

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY  
ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Written  
by Sarah  
Ruhl

Directed  
by Peyton  
Noreen  
&  
Mykahla  
George



MELANCHOLY  
PLAY

A  
Contemporary  
Farce

# MELANCHOLY PLAY: A CONTEMPORARY FARSE

By Sarah Ruhl

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors ..... Peyton Noreen\* & Mykahla George\*  
Scenic Design ..... Alonna Hall\*  
Costume Design ..... Zivia Rich\*  
Lighting Design ..... Kody Smith\*  
Sound Design ..... Audrey Williams\*  
Stage Manager ..... Audrey Williams\*

## PRODUCTION CREW

Assistant Stage Manager ..... Marley Bjornstad\*  
Intimacy Coordinator ..... Mykahla George\*  
Fight Choreographer ..... Parker Brown\*  
Costume Construction ..... Zivia Rich\*, Jane Davie  
Light Board Operator ..... Parker Brown\*  
Scenic Construction ..... Alonna Hall\*  
House Manager ..... Naomi Dugaw\*

## CAST

Tilly ..... Alyse Glaser  
Frank ..... Brady Grahe  
Lorenzo ..... John Pedro  
Frances ..... Taya Lovejoy\*  
Joan ..... Brianna Hughes  
Ensemble ..... Kenzie Knapp  
Ensemble ..... Monroe Torkelson  
Cellist ..... Seren Hawtrey

\* *Denotes membership to Alpha Psi Omega, the National  
Theater Honors Society*

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Alyse Glaser - Tilly**

Alyse is a third year Pre-Health student majoring in Studio Arts with a focus on ceramics. Their past performances with PLU include Little Alison and Ensemble in "NOMT 2023: Coming Home," Ashley in "Miranda's Cafe," and Violet in the 2023 One Acts. Alyse would like to thank Peyton and Mykahla for the opportunity, and the cast and crew for creating such a welcoming space. They would also like to thank their friends and family for their support, and their partner, Jude, for running lines with them exhaustively.



## **Brady Grade - Frank**

Brady is a senior chemistry student and artist, and will be graduating this spring with a BS in chemistry. They recently played the role of Banquo in Macbeth here at PLU. They hope you enjoy the show!



## **Brianna Hughes - Joan**

Brianna Hughes is a Theater BA and Communications Film & Media BA, senior at PLU. Their recent roles include, The Life of The Party & Surabaya Santa soloist in the Off-Broadway musical revue (2023), Almost There soloist in the When You Wish musical revue (2022), and a featured dancer in three dances for the Spring 2023 Dance concert at PLU. This is their first opportunity to perform in a straight play in their career, and they are excited for you to see their performance as the witty, headstrong, and practical British nurse. They would like to thank their friends and family who have supported them throughout their acting career at PLU, and the amazing director Ten, for believing in them and casting them in such a fun production.



## **Kenzie Knapp- Ensemble**

Kenzie Knapp is a fifth year Theatre and Environmental Studies double major from Bellingham, WA whose recent credits include Ensemble in Macbeth (PLU), Grandma in Sagittarius Ponderosa (PLU), and writing and co-directing Normalcy (PLU). They would like to thank their family, her partner, and theatre staff for mentoring and encouraging her over the past five years.

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Taya Lovejoy** - *Frances*

Taya Lovejoy is a fourth-year acting/directing major with minors in dance, Hispanic studies, and writing from Walla Walla, WA. Her recent credits include Soldier/Murderer 3/Messenger in *Macbeth* (PLU) and Cabby in *The Matchmaker* (PLU); as well choreographing *Off-Broadway: A Musical Revue* (PLU). She would like to thank Jaqui, her roommates, and her parents for their continued support, and the directors for making this experience such a delight!



## **John Pedro** - *Lorenzo*

John Pedro is a third-year Acting/Directing major from Tacoma, WA. His recent credits include; Angus/Manly Muppet/Gary in "Coming Home" (PLU), Joseph in "Amelie" (PLU), and Horace Vandergelder in "The Matchmaker" (PLU). He would like to thank his parents, sister, and nephew for supporting his theatrical career up until now, as well as his girlfriend Natalie for helping him maintain an optimistic attitude. He would also like to give a special thanks to the many friends he's made (who are hopefully in attendance) for helping him open up socially over this past year. Finally, he would like to thank his director Peyton Noreen for helping him bring the odd character of Lorenzo to life, as well as the cast and creative team for being such fantastic people to work with!



## **Monroe Torkelson** - *Ensemble*

Monroe is an Acting/Directing and Communications double major with a double minor in Norwegian and Dance. Their recent credits include Captain in *Macbeth*, choreographer and director of *When You Wish Musical Revue*, and Jade in *Miranda's Cafe*, all at PLU. She would like to thank her family for their support, the cast and crew for a wonderful experience, lighting designer Kody Smith and scenic designer Alonna Hall for great opportunities in those areas during this show.



## **Seren Hawtrey** - *Cellist*

Seren Hawtrey is a Music Education Major in her Senior year at the University of Puget Sound. She performed as a vocalist in theatrical productions such as *Rent* and *Chicago*, and played cello in the pit for *Beauty and the Beast*, *Into the Woods*, and more! Having played cello for 12 years, Seren currently plays in the UPS Symphony Orchestra and as principal cellist in the *Orchestral Recital Series* of Tacoma. She is honored to have been invited to perform with the rest of the cast in *Melancholy Play*.

# PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

## **Peyton Noreen** - *Co-Director*

Peyton is a plus year Theatre BA from Troutdale, OR whose recent credits include First Witch in Macbeth at PLU, Directing Late: A Cowboy Song at PLU, and Phoenix a Devised Touring Production at Silverkite Intergenerational Theatre Company. Peyton thanks the cast/ crew of Melancholy Play for making this such a joyful and special process!

## **Mykahla George** - *Co-Director*

Mykahla is a third year Theatre major from Port Orchard WA. Her recent theatre credits include Intimacy Coordinator for Sagittarius Ponderosa at PLU, and Assistant Director of Macbeth at PLU She would like to thank her family for supporting her in all her work.

## **Audrey Williams** - *Stage Manager*

Audrey Williams is a third-year theatre and english literature double major from Vancouver, WA whose recent credits include stage managing Off Broadway: a musical revue and Dance 2023 at Pacific Lutheran University as well as The Wizard of Oz at Metropolitan Performing Arts. They would like to thank their family, the cast, the crew, their Assistant Stage Manager Marley, Peyton and Mykahla all for being such lovely and supportive people.

## **Marley Bjornstad** - *Assistant Stage Manager*

Marley Bjornstad is a third year design/tech theater student originally from St.Paul, Minnesota. His recent roles include assistant stage manager for Amelie and Macbeth, both at PLU. In addition to Melancholy Play, his current projects include stage managing for The Friends We've Made at PLU and producing the 2024 One Acts this coming January. He would like to thank Audrey for being an incredible stage manager, and Ten and Mykahla for the opportunity to be a part of this production.

## **Kody Smith** - *Lighting Design*

Kody is a 4th year at PLU earning his BFA in Acting and Directing. Originally from Everett, Washington, he did his first lighting job in high school and dove deeper into lighting design at PLU. Past projects of his include Light Designing for Winter Dance Showcase 2021 at PLU, Light Designing for Winter Dance Showcase 2022 at PLU, and Assistant Light Designing for Merrily We Roll Along at Village Theatre Kidstage.

## **Zivia Rich** - *Costume Design*

Zivia is a 4th year Technical Theater major and a big fan of flower motifs. Her recent costume credits include design for Off-Broadway: A Musical Revue, L'elisir d'amore, and Normalcy: A Climate Fiction Musical as well as construction work on Island Shakespeare Festival's Romeo and Juliet and A Bold Stroke for a Husband. She'd like to thank the cast and crew for their support and community.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Happiness is different from Joy. Sadness is different from Melancholy...  
can you spot the difference in this curious little farce?

As I've sat with Melancholy Play this past year, I've strained to listen between the lines of absurd scenarios and silly accents, puzzling over what Sarah Ruhl could possibly mean in examining the role of Melancholy in our daily lives. While some characters bemoan 'happiness' in favor of romanticizing Melancholy, the argument seems more apparent in everything these characters say when not directly commenting on Melancholy vs. Happiness. Tilly is fascinated by words and strangers (intently paying attention to details in her world), Frank and Frances are comforted by feeling reciprocally accountable to others, but Joan and Lorenzo tend to lack this curiosity or reciprocity at the beginning of the play. The characters of Melancholy Play arc towards finding joy in the sadness and beauty of our ephemeral world.

In his book *Inciting Joy*, author and poet Ross Gay asks, "But what happens if joy is not separate from pain? What if joy and pain are fundamentally tangled up with one another? Or even more to the point, what if joy is not only entangled with pain, or suffering, or sorrow, but is also what emerges from how we care for each other through those things?" Joy and community/ relationships interweaves through the comedy and absurdist elements of this play. Tilly finds great joy- even pride- in romanticizing her sadness into Melancholy. Her unabashed sorrows inspire and delight other characters to also wonder at the world and embrace their repressed Melancholia. But when one feels alone in their sorrows, the risk is...turning into an almond? We find joy when we feel held, nonjudgmentally, through our Melancholy, even when we are apart from our loved ones.

May this show bring you laughter, joy and a line or two of poetic dialogue that sticks to your soul, a recognition of whatever variety of Melancholy you've experienced!

-Peyton "Ten" Noreen