perdita
Tragedy? Comedy? You decide.
by Nathan Wagner

December 1–2
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PERDITA
COMEDY? TRAGEDY? YOU DECIDE.
DECEMBER 1–12 | NEW HAZLETT THEATER

CREATIVE TEAM

NATHAN WAGNER.........................................................Playwright
TRU VERRET-FLEMING...........................................Director
KRISTI GOOD..........................................................Dramaturg

CAST

ETHAN DAVIS BUTLER.............................................Ethan
ANYA ESPSTEIN.......................................................Sarah
DANIELLE POWELL..............................................Barbara
MASON DOWD.....................................................Kennedy
JUNE ALMONTE...................................................The Bard
ELI PLUMMER..................................................Mr. Smith
KEVIN KELLY ..................................................Mr. Adams / Mr. Ward
KARLA PAYNE..................................................Ms. Robinson / Ms. Johnson

DESIGN TEAM

SAMANTHA OLSZEWSKI.............................. Scenic Designer
HALEY BROWN............................................... Lighting Designer
SAMANTHA MAGILL.................................. Sound Engineer

SCENES

ACT 1
1. Calculus
2. Chemistry
3. World History
4. Vice Principal’s Office
5. Lunch

ACT 2
1. Literature
2. Vice Principal’s Office
3. Civics
4. Lockers

Content Warning: Perdita uses strong language, has depictions of bullying and violence, and has allusions to self-harm and suicide.
than Cole’s struggle with school is not his academic talent; his biggest challenge is staying awake through uninspired lectures. To make matters worse he is frequently visited by the ethereal Bard, whose self-quoting interjections are complicating his social life. Directed by Tru Verret-Fleming and mixing relatable high school struggles with bouts of Shakespearean passion, *Perdita* is an anthem to friendship, loyalty, and being true to yourself.

“As a playwright, I look to expand the point of view of an audience by utilizing humor and relatable characters to introduce new perspectives and ideas.”

-Nathan Wagner, Playwright

SPECIAL THANKS

The New Hazlett Team
Tru Verret Fleming
Cast and Crew
Rob Zellers

Dr. C. Austin Hill
Hannah Lee Defrates
Friends and Family
Mom
ARTIST STATEMENT

If you asked me what I do for a living, I would probably say that I am an actor, dramaturg, playwright, and overall lover of theatre. However, if you asked what pays my bills, I would say that I am a teacher of all those same things. Both bring me tremendous joy. As a lover of theatre, I have a particular interest in stories that explore social issues and alternate perspectives that are often underexplored in classic theatre. Though, as you can tell by the Shakespearean motif of Perdita, I hold a soft spot for the classical. As an artist and educator, I seek to champion the voices of others and I deeply value the collaborative process. As a playwright, I look to expand the point of view of an audience by utilizing humor and relatable characters to introduce new perspectives and ideas. I am also a huge nerd who likes to use literature and folklore to historicize current events, as well as introduce them to modern audiences. In the future, I hope to continue working with brilliant artists who yearn to tell beautiful tales and share them with the world. So, be on the lookout for some more weird and wonderful things from your resident Dungeons and Dragons loving, curly hair having, cat whispering playwright from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania!

NHT 21/22
WHO’S WHO
THE CREATIVE TEAM

NATHAN WAGNER (Playwright)
is a graduate of Youngstown State University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. He has over a decade of experience as a theatre artist and a lifetime of experience as a theatre lover. Though his primary experience as an actor, he also has significant experience as a director, dramaturg, and playwright. As an artist he seeks to promote empathy and encourage audiences to seek out unique voices and perspectives. He is a collaborator by practice and by philosophy, and he strives to create a theatrical and educational space where all can be welcomed and comfortable.

TRU VERRET-FLEMING (Director)is recognized locally as an actor/singer, adjunct acting professor at Point Park University, and the Program & Events Manager at New Hazlett Theater. Tru is a proud Actor’s Equity Association member with two decades of professional theatre experience locally, regionally, and internationally. Previous directing credits include 2022 Young Playwrights Festival - Spark in the Cave, Neighbors, Deus Ex Machina, Stereotyping, Souls of River Yewa, and The Old Therebefore (City Theatre), Rapunzel (Pittsburgh Festival Opera), A New Brain (Pitt Stages), Kalopsia (AD – New Hazlett Theater), Little Children Dream of God (AD – Pittsburgh Playhouse).

KRISTI GOOD (Dramaturg)is a freelance dramaturg and dramaturgy faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Drama. They earned a Master’s in Dramaturgy at Villanova Theatre and a PhD in Theatre & Performance Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Their scholarship and interests lean toward theater of trauma and uncovering suppressed narratives, particularly in regards to new play development.
ETHAN DAVIS BUTLER (Ethan) is psyched to be making his New Hazlett Theater debut! After sitting on the creative sidelines for the past few years, Ethan couldn’t be more ready to jump back in and bring this story to life. Previous credits include: Live with Kelly: Halloween Special (Dancer), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Lysander), Hairspray (Stooie/Ensemble), and Spring Awakening (Moritz). Go Orange!

ANYA EPSTEIN (Sarah) is a Pittsburgh-based artist who recently received her BA is Theatre and Dance from Muhlenberg College. Some past credits include Call Me… as Sweet, Holy Sh*t, and dance works by choreographers such as Earl Mosley, Megan Flynn, and Randall Smith. Thanks to all for this opportunity!

DANIELLE POWELL (Barbara) A born and raised Yinzer, Danielle is delighted to take the stage in her hometown again. A proud Point Parker, Danielle is also an alumni with The Groundlings and The Actors’ Gang in Los Angeles. Favorite roles include Wendla in Spring Awakening, Jill in Butterflies are Free, and Kate in Deadwood. Currently, Danielle is co-directing Into the Woods, Jr with North Hills Middle School’s Drama Club.

@danraepowell | www.danielleraepowell.com

MASON DOWD (Kennedy) is a current senior acting major at Point Park University, and this is their first production with the New Hazlett Theater. Mason has most recently been seen in the Young Playwright’s Festival at City Theatre and in New Renaissance Theatre Company’s Unrehearsed Shakespeare Project summer tour. Mason also serves as the Marketing Director for Bridges Theatre Company at Point Park University.
WHO’S WHO (CONT.)

JUNE ALVILDA ALMONTE (The Bard)
is thrilled to be a part of Perdita. She recently graduated from Point Park University’s conservatory program with her BFA in acting. Previous credits include Eurydice in Polaroid Stories, Marcy Park in The 25th annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and City Theatre’s New Playwright’s festival 2022. She hopes Perdita makes you laugh, cry, and leaves you thinking, “There is no darkness but ignorance” - Shakespeare @june_almonte

ELI PLUMMER (Mr. Smith)
is currently in his sophomore Theatre Arts major at Point Park University. He is excited to be making his professional stage debut in this amazing show. Eli would like to thank first and foremost his family for allowing him to continue his life in theatre. He would also like to thank anyone who comes out to see the show!

KEVIN KELLY
(Mr. Adams / Mr. Ward)
is a Pittsburgh-based actor and is thrilled to be making his New Hazlett Theater debut in this amazing production! He would like to say thank you to Nathan, Tru, and the entire cast and crew for the opportunity to be a part of the show!

KARLA C. PAYNE
(Mrs. Robinson / Mrs. Johnson)
is an actor, voice-over talent, singer and poet who has appeared in countless productions for several theater companies, including The Barnstormers Theatre (NH), New Horizon Theater (PA), and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company (PA), where she most notably appeared as Berniece in their 2015 production of August Wilson’s The Piano Lesson. Karla was most recently featured in a film short entitled, As I Please.
WHO’S WHO
THE DESIGNERS

SAMANTHA OLSZEWSKI (Scenic Designer) graduated from Syracuse University in 2021 with a BFA in theatre design and technology. Recently, she was the technical director for Jerry’s Girls at Seton LaSalle Catholic High School. While at SU, she was the scenic designer for The Matchmaker and Lonely Planet. Sam was the scenic/props designer for Gretna Theatre’s 2019 summer children’s series. She currently works as a scenic artist at Lincoln Park in Midland, PA.
www.samjoodesign.com

SAMANTHA MAGILL (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be a part of her first CSA production as a sound designer! She has worked on many previous works with Prime Stage Theatre including The White Rose (Sound Designer), and The Amazing Lemonade Girl (Sound Designer). When she isn’t in the theater, she works as a full-time producer for KDKA Newsradio. She would like to thank her cat Luna, family, friends, and roommates for their amazing support.

HALEY BROWN (Lighting Designer) is delighted to join the New Hazlett for their CSA Performance Series production of Perdita. She has worked with various theaters across the US, including LEAN Ensemble, Circa 21’ Playhouse, Peterborough Players, Berkshire Theatre Group, Synchronicity Theater, Stagedoor Manor, The Warehouse Theatre, GLOW Lyric Theatre, and Center Stage South Carolina. Haley received her BA from Furman University and her MFA from the University of Georgia.
@haleybrowndesign | www.haleybrowndesign.com

LAUREN WIJANGCO (Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be stage managing her third CSA production at the New Hazlett Theater! Previously, she stage managed Vida Chai’s Somewhere Strange and Bailey Lee’s Papa. Regionally, she has also worked with Quantum Theatre, City Theatre, Kinetic Theatre Company, Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, Mountain Playhouse, and A.D. Players Theater. Proud AEA EMC.
NEW HAZLETT STAFF

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PATRON SERVICES COORDINATOR.........................KEVIN RABBITS
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BOX OFFICE COORDINATOR........................................NATHAN WAGNER
STAGE MANAGER....................................................LAUREN N. WIJANGCO
SOUND OPERATOR....................................................ABIGAIL STONE HUCHKO
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR........................................LAUREN N. WIJANGCO

FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF...BRANDON ANDERSON, DAVID BALINT,
NAOMI COSTANZA, REBECCA HURLBERT,
TRAYCEE IMAI, ZOË PIENKOSKI, EVA RESNICK-DAY,
ALEXIS RETCOFSKY, JASMINE ROTH, NATHAN WAGNER,
LAUREN N. WIJANGCO, LINDA WORTHAM

SPECIAL THANKS FROM NEW HAZLETT THEATER
Recital Magazine, Renee Rosensteel, Saturday Light Brigade,
Robin Sheffey & Steel Smiling, Chris Bryan and PERSAD

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NHT 22/23
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NATHAN WAGNER

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