BY RICK CLEVELAND

Directed by
Audrey Lauren Wax

February 23, 24, March 2 at 7:30pm
March 3 at 2:00pm & 7:30pm

DIANE BALLWEG THEATRE

EDGEWOOD COLLEGE THEATRE

Designed by Allison Berryman ’18 & Taylor Maier ’17

THE RAIL SPLITTER

The Original Rap
gangster
First Ghostbuster
Vampire Hunter
Plays Kill
PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .................................................................................................................. Audrey Lauren Wax
Production Producer ................................................................................................ Jeanne Leep
Stage Manager ......................................................................................................... Abigail Hadley
Stage Management Mentor .................................................................................. Audrey Lauren Wax
Scenic Designer ......................................................................................................... Laura Meinders
Scenic Mentor to the Designer .............................................................................. Christopher R. Dunham
Resident Lighting Designer .................................................................................... Aimee Hanyzewski
Sound Designer ......................................................................................................... Aimee Hanyzewski
Costume Designer ................................................................................................... Mary Waldhart
Hair & Makeup Designer ........................................................................................... Sara Wojtak
Choreographer ........................................................................................................... Kristin Roling
Dance Captain ........................................................................................................... Cassie Carney
Fight Choreographer ............................................................................................... James D. Clayton
Fight Captain ........................................................................................................... Laura McMillian
Videographer ............................................................................................................ Luke Kokinos
Box Office Crew ....................................................................................................... Yasmine Faouzi, Christopher Hansen, Cade Koski
Costume Crew ............................................................................................................ Maddie Smith and Rebecca Young
Dramaturge ................................................................................................................ Catherine Amber
Hair & Makeup Crew ................................................................................................. Samantha Stary
Props Crew ................................................................................................................ Kimberly Emmerich, Patrick Mahoney, Mary Rodwell, Emily Schlepp
Sets Crew .................................................................................................................... Emily Schlepp
Sound Crew and Sound Board Operator ................................................................. Connor Glasbrenner
Lights Crew and Light Board Operator .................................................................. Shyann Briner
Projection Crew ......................................................................................................... Riley Culver
Costume Shop Work Studies ................................................................................... Cassie Carney, Abigail Hadley, Elizabeth Simon, Sarah Weh
Department Work Studies ........................................................................................ Alexa Lindsay, Patrick Mahoney, Mikayla Mrochek
Scene Shop Work Studies .......................................................................................... KimberLee Emmerich, Alan Lau-Brown, Neal Li, Hannah Pickard
Scene Shop Foreman ................................................................................................. Laura Meinders
Box Office Work Studies .......................................................................................... Cassie Carney, Sophie Chadli, Laura Meinders, Abby Wicks
Theatre Education Work Study .................................................................................. Kenzie Merucci

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

Department Chair & Professor of Theatre ................................................................. Dr. Phil Martin
Producer of Edgewood College Theatre & Professor of Theatre ......................... Dr. Jeanne Leep
Assistant Professor of Technical Theatre ................................................................. Christopher R. Dunham
Lecturer of Theatre Education ................................................................................ Susan Nanning-Sorenson
Theatre Arts Department Instructors ...................................................................... Donna Peckett & Audrey Lauren Wax
Resident Costume Designer & Costume Shop Manager ............................................ Mary Waldhart
Resident Lighting & Sound Designer ....................................................................... Aimee Hanyzewski
Box Office Manager .................................................................................................. Audrey Lauren Wax
Professor Emerita ...................................................................................................... Jewel P. Fitzgerald
AUDIENCE INFORMATION

• The production is rated R for content and language.
• There will be one 15 minute intermission. Please join us upstairs in the art atrium for refreshments.
• Restrooms are located to your right as you exit the theatre.
• Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
• Out of courtesy to the actors and fellow audience members, no photographic, video, or sound recordings are permitted during the performance.
• After the Performance the cast will change out of their costumes before greeting the guests.

SPECIAL THANKS

Children’s Theater of Madison
Madison College Performing Arts
UW-Madison Theatre Department: Jim Greco
Lee Waldhart
James D. Clayton
Joe Bonardi, Genre Hair Studio
Pieces Unimagined Furnishings
Beatriz Aguilar

DIRECTOR’S NOTES

The Rail Splitter is a play about Abraham Lincoln — except, really, it’s not. This is not your grandfather’s Abe Lincoln play. If anyone comes to this thinking they’re seeing an Abe Lincoln play, they’re making a mistake. The play follows a group of college students and a writer as they attempt to write a play about the 16th president. The students begin with the best intentions but get incredibly — and hilariously — off track. Their efforts go so wrong, so haywire, that the results are basically disastrous. The more they dig up, the more ridiculous their ideas become. Cleveland wrote this to show just how far people can get from a starting point. It’s a satire of the docudrama genre.

In 2012 I happened to stumble upon a production of The Rail Splitter at KCACIF. I knew nothing about the production as I entered the theatre. By the time the show was done, I had mascara dripping down my face from laughter. Since 2012, I have thought of The Rail Splitter often.

I’m delighted that Rick Cleveland gave us permission to produce his work. This will only be the second production of the play since it was written in 2011. Cleveland and I have worked tirelessly on updating moments in the script to complement our Edgewood College Theatre talent. I consider it an honor to have the privilege to bring his words to life again.

In closing, I’d like to thank several people who helped me on this production: To James D. Clayton, my appreciation for always having my back and understanding my artistic aesthetic. Thank you to Kristin Roling, for stepping out of her comfort zone and creating steps that far exceed my expectations. To my entire design team, cast, and crew, you have truly brought my concept to life. I couldn’t think of a better team to collaborate with. And to Jeanne Leep for telling me that I can. Sometimes you just need that extra push.

Audrey Lauren Wax
Doesn’t matter! Well, it sort of does...

PLACE

Liberal Arts College
Abraham Lincoln personifies what many may call “The American Dream”. He was born in a humble cabin and rose to become one of the United States’ most infamous and well-respected presidents. However, is the modern portrayal of Abraham Lincoln at all accurate? Since media began, it has taken to the habit of altering the public’s perception of whoever it so chooses, resulting in rumors--Lincoln is no exception. As none of us were alive during the Lincoln Administration, it begs the question: How much do we actually know about Abraham Lincoln?

RUMORS (FAKE NEWS)

Vampire Hunter
The novel-turned-film, Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter tells a different story regarding Lincoln and his abolitionary stance. The work states that young Abraham Lincoln watched his mother die by drinking a vampire’s blood. This is contrary to her factual death—dying of milk sickness. As a young man, he is brought to a slave auction and is disgusted to find that slaves are in fact vampires. He comes to the conclusion that slavery is aiding in the continuance of vampirism. Insofar slavery exists so too do vampires. At this, he becomes an abolitionist. In actuality, Lincoln was born into a family of abolitionists and always found the concept of slavery egregious.

Gay
Supposedly, Larry Kramer, a gay right’s activist, had in his possession the diary of Joshua Speed, one of Lincoln’s closest friends in Springfield, Illinois. It spoke of their romantic relationship as they shared a bedroom in an apartment above a store. He too went on to rumor that Lincoln’s assassination was because to this, not his stance on slavery and his pro-abolition ideologies. While researcher, C.A. Tripp agrees with Kramer’s theories, many historians refute these claims, diagnosing them as “preposterous” and stating that Kramer did not find any evidence. That he only altered found evidence to match his version of the theory. They call the rumor in its entirety a hoax.

Depression
Historians have described Abraham Lincoln as having severe depression. Some researchers believe that if Lincoln were alive today he would be medically diagnosed with a major depressive disorder. While others argue that Lincoln’s so-called “melancholy” is the direct result of disparities such as Civil War and his mother’s untimely death. Without full cultural context, historians are not able to discern the true mental state of Abraham Lincoln--so too is the case with modern day political leaders and public figures.

The Rail Splitter’s playwright, Rick Cleveland, stated: “The more books you read about Lincoln, the less you know about Lincoln.” Throughout his life and thereafter, media has depicted Abraham Lincoln in myriad ways; in many ways, Lincoln reflects society and his image mirrors whatever a particular culture deems helpful or accurate for their narrative. What we know about Lincoln today likens to that of a tabloid--a version of the truth, but likely contorted for public consumption. His story cannot be accurately represented by any one chapter.

Dramaturge, Catherine Amber
Catherine Leigh Amber (Dramaturge) is a junior majoring in Sociology with a Human Services concentration with minors in Health and Society, Psychology, and Theatre Arts. Edgewood College Theatre productions include: A Murder is Announced (Letitia Blacklock), Caucasian Chalk Circle (Governor’s Wife), and The Crucible (Ann Putnam). She sends many thanks to her loving parents and friends, for their incredible support, as well as the phenomenal faculty and Edgewood Theatre Department for countless memories.

Shyann Ames (Lights) is a freshman at Edgewood College. She plans on majoring in Medical Science with a Concentration in Radiography. Some of her previous theatre undertakings are crew and costumes at DeForest High School. She also has worked Box Office for The Penelopiad at Edgewood College. Shyann is excited to make a difference here.

Maddie Budner (Ensemble) is a freshman studying Theatre Arts with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Over the past 16 years, she has performed in over 20 shows in the Northeastern Wisconsin theatre community. She is thrilled to be part of the cast in The Rail Splitter and is extremely grateful for the opportunity.

James D. Clayton (Fight Choreographer) is a generalist who is particularly interested in playwriting and developing new work. This is his second time working as a fight choreographer for Edgewood College Theatre. Some of his favorite experiences in the Theatre were playing Algernon in The Importance of Being Earnest, directing The Maids, and finishing his first musical, Rhymes o’ Passion. He holds degrees in Theatre Arts from Eastern Oregon University (BA) and the University of Idaho (MFA).

Cassie Carney (Ensemble and Dance Captain) is a sophomore at Edgewood College. She plans on majoring in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Musical Theatre with minors in both Studio Art and Music. Some of her previous productions are Edgerton High School: High School Musical and The Drowsy Chaperone. For Edgewood College Theatre, she has been seen in: The Penelopiad, SHOUT! The Mod Musical, Calamity Jane and The Student Directed One-Acts. Cassie also spent the summer working on H.M.S. Pinafore for Madison Savoyards. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her acting career.

Riley Culver (Projection Crew) is a freshman at Edgewood College who is planning on a major in Chemistry with a concentration on Biomedical and a minor in History. She is excited to be working on another production for Edgewood College.

Christopher R. Dunham (Scenic Design Mentor and Crew Mentor) is the Assistant Professor of Theatre Design and Technology for the Department of Theatre Arts and Technical Director for the Edgewood College Theatre. Some of his Edgewood College Theatre credits include designs for Boeing-Boeing, Clue: The Musical, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, The Crucible, Woods of Weaver, Little Women, The Wedding Singer: The Musical Comedy, Proof, Urinetown, The Arabian Nights, and Metamorphoses. Other Madison area designs include My Name is Rachel Corrie, Alice in Wonderland, The Little Prince, Lord of the Flies, and Anne of Green Gables. Chris would like to thank a devoted crew of students who assisted in realizing this production as well as his family for their support.
KimberLee Emmerich (Props Crew) is a freshman at Edgewood College, and this is her fourth production. Previous crew credits include: follow spot in Shout! A Mod Musical and sets in The Penelopiad which she also performed in. She recently made an appearance in Stumped as Noelle and Ms. Gunderfinkel. She is more than excited to be working on another production this year and hopes you enjoy the show!

Yasmine Faouzi (Box Office Crew) is a freshman at Edgewood College majoring in Nursing. This is her first time helping Edgewood College Theatre. Wish the girl good luck!

Connor Glasbrenner (Sound Board Operator) is currently a sophomore at Edgewood College. He is planning on majoring in Communication Studies, with minors in English and Theatre Arts. He was last seen on stage as Telemachus in The Penelopiad, and has had the opportunity to work on several other shows while at Edgewood College. He is excited to be trying out a new technical position for The Rail Splitter, sound! Enjoy the show.

Abby Hadley (Stage Manager) is a junior at Edgewood College. She is an Elementary Education major and a Theatre Education minor. You may have seen her in Agatha Christie's: A Murder is Announced, Shout! A Mod Musical, The Penelopiad, and in the Student Directed One Acts last year. She is excited to have had the opportunity to take on a new challenge as stage manager for this amazing production.

Aimee Hanyzewski (Resident Lighting Designer and Sound Crew Mentor) is looking forward to our spring season at Edgewood College. Aimee completed her second year with Edgewood College in 2017 and is glad to be back. She is a freelance lighting and scenic designer. Locally, Aimee has designed at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in the Stackner Cabaret for such hits as Liberace, Debbie and Doyle, Ain’t Misbehavin’, From My Hometown, Fire on the Bayou, Grafton City Blues, and many others. She designed the lighting for Venus in Fur and The Year of Magically Thinking for the Stiemke Theater. Other theaters Aimee has designed for are Next Act Theater, Forward Theater, The Legacy Theatre, and Madison Savoyards.

Christopher Hansen (Box Office Crew) is a senior at Edgewood College, majoring in Theatre Arts. During his time here at Edgewood College he has participated and acted in numerous productions such as The Wedding Singer: The Musical Comedy, The Crucible, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, Calamity Jane, A Murder is Announced, and The Penelopiad. He has also discovered an interest in Directing after directing Watermelon Boats and The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon.

Sean Harris (Ensemble) is ecstatic to be in Edgewood College’s production of The Rail Splitter. This is Sean’s second show for Edgewood College Theatre. He has been performing since childhood and is super excited to continue his career at Edgewood College. He would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support.

Cade Koski (Box Office Crew) is a freshman at Edgewood College majoring in Biology and Pre-Med. He is part of the Theatre Assembly group, and this will be his second time crewing a theatre production. He helped design the great display for The Penelopiad and is glad to be a part of the Theatre family.

Alan Lau-Brown (Ensemble) is a sophomore at Edgewood College majoring in Theatre Performance. He is looking forward to being a part of more Edgewood College Theatre productions to fulfill his passion of performing on stage. He previously appeared in Calamity Jane, Agatha Christie’s: A Murder is Announced and the Student Directed One Acts at Edgewood College. He would like to thank his family and friends for supporting his love for the arts.
Dr. Jeanne Leep, Ph.D. (Producer of Edgewood College Theatre) is the head of the acting and directing program in the Department of Theatre Arts at Edgewood College. She received her Ph.D. in directing from Wayne State University and her M.A. from the University of Michigan in theatre studies. She has also studied at the Moscow Art Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. She is the author of *Theatrical Improvisation, Short Form, Long Form,* and *Sketch-Based Improv,* and the co-founder of River City Improv, a performance improvisational troupe based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Past directing credits include *Metamorphoses, Our Town, The Arabian Nights, Love’s Labour’s Lost, Proof, The Crucible,* and *The Penelopiad.* A longtime member of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education, Dr. Leep serves as the Chair for the Acting Focus Group. She has a heart full of gratitude for friends, family and her husband Chris Edmonds for their unending support.

John Lyneis (Ensemble) is a freshman majoring in Chemistry and Mathematics. He is excited to be in Edgewood College’s production of *The Rail Splitter.* This is his second Edgewood College Theatre production. He previously played Carver Johnson and Rocky Raccoon in *Stumped: A Theatre for Young Audiences.*

Patrick Mahoney (Ensemble) is a senior at Edgewood College studying Theatre Performance. He has appeared in numerous shows at Edgewood College. Highlights include: *The Penelopiad* (Odysseus), *Boeing-Boeing* (Robert), *Woods of Weaver* (Wes). He wishes to thank Audrey, the talented *The Rail Splitter* cast/crew, and his loving family. Enjoy!

Laura McMillan (Ensemble and Fight Captain) is excited to be a part of this amazing cast. She is majoring in Theatre Arts and Theatre for the Youth. Some of her most notable credits include: *The Penelopiad* (Eurycleia), *The Crucible* (Judge Danforth), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Margaret), and *Rocky Horror Show* (Usherette). Laura would like to thank her friends for all their support and her boyfriend, Scott, who followed her off the island and into the snow to pursue their aspirations.

Mikayla Mrochek (Ensemble) is delighted to be part of her twelfth production at Edgewood College. She is a senior majoring in English Writing and minoring in Theatre Arts and Women & Gender Studies. Recent onstage credits include *The Penelopiad* (Penelope), *A Murder is Announced* (Miss Marple), *Boeing Boeing* (Gabriella), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Ludovica), and *The Crucible* (Susanna Wallcott). A big thank-you goes out to Audrey, the cast and crew of *The Rail Splitter,* and to her family. There are no words to describe their awesomeness.

Mary Rodwell (Props Crew) is a junior at Edgewood College and is majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre Arts. She has previously appeared in *The Penelopiad.* She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her newfound passion.

Kristin Roling (Choreographer) is celebrating her 16th production as choreographer at Edgewood College. Previous favorites include *Urinetown, The Wedding Singer,* and *Clue.* Past opportunities offered her featured dance roles in *Barnum, Music Man, Brigadoon, Anything Goes,* and *Crazy for You.* Madison area credits include choreographing for the Madison Savoyards productions *The Gondoliers* and *HMS Pinafore,* and designing costumes for First Act Children’s Theatre. Other theatrical adventures have taken her to work in Illinois, Tennessee, New York, North Carolina, Walt Disney World, and on a National tour with Famous People Players, but she is happy to now call Madison “home.” She would like to thank her husband for his support, and Phil, Audrey, and Susan for keeping her busy!
Emily Schlepp (Sets Crew) is a freshman at Edgewood College. She is a Destination Imagination alumna, has volunteered with set production for her high school theater, was previously on props crew for Edgewood College Theatre's The Penelopiad, and is excited to be assuming a new role in the Edgewood College Theatre's theatrical crew.

Maddie Smith (Costumes Crew) has been involved in theatre since the age of 6, performing in Missoula Children's Theatre shows, and continued with theatre through middle and high school. Maddie is very excited to be a part of the theatre crew at Edgewood College, and cannot wait to see what else is in store for her here at Edgewood College.

Samm Stary (Hair/Makeup) is a freshman at Edgewood College. She hopes to pursue a double major in Art Therapy and Psychology. In the past, Samm has worked with Children's Theater of Madison, and she hopes to continue working in the theater throughout her college career.

Mary Waldhart (Resident Costume Designer and Shop Manager) joined the Edgewood College Theatre Arts Department in 2010. Costume design highlights at Edgewood include Agatha Christie's A Murder Is Announced, Boeing, Boeing, Clue: The Musical, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, The Crucible, Little Women, The Wedding Singer: The Musical Comedy, Love's Labour's Lost, Absurd Person Singular, The Arabian Nights, Bye Bye Birdie, Antigone, and Brigadoon. Previously, Mary was the Costume Director at the Madison Repertory Theatre, designing costumes and managing the costume department for 23 years. Other design credits include: Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Forward Theater Company, Next Act Theatre, and Children's Theater of Madison.

Audrey Lauren Wax (Director, Box Office Manager and Stage Management Mentor) is part of the Theatre Arts Faculty. She is an alumna of Edgewood College, and is thrilled to be working in the Diane Ballweg Theatre. Audrey has directed plays all over the Pacific Northwest as well as right here in Madison. She recently directed H.M.S. Pinafore, The Gondoliers and Princess Ida for Madison Savoyards, Much Ado about Nothing for StageQ, Inc., and Woods of Weaver, The Wedding Singer: The Musical Comedy, Almost, Maine, and Fuddy Meers for Edgewood College Theatre. She also co-wrote, directed and produced Conceal & Carry: Queers Exposed which debuted at Broom Street Theater in 2012.

Abby Wicks (Ensemble) is a junior at Edgewood College. Abby is a Nursing major and also works in the box office as a work study. She is excited to be a part of her first Edgewood College production!

Sara Wojtak (Hair/makeup Designer) is a graduate of Edgewood College. She has performed in many shows at Edgewood College, including: The Penelopiad, Clue the Musical, Wedding Singer, and Proof. She is excited to be working behind the scenes for Edgewood College now doing hair and makeup design, and hopes to continue doing hair and makeup for other productions.

Rebecca Young (Costume Crew) is an individual major at Edgewood College. She been involved in theatre for 15 years both acting and doing costumes. She is excited to be returning for her third show for Edgewood College Theatre.
AS YOU LIKE IT
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Susan Nanning-Sorenson
April 27, 28, May 3, 4, 5, 2018

LATE COMPANY*
By Jordan Tannahill
Directed by Jeanne Leep
September 14, 15, 21, 22, 2018

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*
By Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman
Directed by Audrey Wax
November 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 2018

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES
NO WHERE FOR POLAR BEAR
Directed by Susan Nanning-Sorenson
Tentative Date for public performance: December 4, 2018

LOVE SICK*
By John Cariani
Directed by Susan Nanning-Sorenson
March 1, 2, 8, 9, 2019

STUDENT DIRECTED ONE ACTS
May 2, 3, 4, 2019

*rights pending

The Department of Theatre Arts promotes an experiential learning environment for students to explore their artistic passions. We create live theatre to engage an audience and illuminate the human condition.

Your investment in Theatre Arts makes it possible for the visions and voices of our students to be seen and heard. Please consider making a gift to the Department of Theatre Arts and together we can continue to strengthen, inspire, and transform lives.

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturges, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2019.

Last year more than 1,300 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 goal to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
Edgewood College, rooted in the Dominican tradition, engages students within a community of learners committed to building a just and compassionate world. The College educates students for meaningful personal and professional lives of ethical leadership, service, and a lifelong search for truth.

TALENT SCHOLARSHIPS

$4,000-$12,000 awards for talented freshman and transfer students in writing, foreign language, ART, MUSIC, or THEATRE.

FOR DETAILS, APPLICATION AND DEADLINES:
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