

Department of Communication

Dr. Troy Comeau



Welcome to the 2025-2026 season of the Pitt State Theatre. Whether you are an alumnus, community member, student, or devoted supporter of the arts, your presence plays a vital role in celebrating the creative spirit that drives our Theatre emphasis. We are glad to have you here!

On behalf of Pittsburg State University and the Department of Communication, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for joining us this season. We invite you to experience the imagination, discipline and artistry of our talented students, faculty and staff as they bring theatre to life on stage in the Dotty and Bill Miller Theater and the PSU Studio Theatre.

Speaking of talent, our department is blessed to have premier creative artists leading our students. Dr. Megan Westhoff is in her sixth year as our Director of Theatre and will direct our opening and closing productions of the season. Mr. Linden Little will direct and continue his role as

Technical Director and Designer and Ms. Lisa Quinteros keeps our casts looking their best as Costume Designer and Wardrobe Supervisor.

The season opens on October 23-26 with *The Little Prince*, directed by Dr. Westhoff. In the timeless tale based on the beloved children's book, a mysterious boy appears to a stranded pilot and makes an unusual request. Together, they embark on an intergalactic journey of imagination and transformation. This extraordinary adventure will enchant audiences of all ages.

On December 5-6, we invite you to enjoy our COMM 544 Stage Direction class's "public final exam" as they present *Theatre Unplugged*. Always fascinating, always popular and always FREE of charge!

Mr. Linden Little directs our third production on February 26-March 1, *Endgame*. Considered one of Samuel Beckett's greatest tragicomic works, this play explores the inability to act, remembrances of tasks never completed, and endings that never happen. Set in an apocalyptic world with nowhere to go and not much to do, the characters spend their days searching for meaning and contemplating the absurdity of life.

Our final production of the season is once again under the direction of Dr. Westhoff where we present *Black Comedy* on April 23-26. During a perfectly planned evening when a struggling sculptor hopes to impress both his fiancee's father and a millionaire art collector, a blackout causes everything to go wrong. Join us for this wildly funny farce where unexpected guests, attempts to conceal deception, and unknown surprises lurk around every dark corner.

Once again, thank you for your support of Pitt State Theatre and we hope you enjoy this season's productions.

Director's Note

This beloved story has been on my short list of productions to direct for a long while and it finally felt like the right time to bring it to life. There is so much to admire and learn about the unlikely friendship between a mysterious young child and the world-weary pilot during their intergalactic journey. I love the interpretation and imagination that the story requires as we create the magical, extraordinary adventure.

The book, first published in the US in 1943 and later in France in 1946, is an enduring allegory about friendship, loneliness, love, and loss. French writer and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry based the story on a little figure he doodled that he called the "little man" who was "just a little fellow I carry around in my heart." His character would come to life in the pages of his book and become a worldwide phenomenon that has been translated into over 600 languages. It is credited as one of the most published books of all time with over 140 million copies sold and the story has been adapted into theatre, ballet, opera, and film productions.

There are many lessons for both children and adults to remember, such as rediscovering childlike wonder, finding the inner passion that exists in all of us, and valuing the relationships of the people in our lives. I am incredibly thankful and honored to share this experience with this cast, crew, and artistic team and hope you enjoy their otherworldly explorations. And as you leave the theatre, remember the Fox's important message, "What is essential is invisible to the eye."

Scenic Designer's Note

The scenery for this production is all about the circle, the curve, and the sphere. As the little prince travels from planet to planet we see various sized spheres that roll and whiz by. The curved stairs mimic the round sand dunes of the Sahara Desert. A big purple disc sat at an angle marks the plane where the prince and rose live. The vivid colors help us see these curves in action as we meet the strange and wonderful people and creatures of this timeless story.



Fox (Easton King) and Little Prince (Sydney Patterson) share a laugh during a blocking rehearsal

Serving Our Community

This season, Pitt State Theatre is partnering with The Lord's Diner. During the run performances, donations of single-serve snacks, such as peanut butter and crackers or cheese dip and cracker sticks, will be collected in the lobby. Please help us serve this important community resource.



Cummins and Scoullar's

The Little Prince

By Rick Cummins and John Scoullar
Based on the book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Copyright ©1943 and renewed 1971 by Harcourt Brace & Co.

Directed by Megan Westhoff*
Scenic and Lighting Design by Linden Little
Costume Design by Lisa Quinteros
Projection Design by Melissa Sollner*

Cast

Aviator	Keller Erwin
Little Prince	Sydney Patterson
Rose	Leah McDonald
King / Desert Flower	Bree Maxwell
Conceited Man / Fox	Easton King*
Businessman	Jill DeLong
Lamplighter	Tyller Zacher
Geographer	Megan Spiers
Snake	Lily Han
Wall of Roses	Ke Wang

There will be no intermission

Originally produced off-Broadway by Chrysalis Productions at the John Houseman Theatre Complex. Earlier version produced and directed by Michael Harron at Playhouse by the River, Mt. Bethel, Pa.

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

Production Crew

Stage Manager	Bailey Julian
Assistant Stage Manager	Gavyn Nybakken*
Props Managers.	
	Brooke Baker
Makeup	Kinsey Blevins
Hair	Bailey Danner
Light Board Technician	
Sound Board Technician.	Luke O'Neal
Running Crew	Dylan Schnedler
	Audri Shaver
Scene Shop Carpenter	Ben Bolinger
Costume Construction	Barbara Davis
	Hailey Goodrich
	Dylan Schnedler
House Manager	. Brady Vanbecelaere

Pitt State Theatre Staff

Director of Theatre	Megan Westhoff*
Artwork Designer	Brianna Tureaud
Production Assistant	Remie Warner
Advertising Manager	Elise Leek
Production Photographer	

^{*}Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, national theatre honor society.

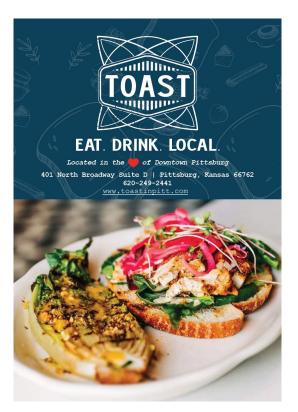
No photography or video recording is permitted during the performance.

Please make sure cell phones are turned off.

Costume Designer's Note

The costumes for *The Little Prince* are a colorful combination of modern clothing and created fantasy pieces. I have chosen to match closely to the aspects of the original book illustrations, creating recognizable details of those illustrations in each costume. The color choices reflect the technicolor crayons of kid drawings, with strongly defined graphic contrasts and simple lines, as defined by the book pictures, and a variety of textures that make you want to touch them. It is like playing dress-up as a kid, when a bathrobe, sheet and yard stick made you a king with a sword and a cape.... you can see it in your mind's eye, and it is the joyful expression of playing out your favorite stories with your imagination.

The world of Pretend is the best planet in the universe for costumers to visit and explore. I hope you all enjoy visiting there as much I have!



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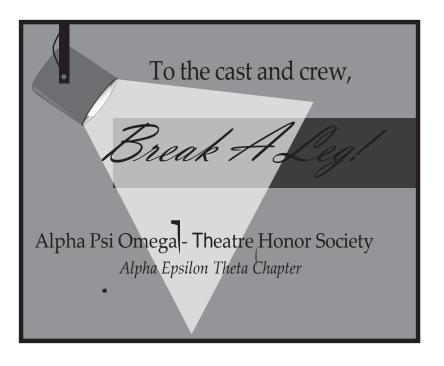
Pitt State Theatre



Little Prince (Sydney Patterson) waits as Rose (Leah McDonald) admires all the beautiful objects on the planet



Fox (Easton King), Aviator (Keller Erwin), and Little Prince (Sydney Patterson) rehearse their lines





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Special Thanks

We thank everyone who provided invaluable services, materials, and support to this production. Our apologies if anyone is inadvertently omitted.

PSU Information Technology Services

Annabella Beachner

Alan Ross

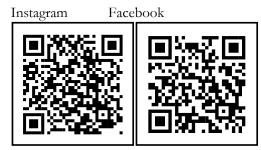
Mimi Little

The Bicknell Family Center of the Arts Staff

Chelle Rae

Finally, a huge thank you to our family and friends who supported us throughout this wonderful process!

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