

# CENTER STAGE 2023-2024 SEASON

Lower Columbia College Department of Drama  
*Presents*

# STOP KISS

**by Diana Son**  
**directed by**  
**Elizabeth**  
**Richard**



**May 24, 25, 30, & June 1 at 7:30 p.m.;**  
**May 31 at 11:00 a.m.; June 2 at 2:00 p.m.**

*Director ~ Elizabeth Richard*  
*Scenic & Sound Design ~ Robert Cochran*  
*Lighting Design ~ Joe Griffith*  
*Graphic Design ~ Maya Muller*

Play contains mature themes and language.

# Time & Place

New York City, 1998

*There will be no intermission*

## Cast

Callie	Cherish-Ann Krebs*
Sara	Remy Viveiros*
George	Lucas Boursaw
Peter	Jakob Burleson
Detective Cole	Micah Gaches
Mrs. Winsley/Nurse	Maria Uribe*

## Crew

Stage Manager	Bran Micheletto*
Assistant Stage Manager	Olivia Blunt
Costumes & Makeup	Claire Fulton, Betsy Richard
Costume Crew	May Chen, Emily Higbee, Ariana Schilling
Light-Board Operator	Xander Potter
Sound-Board Operator	Anna Farnham
Properties	Josaphine Saccio-Devine, Olivia Blunt, Ryler Plank, Anna Farnham, Betsy Richard
RCA Lead Stage Technician	Francisco Santana
Backstage Running Crew	Josaphine Saccio-Devine, Ryler Plank
Scenic Construction	Cherish-Ann Krebs*, Olivia Blunt, Bran Micheletto*, Francisco Santana, Sarah Slater, Ryan Smith, Remy Viveiros*, Maria Uribe*, Joe Griffith, Robert Cochran
Lobby Display	Anastasia Kulikova
House Management	Allegra Taft
Medical Equipment Support	LCC Nursing Program
Performance Counseling Support	Leszek Cromwell and Emme McCarthy

\*Terry Reiniger Drama Scholarship Recipient

## Director's Notes

When *Stop Kiss* premiered in 1998, it won a GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Award and was on the Top 10 Plays lists of *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, *New York Daily News*, and other major publications. *Stop Kiss* opened shortly after Matthew Shepard's brutal murder captured the nation's awareness of the continued violence against the LGBTQ+ community. It was one of the first contemporary plays of the era to specify the casting of the play to 'reflect the ethnic diversity of New York City' with Son stating in an interview that, "I don't know anybody who lives in NY and only knows white people". The original production was extended three times due to popular demand. Yet this story of the unexpected blossoming of love between two "straight" women is still considered dangerous to produce. The core message of this love story, discovering one's identity and saying yes to it, is overlooked. In 2015 the willitplayhere review of the script, strongly recommends that theaters produce this play, "The playwright is an American and a woman of color... the city (NYC) of acceptance and opportunity seems in short supply of both, and that irony makes the play more relatable to a broad audience. My theater community isn't brave enough...yet. I hope that yours is."

It is now 2024. I hope our theater community is brave enough.

## Counseling Services

LCC's Counseling Department provides free personal, academic, and career counseling to all students. Our counselors are trained professionals who offer a safe and confidential space for students to discuss their mental health concerns/challenges, explore career pathways, and navigate the culture of college to promote personal and academic success.

Our counselors are: Emme McCarthy, MSW and Leszek Cromwell, MSW. To schedule an appointment, please call the Career Center at 360.442.2330 or schedule in-person at the Career Center located in the Admissions Center. Our counselors are available for in-person and telehealth appointments.



# Cast, Crew, and Production Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

**Olivia Blunt (Assistant Stage Manager)** is 19 years old; this her first production at LCC, but she also participated in the drama program at Goldendale High School for two years. Olivia played Annie in the 2022 production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, as well as managed props backstage. She also co-directed and starred as Karen Andre in the 2023 production *Night of January 16*. Olivia wants to get her Masters Degree in Drama and direct a drama program at another college in the future. Olivia has greatly enjoyed meeting people and getting involved in theater again!

**Lucas Boursaw (George)** is a resident of Rainier, Oregon. Lucas lives with his sister, mother, and father. He has been involved in theatre in some way or another for seven years. Lucas is no stranger to the Center Stage Theatre. In fact, *Stop Kiss* is Lucas's ninth 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 (Peter)** is an LCC Student who lives in Longview. Though recently he got into theater, he loves doing it, along with writing, reading, and occasionally drawing. This is his first time playing a role, let alone being in a production not only at LCC but in general. Despite it being his first time, Jakob is both very proud, and very excited to be a part of this production performing for the community.

**Claire Fulton (Costumes & Makeup)** is working with Center Stage Theater for the third time; she worked on *Gods of Comedy* in Fall Quarter and *The Book Club Play* in Winter Quarter. Claire loves working with the LCC Drama Department, enjoys all the cast & crew, and being able to make memories with them. She is working on her AA in Business Management and is in her third and last quarter of her first year at LCC. Outside of theater Claire loves to do SFX makeup and knitting. She has always been interested in theater and all things that have to do with makeup or theater.

**Micah Gaches (Detective Cole)** is currently in his third quarter at LCC, having previously graduated from Kalama High School in 2023. While there he was a part of *Brothers Grimm* as the lumberjack and the anonymous Father character. He was also a part of *Antigone* his senior year as the prince. That play caught his attention and drew him closer to the idea of theater. Last quarter, Micah took the Acting and Improv class offered to him. Having positive experiences there, that (and the power of peer pressure) encouraged him to take part in *Stop Kiss*. Once graduated with his General Associate degree, Micah plans to attend the JATC Journeyman's program through Salmon Creek.

**Ryler Plank (Running Crew)** is in his first year at LCC and this is the first production that Ryler is part of. He is thrilled to be involved! Ryler wishes to get more into acting as it's something he's admired since being a kid. Ryler looks forward to being in future productions.

**Josephine Saccio-Devine** is doing props for this production. She is in her second year of Running Start at LCC and her senior year at Kelso High School. She has done set and crew with Kelso High School productions, and this will be her second time doing props and running crew with Center Stage. She is very excited for this opportunity to do drama at LCC.

**Ryan Smith (Technical Support)** is a returning student with no prior theater experience. Not a stranger to the stage, he has performed stand-up comedy in Sacramento, California and performed music in small venues near his present home in Cathlamet, Washington.

**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\* (Mrs. Winsley/Nurse)** is 22 years old. 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, and going out to eat foods from other parts of the world. She enjoys photography and movie nights. *Stop Kiss* is Maria's last play at LCC because she will be transferring to University in the fall; she wants to enjoy every minute of it. Maria is very proud to see how much she has improved!

**Remy Viveiros\* (Sara)** is thrilled to be a part of another Center Stage Theatre production! She appeared previously as Jennifer McClintock in *The Book Club Play*, and as Aristide and Aleks in *The Gods of Comedy*, for which she also served as Assistant Stage Manager. She's acted in several shows at Kelso High School and Stage Managed *Heathers: The Musical* last spring. Remy loves art in all forms and enjoys every aspect of play productions. She is very excited to play Sara in *Stop Kiss* and to have another wonderful show with her theater family!

## 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	Nolan Wheeler, Vice President of Administration
The families of the Cast and Crew	Richard Arquette, Director of Student Programs and Student Housing	Richard Hamilton, Director of Campus Services
Stefanie Gilberti, Dean of Instruction and Learning Resources	Elle Marander and the LCC Print Shop	Safety and Security Services: Jason Arrowsmith ~ Director, Rheba Rukkila and the entire staff
Tamara Boyco, Administrative Assistant	Kristen Finnel, Vice President of Instruction	The LCC Foundation
Alyssa Milano-Hightower, Gallery and Programs Director	The LCC Nursing Program LCC Counseling Services	

*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!*

## 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.

*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](mailto:rca.events@lowercolumbia.edu)*



LCC Symphonic Band Presents

# The Sorcerer's Apprentice

## Magical Music of Harry Potter

Friday, May 31  
7:30 p.m.



LCC Jazz Ensemble

# SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday, June 4  
7:30 p.m.

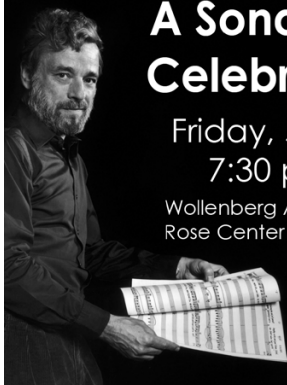


LCC Choirs Present

# A Sondheim Celebration!

Friday, June 7  
7:30 p.m.

Wollenberg Auditorium,  
Rose Center for the Arts



# Spring 2024 Student Recital

Thursday, June 13  
5:30 & 7 p.m.

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

THE FORSBERG ART GALLERY

# Student Art Showcase



May 30-  
June 13

Mon-Thurs, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • [lowercolumbia.edu/gallery](http://lowercolumbia.edu/gallery)



# Theatre Arts Classes and Opportunities

## Fall 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 face to face fall quarter by Betsy Richard.

**DRMA 106 & 206: 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. Fall Quarter's focus is Acting Techniques. 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 196/296: 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 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](https://lowercolumbia.edu/drama)  
to learn more about LCC's Drama Program.

FALL 2024 CENTER STAGE

# AUDITIONS

**Play TBD**

**Performance Dates:**

November 15, 16, 21, & 23 at 7:30 p.m.  
November 22 at 11 a.m.  
November 17 at 2 p.m.

**Auditions:**

**Sept. 25 & 26, 3:30-6:30 pm**  
**in Center Stage Theater**

[lowercolumbia.edu/drama/auditions](https://lowercolumbia.edu/drama/auditions)

**Fund your Education AND do theater!**



**Scholarship Auditions**

2024-25 Terry Reiniger Awards

**Auditions on June 4<sup>th</sup> • 2-5 p.m.**  
**Center Stage Theatre, RCA 131**