

Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exists upon land inhabited by the original indigenous people of this area, including the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the many other nations and groups that predate colonial borders.

We acknowledge that with colonization Native American people have been dispossessed of their lands and irreparably changed by the actions of individuals and institutions. We acknowledge our responsibility to understand and respond to those actions. In partnership with the Native American Center, we commit to working together to honor the past, be intentional in the present, and to build our future with truth.

A Note from the Director

This play is an unknown gem. *A Cry of Players*, comes from *Hamlet*, speaking "Would not this ...get me a fellowship in a cry of players, sir?" in Act 3, Scene 2. Both Hamlet and Shakespeare believing in plays and the players who perform them. The original Broadway production in 1968, was led by the famous players, Frank Langella as Will and Anne Bancroft as Anne, who was in Gibson's original Broadway productions of *Two for the Seesaw* and *The Miracle Worker*.

The story is a dramatization of the early youthful life and loves of William Shakespeare. However, Gibson only calls Shakespeare WILL in the play, and Anne Hathaway (Shakespeare's wife, and mother to their three children) as ANNE. Since very little is known about WILL and ANNE's early life together their relationship has been the subject of much discussion and speculation by many historians and writers through the years. Also, naming these characters only WILL and ANNE gives the sense and freedom that WILL can be any poet, at any time. Any actor, artist, musician, or passionately driven person who's longing and yearning for more. To take a bite out of life, and receive the answer to "what are we for?" The world and his soul are calling for him to see more, taste more, hear more, feel more, express more, discover more. Experience. More.

There are roughly 20 other rich characters in this play that make up his family, friends, the town, the law, and of course, the PLAYERS! In Shakespeare's own life, he was a PLAYER. A member of acting troupes, traveling players, including Leicester's Men and The Lord Chamberlain's Men, out of which he formed a bond with one of the most famous clowns of that original company, William Kempe. Kempe played comic roles, such as Sir John Falstaff, Peter in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

This story is a celebration of not only plays and players, but of theater and the creative soul. I sought out to honor that sentiment by keeping the life and energy of a traveling troupe of players and having each performance, each audience, receive a special one time only experience. Except for the players portraying WILL and ANNE, each of the other 7 players will perform multiple roles and they will not know what characters they will be reading until they arrive. The theatrical nature of that and embracing the idea of PLAY when performing for you, was one of the most important elements I wanted to share. Highlighting that we love what we do, we couldn't be or do anything else, and that we need you, the audience, there to have this unique experience all together. Any theatrical, live arts event you attend and support, is only done with those people, in that space, at that time, ever. How marvelous!

The word CRY in the title also means more to me now than ever. We are living in a time when theater is not doing well. Now, is the time, when we need to CRY out and celebrate art, and artists. I urge you to support the arts and arts education in any way you can, and I urge you tonight (or today) to let go of the outside world and invest in this special experience we share together. The players and I, and our department are grateful you chose to attend and support us. We invite you to come back throughout the rest of the season, and please enjoy our PLAY!

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Department of Theatre & Dance
Presents

A CRY OF PLAYERS

BY WILLIAM GIBSON

Directed by Greg Prager*

A Cry of Players is presented by special arrangement with Broadway
Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.
(www.dramatists.com)

**UWSP Faculty/Staff*

A CRY OF PLAYERS

Cast

WILL.....Tann Groholski

ANNE.....Sophie Pitsch

ENSEMBLE

(playing all other roles)

Cash Campbell

Maxine Danni

Katie Kloth

Ronan Kosterman

Monica Kuhn

Iz Walsh

Olivia Weyenberg

Creative Team

Director.....Greg Prager*

Stage Manager.....Soap Donnermeyer

A CRY OF PLAYERS

Characters

**based on Historical Figures*

ANNE* - Anne Hathaway

WILL* - Will Shakespeare

THE FAMILY

SUSANNA* - Will & Anne's Daughter (4 years old)

OLD JOHN* - Will's Father

GILBERT* - Will's Brother

Old John's Wife* - Mary (offstage)

The twins* - Judith and Hamnet (offstage)

THE PLAYERS

KEMP* - William Kempe, the leader of the traveling actors

NED

HEMING

POPE

ARTHUR - a boy

THE LAW

SIR THOMAS*

RICHARDS

BERRY

WILL'S FRIENDS

FULK

MEG

THE TOWN

JENNY HODGES - works at her father's tavern

HODGES - Jenn's father

ROCHE - Walter Roche, the schoolmaster

SANDELLS - the town gossip

TOWNSPEOPLE

2024-25 Season Production Staff

Director.....Greg Prager*

Stage Manager.....Soap Donnermeyer

Costume/Hair/Makeup Design Mentor.....Emily Bustamante*

Costume Shop Manager.....CeCe Sickler*

Costume Shop Assistants. ...Maxine Danni, Cali Grant, Nessa Grant,
Steph Hogan, Sophie Pitsch, Mattie Ruona,
Aidan Sternberg, Lenna Magdeline Wren

Light/Sound Shop Mentor.....Andrew Brackett*

Light/Sound Shop Assistants.....Ace Ahlstrom, Zach Bruhn,
Paul Been

Scenic/Paint/Props Mentor & Prop Shop Manager.....Emily Lotz*

Paint/Props Shop Assistants.....Hayden Othmer, Anna Nowatzki,
Mattie Ruona

Technical Director & Scene Shop Manager.....Ann Warren*

Scene Shop Assistants.....Serena Alexander, Paul Been,
Zach Bruhn, Barrett Buck, Bastien Howard

House Manager.....Erin Bohn

Student Office Assistants.....Erin Clementich,
Lenna Magdeline Wren, Stephanie Skemp

**UWSP Faculty/Staff*

Meet the Company

Campbell, Cash (*Ensemble, He/Him*) First-Year BFA Acting major from Sussex, WI.

Danni, Maxine (*Ensemble, She/Her*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Naples, FL.

Donnermeyer, Soap (*Stage Manager, He/She/They*) Sophomore BFA Acting major and Arts Management minor from Chattanooga, TN. Recipient of the Invest in your Purpose Scholarship and the Fund for Wisconsin Scholars.

Groholski, Tann (*Will, He/They*) Senior BFA Acting major from Hortonville, WI.

Kloth, Katie (*Ensemble, She/They*) Junior BFA Acting and Arts Management double major from Wausau, WI.

Kosterman, Ronan (*Ensemble, He/Him*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Racine, WI.

Kuhn, Monica (*Ensemble, She/Her*) Senior BFA Acting major and Psychology and Arts Management minor from Oak Creek, WI. Recipient of the Presidential Gold Scholarship.

Pitsch, Sophie (*Anne, She/Her*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Madison, WI. Recipient of the Presidential Purple Scholarship and the Theatre & Dance Arts Bash Scholarship.

Walsh, Iz (*Ensemble, They/Them*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Altoona, WI. Recipient of the Theatre & Dance Arts Bash Scholarship.

Weyenberg, Olivia (*Ensemble, She/Her*) Sophomore BFA Acting major from Green Bay, WI.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Department of Theatre and Dance is to serve:

- Its majors and minors through curricular offerings and performance/production activities that heighten intellectual, artistic, cultural, and humane sensitivities.
- The general student population through curricular offerings and stage productions that engender an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and their contribution to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of life.
- The university community and general central Wisconsin population through the production of quality stage performances.

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see back of program for details