A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN NOVEMBER ON THE BANKS OF THE GREATEST OF THE GREAT LAKES

By Kate Benson
Directed by Brad Willcuts

For those of you just tuning in, Thanksgiving is already in progress here at Wembly kitchen. It's quite a crowd as the family gathers in an unidentified Great Lakes state. Sportscasters provide play-by-play commentary as the holiday becomes a metaphorical game of gratitude, exploring the origins and significance of traditions amidst chaos and an uncountable herd of great grandbabies.

CREATIVE TEAM

Stage Manager – **Hope X. Still**
Scenic Design – **Matty Peterson**
Costume Design – **Ray Louise Sunshine**
Sound Design – **Ryan Scott Long***
Lighting Designer – **Lauren Spiegel**
Media Design: **Brandon McDuff***
Associate Director: **Katherin 'KAT' Poon**
Movement Direction: **Brad Willcuts, Katherin 'KAT' Poon, and the Cast of Beautiful Day**
Assistant Stage Manager: **Ally Doederlein**
Assistant Stage Manager: **Emma Jestila**
Assistant Stage Manager: **Mara Vander Beek**
Assistant Scenic Designer: **Ranae Selmeyer**
Charge Artist: **Julie Clampitt**
Assistant Charge Artist: **Matthew Antalek**

*denotes Master of Fine Arts Candidate

CAST

(announcer) – **Thomas Evansky**
@ (announcer) – **Jewell Redman**
Cherry Pie – **Brooke Cousins**
Ned – **Tyler Finch**
Twin #1 Wife – **Shelby Ginsburg**
Trainer – **Cayla Hadaway**
Fred – **Kyle Jedrusik**
Granddadda – **Andrew Keller**
Twin #2 Wife – **Mandy Michele Marsili**
Smilesinger / Movement Captain – **Reese Martin**
Republican's Wife – **Natalie Palencik**
Snapdragon – **Shelby Parker**
Republican – **Jameson Patrona**
Twin #1 – **Tyler Radze**
Trainer's Partner – **Sam Smelser**
Runnerman – **Alec Tran**
Smilesinger's Husband – **Noah Trapp**
Ed – **Logan Verlinde**
Twin #2 – **Hugh Watters**
Gumbo – **Cassidy Williams**
Trifle – **Lyric Williams**
Cheesecake – **Rileigh Belle Wine**

Understudy – **Anna Yarnal**

* Denotes MFA Acting candidate

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Good evening and thank you all for joining us for this fall theatre season at Michigan State. On behalf of the entire cast, crew, and creative team, welcome to the Wembly family home!

As we approach Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on my own family's traditions. I come from a large family, and like many of you, I know firsthand the quirks, warmth, and lively dynamics that make these gatherings so memorable. I remember the days spent preparing food, the inevitable "kids table" assignment, and the way we all ate far too quickly after so much work. But more than anything, I remember the joy of simply being together, sharing stories, laughing, and reconnecting with loved ones I hadn't seen in months.

This production has been a unique experience for me as a director here at MSU. Although I've worked with movement, dance, stage combat, and even motion capture throughout my career, this show combines all those elements in a new and exciting way. We approached this project as a true company, with each member of the cast, design team, faculty mentors, and crew contributing their creativity and voice. It's been an educational journey for all of us—a chance to explore theatre-making that's less commercial and more collaborative.

In just a few weeks, many of us will be celebrating Thanksgiving with cranberry sauce, stuffing, and all the rest. As the playwright reminds us, "Life is short, but the day is long." I hope that tonight's performance will fill you—not with food, but with memories and reflections on your own families. May it inspire you to see those close to you with fresh eyes and a renewed sense of empathy.

Our world may feel wild and challenging, just as it did for those who came before us. Let's continue to be curious about one another and look forward to the next time we can gather with those we love. For now, we're honored to share this time with you. Thank you, and enjoy the show!

Brad Willcuts

RUNNING TIME

1 hour and 20 minutes with no intermission

CONTENT NOTICE

Caution: Strobe lights, loud noises, and theatrical haze will be used in this production.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Department of Theatre Chairperson
Dr. Stephen Di Benedetto
Department of Theatre Production Manager
Robert Reid Goodson
Director
Brad Willcuts
Technical Director
DJ Selmeyer
Costume Shop Superviser
Angie Wendelberger
Scene Shop Supervisor/Assistant Technical Director
Levi Galloway
Head Carpenter/Assistant Technical Director
Marc White
Fiscal Officer
Sara Allison
Office Operations
Kath Clark
Master Electrician
LMA Grads
Lighting Board Operator
Angelina Franzese
Media Board Operator
Kate Shaffer
Sound Engineer
Anthony Monteleone
Deck Crew Head
Xander Adamski
Costume Crew Head
Zhanna Yakubova
House Manager
Matt Kribs
Publicity
Cayla Hadaway, Shelby Ginsburg
Production Photography
Raymond L. Black Photography
Lighting/Media/Audio Shop Students
Brandon McDuff*, Ryan Scott Long*, AJ Turnell, Angelina Franzese, Matty Peterson
Scene Shop Employees and Students
Kessler Jones*, Shae Snow*, Abigail Gracey*, Julie Clampitt, Emma Jestila, Nicole Merchant, Matty Peterson, Katherin 'KAT' Poon, Tyler Radze, Melyah Faison, Alexandria Spevetz
Scenic Painters
Kessler Jones*, Shae Snow*, Abigail Gracey*, Julie Clampitt, Emma Jestila, Nicole Merchant, Matty Peterson, Katherin 'KAT' Poon, Tyler Radze, Melyah Faison, Alexandria Spevetz, Hannah Selmeyer, Maddie Selmeyer, Maya VanNoord, Amelia Smallfield, Cameron Rost, Eleanor Rossini, Ashley Romo, Mad/s Curley, Erin Riley, Winter Livingston, Anthony Monteleone
Costume Crew
Maddie Affer, Gracie Duffy, Cristian Estrada, Nicole Jenosky
Costume Shop
Katherin 'KAT' Poon, Ray Snively, El Stucker*, Cailee Bywater, Mandu Marsili, Maya VanNoord, Julie Clampitt
Deck Crew
Kyle Angiolino, Olivia Bath, Kellie VerWoert

FACULTY MENTORS

Stage Management: **Tina M. Newhauser**
Costume Design: **Karen Kangas-Preston**
Scenic Design: **Ranae Selmeyer**
Scenic Art: **Ranae Selmeyer**
Sound Design: **Lucas Nunn**
Lighting Design: **Shannon Schweitzer**
Dramaturgy: **Dr. Dan Smith**
Intimacy Direction: **Alexis Black**

CAST & CREW BIOS

+ XANDER ADAMSKI (Deck Crew Head)
+ MADDIE AFFER (Costume Crew)
+ KYLE ANGIOLINO (Deck Crew)
+ BROOKE COUSINS (Cherry Pie)
+ ALLY DOEDERLEIN (Assistant Stage Manager)
+ GRACIE DUFFY (Costume Crew)
+ THOMAS EVANSKY (#) (Announcer)
+ TYLER JAMES FINCH (Ned)
+ ANGELINA FRANZESE (Lighting Board Op)
+ SHELBY GINSBURG (Twin #1 Wife)
+ CAYLA HADAWAY (Trainer)
+ KYLE JEDRUSIK (Fred)
+ NICOLE JENOSKY (Costume Crew)
+ EMMA JESTILA (Assist. Stage Manager)
+ ANDREW KELLER (Granddadda)
+ RYAN SCOTT LONG* (Sound Designer)
+ MANDY MICHELE MARSILI (Twin #2 Wife)
+ REESE MARTIN (Smilesinger/Movement Captain)
+ BRANDON MCDUFF* (Media Designer)
+ NATALIE PALENCIK (Republican's Wife)
+ SHELBY PARKER (Snapdragon)
+ JAMIE PATRONA (Republican)
+ MATTY PETERSON (Scenic Designer)
+ Katherin 'KAT' Poon (Associate Director)
+ TYLER RADZE (Twin #1)
+ JEWELL REDMAN (@) (Announcer)
+ KATE SHAFFER (Media Board Op)
+ SAM SMELSER (Trainer's Partner)
+ LAUREN SPIEGEL (Lighting Design)

− HOPE X. STILL (Stage Manager)

HOPE X. STILL (Stage Manager) Birmingham, MI; Senior, BFA Stage Management, Arts & Cultural Management Minor, Secondary Focus in Scenic Painting. Some favorite past productions at Michigan State University include The Rocky Horror Show (Stage Manager), An Iliad (Stage Manager), and Stevie and the Real World (Charge Artist). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous support <3 Website: Hopexstill.com

+ RAY LOUISE SUNSHINE (Costume Designer)
+ ALEC TRAN (Runnerman)
+ NOAH TRAPP (Smilesinger's Husband)
+ MARA VANDER BEEK (Assistant Stage Manager)
+ LOGAN VERLINDE (Ed)
+ HUGH WATTERS (Twin #2)
+ CASSIDY WILLIAMS (Gumbo)
+ LYRIC WILLIAMS (Trifle)
+ RILEIGH BELLE WINE (Cheesecake)

Michigan State University Land Acknowledgement

We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Friends of Theatre is a membership organization promoting, encouraging and enhancing activities of the MSU Department of Theatre. We organize events and programs that expand the community experience of theatre. We also create fund-raising opportunities and promote improvements in the programs and facilities of the MSU Department of Theatre. How can you join? Make a donation to the Michigan State University Department of Theatre and you will become a most welcome member. Click here to learn more.

We would like to express our gratitude to the following friends who have generously supported the MSU Department of Theatre during the past year. If we have inadvertently left your name off this list, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may make the correction. This list is current as of 3/21/24.

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Contributions made to the Honor/Memorial Giving Program offers you a way to honor any important occasion, including birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. It is also a special way to remember those who are no longer with us.

The honoree will receive a beautiful card notifying them of your thoughtful gift. Any contribution of $50 or more will be listed in our program all season long (July 1 through June 30).

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