#### THEATER DEPARTMENT AT COLLEGE OF DUPAGE PRESENTS

# TORTOISE TOMORROW

Original script created by the cast Daniel Millhouse, Director Sabrina Zeidler, Scenic/Props Design Fisher Parsons, Sound Design Kimberly G. Morris Costume, Hair and Makeup Design Amelia Barrett, Theater Dept Chair

#### CAST (in alphabetical order)

The Roaches	Ryan Castiglia+
Farrah Fox	Jenna Čima
Principal Who	Morgan Erickson
Bethany Bunny	Spencer Fenner
Sally Snail	Carolyn Goldsmith‡
Brittany Bunny	Molly Heideman
Stan K. Skunk	
Traci Tortoise	Rylee Ruscitti
Perry Porcupine	Joshua Ublies
Heather Hare	

#### Setting: Animal High School, 1985

Support is made possible by a generous gift from the College of DuPage Foundation's Dr. Donald and Helen (Gum) Westlake Fund for Student Productions.

#### June 26 to July 15, 2023

#### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Stage Manager	Ryan Castiglia+
Choreographer	Spencer Fenner
Co-Technical Directors	Richard Arnold, Jr. and Sabrina Zeidler
Scene Shop Manager	Sabrina Zeidler
Scenic & Lighting Assistants	Vinny Scanio, Emily Sheehan, Tenleigh Wells
Costume Shop Manager	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Shop Manager .	Gretchen Woodley
Costume Shop Assistants	. Lynn Borge, Meka Elme, Zhenhuan Lei, Chris Yee
Wardrobe Assistant	Ryan Castiglia+
Show Art Design	Kendall Molina (Student Designer),
	Gautam Wadhwa (Art Director/Faculty Advisor)

+ 2022 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient ‡ 2022 BTE Stage Management Scholarship recipient

#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

Welcome to Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow! I am thrilled to present a show that is both nostalgic and thought-provoking, inspired by the timeless fable of the "Tortoise and the Hare." Our talented cast have embarked on a unique journey, devising and writing the show entirely through improvisation, creating a vibrant and engaging experience for you, our audience.

Drawing inspiration from iconic 80's films, we aim to transport you back to a time of big hair, neon colors, and timeless coming-of-age stories. In this production, we invite you to immerse yourself in a world where animals become relatable characters and life lessons are delivered with a touch of humor and a lot of heart.

Amidst all the fun, we hope to delve into various themes that resonate with both children and adults alike, such as the power of friendship and the profound impact it can have on our lives. Through the trials and tribulations of our characters, we hope to demonstrate that kindness, forgiveness, and acceptance are all a transformative and magical force.

We also delve into the original story's message that competition can bring out the worst in us, emphasizing the importance of measuring our own success and finding joy in the process rather than solely focusing on the outcome. We encourage our audience to embrace the concept that failure can be an opportunity for growth and self-discovery.

Our cast and crew have poured their passion and creativity into this production. Through lively performances, catchy songs, and vibrant visuals, we hope this story will ignite your imagination, inspire conversation, spark joy, and leave you with a smile on your face.

It's going to be tubular!

#### **CAST PROFILES**

**Ryan Castiglia+** (The Roaches, Stage Manager) Sixth COD production; *War of the Worlds: the Panic Broadcast* (Harry Haywood/Ensemble), *Badger* (Newsreel Voice, Chorus), *Ocean 9-1-1: Big Blue Rescue* (Boy Rory & Tori), *A Christmas Carol* (Chestnut Seller), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Reverend Peters). Favorite credits include *Love/Sick* (Man), *Matilda* (Michael Wormwood) both at West Chicago Community High School, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lazar Wolf). Castiglia is a 2023 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship Recipient.

Jenna Cima (Farrah Fox) First COD production. Favorite credits include *The Lion King* (Lioness), *Catch Me If You Can* (Ensemble), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Amy).

**Morgan Erickson** (Principal Who) Second COD production; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Mrs. Alexander).

**Spencer Fenner** (Bethany Bunny, Choreographer) Second COD production; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Information). Favorite credits include *James and the Giant Peach* (Grasshopper), Downers Grove South Orchesis Dance Company's *Momentum* (2020), and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Information).

**Carolyn Goldsmith**<sup>‡</sup> (Sally Snail) Third COD production; *Badger* (Rose), *A Christmas Carol* (Fezziwig Party Guest). Favorite credits include *A Canticle for Cheese Whizz* (Barbie) and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Door). Goldsmith is a 2023 BTE Stage Management Scholarship Recipient.

**Molly Heideman** (Brittany Bunny) Second COD production; *The Uninvited* (Wendy). Favorite credits include *Almost, Maine* (Marvalyn); *The Blueberry Hill Accord* (Lindsay) and *The Women of Troy* (Helen) all at Glenbard North High School.

**Alex Sitman** (Stan K. Skunk) Second COD production; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Christopher). Favorite credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Christopher) at COD, *10 Ways To Survive Life in a Quarantine* (Co-Host) and *Glenbard North Variety Show* (Emcee) both at Glenbard North High School. Sitman is a recipient of the Dean's Scholars Award.

**Rylee Ruscitti** (Traci Tortoise) First COD production. Favorite credits include Aladdin (Dancer), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Wife), and Alice in Wonderland (Mad Hatter/Flower) all at Christian Youth Theater Chicago.

Joshua Ublies (Perry Porcupine) First COD production.

**Lilly Zúñiga** (Heather Hare) Fourth COD production; *The Dining Room* (Ensemble), *Born Yesterday* (Mrs. Hedges), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Judy). Favorite credits include *All My Sons* (Annie Deever) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Tybalt) both at Glenbard East High School.

+ 2023 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient

‡ 2023 BTE Stage Management Scholarship Recipient



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#### **CREATIVE PROFILES**

**Daniel Millhouse** (Director) is thrilled to be continuing his position at the College of DuPage as an Assistant Professor. Previous directing credits for College Theater include *Born Yesterday* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. Previously, Millhouse worked as an Adjunct Professor at the College of DuPage, the CCPA at Roosevelt University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (where he was awarded the University Housing Honored Instructor Award). Along with teaching and directing, Millhouse has worked as a professional actor throughout the world. His primary theater credits include shows with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and the Shakespeare Project of Chicago. You may have also seen him on an episode of *Chicago Fire* or in the *Call of Duty* video game franchise. You can hear his voice on podcasts as well, including *The Vanishing Act* and The Onion's *The Topical*. He received his MFA in Acting/Directing from the University. Millhouse is grateful for this opportunity to work and collaborate with everyone here at the College of DuPage.

**Kimberly G. Morris** (Costume, Hair and Make-up Design) is pleased to continue her work at College of DuPage. Prior to joining the crew at COD, she spent 13 years as a freelance costume, makeup, wig and properties designer throughout Chicago and the east coast. She is a company member of Babes with Blades Theatre Company where she has designed for many of their productions. She has also designed for Stage Left Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Ball State University, American Shakespeare Center, Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Tecumseh!, Wilmette Arts Center, NWHS and MEHS.

**Fisher Parsons** (Sound Design) is an Audio Production Specialist for the McAninch Arts Center. Before making the jump to working at College of DuPage, he was a Production Manager and Audio Engineer at Evanston Rocks and the Arcada Theater where he engineered sound for various artist. When not mixing audio or recording, you can find him on stage at The Second City or in the pit orchestra on guitar for various theatrical productions throughout the Chicagoland area. Parsons has most recently been on mixing and recording duties for The New Philharmonic's 2020-2021 season, as well as mixing front of house and monitors for various MAC events.

**Sabrina Zeidler** (Scenic and Properties Design, Co-Technical Director) is thrilled to be working with the MAC as the Technical Director of College Theater. Her previous work at COD has been seen as the Technical Director and Properties Designer for the DuPage Opera Theatre, Technical Director for Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and various design roles for College Theater. She is the former Stage Manager for the New Philharmonic Orchestra. Zeidler was previously the Technical Director and a resident designer for Hinsdale South High School. She is a graduate of Elmhurst University with a BA in Theatre - Stage Management, Design and Technology, and Theatre Arts Administration.

**Amelia Barrett** (Theater Department Chair) is a professor of theater at College of DuPage. Barrett has most recently directed COD productions of *The SpongeBob Musical* 

#### **CREATIVE PROFILES**

and *Badger*. Professionally, she has directed multiple Buffalo Theatre Ensemble productions, where she is Associate Artistic Director and a member of the acting ensemble. As an actor, she has appeared with other local, regional, and international companies. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association as well as the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting and a Graduate Certificate in Laban Movement Analysis.

#### **PRODUCTION PROFILES**

**Richard Arnold, Jr.** (Co-Technical Director) is excited to join the creative team at the College of DuPage. Prior to coming to COD, he spent 15 years teaching Theatre Design and Technology at Elmhurst University. Beyond teaching, he has designed over 100 theatre productions around the Midwest. Additionally, he spent several years working in other areas of the entertainment industry, designing and producing corporate events, concerts, television commercials, as well as exhibits for several Chicagoland museums. He is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, and the Illinois Theatre Association.

**Ryan Castiglia+** (Stage Manager) Sixth COD production; *War of the Worlds: the Panic Broadcast* (Harry Haywood/Ensemble), *Badger* (Newsreel Voice, Chorus), *Ocean 9-1-1: Big Blue Rescue* (Boy Rory & Tori), *A Christmas Carol* (Chestnut Seller), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Reverend Peters). Favorite credits include Love/Sick (Man), Matilda (Michael Wormwood) both at West Chicago Community High School, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lazar Wolf). Castiglia is a 2023 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship Recipient.

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We welcome you to audition and become an actor! Each semester (fall, spring and summer), the Theater department stages two productions. Auditions are held at the beginning of each academic term. Call (630) 942-3008 or email rakowa@cod.edu to be added to the audition list.



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