
SETTING

PLACE

A Certain School for Magic and Magic

TIME

The school years of 1991-1998

CAST

Wayne Hopkins.....TJ Faulkner
Oliver Rivers, A Very Tall Man.....Giancarlo Cooper
Megan JonesBailey Rose Collington
Narrator Francesca Calautti
Ernie Mac, Seamus, A Certain Potions Teacher
Professor Turban, Ghost History Teach, Professor Locky
Mr. Nick, Sal, Second Headmaster, Real Mr. Moody Anthony Saucier
Hannah, First Headmaster, Professor McG,
Professor Sproutty, Xavia Jones, Professor Lanny,
Runes Teach, Ms. Babble Nina Bonanno
J. Finch Fletchley, Uncle Dave, Goyle, A Fat Friar,
Clumsy Longbottom, Hermeoone #3, Viktor,
Mr. Bagman, Zach SmithCalvin Butler III
Leanne, Ginny, Helga, Frenchy.....Anna Jessel
Sally Perks, Hermeoone, Blondo Malfoy,
Rowena, Rita Scooter, Bippy.....Anastasia Tolmachewich
Susie Bones, Harry, Colin, Hermeoone #2,
Ric Gryff, Myrtle.....Ashley Calderon
Cedric, Mr. Voldy Nathaniel James Hawley II

All cast members will play Death Buddies and other students throughout

PRODUCTION CONTENT

PUFFS! [One Act Edition] runs 90ish minutes, give or take 30 minutes, without an intermission. Who are we kidding, it runs about two hours. The restrooms are located on the 2nd floor.

Be advised that throughout this production, there is vulgar language, suggestive themes, intimate moments, and some violence and death. There are also moments with loud noises, screaming, and flashing lights that may be sensitive for some audience members.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“I was just so happy to be included. I am in the group, right?”
– Hannah, The Rest of Year Five

Wizards. Wands. Magic.

When I was a kid, I definitely wanted to believe that magic was real. I didn't grow up with the books-that-shall-not-be-named (this story isn't about them), but I did grow up with tales of other magical places, where good triumphed over evil and wizards gave the best advice.

Perhaps you, like me, thought that if only magic was real, we could vanquish the bullies in our lives, or make that special person see just how wonderful we are. Maybe we could magically become better at sports or music or...anything, really. Maybe we could be the most talented, the most popular, the most loved. A real hero.

Puffs takes us to a world where magic is very real, but even the existence of magic can't fix everyone's problems. The bullies still have power. That special someone starts dating someone else. Not everyone makes the sports team, or the frog choir, and no matter how hard we try – and fail – and try again, someone else will always be just a little bit better.

And that's okay.

Because our desires were never really about being the most talented, the most popular, or even the most loved. We were all just looking for a place to belong.

Some of us still are.

In 2019, the small college where I worked eliminated their theatre program, thus eliminating my position as Director of Theatre. I was cast adrift, saying farewell not just to a job or a place, but to my students, and to the theatre that we had made our home. I lost one very special place of belonging.

But now I find myself once again in a theatre, surrounded by amazing, talented students who have worked so hard to tell the story of the Puffs – a group of underdogs who might never be the most talented, the most popular, or the most loved, but who love and protect each other fiercely. Yes, they are wizards. They have wands. And they can do magic! But more importantly, they take care of one another. They welcome each other into a place where all are loved and accepted exactly as they are. Including you. The Puffs invite all of us to belong.

And the real magic is in the belonging.

-Rachel Luann Strayer, Director

CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....Rachel Luann Strayer
Assistant Director Kat Thorpe
Scenic Designer.....Janet Hershey
Lighting Designer Nik Pappas
Lighting Design Mentor Adam Boyer
Costume Designer.....Ellie Whalen
Sound DesignerMichael Taylor
Properties Designer Kat Sadowsky
Dialect Coach Kristin Wolanin
Fight/Intimacy Coordinators Jonathan Strayer, Rachel Luann Strayer

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Michael Meservey
Production Stage Manager Ryan Esbensen
Stage Manager.....Michael Klitsch
Scenic Painters..... Jack Reilly, Brionna Stotler
Production Carpenter.....Sasha Breniser
Carpenters.....Damian Ferreri, Andrew Loeffler
Properties Assistants.....Sydney George, Sonja Mowery, Donnie Wolf
Production Electrician Nik Pappas
Lighting ProgrammerNick Rivera
ElectriciansKaitlyn Colosi, Damien Ferreri,
Jack Reilly, Nick Rivera, Donnie Wolf
Audio Board OperatorAustin Barrick
Audio TechniciansAustin Barrick, Audrey Jachimowicz
Deck Head.....Michael Klitsch
Run Crew..... Delaney Burnham, Kaitlyn Colosi,
Erin Crimmel, Sonja Mowery, Kat Thorpe
WardrobeEllie Whalen

UNIVERSITY THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF

Director of Dramatics..... Jonathan Strayer
Assistant Professor of Entertainment Technology..... Adam Boyer
Production Manager/TPTF..... Alison Peoples
Entertainment Technology Support Manager/TPTF.....Michael Meservey
Production Management Assistant.....Michael Klitsch
House Electrician Kevin Moyer
House TechniciansSasha Breniser,
Christian Curry, Nik Pappas
House Manager..... Erin Crimmel
Social Media Manager Ryan Esbensen
Graphic Design..... Stacey Andrelczyk
Program DesignMichael Klitsch

HISTORY OF PUFFS

Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic is a one-act comedy based on well... you know. Matt Cox first dreamed up the idea of Puffs on a subway ride. He thought about how some horrible event would happen to a certain boy who lived each year and imagined how a different student might react to living through the experiences. As he pieced together the play using whatever 90s pop culture and subtle (and not-so-subtle) references to the legally distinct source, he wanted to create a story of a wannabe world-changer that he believed everyone could sympathize with.

Following the first reading at the People's Improv Theater, edits were made, and the play eventually made its premiere on December 3rd, 2015, where it was only expected to run for five days. Despite initial expectations, the show was a hit and ultimately ran for eight months, eventually being optioned to move to the Off-Broadway Elektra Theatre for two years, before the closure of the theater. The play was moved to The New World Stages' Stage 5 until its final performance on August 18th, 2019. While there, the play broke multiple sales records for the theater, and a livestreamed performance (later uploaded and available to be watched on streaming services) was published.

Matt Cox found it hard to fit seven years into a 90(ish)-minute play. Cox talked about the difficulties in keeping the important parts of the original source material serious and meaningful. He said it was important "that it still had that sense of really true heart to it, ... that way it doesn't just feel like a parody, which would have been very easy to do; That way it's something that sticks with you, that sense of heart." "We all come from theater backgrounds," he said, "and it was the only way to make it feel like it was an actual story in the same way the books and movies are. The reason they've lasted this long is because there's so many relatable things and putting that in and having there be a reason this story is being told."

LICENSING

PUFFS, Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years At A Certain School for Magic and Magic by Matt Cox

"Puffs (One Act Edition)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Originally Produced Off Broadway by Tilted Windmills Theatricals (John Arthur Pinckard, David Carpenter)

Originally Produced Off-Off Broadway by Stephen Stout and Colin Waitt

PUFFS was developed in part during a residency with the University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance | Jerry Dickey, School Director

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SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Daniel A Wubah, the Council of Trustees, and the President's Cabinet
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Dr. Christine Gaudry, Department of English and World Languages
Victoria Pappas and the University Communications and Marketing team
Nathan Dick, Sean Ferguson, Rachel McFadden
Bernie Hershey
Maria Enriquez and David Schanck, KCACTF Respondents



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

SPRING 2023



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time
based on the novel by Mark Haddon, adapted by Simon Stephens
March 30 – April 8, 2023 | directed by Jonathan Strayer

Please continue supporting student performances with ACMO,
the All Campus Musical Organization, as they produce:

The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical
based on the novel by Rick Riordan, book by Joe Tracz with music and lyrics by Rob Rocicki | March 16-19, 2023 | directed by Kat Thorpe

Millersville University Theatre *presents*

PUFFS
[ONE ACT EDITION]
by Matt Cox

DIRECTED BY Rachel Strayer

February 2-5, 2023
Rafters Theatre | Dutcher Hall