

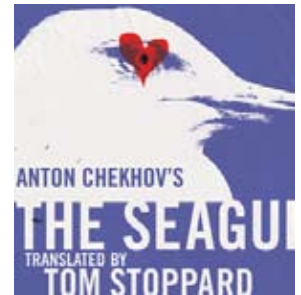
In the Green Room for *The Seagull*

MEET THE CAST



Molly McGuire (Arkadina)

Tell us about yourself. I grew up in Rifle, Colorado and have appeared in a number of productions which include: *Shakers*, *The Odd Couple Female Version*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *33 Swoons*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, all of which were produced at CSU. She has also appeared in *Lives Of The Saints*, *The Little Prince*, *The Dresser*, and *The Lion In Winter* (produced by Bas Bleu Theater).



Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I'm thrilled to be playing such a complex character! An aging actress as well as a horrible mother...what could be more fun?!

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Seagull*? We've worked so hard on bringing out the comedy and I think that the audience will appreciate the biting humor in this show.

Jason Hill (Konstantin)

Tell us about yourself. I am a senior Business Administration major at CSU. I was born and raised in Casper, Wyoming and became involved with CSU theatre after a role in the one-act play *The Actor's Nightmare*. I then appeared as "Osrik" in *Hamlet*, had various roles in *33 Swoons*, and went on to play "Matt" in Christopher Durang's *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*.



Why are you looking forward to being in this play? It is truly a privilege to play such an important character in one of Chekov's most important works.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Seagull*? They will enjoy the blend of silly humor in this show as well as the drama that unfolds between every character.

Elizabeth Nodich (Nina)



Tell us about yourself. I am in my final semester here at CSU where I have performed in *33 Swoons*, *Scapin*, and *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*. Before coming back to Colorado she attended Nebraska Wesleyan University where she performed as Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*, Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Josephine in *Josephine the Mouse Singer*, Jenny Mae in the *Diviners*, and Olga in *Three Sisters*. Other performances in Fort Collins include Meg in *Crimes of the Heart* (Readers Theatre with Bas Bleu) and Summer in the *Harvey Project* (Open Stage Etc.).

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? Nina is a role I have wanted to take on for a long time and is grateful to the Director Walt Jones for allowing me the opportunity to explore the character.



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Erin Fried (Masha)

Tell us about yourself. I am originally from Boulder, Colorado, and while at CSU, I have played Ellen in *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* under director Laura Jones, Varnka from *33 Swoons* under director Walt Jones, and my favorite role the female admirer from *Picasso at the Lapine Agile* under director Laura Jones.



Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I'm thrilled to present a classic play with a genuine heart.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Seagull*? This play pulls straight from the very psychological hardships of everyone's life. As Walt Jones told the cast on the first day, it's about "Love getting in the way of living our lives."



Lucas Sweet (Medvedenko)

Tell us about yourself. I am a junior theatre major studying producing and theatre management. I have appeared as Debray in *Cyrano De Bergerac*, the Protagonist in *Catastrophe*, and Henry Thoreau in *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* which performed at the regional level of the Kennedy Center Theatre Festival.

Allison Stafford (Polina)

Tell us about yourself. I am a graduate student at CSU working on my master's in Watershed Science, and this is my CSU theatre debut. Originally from Connecticut, I attended Skidmore College in upstate New York, where I majored in Environmental Studies and Theatre and participated in the Shakespeare Programme in London for one semester. I have previously performed in shows such as *Top Girls*, *A Dream Play*, *Macbeth*, and *Women and Wallace*.



Why are you looking forward to being in this play? After being off the stage for over a year, I have realized how integral theatre is to my life, and am so glad to be part of a dedicated cast and crew with such stunning talent.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Seagull*? Checkov writes about everyone for everyone. His ability to display the complex layers of humanity, depicted in such a small group of people, can simultaneously humble and delight the audience.



Luke Karn (Sorin)

Tell us about yourself. I am from Pueblo, Colorado, and I have acted in *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *The Laramie Project*, *Dear Phoebe*, *The Picture That Was Turned to the Wall*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *33 Swoons*.



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Why are you looking forward to being in this play? It's an opportunity to work with a fantastic group of seniors one last time.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Seagull*? The audience will come away from *The Seagull* with an appreciation for how funny Chekhov's plays really are.

Sean Cummings (Yakov)

Tell us about yourself. I am a Fort Collins native and a freshman majoring in theatre, and this is my first mainstage show on campus. I have also appeared in a handful of student thesis projects, Bas Bleu's *The Lion in Winter*, and numerous Questionable Shellfish improv shows.



Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I'm downright jazzed to be a part of this groovy slice of Russian history that remains hip and accessible to the theatre-going audiences of today, but doesn't sacrifice its own cultural identity.

Matt Spaulding (Workman)



Tell us about yourself. I am from Breckenridge, Colorado where I did few high school shows when I was not playing football, but this is my first show on the collegiate level.

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I am excited to finally be back on stage after a 3 year hiatus. Oh and by the way...there are no small parts, just small actors, which I am not.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Seagull*? I hope the audience leaves with a smile on their face. The play might seem depressing, but Chekhov has a humorous side as well and hopefully they can find humor amongst the depressing life of Konstantine.

Lauren Ackley (Housemaid/Cook)

Tell us about yourself. I am a junior art major with a minor in theatre, and I hope my course of study will someday get me a career that pays more than minimum wage!

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? This is her first production at CSU and she is delighted and honored to be included with such a talented cast.



Zach Brown (Trigorin)

Tell us about yourself. I have appeared in CSU productions of *Sideman*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *33 Swoons*, and I have dreams of going to graduate school for playwrighting. I would like to thank Walt Jones for allowing him to be a part of this sublime production. I think that Stoppard's rendition of Chekhov is as good as Chekhov can be, except in Russian.



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Mike Largent (Shamraev)

Tell us about yourself. I'm from a tiny little mountain town called Bayfield. I played Karl from *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, Goldberg in *The Birthday Party* I had several small roles in last semester's *33 Swoons*, and a bunch of high school musicals, one acts, and melodramas.



Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I'm excited to be in this play because it gives me the opportunity to grow a big, stupid handle bar mustache. Honestly though, I'm very excited to be working with this cast as they are all so very talented.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Seagull*? I think the audience will enjoy a glimpse into the Russian culture and the humor strategically woven into the play. It's funny stuff.



Dan Tschirhart (Dorn)

Tell us about yourself. I'm from Fort Collins where I've lived most of my life. Previous roles include Buzz Crenshaw in 1940's *Radio Christmas Carol*, Geoffrey in *The Lion in Winter* (both at Bas Bleu), Geronte in *Scapin*, Horatio in *Hamlet*, various roles in *The Laramie Project* and De Guiche in *Cyrano De Bergerac* (all at CSU).

MEET THE DESIGNERS

Erin Reese (Set Designer)

Erin Reese is a 5th year senior who has been privileged to get the chance to paint for 8 shows during her time here at CSU. She now is thrilled to have had the opportunity to design *The Seagull* for her senior thesis. She would like to thank Walt Jones for taking a chance on her and Cory Seymour for pushing her beyond her comfort zone and forcing her to paint for Laramie Project. She thanks Susan Crabtree for being a true mentor and opening her eyes to so much when it comes to design.

Faith Harbert (Costume Designer)

Faith has been involved with CSU productions since *Cyrano de Bergerac* in Spring 2006. She was Assistant Stage Manager for *33 Swoons*, and went on to be Stage Manager for *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*. She is currently starring in *Flotsam and Jetstream* as a part of CU Boulder's Fringe Festival. She says, "I am excited to be taking on role of co-designer in this production, and am looking forward to graduating in May and pursuing theatre in Chicago!"

Nicole England-Czyzewski (Costume Designer)

Nicole worked my first CSU production as props master for *Hamlet*. and have had the opportunity to help with most of the CSU shows following, working in the scan and costume shop as well as being wardrobe mistress in *33 Swoons*. She studied abroad in London last semester, and says, "I am excited to be co-costume designing *The*



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Seagull with Faith, as well as looking forward to pursuing my theatre career when I graduate this May.”

Mickey Brooks (Props Master)

Mickey Brooks is currently a freshman at CSU with a major in theatre. He previously appeared in *Bent* and *Caffeine*, and also works as a carpenter in the scene shop. *The Seagull* is Mickey’s first production to work as property master.

Erik Wood – Holloway (Sound Designer)

Erik Wood-Holloway is Senior CSU and a double major in Psychology and Theater, and has been involved in a number of CSU and local theater productions. He feels very fortunate to be involved in the production of such a iconic and classic play.

Jesse Cogswell (Lighting Designer)

Jesse Cogswell graduated from the CSU Theatre program in the spring of 2007. Since then, Jesse has been working full time as the CSU Theatre Technical Production Assistant. His past lighting designs include the CSU mainstage productions of *Hamlet*, *33 Swoons*, and *The Birthday Party*; and the CSU student thesis productions of *Falling Back*, *The Second Death of Priscilla*, and *Low Level Panic*. Jesse also designed the lighting for OpenStage’s production of *Dirty Blonde* and the Colorado Academy of the Arts production of *101 Dalmatians*.

MEET THE DIRECTOR - Walt Jones



Walt Jones joined the CSU Theatre program in 2006 as the director of the program. Mr. Jones is a 1975 graduate of The Yale School of Drama. As a teacher of acting and directing he has served on the faculty at Yale School of Drama, and at University of California, San Diego where he also served as Department Chair from 1997 to 2005. He has directed twice on Broadway (the Drama Desk Award nominated musical, *The 1940’s Radio Hour*, which he also wrote, and John Pielmeier’s thriller, *Sleight of Hand*); six plays off-Broadway, including the American premiere of Howard Barker’s *No End of Blame* at Manhattan Theatre Club, and over 60 plays in more than 20 regional theatres from Cambridge to Fairbanks. **MORE ABOUT WALT JONES**

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