


CENTER STAGE 2023-2024 SEASON

Lower Columbia College Department of Drama
Presents



**THE
GODS OF
COMEDY**

WRITTEN BY
KEN LUDWIG

DIRECTED BY
BETSY RICHARD

**November 10, 11, 16, & 18 at 7:30 p.m.
November 12 at 2 p.m.
November 17 at 11 a.m.**

Director ~ Elizabeth Richard

Scenic & Sound Design ~ Robert Cochran

Lighting Design ~ Joe Griffith

Graphic Design ~ Maya Muller

Time & Place

The Present

Act 1, Scene 1: Summer, The Island of Naxos, Greece

Act 1, Scenes 2 & 3: Autumn, Daphne's office on a college campus in the United States

Act 2: That night, various locations outside on a college campus

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Cast

Aristide/Aleksi	Remy Viveiros*
Daphne Rain	Naziah Hendrix
Dean Marjory Trickett	Selena Delano
Ralph Sargent	Davey Flock III
Zoe/Brooklyn DeWolfe	Maria Uribe*
Nikki	Andy Wilburt
Dionysus	Francisco Santana
Thalia	Meredith Bundy*
Ares	Emily Wood*

Crew

Stage Manager	Cherish-Ann Krebs*
Assistant Stage Manager	Remy Viveiros*
Costumes & Makeup	Claire Fulton, Betsy Richard, Emily Wood*
Light-Board Operator	Alyssa Somach
Sound-Board Operator	Lucas Boursaw
Properties	Remy Viveiros, Emily Wood, Lucas Boursaw, Betsy Richard, Robert Cochran
RCA Lead Stage Technician	Francisco Santana
Backstage Running Crew	Bran Micheletto
Scenic Construction	Lucas Boursaw, Meredith Bundy*, Lloyd Huggins, Cherish-Ann Krebs*, Loralai Norris, Alyssa Somach, Remy Viveiros*, Maria Uribe*, Emily Wood*
House Management	Allegra Taft

*Terry Reiniger Drama Scholarship Recipient

Director's Notes

In 1989 Ken Ludwig's first Broadway show, *Lend Me a Tenor*, finally opened in the United States after wowing audiences in London's West End. It played for over a year, was nominated for 9 Tony Awards (won two), and was later adapted into a musical. Frank Rick declared that Ludwig had written "one of the two great farces by a living writer". Ludwig has gone on to write more than two dozen plays including the books for four musicals. His winning formula straddles the line between comedy and farce, providing non-stop laughter and fun for audiences. Although its original two productions opened a year before the COVID-19 lockdown, *The Gods of Comedy*, is only now being "rediscovered" as we have returned to the theater in earnest and are looking for ways to tickle our funny bones. We hope that you enjoy this silly evening in the theater as much as we have enjoyed our rehearsal process.

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	Associated Students of Lower Columbia College	Janel Skreen, Director of Environmental Safety and Security
The families of the Cast and Crew	Richard Arquette, Director of Student Programs and Student Housing	Nolan Wheeler, Vice President of Administration
Stefanie Gilberti, Dean of Instruction and Learning Resources	Elle Marander in the LCC Print Shop	Richard Hamilton, Director of Campus Services
Tamara Boyco, Administrative Assistant	Kristen Finnel, Vice President of Instruction	Brandon Ray, Director of IT Services
Alyssa Milano-Hightower, RCA Gallery Director	Safety and Security Services: Jason Arrowsmith ~ Director, Rheba Rukkila and the entire staff	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!

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



Cast, Crew, and Production Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

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

Meredith Bundy (Thalia) is a second year student at LCC, a Reiniger Scholarship recipient, and performing in her third production in the Drama Department. Meredith has had the privilege of playing the roles of Dorine in *Tartuffe*, and Pope Joan/Louise in *Top Girls* and is very excited to play the role of Thalia in this production. She has been doing theater her whole life and hopes to continue it in the future. Meredith would like to thank her family for always supporting her and she would also like to thank all her wonderful friends she has made through this program that have made her love of acting grow!

Selena Delano (Dean Trickett) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a long hiatus. Selena is a classically trained dancer in both ballet and lyrical jazz, she studied acting at PCC and UNLV, and she spent a large portion of her youth performing in dance companies and engaging in community theater. A few of her favorite roles include Val in *A Chorus Line*, Titania in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and Velma in *West Side Story* (where she met her husband of 27 years). Selena is excited for the opportunity to "knock the dust off" and play again with a cast that embraces the spirit of storytelling and magic. To her amazing family, who sacrificed mom-cooked meals and agreed to do extra chores just so she could do something she loves, she wants you to know she is a better human because of you. Love to D, C, and K.

Davey Flock III (Ralph Sargent) is happy to be performing again at LCC's Center Stage. He most recently appeared at Stageworks Northwest playing the role of Adam in *Yankee Tavern*. At Lower Columbia College his roles include Devon in *Lost in the Foreground*, Matthew in *Private Eyes*, Cohen in *The Underpants*, and The Officer in *Tartuffe*. Davey has worked in many other productions over the years during high school as well. He is thrilled to be working again with the other cast and crew members in this production and is looking forward to what's to come.

Claire Fulton (Costumes & Makeup) is working in the theater for the first time, but loves designing costumes and creating exciting makeup looks. Claire is very excited to be able to work with LCC Drama and hopes to help in multiple plays. She is a Running Start Student at LCC and this is her first quarter here. She is going to get her AA in business and is taking four classes this quarter. Outside of theater, Claire works at the *Cinema of Horrors* and hopes to go into movie makeup after she graduates. Claire has always had a love for Theater and has seen many plays at LCC Center Stage over the years. She is excited to finally be a part of the community and get to enjoy working on her first play: *Gods of Comedy*.

Naziah Hendrix (Daphne Rain) is excited to be back performing with everyone here at LCC's Center Stage. Her first appearance at LCC was the role of Elmire in *Tartuffe*. Recently she has been involved in both theater and film productions. At Stageworks Northwest Naziah appeared as Elizabeth in the play *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play* and in the ensemble of *Reefer Madness*. She has worked in two local film productions, *Red Tide: Vampires of the Morgue* (directed by David Aslin) and *The Reunion* (directed by Jacob Rohrbach). Both films will premiere in 2024). Naziah is happy to thank director Betsy Richard for another opportunity to work with her again in such an amazing and fun performance!

Andy Wilburt (Nikki) lives in Kelso with his family. He loves playing hand clap games, theater, and reading a good picture book. He has appeared as the baby in Edward Bond's *Saved* and as the child in The Magic Lantern Children's Theatre production of Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. This is Nikki's first play at LCC and he is very proud to be a part of this production.

Francisco Santana (Dionysus) has been a student at Lower Columbia College working towards his transfer degree in acting. This will be his 6th time performing in an in-person production at Center Stage having appeared previously as Peter in *Number the Stars*, Frank in *Private Eyes*, Ron in *The Baby Dance*, Theo Maske in *The Underpants*, and Loren in *Lost In The Foreground*. 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 and photographing nature when possible. He is thrilled to be back once more and hopes you all are able to laugh and enjoy the show!

Alyssa Somach (Light Board Operator) currently in her first year at LCC, brings a strong background in theater lighting, having dedicated multiple years to the lighting department for the Hilander Theater productions at Kelso High School. She has worked on some iconic performances such as *Grease* as well as *Bethel Parks Falls*, *Ghostlight*, and *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*.

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.

Maria Uribe (Zoe/Brooklyn DeWolfe) is 21 years old and a Reiniger Drama Scholarship recipient. She was born and raised in Colombia. Maria loves sunny days and picnics. One of her favorite things to do is trying out new recipes, or going out to eat foods from other parts of the world. She enjoys photography and movie nights. *The Gods Of Comedy* is Marias' second play. She is very excited about playing this new character, a bigger challenge than her first, and one that provides a chance to improve her acting skills.

Emily Wood (Ares), a Reiniger Drama Scholarship recipient, is happy to be back onstage at Lower Columbia College for a third time. Last year, she performed in Center Stage's productions of *Top Girls* and *Tartuffe*. She also was previously stage manager for *The Underpants* in 2022, and running crew for *Lost in the Foreground* last spring. 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 has written multiple productions with her father and is directing the fall quarter production of *Washington's Axe*.

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 Freemont Art Council's Luminata, Burien's Arts-A-Glow, Nordic Av Artist's Tiny Massive, and The Typonexus Globalist Series.

Elizabeth Richard (Director) is so happy to be back on campus and in the theater 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. In the Pacific Northwest she has worked at The 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.

LCC Symphonic Band Presents

STOLEN AGAIN!

More music shamelessly purloined from other genres

**Friday,
November 17
7:30 p.m.**



lowercolumbia.edu/music

LCC Choirs Present

A Dickens' Carol

Thursday, November 30 • 7:30 p.m.

Wollenberg Auditorium, Rose Center for the Arts



LCC Jazz Ensemble

Basie, Straight Ahead

Director: Ryan Meagher

**Tuesday,
December 5
7:30 p.m.**



Fall 2023 Student Recital

Wednesday, December 6

5:30 & 7 p.m.

lowercolumbia.edu/music

THE FORSBERG ART GALLERY



KEVIN BERNSTEIN
DENNIS DEHART
ALYSSA ENRIQUEZ
NICOLE PENONCELLO

November 13-December 7

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

Theatre Arts Classes and Opportunities

Winter Quarter 2024 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 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.

DRMA 107 & 207: 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. Winter Quarter's focus is Improvisation and Theater for Social Justice. 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 197/297: 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**, 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. 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 10 a.m. 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.

LCC Drama - Winter Play

The Book Club Play by Karen Zacarías

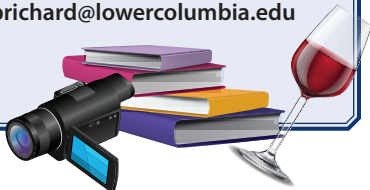
Audition Dates

January 3 & 4, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
in Center Stage Theater

Performance Dates

2/23, 24 & 29, 3/2 at 7:30 p.m.;
2/25 at 2 p.m. and 3/1 at 11 a.m.

For more info contact B. Richard
brichard@lowercolumbia.edu



Support Local Theater at Stageworks NW

A Christmas Story

adapted by Philip Grecian

December 1-17

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself at Higbee's Department Store. The consistent response: "You'll shoot your eye out!" All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here; enjoy the holiday fun with your family!

