

Cowboys!

Directors' Note:

Early in my life, I loved and embraced the cowboy myth. In the early days of TV (the 1950's) the singing cowboy movies of Gene Autry and Roy Rogers were used as programming filler, as were the western serials from the late 1930's and the 1940's, and I watched them all; I loved them all. I grew up listening to the Son's Of The Pioneers and the Riders Of The Purple Sage, what was called "Western Swing." In 1979 I met Paul Mroczka and I shared the idea of a musical western. The result of our collaboration was and is *Cowboys! A Musical Vaudeville and Medicine Show*. Being able to bring it to Plymouth and to work with Paul and with the students is an absolute joy. *Cowboys!* is intended as a gentle spoof of those Hollywood western films, with an ear tuned to that genre of music and an eye focused on the zaniness of Mel Brooks' *Blazing Saddles*.

– John R. Briggs

Cast (in order of appearance)

Phinnius/Colonel Lynch	B. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS
Toadsticker/Mean Boss Lynch III	SAMANTHA LEONE
Alfred	JACOB TILTON
Rusty	MYLES PARSONS
Margo Boardeau/Ginny Roland	SAMANTHA WEISS
Kitty	ABIGAIL WRIGHT
Rose	CARLY USHERWOOD
Blabby Blaze	ROBERT HERSTEDT
Fussy Hussy Buster	REBECCA MANSFIELD
Ensemble	SAM BOYLE, CAMERON DOWNING, PAIGE MACDONALD, SOPHIA SHAY, JAKOB STONE, MOLLY STONE

Artistic/Production Team

Producer	PAUL MRO CZKA
Director	JOHN R. BRIGGS, PAUL MRO CZKA
Stage Manager	ALEXANDRA FLAMMIA
Assistant Stage Manager	CAMERON BRAND
Deck Manager	SHANE SMITH
Dramatug	NICHOLAS KALANTZAKOS
Dialect Coach	ELIZABETH DAILY

Publicity	REBECCA BEAULIEAU
Costume Designer	DANEE GRILLO
Assistant Costume Designer	MARY HUNTER
Set Designer	MATT KIZER
Assistant Set Designer	LEO CURRAN
Lighting Designer	KYLE TRUMBLE
Prop Master	ZACH GLENNON
Assistant Prop Master	NICKE MORRIS
Light Board Operator	SYDNEY MOQUIN
Assistant to the Sound Engineer	MOLLY RICKER
Microphones	CAROLYN HART
Followspot Operators	SPENCER BERNARD-KRIEGL, SHARLEIGH THOMSON
Running Crew	AMANDA CHAFFEE, ALYSSA DESAUTELLE
Wardrobe	SHANI EDWARDS, ETHAN FIFIELD
Program	SHARLEIGH THOMSON

Bios:

Sam Boyle (Ensemble) is a sophomore Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance at Plymouth State University. This is his third show at Plymouth and he hopes you enjoy the performance. Yipeetieaye!

Cam Downing (Ensemble) is a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Acting originally from Manchester, New Hampshire. Past credits include *Carrie* (George), *Romeo and Juliet* (Peter), *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble), *A Chorus Line* (Mark), and *Sweet Charity* (Oscar). He would like to thank his family and friends for their never-ending love and support.

Daneé Grillo (Costume Designer) has been a member of the design team since 2007. Favorite past PSU costume designs include *The Wedding Singer* (2015), *Dracula* (2014), *The Pleasure Men* (2013), *Orpheus in the Underworld* (2013), and *Marat/Sade* (2010). For the last few years she has spent her off-time designing costumes for The Winnepesaukee Playhouse, where she has done *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Table Manners*, and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Summer 2015), and *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Living Together*, and *Cabaret* (Summer 2016). Daneé also teaches classes relating to costume design, costume construction, and stage makeup.

Amanda Harrington (Music Director) is a graduate of Plymouth State University ('16), receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Music. During the academic year 2014-2015, Amanda was awarded the Choral Fellowship with Dan Perkins, and currently acts as the Assistant Music Director for the Manchester Choral Society. Amanda has also participated in University Chorale, Chamber Singers, the NH Master Chorale, as well as music directed the school's all-female a cappella group, Mixed Emotions. In the past, Amanda has studied with Chamber Singers in Southern California, Chile, Baltimore and Washington DC. She has participated in PSU's theatre productions as well as music directed *Sylvia* and *A Man of No Importance* during her time as an undergrad. Amanda currently acts as the Assistant Box Office Manager for The Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. She resides in Goffstown, NH.

Robert Herstedt (Blabby Gaze) is a sophomore Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance. Recent credits include *Carrie* (Ensemble), *Godspell* (Robert), *A Man of No Importance* (Father

Kenny), and *Pippin* (Charlemagne). He also works for Skyrise Children's Theatre, where he works on carpentry, lighting, and sound. He would like to thank his family for supporting him as he follows his passion. **Matt Kizer** has been the resident designer for Plymouth State since 1996. He has presented workshops on projections for performance nationally and internationally, including the National Opera Association in New York, and The Cyprus Theatre Organization in Nicosia. His work has been presented at the Kennedy Center in D.C., and with A-Fortiorni dance company in Germany. He designed for two years with Operafestival Di Roma in Italy with the Orchestra Sinfonica dell' International Chamber Ensemble at Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza in central Rome. He has a B.A. from Purdue University, and an M.F.A. from The Ohio State University.

Samantha Leone (Toadsticker/Mean Boss Lynch III) a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre. This production will be her second show with Plymouth State University. She is so thrilled to be a part of this process with such a talented cast and crew. Past performances include *Carrie* (Ensemble), *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona '14, Olive '12), and *Pippin* (Berthe). She would like to thank her family for supporting her in everything she does.

Paige MacDonald (Ensemble) is a sophomore Theatre Arts Major with an option in Music Theatre at Plymouth State University. This production will be her third at Plymouth State. Past theatrical experiences include *Carrie* (Ensemble), *Romeo and Juliet* (Petruccio/Friar John/Rosaline), *Taming of the Shrew* (Petruccio), and *Pygmalion* (Clara). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support and the talented cast and crew of *Cowboys!* for bringing their all to the stage.

Rebecca Mansfield (Fussy Hussy Buster) is a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre and minor in Dance. Past shows include *Once Upon a Mattress* (Dance Captain) at Hackmatack Playhouse, *Carrie* (Frieda/Dance Captain), *A Man of No Importance* (Mrs. Curtin), and *Parade* (Mary Phagan). Becca has had the opportunity to have her choreography in four Contemporary Dance Ensemble performances at PSU. Next, she will be playing Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime: The Musical* here at Plymouth. She thanks her friends, loved ones, cast, crew, and parents for their never ending support. Yippietaiaye!

Paul Mrocza (Book Writer) has written numerous plays and musicals, including *The Watercress* and *Hero by Proxy*, both produced at PSU. Paul, who serves MTD as Chair and Director of Theatre, has had his plays produced by numerous companies including Latino Flavored Touring (NYC), Off Square Theatre (WY), Pontine (NH) and La MaMa La Galleria and Nat Horne Theatre (NYC). Awards include NEA Playwriting, Shubert and Time-Warner Fellowships, as well as numerous commissions. Works he's developing include the drama *Smart Money* and the musical *Rasputin: Where Two Rivers Meet* with composer Andrew Morrissey.

Matthew Scala (Assistant Music Director) is a junior Music Contract major with a focus in Vocal Performance. He is a three-year member of the University Chorale and Chamber Singers, and two-year member of the all-male a cappella group Vocal Order. Past assistant music direction credits include *Beauty and the Beast: Jr.*, *Carrie: The Musical*, and *Stage Kiss* (music director). Matthew will soon appear as Willie Conklin in PSU's concert production of *Ragtime*. He is extremely excited to collaborating with his good friend Amanda Harrington. Thank you to all his friends, family, and all who have committed time to this production!

Sophia Shay (Ensemble) is a sophomore Musical Theatre Major at Plymouth State University. This will be her third performance here at the Silver Center. Last year, she had the joy of being in *Carrie: The Musical* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Abraham). Sophia would like to thank her family, peers and the MTD faculty for their overwhelming love and support.

Jakob Stone (Ensemble) is a senior Theatre Major focusing in Music Theatre Performance with a minor in music. This is his eighth and final stage show at Plymouth State. He is thrilled perform an original work and has had such fun with this company. Some previous credits with PSU include *Stage Kiss* (He) and *A Man of No Importance* (Mr. Carney/Oscar Wilde). Last May, he also was the Baritone soloist for the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra's Broadway Pops Concert. He thanks his family, friends, mentors and especially his partner, Emma, for all of their continued love and support. www.jakobstoneactor.com

Shannon Sullivan (Makeup Designer) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a theatrical design option in makeup design. She has previously designed makeup for PSU's productions of *Dracula*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Carrie*. She has also designed makeup for two pieces in PSU's Contemporary Dance Ensemble. She has also made an appearance on stage at PSU as Tom, Phyllis, and Leslie in *Sylvia* and as an actor, writer and costume designer in the sketch comedy show, *We Think It's Funny!* She would like to thank everyone for all their love. "Sing in me muse, and through me tell the story."

Jacob Tilton (Alfred) is a sophomore Theatre Arts Major with an option in Music Theatre. He is happy to be in his first performance at Plymouth State University. Originally an Information Technology student, Jacob transferred into the major to go back to what he loved. In the past he performed at the Palace Theatre in *Carrie* (Billy), *Godspell* (Judas), and *Sweet Charity* (Vittorio/Big Daddy). He would like to thank his family and friends for the support they've given him, and to the cast of *Cowboys!* for their guidance

Carly Usherwood (Rose Lynch) is a senior Theatre Arts Major with an option in Music Theatre Performance and a Dance Minor. This is her sixth and final theatre production at Plymouth State University. Some of her previous works are *Carrie: the Musical* (Sue Snell), *Romeo and Juliet* (Montague's Wife, Apothecary, Choreographer), *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble, Dance Captain) and *The Threepenny Opera* (Betty). Carly would like to thank John, Paul, and Lisa for such an incredible experience. She also thanks her cast, friends, her father Richard, and sisters Lily and Stevie for the memories, Love, and support. Yee-haw!

Samantha Weis (Margot Bordeaux/Virginia Rowland) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a Music Theatre option. She is unbelievably humbled and excited to be playing such a unique and fun character for her last musical production at PSU. Past performances include *Carrie: the Musical* (Norma), *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble), and *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (Panacea). She wants to thank her family and friends for their never-ending support and love, John and Paul for this amazing opportunity, and the amazing Cast and Crew! It's been a unique and amazing journey! Enjoy the show!

Christopher Williams (Phinnius Falstaff / Colonel Lynch) is a 26-year-old from Cape Cod, MA. Brian (aka "B.C.Willy") is a senior Theatre Arts major with an option in both Acting and Dramatic Writing. PSU performance credits include: *Rumors* (Ernie Cusack), *Sylvia* (Greg), *Romeo & Juliet* (Mercutio) and *Carrie* (Billy Nolan). Williams is currently searching for summer theatre employment. BCWilly.com

Abigail Wright (Kitty)Meow. Meow meow meow meow meow. Meow meow, meow meow meow. Meow meow meow meow meow. Meow meow meow meow meow. Meow meow, meow meow meow. Meow meow meow meow meow. Meow Family meow Grammy meow Grampy. MEOW.

Photography By:

MAUNDY MITCHELL
P H O T O G R A P H Y

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PSU Choir's *Ragtime: The Musical* In Concert

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Book by Terrance McNally

The PSU choirs present a concert version of the award-winning musical *Ragtime*. The stories of an upper-class wife, a determined Jewish immigrant, and a daring young Harlem musician unfold; set in turn-of-the-century New York; all three united by their desire and belief in a brighter tomorrow. Based on the novel by E. L. Doctrow, Terrence McNally's book tells their compelling stories, which are set to the Tony Award®-winning score by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens. Dan Perkins conducts the PSU choirs with guest orchestra.
April 22-23, 2017

Playwright's Lab – New Plays From PSU

Featuring staged readings of new plays by PSU Dramatic Writing students and faculty developed in a yearlong workshop. Featuring the Playwright's Lab Acting Company, these performances offer audiences the essence of these new plays, which are being given voice in a public performance for the first time.

April 27-29, 2017

Contemporary Dance Ensemble

PSU's dance performance group showcases original works by faculty and students in various dance genres. Premiere of new work set on PSU dancers by Katherine Hooper, Artistic Director of BoSoma Dance Company from Boston.

May 12-13, 2017

Silver Center Staff

Director	Stuart Crowell
Events/Business Coordinator	Sureya Ennabe
House Manager	Claire McIver
Assistant House Managers	Deb Esposito and Susanne Hastings
Technical Director	Bob Bruemmer
Assistant Technical Director	Heather Manfred
Box Office Manager	Trudy Pelletier
Box Office Staff	Katherine Bullen, Roland DuBois, Taylor Fournier, Serena Gorham, Luke Nicolo, and Kara Pedro
Ushers	Sarah Bengston, Bradleigh Bleeker, Brianna Carlson, Zach McKenna, Jordan Shuey, and Lauren Vengren
Master Carpenters	Mikaela Hogan and B. Christopher Williams
Master Electrician	John Findlay
Audio Leads	Sarah Daley and Brandon Rich
Production Staff	Becca Beaulieu, Kelly Boland, Cameron Brand, Leo Curran, Amara Decker,

Alex Flammia, Zach Glennon, Rosemarie Legge, Tyler McCarthy, Alice Shea,
Clay Harbert, Abigail Wright, and Nathaniel Vinson

Theatre Costume Staff

Costume Shop Manager/Resident Designer

Daneé R. Grillo

Costume Technicians

Nick Cochran, Kendra Fry, Zach Glennon, Mary Hunter, Jakob
Stone, and Rosemarie Legge