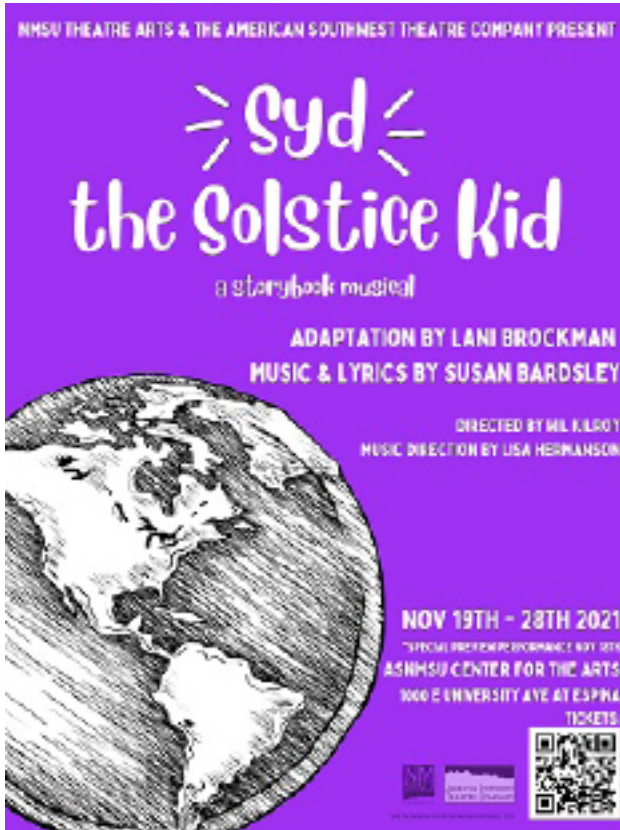




American Southwest Theatre Company
at NMSU Theatre Arts
presents



Director
Music Director
Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Props Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Manager

Wil Kilroy
Lisa Hermanson
Jim Billings
Chloe Cappuccilli
Alia Belinte
Chloe Cappuccilli
Jim Wilkinson
Mike Wise

CAST

Dominique Gomez (Syd)

Kamryn Neill (Kaysy)

Riley Samuel Merritt (Simon)

Janai Hanley (Deonn)

The Band:

Lisa Hermanson

The play is approximately 55 minutes in length,
and is performed without an intermission.

**Please observe the MASK mandate
inside the theatre at all times.**

Audiences are reminded to please silence all electronic devices
(cell phones and alarms) prior to the performance.
Thank you for your consideration.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

Welcome to *Syd, the Solstice Kid!* It is always a joy to be able to serve the children of the community, and we specifically plan a show for youth every other season.



This year hundreds of school children will come here to the ASNMSU Center of the Arts to be treated to a free performance of this show. With a theme of celebrating and appreciating diversity, we hope to ignite curiosity and respect for differences - with plenty of singing and humor. We also chose this show to provide families with a way to enjoy an event all-together, as this production is sure to entertain youngsters and the young at heart. Perhaps you'll learn something new from the myths and traditions that are explored, or understand where some of your customs originated. As the winter solstice approaches, my wish is that we all take time to appreciate the natural wonders of the seasons, and each other.

Enjoy!

CAST BIOS

Dominique Gomez (Syd)

Dominique is a senior at NMSU and the Theatre Arts Department. She has worked on shows in the community such as *Fefu and Her Friends*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *The Wolves* and *The Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*, along with a variety of other work in music, voiceover, and film such as *Better Call Saul*. Dominique is extremely excited and humbled to be working with the director, cast and crew, and is very grateful to have been a part of the NMSU theatre family throughout her undergraduate career!

Riley Samuel Merritt (Simon)

Riley (He/Him/His) is an actor and playwright finishing his final year in the NMSU Theatre Arts department, and he is so excited to be back on stage again, his latest production being *The Thanksgiving Play* (a staged reading). Fond memories on this stage include playing Chip in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, and Wayne in *Inspecting Carol*. Fond memories live on in other spaces as well, such as in Blank Conversations Theatre Company, and Sandstone Productions. Thirsty to share stories with an audience, Riley is profoundly grateful to be back on stage again, and humbly thanks you for coming to experience the beauty of live theatre.

CAST BIOS

Kamryn Neill (Kaysy)

Kamryn is currently in her fourth year at New Mexico State University specializing in Performative Theater Arts. Miss Neill's acting career started at the age of 11 with her first role portraying children's ensemble in the opera *Carmen*. Throughout her school career, Miss Neill has gained experience in multiple productions including *Inspecting Carol* (Inspector) and *My Fair Lady* (Mrs. Pierce), *Broadway On Stage*, *Destination Broadway*, and *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Past and Future). Miss Neill's most recent performances include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Peretti), the radio play *Genevieve* (Mother/Evangeline), *The Thanksgiving Play* (Logan), and *Fefu and Her Friends* (Fefu). Miss Neill would like to wholeheartedly thank the entire staff/Board of NMSU CFTA for all the wonderful opportunities and experiences they have provided her. She feels truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderfully creative community.

Janai Hanley (Deonn)

JJ Hanley is a freshman at NMSU and is a theatre arts major. This is their first show with NMSU. They came to New Mexico from Arizona, and came to Arizona from Georgia. In high school, JJ played Rosie in *Mamma Mia*, Madame in *Cinderella*, Germaine in *If a Man Answers*, and Alice in *The Addams Family*. They have also sung the national anthem at a Diamondbacks spring training practice game. They are very passionate about theatre, and are looking forward to being a part of future shows.

Student Production Bios

Alia Belinte (Lighting Designer)

Alia is a junior transfer student in her first semester with the NMSU Theatre Department seeking a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts. Alia's most recent credits include assistant stage manager for the Four Corners Musical Theatre Company's run of *Mamma Mia* and production stage manager and lighting designer for ENMU's virtual production of *Everybody*, for which she earned a Meritorious Achievement in Stage Management from the KCACTF organization. *Syd the Solstice Kid* will be her first design credit here at NMSU.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Minerva Baumann

Mike Cook

Terry Gregson

Denise Welsh

DIRECTORS NOTES

During this time of year, we strive to bring you a show that has a holiday flavor. In searching for a way to serve both the time of year and our community youngsters, I came across “Syd, the Solstice Kid”. The show received rave reviews in the Seattle area, but was not yet published. I was fortunate to get in touch with the authors to secure the rights for what is the Southwest premiere of this delightful journey through a variety of cultures and traditions.

I am fortunate to have three of our experienced seniors as performers and to welcome one of our new students to the cast. The team of NMSU designers has been quite creative, while still maintaining the simplicity required of the show. After all, Syd lets the children of the audience know that they may have many of the props used so that they can tell their own stories at home! I hope you will enjoy the energy and enthusiasm of these characters, perhaps even singing along, and maybe discover some new traditions of the season!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	Chloe Cappuccilli
Theatre Manager	Jim Wilkinson
Production Stage Manager	Mike Wise
Scene Shop Foreman	James Jaworski
Costume Shop Manager	Tamara M. Carruthers
Costume Volunteer	Anabelle Fortin
Master Electrician	Jim Wilkinson
Light Board Operator	Yocuelin Torres
Audio Engineer	Mattie Ruminer
Slide Operator	Lauren Valdez
Stage Crew	Elissa Featherstone, Omar Moreno
Set Construction	THTR 141L & THTR 346 students
Costume Crew	Reagan Szulc
House Manager	Kayla McCabe
House Crew	Stephanie Alvarado, Estephany Marorga
Photographer	Michael Wise

This Year at ASTC at NMSU

FALL 2021

Fefu and Her Friends
by Marie Irene Fornes

Staged Reading of
The Thanksgiving Play

Syd the Solstice Kid
A musical for young
audiences

SPRING 2022

*Mojada; A Medea In
Los Angeles*
by Luis Alfaro

The High Desert
Play Readings

Broadway On Stage - 2022
A musical revue

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Claudia Waldrip Billings is a Professor in the Dept, of Theatre Arts. She has taught The World of Theatre and Beginning Acting to literally thousands of students at NMSU over the last 20 years. She is also an actor and a director. Her last acting part was Silda in *Other Desert Cities* and she directed *Silent Sky* in the spring of 2019. She is also on the Board of Directors for The Children's Reading Alliance and is a huge advocate of reading with children!

Jim Billings received a BS in Theatre and Dance from the University of Wyoming and an M.F.A. in Scenic Design from the California Institute of the Arts. He has worked as a freelance designer around the country, and came to NMSU, as a guest artist in 1985. Design credits include design for dance, theatre, opera, industrials, museums, sculptures and Television. Jim was awarded the Ralph B. Crouch Award for "Outstanding contributions to the life of the NMSU community", the Community Arts Award from the Dona Ana Arts Council in 2006 and the Department of Theatre Arts' BRAVO award for service in 2012. Jim Recently designed the set for the television show "Bands of Enchantment" Produced and created by some of his former students. Jim's favorite collaborator is his wife of 41 years, Claudia. Together they have created several memorable shows here, "The Laramie Project" and "Tomas and the Library Lady" and, of course, their daughter, also Jim's favorite artist, Maggie, who always reminds him there is more than one way to look at the world.

Chloe Cappuccilli is a new Visiting Assistant Professor at NMSU working as a costume designer and technical director. She received her B.F.A from Columbia College Chicago in 2015 and her M.F.A from West Virginia University in 2020. She has worked as a costume and puppet designer, as well as costume crafts artisan and draper. Costume design credits include: *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Naga Mandala* (West Virginia University) *Half Life of Memory* (Cold Basement Dramatics) *Moon shot*, *The American Revolution* (Theatre Unspeakable) *The Tempest*, *True West*, *Human Rites* (Columbia College Chicago).

Tamara M. Carruthers received a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from New Mexico State University. She managed NMSU's Costume Shop for three semesters directly after graduation. She then joined Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) and spent ten years as their Resident Costume Designer and Shop Manager. She has spent the last five summers in the Costume Shop at Creede Repertory Theater (Creede, CO) designing and serving as their Draper, Draper/First Hand, Assistant Costume Shop Manager and, most recently, Costume Shop Manager.

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Nichole Hamilton is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at NMSU, teaching classes in vocal production and acting. At NMSU, she has directed *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Inspecting Carol*, *The Wolves*, and last year's original play written for students in virtual format, *Tracer*. Nichole has been an actor, director, and instructor for over 20 years and is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and the Hippodrome Acting Company. She holds a BA in Theatre from the University of Montevallo and an MFA in Acting from the University of Florida. She is a certified teacher with the National Michael Chekhov Association and a practitioner with the Lessac Training and Research Institute. Nichole is the recipient of the 2020 Patricia Christmore Faculty Teaching Award.

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 music director, 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 music credits include *Into The Woods* (TheatreVCU), *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). Favorite directing credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (TheatreVCU), *12 Angry Jurors* (Meadowdale High School), *The Good Doctor* (Seattle Pacific University), and *Robin Hood* (Shoreline Christian School). In addition to working with published and classic pieces, Lisa also focuses on new work. Her current project is a musical on the question of immigration, the first draft of which was developed and workshopped in Richmond, VA as a culmination of her graduate work.

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 taught nationally and internationally. Wil was awarded the Kennedy Center bronze medallion for achievement in Theatre Education in 2014.

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

James Jaworski comes from Buffalo, NY. Jim is a regionally-recognized artist and bowl maker and spends his “free time” making bowls and finding lumber.

Larissa Lury is a director, actor, acrobat, and teacher. At NMSU, in addition to teaching and directing, she heads the American Southwest Children’s Theatre Company. She directs and workshops plays in NYC and regionally, focusing primarily on the development of new plays, two of which were nominated for (and one of which won) Best Play from the San Diego Critics Circle following the productions she directed. She was recently selected to be one of the inaugural recipients of the National Directors Fellowship. She was a Resident Director at Ensemble Studio Theatre from 2008-09, is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and an Affiliated Artist and a 2016-17 Audrey Resident with New Georges. MFA, UC San Diego. BS, Northwestern University.

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 in Alto, NM. 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 Department. He would like to thank his wife, Jackie for her continued support.

Michael Wise received his B.A. in Theatre from UC Santa Barbara and has been working professionally in theatre for over three decades. He has worked for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Bathhouse Theatre Company, A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, Intiman Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre, The Seattle Group Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Mt. Hood Repertory Theater, The Player’s Guild in Canton, Ohio, New City Theater, Fargo Interarts Ballet, Southern California Conservatory Theater, and Seattle Childrens Theatre. He has directed plays locally at ASTC at NMSU, lo-fi productions and the Las Cruces Community Theater on productions such as *Uncle Vanya*, *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*, *ZsaZsa and Jethro in Moscow*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Shakespeare Project*, *Anton In Show Business*, *Equivocation*, *Venus In Fur*, *Buried Child*, *Arcadia*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Pillowman*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Holy Ghosts*, and *A Life In The Theatre*.

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Heather Pollard and Denise Welsh

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Gary & Karen Bartholomew
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Leading Players (\$249 - 1)

Phillip Born
Ruth Mudge
Barb and Irv Ross

From the ASTC Board President

Thank you for attending *Syd, The Solstice Kid*. Travel around the world and connect cultures with the ever-curious, Syd the Solstice Kid.



This production is part of the Theatre for Young Audiences program to provide our youth the opportunity to see a real play in a real theatre. Two matinee performances were offered free of charge to Las Cruces Public Schools and both days were to a full house.

The American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC) was pleased to provide the funds to secure the musical rights to this production's Southwest premier! ASTC actively raises money through donations and fund-raising events to support our mission to enrich the theatrical and education experience for students and our community.

ASTC is currently working with New Mexico Estate Auctions, nmes-tateauctions.com, to host a silent auction early next year. Please consider donating quality items for this fundraising event. Contact me, Denise Welsh, dwelsh@nmsu.edu, 575-642-2980 to arrange pick up of your donation. Please keep an eye on the theatre website for details, theatre.nmsu.edu for details in January 2022.

In April ASTC will present our *Broadway on Stage* extravaganza. This extraordinary event will have two performances, 7:30pm on April 29th and a 2pm matinee on April 30th. Co-directed again by Lisa Hermanson and Christa Fredrickson! You will have the opportunity to sponsor a specific performer, Broadway musical, song or mix and match. Combine forces with your friends and sponsor as a group. The performers are NMSU theatre students, high school students and community members.

Sit back and enjoy this family friendly performance!

Denise Welsh, President
ASTC Board of Trustees

ASTC Board of Directors

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Denise Welsh

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Teddy Aspen Sanchez, Carolyn Williams*

ASTC RESIDENT COMPANY / NMSU THEATRE ARTS FACULTY / STAFF

Wil Kilroy	<i>Professor/Department Head/Managing Director</i>
Melis Derya White	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Claudia Billings	<i>College Professor</i>
Jim Billings	<i>Scenic and Lighting Designer</i>
Chloe Cappuccilli	<i>Visiting Assistant Professor</i>
Tamara M. Carruthers	<i>Costume Shop Manager</i>
Nichole Hamilton	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Lisa Hermanson	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Jim Jaworski	<i>Shop Foreman</i>
Larissa Lury	<i>Associate Professor/High Desert Co-Director</i>
Jim Wilkinson	<i>Theater Manager/Sound Designer</i>
Michael Wise	<i>Production Manager</i>

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Alia Belinte
Victoria Cox
Joshua Jackson
Yasmine Jahangiri

Riley Merrit
Esther Rogge
Gus Sanchez

Amy Trejo
Caitlin N. Skibyak
Lauren Valdez
Elia Vasquez



**The
Kennedy
Center**

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by
David M. Rubenstein.*

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote equality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goal to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.