



Department of Theatre and Dance

presents



directed by **Russ Borski**

musical direction by **Maria DiDonato**

November 2–12, 2023 | Allen Theatre



WELCOME from the director

Avenue Q premiered off-Broadway in 2003 at the Vineyard Theatre in New York. It won multiple Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Book and Best Original Score. Twenty years later, *Avenue Q* remains just as fresh and relevant, exploring such adult themes as racism, homosexuality, and internet pornography! All the characters are young adults who face real-world problems with often questionable solutions. This parody of children's educational television uses humor to approach the many challenges still being faced by post-pandemic young students. My hope is that we can sit back and enjoy the frankness of this exploration.

— Russ Borski

Out of courtesy to the performers and to fellow audience members, please refrain from making phone calls, texting, surfing, taking photos, and general cell phone use in the theatre during the performance. Thank you!



The Thursday, November 9, 2023 performance is an ASL showing with American Sign Language interpretation and support presented in collaboration with CSU's Office of Disability Services.



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November 2 – 12, 2023 | Allen Theatre



PRESENTS

Avenue

MUSIC AND LYRICS

By

**ROBERT LOPEZ and
JEFF MARX**

Directed by

Russ Borski

BOOK

By

JEFF WHITTY

Musical Direction by
Maria DiDonato

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL

CONCEPT By

**ROBERT LOPEZ and
JEFF MARX**

Orchestrations and
Arrangements by
Stephen Oremus

Co-Costume & Puppet Design

Scenic & Props Design

Russ Borski

Sound Designer

Carlton Guc

Production Stage Manager

Fernanda Barajas

Light Board Op

Laur Davie

A1

Dani Zilka

Assistant Director

Payton Nielsen

Co-Costume & Puppet Design

Terry Pieritz

Asst. Stage Managers

Madi Ries

Lucy Geiser

Electricians / Spot Ops

Spencer Shafron

P.J. Sobczak

A2

James Romeo

Lighting Designer

David Stoughton

Technical Director

Cameron Michalak

Asst. Lighting Designer

Main Electrician

Logan Chapman

Electricians

Maddie Mohler

Jack Coughlin

Wardrobe Head

Cassandra Miller-Myers

Backstage Run Crew

Carter Defibaugh, Collin Pertner, Maggie Natt, Angela Pederson, AJ Duncan

Wardrobe

Mackenzie Barton, Cecelia Brown, Haley Cooper, Jacqueline Long, Allison Mendoza, Kat O'Donnell, Katie Steim

Puppet Wranglers

Grant Crawford, Katie Lytle, Caitlin Mason, Kristina Telban, Ellie Zalar

AVENUE Q is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

For the safety of our actors and the comfort of our patrons, please refrain from all cell phone use during the performance.

Avenue Q will run approximately 2 hours, plus a 15-minute intermission

CAST ▸ of characters

(in alphabetical order)

Emily Anderson.....	Bad Idea Bear
Nathalie Bermudez.....	Ensemble / Lucy US
Aidan Callahan.....	Ensemble / Trekkie / Brian US
Samuel Cohen.....	Ricky / Nicky / Rod US
Léo Fez.....	Brian / Princeton US
Zoë Frager.....	Ensemble / Mrs. Thistlewat, Ricky, Trekkie 2, Nicky 2 US
Logan Gallant.....	Princeton
Brooke Hamilton.....	Kate Monster
Nicholas Taylor Hassan.....	Trekkie Monster
Kaleny Kilsa Balfour.....	Ensemble / Bear US
Jade Lopez.....	Lucy
Tyler Milicic.....	Rod
Quinn Quilty M.....	Bad Idea Bear / Newcomer
Cal Singer-Holden.....	Nicky
Dana Sumpter.....	Mrs. Thistlewat / Trekkie #2 / Kate Monster US
Trinity Thomas.....	Gary Coleman
Lucie Vonau.....	Christmas Eve
Josie Wilka.....	Ensemble

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Act I

Avenue Q Theme
Opening (What Do You Do With A B.A. in English / It Sucks To Be Me)
If You Were Gay
Purpose
Everyone's A Little Bit Racist
The Internet is For Porn
A Mix Tape
I'm Not Wearing Underwear Today
Special
You Can Be As Loud As The Hell You Want
Fantasies Come True
My Girlfriend, Who Lives In Canada
There's A Fine, Fine Line

INTERMISSION

Act II

There is Life Outside Your Apartment
The More You Ruv Someone
Schadenfreude
I Wish I Could Go Back To College
The Money Song
There's A Fine, Fine Line (Reprise)
For Now

ORCHESTRA

Maria DiDonato – Music Director / Keyboard
Heidi Herczeg – Keyboard 2
Michael McCan – Reeds
Christopher Parsons – Bass
Joseph Rangel – Guitar
Nathan Taylor – Percussion

Congratulations to our 2023-2024 scholarship students!

THEATRE

Kaleny Kilsa-Balfour, Fernanda Barajas, Nathalie Bermudez, Logan Chapman, Carter Defibaugh, Graceyn Dowd, Ryanne Fury, Brooke Hamilton, Nicholas Hassan, Abigail Jarvis, Alison Mendoza, Tyler Milicic, Cassandra Miller-Myers, Quinn Montgomery, Payton Nielsen, Samuel Noble, Kathleen O'Donnell, James Romeo, Kasey Sheridan, Dana Sumpter, Trinity Thomas, Lucie Vonau, Josie Wilka, and Daniel Zilka

DANCE

Kaleny Kilsa Balfour, Grayson Bixler, Raquel Cairns, Joshua Estok, Lenny Jeter, Miles Melvin, Madilyn Metcalf, Kennedy Pickard, Allesandra Rovito, Delaney Slavin, and Bryon Ward

WHO'S WHO ♦ in the cast and crew

CAST

Emily Anderson

Senior Theatre Major

Bad Idea Bear

Emily is very thrilled to be a part of her third production here at CSU, she has previously appeared in the CSU shows *Blithe Spirit* and as an understudy for *The Skin of Our Teeth*. Other credits include *The Sound of Music* as Frau Schmidt, *The Odd Couple* as Florence Unger, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Antigone Now*.

Nathalie Bermudez

Junior Theatre Major

Ensemble / Lucy US

Nathalie is a Colombian visual artist and actor who is absolutely proud to be part of her second show with the Department. She also appeared in *The Skin of Our Teeth* as the Fortuneteller. Nathalie graduated from The Actors Studio Academy before coming to The United States in 2015. In Colombia, she was in *Chicago the Musical*, and *You Have the Eyes of a Fatal Woman*, among others. She has also been part of Cleveland Public Theatre's Teatro Publico De Cleveland in *Where is My Home*, and *Labio de Liebre*, along with LatinUs theater company's *La Cueva De Salamanca*, *Miss Pina Colada*, *La Muerte y La Doncella*, and others.

Aidan Callahan

Senior Film and Media Arts Major /

Theatre Minor

Ensemble / Trekkie & Brian US

CSU's *Avenue Q* marks Aidan's third production with the Department of Theatre and Dance. Past credits with the Department include *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* in the Ensemble and *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* as Von Oster / Brad Donovan. He is looking forward to putting on yet another memorable production alongside the CSU Theatre family.

Samuel Cohen

Freshman Theatre Major

Nicky #2 / Ricky

Sam is extremely thrilled to be part of CSU's *Avenue Q*. This is Sam's first show with the Department of Theatre and Dance; however, he was featured in *Into the Woods* as Cinderella's Prince, *Clue* as Mr. Green, *All Shook Up* as Chad,

and *Puffs* as Wayne Hopkins in his high school theatre program, among others in local youth theatre programs.

Léo Fez

Junior Theatre Major

Brian / Princeton US

Léo is not only a student, but a working theatre artist in Cleveland. Previous acting credits include *All in the Timing* as Bill and Mark (Tri-C West), *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* as Son-type, and *Oliver Parker!* as Oliver (convergence-continuum). Their other credits include Stage Manager for *The Mousetrap* (Weathervane), Director of *We Call it Family* in the 2023 NEOMFA playwriting festival (convergence-continuum), and Co-Director, Light/Sound Designer, and Ensemble for *Miracle on 34th Street* (Medina Showbiz Company). They thank the Department of Theatre and Dance for a welcoming first semester.

Zoë Frager

Sophomore Theatre Major / Dance Minor

Ensemble / Mrs. Thistlewat, Ricky, Trekkie 2, Nicky 2 US

Zoë is over the moon, because she gets to be a part of *Avenue Q*. She's so grateful to be in her first musical at CSU. Her most recent credit was *Bring It On: The Musical* where she was a Dance Captain. Other credits include *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* as Anna Mae Simpkins / Afua Assata Ejobo, *Newsies* covering multiple roles, and *Mamma Mia!* as Tanya. She is also a part of the CSU Dance Team. She hopes this show can bring you joy!

Logan Gallant

Sophomore Film & Media Arts Major

Princeton

Logan is stoked to be part of CSU's *Avenue Q*. This is his first production with the Department of Theatre and Dance. Prior to this show, Logan has performed many productions in high school including Troy Bolton in *High School Musical*, Shrek in *Shrek*, and Freddy Eynsford-Hill in *My Fair Lady*. Apart from the stage, Logan has also acted in multiple student films here in the CSU Film School.

Brooke Hamilton

Junior Theatre Major

Kate Monster / Student Liaison

Brooke is beyond delighted to be a part of *Avenue Q* and to work with such an amazing cast and crew. Her past credits include *Sweeney Todd* as Johanna, *Spring Awakening* as Martha Bessell, and *The Who's Tommy* as Ensemble. Brooke has also worked as Stage Manager for *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* and Choreographed *Madagascar Jr.* After this, you can find her with her princess friends at Northeast Ohio Creatives.

Nicholas Taylor Hassan

Junior Theatre Major

Trekkie Monster

Nick is straight up jazzed to be in CSU's production of *Avenue Q*. Some of Nick's past performances include Ensemble for *Something Rotten* at North Canton Playhouse, Slasvick/Peter in CSU's *By The Way Meet Vera Stark*, Ensemble CSU's *Sweeney Todd*, and Morris in *Newsies* at Weathervane Playhouse. Nick would greatly appreciate it if you would sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Kaleny Kilsa Balfour

Senior Theatre Major

Ensemble / Bear US

Kaleny is ecstatic to be a part of CSU's production of *Avenue Q!* Other CSU credits include Backstage Crew for *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*, *The Skin Of Our Teeth* (Hour of The Night), and was Assistant Stage Manager for *The Gentle Villainy of Richard III*, *Troubler of The Poor World's Peace*, and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Jade Lopez

Freshman Theatre Major

Lucy the Slut

Jade is incredibly honored to be a part of CSU's *Avenue Q!* This is her first show in the Department of Theatre and Dance, but she's been in many shows at Perry High School in the Perry Players productions. Jade would like to thank the entire cast for being very so welcoming and supportive, the directors for this wonderful opportunity, and her family for showing such support even from afar.

Tyler Milicic

Theatre Major / English Minor

Rod

Tyler Milicic is exuberantly jazzed to take part of *Avenue Q*. He has been a part of the northeast Ohio theatre scene for over twelve years on and off the stage at many different venues. His favorite past credits include Beadle Bamford in *Sweeney Todd*, Chad in *All Shook Up* and Charlie Brown in *Snoopy!* Outside of acting Tyler has directed multiple shows and has created an original musical *Like You* which has released an EP featuring six original songs that he and his partner in crime have written. tylermilicic.wixsite.com/my-site

Quinn Quilty M.

Sophomore Theatre Major

Bad Idea Bear / Newcomer

Quinn Quilty can't contain his current elated consciousness for his casting in *Avenue Q*. He worked very hard on that sentence and hopes people appreciate it. This is Quinn's first time acting with Cleveland State, outside of the recent Improv Club Showcases. Previously, he has been seen as Raggedy Andy in *Raggedy Ann and Andy*, Mr. Green in *Clue*, and his most impressive roles: the Sound Board Op in CSU's *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*.

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Cal Singer-Holden

Freshman Theatre Major

Nicky

Cal is absolutely thrilled to be in CSU's production of *Avenue Q*. This is his first production with the Department of Theatre and Dance. Other credits include Buddy the Elf in *Elf the Musical* as well as Harry Bright in *Mamma Mia* with Wooster High School; Joe in *Oklahoma!*, and Traveling Salesman #5 and a featured dancer in *The Music Man* with Summer Stage Wooster. He has also portrayed Drosselmeyer in the Wayne Center for the Arts production of the ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

Dana Sumpter

Sophomore Theatre Major

Mrs. Thistlewat / Trekkie #2 / Kate Monster US / Puppet Constructor

Dana is delighted to be working extensively on this production of *Avenue Q*. Her most recent roles are Father from *Children of Eden*, Helen Henley from *Rosie the Riveter*, and Eulalie Mackechnie Shinn from *The Music Man*. Her backstage experience comes through the Norwalk Arts Center, and via CSU's productions of *Sweeney Todd* and *By the Skin of Our Teeth* (Wardrobe Crew), and *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Assistant Stage Manager). She is looking forward to adding more credits and skills to her repertoire as she seeks out new opportunities to learn from.

Trinity Thomas

Senior Theatre Major

Gary Coleman

Trinity is ecstatic to be a part of this fantastic cast. Past credits include CSU's *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble / Birdseller), and *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Lottie / Carmen), as well as *Little Shop of Horrors* (Ronette), and *The Music Man* (Eulalie) at YSU. She is also a member of the B.L.A.C.C (Black Leading Arts Cultural Club) here at CSU. She thanks everyone for the love and support, and hopes you all enjoy this hilarious ride. Psalms 133:1.

Lucie Vonau

Senior Theatre / Communications Majors

Christmas Eve

Lucie is blissful to return to the Allen Theatre for *Avenue Q*. Other CSU credits include Ensemble roles for *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Sweeney Todd*, as well as Queen Margaret for *The Gentle Villainy of Richard III*, *Troubler of the Poor* *World's Peace*. Other credits include *Woyzeck* as Marguerite and

Britannicus as Néron at the National Theatre of Strasbourg. She would like to express her gratitude to CSU's Department of Theatre and Dance for all the wonderful opportunities. Lucie extends her deepest thanks to her grandparents, her mom, and her aunt for their unwavering support throughout her artistic endeavors.

Josie Wilka

Freshman Theatre Major

Ensemble

Avenue Q is Josie's first show at CSU and she is beyond pumped to be a part of this amazing cast. Some of her past credits include Rizzo in *Grease: School Edition*, Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka Jr.*, Cinderella in *Game of Tiaras*, and Star in *John Lennon and Me*. Josie is excited for what the future holds, and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

CREW

Fernanda Barajas

Junior Theatre Major

Stage Manager

Fernanda is beyond proud to work on *Avenue Q*. Her more recent past credits with the CSU Department of Theatre and Dance include *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* as the Head of Wardrobe, The CSU Spring Dance Concert as an ASM, *The Skin of Our Teeth* as Wardrobe Crew and Student Liaison, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* as the Stage Manager, and *She Loves Me* as an ASM. Additionally, outside of the Department Fernanda has worked in the Costume Department for the upcoming film *Lost and Found in Cleveland*, and as the Costume Designer for *Madagascar Jr.* at French Creek Nature Center and Theatre.

Mackenzie Barton

Freshman Theatre Major

Wardrobe

Mackenzie is very excited to be involved in *Avenue Q*. This is Mackenzie's first show at CSU. Mackenzie is ready to learn all there is to know about theatre and how it works.

Russ Borski

CSU Professor

Director / Scenic & Prop Design / Co-Costume & Puppet Design

Russ Borski most recently directed/designed the Fall 2022 Department of Theatre and Dance production of *Sweeney Todd* for the Allen Mainstage. For the Department of Theatre and Dance, he has also direct-

ed *Blithe Spirit*, *Into the Woods*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Company*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Angels in America*, *Cabaret*, *The Death of Bessie Smith* and *The American Dream*. Crafting his theatre chops in Chicago, Mr. Borski is the recipient of seven Joseph Jefferson Awards for excellence in theatre. Nationally he has worked from Anchorage Opera to North Carolina Shakespeare to Florida State Opera to the Odyssey and McCadden Theatres in LA to Dance Theatre Workshop and Merce Cunningham Studios in New York, and many points in between. Locally, Mr. Borski has directed/designed at Playhouse Square, Dobama, Great Lakes Theater, Cleveland Play House, Dancing Wheels, Willoughby Fine Arts, Karamu, Cain Park, Porthouse, Kalliope, Summer Stages, and Ensemble Theatre. He was named Scene Magazine's 2012's Best Director of a Musical for Cain Park's production of *Avenue Q*, after receiving the Best Directorial Debut award in 2002 for his direction of *The Late Henry Moss*. He currently resides as a full time professor in Theatre and Dance at Cleveland State University.

Logan Chapman

Junior Theatre Major
Assistant Lighting Designer

Logan Chapman is a theatre artist based in Northeast Ohio, and works in Theatre, Dance, and Music. He primarily does Lead Electrician, Assistant/Associate Lighting Design, Lighting Design, and Stage Management work for companies in and around Cleveland. He's worked with Cain Park ('23 Events Lighting Supervisor), Cleveland Ballet, Playhouse Square, Cleveland Public Theatre, Beck Center for the Arts, Near West Theatre, Rubber City Theatre, and Heinz Poll Summer Festival. Outside of the theatre, he enjoys doing things outside like kayaking, traveling, and rock climbing.

Haley Cooper

Freshman Theatre Major
Wardrobe

Haley is very excited to be involved in *Avenue Q* as a first college musical experience! Past credits with Wardrobe include *Newsies* and *Charlie Brown*, and Haley is happy for this new endeavor!

Grant D. Crawford

Junior Theatre Major
Puppet Wrangler

Grant is ecstatically enthused to be working on his third production at Cleveland State. Previously, he worked as Stage Manager for *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and as Assistant Stage Manager *Sweeney Todd* (both at CSU). Grant learned to love theatre at a young age in his hometown of Akron, and he eventually became an Ohio State Thespian Officer. His favorite show is *Phantom of the Opera*.

Laur Davie

Sophomore Theatre Major
Light Board Operator

Laur is absolutely elated to be part of another CSU production. Laur worked as the Light Board Op for CSU's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, and was one of the two Assistant Stage Managers for *The Skin of Our Teeth*. She also spent her summer working as a general technician and stage crew member at Cain Park, and has worked crew positions at other theatres such as The MAD* Factory Theatre Co in Lorain, and Cleveland Public Theatre.

Carter Defibaugh

Sophomore Theatre Major
Backstage Run Crew

Carter is very happy to be a part of this production of *Avenue Q*. This is Carter's second year with the Department, and has aided with shows such as *Sweeney Todd*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *By the Way*,

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Meet *Vera Stark* in various positions. Carter would like to say thank you to all of the people in and out of this Department who have supported him. Lastly, he wants to say thank you for coming to see our show and joining us here on the Avenue.

Annalisa Duncan

Sophomore Theatre Major

Backstage Run Crew

Annalisa is thrilled to be a part of CSU's production of *Avenue Q*. This is her first opportunity as a crew member for the Department of Theatre and Dance. In the past, you may have seen her working as one of our student ushers for productions like *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*. Annalisa is looking forward to doing more projects with CSU in the future and hopes you enjoy the show.

Lucy Geiser

Junior Theatre Major

Assistant Stage Manager

Lucy is ecstatic to be a part of *Avenue Q*. This is Lucy's 4th show at CSU, with previous credits including *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Announcer), *Sweeney Todd* (Foggy), and *She Loves Me* (Ensemble). *Avenue Q* is Lucy's first time on the Stage Management team. Lucy has been part of the theater community for 13 years and has worked on over 45 productions.

Carlton Guc

Sound Designer

Carlton's recent design credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Cleveland State University); *Once On This Island* (Beck Center), *Cat's Paw* (Beck Center), and *Rent* (Cain Park). Additionally, Carlton manages the Performing Arts Center for Nordonia School District; Between shows you'll find Carlton playing guitar, writing computer software, or coaching skiing; www.carltonguc.com

Jacquelyn Long

Sophomore Theatre Major

Wardrobe

Jacquelyn is honored and delighted to be a member of the Wardrobe Crew for *Avenue Q*. Previously, she was involved in CSU's production of *The Skin of Our Teeth* as a member of the Run Crew, and as a sandwich "artist." Jacquelyn is very thankful for the opportunity to learn and work in the Department of Theatre and Dance, and is happily looking forward to future shows.

Katie Lytle

Senior Theatre Major

Puppet Wrangler

Katie is overjoyed to be working on her fifth show at CSU. Past show credits include *Into The Woods* and *She Loves Me* (Wardrobe), as well as *Sweeney Todd* and *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Wardrobe Head). Outside of the Department she has worked for Case Western Reserve's MFA program on *Everybody* (Wardrobe Supervisor), Cleveland Play House on *Moriarty*, as well as two seasons as Costume Shop manager for Cain Park (*School of Rock*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Rent*, and *Fun Home*). Katie would like to thank her friends, family, and the faculty for aiding her in following her dreams.

Caitlin Mason

Senior Theatre Major

Puppet Wrangler

Caitlin has been on Wardrobe Crew for several past shows, and she is glad to be back as a Puppet Wrangler! Although she has spent time on stage, her time working on costumes for *Seussical*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Les Misérables* while in high school has led her to decide that she belongs backstage designing, sewing, and helping the actors to look and feel their best. Recently, Caitlin has been on the Wardrobe Crew at CSU for *Sweeney Todd* and *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*.

Allison Mendoza

Sophomore Theatre Major / English Minor
Wardrobe Crew

Allison is incredibly grateful to be a part of Cleveland State's production of *Avenue Q*! Past credits with CSU include Wardrobe Crew for *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*, and dramaturgical work for *The Skin of Our Teeth*. She has also worked crew positions and as a performer with several local theaters. She is so proud of the hard work everyone has done to bring *Avenue Q* into being and hopes you enjoy the show!

Cameron Caley Michalak

Technical Director

Cameron Caley Michalak is thrilled to be on the Staff at Cleveland State University. He held positions for ten years at Cleveland Play House as Assistant, then Associate Technical Director, and was Technical Director for his final three years. Cameron also works extensively as a Scenic Designer around the



area. Regional Theater design credits include Cleveland Play House productions of *These Mortal Hosts*, *Venus in Fur*, *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, and *A Soldier's Tale* with *Catch and Release*. Selected CWRU/CPH MFA Acting Program's design credits include *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Philadelphia Story*, and *The Three Sisters*. Selected local credits include *Nutcracker Suite* at Cleveland Ballet; *Assassins* and *Urinetown* at Near West Theatre; *Appropriate* and *The Effect* at Dobama Theatre; *Young Frankenstein* and *Seminar* at Beck Center; and *Sweeney Todd* among many others for the Music, Arts and Drama (M.A.D.) Factory in Oberlin.

Cassandra Miller-Myers

Senior Theatre Major / Dance Minor
Wardrobe Head

Cassandra looks forward to her return to the wonderful world of Wardrobe for *Avenue Q*. She's been blessed to grace the stages of Playhouse Square, Mamai Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre, and Karamu Theatre. Cassandra has worked as a Teaching Artist for Cleveland Public Theatre's summer education program and is currently choreographing Near West Theatre's CMSD production of *Jungle Book Kids*. Cassandra is a member of Blakk Jakk Dance Collective, the President of the Black Leading Arts Cultural Club, and looks forward to expanding the realm of black arts at CSU. Cassandra thanks The Most High Yah, her husband, family, and community for all that they pour into her. Matthew 5:16.

Maggie Natt

Sophomore Theatre Major
Backstage Run Crew

Maggie is ecstatic to be a part of CSU's production of *Avenue Q*. Her past credits with the Department of Theatre and Dance include *Backstage Run Crew* for *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*. She most recently worked on a production of *The Rescue of John Price* at Oberlin College. She is over the moon with the opportunities she has been given at CSU and is excited for years to come.

Kat O'Donnell

Senior Theatre Major
Wardrobe

Kat is thrilled to be taking part in another production here at Cleveland State. Her previous credits at CSU include her involvement in *Wardrobe* and *Makeup* for *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of*

Fleet Street. She also recently appeared in *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* as Gloria.

Angela Pedersen

Sophomore Engineering Major
Backstage Run Crew

Angela is thrilled to be a part of CSU's *Avenue Q*. Though new to the duties of a crew member, she has participated as a member of the orchestra pit in the productions of *Children of Eden*, *The Little Mermaid*, and a musical medley. Angela also enjoys playing her violin and viola, singing in choir, portraiture, and fiber arts.

Collin Pertner

Sophomore Theatre Major
Backstage Run Crew

Collin is ecstatic to be involved with CSU's *Avenue Q*. This is his first show with the Department of Theatre and Dance, and he is looking forward to being involved with future productions.

Terry Pieritz

Costume Designer / Puppet Designer

Terry Pieritz is trained in opera with roots at the Cleveland Institute of Music where she received her BM in voice and began her costume design career in tandem with Lyric Opera Cleveland. Terry earned her MFA in Theatre Design from Case Western Reserve University and has taught Costume Design and Construction there as well as University of Akron, Beaumont School, and currently at Cleveland State University where she also manages the Costume Shop for the Department of Theatre and Dance. She has designed costumes for theater, dance, opera, industrials and film where her work has taken her to Skylight Opera Theater (Milwaukee), Florida State Opera (Tallahassee), Human Race Theater (Dayton) and American Movie Channel (New York City). Cleveland theatre credits include Playhouse Square, Beck Center for the Arts, Cain Park, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Dobama and Cleveland Musical Theatre.

Madi Ries

Freshman Theatre Major
Assistant Stage Manager

Madi is incredibly grateful and honored for this to be her first show at CSU. Her previous work includes *SpongeBob the Musical* as Properties Designer with Sandstone Summer Theatre as well as various crew positions.

James Romeo

Junior Theatre Major

A2

James is elated to be given the opportunity to work again in the Allen Theatre on another CSU Department of Theatre and Dance production. Recent productions include *The Last Five Years*, *Bring It On*, *Head Over Heels*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Music Man*, and *All Shook Up* (all with Near West Theatre); and *CSU Spring Dance Concert 2022*, *The Gentle Villainy of Richard III*, *Troubler of the Poor World's Peace*, *She Loves Me*, *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, and *Blithe Spirit* (all with CSU).

Spencer Shafron

Freshman Theatre Major

Electrician / Spot Operator

Spencer has worked on eight shows before, the most recent being *Sweeney Todd* (Spot Op) and *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (Lightboard Op) for Cleveland State University's Theatre and Dance Department. Spencer wants to say thank you to Mr. Zakharia for introducing him to backstage work in Theatre.

P.J. Sobczak

Freshman Theatre Major

Electrician / Spotlight Operator

P.J. is ecstatic to be a part of the team for CSU's *Avenue Q*. This is their first time working on a production with CSU, and they would like to thank their family, as well as their two best friends, Quinn and Casper, for their endless support and love.

Katie Steim

Sophomore Theatre Major /

Graphic Design Minor

Wardrobe

Katie is eager to be a part of her second production at the CSU Department of Theatre and Dance. Recent previous credits include *The Skin of Our Teeth* on Wardrobe Crew, *The Addams Family* as Morticia Addams, *Antigone: Now as Antigone*, and *The Odd Couple* as Florence Unger. She has performed in high school drama club productions at Parma Sr. High School as well as community theater productions in the Cleveland and Chicago area, including the Cassidy Theatre and the Windy City Music Theatre.

David Stoughton

Assistant Professor / Designer

Lighting Designer

David Stoughton has designed the lighting for a diverse array of projects in both professional and

academic venues across the country. In addition to design work, David teaches courses in production design and technology spanning the fields of lighting, sound, and projection. Online portfolio at www.davidstoughton.com. Notable design work includes Lighting Direction for *Les Delices* in Cleveland; *The Dingdong* and *Tigers Be Still* at TheatreSquared in Fayetteville, AR; *Julius Caesar*, *The Killer Angels* and *Richard II* for The Michigan Shakespeare Festival in Canton, MI; *Mlle. Modiste*, *The Mikado*, and *Der Vogelhändler* at The Ohio Light Opera in Wooster, OH; *The Near East Concert Series* for the Cleveland Museum of Art; *Another Lover* and *No Exit*, at Livewire Chicago Theatre; and *Jack and Jill* at The Guthrie Theatre Lab in Minneapolis, MN.

Kristina Telban

Freshman Studio Art Major

Puppet Wrangler

Kristina is so excited to be a part of her first production at CSU! She was a member of Costuming for *Matilda the Musical* at Magnificat High School. Kristina was a member of the Saint Ignatius Harlequins, performing in *Godspell* as the Day-by-Day Soloist, *The Laramie Project* as Romaine Patterson/Sherry Johnson/Tiffany Edwards/The Minister's Wife/Waitress, and *Something Rotten* as Rosalind/Ensemble.

Ellie Zalar

Sophomore Theatre Major

Puppet Wrangler

Ellie is ecstatic to be a part of *Avenue Q* and to work with this crazy cast of people and puppets. This is her third CSU show and she is proud that her work will be in the show as an Ensemble Puppet. Throughout this process, Ellie feels as though she is becoming closer with her puppet counterpart and believes that they will one day merge together. She would like to thank all her friends and family for supporting her in her dreams of becoming a puppet.

Daniel Zilka

Junior Theatre Major

A1

Daniel is an honored member of CSU's Department of Theatre and Dance. Past credits with the Department includes Projections Operator for *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and Sound Assistant for *Sweeney Todd*. Daniel has worked with a variety of local theaters including Great Lakes Theater, Cleveland



Public Theatre, Cleveland Play House, and Near West Theatre.

ORCHESTRA

Maria DiDonato

Music Director / Keyboard

Maria is excited to be music directing her eighth show at Cleveland State, her previous being *Sweeney Todd, She Loves Me, Into the Woods, Violet, Avenue Q, Company,* and *Emotional Creature*. Maria has also music directed at Cleveland Public Theatre, French Creek Theatre, The Academy for the Dramatic Arts, Huntington Playhouse, Brecksville Theatre, St. Mary's Catholic School, and the Tri-C Performing Arts Camp. Maria is an adjunct theatre professor at CSU, actress, music director at St. Columbkille Parish, and gives voice/piano lessons through her own studio and Stagecrafters. Maria's favorite performances include: opening for Common at the Wolstein Center, performing/recording with hip-hop violinist DBR, and singing for President Obama. She also enjoys performing with the band she manages, *Hip to That*, all over Northeast Ohio. Maria has earned both a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a minor in Theatre and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Cleveland State University.

Heidi Herczeg

Keyboard 2

Heidi has been seen music directing and playing all over Northeast Ohio for the last 23 years, including at the Beck Center, Cassidy Theater, Blank Canvas, Near West Theater, and the Brecksville Theater. She has been a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and the Cleveland Opera Chorus, serving as Children's Choir Master during her tenure. Heidi holds a bachelor of music education from Baldwin Wallace University, and a Masters of Music Education from Case Western Reserve University. Retiring from Bay Village City Schools in 2020 after 33 years, Heidi is thrilled to be able to devote her time to continuing her passion. Thank you to Maria for this opportunity.

Michael McCann

Reeds

Michael McCann is a Cleveland musician. He goes to Cleveland State to study Jazz Performance. He has studied under virtuosos including the likes of Randy Bowman, Stefan Hoskuldsson, and Lew Tabackin. He has played in many productions as a

Reed 1 doubler at venues such as Playhouse Square's State Theatre, The Beck Center, and Victoria Theatre. On top of this, he was a finalist of the Young Arts Classical Division, played with the National Flute Association's Flute Choir, and won the Central Ohio Flute Association's high school flute competition.

Christopher Parsons

Bass

Christopher E. Scott Parsons is a professional bassist from the Cleveland, Ohio area with over fifteen years of experience teaching, performing, and producing music. After earning his Master of Music Performance degree from Cleveland State University in 2019, Parsons went on to provide award winning music lessons with his music store, The Lakewood Music Collective, LLC. As a professional musician, Parsons frequently performs with some of the area's premiere jazz, blues, and commercial music musicians. Most recently, Parsons has accepted instructional positions at both Ursuline College and the Rainey Institute, and is the featured bassist for the Cleveland based band Simple Routes. He is also the bass player for local jazz/pop band, Hip to That.

Joseph Rangel

Guitar

Joseph Rangel, an alumnus of CSU, is excited to be performing guitar in another Cleveland State University musical theater production. Rangel's past musical credits with CSU include *Violet, Sweeney Todd, She Loves Me, Company,* and a past production of *Avenue Q*. Joseph has also worked with Cleveland Public Theater, and Cleveland Play House. He can also be found playing guitar for local jazz/pop band Hip to That, among many others.

Nathan Taylor

Percussion

Nathan is looking forward to being a part of CSU's *Avenue Q*. Previous endeavors with the Department of Theatre and Dance include *Avenue Q* (2016) and *Company*, both as the percussionist. Other pit work includes being the percussionist with Brecksville Theatre for *American Idiot*. Nathan also plays locally with a Jazz/pop quartet *Hip to That*; he also creates original music with *Cellophane Jane* a power trio rock group. *Cellophane Jane* was featured at this year's Britewinter Festival and can be found on Bandcamp, Spotify and Apple music.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:

Dr. Laura Bloomberg
President, Cleveland State University

Nigamanth Sridhar, Ph.D
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Andrew Kersten, Ph.D
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance Fall 2023

FACULTY

Michele Ainza (Director of Dance)
Toby Vera Bercovici
Dr. Lisa Bernd
Russ Borski
Allan Byrne
Louise Hadaway
Holly Holsinger (Department Chair)
David Stoughton
Errin Weaver

STAFF

Kate Klotzbach
Cameron Michalak
Terry Pieritz

Professors Emeritus:

Lynn Deering
Dr. Joseph J. Garry, Jr

The College of Arts and Science's DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE is housed in the CSU Arts Campus, with performance venues for both theatre and dance in the renovated Allen Theatre Complex. These state-of-the-art facilities provide students with hands-on educational experiences that include up close and personal interactions with professional artists and real-world experiences. At CSU, this is called Engaged Learning.

Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance

Mailing Address:
2121 Euclid Avenue * MB 263 *
Cleveland, OH 44115-2214

Campus Location:
The Middough Building
1901 E. 13th Street, Suite 263
Cleveland, OH 44114
216-687-2113 (phone) 216-687-2114 (fax)
theatre@csuohio.edu / dance@csuohio.edu
Website: www.csuohio.edu/theatre

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Girl From The North Country Frankenstein Dracula Avenue Q Giraffes Can't Dance The Musical	 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein	 Girl From The North Country Mary Shelley's Frankenstein	NOVEMBER Girl From The North Country Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Dracula	 Girl From The North Country Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Avenue Q	 Girl From The North Country Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Avenue Q	 Girl From The North Country Frankenstein Dracula: The Bloody Truth Avenue Q Giraffes Can't Dance The Musical
 Girl From The North Country Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Avenue Q Joanne Shaw Taylor	 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein	 Girl From The North Country	 Girl From The North Country	 Girl From The North Country Misfit: A Gary Gulman Stand Up and book tour	 Girl From The North Country Nate Bargatze: The Be Funny Tour!	 Girl From The North Country Frankenstein Avenue Q PHILADANCO! Pete Corraele Festival of Laughs
 Girl From The North Country	 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein	 Girl From The North Country	 Girl From The North Country	 Girl From The North Country Misfit: A Gary Gulman Stand Up and book tour	 Girl From The North Country Nate Bargatze: The Be Funny Tour!	 Girl From The North Country Nate Bargatze: The Be Funny Tour! The Uncle Louie Variety Show
 Girl From The North Country	 YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT hairspray BROADWAY'S TONY AWARD-WINNING BEST MUSICAL IS BACK	 Hairspray	 Hairspray Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol WGAR Winter Wonder Jam Starring Lee Brice	 A Christmas Carol Urban Vibe Presents R&B Groove Thang	 A Christmas Carol Tomåseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas
 A Christmas Carol Cleveland Pops Orchestra Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold	 Hairspray	 Hairspray Black Nativity	 Hairspray Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol Hairspray Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol Black Nativity Hasan Minhaj Straight No Chaser Todd Barry
 A Christmas Carol Black Nativity Steve Martin & Martin Short	 Hairspray	 Hairspray Black Nativity	 Hairspray Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol Hairspray Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol Hairspray Hip Hop Nutcracker Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol Hairspray Black Nativity
 A Christmas Carol Hairspray Dave Koz and Friends Black Nativity	 Hairspray	 Hairspray Black Nativity	 Hairspray Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol The Nutcracker Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol The Nutcracker Raymond Arroyo Christmas Merry and Bright Black Nativity	 A Christmas Carol The Nutcracker Jim Brickman's A Joyful Christmas Mannheim Steamroller Black Nativity
 A Christmas Carol The Nutcracker Jim Brickman's A Joyful Christmas	 Mrs. Doubtfire The New Musical Comedy	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire A Magical Cirque Christmas
 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire The New Musical Comedy	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire	 Mrs. Doubtfire The Legendary Soul Jam

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