

Virtual Show Program

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

Women Who Weave

BY J.S. PULLER



DIRECTED BY
PEGGY MEAD-FINIZIO

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

PRESENTS

Women Who Weave

Written by J.S. Puller

Stage Manager

Drea Brown*

Director

Peggy Mead-Finizio

House Manager

Veronica Vozniak

Scenic Designer

Jerry Dennis

Lighting Designer

Alex Dubowski*

Sound Designer

Tyler Obermiller

Costume Designer

Courtney A. Kelly

Hair & Make-Up Designers

Zoe O.E. Gilbert &
Isabel Losa*

Logo Designer

Paige Tuckerman*

**Media &
Projections Designer**

Eric Durette*

Properties Designer

Rebecca Dubs

**Intimacy &
Fight Choreographer**

Tommy Wedge

Production Manager

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Dramaturg

Rem Ferguson

Choreographer

Peggy Mead-Finizio

*Denotes an SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient

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Cast

Atalanta

Skylar Summey

Mother

Courtney A. Kelly

Lachesis

Kalinah Dunn

Atropos

Maddie Casper

Clotho

Rylee Mecomber

Eurykleia, Pasiphae, Servant

Lila Duvendack*

Messenger, Phaedra, Procne

Zoe Kikstra

Meleager, Theseus, Tereus

Cooper Sawyer

Iasus, Leodes, Minos, Northerner

Noah Johnson

Antinoos, Odysseus, Minotaur, Zeus

Nathan Bonus

Production Team

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Rem Ferguson

Production Staff

Scene Shop Supervisor

Jerry Dennis

Costume Shop Supervisor

Courtney A. Kelly

Scene Shop Assistant

Alex Dubowski*

Assistant Director

Dana Samalik*

Associate Stage Managers

Lily Oddo*

Abigail Rowe

Associate Production Manager/Deck Chief

Conner Wieland

Assistant Production Manager

Lela Murray

Assistant Lighting Designer

Kyle Smith

Assistant Sound Designer

Elliott Bell

Assistant Media & Projections Designer

Scout McCulloch*

Lead Electrician

Alex Dubowski*

Dept. of Theatre Audio Manager

Eric Durette*

Logo Designer

Paige Tuckerman*

Publicity Managers

Courtney A. Kelly

Lela Murray

Administrative Secretary

Kelly Helmreich

Dept. of Theatre Office Worker

Paige Tuckerman*

Dept. of Theatre Publicity Coordinator

Dave Rzeszutek

Mentor to Properties Designers

Dave Rzeszutek

Mentor to Student Designers and Crew

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Mentor to Student Theatre Management

Tommy Wedge

Production Crew

Sound Board Operator

Joe Smith

Light Board Operator

Rem Ferguson

Hair & Makeup Crew

Aniya Dickerson

Dillen Phillips

Electrician

Veronica Vozniak

Stagehands

Isaac Pease

Dillen Phillips

Hair & Makeup Crew

Emma Koch

Publicity Team

Lydia Bolzman

Isabel Losa

A Note from the Director

Welcome to our production of *Women Who Weave*.

Each SVSU Department of Theatre season, I read many plays to choose the play I would like to direct. I knew going into the 2024-2025 season I wanted to direct a Theatre for Young Audience's play but was not sure what kind of story I was interested in working on. I kept coming back to the *Women Who Weave* script for two reasons:

- The style of storytelling.
- The strong female hero.

The style of storytelling in *Women Who Weave* is called story theatre. There is a long history of the development of story theatre. It had a rise in popularity with the Paul Sills' directed Broadway production of a script he wrote using folk tales and fables called Story Theatre. As a TYA staple, story theatre has always been an amazing way to tell stories; characters fully engaged in action on stage while a narrator supports them creating wonderful storytelling. This type of storytelling is something I love to develop and direct. I hope you enjoy the way this story is told as much as I enjoyed being part of the process of creating the production.

I am always asking myself, "What kind of story do we need right now?" when I am choosing a script to direct. The answer I found this time was a story with a strong female protagonist. I wanted to spend time with actors developing a story about strong women and *Women Who Weave* does this remarkably well. Using Greek mythology from the female hero perspective (the women behind the celebrated Greek male heroes, Odysseus, Theseus, etc.), *Women Who Weave* has a conversation about gender roles and identity in a way that speaks to the middle school audience it is aimed toward. The protagonist Atalanta does not feel right in her own skin and finds it difficult to fit into society. Through the play, she encounters many characters and makes discoveries to come to terms with some of these ideas. It is a story that uplifts personal identity and female empowerment. It is a story I am excited to share with you as an audience member.

Peggy Mead-Finizio



A Note from the Dramaturg

Women Who Weave by J.S. Puller is a story spun by The Fates, three women responsible for creating the tapestry of life by weaving together the threads of mortals and Gods alike. Each of the three Fates represented a specific step in weaving and creating life's tapestry. Clotho spun the thread, bringing the soul to life, Lachesis measured the thread, representing the length of life, and Atropos cut the thread, ending the journey of life. Throughout our story, The Fates spin the tale of three strong women: Penelope, Ariadne, and Philomel.

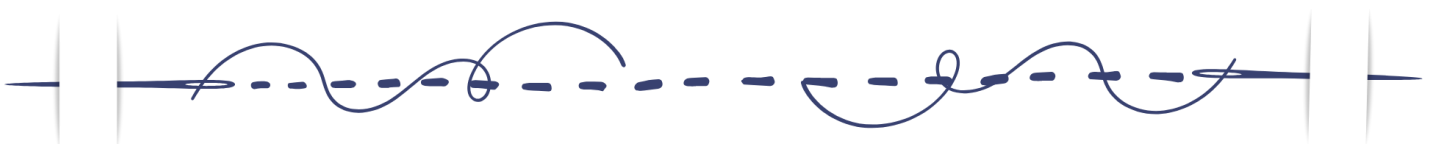
In Ancient Greece, weaving was an integral part of people's lives, so much so that Athena, the patron Goddess of Athens, was deemed the Goddess of handicraft, more specifically weaving. Weaving clothes and other textiles was more than a hobby or pastime for women at this time; it was a necessity. "Textiles have been used as swaddling for babies, as shrouds for the dead, as bandages, as tents, blankets, curtains, and also as containers for people, objects or food" (Brones 11). The act of weaving typically took weeks, from start to finish.

Although weaving today is considered a dying art due to the mass production of textiles, it still has many useful benefits. The cast and crew had the opportunity to visit The Tangled Web Handweavers Fiber Guild in Clio, MI where they were taught about weaving. Many of their members practice weaving as a hobby and find it to be relaxing due to the rhythmic and repetitive nature of weaving threads under and over the vertical warp threads before pressing it all down and starting the next layer.

The art of weaving is immensely intentional: one small mistake and you'd have to unravel everything until you could get to the mistake to fix it. This amount of forethought is represented in *The Fates*; they carefully spun lives together, measuring it just right to weave into the tapestry of life, and cutting the thread at the exact right time. Through *The Fates*, *Women Who Weave* shows how every life is intentional and full of meaning, down to the smallest details.

-Rem Ferguson, Dramaturg

Cecilie Brøns. *Gods and Garments : Textiles in Greek Sanctuaries in the 7th to the 1st Centuries BC*. Oxbow Books, 2017. EBSCOhost, research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=9fccb8e3-9447-37c3-8b80-1dd07bb34029.



Production Spotlights

Atalanta:



Skylar Summey is a third-year psychology major with music and theatre minors at Saginaw Valley State University, focusing on voice. *Women Who Weave* is her second theatre production ever! As a lover of Greek mythology, she is excited to take the stage as Atalanta. Skylar could previously be seen in SVSU's *The Miser* as the chaotically clueless servant Madame Claude, for which she earned a Certificate of Merit for Memorable Silent Performance from The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Skylar is thankful to God and her family for always supporting her dreams. She feels incredibly blessed to work with such a wonderful production team on this show. Skylar looks forward to getting more involved in theatre in the future!

Mother/Costume Designer:



Courtney Anderson Kelly (she/hers) Mother/Costume Designer is currently an Adjunct Faculty member and Resident Costume Designer at SVSU. She earned her MFA in theatre from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and her BA from Northern Michigan University in theatre, French, and English. As a white, cis, lesbian, Courtney seeks out projects with an emphasis on family structures, 2SLGBTQIA+, women's stories, and environmental focus. Some of her recent designs include *The Last Time I Saw Caileigh* (NYC), *The Wizard of Oz* (Midland), *The Miser* (SVSU), and *Fun Home* (Flint). She is delighted to be on stage again with this talented cast! www.courtneyakelly.com

Lachesis:



Kalinah Dunn is a second-year communication major with minors in Spanish and theatre. This is their second show on the Malcolm Field stage and they are very excited to be playing the role of Lachesis in *Women Who Weave*. Recently, they've Assistant Lighting Designed for *The Night Witches* at SVSU, played the role of Sheriff in *The Miser*, and you may have seen their prop design for *Noises Off!* at SVSU. They want to thank their friends and family for support through this process, and the cast for becoming another family to them. They hope you enjoy the show!

Atropos:



Maddie is a first year English Language Arts for secondary education major playing Atropos in *Woman Who Weave*. They were previously in SVSU's production of *The Night Witches* playing Raisa. They are very excited to bring this mythological tale together with the amazing cast and crew. They would like to thank their mom and siblings for bringing them to where they are and supporting them through their passions.

Clotho:



Rylee is a first-year education major with a minor in psychology and is so excited to bring the role of Clotho to life in this production of *Women Who Weave*. This is her first time performing at SVSU, but has been involved in theatre at Dow High School as Mrs. Gardiner in *Pride and Prejudice* and Mock-Mock Turtle in *Alice by Heart*, and most recently with Midland TMI's production of *Godspell*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their overwhelming support over the years, and especially to all the cast and crew for welcoming her to the theatre department here at SVSU!



Lila Duyendaack*

Eurykleia, Pasiphae, Servant:

Lila is a third-year double major in theatre and psychology and is overjoyed to be playing Eurikleia, Pasiphae, and Servant in *Women Who Weave*. She has acted previously as Frosine in *The Miser*, and has also had roles in *The Best Days*, *Urinetown*, *Very Berry Dead*, and *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* at SVSU. Their other focus in theatre is in costume design, for which they have designed *The Night Witches* and assisted in *columbinus*, *Noises Off!*, and *Burning Bluebeard* at SVSU. She would like to thank her friends, family, and mentors for their support.



Zoe Kikstra

Messenger, Phaedra, Procne:

Zoe Kikstra is a second year elementary education major with a minor in theatre, and is so excited to make her acting debut as Messenger, Phaedra, and Procne at SVSU! Zoe previously worked as assistant costume designer for SVSU's *The Night Witches* and acted in the ensemble in Holland High School's *The Little Mermaid*. Zoe would like to thank their friends and family who have supported and encouraged her theatre journey.



Cooper Sawyer

Meleager, Theseus, Tereus:

Cooper Sawyer (he/him) is a first-year secondary education english major with a minor in theatre, and he is excited to make his acting debut at SVSU as Meleager/Theseus/Tereus. In previous productions at Shepherd High School, Cooper performed in *Little Shop of Horrors* as Audrey II, *Seussical the Musical* as The Cat in the Hat, *All Shook Up* as Chad, and in community theatre he played Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. He would like to thank all of his family and friends, as well as his co-stars and everyone on the crew.



Noah Johnson

Iasus, Leodes, Minos, Northerner:

Noah is a third-year political science major, and is very excited to play Iasus, Leodes, King Minos, and Northerner in *Women Who Weave*! This is Noah's fourth performance at SVSU, and he has previously played Health Officer Sims in *Very Berry Dead*, Bobby Strong in *Urinetown: The Musical*, and Freddie/Philip in *Noises Off!*. Additionally, he was the House Manager for the Studio XP performance *The Best Days* and a Confetti Thrower for the KCACTF performance of *Burning Bluebeard*. Noah would like to thank the theatre department for welcoming him back after almost a year away from acting!



Nathan Bonus

Antinoos, Odysseus, Minotaur, Zeus:

Nathan Bonus is a creative writing major and theatre minor in his final year at SVSU and he is very excited to be acting in his first ever production as Odysseus/Antinoos/Minotaur/Zeus in *Women Who Weave*. Nathan is so overjoyed to have met and gotten to know all the amazing people in the SVSU Theatre Department.



Director:

Peggy is an active theatre director, designer, technical theatre instructor, choreographer, dance instructor, and arts administrator. She holds MFA degrees in Theatre Arts and Choreography from the University of Iowa and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University. She is a mentor to SVSU student designers and technicians for mainstage and Studio XP productions. The most recent production she has directed is *columbinus* at SVSU and she recently designed lights for the Midland Center for the Arts' productions of *Next to Normal* and *Newsies*. Peggy also teaches the Musical Theatre Dance classes for the SVSU Department of Theatre, and teaches dance classes at the Flint School of Performing Arts in Flint, MI.



Assistant Director:

Dana Samalik is a third-year communications and theatre education major. She is so excited to share this story with an audience! This show will be Dana's directing debut! Before this production, Dana performed in SVSU's *Burning Bluebeard* as the Faerie Queen, *The Miser* as Harpagon, and *The Night Witches* as Serafima, all performances in which she has earned an Irene Ryan nomination from the Region 3 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. She has loved participating in the theatre program at SVSU and has been delighted to work with such a fantastic cast and crew.



Stage Manager:

Drea is a fourth-year theatre major with a minor in management. Her previous roles at SVSU have included Stage Manager (*Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Very Berry Dead*, *Noises Off!*, *The Night Witches*), Sound Designer (*Top Girls*, *columbinus*), and Assistant Stage Manager (*Burning Bluebeard*). She has also held positions at Midland Center for the Arts as Stage Manager (*Next to Normal*) and Assistant Stage Manager (*Newsies*, *Footloose*). Drea is an Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and was the Assistant Fight Director for *Newsies* (MCFTA) and *columbinus* (SVSU). <https://dreadbrown.wixsite.com/dreams>



Associate Stage Manager:

Lily is a first-year theatre and communication major with a minor in secondary education. This is Lily's second show in an associate stage manager role, but third show at SVSU. She started her associate stage manager journey in the previous show *The Night Witches*. She is so grateful to be here and is grateful to be given the opportunities she has. She is so lucky to have Drea and Abby by her side along with an amazing cast and crew. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Associate Stage Manager:

Abigail (She/Her) is a first-year theatre and political science - public administration major at SVSU and she is excited to be making her SVSU associate stage management debut on this production! You may have seen Abby as Marta in *The Night Witches* at SVSU, Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* at Brandon High School, or seen her work as Choreographer in the BHS productions of *The Addams Family* and *Seussical* or her work as Stage Manager in their production of *Faith County*. Abby would like to thank her friends in the theatre department for making this year unforgettable!



Alex Dubowski*

Lighting Designer:

[Alex Dubowski](#) is a third-year theatre major with a minor in psychology and a focus on lighting design and technologies. He is delighted to return to lighting design on such a creative show. He has previously light-designed at SVSU on the productions of *columbinus* and *Burning Bluebeard*, which earned a Certificate of Merit and an Honorable Mention for Theatrical Excellence in Lighting Design at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. This is his second year serving as the Student Scene Shop Worker. Alex is incredibly honored to be able to support, build, and share this story.

Sound Designer:

Tyler Obermiller is a second year theatre major. He is so excited to be the sound designer for *Women Who Weave*. With this being Tyler's first sound design on the mainstage he is so thrilled to have the opportunity to share his work with the audience. Tyler's previous involvement with the theatre department consist of the role Robert Murray in *Burning Bluebeard*, assistant sound design for *Noises Off!*, and sound designer for *The Night Witches*. Tyler thanks all his friends and family for their continued support as he explores his passion for theatre. Tyler would also like to thank his assistant Elliott Bell for their overall commitment, passion, and support in their process together.



Tyler Obermiller

Media & Projections Designer:

Eric Durette is a third-year theatre and political science major focusing on pre-law. Eric's recent theatrical design experience at SVSU is Sound Design for *Very Berry Dead*, *Noises Off!*, Lighting Design for *The Miser*, and Props Design for *columbinus*. Eric has also assisted in the projections design for *Very Berry Dead*. Eric joins this production as the Media & Projections Designer, and Audio Manager! Eric would like to thank his amazing Media Associate Scout McCulloch for all of her amazing work and dealing with him (since high school). Eric would also like to thank all of the technical designers and Peggy Mead-Finizio for working with him and helping make all of his crazy projection ideas come to life!



Eric Durette*

Properties Designer:

Rebecca is a two-time SVSU alum with a Master of Public Administration - University/College Student Affairs Administrative Track and a Bachelor of Arts in English Education, with minors in theatre/communications education and sociology. This will mark her twentieth show here and the fifteenth show she has designed. She received Certificates of Merit from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for her hair and make-up designs in *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* and *Very Berry Dead*. She is currently the Carmona College of Business Student Engagement Manager and is working on her MBA & EdS next!



Rebecca Dubs

Hair & Makeup Designer:

Zoe is a fourth-year theatre major with a minor in entrepreneurship, and a focus in directing and choreography. She was the student director for Studio XP's production of *The Night Witches* last semester and is excited to be portraying Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde: The Musical* here this April! Zoe is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, and an alum of Alpha Sigma Alpha. She also owns New Space Productions, LLC and works as a freelance producer in the Great Lakes Bay Area.

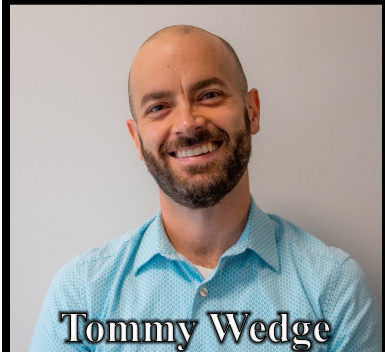


Zoe O.E. Gilbert



Hair & Makeup Designer:

Isabel Losa is a third year theatre major and sociology minor. This is her 10th production she has worked on. She has been on prop crew for *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *The Effect of Gamma Rays on the Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*. She portrayed Soupy Sue in *Urinetown*, Henry Gilfoil in *Burning Bluebeard*, Selsdon Mowbray in *Noises Off!*, Faith in *columbinus*, Elise in *The Miser*, Polina in *The Night Witches*, and was u/s for Ma in *Very Berry Dead*. This is her first time co-designing a show and she is thrilled to be a part of a wonderful crew. Isabel would like to thank her parents for their support in her involvement here at SVSU.



Intimacy and Fight Choreographer:

Tommy Wedge is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University's where he mentors student directors, fight choreographers, and arts managers. Recent directing credits include *Next to Normal*, *Noises Off!*, *Urinetown*, *A Doll House*, *Mama Mia! Curious Incident...*, and *Hairspray*. Tommy holds an MFA in Directing from The University of South Dakota and a BS in Theatre from South Dakota State University. Professional memberships include Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), The Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), and The Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) where Tommy holds the rank of Advanced Actor Combatant.



Dramaturg:

Rem Ferguson is a first-year theatre major at SVSU and is very excited to work as the Dramaturg for *Women Who Weave*. This is their first time doing dramaturgical work and has had a great time learning and sharing their knowledge about Greek Mythology. Previously you may have seen their work as the lighting designer for *The Night Witches* or as the props designer for *The Miser*.



House Manager:

Veronica Vozniak is fifth-year secondary education and mathematics major. This is her first time working as the house manager for a show, but has worked on many productions as an electrician, such as *Burning Bluebeard* and *The Miser*, and most recently, was seen on stage as Irina in *The Night Witches*. She hopes you enjoy the show and thanks her family and friends for their endless support!

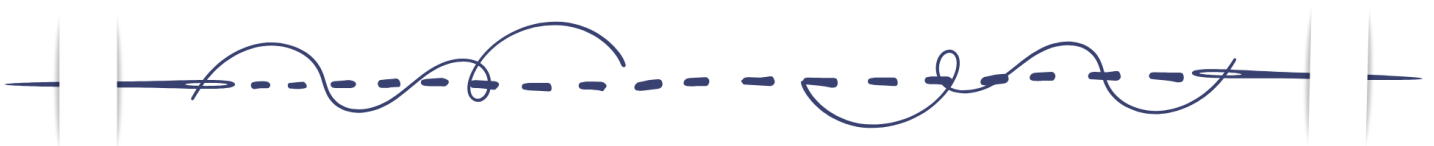
For updates on our upcoming season or information on how to get involved, check out our Social Media Pages!

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Acknowledgements

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Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

Full Time Faculty

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA

David Rzeszutek, MFA

Tommy Wedge, MFA

Adjunct Faculty

Courtney A. Kelly, MFA

Staff

Jerry Dennis, Scene Shop Supervisor

Kelly J. Helmreich, Administrative Secretary

Acknowledgements

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President of Saginaw Valley State University

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The Office of University Communications

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Associate Provost Dawn Hinton - For coordinating the matinee performance transportation

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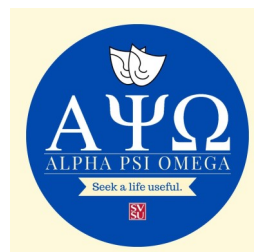
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Lexie Schultz - For vocal coaching

Caleb Hopper - For loaning of lighting equipment

Alpha Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega - APO is a National Theatre Honors Society for participants in collegiate theatre with the aim of encouraging dramatic production at every step in a person's academic career

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STATE UNIVERSITY**
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE



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the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture**



Book by Heather Hach
Music and Lyrics by
Laurence O'Keefe & Nell Benjamin

DIRECTED BY TOMMY WEDGE



Wednesday - Saturday & Sunday
April 9 - 12 @ 7:30PM April 13 @ 3:00PM

"Legally Blonde" is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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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.