

EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR

A revenge
comedy by

Lauren
Gunderson



"Let's get classical."

Department of Communication

Chair Note

Dr. Troy Comeau



Welcome to the 2024-2025 season of the Pitt State Theatre. Whether you're an alumni, community member, student, or just a passionate supporter of the arts, you play an integral part in supporting our theatre students as they bring their passion to life on stage.

On behalf of Pittsburg State University and the Department of Communication, we extend our deepest appreciation to you for being here and hope you enjoy the creativity and hard work of our talented cast and crew as they present their performances this season.

The Department also extends our gratitude to the actors, technicians, designers, directors, and faculty who have made each performance possible. Dr. Megan Westhoff is in her fifth year leading our program and will direct our final production of the season. Mr. Linden Little again showcases his directing talents by opening our season and also continues as Technical Director and Designer of each performance. Alongside Mr.

Little for our opening production will be Musical Director Patrick Howle who serves as an Instructional Professor in Voice and Opera for the Department of Music at Pittsburg State. Ms. Lisa Quinteros continues as our Costume Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor. Finally, we are also proud to have as a special guest director, Dr. Cynthia Allan, former Department Chair and Director of Theatre. Dr. Allan's contributions to this program can never be understated and we are so happy to have her direct our students this year.

The season opens on October 25-27 with *A Little Night Music* directed by Mr. Linden Little and under the music direction of Mr. Patrick Howle. This musical explores the nature of desire and regret. It blends an intriguing plot centering around the romantic exploits of several intertwined couples in early twentieth century Sweden with a lush and sumptuous score where every song is written in a variation of waltz time. Be whisked away for a weekend in the country through our collaboration with PSU Opera and the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts.

On December 6-7, we invite you to enjoy our COMM 544 Stage Direction class's "public final exam" as they present *Theatre Unplugged*. Always fascinating, always popular and always FREE of charge!!

Dr. Cynthia Allan directs our third production on February 27-March 2, *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*. Chase the winter blues away with this comedy from award-winning playwright Lauren Gunderson, one of our best and sharpest voices in contemporary American theatre. Set in North Georgia, watch how Shakespearean-inspired revenge plays out against a backdrop of strippers, venison, and a LOT of honey.

Our final production of the season on April 24-27 is *Love/Sick* directed by Dr. Megan Westhoff. Somewhere in suburban America, nine different couples are at a relationship crossroads. Whether it's new beginnings, broken hearts, or second chances, this humorous and heart-wrenching dark comedy explores the pleasure and the pain of being in love.

Once again, thank you for your support of Pitt State Theatre and we hope you enjoy this season's productions.

Director's Note

I lived many years in upstate South Carolina. I worked in manufacturing there and designed and directed “on the side.” I hiked most of the area in which this play is set. I am also an alum of the University of Georgia. So when I first read this script I could hear and see the characters in my head and felt I’d known or worked with all of them at one point or another. I also appreciated the whip-smart writing, inside theatre jokes (the title is an obscure stage direction from Act III of Shakespeare’s *A Winter’s Tale*), and references to Jimmy Carter. It was that simple.

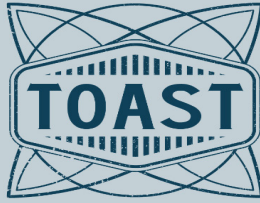
I am also keenly aware this is the “February” production. February, when people are tired of winter and not interested in being dreary. So I directed this play to help me not be homesick and to get you out of the doldrums. A raucous, wild romp in about 80 minutes with no breaks. And most of the stage directions are projected. And there is a power-point presentation in the middle and karaoke at the end. It’s crazy. And I hope you laugh. And I also hope you recognize, deep down, that most of what we’re laughing at here isn’t really funny at all but, well, it’s February and life is hard and comedy helps us endure whatever pain is around us. That may be truer now than ever.

Thanks to all the deeply committed people who helped bring this production to life. They deserve your appreciation. I thoroughly enjoyed working with this remarkable cast and crew.

And thanks to Megan, Lisa, and Linden for inviting me back. It was a great family reunion.

Go, Dawgs!

Cynthia Allan



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Serving Our Community

This season, Pitt State Theatre is collecting items for Safehouse Crisis Center. During the run of performances, donations of baby formula and toilet paper will be collected. Please help us serve this important community resource.



Simon Beaufort (Easton King) and Kyle Carter (Taye Witherspoon) argue
as Sweetheart/Peaches (Megan Reed) looks on



Nan Carter (Amiah Roberts), Sweetheart/Peaches (Megan Reed), and Simon Beaufort (Easton King) rehearsing their lines

Favorite Character Lines of the Cast and Stage Managers

NAN: "For all the women all over the world who swallow panic every day, I say to you: Get the meat."

(provided by Amiah Roberts)

KYLE: "That's why you're doing this? Because I-*what*-accidentally propositioned you?" (provided by

Taye Witherspoon)

SWEETHEART: "I was a Girl Scout and everything but that is just...warm." (provided by Megan Reed)

SIMON: "So this is "theatre" with an "-re"? (provided by Easton King)

SIMON: "Get a clear coat if it's a big deal." (provided by Tyller Zacher)

SWEETHEART: "Tape or no tape?" (provided by Holden Osmun)

EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR

A revenge comedy by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Cynthia Allan*

Scenic and Lighting Design by Linden Little

Costume Design by Lisa Quinteros

Cast

Nan Carter.....	Amiah Roberts
Kyle Carter.....	Taye Witherspoon
Sweetheart/Peaches.....	Megan Reed*
Simon Beaufort.....	Easton King

Setting

July 4, 2012

A small, musty one-bedroom house in the North Georgia mountains.

There is no intermission.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

Production Crew

Stage Manager.....	Holden Osmun
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Tyller Zacher
Property Manager.....	Javen Woosley
Property Crew.....	Hailey Baker
	Hailey Goodrich
	Jacob Boatwright
Makeup/Hair.....	Bailey Danner
Light Board Operator.....	Carl-Ivar Back
Projection Operator.....	Melissa Sollner
Sound Operator.....	Remington Rice
Scene Shop Carpenters.....	Ethan Yoakem
	Nathan Cassity
Costume Construction Crew.....	Barbara Davis

Pitt State Theatre

Director of Theatre.....	Megan Westhoff*
Artwork Designer.....	Brianna Tureaud
Production Assistant.....	Tyller Zacher
Advertising Manager.....	Kennedy Thagard
Production Photographer.....	Alice Carnahan

*Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, national theatre honor society.

No photography or video recording is permitted during the performance.

Please make sure cell phones are silenced.

Some (Un)Bearable Jokes

What do you call a bear with no teeth? *A gummy bear.*

Why was the bear a good fit for the job? *He had all the right koalifications!*

What kind of car does a bear drive? *A Furrari.*

What did the panda say when he left the house? *I'll be white black!*

Why did the bear take up meditation? *He wanted to paws and reflect.*

What did the teddy bear say after dinner? *I'm stuffed!*

Why do bears have fur coats? *Because they look stupid in parkas.*

Why did the bear get fired from his job? *His co-workers said he was good for nothing.*

What did the bear say when he saw hikers in their sleeping bags?

Sandwiches!!

A bear walks into a bar and sits down.

The bartender is suspicious but comes over and asks, "What can I get you?"

The bear says, "I'll have a shot of.....whiskey."

Bartender says, "OK, but why the big pause?"

"Oh," says the bear, "I got them from my dad."

A bear walks into a bar and orders a beer. The bartender serves him. The bear drinks his beer and then asks how much he owes. The bartender, assuming the bear isn't very smart, says, "That will be \$10." The bear pays and is prepared to leave when the bartender says, "Say, I've never seen a bear in this bar before." The bear says, "Well, at \$10 a beer, I'm not surprised!"

Scenic Designer's Note

The inspiration motivating this scenic design is texture. Gunderson writes in her stage directions that the floor should be sticky. It's a place that's impossible to keep clean because of age. Thus, we arrive at the cheap thin carpet, cheap faded paneling, brown craft paper, and duct tape you see in this production. If revenge were a physical feeling I think it would feel like itching. These various textures evoke that feeling. I hope through the action of the play you get a release from the scratchiness. Like a bear rubbing against a tree trunk.



Simon Beaufort (Easton King), Sweetheart/Peaches (Megan Reed), and Nan Carter (Amiah Roberts) work on staging a scene

Costume Designer's Note

A Note of Bearing...

I had trouble writing this note.

This play makes me mad. It makes me laugh.

The costumes for this show have been chosen to reflect just the regular, day-to-day choices made by these personalities, these people. They might be someone you would just pass by, maybe a small glance and a smirk, an eyebrow raised, a smile, maybe not even that.

Their situation is *not* that, however. It is as far from normal, everyday, as one could get.

Domestic violence and mental abuse hide in the day-to-day, insidious in their ability to slide by, to be unobserved, and disguised in that everyday.

A situation which is far from normal, everyday, as one could get. It is what's inside, what's hiding, we need to see and notice.

As Nan said... "Get the Meat."



Nan Carter (Amiah Roberts) and Kyle Carter (Taye Witherspoon) hold hands as they relive their past



Simon Beaufort (Easton King) and Nan Carter (Amiah Roberts) share a moment during rehearsal

Special Thanks

Val Carnahan

Olivia Doodnauth

Debbi Fischer

Mimi Little

Alan Ross

Lesley M., comic support and travel guide

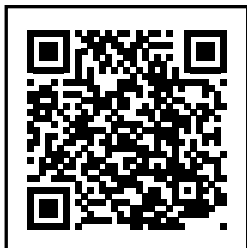
Mildred Cohan and her agent, Joe Merck

We would also like to thank everyone who provided services,
materials, and support to this production.

Our apologies if anyone is inadvertently omitted.

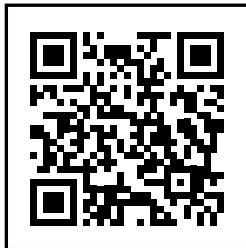
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