

LOVE/SICK

John Cariani

Love

AND
LOSS...

AND
EVERYthing

IN
Between



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, ten 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

Surround yourself with supportive and creative people. I've had this idea to invite some of our alumni back to campus and I mentioned it one day to Kristy Magee thinking that it was a big ask for those who have jobs and families and lives. Her immediate excitement about the possibility encouraged me to find a way to make it happen. Even though the logistics have been challenging since we have rehearsed the scenes independently and then worked to weave them together into a cohesive whole, the outcome is more than worth it. This year is the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts so this is a great moment for our current students to get to work with those who came before them. I'm still in awe that this is the space where we get to create breathtaking art through the sharing of different experiences, momentary glimpses into others' lives, and sometimes a reflection of who we are or who we aspire to be. The best part is we create this important work through the act of sharing in community with others.

The more time I have spent with this script, the more I have understood why I resonate with John Cariani's work. It's his exploration of honest portrayals of love. Love feels messy at times and feels heart expanding at other times. Your heart can be broken. Your heart can be mended. Love is a cycle where an ending is another beginning and the story of how we love and who we love is constantly morphing and transforming throughout our lives. This production is a love letter from me to our beloved alumni who have helped to shape a collaborative, collegial, and high-quality theatre program, so this is a chance for them to see their work paid forward to our current students. Thank you to this incredible ensemble of artists who have worked together to create and share these meaningful stories!

Serving Our Community

This season, Pitt State Theatre is partnering with Safehouse Crisis Center. During the run performances of *Love/Sick*, donations of shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, disinfecting wipes, laundry detergent, razors, feminine hygiene products, and baby diapers (all sizes) will be collected in the lobby. Please help us serve this important community resource.



*"We put our heart
into every cone!"*

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Theatre Classes for Fall 2025!

COMM 105 Performance Appreciation
COMM 205 Performance Studies
COMM 254 Acting
COMM 363 Stagecraft
COMM 544 Stage Direction



Nathan Cassity mixes paint in preparation for painting the set



The support structure for the turntable gets installed



Andy (Taye Witherspoon) and Ben (Easton King) share their innermost feelings



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#GETTOASTED

Love/Sick

By John Cariani

Directed by Megan Westhoff* (BA 2002 and MA 2004)
Scenic and Lighting Design by Linden Little (MA 2011)
Costume Design by Lisa Quinteros (BA 1998)

Cast

Obsessive Impulsive

Woman.....Hannah Davis
Man.....Taye Witherspoon

The Singing Telegram

Louise.....Kristy Magee (MA 2012)
Singing Telegram Man.....Ross Stone* (BS 2010)

What?!?

Ben.....Easton King
Andy.....Taye Witherspoon

The Answer

Celia.....Kendra Johnson
Keith.....Aaron Lawson

Uh-Oh

Sarah.....Tyller Zacher
Bill.....Easton King

Lunch and Dinner

Kelly.....Megan Reed* (BS 2017)
Mark.....Michael Fienen (BA 2004)

Chicken

Maddie.....Kendra Johnson
Jason.....Taye Witherspoon

Forgot

Jill.....Hannah Davis
Kevin.....Aaron Lawson

Sick of This

Liz.....Megan Reed* (BS 2017)
Abbie.....Mia Garrett

Destiny

Emily.....Kristen Livingston (BS 2007 and MA 2008)
Jake.....Jake Forsythe (BST 2023)

Setting

Time: 7:30 on a Friday night in late September

Place: In and around a SuperCenter

There will be one 10 minute intermission

Original music composed by Julian Fleisher

LOVE/SICK is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists
Play Service, Inc., New York

Production Crew

Stage Manager.....Matthew Blunt
Property Manager.....Gavyn Nybakken
Set Dressing.....Hailey Baker
Makeup and Hair.....Bailey Danner
Lighting Assistant.....Josh Ramsey (BS 2022)
Light Board Technician.....Jude Naccarato
Sound Board Technician.....Melissa Sollner
Running Crew.....Bailey Julian
Scene Shop Carpenters.....Ethan Yoakem
Nathan Cassity
Costume Construction.....Hailey Goodrich (BS 2024)

Pitt State Theatre Staff

Director of Theatre.....Megan Westhoff*
Artwork Designer.....Brianna Tureaud (BFA 2023)
Production Assistant.....Tyller Zacher
Advertising Manager.....Maggie Flannery
Production Photographer.....Bryan Gonzalez

*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.

Scenic and Lighting Design Notes

Love/Sick is a cycle of scenes that explores human connection. Scenically, we wanted to represent this cycle using moving pieces. Each scene has its own look and unique objects while being tied together with items from the SuperCenter. It is an apt visual metaphor for the common experiences we have in the pursuit of love. John Cariani weaves together the mundane with the extraordinary in a sometimes touching, often funny, and always truthful rendering of contemporary life.

To the Cast and Crew, Break A Leg!

AΨΩ

Alpha Psi Omega

HONOR SOCIETY

Alpha Epsilon Theta Chapter



Sarah (Tyller Zacher) attempts to get the attention of Bill (Easton King)

Costume Designer's Note

Costume....Properties....Anniversary... Note

The costume and prop design for *Love/Sick* is a supporting cast of connectivity for the entire play. We buy things we need for ourselves, place in our homes, and share in common with hundreds and hundreds of people who perhaps bought it from the very same shelf you did. I don't think about that much (maybe if I worked in retail....) but there is someone tonight possibly eating the exact dinner I am, in the same shirt and pants, on the same kitchen chairs I own... Our world really is much smaller than we think, and we do often have more in common than not when we look at the small things. Like toilet paper and flowers and ties and ferret food....and happiness, sadness, anger, lust, calm, confusion, despair, wonder. Love. And on and on.

Our capacity to be alike is amazing.

Hopefully our supporting cast gives you a knowing smile this time around.

As we enter this last show of the 2024-25 season, and continue our 10 year celebration of the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, I have taken the opportunity to look back on the performances I have been a part of in so many different capacities. Having this Alumni show is a grand accomplishment, and I am so glad to see that our graduates who have come back to work with us still carry a passion and appreciation for the stage. They have been willing to put in the time and hoursand memorization....to help create these funny, insightful, vignettes of life and love, to share and engage with an audience that can then feedback their own passion and appreciation for the stage. These acts are an infinity loop of creative endeavor and connection. It's what we all hope to hold dear, and experience, with the phenomenon that is Theatre. Thank you, wonderful actors, and backstage crew, and audience, new and old, for shopping around at the SuperCenter with us. You are in the loop.



Hailey Goodrich pins fabric as she works on a costume during rehearsal preparation



Scene shop carpenters, Ethan Yoakem and Nathan Cassity work on assembling a bed frame

Special Thanks

Pittsburg Walmart Neighborhood Market

Pittsburg State University Department of Music

Pittsburg State University Information Technology Services

Heather and Roger Horton - TOAST

The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts Staff

Dr. Cynthia Allan

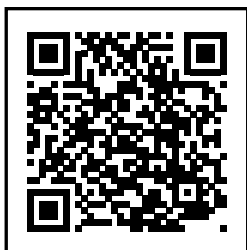
Chelle Rae

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

Our apologies if anyone is inadvertently omitted.

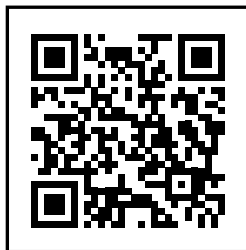
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