



ASNMSU CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1000 E UNIVERSITY AVE.
THEATRE.NMSU.EDU

A romantic scene featuring a couple's hands clasped together, resting on a large bouquet of red roses. The lighting is soft and focused on the hands and flowers, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere. The background is dark, making the hands and roses the central focus.

perfect arrangement

by Topher Payne

PERFECT ARRANGEMENT is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

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A Note From Wil Kilroy

NMSU THEATRE DEPT. HEAD

Welcome to our first show of the 2026-27 season. We hope you will enjoy discovering our diverse offerings this year, and that we see you at every show! We strive to provide our students with a variety of production experiences while they are here at NMSU, and for you, our beloved audience member, with theatre events that are both thought-provoking and entertaining. You will be seeing our performers on the stage, but please know that there are many more students working behind the scenes, so that every show runs smoothly. You might glance behind you and see students up in the booth as stage managers or running a light

board. When the lights are down, you may see the shadow of a student changing scenery. You may have also interacted with students in the box office or as you entered the theatre and were shown to your seat.

Educating students is our priority and we hope you enjoy seeing them advance their skills, and will come and support them year after year. And as always, we are happy to know your thoughts on our theatre so feel free to reach out! wkilroy@nmsu.edu Enjoy the show!

A Note From Nichole Hamilton

DIRECTOR OF PERFECT ARRANGEMENT

When I tell people to see this show, they ask me, "what's the play about?" I reply with, "Are you familiar with The Lavendar Scare?" I would say 85-90% of those exchanges respond with "No." I then follow up with "How about the Red Scare?" Over the age of 30 respond with a resounded 100% "yes." "Well, this was McCarthy's side quest." When his mission of rooting out communists in the U.S. state department proved futile and the media grew bored; McCarthy found a new enemy to attack. Over seventy years ago, yet quite familiar.

Most theatre practitioners will tell you the three pillars for doing what we do is to educate, to entertain, and to edify. This play checks all the boxes. Educational – not just queer history, but American history. Entertain – as the character of Jim says in this play, "God. You're fabulous." And perhaps most importantly, Edify – after watching this play, will our minds, spirits, or actions evolve in some way? Those who don't know their history...we all know the rest of that phrase. [Vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

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Dramaturgical Information: Time Period

Contrary to popular belief, gay people have always been here, and will continue to be. *Perfect Arrangement* is set in 1950, right on the precipice of the Lavender Scare. We are 19 years away from Stonewall, 23 years from the removal of homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and 43 years from same-sex sexual activity becoming legal in Washington D.C. It's easy to look at how far these characters are from seeing tangible progress and imagine that they live in a time of complete naivety and ignorance, but this is not the case. It has been 3 years since Alfred Kinsey's *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* was published, controversially proposing that homosexuality was more common in men than previously thought. The U.S. Park Police have just passed the "Sex Perversion Elimination Program", which targeted gay men for cruising. It may not have been the subject of polite conversation, but some debate around homosexuality's place in American culture was already in the air.

Mass panic over the notion of communist spies in the American government began in 1949 with the discovery that the Soviet Union had obtained nuclear weapons of their own. Politicians realized this was an easy fear to capitalize on. Right before our story begins, Senator Joseph McCarthy baselessly claimed to have a list of secret communists working for the United States government. When early attempts to root out communists failed, the decision was made to roll in the persecution of homosexuals. McCarthy testified that homosexuals had "peculiar mental twists" that made them susceptible to communism. Assistant Secretary of State Jack Peurifoy responded by testifying to have already ousted 91 homosexual employees, which spurred great public outcry. Before this decade, it was not common to see anyone campaign on anti-gay talking points, simply because an alternative position was largely unthinkable, but it proved a very successful strategy that continues to this day.

The Lavender Scare led to the firing of somewhere between 5 thousand and 10 thousand government employees, most of whom had their careers and futures destroyed, with many even taking their own lives. Previously safe gathering spaces like bars and even private parties became the subject of more aggressive police action. People with little left to lose began to fight back. The Mattachine Society, an early gay men's rights organization, was founded in 1950, followed by the lesbian rights organization the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955. Frank Kameny, a fired employee, began a picketing campaign outside the White House in 1965 that lasted five years, and helped others fight for their jobs back for decades after. All through the 1960s and 1970s, gay rights movements became visible, prominent, and impossible to ignore. The events depicted in this show lit the spark that ignited this change.

Dramaturgical Information: Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. has a long history of underground gay subcultures and resistance towards legal mistreatment. Before the Lavender Scare, it was actually considered something of a safe haven. As early as the 1880s, Lafayette Park had a documented history as a cruising spot for gay men. Police raids on secret drag balls were the subject of scandalous, front-news stories. These balls were hosted by William Dorsey Swann, a former slave who was the first person to take on the title of “drag queen”.

Our play takes place in the neighborhood of Georgetown. It was established in 1751, and for most of its life it has been a predominately African American neighborhood. An 1800s consensus shows that there were over 5,120 Black residents, both enslaved and freed individuals. Georgetown also has multiple gay bars, one of which is Nob Hill. The bar is in Columbia Heights and was a private social club for Black gay men in 1953 and opened its doors to the public in 1957. Nob Hill hosted the city’s first AIDS forum for the Black community and was known for its soul music, multiple dance floors, male strippers, and the “Wrinkle Room”, a place where older gay men would meet with younger men.

In the 1950’s, the US government expanded and needed more housing for their workers. In 1950 the Old Georgetown Act was passed that created new zoning areas and the renovation of housing complexes while hiking up rent and taxes, as well as banning the leasing of rooms in townhouses, which made housing unaffordable. Later, the Alley Dwelling Act was passed, in an effort to eliminate “substandard” alley homes. The act condemned inexpensive housing units and displaced many low-income Black residents. The population of Black residents in Georgetown dropped from 30% in 1930, to less than 9% in the 1960 consensus. There is a possibility that the home that Bob, Millie, Norma, and Jim live in rests on the ground of a US government sanctioned gentrification.

About The Playwright

TOPHER PAYNE



Topher Payne's play *Perfect Arrangement* won the American Theatre Critics Association's M. Elizabeth Osborn Prize for Best Play by an Emerging Playwright in 2014. The play went on to be produced off-Broadway in 2015 by Primary Stages and MARS Theatricals and was a finalist for a 2017 Lambda Literary Award. Topher was the 2018 inductee into the Georgia Theatre Hall of Fame. His other works for the stage include *Evelyn in Purgatory*, *You Enjoy Myself*, *The Baby Shower* and *Angry Fags*. He has scripted six films for The Hallmark Channel and was a nominated as a screenwriter for a 2026 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Film for Television for *The Christmas Baby*. Topher is a three-time winner of the Gene-Gabriel Moore Playwriting Award. He received the 2016 Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding World Premiere for the holiday comedy *Let Nothing You Dismay*. His latest work, *A First Lady's Guide To Killing the President*, premiered in Atlanta in September 2025

THE CAST

**Kate Conrad** AS "MILLIE MARTINDALE"

Kate Conrad is a junior at New Mexico State University pursuing her bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, she is so excited to call this her third show and first play at NMSU! Some of her previous credits include Florinda (Into The Woods, NMSU), Missy Hart/Ensemble (9 to 5 the Musical, Las Cruces Community Theatre), Angie Dickinson (The Prom, NMSU), Prudence (Beyond Therapy, Las Cruces Community Theatre) and Pirates Ensemble (The Pirates of Penzance, Albuquerque Little Theatre). After Perfect Arrangement, you can catch her again on the NMSU stage this November in Footloose: The Musical as Ariel Moore! Kate would like to thank her friends, family, professors, and director, Nicole, for supporting her and pushing her to be the best actress, student, daughter, and friend.

Liam Day AS "BOB MARTINDALE"

Liam Day is a third year student at NMSU studying for a degree in education. He also enjoys participating in theatrical productions in the community, with recent roles in Into the Woods, Lend Me A Soprano, Rocky Horror, and Jesus Christ Superstar. He has also enjoyed directing productions, most recently The Play That Goes Wrong with Blank Conversations Theatre Co. and the upcoming Heavy Breathing with Gus David Sanchez Productions.



THE CAST

Veronika Lazos AS "KITTY SUNDERSON"

Veronika Lazos is a junior majoring in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Musical Theatre. This is her first play on the NMSU stage as Kitty Sunderson and she can't wait to share this story with everyone! You may have seen her in the ensemble of The Prom and will be seeing her again in Footloose this Winter!

She wants to thank her amazing family and friends for their support on this journey! She hopes everyone enjoys the show!



Guillermo A. Portillo III AS "TED SUNDERSON"

Guillermo A. Portillo III is thrilled to return to his roots as a former Aggie and join the ensemble of Perfect Arrangement (Theodore Sunderson). With more than 30 years in the entertainment industry, Guillermo's career has spanned both behind-the-scenes production and on-screen performance. His film work includes Barracuda (Diner manager/Chef, in post-production), and his television credits include Pulse (Bobby). His stage credits include Billy the Kid on Trial (Bonifacio Baca) and A River, Its Mouths

(Mouth 4, Lady on the loudspeaker, A correspondent, Officer/Dispatch, Erasmo, and Don Frito) at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts High Desert New Play Festival. A proud alumnus of NMSU's Theater Arts and CMI programs, Guillermo is grateful for the wisdom and insight of his professors, as well as his training with NMCA under the enlightening guidance of Lisa Dalton and Wil Kilroy. He has recently joined the American Southwest Theater Company as a board member, where he is honored to support the theater and its programs. Offstage and away from the set, Guillermo enjoys creating mixed-media art and spending time with his family, whose love and support he deeply appreciates.

THE CAST

Siobhan Pyper AS "BARBARA GRANT"

Siobhan Pyper is a junior Theatre Arts major with a minor in Fashion Merchandising and Design. You may have seen her as Rapunzel in NMSU's most recent spring musical Into the Woods. She's honored to be involved in a representation of queer history and highlighting realities of the past. She wants to thank Nichole Hamilton for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Mariah Romero** AS "NORMA BAXTER"

Mariah Romero is a junior at New Mexico State University pursuing a BA in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Musical Theatre. This will be Mariah's second show at NMSU and she is so excited to be back on stage! Mariah is so grateful to be involved with such a powerful show and hopes you enjoy the production!

**Ricci Romero** AS "JIM BAXTER"

Ricci Romero is a Sophomore at New Mexico State University. After transferring in from Central New Mexico Community College, this student has been hard at work pursuing the Theatre Arts: Musical Theatre degree. Now, during their second semester here, they are excited to present their first performance in Las Cruces.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Nichole Hamilton
Scenic, Lighting, and Props Designer.....	Aaron Krohn
Costume Designer.....	Dr. Heather Striebel
Costume Shop Supervisor and Fight Choreographer.....	Tamara M. Carruthers
Sound Designer and Production Audio.....	Jim Wilkinson
Dramaturgs.....	Rachel Maze and Abby Watkins
Technical Director and Scenic Carpenter.....	Daniel Aguilera
Stage Manager.....	Katie Mayers
Intimacy Director.....	Bobbi Masters
Fight Captain.....	Veronika Lazos
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Abraham Martinez Alvarado
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Ester Keiter

STUDENT PRODUCTION BIOS

Abraham Martinez (ASST. LIGHTING DESIGNER)

is a senior Theatre Arts student at New Mexico State University with an emphasis in Design, Technical, and Management. He is excited to be serving as the Assistant Lighting Designer for this production and to continue gaining experience behind the scenes. Abraham has enjoyed becoming more involved with each production he works on, taking on new responsibilities, learning from the people around him. Every production has given him another opportunity to grow, and he is excited to continue developing his skills as a lighting designer. His goal is to pursue a career in lighting design and live entertainment after graduating from NMSU.

Gloria Galassi (BOX OFFICE MANAGER)

is proud to be part of the front-of-house team for this production. Gloria is currently pursuing a degree in math, but she is deeply committed to supporting the theatre community both on and off the stage. A graduate of the New Mexico School for the Arts (NMSA), her prior theatre experience includes acting roles, production work, and professional work at the Lensic Performing Arts Center. She hopes you thoroughly enjoy the performance!

Ester Keiter (ASST. STAGE MANAGER)

This is her first show at NMSU. She is very excited to be here and to have been given the chance to work with everyone!

Katie Mayers (STAGE MANAGER)

is currently in her senior year at NMSU, studying theatre with an emphasis in design/tech/management. Some of her recent work includes: 2026 Repertory Season (Props Run Crew, Santa Fe Opera), First Impressions (Lighting Designer, Ember Theatre Company), A Christmas Carol (Stage Manager, NMSU), The Death of Walt Disney (Stage Manager, Gus David Sanchez Productions), Endgame (Stage Manager, No Strings Theatre Company) & The Prom (Stage Manager, NMSU). You may have recently seen her on stage in Into the Woods (Baker's Wife, NMSU), Mother Courage (Katrin, NMSU), and Jesus Christ Superstar (Priest, Blank Conversations Theatre Company). She is so grateful for this opportunity to stage manage one last time at NMSU before graduating. She would like to thank Bobbi Masters for being such an amazing mentor over the past four years; she truly doesn't know what she would have done without you. She would also like to thank her family and friends for always believing in her, and you for supporting live theatre!

Rachel Maze (DRAMATURG)

is a theater and film double major now in her final year at NMSU. She was very happy to work on this show and hopes audiences enjoy it!

Luis Martinez Paz (HOUSE MANAGER)

(he/she/they) is very excited to join the team as your friendly neighborhood House Manager. After having completed their BA at the University of Southern California, double majoring in Theatre and Philosophy, Politics, and Law, they are now taking on a History MA here at NMSU, aiming to develop his history background for continued research on the history and ethics of acting techniques.

Abby Watkins (DRAMATURG)

is a junior Theatre Arts major and this is her first foray into dramaturgical work! She has always been a big fan of history, and queer history in particular is very dear to her heart. If you enjoyed what you see on the stage today (and she knows you will!), she encourages you to watch a documentary on the Lavender Scare! In a world that is trying to forget and suppress queer people and our history, she urges you to remember and love.



PRODUCTION STAFF



Technical Director and Scenic Carpenter	Daniel Aguilera
Theatre Manager.....	Jim Wilkinson
Production Stage Manager	Bobbi Masters
Scene Shop Work-study	Veronika Lazos, Edward Leyva, Abraham Martinez, and Rumi Pecastaing
Costume Shop Manager.....	Tamara M. Carruthers
Master Electrician.....	Jim Wilkinson
Lighting Electricians	THTR 347 students
Lighting Work-Study.....	Daniela Galloso
Light Board Operator.....	Savannah Weiss
Crew Chief	Greta Greenblatt
Stage Crew	Isaiah Holguin and Joah Owens
Set Construction.....	THTR 141L & THTR 346 students
Paint Charge.....	Aaron Krohn
Lighting, Paint, Props Work-Study.....	Daniela Galloso and Leah Wilson
Costume Shop Assistants.....	Nathan Schurtz and Alex Smith
Costume Shop Intern	Sabrina Stubbs
Costume Construction.....	THEA 1310L & THEA 345 students, Volunteers- Katie Mayers and Raelle Mosely
Costume Crew.....	Abraham Martinez Alvarado, Daniela Galloso, Edward Leyva, and Abby Watkins
House Manager.....	Luis Antonio Martinez Paz
House Crew	Tiffany Ballardos, Robin Blakeman, Trenton Cross, Nadia Garcia, Sean Miller, and Rumi Pecastaing
Box Office Manager.....	Gloria Galassi
Marketing Assistant.....	Chrys Trujillo

RESIDENT COMPANY

Daniel Aguilera

is an alumnus of NMSU with a wide range of skills and experiences that serve the position of Technical Director well. He grew up working as a carpenter in the city of Los Angeles where he did residential and commercial work and continued on and off for almost 30 years. Other work includes graphic design, exhibit design and fabrication, and filmmaking. As a resident of Las Cruces for over 20 years Daniel has worked in public education in LCPS, as exhibit fabricator, and an independent contractor.

Tamara M. Carruthers

received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts (with an emphasis in Costume Design) from New Mexico State University. She managed NMSU's Costume Shop for three semesters directly after graduation then joined Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) and spent ten years as their Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. She has also been a Costume Designer, Costume Shop Manager, and Draper/First Hand at Creede Repertory Theatre (Creede, CO). She has been the Costume Shop Manager and an Instructor at NMSU since 2017 and is the proud recipient of the Fall 2021 "A" Mountain Staff Award and the Spring 2022 College of Arts and Sciences Exempt Staff Development Award.

Nichole Hamilton

is an Associate Professor of Theatre Arts, teaching classes in Vocal Production and Acting. Her directing credits at NMSU include *It's a Wonderful Life* a Radio Play, *Inspecting Carol*, *The Wolves*, *Tracer* (a pandemic interactive virtual whodunnit), *Fefu and her Friends*, *Big Frog*, *Dracula A Comedy of Terrors*, *A Christmas Carol*, and staged readings for the High Desert New Play Development. Nichole has been an actor, most recently seen in *Airswimming* at Albuquerque's FUSION Theatre Company, and a proud member of Actors Equity Association for 16 years. She has professionally acted and directed for companies in New York, Massachusetts, California, Florida, and Tennessee as well as performed her solo show, *Dame Dada* for Minnesota Fringe, Denver Fringe, and various festivals in Nevada, Washington, Tennessee, Kansas, and Texas. Nichole is a certified teacher with the National Michael Chekhov Association and the Lessac Training and Research Institute and the recipient of the NMSU 2020 Patricia Christmore Faculty Teaching Award. nichole-hamilton.com

Lisa Hermanson

is originally from Seattle, Washington. She holds her MFA in Theatre Pedagogy/Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she was also adjunct faculty in Theatre and Speech, and her BA in Theatre and Music from Seattle Pacific University. Lisa is a director, music director, pianist, vocalist, and composer/playwright. She has worked in theatres in both the Seattle and Richmond areas, including Virginia Repertory Theatre (Richmond, VA) and the 5th Avenue Theatre (Seattle, WA), as well as multiple years in theatre education in Seattle. Favorite directing credits include *The Addams Family* (NMSU), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Blank Conversations); favorite music directing credits include *Into The Woods* (Theatre VCU), *Spitfire Grill* (Northwest University), *The Little Mermaid* (Broadway Bound Children's Theatre), several years with *Covenant Kids* (Shoreline Covenant Church), and work on the revival of *Paint Your Wagon* (5th Avenue Theatre). In addition to published and classic pieces, Lisa also focuses on new work. Her current project is her musical *The Golden Door*, which received its third workshop reading in February 2026. Much love to friends and family. See more at: www.lisakhermanson.com.

Wil Kilroy

joined NMSU after many years in Maine where he was Chair and Professor of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. At USM he directed dozens of plays and musicals including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Laramie Project* which were invited to Kennedy Center regional festivals. Wil has worked nationally as an actor, with roles ranging from Steve in *Becky's New Car* to Laertes in *Hamlet*, and on TV productions such as *All My Children* and *Babylon Five* and is an annual alumni guest artist with The State Ballet of Rhode Island. As the co-founder of the National Michael Chekhov Association, Wil has presented nationally and internationally, including Germany and Canada this year. Wil has been awarded three Kennedy Center bronze medallions including one for achievement in Theatre Education. Wil's current book is available via Routledge Press, "*Improvisation the Michael Chekhov Way: Active Exercises for Acting*" and "*Directing the Michael Chekhov Way*" is forthcoming.



RESIDENT COMPANY

RESIDENT COMPANY



Aaron Krohn

is an Assistant Professor of Design in The Theatre Department here at NMSU where he serves as the resident Lighting and Scenic Designer for The University's productions. He also runs The Theatre Department's paint and props shops. In addition to his work on campus, he works as a lighting and scenic designer professionally throughout the country with a specialty in lighting design for ballet and dance. Prior to his time with NMSU, Aaron spent four years as an Assistant Professor of Lighting and Scenic Design at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina. Aaron earned his MFA in Lighting Design from The University of Houston and he received his BA in Theatre with a minor in Art and Art History from Trinity University in San Antonio. Before returning to school for his graduate degree, Aaron served as the Production Manager and Acting Technical Director for Ballet San Antonio, where he was in charge of running million-dollar production budgets and supervising 30-to-40-person stage crews. Prior to his time in with Ballet San Antonio, he worked at Mega Systems Inc. developing and building lighting control consoles aimed at megachurches and nightclubs. Aaron Lives in Las Cruces with his wife Sarah, son Bennett, and their three dogs.

Larissa Lury

is an associate professor at NMSU (where she's taught since 2013), as well as a director, a deviser, and a former acrobat. In the face of an increasing number of people denouncing empathy as a weakness, she works to kindle it as one of our greatest strengths. She seeks artwork and experiences that open her to new ways of looking at the world, and strives to create those experiences for others. She's directed and workshopped plays for companies around the country, including: Central Square, Upstream, San Diego Rep, Nashville Rep, American Shakespeare Center, The Assembly, Cherry Lane, The Playwrights' Center, Urbanite, Portland Center Stage, Southern Rep, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, New Georges, Ma-Yi, The Playwrights Realm, New Jersey Rep, Keen Company's Keen Teens, McCarter Theatre's Youth Ink!, and Curious. She's grateful for the support she's received for her work, including: a National Directing Fellowship, The Drama League's Next Stage Residency, a New Georges Audrey Residency, an LMCC Process Space Residency, and as Resident Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre. She was a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and is an Affiliate Artist with New Georges. BS, Northwestern University; MFA, UC San Diego

is so happy to return to Las Cruces. Since directing THE BALD SOPRANO at No Strings Theatre Company, she has earned her MFA at Southern Illinois University and serves as the Artistic Director at Stage Left Theatre in Chicago. She directed the online streaming production of Crystal Skillman's OPEN and created the monthly new play reading series, Off-Stage Left. Her passion is new plays and throughout her career, she has worked in various roles in the development of countless new works. As a director, her work has been seen regionally at theatres such as Kitchen Dog Theatre (where she served as an artistic associate) to Off-Off Broadway at Theatre for the New City. She previously served as Resident Director at Coffee Black Productions and an Artistic Associate at Milk Can Theatre. For more information, please visit her website www.bobbimasters.com

Dr. Heather Striebel

is an Assistant Professor of Costume Design/Resident Costume Designer at New Mexico State University. She is a freelance costume and fashion designer who earned her Ph.D. in Apparel Design and M.F.A. in Technical Theatre, Costume Design from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She is a two-time recipient of the Mary Mitchell Fashion Design Award (2020-2021) with one garment selected by the Costume Society of America for presentation at the 2021 National Symposium. Other awards include: ariZoni (Zoni) Award for Best Costume Design for The Little Mermaid (Theater Works, 2019) and the Arizona Theater Teacher of the Year Award (2013). Select Design Credits: Fashion - Omaha Fashion Week (2018 - 2020), Miss USA Pageant 2022 - Lady Liberty Costume for Miss Nebraska 2022, Film - The Bell Affair & The Michael Shiner Diaries (Salt Marsh Productions), Stage - Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors, As You Like It, The Addams Family, Carmela Full of Wishes (NMSU), Something Rotten! (Theater Works), Spamalot, Escape to Margaritaville, Dirty-Rotten- Scoundrels, A Christmas Carol (Arizona Broadway Theatre), Violet (Glenn Korff School of Music), Mother Courage (Nebraska Rep), The Serpent (Nebraska Rep), This Random World (U.N.L.). To learn more about Dr. Striebel's work please visit: www.hscostumedesigns.com

Jim Wilkinson

is a graduate of Oñate high school in Las Cruces New Mexico where he studied technical theater. He continued his education at Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida where he received an associates of science in show production and touring. He returned to New Mexico to become the head of the audio department at the Spencer Theater. He travelled the U.S. and Canada on tours of Broadway shows including; Oklahoma, Big River, My Fair Lady and Movin' Out. In 2007 he moved to New York City and worked as a sound operator and mixer on many Broadway productions including Hair, Spamalot, Porgy And Bess, A Christmas Story, Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark, and If/Then. Jim is thrilled to be back living in the southwest and to be part of the NMSU Theatre.

FROM THE ASTC BOARD PRESIDENT



The American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC) is excited to begin the 2026-2027 NMSU Theatre Arts Season with "Perfect Arrangement" by playwright Topher Payne. "Perfect Arrangement" premiered at the Source Festival in Washington, D.C. in 2013 and opened off-Broadway at Primary Stages in 2015. ASTC is proud to have provided the funds to bring this amazing playwright to Las Cruces to speak with theatre and CMI students and join the talk back after the preview performance.

ASTC is a non-profit whose mission is to enrich the theatrical and educational experience for NMSU students and for our community by providing funding to support professional theatre personnel, students, and production/educational resources. We can only do this with support from financial donations and participation in fundraising events from you, our audience! In addition to our basic mission, ASTC provides funds for student travel, senior grants, and emergency funds to help students with a financial situation.

Save the Date for our third annual Boots and Bling fundraising event Saturday, February 27th, 2027, at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. For more information on this event, donate to ASTC or join the board, please contact me. dwelsh@nmsu.edu

Please sit back and enjoy this intermission free performance directed by Nichole Hamilton, Associate Professor, NMSU Theatre Arts.

Denise Welsh, ASTC PRESIDENT

We hope you will consider both a season subscription and becoming a donor - our students, faculty, and staff appreciate your support. ASTC welcomes your donations at the following levels.



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Join Us For Our Current Season!

Perfect Arrangement

WRITTEN BY TOPHER PAYNE
DIRECTED BY NICHOLE HAMILTON
OCTOBER 2 - 11 2026

Footloose

STAGE ADAPTATION BY DEAN PITCHFORD AND WALTER BOBBIE
MUSIC BY TOM SNOW AND LYRICS BY DEAN PITCHFORD
DIRECTED BY WIL KILROY
NOVEMBER 13 - 22 2026

Maricela the Unstoppable!

WRITTEN BY ALEXIS ELISA MACEDO
DIRECTED BY LUIS CASTRO
MARCH 5 - MARCH 14 2027

The Amateurs

WRITTEN BY JORDAN HARRISON
DIRECTED BY LARISSA LURY
APRIL 23 2027 - MAY 02 2027

**Purchase tickets online at theatre.nmsu.edu
or call our box office at (575) 646-4515**



ACTF
american college theatre festival

This production is entered in the **American College Theatre Festival (ACTF)**, a national educational network that recognizes and promotes excellence in collegiate theatre production and training.

Through ACTF participation, productions are eligible for response, feedback, and consideration for regional and national recognition. Students and faculty may also be invited to participate in ACTF educational programs, scholarships, and professional development opportunities across a range of theatrical disciplines.

By entering this production, our theatre department participates in a nationwide effort to celebrate and advance exemplary work in college and university theatre.