

into the

woods

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE
DIRECTED BY LISA HERMANSON

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED ON BROADWAY BY JAMES LAPINE
ORCHESTRATIONS BY JONATHAN TUNICK

INTO THE WOODS IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI).
ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTISHOWS.COM

APRIL 23 - MAY 3

All performances by the American Southwest Theatre Company are at
the ASNMUSU Center for the Arts, located at 1000 E University Ave at Espina.
Free parking is available for all performances.

TICKETS



NM STATE

AMERICAN SOUTHWEST
THEATRE COMPANY

NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD WIL KILROY:



It's amazing how quickly our season of shows has flown by, and we are delighted to have you here for our final offering this year, Into the Woods. We hope you enjoy this magical musical menagerie where fairy tales come to life – but perhaps don't have the storybook ending you might expect. Just like all of us, the characters have their challenges but overcoming them and growing is part of their journey, and ours. We thank you for taking this theatrical journey and joining us as our program grows and strives to bring you the highest quality productions possible via our dedicated and talented students, faculty, and staff. We thank you as always for your support of live theatre and we hope you'll consider buying a season ticket so you can enjoy all our shows next year – or become a Center Stage Donor to further support our program. Happy Spring!

INTO THE WOODS

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by JAMES LAPINE

Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Original Broadway production by

Heidi Landesman

Rocco Landesman

Rick Steiner

M. Anthony Fisher

Frederic H. Mayerson

Jujamecyn Theaters

Originally produced by the Old Globe Theater, San Diego, CA

INTO THE WOODS

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

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www.mtishows.com

The play is approximately 2-½ hours long with a 15-minute intermission

Audiences are reminded to please silence all electronic devices
(cell phones and alarms) prior to the performance.
Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
Thank you for your consideration.

A note from the director...

Welcome to *Into The Woods*!

This work was one of my first great introductions to theatre; I am excited that it may be one of yours, too. *Into The Woods* was written by legendary composer Stephen Sondheim, with book by James Lapine, and premiered on Broadway in 1987. The enduring musical has been adapted countless times since then, including a West End production in 1990, a Broadway revival in 2002 and 2022, and a filmed adaptation by Disney in 2014, to say nothing of the thousands of community, collegiate, academic and other levels of theatrical stages that have mounted *Into The Woods* in the years since. To include our stage among that number is both wildly thrilling and profoundly humbling.

One of my favorite things about musicals is their ability to stick with you long after the curtain falls. There is something physical and physiological that happens in the human mind when a particularly witty turn-of-phrase is paired with a catchy musical motif. This is one of the ways in which Sondheim shows his unparalleled mastery. Two of my favorite lines of musical theatre are in this show. In Act I, Little Red Riding Hood sings the phrase “I know things now”; that, and the beautifully sung “people make mistakes” that you will hear in Act II, have been some of the guiding refrains of my art and of my life since I first worked on this show in 2019. I would love to hear what phrases and lyrics stand out to you after your own viewing.

Stephen Sondheim was venerated as a master of his craft long before his death in 2021. Tonight we honor his legacy and his genius with our own take on *Into The Woods*. You will see magic; you will see hope; you will see the beauty and flaws of humanity and human relationships, explored in magical circumstances with characters as familiar to us as age-old fairytales. Working on this show with this team has been an immense honor. I’m so excited for you to join us on this journey.

May we all have and find the phrases that guide us through life’s greatest hopes, darkest times, and deepest wishes.

Please enjoy the show!

THE CAST

Narrator	LOREN JACKSON
Cinderella	GRETA GREENBLATT
Jack	KARLTEN FRIEDRICH
Jack's Mother	MEAGAN HIGGINS
Baker	ALEX SMITH
Baker's Wife	KATIE MAYERS
Cinderella's Stepmother	ROBIN BLAKEMAN
Florinda	KATE CONRAD
Lucinda	CORINNE MORITZ
Cinderella's Father	ISAIAH HOLGUIN
Little Red Ridinghood	YAHAIRA ROSA
Witch	MAYA MELODY MARQUEE
Cinderella's Mother	ANGELIQUE REAGAN
Wolf	EDWARD LEYVA
Granny	ABBY WATKINS
Rapunzel	SIOBHAN PYPER
Rapunzel's Prince	MARIO MANUEL MONTIEL
Cinderella's Prince	JOSHUA PRICHARD
Steward	LIAM DAY
Giant	DELANEY DWYER
Snow White and Puppeteer	RACHEL MAZE
Sleeping Beauty and Puppeteer	RUMI PECASTAING

THE BAND

SARAH NEELY.....	Music Director, Conductor
JONATHAN COLLINS.....	Synthesizer
KONNOR LENIG.....	Horn
DYLAN MCKINNEY.....	Flute/Piccolo
ADRIEL MENDEZ.....	Violin
NICO O'HARA.....	Bass
RAUL OLIVAS.....	Clarinet

STEVEN ROKOWSKI.....Trumpet
 MARIA FERNANDA SERVIN.....Cello
 BRIAN THEODORSON.....Percussion
 SETH ZAMORA.....Piano

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

PROLOGUE: INTO THE WOODS.....	Company
HELLO, LITTLE GIRL...	Wolf, Little Red Ridinghood
I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE....	Jack
MAYBE THEY'RE MAGIC....	Baker's Wife
I KNOW THINGS NOW...	Little Red Ridinghood
A VERY NICE PRINCE...	Cinderella, Baker's Wife
GIANTS IN THE SKY....	Jack
AGONY...	Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince
IT TAKES TWO...	Baker, Baker's Wife
STAY WTH ME...	Witch
ON THE STEPS OF THE PALACE...	Cinderella
EVER AFTER...	Narrator, Company

Act Two

PROLOGUE: SO HAPPY...	Company
AGONY...	Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince
LAMENT...	Witch
ANY MOMENT...	Cinderella's Prince, Baker's Wife
MOMENTS IN THE WOODS...	Baker's Wife
YOUR FAULT...	Jack, Baker, Witch, Cinderella, Little Red Ridinghood
LAST MIDNIGHT...	Witch
NO MORE...	Baker, Mysterious Man

NO ONE IS ALONE...

Cinderella, Little Red Ridinghood, Baker,
Jack

FINALE: CHILDREN WILL LISTEN...

Witch, Company

Guest Artists

KACIE BAUER (Choreographer) Kacie has choreographed for and performed in several musical productions around Las Cruces over the past few years. Most recently, you may have seen her choreography in *Alice by Heart* at the Rio Grande Theatre. She helped choreograph for *The Prom* at NMSU last spring, and she is very grateful for the opportunity to be back for *Into the Woods!* You can catch more of her choreography at LCCT this May and June in *9 to 5*. Outside of theater, Kacie is working on a PhD in Cognitive Psychology at NMSU, where she also exercises her love of dance in the club Dancers Unlimited.

SARAH NEELY (Music Director) is Instructor of Voice/Director of the Lyric Theatre at New Mexico State University. A native of El Paso, Ms. Neely received her Bachelor of Music from West Texas A&M in Canyon, TX, and her Master of Music in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from The University of Texas at San Antonio in 2018. In addition to her faculty position at NMSU, she is an artist ambassador with El Paso Opera and has been active in opera, operetta, musical theater, theater, and independent film, performing as the Soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Las Cruces Symphony, Helen in *Fun Home*, and Annelle in *Steel Magnolias*. Upcoming engagements include music directing *Into the Woods* with the American Southwest Theatre Company and performing the role of Cosette in El Paso Opera's production of the zarzuela *Bohemios*. Sarah is also passionate about empowering singers with life and mindset tools. Follow along on Instagram @your_passaggi_professor

MATTIE RUMINER (Wardrobe Supervisor) is a proud alumni of the NMSU Theater Department and was thrilled when offered to assist in the costuming department where she was proficient while she was a student. She has won multiple awards for her wardrobe supervision commending her for her crew participation and leadership for 3 years in a row. Other local shows

Stage Manager.....DIEGO LARA
 Intimacy Director.....BOBBI MASTERS
 Assistant Director.....CONNER STRIEBEL
 Assistant Lighting Designer.....ABRAHAM MARTINEZ ALVARADO
 Assistant Costume Designer.....EMILY GLOVER
 Assistant Technical Director.....SYDNEY LOPEZ
 Assistant Stage Managers.....KIANA MONTOYA and RAELE MOSLEY

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

ROBIN BLAKEMAN (Cinderella’s Stepmother) is a first year student studying Comparative Politics and Musical theatre. They are an honors ambassador, an active writer for the Round Up, and super excited to be a part of Into The Woods for their first production with NMSU.

KATE CONRAD (Florinda) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major here at NMSU from Albuquerque, New Mexico. You may have seen her previously in *Beyond Therapy as Prudence* (LCCT), *The Pirates of Penzance as Ensemble* (Abq Little Theatre), and *The Prom as Angie Dickinson* (NMSU). You can also see her on stage soon at LCCT as *Missy/Ensemble* in their upcoming production of *9 to 5 The Musical*. Kate would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team of Into The Woods for giving her the opportunity to work alongside so many amazing people, along with her family and friends who have continued to support her throughout her entire theatre journey!

KARLTEN FRIEDRICH (Jack) is a junior at NMSU. He has a minor in music and is currently pursuing a major in musical theatre. He has performed this past year with his role as Barry from the musical *The Prom* and his performance as the witch in Humperdinck's opera *Hansel and Gretel* as the witch.

GRETA GREENBLATT (Cinderella) is a Senior at NMSU studying musical theatre. You may have previously seen her as Edith (*The Pirates of Penzance*, ALT), Miranda (*The Tempest*, ALT) Emma Nolan (*The Prom*, NMSU), Carolyn (*Bridges of Madison County*, Adobe), Alice Beineke

(*The Addams Family*, NMSU), Audrey (*As You Like It*, NMSU), Frenchy/KitKat Bassist (*Cabaret*, MTS), Ensemble/Carrie U/S (*Carrie: The Musical*, MTS), and Frenchy (*Grease*, ALT). Greta is endlessly grateful for the support from her friends, sorority sisters, wonderful boyfriend, and family. Especially her mom, who has always told her to sparkle and pushed her to make her own wishes come true.

MEAGAN HIGGINS (Jack's Mother) is an NMSU alumni (English & Music) and is thrilled to be back on the Center for the Arts stage. Her most recent project was co-producing and performing in the first staged reading of the new musical, *The Golden Door*. She has previously been seen in many local productions, has music directed several shows at LCCT, and performed at multiple Broadway Onstage fundraisers for NMSU Theatre. By day, she is the owner of Indulgence Bakery & Cafe. She would like to thank Lisa for this opportunity, her castmates for being so kind and collaborative, and her partner for keeping her fed and taking care of the kitties during these last few months of early bakery mornings and late night rehearsals.

ISAIAH HOLGUIN (Cinderella's Father) is a second year Musical Theatre major at NMSU. This is the third show he has done while at NMSU, and he is very excited to be a part of the class. He wants to thank Lisa and everyone who has worked on this production and he hopes you enjoy the show.

LOREN JACKSON (Narrator) In the last 40 years, Loren has appeared in over 60 musical theater productions with Alamogordo Music Theatre. Some of his favorite roles include playing Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof," John Adams in "1776," Major-General Stanley in "The Pirates of Penzance," and King Arthur in both "Camelot" and "Monty Python's Spamalot." "Into the Woods" marks Loren's third show with NMSU/ASTC. In 2019, he appeared as Alfred P. Doolittle in "My Fair Lady," and in 2023, got his first taste of Shakespeare playing Adam in "As You Like It." He has always appreciated the warm welcome he has received from the professional staff of the NMSU theater department and his talented young cast mates. Loren would also like to thank his friends and family - many of whom have traveled great distances - to come and see this show. On the other side of the coin, the fossil fuel industry would like to thank Loren for his decision to participate in NMSU productions. The countless round-trips he has made from his home in Alamogordo to Las Cruces (43 for "Into the Woods" alone) has single-handedly propelled the industry to record profits.

EDWARD LEYVA (The Wolf) welcomes you to this amazing production of INTO THE WOODS! He's a musical theatre major here at NMSU. Edward is happy for this to be his second musical on this stage. You may have spotted him in Sanctuary City as the role of 'B'. But now you can catch him next downtown in 9 TO 5 the Musical at LCCT. He plans to take his career all the way to Broadway. The wolf side of Edward thinks that Granny has a terrible after taste (trust, he knows).

MAYA MELODY MARQUEE (The Witch) is currently pursuing a BA in Music at NMSU and is beyond grateful to be working with such an incredible team. Past roles include Ursula (The Little Mermaid), Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins), Marian Paroo (The Music Man), Hope Cladwell (Urinetown), King Herod (Jesus Christ Superstar) and Mother (Hansel and Gretel: The Opera). Special thanks to Lisa Hermanson- a roll model and powerful visionary... Dr. Seth Zamora- a talented collaborator, educator, and guide... and Sarah Neely- a stalwart mentor and passionate pedagogue. Extra special thanks to Mystic- your favourite Witch's favourite Witch, and Chimera- an unparalleled familiar who possesses the special beans.

KATIE MAYERS (Baker's Wife) is currently in her third year at NMSU, studying theatre with an emphasis in design/tech/management. You may have recently seen her in Mother Courage (Kattrin, NMSU) and Jesus Christ Superstar (Priest, Blank Conversations Theatre Company), She spends most of her time now behind the scenes, some of her recent work includes: *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). She is thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with this cast and crew and revisit this show for the second time. She would like to thank Lisa for making all of her wishes come true and trusting her to play a part in this story. She would also like to thank her family and friends for always believing in her and her dreams, and you for supporting live theatre! Let's have a kiki, Turkey!!

RACHEL MAZE (Snow White / Puppeteer) is a theatre and film double-major at NMSU. She has appeared previously on this stage in A Christmas Carol, The Prom, and Mother Courage and Her Children, and she's popped up in many other community theatre productions all over Las Cruces.

MARIO MANUEL MONTIEL (Rapunzel's Prince) is a Senior in the theatre department, who has previously been in NMSU's *As You Like It*, *The Addams Family Musical*, *Dracula a Comedy of Terrors*, and *A Christmas Carol*. He is currently working with Borderlands Ballet Company's *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. He's looking forward to one more semester of NMSU. After graduation he plans to move to New York and work as an actor.

CORINNE MORITZ (Lucinda) is a Sophomore at NMSU studying Vocal Music Education. She has previously appeared in "The Prom" with NMSU Theatre and "Hansel and Gretel" with NMSU Opera. She is so excited to be a part of this cast!"

RUMI PECASTAING (Sleeping Beauty and Puppeteer) is extremely excited to be a part of her first college production of *Into The Woods*. Born and raised in Albuquerque New Mexico, Rumi recently graduated from Public Academy for Performing Arts (PAPA) in 2025. Some of her favorite roles include Velma Kelly (*Chicago*, PAPA) and Fiona (*Shrek The Musical*, Cardboard Playhouse Theater Company). Rumi would like to thank her family for all the unwavering support she has received from them throughout her years of performing.

JOSHUA PRICHARD (Cinderella's Prince) is pursuing his Masters in Voice Performance at NMSU. They have recently been seen on stage as Dr. Buttridge, the King of Hearts, and the Jabberwock in Blank Conversations' *Alice by Heart*, as well as Principal Hawkins in NMSU's *The Prom*. Joshua is most excited to charm in *Into the Woods*!

SIOBHAN PYPER (Rapunzel) is a current Sophomore at NMSU, working towards a BA in Theatre Arts. While they have been involved in a handful of NMSU theatre shows, this will be their first debut on stage. They're so grateful to Lisa Hermanson for the opportunity, and for the amazing cast and crew that have helped make this show possible.

ANGELIQUE REAGAN (Cinderella's Mother) is a senior at NMSU and will be graduating with her BA in Theatre Arts with a focus in Musical Theatre and a Minor in Music! You may have previously seen her as Alyssa Greene in *The Prom!*, as Yvette in *Mother Courage*, or perform and direct for the High Desert Play Festival. Angelique is so grateful for all the opportunities she's had over the past four years and can't wait for what's to come for her career. As this will be her last show at NMSU, she gives a teary-eyed goodbye to the wonderful professors and friends who have supported and helped her grow over the years. Love & thanks. All glory to God!

YAHAIRA ROSA (Little Red Riding Hood) is a sophomore studying psychology here at NMSU. This is Yahaira's first show in New Mexico, making *Into the Woods* her NMSU debut. From El Paso, you may have seen her star as an actor in Teatro Neplanta's 24-hour play festival. Yahaira would like to take a moment to thank all her family and friends for being so supportive of her journey back on stage. Yahaira would also like to thank everyone part of the *Into the Woods* process for their hard work, dedication, and overall welcoming attitudes. "Thank you for giving me this beautiful opportunity. Let's have a KiKi, turkey!"

ALEX SMITH (The Baker) is finishing his sophomore year of his Theatre Arts degree, with a newly added emphasis in design/technical/management. Don't fear, however, you will still see him on the stage in the future, as well as in the costume shop. Credits include Ebenezer Scrooge (A Christmas Carol), The Motel Clerk (The Prom), and his directorial debut with 1st Impressions in February. He thanks you for your support of theatre and encourages you to keep supporting art in these difficult times. For my family, friends, and mentors: thank you for getting me to where I am today. @sardonical._

ABBY WATKINS (Little Red Riding Hood's Grandmother) is a sophomore theatre arts major here at NMSU with a concentration in musical theatre. Originally from Socorro NM, you may have most recently seen her as a reader for *High Desert* or Marley in *A Christmas Carol*, and she is a proud member of the student theater group, Ember! The Granny side of Abby would like it to be known that the Wolf has no guts (trust, she knows).

MILKY WHITE (Milky White) This will be Milky-White's first production on the NMSU stage. He has attended many cattle calls and has been seen on many regional stages. No beef about it he is a triple threat and can even perform his own stunts. His regional performances include *Oklahoma* as cow #1, *Shucked* as field cow, *Spamalot* as catapulted cow, and he was an understudy for Hyena #2 in *The Lion King*. He has also been recognized for his mooving performance in the one-man off-Broadway show entitled "*Hoofing It: From Graze to Glory*." Milk-White wishes to thank the Director Lisa Hermanson for giving him the opportunity to achieve his lifelong dream of being in "*Into the Woods*".

MUSICIANS BIOGRAPHIES

JONATHAN COLLINS (Synthesizer) Jonathan is a piano player who is most notably known for playing at the farmers markets on Saturday. For the show, Into the Woods Jonathan is playing synthesizer, with instruments sounds ranging from bassoon, harp, Celesta, and strings to sound effects like the baby crying and the cow mooing. Jonathan has also been a contribute in the past as a pianist for The Prom and The Adam's Family performances for the American South West Theatre Company. He is a junior at NMSU majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in music performance. Playing elevating music is his passion.

KONNOR LENIG (Horn) Konnor Lenig is a student at New Mexico State University studying Aerospace Engineering and Music Performance on horn. He has performed in a variety of symphonies, ensembles, and bands over the years, with jazz horn becoming a central focus of his musical studies. This summer, he will compete in the Jazz Horn Competition at the International Horn Symposium in Poland, where he will have the opportunity to measure his skills against some of the best players in the world. Alongside his musical pursuits, he is planning to complete an internship in the aerospace industry, focusing on spacecraft. As this is his first time performing in a live pit orchestra, he is excited to contribute to a live theatrical production.

DYLAN MCKINNEY (Flute/Piccolo) Dylan McKinney is a flutist based in southern New Mexico. He is originally from Denton, Texas and grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He is a music education major at New Mexico State University. There, he is an active member of the wind symphony, choirs, and athletic bands. With each of these ensembles, he's had the privilege of traveling and performing all around the state. Dylan is an avid multi-instrumentalist, having played almost every woodwind and brass instrument in an ensemble at some point. Into the Woods is Dylan's first collaboration with the NMSU Department of Theatre Arts. He is excited to work with the talented staff, crew, and cast, and hopes to collaborate again in the future. He would like to give a special thanks to Susan McKinney for her undying support and encouragement.

ADRIEL MENDEZ (Violin) Adriel Mendez is a violinist from El Paso, Texas, and is currently finishing his studies in both Music Performance and Music Education at NMSU. Adriel is an active musician in the southwest, performing for groups such as the West Texas Symphony, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, Camerata del Sol, NMSU Philharmonic Orchestra, and in his string quartet, Sunset Chamber Strings. In addition to being an avid performer, he also shares his love of music with others through education. He has worked with middle and high school orchestra students in both Las Cruces and El Paso, and also teaches privately in his growing violin studio.

NICO O'HARA (Bass) Nico O'Hara is a double bassist completing his degrees in Instrumental Music Education and Music Performance, with graduation set for May. He is currently a student

teacher and has been playing bass for nearly 14 years, beginning his gigging career at 11. Over time, he has developed a strong foundation in both classical and contemporary styles. Throughout his time at NMSU, Nico has performed in a wide range of ensembles, including Pride of New Mexico, the NMSU Jazz Band, Wind Symphony, and Proud Pete (NMSU's rock band). His performance experience has taken him across eight states, into Mexico, and internationally to Prague. He also spent over five years busking at the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market, performing nearly every Saturday and building a strong connection with the local community. A lifelong lover of musical theatre, Nico brings a unique perspective to the pit orchestra. His background includes working as a stagehand and in lighting, sound, and set design, as well as spending much of his college career at Atkinson Recital Hall. He especially enjoys being part of Into the Woods, where he can help bring the music to life while experiencing the energy, storytelling, and incredible talent on stage, along with the camaraderie and humor that make performing in the pit so memorable.

RAUL OLIVAS (Clarinet) Raul Olivas was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, began his musical career at Socorro High School as a clarinetist and found a passion for teaching throughout his time at New Mexico State University. He studied under the direction of Dr. Madelyn Moore, Associate Professor of Clarinet, and received a Bachelor's in Music Education in 2023 from New Mexico State University. He has played with El Paso Operas production of "Sunday in the Park with George" and "Romeo and Juliet" as their Clarinetist. And currently plays with the El Paso Wind Symphony as their head E-flat Clarinet player. Raul is currently one of the two Music teachers at Monte Vista Elementary School in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He has taught music there for over 2 years and is passionate about teaching music to children at the Elementary level. He also runs a clarinet studio in Socorro, Texas, with multiple students who have advanced to UIL Area competition.

STEVEN ROKOWSKI (Trumpet) Steven Rokowski is a freelance trumpeter and private trumpet instructor in the Las Cruces/El Paso area and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in music education at New Mexico State University. Steven previously played in the pit for NMSU Theatre's production of The Addams Family.

MARIA FERNANDA SERVIN (Cello) María Fernanda Servín Velo was born in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. She began her cello studies at the age of 13 as part of the proyecto de formación musical de la Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ), under the guidance of Margarita Vargas. At 18, she commenced her undergraduate studies at UACJ, where she studied with Maestro Momchil Gasdov. Throughout her academic and professional development, she has performed with several ensembles in her hometown, including the Orquesta Juvenil de la UACJ, the Orquesta INFAO, and the Orquesta Sinfónica de la UACJ. She is also a co-founding member of the Orquesta Estudiantil de Ciudad Juárez and has five years of experience as a music

instructor. Ms. Servín Velo is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Performance at New Mexico State University.

BRIAN THEODORSON (Percussion) Brian Theodorson, percussion. Brian has been playing operas/musicals ever since his first performance; Barber of Seville, in 1992. Other performance he played while studying at NMSU included Fiddler on the Roof, Pirates of Penzance, My Fair Lady, and The Music Man. With community groups here in Las Cruces he has performed over 20 musicals including Man of La Mancha, Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods (at both LCCT and Black Box), Nunsense, Shrek, and The Wizard of Oz. Recently he has also had the joy of playing with NMSU again in productions of Urinetown, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, My Fair Lady, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and last year in The Prom. Brian has a very musical family with his wife Lydia and he playing in the Mesilla Valley Concert Band, his step son Connor, trombonist and step-daughter Ashlyn, clarinet.

SETH ZAMORA (Piano) Dr. Seth Zamora has had an active musical career throughout New Mexico and Texas, as performer, collaborator, teacher, freelancer, and composer. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from UT Austin (2025) and is in demand as a pianist and teacher in the New Mexico area. Including freelancing, Dr. Zamora is the Music Director at Peace Lutheran Church, Collaborative Pianist for the NMSU University Singers and Concert Choir, as well as for Singing Out Las Cruces. He also manages his own private piano studio, Zamora Piano Studio. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, exploring new restaurants and wineries, trying his hand at new hobbies, composing, and playing Dungeons and Dragons!

STUDENT PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

EMILY SIERRA GLOVER (Assistant Costume Designer) is a senior Theatre Major at NMSU and is beyond grateful to have been an Assistant Costume Designer for this production. She would like to thank Dr. Heather Striebel for trusting her with this opportunity, as this is only Emily's first year in the world of costuming. Lastly, Emily would like to thank her mom for her unwavering support. She would never have found the courage to pursue theatre without her.

DIEGO LARA (Stage Manager) is a senior at New Mexico State University graduating with a major in Computer Science and minor in Theatre Arts this May. His recent projects include *A Christmas Carol* (Substitute Stage Manager, NMSU), *Beyond Therapy* (Stage Manager, LCCT), *Endgame* (Asst. Stage Manager, No Strings Theatre Co), and *that drive thru monterey* (Stage Manager, NMSU). He wants to give a shoutout to the cast, Kiana, Raelle, Lisa, and the rest of the production team. Everyone has been working so hard throughout this process, so he thanks YOU for being here! He would also like to give special thanks to his mentor, Bobbi; his

wonderful girlfriend, Greta; and his mom for their continued support :). Feel free to reach out to Diego via website at sm.dlara.net for inquiries. Finally, he hopes you enjoy the show!

KIANA MONTOYA (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Freshman here at NMSU from Albuquerque, New Mexico. You may have seen her performing on the NMSU stage in December in 'A Christmas Carol' as Belle and a part of the incredible ensemble. This is her first time ever stage managing a musical and she is incredibly excited to be a part of this fabulous show and help create some of the magic you see on stage!

RAELLE MOSLEY (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore at NMSU you may have last seen here In The Prom at NMSU. She is excited to continue working in this production as Assistant Stage Manager and Production Music Assistant. She loves being involved in this department and helping out where she can she helped put together some of the set and built a few of the costumes. She would like to thank the director of the show professor Lisa Hermanson and her mentors during this show professors Bobbie Masters and Tamara Carruthers. She is excited for future projects in this departments and hopes you enjoy the show.

CONNER STRIEBEL (Assistant Director) Conner is excited to be assistant director for the second time here at NMSU. He previously was assistant director for the musical The Prom. He has also been seen onstage as the commander in Mother Courage and Her Children. He would like to thank his wife for her support and encouragement in all that he does. He would also like to thank Director Lisa Hermanson for affording him the opportunity to be a part of this amazing production.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	Daniel Aguilera
Theatre Manager	Jim Wilkinson
Production Stage Manager	Bobbi Masters
Scene Shop Work-study	Daniela Galloso, Sydney Lopez, and Anderson Weese
Costume Shop Manager	Tamara M. Carruthers
Master Electrician	Jim Wilkinson
Lighting Electricians	THTR 347 students
Lighting Work-Study	Charles Gardner and Katie Mayers
Light Board Operator	Okalani Ventura
Sound Mixers	Daniela Galloso And Ben Ramsey
A2	Erick Granillo
QLab Operator	Richard Bates

Crew Chief	Abraham Martinez Alvarado
Fly Rail Operator	Veronika Lazos
Stage Crew	Grace Mellen
Set Construction	THTR 141L & THTR 346 students
Paint Charge	Aaron Krohn
Lighting, Paint, Props Work-Study	Emily Glover, Katie Mayers, and Chantel Turner
Props Team	Daniela Galloso, Diego Lara, and Katie Mayers
Wardrobe Supervisor	Mattie Ruminer
Costume Shop Assistant	Angelique Reagan
Costume Construction	THEA 1310L & THEA 345 students, Independent Study students- Elianna Lopez and Daniela Carranco
Costume Crew	Volunteers- Julia Baumgarn, Aidan Sever Wyborne Blanco, Jared Long, and Joah Owens
Laundry and Maintenance	Rachel Maze
House Manager	Chantel Turner
House Crew	Brooklyn Ash, Richard Bates, Audrianna Chevalier, Joy Lightfoot, Mariah Romero
Box Office Managers	Sarah Guerrero
Marketing Assistants	Grace Mellen and Alex Smith

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

and Héctor and Xavier Madrid

RESIDENT COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

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. She has acted and directed for regional theatre companies and 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. She is a proud member of Actors’ Equity, most recently performing in *Airswimming* at Fusion Theatre in Albuquerque. 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.

Aaron Krohn joined NMSU's Theatre Department in 2023 as an Assistant Professor of Design and as the resident lighting and scenic designer for the University's theatre productions. He came to NMSU from Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina where he served as an Assistant Professor of Lighting and Scenic Design as well as the Technical Director. Aaron earned his MFA in Lighting Design from The University of Houston and 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 he served as the Production Manager and Acting Technical Director for Ballet San Antonio. Prior to his time with the ballet, he worked at Mega Systems Inc. developing and building lighting control consoles aimed at megachurches and nightclubs. He regularly works as a guest designer and technical director in both theatre and dance. aaronkrohn.com

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.

Bobbi Masters (she/hers) 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



Thank you so very much for coming to our last play of the 2025-2026 season: *Into the Woods* directed by Lisa Hermanson. *Into the Woods* will exemplify the saying “be careful what you wish for”. This production is a great example of collaboration between our students, faculty, the music department and members from our community, with 70 people making up the cast and crew.

The American Southwest Theatre Company is so proud to have contributed \$4000.00 to make this a grand production.

ASTC can only support NMSU Theatre Arts and its students with your support through donations and support of fund-raising events. April 11th ASTC hosted Boots & Bling and was able to raise \$7000.00. A huge thank you to those who attended and the local businesses that donated fantastic silent auction items! In addition to supporting this production ASTC has provided travel funds for 11 theatre students to attend workshops in Abilene, Texas, paid honorariums for two playwrights and a guest director for the High Desert Festival and ASTC will award \$1000 to a graduating senior to start their career.

Please sit back, enjoy the show, and consider supporting ASTC with a donation or joining our board to help us continue to support this amazing theatre! A \$500 donation for the next season gives you two sets of season tickets, and you will be acknowledged in the curtain speech before each show.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, dwesh@nms.edu

Denise Welsh, ASTC President

ASTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Welsh, President
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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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**ASTC RESIDENT COMPANY / NMSU
THEATRE ARTS FACULTY / STAFF**

Wil Kilroy	Professor/Department Head/Managing Director
Daniel Aguilera	Technical Director
Tamara M. Carruthers	Costume Shop Manager
Nichole Hamilton	Associate Professor
Lisa Hermanson	Assistant Professor
Aaron Krohn	Assistant Professor
Larissa Lury	Associate Professor
Bobbi Masters	Production Stage Manager/Assistant Professor
Dr. Heather Striebel	Costume Designer/Assistant Professor
Jim Wilkinson	Theater Manager/Sound Designer

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25-26 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Daniela Galloso	Angelique Reagan
Emily Glover	Delaney Sivils
Edward Leyva	Alex Smith
Rachel Maze	Conner Striebel
Katie Mayers	Chantel Turner
Grace Mellen	

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PERFECT ARRANGEMENT by Topher Payne
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FOOTLOOSE

Stage Adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie

Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford

Music by Tom Snow

Lyrics by Dean Pitchford

Additional Music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins And Jim Steinman

Directed by Wil Kilroy

A High Desert Play

Directed by TBA

THE AMATEURS by Jordan Harrison

Directed by Larissa Lury

**Purchase your tickets by visiting theatre.nmsu.edu
or by calling our box office at 575-646-4515!**



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.