.

Morgan Nutter (Edith) is a student at Lower Columbia College, working hard towards her bachelor's degree in chemistry. When she's not studying, she loves to dive into a good book and spend precious time with her two adorable dogs, which adds a lovely touch of comfort to her days. She's super excited for her first role in *Blithe Spirit* at LCC and can't wait to get involved in more productions in the future.

Olivia Patterson (Properties and Costume Crew) is excited to be working on her first production at Center Stage. A lover of vintage fashion with an outgoing personality, Olivia took great care in helping to bring each character to life and treasured getting to know all talented people on the cast and crew. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she did working on it!

Jordan Ramshaw (Dr. George Bradman) is an aspiring actor living in Kelso working on becoming a Comp Sci major. This is his second show, having had his start during the end of 2024 as Dudard in *Rhinoceros*. He loves to be over the top and dramatic, unsurprisingly leading him to theater. He is also known to be a mime on occasion.

Allegra Taft (House Manager) is an LCC graduate who has recently taken on the role of House Manager for the Rose Center for the Arts. She is excited to be dedicating her time and energy to this special performance space.

Remy Viveiros (Ruth) Remy Viveiros is excited to be back in the acting sphere. This is her 5th show at LCC and first time trying a trained accent onstage. After the craziness of *Rhinoceros* last quarter, she finds an abundance of lines somewhat relaxing. Outside of theatre, Remy loves art in all forms and specializes in clay and ceramics, which she is taking at an intermediate level this quarter. A love of making art also inspires her to make props, such as masks, edible props, and whatever else a show calls for. She hopes to pursue prop making in the future.

If you are interested in joining the volunteer community here at the Rose Center, please contact us at 360.442.2512 or rca.events@lowercolumbia.edu



Artistic Staff Biographies

Robert Cochran (Scenic 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.

Joe Griffith (Lighting Designer) graduated from Evergreen State College with an emphasis in Entertainment Technology. He is an ETCP Certified Entertainment Electrician and Recognized Electrical Trainer. Joe is an Avixa Live Event Technician and Certified Technology Specialist. He has designed lighting, sound, video, and lasers for events throughout the northwest. His work has been featured as part of Fremont Art Council's Luminata, Burien's Arts-A-Glow, Nordic Av Artist's Tiny Massive, and The Typonexus Globalist Series.

Quinn Perry (Costumer) holds a BFA in Costume Design and Construction from Santa Fe University of Art and Design. Thrilled to be a part of the LCC family, this will be her second production here. Quinn has designed costumes for productions at The University of New Mexico, The Vortex, Shakespeare in the Park, The Santa Fe Playhouse, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, and Aux Dog. Working primarily as a tailor, she has constructed costumes for theater, opera, concerts, film, and television, with projects ranging from Rococo gowns and suits, to medical devices, and activewear. When not sewing, she can be found in the woods, thru-hiking!

James Eikrem (Accent Coach) is delighted to be working again with Lower Columbia College as Accent Coach. He has directed over 50 productions in professional, community, and academic theaters and recently retired as Theater Faculty and Artistic Director from Clackamas Community College. As an actor he has worked in Portland with Artists Repertory Theater, Portland Repertory Theater, Portland Center Stage, Lakewood Theater, Sylvia's Class Act, and Tygres Heart Theater. He has acted in regional theaters and television and was featured in the video "Money" filmed for Berlitz Language Schools in Japan. Jim spent 10 years as Assistant Professor in Communication and Dramatic Arts at Central Michigan University where he acted, directed, and wrote, co-produced, and directed an instructional video about sexual harassment awareness. He has a BA in Theater Arts and English from Portland State University, received his MFA from the Graduate Acting Program at New York University, is a Certified Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework® and has studied accents extensively.

Elizabeth Richard (Director) is in her tenth year teaching and directing at LCC! Elizabeth holds a BA from CUNY, an Acting Certificate from The National Shakespeare Conservatory, and an MA from Eastern Michigan University. In the Pacific Northwest she has worked at The Actors Conservatory, ART, Oregon Children's Theatre, Lakewood Theatre, Portland Accessible Theater, and OSF~Portland. Most recently she appeared in *Men, Women and Ghosts* for Cygnet Theater in Portland and as the Narrator for Southwest Washington Symphony's *Ferdinand the Bull*. Elizabeth's passion for Theatre for Social Justice has led to work with Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Planned Parenthood in addition to facilitator training with Theater for Living in Vancouver BC. 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* (Oregon Children's Theater), *Willy Wonka* (Midland Center for the Arts, MI), and *Race: How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession* (CMU and Metro Detroit tour).

LCC Symphonic Band Presents

Resplendent Glory

Friday, March 7 • 7:30 p.m.

LCC Jazz Ensemble

CONCERT
JAZZ



Tuesday,
March 11
7:30 p.m.

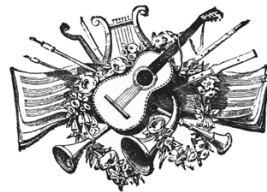
Wollenberg Auditorium
Rose Center for the Arts

LCC Choirs Present

Eventide

A Candlelight Concert

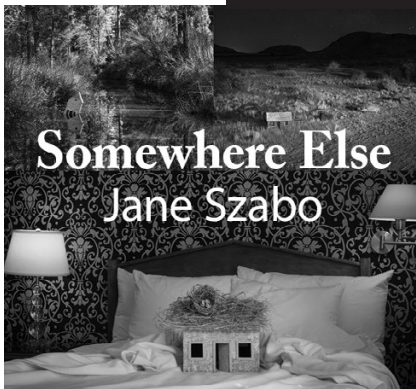
Friday, March 14
7:30 p.m.



Winter 2025 Student Recital

For date and times go to
lowercolumbia.edu/concerts

THE FORSBERG ART GALLERY



Somewhere Else Jane Szabo

Exhibit Dates:
February 18–
March 13

Mon-Thurs, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • lowercolumbia.edu/gallery

Theatre Arts Classes and Opportunities

Spring Quarter 2025 Drama Classes Behind the Scenes and Onstage

DRMA 101: Introduction to Theatre is a college transfer course that studies the history, development, and the many areas of theater 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.

DRMA 108 & 208: Acting 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. Spring Quarter's focus is audio narration and video self tapes. The courses do not have to be taken in sequence.

DRMA 116/117/118: Stagecraft 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 theater instructor Robert Cochran. This course does not need to be taken in sequence and is offered every quarter

DRMA 198/298: Theater Rehearsal and Performance 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** play. Auditions are the first week of each term, and you can earn credits by working on stage or offstage in the beautiful Center Stage Theatre. 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 theaters! To become a part of the teamwork and fun, join us in the greenroom and shop of The Rose Center for the Arts Fridays at 10AM. From backstage to onstage this group creates community benefitting its members and the entire LCC Campus! Contact Betsy Richard (brichard@lowercolumbia.edu) for more information.

Visit us at lowercolumbia.edu/drama
to learn more about LCC's Drama Program.

SPRING 2025 CENTER STAGE

AUDITIONS

Play TBD

Performance Dates:

May 30, 31, June 5, 7 at 7:30 p.m.

June 6 at 11a.m. & June 1 at 2p.m.

Auditions:

**April 9 & 10, 3:30-6:30 pm
in Center Stage Theater**

lowercolumbia.edu/drama/auditions