

THEATRE **UNI** PRESENTS

SUZETTE WHO SET TO SEA

By Finegan Kruckemeyer



SUZETTE WHO SET TO SEA

Please check out our Educator Guide created by Hannah O'Connell, Mac Oleson, Richard Nissen, Peyton Robbins, Lauren Steelman, Sam Trumpold, Trent Washburn, and Kendra Kahl



Scan to view the guide



ARTISTIC TEAM

Director.....	Kendra Kahl
Composer.....	Sam Trumpold*
Scenic Designer.....	Mark A. Parrott
Puppet Designer.....	Mark A. Parrott
Faculty Costume Coordinator.....	Amy S. RohrBerg
Student Costume Coordinator.....	Megan Hedtke
Conductor/Rehearsal Pianist.....	Kendra Kahl
Stage Manager.....	Briley Larson
Fight Consultation.....	William Hickman

CAST

Captain	Lucia Kuehn
Conroy.....	Tommy Bates*
Pete	Braden Hoyer*
Shipmates	Kai Cowell, Grace Hamann (U/S Captain), Julie Matta*, Mac Oleson
Musician.....	Sam Trumpold*

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

William Hickman.....Head
Susan Connor, Katy Hahn, Neal Perry Jacobs, Kendra Kahl, Ron Koinzan,
Tange Kole, Katy McGlaughlin, Mark A. Parrott, Amy S. RohrBerg,
Katrina Sandvik, Matthew J. Weedman

Office Assistants..... Gwen Gehrke

Communications Assistant.....Maddie Hamilton

Recruitment Assistants.....Braden Hoyer, Otter Kroll, Eric Schutt

Production Manager Assistants.....Otter Kroll, Lauren Steelman*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.....Jennifer Cooley, Interim
Head, Dept. of Theatre/Theatre UNI Artistic Director.....William Hickman

Production Manager.....Katy McGlaughlin

Assistant to the Director.....Hannah Tibbs

A/V Supervisor.....Jonathan Allender-Zivic+

Scenery Studio Technical Director.....Ron Koinzan

Scenery Studio Supervisor.....David Harnois

Paint Charge.....Mark A. Parrott

Paint Crew.....Kaleb Dufel, Richard Nissen,
Hannah Pratt, Trent Washburn

Scenery Construction Crew.....Kaitlyn Baker, Tommy Bates*,
 Griffin Berndt, Eric Chen, Natalie Clark, Kai Cowell, Jonathan Danker+, Gabby
 DePrizio*, Salvador Diego, Erin Epperson, Korvetta Glasper, Evan Glockl,
 Dominic Hammel, Corley Jewell, Briley Larson, Angel Maynard, Tara McCaslen,
 Megan McGuire, Rylee McNeal, Brady Okic, Mac Oleson, Peyton Robbins,
 Charleston Steinke, Beauna Thammathai, Paige Winkelman

Properties Head..... Mark A. Parrott

Assistant Properties Head.....Briley Larson

Properties TA.....Jude Beekman

Lighting TA.....Otter Kroll

Costume Studio Technical Director..... Katrina Sandvik

Assistant Costume Studio Technical Director..... Claire Thoma

Costume Construction Crew..... Brandy Burge, Kai Cowell,
 Isaiah Dale, Ayla Dawson, Gabby DePrizio*, Elivia DiTomaso, Jed Ford, Dominic
 Hammel, Megan Hedtke, Erik Heeren, Lillian Hernandez, Ethan Husseel, Otter
 Kroll, Lucia Kuehn, Julie Matta*, Hannah O'Connell, Ella Olander, Mac Oleson,
 Hannah Pratt, Lauren Steelman*, Claire Thoma, Hannah Tibbs, Ryder Wickett

Marketing Manager..... William Hickman

House Manager.....Katy McGlaughlin

Asst. House Manager.....Kat Smith

SPECIAL THANKS

Ben Schmidt

DIRECTORS NOTE

I have long been an admirer of Finegan Kruckemeyer's work. His use of word play along with his incredibly delicate introduction of difficult themes for young people keeps me on my toes. When I first read *Suzette Who Set to Sea*, I was swept away in laughter, wit, fast-paced storytelling, and the persistence of a young girl in the face of adversity. I knew this story needed to be shared with children in our community.

This spring, we have brought (or will bring) *Suzette Who Set to Sea* to 11 elementary schools in our local area. Each day we're out touring, we get into costume at the theater, jump into cars, check in at the school, unload our trailer, welcome the kids and perform the show, reset the props, load everything back in the trailer, head back to campus, and get out of costume—all within 3 hours.

Our tour has been a blast. We have encountered everything from slippery road conditions and carrying (instead of rolling) our set and props over snow-covered sidewalks to our puppets and their carrying bags acting like sails in the wind; 70 children sitting on narrow bleachers to 470 students packed into one tiny gym sitting on the floor. We've covered tracks for sick cast members, held for laughter that sometimes seemed as if it would never stop, and been told the most random and hilarious things before and after the shows by our young audience members. The performers you see today are truly professionals, able to adapt to the needs of each performance space and each group of kids, and I am incredibly proud of their commitment to intentionally welcoming each child into our performance space and providing them with a quality arts experience.

The minimalism that comes with touring creates rich opportunities for the performers to maximize the potential of every prop, every costume piece, every word, and every gesture. I am grateful for the flexibility of our designers in working with our changes during the rehearsal process, Briley Larson for managing all of 'the stuff,' Hannah Tibbs for reaching out to our schools and offering invaluable help with logistical paperwork, Katy McGlaughlin for handling our trailer needs, my Theatre for Youth class for their work on the Educator Play Guide, and all of the wonderful school administrators that have welcomed us into their doors.

I hope *Suzette's* story of determination, boldness, and standing up for who you are reverberates for you. That you see the ways this young girl's stern kindness might apply to your own life. As our Captain says, "Stories don't belong to one person, Conroy. Keep telling one long enough – keep listening well enough – and pretty soon it's owned by anyone who cares to believe it. Even you if you want."

Kendra Kahl

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS NOTE

Thank you for coming to this production, and thank you for supporting the arts. There is something magical about live performances and theatre for youth is doubly so. This will be someone's first play. This will be someone's first memory of theatre. I am so thankful that we have the opportunity to be together for this journey. Thank you for being here with us.

I am honored to be a part of this theatre company and theatre department at UNI. Professor Eric Lange led this production company for many years and found great success. The team he and the rest of the faculty here at UNI have built are skilled, driven, and kind. That is a rare set of skills in my experience. The students who attend UNI have proven to have all of those same qualities.

This season offers comedy, horror, family entertainment, and great music. The season was chosen in a process that involves our full theatre faculty, staff, and students. We follow a structure that suggests genres to assure our students have an opportunity to work on a diverse group of plays from different genres, styles, time periods, and writers. After a group of 12-16 plays are chosen, we open it up to the students to voice their opinions and suggest other titles and help narrow the choice. We believe in student participation in the artistic process. These choices are made in the fall, rights procured, and then pre-production begins in spring.

I hope you will join us to see the result of a process begun over a year ago and see all four shows this year. Thank you for your patronage, your participation, and your support. Next year's production season will be another wonderful year, and I look forward to sharing it with you all soon.

I will leave you with this: "Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises, Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not."

William Hickman

FRIENDS OF THEATREUNI SUPPORTERS

The great Sir Peter Brook once wrote, "A man walks across this empty space whilst someone else is watching him. And this is all that is needed for an act of theatre to be engaged." Luckily most theatre is not that simple and is more exciting than that! But he makes a point that the audience is equally important as the performer in the theatre event. The magic of theatre can only come alive with an audience. Theatre is a conversation between the artists and audience that can be anything from serious, playful, honest, epic, parodic and funny to painful and cathartic, but it always speaks to the human experience.

TheatreUNI is training the next generation of theatre artists to join this conversation and eventually guide it. As an alum and current faculty member, I can attest to the wonderful well-rounded education I received at UNI and bear witness to the faculty's tireless endeavor to keep the quality of this program as high as possible. The proof of this work we do comes out in the shows we present with student talent in every aspect of theatre. Our students act, dance, sing, design, build and paint sets and props, alter and sew costumes, hang and focus lights, stage and house manage in addition to their regular class load as college students. They learn it all.

Theatre is a tool to educate, communicate, and entertain, but we can't do it alone. Every theatre needs supporters and patrons and that audience that we partner with to make the magic happen. Friends of TheatreUNI is a group of theatre enthusiasts who support our students and faculty by providing scholarship funding and attending shows and special events. FOTUNI members also get advance access to ticketing and discounts depending on their level of membership. Supporting theatre here at UNI, in the Cedar Valley, and in the state of Iowa is important to the quality of life in our community and makes a difference in each of our student's journeys to discover their path. Please join me in becoming a member of Friends of TheatreUNI today.

Friends of TheatreUNI is a non-profit organization of volunteers, faculty, and alumni who raise funds for the University of Northern Iowa Department of Theatre and its students. Friends support the university's theatre productions through scholarships, departmental purchases, and meals. In fact, 90% of all Friends donations go directly to the students.

Want to become a friend? More information is linked here:
<https://theatreuni.uni.edu/friends-theatreuni>

Katrina Sandvik
President, Friends of TheatreUNI

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CLAIRE THOMA

Claire Thoma is a 5th year theatre major with a double emphasis in performance and design & production, and a minor in music. She joined the department as a 3rd year, and has been involved with a variety of TheatreUNI productions. She performed in *Blood at the Root* in Spring '22 and in *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy* in Fall '23. Her design emphasis is in costumes, and she has been a TA in the costume studio for 4 semesters now. She worked on *Radium Girls* in Spring '23 as the crew head for the wardrobe crew and served as assistant to the props head for both mainstage shows in Fall '23. She would like to thank all the professors, peers, family, and sponsors who have helped her get to where she is today; their support means the world to her.



MONICA RIPLEY

I am Monica Ripley (she/her) and I'm a Theatre Design and Production and Performance double emphasis, graduating in May of this year. I am currently performing in the cast of *Heathers*. I recently served as Stage Manager for *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*. I've worked on many other productions at TheatreUNI, including assistant stage managing *Radium Girls*, playing Audrey/Chiffon in *Little Shop Of Horrors*, playing Charlotte in *Cinderella*, and being a part of multiple Cornerstone productions. I spent this past summer working as a scenic artist in Missouri, and upon graduation I plan to continue to pursue freelance theatrical scenic painting as well as audition for regional theatre companies.



ERIC SCHUTT

Eric Schutt is a Senior Theatre Performance and Theatre for Youth and Communities double major that will be graduating in May this academic year. Within the last 4 years, he has been an actor, director, teaching artist, and even stage manager within many different projects at UNI. He also has served as an executive board member for UNISTA and APO for three years now. Recently he completed a contract as a summer teaching artist intern at The Rose in Omaha. After graduation, Eric plans on going wherever the industry takes him, working in the disciplines mentioned before. With the long term goal of obtaining his master's degree in the theatrical arts.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



GABBY DEPRIZIO

Gabby DePrizio is a senior costume designer and technician, who will graduate with a BA in Theatre Design and Production, and a History Minor in May of 2024. Recently, they worked as the Costume Designer for *Dracula, A Feminist Revenge Fantasy* at TheatreUNI. Throughout their time at UNI, Gabby has been a part of organizations such as UNITT, USITT, MTS, UNISTA, APO, and UNI Proud. In addition to their volunteer work, Gabby is a Technical Assistant in the Scenic and Costume Studios at Strayer Wood and a Stagehand at the Gallagher Bluedorn. After graduation, Gabby plans to work as a freelance costume technician until they begin attending graduate school to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Costume Technology.



JULIE MATTA

Julie Matta is a 4th-year Theatre Performance and Theatre for Youth and Communities major with a minor in Spanish. They will be graduating in the Spring of 2024. They currently are serving as the President of the Multicultural Theatrical Society and Executive Director of the University of Northern Iowa Student Theatre Association. Throughout their career at UNI, they have been in various plays including: *It's Greek to Me*, *Dream with Me*, *A Small Pair of Feet in the Middle of the Sea*, *As You Like It*, *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, and currently *Suzette Who Set to Sea*, as well as various other student and department projects. After their time at UNI, Julie hopes to work as an actor in bilingual classical theatre. They eventually wish to return to school to obtain their Master's Degree in Theatre for Social Change and Justice and ultimately become a professor in the field.

Friends of

THEATRE / UNI

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TheatreUNI Board Members**

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Friend (\$35+)

Katrina Sandvik

Myrna and Leonard Sandvik

Marlene Hartman Sheetz

Believer/Students (\$20+)

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*Indicates Charter Member

THEATREUNI MISSION

The mission of the Department of Theatre is to create theatre which excites and which illuminates the human condition in ways that are relevant to students, audiences, community members, teachers, and guest artists. To this end, the department offers coursework and productions that are diverse, creative, and participatory, serving students who want to prepare for a life in the theatre and also students who want to prepare a place for theatre in their lives. We create theatre, and in this process, educate.

The Strayer-Wood Theatre, as the home of the Department of Theatre on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa, strives to produce theatre which allows an opportunity for student creation and participation and nurtures and entertains the University Community and the Cedar Valley. Strayer-Wood Theatre productions are innovative, captivating, real theatre.

NAST ACCREDITATION

The Department of Theatre is accredited through the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). NAST is the national accrediting agency for theatre and theatre-related disciplines and is made up of approximately 200 schools of theatre. The granting of accredited membership is a sign that an institution has met an external set of basic criteria for its programs. It also indicates an ability to provide a base of academic strength and operational integrity.



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